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Doesn't Guarantee Citizenship. Some Face Deportation



and as they take the Oath of Allegiance during a naturalization ceremony in Seattle, received their naturalization certificates from Adm. Charles Fosse, commander of the (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Annika Hirschler)

y
1am ET

itary, wore the uniform and followed orders. Years later, he
mericans don't realize is possible: being forced to leave the



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Florida Marine veteran who
 that case is not
 a broader question: Does serving in the U.S. military guarantee

immigration attorneys and veterans' advocates, is no. And in a
 veterans have found themselves navigating a complex legal
 service alone is not enough to secure their place in the country.

noncitizens serve in the U.S. military, and an estimated
 ans live in the United States, according to congressional
 personnel data cited by military policy analysts. Those figures
 service members could be affected when gaps in the system



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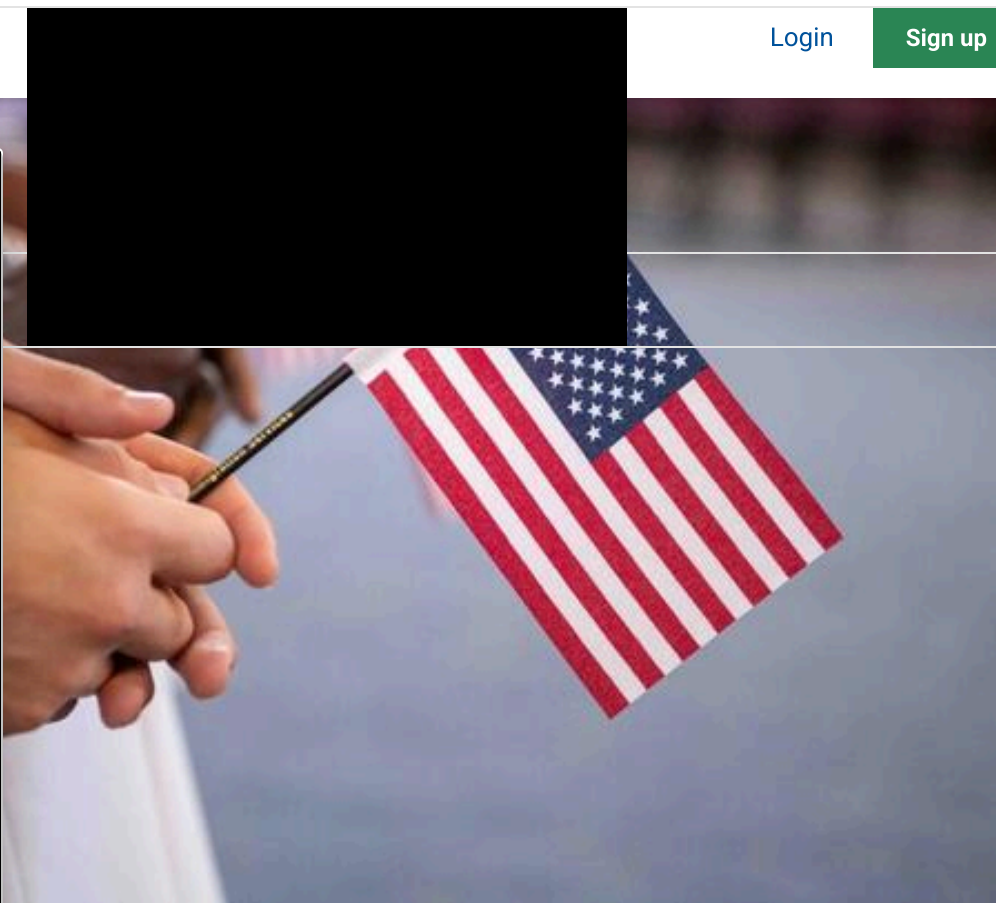
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...ath of Allegiance to the United States of America during a naturalization ceremony ...el at Recruit Training Command (RTC). (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication ...elcher)

and Citizenship: Not Automatic

ants have served in the U.S. military, often with the service could help them become American citizens.

pedited naturalization for noncitizen service members, nated periods of conflict. [Under federal law](#), service members ated periods of conflict may apply for citizenship without ncy or physical presence requirements, according to U.S. tion Services.

automatic.

