



2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees

Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to summarize results of voting items included on the fall 2006 *Status of Forces Surveys* (SOFS), a series of Web-based surveys of active-duty and Reserve component members and DoD civilians. Items included on the fall 2006 SOFS assessed support provided to uniformed Service and overseas voters mandated by the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act* (UOCAVA), as modified by the *National Defense Authorization Act for FY2005* (see Appendix).

The fall 2006 SOFS included items to assess location on election day, access to various means of communication, voting behavior, awareness and use of the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP), and use of the Integrated Voting Alternative Site (IVAS). The majority of survey items administered to DoD civilians were asked only of those outside of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and American Samoa (hereafter referred to as the United States in the territorial sense).

Summary Findings

Overall, results show the majority of military members and DoD civilians had access to various means of communication prior to the November 2006 general election. One-third of DoD civilians outside the United States on election day, and less than one-fifth of active-duty and Reserve component members voted by casting an absentee ballot. Roughly one-tenth were aware of the Integrated Voting Alternative Site (IVAS), but fewer used it. Of those who did use IVAS, about one-fifth of military members and one-third of DoD civilians found it to be useful, and under one-tenth encountered problems using it. The most common reasons for not using IVAS were not needing it and submitting election materials through some other means. The large majority of military members and DoD civilians who did not use IVAS requested and received their absentee ballots by postal mail directly to/from the local election official. The large majority of all military members and DoD civilians who voted by casting an absentee ballot also returned their ballots by postal mail directly to the local election official.

Location on Election Day

- Overall, 24% of active-duty members, 9% of Reserve members, and 7% of DoD civilians were outside the United States on election day, November 7, 2006.

Voting Behavior

- 51% of Reserve members, 42% of DoD civilians outside the United States, and 22% of active-duty members reported voting in the 2006 election. Evaluated against the best comparative study,¹ only active-duty members were less likely to report voting in the 2006 election than Americans in general (38%). Table 1 shows voting behavior by location.

Table 1.
Voting Behavior, by Location

	Voted In Person	Voted by Absentee Ballot	Total	Margin of error
Active Duty				
Not outside United States	9	15	24	±1-2
Outside United States	1	16	17	±1-2
Total	7	16	22	±1-2
Reserve				
Not outside United States	45	9	54	±1-2
Outside United States	8	18	26	±3
Total	42	10	51	±1-2
DoD Civilians*				
Not outside United States	NA	NA	NA	NA
Outside United States	9	33	42	±2-4
Total	9	33	42	±2-4

Note. Tests compared rates for active-duty and Reserve members outside or not outside the United States on election day. Blue percentages indicate the subgroup was higher; purple percentages indicate the subgroup was lower.

*Only DoD Civilians who indicated they were outside of the United States on election day were asked about their voting behavior.

- Of those outside the United States on election day, 33% of DoD civilians, 18% of Reserve members, and 16% of active-duty members voted by casting an absentee ballot.
- 42% of Reserve members, 9% of DoD civilians, and 7% of active-duty members voted in person.
- 78% of active-duty members, 58% of DoD civilians, and 49% of Reserve members did not vote.

¹ The 2002 American National Election Study (ANES) is the best of the currently available comparisons for a nationally representative sample survey in a non-presidential election year with self-reported voter participation. Results of the 2002 ANES showed that of those born in 1975 or later (roughly those aged 18 to 27), 31% reported voting, versus 62% of Americans in general. According to exit polls in 2006, voter turnout probably increased by about 2 to 4 percentage points from 2002.

Available Communication Options Prior to Election Day

- 28% of Reserve members, 25% of active-duty members, and 12% of DoD civilians reported having no access to fax machines prior to the election.
- 24% of Reserve members, 15% of active-duty members, and 7% of DoD civilians reported having no access to DoD email prior to the election.
- 24% of DoD civilians, 18% of Reserve members, and 17% of active-duty members reported having no access to personal (non-DoD) email prior to the election.
- 11% of Reserve members, 7% of active-duty members, and 6% of DoD civilians reported having no access to government Web sites (e.g., .gov or .mil sites) prior to the election.
- 11% of Reserve members, 11% of DoD civilians, and 8% of active-duty members reported having no access to non-government Web sites (e.g., .com sites) prior to the election.

Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP)

- 16% of active-duty members and 5% of Reserve members indicated visiting the FVAP Web site in the past 12 months. Of DoD civilians who indicated they were outside of the United States on election day, 22% reported visiting the FVAP Web site in the past 12 months.
- 1% of both active-duty members and Reserve members used IVAS. Of DoD civilians who indicated they were outside of the United States on election day, 3% used it.
 - 62% of active-duty members and 44% of Reserve members reported using IVAS to request a ballot.
 - 44% of active-duty members and 33% of Reserve members used IVAS to receive a ballot.
- Of those aware of IVAS, 21% of active-duty members and 23% of Reserve members indicated it was very or extremely useful; 4% of both groups encountered problems using IVAS. Of DoD civilians who indicated they were outside of the United States on election day and were aware of the IVAS, 35% indicated it was very or extremely useful, and 8% indicated they encountered problems using IVAS.

- 13% of active-duty members and 8% of Reserve members indicated they were aware of IVAS, but did not use it. Of DoD civilians who indicated they were outside of the United States on election day, 13% were aware of IVAS, but did not use it.
 - 60% of Reserve members, 49% of active-duty members, and 38% of DoD civilians indicated they did not need IVAS.
 - 21% of DoD civilians, 13% of active-duty members, and 12% of Reserve members indicated they submitted election materials through other means.
 - 8% of active-duty members, 5% of Reserve members, and 3% of DoD civilians indicated they did not know the purpose of IVAS.
 - 4% of Reserve members, 2% of active-duty members, and 1% of DoD civilians indicated they had difficulty accessing the site.
 - 2% of all groups indicated they did not know the Web site address.

Casting an Absentee Ballot Without IVAS

- Military members and DoD civilians who voted by casting an absentee ballot not using IVAS:
 - Requested their ballot from the local election official by postal mail (84-88%), e-mail (8-11%), and by fax (2-3%), and others requested their ballot by e-mail using the FVAP Electronic Transmission Service (1-2%).
 - Received their ballot from the local election official by postal mail (95-96%), e-mail (2-3%), and by fax (1%), and others requested their ballot by e-mail using the FVAP Electronic Transmission Service (1%).
- Military members and DoD civilians who voted by casting an absentee ballot returned their ballot directly to the local election official by postal mail (95-97%), e-mail (1-2%), and by fax (1-2%), and others returned their ballot by e-mail (1%) or fax (0-1%) using the FVAP Electronic Transmission Service.

Active-Duty Service

- Active-duty findings are shown in Table 2. Findings are reported if a subgroup (e.g., Army) is significantly different from its respective “all other” group (e.g., the total population minus Army).

Table 2.
Summary of Active-Duty Findings, by Service

	Army	Navy	Marine Corps	Air Force	Coast Guard
Outside United States on election day	32	20	19	21	6
Voted by absentee ballot	13	18	14	18	16
No access to DoD e-mail	14	16	26	7	39
No access to personal e-mail	16	22	17	12	22
No access to government Web sites	8	8	7	4	5
No access to non-government Web sites	10	10	8	6	8
No access to a fax machine	39	24	20	12	10
Visited FVAP Web site in past 12 months	16	16	14	19	11
Not aware of IVAS	85	86	88	83	91
Aware of IVAS, but did not use it	14	12	11	15	8
Did not know its purpose	9	6	4	11	7
Did not know the Web site address	2	3	4	1	6
Submitted materials through other means	10	20	9	12	11
Did not need it	50	50	50	48	49
Had difficulty accessing the Web site	3	2	0	3	2
Other	27	20	33	25	26
Used IVAS	1	2	1	2	1
To request their absentee ballot	64	NR	NR	52	NR
To receive their blank absentee ballot	NR	NR	NR	35	NR
Of those aware, IVAS was useful	23	20	14	22	19
Of those aware, encountered problems	5	5	4	3	3
Requested absentee ballot (not using IVAS)					
Postal mail to local election official	85	80	86	85	83
Fax to local election official	3	4	1	3	4
Fax using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service	0	0	0	1	2
E-mail to local election official	9	13	11	10	10
E-mail using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service	2	2	1	2	0
Received absentee ballot (not using IVAS)					
Postal mail from local election official	95	95	96	97	95
Fax from local election official	2	0	0	0	1
Fax using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service	0	0	0	0	1
E-mail from local election official	3	3	4	1	3
E-mail using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service	0	1	0	1	0
Returned absentee ballot					
Postal mail to local election official	95	95	93	97	94
Fax to local election official	2	0	2	1	2
Fax using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service	0	1	NR	0	2
E-mail to local election official	2	3	3	1	2
E-mail using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service	1	1	0	0	0

Note. When comparing subgroup results in the current survey, the proportion of each subgroup is compared to its respective “all other” group (i.e., the total population minus the group being assessed). If applicable, blue percentages indicate the subgroup finding was higher; purple percentages indicate the subgroup finding was lower.

NR: Not Reportable

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Reserve Component

- Reserve component findings are shown in Table 3. Findings are reported if a subgroup (e.g., Army National Guard) is significantly different from its respective “all other” group (e.g., the total population minus Army National Guard).

Table 3.
Summary of Reserve Findings, by Component

	ARNG	USAR	USNR	USMCR	ANG	USAFR	USCGR
Outside United States on election day	11	11	5	3	4	4	2
Voted by absentee ballot	9	9	14	8	9	11	10
No access to DoD e-mail	23	22	26	72	16	20	37
No access to personal e-mail	20	16	11	24	16	15	15
No access to government Web sites	11	10	10	16	8	13	13
No access to non-government Web sites	13	11	7	11	9	11	9
No access to a fax machine	35	30	18	35	17	18	18
Visited FVAP Web site in past 12 months	5	6	6	3	3	5	3
Not aware of IVAS	91	89	91	95	94	90	94
Aware of IVAS, but did not use it	8	10	8	5	6	10	6
Did not know its purpose	9	2	4	2	1	1	NR
Did not know the Web site address	2	3	1	1	3	3	NR
Submitted materials through other means	13	9	17	6	16	13	5
Did not need it	54	62	59	80	69	70	NR
Had difficulty accessing the Web site	4	6	2	NR	1	0	NR
Other	17	19	18	9	11	13	NR
Used IVAS	1	1	1	0	1	1	0
To request their absentee ballot	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
To receive their blank absentee ballot	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Of those aware, IVAS was useful	23	22	18	NR	26	28	NR
Of those aware, encountered problems	3	5	7	2	4	1	1
Requested absentee ballot (not using IVAS)							
Postal mail to local election official	89	88	86	84	91	86	89
Fax to local election official	2	3	3	3	3	1	7
Fax using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
E-mail to local election official	8	9	9	NR	5	12	3
E-mail using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service	1	1	1	NR	0	1	1
Received absentee ballot (not using IVAS)							
Postal mail from local election official	96	96	95	98	97	96	99
Fax from local election official	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
Fax using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
E-mail from local election official	2	3	1	2	2	3	1
E-mail using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service	1	1	2	0	0	1	0
Returned absentee ballot							
Postal mail to local election official	98	96	95	98	97	96	NR
Fax to local election official	1	0	2	0	1	2	NR
Fax using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
E-mail to local election official	1	1	2	2	1	1	1
E-mail using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service	1	2	1	0	0	1	0

Note. When comparing subgroup results in the current survey, the proportion of each subgroup is compared to its respective “all other” group (i.e., the total population minus the group being assessed). If applicable, blue percentages indicate the subgroup finding was higher; purple percentages indicate the subgroup finding was lower.

NR: Not Reportable

DoD Civilian Component

- DoD Civilian findings are shown in Table 4. Findings are reported if a subgroup (e.g., Army) is significantly different from its respective “all other” group (e.g., the total population minus Army).

Table 4.
Summary of DoD Civilian Findings, by Component

	Army	Navy	Air Force	DoD Agencies
Outside United States on election day	8	4	4	12
Voted by absentee ballot	32	33	33	36
No access to DoD e-mail	8	9	5	10
No access to personal e-mail	21	29	23	25
No access to government Web sites	5	7	5	7
No access to non-government Web sites	10	12	12	13
No access to a fax machine	12	12	11	14
Visited FVAP Web site in past 12 months	26	13	17	22
Not aware of IVAS	80	88	85	89
Aware of IVAS, but did not use it	16	11	12	9
Did not know its purpose	2	NR	6	NR
Did not know the Web site address	NR	NR	3	NR
Submitted materials through other means	17	NR	NR	NR
Did not need it	38	NR	34	NR
Had difficulty accessing the Web site	1	1	1	NR
Other	40	NR	NR	NR
Used IVAS	4	1	3	2
To request their absentee ballot	NR	NR	NR	NR
To receive their blank absentee ballot	NR	NR	NR	NR
Of those aware, IVAS was useful	43	NR	19	NR
Of those aware, encountered problems	9	2	NR	NR
Requested absentee ballot (not using IVAS)				
Postal mail to local election official	82	88	86	88
Fax to local election official	3	1	5	3
Fax using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service	0	0	0	0
E-mail to local election official	11	10	8	9
E-mail using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service	4	1	1	0
Received absentee ballot (not using IVAS)				
Postal mail from local election official	93	94	93	98
Fax from local election official	0	0	2	1
Fax using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service	0	0	0	0
E-mail from local election official	5	6	NR	1
E-mail using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service	2	0	1	0
Returned absentee ballot				
Postal mail to local election official	94	98	92	97
Fax to local election official	2	0	6	1
Fax using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service	0	0	0	1
E-mail to local election official	3	1	1	1
E-mail using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service	2	0	1	0

Note. When comparing subgroup results in the current survey, the proportion of each subgroup is compared to its respective “all other” group (i.e., the total population minus the group being assessed). If applicable, blue percentages indicate the subgroup finding was higher; purple percentages indicate the subgroup finding was lower.

NR: Not Reportable

Detailed Findings

Location on Election Day

To assess location at the time of election, military members and DoD civilians were asked the following question:

On election day, November 7, 2006, were you outside of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and American Samoa?

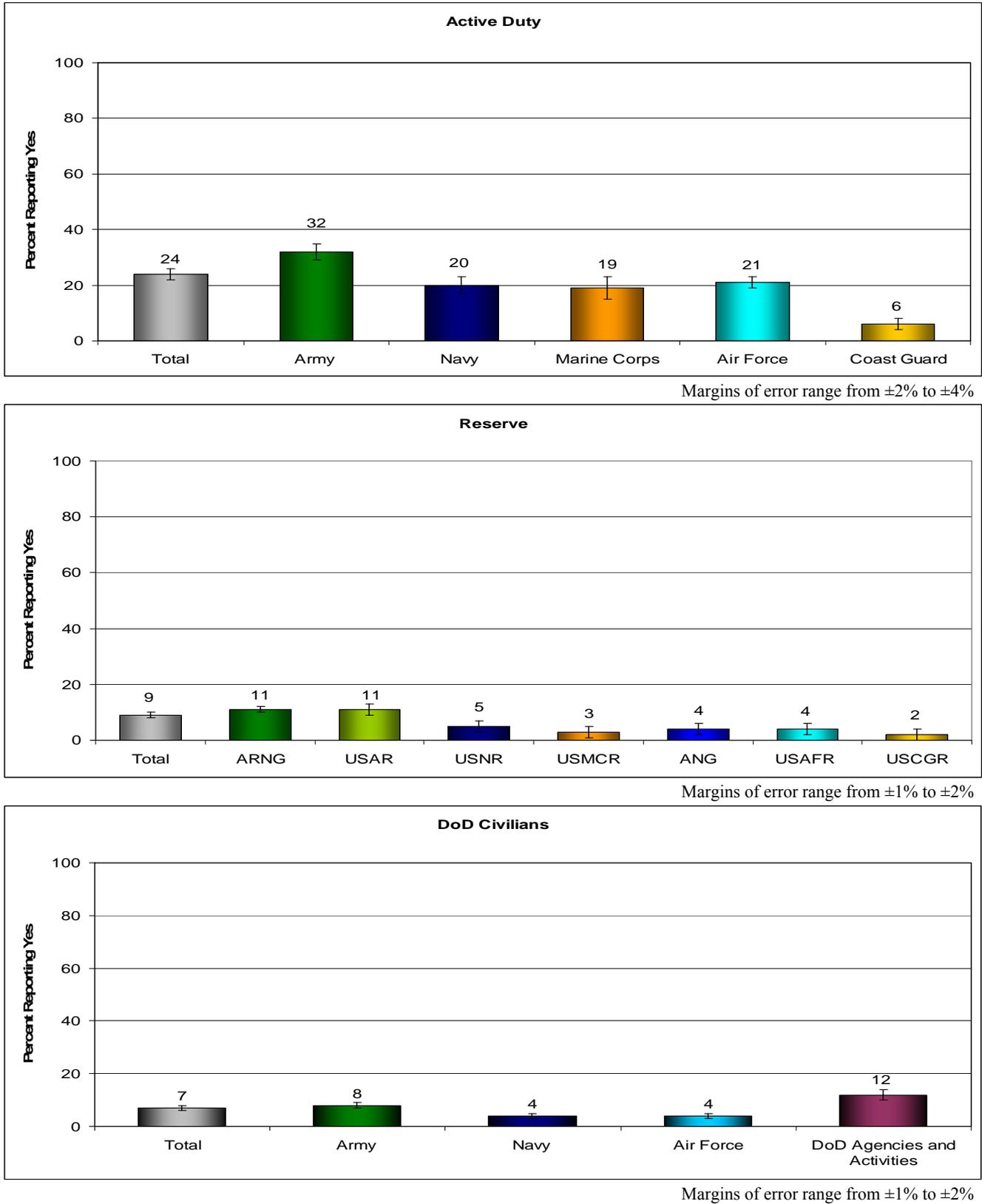
- Yes*
- No*

Figure 1 shows the military members and DoD civilians who indicated they were outside of the United States on election day, by Service/component.

- Overall, 24% of active-duty members indicated they were outside of the United States on election day. Army members (32%) were more likely to indicate they were outside of the United States on election day, whereas Coast Guard (6%), Marine Corps (19%), Navy (20%), and Air Force (21%) members were less likely.
- Overall, 9% of Reserve members indicated they were outside of the United States on election day. Army National Guard and Army Reserve members (both 11%) were more likely to indicate they were outside of the United States on election day, whereas Coast Guard Reserve (2%), Marine Corps Reserve (3%), Air National Guard (4%), Air Force Reserve (4%), and Navy Reserve (5%) members were less likely.
- Overall, 7% of DoD civilians indicated they were outside of the United States on election day. DoD Agency (12%) and Army (8%) employees were more likely to indicate they were outside of the United States on election day, whereas Navy and Air Force employees (both 4%) were less likely.

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Figure 1.
Outside of the United States on Election Day, November 7, 2006, by Service/Component



Voting Behavior

To assess voting behavior, military members and DoD civilians were asked the following question:

A lot of people do not get to vote because they weren't registered, they were sick, or they just didn't have time. How about you--did you vote in the elections this November?

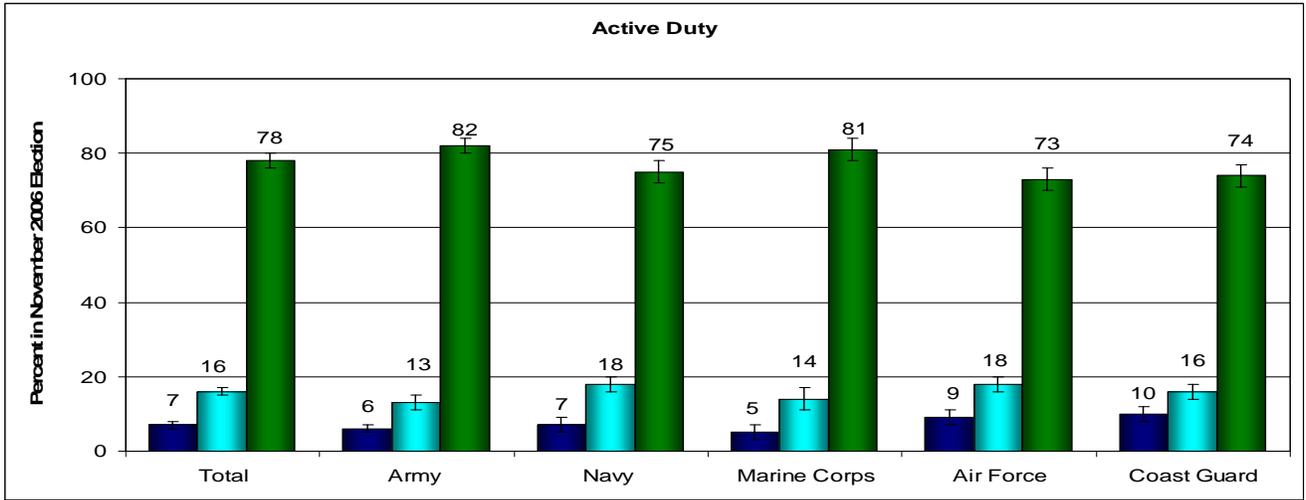
- *Yes, voted in person on election day*
- *Yes, voted by mailing, e-mailing, faxing, or in some other way casting an absentee ballot*
- *No*

Figure 2 shows the percentage of military members and DoD civilians who indicated their voting behavior, by Service/component.

