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For Service Members, Dependents, and Americans Overseas, The
Military Postal Service Agency (MPSA) Helps Their Votes Count

When stationed overseas, mail has always been an important part of a Soldier's life. The Military Postal Service Agency (MPSA) has the day-to-day mission of handling the mail for all branches of service and during a presidential election year, that mission becomes even more critical. In keeping with America's democratic processes, MPSA is ready for the quick delivery of absentee ballots to service members, adult dependents, government employees and contractors for the 2008 elections. In addition, MPSA's mission includes delivering the completed ballots state-side, quickly and efficiently, so that all absentee votes will count. For information about MPSA, visit their website at <http://hqdainet.army.mil/mpsa/vote.htm> .

It is imperative that all absentee voters request absentee ballots from their states now, so that even those stationed in remote areas or ships at sea, have enough time to receive, complete and mail their ballots back quickly. This will ensure that their votes will be included in local, state and national election results. Yet, all voters living away from their home states should be proactive at this time. "MPSA's objective this voting season is to make sure every service member,

updates their address on where they want their absentee ballot sent and to mail their ballot in time to be counted,” said Ms. Faye Johnson, chief of operations, MPSA. Personnel supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) or Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) should consider using the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB), if they have not received their state’s ballot by September 30, 2008. For those using the FWAB from remote bases, it should be completed and mailed by October 7, 2008.

If serving in non-remote locations, voters could wait until October 7, 2008 to receive their absentee ballots. Yet, they should be prepared to mail their FWABs by October 14, 2008, if they have not received their state ballots. FWABs are available at all military installations, at units and from the world-wide network of Voting Assistance Officers (VAOs). In addition, citizens overseas can contact their nearest embassy or consular office. The FWAB is also available on-line at the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) website, <http://www.fvap.gov/resources/media/fwab.pdf> . Although local and state office candidates are not shown on the FWAB, voters can visit their state’s election website or their unit VAO, to identify their choices for local and state offices.

Voters must still complete and mail in, their state election ballot, even if they receive it after submitting their FWAB. The Army’s network of VAOs and unit leaders are providing up-to-date absentee voter information to our Soldiers, eligible dependent voters and civilians, so they can fully participate in the 2008 election process.

For more information about the Military Postal Service Agency (MPSA), please contact the U.S. Army Human Resources Command, Public Affairs Office, 703-325-8499.