

United States Space Force Certificate of Eligibility Update

1. Purpose. The purpose of this Circular is to announce Certificate of Eligibility (COE) enhancements to include the United States Space Force (USSF) as a branch of service.

2. Background. The National Defense Authorization Act¹ of 2020 amended 10 U.S.C., effective December 20, 2019, establishing the USSF as the newest branch of the United States Armed Forces.²

3. Action. Current and discharged members of the USSF or USSF Reserves, otherwise known as Guardians³, may be eligible for VA home loan benefits upon meeting length-of-service (LOS), and character-of service (COS) requirements.⁴ Qualifying Surviving Spouses of Veterans who served in the USSF may also be eligible for the VA home loan benefit.

a. Because the USSF is a distinct branch of service, lenders requesting COEs for current or discharged Guardians, should select Space Force as the branch of service on the military service section on the electronic COE application. COEs issued for these Veterans will identify Space Force as the branch of service unless the Veteran had a previously qualifying tour in a different branch of service.

4. Questions. Contact a VA Regional Loan Center (RLC) by calling 1-877-827-3702, with hours of operation between 8am to 6pm EST.

5. Paperwork Reduction Act. The information collection requirements contained in this document have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. § 3501-3520) and assigned OMB control numbers 2900-0086 and 2900-0055. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, VA may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection displays a currently valid OMB control number.

6. Rescission: This Circular is valid until rescinded.

By Direction of the Under Secretary for Benefit

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¹ Public Law 116-92 subtitle D Sec. 952

² 10 U.S. Code 101 (a)(4)

³ <https://www.spaceforce.mil/News/Article/2452593/us-space-force-unveils-name-of-space-professionals/>

⁴ 38 U.S. Code §3701