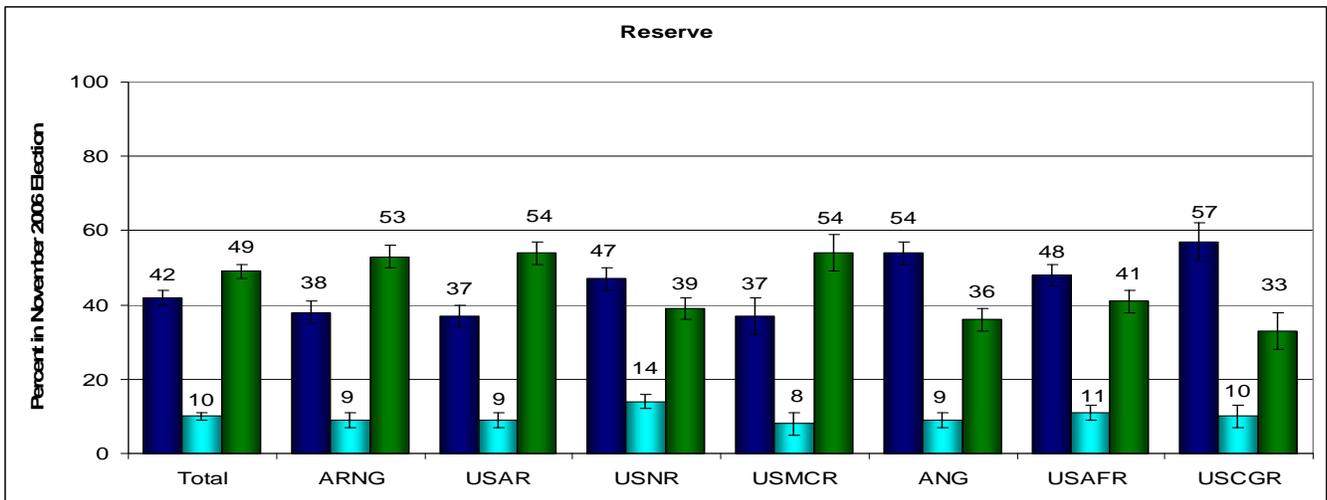
- Overall, 78% of active-duty members indicated they did not vote in the November 2006 election, 16% indicated they voted by casting an absentee ballot, and 7% indicated they voted in person. Army (82%) and Marine Corps (81%) members were more likely to indicate they did not vote, whereas Air Force (73%) and Coast Guard (74%) members were less likely. Navy and Air Force (both 18%) members were more likely to indicate they voted absentee ballot, whereas Army members (13%) were less likely. Coast Guard (10%) and Air Force (9%) members were more likely to indicate they voted in person, whereas Army members (6%) were less likely.
- Overall, 49% of Reserve members indicated they did not vote in the November 2006 general election, 42% indicated they voted in person, and 10% voted by casting an absentee ballot. Army Reserve (54%), Marine Corps Reserve (54%), and Army National Guard (53%) members were more likely to indicate they did not vote, whereas Coast Guard Reserve (33%), Air National Guard (36%), Navy Reserve (39%), and Air Force Reserve (41%) members were less likely. Coast Guard Reserve (57%), Air National Guard (54%), Air Force Reserve (48%), and Navy Reserve (47%) members were more likely to indicate they voted in person, whereas Army Reserve (37%) and Army National Guard (38%) members were less likely. Navy Reserve members (14%) were more likely to indicate they voted by casting an absentee ballot.
- Of DoD civilians who indicated they were outside of the United States on election day, 58% indicated they did not vote, 33% voted by casting an absentee ballot, and 9% indicated they voted in person. Navy employees (17%) were more likely to indicate they voted in person.

The best comparative study of voter participation is the Current Population Survey (CPS). However, results from the November 2006 CPS will not be published until November 2007. The next best comparison is the American National Election Study (ANES) which has used nationally representative biennial samples for decades through 2004. The ANES sample for 2006 was limited to a pilot test with participants from the 2004 survey, which leaves the 2002 survey as the best of the currently available comparisons for a nationally representative sample survey in a non-presidential election year with self-reported voter participation. Results of the 2002 ANES showed that of those born in 1975 or later (roughly those aged 18 to 27), 31% reported voting, versus 38% of Americans in general. According to exit polls in 2006, voter turnout probably increased by about 2 to 4 percentage points from 2002.

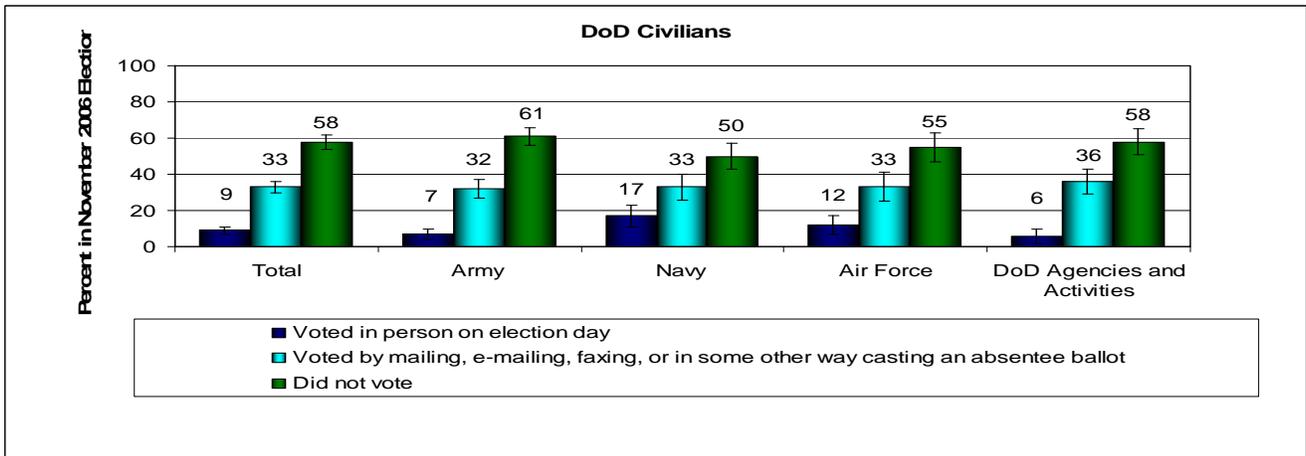
Figure 2.
Voting Behavior, by Service/Component



Margins of error range from ±1% to ±3%



Margins of error range from ±1% to ±5%



Item asked only of DoD civilians outside the United States on election day.

Margins of error range from ±2% to ±8%

Available Communication Options and Access Prior to Election Day

To assess the availability of communication options in the 50 days preceding the election, military members and DoD civilians were asked about their access to e-mail, Web sites, and fax machines.

Access to DoD Email

To assess opportunities to use DoD e-mail, military members and DoD civilians who indicated they had a DoD e-mail address were asked the following question:

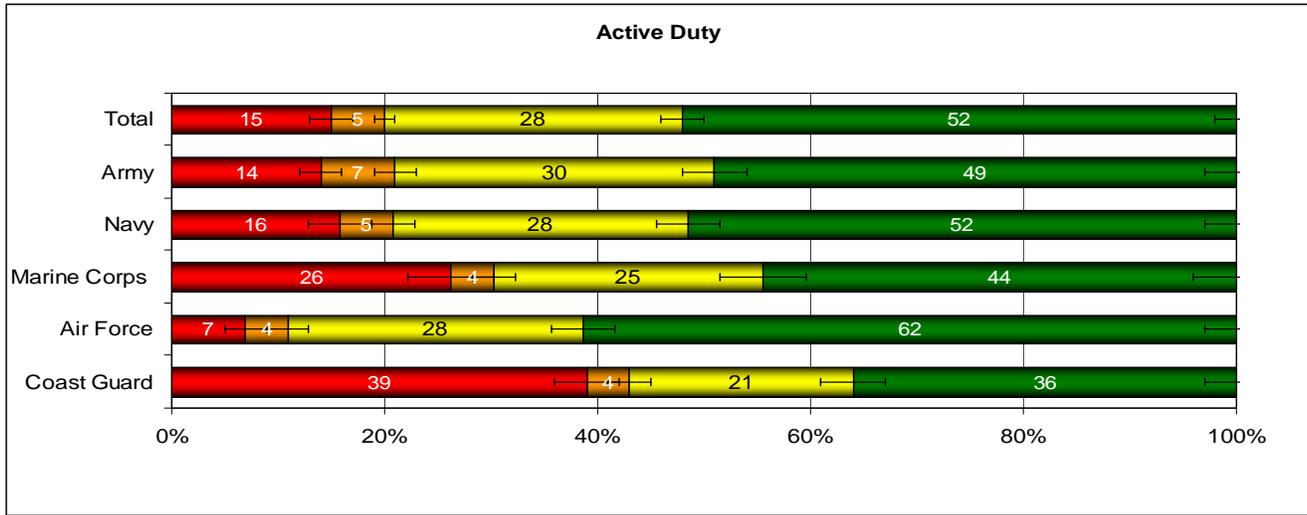
Considering your location and working conditions, approximately how many days did you have access to your DoD e-mail between September 18 and November 6, 2006?

Figure 3 shows the average number of days military members and DoD civilians had access to their DoD e-mail between September 18 and November 6 (a span of 50 days), by Service/component. Those who indicated they did not have a DoD e-mail address are counted as having access “0 days.”

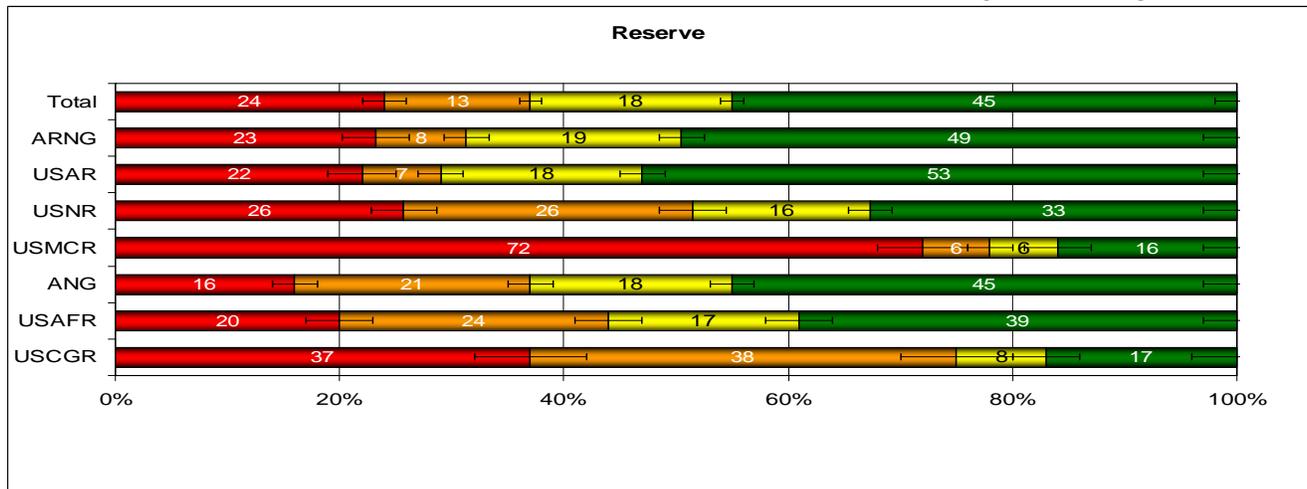
- Overall, 15% of active-duty members reported having no access to their DoD e-mail (0 days), 5% reported having access 1-14 days, 28% reported having access 15-49 days, and 52% reported having access every day. Coast Guard (39%) and Marine Corps (26%) members were more likely to report having no access, whereas Air Force members (7%) were less likely. Air Force members (62%) were more likely to report having access every day, whereas Coast Guard (36%), Marine Corps (44%), and Army (49%) members were less likely.
- Overall, of 24% Reserve members who reported having no access to their DoD email (0 days), 13% reported having access 1-14 days, 18% reported having access 15-49 days, and 45% reported having access every day. Marine Corps Reserve (72%) and Coast Guard Reserve (37%) members were more likely to report having no access, whereas Air National Guard (16%), Air Force Reserve (20%), and Army Reserve (22%) members were less likely. Army Reserve (53%) and Army National Guard (49%) members were more likely to report having access every day, whereas Marine Corps Reserve (16%), Coast Guard Reserve (17%) Navy Reserve (33%), and Air Force Reserve (39%) members were less likely.
- Overall, 7% of DoD civilians reported having no access to their DoD e-mail (0 days), 3% reported having access 1-14 days, 27% reported having access 15-49 days, and 62% reported having access every day. DoD Agency (10%) and Navy (9%) employees were more likely to report having no access, whereas Air Force employees (5%) were less likely. Army employees (64%) were more likely to report having access every day, whereas Navy employees (59%) were less likely.

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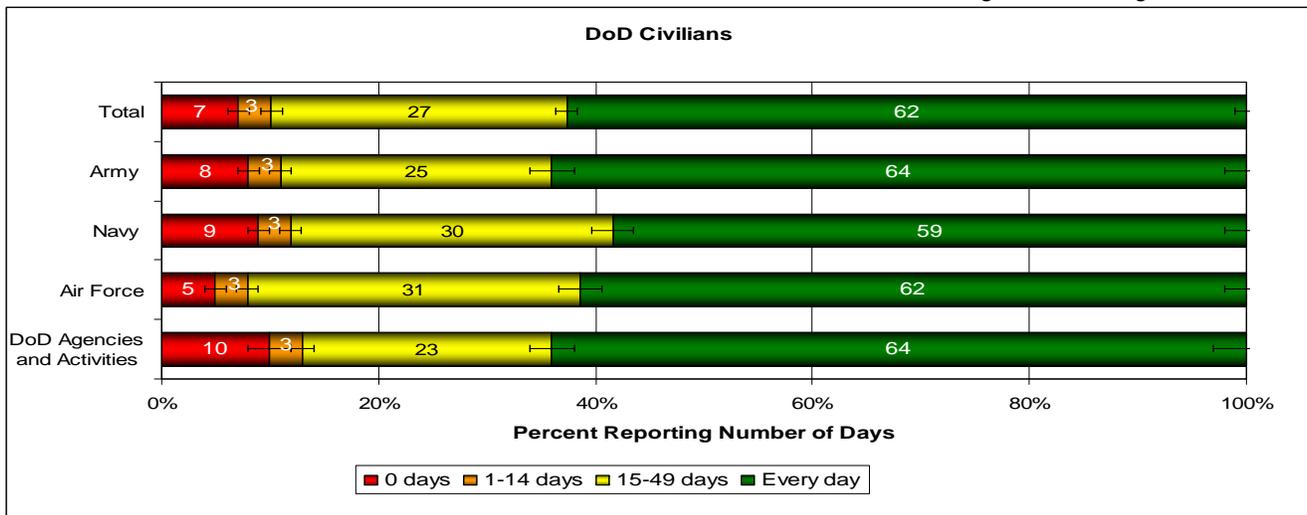
Figure 3.
Percent Reporting Number of Days With Access to DoD E-mail, by Service/Component



Margins of error range from ± 1 to $\pm 4\%$



Margins of error range from ± 1 to $\pm 5\%$



Margins of error range from ± 1 to $\pm 3\%$

Access to Personal (Non-DoD) E-mail

To assess opportunities to use personal (non-DoD) e-mail, military members and DoD civilians who indicated they had a personal (non-DoD) e-mail address were asked the following question:

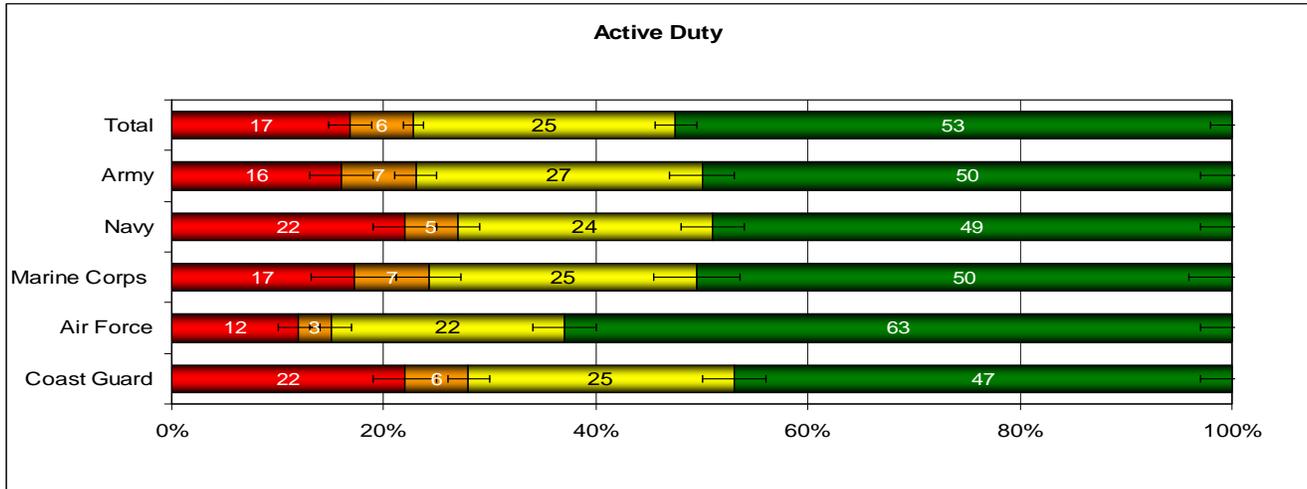
Considering your location and working conditions, approximately how many days did you have access to your personal (non-DoD) e-mail between September 18 and November 6, 2006?

Figure 4 shows the average number of days military members and DoD civilians who had a personal (non-DoD) e-mail address indicated that they had access to it between September 18 and November 6 (a span of 50 days), by Service/component. Those who indicated they did not have a personal e-mail address are counted as having access “0 days.”

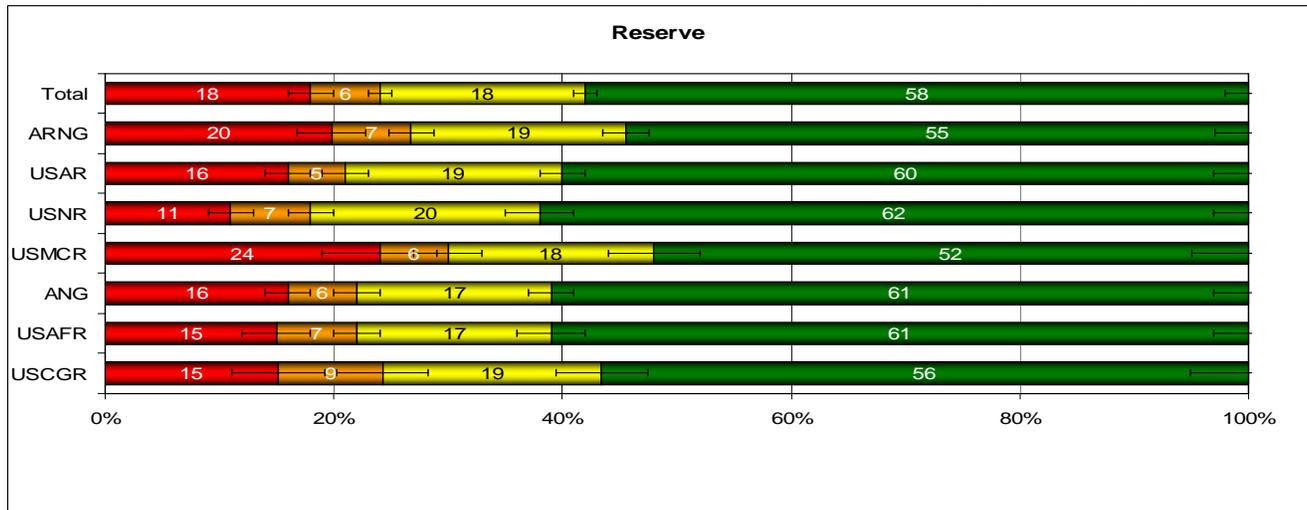
- Overall, 17% of active-duty members reported having no access to their personal e-mail (0 days), 6% reported having access 1-14 days, 25% reported having access 15-49 days, and 53% reported having access every day. Navy and Coast Guard members (both 22%) were more likely to report having no access, whereas Air Force members (12%) were less likely. Air Force members (63%) were more likely to report having access every day, whereas Navy (49%) and Army (50%) members were less likely.
- Overall, 18% Reserve members reporting having no access to their personal e-mail (0 days), 6% reported having access 1-14 days, 18% reported having access 15-49 days, and 58% reported having access every day. Marine Corps Reserve (24%) and Army National Guard (20%) members were more likely to report having no access, whereas Navy Reserve members (11%) were less likely. Navy Reserve (62%) and Air National Guard (61%) members were more likely to report having access every day, whereas Marine Corps Reserve (52%) and Army National Guard (55%) members were less likely.
- Overall, 24% of DoD civilians reported having no access to their personal e-mail (0 days), 3% reported having access 1-14 days, 24% reported having access 15-49 days, and 59% reported having access every day. Navy employees (29%) were more likely to report having no access, whereas Army employees (21%) were less likely. Army employees (62%) were more likely to report having access every day, whereas Navy employees (54%) were less likely.

