

***OVERSEAS FEDERAL CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES:
DETAILED FINDINGS***

Background

In the following chapter of this report, detailed question-by-question results are provided for the complete Survey of Overseas Federal Civilian Employees. A total of 757 Federal civilian employees participated in the survey.

The survey results are presented as follows:

- Actual question wording is provided in bold type.
- The percentages listed are based on the number of respondents who answered each question, often less than the total number who participated in the survey. (Respondents occasionally skip questions inadvertently, skip them based on a response they have given to a previous question, or give an invalid response that cannot be counted.)
- The number responding to each question is noted beneath the question wording. This number appears as “(N=___).”
- Percentages will not always add to 100 due to rounding.
- Where appropriate, additional tables or charts are provided to amplify the survey data.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Questions 1 through 8 focus on demographic characteristics of the overseas Federal civilian employees surveyed. The data includes each respondent's age, years living away from the U.S., present country of residence, length of residence in that country, and number of family members age 18 or over. The number of overseas Federal civilian employees in the survey sample who are registered to vote is also measured, along with their state of voting or legal residence.

1. Were you a U.S. citizen on November 5, 1996?

(N=759)

Yes	98%
No (<i>STOP! RETURN THIS SURVEY.</i>)	*%
No response.....	1%

*% = less than 1 percent

757 U.S. citizens completed survey questionnaires as part of the Federal civilian employee survey. Two non-citizen respondents were eliminated from the survey sample.

2. How old were you on November 5, 1996?

(N=749)

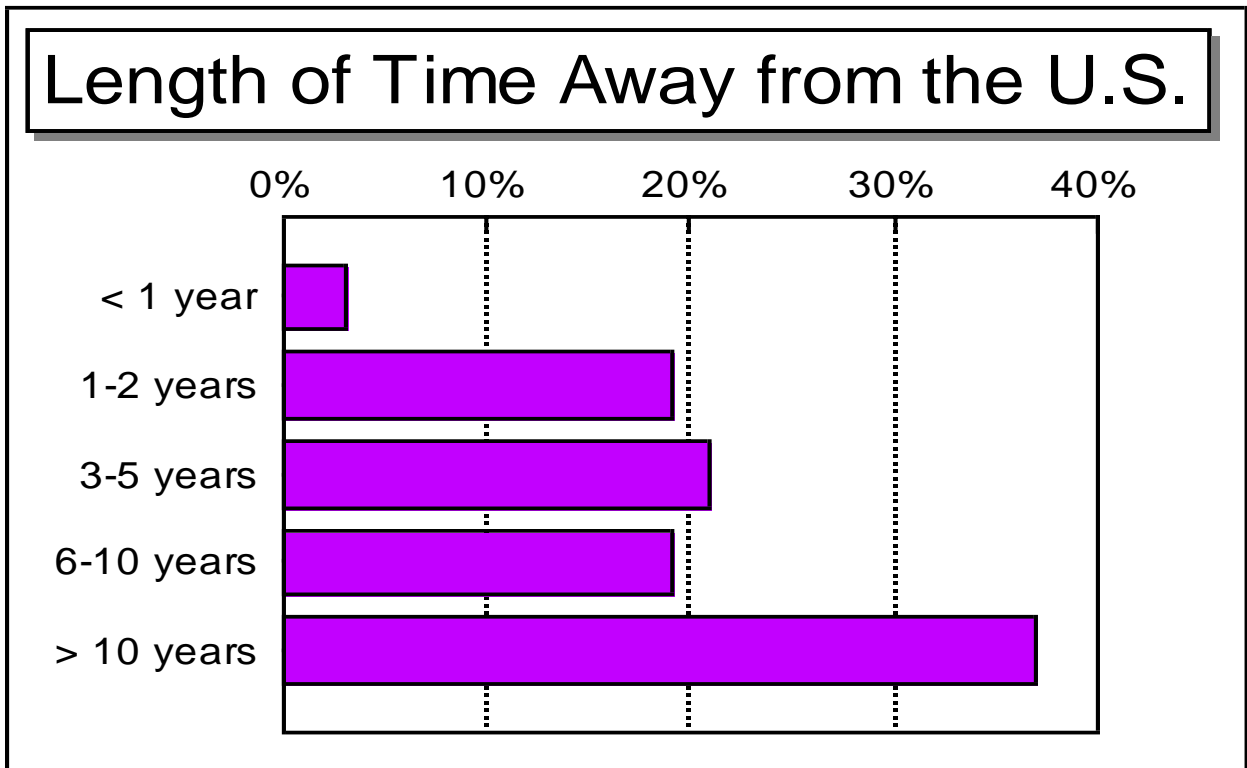
18 to 24	2%
25 to 29	6%
30 to 44	41%
45 to 54	38%
55 to 64	13%
65 and over.....	1%

The largest percentage of those surveyed (41%) were age 30 to 44 on November 5, 1996. 38% were age 45 to 54, 13% were 55 to 64, 6% were 25 to 29, 2% were 18 to 24, and 1% were 65 or older.

3. How many years have you lived away from the U.S.?
(N=745)

Less than 1	3%
1 to 2 years	19%
3 to 5 years	21%
6 to 10 years	19%
Over 10 years	37%

As of the November 1996 survey date, 37% of those surveyed had lived away from the U.S. for over 10 years, 19% for 6 to 10 years, 21% for 3 to 5 years, 19% for 1 to 2 years, and 3% for less than 1 year. The majority (56%) of these Federal civilian employees had lived away from the U.S. for more than 5 years.



4. In what overseas country are you currently residing?
(N=744)

Argentina.....	*%	Kuwait.....	*%
Australia.....	*%	Mexico.....	1%
Austria.....	*%	Nepal.....	*%
Bahamas.....	*%	Netherlands.....	1%
Belgium.....	3%	Nicaragua.....	*%
Bolivia.....	1%	Nigeria.....	*%
Brazil.....	*%	Pakistan.....	*%
Canada.....	1%	Panama.....	7%
China.....	1%	Papua New Guinea.....	*%
Colombia.....	*%	Paraguay.....	*%
Czech Republic.....	*%	Peru.....	1%
Ecuador.....	*%	Philippines.....	1%
Egypt.....	1%	Poland.....	*%
El Salvador.....	*%	Portugal.....	*%
France.....	*%	Romania.....	*%
Germany.....	32%	Russia.....	1%
Greece.....	*%	Saudi Arabia.....	*%
Guatemala.....	*%	Singapore.....	*%
Haiti.....	*%	South Africa.....	*%
Honduras.....	*%	Spain.....	1%
Hong Kong.....	*%	Switzerland.....	*%
Hungary.....	*%	Syria.....	*%
India.....	1%	Taiwan.....	*%
Indonesia.....	1%	Thailand.....	1%
Israel.....	*%	Trinidad & Tobago.....	*%
Italy.....	6%	Turkey.....	1%
Jamaica.....	1%	U.A.E.....	*%
Japan.....	15%	Ukraine.....	*%
Jordan.....	*%	United Kingdom.....	4%
Kenya.....	*%	Other.....	8%
Korea.....	4%		

*% = less than 1 percent

The largest percentage of the overseas Federal civilian employees surveyed resided in Germany (32%). Other locations with significant percentages of respondents were: Japan (15%), Panama (7%), Italy (6%), Korea (4%), United Kingdom (4%), and Belgium (3%).

5. On November 5, 1996, how long had you been residing in this country?
(N=745)

Less than 6 months.....	7%
6 to 12 months.....	6%
1 to 2 years	23%
2 to 3 years	15%
More than 3 years.....	49%

49% of those surveyed had been living in their present country for more than 3 years, 15% for 2 to 3 years, 23% for 1 to 2 years, 6% for 6 to 12 months, and 7% for less than 6 months.

