

Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) Department of Defense

Installation Voter Assistance Office Self-Administered Training



Welcome to the Installation Voter Assistance
Office Training. This training provides
Information to help you establish and execute the
required duties.

The installation voter assistance office has responsibility for the following voting related activities at the installation:

- ✓ Providing voting assistance to all military members and their families
- ✓ Providing voter registration assistance to civilians who have access to and visit the office
- Collecting and reporting of voting activity metrics



- ✓ This training module serves as a supplement to the existing Military VAO training available through www.fvap.gov
- ✓ The Military VAO training is available either as selfpaced (http://www.fvap.gov/vao/training.html) or through an FVAP Workshop
- ✓ Please complete the Military VAO training before continuing with the installation voter assistance office module



P.GOV Distinction from Military VAO Training

Most of the information in the Military VAO training applies directly to the installation voter assistance office personnel, with two exceptions:

- ✓ Reporting structure: Office personnel report directly to their installation commander with the SVAO available for direction and support
- ✓ Duties: Office personnel are only responsible for assisting those that come to the office for help, not proactively seeking out potential applicants

This training module reviews the new requirements and duties of the installation voter assistance office. The topics to be covered are:

- ✓ New Guidance: The MOVE Act, NVRA, and DoD Issuance
- ✓ New Requirements: Setting up the Office
- ✓ New Duties: Registering Civilian Voters
- ✓ New Resources: The Online Assistant & The Handbook



This training uses some terms that have distinct meanings:

Installation Voting Assistance Officer (IVAO)

 Coordinates the voting programs conducted by subordinate units and tenant commands

Installation Voter Assistance Office

 Fixed office that provides voter assistance to U.S. citizens that have installation access

Installation Voter Assistance Office Personnel

 Personnel that execute the responsibilities of the installation voter assistance office.

Civilians

• U.S. citizens who are not members of the uniformed services and are not spouses or dependents of a uniformed service member



New Legislation: The MOVE Act, NVRA, and DoD Issuance



The Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act of 2009 aims to increase the opportunity for military personnel, their families, and overseas civilians to vote. The MOVE Act:

- ✓ Requires States to expedite the voting process
- ✓Improves voter registration



To expedite the voting process, States must:

- ✓ Deliver absentee ballots electronically
 - States may choose the type of electronic transmission adopted (email and/or fax)
 - Check the applicant's State-specific information to see which types are accepted
- ✓ Ensure that ballots are sent to voters at least 45 days prior to the election
 - Always check the applicant's State's website because State procedures and requirements will vary.



Improving voter registration means:

- ✓ Creating installation voter assistance offices on military installations
- ✓ Designating the offices as Voter Registration Agencies as defined by the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) to assist civilian voters
- ✓ Facilitating the submission of voter registration information each
 time a voter has a change of address (e.g., changes duty station)

DoDI 1000.04 provides specific guidance on how the MOVE Act and NVRA will be implemented by the Services.

This has two main implications:

- ✓ The set-up of the office
- √ The responsibilities of the office



New Requirements: Setting up the Office



This section will review the new policies regarding the establishment of an installation voter assistance office. We will review the requirement, provide practical implications for each new requirement, and provide suggestions for successful implementation.



P.GOV Set-up: Function



• Establish an installation voter assistance office within the installation headquarters organization that provides voter assistance to citizens who have access to the office

- The office must assist military personnel and their families, as well as any civilians with access to the office
- The office reports directly to the installation commander



GOV Set-up: New Designation



• The installation voter assistance office shall serve as a Voter Registration Agency under the NVRA.



- The office will also have responsibilities for the registration of civilian voters through the use of the National Mail Voter Registration Form (NVRF). The use of this form is addressed later in this training.
- The installation commander shall designate, in writing, the installation voter assistance office as a Voter Registration Agency as defined by the NVRA.
- The installation commander shall also designate, in writing, personnel to staff the installation voter assistance office



GOV Set-up: New Designation (Cont.)



• The installation voter assistance office shall serve as a Voter Registration Agency under the NVRA. (Cont.)



