



Homeland  
Security

September 2, 2025

The Honorable Seth Moulton  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Moulton:

Thank you for your June 24, 2025 letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is committed to enforcing immigration laws fairly, consistently, and in alignment with the Department's statutory mission to secure the homeland. Under my leadership, DHS has prioritized the strict enforcement of immigration laws, including against criminal aliens, while ensuring that lawful military service is given due consideration.

Since 2004, ICE officers have been instructed to inquire about military service when processing aliens for removal proceedings, and protections are in place to ensure service in the U.S. Armed Forces is taken into consideration. To this end, any action ICE takes that may result in the removal of an alien with identified military service must be authorized by the ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) Field Office Director with assistance by the ICE Office of the Principal Legal Advisor.

ICE values the contributions of all those who have served in the U.S. military; however, U.S. military service alone does not automatically exempt aliens from the consequences of violating U.S. immigration laws. U.S. military service is defined as service in the National Guard or the active or reserve components of the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or Space Force.

ICE policy dictates that the alien bears the burden of proof regarding U.S. military service; however, ICE personnel must proactively ask all aliens during intake interviews whether they have U.S. military service. ICE personnel must investigate an alien's claim of U.S. military service and use the "U.S. Military Service Checklist" to document the alien's biographical information, military service details, family and community ties, criminal and immigration history, and potentially available relief or naturalization eligibility. If an alien's U.S. military service has been verified, ICE personnel must consider whether the alien is statutorily eligible for naturalization based on his or her U.S. military service, pursuant to sections 328 or 329 of the Immigration and Nationality Act. ICE ERO Field Office Directors and ICE Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Special Agents in Charge have the authority to approve the issuance and

service of a Notice to Appear, the initiation of administrative proceedings (administrative removal), or reinstatement of a final order of removal (reinstatement of removal) to an alien with U.S. military service. ICE Headquarters-level review and approval may be requested but is not required.

ICE will generally not issue a Notice to Appear, initiate administrative removal, or reinstate a final order of removal against an alien who is currently serving on active duty in the U.S. military, absent significant aggravating factors. When significant aggravating factors are present, the ERO Field Office Director, or HSI Special Agent in Charge, or their designee, must coordinate with the U.S. service member's chain of command and applicable military law enforcement authorities.

In reference to your question regarding the estimated number of veterans currently facing removal proceedings in the United States, as of August 8, 2025 there are 107 veterans on the non-detained docket and 14 veterans currently detained. Please refer to the below tables for additional information regarding location and final order status.

**ICE Non-Detained Docket of United States Veterans Cases by  
Docket Control Office and Final Order Status<sup>1</sup>**

Docket Control Office	Final Order Status		Total
	No	Yes	
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>107</b>
Adelanto, CA Sub-Office ERO	-	1	1
Anchorage, AK, Docket Control Office	1	-	1
Atlanta, GA, Docket Control Office	2	3	5
Baltimore, MD, Docket Control Office	1	1	2
Boston, MA, Docket Control Office	2	1	3
Chicago, IL, Docket Control Office	1	-	1
Cleveland, OH, Docket Control Office	1	-	1
Dallas, TX, Docket Control Office	-	1	1
Denver, CO, Docket Control Office	2	-	2
ERO - Albuquerque, NM Sub-Office	-	1	1
ERO - Big Springs, TX IRP Sub-Office	-	1	1
ERO - Central Islip, NY Sub Office	2	-	2
ERO - Charleston, SC Sub-Office	1	-	1
ERO - Charleston, WV Sub Office	1	-	1
ERO - Columbus, OH Sub-Office	-	1	1
ERO - Des Moines, IA Sub Office	1	-	1
ERO - El Paso, TX SPC Sub-Office	3	-	3

<sup>1</sup> As of August 8, 2025.

ERO - Helena, MT Sub Office	1	1	2
ERO - Jacksonville, FL Sub Office	2	-	2
ERO - Louisville, KY Sub-Office	1	-	1
ERO - Milwaukee, WI Sub-Office	-	1	1
ERO - Oklahoma City, OK Sub-Office	-	1	1
ERO - Sacramento, CA Sub Office	-	1	1
ERO - San Bernardino, CA Sub Office	-	1	1
ERO - Santa Ana, CA Sub-Office	1	-	1
ERO - Santa Maria, CA Sub-Office	1	1	2
ERO - St. Louis, MO Sub-Office	1	-	1
ERO - Stuart, FL Sub Office	1	-	1
ERO - Syracuse, NY Sub-Office	-	1	1
ERO - Tallahassee, FL Sub Office	1	-	1
Fishkill, NY IRP Sub-Office	1	-	1
Harlingen, TX, Docket Control Office	1	1	2
Hartford, CT, Docket Control Office	3	-	3
Houston, TX, Docket Control Office	5	2	7
Krome, Miami, FL, Docket Control Office	1	-	1
Los Angeles, CA, Docket Control Office	3	1	4
Miami, FL, Docket Control Office	9	3	12
New York, NY, Docket Control Office	12	4	16
Newark, NJ, Docket Control Office	1	-	1
Orlando, FL, Docket Control Office	2	-	2
Philadelphia, PA, Docket Control Office	1	-	1
Phoenix, AZ, Docket Control Office	2	-	2
Pittsburgh, PA, Docket Control Office	1	-	1
Salt Lake City, UT, Docket Control Office	1	-	1
San Diego, CA, Docket Control Office	1	-	1
San Francisco, CA, Docket Control Office	-	1	1
Seattle, WA, Docket Control Office	1	1	2
Tampa, FL, Docket Control Office	1	1	2
Tucson, AZ, Docket Control Office	1	-	1
Washington, DC, Docket Control Office	1	-	1
Williamsport, PA Sub-Office	1	-	1



**ICE Currently Detained United States Veterans by State and Final Order Status<sup>2</sup>**

State	Final Order Status		Total
	No	Yes	
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14</b>
Arizona	1	-	1
Colorado	1	-	1
Louisiana	1	-	1
Missouri	1	-	1
Ohio	-	1	1
Oklahoma	-	1	1
Pennsylvania	-	1	1
Rhode Island	-	1	1
Texas	2	-	2
Washington	2	1	3
Wisconsin	1	-	1

Regarding your question on the number of veterans that have been removed since January 20, 2025, ICE has removed eight veterans. These removals were carried out in strict compliance with federal immigration law and DHS enforcement priorities, including cases involving serious criminal conduct.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) collaborates closely with the Department of Defense (DOD) on naturalization processes during basic training for actively serving military personnel. This program allows alien military members to complete the naturalization process during basic training and encompasses all branches of service who admit alien military members. USCIS coordinates directly with DOD personnel at nine basic training locations across the United States.

Regarding information provided to veterans and service members, DHS defers to DOD and the Department of Veterans Affairs on how and what information is provided during recruitment, service, and post-service. DHS, through USCIS, provides information regarding citizenship through military service on its website.<sup>3</sup> USCIS also operates a toll-free military help line to assist service members and their families with immigration-related information.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>2</sup> As of August 8, 2025.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.uscis.gov/military/military>

<sup>4</sup> The hotline can be accessed at <https://www.uscis.gov/military/military-help-line> and via phone at 877-CIS-4MIL.

Thank you again for your letter. The cosigners of your letter will receive separate, identical responses. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact the DHS Office of Legislative Affairs at (202) 447-5890.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kristi Noem', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Kristi Noem  
Secretary of Homeland Security