6. Not counting yourself, how many family members who were at least 18 years old were living with you at your current duty station on November 5, 1996? (Include your spouse, and anyone related to you by blood, marriage, or adoption who depends on you for more than half of their support.)
(N=743)

None	27%
One	61%
Two	9%
Three	2%
Four	1%
Five or more	*%

*% = less than 1 percent

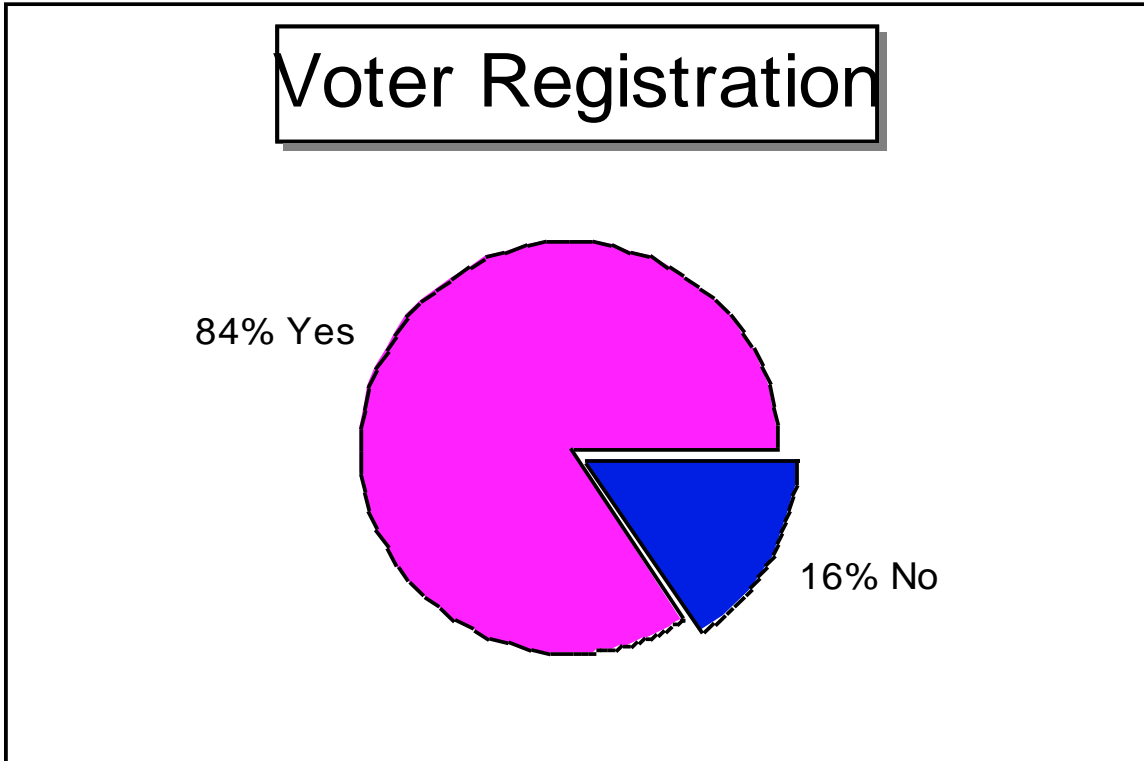
61% of those surveyed had one family member 18 years old or older living with them at the present location. 9% had two voting age family members living with them, 2% had three, and 1% had four voting age family members living with them. This indicates that 73% had at least one family member 18 or older living with them in November 1996.

27% of the overseas Federal civilian employees responding to the survey lived alone.

7. Are you registered to vote in the United States?
(N=734)

Yes 84%
No..... 16%

84% of the overseas Federal civilian employees surveyed were registered to vote in the United States in November, 1996.



