

### .13 Noncitizens With a Military Connection

Noncitizens with a military connection are potentially eligible for benefits.

Noncitizens who meet both of the following criteria are potentially eligible for benefits regardless of their [date of entry](#):

- They are a [qualified noncitizen](#).
- They meet one of the following military service criteria:

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 of a veteran or person on active duty who meets one of the following:

- Is legally married to the veteran or person on active duty.
- Is legally separated from the veteran or person on active duty.
- Is a widowed spouse of the veteran or person on active duty and has not remarried.

This remains true in the following circumstances:

- Regardless of whether they are living together or apart.
- The veteran or active duty person can be a U.S. citizen or a noncitizen.

#### **NA EXCEPTION**

A noncitizen is potentially eligible for benefits when they are an unmarried dependent child (biological, stepchild, or legally adopted) of a veteran or person on active duty. Consider the following:

- The stepchild must be living with the stepparent to meet the stepchild criteria.
- The veteran or active duty person can be a U.S. citizen or a noncitizen .

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.
- To verify the active duty status an original or notarized copy of the applicant's current orders or a military ID card (DD form 2 (active)) may be used.  
Only full-time Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine, or Coast Guard are eligible. Any Reserve or National Guard duty is excluded.
- A spouse or unwed dependent child of a veteran or active duty alien must provide a document to verify [relationship](#) along with military verification requirements.