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TRUST TERRITORY HEADQUARTERS

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BILL TO ALLOW TT CITIZENS TO JOIN  
US ARMY AND AIR FORCE  
INTRODUCED IN US CONGRESS

SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS, TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS,  
(MARCH 1)...Word has been received here that five members of the U.S.  
House of Representatives have introduced in the U.S. Congress identical  
bills to allow the citizens of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands  
to enlist in U.S. Army and Air Force.

Rep. Rogers C. B. Morton of Maryland introduced the bill on the  
House floor on February 16, with Chairman Wayne Aspinall of Colorado,  
John Saylor of Pennsylvania, N. Neiman Craley of Pennsylvania, and  
Charlotte T. Reid of Illinois as co-sponsors of the bill. They are all  
members of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, which handles  
legislation affecting the Pacific Trust Territory. Except for Rep. Saylor  
all other members have visited the Trust Territory.

The proposed legislation, which has been referred to the Committee  
on Armed Services, would amend subsections (c) of sections 3253 and  
8253 of Title of the United States Code.

(MORE)

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The proposed new amendment reads that in time of peace no person may be accepted for original enlistment in the US Army or US Air Force unless he (1) is a citizen of the United States, (2) has been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence, (3) is a national of the United States, or (4) is a citizen of the Trust Territory of Pacific Islands and presents a valid identity certificate issued by the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory.

As to Micronesians joining the U.S. Navy or Marines, neither service has a statutory bar against non-citizens, but each has followed policies of the Army and Air Force. Therefore it will not be necessary to have special legislation to permit Micronesians to serve in the Navy and Marine Corps.

According to information received from Washington, D.C., the introduction of the bill was prompted by recent Trust Territory queries as to the eligibility of Micronesians to join the U.S. Armed Forces.

The Congressional visiting party which toured the Trust Territory last November and December, were made aware of Micronesians' desire to join the U.S. Armed Forces. At several meetings with high school students the subject was discussed, and the proposed legislation is a direct result of these discussions.