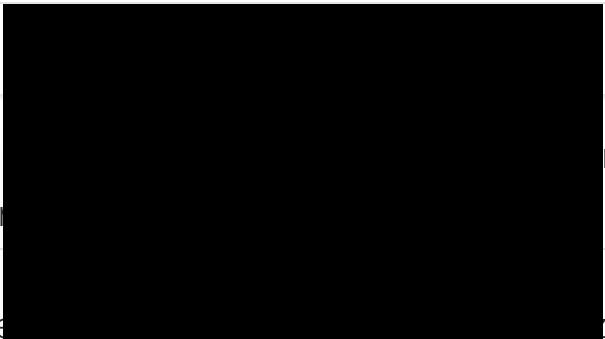
still:

for naturalization



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ns may remain

ing their citizenship

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Florida, got married and raised a family after leaving the Marine Corps in 1998.



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Several recent deportations have renewed attention to



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recipient who served in the military and was granted citizenship in 2015. In 2025, he was deported to Mexico after his citizenship was revoked, according to reporting by multiple national outlets.

like Joon Park, an Army veteran who lived in the United States for 20 years before being deported to South Korea in 2025 following a deportation order tied to his military service. Park had served during the U.S. invasion of Panama, but his service did not meet the expedited citizenship requirements, according to prior reports.

like [Wade](#), a Jamaican-born Army veteran who has lived in the United States for 20 years, has been held in immigration detention in Georgia while awaiting his deportation proceedings, according to local and national news reports.

Each case reflects the same underlying reality: military service does not shield noncitizens from immigration enforcement.

End Up Facing Deportation

Some veterans who face deportation enlisted as lawful permanent residents during the naturalization process.

A variety of reasons:

- Loss of eligibility

- Expired or lost paperwork

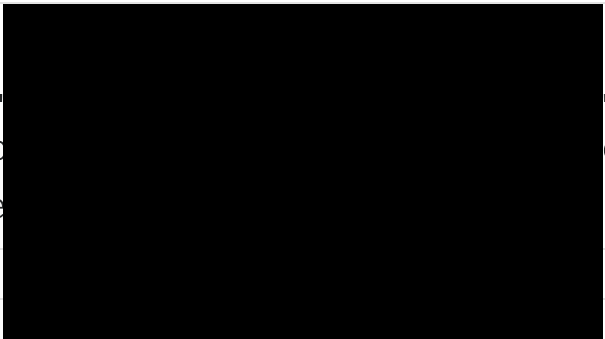
- Failure to qualify under wartime provisions



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For some veterans, criminal convictions under immigration law, noncitizens convicted of crimes, and removal proceedings after



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enforcement argue that military service should not exempt immigration law. Others say deportation in these cases amounts to a particularly when offenses may be tied to trauma experienced



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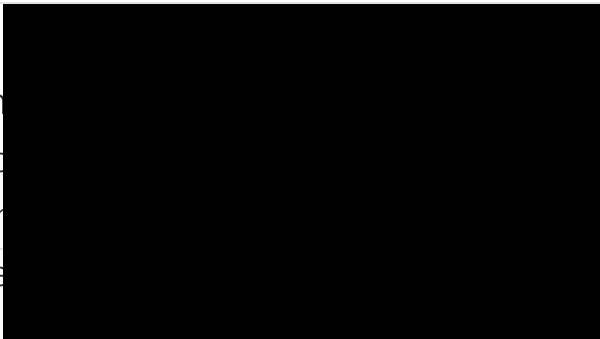
Company, 2nd Battalion, 58th Infantry Regiment, 198th Infantry Brigade becomes a member of the 1st Infantry Division in Infantry One Station Unit Training April 18, 2024, on Fort Moore, Georgia. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services provides an expedited naturalization process to non-citizen military service members. (Photo by Capt. Stephanie Snyder)

