

NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

111 SOUTH GEORGE MASON DRIVE
ARLINGTON VA 22204-1382

ARNG-HRP


AUG 01 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR The Adjutants General of all States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and the District of Columbia

SUBJECT: Presidential Election 2012 Voting Assistance Guidance

1. It is important for Soldiers and eligible dependents to have the opportunity to participate in the November 6, 2012 Presidential election. Emphasizing and supporting the voting process is absolutely imperative for all ARNG command personnel.
2. Commanders must ensure that a unit Voting Assistance Officer (UVAO) provides all Soldiers with the necessary resources and assistance to cast a valid ballot prior to Election Day. Also, in accordance with the Military and Overseas Voters Act of 2009, a unit VAO should brief mobilized Soldiers, before they deploy, on how to register to vote and how to vote by absentee ballot. I encourage Adjutants General to publicize Federal, State, and local voting processes and materials on their ARNG websites and to provide links to the following two voting assistance sites:
www.hrc.army.mil/site/Active/TAGD/PSSD/psb/votingindex and www.fvap.gov.
3. In accordance with the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) of 1993, recruiting offices of the Armed Forces have been designated as voter registration agencies. Adjutants General should ensure that recruiters comply with the NVRA and provide voting assistance upon request.
4. The point of contact is COL Roberta Niedt, Chief, Personnel Division, at DSN 327-7770, 703-607-7770, or roberta.niedt@us.army.mil.

Encl
Federal Voting Assistance Program
Brochure


WILLIAM E. INGRAM, JR.
Lieutenant General, USA
Director, Army National Guard

Frequently Asked Questions

Where is my "legal voting residence"? For voting purposes, "legal voting residence" can be the state or territory where you last resided prior to entering military service OR the state or territory that you have since claimed as your legal residence. Even though you may no longer maintain formal ties to that residence, the address determines your proper voting jurisdiction. To claim a new legal residence, you must have simultaneous physical presence and the intent to return to that location as your primary residence.

Military and their family members may change their legal residence every time they change permanent duty stations, or they may retain their legal residence without change. This may mean that the family's Uniformed Service member has a different legal voting residence than his/her family members. A Judge Advocate General, officer or legal counsel should be consulted before legal residence is changed because there are usually other factors that should be considered besides voting.

I am not in the military; can I also vote absentee? Eligible spouses and children (U.S. citizens, 18 years or older) of military personnel may vote absentee. U.S. civilians residing overseas may vote absentee using the last place in which the person was domiciled before leaving the United States. Some states allow children of military personnel and U.S. civilians residing overseas who are U.S. citizens but who have never resided in the U.S. to claim one of their U.S. citizen parent's legal State of residence as their own.

Can I vote in-person where I am stationed? There are no provisions for in-person voting or on-site registration at U.S. embassies, consulates, or military installations. Installation Voter Assistance Office staff and U.S. embassy and consular officials can assist U.S. citizens in completing the FPCA and FWAB forms or other election materials for their State, witness election materials (if required), and provide other absentee voting information. Military members may vote in the U.S. State or territory where stationed if they change their legal residence to that State or territory.

THE ABSENTEE VOTING PROCESS

Step 1: Register and Request Your Absentee Ballot

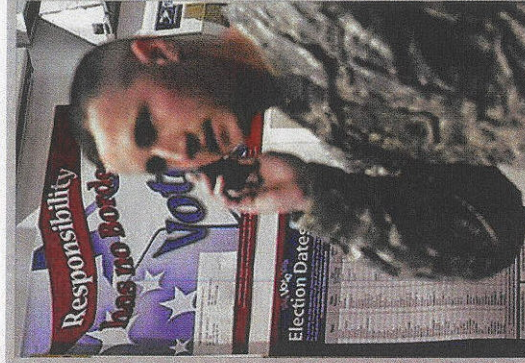
You must register and request an absentee ballot in your State of legal residence by completing a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) according to your State or territory's specific instructions and submitting it to your local election office. Visit www.fvap.gov.

Step 2: Your Election Official Processes Your FPCA and Sends You a Blank Ballot

Your local election official will process your FPCA to determine if you meet the jurisdiction's residency requirements and may decide which ballot to send you. Your local election official will contact you if there are any questions or if your application has been denied. Therefore, it is important to provide your complete contact information on your FPCA.

Step 3: Vote Your State Ballot or Use the Back-Up Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)

Vote and return your State ballot as soon as you receive it. If you have registered and requested your ballot by your State's request deadline (or at least 30 days before the election, whichever is later), you may use the FWAB any time before the election. A FWAB is a backup ballot that can be used if you requested your State ballot but did not receive in time to vote. Visit www.fvap.gov.



FVAP produces a motivational and election dates poster every election year. These posters are designed to remind voters of their State primaries and inspire them to register and vote. VAOs may order posters through their regular distribution channels or by contacting FVAP.

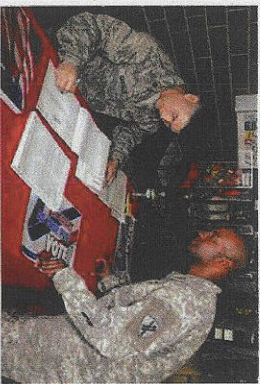
All Forms, Complete Absentee Voting Information, State by State Instructions, News Releases, and our Voting Assistance Guide can be found at www.fvap.gov

What's New

Need to know absentee voting information:

- The length of time an FPCA is valid varies by State. FVAP recommends:
- Uniformed Service members, dependents and overseas civilians complete a new FPCA each January or at least 90 days before the specific election in which they want to vote. Check www.fvap.gov for specifics.
- States are required to start sending ballots out to voters at least 45 days before an election.
- States no longer require voting materials to be notarized. Some States still require a witness.

To register or request an absentee ballot use the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). Go to www.fvap.gov and follow the prompts to register and request absentee ballots for the 2012 election cycle. Many States allow you to submit the FPCA by email or fax in addition to regular mail which will get your ballot on its way to you immediately. The instructions in your application package will tell you how you may submit the form.



Transmit voting materials toll free
by using our Electronic
Transmission Service
1-800-368-8683
ets@fvap.gov

2012 Recommended Mailing Dates

- From Operation Enduring/Iraqi Freedom, 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

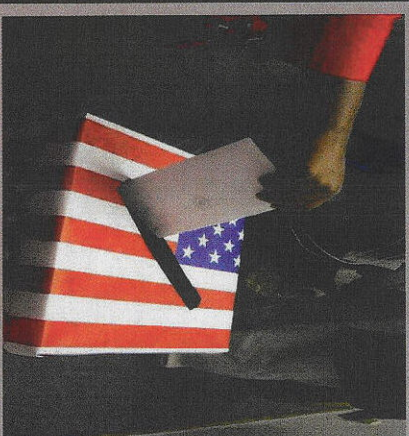
Don't wait to submit your FPCA. To vote in the general election, submit it no later than August 2012.

If you have not received your State ballot by October 6, 2012, use the FWAB and submit it immediately.

Keep up to date on all Voting related news by signing up for our Listserv. Email us at vote@fvap.gov.

Any questions which cannot be answered by a Voting Assistance Officer should be directed to:
Department of Defense
1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1155
office 703.588.1584 / fax 703.696.1352
Toll free numbers available at:
www.fvap.gov

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/DoDFVAP>
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/FVAP>



FVAP.GOV
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Voting Help for Uniformed
Service Members, Their
Families, and Citizens Living
Outside the U.S.