8. In what state or territory are you registered to vote? If you are not registered, where is your legal residence?
(N=524)

Alabama	1%	Nebraska	1%
Alaska.....	1%	Nevada	2%
American Samoa	0%	New Hampshire	1%
Arizona.....	1%	New Jersey.....	1%
Arkansas	0%	New Mexico.....	1%
California.....	10%	New York.....	4%
Colorado.....	1%	North Carolina	2%
Connecticut.....	1%	North Dakota.....	0%
Delaware.....	*%	Ohio	1%
District of Columbia	1%	Oklahoma.....	1%
Florida	14%	Oregon	1%
Georgia.....	1%	Pennsylvania	3%
Guam	1%	Puerto Rico	*%
Hawaii	2%	Rhode Island	*%
Idaho.....	*%	South Carolina	2%
Illinois.....	2%	South Dakota.....	1%
Indiana.....	*%	Tennessee.....	2%
Iowa.....	*%	Texas.....	14%
Kansas	1%	Utah	1%
Kentucky	1%	Vermont	*%
Louisiana	1%	Virginia	7%
Maine.....	*%	Virgin Islands (U.S.)	0%
Maryland	3%	Washington	6%
Massachusetts.....	1%	West Virginia.....	*%
Michigan	2%	Wisconsin	1%
Minnesota.....	*%	Wyoming	1%
Mississippi.....	*%		
Missouri.....	2%		
Montana.....	*%		

*% = less than 1 percent

When the overseas Federal civilian employees were asked in what state or territory they were registered to vote or had their legal residence, the following were the top states cited: Florida (14%), Texas (14%) California (10%), Virginia (7%), Washington (6%), New York (4%), Maryland (3%), and Pennsylvania (3%).

VOTING/NON-VOTING

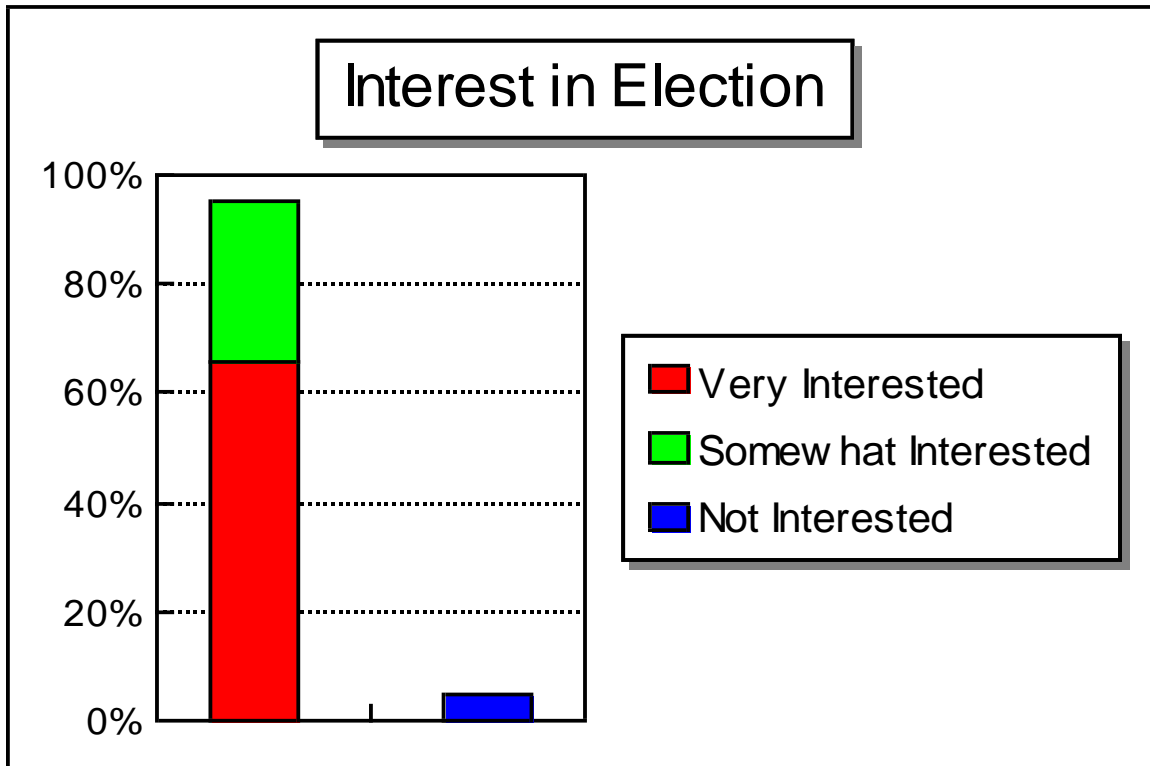
Questions 9 through 12 focus on the voting attitudes and behavior of the overseas Federal civilian employees surveyed, including: their level of interest in the 1996 U.S. election, whether or not they voted, and, if not, their main reasons for not voting.