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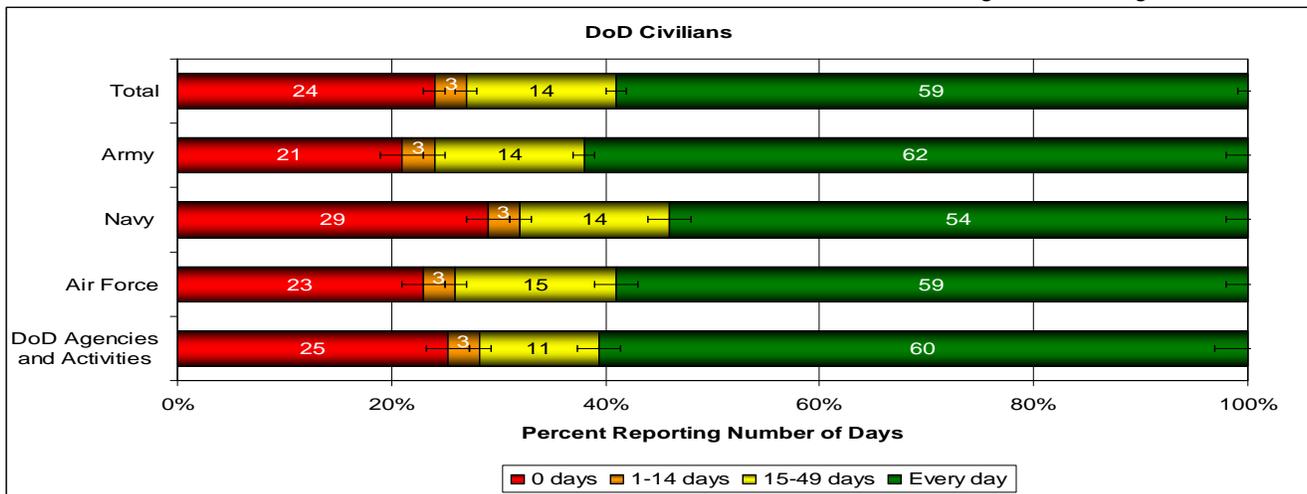
Figure 4.
Percent Reporting Number of Days With Access to Personal E-mail, by Service/Component



Margins of error range from ± 1 to $\pm 4\%$



Margins of error range from ± 1 to $\pm 5\%$



Margins of error range from ± 1 to $\pm 3\%$

Access to Government Web Sites

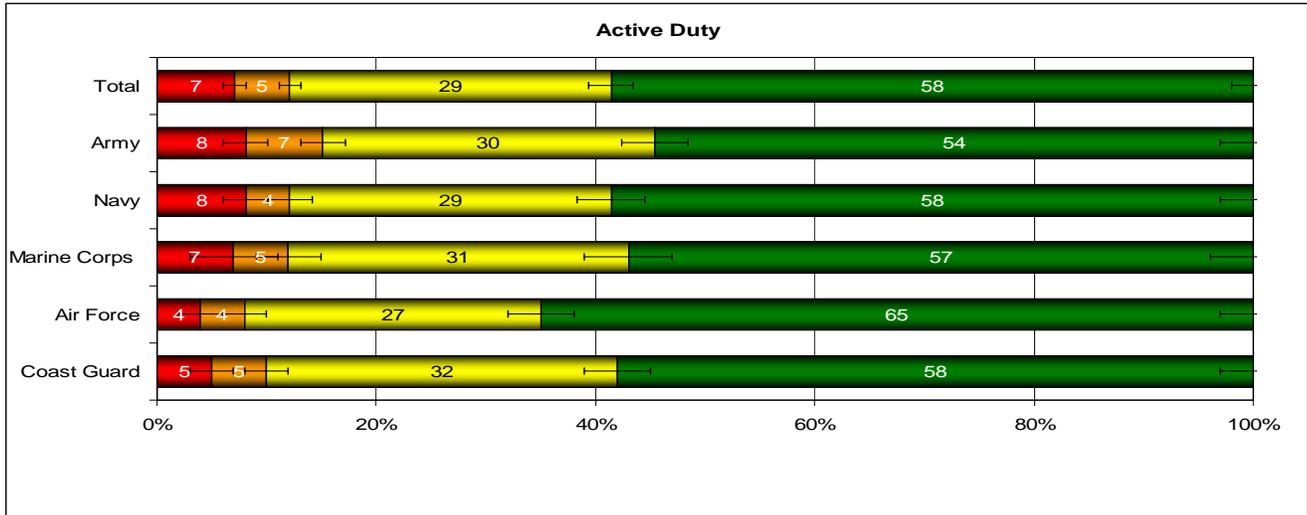
To assess opportunities to visit government Web sites, military members and DoD civilians who indicated they had a way to access government Web sites were asked the following question:

Considering your location and working conditions, approximately how many days did you have access to government Web sites (e.g., .gov or .mil sites) between September 18 and November 6, 2006?

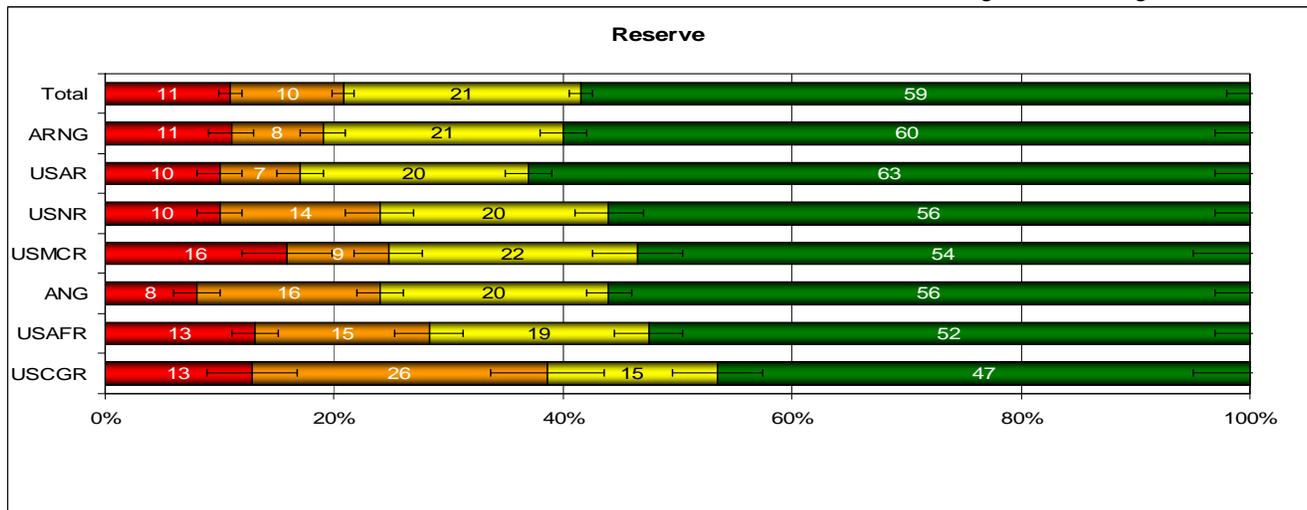
Figure 5 shows the average number of days military members and DoD civilians who had access to government Web sites indicated they had opportunities to visit such sites between September 18 and November 6 (a span of 50 days), by Service/component. Those who indicated they did not have access to government Web sites are counted as having access “0 days.”

- Overall, 7% of active-duty members reported having no access to government Web sites (0 days), 5% reported having access 1-14 days, 29% reported having access 15-49 days, and 58% reported having access every day. Air Force members (4%) were less likely to report having no access. Air Force members (65%) were more likely to report having access every day, whereas Army members (54%) were less likely.
- Overall, 11% of Reserve members reported having no access to government Web sites (0 days), 10% reported having access 1-14 days, 21% reported having access 15-49 days, and 59% reported having access every day. Marine Corps Reserve members (16%) were more likely to report having no access, whereas Air National Guard members (8%) were less likely. Army Reserve (63%) members were more likely to report having access every day, whereas Coast Guard Reserve (47%) and Air Force Reserve (52%) members were less likely.
- Overall, 6% of DoD civilians reported having no access to government Web sites (0 days), 3% reported having access 1-14 days, 24% reported having access 15-49 days, and 66% reported having access every day. Navy employees (7%) were more likely to report having no access, whereas Air Force employees (5%) were less likely. DoD Agency (69%) and Army (68%) employees were more likely to report having access every day, whereas Navy and Air Force employees (both 64%) were less likely.

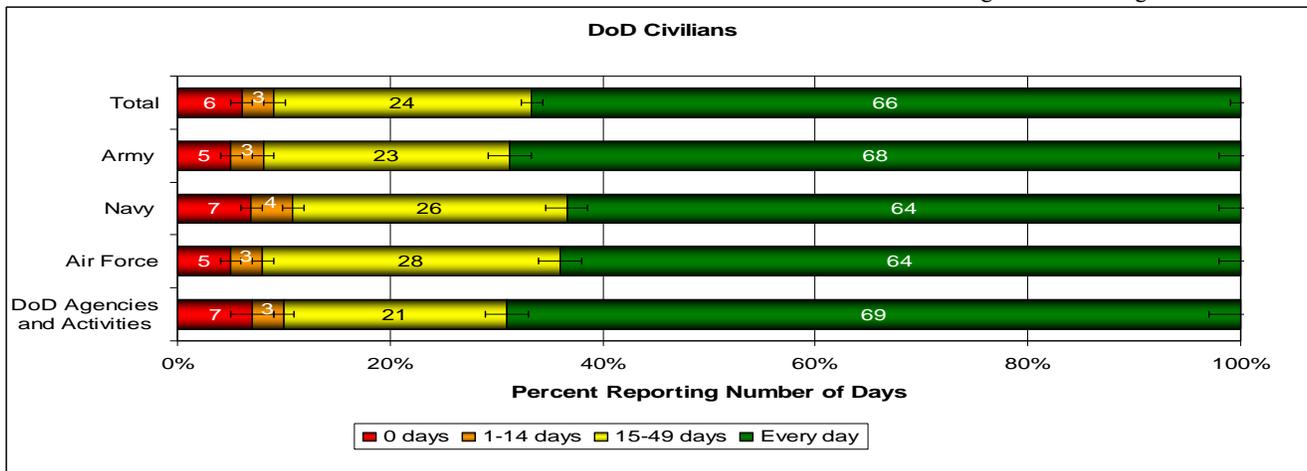
Figure 5.
Percent Reporting Number of Days With Access to Government Web Sites, by Service/Component



Margins of error range from ±1 to ±4%



Margins of error range from ±1 to ±5%



Margins of error range from ±1 to ±3%

Access to Non-Government Web Sites

To assess opportunities to visit non-government Web sites, military members and DoD civilians who indicated they had a way to access non-government Web sites were asked the following question:

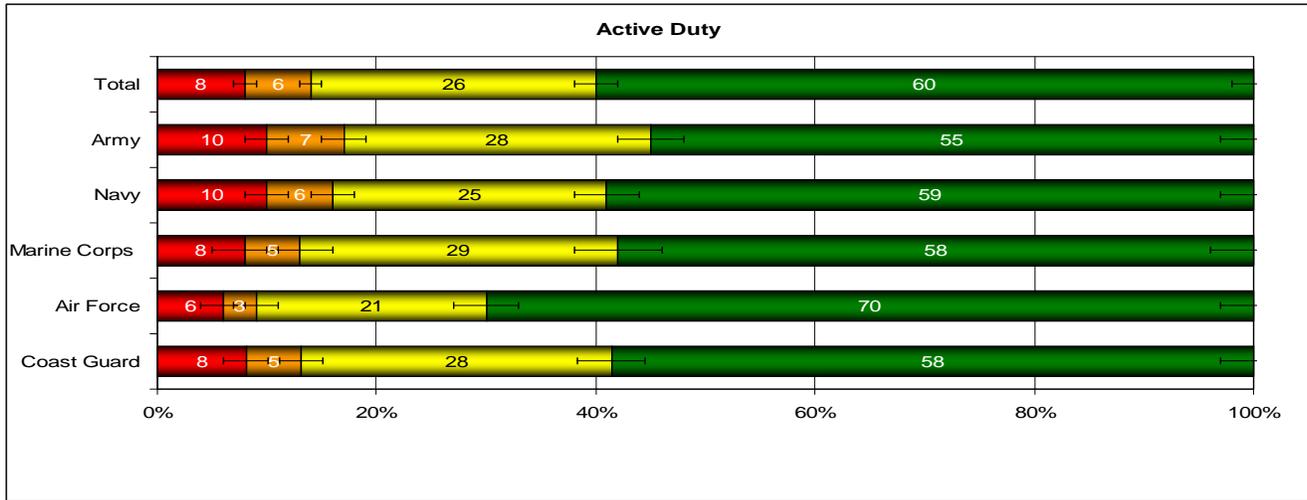
Considering your location and working conditions, approximately how many days did you have access to non-government Web sites (e.g., .com sites) between September 18 and November 6, 2006?

Figure 6 shows the average number of days military members and DoD civilians who had access to non-government Web sites indicated they had opportunities to visit such sites between September 18 and November 6 (a span of 50 days), by Service/component. Those who indicated they did not have access to non-government Web sites are counted as having access “0 days.”

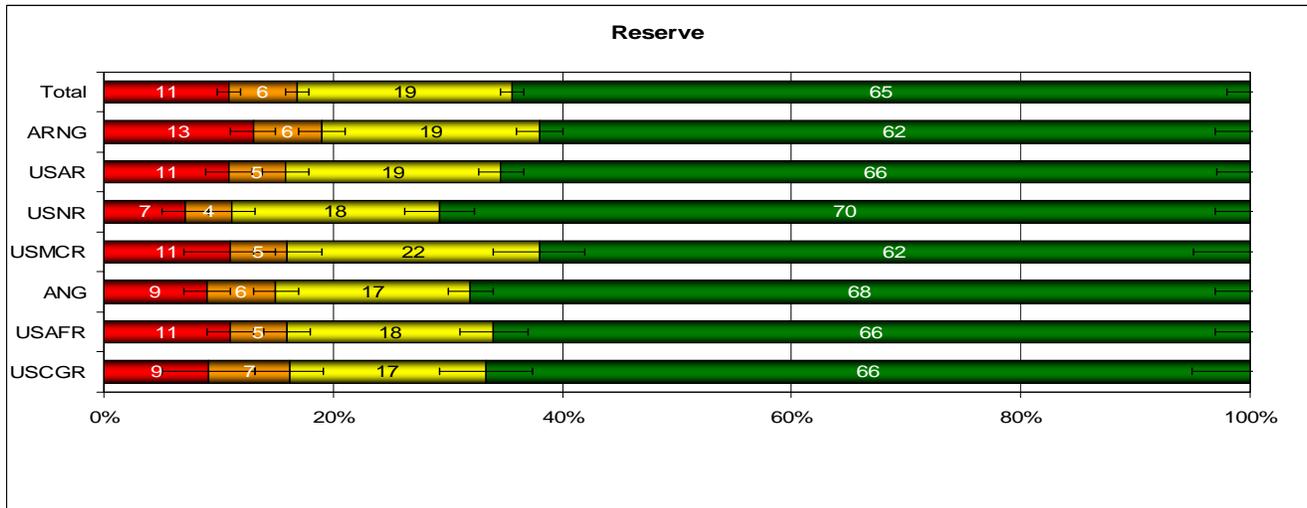
- Overall, 8% of active-duty members reported having no access to non-government Web sites (0 days), 6% reported having access 1-14 days, 26% reported having access 15-49 days, and 60% reported having access every day. Air Force members (6%) were less likely to report having no access. Air Force members (70%) were more likely to report having access every day, whereas Army members (55%) were less likely.
- Overall, 11% of Reserve members reported having no access to non-government Web sites (0 days), 6% reported having access 1-14 days, 19% reported having access 15-49 days, and 65% reported having access every day. Army National Guard members (13%) were more likely to report having no access, whereas Navy Reserve (7%) and Air National Guard (9%) members were less likely. Navy Reserve (70%) and Air National Guard (68%) members were more likely to report having access every day, whereas Army National Guard members (62%) were less likely.
- Overall, 11% of DoD civilians reported having no access to non-government Web sites (0 days), 4% reported having access 1-14 days, 17% reported having access 15-49 days, and 68% reported having access every day. Army employees (10%) were less likely to report having no access and more likely to report having access every day (69%).

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance

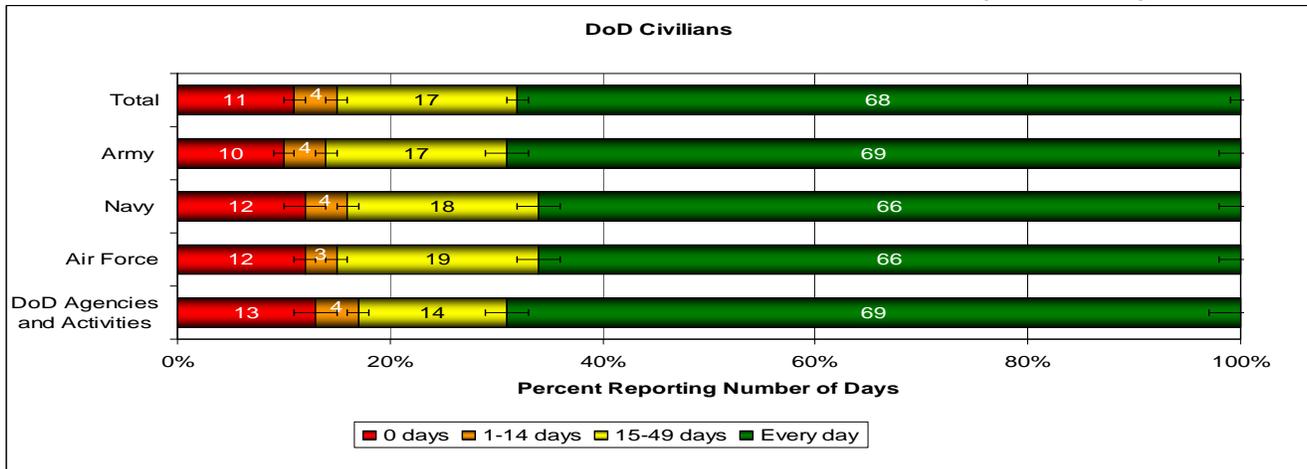
Figure 6.
Percent Reporting Number of Days With Access to Non-Govt. Web Sites, by Service/Component



Margins of error range from ± 1 to $\pm 4\%$



Margins of error range from ± 1 to $\pm 5\%$



Margins of error range from ± 1 to $\pm 3\%$

Access to a Fax Machine

To assess opportunities to use a fax machine, military members and DoD civilians who indicated they had a way to send/receive faxes were asked the following question:

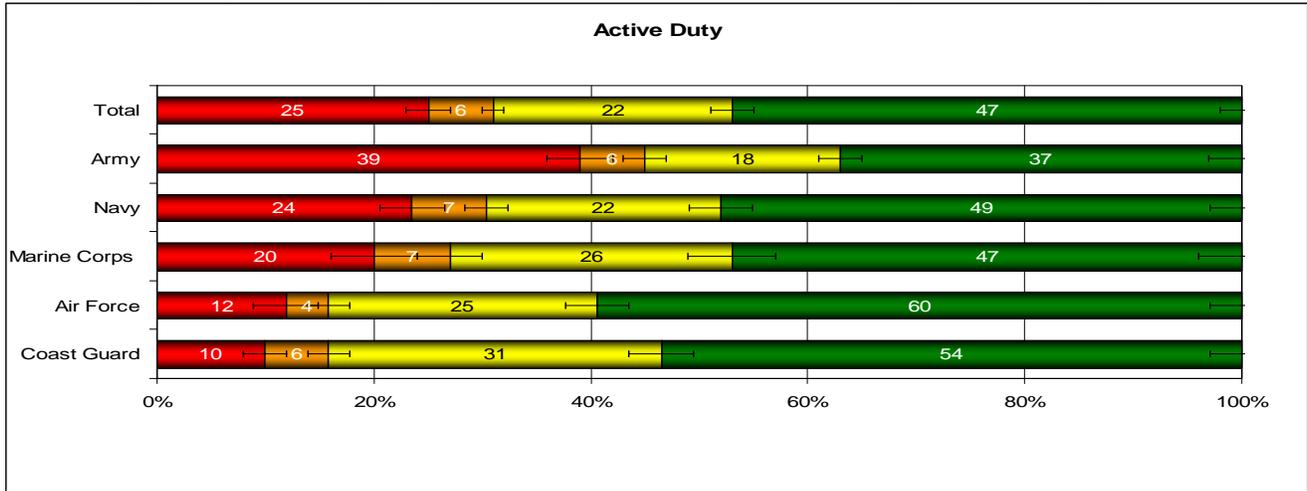
Considering your location and working conditions, approximately how many days did you have access to a fax machine between September 18 and November 6, 2006?

