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AFR 211-18  
MCO 1752.1C

ARMY REGULATION  
No. 600-240  
BUPERSINST 1756.1 CH-1  
AIR FORCE REGULATION  
No. 211-18  
MCO 1752.1C

DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY, THE NAVY,  
AND THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, DC, 1 June 1978

PERSONNEL—GENERAL

MARRIAGE IN OVERSEA COMMANDS

*This revision provides clarification for requirement of notarized and written consent from parent(s) or legal guardian. The minimum age for marriage without parental or guardian consent for the applicant and the intended spouse will conform with the laws of his or her respective domiciles, unless the laws of the country in which the marriage is to take place do not recognize as controlling the legal age established by the domicile. It also calls attention to possible adverse effect upon a military member's career as a result of marriage to an alien. Local supplementation of this regulation is prohibited, except upon approval by HQDA (DAPC-EPA-P), 2461 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22331.*

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**1. Purpose.** This regulation provides information and policy guidance to commanders on marriage of personnel stationed in or visiting oversea commands, and on applications for the immigration of alien spouses, fiance or fiancee, children, stepchildren, and adopted children.

*a.* The restrictions imposed by this regulation are not intended to prevent marriage. These restrictions are for the protection of both aliens and US citizens from the possible disastrous effects of an impetuous marriage entered into without appreciation of its implications and obligations.

*b.* This regulation is intended to make both aliens and US citizens aware of the rights and restrictions imposed by the immigration laws of the United States and to assist in identifying and hopefully precluding the creation of US military dependents not eligible for immigration to the United States who may pose a logistical burden on, and possible embarrassment to, the US military service concerned. *will not support*

**2. Statutory authority.** The admission to the United States of the above aliens is governed by the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 USC 1101, *et seq.*).

This regulation supersedes AR 600-240/BUPERSINST 1752.1/AFR 211-18/MCO 1752.1B, 15 March 1977.

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a. Titles 8 and 22 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) contain the immigration and nationality regulations. Since 24 December 1952, the effective date of the Immigration and Nationality Act, certain policies and procedures have been changed. In general, the exacting standards heretofore determining admissibility are continued, but additional categories of potential immigrants have been granted consideration.

b. Public Law 91-225 (8 USC 1184(d)), signed by the President on 7 April 1970, amended the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide non-immigrant status for the alien fiance or fiancée of a US citizen who seeks to enter the United States to conclude a valid marriage in the United States within 90 days after entry.

**3. Applicability.** This regulation does not apply to Army National Guard and US Army Reserve personnel unless serving on active duty in an overseas command.

**4. Policy.** a. It is the policy of the Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force that all active duty personnel have basically the same right to enter into marriage as any other citizens of the United States in the same locality. Armed Forces personnel stationed in or visiting foreign countries are required to obtain written authorization from the senior overseas area commander of their particular branch of service prior to marrying. This authority may be delegated as deemed necessary. The policy of the departments is that approval will be given in all instances where military personnel have complied with local regulations implementing this policy, provided that—

(1) Due examination and consideration do not indicate that the intended alien spouse would certainly or probably be barred from entry to the United States through inability to meet statutory physical, mental, or character standards.

(2) The applicant has demonstrated financial ability, not limited to any particular form of financial security, to prevent the alien spouse from becoming a public charge.

b. Civilian personnel serving with, employed by, or accompanying the Armed Forces outside the United States under Department of Defense sponsorship are not required to submit applications for authorization to marry. They are encouraged to avail themselves of the consultative services provided by military commanders con-

cerning the legal, moral, and procedural problems involved in overseas marriages, and the United States laws on immigration and nationality.

c. Applications for authorization to marry will be forwarded by indorsement to the commander having authority to approve the application. These applications must be accompanied by written and notarized consent of the parent(s) or legal guardian of the applicant and of the intended spouse if he or she is under the legal age for marriage without consent as prescribed by the laws of the state, territory or country of his or her respective domicile. If, however, the laws of the country in which the marriage is to take place do not recognize the legal age of domicile as stated above, then the laws of that country shall apply. The notarized permission should include—

(1) The full name and place of residence of the person being granted permission to marry.

