

Fort Lee SIV FAQs

8/6/2021

1. How does this method of processing impact the SIV's LPR status, and the receipt of their green card, if at all? Are they still coming to us as LPRs, and therefore should expect their green card in the coming months (our immigration team heard they would be here as parolees)?

An Afghan national who is paroled into to the United States and processed at Fort Lee will:

- Complete a medical examination
 - Onsite physicians will complete [Form I-693, Report of Medical Examination and Vaccination Record](#).
 - USCIS will review the Form I-693 and upon determining the individual is admissible will issue a [Form I-94, Arrival/Departure Form](#) as proof of Special Immigrant Status. The I-Form 94 will include a stamp that reads:

“SPECIAL IMMIGRANT STATUS (SQ/SI) PAROLE
Sec 602(8)(1) AAPA / Sec 1059(a) NDAA 2006
Date: _____ USCIS Officer: _____”

- Complete [Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization](#), and provide biometrics (fingerprints and photograph)
 - USCIS will adjudicate Form I-765 onsite.
 - The employment authorization document/EAD will be mailed to IOM who will forward the card to the appropriate RA.

Individuals who wish to complete the [Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status](#) will receive assistance from the NGO community.

- USCIS will collect completed forms and forward them for expedited processing.
- Those who leave Fort Lee without completing the I-485 will need to complete the Form I-485 at their final destination and should follow the filing and address update guidance in the Guide for Completing a Form I-485, *Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status*, under SIV Afghan Operation Allies Refuge Process to ensure timely delivery of their green card.

NOTES:

- There is no filing fee for the I-765 or I-485, including forms filed after processing at Fort Lee, for SIV parolees.
- Those who enter the United States as SIV immigrants/lawful permanent residents do not require USCIS processing at Fort Lee, although in some instances they may briefly stop at Fort Lee prior to onward travel.

2. Do you see a problem with us advising offices that have confirmed they have a Fort Lee case from the bio to use the IOM NY address on the AR-11 for the “Old Address”? IOM put their physical address in DC as the old address, which is 1625 Massachusetts Avenue, NW Suite 500 Washington DC 20036).

3. Is there any updated information or guidance on COVID testing for these arrivals? (i.e., were they required to have a negative COVID test overseas prior to travel?,

Consistent with the [CDC Global Travel Order: Requirement for Proof of Negative COVID-19 Test or Recovery from COVID-19 for All Air Passengers Arriving in the United States](#), applicants will receive a PCR COVID-19 test within 3 days of their flight departure to the United States. Applicants are required to have a negative COVID-19 test prior to entry into the United States.

Applicants will also be COVID-19 tested within one day of their arrival to Fort Lee. Also consistent with the CDC recommendations for international travel post arrival, applicants will receive a COVID-19 test within 3-5 days post arrival, if they are still located at Fort Lee.

Related, will they receive an IOM bag (and therefore the COVID packet)? IOM is working on this. The first few cases will not have the IOM bag and COVID information is questionable. IOM is currently working to ensure that future cases have the bag and information.

4. Could CODA funding be expanded to cover food and transportation as needed?

Currently the CA does not allow for the additional direct assistance funding to be used outside of housing and tech needs.

5. We understand that Fort Lee cases’ R&P period will begin when they arrive at final destination and they will be eligible for ORR services. Is there an update regarding the status documentation clients will have when arriving to final destination? Our offices are extremely concerned about what these clients will be able to present to SSA, public benefits, etc.

Please see [ORR policy letter PL-2107](#), issued August 3, 2021.

6. We would also like to request that assuring resettlement agencies have a way to verify whether their arriving Fort Lee clients were able to file Form I-485 on base or if that is needed at final destination.

We are compiling a summary list of all cases that will need to have their Form I-485s completed at their final destination. At the end of operations at Fort Lee the RPC will notify the receiving affiliates of these cases. The duration of Fort Lee operations is dependent on the outcome of policy discussions currently underway. We will evaluate regularly based on decisions made.

7. What location will assurance requests show for cases processed out of a hotel near Dulles Airport?

These cases show Country = US and Location = Dulles Airport, but are technically pre-arrival LV1s processing out of MENA and are destined to arrive at Dulles Airport next week for continued processing.

8. Is SSA aware of the different status that Afghan SIVs from Fort Lee will be arriving with?

ORR has notified SSA and asked them to urgently inform their field offices. Thus far, records indicate that individuals admitted as an SIV immigrant/lawful permanent resident (LPR) are participating in Enumeration at Entry (EAE), through which their immigrant visa application also serves as an application for a Social Security number/card. In addition, USCIS is informing all special immigrant parolees of the opportunity to complete the part of their Form I-765, for participation in Enumeration Beyond Entry (EBE). EAE and EBE participants receive a Social Security card/number without needing to file a separate application. Special immigrant LPRs and special immigrant parolees who do not opt in to either EAE or EBE can submit a separate Social Security card/application.

9. What does the I-94 look like? Is there only one version? If lost, is it possible to get a replacement?

The Afghans who are paroled and are coming through Fort Lee are receiving Special Immigrant SQ status. USCIS is printing the I-94 from the CBP website and stamping the hard copy. The hard copy is then provided to the Afghan to use as proof of their status until they receive the EADs. The Afghan parolees have been informed that it is not possible to obtain a replacement if the hard copy of the I-94 is lost. If the I-94 is lost, then the parolees will need to wait until they receive their EAD. IOM is mailing the EAD directly to local resettlement agencies.

There is only one version of the I-94 for Afghan parolees at Fort Lee. Attached is a sample version of the I-94.

Individuals who need a copy of their Form I-94, without a stamp, may obtain it through CBP's website, <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home>. Click "Get Most Recent I-94" and enter the requested information. A Form I-94, without the USCIS issued stamp, does not provide evidence of status, but will provide the Form I-94 record number and arrival information.

10. We would also like to request that assuring resettlement agencies have a way to verify whether the Afghan Parolees at Fort Lee were able to file Form I-485 on base or if that is needed at final destination.

Currently, PRM plans to provide a summary listing of the cases that will need to have the I-485 completed at their final destination. While the duration of parole will be one year parolees and resettlement affiliates are strongly encouraged to submit the Form I-485 as soon as possible. .

Attached is guidance from USCIS on completion of Form I-485. The fees for filing this form have been waived by USCIS. To receive a fee waiver, the notation of "SIV AFGHAN OPERATION ALLIES REFUGE" must be included on the top of the Form I-485. (see Guide for Completing a Form I-485, *Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status*, under SIV Afghan Operation Allies Refuge Process).