



Voting Information News

September 2003 ☞ Vol. 13, Num. 9

Issue Highlights:

Ordering Voting Materials	2
Dept of State	
SSVR	3
Stateside	4

Voting Assistance Officers

"To Do" This Month:

- ✓ Check supplies to ensure that you have adequate voting materials (FPCAs, FWABs) for upcoming elections.
- ✓ Review the procedure for ordering voting materials (listed on page 2). If there are any questions, contact your Service Voting Action Officer (page 3) for clarification.
- ✓ Copy and redistribute this newsletter. Keep a copy for your voting continuity folder so that your successor may access this information.
- ✓ Plan to attend a Voting Assistance Officer Workshop next year. Remind your supervisor that this training is needed. If you are interested in hosting a workshop, send a request to: vote@fvap.ncr.gov. Provide location, approximate number of attendees, tenant organizations, nearby installations (if overseas, American organizations/corporations near you).

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

Judges for Slogan Contest Announced

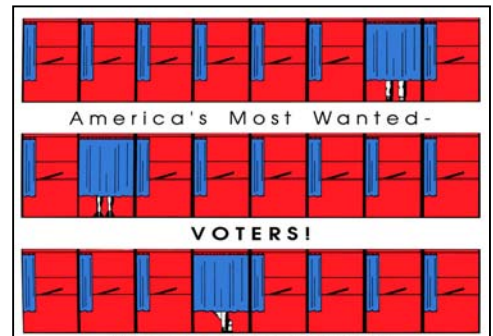
On July 11, 2003 the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) stopped accepting slogan entries for the 2003 Slogan Contest. The Voting Slogan Contest is a biennial event sponsored by the FVAP in its efforts to promote interest in the democratic process among citizens covered under the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)* – the members of the Uniformed Services, the Merchant Marine, their family members, and all U.S. citizens residing outside the United States. The winner of this year's slogan contest will be featured in the FVAP's 2004/2005 informational and motivational materials, which focus on increasing voter awareness among U.S. citizens worldwide. Additional slogans will be chosen to be featured in the state sections (chapter 3) of the *2004-2005 Voting Assistance Guide*.

The FVAP received thousands of entries from around the globe for this year's slogan contest, promoting voter awareness. The Voting Assistance Officers' (VAOs) dedicated efforts in encouraging citizens to enter the contest helped generate the high participation rate and brought attention to the voting program, giving citizens a better idea where to find guidance and assistance on absentee voting.

As the first phase of the contest is complete, it is time for the next stage to begin. Polli Brunelli, FVAP Director, has announced the panel of independent judges who will review and choose the winning slogans based on their originality and motivational value. The five individuals who have graciously agreed to serve on the panel are:

- Senator Carl Levin,**
Senate Armed Services Committee
- Representative Robert W. Ney,**
Chairman of the Committee on House Administration
- Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen,**
House Committee on International Relations
- Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer,**
President, National Association of Secretaries of State
- Ms. Peggy Conlon**
President, Chief Executive Officer, The Advertising Council Inc.

The FVAP thanks all who have entered the contest. ☑



**Archive poster designed by:
Mary Broadell, Graphic Communication
Dept., Center for Creative Studies
Detroit MI.**

**Slogan by:
Vicki Diane Lee, (civilian)
Defense Logistics Agency**

Ordering Voting Materials



*“Vote Today- Tomorrow
Depends On It”*

By Donald Johnson,
Heidelberg, Germany

Maintaining an adequate supply of voting materials is an essential function of every Voting Assistance Officer (VAO). With the updated *Voting Assistance Guide* (VAG) coming out this fall, it is essential for every VAO to know the proper procedure for ordering new materials, such as the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) (SF 76), Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) (SF 186), and the VAG. The following can be used as a reference for VAOs to order new and replacement materials. The FVAP recommends stocking four FPCAs and one FWAB per voter.

Army: There are Form/Publication numbers for the voting forms. The FPCA is Standard Form 76, the FWAB Standard Form 186, and the VAG is Misc. Publication 360-04. Voting Assistance Officers (VAOs) are responsible for ensuring these items are ordered for their unit from the Army Publishing Directorate. The website for ordering forms and publications is www.usapa.army.mil. Each Army ordering agency has an account number and the items are mailed from the Distribution Operations Facility in St Louis, MO.

Navy: VAOs should order SF-76 and SF-186 through GSA using unit funds. Payment can be made either by credit card or by providing your FED/MILSTRIP. Further information can be found at <http://www.persnet.navy.mil/nvap> and following the Voting Supplies link:

SF-76	FPCA	NSN 7540-00-634-5053
		\$10.31 per hundred
		(4 per sailor)
SF-186	FWAB	NSN 7540-01-218-4384
		\$16.85 per hundred
		(1 per sailor)

VAGs and promotional posters are automatically distributed to all commands on the Standard Navy Distribution List.

Air Force: Air Force IVOs order voting materials at: <http://afpubs.hq.af.mil>. IVOs may establish an on-line account to order the materials or place their order through an Organizational Account Representative (OAR). OARs are squadron personnel (normally in the orderly room/CSS) who order forms and publications. Units are not charged for voting materials. The Air Force makes a one-time automatic shipment of new *Voting Assistance Guides* and posters to the MPF Customer Service section. Customer Service personnel contact IVOs upon receipt of

materials. Additional copies may be ordered through the Air Force Publications website above. The SF 76, Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) and SF 186, Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) must be ordered on-line. Order four FPCAs and one FWAB for each military member assigned. Voting information is available at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund.

Marine Corps: Marine Corps VAOs may order the FPCA (SF76) and FWAB (SF186) through unit supply officers via SABRES or directly from GSA. The *Voting Assistance Guide* is available through unit S-1 offices via MCPDS or may be requested from the SVAO. Marine Corps VAOs may also obtain information on ordering voting materials by accessing <http://www.manpower.usmc.mil>, then going to the link for 'Personnel and Family Readiness' and clicking the link for 'Voting'. Once here, go into the link for MCO 1742.1A and review enclosure (3). Internet Explorer works best for navigating this site.

Coast Guard: FPCAs and FWABs must be ordered using unit funds from GSA using the following data:

FPCA	NSN 7540-00-634-5053
	Unit of Issue: 1 HD
FWAB	NSN 7540-01-218-4384
	Unit of Issue: 1 HD

VAGs are automatically distributed through the DOT warehouse whenever a new edition is issued. Any unit on distribution that fails to receive their issue by January 1, 2004, should contact YNCS Lori McNaught. There is also a Coast Guard Instruction to guide VAOs: Federal Voting Assistance Program, COMDTINST 1742.3(SERIES).

Department of State: To restock supplies, each post should order the FPCA and FWAB forms through the normal General Services Administration (GSA) supply channel. GSA requires the funding information, the stock number, and the quantity. The Department recommends that each post stock four FPCAs for each potential voter. The FPCA stock number is 7540006345053. The Department recommends that posts stock at least one FWAB for each potential voter. The FWAB stock number is 7540012184384. For expedited service, send a request to GSA, Attn: Pat Bright, via e-mail at burlington.cscorder@gsa.gov or by fax: 215-446-5123; tel: 215-446-5088.

FROM THE DESK OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR CONSULAR AFFAIRS

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincerest thanks to all Embassy and Consulate personnel who serve as Voting Assistance Officers and Voting Assistants, and to the many overseas resident American community members who serve as Voting Volunteers. I have the utmost appreciation for all that you do to educate and assist your fellow Americans to register and vote by absentee ballot.

The 2004 election cycle is fast approaching. Although the general elections are not until next November, the first presidential primary – for Washington, DC residents - is scheduled for January 13, and overseas voters who plan to participate should register and request ballots before the first of December. Dozens of primaries will follow in quick succession. The steps that you take now to develop and implement an effective action plan will help to make your voting assistance program successful. Start early, build an extended network and use the many resources that are available to you.

Experienced Voting Assistance Officers uniformly agree that starting early is key. Early and frequent reminders about voting procedures should reduce the traditional last-minute flood of calls. With more time, you will be better able to identify and target Americans who are first-time voters or who are unfamiliar with the absentee ballot process. As a result, more Americans will be able to participate in the primaries as well as the November general elections.