Figure 7 shows the average number of days military members and DoD civilians who had a fax machine indicated they had access to it between September 18 and November 6 (a span of 50 days), by Service/component. Those who indicated they did not have access to a fax machine are counted as having access “0 days.”

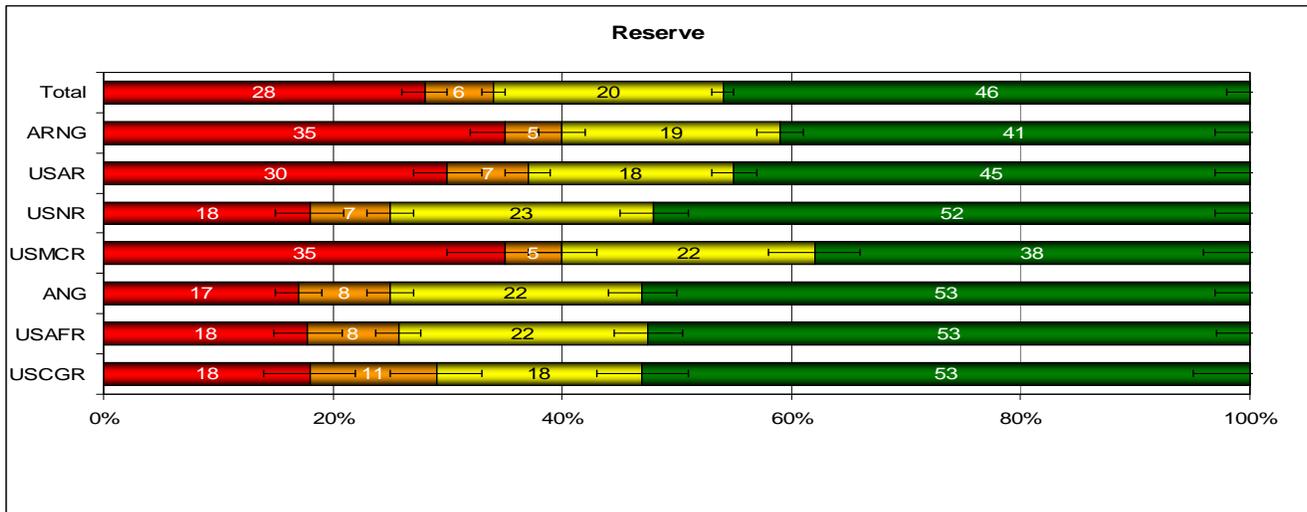
- Overall, 25% of active-duty members reported having no access to a fax machine (0 days), 6% reported having access 1-14 days, 22% reported having access 15-49 days, and 47% reported having access every day. Army members (39%) were more likely to indicate having no access, whereas Coast Guard (10%), Air Force (12%), and Marine Corps (20%) members were less likely. Air Force (60%) and Coast Guard (54%) were more likely to indicate having access every day.
- Overall, 28% of Reserve members reported having no access to a fax machine (0 days), 6% reported having access 1-14 days, 20% reported having access 15-49 days, and 46% reported having access every day. Army National Guard and Marine Corps Reserve members (both 35%) were more likely to indicate having no access, whereas Air National Guard (17%), Navy Reserve (18%), Air Force Reserve (18%), and Coast Guard Reserve (18%) members were less likely. Air National Guard (53%), Air Force Reserve (53%), Coast Guard Reserve (53%), and Navy Reserve (52%) members were more likely to indicate having access every day, whereas Marine Corps Reserve (38%) and Army National Guard (41%) members were less likely.
- Overall, 12% of DoD civilians reported having no access to a fax machine (0 days), 4% reported having access 1-14 days, 27% reported having access 15-49 days, and 57% reported having access every day.

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance

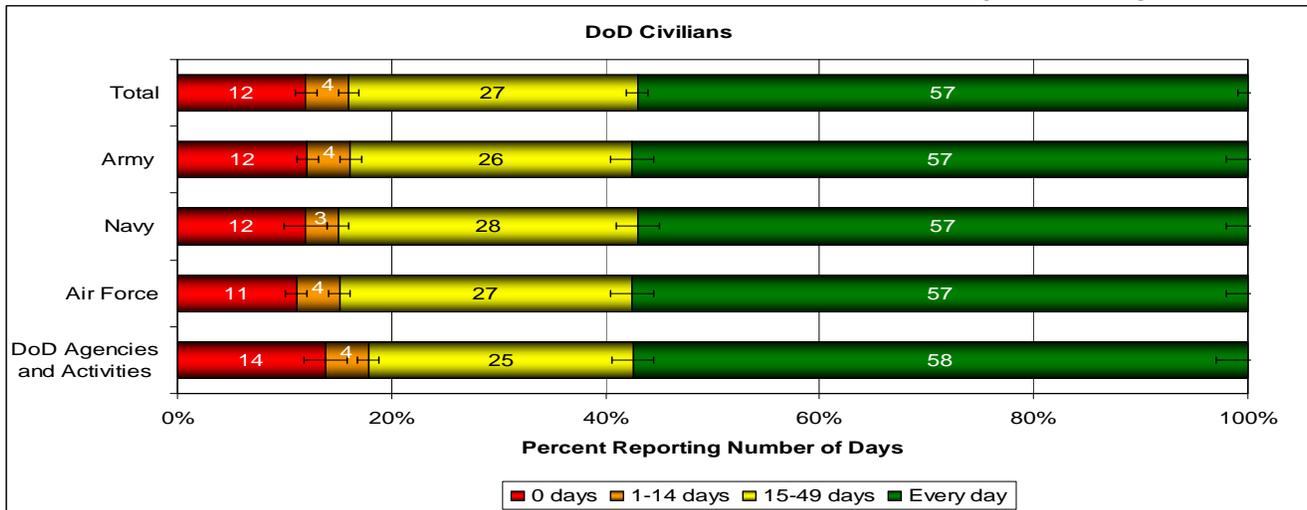
Figure 7.
Percent Reporting Number of Days With Access to a Fax Machine, by Service/Component



Margins of error range from ± 1 to $\pm 4\%$



Margins of error range from ± 1 to $\pm 5\%$



Margins of error range from ± 1 to $\pm 3\%$

Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP)

To assess the awareness and use of the Federal Voting Assistance Program, military members and DoD civilians were asked about visiting the FVAP Web site, their awareness and use of the Integrated Voting Alternative Site (IVAS), and reason for not using IVAS.

Visits to the Federal Voting Assistance Program Web Site

To assess visits to the FVAP Web site in the past 12 months, military members and DoD civilians were asked the following question:

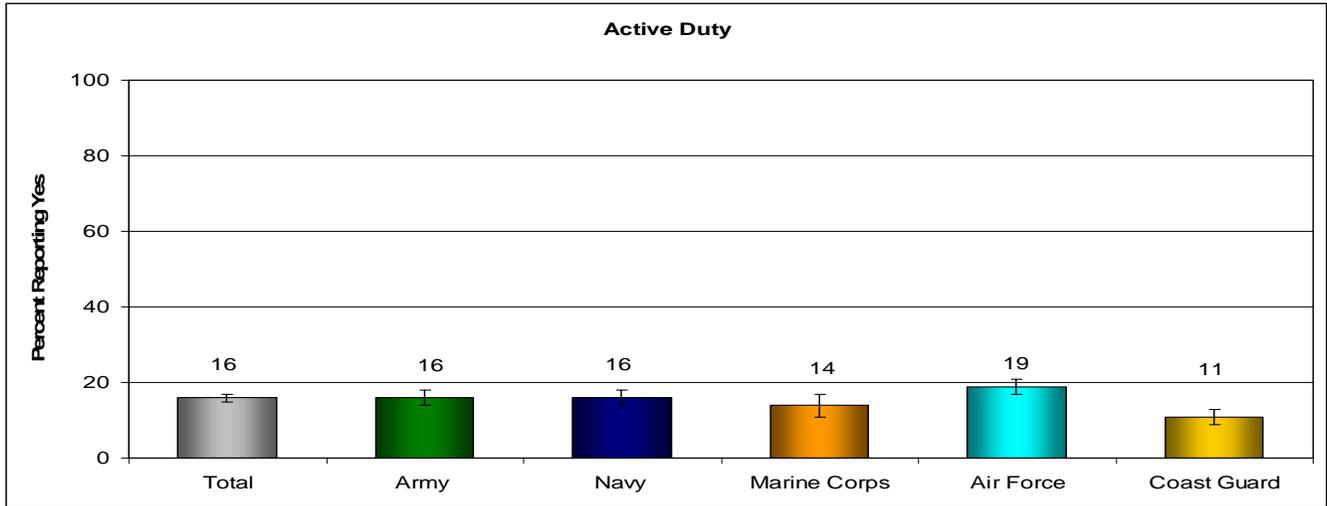
Have you visited the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) Web site (www.fvap.gov) in the past 12 months?

- Yes*
- No*

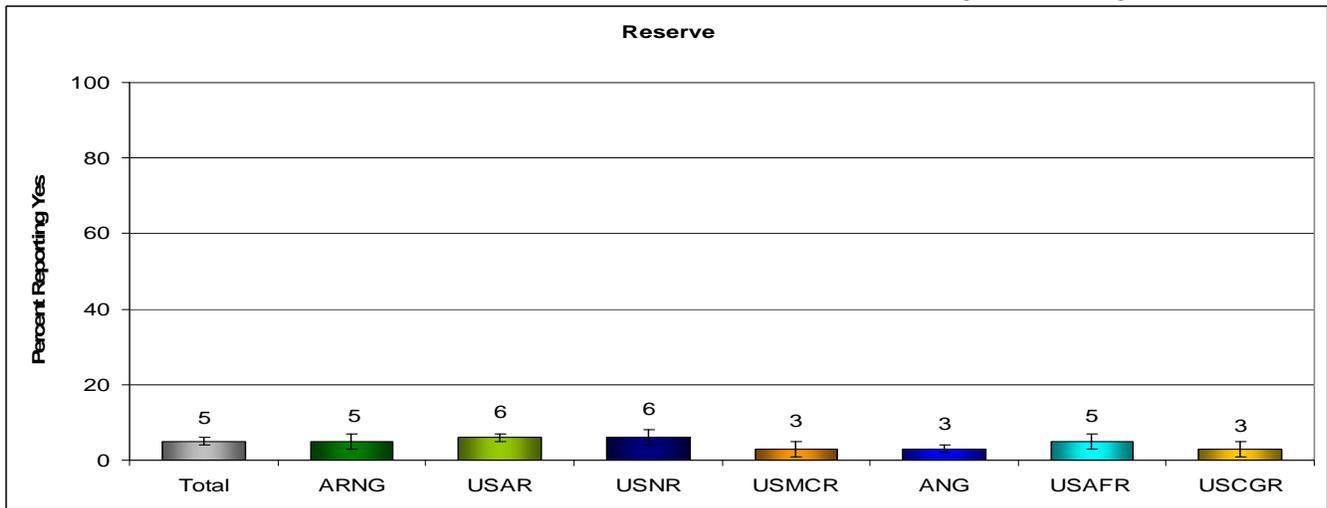
Figure 8 shows the percentage of military members and DoD civilians who indicated visiting the FVAP Web site, by Service/component.

- Overall, 16% of active-duty members indicated visiting the FVAP Web site in the past 12 months. Air Force members (19%) were more likely to indicate visiting the FVAP Web site in the past 12 months, whereas Coast Guard members (11%) were less likely.
- Overall, 5% of Reserve members indicated visiting the FVAP Web site in the past 12 months. Marine Corps Reserve (3%), Air National Guard (3%), and Coast Guard Reserve (3%) members were less likely to indicate visiting the FVAP Web site in the past 12 months.
- Of DoD civilians who indicated they were outside of the United States on election day, 22% indicated visiting the FVAP Web site in the past 12 months. Army employees (26%) were more likely to indicate visiting the FVAP Web site in the past 12 months, whereas Navy employees (13%) were less likely.

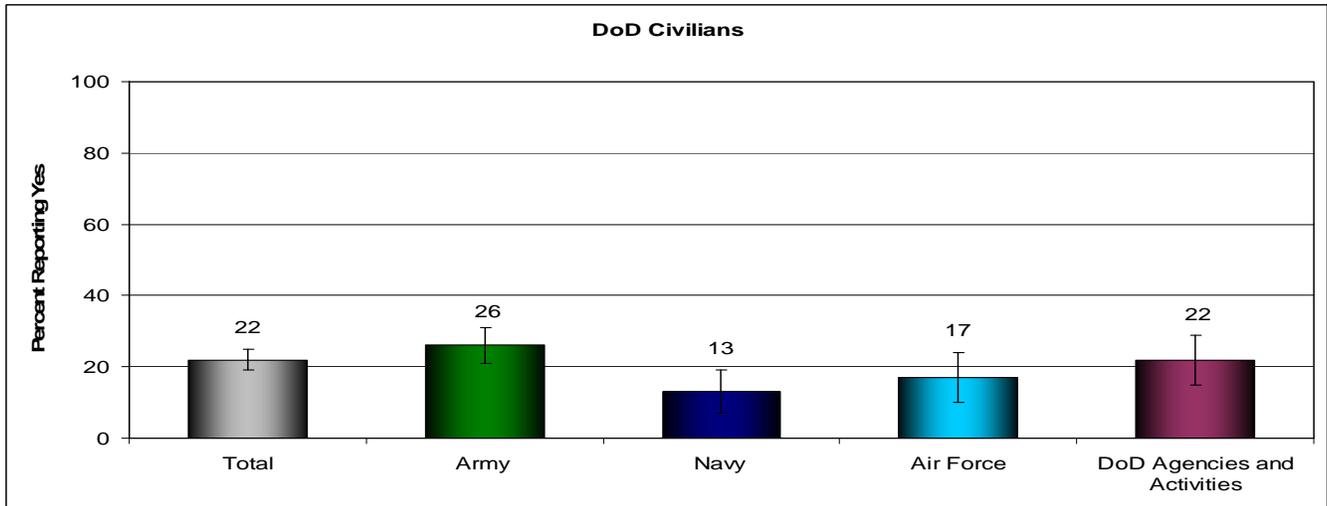
Figure 8.
 Visited FVAP Web Site, by Service/Component



Margins of error range from ±1% to ±3%



Margins of error range from ±1% to ±2%



Item asked only of DoD civilians outside the United States on election day.

Margins of error range from ±3% to ±7%

Awareness of the Integrated Voting Alternative Site (IVAS)

To assess awareness of IVAS prior to the election, military members and DoD civilians were asked the following question:

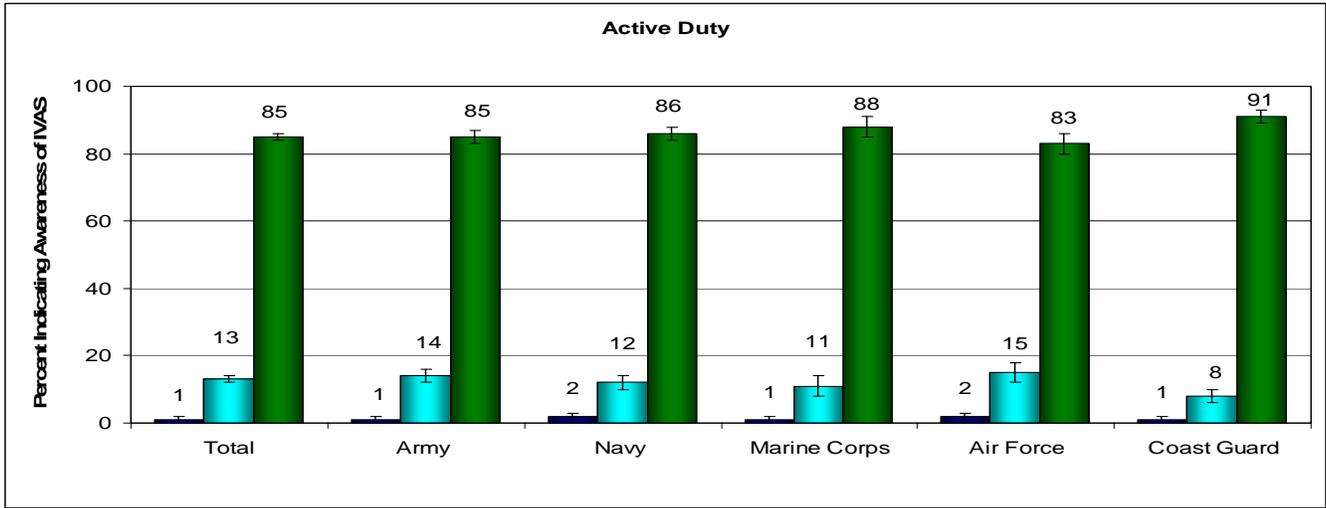
Before the November 2006 general election, were you aware of the Integrated Voting Alternative Site (IVAS)?

- Yes, and I used it*
- Yes, but I did not use it*
- No*

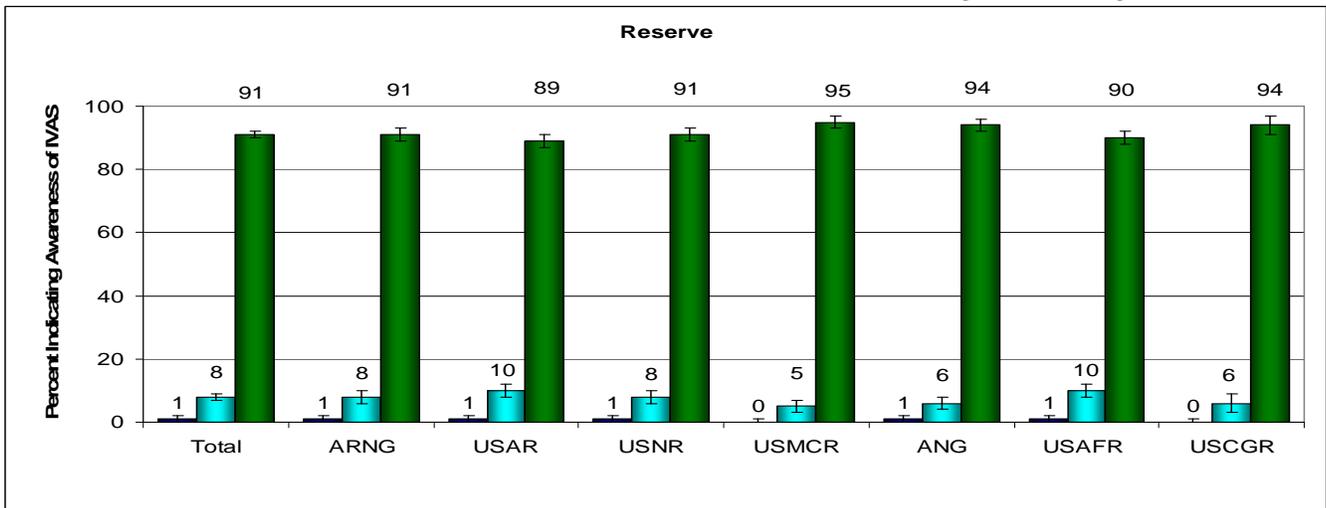
Figure 9 shows the percentage of military members and DoD civilians who indicated they were aware of IVAS prior to the November 2006 general election, by Service/component.

