

Exceptional I-130 filing for U.S. Active Duty Military Members

Overview

If you are an active duty U.S. military member permanently assigned to U.S. military bases outside of the United States where USCIS (United States Citizenship and Immigration Services) does not have a presence, you may file I-130 petition process at US Embassy Tokyo or Consulate General Naha on behalf of your immediate relatives. Please note that this blanket exception does not apply to Department of Defense civilians and contractors.

How to start the process

Send a request from <https://japan2.usembassy.gov/e/visa/tvisa-ivappt-military.html>

*TDY status to Japan does not suffice for blanket exception

Immigration Section of the U.S. Embassy determines your eligibility for exceptional filing, and will contact you to let you know the documents needed to bring for the initial interview.

Supporting Documents

Translations do not have to be notarized as long as the translator certifies the translation. Visit Military One Source website for free translation services for military members. http://www.militaryonesource.mil/legal?content_id=268293

Embassy/Consulate Appointment

You must appear at the Embassy fifteen minutes prior to your appointment time. Arrive early to ensure any delays due to security do not cause you to miss your appointment. You may only bring a cellphone, small purse (no larger than 10" x 10"), clear plastic folder for documents, and an umbrella. Laptops, large purses, backpacks and food/drink are forbidden. Please read the security restrictions at the Embassy for further details of what you can and cannot bring.

USCIS Lockbox remains available

Although, active duty U.S. service members may file a petition directly in Tokyo or Naha, the traditional method of filing an I-130 petition with the USCIS Chicago Lockbox facility remains available to all U.S. citizens petitioning for a family member. They accept petitions by mail. If you can not make a trip to Tokyo or Naha, this may be a more convenient option.

Blanket Exception FAQs

Detailed information for blanket exception issued by the immigrant visa section.

Exceptional I-130 filing for US Active Duty Military Members is distributed by the Camp Zama Legal Assistance Office, located in Building 101, Room CE209. Our office hours are 0830 to 1630 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. On Wednesday, our hours are 0830 to 1200. You may call for an appointment at DSN 262-4698/commercial 046-407-4698.



Office of the Staff Judge Advocate
LEGAL ASSISTANCE
U.S. Army Japan

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