



Questions and Answers

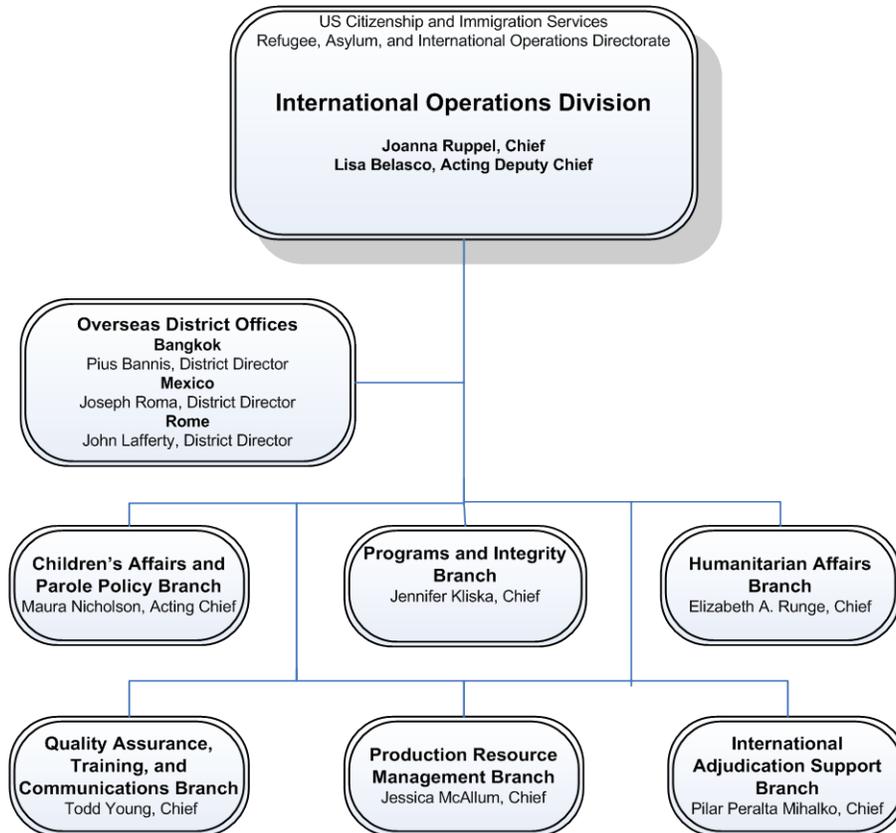
USCIS International Operations – American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) Meeting September 11, 2012

General Operations

1. Have the mission and responsibilities of the USCIS International Operations (IO) changed given the significant recent changes to the overseas waiver program, including the stateside filing requirement and its transfer to USCIS Service Center Operations?
 - A. *The recent changes to the overseas waiver program provide IO the opportunity to review our overseas footprint and responsibilities and adjust to best meet our customer needs. For example, we are looking to assume greater responsibility for certain overseas work that the Department of State (State) has been conducting for USCIS where USCIS is not present, such as interviewing refugee and asylee family members following-to-join. We also will be providing greater support to the Refugee Affairs Division. We will be decreasing our presence in certain locations where waiver applications comprised a significant part of our workload and, if permitted by State, augmenting staff where there is an opportunity to take back USCIS workloads that State has been processing on behalf of USCIS. Changes will be made incrementally, in collaboration with State. Certain USCIS offices overseas may be closed. The realignment will not result in a significant difference in the number of USCIS staff overseas, but rather a shifting of resources. We will notify the public in advance of any closings.*
2. Has this changed staffing volumes at HQ and at overseas posts?
 - A. *See Question 1.*
3. Have any key personnel been transferred from International Operations to Service Center Operations (SCOPS) in connection with the waiver program?
 - A. *No. Please see response to Question 1.*

4. Please provide a current organizational chart and a list of current staffing for your office.

A. Please see below.



Form I-601 Waiver Issues

5. Please describe IO's current responsibilities for I-601 waiver cases.

A. *IO is responsible for the adjudication of Form I-601s and I-212s filed abroad before June 4, 2012, and for those filed in Ciudad Juárez (CDJ), up to and including December 4, 2012. IO is also responsible for adjudicating Forms I-601 and I-212 filed in Havana Cuba, and those that are filed with the permission of the overseas field office director pursuant to the Policy Memorandum noted in Question 7.*

6. How are these being coordinated with SCOPS to ensure a successful program transition?

While we offer SCOPS continued communication and assistance, the transition has already proven successful.

