1. **BLUF:** United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has issued a new edition of Form N-426, Request for Certification of Military or Naval Service. Easy access to the new edition, dated 09/16/19, is available at [https://www.uscis.gov/n-426](https://www.uscis.gov/n-426). The edition date of USCIS forms can be verified by looking at the page footers at the bottom of USCIS forms.

2. **60 DAY GRACE PERIOD:** USCIS will accept the older 2017 edition of the N-426 only until 04/06/20. Code 16 recommends immediate use of the new 09/16/19 edition N-426 to prevent rejections caused by delayed filings.

3. **STEP BY STEP GUIDANCE:** Block by block Form N-426 completion guidance is now available via the Form N-426 Supplemental which can be found by clicking on the “Special Instructions” tab on the public facing USCIS website or at this location [https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/files/form/n-426Supp.pdf](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/files/form/n-426Supp.pdf).

4. **REASON FOR UPDATE:** The updated Form N-426 more closely aligns with Department of Defense and Department of Navy policies. Specifically, the updated Form N-426 and N-426 Supplemental clarify that:

   (a) Sailors must be certified by the first 0-6 or higher in the Sailor’s permanent or temporary chain of command.

   (b) Navy policy does not authorize sub-delegation of certifying authority below the first 0-6 or higher in the Sailor’s permanent or temporary chain of command nor to any civilians in the Sailor’s permanent or temporary chain of command.

   (c) The certifier must legibly provide their full name, work telephone number, military email address, official written signature, and date of signature.

   (d) An original ink signature or a copy of an original ink signature of the certifier is acceptable. Digitally certified signatures are not acceptable on the Form N-426.

5. Please contact Ms. Kate Somerville, at (202) 685-4639 or via email at kathlene.somerville@navy.mil with any questions concerning this advisory.