



AN FVAP UPDATE



JANUARY 2016



A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW DIRECTOR, DAVID BEIRNE



I'm writing to congratulate you on a successful 2016 election season and to wish you a happy

new year. As you are aware, Matt Boehmer has left FVAP for a promotion and wonderful new opportunity within the Department of Defense. While he will certainly be missed, FVAP remains committed to ensuring that Service members, their families and overseas citizens are aware of their rights and have the resources to vote

from anywhere in the world. As a former local election official and someone who has operated in the field of election administration for over eighteen years, I know an integral part of our success at FVAP comes from working closely with election officials at both the State and local level.

As we move into 2017, I would like to share with you that FVAP is actively developing its 2016 Post-Election Report for release this summer and we look forward to future opportunities to share our insights at your upcoming

State election conferences. Even though there are no regularly scheduled elections for federal offices in 2017, we know the election community never rests in terms of its preparedness, planning and legislative activities. If there are opportunities for FVAP staff to conduct training sessions on how best to engage military and overseas voters or simply serve as a resource for possible or pending legislation, please let us know.

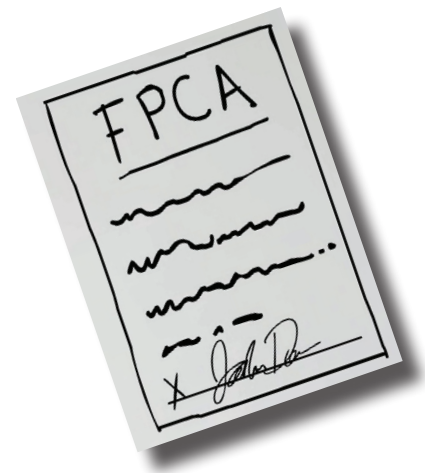
I look forward to seeing you at the NASED Winter Conference in February.



FPCA REMINDERS FOR 2017

A few States will be having special elections this year, and we will be doing our part to remind UOCAVA voters that they may use the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to register and request a ballot for those special elections. We hope that you will also remind local election officials to pay special

attention to FPCAs that arrive this year and continue direct communication with UOCAVA voters eligible to participate in special elections for federal offices, as well as statewide and local elections occurring in 2017. Most importantly, make sure those ballots get out 45 days before the election and if that doesn't happen, know that you must apply for a Waiver Request from our office.



OVERSEAS CITIZEN POPULATION SURVEY 2016



FVAP is currently conducting statistical research in support of our Report to Congress on *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)* voters. This research entails obtaining lists of UOCAVA citizens from the 2016 General Election cycle, including U.S. citizens residing outside the United States and Uniformed Services voters (i.e., domestic and overseas military members, spouses, and dependents). The voter lists will support FVAP's Overseas Citizen Population Survey, allowing for assessment of overseas citizens' voting experiences and statistical estimates about this population. As such, FVAP has authorized Aristotle International Inc. to request voter registration files, voter history files, and absentee ballot request files from State and local election officials. Depending on a State's practices for disseminating voter, absentee, and UOCAVA data, this may entail custom data requests including, but not limited to, voters' UOCAVA status, overseas mailing addresses, and information about ballot requests, transmissions, and returns. FVAP encourages States and localities to maintain and disseminate this information, to facilitate FVAP's efforts in assisting military and overseas citizens in exercising their right to vote, and in fulfilling our Congressional reporting requirements. We welcome any inquiries about the information being requested.

MILITARY BALLOT TRACKING PILOT

During the 2016 election, FVAP along with our partners at the United States Postal Service (USPS), Military Postal Service Agency, and six local election offices from around the country, came together for a Military Ballot Tracking Pilot project. The idea behind the pilot was to provide the voter with end-to-end ballot tracking abilities in the hopes that the voter would be able to see where their ballot, both blank and completed, was in the mail process. This pilot would also help us and USPS know where the ballots are at any given time during the mail process so that issues could be quickly remedied. Additionally, adding tracking abilities into the absentee voting process continues to provide a level of customer service that helps dispel many myths associated with absentee voting. FVAP recently hosted a meeting to discuss initial analysis of the data collected during the pilot. The preliminary findings are very interesting and we look forward to sharing all of the information with our State and local election officials very soon, so stay tuned!



INSTALLATION VOTER ASSISTANCE OFFICE VISITS



UOCAVA specifies that an Installation Voter Assistance (IVA) Office be established to provide absent Uniformed Service voters and their family members with aid in voting-related matters. Information and assistance must be provided, both in writing as well as individually, on voter registration and absentee ballot procedures, including how to update voter information. In an effort to assist the Services with meeting the requirements for these offices, FVAP will be conducting assistance visits to IVA Offices at 86 installations during 2017. FVAP staff will travel to these installations, meet with office personnel, and recommend actions to improve upon the effectiveness and efficiency of these offices. These recommendations include interaction with election officials in the State and jurisdiction where the installation is located to assist those stationed there who wish to register to vote locally.