- · The office must maintain:
 - Reporting Separation while performing the duties of the office, personnel report directly to the installation commander
 - · Visible Distinction independent and well defined space
 - Functional Separation the office provides exclusively voting services
 - Personnel Separation while performing the duties of the office, personnel do not provide other services



GOV Set-up: Location



• The location of the office should receive extensive visits by Service personnel, family members, and DoD civilians, and should be consistent throughout the Service in a well-advertised, fixed location.

- The office should be located with another office such as:
 - Personnel Support Detachment, Family Readiness Group, In & Out Processing Center, Community Service Offices
- To the maximum extent possible this should be consistent with Service-specific instruction
- Be sure to promote awareness of the office on the installation



GOV Set-up: Awareness



• Ensure contact information of the installation voter assistance office is established and properly distributed



- Establish e email consistent with Service guidelines (e.g., vote@base.af.mil)
- Make sure contact information is updated with the installation directory and operators
- Advertise the location of the office with posters and flyers in heavily trafficked areas such as banks, exchanges, entertainment venues, and recreation areas
- Include phone number and email on promotional posters and flyers
- Publicize through additional channels, such as installation newsletters or social media

Compliance with the Set-up requirements is important because:

Office requirements are subject to Inspector General oversight and Department of Justice Review



P.GOV Responsibilities: Processing Activities



• The office is to be included into existing in-processing and outprocessing activities of military and civilian personnel and personnel recording a change of address.

- A visit to the office or meeting with office personnel shall be added to the personnel checklists for these processing activities
- Note: While individuals can be required to visit the office, they cannot be required to complete voting-related documents (i.e., FPCA or NVRF)



Responsibilities: Written Information



•The office is required to provide written information on voter procedures

- The office must have access to a computer with internet access and a printer to provide copies of forms and their instructions
- ·Where practical, the office should have a computer that applicants can use to access and complete the forms
- · Display copies of FPCA, FWAB, NVRF, and VAG in the office
- Keep adequate back-up supplies of these materials at all times, particularly if a computer is not available
- Visit FVAP.gov for additional poster and materials to be displayed.



Responsibilities: Direct Assistance



 The office must provide direct assistance to all individuals in completing the forms

- Personnel staffing the office must be designated to the office and trained on the usage of the various forms
- Personnel must be available to provide voting assistance
- Note: This does not require continuous staffing; rather personnel should be on call and in close proximity.



Responsibilities: Mail on Request



• The office must mail the completed forms for the applicant

- Prepare the office to send the forms when completed
 - Use of the FPCA online assistant can help streamline process by providing the delivery information and eliminating legibility issues
 - Keep No.10 business envelopes on hand for mailing forms
 - Faxing or emailing also fulfills this requirement for the FPCA,
 when accepted by the State



Responsibilities: Monthly Records



 The office is responsible for maintaining monthly records of assistance provided

- Track assistance provided, specifically:
 - Number of citizens assisted
 - Number of forms provided (both FPCA and NVRF)
 - Number of forms mailed by the office for citizens
 - Number of forms taken away by applicants
- Your SVAO should provide Service-specific procedures



Responsibilities: Additional Items



- Remain current on voting directives and initiatives
 - Register installation voting email at <u>vote@fvap.gov</u>
- Create Continuity Folder
 - · See the Handbook for specifics and a checklist
- Plan for coverage of responsibilities of the office
 - Make sure there is always a trained individual available who can assist voters during office hours

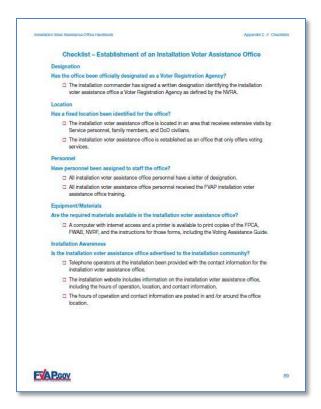
Compliance with the responsibility requirements is important because:

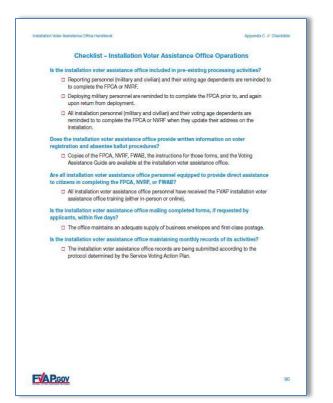
It has an impact on your performance review



FYAPGOV Set-up and Operation: Checklists

By following the practical advice offered in this section you should now be able to check off all items on the office establishment and operations checklists.







New Duties: Registering Civilian Voters

New Requirements of the installation voter assistance office include providing civilians who have access to the office with assistance on registering to vote



P.GOV Registering Civilian voters

The National Voter Registration Act established a standardized form (NVRF) to register voters across the U.S.

	Voter Registration Application Before completing this form, review the General, Application, and State specific instructions.								
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This form is **ONLY** for civilians not covered by UOCAVA. All military members and their families, as well as any overseas citizens should use the FPCA



P.GOV Registering Civilian voters

- The NVRF allows citizens to:
 - ✓ Register to vote in their State of legal residence
 - ✓ Report a change of name to their voter registration office.
 - ✓ Report a change of residence to their voter registration office.
 - ✓ Register with a political party(in some states)
- Each State has different information requirements for the form

For example: Some States require SSN for identification while others ask for driver's license number

Step One- Determine voter eligibility

- ✓ Are they a US citizen?
- ✓ Will they be 18 or older by the election?

A negative response to either question means they are not eligible

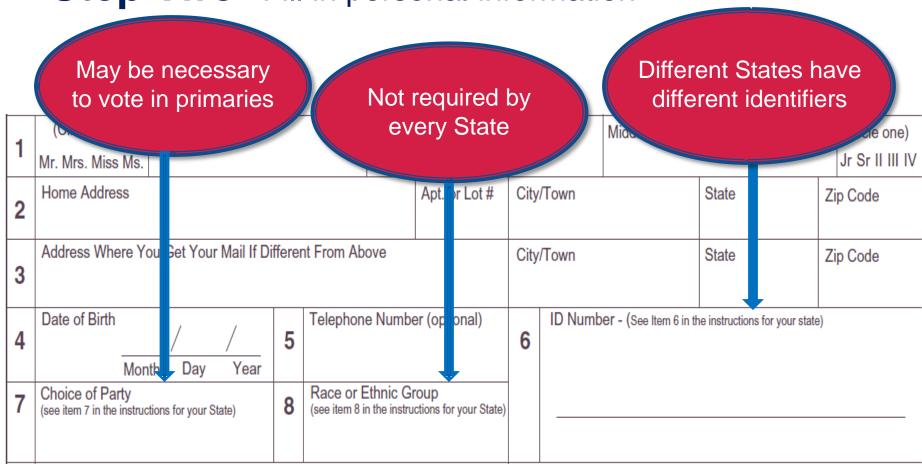
Are you a citizen of the United States of America?	Yes	No
Will you be 18 years old on or before election day?	Yes	No
If you checked "No" in response to either of these ques	stions, do not co	mplete form.
(Please see state-specific instructions for rules regarding eligibility to	register prior to ag	e 18.)

Step Two- Fill in personal information

1	(Circle one) Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms.	Edot Hallo			First Name				Middle Name(s)			(Circle one) Jr Sr II III IV
2	Home Address				Apt. or Lot#	City	Town		State	Zip Code		
3	Address Where You Get Your Mail If Different From Above						City/Town			State	Zip Code	
4	Date of Birth Mon	Date of Birth / / / Month Day Year Telephone Number (optional)			er (optional)	6	ID Number - (See Item 6 in the instructions for your state)					
7	Choice of Party (see item 7 in the instruc	tions for your State)	8	Race or Ethnic Group (see item 8 in the instructions for your State)								



Step Two- Fill in personal information



Step Three- Sign and date the form

I have reviewed my state's instructions and I swear/affirm that:

- I am a United States citizen
- I meet the eligibility requirements of my state and subscribe to any oath required.
- The information I have provided is true to the best of my knowledge under penalty of perjury. If I have provided false information, I may be fined, imprisoned, or (if not a U.S. citizen) deported from or refused entry to the United States.

