



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

May 29, 2015

Karin King
Managing Director, Office of Visa Services
Bureau of Consular Affairs
Department of State

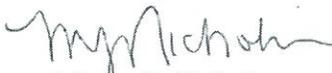

Dear Managing Director King:

I am pleased to inform you that United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is granting a blanket exception to the Department of State to accept and adjudicate immediate relative petitions filed by qualified active duty U.S. service members permanently assigned to U.S. military bases outside of the United States where USCIS does not have a presence. This blanket exception is being granted in response to an August 2014 request from Ambassador Kennedy for USCIS to consider such a filing exception for U.S. military in Japan. In recognition of the important sacrifices made by our military service men and women worldwide, USCIS is granting this authorization to the Department of State both in Japan and in all other countries where USCIS does not have a presence.

Consistent with current policy related to USCIS' grant of filing exceptions, the Department of State may accept those Forms I-130, *Petition for Alien Relative*, filed on behalf of immediate relatives only and may adjudicate those cases that are clearly approvable. Petitions determined not to be clearly approvable must be forwarded for adjudication to the USCIS international office with jurisdiction over the post that accepted the filing.

USCIS is committed to providing timely and efficient immigration services to members of the military and their families stationed around the globe, and we look forward to our continued partnership with the Visa Office in support of our U.S. troops abroad.

Sincerely,



Maura J. Nicholson
Acting Chief, International Operations