- Overall, 85% of active-duty members were not aware of the Integrated Voting Alternative Site (IVAS) before the November 2006 general election, 13% were aware of IVAS, but did not use it, and 1% used IVAS. Coast Guard members (91%) were more likely to indicate they were not aware of IVAS.
- Overall, 91% of Reserve members were not aware of the Integrated Voting Alternative Site (IVAS) before the November 2006 election, 8% were aware of IVAS, but did not use it, and 1% used IVAS. Marine Corps Reserve (95%), Air National Guard (94%), and Coast Guard Reserve (94%) members were more likely to indicate they were not aware of IVAS, whereas Army Reserve members (89%) were less likely. Army Reserve members (10%) were more likely to indicate they were aware of IVAS, but did not use it, whereas Marine Corps Reserve (5%) and Air National Guard (6%) members were less likely. Marine Corps Reserve and Coast Guard Reserve (both 0%) members were less likely to indicate they used IVAS.
- Of DoD civilians who indicated they were outside of the United States on election day, 84% were not aware of the Integrated Voting Alternative Site (IVAS) before the November 2006 election, 13% were aware of IVAS, but did not use it, and 3% used IVAS. Army employees (16%) were more likely to indicate they were aware of IVAS, but did not use it. Army employees (80%) were less likely to indicate they were not aware of IVAS, whereas DoD Agency employees (89%) were more likely.

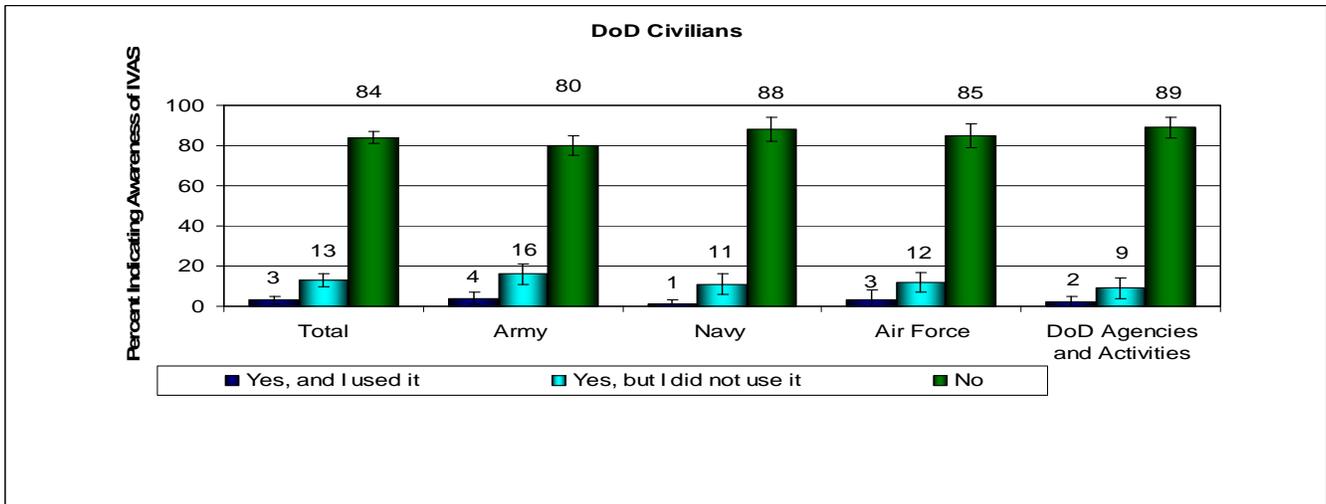
Figure 9.
Awareness of IVAS, by Service/Component



Margins of error range from ±1% to ±3%



Margins of error range from ±1% to ±3%



Item asked only of DoD civilians outside the United States on election day.

Margins of error range from ±2% to ±6%

Requesting and Receiving an Absentee Ballot using the Integrated Voting Alternative Site

To assess whether the military members and DoD civilians who used IVAS requested or received absentee ballots, the following question was asked:

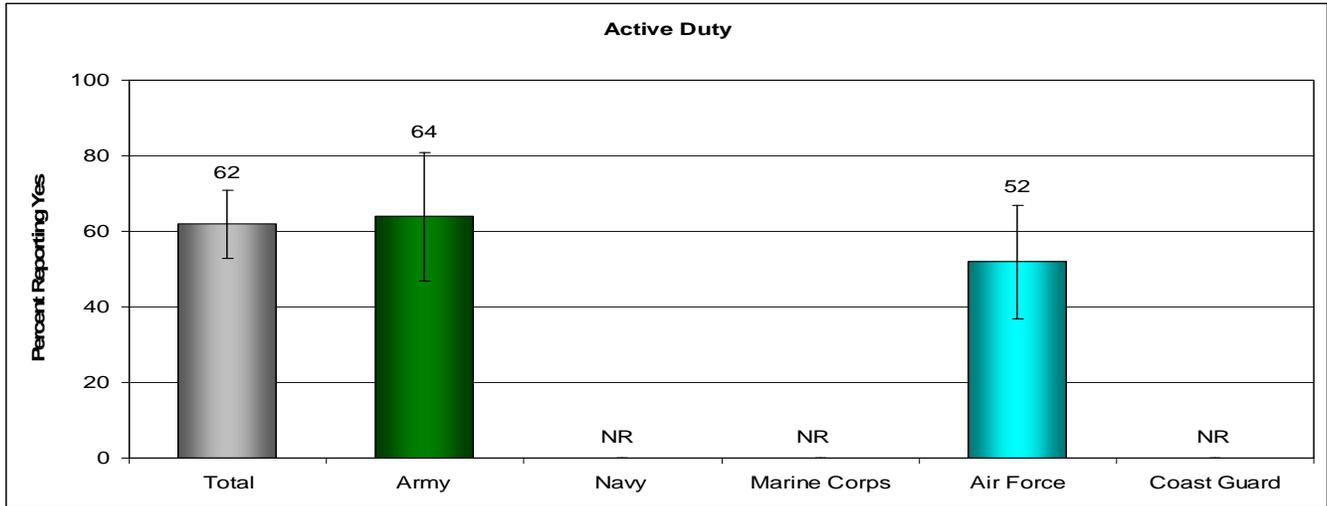
Did you use the Integrated Voting Alternative Site (IVAS) to do either of the following?

- *Request your absentee ballot*
- *Receive your blank absentee ballot*

Figure 10 shows the percentage of members who indicated they used IVAS to request a ballot, by Service/component.

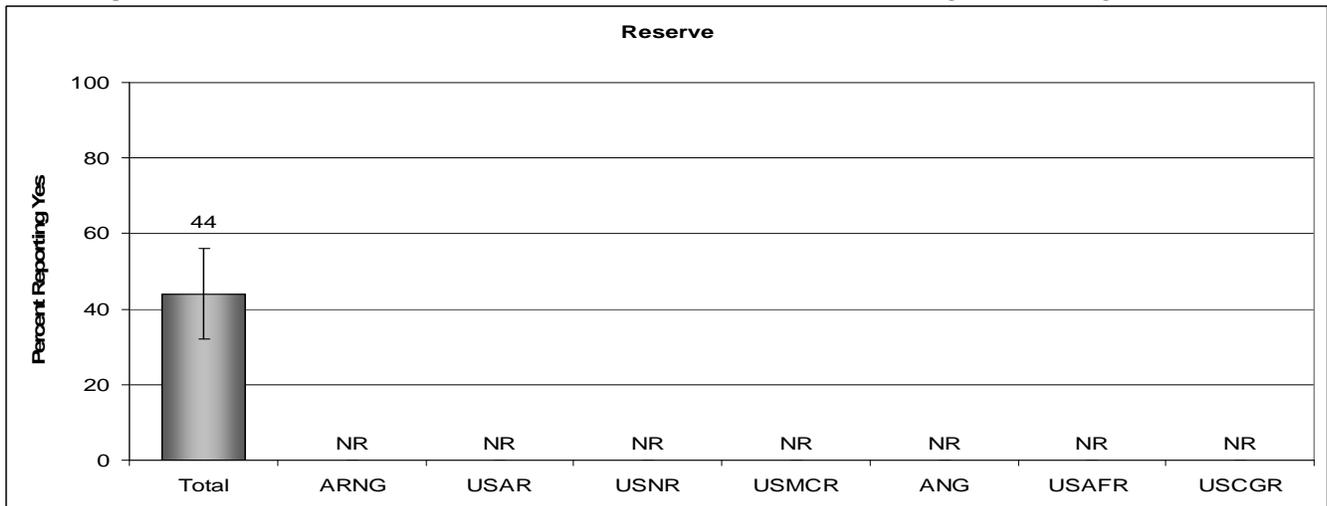
- Overall, of active-duty members who indicated they used IVAS, 62% indicated they used it to request an absentee ballot.
- Of Reserve members who used IVAS, 44% used it to request an absentee ballot.
- Results for DoD civilians are not reportable.

Figure 10.
Use of IVAS To Request Absentee Ballot, by Service/Component



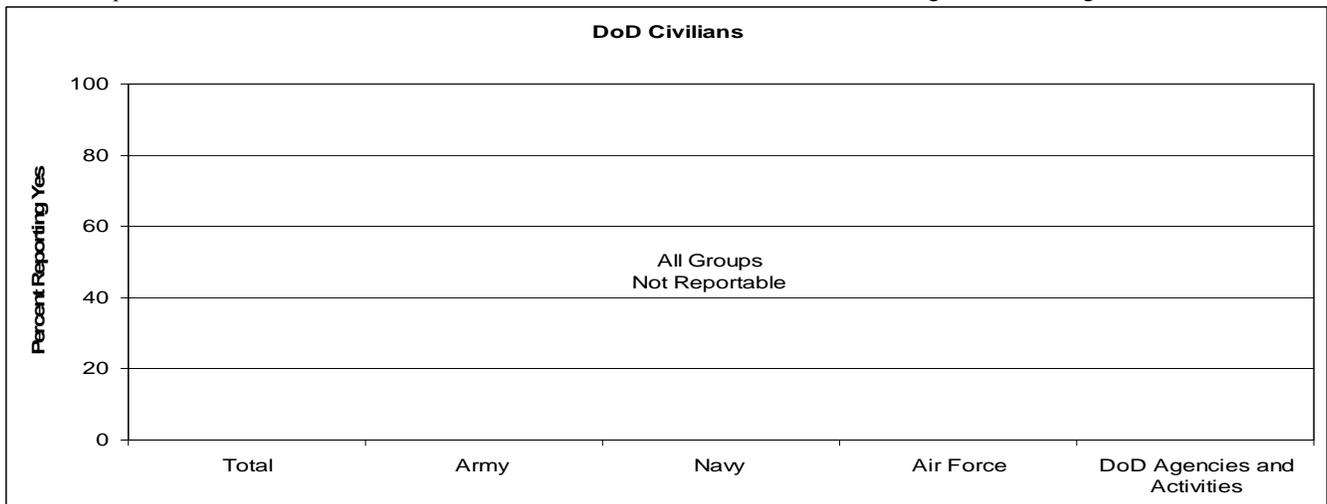
NR: Not Reportable

Margins of error range from $\pm 9\%$ to $\pm 17\%$



NR: Not Reportable

Margins of error range from $\pm 10\%$ to $\pm 16\%$



NR: Not Reportable.

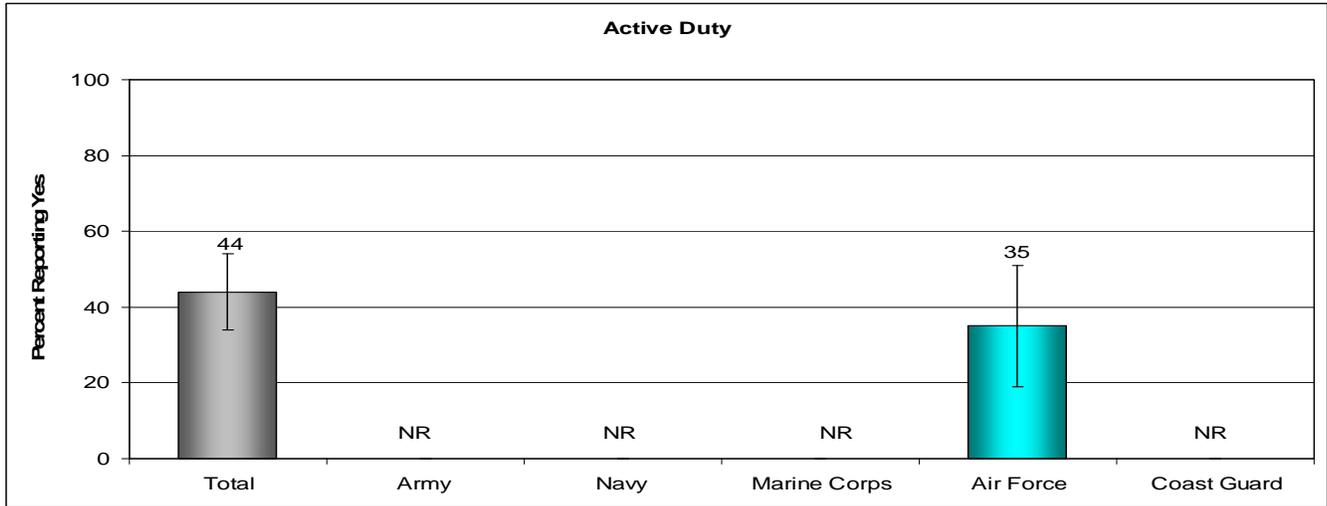
Item asked only of DoD civilians outside the United States on election day.

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Figure 11 shows the percentage of members who indicated they used IVAS to receive a ballot, by Service/component.

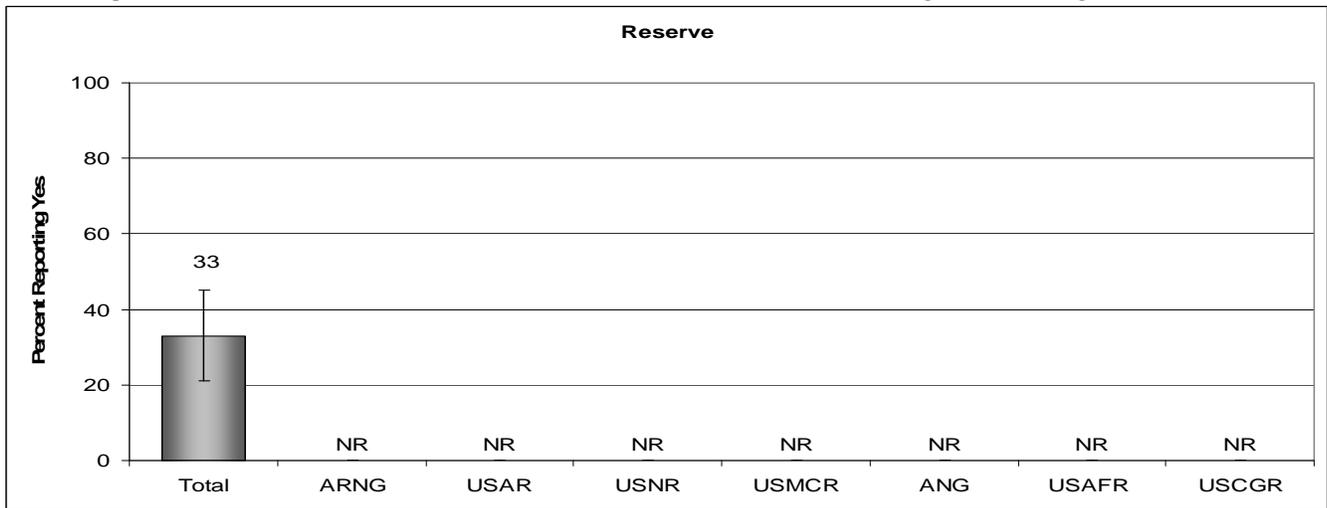
- Overall, of active-duty members who indicated they used IVAS, 44% indicated they used it to receive an absentee ballot.
- Of Reserve members who used IVAS, 33% used it to receive an absentee ballot.
- Results for DoD civilians are not reportable.

Figure 11.
Use of IVAS To Receive an Absentee Ballot, by Service/Component



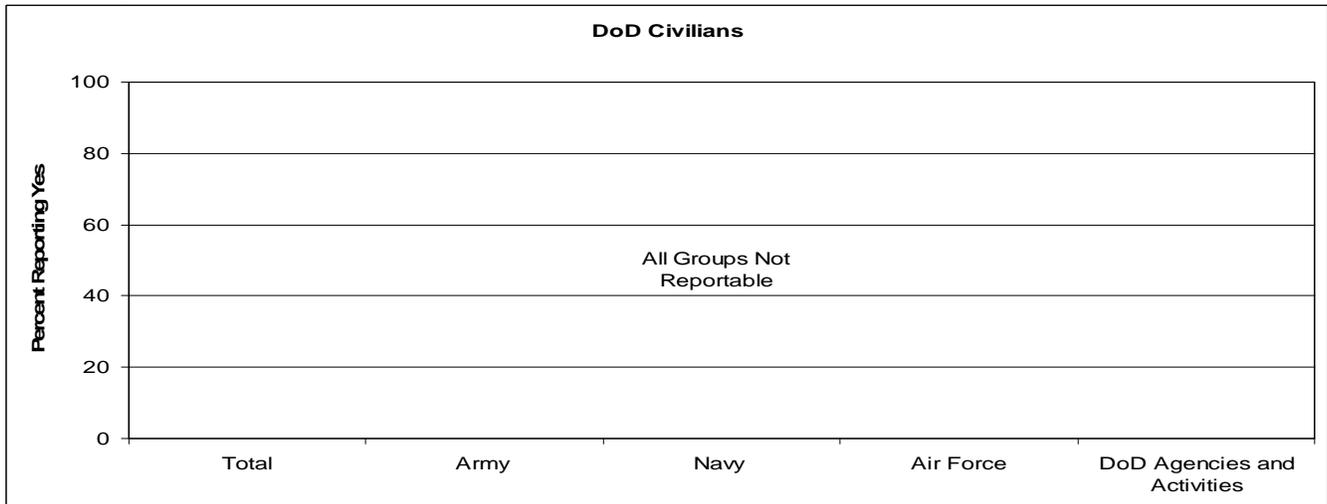
NR: Not Reportable

Margins of error range from ±10% to ±16%



NR: Not Reportable

Margin of error is ±12%



NR: Not Reportable.

Item asked only of DoD civilians outside the United States on election day.

Usefulness of Integrated Voting Alternative Site

To assess the usefulness of IVAS, military members and DoD civilians who used or were aware of the site were asked the following question:

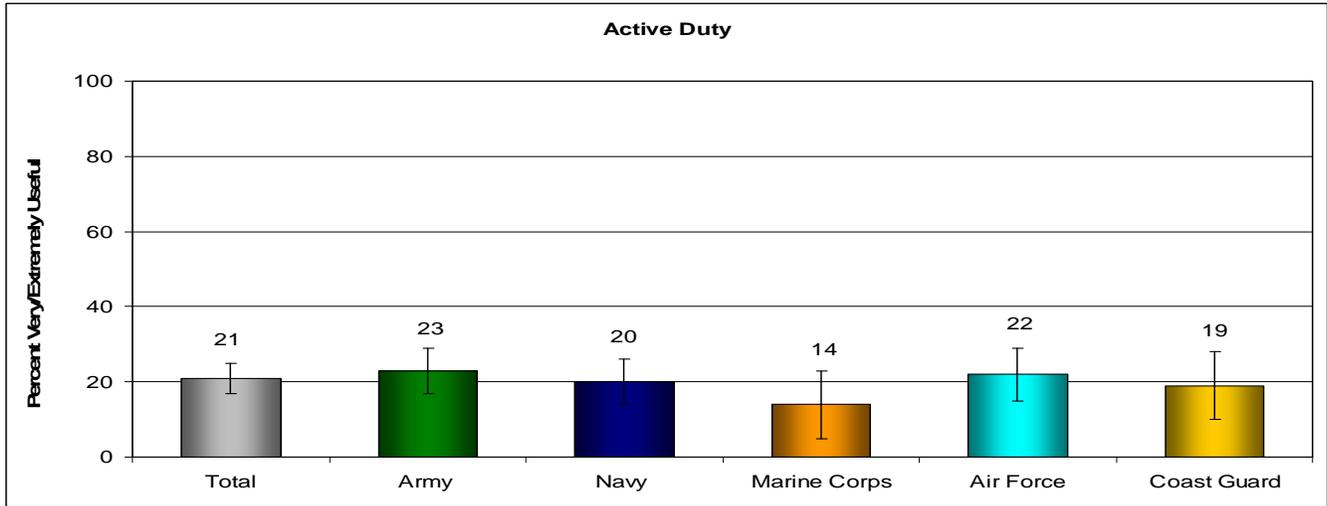
How useful did you find the Integrated Voting Alternative Site (IVAS)?