Initial indications are that the number of filings with CDJ initially increased (through September), possibly because the option to file with a USCIS lockbox has made it easier to receive appointments.

7. On June 27, 2012, AILA submitted comments on the [USCIS interim memorandum](#) concerning the exceptions that would allow I-601 applicants to file waiver applications at USCIS offices overseas (AILA Doc. No. 12062740 & 12053142).¹ In the comment, AILA recommended that the imminent military deployment of a U.S. citizen spouse or other close family member should also be added to the current list of exceptions.

a. Does USCIS plan to incorporate this recommendation in the final memorandum?

A. *The memorandum is still in draft form, and we have received and reviewed your comments. The final version will be released in December, taking into account comments received.*

AILA also recommended that USCIS consider waiving the personal filing requirement for good cause and extreme situations, since traveling to the closest USCIS international office may be cost prohibitive or physically impossible as evidenced by the qualifying reason for the exceptional circumstance.

b. Will USCIS consider waiving the personal filing requirement as described above?

A. *There is no personal filing requirement to file at a Lockbox and some overseas offices do permit filing by mail. With respect to filing requirements spelled out for exceptional cases, USCIS will carefully consider the comments before issuing the final policy guidance. The final version will be released in December.*

8. Please describe the current volume of I-601 waiver cases pending at CDJ, including cases sent for remote adjudication to Mexico City, Anaheim, and any other offices.

A. *In general, the volume of cases pending with CDJ is trending down, though other offices will continue to assist with their adjudication as needed. As of September 11, 2012, the number of pending cases at CDJ, including cases sent for remote adjudication to Mexico City, Anaheim, and other offices, was 5,722. Of those cases, 230 were pending after decision, which means that a decision on a case was made but final steps such as updating the case management system or notifying the applicant were not completed.*

9. Are other offices still receiving and adjudicating CDJ cases, or are all new referred cases being sent to the Nebraska Service Center (NSC)?

A. *Referred cases are being sent to other international and domestic offices, including the International Adjudication Support Branch (IASB), the Monterrey and Mexico City Field Offices. Asylum Officers from the Miami Asylum Office and the Newark Asylum Office, and detailees to*

¹ AILA Comments on USCIS Interim Memo on Exceptions When Filing Waivers Abroad, AILA Doc. No. 12062740, <http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?bc=6715|8921|40290>; USCIS Interim Memo on Filing I-601 & I-212 Forms at International Offices, AILA Doc. No. 12053142, <http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?docid=39851>; http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Outreach/Feedback%20Opportunities/Interim%20Guidance%20for%20Comment/I601_Centralization_Exception_PM_2.pdf

IASB from the California Service Center and domestic field offices have also helped process these cases in 2012. CDJ is not sending referred cases to the NSC.

10. If the case is sent from CDJ to NSC, does it jurisdictionally remain under IO or SCOPS?

Earlier this year, prior to centralization, CDJ transferred cases to the NSC. Those cases then fell under the jurisdiction of SCOPS to complete.

11. What is the current volume of I-601 cases remaining unadjudicated at all other overseas USCIS offices?

A. As of September 11, 2012, the number of pending Form I-601 applications at all other overseas USCIS offices was 327.

12. Members have begun to receive I-601 approval notices (Form I-797) from the NSC. Although the notices include the standard USCIS National Customer Service Center (NCSC) phone number, the notices offer no further instructions about next steps, unlike the previous ones generated from Mexico or Anaheim. The Ciudad Juarez phone line typically indicates that no notification of approval from Lincoln has been received.

a. Could USCIS either add more information about the rest of the process to this letter or include a letter from DOS/CDJ telling the clients what comes next and when? Members report that even a reference to a CDJ webpage would be helpful.

A. SCOPS processes waiver requests from applicants around the world. Because immigrant visa processes may be specific to each consulate and the next steps fall under State Department jurisdiction, applicants should seek information from the immigrant visa section at the appropriate consulate. Therefore, at this time SCOPS does not intend to insert consulate-specific guidance into the Form I-601 approval notices issued at the NSC.

b. How long is it typically taking for the approval and/or case file to be transferred from NSC to the Consulate?

A. The NSC notifies the appropriate IV sections electronically within one week of the decision. There is no physical transfer of files between USCIS and the Embassies/consulates.

c. Does the USCIS office at CDJ have any further involvement in the case following approval, or does the file go directly to the Department of State (DOS)?

A. The NSC notifies only the IV sections at the Embassies/consulates. The USCIS office at CDJ does not have any involvement in the case.

d. Please provide AILA with any additional relevant information concerning the new/current waiver process.

A. As of August 31, 2012, the USCIS Lockbox facility received 2,781 Form I-601s at the foreign filing address. Overall, the transition to domestic filing has gone very smoothly

at the NSC, which is able to process these applications in a timely manner by eliminating the transfer of physical files back and forth from the Embassies/consulates.

13. Based on new cases received since the June 4, 2012, stateside filing rule began, what volume of new I-601 cases does IO expect to be filed at CDJ between now and the December 2012, Mexico-only filing deadline?²
- A. *Between the months of June and August of 2012, CDJ continued to receive the usual number of approximately 1,700 monthly Form I-601 receipts. IO anticipates that the number of monthly receipts will begin to decrease during the month of September and continue decreasing until the filing deadline. [Post Meeting Note: In September, receipts decreased to approximately 1,400 and in October to approximately 840.]*
- a. Is December 4, 2012, the final cut-off date for filing I-601 applications at the CDJ field office?
- A. *Yes. December 4 is the final cut-off date for filing Form I-601 applications at CDJ.*
- b. Does this mean the application must be filed with your office by that date or simply scheduled?
- A. *The last date to file is December 4. Cases will not be scheduled for any dates past December 4.*
- c. Based on the anticipated volume, is there an anticipated change in adjudication time for cases filed at CDJ?
- A. *We do not anticipate an increase in volume. If there is one, as previously noted, we may send some of the Juarez caseload to other international offices which would maintain adjudication time.*
14. As legal counsel, one of the biggest challenges AILA members currently face is whether to advise clients to file their I-601s at CDJ (until December) or to file stateside. While the preliminary anecdotal reports on the stateside cases being adjudicated by NSC have been quite positive in terms of results and processing times, many members would still prefer to file at CDJ since this is the system we have known for many years and the triage system has generally worked very well. However, for the past few months, members nationwide have consistently reported a high rate of cases being referred, even for strong, well-documented hardship cases where there are no adverse issues that should require further administrative review.
- a. Has the referral rate increased for I-601s filed at CDJ?

² USCIS Interim Memo on I-601 & I-212 Forms at International Offices, AILA Doc. No. 12053142, <http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?docid=39851>, http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Outreach/Feedback%20Opportunities/Interim%20Guidance%20for%20Comment/I601_Centralization_Exception_PM_2.pdf ; USCIS Policy Memo on Requests to Expedite Adjudication of Form I-601, AILA Doc. No. 12060750, <http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?docid=40033>, <http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Laws/Memoranda/2012/June%202012/Revised%20Expedited%20I-601%20PM.pdf>

- A. IO has reviewed referral rate trends and compiled data from March 2012. Our analysis concludes that the referral rate has not increased for Form I-601s filed at CDJ. A breakdown of our referral rate is included in the chart below:

<i>Month</i>	<i>Referral Rate</i>
<i>March</i>	<i>49.2%</i>
<i>April</i>	<i>53.0%</i>
<i>May</i>	<i>44.2%</i>
<i>June</i>	<i>46.1%</i>
<i>July</i>	<i>47.1%</i>
<i>August</i>	<i>45.3%</i>

- b. Is the USCIS CDJ “triage” system still in use?

