

Federal Voting Assistance Program
(FVAP)
Department of Defense

Civilian Voting Assistance Officer (VAO)
Self-Administered Training

Welcome to the self-paced **Voting Assistance Officer** (VAO) training. This training provides information to help you carry out your duties as a VAO and conduct a successful voting assistance program.

This training covers three areas:

1. Background information on *UOCAVA*
2. Your duties as a Voting Assistance Officer (VAO)
3. Available resources for assisting *UOCAVA* voters

You will be able to print a certificate of completion at the end of this training.

During the 2012 election cycle, a number of important offices will be decided by voters, including:

- ✓ The offices of U.S. President and Vice President
- ✓ 33 seats in the U.S. Senate
- ✓ 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives
- ✓ Governorships in 11 States and 2 U.S. territories
- ✓ State and local offices
- ✓ Ballot questions and referenda



MYTH: Absentee ballots are not counted unless it is a close race.

FACT: All valid absentee ballots are counted regardless of the closeness of the race.

States differ as to when they count absentee ballots. Many States require absentee ballots to be received by Election Day so that they can be counted along with the in-person votes.

Some States accept absentee ballots after Election Day. In these cases, the final outcome of the election would not be certified until all absentee ballots received by the State's deadline are counted.



As a VAO, it is important that you encourage citizens to exercise their right to vote and remind them that every vote counts. Several recent elections have been decided by a margin of victory of less than 0.1%.

Election	Margin of Victory
2008 – Minnesota U.S. Senate	312 votes
2005 – Virginia Attorney General	323 votes
2004 – Washington Governor	133 votes
2000 – Florida Electoral Votes (U.S. Presidential election)	537 votes
2000 – New Mexico Electoral Votes (U.S. Presidential election)	366 votes

Background Information

➤ The following slides will:

- ✓ Introduce you to *UOCAVA* and FVAP
- ✓ Outline FVAP's objectives and goals and explain your role

The *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act* of 1986, or *UOCAVA*, requires U.S. States and territories to allow certain U.S. citizens to apply to register and vote absentee in elections for Federal office. Citizens covered under *UOCAVA* include:

1. Members of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine who are absent from their voting jurisdiction due to their service.
2. Dependents of members of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine who are absent from their voting jurisdiction with the member.
3. U.S. citizens residing outside the United States and its territories.

UOCAVA covers over 6 million potential voters worldwide.

The Federal Voting Assistance Program, or FVAP, is charged with providing assistance and outreach to U.S. citizens covered under *UOCAVA*.

FVAP's **purpose** is to:

1. Inform and educate U.S. citizens worldwide of their right to vote.
2. Protect and enhance the integrity of the electoral process at the Federal, State, and local levels.
3. Promote efficiency and effectiveness in administering *UOCAVA*.

To accomplish this, FVAP's **immediate objective** is to:

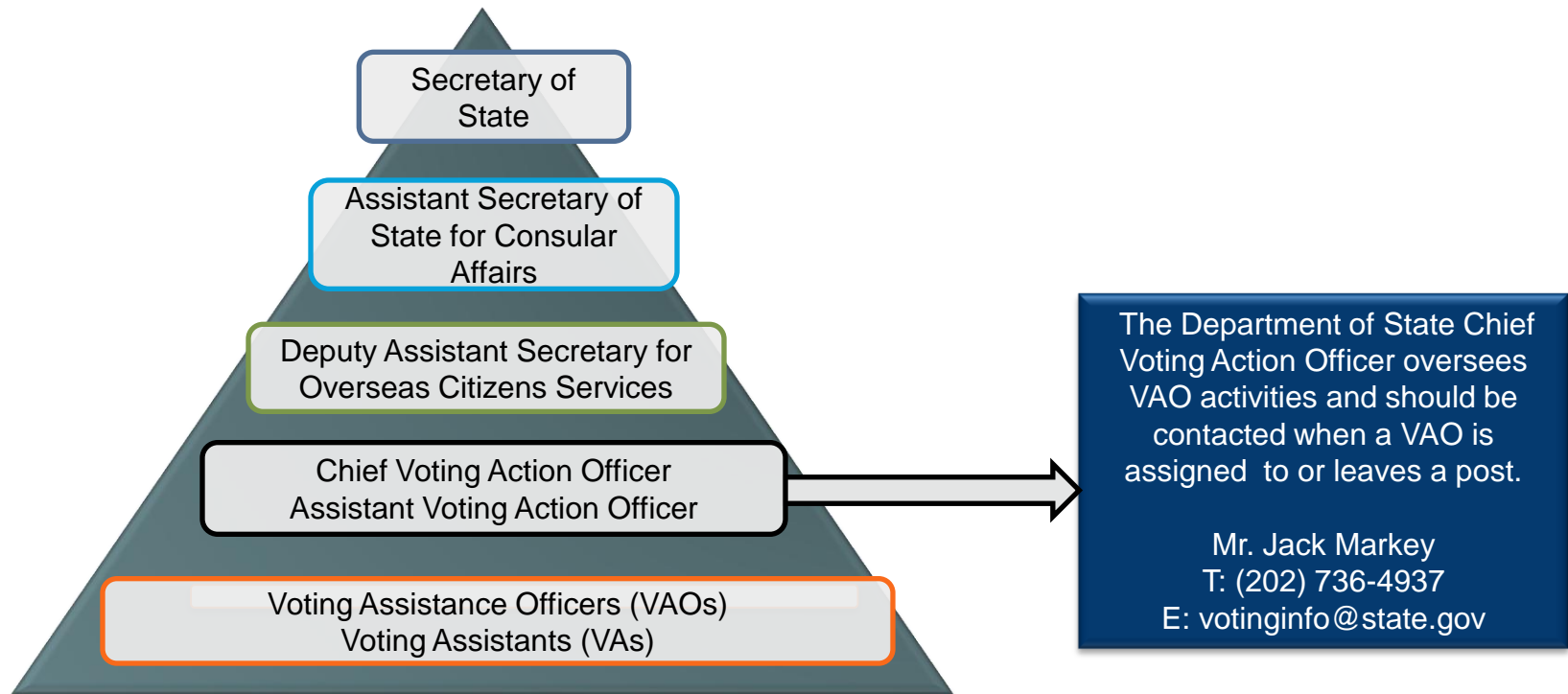
Bring *UOCAVA* voting participation and success rates to equal or greater than general population rates by:

- ✓ Increasing registration/absentee ballot request success rate.
- ✓ Increasing absentee ballot cast rate.
- ✓ Increasing Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot success rate.

