



# U.S. ARMY OKINAWA

## ★ TORII STATION ★



### LEGAL ASSISTANCE

• 652-4332 / 4742 • BUILDING 218, ROOM 220 •

## SOLDIERS FILING IMMIGRATION VISA PETITIONS

The purpose of this article is to inform Active Duty Soldiers of the procedures for filing Immigrant Visa Petitions for their Immediate Family Members.<sup>i</sup> Active Duty Soldiers stationed in Japan may file Immigrant Visa Petitions for their immediate Family Members **DIRECTLY** with the U.S. Consulate in Naha, Okinawa. **DO NOT SUBMIT YOUR FORMS ONLINE ON U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES (USCIS) WEBSITE.** All others (petitions for non-Active Duty Family Members) are required to mail their petitions to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Dallas Lockbox Facility or file online at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov).

The U.S. Consulate can “accept and adjudicate” Immigrant Visa Petitions:

- Filed by a qualified Active Duty Soldier assigned to a U.S. military base in Japan.<sup>ii</sup>
- For an immediate relative (spouse, child, or parent) of said Active Duty Soldier provided the immediate relative resides in Japan.

To file an immigration visa petition (I-130), please obtain a checklist from the Torii Station Legal Assistance Office in Room 220, Building 218 on Torii Station.

Finally, the U.S. Consulate strongly recommends that Active Duty Soldiers file the I-130 petition for Family Members (usually a spouse) as soon as they do get married. The U.S. Consulate advised not to delay in filing the visa petition. In fact, there have been cases where family members were unable to travel with their active duty spouses because the I-130 petition was not filed in a timely manner.

U.S. Consulate General, Naha, gives virtual monthly briefings on filing the immigrant visa petition. **Be sure that you and your spouse both participate in the briefing** so that specific questions can be addressed and answered. Please register by emailing U.S. Consulate General, Naha at [NahaV@state.gov](mailto:NahaV@state.gov).

The Soldier & Family Legal Service office is located on Torii Station in Room 220, of Building 218 (across the street from the post office). If you would like an appointment to discuss immigration or another personal legal matter, please call 652-4332.

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<sup>i</sup> If you are not an active duty Soldier and want to petition for an immediate relative, please contact the Torii Soldier Family Legal Service Office for the immigration visa procedures.

<sup>ii</sup> The United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) does not have a presence in Japan.