

Federal Voting Assistance Program
(FVAP)
Department of Defense

Military Voting Assistance Officer (VAO)
Training

What we will learn today:

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

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.

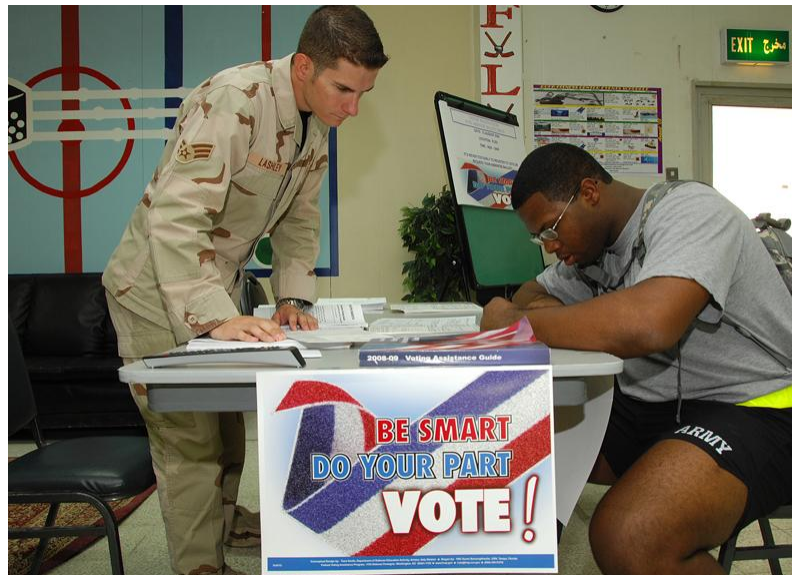
- States differ as to when they count absentee ballots.
- Many States require absentee ballots to be received by Election Day so that they can be counted along with the in-person votes.
- Some States accept absentee ballots after Election Day.
- The election is not certified until all absentee ballots received by the State's deadline are counted.



- Encourage citizens to exercise their right to vote and remind them that every vote counts.
- 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 *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act* of 1986, or *UOCAVA*, allows 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.

Note: Uniformed Service Members and their dependents residing in their voting jurisdictions are not covered under *UOCAVA*.

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:

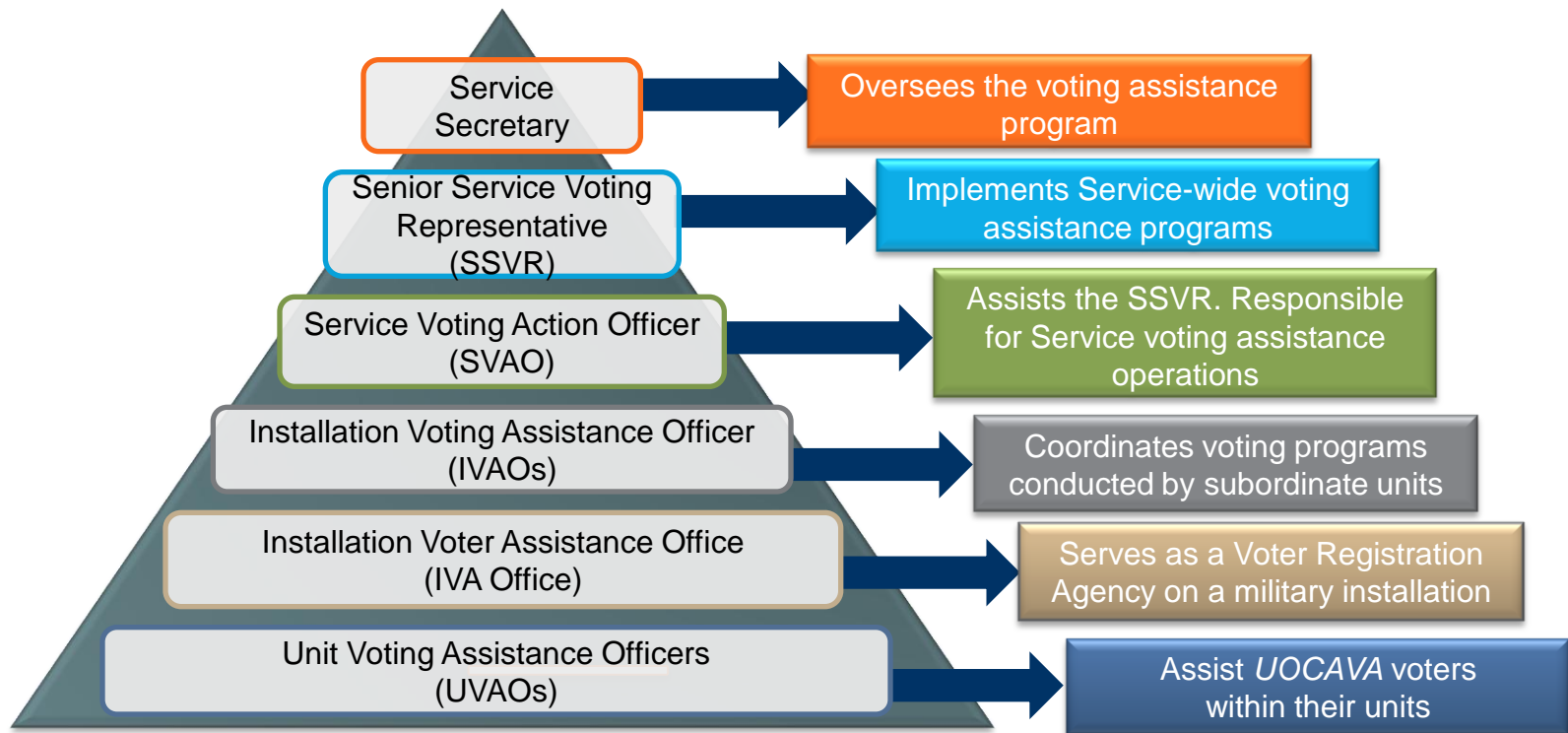
Bring *UOCAVA* voting participation and success rates to equal or greater than general population rates by:

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

Your goal is to ensure that citizens understand how to apply to register to vote and vote absentee.






You are the foundation of the voting assistance program within your Service.

Key Members in Your Service Voting Assistance Program



Service Voting Action Officers

- **Service Voting Action Officers (SVAOs)** are the voting program managers for each Service.
- SVAOs assist IVAOs and UVAOs with questions on Service VAO activities.

Army	Air Force	Navy	Marine Corps	Coast Guard
				
Ms. Rachel Gilman	Mr. William D'Avanzo	LT. Andrew Bousky	Mr. Bob Wagner	CWO Charles "Al" Thompson, Jr.
Tel: (502) 613-8475 DSN: 312-983-8475	Tel: (210) 565-2591 DSN: 665-2591	Tel: (202) 433-4000 DSN: 288-4000	Tel: (703) 784-9513 DSN: 278-9513	Tel: (202) 493-1922
voting.questions @conus.army.mil	dpsoof.votingfund @randolph.af.mil	vote @navy.mil	Robert.wagner @usmc.mil	Charles.A.Thompson2 @uscg.mil

Your Duties as a Voting Assistance Officer: Voting Assistance



- VAOs ensure that *UOCAVA* voters:
 - ✓ Understand their voting rights
 - ✓ The absentee voting process
 - ✓ Receive non-partisan voting information and assistance
- VAOs may be uniformed service members or DoD civilians.
- VAOs are required for each unit with 25 or more permanently assigned members.
- Assistant VAOs should be assigned for each additional 50 members above the 25-member base.

- 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. Keeping relevant metrics
 2. Providing non-partisan assistance
 3. 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.

