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Subject: Travel to the U.S. on an Expired Alien Registration Card (I-151 or I-551 “green card”) or Without an Immigrant Visa for a non-U.S. Citizen Spouse or Minor Child Who Was Previously Admitted to the U.S. as an Immigrant of a U.S. Military Service member or of a Direct Hire U.S. Government Civilian Employee Who Has Been Overseas on U.S. Government Orders.

1. U.S. immigration regulations, contained in 8 CFR 211.1 (a)(6), permit non-U.S. citizen spouses or minor children who are returning to a lawful permanent residence in the U.S. to present a VALID OR EXPIRED alien registration receipt card (I-151 or I-551) in lieu of an immigrant visa, provided that:
 - the family member has resided abroad during the official overseas assignment of a military service member or a direct hire U.S. government (USG) civilian employee (sponsor);
 - the family member is preceded by, accompanying, or following to join the sponsor within 4 months of the sponsor's return to the U.S.;
 - the family member is NOT a dependent parent, parent-in-law, child over 21 years old, or ward; and
 - A family member of a non-USG or locally-hired sponsor can NOT make use of this regulation (e.g. AAFES/NEX, AmCross, MWR, contractor).
2. The authorized family member should present the following documents to the air or sea carrier to facilitate boarding:
 - valid passport;
 - valid or expired I-151 or I-551; and
 - sponsor's USG orders for an official overseas assignment.
3. A non-U.S. citizen spouse or minor child who meets the above conditions and has the required documents may be transported to the U.S. without danger of penalty imposed by section 273(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended.