



Voting Information News

April 2003 or Vol. 13, No. 4

**A roundup of voting news from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP)
For voters, potential voters and those who assist voters.**

Issue Highlights:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| The Help America Vote Act | 1-2 |
| Texas Special Election | 3 |
| Call for Slogans | 3 |
| Corrections | 4 |

Voting Assistance Officers

“To Do” This Month:

- ✓ Inventory your supplies of voting materials on-hand within your organization. FVAP recommends stocking at least four FPCAs for each citizen you provide assistance to. This will provide enough forms for voting age family members, for changes of address, and for spoilage of these forms during their completion.
- ✓ Review the on-line VAO Workshop training at the FVAP website. Make preparations to provide the annual voting training required by DoD Directive 1000.4.
- ✓ Encourage the submission of slogans to FVAP's 2003 Voting Slogan Contest.

The Help America Vote Act of 2002

As we announced in the December 2002 issue of the *Voting Information News*, the *Help America Vote Act (HAVA)*, legislation dealing with major Federal election reform, was signed into law by the President on October 29, 2002. *HAVA*, designated as Public Law 107-252, includes the following sections which will affect *UOCAVA* citizens:

- Provides payments to the states to improve the administration of elections including replacement of punch card or lever voting machines.
- Establishes the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) that includes a Board of Advisors (Director FVAP will be a member), a Standards Board, and a Technical Guidelines Development Committee.
- Defines voting system standards, provisional voting and voting information requirements. This includes the requirement for states to develop computerized state-wide voter registration lists.

The voting rights of Uniformed Services members and overseas citizens are addressed in Title VII of *HAVA*.

Under Title III, the Secretary of Defense as the Presidential designee responsible for the implementation of *UOCAVA* shall:

- Prescribe regulations and procedures for Voting Assistance Officers (VAO) to be provided the time and resources necessary to perform their duties.
- Implement measures to ensure a postmark or other official proof of mailing

is placed on ballots collected by DoD overseas locations or vessels at sea.

- Prescribe a standard oath to be used by the states on all voting materials for *UOCAVA* voters which require an oath. This oath is being reviewed by Department of Defense attorneys and states' Chief Election Officials to ensure it meets Federal and state requirements.

The Secretaries of the Military Departments shall:

- Ensure members and families have access to absentee voting information.
- Provide the FPCA to enlistees.
- Provide guidance regarding the last day a ballot may realistically be mailed from each installation to reach home in time for the elections.
- Designate special days to inform members and families of absentee registration and voting procedures.

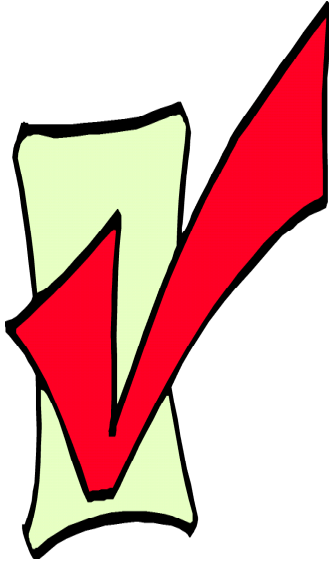
These stipulations codify many of the requirements already existing in the DoD Directive 1000.4 and the biennial Secretary of Defense Voting Action Plan.

The individual states shall:

- Designate a single office responsible for providing absentee registration and voting procedures for *UOCAVA* citizens.
- Report to the EAC on the number of *UOCAVA* absentee ballots sent to voters and the number of these absentee ballots that were received back from the voters in time to be counted.

(Continued on Page 2)

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 continued



In democracy, the individual enjoys not only the ultimate power but carries the ultimate responsibility.

— Norman Cousins

- Inform UOCAVA voters if their registration or ballot application was refused and the reason for the refusal.
 - Accept and process an FPCA submitted at any time within a calendar year (for elections starting in 2004).
 - Extend the effective period of the FPCA through the next two regularly scheduled general elections for Federal office. Due to the transient nature of many UOCAVA citizens, FVAP continues to recommend that each citizen submit an FPCA to their state in January of each year and again each time they change their mailing address.
- The EAC is charged with producing several analyses and reporting the results to Congress. In conjunction with the Secretary of Defense, the EAC will study and report on best practices for facilitating voting by UOCAVA citizens. Items to be addressed in the study include:
- Residence rights of Uniformed Services voters.
 - Registration and voting rights of UOCAVA voters.
 - Early application (during an election year) for absentee ballots by UOCAVA citizens.
 - Appropriate pre-election deadline for states to mail absentee ballots to UOCAVA citizens.
 - Minimum period between mailing ballots to UOCAVA citizens and required receipt date.
 - Timely transmission of balloting materials to UOCAVA citizens.
 - Absentee voting security and privacy concerns including fraud protection.
 - Use of a single FPCA for all Federal elections in a year.
 - Use of a single FPCA for registration and absentee ballots.
 - Use of fax and electronic means of transmission of balloting material.
 - Rights of UOCAVA citizens to participate in elections.
 - Establishes the Help America Vote Foundation and the Help America Vote College Program. These two programs encourage secondary school and college students to assist state and local governments by serving as nonpartisan poll workers or assistants during elections. These programs are to provide much-needed workers at the polling places on election day and also instill a desire in young Americans to participate in the voting process.
- In addition to these studies concerning UOCAVA citizens, the EAC will separately study and report on Internet voting for all citizens. FVAP's Voting Over the Internet project in 2000 and the Secure Electronic Registration and Voting Experiment (SERVE) in the 2004 election will provide cases of actual Internet voting for the EAC to study.
- Since HAVA was only recently enacted, it has not been fully implemented yet. As the Election Assistance Commission is staffed and starts work, further interpretation and effects of HAVA will be seen. For UOCAVA voters, HAVA will further simplify and standardize the absentee registration and voting procedures. The Federal Voting Assistance Program will continue working with the states and Congress to this end and to support UOCAVA citizens worldwide in exercising their right to vote.