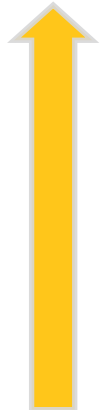


BALLOT

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



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

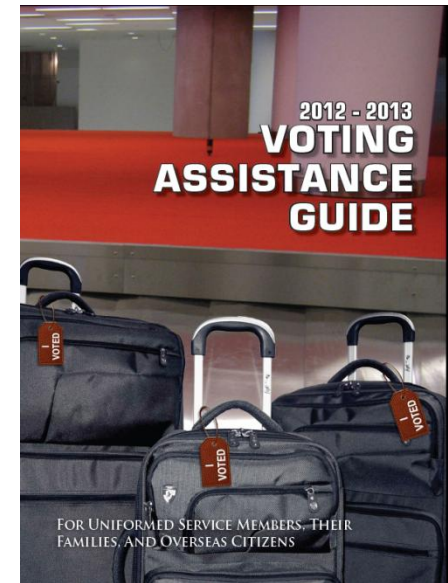
A quicker, easier to complete, electronic version of this form is also available on FVAP.gov. For any questions about this form, consult your Voting Assistance Officer or the Voting Assistance Guide available in hard copy or on FVAP.gov. Please print in black ink.

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 M M D Y Y Y Y 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. Today's date M M D D Y Y Y Y Witness signature (date if required by your State. See the Voting Assistance Guide on FVAP.gov.) Signature _____ Date _____

This information is for official use only. Any unauthorized release may be punishable by law. Standard Form 76 (Rev. 08-2011)

The instructions for completing the FPCA and FWAB differ across States -- refer applicants to the *Voting Assistance Guide* for complete instructions.

- ✓ Some States may require 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>.

Stateside VAOs may have Service Members in their units who live in their current voting jurisdiction and can vote in person.

Service Members and their voting-age dependents who live in their voting jurisdiction are not covered under UOCAVA.

These citizens should use the National Mail Voter Registration Form (NVRF) to:

1. Register to vote.
2. Update their name and mailing address.
3. Register with a political party.

Voter Registration Application
Before completing this form, review the General, Application, and State specific instructions.

Are you a citizen of the United States of America? This space for office use only.
Will you be 18 years old on or before election day?
 If you checked "No" in response to either of these questions, do not complete form.
 (Please see state-specific instructions for rules regarding eligibility to register prior to age 18.)

1	<small>(Circle one)</small> Last Name	First Name	Middle Name(s)	<small>(Circle one)</small> Jr Sr II III IV
2	Home Address	Apt. or Lot #	City/Town	State
3	Address Where You Got Your Mail If Different From Above		City/Town	State
4	Date of Birth <small>Month Day Year</small>	5	Telephone Number (optional)	6
7	Choice of Party <small>(see item 7 in the instructions for your state)</small>	8	Race or Ethnic Group <small>(see item 8 in the instructions for your state)</small>	ID Number - <small>(see item 6 in the instructions for your state)</small>

9 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.

Please sign full name (or put mark)
 Date: / /

If you are registering to vote for the first time: please refer to the application instructions for information on submitting copies of valid identification documents with this form.

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?

A	<small>Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms.</small> Last Name	First Name	Middle Name(s)	<small>(Circle one)</small> Jr Sr II III IV
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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?

B	Street (or route and box number)	Apt. or Lot #	City/Town/County	State	Zip Code
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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.

Write in the names of the crossroads (or streets) nearest to where you live.
 Draw an X to show where you live.
 Use a dot to show any schools, churches, stores, or other landmarks near where you live, and write the name of the landmark.

C

Example

Route 12

Public School ●

Grocery Store ●

Woodchuck Road

X

NORTH ↑

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	
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Mail this application to the address provided for your State.

*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 an emergency write-in 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.

*National Mail
Voter
Registration
Form (NVRF)*

Should be completed by:

Local voters (Citizens currently residing within their voting jurisdiction).

Allows voters to:

Apply to register to vote, register with a political party, and update their name and mailing address.

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.gov website interface. At the top, the logo and navigation links are visible. The main content area features a heading "To Vote Absentee, Start By Telling Us Who You Are" followed by two columns of options. The left column is for "I am a uniformed service member or a family member" and the right column is for "I am a citizen living outside the U.S.". Both columns have a "Get Started" button. A blue arrow points to the "Get Started" button in the left column. Below these options, a link is provided for users who do not fit either category: "If neither of these choices apply to you, please visit www.canivote.org". On the right side of the page, there is a sidebar with a Facebook link, a "News" section with dates from October 18, 2011, to October 20, 2011, and a "Voting Updates" section with an email sign-up form.