(2) The full name and place of residence of the intended spouse.

(3) The date permission is granted.

(4) The full name, place of residence, and relationship of the person or persons granting permission.

d. Where obstacles to a lasting marriage appear to be present through the anticipated inadmissibility to the United States of the intended spouse, the application for authorization to marry will be returned by the commander for consideration by the service member of the problems that would result if the intended spouse were not admitted to the United States after marrying (see para 6b).

e. Each application returned disapproved will indicate the specific reasons for lack of approval and will suggest any additional action that may be taken to secure permission (for example, medical attention for either party or further savings by the service member).

f. Marriage applications disapproved for security reasons and returned to the applicant will state briefly the reason for disapproval, but will not divulge the source of information or other data which would involve violation of security or jeopardize sources of information available in the conduct of these investigations.

g. Prior to granting authorization to marry, a medical examination will be required of each alien fiance or fiancée and all dependents who will

actually be residing with the prospective spouse, and that intend to seek admission to the United States. The examination may be administered at either a US Public Health Service office or a US forces medical facility and will be of sufficient scope and thoroughness to detect mental or physical illness or conditions as described in paragraph 5b(4). Although the premarital medical examination performed at a US forces medical facility is given to determine suitability for later entry into the United States, qualification as a result of this examination is tentative and does not ensure final medical acceptance of the prospective spouse or dependents for entry into the United States. The alien spouse and dependents must later undergo and satisfactorily meet the requirements of a medical examination administered by a US military or civilian doctor, in accordance with requirements established by the US Public Health Service, before a visa is granted.

h. Premarital investigations of prospective alien spouses of military personnel are the responsibility of the approving area commander of the particular service. The commander will initiate and complete the investigative checks and examinations necessary to predetermine the alien's probable admissibility to the United States prior to granting permission to marry. If the review of the results of the investigations reveals evidence of a derogatory nature which, in the opinion of the commander, raises a question of the alien's eligibility for a visa, the case will be referred to the appropriate US consular officials for advice. Care will be exercised to ensure that only cases in this category are referred to the consular officials. The premarital investigation documents of the intended spouse will not be disposed of. These documents are important because of their necessary referral to the appropriate American Consulate or Embassy when the applicant applies for a visa for his or her alien spouse.

i. If the prospective alien spouse resides in a country where no military investigative or medical facilities are available, United States consular officials in the country concerned will be requested to conduct necessary premarital investigations. Military commanders should submit these requests in accordance with specific procedural policies, departmental or local, established by their particular service.

j. Applicants whose requests have been favorably considered will be given all assistance possible in arranging their marriages and securing visa and other entrance documentation, including forwarding Form I-130 (Petition to Classify Status of Alien Relative for Issuance of Immigrant Visa) under cover letter of the command, stating that—

(1) The financial status of the individual has been considered;

(2) The alien spouse has undergone medical examination; and

(3) No defects barring admission under pertinent immigration laws have been discovered.

k. Applicants will be advised that approval of their proposed marriage by the appropriate military authority will not necessarily result in the alien spouse being granted an immigration visa, and, even in those cases in which a visa is granted, there is no certainty that an alien spouse will be admitted into the United States at the port of entry. The Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization has final jurisdiction regarding entry of aliens into the United States. Each applicant will be required to sign a statement to the effect that he or she so understands.

l. Applicants who are members of the military service will be encouraged to seek premarital advice and counsel of a military chaplain before making final plans for marriage. The applicant should also be encouraged to have the marriage ceremony performed by a military chaplain. This may sometimes involve two ceremonies. A civil ceremony is required by the laws of some countries. In this connection, the laws of the United States recognize only those marriages which are legally entered into under the laws of the country in which the ceremony is performed. All personnel concerned will be advised that the Immigration and Naturalization Service does not hold proxy, telephone, or similar marriages to be valid for immigration purposes unless the marriage shall have been consummated through cohabitation. If the military member so desires, the ceremony or ceremonies will be attended by commissioned and noncommissioned members of his or her unit of assignment, whenever practicable, and a suitable marriage certificate will be presented by the command to supplement any document which may be provided under local laws.

