



# Victory Weekly



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telling the Camp Victory story

August 2, 2005

## Naturalization ceremony held at Camp Victory

**Staff Sgt. Mark St. Clair**

MNC-I PAO

One hundred forty-three candidates from 42 different countries held up their right hands during a U.S. Army and Citizenship and Immigration Services-led ceremony in the Al-Faw Palace rotunda July 25.

The Oath of Citizenship of the United States of America includes the words "... that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America when required by law," and Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, commanding general, Multi-National Corps - Iraq

and presiding officer during the ceremony, said "... before they were its citizens they were willing to fight ... risk everything ... and be required to spend a portion of their lives away from a country that they're dedicated to."

Hawaii Army National Guardsman Spc. Richard Soriano started filing for citizenship one year ago. The 23-year-old infantryman -- almost halfway through a year-long deployment with 2nd Battalion, 299th Infantry Regiment -- left a brother in the

Philippines and his parents, five more brothers and a sister in Kahului, Maui, when he came to Camp Victory. "It feels great," he said of his new citizenship. "I called (my family) the other day, and they were very proud. They said, 'good for you, you got it.'"

Another of new Americans, Pablo Perez, traveled from Mosul, Iraq, to participate. A private first class with 25th Brigade Support Bn., 1st Stryker Bde., Perez had been trying to obtain citizenship for five years. The 23-year-old from Managua, Nicaragua, said, "I think (the ceremony) is outstanding. I think every Soldier out here feels like they're being taken care of by the military. It's a good thing for us."

More than half of the new citizens joined the military after Sept. 11, 2001, Vines said, commenting that they knew exactly what they were risking when they agreed to serve.

"They're so committed to the concepts of democracy and freedom that they're sacrificing much of their own to ensure that America remains free," Vines said.

After the remarks from Vines; presiding USCIS Officer Karen Landsness; and a

*"I think every Soldier out here feels like they're being taken care of by the military."*

**Pfc. Pablo Perez,  
1st Stryker Brigade**



photo by Staff Sgt. Mark St. Clair/MNC-I PAO

**Spc. Kimberly Flowers, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 306th Military Police Battalion, recites the Pledge of Allegiance during a naturalization ceremony at Al-Faw palace July 25.**

recorded message from Commander in Chief President George Bush, Perez, Soriano, and 141 of their newly-naturalized brothers- and sisters-in-arms were given certificates of citizenship from Vines and Landsness and an American flag from MNC-I Sergeant Major Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Carey.

Including Landsness, three USCIS officers had been on hand since July 21 to interview the new citizens, and six of the participating Multi-National Corps - Iraq Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines were found to have previously derived citizenship, said Linda Dougherty, an 11-year USCIS veteran who also participated in a like ceremony in Bagram, Afghanistan on Oct. 1, 2004.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to serve the people willing to serve the U.S. before it was their own country," she added.

"We're in the presence of some great young men and women that are about to receive a title that is perhaps one of the most desired titles in history: American Citizen," Vines said.



photo by Sgt. Andy Meissner/MNC-I PAO

**More than 140 U.S. service members received their American citizenship during a naturalization ceremony July 25 at Al-Faw Palace.**

## Preventive Points

*Tips from Multi-National Corps - Iraq's Force Health Protection*

### Snakes in Iraq

Bites from venomous (poisonous) snakes may result in a wide variety of symptoms from simple puncture wounds to life-threatening illnesses and death. There are two types of venom - neurotoxins and hemotoxins. All venom has both neurotoxins and hemotoxins in it, but some snakes have more of one than the other.

The Desert Black Snake and other cobras are considered to be neurotoxic. They have venom which primarily affects the nervous system.

Vipers, on the other hand, have venom that primarily affects the blood system are considered to be hemotoxic.

Any snake bite should be treated as a life-threatening situation. Medical evacuation is required.

### Snake Bite Prevention

- Venomous snakes are found throughout Iraq.
- Assume that any snake you encounter is poisonous. Leave snakes alone. Many individuals are bitten because they are trying to kill a snake or get a closer look at one.
- As tactical situations permit, avoid high-risk snake habitat areas. Locate bivouacs away from piles of brush, rocks or other debris.
- Remediate conditions which attract snakes. Remove woodpiles, rock piles, debris, dumps, dense undergrowth or similar shelter for snakes. Elevate stored supplies off of the ground. Practice good sanitation. Control rodents.
- Practice "snake smart" behavior. Shake out bedding, clothing and boots before use. If possible, do not sleep on the ground.
- Be alert in areas where snakes may be hiding or sunning. When tactical situation permit, avoid reaching or placing body parts into uninspected places, especially high grass or among rocks. Avoid stepping over large rocks or logs without first checking on the other side.
- In the unit compound, keep doors, windows and vents closed whenever possible. Block holes in foundations, crawl spaces, ceilings and roofs.
- When transporting a dead snake to be identified, use a stick, thick bag or other container and do not handle the head.



### Desert-Horned Viper

It's about two and a half feet long and is widespread in Iraq west of the Euphrates. It's the most commonly seen viper and is found anywhere from sand dunes to rocky areas. It is mainly nocturnal but can be found buried under rocks or in sand with just the top of its head visible. Rodent holes are also a favorite resting spot. It often moves using a sidewinding motion. Envenomation causes deep local tissue damage accompanied by stomach pain, sweating, nausea and possible fever in conjunction with gangrene.

### Kurdistan Viper

It's about two and a half feet long and is found in extreme Northern Iraq on steep mountain slopes, under boulders, rubble, debris and low bushes at 3,500 to 8,000 feet elevation. It hibernates in colonies. It is primarily diurnal, but can be nocturnal during hot summer months. Soldiers who have encountered this snake comment on its quickness. Venom is characterized as hemolytic. Envenomation causes local pain, swelling and dizziness.



