

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

ANGE SAMMA *et al.*, on behalf of
themselves and others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE *et al.*,

Defendants.

No. 20-cv-1104-PLF

DECLARATION OF JU HWA LEE

I, Ju Hwa Lee, hereby declare as follows:

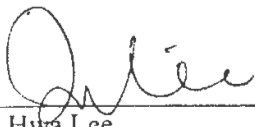
1. I am a 36-year-old native and citizen of South Korea.
2. On February 20, 2005, I entered the United States on an F-1 visa.
3. On May 13, 2016, I enlisted in the United States Army. On that day, I signed an eight-year enlistment contract and took the oath of enlistment.
4. I currently serve on active duty as a Specialist (E-4) and my military occupational specialty is 88H, Cargo Specialist.
5. I shipped to basic combat training (“BCT”) at Fort Jackson, South Carolina on October 8, 2019, and completed BCT on January 16, 2020.
6. I shipped to advanced individual training (“AIT”) at Fort Eustis, Virginia on January 17, 2020, and completed AIT on March 27, 2020.
7. I initially requested my certification of honorable service (“N-426 certification”) when I arrived at AIT on January 18, 2020.
8. I shipped to my duty station at Fort Hood in Texas on May 6, 2020, where I served on active duty with the 297th Inland Cargo Transfer Company, 61st Quartermaster Battalion.

9. On September 25, 2020, I shipped to Camp Humphreys, South Korea to undergo quarantine before serving a year rotation at Camp Carroll, South Korea.
10. On October 9, 2020, I arrived at Camp Carroll, South Korea.
11. On November 19, 2020, I contacted Attorney Margaret Stock for assistance in obtaining my N-426 certification in order to submit my N-400, Application for Naturalization.
12. On November 22, 2020, I emailed Attorney Stock regarding the response I received from the Camp Carroll legal assistance office after asking for assistance in obtaining my N-426 certification. I told Attorney Stock that the legal assistance office told me that I had to process my N-426 certification through my unit, not the legal assistance office.
13. On December 16, 2020, Attorney Stock's office sent a Captain ("CPT") my N-426 form for certification.
14. On February 26, 2021, Attorney Stock's office followed up with the CPT on the progress of my N-426 certification. The CPT informed Attorney Stock's office that she had just reminded the proper officials again and requested the document as soon as possible. Attached as Exhibit A is a true and correct copy of that email correspondence.
15. On March 2, 2021, the CPT forwarded Attorney Stock's office my N-426 certification. Unfortunately, my N-426 certification contained mistakes. For example, Part 5 was left blank. Attorney Stock's office then sent specific instructions for correctly certifying my N-426 to the CPT. The CPT then requested certification of my N-426 again.
16. On March 10, 2021, the CPT returned my N-426 certification. Attorney Stock's office noticed that, this time, Part 6 was left blank. Attorney Stock's office immediately notified the CPT that Part 6 needed to be filled out to validate the certification of my N-426.
17. Later that day, I received a corrected N-426 certification.

18. At the time I received my N-426 certification, it had been over 17 months since I began serving in an active duty status by shipping to BCT.
19. At the time I received my N-426 certification, it had been nearly 14 months since I first requested my N-426 certification.
20. At the time I received my N-426 certification, it had been nearly three months since Attorney Stock's office submitted my N-426 form for certification.
21. I have served honorably at all times since entering service.
22. I am not aware of any legitimate reason that would have prevented the Army from certifying my honorable service.
23. I am not aware of any legitimate reason that would prevent USCIS from granting my naturalization application.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on June 24, 2021.



Ju Hwa Lee