*m.* Once a marriage has been entered into and the dependents are deemed eligible for benefits normally associated with command sponsorship, no distinction will be made between alien and citizen spouses in the access to, and use of available support facilities (e.g., post exchange, commissary, and Class VI stores). Any other benefit to which the dependents of military members are entitled by virtue of the member's rank, tenure, or status will be conferred irrespective of the dependents' nationality or command sponsorship. In the case of a marriage within the oversea command, the member will not be authorized to occupy dependent-type quarters on a date earlier than he or she would be entitled to do so had he or she entered the oversea command on the date of marriage.

*n.* The service member will ensure that an official record of his or her marriage (whether to an alien or a US citizen) is made with the proper local civil authority immediately after marriage has been accomplished.

**5. Problems to be considered.** *a.* The admissibility of alien spouses and children merits serious consideration by the parties to the marriage and the military service, since such marriages are normally planned in anticipation of eventual residence in the United States. Thorough study of all aspects of the problem by the individual prior to marriage, together with guidance from the appropriate military commanders, can minimize, if not eliminate, the prospect of broken homes by wholesale divorce, abandonment, or desertion which would result if large numbers of alien spouses failed to qualify for admission to the United States because the individuals concerned were not aware of the requirements for entry prior to marriage.

*b.* Mental and physical health of the alien spouse, as well as character, morals, and political beliefs and affiliations, are matters of primary importance since individuals in certain categories may be inadmissible to the United States for permanent residence. These categories include, but are not limited to, aliens who—

- (1) Are mentally retarded, insane, or have had one or more attacks of insanity.
- (2) Are afflicted with psychopathic personality, sexual deviation, or mental defect.
- (3) Are narcotic drug addicts, chronic alcoholics, paupers, professional beggars, or vagrants.
- (4) Are afflicted with any dangerous con-

tagious disease. The following diseases are considered to be in the dangerous contagious category:

- (a) Chancroid.
- (b) Gonorrhoea.
- (c) Granuloma inguinale.
- (d) Leprosy, infectious; lepromatous, or dimorphous.
- (e) Lymphogranuloma venereum.
- (f) Syphilis in the infectious stage.
- (g) Tuberculosis, active.

(5) Are prostitutes or have engaged in or profited from prostitution.

(6) Are polygamists, practice polygamy, or advocate the practice of polygamy.

(7) Are, or at any time have been, anarchists, opposers of organized government, advocates of forceful or violent overthrow of organized government; members of or affiliated with the Communist or any other totalitarian party or association.

(8) Have been convicted of—

(a) A crime involving moral turpitude or admits to having committed such a crime, or

(b) Two or more offenses (other than purely political offenses) for which the aggregate sentence to confinement actually imposed was 5 years or more, or

(c) Violation of, or conspiracy to violate, any law or regulation relating to the illicit possession of or traffic in narcotic drugs or marijuana.

(d) Certain other offenses specified in Title 8, United States Code, Section 1182, regarding the general classes of excludable aliens.

(9) Have been arrested and deported; have fallen into distress and have been removed from the United States; or have been excluded from admission and deported; unless the Attorney General of the United States has consented to their applying or reapplying for admission.

*c.* In addition to the high standards required of the alien, the US citizen also must present satisfactory evidence of ability to prevent the spouse from becoming a public charge. Another important subject for consideration is the large number of enlisted personnel of pay grade E-4 with less than 2 years service, E-3, E-2, and E-1, who have no occupational backgrounds or histories of past earnings to establish their ability to support a family. Consideration must be given also to the health of the US citizen. (The presence of active tuberculosis, for example, would not only

impair his or her ability to support the family, but would endanger the health of the alien spouse, thus jeopardizing admissibility.)

