

.03 Military Connection

REVISION 09
(07/01/09 – 09/30/09)

A Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) with a military connection is potentially eligible for benefits regardless of their date of entry. A military connection is one of the following:

- An honorably discharged veteran of the Armed Forces of the U.S.
- On active duty in the Armed Forces of the U.S.
- A spouse(g) of a veteran or person on active duty who meets one of the following:
 - Legally married to the veteran or person on active duty.
 - Legally separated from the veteran or person on active duty.
 - An unmarried widowed spouse of the veteran or a person who was on active duty.
- An unmarried dependent child of a veteran or a person on active duty.
- An unmarried dependent stepchild living with the stepparent veteran or person on active duty.

The military connection applies in the following circumstances:

- The spouse and the veteran or person on active duty are living together or apart.
- The veteran or active duty person is either a U.S. citizen or a noncitizen.

Military service applies only to full-time Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine, or Coast Guard.

EXCEPTION

Reserve or National Guard personnel who have not been called to active duty do not qualify as military service.

When verifying military service criteria, the following apply:

- An honorably discharged veteran of the Armed Forces of the U.S. must present an original or notarized copy of the veteran's discharge papers.
- Verify active duty status with an original or notarized copy of the applicant's current orders or a military ID card (DD form 2 (active)).
- A spouse or unwed dependent child of a veteran or active duty noncitizen must provide a document to verify relationship along with military verification requirements.
- A stepchild living with the stepparent must provide documents to verify relationship along with military verification requirements.