



Voting Information News

February 2003 Vol. 13, No. 2

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

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Voting Assistance Officers

"To Do" This Month:

- ✓ Make sure you are on the distribution list for FVAP News Releases and the Voting Information News (VIN). The VIN is available by e-mail, regular mail, or both and on the FVAP Website. Because of their time-sensitive nature, News Releases are distributed only by e-mail and on the FVAP Website. To be added or for amendments to the distribution list send e-mail to: vote@fvap.ncr.gov
- ✓ We encourage you to make VIN available to all the people that you are assisting. If you receive the VIN by E-mail we recommend that it be forwarded to all in your command or organization. E-mail will save both paper and time in disseminating important voting information.

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UOCAVA – Who is covered?

Occasionally, the FVAP is contacted by citizens unsure about whether or not they fall under the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)*. Following is a brief description of who is covered.

The FVAP carries out the Federal functions of the UOCAVA on behalf of the Secretary of Defense who is the Presidential designee. The UOCAVA generally covers United States citizens, as defined below, who are absent from the place of residence where the citizen is otherwise qualified to vote.

1. Member of a Uniformed Service on active duty. For the purposes of the UOCAVA, the Uniformed Services are the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard of the United States, the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service, and the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This includes cadets of the military academies.

2. Members of the Merchant Marine. A member of the Merchant Marine is defined as an individual (other than a member of a Uniformed Service or an individual employed, enrolled, or maintained on the Great Lakes or the inland waterways) employed as an officer or crew member of a vessel documented under the laws of the United States, or a vessel owned by the U.S., or a vessel of foreign-flag registry under charter to or control of the U.S.; or enrolled with the U.S. for employment or training for employment, or maintained by the U.S. for emergency relief service of any such vessel.

3. A spouse or voting age dependent of a Uniformed Service or Merchant Marine member.

U.S. citizens in the first three categories are covered whether inside the U.S. or overseas.

4. Overseas Voters. These include:

- (A) An absent Uniformed Services voter who, by reason of active duty or service is absent from the United States on the date of the election involved;
- (B) a person who resides outside the U.S. and is qualified to vote in the last place in which the person was domiciled before leaving the U.S.; or
- (C) a person who resides outside the U.S. and (but for such residence) would be qualified to vote in the last place in which the person was domiciled before leaving the U.S.

The above mentioned citizen's last place of domicile must be in the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, or American Samoa.

(Continued on next page)



It's that time again!

**“To Do” This Month
(continued):**

- ✓ Be sure your installation or Embassy/Consulate telephone information operator has your name and telephone number for referrals.
 - ✓ Inventory and replenish your stock of voting materials that were consumed in last year's elections. Federal Postcard Applications (FPCA, SF-76), Federal Write-in Absentee Voting Ballots (FWAB, SF-186) and *Voting Assistance Guides* are available through your normal supply distribution channels. The 2004-05 Guides will be available this Fall.
 - ✓ Remind citizens to submit an FPCA this year. Many states have state and local elections for which they may be eligible to vote. Other reasons for submitting FPCA are:
 - Will ensure voting files are kept active;
 - Notifies Local election official of change of address.
- See “*Change of Address Notification a Must*” article on the February, 2002 issue of the *VIN*. In addition, consult Chapter 3 of the *2002-03 Voting Assistance Guide* for state specific guidance and instructions on completing the FPCA. (both available online at: www.fvap.gov)

Who is Your SSVR?

The Senior Service Voting Representative (SSVR) is responsible for Service-wide implementation of the respective voting assistance programs. The SSVR appoints a Service Voting Action Officer (see box on page 3) to administer the voting program for that Service. In the military, the SSVR is a uniformed officer of general or flag grade. In the Department of State the SSVR is an Assistant Secretary of State.

ARMY: COL Gina Farrisee (BG promotable)

NAVY: RADM Marc L. Purcell

AIR FORCE: MajGen Peter Sutton

MARINE CORPS: MajGen Stephen T. Johnson

COAST GUARD: RADM Sally Brice-O'Hara

DEPARTMENT OF STATE: Ambassador Maura A. Harty

Did you know? The SSVR also manages the voting program for Reserve component members who have been called to active Federal service. The Chief/Director of each Reserve component coordinates with the SSVR and the Director of FVAP to maintain a contingency absentee voting program for the deployed National Guard and Reserve units and personnel.

UOCAVA continued:

The *UOCAVA* permits absent Uniformed Services voters and overseas voters (as defined on front page) to use absentee registration procedures and to vote by absentee ballot in general, special, primary, and run-off elections for Federal office. In addition, most Uniformed Service members may choose to vote a full ballot (Federal, state and local elections). Some states have expanded these laws to allow other overseas citizens to vote a full ballot as well (See the *2002-03 Voting Assistance Guide* for state-specific guidelines).

