

**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 JUAN ZAPATA SAUCEDO

I, Juan Zapata Saucedo, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am a 24-year-old native and citizen of Mexico.
2. In June 2014, I entered the United States on a U-Visa/had a change of status to a U-Visa.
3. In June 2018, I obtained my 10-Year Green Card/Permanent Green Card.
4. On June 13, 2019, I enlisted in the United States Army. On that day, I signed an eight-year enlistment contract and took the oath of enlistment.
5. I currently serve in the Selected Reserve of the United States Army Reserve as a Specialist (E-4) and my military occupational specialty is Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Specialist (74D).
6. I began drilling with the 326th Chemical Company in Huntsville, Alabama in September 2019. I attended drill in September 2019 and the Army compensated me for this drill.
7. I shipped to basic combat training ("BCT") at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri in October 2019 and completed BCT in December 2019.
8. I shipped to advanced individual training ("AIT") at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri in January 2020 and completed AIT on March 19, 2020.

9. Following completion of BCT and AIT, I resumed drilling with the 326th Chemical Company. I attended drill in April 2020, May 2020, June 2020, July 2020, August 2020, September 2020, October 2020, November 2020, December 2020, January 2021, February 2021, March 2021, April 2021, May 2021, and June 2021. The Army compensated me for these drills.
10. On July 4, 2020, I requested my certification of honorable service ("N-426 certification") from my Unit Administrator and Human Resources Sergeant and submitted my N-426 form for certification.
11. After submitting my N-426 form, I followed up periodically with my Human Resources Sergeant about my N-426 certification. In December 2020, the Human Resources Sergeant told me that the Colonel could not sign my N-426 form due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In February 2021, the Human Resources Sergeant told me the same thing. Shortly thereafter, the Human Resources Sergeant told me that the Colonel had left and because there was a new Colonel, my N-426 certification would be delayed.
12. On May 12, 2021, after I followed up about my N-426 certification again with the Human Resources Sergeant, he asked me where it stated on the N-426 form that a Colonel or a military official above a Colonel in the chain of command had to sign the form. I pointed him to the USCIS instructions accompanying the N-426 form.
13. On June 5, 2021 my unit sent me my N-426 certification.
14. Until I received a completed N-426 certification from the Army, I could not apply for naturalization with United States Citizenship and Immigration Services ("USCIS").
15. By the time I received my N-426 certification, it had been 16 months since I began my service in the Army by attending drill.
16. By the time I received my N-426 certification, it had been 11 months since I first

requested my N-426 certification.

17. I have served honorably at all times since entering service.

18. 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 28, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Juan Zapata Saucedo', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Juan Zapata Saucedo