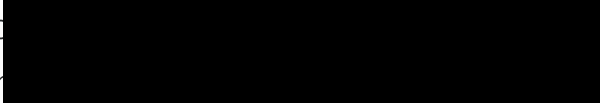
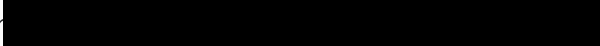
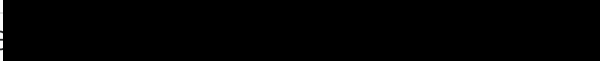
Item to Track



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Advocacy groups, including  service members,

of  deported over the years, with  000, according to 

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required to track interactions with veterans in immigration figures are not consistently released publicly.

come to light individually, often after lengthy legal battles.

Understand the issue more broadly, it builds on other recent reporting veterans and raises new questions about how often these cases they are handled.

Legislation and Ongoing Debate

Various parties have introduced legislation aimed at addressing gaps in

the naturalization process for service members

and the ability for veterans to complete citizenship applications from abroad

and the ability for certain veterans to return to the United States

Legislation, including [Sen. Tammy Duckworth](#), an Iraq War veteran, have been introduced aimed at helping deported veterans complete the citizenship application process to return to the United States.

Advocates argue that military service should carry greater weight in immigration and that immigration laws must be applied consistently.

However, these reforms have not advanced.



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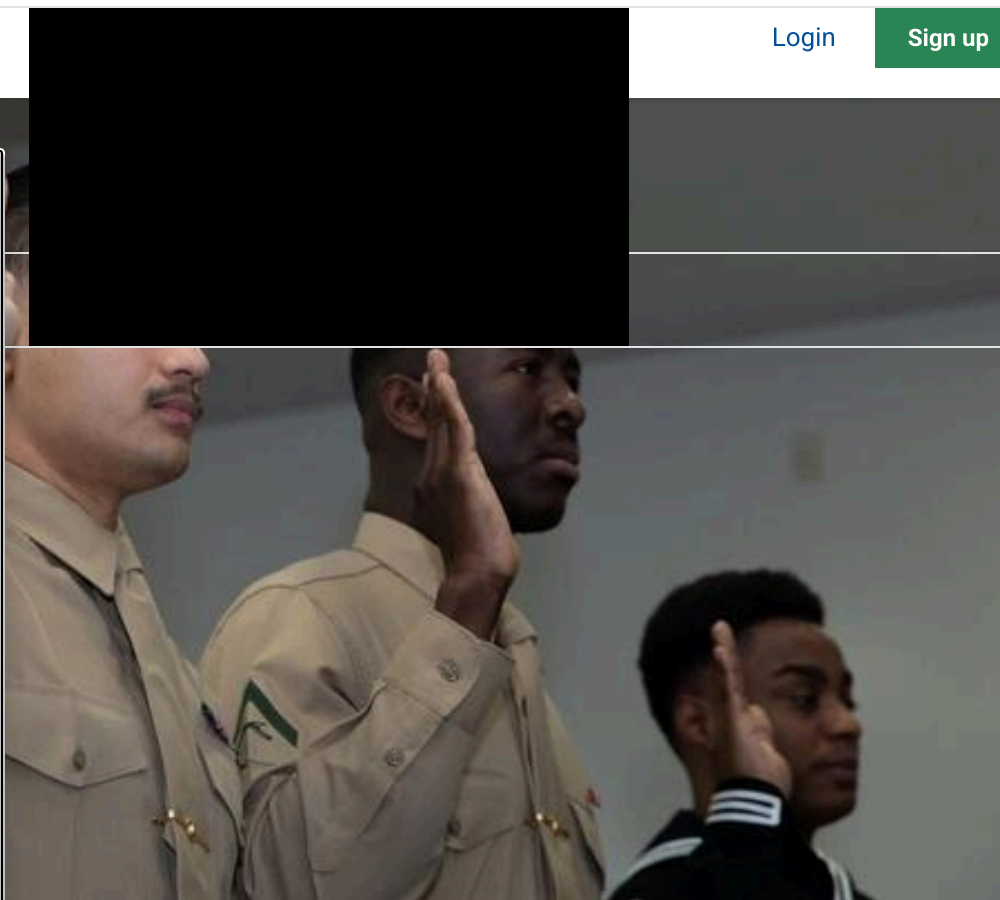
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...rps Cpl. Jeferson HernandezEscobar, a motor vehicle operator with Combat Logistics Regiment 37, Lance Cpl. Cyrus Fayiah, an electrician with Marine Wing Aircraft Group 12, and U.S. Navy Aviation Mechanic Seaman Alwayne Cowie, assigned to Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 5, swear in during a naturalization ceremony at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, San Diego, Calif., Jan. 30, 2024. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl Colin Thibault)