A. Yes. The CDJ triage system is still in use.

15. AILA members also report serious quality control issues at CDJ, which cause serious additional hardship, delay, and cost to the client and make it difficult to meaningfully respond to an RFE if the attorney does not know what truly has and has not been reviewed. Examples include:

- Requests for Evidence (RFEs) state that no evidence of hardship has been submitted, even when extensive evidence has been submitted.
- Some RFEs request English translations where translations have been submitted.
- In some cases involving waivers for alien smuggling, RFEs are issued for additional evidence of extreme hardship where INA §212(d)(11) does not require a hardship showing.

- a. What quality control procedures are in place to ensure that these issues do not arise?

A. We understand your frustration, and ask you to keep in mind we currently have only two or three people available at any given time to vet approximately 1,700 cases a month. For the sake of efficiency, staff use standardized templates. This helps with consistency, but can lead to staff, in some cases, checking the wrong box or not tailoring the template appropriately. Through on-site supervision, we try to minimize such errors. However, when errors are called to our attention, we address them immediately.

- b. If similar situations do arise, what is the preferred method to alert the CDJ Field Office?

A. As always, you may contact the CDJ Field Office by email at cdj.uscis@dhs.gov.

Overseas Biometrics

16. AILA understands that an applicant must be present in the U.S. at the time of filing an I-131 application. However, as discussed in prior liaison meetings, AILA members report particular hardship for the applicant with regard to the [biometrics appointment process](#), which generally takes weeks to complete (AILA Doc. No. 11100570).^[3]

^[3] AILA/USCIS Liaison Meeting Q&As (10/5/11), Q12, AILA Doc. No. 11100570, <http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?docid=37258>;

- a. Will USCIS allow applicants to have biometrics taken at U.S. consulates or USCIS offices abroad, especially in Form I-131 Reentry Permit cases or I-90 Permanent Resident Card Replacement cases?
- A. *This is a much more complicated issue than it might initially appear, but we also completely understand the hardships it creates. It is important to also keep in mind that USCIS has offices in only 28 locations overseas. Where USCIS is not present, we must rely on our colleagues at the Department of State to provide the service – such as collecting fingerprints. We must also pay the Department of State for those services. Finally, we do not have a way to transmit electronic fingerprints taken by the Department of State to USCIS systems for card production. We have begun to look at feasible ways to resolve this conflict and would appreciate it if AILA could share with us any data/examples you may have of the logistical problems our current procedure generates. Once we have a more complete picture of the hurdles, we can work together to resolve them.*
- b. As USCIS offices abroad already take biometrics for refugee and military naturalization cases and consular posts ten-print applicants for other benefits, is USCIS willing to provide biometric services to Lawful Permanent Residents abroad?
- A. *Please see response above.*

17. Application Support Centers (ASCs) in Mexico appear to be a beneficial use of resources.

- a. Does USCIS plan to offer these services elsewhere, and if so, where?
- A. *We believe that this question refers to the support centers used by the Department of State. USCIS does not have any ASCs oversea, because the cost would be prohibitive given our limited workload. We are evaluating long-term solutions, including reevaluating workload with State, and hiring contractors*
- b. Can the ASCs expand to include other types of benefits?
- A. *Please see response above.*

