



June 5, 2006

Advisory

**USCIS Director Emilio T. Gonzalez to Swear-in 150 Military Personnel U.S. Citizens
Aboard the USS George Washington in Norfolk, Virginia
*Pentagon Joint Chiefs Chairman General Peter Pace to Give Keynote Address to the New Americans***

Washington, DC — U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Emilio T. Gonzalez, will administer the Oath of Allegiance and give congratulatory remarks to 150 military personnel and new Americans from 45 countries on board the aircraft carrier USS George Washington, homeported in Norfolk, Va. Many of the new citizens recently returned from military service in the Middle East. The citizenship ceremony will be hosted by the U.S. Navy in Norfolk, VA.

General Peter Pace, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, will give the keynote address to the new citizens. Mr. Alfonso Aguilar, Chief, Office of Citizenship, will read the Preamble of the Constitution and deliver remarks. Phyllis Howard, Washington, D.C. District Director, will lead the presentation of candidates and the call of countries. Immediately following the ceremony, Director Gonzalez and Pentagon Joint Chiefs Chairman General Peter Pace will hold a media availability.

The 150 new Americans are originally from the following 45 countries: Albania, Azerbaijan, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Columbia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guyana, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Ireland, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Kenya, Liberia, Macedonia, Mexico, Montserrat, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Philippine Islands, Poland, Portugal, South Korea, Spain, St. Lucia, Sudan, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Togo, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Venezuela, and Vietnam.

To highlight the importance of U.S. citizenship, USCIS naturalization ceremonies are being held at prominent national and historic landmarks nationwide. During fiscal year 2005, more than 600,000 new Americans were sworn-in as U.S. citizens in ceremonies around the nation. Since September 11, 2001, USCIS has naturalized 24,745 military service members.

EVENT: Citizenship Swearing-In Ceremony of Military Personnel.

TIME/DATE: 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 14, 2006

LOCATION: USS George Washington (CVN 73), Hangar Bay TWO.

CONTACT: Kevin Copeland, U.S. Navy Public Affairs, Mid-Atlantic Region, Norfolk, VA, kevin.copeland1@navy.mil, work: (757) 322-2961, Dan Kane, USCIS, Washington, DC (202) 272-1219 or cell: (202) 329-8978.



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

NOTE: Electronic media wishing to provide live coverage from the GEORGE WASHINGTON pier, need to report to the Tour and Information Office, 9709 Hampton Blvd, Norfolk, Va., no later than 4 a.m., June 14, for check-in and credentialing. All other electronic and print media need to report to the Tour and Information Office no later than 8:30 a.m., June 14, for check-in and credentialing. Interested media should contact Kevin Copeland, Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Public Affairs, (757) 322-2961, Kevin.copeland1@navy.mil, no later than noon, June 12.

In addition to the naturalization ceremony, Navy Public Affairs will work with interested media organizations to facilitate a “one day in the life of a Sailor,” June 13, feature involving USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3) Sailors. The day will conclude with an informal dinner onboard USS KEARSARGE featuring Mr. Alfonso Aguilar, Chief of the Office of Citizenship, and the six Sailors from the ship being naturalized. Media wishing to participate need to contact Mr. Copeland no later than noon, June 9.

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