: Continues to Resonate

...newed attention following recent cases, including the Florida veteran's departure from the United States brought widespread attention

...e idea that a veteran could serve the country and later face deportation is surprising.

...military service intersect in ways that can create complicated, unexpected, outcomes.

...completed the naturalization process, the consequences can be far-reaching where they live, where they receive care and whether they can



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For generations, immigrants have held the belief that service

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...n & Citizenship, Army, Air Force Topics, US Navy Topics, Marine Corps

dsay

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...al ...omoting 'Iranian Regime

...ocate for Veterans

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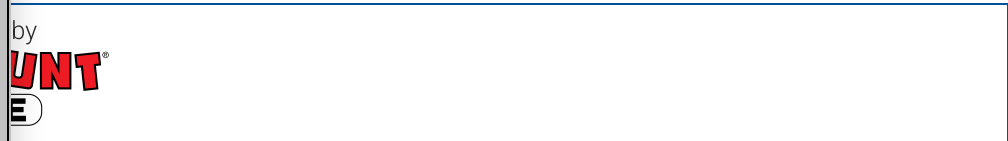
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...ving to Halt Wife's Deportation After She Was Detained on Louisiana Military

...ies Are Homeschooling at Twice the Rate—Why?



- Marine Corps
- Coast Guard
- Space Force
- Military Opinion

Marines	Navy	Air Force
Coast Guard	Space Force	Spouse



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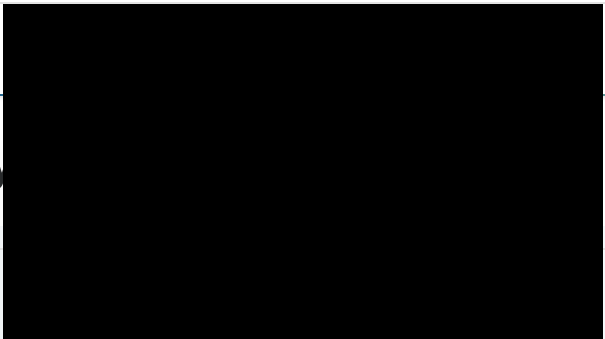
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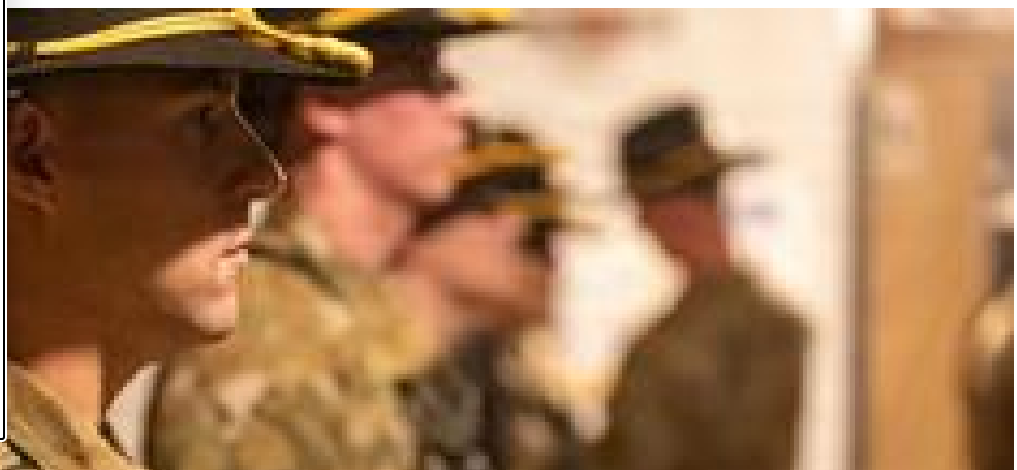
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Great Patch Eligibility as Modern Deployments Service