9. How interested were you in the U.S. election held on November 5, 1996?

(N=747)

Very interested	66%
Somewhat interested	29%
Not interested	5%

95% of the overseas Federal civilian employees surveyed were interested in the November 1996 election. 66% said they were “very interested” in the election, and 29% were “somewhat interested.”



10. Did you vote in the November election?

(N=743)

Yes, I voted in person.	3%
Yes, I voted by absentee ballot.	56%
No, I did not vote.	41%

56% of the overseas Federal civilian employees surveyed voted by absentee ballot and 3% voted in person — indicating that 59% voted in the November 1996 election.

Those who did not vote were asked the following two questions:

11. Which of these comes closest to your one main reason for not voting?

(Mark *only one*.)

(N=305)

My ballot did not arrive at all.....	17%
I didn't know how to get an absentee ballot.	16%
I was discouraged by the process of absentee voting.....	15%
I am concerned that voting might affect my Federal or State tax obligation.	10%
I knew about the election, but wasn't interested in voting.	9%
I had no candidate preference.	8%
My ballot arrived too late.....	5%
I don't trust the candidates.....	5%
I didn't know my state of legal residence for voting.	4%
I didn't think I was eligible to vote.	3%
I didn't think my vote would matter.	2%
I wasn't familiar with the candidates or issues.....	1%
The requirement for notarization of election materials was too difficult.....	0%
I didn't know about the election.	0%
No Response.	4%

Of the overseas Federal civilian employees surveyed who said they did not vote in the 1996 election, the highest percentage (17%) said the main reason they did not vote was that they had requested but did not receive their absentee ballot. 16% said they did not know how to get an absentee ballot; 15% said they were discouraged by the absentee voting process; 10% said they were concerned voting might impact their tax obligation; 5% said they had requested a ballot but it arrived too late; 4% said they did not know their legal voting residence; 3% said they did not think they were eligible to vote; and 1% said they were not familiar with the candidates or issues. This indicates that 71% did not vote because of issues relating to the **process** of voter registration or a lack of information about voting.

Other reasons included a lack of interest in voting (9%), no candidate preference (8%), a lack of trust for the candidates (5%), and a concern that their vote would not matter (2%).

12. Were there any other reasons you did not vote? (Mark all that apply.)
(N=305)

I was discouraged by the process of absentee voting.....	17%
I had no candidate preference.	16%
I didn't know how to get an absentee ballot.	15%
My ballot did not arrive at all.....	13%
I don't trust the candidates.....	10%
I knew about the election, but wasn't interested in voting.	9%
I didn't think my vote would matter.	9%
I didn't know my state of legal residence for voting.	8%
I am concerned that voting might affect my Federal or State tax obligation.	7%
The requirement for notarization of election materials was too difficult.....	6%
I didn't think I was eligible to vote.	5%
My ballot arrived too late.....	4%
I wasn't familiar with the candidates or issues.....	4%
I didn't know about the election.	0%

When asked if there were any other reasons why they did not vote, 17% of overseas Federal civilian employees said they were discouraged by the absentee voting process; 16% said they had no candidate preference; 15% said that they did not know how to get an absentee ballot; and 13% said they requested but did not receive their absentee ballot.

10% did not trust the candidates; 9% were not interested in voting; and 9% did not think their vote would matter.

8% said they did not know their legal voting residence; 7% were concerned about an impact on their tax obligation; 6% said the requirement for notarization of election materials was too difficult; 5% said they did not think they were eligible to vote; 4% said their ballots arrived too late to vote; and 4% said they were not familiar with the candidates or issues.

