



2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

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, by location, age, and paygrade. 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 of Findings

Overall, results show that younger, junior enlisted military members were less likely to vote, and more likely to not have had access to various communication options prior to the November 2006 general election. Older military members, officers, and those outside the United States on election day were more likely to have visited the FVAP Web site in the past 12 months, and senior officers were more likely to have used the Integrated Voting Alternative Site (IVAS). Of Reserve members and DoD civilians who were aware of IVAS, those outside the United States on election day were more likely to have experienced a problem using it.

Tables 1-3 summarize results for active duty members, Reserve members, and DoD civilian employees, respectively. 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).

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

Table 1.
Summary of Active Duty Findings

	Outside United States		Inside United States		
Voted by absentee ballot	16		15		
No access to DoD e-mail	14		15		
No access to personal e-mail	20		16		
No access to government Web sites	10		6		
No access to non-government Web sites	12		7		
No access to a fax machine	44		20		
Visited FVAP Web site in past 12 months	21		15		
Not aware of IVAS	83		86		
Aware of IVAS, but did not use it	15		13		
Used IVAS	2		1		
To request their absentee ballot	73		59		
To receive their blank absentee ballot	53		43		
Of those aware, IVAS was useful	24		20		
Of those aware, encountered problems	6		4		
	18-24 Years Old	25-29 Years Old	30-34 Years Old	35-44 Years Old	45 Years and Older
Voted by absentee ballot	8	13	18	26	36
No access to DoD e-mail	22	13	11	7	6
No access to personal e-mail	21	17	15	12	12
No access to government Web sites	9	8	6	4	2
No access to non-government Web sites	10	9	7	6	4
No access to a fax machine	34	26	22	15	8
Visited FVAP Web site in past 12 months	10	15	21	24	22
Not aware of IVAS	89	86	84	79	79
Aware of IVAS, but did not use it	10	12	14	19	17
Used IVAS	1	1	2	3	4
To request their absentee ballot	NR	NR	NR	69	NR
To receive their blank absentee ballot	NR	NR	NR	38	NR
Of those aware, IVAS was useful	19	21	17	23	30
Of those aware, encountered problems	5	4	3	5	6
	E1-E4	E5-E9	O1-O3	O4-O6	
Voted by absentee ballot	8	16	26	43	
No access to DoD e-mail	23	11	8	4	
No access to personal e-mail	23	15	10	7	
No access to government Web sites	11	5	4	2	
No access to non-government Web sites	12	7	4	2	
No access to a fax machine	36	21	18	7	
Visited FVAP Web site in past 12 months	9	19	26	26	
Not aware of IVAS	90	82	86	84	
Aware of IVAS, but did not use it	10	16	11	13	
Used IVAS	1	2	2	3	
To request their absentee ballot	NR	70	NR	54	
To receive their blank absentee ballot	NR	52	NR	24	
Of those aware, IVAS was useful	21	21	20	22	
Of those aware, encountered problems	6	4	4	5	

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

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

Table 2.
Summary of Reserve Findings

	Outside United States		Inside United States		
Voted by absentee ballot	18		9		
No access to DoD e-mail	18		25		
No access to personal e-mail	18		17		
No access to government Web sites	10		11		
No access to non-government Web sites	12		11		
No access to a fax machine	64		25		
Visited FVAP Web site in past 12 months	14		4		
Not aware of IVAS	85		92		
Aware of IVAS, but did not use it	13		8		
Used IVAS	1		1		
To request their absentee ballot	NR		41		
To receive their blank absentee ballot	NR		29		
Of those aware, IVAS was useful	16		24		
Of those aware, encountered problems	8		3		
	18-24 Years Old	25-29 Years Old	30-34 Years Old	35-44 Years Old	45 Years and Older
Voted by absentee ballot	7	7	9	10	16
No access to DoD e-mail	37	24	21	19	19
No access to personal e-mail	22	16	16	15	19
No access to government Web sites	15	10	9	9	9
No access to non-government Web sites	13	10	10	10	12
No access to a fax machine	44	30	25	21	19
Visited FVAP Web site in past 12 months	3	4	5	5	7
Not aware of IVAS	94	94	92	90	86
Aware of IVAS, but did not use it	6	5	8	9	13
Used IVAS	0	0	1	1	1
To request their absentee ballot	NR	NR	NR	NR	38
To receive their blank absentee ballot	NR	NR	NR	NR	25
Of those aware, IVAS was useful	17	26	23	22	29
Of those aware, encountered problems	2	0	4	4	5
	E1-E4	E5-E9	O1-O3	O4-O6	
Voted by absentee ballot	6	10	14	21	
No access to DoD e-mail	36	19	11	10	
No access to personal e-mail	23	17	8	7	
No access to government Web sites	15	9	5	5	
No access to non-government Web sites	15	10	5	4	
No access to a fax machine	42	22	17	9	
Visited FVAP Web site in past 12 months	3	5	9	8	
Not aware of IVAS	94	90	90	89	
Aware of IVAS, but did not use it	6	10	10	10	
Used IVAS	0	1	1	1	
To request their absentee ballot	NR	51	NR	39	
To receive their blank absentee ballot	NR	41	NR	NR	
Of those aware, IVAS was useful	20	26	21	20	
Of those aware, encountered problems	2	4	3	6	

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

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

Table 3.
Summary of DoD Civilian Findings

	Outside United States			Inside United States					
Voted by absentee ballot	33			NA					
No access to DoD e-mail	9			7					
No access to personal e-mail	20			24					
No access to government Web sites	8			6					
No access to non-government Web sites	11			11					
No access to a fax machine	21			12					
Visited FVAP Web site in past 12 months	22			NA					
Not aware of IVAS	84			NA					
Aware of IVAS, but did not use it	13			NA					
Used IVAS	3			NA					
To request their absentee ballot	NR			NA					
To receive their blank absentee ballot	NR			NA					
Of those aware, IVAS was useful	35			NA					
Of those aware, encountered problems	8			NA					
	18-24 Years Old	25-29 Years Old	30-34 Years Old	35-44 Years Old	45 Years and Older				
Voted by absentee ballot	NR	17	30	34	36				
No access to DoD e-mail	19	7	7	7	7				
No access to personal e-mail	23	17	18	22	26				
No access to government Web sites	10	5	5	5	6				
No access to non-government Web sites	11	8	9	9	13				
No access to a fax machine	23	11	14	12	12				
Visited FVAP Web site in past 12 months	NR	NR	21	21	22				
Not aware of IVAS	NR	NR	86	88	83				
Aware of IVAS, but did not use it	NR	NR	11	4	3				
Used IVAS	NR	NR	6	5	2				
To request their absentee ballot	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR				
To receive their blank absentee ballot	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR				
Of those aware, IVAS was useful	NR	NR	NR	NR	40				
Of those aware, encountered problems	NR	NR	NR	1	11				
	GS 1-4	GS 5-8	GS 9-12	GS/GM 13-15	WG 1-5	WG 6-9	WG 10-15	WS/WL 1-19	NSPS Pay Plans
Voted by absentee ballot	16	25	39	37	NR	16	24	16	31
No access to DoD e-mail	28	7	3	3	43	22	14	6	3
No access to personal e-mail	37	28	22	16	39	36	30	25	18
No access to government Web sites	21	6	3	2	25	13	9	6	3
No access to non-government Web sites	27	15	8	4	31	25	17	14	7
No access to a fax machine	30	10	7	4	45	35	28	14	4
Visited FVAP Web site in past 12 months	25	18	23	23	NR	9	13	22	18
Not aware of IVAS	85	82	83	80	NR	87	92	82	87
Aware of IVAS, but did not use it	NR	16	15	16	NR	10	8	9	10
Used IVAS	6	2	2	4	NR	3	1	8	3
To request their absentee ballot	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
To receive their blank absentee ballot	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Of those aware, IVAS was useful	NR	NR	31	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	39
Of those aware, encountered problems	NR	NR	8	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	9

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.
NA: Not Applicable NR: Not Reportable

Detailed Findings

Location on Election Day

To assess location at the time of election, active duty members 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*

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. The 2006 surveys did not include questions on the specific location of military members and DoD civilians on election day. However, for purposes of this report, an approximation¹ of geographic location was constructed for active duty members based on either self-reported deployment location or self-reported permanent duty station (PDS) location (for those not currently deployed). The following questions were used to assess current deployment location and permanent duty station location of active duty members.

Where are you currently deployed? [asked of currently deployed active duty members]

OR

Where is your current permanent duty station (homeport) located? [asked of active duty members not currently deployed]

- In one of the 50 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, or a U.S. territory or possession*
- Europe*
- Afghanistan* [asked of currently deployed only]
- Iraq* [asked of currently deployed only]
- Former Soviet Union*
- East Asia and Pacific*
- North Africa, Near East, or South Asia*
- Sub-Saharan Africa*
- Western Hemisphere*
- Other or not sure*

Table 4 shows the approximate geographic location of active duty members on election day.

¹ The approximation of location is based on self-reported location during the fielding of the active duty survey (November 20, 2006 through January 5, 2007). Because this timeframe is later than election day, November 7, 2006, there are discrepancies in location. For example, Table 1 shows that 27% of members who indicated they were outside the United States on election day also indicated being currently in the United States when taking the survey.

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

Table 4.
Approximate Geographic Location of Active Duty Members Outside the US on Election Day

	Total	Deployed	Not Deployed
Outside United States on election day	100% 320,148 (+/-14,784)	26% 83,916 (+/-9,476)	74% 236,120 (+/-12,752)
Iraq/Afghanistan	20% 63,094 (+/-8,513)	75% 63,094 (+/-8,513)	NA
Europe	24% 76,806 (+/-6,872)	1% 904 (+/-644)	32% 75,903 (+/-6,844)
Other	29% 94,033(+/-8,417)	23% 19,303 (+/-4,256)	32% 74,729 (+/-7,417)
US	27% 86,215(+/-9,362)	1% 615 (+/-467)	36% 85,487 (+/-9,350)
<i>Margin of Error</i>	±2-3%	±1-5%	±3-4%

- Of active duty members who indicated they were outside the United States on election day (24% of the total population), 29% indicated that at the time they took the survey they were in other countries outside the United States, 24% were in Europe, and 20% were in Iraq or Afghanistan. Of the active duty members who indicated they were outside the United States on election day and were deployed at the time they took the survey, 75% were in Iraq or Afghanistan.

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*

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

Active Duty

Tables 5-7 show the percentage of active duty members who indicated their voting behavior, by location, age, and paygrade.

Table 5.
Active Duty Voting Behavior, by Location

	Outside United States	Inside United States
Did not vote	83% 263,720 (+/-14,293)	76% 768,415 (+/-21,236)
Total Voted	17% 54,194 (+/-5,768)	24% 242,200 (+/-12,501)
Voted in person	1% 3,140 (+/-1,283)	9% 86,547 (+/-8,426)
Voted by absentee ballot	16% 51,054 (+/-5,641)	15% 155,653 (+/-9,969)
<i>Margin of Error</i>	$\pm 1-2\%$	$\pm 1-2\%$

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.

- Active duty members inside the United States on election day (24%) were more likely to indicate that they voted than active duty members outside the United States (17%). Active duty members inside the United States on election day (9%) were more likely to indicate that they voted in person than active duty members outside the United States (1%).

Table 6.
Active Duty Voting Behavior, by Age

	18-24 Years Old	25-29 Years Old	30-34 Years Old	35-44 Years Old	More Than 45 Years Old
Did not vote	88% 445,327 (+/-18,516)	81% 247,304 (+/-13,771)	76% 147,904 (+/-9,036)	62% 171,866 (+/-9,383)	46% 21,194 (+/-2,960)
Total Voted	12% 60,169 (+/-7,672)	19% 56,584 (+/-6,196)	24% 47,920 (+/-5,290)	38% 106,717 (+/-8,214)	54% 25,096 (+/-3,174)
Voted in person	3% 17,580 (+/-4,194)	6% 16,878 (+/-3,888)	7% 13,612 (+/-2,946)	12% 33,131 (+/-5,271)	18% 8,491 (+/-2,428)
Voted by absentee ballot	8% 42,589 (+/-6,577)	13% 39,706 (+/-4,903)	18% 34,308 (+/-4,479)	26% 73,586 (+/-6,694)	36% 16,605 (+/-2,114)
<i>Margin of Error</i>	$\pm 1-2\%$	$\pm 2-3\%$	$\pm 2-3\%$	$\pm 2-3\%$	$\pm 5\%$

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.

