

Court Information Release



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47 Naval Recruits from 23 Countries Sworn in as New Citizens at Naval Station Great Lakes

Great Lakes, Ill. – On January 5, 2023, 47 Naval recruits from 23 countries were sworn in as new U.S. citizens at Naval Station Great Lakes. 45 of the 47 will graduate from basic training on January 6, 2023.

“The Court treasures its role in this partnership, in which U.S. Navy recruits earn their right to take the oath as citizens. We are delighted to welcome these recruits on completion of their citizenship journey and on their graduation from basic training; they have shown their commitment and loyalty to this great nation by enlisting in the U.S. Navy even before becoming citizens. That has happened today. Congratulations to these newest citizens of the United States,” said Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Janet Baer, Northern District of Illinois, administered the Oath of Allegiance. Captain Kertreck V. Brooks, commanding officer Recruit Training Command, offered congratulatory remarks.

In 2021, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), Region Legal Service Office (RLSO) Midwest, and Recruit Training (RTC) launched a pilot program to expedite citizenship for recruits who are qualified under the Immigration & Nationality Act Section 329, which allows expedited naturalization for aliens and non-citizen nationals serving in an active-duty status. This ceremony was the largest group of candidates since the program’s inception.

Opened in 1911, Naval Station Great Lakes (NSGL) is the Navy’s largest training installation and the home of the Navy’s only Boot Camp.

Every year thousands of immigrants visit the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois to be sworn in as U.S. citizens at naturalization ceremonies. The district's judges preside over these ceremonies, which take place in both of the district's courthouses and in public venues throughout the district. New citizens take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States, a sworn declaration that every citizenship applicant must recite during a formal ceremony in order to become a naturalized American citizen. When taking the Oath, the new citizen promises to support and defend the U.S. Constitution and the laws of the U.S.

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Photos by MC2 Christopher O'Grady