

Decorated Sergeant In Marines Wants To Be a Citizen, Too

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Body

A **decorated Marine sergeant** has turned himself in to immigration authorities and admitted that he is an illegal alien.

The **sergeant**, Danny Lightfoot, a native of the Bahamas and a **marine** for 11 years, turned himself in on Tuesday to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, saying he **wanted** to become a **citizen** for the sake of his family.

"I couldn't go on like this," he told reporters. "My back just got up against the wall. I did it for myself and my family."

One of his three children is a United States **citizen**, but the others were born outside the country and are not **citizens**. His wife, Raquel, also of the Bahamas, is seeking legal residency as well.

"Should I have to make the ultimate sacrifice one day, I would willingly die defending America," said **Sergeant** Lightfoot, wearing pressed khakis and service ribbons. "My only regret would be that I would not die as an American."

'Friendly' Investigator

Sergeant Lightfoot, 29, met with an immigration officer and was allowed to return to his station in Barstow to await a hearing on his request.

"The investigator could not have been more friendly," said **Sergeant** Lightfoot's lawyer, Carl Shusterman. "He turned out to be an ex-**marine**."

Sergeant Lightfoot, who was described by the authorities as an outstanding soldier, holds a Navy achievement medal, three good-conduct medals, two certificates of commendation, seven letters of appreciation and a meritorious unit commendation.

He carried with him to the I.N.S. office letters of support from superiors and a Congressman.

"**Sergeant** Lightfoot is deserving of special consideration because he has demonstrated his commitment to America by his willingness to defend it with his life," said Lieut. Col. F. L. Kebelman 3d, executive officer at the **Marine** Corps Logistics Base in Barstow, in one letter.

Representative Jerry Lewis, Republican of California, wrote that **Sergeant** Lightfoot deserved to receive legal status because of his "dedication and loyalty to the **Marine** Corps and the United States."

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