Questions 11 and 12 combined:

I didn't know how to get an absentee ballot.	32%
I was discouraged by the process of absentee voting.	32%
My ballot did not arrive at all.	30%
I had no candidate preference.	24%
I knew about the election, but wasn't interested in voting.	18%
I am concerned that voting might affect my Federal or State tax obligation.	17%
I don't trust the candidates.	15%
I didn't know my state of legal residence for voting.	12%
I didn't think my vote would matter.	11%
My ballot arrived too late.	10%
I didn't think I was eligible to vote.	9%
The requirement for notarization of election materials was too difficult.	6%
I wasn't familiar with the candidates or issues.	5%
I didn't know about the election.	0%

Combining the two questions reveals the relative importance, as either a primary or a contributing factor, of each of the reasons for not voting.

32% said they did not know how to get an absentee ballot; 32% said they were discouraged by the absentee voting process; 30% said they had requested but never received their absentee ballots; 24% said they had no candidate preference; 18% indicated they had no interest in voting; 17% were concerned that voting might impact their tax obligation; 15% said they did not trust the candidates; 12% said they did not know their state of voting residence; 11% were concerned that their vote would not matter; 10% said the ballots they requested arrived too late to vote; 9% did not think they were eligible to vote; 6% said the requirement for notarization of election materials was too difficult; and 5% said they were not familiar with the candidates or issues.

ABSENTEE VOTING

Questions 13 and 14 ask overseas Federal civilian employees if they requested an absentee ballot for the November 1996 election and, if so, in what month they requested it.

13. Whether or not you actually voted, did you request an absentee ballot for the November 5, 1996 election?

(N=713)

Yes	64%
No.....	36%

64% of the overseas Federal civilian employees requested an absentee ballot, whether or not they actually voted in the 1996 election.

14. In what month did you request your absentee ballot?

(N=451)

July, or earlier	37%
August	21%
September	29%
October.....	12%
November.....	1%

37% of those surveyed who requested an absentee ballot did so in July or earlier. 29% requested a ballot in September, 21% in August, 12% in October, and 1% in November.

Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)

The Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), or Standard Form 76, is a simultaneous request for registration and ballot.

Questions 15 through 20 focus on the use of the FPCA by the overseas Federal civilian employees surveyed. Respondents are asked whether they used the FPCA; if so, where they obtained it; whether they were notified by the local election official in their home jurisdiction that the request had been received; whether they actually received the absentee ballot they had requested; when they received it; and when they completed and returned the ballot.

15. Did you use the FPCA to request your absentee ballot, or did you use another method?
(N=449)

I used the FPCA.....	59%
I used another method.....	41%

59% of those surveyed who requested an absentee ballot said they used the FPCA to submit their request; 41% said they requested a ballot using another method.

16. Where did you obtain your FPCA?
(N=244)

Through military channels	49%
U.S. Embassy or Consulate.....	31%
Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP).....	15%
Overseas organization or company	5%
Democrats or Republicans Abroad	*%

*% = less than 1 percent

49% of those surveyed who used the FPCA said they obtained it through military channels; 31% said they obtained the FPCA through the U.S. Embassy or Consulate; 15% said they obtained it from the Federal Voting Assistance Program; 5% mentioned an overseas organization or company as the source of their FPCA.

17. After you requested your absentee ballot, did you receive notification from the local election official that your request had been received?
(N=451)

Yes	60%
No.....	29%
Don't recall	11%

60% of those surveyed who requested an absentee ballot said they were notified by the local election official that their request had been received. 29% said they were not notified, and 11% said they did not recall.

18. Did you actually receive the absentee ballot in response to your request?
(N=451)

Yes	86%
No, I never received it.....	14%

86% of those surveyed who requested an absentee ballot said they actually received the ballot. 14% said they did not receive it.

19. When did you receive your ballot?
(N=388)

July, or earlier	2%
August.....	2%
September	16%
October.....	73%
November.....	7%

73% of those surveyed who requested an absentee ballot said they received their ballot in October. 16% said they received it in September, 7% in November, 2% in August, and 2% in July or earlier.