... eligibility, recognizing soldiers in modern deployments where risk is high even

Disability Compensation Pay Years Ago. Now the VA Wants It Back From Your Disability





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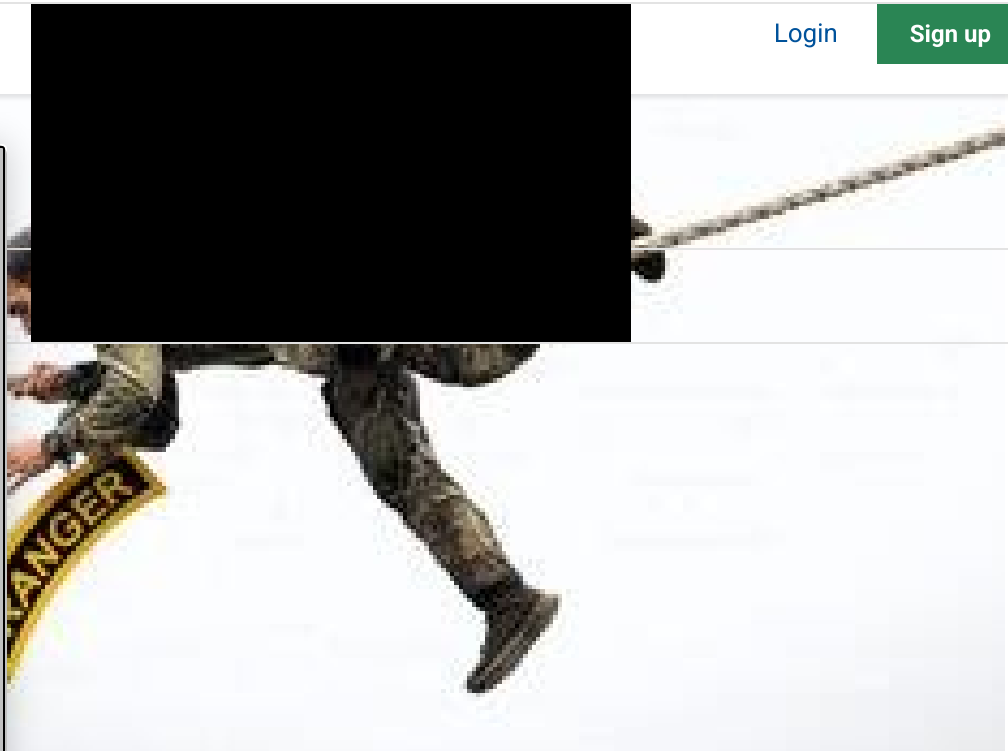
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ts to Be an Army Ranger

the Ranger Regiment when he is old enough. What should I focus on to help him

al's Relatives Lived Lavish LA Lifestyle While Promoting 'Iranian Regime

raqi Militia Says It Will Release American Journalist Shelly Kittleson

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ving to Halt Wife's Deportation After She Was Detained on Louisiana Military

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Details of 'No-Fail' Rescue of Downed Pilots

'No-Fail': How US Rescued F-15E Crew Member in Iran

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Dragon Sued for US Taxpayer-Funded Primate Labs

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Updates

More Than 100 Veterans Have Been Deported. Now Some Are Getting



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• VA Won't Enforce New Rules on Immigration Congress Members Want

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BENEFITS

- Benefits Home
- Military Pay and Money
- GI Bill
- Veteran Health Care
- Tricare
- VA Loans
- Insurance
- Retirement
- VA eBenefits

MILITARY LIFE

- Military Life Home
- Money
- Off Duty
- Fitness
- Military Trivia Game
- Veterans Day
- Spouse & Family
- Deployment
- Military History

JOIN THE MILITARY

- Join the Military Home
- ASVAB
- Contact a Recruiter
- Military Fitness



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