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

- Active duty members more than 45 years old (54%) and 35-44 years old (38%) were more likely to indicate they voted, whereas active duty members 18-24 (12%) and 25-29 (19%) years old were less likely. Active duty members 45 and older (18%) and 35-44 years old (12%) were more likely to indicate they voted in person, whereas active duty members 18-24 years old (3%) were less likely. Active duty members 45 and older (36%) and 35-44 years old (26%) were more likely to indicate they voted by absentee ballot, whereas active duty members 18-24 (8%) and 25-29 (13%) years old were less likely.

Table 7.
Active Duty Voting Behavior, by Paygrade

	E1-E4	E5-E9	O1-O3	O4-O6
Did not vote	89% 451,401 (+/-16,346)	75% 451,685 (+/-11,912)	66% 77,462 (+/-3,763)	47% 41,288 (+/-2,476)
Total Voted	11% 56,315 (+/-7,733)	25% 146,879 (+/-10,178)	34% 39,935 (+/-3,551)	53% 46,821 (+/-2,421)
Voted in person	3% 17,019 (+/-4,277)	9% 52,104 (+/-6,799)	8% 9,757 (+/-2,408)	10% 8,967 (+/-1,398)
Voted by absentee ballot	8% 39,296 (+/-6,614)	16% 94,776 (+/-8,358)	26% 30,178 (+/-2,818)	43% 37,854 (+/-2,291)
<i>Margin of Error</i>	±1-2%	±2%	±3%	±2-3%

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.

- O4-O6s (53%), O1-O3s (34%), and E5-E9s (25%) were more likely to indicate they voted, whereas E1-E4s (11%) were less likely. O4-O6s (10%) and E5-E9s (9%) were more likely to indicate they voted in person, whereas E1-E4s (3%) were less likely. O4-O6s (43%) and O1-O3s (26%) were more likely to indicate they voted by absentee ballot, whereas E1-E4s (8%) were less likely.

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

Reserve Component

Tables 8-10 show the percentage of Reserve members who indicated their voting behavior, by location, age, and paygrade.

Table 8.
Reserve Voting Behavior, by Location

	Outside United States	Inside United States
Did not vote	74% 50,052 (+/-3,635)	46% 329,797 (+/-9,923)
Total Voted	26% 17,433 (+/-2,090)	54% 383,981 (+/-8,782)
Voted in person	8% 5,210 (+/-1,309)	45% 321,067 (+/-8,463)
Voted by absentee ballot	18% 12,224 (+/-1,646)	9% 62,914 (+/-4,468)
Margin of Error	±2-3	±1-3

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.

- Reserve members inside the United States on election day (54%) were more likely to indicate that they voted than Reserve members outside the United States (26%). Reserve members inside the United States on election day (45%) were more likely to indicate that they voted in person than Reserve members outside the United States (8%). Reserve members outside the United States on election day (18%) were more likely to indicate they voted by absentee ballot than Reserve members inside the United States (9%).

Table 9.
Reserve Voting Behavior, by Age

	18-24 Years Old	25-29 Years Old	30-34 Years Old	35-44 Years Old	45 and Older
Did not vote	67% 133,243 (+/-8,902)	61% 67,632 (+/-5,656)	51% 49,596 (+/-4,335)	39% 94,207 (+/-4,902)	27% 35,583 (+/-2,901)
Total Voted	33% 65,791 (+/-6,248)	39% 42,510 (+/-3,619)	49% 47,250 (+/-3,766)	61% 150,386 (+/-5,732)	73% 95,696 (+/-4,246)
Voted in person	26% 52,659 (+/-5,632)	32% 35,191 (+/-3,340)	40% 38,763 (+/-3,349)	51% 125,020 (+/-5,361)	57% 74,850 (+/-3,953)
Voted by absentee ballot	7% 13,132 (+/-3,309)	7% 7,318 (+/-1,480)	9% 8,488 (+/-1,797)	10% 25,366 (+/-2,499)	16% 20,846 (+/-2,002)
Margin of Error	±2-4	±2-3	±2-4	±2-3	±2

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.

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

- Reserve members 45 and older (73%) and 35-44 years old (61%) were more likely to indicate they voted, whereas Reserve members 18-24 (33%) and 25-29 (39%) years old were less likely. Reserve members 45 and older (57%) and 35-44 years old (51%) were more likely to indicate they voted in person, whereas Reserve members 18-24 (26%) and 25-29 (32%) years old were less likely. Reserve members 45 and older (16%) were more likely to indicate they voted by absentee ballot, whereas Reserve members 18-24 and 25-29 years old (both 7%) were less likely.

Table 10.
Reserve Voting Behavior, by Paygrade

	E1-E4	E5-E9	O1-O3	O4-O6
Did not vote	65% 186,563 (+/-8,833)	42% 161,426 (+/-5,338)	37% 14,966 (+/-1,251)	24% 14,258 (+/-1,153)
Total Voted	35% 101,894 (+/-7,151)	58% 220,992 (+/-5,310)	63% 25,496 (+/-1,314)	76% 46,234 (+/-1,396)
Voted in person	29% 84,432 (+/-6,712)	48% 183,551 (+/-5,147)	49% 19,990 (+/-1,269)	55% 33,242 (+/-1,414)
Voted by absentee ballot	6% 17,462 (+/-3,725)	10% 37,441 (+/-3,075)	14% 5,506 (+/-746)	21% 12,992 (+/-1,140)
Margin of Error	±2-3	±1-2	±2-3	±2-3

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.

- O4-O6s (76%), O1-O3 (63%), and E5-E9s (58%) were more likely to indicate they voted, whereas E1-E4s (35%) were less likely. O4-O6s (55%), O1-O3 (49%), and E5-E9s (48%) were more likely to indicate they voted in person, whereas E1-E4s (29%) were less likely. O4-O6s (21%) and O1-O3s (14%) were more likely to indicate they voted by absentee ballot, whereas E1-E4s (6%) were less likely.

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

DoD Civilian Employees

Tables 11-13 show the percentage of DoD civilians who indicated they were outside the United States on election day, who indicated their voting behavior overall and by age and paygrade.

Table 11.
DoD Civilian Voting Behavior²

	Outside United States
Did not vote	58% 24,732 (+/-1,981)
Total Voted	42% 18,202 (+/-1,625)
Voted in person	9% 3,913 (+/-708)
Voted by absentee ballot	33% 14,289 (+/- 1,472)
<i>Margin of Error</i>	±2-4%

- Of DoD civilians who indicated they were outside the United States on election day, 9% indicated they voted in person, 33% voted by casting an absentee ballot, and 58% did not vote.

Table 12.
DoD Civilian Voting Behavior, by Age

	18-24 Years Old	25-29 Years Old	30-34 Years Old	35-44 Years Old	45 Years and Older
Did not vote	NR	70% 1,364 (+/-551)	66% 2,503 (+/-12)	61% 7,003 (+/-6)	53% 13,003 (+/-4)
Total Voted	NR	30% 584 (+/-346)	34% 1,294 (+/-501)	39% 4,544 (+/-863)	47% 11,686 (+/-1259)
Voted in person	2% 13 (+/-16)	13% 251 (+/-231)	4% 163 (+/-144)	5% 621 (+/-298)	12% 2,850 (+/-583)
Voted by absentee ballot	NR	17% 333 (+/-258)	30% 1,132 (+/-481)	34% 3,923 (+/-812)	36% 8,836 (+/-1123)
<i>Margin of Error</i>	NR	±16-17%	±6-12%	±4-6%	±3-4%

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

- Of DoD civilians who indicated they were outside the United States on election day, employees 45 years and older (47%) were more likely to indicate they voted. Employees 45 years and

² Item asked only of DoD civilians who indicated they were outside the United States on election day.

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

older (12%) were more likely to indicate they voted in person, whereas employees 18-24 (2%) and 35-44 (5%) years old were less likely. Employees 25-29 years old (17%) were less likely to indicate they voted by absentee ballot.

Table 13.
DoD Civilian Voting Behavior, by Paygrade

	GS 1-4	GS 5-8	GS 9-12	GS/GM 13-15	WG 1-5	WG 6-9	WG 10-15	WS/WL 1-19	NSPS Pay Plans
Did not vote	72% 1,771 (+/-713)	64% 4,066 (+/-744)	54% 8,359 (+/-1139)	54% 3,144 (+/-764)	NR	65% 904 (+/-354)	61% 1,071 (+/-386)	69% 687 (+/-252)	49% 440 (+/-131)
Total Voted	28% 697 (+/-341)	36% 2,241 (+/-534)	46% 7,004 (+/-1089)	46% 2,693 (+/-692)	NR	35% 495 (+/-240)	39% 695 (+/-284)	31% 312 (+/-176)	51% 460 (+/-64)
Voted in person	12% 302 (+/-237)	10% 634 (+/-261)	7% 1,022 (+/-387)	10% 559 (+/-329)	15% 156 (+/-137)	20% 273 (+/-174)	15% 272 (+/-174)	15% 151 (+/-122)	21% 185 (+/-43)
Voted by absentee ballot	16% 395 (+/-246)	25% 1,607 (+/-468)	39% 5,981 (+/-1022)	37% 2,133 (+/-612)	NR	16% 222 (+/-166)	24% 424 (+/-224)	16% 161 (+/-126)	31% 275 (+/-49)
Margin of Error	±13-15%	±5-8%	±3-6%	±7-9%	±17%	±14-16%	±12-14%	±15-16%	±6-9%

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

- Of DoD civilians who indicated they were outside the United States on election day, NSPS pay plan employees (21%) were more likely to indicate they voted in person than non-NSPS pay plan employees. GS 9-12 employees were more likely to indicate they voted by absentee ballot, whereas GS 1-4 (16%), WG 6 to 9 (16%), and WS/WL 1 to 19 (16%) employees were less likely.

Availability of Communication Options 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 the following questions about their access to e-mail, Web sites, and fax machines.

Considering your location and working conditions, approximately how many days did you have access to...

- your DoD e-mail
- your personal (non-DoD) e-mail
- government Web sites (e.g., .gov or .mil sites)
- non-government Web sites (e.g., .com sites)
- a fax machine

...between September 18 and November 6, 2006?

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

Active Duty

Tables 14-16 show the percentage of active duty members who did not have access to the various means of communication and those who had access every day between September 18 and November 6, by location, age, and paygrade.

Table 14.
Active Duty Availability of Communications Options Prior to Election Day, by Location

	Outside United States	Inside United States
DoD E-mail Access		
None	14% 45,496 (+/-7,676)	15% 148,824 (+/-12,570)
Every day	47% 148,932 (+/-10,198)	54% 543,347 (+/-19,151)
Personal E-mail Access		
None	20% 63,672 (+/-8,352)	16% 160,243 (+/-13,124)
Every day	44% 141,172 (+/-10,144)	56% 564,250 (+/-19,171)
Government Web Site Access		
None	10% 31,445 (+/-6,605)	6% 60,878 (+/-8,904)
Every day	51% 162,457 (+/-10,866)	61% 611,796 (+/-19,608)
Non-Government Web Site Access		
None	12% 37,823 (+/-7,175)	7% 73,398 (+/-9,608)
Every day	51% 160,946 (+/-10,709)	63% 638,604 (+/-19,725)
Fax Machines		
None	44% 139,064 (+/-11,949)	20% 198,366 (+/-15,767)
Every day	35% 111,619 (+/-8,897)	51% 512,759 (+/-17,789)
<i>Margin of Error</i>	±3%	±1-2%

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.

- With exception to DoD e-mail access, active duty members outside the United States on election day were more likely to indicate having no access to all communications options: personal e-mail (20% vs. 16%), government Web sites (10% vs. 6%), non-government Web sites (12% vs. 7%), and fax machines (44% vs. 20%).

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

- Active duty members inside the United States on election day were more likely to indicate having access to all communications options every day than active duty members outside the United States: DoD e-mail (54% vs. 47%), personal e-mail (56% vs. 44%), government Web sites (61% vs. 51%), non-government Web sites (63% vs. 51%), and fax machines (51% vs. 35%).