*d.* An adverse effect on a military sponsor's career can often result from marriage to an alien when the sponsor occupies a sensitive position requiring access to classified defense information or cryptographic matter. This aspect should be closely examined through consultation with the unit commander and/or Security Manager. The military member should also consider possible reclassification action that could occur and its resultant impact on his/her career aspirations.

**6. Exception to policy.** *a.* The Departments of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force recognize the human aspects of situations leading to application for authorization to marry an alien. It is the intent of this regulation that the procedures followed in oversea commands will be in accordance with normal legal rights and privileges of US citizens to the fullest extent practicable. Existing local conditions may affect individual actions and procedures of commanders.

*b.* A determination that the prospective alien spouse may be ineligible for admission into the United States does not require disapproval of the application for authorization to marry. The US citizen desiring to marry and the alien fiance or fiancee will be thoroughly counselled and advised that in the opinion of the commander the intended alien spouse may be ineligible for admission to the United States. If the citizen, the intended spouse (and the parents of either, if appropriate, because of the partner's age) indicate in writing that such advice has been received and they nevertheless desire that the marriage take place, the commander may approve the application for authorization to marry.

**7. Command regulations.** *a.* Directives will be reasonable and will stress the fact that the screening of applicants for authorization to marry by the commander is substantially similar to the processing of requests for entry of alien spouses into the United States, and that the lack of command approval is indicative of probable unfavorable action of the United States Consul and the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization on a visa request.

*b.* Marriage regulations issued by commanders of the several services in the same area will be co-

ordinated to ensure reasonable uniformity. Recommended administrative procedures are outlined in paragraph 15. Adoption or modification of the procedures recommended is at the discretion of the appropriate oversea service commander.

*c.* Local information media will be used from time to time to promote an understanding of marriage regulations and their intent. Orientation of replacements will include this subject. Questions and discussion will be encouraged.

**8. Admission of alien spouses and children.**

*a.* Subject to the conditions specified by law, the alien spouse of any US citizen may be approved for entry into the United States on a permanent-residence basis, without regard to numerical limitation, provided that the required petition for immediate relative status (Form I-130: Petition to Classify Status of Alien Relative for Issuance of Immigrant Visa) is duly filed with the United States Consul concerned, and duly approved.

*b.* Neither the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization nor the United States Consul has broad power to grant exceptions to the statutory restrictions governing the admissibility of aliens or eligibility to receive visas. However, the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended (PL 87-301 (8 USC 1182)), vests in the Attorney General of the United States discretionary authority to grant waivers to certain alien spouses and children (including minor unmarried adopted children) who are ineligible for visas because of conviction of an offense involving moral turpitude, conviction of two or more offenses for which the aggregate sentence actually imposed was 5 or more years, or because of prostitution. The Attorney General of the United States may also grant waivers under his discretionary authority in the case of certain alien spouses and children who have procured, or attempted to procure, a visa by fraud or misrepresentation, or admitting the commission of perjury in connection therewith.

*c.* Each application for waiver (Form I-601: Application for Waiver of Grounds of Excludability) is judged on its individual merits. Waivers will not be granted where entrance of such alien dependents would be contrary to the national welfare, safety, or security. A favorable decision is required to be based on a finding by the Attorney General of the United States that extreme hardship would result to a US citizen or a lawful

resident of the United States should his or her alien dependents be excluded from the United States. An advance decision on a waiver is not possible for prospective spouses. Applications for waiver can be made only after a legal marriage.

d. Form I-601 can be obtained from United States Consuls.