As a VAO, your goal is to ensure that citizens covered under *UOCAVA* understand how to apply to register to vote and vote absentee.

VAOs play an important role within the Department of State's voting assistance program. Additional information on the Department of State's Overseas Voting Program can be found in 7 FAM 1500 (<http://www.state.gov/m/a/dir/regs/fam/07fam/c22717.htm>).

Key Members in the Department of State Voting Assistance Program



Your Duties as a Voting Assistance Officer: Voting Assistance

- The following slides will assist you in:
 - ✓ Understanding the *UOCAVA* absentee voting process and how you can help voters
 - ✓ Working with absentee voters to properly fill out voting forms

VAOs ensure that *UOCAVA* voters understand their voting rights and the *UOCAVA* absentee voting process by providing non-partisan voting information and assistance.

VAOs may be uniformed service members, Department of Defense civilians, Consular Officers, or members of overseas U.S. citizens organizations.

Your duties as a VAO include:

1. Assisting *UOCAVA* citizens in the absentee voting process.
2. Increasing awareness of *UOCAVA*.
3. Following VAO guidelines for:
 1. Providing non-partisan assistance
 2. Creating and maintaining a continuity folder

How Do UOCAVA Citizens Vote?

Step 1: A UOCAVA citizen completes the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to apply to register to vote and request an absentee ballot. The completed FPCA is submitted to the applicant's local election official.



FPCA

Step 2: The local election official reviews the submitted FPCA. After verifying eligibility, the local election official sends the applicant an absentee ballot.

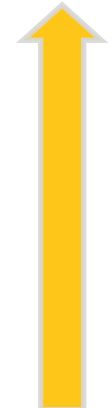


BALLOT

Step 3: The applicant receives the absentee ballot, votes the ballot, and returns it to the local election official to be counted.

Note: If applicants have not received an absentee ballot by 30 days before the election, they should complete and submit the **Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)** to ensure that their vote is received in time to be counted.

FWAB



VAOs assist with the *UOCAVA* voting process by:

1. Providing *UOCAVA* citizens with access to the FPCA and FWAB.
2. Assisting *UOCAVA* citizens with completing the FPCA and FWAB.
3. Reminding *UOCAVA* citizens that their voices are important and their votes count.



The following slides provide a brief overview of the FPCA and FWAB.

Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)

By filling out the FPCA, *UOCAVA* voters can:

1. Apply to register to vote.
2. Request an absentee ballot.
3. Update a mailing address and/or other contact information.

UOCAVA citizens should submit an FPCA:

1. Once a year.
2. Anytime they need to update their contact information.

Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)
Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Request

A quicker, easier to complete, electronic version of this form is also available on FVAP.gov. For any questions about this form, consult your Voting Assistance Officer or the Voting Assistance Guide available in hard copy or on FVAP.gov. Please print in black ink.

Classification Make only 1 selection. <small>(In most States, you must be absent from your voting district to use this form)</small>	1	<input type="checkbox"/> I am a member of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine on active duty OR <input type="checkbox"/> I am their spouse or dependent. <input type="checkbox"/> I am a U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S., and I intend to return. <input type="checkbox"/> I am a U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S., and I do not intend to return. <input type="checkbox"/> I am a U.S. citizen otherwise granted military/overseas voting rights under State law (check the Voting Assistance Guide).
Political Party	2	To vote in primary elections, your State may require you to specify a political party.
Your legal name	3	Last name _____ Suffix _____ First name _____ Middle name _____ Previous name (if applicable) _____
Identification <small>Some States require your full SSN. Check your State's pages in the Voting Assistance Guide on FVAP.gov</small>	4	Sex <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F Race See instructions on back Birth date MM/DD/YYYY State Driver's License or ID _____ OR Social Security Number _____
Contact information <small>Include international prefixes. No DSN number.</small>	5	Telephone _____ Fax _____ Email _____ Alternate Email _____
Ballot receipt	6	I prefer to receive my ballot, as permitted by my State, by: <input type="checkbox"/> Email/Online <input type="checkbox"/> Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Fax <small>(rank from 1-3 in order of preference; be sure appropriate contact information is provided above)</small>
U.S. address for voting purposes <small>Usually your last U.S. residence or your legal U.S. residence. See instructions.</small>	7	Street Address (not P.O. Box) _____ Apt. # _____ City/Town/Village _____ County _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Address where you live now <small>This is different from above. Your voting materials will be sent here, unless you specify a forwarding address in Box 9</small>	8	_____
Additional requirements for your State <small>Such as: mail forwarding address, additional phone, or other State required information. See your State's pages in the Voting Assistance Guide on FVAP.gov</small>	9	_____
Affirmation (REQUIRED): I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that:		Signature _____ Print this form, sign, and send in.
<small>* I am a member of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine on active duty or an eligible spouse or dependent of such a member, or a U.S. citizen temporarily residing outside the U.S., or other U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S. * I am a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age or will be by the day of the election, eligible to vote in the requested jurisdiction. * I have not been convicted of a felony or other disqualifying offense or been adjudicated mentally incompetent, or if so, my voting rights have been reinstated. * I am not registering, requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the U.S. * My signature and date herein indicate when I completed this document. * The information on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that a material misstatement of fact in completion of this document may constitute grounds for conviction of perjury.</small>		Today's date MM/DD/YYYY Witness signature (date if required by your State. See the Voting Assistance Guide on FVAP.gov.) Signature _____ Date _____
<small>This information is for official use only. Any unauthorized release may be punishable by law.</small>		<small>Standard Form 76 (Rev. 08-2011)</small>

The FPCA and FWAB were recently redesigned in an effort to reduce some of the common mistakes made when completing the forms.

Some offices may still have the older versions in stock—these versions are still valid and will continue to be accepted and processed by election officials.

Old FPCA and FWAB

REGISTRATION AND ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST - FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION (FPCA)
Standard Form 76 (Rev. 10-2006)

VOTER'S DECLARATION/AFFIRMATION - FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT (FWAB)
Standard Form 166A (Rev. 10-2006)

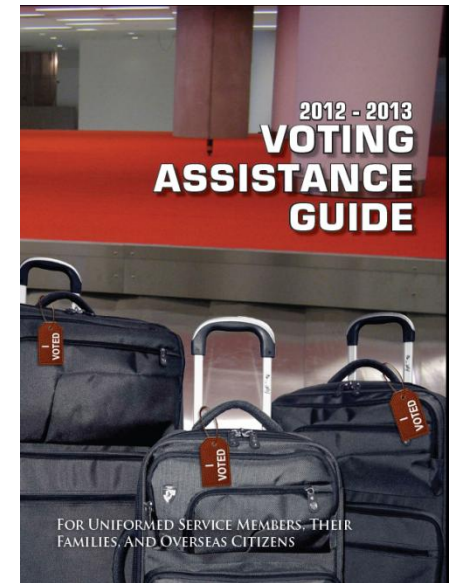
Current FPCA and FWAB

Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)
Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Request

Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)
Voter's Declaration/Affirmation

The instructions for completing the FPCA and FWAB differ across States, so it is important to refer applicants to the most up-to-date *Voting Assistance Guide* to ensure that they complete and submit the form correctly.

- ✓ For example, some States may require the applicant to provide a full Social Security Number, while other States may require a driver's license or State identification number.
- ✓ The *Voting Assistance Guide* also includes State-specific deadlines for voter registration, absentee ballot requests, and ballot returns.



FVAP recommends VAOs use the online Voting Assistance Guide available at <http://www.fvap.gov/vao/guide.html>.

*Federal Post
Card Application
(FPCA)*

Should be completed by:

All UOCAVA voters once a year and any time they need to update their contact information.

Allows voters to:

Apply to register to vote, request an absentee ballot, and update their contact information.

*Federal Write-In
Absentee Ballot
(FWAB)*

Should be completed by:

All UOCAVA voters as a backup absentee ballot should they not receive their ballot by 30 days before the election.

Allows voters to:

Vote in all Federal elections. Some States allow the FWAB to be used for State and local elections or as a simultaneous application for voter registration and write-in absentee ballot.

FVAP has created Online Assistants that automate and simplify the process of filling out the FPCA and FWAB.

- ✓ The Online Assistants offer point-and-click assistance and produce printable forms that eliminate legibility errors.
- ✓ The Online Assistants also produce a postage-paid template that then may be printed onto an envelope and mailed.

The screenshot shows the FVAP website interface for the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) for Absentee Ballot. The page title is "Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) for Absentee Ballot". The user is identified as a "Uniformed Services Member > California > Orange". The "Voting Residence" section is active, showing the following information:

- Street Address (required): 122 Maple Terrace
- City, Town, or Village (required): Mayville
- County (required): - select -
- State (required): California
- Zip Code (required): [empty]

Below the form, there is a note: "Don't know your zip code? [Look up your ZIP+4 zip code](#) from the United States Postal Service. Note: ZIP+4 format is requested." There is also a section for Rural Route (R.R.) mailing addresses with a text area for directions. At the bottom, there are "< Back" and "Continue >" buttons. The footer includes the website URL "www.usa.gov | www.defenselink.mil | www.americasupportsyou.mil" and "About FVAP | News | Disclaimers".

How to Fill Out the FPCA or FWAB Using the Online Assistants:

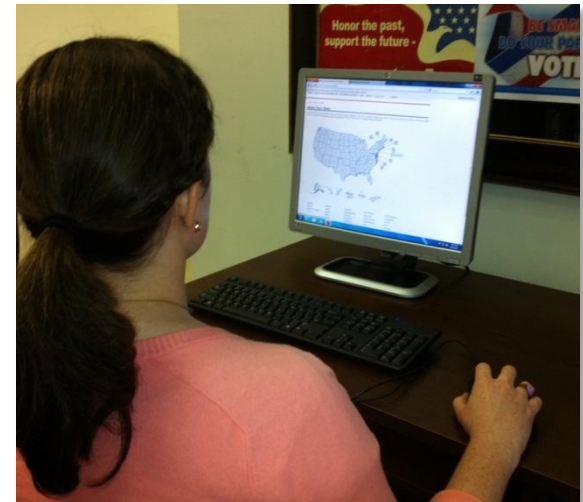
“Click, Print, Send”

- 1. Click:**
 - ✓ Direct applicants to FVAP’s website; applicants select their State and fill out the required information (see following slides for general guidelines).
- 2. Print:**
 - ✓ When finished, applicants must print and sign their FPCA or FWAB.
- 3. Send:**
 - ✓ After signing their form, applicants should follow their State’s specific guidelines for returning their completed FPCA or FWAB by mail, email, or fax.

*Note: The Online Assistants are used to fill out the FPCA or FWAB. Upon completion, **voters must print, sign, then mail or otherwise submit the forms** to their local election officials.*

Benefits of the Online Assistants:

1. Generate only fields required by the applicant's State, decreasing confusion over voter information requirements.
2. Provide up-to-date State information such as important State voting deadlines.
3. Provide an output package that includes applicant's completed FPCA or FWAB, instructions for submitting, and envelope template.



Completing the FPCA: Classification

Block 1 on the FPCA asks applicants to indicate their *UOCAVA* voter classification. This classification determines in which contests their election jurisdiction will allow them to vote.

<p>Classification Make only 1 selection.</p> <p>(In most States, you must be absent from your voting district to use this form)</p>	1	<input type="checkbox"/> I am a member of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine on active duty OR <input type="checkbox"/> I am their spouse or dependent.
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I am a U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S., and I intend to return.
		<input type="checkbox"/> I am a U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S., and I do not intend to return.
		<input type="checkbox"/> I am a U.S. citizen otherwise granted military/overseas voting rights under State law (check the Voting Assistance Guide).

- ✓ Applicants should select the classification that best represents their current situation. Uniformed Service Members and their dependents who are overseas should select the first option.
- ✓ Members of the National Guard or State militia in a “called-up” status by the State for disaster relief, riot control, or similar State functions should select the last box.

Because Jim is temporarily outside the U.S., he should select the box indicating he is living outside the U.S., but intends to return.

Completing the FPCA: Political Party

In order to participate in partisan primary elections, most States require voters to indicate a political party preference. Voters should refer to the *Voting Assistance Guide* for their State's specific requirements.

Political Party	2	To vote in primary elections, your State may require you to specify a political party: Abcdef Party
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- ✓ Applicants that do not want to be affiliated with a political party should write “no party” in Block 2.
- ✓ Note that if applicants enter “no party,” they will still receive the November General Election ballot.

Jim indicates that he would like to be affiliated with the “Abcdef Party.”

Requirements for voter information differ by State, refer to the *Voting Assistance Guide* for the applicant's State-specific guidelines.

Your legal name	3	Last name Jones <small>Suffix</small>
		First name James Middle name Larry
		Previous name (if applicable)
Identification <small>Some States require your full SSN. Check your State's pages in the Voting Assistance Guide on FVAP.gov</small>	4	Sex <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F Race <small>See instructions on back</small> Birth date 11 M 29 D 1985 Y Y
		State Driver's License or ID A13156749394 OR Social Security Number
Contact information <small>Include international prefixes. No DSN number.</small>	5	Telephone +011-44-2014-035-4777
		Fax +011-44-2014-035-4700
		Email j.l.jones85@hawkstooth.com
		Alternate Email

✓ **Note:** Jim should provide his full legal name (James Larry Jones).

To help local election officials get in contact with Jim if they have any questions about his FPCA, you should encourage Jim to provide his telephone number, fax number, and email address.

Completing the FPCA: Ballot Receipt

States' laws differ as to how blank ballots can be delivered to voters. All States will send ballots via mail; however, States differ as to which electronic methods can be used: email, online download, and fax.

Ballot receipt	6	I prefer to receive my ballot, as permitted by my State, by:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	Email/Online	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3	Mail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	Fax
(rank from 1 -3 in order of preference; be sure appropriate contact information is provided above)								

- ✓ Applicants should rank order their preferences for receiving their blank ballot.
- ✓ Refer to the *Voting Assistance Guide* to see what methods are permitted by an applicant's State.
- ✓ If an applicant wants to receive a ballot via email or fax, he or she must provide appropriate contact information in Block 5 (email address or fax number).

Jim indicates that his first preference is to receive his absentee ballot by email, since his State allows this. Note that he should check that he has provided his email address in Block 5.

Completing the FPCA: Voting Residence

A local election official needs an applicant's voting residence address in order to confirm the applicant's voting precinct. The address must be for a residence (i.e., not a P.O. box).

U.S. address for voting purposes Usually your last U.S. residence or your legal U.S. residence. See instructions.	7	Street Address (not P.O. Box) 122 Maple Terrace	Apt. #	
		City/Town/Village Mayville		
		County Orange	State CA	Zip Code 9 5 5 5 1

For Uniformed Service Members, their voting residence should be where they last resided prior to entering military service OR the address that they have since claimed as their legal residence. The State on the Service Member's Leave and Earnings statement is often his or her State of residence.

Spouses of Uniformed Service Members do not assume the residency of the active-duty spouse upon marriage. However, if they meet the residency requirements, they can opt to update their state of residency.

For overseas citizens, their voting residence is in the State or territory where they last resided immediately prior to departing the U.S., regardless of time elapsed, intent to return, or presence of a physical residence.

Jim should vote absentee in California, since it is where he had his last legal residence before departing for England.

Voters should enter their mailing address.

Address where you live now	8	100 FVAP Lane, #5A
This is different from above. Your voting materials will be sent here, unless you specify a forwarding address in Box 9		London W1P7HR
		England

- ✓ Remind applicants to notify their local election official if their address changes before the election to ensure their local election office has the correct contact information.

Jim enters his current mailing address.

Completing the FPCA: State Requirements

In Block 9, applicants should include any additional information required by their State. For example, some States require overseas citizens to include information such as the length of time they resided in that State, complete information on where they were last registered to vote, or passport number.

<p>Additional requirements for your State</p> <p>Such as: mail forwarding address, additional phone, or other State required information. See your State's pages in the Voting Assistance Guide on FVAP.gov</p>	9	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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- ✓ Applicants may also include additional information that would assist the local election official in accepting the application or sending their ballot, such as a forwarding address.
- ✓ Refer to the *Voting Assistance Guide* for State-specific requirements.

Jim's State does not have any specific requirements for this block, so Jim leaves the block blank.

After applicants read the affirmation, they should sign and date their form.

<p>Affirmation (REQUIRED): I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am a member of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine on active duty or an eligible spouse or dependent of such a member, or a U.S. citizen temporarily residing outside the U.S., or other U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S. • I am a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age (or will be by the day of the election), eligible to vote in the requested jurisdiction. • I have not been convicted of a felony or other disqualifying offense or been adjudicated mentally incompetent, or if so, my voting rights have been reinstated. • I am not registering, requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the U.S. • My signature and date herein indicate when I completed this document. • The information on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that a material misstatement of fact in completion of this document may constitute grounds for conviction of perjury. 	<p>Signature <u>James Jones</u> <small>Please type or print name, and send in.</small></p> <p>Today's date <u>08</u> / <u>11</u> / <u>2012</u></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><small>Witness signature / date if required by your State. See the Voting Assistance Guide on FVAP.gov.</small></p> <p>Signature _____</p> <p>Date _____</p> </div>
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✓ You should remind applicants that by signing the FPCA, they are verifying their information under the penalty of perjury.

✓ Refer to the *Voting Assistance Guide* to see if an applicant's State requires a witness signature.

Jim signs and dates the form. His State does not require a witness, so he leaves that portion of the application blank.

Completed FPCAs should be submitted to the applicant's local election official for processing.

- ✓ All States and territories accept the FPCA via mail.
 - ✓ Mailing addresses for local election officials are available in the *Voting Assistance Guide*.
 - ✓ The FPCA can be mailed postage paid through the U.S. Postal Service, Military Postal Service, or State Department pouch mail. The postage-paid envelope template is produced by the Online Assistant and is also available at <http://www.fvap.gov/resources/media/returnenvelope.pdf>.

NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS <u>James Larry Jones</u> <u>USS FVAP</u> <u>FPO AE 54321</u> _____ _____		US POSTAGE PAID 39 USC 3406 PAR AVION
OFFICIAL ABSENTEE BALLOTING MATERIAL - FIRST-CLASS MAIL		
NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IN THE U.S. MAIL - DMM 703.8.0		
TO: <u>Orange Registrar of Voters</u> <u>1300 S. Grande Ave Bldg. C</u> <u>Santa Ana, CA 92705-4434</u>		


Completing the FPCA: Submission Methods

Some States and territories will accept the FPCA via email and/or fax.

- ✓ Check the *Voting Assistance Guide* to see if the applicant's State will accept the form by email or fax.
- ✓ The Online Assistant will produce an email and/or fax cover sheet if online or faxed submissions are allowed by the applicant's State.

Email FPCA to this address

Fax FPCA to this number



FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Voting Help For Unintended Service Members, Their Families, & Citizens Living Outside The U.S.

Automated Register, Request and Receive Ballot Process (R3)
Official Election Materials - Electronic Transmission Sheet (FWAB)
Transmission (Cover) Sheet from Absentee Voter to Election Official

To:	
City/County	Morris County Clerk
Board Of Elections	
State	New Jersey
LEO Email	jbramhall@clerk.morris.nj.us
Fax Number	973 285-6136
From:	
Last Name	McDonnell
First Name	Kathleen
Middle Name	
Telephone Number	
Fax Number	
Email Address	

Number of pages being transmitted, including this sheet: _____
Check www.fvap.gov/contact/tollfreefax.html for international fax numbers

Fax/Email Cover Sheet

As a VAO, applicants may ask you to review their completed FPCA to check if it is properly filled out.

Ask applicants if they have:

- ✓ Completed the forms completely and legibly
- ✓ Applied to the correct jurisdiction
- ✓ Indicated their party preference for a primary election
- ✓ Signed their FPCA

Remind applicants that incomplete or illegible FPCAs may result in them being unable to receive or cast their ballot.

- ✓ After receiving an FPCA, a local election official will process the form and verify the applicant's eligibility.
- ✓ Applicants are encouraged to call, fax, or email their local election official to verify that their application has been received.
- ✓ Applicants should receive their regular State absentee ballot from the local election official in time for them to vote and return the ballot by the State's deadline.

Voters who have submitted an FPCA and have not received their absentee ballot by 30 days before the election should submit the FWAB. The following slides will outline uses of the FWAB and how to complete it.

While all States accept the FWAB as an absentee ballot for Federal elections, many States have started moving to allow universal use of the FWAB, including:

- ✓ Accepting the FWAB as an **application for voter registration**, an **absentee ballot request**, and a **write-in ballot**.
- ✓ Accepting the FWAB as an **absentee ballot for all Federal, State, and local elections**.

For each office, voters may write in either a candidate's name or a political party designation.

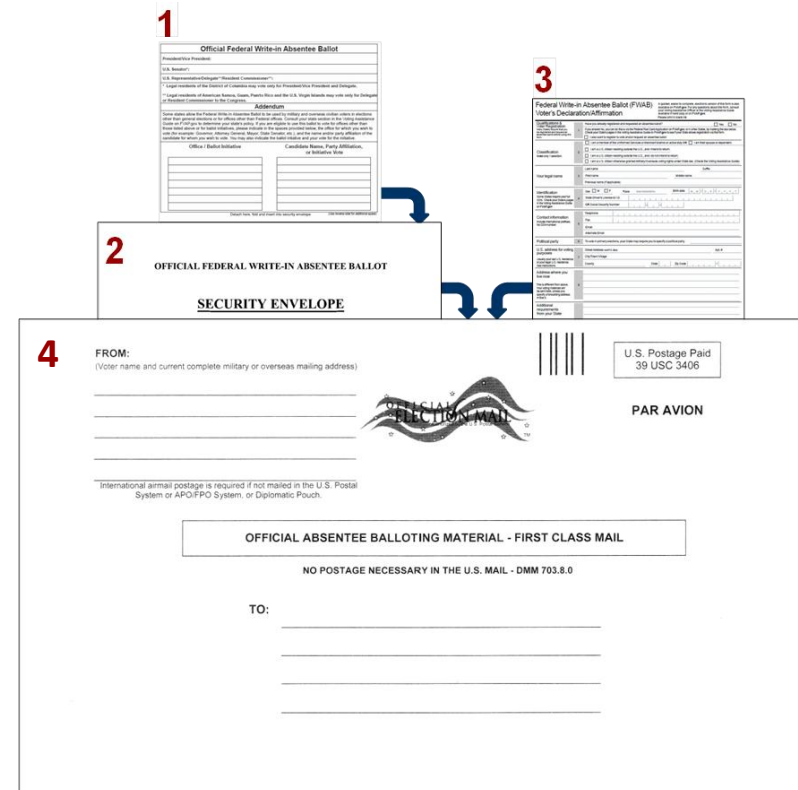
Voters wishing to use the FWAB should check their State's guidelines or the *Voting Assistance Guide* on FVAP.gov for the accepted uses of the FWAB in their State.

Completed FWABs should be submitted to the applicant's local election official for processing. All States and territories will accept the FWAB via mail.

To mail the FWAB, the voter should insert the voted ballot (1) into the security envelope (2).

Then, the sealed security envelope (2) and the declaration/affirmation (3) should be placed in the pre-paid mailing envelope (4).

- ✓ Mailing addresses for local election officials are available in the *Voting Assistance Guide*.
- ✓ The FWAB can be mailed postage paid through the U.S. Postal Service, Military Postal Service, or State Department pouch mail. The postage-paid envelope template is produced by the Online Assistant and is also available at www.fvap.gov.



Some States and territories will accept the FWAB via email and/or fax.

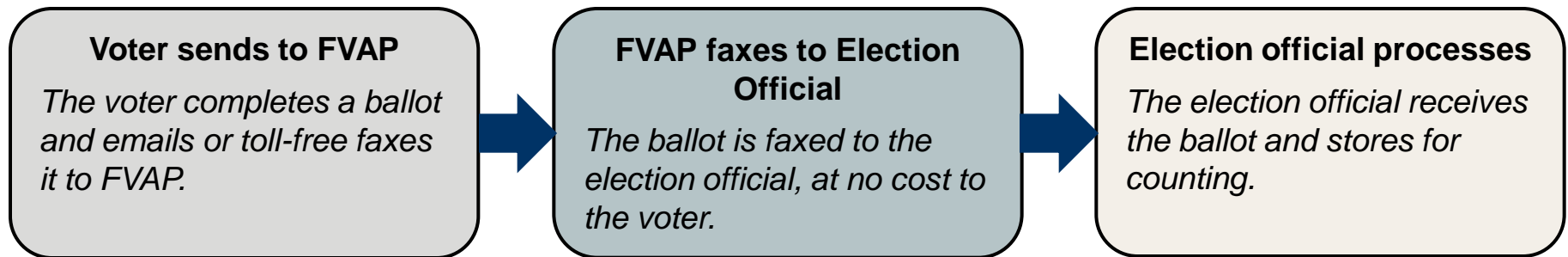
Additionally, FVAP offers an Electronic Transmission Service (ETS) for voters to fax all balloting materials (including the FPCA and FWAB) for free.

- ✓ Check the *Voting Assistance Guide* to see if the applicant's State will accept the form by email or fax.
- ✓ The Online Assistant will produce an email and/or fax cover sheet if allowed by the applicant's State.

Electronic Transmission Service

To help voters avoid the costs associated with long-distance faxes, FVAP provides an Electronic Transmission Service (ETS) that allows *UOCAVA* balloting materials (including the FPCA and FWAB) to be faxed **at no cost**. Additionally, if a voter does not have access to a fax machine, the voter may email his or her materials to FVAP and FVAP will fax the materials to the local election official, if allowed by the voter's State.

Here's how it works:



ETS Resources:

- ✓ ETS Fax: <http://www.fvap.gov/contact/tollfreefax.html>
- ✓ ETS Email: ETS@fvap.gov
- ✓ ETS Cover Sheet: <http://www.fvap.gov/resources/media/coversheet.pdf>

Note: Not all States allow absentee ballots to be delivered or returned via fax. Check the applicant's State's guidelines.

What should Jim do if he receives his State absentee ballot after he has already submitted a FWAB?

- ✓ Voters in this situation should *always* complete their State absentee ballot and return it to their local election official. If the absentee ballot is received by the State's deadline, it will be counted instead of the FWAB.
- ✓ Some States allow absentee ballots from *UOCAVA* voters to be counted even if they are received after Election Day.

Answers to additional FAQs may be found at www.fvap.gov

Your Duties as a Voting Assistance Officer: *UOCAVA* Awareness

- The following slides will assist you in:
 - ✓ Expanding voter outreach
 - ✓ Promoting yourself as a *UOCAVA* resource

Each Federal election year (even-numbered years), FVAP conducts Voting Emphasis Weeks to promote voter registration and absentee voting.

During Voting Emphasis Weeks, VAOs should:

- ✓ Reach out to *UOCAVA* voters
- ✓ Increase awareness of the *UOCAVA* voting process
- ✓ Provide their contact information as a voting assistance resource

The following slide outlines ways for you to help during these important Voting Emphasis Weeks.

	Your role:	Suggested activities:
Overseas Citizens Voters Week (June 28 to July 7, 2012)	Encourage overseas citizens to complete and submit the FPCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Have copies of the FPCA and <i>Voting Assistance Guide</i> available for citizens ✓ Put up posters encouraging citizens to vote ✓ Direct citizens to the FPCA Online Assistant to register to vote and request an absentee ballot ✓ Conduct a non-partisan voting workshop or voter registration drive ✓ Enlist the help of overseas citizens organizations ✓ Plan your events around the 4th of July ✓ Send pictures of your event to the Chief Voting Action Officer and FWAP
Absentee Voting Week (Sept. 27 to Oct. 4, 2012)	Encourage overseas citizens to return their voted absentee ballot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ask citizens if they've received their ballots. If not, direct them to the FWAB Online Assistant or provide them with a FWAB and encourage them to fill it out and submit it ✓ Use media outlets to encourage citizens to return their absentee ballots ✓ Enlist the help of other VAOs or organizations to conduct events to encourage citizens to return their absentee ballots ✓ Put up posters telling citizens how to reach you for voting assistance

- ✓ Work with overseas citizens groups to establish yourself as a UOCAVA resource.
- ✓ Ask the editors of local newsletters to publish the election calendar/voting notices.
- ✓ Use social media outlets to spread the word about upcoming deadlines and the resources available on FVAP.gov.
- ✓ Put up motivational voting posters on bulletin boards and in high-traffic areas that include your contact information.

2008–2009 Motivational Poster



2010–2011 Motivational Poster



2012–2013 Motivational Poster



Your Duties as a Voting Assistance Officer: VAO Guidelines

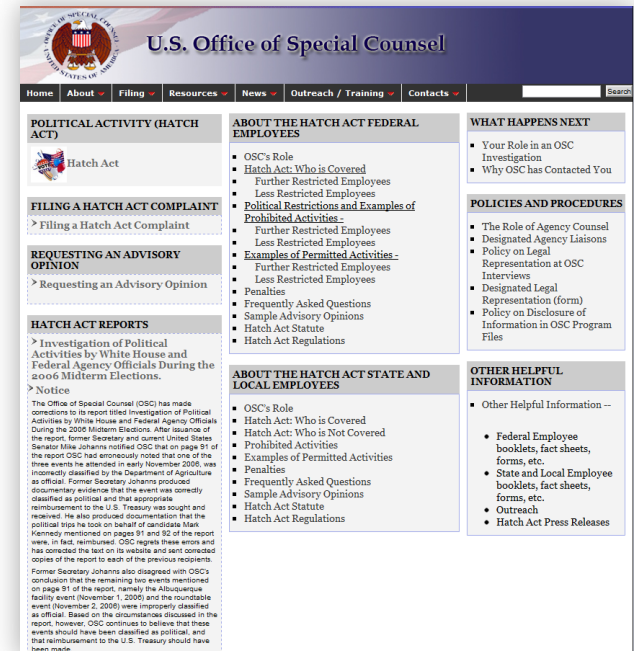
- The following slides will assist you in understanding guidelines for:
 - ✓ Providing non-partisan assistance
 - ✓ Creating and maintaining a continuity folder

VAO Guidelines on Non-Partisanship

- ✓ Federally employed VAOs may provide only **non-partisan** voting information and may not distribute any literature from candidates, political parties, or partisan organizations.

- ✓ Organizations become partisan when they endorse or imply endorsement of candidates or identify with issues in a campaign.

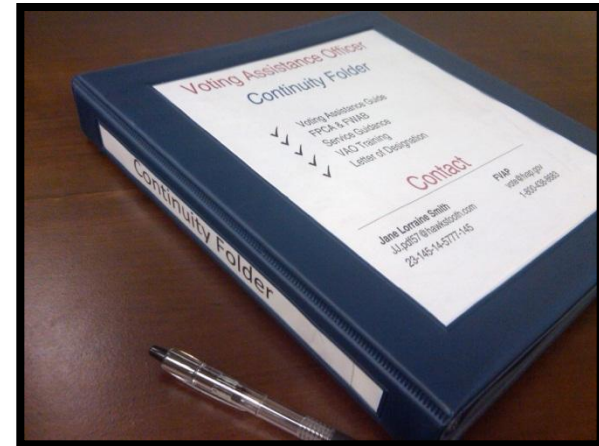
- ✓ For more information, reference the Hatch Act
 - ✓ www.osc.gov/hatchact.htm



The continuity folder is used for your reference and serves as a resource for your successor. The continuity folder can be kept in hard or electronic copy.

Your continuity folder should include:

- ✓ Absentee voting forms (FPCA and FWAB)
- ✓ Current *Voting Assistance Guide*
- ✓ Current election dates calendar
- ✓ State Department guidance (7 FAM 1500)
- ✓ The Hatch Act
- ✓ Training materials
- ✓ Recent Voting Alerts
- ✓ Good ideas and lessons learned



See www.fvap.gov/vao/continuityfolder.html for more information

Available Resources

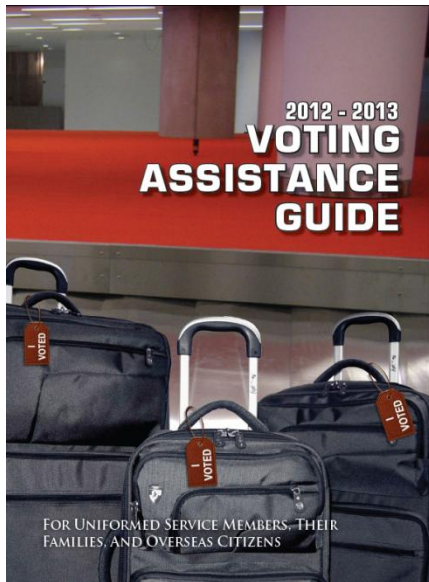
➤ The following slides will:

- ✓ List and describe the resources provided to you by FVAP

All the resources you need to be a successful VAO are available at: www.fvap.gov/vao. This includes:

Voting Assistance Resources

- ✓ *Voting Assistance Guide*
- ✓ FPCA and FWAB
- ✓ Online Assistants



Outreach Materials

- ✓ Motivational posters
- ✓ Primary election calendars

2012 Election Dates

OVER HERE, OVER THERE, DON'T DESPAIR - VOTE!