- *Extremely useful*
- *Very useful*
- *Moderately useful*
- *Slightly useful*
- *Not at all useful*

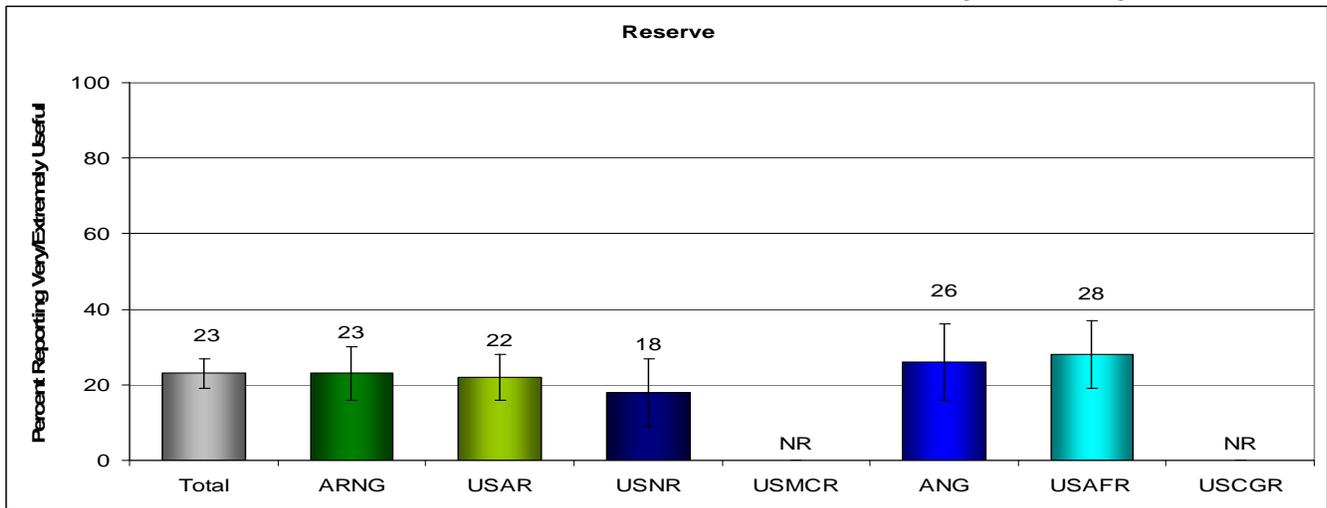
Figure 12 shows the percentage of military members and DoD civilians who indicated the IVAS site was very or extremely useful, by Service/component.

- Of active-duty members who indicated they were aware of the IVAS, 21% indicated it was very or extremely useful.
- Of Reserve component members who were aware of IVAS, 23% indicated it was very or extremely useful.
- Of DoD civilians who indicated they were outside of the United States on election day, and were aware of IVAS, 35% indicated it was very or extremely useful. Air Force employees (19%) were less likely to indicate IVAS was very or extremely useful.

Figure 12.
Usefulness of Integrated Voting Alternative Site (IVAS), by Service/Component

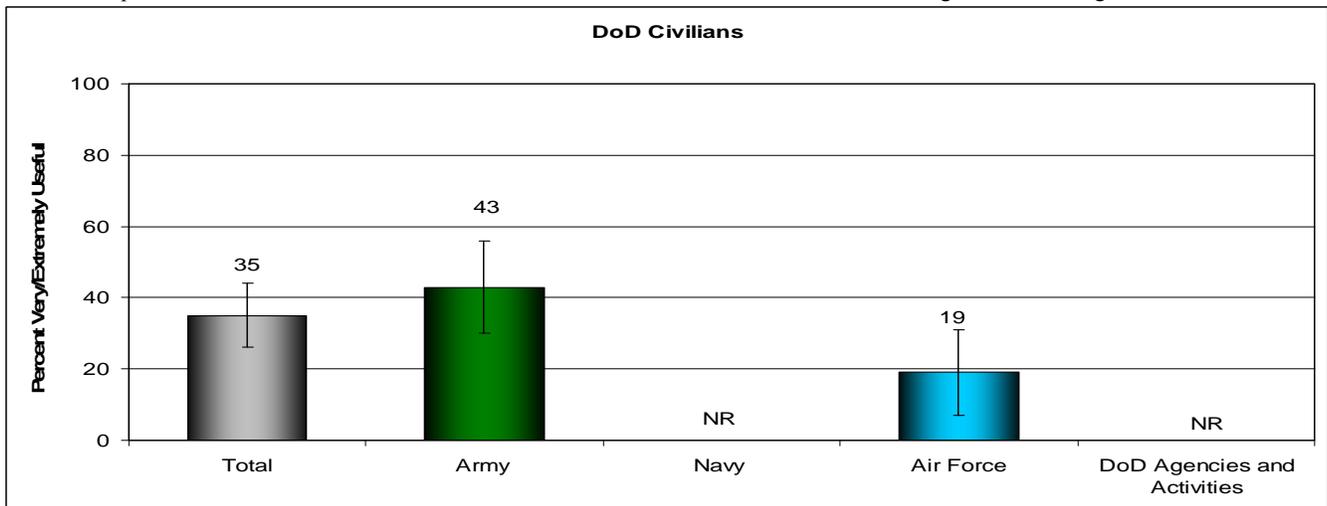


Margins of error range from $\pm 4\%$ to $\pm 9\%$



NR: Not Reportable

Margins of error range from $\pm 4\%$ to $\pm 10\%$



NR: Not Reportable. Item asked only of DoD civilians outside the United States.

Margins of error range from $\pm 9\%$ to $\pm 13\%$

Problems With the Integrated Voting Alternative Site

To assess problems experienced with IVAS, military members and DoD civilians who used or were aware of the site were asked the following question:

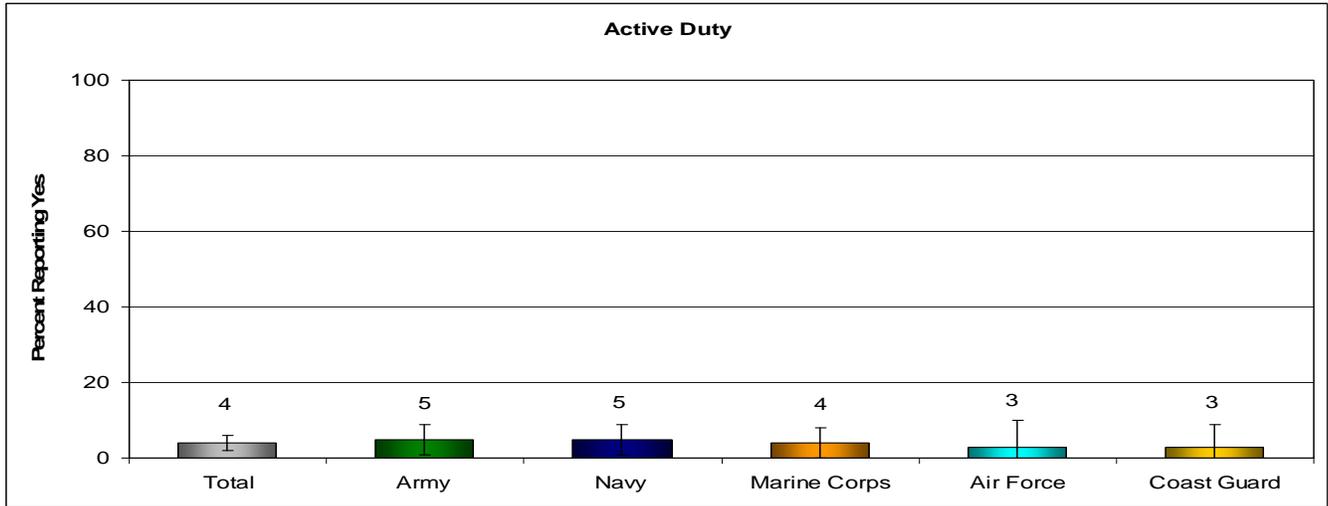
Did you encounter any problems using the Integrated Voting Alternative Site (IVAS)?

- Yes*
- No*

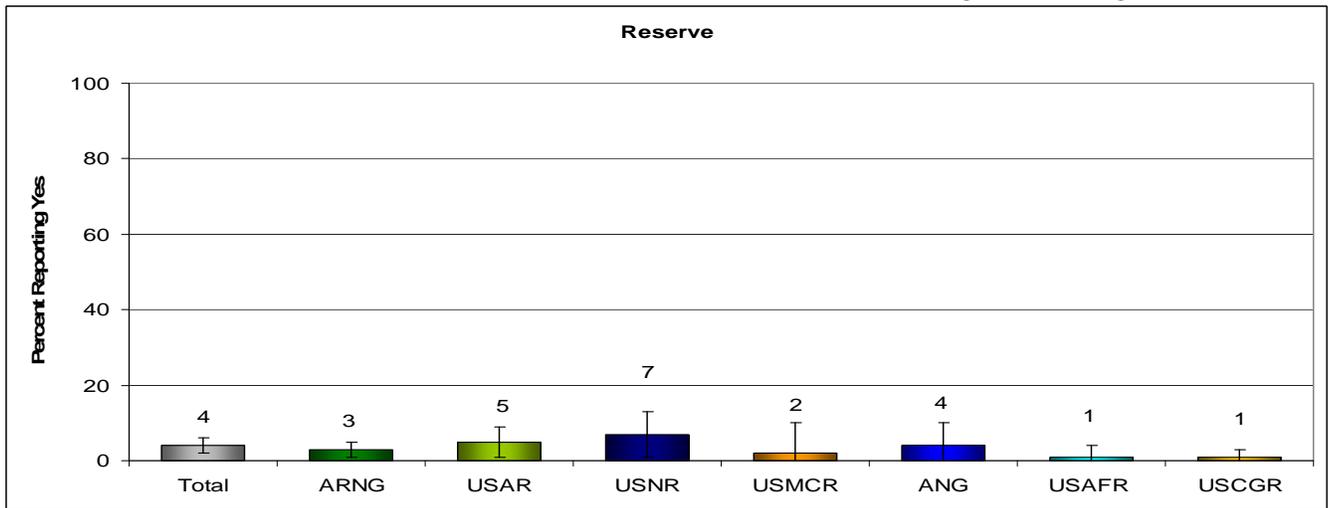
Figure 13 shows the percentage of military members and DoD civilians who indicated they encountered problems with IVAS, by Service/component.

- Overall, of active-duty members who were aware of IVAS, 4% indicated they encountered problems using it.
- Overall, of Reserve members who were aware of IVAS, 4% indicated they encountered problems using it. Air Force Reserve and Coast Guard Reserve members (both 1%) were less likely to indicate they had problems using it.
- Of DoD civilians who indicated they were outside of the United States on election day, and were aware of IVAS, 8% indicated they encountered problems using it.

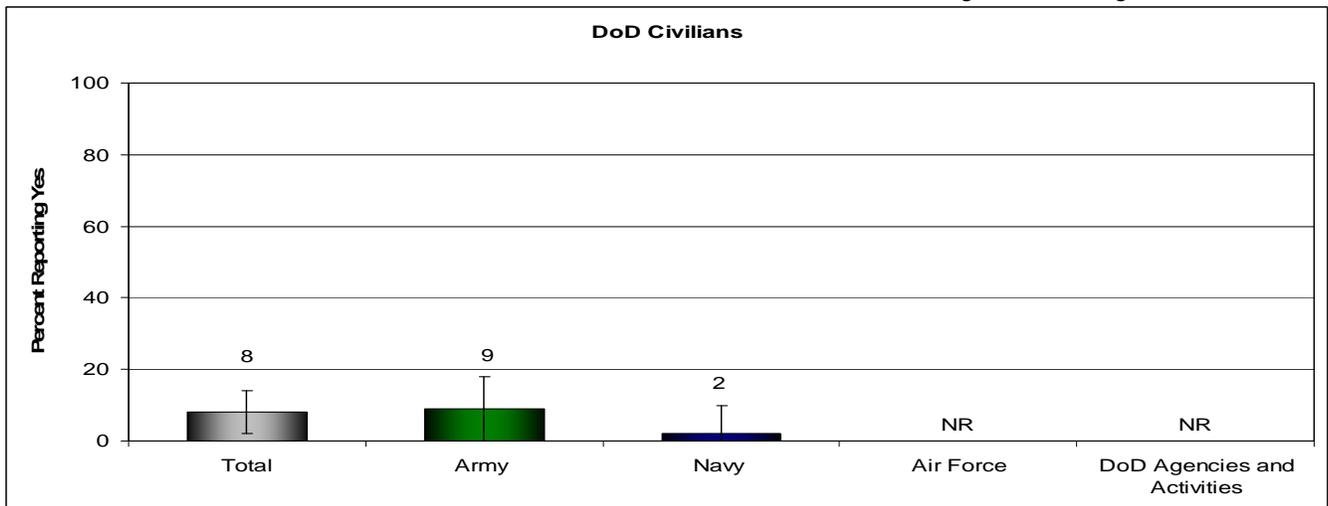
Figure 13.
Problems Using IVAS, by Service/Component



Margins of error range from ±2% to ±7%



Margins of error range from ±2% to ±8%



NR: Not Reportable. Item asked only of DoD civilians outside the United States.

Margins of error range from ±6% to ±9%

Reasons for Not Using the Integrated Voting Alternative Site

To assess reasons for not using the IVAS site, military members and DoD civilians who were aware of the site, but did not use it were asked the following question:

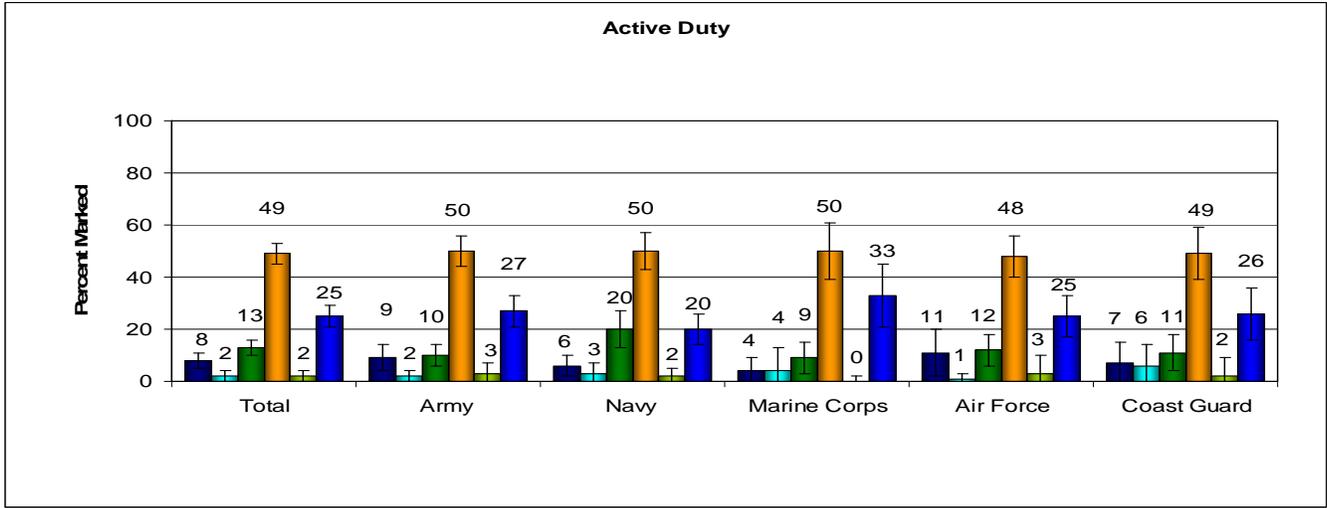
Which of the following best explains why you did not use the Integrated Voting Alternative Site (IVAS)?

- *I did not know its purpose*
- *I did not know the Web site address*
- *I submitted election materials through other means*
- *I did not need it*
- *I had difficulty accessing the Web site*
- *Other*

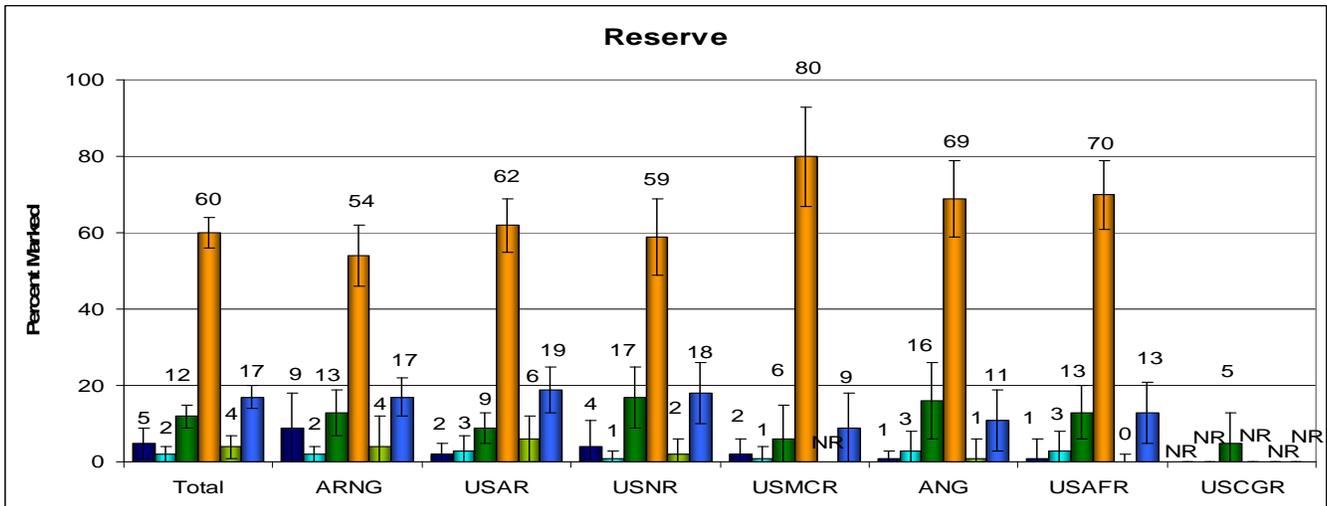
Figure 14 shows the percentage military members and DoD civilians who indicated each reason for not using IVAS, by Service/component.

- Overall, of active-duty members who were aware of IVAS, but did not use it, 49% did not need it, 25% indicated there was some other reason for not using IVAS, 13% submitted election materials through other means, 8% did not know its purpose, 2% did not know the Web site address, and 2% had difficulty accessing the Web site.
 - Navy members (20%) were more likely to indicate they submitted selection materials through other means. Air Force members (1%) were less likely to indicate they did not know the Web site address. Marine Corps members (0%) were less likely to indicate they had difficulty accessing the Web site.
- Of Reserve members who were aware of IVAS, but did not use it, 60% did not need it, 17% indicated there was some other reason for not using IVAS, 12% submitted election materials through other means, 5% did not know its purpose, 4% had difficulty accessing the Web site, and 2% did not know the Web site address.
 - Marine Corps Reserve members (80%) were more likely to indicate they did not need it. Coast Guard Reserve members (5%) were less likely to indicate they submitted selection materials through other means. Army National Guard members (1%) were less likely to indicate they did not know its purpose. Air Force Reserve members (0%) were less likely to indicate they had difficulty accessing the Web site.
- Of DoD civilians who indicated they were outside of the United States on election day, and who were aware of IVAS, but did not use it, 38% did not need it, 36% indicated there was some other reason for not using IVAS, 21% submitted election materials through other means, 3% did not know its purpose, 2% did not know the Web site address, and 1% had difficulty accessing the Web site.

Figure 14.
Reason for Not Using IVAS, by Service/Component

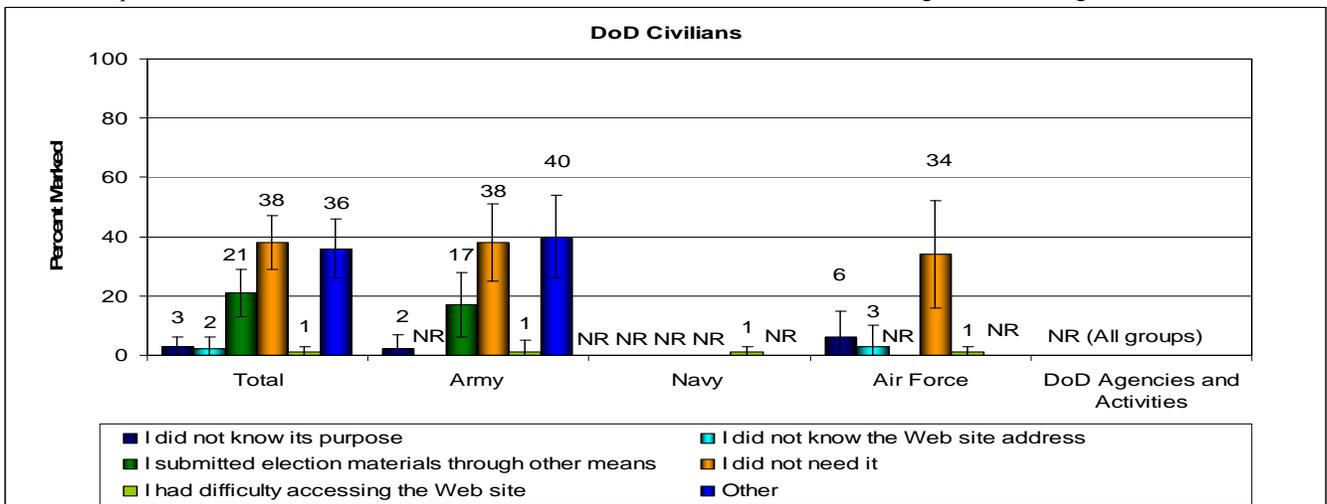


Margins of error range from ±2% to ±12%



NR: Not Reportable

Margins of error range from ±2% to ±13%



NR: Not Reportable. Item asked only of DoD civilians outside the United States.