Humanitarian Parole

18. Who should AILA contact regarding pending or denied requests for humanitarian parole?

- A. *You may contact us at:*

*DHS/USCIS/IO
ATTN: HAB
20 Massachusetts Ave., NW, 3rd Floor
Mail Stop 2100*

http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Outreach/Notes%20from%20Previous%20Engagements/2011/October%202011/AILA_IO_100511_FINAL.pdf; AILA Liaison/SCOPS Q&As (1/19/11), Q9, AILA InfoNet Doc. No. 11030726, <http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?docid=34775>; Revision of NSC Biometrics Reschedule Request Procedures for Reentry Permit Applications, AILA InfoNet Doc. No. 09061771, <http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?docid=29271>; AILA Liaison/Nebraska Service Center Liaison Teleconference Q&As (8/27/09), Q3, AILA InfoNet Doc. No. 09120163, <http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?docid=30677>

Washington, DC 20529-2100

a. What is the preferred method of contact (i.e. e-mail, phone, fax)?

A. *The address above is currently our single point of contact. For your convenience, we will soon have a fax number to share.*

19. What is the current average processing time for humanitarian parole requests?

A. *Our target time for all non-urgent, non-sensitive requests is 90 days. We have fallen behind somewhat on this goal and are working to remedy this.*

We immediately review all cases upon receipt to identify those that involve urgent medical issues or are otherwise time-sensitive and prioritize those cases for expedited processing.

20. Please provide statistics with per country figures for the number of humanitarian parole requests received, granted, and denied in 2011 and 2012?

A. *We currently are unable to provide reliable data from our case management system. However, as of October, all parole cases will be entered into the International Operations Division case management system (CAMINO), which will allow us to track this information and provide relevant statistics quickly and accurately.*

21. During AILA liaison meetings on May 6, 2009, and November 19, 2010, International Operations stated that humanitarian parole Protocols and standard operating procedures (SOPs) were in draft form (AILA Doc. Nos. 09062266 & 11082964).³ What is the status of these documents?

A. *While our SOP is still in draft form, we have been actively working on it and are very close to finalizing it.*

22. At the same meeting in November 2010, USCIS indicated that both the USCIS Humanitarian Affairs Branch (HAB) and Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) possessed authority to approve requests for humanitarian parole.⁴

a. Does ICE continue to have authority to approve requests for humanitarian parole?

A. *ICE, CBP, and USCIS have shared authority. The three components have a Memorandum of Agreement on how each component generally exercises this shared authority. You may find a copy of the MOA at:*
<http://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/reports/parole-authority-moa-9-08.pdf>

³ AILA/Refugee, Asylum, and International Operations Directorate Liaison Meeting Q&As, pg 2, AILA Doc. No. 09062266, <http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?bc=6715|6721|9550|31025|29331>; AILA/USCIS International Operations Liaison Meeting Q&As (11/19/2010), AILA Doc. No. 11082964, <http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?docid=36789>, <http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Outreach/Notes%20from%20Previous%20Engagements/AILA%20Notes%2011%2019%202010%20%28FINAL%29.pdf>

⁴ AILA/Refugee, Asylum, and International Operations Directorate Liaison Meeting Q&As, pg 1, AILA Doc. No. 09062266, <http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?bc=6715|6721|9550|31025|29331>

- b. In which circumstances would it be appropriate for an applicant to file the request with ICE?
 - A. *The MOU noted above lists the circumstances in which an applicant should file the request with ICE. The filing instructions to the Form I-131 and information on our website also provide some guidance on that.*
23. Please explain the process for requesting humanitarian parole for someone who left the United States pursuant to a removal order from the Immigration Court (or BIA).
- A. *Because ICE has jurisdiction, please contact ICE for a response.*
 - a. Is the process different for someone who is inadmissible due to an expedited removal order issued by Customs and Border Protection (CBP)?
 - A. *It doesn't matter whether the removal order was issued by CBP or an Immigration Judge. If someone has received an order of removal, ICE has jurisdiction and can provide you with an appropriate response.*
24. Based on past liaison discussions with IO, AILA understands that HAB prefers to see parole requests where there is a specific and limited timeframe for the applicant's need to stay in the United States.
- a. What about situations where a U.S. citizen spouse, child, parent, etc., has a serious medical or related condition that will require long-term care?
 - A. *Each request is reviewed on a case-by-case basis. While a parole may not be extended, the applicant may reapply for parole.*
 - b. Is there a limit to how long or how many times parole extensions will be granted?
 - A. *Each request is reviewed on a case-by-case basis. There is no limit on the number of times an applicant may request a new parole.*
 - c. Does HAB continue to require DNA testing to establish the relationship between an adult and minor child in conjunction with humanitarian parole requests?
 - A. *HAB does not require DNA testing, but may suggest DNA testing when there are questions regarding a biological relationship. While each situation is reviewed on a case-by-case basis, DNA remains the best tool for confirming certain biological relationships.*
 - d. Is this required in all cases or only in specific situations?
 - A. *Please see answer above. Each case is reviewed on a case-by-case basis. DNA remains our best tool for confirming relationships. If objections arise, we will review those objections on a case-by-case basis in the overall context of all case circumstances.*

