



# Voting Information News

June 2003 vs Vol. 13, No. 6

*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:

- Encourage participation in the 2003 Voting Slogan Contest by all U.S. citizens. Participants can enter as many times as they wish.
- Ensure that citizens you assist have submitted new FPCAs to their local election officials if they have a change of their mailing address.
- Ensure that you are on the distribution list for the FVAP News Releases and this Newsletter. *VIN* is available by e-mail, regular mail, or both! News Releases are available only by e-mail. Contact our office (see page 4) to be added to the distribution list.

## Voting goes “Internet” for Uniformed Services and Overseas Citizens

Congress has mandated the **Secure Electronic Registration and Voting Experiment (SERVE)** project be conducted to gather data and make recommendations regarding the use of the Internet for registration and voting by Uniformed Services personnel and overseas citizens. The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) is conducting this experiment, to explore the use of technology to maximize access to the polls for our Uniformed Services personnel and overseas citizens. SERVE is an alternative to the by-mail process.

The following States have expressed an interest in participating in this federal/state initiative: Arkansas, Florida, Hawaii, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah, and Washington. In the process of gathering data to report to Congress **SERVE** will enable thousands of absentee Uniformed Services personnel, their dependents, and overseas citizens, to register to vote, vote their ballots, and have them counted in their home jurisdictions from any computer with Internet access, anywhere in the world.

“Security is everyone’s first concern with Internet voting, so we made security the driving factor in the **SERVE** system design,” states Polli Brunelli, FVAP Director. “We are working closely with State and local election officials to build a secure system and ensure that the integrity of the electoral process is maintained.” The **SERVE** system will be available on January 1, 2004, for Uniformed Services personnel and overseas citizens to submit voter

registration applications and absentee ballot requests for the 2004 primaries in the participating States as well as for the November 2<sup>nd</sup> Presidential election.

**SERVE** is the latest in a series of technology initiatives undertaken by FVAP as part of its mission to improve access to the polls by overseas citizens and Uniformed Services personnel. A small-scale proof of concept pilot program, Voting Over the Internet, was successfully conducted for the 2000 election. Eighty-four voters located in 21 States and 11 countries and were the first citizens ever to register and cast their ballots over the Internet in their voting jurisdictions in Florida, Texas, South Carolina and Utah in a Presidential election. This project was awarded the Excellence.Gov award for 2003 (see article on Page 2). **SERVE** will build on the knowledge and experience FVAP and the participating States gained in this groundbreaking project.

At the conclusion of **SERVE**, the Federal Voting Assistance Program will report to Congress on the reliability, affordability, and security of Internet registration and voting on a large scale.

Ms. Brunelli encourages all eligible absentee Uniformed Services personnel, their dependents and overseas citizens from the participating states to use **SERVE** to register and vote in 2004. A special website is being created. Meanwhile, check the FVAP website, [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov), and the *Voting Information News* for further information.

**“To Do” This Month  
(continued):**

- ☑ Start planning for the 2004 elections now! State primary elections will start being held right after the first of the year. Your citizens must be registered to vote and have requested an absentee ballot before they can vote in their State’s primary election. Start focusing their attention on the absentee process.
- ☑ Make sure your organization’s budget provides funding for voting materials such as FPCAs and FWABs. Ensure that you have adequate supplies of these items on-hand and order additional stock, if necessary.
- ☑ Plan to attend a FVAP workshop to ensure you are properly trained to provide assistance to your citizens. If your installation or location would like to host a workshop in 2004, contact your Embassy, Consulate or Major Command VAO to request that a workshop be scheduled.

## **FVAP Wins Excellence.Gov Award**

The Federal Voting Assistance Program received top honors at the Excellence.Gov Award ceremony sponsored by the CIO Council, the Industry Advisory Council and E-Gov. The award was given for FVAP’s Voting Over the Internet project. About 110 Federal e-government projects had been nominated for the award. Projects were nominated for their impact, for financial or other resource savings, the extent of interagency collaboration and for the ability for others to use the same technology.

The Voting Over the Internet (VOI) project was conducted during the 2000 Presidential election and was the first time votes for President and other offices were cast over the Internet and counted in a Presidential election. This successful pilot project was the precursor to the SERVE project that is the subject of the lead article in this edition of *Voting Information News*.

The Excellence.Gov Award was accepted by Federal Voting Assistance Program Director, Ms. Polli Brunelli, at a ceremony held on February 12, 2003.



*“Two cheers for democracy: one because it admits variety and two because it permits criticism.”*

—E. M. Forster

## **Voting Law Changes in Indiana**

Indiana has made several changes in their election law affecting *UOCAVA* voters that became effective the first of the year.

Uniformed Service members and their voting-age dependents who return to Indiana shortly before an election but after the registration deadline has passed (29 days prior to the election) will be allowed to register and vote in the election. The Uniformed Service member must show the county registration office a copy of their separation papers or orders showing they were outside the State.

Indiana now allows *UOCAVA* citizens to submit their FPCA for registration and absentee ballot request via fax, to receive a blank ballot via fax, and to return their voted absentee ballot by fax. A *UOCAVA* voter desiring to vote via fax must sign and date a statement on the cover of the fax that states: “I understand that by faxing my voted ballot I am voluntarily waiving my right to a secret ballot.”

## FROM THE DESK OF THE AIR FORCE SENIOR SERVICE VOTING REPRESENTATIVE

As we start gearing up for the 2004 Presidential election year, I would like to take the time to encourage all levels of command to fully support the Air Force Voting Program. **We are defenders of freedom and democracy -- voting is our opportunity to express those very rights -- and every vote counts (unless one doesn't vote)!**

One way to help ensure that all of our people have the information they need is to ensure you have Voting Assistance Officers (VAOs) appointed who will serve in that key position throughout the election season in 2004. It is imperative that VAOs are thoroughly trained and equipped so they can adequately serve and assist their unit members.

A valuable source of information for all VAOs is the Air Force Voting Website, <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund/>. This website contains the current Air Force Voting Plan and a link to the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) website. As the year progresses, the website will be updated with pertinent and current information.

Ensure all VAOs are visible to those they serve—visibility of the VAO is the key to a successful voting program. Ensure the Federal Post Card Application Ballot (FPCA) is placed in every unit member's hand and assist anyone who needs help with completing their form.

Organize activities such as registration drives that target the younger service members who may be an absentee

voter for the first time. Keep in mind that VAOs also service the dependents of military personnel assigned to their unit.

Under the **leadership and direction** of the VAOs, we can ensure every eligible voter is well armed to discharge their responsibility as United States citizens to **register and vote!**

*Maj Gen Peter Sutton*



Maj Gen Peter Sutton  
Director for Learning and Force Development  
Deputy Chief of Staff, Pentagon

### 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  
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<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@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;  
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<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund/>

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**U.S. Coast Guard:** Ensign Steve Rodanhisler **tel:** (202)-267-2005, **fax:** (202) 267-4823, attn: Lt. Luna;  
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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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Washington, DC  
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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](http://www.fvap.gov)

# **Vote!**

### **Colorado Permits Faxing of Absentee Ballots**

Colorado allows electronic transmission (faxing) of election materials by UOCAVA citizens to include: Federal Post Card Applications (FPCAs) to register and to request absentee ballots; receiving a blank ballot; and, returning their voted absentee ballot. This applies to all UOCAVA citizens.

When returning a voted absentee ballot by fax, the UOCAVA citizen should include the statement: "I understand that by faxing my voted ballot, I am voluntarily waiving my right to a secret ballot."

When submitting election materials, including FPCAs and ballots, by fax, the instructions contained in Appendix E of the *Voting Assistance Guide* should be followed. Specifically, the transmittal cover sheet contained in Appendix E

should precede each item being transmitted. For example, if two family members are submitting an FPCA by fax, there should be a separate transmittal cover sheet for each family member's FPCA. Also, the fax numbers specified in the *Guide* should be used. Toll-free fax numbers from 49 countries are available. An up-to-date listing of these numbers as well as Appendix E of the *Voting Assistance Guide* is available from the FVAP website, [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov). Use of these special fax numbers assures that the faxing session can be verified if it is questioned in the future.

If you have any questions regarding these faxing procedures, please contact FVAP for assistance. Phone numbers and the e-mail address are shown in the box to the left of this column.

#### ***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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