Identifying, cultivating and training volunteers from the private American community who can help you assist voters will multiply your effectiveness and reduce your workload. Businesses, overseas chapters of political parties, social associations and other non-governmental organizations are your allies in this effort. Begin your search now, provide adequate training, and share your resource materials. Your enthusiasm can be infectious, and with a good foundation your extended voting assistance network will help you immeasurably.

In addition to the many excellent on-line resources now available, Voting Assistance Officers should enlist the Embassy community and its resources. Your Chief of Mission can add a message to your newsletter and the voting segment of your post's website. Other US officials can support your education and outreach efforts at meetings or through the local media. Town Hall gatherings and holiday parties provide perfect opportunities for voter outreach, as do periodic tests of your warden system.

We in the Department stand ready to help you make your absentee voting program a resounding success, and urge you to contact us whenever we can be of assistance.

Maura Harty

Voting Action Officers

Department of State: Office of Overseas Citizens Service

Chief VAO: Mr. Jack Markey, **tel:** (202) 736-4937, **fax:** (202) 647-6201, **E-mail:** markeyjd@state.gov
Deputy VAO: Ms. Bonita Harris, **tel:** (202) 647-5435, **fax:** (202) 647-6201, **E-mail:** harrisbg@state.gov

Service Voting Action Officers

U.S. 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

U.S. Dept. of the Navy: LT Brian Campbell **tel:** 1-866-U-ASK-NPC (827-5672); **DSN:** 882-4327; **fax:** (901) 874-2785,
DSN fax: 882-2689; **E-mail:** MILL_navyvote@navy.mil, **http://www.persnet.navy.mil/nvap**

U.S. Dept. of the Air Force: Lt. Col. Lee Shick **tel:** (210) 565-2338 (Assistant: MSgt. Julie Schlip), **toll free:** 1-866-229-7074
(select option 4, then 6 from menu), **DSN:** 665-2338; **fax:** (210) 565-2543, **DSN fax:** 665-2543;
E-mail: afpc/dpsfvotingpgmdlist@randolph.af.mil; **http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund/**

U.S. Marine Corps: GySgt Kenneth B. Warford **tel:** (703) 784-9511, **DSN:** 278-9511;
fax: (703) 784-9827, **DSN fax:** 278-9827; **E-mail:** warfordkb@manpower.usmc.mil
https://lnweb1.manpower.usmc.mil/manpower/mi/mra_ofct.nsf/mrp/Voting+Home

U.S. Coast Guard: YNCS Lori McNaught **tel:** (202)-267-1636, **fax:** (202) 267-4823;
E-mail: LMcNaught@comdt.uscg.mil, **http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/g-wp/g-wpm-1/VotingAssistance/Voting_Assistance.htm**

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)

Visit our website for international toll-free phone and fax numbers.

E-MAIL:
vote@fvap.ncr.gov

Website:
www.fvap.gov

Vote!

Stateside

Louisiana: The 2003 Louisiana Gubernatorial Primary Election will be held on October 4th, followed by the Louisiana Gubernatorial General Election on November 15th. The list of certified candidates is available through the Louisiana Secretary of State's website at <http://www.sec.state.la.us/elections/elections-index.htm>.

Massachusetts: U.S. citizens who have never resided in the U.S. but have a parent who is eligible to vote in Massachusetts are eligible to vote at the same voting residence claimed by their parent (for local, state and Federal office ballots).

New Mexico: New Mexico now accepts the **On-Line Version of the Federal Post Card Application (OFPCA)**. Of the 55 states (inc. Washington, DC) and territories, 50 now accept the OFPCA. The OFPCA is an alternative to the cardstock Federal Post Card Application (FPCA).

Visit the FVAP website at www.fvap.gov for instructions on completing the OFPCA and the states and territories that accept this. The form is in Adobe Acrobat format and can be filled in on-line, printed out, signed, dated, placed in an envelope with proper postage and then mailed to the appropriate Local Election Official (LEO).



The Future Is Just A Vote Away
By Michelle Elsbury
Peace Corps
West Africa

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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