e. The Immigration and Naturalization Act provides that certain alien spouses and unmarried children (including minor unmarried lawfully adopted children) who are excludable from the United States because of mental retardation, a history of mental illness, or affliction with tuberculosis and who are otherwise admissible to the United States may be issued a visa and admitted to the United States for permanent residence. Approval thereof will be at the discretion of the Attorney General of the United States after consultation with the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service. (See AR 40-121/SECNAVINST 6320.8D/AFR 168-9/PHS GEN CIR NO. 6/CG COMDTINST 6320.2b/NOAA CO-4.) Aliens in this category, who are dependents of United States military personnel and who seek admission to the United States, must file an Immigration and Naturalization Form I-601, with supporting documents, at the consular office considering the request for a visa.

f. A child is a citizen of the United States if he or she is born outside the geographical limits of the United States or its outlying possessions of parents, one of whom is an alien, and the other a citizen of the United States, who, prior to the birth of the child, was physically present in the United States or its outlying possessions for a period or periods totaling not less than ten years, at least five of which were after attaining the age of fourteen years. (Honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States counts as physical presence in the United States.) Recognition of the child's citizenship when traveling to the United States is made easier if its birth has been declared by the parents and documented at the office of the appropriate United States Consul.

g. Children in the following categories are permitted entry into the United States, without numerical limitations, if otherwise qualified under immigration laws:

(1) Children born to the alien spouse, whether or not born in wedlock, may enter as stepchildren

of the citizen spouse, provided they had not reached the age of 18 years at the time of the alien's marriage to the US citizen.

(2) Illegitimate children by or for whom a status, privilege, or benefit is sought because of their relationship to their natural mother.

(3) Children adopted under the age of 14 years if they have since been in legal custody of, and have resided with, the adopting parent or parents for at least 2 years.

(4) Children under 14 years of age at the time at which the visa petition is filed, who are eligible orphans adopted abroad or coming to the United States for adoption. However, not more than two such petitions may be approved for eligible orphans adopted or to be adopted by any one US citizen and spouse, unless necessary to prevent the separation of brothers or sisters. Visas issued to orphans adopted by US citizens serving abroad in the Armed Forces or employed abroad by the United States Government are valid until such time as the adoptive citizen returns to the United States in due course of his or her service and/or employment, but they are valid not to exceed 3 years from date of issue.

h. Oversea commanders authorized to take final action on marriage applications will consider waiver possibilities in determining their action under paragraph 4.

**9. Admission of alien fiance or fiancée.** a. Section 1101(a)(15)(K), Title 8, United States Code, provides nonimmigrant status to the alien fiance or fiancée of a US citizen who seeks to enter the United States solely to conclude a valid marriage with the US citizen within 90 days after entry.

b. A service member desiring to have an alien fiance or fiancée admitted to the United States under the above provision is required to file a petition for a visa on behalf of the alien concerned. A visa will not be granted until the American consular officer has received a petition filed in the United States and approved by the Attorney General. Satisfactory evidence must be submitted by the petitioner to establish that the parties have a bona fide intent to marry and are legally able and actually willing to conclude a valid marriage in the United States within 90 days after the alien's arrival. Minor children accompanying or following to join the alien should be included in the petition. The service member should

communicate with the nearest district office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, or with the nearest US consular officer, if assigned overseas, to obtain information regarding the filing of the required Petition to Classify Status of Alien Fiance or Fiancee for Issuance of Non-immigrant Visa (Form I-129F) in behalf of the alien concerned. The service member should be advised that in the event the marriage does not occur within 3 months after entry of the alien and any minor children, they will be required to depart the United States and upon failure to do so, will be deported.

c. The alien fiancee or fiance desiring to immigrate to the United States should be advised to communicate with the United States consular officer of the American Embassy appropriate to the country concerned and request information on the procedure to be followed in applying for a visa under Section 1105(a)(15)(K), Title 8, United States Code.

d. As the marriage will not be performed in the overseas area, commanders need not be concerned with the issue of the alien's admissibility to the United States. Premarital investigations will not be conducted by the overseas commanders and the service member will not be required to submit a formal application for authorization to marry.

e. Commanders are encouraged to grant leave, consistent with operational military requirements, to personnel stationed overseas who plan to return to the United States on leave for the purpose of marrying an alien fiance or fiancee admitted to the United States under the above provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Travel in connection with leave to and from the United States is the responsibility of the individual and will be at no expense to the Government. (See para 10e.)

