#BeReady16: working together for our military and overseas voters
Federal Voting Assistance Program

National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)
08 August 2016
The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act of 1986, or UOCAVA, allows certain U.S. citizens to apply to register and vote absentee in elections for Federal office.

Citizens covered under UOCAVA include:

1. Members of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine who are absent from their voting jurisdiction due to their service.
2. Dependents of members of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine who are absent from their voting jurisdiction with the member.

Note: Uniformed Service members and their eligible family members residing in their voting jurisdictions are not covered under UOCAVA.
Help America Vote Act (HAVA), 2002
• Required states to notify voters the reasons for rejecting a registration application or absentee ballot request

Military and Overseas Empowerment (MOVE) Act, 2009
• Requires states to make voter registration and absentee ballot applications available electronically
• Requires ballots to be sent 45 days prior to an election
• Ballot applications good for one election cycle
FVAP’s renewed focus

- The electronic voting demonstration project was repealed.

- FVAP is refocusing on customer service for UOCAVA voters, Voting Assistance Officers and Elections Officials.

  “Deciding what not to do is as important as deciding what to do.”

  - Steve Jobs

- Shift from presenting data to analyzing data to tell a story with data.

- While we see progress, we see challenges as well in serving the unique characteristics of the UOCAVA population.
Challenges

- Mobility
- Complexity
- Disconnected from Voting Community
- Communication
FVAP is here for Legislators and Election Officials

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Working together is success

Henry Ford
Working Together for You and Your Voters….
Voter Communication
» Use plain language.
» Make effective use of election websites and social media.
» Create more user-friendly electronic ballot return envelopes.
» Communicate to voters when the ballot application is accepted.
» Provide information to voters about what is on the ballot.

Federal Post Card Application
» Treat the FPCA as a permanent request for voter registration.
» Establish a default validity period for the FPCA mail ballot request.

Online Voter Registration
» States that provide online voter registration should incorporate online registration for overseas and military voters.

Improved Engagement with U.S. Military Community
» Establish partnerships between state and local election officials and local military installations.
Working Together – Technology Working Group

- Ballot Duplication
- Data Standardization
- Use of the DoD Common Access Card for Registration
- Military Ballot Tracking Project
Working Together – EAVS Section B Working Group

- Clarify Language & Instructions for 2016

- Develop Roadmap for the future

- Understand the role of Data Standardization

- Look to transactional election data for voter success metrics
#BeReady16: customer service
DoD Postal Updates-Working Together

- EAC and FVAP along with our partners have made the challenges of mail a huge priority

- Recommended Mailing Dates for voters have been published

- USPS/MPSA upgraded the Global Business Systems in 2015 that will improve service of absentee ballots mailed with the Label 11-DoD

- Address Standards have changed for APO and FPO addresses.
Special Procedures: APO/FPO/DPO Absentee Ballots

September 1, 2016 – November 30, 2016

The United States Postal Service® and the Military Postal Service have again joined forces to expedite delivery of absentee ballots to overseas military personnel. We recognize the important role each plays in the election process and are committed to ensuring that everyone who votes by mail experiences a smooth, well-organized process—one that provides them with the highest level of trust and confidence. The following Special Procedures for APO/FPO/DPO Absentee Ballots are provided for Election Officials and Postal employees.

Here is a summary of the program:

- Election officials should mail absentee ballots at least 45 days prior to the November 8, 2016, General Election. All military absentee ballots mailed by election officials from September 1 through November 8, 2016, will be subject to special handling procedures.
- Local election officials are requested to aggregate military absentee ballots to the Chicago International/Military Service Center (ISC) gateway and the Miami International Service Center.
- Troys or containers of absentee ballot mail may be identified using Tag 191, Domestic and International Ballots, and presented to the Post Office™.
- Contact your local Post Office for more information on standard procedures for election offices.
- APO/FPO/DPO absentee ballots will be sent from local Post Office locations to the nearest Processing & Distribution Center for further processing.
- At the International Service Centers, absentee ballots receive special handling.

ELECTION OFFICIALS: Separate military absentee ballots by preparing bundles for the two ISC military gateways: Chicago and Miami.

**Directions for marking the bundles.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISC Name</th>
<th>ISC State Abbreviation</th>
<th>ISC ZIP Code™ Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>AE</td>
<td>080-099</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>AP</td>
<td>082-986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>AA</td>
<td>340</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If fewer than five (5) pieces will be in a separate bundle, a mixed bundle may be prepared. This bundle must have the facing slip marked, “APO/FPO/DPO MIXED – Absentee Ballots.”
Using a proven method in a new way
#BeReady16
legislative trends
topics to think about
Automatic Registration

- OR, CA, & WV adopted
- Potential impact on UOCAVA?
  - Unknowing registration
  - Impact on registration status in another state
    - Tax implications?
    - Receiving ballot?
Online Registration

• 31 states and D.C. offer online registration
• Classification for UOCAVA?
• FVAP inventory ongoing
Permanent Registration

- Encourage Permanent Registration
  - CSG Recommendation
  - PCEA Recommendation
- Provides voter certainty
  - Reduces confusion
- Majority of states have perm registration
- Some exclusions for overseas citizens w/no intent to return or return uncertain
37 States have a provision that allows certain “never resided” voters to vote based on their parents’ last residence in the U.S.

FVAP is looking into this topic and will share additional research and any recommendations.
What Can We All Do?

BE IN THE BUSINESS OF BEING AWESOME.
So, What Does This Mean for Us?

Be able to Fill in the Blanks with these 3 Statements:

1. I’m not okay with **resting on successes**
2. I have **the best and most dedicated staff**
3. We can **work together and kick butt**
Communication is key

CSG recommendation

Excellent customer service will make a difference

Follow the "wow" philosophy