FVAP FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Voting Help For Uniformed Service Members, Their Families, & Citizens Living Outside The U.S. [Help](#)

START OVER FVAP HOME CONTACT FVAP

Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) for Absentee Ballot

Uniformed Services Member > California > Orange

Complete the Form

- Eligibility
- State
- Jurisdiction
- My Information
- Voting Residence**
- Mailing Address
- Method To Receive Ballot
- Additional Information
- Print and Finish

Voting Residence (Help)

Street Address (required)

City, Town, or Village (required)

County (required)

[Look up your county](#)

State (required)

Zip Code (required)

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.

If you have a Rural Route (R.R.) mailing address as your legal voting residence, you must provide detailed directions to its physical location.

www.usa.gov | www.defenselink.mil | www.americasupportsyou.mil About FVAP | News | Disclaimers

FVAP FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Voting Help For Uniformed Service Members, Their Families, & Citizens Living Outside The U.S. [Help](#)

START OVER FVAP HOME CONTACT FVAP

Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)

Uniformed Services Member Spouse/Dependent > New Jersey > Morris

Complete the Form

- Eligibility
- State
- Jurisdiction
- Uses of the FWAB
- My Information
- Voting Residence
- Mailing Address
- Additional Information
- Vote Candidates**
- Confirm Votes
- Print and Finish

Vote Candidates (Help)

Choose your candidates below by selecting the radio button beside your candidate's name.

You can find help in determining your district's candidates by visiting the [New Jersey election web site](#).

President/Vice President
This is not an active Presidential election year.

U.S. Senator
This is not an active Senatorial election year for New Jersey.

U.S. Representative/Delegate/Resident Commissioner
This is not an active Representative/Delegate/Resident Commissioner election year for New Jersey.

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.

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.

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.

Classification Make only 1 selection. (In most States, you must be absent from your voting district to use this form)	1	<input checked="" 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)

- ✓ 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.

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.

Requirements for voter identification 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 <small>Middle name Larry</small>
		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 <small>Race See instructions on back</small> Birth date 11 / 29 / 1985 <small>Y</small>
		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

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
<small>(rank from 1 -3 in order of preference; be sure appropriate contact information is provided above)</small>								

- ✓ 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).

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.

Voters should enter their current mailing address.

Address where you live now	8	PSC 100, Box 150
This is different from above. Your voting materials will be sent here, unless you specify a forwarding address in Box 9		APO AE 09421

- ✓ 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.

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

<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.

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 print name of signatory, 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.

VAOs are required to offer to submit a completed FPCA for the applicant. 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>.

<p><small>Name and complete address</small> Kathleen McDonnell 1155 Defense Pentagon Washington, DC 20301-1155</p>			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> US Postage Paid 39 USC 3406 </div> <p>PAR AVION</p>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin-bottom: 10px;"> OFFICIAL ABSENTEE BALLOTING MATERIAL - FIRST CLASS MAIL </div> <p><small>NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IN THE U.S. MAIL-DMM 703.8.0</small></p> <p>TO: <u>Morris County Clerk</u> <u>PO Box 315</u> <u>Morristown, NJ 07963-0315</u></p>			


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.

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.

