



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

MAR 26 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (PERSONNEL AND
READINESS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (PUBLIC AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (RESERVE AFFAIRS)
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Federal Voting Assistance Program — 2002 - 2003

As a fundamental basis of our democracy, all Americans have the right to elect their representatives. In 2002, 34 U.S. Senators, all members of the U.S. House of Representatives, 37 State Governors, and thousands of state and local officials will be elected. Members of our Uniformed Services and their eligible family members deserve every opportunity to participate in the electoral process. Commanding officers and heads of Department of Defense Components at all levels of command should ensure that these citizens know they have the opportunity to vote.

The Voting Assistance Program deserves our personal support and highest priority. It is incumbent upon each of us to support the Program, ensure all personnel are informed of the importance of voting, and that they have an opportunity to exercise their right to vote.

Attached is the Voting Action Plan for 2002 - 2003. This plan places special emphasis on command support and, in the case of absentee voters, ensuring the personal delivery of Federal Post Card Applications for registration and absentee ballot request to those who are eligible.

Please forward a copy of your implementing plan to the Director of Administration and Management, Office of the Secretary of Defense, to the attention of the Director, Federal Voting Assistance Program by April 15, 2002.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Paul Wolfowitz", is centered below the text.

Attachment
As stated

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