



# News Release

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## **USCIS DESIGNATES NOVEMBER AS VETERANS APPRECIATION MONTH** *Ceremonies and Events to Honor All Who Have Served*

**WASHINGTON** – U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has designated November as “Veterans Appreciation Month” to honor the sacrifices of all those who have served and continue to serve in the United States armed forces. A range of ceremonies and activities occurring throughout the month include naturalization ceremonies for members of the armed forces, educational seminars at military installations for service members and their families, and a comprehensive initiative to hire severely wounded or disabled military veterans.

“As a veteran of our military, I know first-hand the sacrifices our nation’s veterans make to secure our freedoms, said Acting Director Jonathan Scharfen. “Their selfless service and willingness to answer America’s call to duty is a constant source of inspiration.”

Highlights of events and activities include:

- Acting Director Scharfen will preside over a naturalization ceremony for 186 members of the military serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom at Camp Victory in Baghdad, Iraq.
- Pre-deployment informational briefings and information sessions with immigration officers at Fort Bliss, Texas for service members and their families.
- An educational seminar on Nov. 13 providing information on immigration services and benefits to the military community at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Base in 29 Palms, California.
- Information sessions and naturalization interviews on Nov. 20 at Fort Carson, Colo. to the military communities from Fort Carson, Peterson Air Force Base and the Air Force Academy.
- A naturalization ceremony aboard the Battleship Texas at the San Jacinto State Historical Park in La Porte, Texas to celebrate Veterans Day and the 233rd birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps.
- Recruitment events to hire disabled veterans in California, Florida, Georgia, New York, Texas and Virginia.
- A special naturalization ceremony on Nov. 10 at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point for 127 residents of New York.