

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1727

To establish a naturalization office at every initial military training site.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 2, 2017

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To establish a naturalization office at every initial military training site.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Naturalization At
5 Training Sites Act of 2017” or the “NATS Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT AND USE OF NATURALIZATION OF-**
7 **FICES AT INITIAL MILITARY TRAINING SITES.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act, the term “Secretary
9 concerned” has the meaning given that term in section
10 101(a) of title 10, United States Code.

1 (b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
2 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense,
3 and the Secretary of Homeland Security with respect to
4 the Coast Guard, shall establish a naturalization office at
5 each initial military training site of the Armed Forces
6 under the jurisdiction of the respective Secretary.

7 (c) OUTREACH.—In coordination with the Under Sec-
8 retary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness and the
9 Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services,
10 each Secretary concerned shall, to the maximum extent
11 practicable—

12 (1) identify each member of the Armed Forces
13 overseen by such Secretary who is not a citizen of
14 the United States;

15 (2) inform each noncitizen member of the
16 Armed Forces overseen by such Secretary about—

17 (A) the existence of a naturalization office
18 at each initial military training site;

19 (B) the continuous availability of each nat-
20 uralization office throughout the career of a
21 member of the Armed Forces to—

22 (i) evaluate the extent to which a non-
23 citizen member of the Armed Forces is eli-
24 gible to become a naturalized citizen; and

1 (ii) assess the suitability for citizen-
2 ship of a noncitizen member of the Armed
3 Forces;

4 (C) each potential pathway to citizenship;

5 (D) each service a naturalization office
6 provides;

7 (E) the required length of service to obtain
8 citizenship during—

9 (i) peacetime; and

10 (ii) a period of hostility; and

11 (F) the application process for citizenship,
12 including—

13 (i) details of the application process;

14 (ii) required application materials;

15 (iii) requirements for a naturalization
16 interview; and

17 (iv) any other information required to
18 become a citizen under the Immigration
19 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et
20 seq.).

21 (d) TIMING.—Each Secretary concerned shall com-
22 plete the notifications required under subsection (c)—

23 (1) during every stage of basic training;

24 (2) during training for any military occupa-
25 tional specialty;

1 (3) at each school of professional military edu-
2 cation;

3 (4) upon each transfer of a duty station; and

4 (5) at any other time determined appropriate
5 by the Secretary concerned.

6 (e) TRAINED PERSONNEL.—

7 (1) AVAILABILITY.—Each Secretary concerned
8 shall retain trained personnel at a naturalization of-
9 fice at every initial military training site to provide
10 appropriate services to every member of the Armed
11 Forces who is not a citizen of the United States.

12 (2) TRAINING.—All personnel retained under
13 paragraph (1) shall be familiar with—

14 (A) the special provisions of the Immigra-
15 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et
16 seq.) authorizing the expedited application and
17 naturalization process for current members of
18 the Armed Forces and veterans;

19 (B) the application process for naturaliza-
20 tion and associated application materials; and

21 (C) the naturalization process administered
22 by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

23 (f) ASSIGNMENT PREFERENCE.—The Secretary con-
24 cerned, to the extent practicable, shall assign each new
25 member of the Armed Forces who is not a citizen of the

1 United States to an initial military training site that has
2 a naturalization office.

3 (g) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—The Director of the
4 U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services shall annually
5 publish, on a publicly accessible website—

6 (1) the number of members of the Armed
7 Forces who became naturalized United States citi-
8 zens during the most recent year for which data is
9 available, categorized by country in which the natu-
10 ralization ceremony took place;

11 (2) the number of Armed Forces member’s chil-
12 dren who became naturalized United States citizens
13 during the most recent year for which data is avail-
14 able, categorized by country in which the naturaliza-
15 tion ceremony took place; and

16 (3) the number of Armed Forces member’s
17 spouses who became naturalized United States citi-
18 zens during the most recent year for which data is
19 available, categorized by country in which the natu-
20 ralization ceremony took place.

21 (h) REGULATIONS.—Each Secretary concerned shall
22 prescribe in regulation a definition of the term “initial
23 military training site” for purposes of this section.

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