



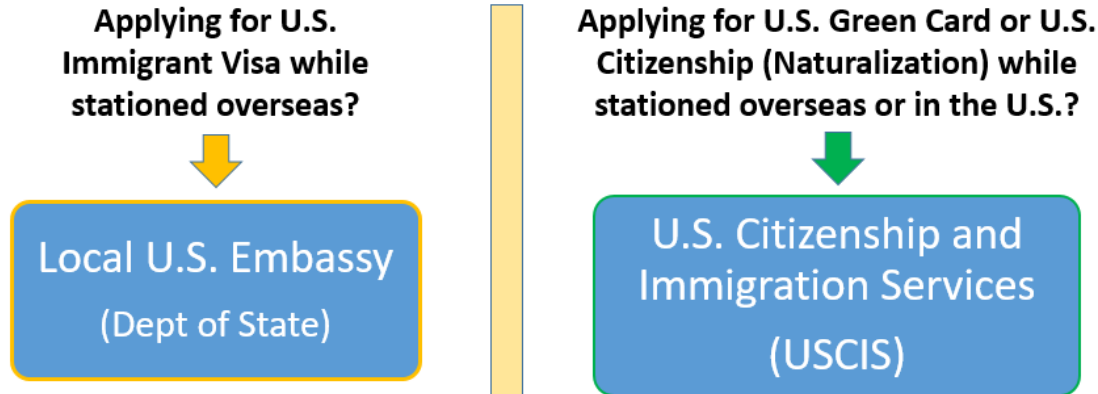
Preventative Law Series

US Embassy/USCIS General Information

This handout is provided for general information purposes only and does not constitute legal advice or opinion of any kind.

Introduction

Understanding immigration processes can be challenging, especially for service members and their dependents stationed overseas. **For those stationed overseas** and seeking guidance on their cases, the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo and USCIS provide official resources discussing visas, naturalization, and other immigration matters.



1. U.S. Immigrant Visas

An **immigrant visa** is issued to a noncitizen who intends to reside in the U.S. permanently. This visa must be obtained *before* traveling to the U.S., including U.S. territories such as Guam or Puerto Rico. Upon entry, the individual will be granted either Permanent or Conditional Resident status.

In partnership with USCIS, **active-duty service members stationed overseas are eligible for a “blanket exception”** that expedites the I-130 immigrant visa processing by allowing the local overseas U.S. Embassy to accept and adjudicate I-130 visa applications for a lawful dependent (e.g., spouse or minor child). To discuss your U.S. immigrant visa questions, please contact one of our Japan-based Legal Assistance offices at the distro emails listed at the top of the page. If you’re located in Guam: GuamLegalAssistance@us.navy.mil

For information about immigrant visa applications (including family-based immigration), please refer to the following official U.S. Embassy Tokyo resources:

- U.S. Embassy Tokyo – Immigrant Visas Overview
<https://jp.usembassy.gov/visas/immigrant-visas/family-immigration/>
- Immigrant Visa Inquiry Form (U.S. Embassy Tokyo)
[Google Form Link](#)

2. U.S. Permanent Residency and “Green” Cards, and U.S. Citizenship (Naturalization)

A **Permanent Resident Card**, commonly known as a “green card” is issued by USCIS *after* arrival in the U.S. and serves as proof of lawful permanent resident (LPR) status. This card also functions as an official form of identification and evidence of eligibility to live and work in the U.S. as an LPR. Once you become an LPR with a valid green card, then you may be eligible to become a **U.S. Citizen** through naturalization or through your U.S. citizen sponsor (e.g., spouse or parent).

3. Resources. The following information is available directly through USCIS to help you navigate your options and make informed decisions.

For more information, please contact the National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283 or 1-800-767-1833 (TDD for the hearing impaired). You may also visit the “Contact Us” page at www.uscis.gov, for details on checking your case status online, submitting an e-request, or scheduling an InfoPass appointment to speak with an USCIS office. For quick references, please see the resources and links provided below:

USCIS Resources

USCIS Main Web Page	www.uscis.gov
USCIS Forms and Fees	www.uscis.gov/forms
Case Status Online	https://egov.uscis.gov/casestatus/landing.do
e-Request	https://egov.uscis.gov/e-request/Intro.do
USCIS Online Account	https://myaccount.uscis.gov/
USCIS Online Account (if locked out or need technical help)	https://my.uscis.gov/account/v1/needhelp

Military Naturalization Resources

USCIS Information for Military Members and Their Families	https://www.uscis.gov/military/military
Military Help Line	877-CIS-4MIL (877-247-4645, TTY 800-877-8339)

If you are a military service member filing an **N-400, Application of Naturalization** or **N-600, Application for Citizenship**, you may provide the USCIS Guam Field Office email address, guamoverseasmilnatz@uscis.dhs.gov, on your application for further processing assistance.

Additional information can be found in our [Preventive Law - Pacific series on Naturalization and Immigration](#) available at this [QR Code](#):

To request an appointment to further discuss your case with an attorney, please contact one of our Japan-based Legal Assistance offices at the distro emails listed at the top of the page. If you’re located in Guam: GuamLegalAssistance@us.navy.mil