Intercountry Adoptions

25. In view of the pending change of Haiti from a non-Hague Adoption Convention country to a Hague Adoption Convention country, how will transition cases be handled?

- A. *Haiti will become a Hague Adoption Convention country three months after it deposits its instrument of ratification with the Hague [Permanent Bureau](#). This has not yet happened, and will likely not happen at any time in the near future.*

To avoid a cessation of intercountry adoptions with Haiti, we anticipate two periods of transition.

The first period of transition is from now until Haiti becomes a Hague Adoption Convention partner. During this first period, Haiti is likely to implement Hague-like practices prior to filing its instrument of ratification with the Hague. From September 24 to September 27, 2012, a joint USCIS/Department of State technical team visited Port au Prince to meet with Haitian officials.

The team focused on gaining a better understanding of the Government of Haiti's plans for implementing new administrative procedures in the near term and on providing assistance and feedback as the Government of Haiti lays the longer-term groundwork for becoming a Hague Adoption Convention partner.

Haiti's adoption authority, Institut du Bien-Être Social et de Recherches (IBESR), has indicated that they plan to implement new adoption procedures and that IBESR has postponed the planned effective date of its new administrative adoption procedures from October 1 to November 1, 2012. These new procedures are part of the Government of Haiti's efforts to work towards becoming a Hague Adoption Convention partner. We will update the public as we learn more about these procedures. The U.S. government will continue to process adoptions as non-Hague cases until the Convention enters into force for Haiti.

The second period of transition is after Haiti becomes a Hague partner. We do not yet have enough information to provide details on this period of transition.

- a. *Once Guatemala became a Hague Convention partner, intercountry adoption placements into the U.S. were suspended. What is being done by USCIS and DOS to avoid this situation in Haiti?*
- A. *We are currently working with DOS and the Government of Haiti to avoid suspension of intercountry adoptions during the current period of transition. While we do not yet have a plan for transition after the Convention enters into force in Haiti, we anticipate these initial efforts, as well as lessons learned in Guatemala, will lay the groundwork.*
26. *What is the status of the Adjudicate Orphan Status First programs that were to be implemented in non-Hague Convention Adoption countries to strengthen policies and procedures?*
- A. *We no longer refer to Adjudicate Orphan Status First. Our efforts are referred to as Pre-Adoption Immigration Review (PAIR). The USCIS PAIR team continues to partner with DOS and partner countries to negotiate and work through issues with an aim to implement where appropriate.*
- a. *Which countries will be the first to participate?*
- A. *USCIS and DOS are engaged in PAIR implementation talks with both Taiwan and Ethiopia. However, we have not finalized a PAIR process for either country to date. USCIS will update its website as soon as new information becomes available.*
- b. *Is there a target timeline for implementation?*

A. *We do not yet have a timeline for implementation.*

27. Filing of the I-130 where the child to be adopted is a citizen of a Hague Convention country, but is domiciled in the U.S.:

According to [AILA/USCIS IO Q&As from October 5, 2011](#), and [USCIS FAQs from September 29, 2008](#), which pertain to the [October 31, 2008, Scialabba & Neufeld memo on Intercountry Adoptions](#), an I-130 case may proceed outside of the requirements of the Hague Adoption Convention provided that the Central Authority of the child's country of citizenship (AILA Doc. Nos. 12011863, 08093064 & 08103190).⁵

- Is aware of the child's presence in the United States,
- Is aware of the adoption, and
- Finds that the child is no longer a habitual resident of the country of citizenship.