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Date:					
	Month	Day		Year	_

Step Four- Deal with any special circumstances:

✓ Change of name since last registering

Please fill out the sections below if they apply to you.

If this application is for a change of name, what was your name before you changed it?

Α	Mr. Mrs.	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name(s)	(Circle one)
	Miss Ms.				Jr Sr II III IV

✓ Change of address

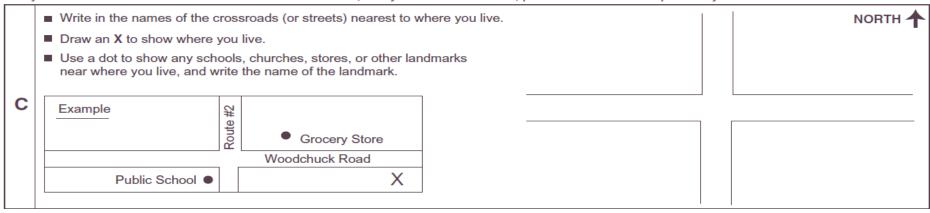
If you were registered before but this is the first time you are registering from the address in Box 2, what was your address where you were registered before?

		 •	<u> </u>	•	_
В	Street (or route and box number)	Apt. or Lot #	City/Town/County	State	Zip Code

Special circumstances continued:

✓ No address

If you live in a rural area but do not have a street number, or if you have no address, please show on the map where you live.



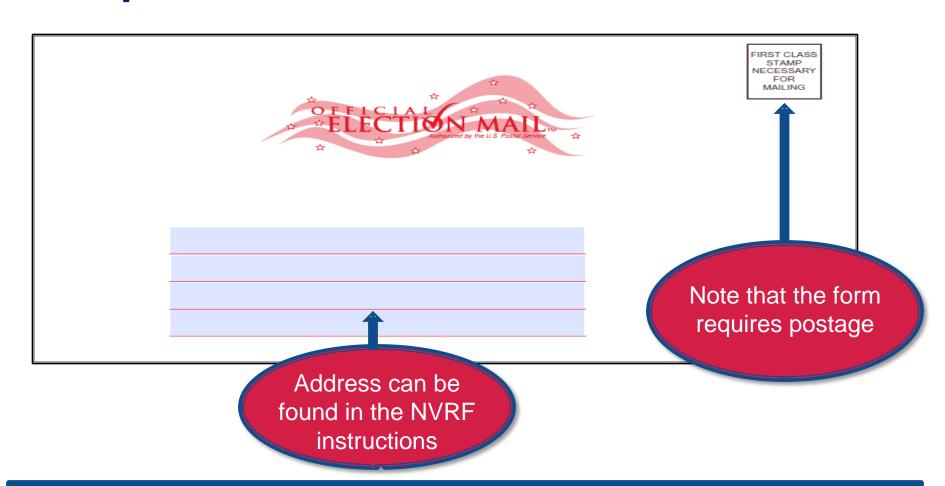
✓ Applicant unable to sign

If the applicant is unable to sign, who helped the applicant fill out this application? Give name, address and phone number (phone number optional).

D	



Step Five- Address and Mail form



States have specific conditions regarding the NVRF of which you should be aware. For example:

- ✓ Wyoming- does not allow the use of the NVRF. Wyoming applicants must use that State's form available on their <u>State</u> voting website to register by mail
- ✓ North Dakota- voters are not required to register, so there is no need to fill out an NVRF
- ✓ Virginia- requires a full Social Security Number, as do some other States

ALWAYS CHECK STATE INFORMATION



New Resources: The Online Assistant & The Handbook

There are new resources available from FVAP to help both the establishment and operation of installation voter assistance office. This section will guide you through some of the useful new tools available to you.