Texas To Hold a Special Election on May 3, 2003

On Saturday, May 3, 2003, there will be a special election in the Texas 19th Congressional District to fill the seat vacated by Congressman Larry Combest who is resigning effective May 31, 2003. All members of the U.S. Uniformed Services, their family members and citizens residing outside the U.S. who are Texas residents from the 19th District should request a ballot for this special election by completing and submitting a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), SF-76, as soon as possible, if you have not done so already in calendar year 2003.

The 19th Congressional District consists of Andrews, Bailey, Cochran, Crane, Ector, Gaines, Hockley, Howard, part of Lamb, Loving, Lubbock, Lynn, Martin, Midland, Parmer, Terry, Ward, Winkler, and Yoakum

Submit Your Entry for the Slogan Contest Today!

There is no limit to the number of entries a participant may submit to FVAP's 2003 Voting Slogan Contest. Slogans should be submitted separately (only one slogan per entry). The deadline for submission is July 11, 2003.

All submissions must include your full name, (service, if military), mailing address, daytime telephone number, fax number and e-mail address (if applicable). If submitting by mail or fax, please type or print (legibly) on regular 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper.

Send entries via one of the following methods:

Counties. To determine whether you are in the part of Lamb County that is in the 19th Congressional District, you can click on "Communicating With Your Elected Officials", then "Who is my Representative?" at the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) website, www.fvap.gov.

Thursday, April 3, 2003 is the deadline for receipt of FPCAs for this election by the early voting clerk for a full ballot and April 25, 2003 is the deadline for a Federal only ballot.

Further details regarding this special election can be found in FVAP's Voting New Release #2 at our website.

E-mail: slogan@fvap.ncr.gov Text only, one slogan per e-mail with contact information on each e-mail.

Fax: (703) 588-0108 or DSN 425-0108 Visit the FVAP website at www.fvap.gov for toll-free fax numbers from 49 countries. Submit separate page for each slogan with contact information on each page. No cover sheet is necessary.

Mail: Federal Voting Assistance Program, Attn.: Voting Slogan Contest, at the address shown on page 4.

Voting Action Officers

Department of State: Office of American Citizen Services

Chief VAO: Mr. Jack Markey, **tel:** (202) 736-4937, **fax:** (202) 647-6201, **E-mail:** markeyjd@state.gov
Deputy VAO: Mr. Stuart Denyer, **tel:** (202) 647-3495, **fax:** (202) 647-6201, **E-mail:** denyersr@state.gov

Service Voting Action Officers

Dept. of the Army: Mr. James Davis **tel:** (703) 325-4530 **DSN:** 221-4530; **fax:** (703) 325-4532
DSN fax: 221-4532; **E-mail:** davisj@hoffman.army.mil,
https://www.perscomonline.army.mil/tagd/pssd/psb/voting/votingindex.htm

Dept. of the Navy: LT Brian Campbell **tel:** 1-800-368-5056; **fax:** (901) 874-2689, **DSN fax:** 882-2689;
E-mail: Mill_navyvote@persnet.navy.mil, **https://www.persnet.navy.mil/nvap**

Dept. of the Air Force: Lt. Col. Lee Shick **tel:** (210) 565-3514, **toll free:** 1-800-558-1404, **DSN:** 665-3514 or 2572;
fax: (210) 565-2543, **DSN fax:** 665-2543; **E-mail:** Lee.Shick@randolph.af.mil
https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund/Programs/Voting/Default.htm

Marine Corps: GySgt Kenneth B. Warford **tel:** (703) 784-9511, **DSN:** 278-9511;
fax: (703) 784-9828, **DSN fax:** 278-9828; **E-mail:** warfordkb@manpower.usmc.mil
https://inweb1.manpower.usmc.mil/manpower/mi/mra_ofct.nsf/mrp/Voting+Home

U.S. Coast Guard: Ensign Steve Rodanhisler **tel:** (202)-267-2005, **fax:** (202) 267-4823, **attn:** Lt. Luna;
E-mail: srodanhisler@comdt.uscg.mil

All of the above can also be reached through the DoD Voting Information Center and the FVAP Website.

**Federal Voting
Assistance Program**

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1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC
20301-1155

PHONE:
(703) 588-1584
DSN 425-1584

FAX:
(703) 588-0108
DSN 425-0108

VOTING INFORMATION
CENTER:
(703) 588-1343
DSN 425-1343

TOLL FREE:
1-800-438-VOTE (8683)

E-MAIL:
vote@fvap.ncr.gov

Website:
www.fvap.gov
Vote!

CORRECTIONS

Page 4 of the March 2003 *Voting Information News*: There was an error in the *VIN and News Release Subscription* form on the last page. The second choice should have read: "I would like to receive the VIN by mail at the above address." FVAP News Releases are only available by e-mail.

The January 2003 *Voting Information News* listed Frank H. Murkowski as one of the Senators from Alaska—he is now the Governor of Alaska. His daughter, Lisa Murkowski is the current second Senator from the state of Alaska.

Please note these corrections. We apologize for any inconvenience.



*The unity of freedom has
never relied on the
uniformity of opinion.*

— John F. Kennedy

About Our Organization...

Voting Information News provides information for citizens and Voting Assistance Officers and is published monthly by the FVAP.

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