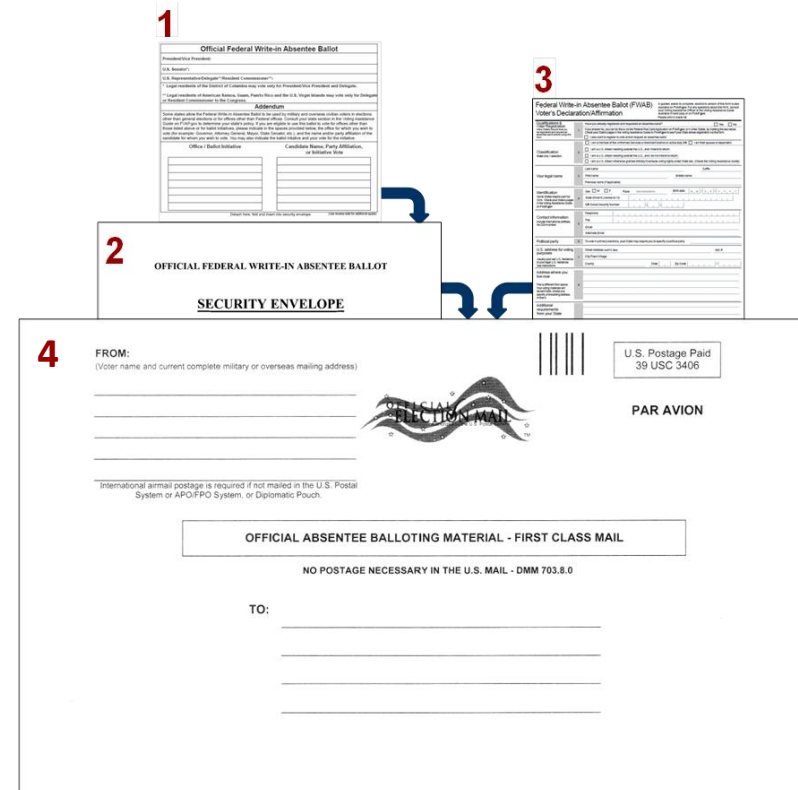
Voters wishing to use the FWAB should check their State's guidelines or the *Voting Assistance Guide* on FVAP.gov for the accepted uses of the FWAB in their State.

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

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.

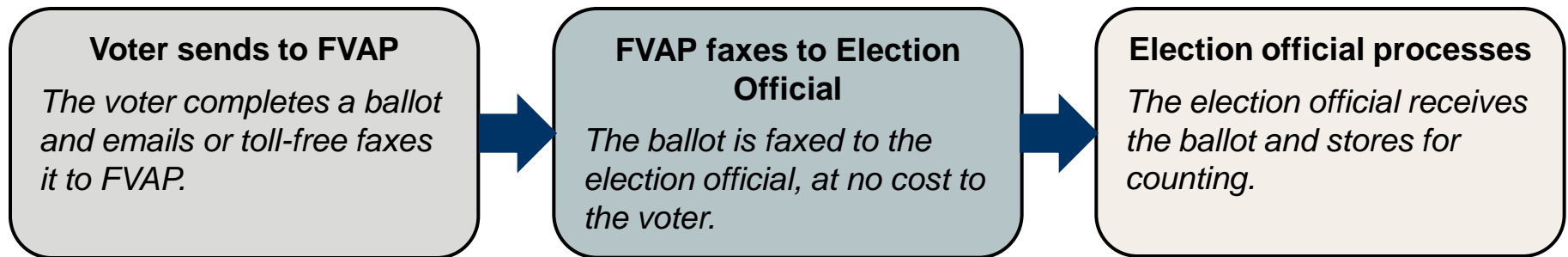


Electronic Transmission Service

FVAP provides an Electronic Transmission Service (ETS) that allows *UOCAVA* balloting materials (including the FPCA and FWAB) to be faxed **at no cost**.

If a voter does not have 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 if you receive your State ballot after voting the 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: *Voter Awareness*



FPCA Distribution Deadlines:

- Every Year
 - 15 January: Deadline for in-hand delivery of FPCA to each service member and their voting age family members
- Election Years
 - 15 July: Deadline for in-hand delivery of FPCA to each service member and their voting age family members

Voting Emphasis Campaigns:

- Super Bowl Challenge
 - Host a registration drive for all service members and their families. Air the FVAP and Service specific PSAs.
- Voting Emphasis Weeks
 - Each Federal election year (even-numbered years), FVAP conducts Voting Emphasis Weeks to promote voter registration and absentee voting.

	VAO Roles	Suggested activities:
Armed Forces Voters Week (June 28 to July 7, 2012)	Encourage UOCAVA 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 organizations on your installation ✓ Plan your events around the 4th of July ✓ Work with your Public Affairs office to advertise your events ✓ Send pictures of your events to your SVAO and FWAP
Absentee Voting Week (Sept. 27 to Oct. 4, 2012)	Encourage UOCAVA 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 installation 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

- ✓ Provide your installation directory with contact information for referrals.
- ✓ Forward voter alerts to unit members.
- ✓ Distribute calendars of important dates.
- ✓ Hang up voting banners or include absentee voting information on marquees near base entrances.
- ✓ Put up motivational voting posters on bulletin boards and in high-traffic areas that include your contact information.
 - ✓ Download and print PDFs of FVAP's motivational poster for the current election cycle from FVAP.gov.
 - ✓ Order motivational posters through Service channels.