Table 15.
Active Duty Availability of Communication Options Prior to Election Day, by Age

	18-24 Years Old	25-29 Years Old	30-34 Years Old	35-44 Years Old	More Than 45 Years Old
DoD E-mail Access					
None	22% 109,217(+/-11,633)	13% 40,760 (+/-7,080)	11% 22,273 (+/-4,237)	7% 20,216 (+/-3,492)	6% 2,831 (+/-874)
Every day	46% 232,776 (+/-16,108)	52% 158,544 (+/-10,405)	54% 106,977 (+/-7,591)	58% 163,533 (+/-9,122)	65% 30,643 (+/-3,613)
Personal E-mail Access					
None	21% 104,590 (+/-11,754)	17% 52,555 (+/-7,633)	15% 29,824 (+/-4,837)	12% 32,391(+/-4,670)	12% 5,555 (+/-1,701)
Every day	48% 241,530 (+/-16,231)	53% 161,170 (+/-10,434)	55% 109,599 (+/-7,626)	58% 163,011 (+/-9,040)	64% 30,458 (+/-3,605)
Government Web Site Access					
None	9% 45,539 (+/-8,339)	8% 23,475 (+/-6,167)	6% 11,733 (+/-3,027)	4% 11,118 (+/-2,661)	2% 1,110 (+/-542)
Every day	55% 276,676(+/-16,854)	58% 176,839(+/-10,775)	60% 119,225 (+/-8,072)	61% 169,463 (+/-9,126)	68% 32,432 (+/-3,761)
Non-Government Web Site Access					
None	10% 52,263 (+/-9,059)	9% 27,777 (+/-6,315)	7% 12,879(+/-2,944)	6% 17,603 (+/-3,694)	4% 1,718 (+/-754)
Every day	56% 281,579 (+/-16,898)	61% 183,879 (+/-10,979)	63% 123,819 (+/-8,227)	63% 177,236 (+/-9,291)	71% 33,202 (+/-3,769)
Fax Machines					
None	34% 169,956(+/-15,432)	26% 78,497(+/-9,439)	22% 43,746(+/-5,945)	15% 42,224(+/-5,307)	8% 3,880(+/-1,118)
Every day	41% 205,613(+/-14,674)	46% 140,822(+/-9,313)	51% 99,777(+/-7,164)	54% 149,901(+/-8,846)	60% 28,481(+/-3,598)
<i>Margin of Error</i>	±2-3%	±3%	±2-3%	±2-3%	±2-5%

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.

- DoD E-mail:** Active duty members 18-24 years old (22%) were more likely to report having no access to DoD e-mail, whereas active duty members 45 and older (6%), 35-44 (7%), and 30-34 (11%) years old were less likely. Active duty members 45 and older (65%) and 35-44 years old (58%) were more likely to report having access every day, whereas active duty members 18-24 years old (46%) were less likely.

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

- Personal E-mail:** Active duty members 18-24 years old (21%) were more likely to report having no access to personal e-mail, whereas active duty members 45 and older and 35-44 years old (both 12%) were less likely. Active duty members 45 and older (64%) and 35-44 years old (58%) were more likely to report having access every day, whereas active duty members 18-24 years old (48%) were less likely.
- Government Web Sites:** Active duty members 18-24 years old (9%) were more likely to report having no access to government Web sites, whereas active duty members 45 and older (2%) and 35-44 years old (4%) were less likely. Active duty members 45 and older (68%) were more likely to report having access every day, whereas active duty members 18-24 years old (55%) were less likely.
- Non-Government Web Sites:** Active duty members 18-24 years old (10%) were more likely to report having no access to non-government Web sites, whereas active duty members 45 and older (4%) and 35-44 years old (6%) were less likely. Active duty members 45 and older (71%) and 35-44 years old (63%) were more likely to report having access every day, whereas active duty members 18-24 years old (56%) were less likely.
- Fax Machines:** Active duty members 18-24 years old (34%) were more likely to report having no access to fax machines, whereas active duty members 45 and older (8%) and 35-44 years old (15%) were less likely. Active duty members 45 and older (60%), 35-44 (54%), and 30-34 (51%) years old were more likely to report having access every day, whereas active duty members 18-24 years old (41%) were less likely.

Table 16.
Active Duty Availability of Communication Options Prior to Election Day, by Paygrade

	E1-E4	E5-E9	O1-O3	O4-O6
DoD E-mail Access				
None	23% 117,880 (+/-12,562)	11% 63,076 (+/-6,574)	8% 9,703 (+/-1,579)	4% 3,367 (+/-683)
Every day	45% 230,051 (+/-15,777)	54% 326,311 (+/-11,890)	56% 66,045 (+/-3,890)	66% 59,034 (+/-2,489)
Personal E-mail Access				
None	23% 116,167 (+/-12,607)	15% 89,187 (+/-7,943)	10% 11,725 (+/-1,845)	7% 5,961 (+/-1,123)
Every day	46% 235,067 (+/-15,765)	55% 329,690 (+/-11,852)	60% 70,451 (+/-3,974)	67% 59,643 (+/-2,520)
Government Web Site Access				
None	11% 54,831 (+/-9,613)	5% 31,938 (+/-4,980)	4% 4,280 (+/-1,140)	2% 1,411 (+/-568)
Every day	53% 269,973 (+/-16,309)	60% 359,669 (+/-11,946)	62% 73,622 (+/-3,977)	67% 59,967 (+/-2,492)
Non-Government Web Site Access				
None	12% 62,425 (+/-10,185)	7% 42,926 (+/-5,800)	4% 4,245 (+/-1,146)	2% 1,808 (+/-649)
Every day	54% 273,790 (+/-16,198)	62% 372,133 (+/-12,013)	66% 77,643 (+/-4,008)	73% 64,625 (+/-2,474)

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

Table 16. (continued)

Fax Machines				
None	36% 183,338 (+/-15,681)	21% 124,256 (+/-9,319)	18% 20,653 (+/-2,482)	7% 5,966 (+/-1,153)
Every day	40% 201,253 (+/-14,320)	50% 302,695 (+/-11,401)	50% 58,827 (+/-3,839)	60% 53,033 (+/-2,539)
Margin of Error	±2-3%	±1-2%	±2-3%	±1-3%

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.

- DoD E-mail:** E1-E4s (23%) were more likely to report having no access to DoD e-mail, whereas O4-O6s (4%), O1-O3s (8%), and E5-E9s (11%) were less likely. O4-O6s (66%), O1-O3s (56%), and E5-E9s (54%) were more likely to report having access every day, whereas E1-E4s (45%) were less likely.
- Personal E-mail:** E1-E4s (23%) were more likely to report having no access to personal e-mail, whereas more than O4-O6s (7%), O1-O3s (10%), and E5-E9s (15%) were less likely. O4-O6s (67%), O1-O3s (60%), and E5-E9s (55%) were more likely to report having access every day, whereas members 18-24 years old (46%) were less likely.
- Government Web Sites:** E1-E4s (11%) were more likely to report having no access to government Web sites, whereas O4-O6s (2%), O1-O3s (4%), and E5-E9s (5%) were less likely. O4-O6s (67%) and O1-O3s (62%) were more likely to report having access every day, whereas E1-E4s (53%) were less likely.
- Non-Government Web Sites:** E1-E4s (12%) were more likely to report having no access to non-government Web sites, whereas O4-O6s (2%), O1-O3s (4%), and E5-E9s (7%) were less likely. O4-O6s (73%) and O1-O3s (66%) were more likely to report having access every day, whereas E1-E4s (54%) were less likely.
- Fax Machines:** E1-E4s (36%) were more likely to report having no access to fax machines, whereas O4-O6s (7%), O1-O3s (18%), and E5-E9s (21%) were less likely. O4-O6s (60%) and E5-E9s (50%) were more likely to report having access every day, whereas E1-E4s (40%) were less likely.

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

Reserve Component

Tables 17-19 show the percentage of Reserve members who did not have access to the various means of communication and those who had access every day between September 18 and November 6, by location, age, and paygrade.

Table 17.
Reserve Availability of Communication Options Prior to Election Day, by Location

	Outside United States	Inside United States
DoD E-mail Access		
None	18% 12,372 (+/-2,278)	25% 176,885 (+/-8,581)
Every day	44% 29,314 (+/-2,604)	46% 324,628 (+/-9,375)
Personal E-mail Access		
None	18% 12,162 (+/-2,117)	17% 123,800 (+/-7,876)
Every day	43% 29,002 (+/-2,685)	59% 421,560 (+/-9,744)
Government Web Site Access		
None	10% 6,443 (+/-1,774)	11% 76,467 (+/-6,458)
Every day	49% 32,867 (+/-2,786)	60% 420,927 (+/-9,852)
Non-Government Web Site Access		
None	12% 7,963 (+/-1,812)	11% 76,550 (+/-6,541)
Every day	49% 32,610 (+/-2,847)	66% 468,878 (+/-9,866)
Fax Machines		
None	64% 42,936 (+/-3,395)	25% 177,259 (+/-9,107)
Every day	21% 13,899 (+/-1,736)	48% 340,870 (+/-9,325)
Margin of Error	±3-4%	±1-2%

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.

- Reserve members inside the United States on election day (25%) were more likely to indicate having no access to DoD e-mail than Reserve members outside the United States (18%). Reserve members outside the United States on election day (64%) were more likely to indicate having no access to fax machines than Reserve members inside the United States (25%).

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

- With exception to DoD e-mail access, Reserve members inside the United States on election day were more likely to indicate having access to all communications options every day than Reserve members outside the United States: personal e-mail (59% vs. 43%), government Web sites (60% vs. 49%), non-government Web sites (66% vs. 49%), and fax machines (48% vs. 21%).

Table 18.

Reserve Availability of Communication Options Prior to Election Day, by Age

	18-24 Years Old	25-29 Years Old	30-34 Years Old	35-44 Years Old	45 and Older
DoD E-mail Access					
None	37% 73,788(+/-7,152)	24% 25,911(+/-3,319)	21% 19,888(+/-2,529)	19% 45,223(+/-3,802)	19% 24,833(+/-2,844)
Every day	37% 72,497(+/-7,196)	46% 50,748(+/-4,702)	48% 46,132(+/-4,050)	49% 119,104(+/-5,144)	50% 65,670(+/-3,446)
Personal E-mail Access					
None	22% 42,837(+/-6,390)	16% 17,156(+/-2,836)	16% 15,060(+/-2,316)	15% 36,167(+/-3,363)	19% 24,991(+/-2,615)
Every day	52% 101,956(+/-7,788)	58% 63,841(+/-5,172)	60% 58,192(+/-4,355)	61% 149,679(+/-5,571)	59% 77,103(+/-3,719)
Government Web Site Access					
None	15% 29,310(+/-5,250)	10% 10,469(+/-1,864)	9% 8,880(+/-1,823)	9% 22,211(+/-3,006)	9% 12,333(+/-1,910)
Every day	54% 106,425(+/-8,096)	59% 64,819(+/-5,325)	59% 57,144(+/-4,334)	61% 147,505(+/-5,689)	60% 78,124(+/-3,757)
Non-Government Web Site Access					
None	13% 24,989(+/-5,040)	10% 11,215(+/-2,234)	10% 9,450(+/-2,180)	10% 23,427(+/-3,142)	12% 15,668(+/-2,136)
Every day	61% 119,866(+/-8,242)	64% 70,192(+/-5,368)	66% 63,556(+/-4,624)	67% 163,595(+/-5,827)	65% 84,489(+/-3,867)
Fax Machines					
None	44% 88,289(+/-7,952)	30% 32,608(+/-3,862)	25% 23,554(+/-2,872)	21% 50,585(+/-4,044)	19% 25,373(+/-2,580)
Every day	32% 63,784(+/-6,562)	44% 48,386(+/-4,509)	50% 47,833(+/-4,297)	52% 126,464(+/-5,069)	52% 68,529(+/-3,561)
Margin of Error	±3-4	±2-4	±2-4	±2	±2-3

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.

- **DoD E-mail:** Reserve members 18-24 years old (37%) were more likely to report having no access to DoD e-mail, whereas Reserve members 45 and older (19%), 35-44 (19%), and 30-34 (21%) years old were less likely. Reserve members 45 and older (50%) and 35-44 years old (49%) were more likely to report having access every day, whereas Reserve members 18-24 years old (37%) were less likely.
- **Personal E-mail:** Reserve members 18-24 years old (22%) were more likely to report having no access to personal e-mail, whereas Reserve members 35-44 years old (15%) were less likely.

