



**3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command
16th Sustainment Brigade
Public Affairs Office**

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Indian Soldier becomes U.S. citizen during deployment

ARVIND

By Sgt. Keith M. Anderson

16th SB Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — He left Kolkata, India, to follow his wife to the U.S. in May 2005, but now he is a Soldier in the U.S. Army deployed to Iraq, and about to accomplish a long-time goal, to become a citizen.

Spc. Arvind Mishra, postal clerk, 18th Human Resources Co., 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, will become a full-fledged citizen when he is naturalized, along with other Soldiers during a ceremony at Joint Base Balad in November.

“My reason to be a citizen is to be part of the great American society and culture, so I can serve more freely,” said Mishra, a 35-year-old from Hicksville, N.Y., originally from Kolkata, India. “Other than this, living in America, along with serving (in the) U.S. Army and not (being a) U.S. citizen, sounds (like a) mismatch in itself.”

The naturalization ceremony is a quick resolution to a life-long dream he set in motion last year after a divorce that nearly derailed him.

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“I came alone, but the purpose was to live with my wife,” he said. “We started our (married) life, but something didn’t work out. We got divorced in 2007. It was shocking for my entire family.”

In May 2007 his platoon sergeant suggested he apply for citizenship, and he hasn’t looked back since.

“Is working in U.S. Army not a great cause? I am fully committed to my job. India may be great country, but my only concern in India is (that) my parents live there. This is it. Now (whether or not) it’s good or bad, (the) bottom-line is (that) I am not going anywhere, till death.” Said Mishra.

Mishra said that the decision to become a U.S. citizen was a big decision, but he doesn’t have any doubts.

“It may be a life-changing decision, but I am pretty sure I am not going to feel any changes, because I am already changed,” he said. “I am a Soldier. I am a paratrooper. I am proud of myself. I thank God for this.”



Mishra

Spc. Arvind Mishra (pictured at work), postal clerk, 18th Human Resources Co., 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, will become a full-fledged citizen when he is naturalized, along with other Soldiers during a ceremony at Joint Base Balad in November. “My reason to be a citizen is to be part of the great American society and culture, so I can serve more freely,” said the 35-year-old from Hicksville, N.Y., originally from Kolkata, India. “Other than this, living in America, along with serving (in the) U.S. Army and not (being a) U.S. citizen, sounds (like a) mismatch in itself.” (courtesy photo)