



Office of Communications

U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

Advisory

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USCIS TO HOLD ALL-MILITARY CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY AT FORT MCHENRY NATIONAL MONUMENT AND HISTORIC SHRINE

Seven Naturalized Citizens in the Military Will Also Receive the Prestigious American By Choice Award

BALTIMORE – U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will hold a joint service all-military naturalization ceremony and “*American By Choice*” presentation at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine on Monday to commemorate Constitution Week and pay homage to the immigrant members of the military who defended Fort McHenry during the War of 1812.

The 18 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, Reservists, National Guardsmen and a military spouse who will take the [*Oath of Allegiance*](#) and become American citizens are from the following nations: following countries: Cameroon, Czechoslovakia, Federated States Of Micronesia, Germany, India, Jamaica, Panama, Philippines, Portugal, Somalia, Trinidad and Tobago, and St. Lucia.

During this special ceremony, seven other naturalized citizens who are serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces will receive the prestigious “[*American By Choice*](#)” award in recognition of their outstanding achievements, civic participation and responsible citizenship. Recipients of this honor include two members of the Army: Chief Warrant Officer Abida Shoyeb and 1st Sgt. Josue Pinos; four members of the Air Force: Maj. Manuel Dominguez, Capt. Rasul Alsalih, Capt. Van Thai and Tech. Sgt. Oluwasina Awolusi; and Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officer Mitzie Robinson.

WHEN: 10 a.m., Monday, September 24, 2007

WHO: USCIS Director Emilio Gonzalez will swear-in the new Americans, Fort McHenry General Superintendent Gay Viezeke will open the ceremony, USCIS District Director Greg Collett will present the candidates, Additional military dignitaries have been invited to participate.

LOCATION: Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine
2400 East Fort Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21230-5393

PHOTO OPP: The new citizens will form a flag detail, raising a 30 x 42-foot replica of the Star Spangled Banner that that flew over Fort McHenry on September 14, 1814 inspiring Francis Scott Key to write the words to our National Anthem.

NOTE: Citizenship applicants and *American By Choice* recipients arrive at 9 a.m. Media are strongly encouraged to arrive early to interview applicants before the ceremony. Request broadcast set-up no later than 9:30 a.m.

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