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

Reserve members 35-44 years old (61%) were more likely to report having access every day, whereas Reserve members 18-24 years old (52%) were less likely.

- **Government Web Sites:** Reserve members 18-24 years old (15%) were more likely to report having no access to government Web sites, whereas Reserve members 35-44 years old (9%) were less likely. Reserve members 18-24 years old (54%) were less likely to report having access every day.
- **Non-Government Web Sites:** Reserve members 35-44 years old (67%) were more likely to report having access to non-government Web sites every day, whereas Reserve members 18-24 years old (61%) were less likely.
- **Fax Machines:** Reserve members 18-24 years old (44%) were more likely to report having no access to fax machines, whereas Reserve members 45 and older (19%), 35-44 (21%), and 30-34 (25%) years old were less likely. Reserve members 45 and older (52%), 35-44 (52%), and 30-34 (50%) years old were more likely to report having access every day, whereas Reserve members 18-24 years old (32%) were less likely.

Table 19.

Reserve Availability of Communication Options Prior to Election Day, by Paygrade

	E1-E4	E5-E9	O1-O3	O4-O6
DoD E-mail Access				
None	36% 103,958(+/-7,805)	19% 74,142(+/-3,922)	11% 4,380(+/-666)	10% 6,109(+/-826)
Every day	37% 107,352(+/-7,976)	48% 184,850(+/-5,273)	54% 21,669(+/-1,367)	57% 34,421(+/-1,451)
Personal E-mail Access				
None	23% 64,961(+/-7,131)	17% 62,967(+/-3,737)	8% 3,203(+/-591)	7% 4,142(+/-690)
Every day	52% 147,647(+/-8,372)	59% 226,129(+/-5,482)	67% 26,875(+/-1,392)	72% 43,449(+/-1,445)
Government Web Site Access				
None	15% 43,850(+/-5,976)	9% 34,283(+/-2,879)	5% 1,881 (+/-436)	5% 2,827(+/-573)
Every day	54% 153,663(+/-8,512)	60% 228,014 (+/-5,458)	64% 25,646(+/-1,385)	66% 40,029 (+/-1,456)
Non-Government Web Site Access				
None	15% 42,136 (+/-5,997)	10% 37,337 (+/-2,964)	5% 1,970 (+/-472)	4% 2,662(+/-560)
Every day	59% 169,492(+/-8,622)	66% 250,722 (+/-5,574)	71% 28,402 (+/-1,395)	76% 46,027 (+/-1,414)
Fax Machines				
None	42% 121,621 (+/-8,468)	22% 84,806 (+/-4,278)	17% 6,815 (+/-926)	9% 5,478 (+/-780)
Every day	35% 99,233 (+/-7,731)	50% 192,432 (+/-5,320)	52% 20,921 (+/-1,293)	61% 36,994 (+/-1,463)
Margin of Error	±3	±1-2	±2-3	±2-3

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.

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

- **DoD E-mail:** E1-E4s (36%) were more likely to report having no access to DoD e-mail, whereas O4-O6s (10%), O1-O3s (11%), and E5-E9s (19%) were less likely. O4-O6s (57%), O1-O3s (54%), and E5-E9s (48%) were more likely to report having access every day, whereas E1-E4s (37%) were less likely.
- **Personal E-mail:** E1-E4s (23%) were more likely to report having no access to personal e-mail, whereas O4-O6s (7%) and O1-O3s (8%) were less likely. O4-O6s (72%) and O1-O3s (67%) were more likely to report having access every day, whereas E1-E4s (52%) were less likely.
- **Government Web Sites:** E1-E4s (15%) were more likely to report having no access to government Web sites, whereas O4-O6s (5%), O1-O3s (5%), and E5-E9s (9%) were less likely. O4-O6s (66%) and O1-O3s (64%) were more likely to report having access every day, whereas E1-E4s (54%) were less likely.
- **Non-Government Web Sites:** E1-E4s (15%) were more likely to report having no access to non-government Web sites, whereas O4-O6s (4%) and O1-O3s (5%) were less likely. O4-O6s (76%) and O1-O3s (71%) were more likely to report having access every day, whereas E1-E4s (59%) were less likely.
- **Fax Machines:** E1-E4s (42%) were more likely to report having no access to fax machines, whereas O4-O6s (9%), O1-O3s (17%), and E5-E9s (22%) were less likely. O4-O6s (61%), O1-O3 (52%), and E5-E9s (50%) were more likely to report having access every day, whereas E1-E4s (35%) were less likely.

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

DoD Civilian Employees

Tables 20-22 show the percentage of DoD civilian members who did not have access to the various means of communication and those who had access every day between September 18 and November 6, by location, age, and paygrade.

Table 20.
DoD Civilian Availability of Communication Options Prior to Election Day, by Location

	Outside United States	Inside United States
DoD E-mail Access		
None	9 4,077 (+/-835)	7 43,484 (+/-2,529)
Every day	64 27,822 (+/-1,987)	62 366,536 (+/-5,099)
Personal E-mail Access		
None	20 8,794 (+/-1,211)	24 143,779 (+/-4,254)
Every day	59 25,544 (+/-1,959)	59 346,094 (+/-5,205)
Government Web Site Access		
None	8 3,632 (+/-775)	6 33,607 (+/-2,187)
Every day	67 28,858 (+/-2,040)	66 389,280 (+/-5,139)
Non-Government Web Site Access		
None	11 4,641 (+/-831)	11 67,115 (+/-3,027)
Every day	67 28,918 (+/-2,085)	68 396,578 (+/-5,120)
Fax Machines		
None	21 8,934 (+/-1,281)	12 68,487 (+/-2,978)
Every day	51 22,097 (+/-1,831)	58 33,9581 (+/-5,163)
<i>Margin of Error</i>	±2-4	±1

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.

- **DoD E-mail:** There were no significant differences by location.
- **Personal E-mail:** DoD civilian employees inside the United States on election day (24%) were more likely to indicate having no access to personal e-mail than DoD civilian employees outside the United States (20%).

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

- **Government Web Sites:** DoD civilian employees outside the United States on election day (8%) were more likely to report having no access to government Web sites than DoD civilian employees inside the United States (6%).
- **Non-Government Web Sites:** There were no significant differences by location.
- **Fax Machines:** DoD civilian employees outside the United States on election day (21%) were more likely to indicate having no access to fax machines, whereas DoD civilian employees inside the United States (12%). DoD civilian employees inside the United States on election day (58%) were more likely to indicate having access to fax machines every day than DoD civilian employees outside the United States (51%).

Table 21.

DoD Civilian Availability of Communication Options Prior to Election Day, by Age

	18-24 Years Old	25-29 Years Old	30-34 Years Old	35-44 Years Old	45 Years and Older
DoD E-mail Access					
None	19% 2,832 (+/-889)	7% 2,409 (+/-768)	7% 2,536 (+/-688)	7% 9,610 (+/-1,215)	7% 29,769 (+/-1,968)
Every day	52% 7,956 (+/-1,233)	57% 19,797 (+/-1,915)	60% 21,490 (+/-1,907)	60% 8,5028 (+/-3,199)	64% 26,0397 (+/-4,493)
Personal E-mail Access					
None	23% 3,500 (+/-910)	17% 6,002 (+/-1,105)	18% 6,461 (+/-1,074)	22% 31,735 (+/-2,154)	26% 104,956 (+/-3,606)
Every day	64% 9,664 (+/-1,398)	64% 22,280 (+/-2,044)	62% 21,881 (+/-1,918)	58% 82,595 (+/-3,170)	58% 235,265 (+/-4,523)
Government Web Site Access					
None	10% 1,554 (+/-608)	5% 1,660 (+/-563)	5% 1,673 (+/-563)	5% 6,949 (+/-1,033)	6% 25,405 (+/-1,829)
Every day	64% 9,750 (+/-1,404)	64% 22,217 (+/-2,033)	64% 22,572 (+/-1,935)	64% 90,676 (+/-3,269)	67% 27,2914 (+/-4,539)
Non-Government Web Site Access					
None	11% 1,692 (+/-627)	8% 2,700 (+/-720)	9% 3,039 (+/-772)	9% 13,057 (+/-1,381)	13% 51,503 (+/-2,606)
Every day	70% 10,654 (+/-1,465)	72% 24,851 (+/-2,153)	69% 24,370 (+/-1,993)	67% 93,885 (+/-3,337)	67% 271,788 (+/-4,559)
Fax Machines					
None	23% 3,506 (+/- 952)	11% 3,922 (+/-933)	14% 5,061 (+/-951)	12% 17,409 (+/-1,584)	12% 47,345 (+/-2,391)
Every day	46% 7,041 (+/-1,157)	52% 18,295 (+/-1,841)	54% 19,231 (+/-1,799)	55% 77,227 (+/-3,111)	59% 240,110 (+/-4,526)
<i>Margin of Error</i>	5-6%	3-4%	3-4%	1-2%	1-2%

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.

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

- **DoD E-mail:** DoD civilian employees 18-24 years old (19%) were more likely to report having no access to DoD e-mail. DoD civilian employees 45 years and older (64%) were more likely to report having access to DoD e-mail every day, whereas DoD civilian employees 18-24 (52%), 25-29 (57%), and 35-44 (60%) years old were less likely.
- **Personal E-mail:** DoD civilian employees 45 years and older (26%) were more likely to report having no access to personal e-mail, whereas DoD civilian employees 25-29 (17%), 30-34 (18%), and 35-44 (22%) years old were less likely. DoD civilian employees 25-29 years old (64%) were more likely to report having access to personal e-mail every day.
- **Government Web Sites:** DoD civilian employees 45 years and older (6%) were more likely to report having no access to government Web sites, whereas DoD civilian employees 35-44 years old (5%) were less likely. DoD civilian employees 45 years and older (67%) were more likely to report having access to government Web sites every day.
- **Non-Government Web Sites:** DoD civilian employees 45 years and older (13%) were more likely to report having no access to non-government Web sites, whereas DoD civilian employees 25-29 (8%), 30-34 (9%), and 35-44 (9%) years old were less likely.
- **Fax Machines:** DoD civilian employees 18-24 years old (23%) were more likely to report having no access to fax machines. DoD civilian employees 45 years and older (59%) were more likely to report having access to fax machines every day, whereas DoD civilian employees 18-24 (46%), 25-29 (52%), and 35-44 (55%) years old were less likely.

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

Table 22.
DoD Civilian Availability of Communication Options Prior to Election Day, by Paygrade