Margins of error range from ±1% to ±18%

Casting an Absentee Ballot Without IVAS

Military members and DoD civilians who voted by casting an absentee ballot were asked questions about their method of requesting, receiving, and returning their ballot.

Means for Requesting Absentee Ballots

To assess means for requesting absentee ballots, military members and DoD civilians who voted by casting an absentee ballot, but did not request a ballot using IVAS were asked the following question:

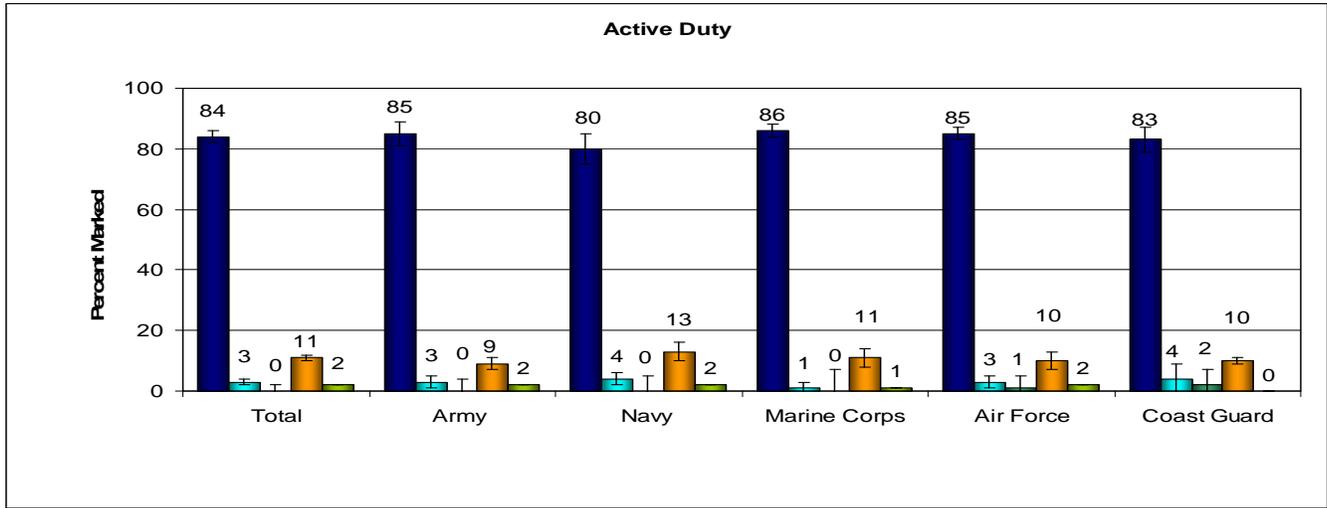
How did you request your absentee ballot?

- *Postal mail directly to the local election official*
- *Fax directly to the local election official*
- *Fax using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service*
- *E-mail directly to the local election official*
- *E-mail using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service*

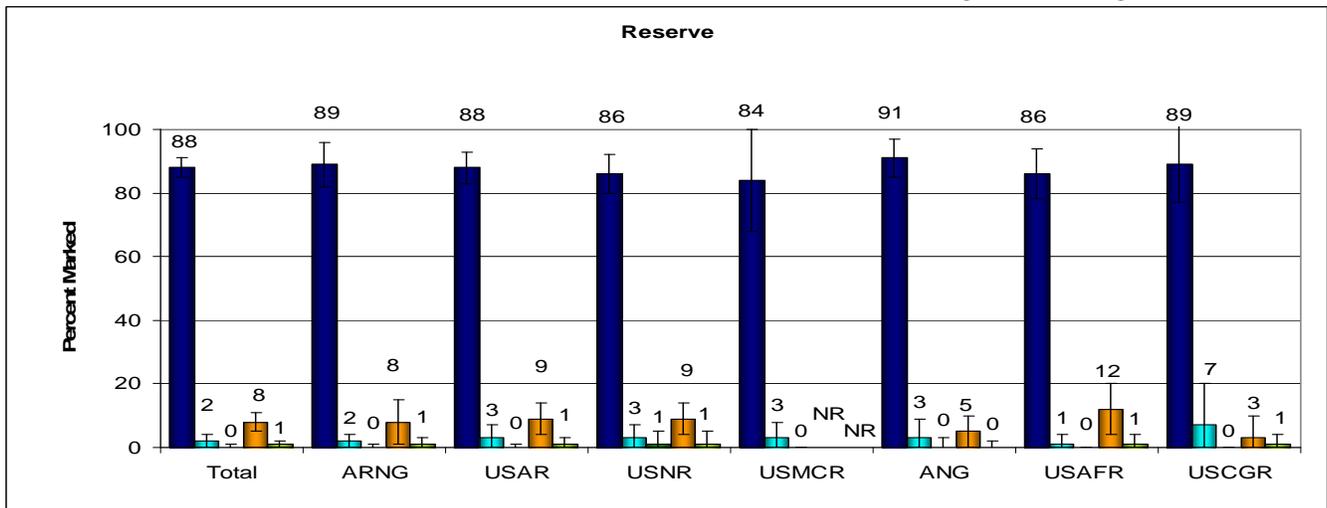
Figure 15 shows the percentage of military members and DoD civilians who indicated they used each method for requesting absentee ballots, by Service/component.

- Overall, of active-duty members who voted by casting an absentee ballot not using IVAS to request a ballot, 84% requested it via postal mail directly to local election official, 11% via e-mail directly to local election official, 3% via fax directly to local election official, 2% via e-mail using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service, and 0% via fax using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service.
 - Marine Corps members (1%) were less likely to indicate they requested their absentee ballot via fax directly to the local election official. Coast Guard members (0%) were less likely to indicate they requested their absentee ballot via e-mail using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service.
- Of Reserve members who voted by casting an absentee ballot not using IVAS to request a ballot, 88% requested it via postal mail directly to local election official, 8% via e-mail directly to local election official, 2% via fax directly to local election official, 1% via e-mail using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service, and 0% via fax using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service.
- Of DoD civilians who indicated they were outside of the United States on election day, and voted by casting an absentee ballot not using IVAS to request a ballot, 85% requested it via postal mail directly to local election official, 10% via e-mail directly to local election official, 3% via fax directly to local election official, 2% via e-mail using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service, and 0% via fax using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service.

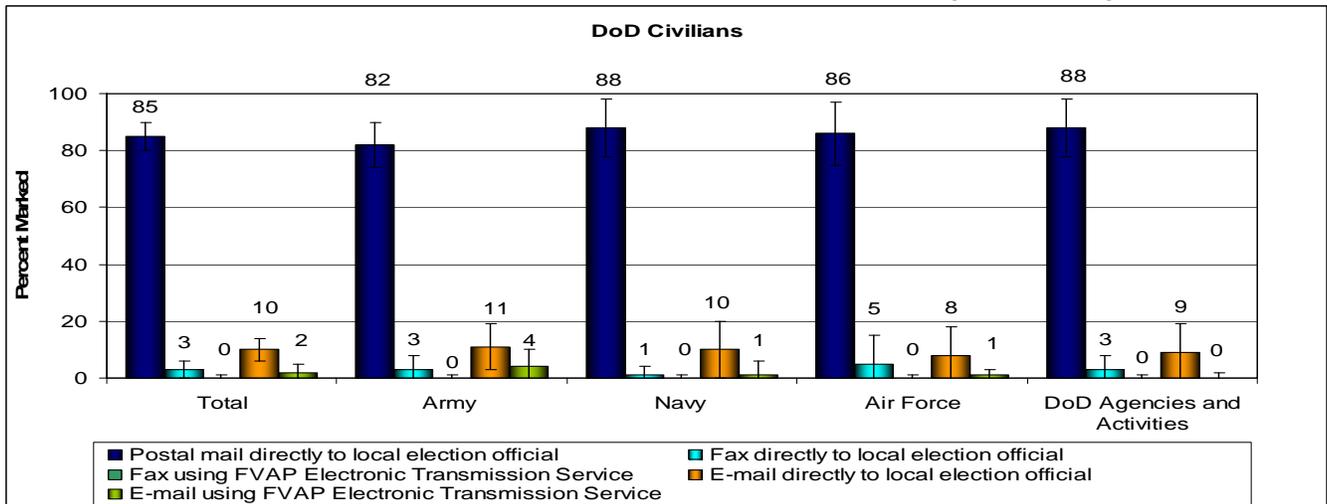
Figure 15.
Means of Requesting Absentee Ballot, by Service/Component



Margins of error range from ±1% to ±7%



Margins of error range from ±1% to ±16%



Item asked only of DoD civilians outside the United States on election day.

Margins of error range from ±1% to ±11%

Means for Receiving Absentee Ballots

To assess means for receiving absentee ballots, military members and DoD civilians who voted by casting an absentee ballot, but did not receive a ballot using IVAS were asked the following question:

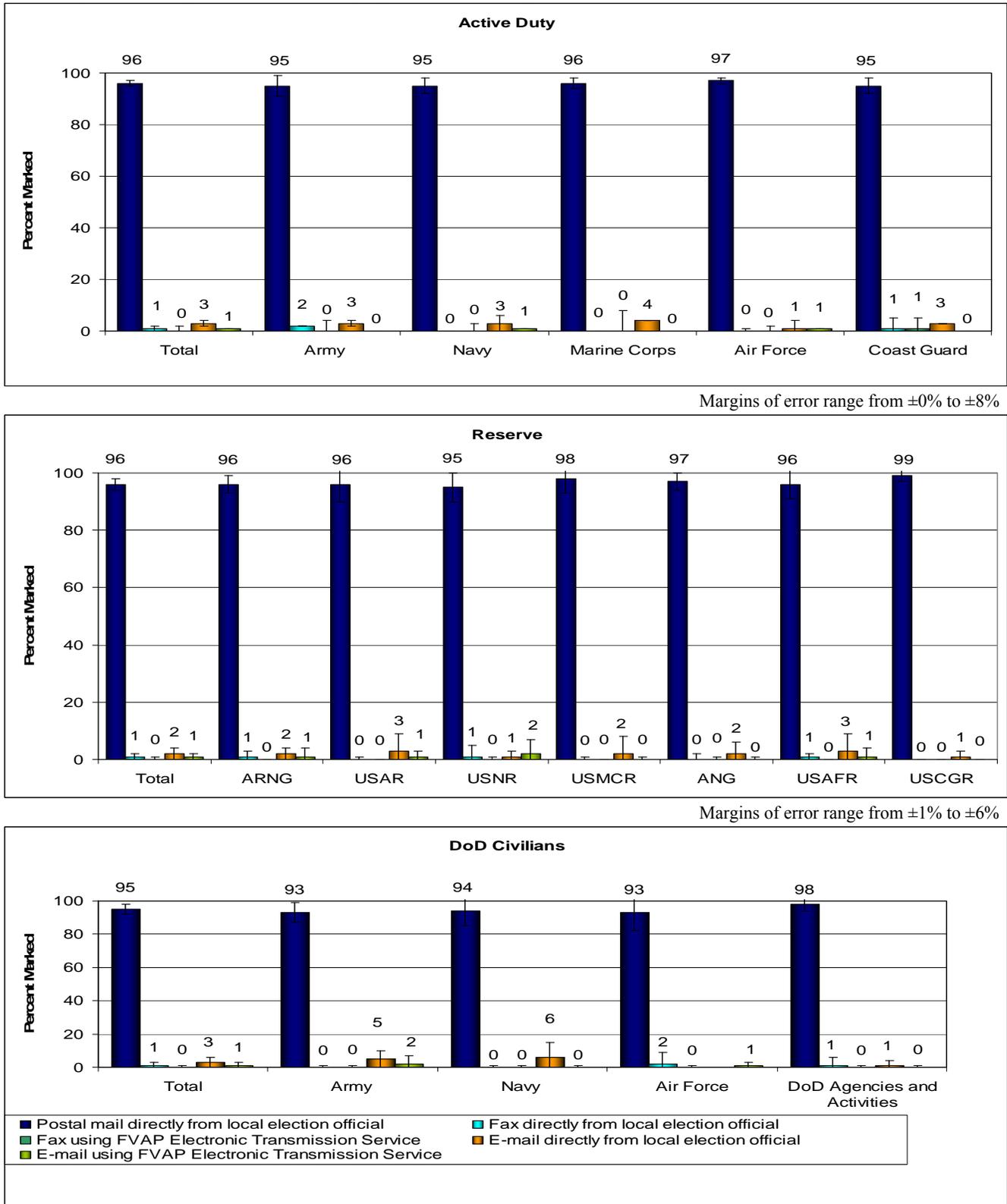
How did you receive your blank absentee ballot?

- *Postal mail directly from the local election official*
- *Fax directly from the local election official*
- *Fax using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service*
- *E-mail directly from the local election official*
- *E-mail using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service*

Figure 16 shows the percentage of military members and DoD civilians who indicated receiving an absentee ballot by each method, by Service/component.

- Overall, of active-duty members who voted by casting an absentee ballot not using IVAS to receive a ballot, 96% received it via postal mail directly from local election official, 3% via e-mail directly from local election official, 1% via fax directly from local election official, 1% via e-mail using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service, and 0% via fax using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service.
 - Marine Corps and Coast Guard (both 0%) members were less likely to indicate they received their absentee ballot via e-mail using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service.
- Of Reserve members who voted by casting an absentee ballot not using IVAS to receive a ballot, 96% received it via postal mail directly from local election official, 2% via e-mail directly from local election official, 1% via fax directly from local election official, 1% via e-mail using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service, and 0% via fax using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service.
 - Coast Guard Reserve members (99%) were more likely to indicate they received their absentee ballot via postal mail directly from the local election official, whereas they were less likely to indicate they received their absentee ballot via fax directly from the local election official or via e-mail using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service (both 0%).
- Of DoD civilians who indicated they were outside of the United States on election day, and voted by casting an absentee ballot not using the IVAS to receive a ballot, 95% received it via postal mail directly from local election official, 3% via e-mail directly from local election official, 1% via fax directly from local election official, 1% via e-mail using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service, and 0% via fax using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service.
 - DoD Agency employees were more likely to indicate they received an absentee ballot via postal mail directly from election official (98%) and were less likely to indicate they received an absentee ballot via e-mail directly from local election official (1%).

Figure 16.
Means of Receiving Absentee Ballot, by Service/Component



Item asked only of DoD civilians outside the United States on election day.

Margins of error range from ±1% to ±11%

Means for Returning Absentee Ballots

To assess means for returning absentee ballots, military members and DoD civilians who voted by casting an absentee ballot were asked the following question:

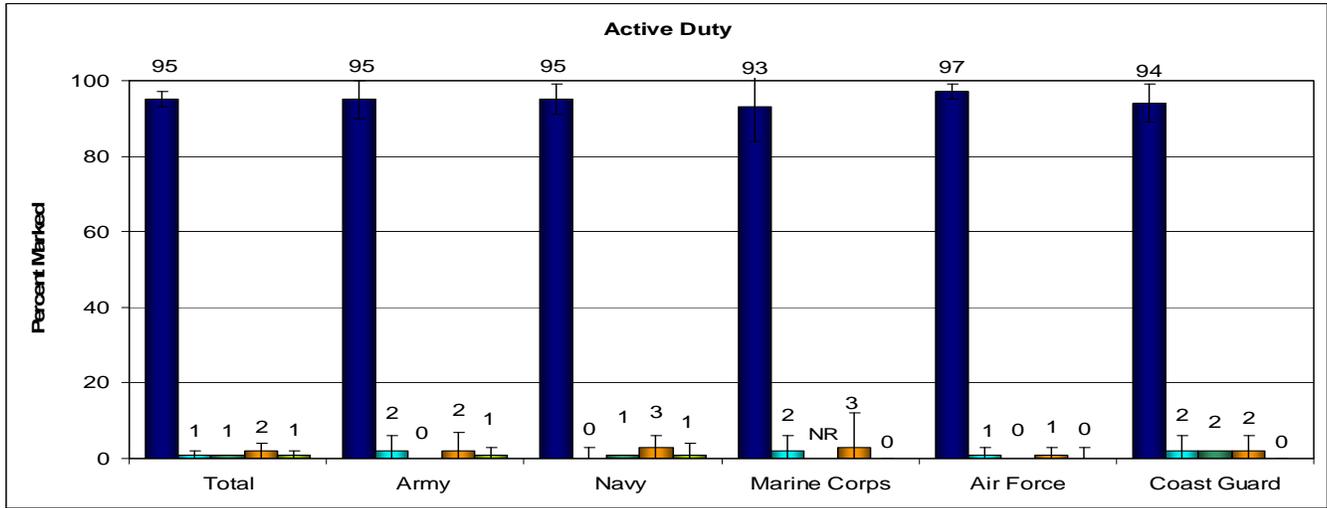
When you voted, how did you return your absentee ballot?

- *Postal mail directly to the local election official*
- *Fax directly to the local election official*
- *Fax using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service*
- *E-mail directly to the local election official*
- *E-mail using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service*

Figure 17 shows the percentage of military members and DoD civilians who indicated returning an absentee ballot by each method, by Service/component.

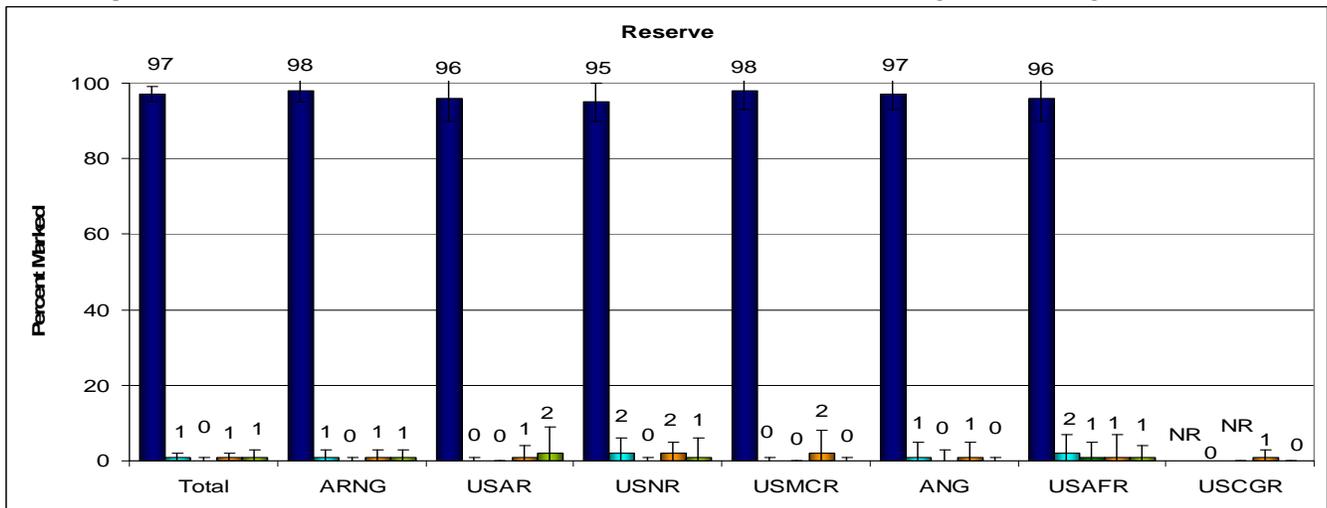
- Overall, of active-duty members who voted by casting an absentee ballot, 95% returned it via postal mail directly to local election official, 2% via e-mail directly to local election official, 1% via fax directly to local election official, 1% via fax using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service, and 1% via e-mail using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service.
- Of Reserve members who voted by casting an absentee ballot, 97% returned it via postal mail directly to local election official, 1% via fax directly to local election official, 1% via e-mail directly to local election official, 1% via e-mail using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service, and 0% via fax using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service.
 - Army Reserve and Marine Corps Reserve (both 0%) members were less likely to indicate they returned their absentee ballot via fax directly to the local election official.
- Of DoD civilians who indicated they were outside of the United States on election day, and voted by casting an absentee ballot, 95% returned it via postal mail directly to local election official, 2% via fax directly to local election official, 2% via e-mail directly to local election official, 1% via e-mail using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service, and 0% via fax using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service.
 - Navy employees (98%) were more likely to indicate they returned their absentee ballot via postal mail directly to the local election official.

