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Press Release

DIRECTOR GONZALEZ TESTIFIES AT SENATE HEARING ON IMMIGRANT SERVICE MEMBERS

(Miami) – United States Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Emilio T. Gonzalez testified yesterday regarding the contributions of immigrants to our Nation’s armed forces at a U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee field hearing at Miami Dade College in Miami, Florida.

“As an immigrant to our country, and a veteran of her Army, I could relate countless stories of what my service means to me, how it affected me personally and positively shaped my life,” Director Gonzalez said. “However, my story is only one of many when compared to the more than 45,000 non-citizen immigrant soldiers (active and reserve) currently serving across the world, and the hundreds of thousands of immigrants who have served under the Stars and Stripes throughout our history.”

Director Gonzalez offered from numerous heroic examples of immigrant service members who have been awarded the Medal of Honor and how USCIS is taking steps to ensure that the application process for immigrant service members is convenient, quick and secure.

“I am committed to exhausting every effort to ensure that all military naturalization applications are processed expeditiously so that service members receive this honor on behalf of a grateful nation.” Director Gonzalez said. “As a veteran, a husband, a parent and the Director of USCIS, I am proud and extremely honored to serve this agency in supporting our military men and women and their families.”

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On March 1, 2003, U.S Citizenship and Immigration Services became one of three legacy INS components to join the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. USCIS is charged with fundamentally transforming and improving the delivery of immigration and citizenship services, while enhancing the integrity of our nation's security.