There are many United States citizens who have never resided in the U.S. and under current law are not entitled to vote. These are usually first or second-generation U.S. citizens overseas who are subject to U.S. income tax and all other requirements of citizens. Except for the fact that they have never resided in a state, they would be eligible to vote in elections for Federal office. Ten states have passed legislation allowing these citizens to claim the legal residence of a parent. These states are: Georgia,

Hawaii, Iowa, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

The mission of the FVAP is: to inform and educate U.S. citizens worldwide of their right to vote and to foster voting participation. In carrying out the responsibilities of the *UOCAVA*, the FVAP provides information and materials to these citizens to help ensure their enfranchisement and promote understanding and participation in the democratic process.

Visit the FVAP Website at www.fvap.gov. This site contains up-to-date information and materials, the current *2002-03 Voting Assistance Guide* and other publications.

If you have further questions or require additional assistance please contact your Voting Assistance Officer. If local assistance is unavailable, please contact this office (contact information listed on last page).

Voting Residence Guidelines: Overseas Citizens

The following general guidelines are for **citizens residing outside the United States not affiliated with the federal government** to determine their state of legal residence for voting purposes.

- ✓ "Legal state of residence" for voting purposes is the state where you last resided immediately prior to your departure from the United States. This right extends to overseas citizens even though they may no longer own property or have other ties to their last state of residence and their intent to return to that state may be uncertain.
- ✓ The *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)* of 1986 provides that exercising the right to vote, in elections for **Federal offices**, under the *Act* should not affect for purposes of any Federal, state or local tax, the residence or domicile of a person exercising such right.
- ✓ Voting in **Federal offices only** may not be used as the sole basis to determine residency for the purposes of imposing state and local taxes. If you claim a particular state as your residence and have other ties with that state in addition to voting, then you may be liable for state and local taxation, depending upon that particular state law. Appendix E of the *2002-2003 Voting Assistance Guide* contains information on potential tax obligations. Consult your legal counsel for specific questions.
- ✓ Your right to vote in your state and determination of voting precinct depend on your physical residence while you were in the state.

If you have further questions that cannot be answered locally, please contact the FVAP directly. ☑

Editor's Note: Changes to the January 2003 *Voting Information News*, 108th Congress: Ed Case is the U.S. House of Representative for the 2nd Congressional District of Hawaii. A Special Election was held on January 4, 2003 to fill the Vacant Term. ☑



Archive FVAP Motivational poster by Michael Warzocha, Center for Creative Studies
College of Art and Design, Detroit

*"Speak With the
Voice of Freedom...
Vote!"*

Sgt. Peter A. Palmisano, USAF,
Elmendorf AFB, Alaska 1986

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:** (901) 874-4327, **DSN:** 882-4327; **fax:** (901) 874-2689,
DSN fax: 882-2689; **E-mail:** p660b@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://lnweb1.manpower.usmc.mil/manpower/mi/mra_ofct.nsf/mrp/Voting+Home

U.S. Coast Guard: Ens. Steve Rodanhisler **tel:** (202)-267-2005, **fax:** (202) 267-4823
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

Department of Defense
Washington
Headquarters Services
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!

The FVAP staff would like to extend our thanks to all of you for helping us get-out-the-vote in 2002 elections. We appreciate the work you have done to increase UOCAVA citizen's voting participation.

Thank You!

State Chief Election Officers, State Directors of Elections, local election officials, Senior Service Voting Representatives, Service Voting Action Officers, Installation/Unit Voting Assistance Officers, Installation/Unit Commanders, Department of State Voting Action Officers, Embassy personnel, American citizen organizations overseas, political party organizations, overseas American corporations, the Advertising Council, and to all our readers, especially those of you who reproduced and redistributed the *Voting Information News*.

About Our Organization...

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

Director:	Polli Brunelli	Program Analyst:	Betty Collins
Deputy Director:	J. Scott Wiedmann	Program Analyst/Co VIN Editor:	John Godley
SERVE Program Manager:	Carol Paquette	Program Analyst:	Brian Griffiths
SERVE Technical Director:	James Cunningham	Program Analyst/Co VIN Editor:	Paul Mendez
IT Specialist:	Maurice Howe	Program Analyst:	Elaine Perna Tucker
IT Specialist:	Susan Leader	Program Analyst:	Terry Wade
Info. Systems & Services:	Terrence Williams		

Federal Voting Assistance Program
Department of Defense
Washington Headquarters Services
1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1155



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