Figure 17.
Means of Returning Absentee Ballot, by Service/Component



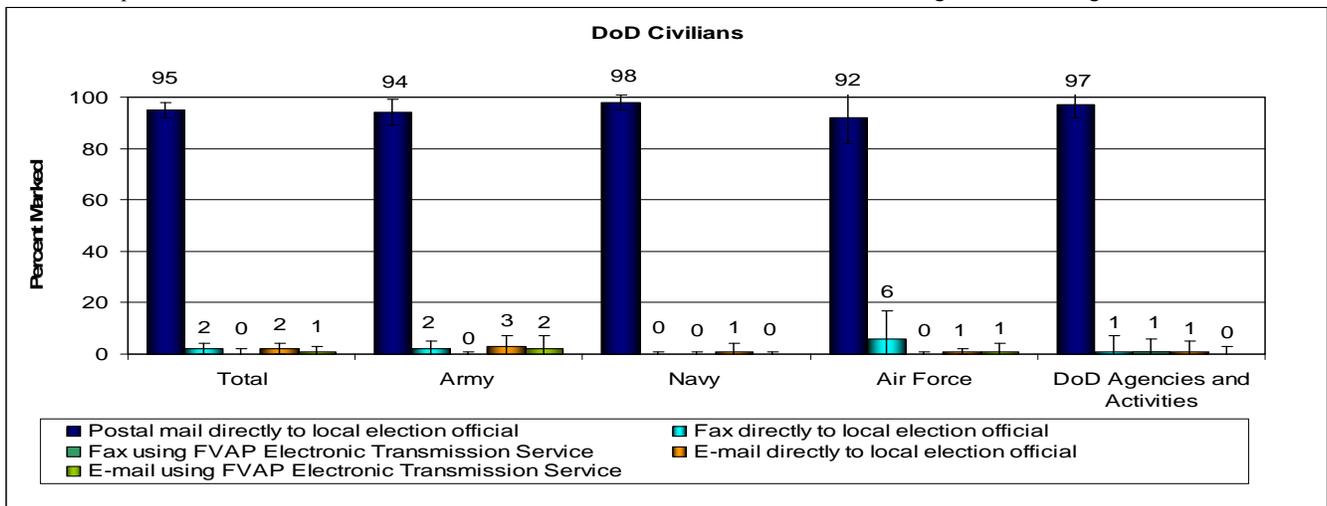
NR: Not Reportable

Margins of error range from ±0% to ±9%



NR: Not Reportable

Margins of error range from ±1% to ±7%



NR: Not Reportable. Item asked only of DoD civilians outside the United States.

Margins of error range from ±1% to ±11%

Survey Methodology

Data Sources

The *Status of Forces Surveys* (SOFS) is a series of Web-based surveys of the total force that allows the Department of Defense to (1) evaluate existing programs/policies, (2) establish baselines before implementing new programs/policies, and (3) monitor progress of programs/policies and their effects on the total force.

This survey note contains results from the Federal Voting Assistance program items from SOFS administered to active-duty and Reserve component members and DoD civilians in the fall of 2006. Table 5 provides detailed information (when data were collected, sample size, and response rate) on the survey administrations.

Table 5.
Details on Survey Administrations

Survey	Administration Dates	Sample Size	Response Rate	Margin of Error^a
Active Duty	20 Nov 06 – 5 Jan 07	37,061	32%	±1.4%
Reserve	4 Dec 06 – 11 Jan 07	60,296	34%	±1.2%
DoD Civilians	8 Nov – 21 Dec 06	74,482	55%	+0.8%

^aThis is the full sample margin of error for estimates of 50% and represents the overall margin of error for the study.

The target population for all active-duty SOFS consists of active-duty members of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force (1) who have at least six months service at the time the questionnaire is first fielded, (2) who are below flag rank when the sample is drawn six months before the survey, and (3) excluding National Guard and Reserve members in active-duty programs.

The target population for all Reserve component SOFS consists of members from the Selected Reserve who are in Reserve Unit, Active Guard/Reserve (AGR/FTS/AR; Title 10 and Title 32), or Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) programs from the Army National Guard (ARNG), U.S. Army Reserve (USAR), U.S. Navy Reserve (USNR), U.S. Marine Corps Reserve (USMCR), Air National Guard (ANG), and U.S. Air Force Reserve (USAFR) (1) who have at least 6 months of service at the time the questionnaire is first fielded and (2) who are below flag rank.

The target population for all SOFS of DoD civilian employees is defined as DoD Civilian employees (including Senior Executive Service [SES]), to include employees of the Department of the Army, Department of the Navy (including employees working for the Marine Corps), Department of the Air Force, and civilian employees working at all other DoD Agencies and Activities who have either full-time, part-time, or intermittent work schedules, and have at least 6 months tenure at the time the questionnaire is first available on the Web.

Weights are used so that estimates from each survey represent the respective population.

Margins of Error and Tests of Significance

The complex sample designs used in SOFS require weighting to produce population estimates such as percentages.² This means that the typical rules of thumb for interpreting the validity of an estimate, such as the number of respondents, will overstate the reliability of the estimate. For this report, variance estimates were calculated using SUDAAN[®] PROC DESCRIPT (Research Triangle Institute, 2004).

By definition, sample surveys are subject to sampling error. Standard errors are estimates of the variance around population parameters, such as percentages or means, and are used to construct margins of error (i.e., confidence interval half-widths). Margins of error reported for the surveys overall in Table 5, and elsewhere in this report, are based on 95% confidence intervals.³ When comparing results across survey administrations in this report, estimates are considered to be significantly different when their 95% confidence intervals do not overlap.

When reporting current survey results, the mean (or proportion) of each subgroup is compared⁴ to its respective “all other” group. The “all other” group refers to the total population minus the group being assessed. For example, the Army’s “all other” group consists of Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force members. Excluding the subject group from the total enables an accurate test of whether the group differs from those not in the group.

“NR” indicates estimates are *Not Reportable* and are suppressed because of low reliability. Estimates of low reliability are suppressed based on criteria defined in terms of nominal sample size (less than 5), effective sample size (less than 30), or relative standard error (greater than 0.225).

“NA” indicates the question was *Not Applicable* because the question did not apply to respondents in the reporting category based on answers to previous questions.

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For further information see <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/surveys>.

² As a result of differential weighting, only certain statistical software procedures, such as SUDAAN PROC DESCRIPT, correctly calculate standard errors, variances, or tests of statistical significance for stratified samples.

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³ The margin of error represents the degree of certainty that the percentage or mean would fall within the interval in repeated samples of the population. For example, if 55% of individuals selected an answer and the margin of error was ± 3 in repeated surveyed samples from the population, the percentage of individuals selecting the same answer would be between 52% (55 minus 3) and 58% (55 plus 3) in 95% of the samples.

⁴ DMDC used *t* tests in this survey note to test the difference between two means or proportions. This survey note highlights only differences significant at the $\alpha = .01$ level.

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Appendix

(As modified by the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2005)

TITLE I -- REGISTRATION AND VOTING BY ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICE VOTERS AND OVERSEAS VOTERS IN ELECTIONS FOR FEDERAL OFFICE

SEC. 101. FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

(a) **PRESIDENTIAL DESIGNEE.** --The President shall designate the head of an executive department to have primary responsibility for Federal functions under this title.

(b) **DUTIES OF PRESIDENTIAL DESIGNEE.**

-- The Presidential designee shall--

(1) consult State and local election officials in carrying out this title, and ensure that such officials are aware of the requirements of this Act;

(2) prescribe an official post card form, containing both an absentee voter registration application and an absentee ballot application, for use by the States as required under section 102(4);

(3) carry out section 103 with respect to the Federal write-in absentee ballot for absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters in general elections for Federal office;

(4) prescribe a suggested design for absentee ballot mailing envelopes for use by the States as recommended in section 104;

(5) compile and distribute (A) descriptive material on State absentee registration and voting procedures, and (B) to the extent practicable, facts relating to specific elections, including dates, offices involved, and the text of ballot questions;

(6) not later than the end of each year after a Presidential election year, transmit to the President and the Congress a report on the effectiveness of assistance under this title, including a separate statistical analysis of uniformed services voter participation, a separate statistical analysis of overseas nonmilitary participation, and a description of State-Federal cooperation; and

(7) prescribe a standard oath for use with any document under this title affirming that a material misstatement of fact in the completion of such a document may constitute grounds for conviction of perjury.

(c) **DUTIES OF OTHER FEDERAL OFFICIALS --**

(1) **IN GENERAL.** -- The head of each Government department, agency, or other entity shall, upon request of the Presidential designee, distribute balloting materials and otherwise cooperate in carrying out this title.

(2) ADMINISTRATOR OF GENERAL SERVICES. -- As directed by the Presidential designee, the Administrator of General Services shall furnish official post card forms (prescribed under subsection (b)) and Federal write-in absentee ballots (prescribed under section 103).

SEC. 102. STATE RESPONSIBILITIES

(a) IN GENERAL.--Each State shall --

(1) permit absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters to use absentee registration procedures and to vote by absentee ballot in general, special, primary, and runoff elections for Federal office;

(2) accept and process, with respect to any election for Federal office, any otherwise valid voter registration application and absentee ballot application from an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter, if the application is received by the appropriate State election official not less than 30 days before the election;

(3) permit absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters to use Federal write-in absentee ballots (in accordance with section 103) in general elections for Federal office;

(4) use the official post card form (prescribed under section 101) for simultaneous voter registration application and absentee ballot application; and

(5) if the State requires an oath or affirmation to accompany any document under this title, use the standard oath prescribed by the Presidential designee under section 101(b)(7).

(b) DESIGNATION OF SINGLE STATE OFFICE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON REGISTRATION AND ABSENTEE BALLOT PROCEDURES FOR ALL VOTERS IN THE STATE.--

(1) IN GENERAL.--Each State shall designate a single office which shall be responsible for providing information regarding voter registration procedures and absentee ballot procedures to be used by absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters with respect to elections for Federal office (including procedures relating to the use of the Federal write-in absentee ballot) to all absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters who wish to register to vote or vote in any jurisdiction in the State.

(2) RECOMMENDATION Regarding Use of Office to Accept and Process Materials.--Congress recommends that the State office designated under paragraph (1) be responsible for carrying out the State's duties under this Act, including accepting valid voter registration applications, absentee ballot applications, and absentee ballots (including Federal write-in absentee ballots) from all absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters who wish to register to vote or vote in any jurisdiction in the State.

(c) REPORT ON NUMBER OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS TRANSMITTED AND RECEIVED. --Not later than 90 days after the date of each regularly scheduled general election for Federal office, each State and unit of local government which administered the election shall (through the State, in the case

of a unit of local government) submit a report to the Election Assistance Commission (established under the Help America Vote Act of 2002) on the combined number of absentee ballots transmitted to absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters for the election and the combined number of such ballots which were returned by such voters and cast in the election, and shall make such report available to the general public.

(d) REGISTRATION NOTIFICATION.--With respect to each absent uniformed services voter and each overseas voter who submits a voter registration application or an absentee ballot request, if the State rejects the application or request, the State shall provide the voter with the reasons for the rejection.

SEC. 103. FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT IN GENERAL ELECTIONS FOR FEDERAL OFFICE FOR ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTERS AND OVERSEAS VOTERS

(a) IN GENERAL. -- The Presidential designee shall prescribe a Federal write-in absentee ballot (including a secrecy envelope and mailing envelope for such ballot) for use in general elections for Federal office by absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters who make timely application for, and do not receive, States, absentee ballots.

(b) SUBMISSION AND PROCESSING. -- Except as otherwise provided in this title, a Federal write-in absentee ballot shall be submitted and processed in the manner provided by law for absentee ballots in the State involved. A Federal write-in absentee ballot of an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter shall not be counted. --

(1) in the case of a ballot submitted by an overseas voter who is not an absent uniformed services voter, if the ballot is submitted from any location in the United States;

(2) if the application of the absent uniformed services voters or overseas voter for a State absentee ballot is received by the appropriate State election official after the latter of--

(A) the deadline of the State for receipt of such application; or

(B) the date that is 30 days before the general election; or

(3) if a State absentee ballot of an absent uniformed services voters or overseas voter is received by the appropriate State election official not later than the deadline for receipt of the State absentee ballot under State law.

(c) SPECIAL RULES. -- The following rules shall apply with respect to Federal write-in absentee ballots:

(1) In completing the ballot, the absent uniformed services voters or overseas voter may designate a candidate by writing in the name of the candidate or by writing in the name of political party (in which case the ballot shall be counted for the candidate of that political party).

(2) In the case of the offices of President and Vice President, a vote for a named candidate or a vote by writing in the name of a political party shall be counted as a vote for the electors supporting the candidate involved.

(3) Any abbreviation, misspelling, or other minor variation in the form of the name of a candidate or a political party shall be disregarded in determining the validity of the ballot, if the intention of the voter can be ascertained.

(d) **SECOND BALLOT SUBMISSION; INSTRUCTION TO ABSENT**

UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTER OR OVERSEAS VOTER. --

An absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter who submits a Federal write-in absentee ballot and later receives a State absentee ballot, may submit the State absentee ballot. The Presidential designee shall assure that the instructions for each Federal write-in absentee ballot clearly state that an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter who submits a Federal write-in absentee ballot and later receives and submits a State absentee ballot should make every reasonable effort to inform the appropriate State election official that the voter has submitted more than one ballot.

(e) **USE OF APPROVED STATE ABSENTEE BALLOT IN PLACE OF FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT.**

The Federal write-in absentee ballot shall not be valid for use in a general election if the State involved provides a State absentee ballot that --

(1) at the request of the State, is approved by the Presidential designee for use in place of the Federal write-in absentee ballot; and

(2) is made available to absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters at least 60 days before the deadline for receipt of the State ballot under State law.

(f) **CERTAIN STATES EXEMPTED. --** A State is not required to permit use of the Federal write-in absentee ballot, if, on and after the date of the enactment of the title, the State has in effect a law providing that --

(1) a State absentee ballot is required to be available to any voter described in section 107(5)(A) at least 90 days before the general election involved; and

(2) a State absentee ballot is required to be available to any voter described in section 107(5)(B) or (C), as soon as the official list of candidates in the general election is complete.

SEC. 104. USE OF SINGLE APPLICATION FOR ALL SUBSEQUENT ELECTIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**--If a State accepts and processes an official post card form (prescribed under section 101) submitted by an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter for simultaneous voter registration and absentee ballot application (in accordance with section 102(a)(4)) and the voter

requests that the application be considered an application for an absentee ballot for each subsequent election for Federal office held in the State through the next 2 regularly scheduled general elections for Federal office (including any runoff elections which may occur as a result of the outcome of such general elections), the State shall provide an absentee ballot to the voter for each such subsequent election.

(b) EXCEPTION FOR VOTERS CHANGING REGISTRATION.--Subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to a voter registered to vote in a State for any election held after the voter notifies the State that the voter no longer wishes to be registered to vote in the State or after the State determines that the voter has registered to vote in another State.

(c) REVISION OF OFFICIAL POST CARD FORM.--The Presidential designee shall revise the official post card form (prescribed under section 101) to enable a voter using the form to--

(1) request an absentee ballot for each election for Federal office held in a State during a year; or

(2) request an absentee ballot for only the next scheduled election for Federal office held in a State.

(d) NO EFFECT ON VOTER REMOVAL PROGRAMS.--Nothing in this section may be construed to prevent a State from removing any voter from the rolls of registered voters in the State under any program or method permitted under section 8 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

(e) PROHIBITION OF REFUSAL OF APPLICATION ON GROUNDS OF EARLY SUBMISSION.-
-A State may not refuse to accept or process, with respect to any election for Federal office, any otherwise valid voter registration application or absentee ballot application (including the postcard form prescribed under section 101) submitted by an absent uniformed services voter during a year on the grounds that the voter submitted the application before the first date on which the State otherwise accepts or processes such applications for that year submitted by absentee voters who are not members of the uniformed services.

SEC. 105. ENFORCEMENT

The Attorney General may bring a civil action in an appropriate district court for such declaratory or injunctive relief as may be necessary to carry out this title.

SEC. 106. EFFECT ON CERTAIN OTHER LAWS

The exercise of any right under this title shall not affect, for purposes of any Federal, State, or local tax, the residence or domicile of a person exercising such right.

SEC. 107. DEFINITIONS

(1) "absent uniformed services voter" means --

(A) a member of a uniformed service on active duty who, by reason of such active duty, is absent from the place of residence where the member is otherwise qualified to vote;

(B) a member of the merchant marine who, by reason of service in the merchant marine, is absent from the place of residence where the member is otherwise qualified to vote; and

(C) a spouse or dependent of a member referred to in subparagraph (A) or (B) who, by reason of the active duty or service of the member, is absent from the place of residence where the spouse or dependent is otherwise qualified to vote;

(2) "balloting materials" means official post card forms (prescribed under section 101), Federal write-in absentee ballots (prescribed under section 103), and any State balloting materials that, as determined by the Presidential designee, are essential to the carrying out of this title;

(3) "Federal office" means the office of President or Vice President, or of Senator or Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress

(4) "member of the merchant marine" means 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) --

(A) employed as an officer or crew member of a vessel documented under the laws of the United States, or a vessel owned by the United States, or a vessel of foreign-flag registry under charter to or control of the United States; or

(B) enrolled with the United States for employment or training for employment, or maintained by the United States for emergency relief service, as an officer or crew member of any such vessel;

(5) "overseas voter" means --

(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 United States and is qualified to vote in the last place in which the person was domiciled before leaving the United States; or

(C) a person who resides outside the United States and (but for such residence) would be qualified to vote in the last place in which the person was domiciled before leaving the United States;

(6) "State" means a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa;

(7) "uniformed services" means the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service, and the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

(8) "United States", where used in the territorial sense, means the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.

TITLE II -- POSTAL, CRIMINAL, AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 201. AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 39, UNITED STATES CODE.

a. IN GENERAL. -- Chapter 34 of title 39, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end of the following new section:

"Â§ 3406. Balloting materials under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act

"(a) Balloting materials under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (individually or in bulk) --

"(1) shall be carried expeditiously and free of postage; and

"(2) may be mailed at a post office established outside the United States under section 406 of this title, unless such mailing is prohibited by treaty or other international agreement of the United States.

"(b) As used in this section, the term `balloting materials' has the meaning given that term in section 107 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act."

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS. --

(1) The table of sections for chapter 34 of title 39, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"Â§ 3406. Balloting materials under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act."

(2) The first sentence of section 2401(c) of title 39, United States Code, is amended --

(A) by striking out "3405" and inserting in lieu thereof "3406"; and

(B) by striking out "the Overseas Citizens Voting Rights Act of 1975, and the Federal Voting Assistance Act of 1955".

(3) Section 3627 of title 39, United States Code, is amended --

(A) by striking out "3405" and inserting in lieu thereof "3406"; and

(B) by striking out "under the Federal Voting Assistance Act of 1955 or under the Overseas Citizens Voting Rights Act of 1975".

(4) Section 3684 of title 39, United States Code, is amended by striking out, "or of the Federal Voting Assistance Act of 1955".

SEC. 202. AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 18, UNITED STATES CODE.

(a) IN GENERAL. -- Chapter 29 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new sections:

"Â§ 608. Absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters

"(a) Whoever knowingly deprives or attempts to deprive any person of a right under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act shall be fined in accordance with this title or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

"(b) Whoever knowingly gives false information for the purpose of establishing the eligibility of any person to register or vote under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, or pays or offers to pay, or accepts payment for registering voting under such Act shall be fined in accordance with this title or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

"Â§ 609. Use of military authority to influence vote of member of Armed Forces

"Whoever, being a commissioned, noncommissioned, warrant, or petty officer of an Armed Force, uses military authority to influence the vote of a member of the Armed Forces or to require a member of the Armed Forces to march to a polling place, or attempts to do so, shall be fined in accordance with this title or imprisoned not more than five years, or both. Nothing in this section shall prohibit free discussion of political issues or candidates for public office."

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT. -- The table of sections for chapter 29 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"608. Absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters.

"609. Use of military authority to influence vote of member of Armed Forces."

SEC. 203. REPEALS

The Federal Voting Assistance Act of 1955 (42 U.S.C. 1973cc et seq.) and the Overseas Citizens Voting Rights Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. 1973dd et seq.) are repealed.

SEC. 204. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments and repeals made by this Act shall apply with respect to elections for Federal office that occur after January 1, 2004.