	GS 1-4	GS 5-8	GS 9-12	GS/GM 13-15	WG 1-5	WG 6-9	WG 10-15	WS/WL 1-19	NSPS Pay Plans
DoD E-mail Access									
None	28% 5,751 (+/-1,067)	7% 7,348 (+/-1,059)	3% 6,679 (+/-1,122)	3% 2,332 (+/-737)	43% 5,963 (+/-941)	22% 7,240 (+/-970)	14% 7,821 (+/-979)	6% 1,487 (+/-409)	3% 649 (+/-95)
Every day	45% 9,026 (+/-1,287)	64% 69,071 (+/-2,438)	67% 139,180 (+/-3,397)	67% 54,611 (+/-2,160)	35% 4,867 (+/-799)	48% 15,842 (+/-1,401)	51% 2,9126 (+/-1,730)	61% 16,242 (+/-1,198)	66% 16,342 (+/-630)
Personal E-mail Access									
None	37% 7,358 (+/-1,209)	28% 29,738 (+/-1,990)	22% 45,626 (+/-2,705)	16% 13,178 (+/-1,567)	39% 5,354 (+/-832)	36% 11,694 (+/-1,190)	30% 16,968 (+/-1,386)	25% 6,673 (+/-805)	18% 4,461 (+/-240)
Every day	45% 8,983 (+/-1,293)	55% 59,572 (+/-2,413)	62% 129,157 (+/-3,472)	65% 53,248 (+/-2,188)	46% 6,220 (+/-964)	45% 14,924 (+/-1,402)	51% 29,158 (+/-1,749)	57% 14,914 (+/-115)	65% 15,944 (+/-741)
Government Web Site Access									
None	21% 4,104 (+/-934)	6% 6,798 (+/-999)	3% 6,999 (+/-1,155)	2% 1,898 (+/-576)	25% 3,356 (+/-660)	13% 4,416 (+/-739)	9% 5093 (+/-790)	6% 1491 (+/-403)	3% 704 (+/-103)
Every day	54% 10,845 (+/-1414)	67% 71,981 (+/-2,432)	70% 145,090 (+/-3,380)	68% 55,843 (+/-2,167)	52% 7,047 (+/-1,008)	56% 18,186 (+/-1,498)	59% 33,094 (+/-1,819)	66% 17,232 (+/-1,233)	70% 17,107 (+/-720)
Non-Government Web Site Access									
None	27% 5360 (+/-986)	15% 15887 (+/-1,532)	8% 16763 (+/-1,748)	4% 3184 (+/-845)	31% 4150 (+/-707)	25% 8222 (+/-1,005)	17% 9626 (+/-1,052)	14% 3620 (+/-585)	7% 1669 (+/-153)
Every day	52% 10,301 (+/-1,401)	64% 68,202 (+/-2,425)	71% 14,7561 (+/-3,386)	76% 61,515 (+/-2,155)	51% 6,949 (+/-1,029)	53% 17,383 (+/-1,476)	58% 32,854 (+/-1,825)	65% 16,928 (+/-1,230)	73% 17,948 (+/-755)
Fax Machines									
None	30% 5,911 (+/-1,121)	10% 11,119 (+/-1,253)	7% 13,598 (+/-1,576)	4% 3,621 (+/-833)	45% 6,170 (+/-927)	35% 11,566 (+/-1,228)	28% 15,869 (+/-1335)	14% 3,738 (+/-620)	4% 1,023 (+/-113)
Every day	49% 9,742 (+/-1,294)	61% 65,792 (+/-2,415)	62% 128,574 (+/-3,419)	59% 48,323 (+/-2,225)	37% 5,098 (+/-845)	42% 13,890 (+/-1,308)	45% 25,411 (+/-1,661)	56% 14,675 (+/-1,144)	63% 15,537 (+/-628)
Margin of Error	5-6%	1-2%	1-2%	1-3%	5-6%	3-4%	2-3%	2-4%	1-2%

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.

- **DoD E-mail:** WG 1-5 (43%), GS 1-4 (28%), WG 6-9 (22%), and WG 10-15 (14%) employees were more likely to report having no access to DoD e-mail, whereas GS 9-12, GS/GM 13-15, and NSPS pay plan (all 3%) employees were less likely. GS 9-12 (67%), GS/GM 13-15 (67%), and NSPS pay plan (66%) employees were more likely to report having access to DoD e-mail every day, whereas WG 1-5 (35%), GS 1-4 (45%), WG 6-9 (48%), and WG 10-15 (51%) employees were less likely.

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

- **Personal E-mail:** WG 1-5 (39%), GS 1-4 (37%), WG 6-9 (36%), WG 10-15 (30%), and GS 5-8 (28%) employees were more likely to reporting having no access to personal e-mail, whereas GS/GM 13-15 (16%), NSPS pay plan (18%), and GS 9-12 (22%) employees were less likely. GS/GM 13-15 (65%), NSPS pay plan (65%), and GS 9-12 (62%) employees were more likely to report having access to personal e-mail every day, whereas GS 1-4 (45%), WG 6-9 (45%), WG 1-5 (46%), WG 10-15 (51%), and GS 5-8 (55%) employees were less likely.
- **Government Web Sites:** WG 1-5 (25%), GS 1-4 (21%), WG 6-9 (13%), and WG 10-15 (9%) employees were more likely to reporting having no access to government Web sites, whereas GS/GM 13-15 (2%), GS 9-12 (3%), and NSPS pay plan (3%) employees were less likely. GS 9-12 and NSPS pay plan employees (both 70%) were more likely to report having access to government Web sites every day, whereas WG 1-5 (52%), GS 1-4 (54%), WG 6-9 (56%), and WG 10-15 (59%) employees were less likely.
- **Non-Government Web Sites:** WG 1-5 (31%), GS 1-4 (27%), WG 6-9 (25%), WG 10-15 (17%), and GS 5-8 (15%) employees were more likely to report having no access to non-government Web sites, whereas GS/GM 13-15 (4%), NSPS pay plan (7%), and GS 9-12 (8%), employees were less likely. GS/GM 13-15 (76%), NSPS pay plan (73%), and GS 9-12 (71%) employees were more likely to report having access to non-government Web sites every day, whereas WG 1-5 (51%), GS 1-4 (52%), WG 6-9 (53%), WG 10-15 (58%), and GS 5-8 (64%) employees were less likely.
- **Fax Machines:** WG 1-5 (45%), WG 6-9 (35%), GS 1-4 (30%), and WG 10-15 (28%) employees were more likely to report having no access to fax machines, whereas GS/GM 13-15 (4%), NSPS pay plan (4%), GS 9-12 (7%), and GS 5-8 (10%) employees were less likely. NSPS pay plan (63%), GS 9-12 (62%), and GS 5-8 (61%) employees were more likely to report having access to fax machines every day, whereas WG 1-5 (37%), WG 6-9 (42%), WG 10-15 (45%), and GS 1-4 (49%) employees were less likely.

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) and the Integrated Voting Alternative Site (IVAS)

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 and their awareness and use of the Integrated Voting Alternative Site (IVAS):

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

- Yes*
- No*

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*

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*

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

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

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

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

- Yes*
- No*

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

Active Duty

Tables 23-25 show the percent of active duty members who indicated visiting the FVAP Web site in the past 12 months, who indicated they were aware of IVAS prior to the November 2006 general election, who used IVAS to request or receive a ballot, who indicated the IVAS Web site was very or extremely useful, and who encountered problems with IVAS, by location, age, and paygrade.

Table 23.
Active Duty FVAP and IVAS Usage, by Location

	Outside United States	Inside United States
Visited FVAP site in past 12 months	21% 65,619 (+/-7,217)	15% 151,073 (+/-10,016)
Not aware of IVAS	83% 266,265 (+/-14,243)	86% 874,540 (+/-21,239)
Aware of IVAS, but did not use it	15% 47,117 (+/-6,127)	13% 129,370 (+/-10,775)
Aware of IVAS and used it	2% 6,224 (+/-1,865)	1% 13,790 (+/-3,070)
Used IVAS to request a ballot	73% 4,342 (+/-1,621)	59% 7,984 (+/-2,506)
Used IVAS to receive a ballot	53% 3,169 (+/-1,215)	43% 5,625 (+/-2,398)
IVAS was useful	24% 12,330 (+/-2,984)	20% 27,093 (+/-5,419)
Problems using IVAS	6% 2,835 (+/-1,492)	4% 5,629 (+/-2,640)
<i>Margin of Error</i>	$\pm 1-16\%$	$\pm 1-13\%$

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.

- Active duty members outside the United States on election day (21%) were more likely to indicate that they visited the FVAP site in the past 12 months than active duty members inside the United States (15%).

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

Table 24.
Active Duty FVAP and IVAS Usage, by Age

	18-24 Years Old	25-29 Years Old	30-34 Years Old	35-44 Years Old	More Than 45 Years Old
Visited FVAP site in past 12 months	10% 50,658 (+/-7,926)	15% 45,522 (+/-5,051)	21% 42,548 (+/-5,062)	24% 68,025 (+/-6,380)	22% 10,271 (+/-1,806)
Not aware of IVAS	89% 453,028 (+/-18,506)	86% 263,224 (+/-14,033)	84% 167,313 (+/-9,514)	79% 221,158 (+/-10,370)	79% 37,099 (+/-3,888)
Aware of IVAS, but did not use it	10% 49,989 (+/-8,411)	12% 37,351 (+/-5,225)	14% 28,008 (+/-4,093)	19% 53,363 (+/-6,304)	17% 8,268 (+/-1,819)
Aware of IVAS and used it	1% 3,492 (+/-1,749)	1% 4,512 (+/-1,830)	2% 3,019 (+/-1,446)	3% 7,105 (+/-1,935)	4% 1,887 (+/-841)
Used IVAS to request a ballot	NR	NR	NR	69% 4,752 (+/-1,649)	NR
Used IVAS to receive a ballot	NR	NR	NR	38% 2,596 (+/-1,190)	NR
IVAS was useful	19% 9,953 (+/-4,217)	21% 8,245 (+/-2,488)	17% 4,959 (+/-1,844)	23% 13,497 (+/-3,118)	30% 2,769 (+/-1,111)
Problems using IVAS	5% 2,479 (+/-1,639)	4% 1,443 (+/-902)	3% 866 (+/-662)	5% 3,115 (+/-2,254)	6% 560 (+/-423)
Margin of Error	±1-9%	±1-7%	±1-7%	±1-15%	±3-11%

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

- **Visited FVAP site:** Active duty members 35-44 years old (24%), 45 and older (22%), and 30-34 years old (21%) were more likely to indicate visiting the FVAP Web site in the past 12 months, whereas active duty members 18-24 years old (10%) were less likely.
- **Awareness of IVAS:** Active duty members 18-24 years old (89%) were more likely to indicate they were not aware of IVAS, whereas active duty members 35-44 years old and 45 and older (both 79%) were less likely. Active duty members 35-44 years old (19%) were more likely to indicate they were aware of IVAS, but did not use it, whereas active duty members 18-24 years old (10%) were less likely. Active duty members 45 and older (4%) and 35-44 years old (3%) were more likely to indicate they were aware of IVAS, and used it, whereas active duty members 18-24 years old (1%) were less likely.
- There were no other significant differences by age.

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

Table 25.
Active Duty FVAP and IVAS Usage, by Paygrade

	E1-E4	E5-E9	O1-O3	O4-O6
Visited FVAP site in past 12 months	9% 45,029 (+/-7,525)	19% 113,582 (+/-8,807)	26% 30,794 (+/-2,802)	26% 22,939 (+/-2,027)
Not aware of IVAS	90% 456,230 (+/-16,433)	82% 494,077 (+/-12,037)	86% 101,852 (+/-4,097)	84% 74,856 (+/-2,390)
Aware of IVAS, but did not use it	10% 49,545 (+/-8,304)	16% 99,032 (+/-8,564)	11% 13,533 (+/-1,983)	13% 11,412 (+/-1,539)
Aware of IVAS and used it	1% 3,340 (+/-1,658)	2% 10,687 (+/-2,903)	2% 2,807 (+/-994)	3% 2,959 (+/-813)
Used IVAS to request a ballot	NR	70% 7,387 (+/-2,527)	NR	54% 1,584 (+/-573)
Used IVAS to receive a ballot	NR	52% 5,263 (+/-2,182)	NR	24% 681 (+/-371)
IVAS was useful	21% 11,039 (+/-4,171)	21% 21,468 (+/-6,465)	20% 3,100 (+/-961)	22% 3,003 (+/-795)
Problems using IVAS	6% 2,878 (+/-1,749)	4% 4,203 (+/-2,397)	4% 573 (+/-452)	5% 717 (+/-410)
<i>Margin of Error</i>	$\pm 1-8\%$	$\pm 1-14\%$	$\pm 2-7\%$	$\pm 2-15\%$

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

- **Visited FVAP site:** O4-O6s, O1-O3s (both 26%) and E5-E9s (19%) were more likely to indicate visiting the FVAP Web site in the past 12 months, whereas E1-E4s (9%) were less likely.
- **Awareness of IVAS:** E1-E4s (90%) were more likely to indicate they were not aware of IVAS, whereas E5-E9s (82%) were less likely. E5-E9s (16%) were more likely to indicate they were aware of IVAS, but did not use it, whereas E1-E4s (10%) were less likely. O4-O6s (3%) were more likely to indicate they were aware of IVAS, and used it, whereas E1-E4s (1%) were less likely.
- There were no other significant differences by paygrade.

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

Reserve Component

Tables 26-28 show the percent of Reserve members who indicated visiting the FVAP Web site in the past 12 months, who indicated they were aware of IVAS prior to the November 2006 general election, who used IVAS to request or receive a ballot, who indicated the IVAS Web site was very or extremely useful, and who encountered problems with IVAS, by location, age, and paygrade.