**10. Completion of processing of applications of personnel who depart overseas commands.** a. The date of marriage relative to prospective rotation date of the US citizen and/or the plans of the alien spouse for departure to the United States is an important factor. An application for authorization to marry is not grounds for retention in the overseas command beyond the date the applicant is eligible to return from overseas (DEROS), nor is it grounds for retention in the service beyond expiration of term of service (ETS). It does not, however, preclude the individual's voluntary ex-

ension of overseas tour or term of service under other policies governing such extensions.

b. Processing will continue on those applications not completed by the time the applicant departs the overseas command, provided the applicant so requests in writing and states his or her intention to return to the overseas command in a leave status for the purpose of marriage if the application is approved.

c. Requests for permission to visit an overseas command, or a foreign country not within the jurisdiction of an overseas command, in an ordinary leave status for the purpose of marriage, normally will not be granted until the member's application for authorization to marry has been approved. Unforeseen complications are often encountered in conducting the premarital investigation and could result in needless expense to the applicant and disappointment to all concerned if, due to expiration of leave, the member is required to depart the overseas command before the investigation is completed. Additionally, an unnecessary burden is placed on administrative and investigative personnel in the overseas command attempting to complete the investigation prior to expiration of the member's leave.

d. Normally, leave is not granted to visit a country in which US service members are entitled to receive hostile fire pay. Exceptions to this policy can be approved only by the major overseas commander with jurisdiction over US personnel serving in the country to be visited.

e. Travel in connection with leave to and from the United States or to and from the overseas command where the marriage is to take place is the responsibility of the individual service member and will be at no expense to the Government. However, active duty military personnel on ordinary leave are eligible for space-available transportation on DOD-owned or -controlled aircraft in accordance with DOD Regulation 4515.13-R. To obtain transportation, the member is required to have a valid leave authorization as prescribed by regulations of the military service concerned.

**11. Applications originating in other overseas commands or in the United States.** a. Applications of military personnel who are stationed in the Continental United States, its territories, or in an overseas command other than the one in which the proposed marriage is to take place, will be

submitted through such channels as the service commander will prescribe to the oversea commander concerned for processing.

b. When a decision is reached, the oversea commander concerned will inform the commander from whom the application was received of the decision. If the application is approved, the notification should include instructions as to any special requirements the applicant must meet upon approval in the oversea command for marriage. If the application is disapproved, the reasons for disapproval will be given and, when practicable, suggestions as to additional action that may be taken to secure approval of the marriage will be made.

c. See paragraphs 10c, d, and e concerning permission to visit an oversea command in an ordinary leave status for the purpose of marriage, and transportation in connection therewith.

**12. Marriage between US citizens and certain aliens.** Since the issue of admissibility to the United States is not involved in marriages between US citizens oversea or between US citizens and aliens who have been admitted to the United States for permanent residence or have been granted immigrant status, commanders need only be concerned that—

(1) Authorization to marry has been obtained from parents or guardian in accordance with paragraph 4c.

(2) Evidence of termination of each previous marriage (if applicable) is available. (See para 15c(1).)

(3) Both parties are found on physical examination to be free from infectious venereal disease and active tuberculosis.

(4) The service member and the intended spouse are adequately counselled on the problems and responsibilities of marriage.

**13. Marriage between aliens.** An alien member who intends to marry another alien will be advised that such marriage will not exempt the alien spouse from the numerical limitations for immigrants (8 USC 1151). Nevertheless, a lawful permanent resident may petition for second preference classification for his or her alien spouse (8 USC 1153).