	Requested Ballot (N=451)	Received Ballot (N=388)
July, or earlier	37%	2%
August	21%	2%
September	29%	16%
October	12%	73%
November	1%	7%

This table compares the timing of the request for an absentee ballot to the actual receipt of the ballot.

20. When did you complete and return your ballot?

(N=389)

July, or earlier	1%
August	1%
September	5%
October.....	77%
November.....	11%
I did not return it.	4%

77% of those surveyed who requested and received an absentee ballot said they completed and returned their ballot in October 1996. 11% said they completed and returned their ballot in November, 5% in September, 1% in August, and 1% in July or earlier.

95% of those who requested and received a ballot completed and returned their ballot, while 4% did not return a ballot.

Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot

The FWAB, or Standard Form 186, is a back-up ballot used when overseas Federal civilian employees do not receive their regular absentee ballot.

Questions 21 through 23 ask overseas Federal civilian employees about their use of the FWAB as an alternative voting method. Respondents are asked whether they used the FWAB; if so, when they used it; if not, why not.

21. When you did not receive your regular absentee ballot, did you use the FWAB?
(N=53)

Yes 11%
No..... 89%

11% of those surveyed who requested but did not receive an absentee ballot said they used the FWAB back-up ballot instead.

22. When did you use the FWAB?
(N=6)

September 0%
October..... 50%
November..... 50%

50% of those surveyed who said they used the FWAB did so in October, and 50% used it in November.

23. What is the one main reason you did not use the FWAB? (Mark only one.)
(N=44)

I didn't know about the FWAB. 89%
I knew about it, but couldn't get one. 5%
I did not know under what conditions it could be used. 5%
I was not outside the U.S. 2%

Of those overseas Federal civilian employees surveyed who did not receive an absentee ballot, and did not use the FWAB, 89% said the main reason they did not use the FWAB was because they did not know about it.

5% said they knew about the FWAB but could not get one, 5% said they did not know under what conditions it could be used, and 2% said they were not outside the U.S. at the time.

Voting Assistance Guide

The Department of Defense *Voting Assistance Guide 1996-97* (VAG) provides state-by-state information to enable citizens to register and vote absentee.

Questions 24 through 27 ask overseas Federal civilian employees whether they used the VAG; what kind of information they were looking for when they consulted the VAG; how they would rate it as a reference; and, if they did not use the VAG, why not.

24. Did you refer to the VAG for information about registering to vote or requesting an absentee ballot?

(N=734)

Yes	22%
No.....	78%

22% of the overseas Federal civilian employees surveyed said they referred to the VAG for absentee ballot information.

25. What kind of information were you looking for in the VAG? (Mark all that apply.)

(N=163)

Mailing address for FPCA or ballot.....	65%
How to apply to register to vote absentee	61%
How to fill out the FPCA	39%
Dates of elections and deadlines	32%
How to transmit the FPCA or voted ballot electronically (i.e., Fax)	6%
Other	6%

The top four reasons cited for consulting the VAG among those surveyed who used the reference, were: to find a mailing address for the FPCA or ballot (65%); to learn how to apply to register to vote absentee (61%); to learn how to fill out the FPCA (39%); and to learn dates of elections and deadlines (32%).

26. Overall, how would you rate the VAG as a reference on absentee voting procedures?

(N=120)

Excellent	44%
Good.....	45%
Fair	9%
Poor.....	2%

Of those surveyed who consulted the VAG, 89% gave it a positive rating, with 44% rating the VAG as “excellent” and 45% rating it “good.”

27. Why didn't you use the VAG? (Mark only one.)
(N=545)

I didn't know about the VAG.	60%
I got all the information I needed from other sources.	38%
I knew about it, but couldn't get a copy.	2%

Of those surveyed who did not use the VAG, 60% said the reason was because they did not know about it; 38% said they got all the information they needed from other sources; 2% said they knew about the VAG but could not get a copy.