



July 6, 2007

Press Release

MORE THAN 400 SERVICE MEMBERS BECOME U.S. CITIZENS OVERSEAS

Ceremonies in Iraq, Guam, Germany, Kuwait and South Korea Mark Nations' 231st Birthday

WASHINGTON – U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) welcomed 421 members of the U.S. Armed Forces as the newest citizens of the United States during a series of naturalization ceremonies celebrating our Nations' 231st birthday in Iraq, Guam, Germany, Kuwait and South Korea.

The new citizens include 160 service members who recited the *Oath of Allegiance* on July 4 in the Al Faw Palace on Camp Victory in Baghdad, Iraq. Gen. David H. Petraeus, Commander of Multi-National Forces in Iraq, delivered the keynote address. USCIS Deputy Director Jonathan “Jock” Scharfen administered the *Oath of Allegiance*.

“There’s no better way to celebrate the Fourth of July than with these courageous men and women,” said Scharfen, who is also a retired Marine Colonel. “They volunteered to go into harms way to defend the freedoms established by our founding fathers, and it’s only fitting that they become our Nation’s newest citizens on this special day.”

Earlier in the week, on June 29, USCIS officials naturalized 29 service members at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Daily naturalization ceremonies were held on July 1-4 at Logistics Support Area Anaconda in Ballad, Iraq for 169 military service members.

USCIS officials also presided during a Fourth of July citizenship ceremony at the U.S. Consulate in Frankfurt, Germany for nine Soldiers. The Territory of Guam celebrated our Nations' 231st birthday on July 4 with its first-ever naturalization ceremony where three World War II veterans from the Philippines joined 13 members of the U.S. Armed Forces in reciting the *Oath of Allegiance*.

The celebrations concluded on July 6 with a naturalization ceremony for 41 Soldiers at the Yongsan Army Garrison in Seoul, Korea.

USCIS has conducted naturalization ceremonies for more than 4,100 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines stationed overseas since October 2004 through an expedited process resulting from their military service. Additional [naturalization information for military personnel](#) is available on the USCIS website, www.uscis.gov.

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