This calendar lists the dates for the 2012 U.S. Presidential election and U.S. Representative and U.S. Senator elections. It also lists the dates for the 2012 U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate elections. The General Election is held on November 6, 2012.

State	Presidential Primary	State Primary	State Runoff Primary (if necessary)	General Election		
				U.S. House	U.S. Representative	U.S. Senator
Alabama	MARCH 13	APRIL 26	NO	1	NO	NO
Alaska	NO	NO	NO	1	DELEGATE	YES
American Samoa	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Arizona	FEBRUARY 28	MAY 22	AUGUST 28	YES	3	NO
Arkansas	MAY 22	NO	JUNE 12	NO	3	NO
California	JUNE 5	JUNE 5	NO	NO	NO	NO
Colorado	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Connecticut	APRIL 24	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Delaware	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
District of Columbia	APRIL 24	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Florida	JANUARY 21	NO	NO	NO	1	DELEGATE
Georgia	MARCH 5	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Hawaii	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Idaho	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Illinois	MARCH 20	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Indiana	MAY 8	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Iowa	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Kansas	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Kentucky	MAY 22	MAY 22	NO	NO	NO	NO
Kentucky	MARCH 28	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Louisiana	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Maine	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Maine	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Maryland	APRIL 3	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Massachusetts	MARCH 24	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Michigan	FEBRUARY 28	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Minnesota	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Mississippi	MARCH 10	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Missouri	FEBRUARY 27	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Montana	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Nebraska	MAY 8	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Nevada	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
New Hampshire	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
New Mexico	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
New York	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
North Carolina	APRIL 24	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
North Dakota	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Ohio	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Oklahoma	MARCH 8	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Oregon	MAY 16	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Pennsylvania	APRIL 24	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Rhode Island	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Florida	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
South Carolina	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
South Carolina	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
South Dakota	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Tennessee	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Texas	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Utah	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Vermont	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Virginia	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Virgin Islands	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Washington	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
West Virginia	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Wisconsin	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Wyoming	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO

Job Aids for VAOs

- ✓ Quick Reference Guides
- ✓ UOCAVA voting FAQs
- ✓ Important Dates

FVAP provides a telephone and email Help Desk to assist with:

- ✓ Providing information on *UOCAVA* and other voting legislation.
- ✓ Understanding uses of the FPCA and FWAB.
- ✓ Connecting voters to their local election official when necessary.



1-800-438-VOTE (8683)

vote@fvap.gov

Quick Review

- The following slides will:
 - ✓ Briefly review content covered in this training
 - ✓ Provide you with a certificate of completion

Quick Review: The *UOCAVA* Process

The *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)* guarantees the voting rights of absent Uniformed Service Members, their dependents who are absent with them, and overseas citizens.

The *UOCAVA* absentee voting process includes the following steps:

1. Voters covered by *UOCAVA* complete the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to apply to register to vote and request an absentee ballot. The FPCA is submitted to the applicant's local election official.
2. The applicant's local election official reviews the submitted FPCA. After verifying eligibility, the local election official sends the applicant an absentee ballot.
3. The applicant receives the absentee ballot, votes the ballot, and returns it to the local election official to be counted.

Note: Applicants that have not received their absentee ballot by 30 days before the election should complete and submit the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) to ensure that their vote is received in time to be counted.

VAOs ensure that UOCAVA voters understand their voting rights and the UOCAVA absentee voting process by providing non-partisan voting information and assistance.

As a VAO, your role includes:

- ✓ Expanding outreach and increasing awareness of UOCAVA and the absentee voting process
- ✓ Assisting voters in completing their FPCA
- ✓ Encouraging voters to complete and return their absentee ballot on time and to complete and return the FWAB should they not receive their absentee ballot in time
- ✓ Promoting Voting Emphasis Weeks
- ✓ Promoting yourself as a UOCAVA resource
- ✓ Creating and maintaining a continuity folder
- ✓ Following VAO guidelines for non-partisanship

All the necessary resources are available at www.fvap.gov, including:

- ✓ The most up-to-date *Voting Assistance Guide*..... www.fvap.gov/vao/guide.html
- ✓ Online Assistants for filling out *UOCAVA* forms..... www.fvap.gov/map.html
- ✓ Solutions to FAQswww.fvap.gov/faq.html
- ✓ Useful references/reports and tools for VAOs..... www.fvap.gov/reference/index.html

If you have questions or concerns about providing voting assistance, you can contact FVAP:

Questions? Contact FVAP!		
Email	vote@fvap.gov	Email FVAP for assistance filling out forms or additional questions
Toll-Free	800-438-VOTE (8683)	Call FVAP for assistance filling out forms or additional questions
Facebook	Facebook.com/DoDFVAP	FVAP and <i>UOCAVA</i> updates
Twitter	Twitter.com/fvap	

Congratulations on completing the Voting Assistance Officer Training! The following slide contains the Certificate of Completion. Please fill in your name, organization, and date at the bottom.

Thank you for your participation and for your service as a Voting Assistance Officer!

You should now be able to:

- ✓ Understand and explain the *UOCAVA* process to voters.
- ✓ Help voters choose the right form, fill it out, and return it properly.
- ✓ Know what resources to check for specific questions.
- ✓ Understand your role during Voting Emphasis Weeks.
- ✓ Understand *UOCAVA* guidelines for non-partisanship.
- ✓ Create and maintain a continuity folder.

Certificate of Training

Is hereby granted to

Name

(Name)

Command

(Command, Activity, Location)

*In Recognition for Completion of the Workshop for
Voting Assistance Officers*

Kenneth Warford

Date

(Date)

*Kenneth Warford
Deputy Director,
Voter Assistance*