**14. Entry of adopted children.** For personnel contemplating adoption of an alien child other than the alien child of a spouse, service directives will

include information that, in general, adopted alien children are subject to the usual numerical limitations, except as provided for in paragraphs 8g(3) and (4). Physical examination will be administered by a US military or civilian doctor to determine as far as possible that the children are physically qualified for visas and entry into the United States.

**15. Optional administrative procedures for command regulations.** The administrative procedures outlined below are optional and are intended only as a guide in the preparation of Uniform Service regulations. Commanders may prescribe those procedures considered necessary for the preparation and processing of applications for authorization to marry. Adoption or modification of the procedures, as outlined, is at the discretion of the service commanders. Exchange of data between Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps is encouraged.

a. *Marriage counseling.* Service members should be advised of the desirability of pastoral counseling by a military chaplain with reference to spiritual and religious matters, adjustments which may be required as a result of language and environmental background differences, and the moral and financial obligations of marriage and family life. Where practical, referral should be to a chaplain of the service member's faith. Counseling by a legal assistance officer should include briefing on the requirements of the immigration and naturalization laws of the United States, and the legal responsibilities of supporting dependents. Where either party was previously married and divorce or annulment is involved, the legal assistance officer may advise whether, in his or her opinion, that party is legally free to marry.

b. *Financial preparation.* Where circumstances indicate the need for financial preparation on the part of the service member, he or she may be urged to set aside a definite portion of pay as a savings and cautioned that failure to do so may prejudice approval of the request for authorization to marry or the granting of a visa to the alien spouse, if authorization to marry is granted. (This is particularly pertinent to personnel of pay grades E-4 (with 2 years, or less, service for pay purposes), E-3, E-2, and E-1.)

c. *Application for authorization to marry.* Documents listed below may be required to support an application:

(1) A statement by each party of legal freedom to marry. (Evidence of termination of each previous marriage, if any, of the applicant and/or the intended alien spouse, such as a certified true copy of final divorce decree, marriage annulment document, or death certificate of a former spouse).

(2) A financial statement from those personnel in pay grades E-4 (with less than 2 years service), E-3, E-2, and E-1, indicating that they have sufficient funds to defray expenses for the marriage, to include transportation of spouse and dependents, if any, to the United States (at personal expense, nonreimbursable) and appropriate visas. Assets of the intended spouse may be included.

(3) Certificate of completion of marriage counselling.

(4) A report of medical examination for the US citizen signed by a US Forces medical officer indicating freedom from active tuberculosis and infectious venereal disease. For aliens, a medical report, signed by a US Public Health Service or US Forces medical officer, indicating probable qualification under the immigration laws for entry into the United States, is required.

(5) A request for premarital investigation of the intended alien spouse.

(6) Character references for the intended alien spouse.

(7) Other documents or forms as required by the laws of the country or locality of the

intended alien spouse and/or by the jurisdiction in which the ceremony is to be performed.

*d. Submission of petition to classify status of alien relative for issuance of immigration visa.* The service member should be made aware of the importance of filing a petition as soon as possible because obstacles such as missing documents or the need for additional information could cause delays in the issuance of the visa(s) and may result in the departure of the service member from the overseas command without his or her alien dependents. Submission of a petition may be required immediately following the marriage ceremony, when appropriate. A suspense file may be maintained until the visa is granted.

*e. Guidance classes.* Alien spouses of US military personnel often encounter overwhelming adjustment problems upon arrival in the United States due to cultural change and a language barrier. The service member must often be away from duty to deal with these problems. Many adjustment difficulties could be avoided or significantly reduced by the spouses' participation in educational and Western cultural activities aimed at developing the spouses' functional ability to live in the United States before arrival in the country. Service members should be encouraged to have their spouses, fiancées, or fiancés enroll in English language classes and other appropriate classes while still in the overseas command.



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