The Central Authority of the child's country of citizenship must be contacted to request a written determination that the child is no longer a "habitual resident" of that country. As long as the written determination is filed with the U.S. state court and is incorporated in the state adoption decree or in a supplemental order, the I-130 could be approved.

However, members report that it is very difficult to obtain the written determination from the Central Authority of many countries to confirm that the child is no longer a "habitual resident" of that country. If a member:

- Contacts the Central Authority of a particular country to alert them of the child's presence in the U.S. and the adoption plan,
- Requests the written finding, and
- Receives a response that such a written finding will not be issued by the Central Authority, especially if this is incorporated into the state adoption decree or supplemental adoption order,

a. Can the I-130 be approved?

A. *As the length of your question indicates, this is a very complicated issue and we do not have any easy answer. We have created a USCIS/DOS working group that is looking at how we can resolve this issue consistent with our obligations under the Hague Adoption Convention.*

28. Filing of the I-130 where the child to be adopted is a citizen of a Hague Convention country and domiciled outside the U.S.:

8 CFR § 204.2(d)(2)(vii)(D) and (E) state that if the prospective adoptive parent lives with the child outside the U.S. for the two-year physical residence period, Form I-130 may be filed in lieu of the

⁵ [AILA/USCIS International Operations Liaison Teleconference Q&As \(10/05/2011\)](#), Q9, AILA Doc. No. 12011863, <http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?docid=38230>, http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Outreach/Notes%20from%20Previous%20Engagements/2011/October%202011/AILA_IO_100511_FINAL.pdf; [USCIS FAQ on Intercountry Adoptions](#), pgs 6-7, AILA Doc. No. 08093064, <http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?bc=6715112053126284127849126688>, <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=0dc16c30c3fac10VgnVCM1000004718190aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=68439c7755cb9010VgnVCM10000045f3d6a1RCRD>; [Scialabba & Neufeld Memo on Intercountry Adoption Under Hague Convention](#), AILA Doc. No. 08103190, <http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?docid=31201>, http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Laws/Memoranda/Static_Files_Memoranda/Archives%201998-2008/2008/Hague_AFM_memo31oct08.pdf

Hague process since USCIS deems both the prospective adoptive parent and the child to be “habitual residents” of the country where they are residing.

- a. Does the two-year physical residence period have to be subsequent to the adoption or could joint residence abroad prior to the adoption decree count?

A. *No. The two clocks are independent.*

Overseas Form I-130 Filings

29. Please provide statistical information concerning I-130 petitions filed with USCIS offices overseas, including the number of filings YTD. Please offer per country or per USCIS office totals, if available.

A. *Total filings for FY 2012 was approximately 8,000.*

30. Please provide statistical information concerning requests DOS has made to USCIS Field Office Directors to accept a locally filed I-130 petitions due to exceptional circumstances, including the number of requests made and granted since USCIS implemented changes to overseas filing of I-130 petitions on August 15, 2011 (AILA Doc. No. 11051763).^[7]

A. *Since the change in overseas filing procedures, 245 requests were made by DOS with approximately 75% being granted.*

31. What percentage of I-130s filed abroad involve military deployment of the U.S. citizen petitioner and what percentage of such cases have been granted?

A. *12% of the exceptional requests were for members of the military and of those more than 90% were approved.*

Thank you very much for your time. Your willingness to meet with us and share this information is very much appreciated by our members.

^[7] USCIS Announces Centralization of Form I-130 Filing, AILA Doc. No. 11051763, <http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?docid=35424>, <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=2b2a3e70369ff210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=68439c7755cb9010VgnVCM10000045f3d6a1RCRD>