Table 26.
Reserve FVAP and IVAS Usage, by Location

	Outside United States	Inside United States
Visited FVAP site in past 12 months	14% 9,573 (+/-1,413)	4% 27,987(+/-3,383)
Not aware of IVAS	85% 57,682(+/-3,888)	92% 655,102(+/-8,006)
Aware of IVAS, but did not use it	13% 8,868(+/-1,430)	8% 55,548(+/-4,612)
Aware of IVAS and used it	1% 943(+/-367)	1% 4,024(+/-1,076)
Used IVAS to request a ballot	NR	41% 1,642(+/-685)
Used IVAS to receive a ballot	NR	29% 1,150(+/-585)
IVAS was useful	16% 1,511(+/-506)	24% 13,268(+/-2,201)
Problems using IVAS	8% 726(+/-324)	3% 1,531(+/-583)
<i>Margin of Error</i>	$\pm 1-6\%$	$\pm 1-14\%$

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

- **Visited FVAP site:** Reserve members outside the United States on election day (14%) were more likely to indicate visiting the FVAP Web site in the past 12 months than Reserve members inside the United States (4%).
- **Awareness of IVAS:** Reserve members inside the United States on election day (92%) were more likely to indicate that they were not aware of IVAS than Reserve members outside the United States (85%). Reserve members outside the United States on election day (13%) were more likely to indicate that they were aware of IVAS, but did not use it, than Reserve members inside the United States (8%). Reserve members outside the United States on election day (1%) were more likely to indicate that they were aware of IVAS and used it than Reserve members inside the United States (1%).

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

- **Problems Using IVAS:** Reserve members outside the United States on election day (8%) were more likely to indicate that they had problems using IVAS than Reserve members inside the United States (3%).
- There were no other significant differences by location.

Table 27.
Reserve FVAP and IVAS Usage, by Age

	18-24 Years Old	25-29 Years Old	30-34 Years Old	35-44 Years Old	45 and Older
Visited FVAP site in past 12 months	3% 6,505(+/-2,309)	4% 4,727(+/-1,865)	5% 4,634(+/-1,042)	5% 13,129(+/-1,537)	7% 8,581(+/-1,232)
Not aware of IVAS	94% 186,716(+/-8,913)	94% 104,074(+/-6,348)	92% 88,825(+/-5,428)	90% 220,470(+/-6,741)	86% 113,245(+/-4,653)
Aware of IVAS, but did not use it	6% 11,504(+/-3,280)	5% 5,782(+/-1,511)	8% 7,649(+/-1,422)	9% 23,003(+/-2,344)	13% 16,624(+/-1,844)
Aware of IVAS and used it	0% 670(+/-600)	0% 276(+/-370)	1% 595(+/-375)	1% 1,642(+/-559)	1% 1,801(+/-590)
Used IVAS to request a ballot	NR	NR	NR	NR	38% 676(+/-378)
Used IVAS to receive a ballot	NR	NR	NR	NR	25% 452(+/-310)
IVAS was useful	17% 2,012(+/-1,444)	26% 1,331(+/-670)	23% 1,757(+/-642)	22% 4,824(+/-1,066)	29% 4,871(+/-1,027)
Problems using IVAS	2% 271(+/-254)	0% 23(+/-44)	4% 300(+/-267)	4% 901(+/-447)	5% 762(+/-329)
<i>Margin of Error</i>	$\pm 1-15$	$\pm 1-13$	$\pm 1-9$	$\pm 1-5$	$\pm 1-18$

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

- **Visited FVAP site:** Reserve members 45 and older (7%) were more likely to indicate visiting the FVAP Web site in the past 12 months, whereas Reserve members 18-24 years old (3%) were less likely.
- **Awareness of IVAS:** Reserve members 18-24 and 25-29 years old (both 94%) were more likely to indicate they were not aware of IVAS before the November 2006 general election, whereas Reserve members 45 and older (86%) and 35-44 years old (90%) were less likely. Reserve members 45 and older (13%) and 35-44 years old (9%) were more likely to indicate they were aware of IVAS before the November 2006 general election, but did not use it, whereas Reserve members 25-29 (5%) and 18-24 (6%) years old were less likely. Reserve members 45 and older (1%) were more likely to indicate they were aware of IVAS before the November 2006 general election, and used it.

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

- **Problems Using IVAS:** Of Reserve members who indicated they were aware of the IVAS, Reserve members 25-29 years old (0%) were less likely to indicate they encountered problems using it.
- There were no other significant differences by age.

Table 28.
Reserve FVAP and IVAS Usage, by Paygrade

	E1-E4	E5-E9	O1-O3	O4-O6
Visited FVAP site in past 12 months	3% 8,513(+/-2,646)	5% 19,692(+/-2,357)	9% 3,469(+/-589)	8% 5,151(+/-697)
Not aware of IVAS	94% 270,575(+/-7,206)	90% 343,317(+/-5,090)	90% 36,226(+/-1,402)	89% 54,110(+/-1,291)
Aware of IVAS, but did not use it	6% 17,166(+/-3,740)	10% 36,654(+/-2,833)	10% 3,919(+/-658)	10% 5,920(+/-818)
Aware of IVAS and used it	0% 1,122(+/-777)	1% 2,823(+/-779)	1% 272(+/-160)	1% 708(+/-233)
Used IVAS to request a ballot	NR	51% 1,435(+/-568)	NR	39% 275(+/-137)
Used IVAS to receive a ballot	NR	41% 1,160(+/-506)	NR	NR
IVAS was useful	20% 3,478(+/-1,644)	26% 9,256(+/-1,483)	21% 768(+/-295)	20% 1,149(+/-320)
Problems using IVAS	2% 367(+/-344)	4% 1,384(+/-520)	3% 104(+/-89)	6% 361(+/-214)
<i>Margin of Error</i>	<i>±1-10</i>	<i>±1-14</i>	<i>±1-9</i>	<i>±1-17</i>

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

- **Visited FVAP site:** O1-O3s (9%) and O4-O6s (8%) were more likely to indicate visiting the FVAP Web site in the past 12 months, whereas E1-E4s (3%) were less likely.
- **Awareness of IVAS:** E1-E4s (94%) were more likely to indicate they were not aware of IVAS before the November 2006 general election, whereas O4-O6s (89%) and E5-E9s (90%) were less likely. E5-E9s (10%) were more likely to indicate they were aware of IVAS before the November 2006 general election, but did not use it, whereas E1-E4s (6%) were less likely. O4-O6s (1%) were more likely to indicate they were aware of IVAS before the November 2006 general election, and used it.
- There were no other significant differences by paygrade.

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

DoD Civilian Employees

Tables 29-31 show the percent of DoD civilians who indicated they were outside the United States on election day who indicated visiting the FVAP Web site in the past 12 months, who indicated they were aware of IVAS prior to the November 2006 general election, who used IVAS to request or receive a ballot, who indicated the IVAS Web site was very or extremely useful, and who encountered problems with IVAS overall and by age and paygrade.

Table 29.
DoD Civilian FVAP and IVAS Usage³

	Outside United States
Visited FVAP site in past 12 months	22% 9,456 (+/-1,310)
Not aware of IVAS	84% 36,217 (+/-2,241)
Aware of IVAS, but did not use it	13% 5,609 (+/-981)
Aware of IVAS and used it	3% 1,174 (+/-462)
Used IVAS to request a ballot	NR
Used IVAS to receive a ballot	NR
IVAS was useful	35% 2,205 (+/-303)
Problems using IVAS	8% 509 (+/-141)
<i>Margin of Error</i>	<i>±2-13%</i>

NR: Not Reportable

- **Visited FVAP site:** Of DoD civilians outside the United States on election day, 22% indicated they visited the FVAP site in the past 12 months.
- **Awareness of IVAS:** Of DoD civilians outside the United States on election day, 13% indicated they were aware of IVAS, but did not use it and 3% indicated they were aware of IVAS and used it. 84% were not aware of IVAS.
- **Usefulness of IVAS:** Of DoD civilians outside the United States on election day, 35% indicated IVAS was useful.
- **Problems Using IVAS:** Of DoD civilians outside the United States on election day, 8% indicated they had problems using IVAS.

³ Items asked only of DoD civilians who indicated they were outside the United States on election day.

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

Table 30.
DoD Civilian FVAP and IVAS Usage, by Age

	18-24 Years Old	25-29 Years Old	30-34 Years Old	35-44 Years Old	45 Years and Older
Visited FVAP site in past 12 months	NR	NR	21% 806 (+/-426)	21% 2,397 (+/-666)	22% 5,524 (+/-942)
Not aware of IVAS	NR	NR	86% 3,237 (+/-811)	88% 10,138 (+/-1244)	83% 20,530 (+/-1620)
Aware of IVAS, but did not use it	NR	NR	11% 488 (+/-328)	4% 1,151 (+/-411)	3% 3,487 (+/-736)
Aware of IVAS and used it	NR	NR	6% 42 (+/-75)	5% 295 (+/-290)	2% 704 (+/-311)
Used IVAS to request a ballot	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Used IVAS to receive a ballot	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
IVAS was useful	NR	NR	NR	NR	40% 1,516 (+/-469)
Problems using IVAS	NR	NR	NR	1% 18 (+/-13)	11% 436 (+/-267)
<i>Margin of Error</i>	<i>NR</i>	<i>NR</i>	$\pm 6-12\%$	$\pm 2-6\%$	$\pm 2-11\%$

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

- **Awareness of IVAS:** Of DoD civilians who indicated they were aware of the IVAS, employees 35-44 years old (1%) were less likely to indicate they encountered problems using it.
- There were no other significant differences by age.

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

Table 31.
DoD Civilian FVAP and IVAS Usage, by Paygrade

	GS 1-4	GS 5-8	GS 9-12	GS/GM 13-15	WG 1-5	WG 6-9	WG 10-15	WS/WL 1-19	NSPS Pay Plans
Visited FVAP site in past 12 months	25% 610 (+/-424)	18% 1,113 (+/-379)	23% 3,518 (+/-763)	23% 1,351 (+/-532)	NR	9% 116 (+/-116)	13% 222 (+/-160)	22% 228 (+/-149)	18% 163 (+/-38)
Not aware of IVAS	85% 2,081 (+/-726)	82% 5,140 (+/-827)	83% 12,806 (+/-1426)	80% 4,644 (+/-895)	NR	87% 1,216 (+/-399)	92% 1,588 (+/-446)	82% 843 (+/-280)	87% 796 (+/-142)
Aware of IVAS, but did not use it	NR	16% 1,035 (+/-368)	15% 2,330 (+/-619)	16% 956 (+/-416)	NR	10% 138 (+/-139)	8% 134 (+/-157)	9% 96 (+/-93)	10% 94 (+/-28)
Aware of IVAS and used it	6% 146 (+/-169)	2% 129 (+/-128)	2% 264 (+/-216)	4% 238 (+/-276)	NR	3% 45 (+/-64)	1% 9 (+/-14)	8% 85 (+/-96)	3% 29 (+/-18)
Used IVAS to request a ballot	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Used IVAS to receive a ballot	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
IVAS was useful	NR	NR	31% 724 (+/-339)	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	39% 42 (+/- 19)
Problems using IVAS	NR	NR	8% 202 (+/-194)	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	9% 10 (+/-9)
<i>Margin of Error</i>	$\pm 12-18\%$	$\pm 4-7\%$	$\pm 3-14\%$	$\pm 8-9\%$		$\pm 10-15\%$	$\pm 2-15\%$	$\pm 13-16\%$	$\pm 3-15\%$

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

- **Visited FVAP site:** WG 6-9 employees (9%) were less likely to indicate visiting the FVAP Web site in the past 12 months.
- **Awareness of IVAS:** WG 10-15 employees (1%) were less likely to indicate they were aware of IVAS before the November 2006 general election, and used it.
- There were no other significant differences by paygrade.

Casting an Absentee Ballot Without IVAS

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*

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*

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*

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

Active Duty

Tables 32-34 show the percentage of active duty members who indicated requesting, receiving, and returning an absentee ballot by each method, by location, age, and paygrade.

