

SURVEY OF UNIT VOTING ASSISTANCE OFFICERS: DETAILED FINDINGS

Background

In the following chapter of this report, detailed question-by-question results are provided for the complete Survey of Unit Voting Assistance Officers (UVAOs). Voting Assistance Officers have been designated at all levels of command in the Armed Services and the Coast Guard. The UVAO is responsible for providing accurate, nonpartisan voting information and assistance to those individuals within their military unit attempting to exercise their Constitutional right to vote. These officers are charged with the duty of making it possible for members of the Uniformed Services to cast a valid ballot.

Consistent with past practice, as authorized under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA), surveys were distributed to 2,500 UVAOs immediately following the 1996 general election. A total of 1,249 Unit Voting Assistance Officers participated in this 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

Unit Voting Assistance Officers represent a wide range of service personnel. Questions 1 through 5 asked for demographic information about the Unit Voting Assistance Officers in 1996. Age, branch of service, pay grade, station country, and length of time at that station are each examined in the questions below.

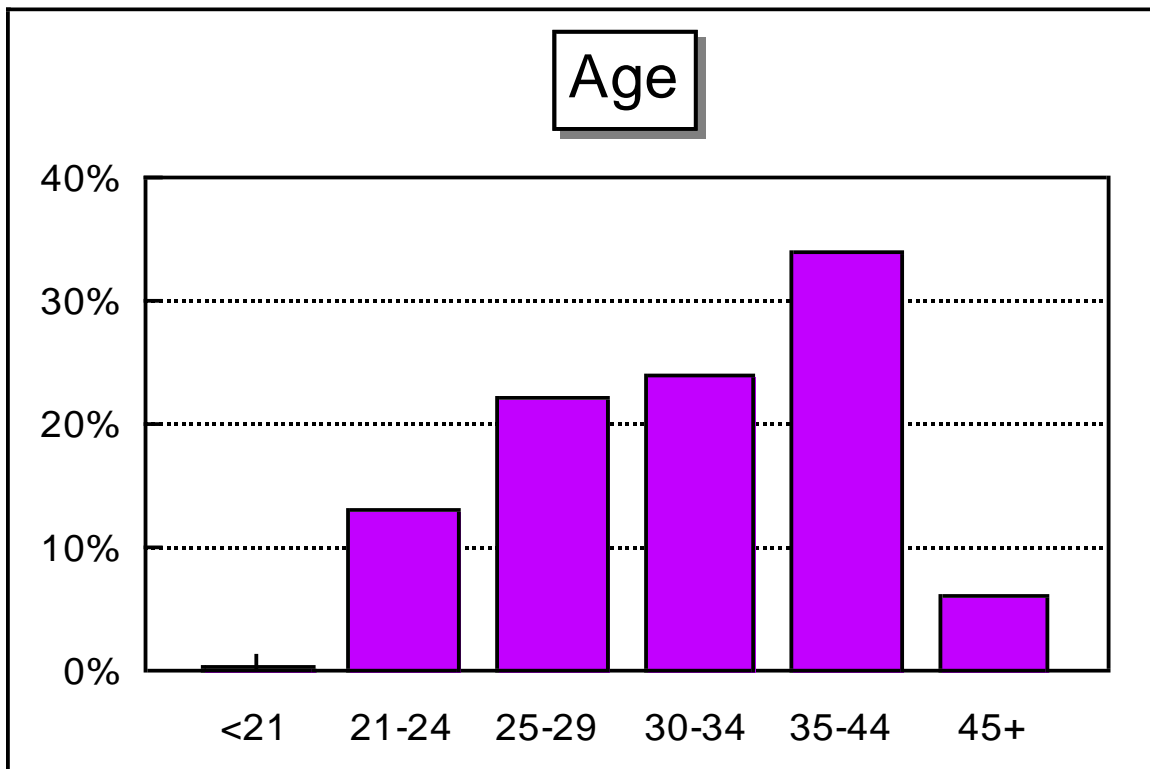
1. How old were you on November 5, 1996?

(N=1,242)

Under 21.....	*%
21 to 24	13%
25 to 29	22%
30 to 34	24%
35 to 44	34%
45 & above.....	6%

*% = less than 1 percent

34% of Unit Voting Assistance Officers were between the age of 35 and 44 at the time the survey was conducted, in November 1996. 24% were between 30 and 34, and another 35% were under 30 years of age. 6% of UVAOs were at least 45 years of age.



2. What is your Branch of Service?

(N=1,238)

Army 20%

Navy