## ELECTION OFFICIAL NEWS

Military and Overseas Voting

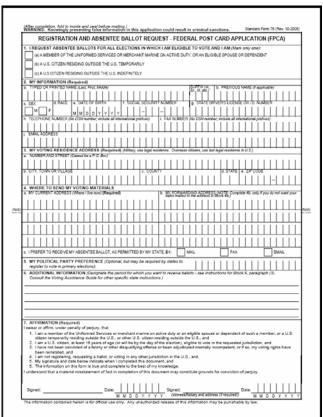
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### First Step for Military and Overseas Voting

The Registration and Absentee Ballot Request Form, or Federal Post Card Application Form (FPCA SF-76), is the first step in the absentee voting process for citizens covered under the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)*. This form is accepted by all states and territories as a simultaneous request for registration and/or an absentee ballot for these citizens. Below is a depiction of the most recent version (2005) of the Registration and Absentee Ballot Request Form. This is the version of the form you will most likely receive and process; however, the earlier versions may be used by some voters.

Military and overseas citizens are eligible to participate in all elections for Federal offices in their state of legal residence. Many of these citizens may also be eligible to vote in state and local elections under your state's laws.



#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

About the FPCA



# Visit Our Website!

Have you checked out the local election official section on our website? Go to www.fvap.gov and select "Resources for Election Officials." See how much useful information is available for you!

### What to Remember About the Form

- Review the citizen's completed Registration and Absentee Ballot Request Form to ensure it has the necessary information for processing. If you find a mistake in the form or need more information, remember that you can contact the citizen using phone, email, or fax as provided in Block 2.
- The *UOCAVA* requires acknowledgement of an unsuccessful submission of the Registration and Absentee Ballot Request Form. The FVAP strongly suggests responding to the citizen immediately upon receiving the FPCA with positive feedback, as well. This will help answer many initial concerns, such as: "Has my local election official received the FPCA?", "Am I registered to vote?" and "When will I get my ballot?" You may use the acknowledgement form, available at www.fvap.gov under "Resources for Election Officials." Feel free to tailor this form to the specific needs of the citizens you assist.
- If possible, encourage military and overseas citizens to provide an email address, fax number, and telephone number in Block 2 of the form. This will give you a greater opportunity to maintain open communication with your military and overseas voters.
- The Registration and Absentee Ballot Request Form is a valid absentee ballot request for **TWO** general election cycles. That means if you receive an FPCA on May 2, 2008, you will need to send the voter ballots for all elections for Federal office through the 2010 general election. Requests received since the November 2004 Presidential election should be honored for the November 2008 Presidential election.
- The Registration and Absentee Ballot Request Form can also be used by military and overseas absentee voters to change their mailing address or party affiliation. If the citizen is already registered and has already requested absentee ballots, please review the form to ensure that you correctly process the appropriate changes.
- If you post the online PDF version of the Registration and Absentee Ballot Request Form on your county's website, please use the PDF from the FVAP's website.
- All shaded areas for your state or territory as indicated in the 2008-2009 *Voting Assistance Guide* must be completed by the voter. The *Guide* is available for reference in hard copy format or on-line at www.fvap.gov.

If you have any questions or concerns about the Registration and Absentee Ballot Request Form, please do not hesitate to contact us.

### **FVAP Contact Information**

Email: vote@fvap.ncr.gov

**Toll free number:** 1-800–438-VOTE (8683)

**Fax:** 703-696-1352 **Website:** <u>www.fvap.gov</u>

Mail: Federal Voting Assistance Program

Department of Defense

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