### Field's Sand Viper

It's can be one and a half to three feet long and is common in rocky areas, but rare in loose, open-sandy regions. It's found in Southwestern Iraq and as far north and east as the Euphrates. During the day, it hides in crevices among rocks or rodent burrows, usually near roots of bushes. It is less likely to bite during the day, but dangerously active and aggressive at night. It's venom characterized as neurotoxic with a little pain at bite site and general weakness followed by paralysis.

### Snake Bite First Aid

- Avoid panic. Call in a MEDEVAC immediately. The only locations in theater with antivenins are Combat Support Hospitals.
- Move the victim out of danger and place them at rest. Keeping the patient prostrate and calm is important. If possible, keep the site of the snake bite lower than the heart. Apply ice if available.
- Reassure and calm the patient. Be pre-

### Leventine Viper

It's about five and a half feet long and is mostly found along Tigris-Euphrates drainage areas in Northern Iraq. It is usually found in dry, rocky or brushy areas, as well as hilly countryside between 3,000 and 7,000 feet. It can be active any time of day or night. It's placid during the day but can be aggressive at night and has very large fangs. Bite symptoms include bleeding and immediate burning pain. Swelling immediately occurs around the bite area and spreads.



pared to treat the victim for shock.

- Remove rings and constrictive items.
- Lightly immobilize the injured part in a functional position.
- Record the appearance and progress of symptoms in as much detail as possible.
- Observe the type of snake and write down its description. If already dead, retain the snake for identification. Do not chase the snake to kill it and get a second person bitten.

**Voices of Victory:** *How does it feel to be a new American citizen? (See related story on page 1)*



**“It feels great to know I’ve become a part of the country I’m fighting for.”**

Spc. Antoinette Andrews  
chemical operations specialist,  
Dragon Brigade,  
XVIII Airborne Corps



**“It feels great to finally get my citizenship.”**

Spc. Selene Alvarado,  
cook, Services Battalion,  
25th Infantry Division



**“It’s an honor to have this opportunity. I take it as a blessing.”**

Pvt. Michael Abreu,  
field artillery surveyor,  
Headquarters Battery,  
4th Battalion, 1st FA Regiment

**Operating Hours**

**Coalition Cafe**

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.  
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Dinner 5:30 - 8 p.m.  
Midnight Dining 11 p.m. - 1 a.m.

**Sports Oasis**

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.  
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Dinner 5:30 - 9 p.m.

**Shopette**

Open 24 Hours

**Camp Liberty Post Exchange**

Everyday 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

**Fitness Center**

Open 24 Hours

**Chapel**

**Sunday:**

Protestant Service 7 a.m. and 8:45 a.m.  
Catholic Mass 10:30 a.m.  
Gospel Service Noon  
Mormon (LDS) 2 p.m.  
Episcopal 4 p.m.  
Full Life Service 6 p.m.

**Saturday:**

7th Day Adventist 11 a.m.  
Catholic Mass 8 p.m.

**Mini-Chapel (Bldg. 2)**

**Friday:**

Jewish Service 6:30 p.m.

**Post Office**

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.

**Golby Troop Medical Clinic**

**Sick Call Hours:**

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon  
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

**Dental Sick call:**

Monday - Friday 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.  
Saturday 9 - 10:30 a.m.

**Mental Health Clinic:**

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

**Post Deployment Health Briefings:**

Monday - Friday 1 p.m.

**Pharmacy:**

Over the counter prescription refills  
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon  
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

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**Take a good look at the robot now ...**

**... so you can watch outside the cordon later.**

0012 IEDs KILL

**Victory MWR Events August 2 - 8**

**Today:** Spades at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Nine-ball at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym; Tae-Kwon-Do from 6 - 7 p.m.; Fencing from 7:30 - 9 p.m.

**Wednesday:** Chess at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Spades at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym; Aerobics from 5 - 6:30 a.m. and from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.; Boxing from 8 - 9 p.m.

**Thursday:** Country night at 7 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Dominoes Tournament at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym; Tae-Kwon-Do from 6 - 7 p.m.; Kajukenbo from 9 - 10:30 p.m.;

**Friday:** First season of *Frasier* movie marathon at 2 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Latin night at 7 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym; Aerobics

from 5 - 6:30 a.m. and from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.; Bench press competition at 7 p.m.; Fencing from 7:30 - 9 p.m.

**Saturday:** Hip-hop night at 7 p.m. at Bldg. 124; First season of *Friends* movie marathon at 3 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym; Tae-Kwon-Do from 6 - 7 p.m.; Boxing from 8 - 9 p.m.

**Sunday:** Ping Pong at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Eight-ball Tournament at 3 p.m. and Chess at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym; Fencing from 7:30 - 9 p.m.; Kajukenbo from 9 - 10:30 p.m.

**Monday:** Dominoes at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Halo at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym; Aerobics 5 - 6:30 a.m. and from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.; Boxing from 8 - 9 p.m.

**MNC-I Commanding General:** Lt. Gen. John R. Vines **MNC-I Production Chief:** Staff Sgt. Mark St.Clair  
**MNC-I Public Affairs Officer:** Col. Billy J. Buckner **Victory Weekly Editor:** Sgt. David Foley  
**MNC-I PA Sergeant Major:** Sgt. Maj. John E. Brenci

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*Victory Weekly* welcomes columns, commentaries, articles and letters from our readers. Send submissions or comments to [david.foley@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:david.foley@iraq.centcom.mil).

We reserve the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, policy, clarity and space.