2008–2009 Motivational Poster



2010–2011 Motivational Poster



2012–2013 Motivational Poster



Your Duties as a Voting Assistance Officer: VAO Guidelines



Your SVAO will provide information on the collection and reporting of voting assistance metrics.

Metrics may include:

- ✓ The number of FPCAs you distributed to Service Members and their dependents.
- ✓ The number of individuals to whom you provided voting information or assistance (Service Members and dependents).

Note: These metrics should not include the names of individuals assisted or any identifiable information.

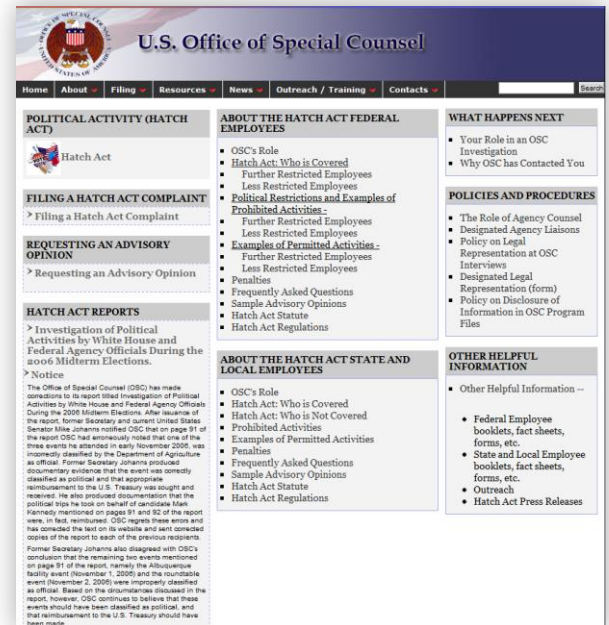
Check with your SVAO for your Service's requirements for collecting metrics.



- ✓ Military 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.

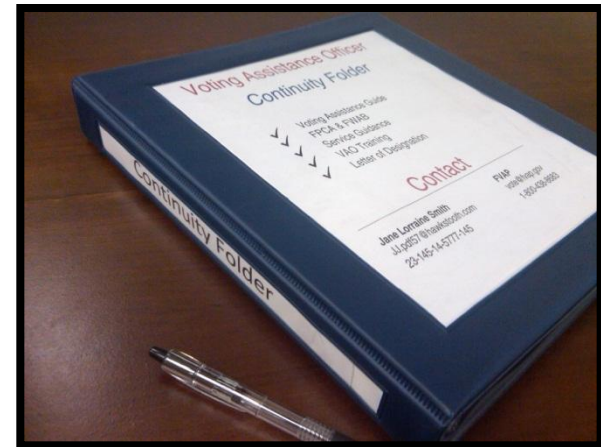
- ✓ For more information, refer to:
 - ✓ The Hatch Act
<http://www.osc.gov/hatchact.htm>
 - ✓ DoD Directive 1344.10
<http://www.fvap.gov/resources/media/doddirective134410.pdf>



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*
- ✓ VAO letter of designation
- ✓ Current election dates calendar
- ✓ Service guidance
- ✓ DoD guidance
- ✓ 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



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 *UOCAVA* Process

The *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 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 local election official reviews the FPCA and 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: If you have not received their absentee ballot by 30 days before the election, complete and submit the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB).

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 and offering to submit on their behalf
- ✓ 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 FAQs www.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
Commercial	703-588-1584	Call FVAP for assistance filling out forms or additional questions
Toll-Free	800-438-VOTE (8683)	
DSN	425-1584	
Facebook	Facebook.com/DoDFVAP	FVAP and UOCAVA updates
Twitter	Twitter.com/fvap	

Congratulations on completing the Voting Assistance Officer Training!

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.