Table 32.
Active Duty Means of Casting Absentee Ballot, by Location

	Outside United States	Inside United States
Postal Mail		
To request a ballot	82% 39,245 (+/-4,922)	85% 124,437 (+/-9,148)
To receive a ballot	82% 39,245 (+/-4,922)	85% 124,437 (+/-9,148)
To return a ballot	82% 39,245 (+/-4,922)	85% 124,437 (+/-9,148)
Fax (to/from local election official)		
To request a ballot	2% 1,085 (+/-1,025)	3% 5,129 (+/-2,116)
To receive a ballot	1% 474 (+/-925)	1% 797 (+/-613)
To return a ballot	2% 1,033 (+/-1,020)	1% 1,477 (+/-839)
Fax (using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service)		
To request a ballot	1% 253 (+/-282)	0% 533 (+/-478)
To receive a ballot	0% 0 (+/-0)	0% 126 (+/-150)
To return a ballot	0% 198 (+/-300)	1% 970 (+/-1,079)
E-Mail (to/from local official)		
To request a ballot	13% 6,205 (+/-2,259)	10% 15,076 (+/-2,854)
To receive a ballot	6% 2,861 (+/-1,868)	2% 2,710 (+/-1,191)
To return a ballot	5% 2,321 (+/-1,783)	1% 2,124 (+/-1,129)
E-Mail (using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service)		
To request a ballot	2% 1,105 (+/-864)	1% 1,986 (+/-963)
To receive a ballot	1% 537 (+/-777)	1% 1,249 (+/-1,001)
To return a ballot	1% 666 (+/-817)	0% 521 (+/-553)
<i>Margin of Error</i>	±0-6%	±1-3%

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.

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

- For active duty members, there were no significant differences in means of requesting, receiving, or returning absentee ballots by location.

Table 33.
Active Duty Means of Casting Absentee Ballot, by Age

	18-24 Years Old	25-29 Years Old	30-34 Years Old	35-44 Years Old	More Than 45 Years Old
Postal Mail					
To request a ballot	82% 33,237 (+/-5,989)	83% 30,772 (+/-4,244)	85% 27,560 (+/-4,076)	85% 58,075 (+/-6,057)	88% 14,124 (+/-1,964)
To receive a ballot	91% 37,236 (+/-6,117)	98% 36,720 (+/-4,670)	97% 31,893 (+/-4,282)	96% 67,664 (+/-6,435)	98% 15,907 (+/-2,076)
To return a ballot	88% 37,378 (+/-6,124)	98% 38,685 (+/-4,865)	97% 32,863 (+/-4,412)	97% 70,484 (+/-6,556)	98% 16,197 (+/-2,098)
Fax (to/from local election official)					
To request a ballot	3% 1,108 (+/-1,037)	3% 974 (+/-758)	4% 1,321 (+/-849)	3% 2,201 (+/-1,699)	4% 610 (+/-521)
To receive a ballot	2% 777 (+/-1,041)	0% 116 (+/-226)	0% 94 (+/-184)	0% 227 (+/-227)	0% 56 (+/-108)
To return a ballot	3% 1324 (+/-1,175)	0% 34 (+/-68)	1% 421 (+/-456)	1% 478 (+/-317)	2% 252 (+/-224)
Fax (using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service)					
To request a ballot	1% 237 (+/-250)	0% 156 (+/-220)	0% 0 (+/-0)	0% 252 (+/-347)	1% 141 (+/-277)
To receive a ballot	0% 65 (+/-92)	0% 0 (+/-0)	0% 0 (+/-0)	0% 0 (+/-0)	0% 61 (+/-118)
To return a ballot	2% 848 (+/-1,054)	1% 260 (+/-361)	0% 0 (+/-0)	0% 0 (+/-0)	0% 61 (+/-118)
E-Mail (to/from local official)					
To request a ballot	13% 5,430 (+/-2,249)	13% 4,653 (+/-1,830)	10% 3,144 (+/-1,085)	10% 7,104 (+/-1,876)	6% 949 (+/-447)
To receive a ballot	6% 2,447 (+/-1,892)	2% 665 (+/-468)	2% 705 (+/-528)	2% 1,570 (+/-869)	1% 183 (+/-284)
To return a ballot	6% 2,425 (+/-1,879)	1% 439 (+/-387)	1% 459 (+/-460)	2% 1,112 (+/-751)	0% 11 (+/-21)
E-Mail (using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service)					
To request a ballot	2% 715 (+/-528)	1% 556 (+/-520)	2% 539 (+/-427)	1% 989 (+/-940)	2% 293 (+/-257)
To receive a ballot	1% 560 (+/-544)	0% 0 (+/-0)	1% 236 (+/-278)	1% 990 (+/-1,112)	0% 0 (+/-0)
To return a ballot	1% 293 (+/-397)	0% 0 (+/-0)	1% 305 (+/-357)	1% 590 (+/-831)	0% 0 (+/-0)
<i>Margin of Error</i>	±1-7%	±0-6%	±0-5%	±0-5%	±0-6%

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.

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

- Requesting a Ballot:** Active duty members 30-34 years old (0%) were less likely to indicate they requested their absentee ballot via fax using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service. Active duty members 45 and older (6%) were less likely to indicate they requested their absentee ballot via e-mail directly to the local election official.
- Receiving a Ballot:** Active duty members 25-29 years old (98%) were more likely to indicate they received their absentee ballot via postal mail directly from the local election official. Active duty members 45 and older and 25-29 years old (both 0%) were less likely to indicate they received their absentee ballot via e-mail using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service.
- Returning a Ballot:** Active duty members 45 and older and 25-29 years old (both 98%) were more likely to indicate they returned their absentee ballot via postal mail directly to the local election official, whereas active duty members 18-24 years old (88%) were less likely. Active duty members 25-29 years old (0%) were less likely to indicate they returned their absentee ballot via fax directly to the local election official. Active duty members 45 and older (0%) were less likely to indicate they returned their absentee ballot via e-mail directly to the local election official.

Table 34.
Active Duty Means of Casting Absentee Ballot, by Paygrade

	E1-E4	E5-E9	O1-O3	O4-O6
Postal Mail				
To request a ballot	83% 31,179 (+/-6,068)	84% 74,413 (+/-7,558)	81% 23,133 (+/-2,496)	86% 31,041 (+/-2,179)
To receive a ballot	90% 33,830 (+/-6,169)	96% 86,270 (+/-8,021)	97% 28,446 (+/-2,751)	98% 36,291 (+/-2,273)
To return a ballot	87% 33,977 (+/-6,178)	97% 90,679 (+/-8,235)	99% 29,425 (+/-2,791)	98% 36,888 (+/-2,275)
Fax (to/from local election official)				
To request a ballot	3% 1,030 (+/-1,024)	4% 3,208 (+/-1,983)	4% 1,124 (+/-617)	2% 757 (+/-396)
To receive a ballot	2% 871 (+/-1,057)	0% 195 (+/-254)	0% 0 (+/-0)	1% 198 (+/-223)
To return a ballot	3% 1,265 (+/-1,163)	1% 538 (+/-475)	1% 171 (+/-238)	1% 510 (+/-328)
Fax (using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service)				
To request a ballot	0% 126 (+/-147)	1% 631 (+/-534)	0% 19 (+/-26)	0% 11 (+/-21)
To receive a ballot	0% 25 (+/-49)	0% 40 (+/-77)	0% 0 (+/-0)	0% 61 (+/-118)
To return a ballot	2% 808 (+/-1,051)	0% 299 (+/-369)	0% 0 (+/-0)	0% 61 (+/-118)

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.

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

Table 34. (continued)

	E1-E4	E5-E9	O1-O3	O4-O6
E-Mail (to/from local official)				
To request a ballot	12% 4,430 (+/-2,208)	10% 8,646 (+/-2,481)	14% 3,974 (+/-1,173)	10% 3,731 (+/-883)
To receive a ballot	7% 2,656 (+/-1,923)	2% 1,791 (+/-969)	3% 775 (+/-451)	1% 337 (+/-267)
To return a ballot	7% 2,726 (+/-1,918)	1% 1,352 (+/-835)	1% 236 (+/-215)	0% 120 (+/-177)
E-Mail (using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service)				
To request a ballot	2% 694 (+/-523)	2% 1,806 (+/-1,132)	0% 138 (+/-168)	1% 427 (+/-302)
To receive a ballot	1% 371 (+/-426)	2% 1,361 (+/-1,191)	0% 31 (+/-60)	0% 23 (+/-45)
To return a ballot	0% 188 (+/-264)	1% 968 (+/-949)	0% 31 (+/-60)	0% 0 (+/-0)
<i>Margin of Error</i>	±1-8%	±1-4%	±0-5%	±0-3%

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.

- **Requesting a Ballot:** O1-O3s (0%) were less likely to indicate they requested their absentee ballot via e-mail using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service.
- **Receiving a Ballot:** O4-O6s were more likely to indicate they received their absentee ballot via postal mail directly from the local election official (98%) and less likely to indicate they received their absentee ballot via e-mail directly from the local election official (1%).
- **Returning a Ballot:** O1-O3s (99%) and O4-O6s (98%) were more likely to indicate they returned their absentee ballot via postal mail directly to the local election official, whereas E1-E4s (87%) were less likely. O4-O6s (0%) were less likely to indicate they returned their absentee ballot via e-mail directly to the local election official.

Reserve Component

Tables 35-37 show the percentage of Reserve members who indicated requesting, receiving, and returning an absentee ballot by each method, by location, age, and paygrade.

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

Table 35.
Reserve Component Means of Casting Absentee Ballot, by Location

	Outside United States	Inside United States
Postal Mail		
To request a ballot	88% 10,017 (+/-1,518)	88% 51,670 (+/-4,424)
To receive a ballot	96% 11,035 (+/-1,583)	96% 56,950 (+/-4,625)
To return a ballot	97% 11,486 (+/-1,603)	97% 57,389 (+/-4,644)
Fax (to/from local election official)		
To request a ballot	1% 153 (+/-243)	2% 1,399 (+/-533)
To receive a ballot	0% 12 (+/-18)	1% 484 (+/-290)
To return a ballot	1% 81 (+/-83)	1% 674 (+/-369)
Fax (using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service)		
To request a ballot	1% 114 (+/-159)	0% 99 (+/-107)
To receive a ballot	0% 0 (+/-0)	0% 36 (+/-41)
To return a ballot	0% 0 (+/-0)	0% 115 (+/-122)
E-Mail (to/from local official)		
To request a ballot	7% 750 (+/-355)	8% 4,970 (+/-1,558)
To receive a ballot	2% 231 (+/-188)	2% 1,314 (+/-689)
To return a ballot	1% 101 (+/-140)	1% 671 (+/-366)
E-Mail (using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service)		
To request a ballot	3% 354 (+/-297)	1% 428 (+/-342)
To receive a ballot	2% 265 (+/-281)	1% 358 (+/-318)
To return a ballot	2% 222 (+/-277)	1% 510 (+/-547)
<i>Margin of Error</i>	±0-6%	±1-3%

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.

- **Receiving a Ballot:** Reserve members inside the United States on election day (1%) were more likely to indicate that they received their ballot via fax directly from the local election official than Reserve members outside the United States (0%).
- There were no other significant differences by location.

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

Table 36.
Reserve Component Means of Casting Absentee Ballot, by Age

	18-24 Years Old	25-29 Years Old	30-34 Years Old	35-44 Years Old	45 and Older
Postal Mail					
To request a ballot	87% 11,209 (+/-3,052)	86% 5,976 (+/-1,356)	89% 7,135 (+/-1,713)	89% 20,705 (+/-2,330)	88% 16,666 (+/-1,805)
To receive a ballot	95% 12,108 (+/-3,233)	94% 6,469 (+/-1,389)	98% 7,911 (+/-1,768)	97% 23,108 (+/-2,418)	95% 18,397 (+/-1,902)
To return a ballot	96% 12,230 (+/-3,238)	94% 6,625 (+/-1,430)	98% 8,020 (+/-1,774)	98% 23,190 (+/-2,421)	97% 18,821 (+/-1,920)
Fax (to/from local election official)					
To request a ballot	1% 133 (+/-137)	1% 55 (+/-74)	6% 449 (+/-382)	2% 540 (+/-348)	2% 375 (+/-230)
To receive a ballot	0% 0 (+/-0)	2% 155 (+/-169)	1% 55 (+/-92)	0% 57 (+/-52)	1% 229 (+/-212)
To return a ballot	0% 0 (+/-0)	4% 312 (+/-275)	1% 57 (+/-78)	1% 304 (+/-240)	0% 82 (+/-62)
Fax (using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service)					
To request a ballot	0% 0 (+/-0)	1% 49 (+/-95)	1% 82 (+/-103)	0% 0 (+/-0)	0% 83 (+/-132)
To receive a ballot	0% 0 (+/-0)	0% 0 (+/-0)	0% 8 (+/-15)	0% 0 (+/-0)	0% 28 (+/-38)
To return a ballot	0% 49 (+/-95)	0% 0 (+/-0)	1% 43 (+/-71)	0% 0 (+/-0)	0% 22 (+/-32)
E-Mail (to/from local official)					
To request a ballot	9% 1,183 (+/-1,278)	12% 805 (+/-422)	5% 374 (+/-244)	8% 1,887 (+/-602)	8% 1,479 (+/-572)
To receive a ballot	3% 438 (+/-545)	4% 288 (+/-280)	1% 120 (+/-148)	2% 364 (+/-238)	2% 334 (+/-239)
To return a ballot	1% 117 (+/-171)	2% 135 (+/-178)	1% 96 (+/-145)	1% 242 (+/-197)	1% 183 (+/-183)
E-Mail (using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service)					
To request a ballot	3% 333 (+/-373)	0% 34 (+/-66)	0% 8 (+/-11)	1% 145 (+/-137)	1% 262 (+/-208)
To receive a ballot	1% 149 (+/-245)	0% 0 (+/-0)	0% 0 (+/-0)	1% 193 (+/-249)	1% 281 (+/-241)
To return a ballot	3% 409 (+/-564)	0% 3 (+/-6)	0% 5 (+/-10)	0% 35 (+/-38)	1% 280 (+/-236)
Margin of Error	±0-15	±0-8	±0-7	±0-4	±1-4

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.

