



UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
2000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-2000

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POLICY

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS  
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE  
CHIEFS OF THE MILITARY SERVICES  
CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU  
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS  
DIRECTORS OF DEFENSE AGENCIES  
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Guidance on Enduring Welcome Eligibility for Afghan Family Members of  
Department of Defense Personnel

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This memorandum requests all DoD Components send the message at TAB A to all personnel not later than 15 working days from the publication of this guidance to ensure it is received by any U.S. military member or DoD civilian employee who may be eligible to resettle certain Afghan national family members to the United States through the President’s Enduring Welcome program. Enduring Welcome is a high-priority, multi-year effort that requires DoD Component coordination, involvement, and active oversight to manage effectively the health of the force. **For this policy, an “interested individual” refers to a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident (LPR) who is active duty military, a member of the Reserve Component or National Guard, or a DoD civilian employee.**

Since August 2021, DoD has supported State Department-led efforts to facilitate departures from Afghanistan of U.S. citizens, LPRs, and eligible Afghan partners and their families.

Under Enduring Welcome, the U.S. government has granted a special accommodation to certain family members of U.S. Government direct hires (U.S. citizen and LPR) who were actively employed between the period of January 1, 2020, and August 31, 2021. This accommodation allows U.S. military personnel and DoD civilian employees to request resettlement assistance for certain family members to immigrate to the United States. This policy is limited to immediate and extended family members of the requesting U.S. Government direct hire strictly defined as parents, spouse, biological sons and daughters of any age or marital status (including their spouses and/or unmarried children under age 21), and biological brothers

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and sisters (including that sibling’s spouse and/or unmarried children under age 21). This policy is not applicable to DoD contractors.

*A U.S. military member or DoD civilian employee who is eligible* shall notify the Office of the Special Coordinator for Afghanistan (OSCA) in the Office of the Under Secretary for Policy of their interest by January 2, 2024, via email at [osd.pentagon.ousd-policy.mbx.dod-afghan-relocations@mail.mil](mailto:osd.pentagon.ousd-policy.mbx.dod-afghan-relocations@mail.mil) with “DoD Interested Individual – Enduring Welcome” in the subject line for further information. OSCA will respond within 5 working days with instructions on how to complete a Request for Relocation Assistance (RRA) for eligible family members.

Individuals who qualify for this accommodation must submit an RRA to OSCA endorsed by their chain of command to ensure appropriate oversight completion according to published guidance. A completed RRA does not constitute a guarantee of any U.S. Government assistance for relocation and does not constitute a decision on eligibility for admission to the United States. All family members who meet eligibility requirements must clear screening and vetting by U.S. Government agencies prior to resettlement in the United States.

Questions regarding this policy should be directed to OSCA at [osd.pentagon.ousd-policy.mbx.dod-afghan-relocations@mail.mil](mailto:osd.pentagon.ousd-policy.mbx.dod-afghan-relocations@mail.mil) with “Enduring Welcome Policy Inquiry” in the subject line.

This message supersedes guidance published in “Identifying Immediate Family Members of U.S. Military Personnel and Department of Defense Civilian Employees Seeking Departure from Afghanistan,” signed by the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy on November 4, 2021.



Sasha N. Baker  
Acting

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