- ✓ The FPCA online assistant automates and simplifies the process of completing the FPCA
- ✓ The Installation Voter Assistance Office Handbook is a useful reference guide to supplement this training. It provides additional detail and suggestions for implementation as well as useful tools like:
 - ✓ A decision tree to help you pick the correct form
 - ✓ Office set-up checklist
 - ✓ Continuity Folder checklist
 - ✓ Quick Reference Guides for the FPCA, FWAB, and NVRF



The FPCA online assistant, available at www.fvap.gov, is a useful tool for assisting UOCAVA voters

Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) for Absentee Ballot

Complete the Form

Eligibility

State

Jurisdiction

My Information

Voting Residence

Mailing Address

Method To Receive Ballot

Additional Information

Print and Finish

Absentee Ballot Eligibility (Help)

Select your voting status. (mandatory)

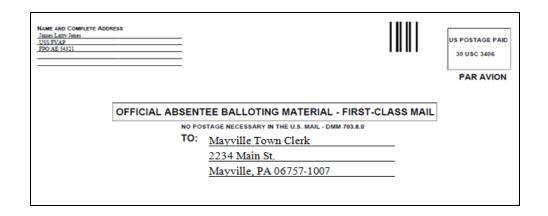
- I am a member of the uniformed services or merchant marine on active duty, or an eligible spouse or dependent living either in the U.S. or overseas.
- I am a U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S. or overseas.
- I am a U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S. indefinitely and my intent to remain may not be certain.

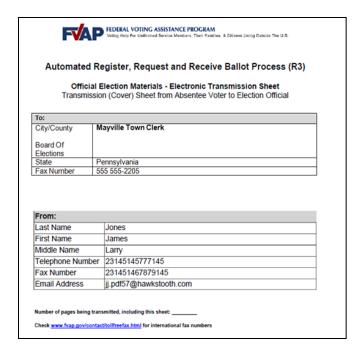
Continue >

The online assistant offers point-and-click assistance in correctly filling out the FPCA and results in a printable form that eliminates any legibility errors



The online assistant also provides delivery information regardless of whether the applicant wishes to send the form electronically or through the mail





The first page of the output provided by the online assistant gives you a postage-paid template that can be printed directly onto a No.10 business envelope for easy mailing

NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS James Larry Jones USS FVAP FPO AE 54321				US POSTAGE PAID 39 USC 3406 PAR AVION
	OFFICIAL ABSENT	EE BALLOTING MATERIAL - FIRST-CLAS	S MAIL	
	NO PO	STAGE NECESSARY IN THE U.S. MAIL - DMM 703.8.0		
	TO:	Mayville Town Clerk		
		2234 Main St.		
		Mayville, PA 06757-1007		

The next pages of the output highlight State-specific dates and instructions



Instructions for Pennsylvania

Thank you for using the automated ballot request process. Review, print, sign, and submit your completed absentee ballot request form to your local election official at the address provided below.

General Election: November 2, 2010

Registration: October 26, 2010

Ballot Request: October 26, 2010

Ballot Return: 7 pm, November 2, 2010

State Primary Election: June 8, 2010

Registration: June 1, 2010

Ballot Request: June 1, 2010

Ballot Return: 7 pm, June 8, 2010

NOTE: Recommended Mailing Dates for Voted Ballots in 2010:

-
- From Iraq, Afghanistan, Deployed Naval Vessels: 4 weeks before the election
 From Other overseas Military Installations: 3 weeks before the election
- From Other overseas locations: 4 weeks before the election (depending on foreign mail service)
- From Within the United States: 1 week before the election

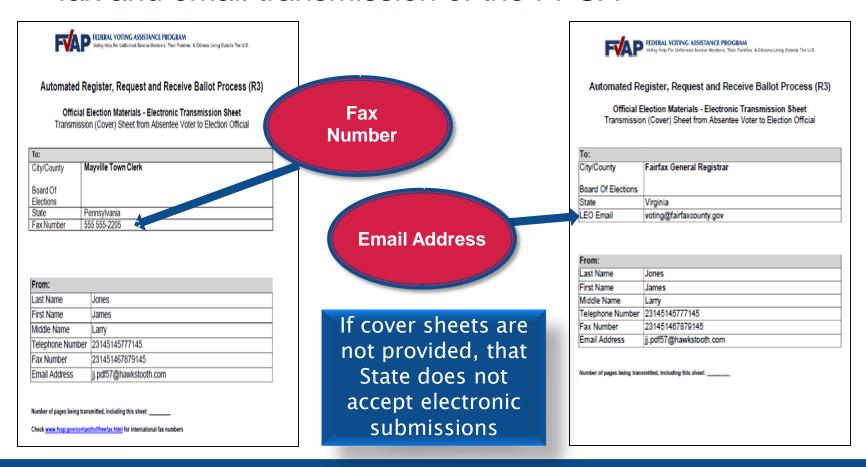
In order to finish the ballot request process, please complete the following steps:

 Print this PDF package. The package includes this cover letter, a completed fax transmittal sheet, a completed email transmittal sheet, the completed ballot request form and a completed return envelope template. If you choose to use mail to return your ballot request, the return envelope template must be printed on an envelope at least 0 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches in size. The envelope can be used to return your ballot request postage paid in the United States mail (including APD/FPO). The postal service will not accept it stapled, taped or glued onto an envelope.



AP.GOV The FPCA Online Assistant

Following the State information are cover sheets for both fax and email transmission of the FPCA



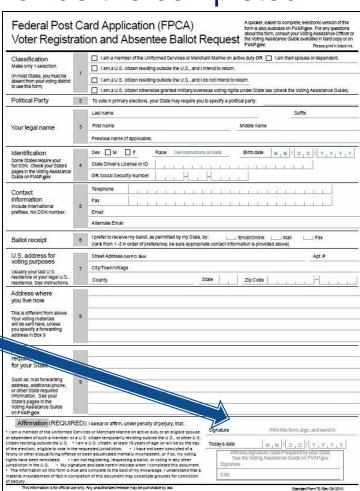


FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM THE FPCA Online Assistant

The online assistant will also provide the completed

FPCA

Make sure the applicant signs and dates the form



A final page may include any additional information required by the State

Addendum Sheet:

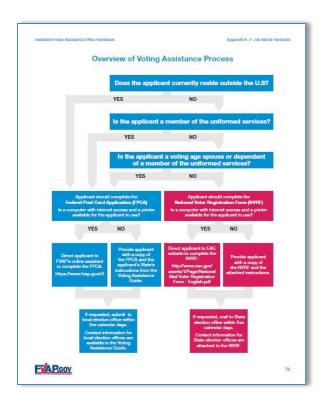
You must provide complete information on where you last registered and voted. Enter the last day of residency at your Virginia voting residence address only if that home is no longer available to you. If not applicable, write "I have never voted:"

Last date lived in Mayville: Feb. 2002.

Uniformed Service members, merchant marine members, and their spouses and dependent must provide the branch of service, and grade or rank of the military member. Citizens residing overseas for reason of employment and their accompanying spouse/dependents must provide the name and address of their employer:

LTJG, United States Navy

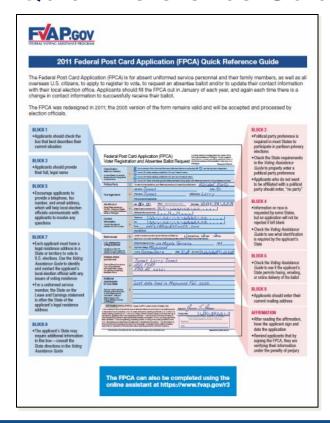
The decision tree makes determining the correct form to assist an applicant easy with step-by-step evaluation of critical questions.