- **Requesting a Ballot:** Reserve members 30-34 years old (0%) were less likely to indicate they requested their absentee ballot via e-mail using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service.
- **Receiving a Ballot:** Reserve members 18-24 years old (0%) were less likely to indicate they received their absentee ballot via fax from the local election official. Reserve members 25-29

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

and 30-34 years old (both 0%) were less likely to indicate they received their absentee ballot via e-mail using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service.

- **Returning a Ballot:** Reserve members 18-24 years old (0%) were less likely to indicate they returned their absentee ballot via fax to the local election official.

Table 37.

Reserve Component Means of Casting Absentee Ballot, by Paygrade

	E1-E4	E5-E9	O1-O3	O4-O6
Postal Mail				
To request a ballot	87% 14,683 (+/-3,454)	89% 30,639 (+/-2,862)	89% 4,674 (+/-712)	88% 10,295 (+/-1,032)
To receive a ballot	97% 16,248 (+/-3,646)	95% 33,433 (+/-2,953)	97% 5,120(+/-728)	98% 11,612 (+/-1,083)
To return a ballot	96% 16,417 (+/-3,662)	96% 33,916 (+/-2,969)	97% 5,200 (+/-732)	98% 11,766 (+/-1,086)
Fax (to/from local election official)				
To request a ballot	3% 441 (+/-384)	2% 625(+/-384)	2% 118 (+/-94)	3% 331 (+/-193)
To receive a ballot	0% 0 (+/-0)	1% 332 (+/-271)	1% 42 (+/-36)	1% 120 (+/-100)
To return a ballot	0% 28 (+/-54)	2% 553 (+/-355)	2% 97 (+/-100)	1% 66 (+/-57)
Fax (using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service)				
To request a ballot	0% 49 (+/-95)	0% 164(+/-167)	0% 0 (+/-0)	0% 0 (+/-0)
To receive a ballot	0% 0 (+/-0)	0% 22 (+/-32)	0% 13(+/-25)	0% 0 (+/-0)
To return a ballot	0% 49 (+/-95)	0% 58 (+/-76)	0% 0 (+/-0)	0% 8 (+/-16)
E-Mail (to/from local official)				
To request a ballot	8% 1,381 (+/-1,320)	8% 2,865 (+/-810)	7% 352 (+/-159)	9% 994 (+/-340)
To receive a ballot	3% 434 (+/-545)	2% 871 (+/-445)	2% 118 (+/-104)	1% 101 (+/-67)
To return a ballot	1% 122 (+/-171)	2% 531 (+/-340)	1% 33 (+/-32)	1% 84 (+/-91)
E-Mail (using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service)				
To request a ballot	2% 333 (+/-373)	1% 268 (+/-225)	2% 114 (+/-101)	1% 61 (+/-73)
To receive a ballot	1% 149 (+/-245)	1% 419 (+/-338)	0% 0 (+/-0)	0% 55 (+/-74)
To return a ballot	2% 409 (+/-564)	1% 270 (+/-228)	0% 19 (+/-27)	0% 35 (+/-69)
<i>Margin of Error</i>	±0-12	±1-3	±0-5	±0-4

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.

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

- **Requesting a Ballot:** There were no significant differences by paygrade.
- **Receiving a Ballot:** E1-E4s (0%) were less likely to indicate they received their absentee ballot via fax directly from the local election official. O1-O3s (0%) were less likely to indicate they received their absentee ballot via e-mail using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service.
- **Returning a Ballot:** E1-E4s (0%) were less likely to indicate they returned their absentee ballot via fax directly to the local election official.

DoD Civilian Employees

Tables 38-40 show the percentage of DoD civilians outside of the United States on election day who indicated requesting, receiving, and returning an absentee ballot by each method overall and by age and paygrade.

Table 38.
DoD Civilian Component Means of Casting Absentee Ballot⁴

	Outside United States
	Postal Mail
To request a ballot	85 10,883 (+/-1,284)
To receive a ballot	95 12,731 (+/-1,408)
To return a ballot	95 12,995 (+/-1,420)
	Fax (to/from local election official)
To request a ballot	3 369 (+/-203)
To receive a ballot	1 95 (+/-93)
To return a ballot	2 234 (+/-173)
	Fax (using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service)
To request a ballot	0 2 (+/-4)
To receive a ballot	0 0 (+/-0)
To return a ballot	0 42 (+/-71)

⁴ Items asked only of DoD civilians who indicated they were outside the United States on election day.

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

Table 38. (continued)

	Outside United States
	E-Mail (to/from local official)
To request a ballot	10 1,236 (+/-458)
To receive a ballot	3 464 (+/-233)
To return a ballot	2 220 (+/-144)
	E-Mail (using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service)
To request a ballot	2 252 (+/-196)
To receive a ballot	1 118 (+/-138)
To return a ballot	1 146 (+/-144)
<i>Margin of Error</i>	±3-5%

- For DoD civilians outside the United States on election day, the majority used postal mail to request (85%), receive (95%), and return (95%) their absentee ballot.

Table 39.

DoD Civilian Component Means of Casting Absentee Ballot, by Age

	18-24 Years Old	25-29 Years Old	30-34 Years Old	35-44 Years Old	45 Years and Older
Postal Mail					
To request a ballot	NR	NR	NR	86% 2,871 (+/-682)	84% 6,621 (+/-967)
To receive a ballot	NR	98% 328 (+/-257)	NR	93% 3,370 (+/-761)	96% 7,903 (+/-1075)
To return a ballot	NR	98% 328 (+/-257)	NR	93% 3,418 (+/-763)	96% 8,118 (+/-1089)
Fax (to/from local election official)					
To request a ballot	NR	NR	NR	5% 176 (+/-144)	2% 192 (+/-143)
To receive a ballot	NR	NR	0% 5 (+/-7)	1% 44 (+/-68)	1% 48 (+/-62)
To return a ballot	NR	NR	0% 5 (+/-7)	2% 84 (+/-107)	2% 147 (+/-135)

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

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

Table 39. (continued)

	18-24 Years Old	25-29 Years Old	30-34 Years Old	35-44 Years Old	45 Years and Older
Fax (using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service)					
To request a ballot	NR	NR	NR	0% 0 (+/-0)	0% 3 (+/-4)
To receive a ballot	NR	0% 0 (+/-0)	0% 0 (+/-0)	0% 0 (+/-0)	0% 0 (+/-0)
To return a ballot	NR	2% 6 (+/-8)	0% 3 (+/-5)	1% 37 (+/-70)	0% 3 (+/-3)
E-Mail (to/from local official)					
To request a ballot	NR	NR	NR	8% 281 (+/-207)	11% 834 (+/-379)
To receive a ballot	NR	NR	NR	5% 193 (+/-155)	3% 271 (+/-173)
To return a ballot	NR	NR	NR	3% 119 (+/-120)	1% 103 (+/-78)
E-Mail (using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service)					
To request a ballot	NR	2% 6 (+/-8)	NR	0% 13 (+/-10)	3% 234 (+/-195)
To receive a ballot	NR	2% 6 (+/-8)	NR	0% 11 (+/-9)	1% 52 (+/-96)
To return a ballot	NR	2% 5 (+/-9)	NR	0% 7 (+/-7)	1% 84 (+/-104)
<i>Margin of Error</i>	NR	±7-8%	±1-2%	±1-9%	±1-6%

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

- For DoD civilians, there were no significant differences for means of requesting, receiving, or returning absentee ballots by age.

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

Table 40.
DoD Civilian Component Means of Casting Absentee Ballot, by Paygrade

	GS 1-4	GS 5-8	GS 9-12	GS/GM 13-15	WG 1-5	WG 6-9	WG 10-15	WS/WL 1-19	NSPS Pay Plans
Postal Mail									
To request a ballot	99% 392 (+/-246)	83% 1,162 (+/-412)	87% 4,858 (+/-914)	80% 1,338 (+/-447)	NR	NR	NR	NR	84% 201 (+/-41)
To receive a ballot	NR	93% 1,398 (+/-441)	98% 5,524 (+/-989)	94% 1,814 (+/-573)	NR	NR	NR	NR	96% 234 (+/-45)
To return a ballot	NR	90% 1,390 (+/-439)	99% 5,687 (+/-1002)	93% 1,826 (+/-574)	NR	NR	NR	NR	95% 241 (+/-45)
Fax (to/from local election official)									
To request a ballot	NR	NR	2% 92 (+/-115)	2% 36 (+/-26)	NR	NR	NR	NR	4% 9 (+/-8)
To receive a ballot	NR	0% 6 (+/-8)	0% 13 (+/-11)	0% 3 (+/-4)	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
To return a ballot	NR	NR	0% 29 (+/-29)	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	2% 5 (+/-5)
Fax (using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service)									
To request a ballot	NR	NR	0% 3 (+/-4)	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
To receive a ballot	0% 0 (+/-0)	0% 0 (+/-0)	0% 0 (+/-0)	0% 0 (+/-0)	0% 0 (+/-0)	0% 0 (+/-0)	0% 0 (+/-0)	0% 0 (+/-0)	0% 0 (+/-0)
To return a ballot	NR	NR	0% 6 (+/-6)	0% 0 (+/-0)	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
E-Mail (to/from local official)									
To request a ballot	1% 4 (+/-5)	13% 177 (+/-138)	10% 544 (+/-332)	11% 192 (+/-192)	NR	NR	NR	NR	11% 28 (+/-16)
To receive a ballot	NR	6% 86 (+/-108)	2% 126 (+/-117)	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	4% 11 (+/-7)
To return a ballot	NR	NR	1% 34 (+/-51)	1% 11 (+/-8)	NR	NR	NR	NR	3% 8 (+/-7)

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

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

Table 40. (continued)

E-Mail (using FVAP Electronic Transmission Service)									
To request a ballot	NR	2% 26 (+/-36)	1% 74 (+/-98)	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	1% 3 (+/-5)
To receive a ballot	NR	1% 15 (+/-12)	0% 4 (+/-6)	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
To return a ballot	NR	2% 24 (+/-27)	0% 4 (+/-6)	3% 68 (+/-101)	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
<i>Margin of Error</i>	±1-4%	±1-14%	±1-8%	±1-17%	±1%	±1%	±1%	±1%	±1-9%

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

- **Requesting a Ballot:** GS 1-4 employees (99%) were more likely to indicate they requested their absentee ballot via postal mail.
- **Receiving a Ballot:** There were no significant differences by paygrade.
- **Returning a Ballot:** GS 9-12 employees (99%) were more likely to indicate they returned their absentee ballot via postal mail.

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 41 provides detailed information (when data were collected, sample size, and response rate) on the survey administrations.

Table 41.
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.

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

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.⁵ 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 41, and elsewhere in this report, are based on 95% confidence intervals.⁶

When reporting current survey results, the mean (or proportion) of each subgroup is compared⁷ 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.

⁵ 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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⁶ 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.

⁷ 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.

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

“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>.

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

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

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

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

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

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

(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.

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

(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

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

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;

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

(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

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

(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."

2006 Survey Results on Voting Assistance Among Military Members and DoD Civilian Employees by Location, Age, and Paygrade

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.