P.GOV Handbook: Quick Reference Guides

If an applicant does not wish to use the online assistant, or a computer is not available, you may find the FPCA Quick Reference Guide useful

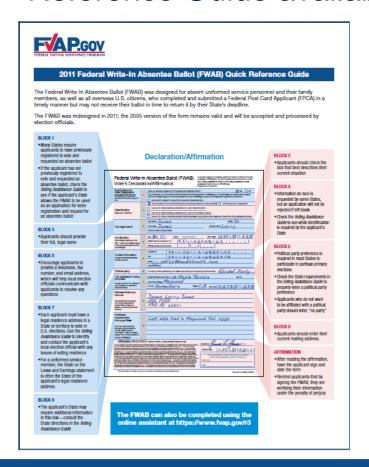


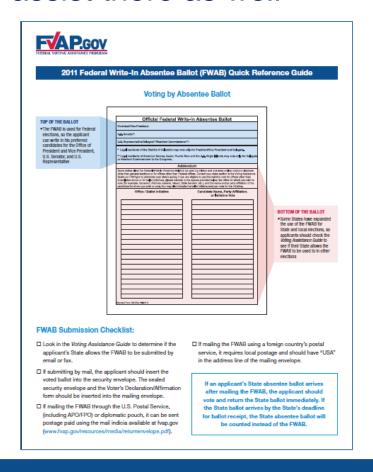
This Guide provides an overview of the process and a checklist for reviewing FPCAs



FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM Handbook: Quick Reference Guides

In the event that a FWAB is necessary there is a Quick Reference Guide available to assist there as well



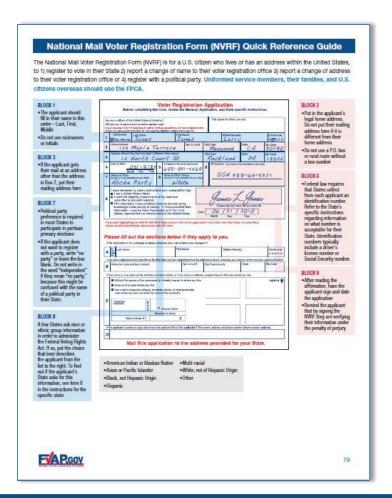




FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM Handbook: Quick Reference Guides

There is also a Quick Reference Guide for the NVRF

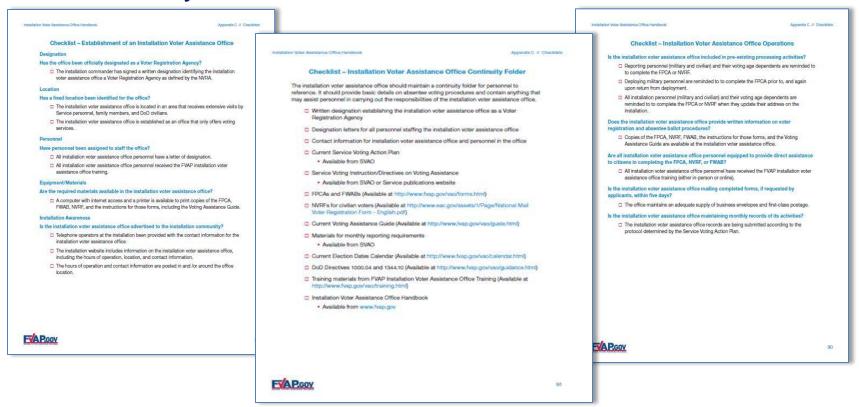
All of these Quick Reference Guides can be found in the Installation Voter **Assistance Office** Handbook





P.GOV Handbook: Checklists

Also available in the Handbook are checklists to ensure the completeness of the office set-up, operations and continuity folder.





New legislation and changes to DoD Directives have resulted in new voter assistance responsibilities for military installations

- ✓ An installation voter assistance office must be created on military installations
- ✓ The office has voting assistance responsibilities to civilians who
 have access to the office as well as military personnel and their
 families
- ✓ New tools to assist with this transition are available through www.fvap.gov

This concludes the training specific to the creation and operation of an installation voter assistance office. If you have any questions regarding assistance to UOCAVA voters and use of the FPCA and FWAB, consult the Military VAO training available at http://www.fvap.gov/vao/training.html.



Congratulations on completing the Installation Voter Assistance Office Training!

The following slide contains the Certificate of Completion. Please fill in your name, organization, command, or activity, and date at the bottom.



Department of Defense Federal Voting Assistance Program



Certificate of Training

On-Line Workshop for the Installation Voter Assistance Office

Presented To

Command, Activity or Organization, Location

Deputy Director, Voter Assistance

Kon wife

Date