



## **FVAP UPDATE** **MAY AND JUNE 2019**



### **GUIDE COORDINATION**

### **REMINDERS FOR STATE ELECTION OFFICIALS**

We appreciate the time and effort you have put in to the 2020-2021 Voting Assistance Guide Coordination. Having the most up-to-date information for your voters is crucial in their ability to submit FPCAs and ballots from the military or overseas. Most importantly, FVAP relies upon this information for both its website content and its hard copy versions of the guide used by our Voting Assistance Officers throughout all of the Military Services. The second coordination is still ongoing and will conclude on Friday July 12th, 2019. Final coordination will begin later this summer. Let's continue to work together to support our military, their families and overseas citizens around the world.

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### **REPORT TO CONGRESS**

### **2018 ELECTION CYCLE REPORT**

FVAP's 2018 Report to Congress will be delivered to the Hill on July 31st to report on the activities and findings of FVAP during the 2018 election cycle. After each general election, FVAP is required to conduct a statistical analysis on voter registration and participation rates for our military and overseas citizens along with an overall report on program effectiveness. It will be available to read on FVAP.gov upon its transmittal to Congress.

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### **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE ELECTION DIRECTORS (NASED) CONFERENCE**

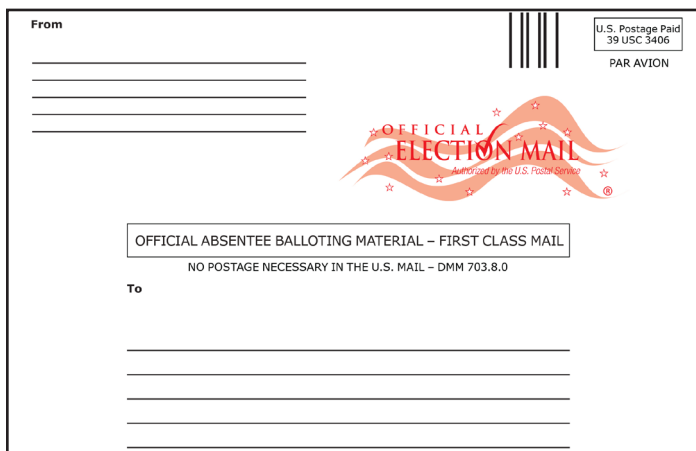
FVAP'S Deputy Director will lead a panel discussion featuring the Air Force co-Service Voting Action Officer at the NASED meeting in Austin, TX on July 15th. This panel will provide direct insights from FVAP's partners across the Air Force and discuss how FVAP and the Department is changing its Voting Assistance Officer requirements to provide operational flexibility while maintaining overall effectiveness.



# **NASED**

## BEST PRACTICE: POSTAGE PAID INDICIA

As the 2020 election cycle revs up, start working with your mail piece design analysts at your post offices to prepare the postage paid ballot return envelopes and gather answers to any of your election mail design requirements. They can help you to ensure the proper usage of the postage paid indicia by assisting you with the domestic mail manual and help reconcile USPS design requirements. Our partners at USPS provide all the information you need to prepare for the 2020 cycle through their official election mail kit including a listing of election mail coordinators for your jurisdiction to work with:



<https://about.usps.com/election-mail/election-mail-resources.htm>

Now is also the time to start thinking about UOCAVA list maintenance efforts ahead of the Presidential Preference Primary elections. This is a great way to have your military and overseas citizens update their address information by sending a new Federal Post Card Application in the mail and have them resubmit for the 2020 calendar year.

## SVAO SPOTLIGHT STATE DEPARTMENT

Kim Richter has worked helping U.S. citizens in the Middle East for nearly 20 years. Although she is a civil servant and stationed in Washington, DC, she has served at the U.S. Embassy in Amman, Jordan and Tbilisi, Georgia as well as the U.S. Consulate General in Vladivostok, Russia. She is new to the voting portfolio but is excited to help U.S. citizens fulfill one of their most important responsibilities and has really enjoyed working with FVAP and our embassies and consulates overseas to make every vote count.

Ruth Branson has been a civil servant with the U.S. Department of State serving in various capacities for the past 35 years, most recently managing the Southern Africa portfolio in the Office of Overseas Citizens Services. She served a 3-year tour in Manila, Philippines and has done several TDY assignments in Brazil, South Africa, China, Haiti, Sudan, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Guyana, Ghana, Niger, and Nigeria. The VAO role is her newest challenge and she is enjoying learning the ins and outs of assisting U.S. citizens with overseas voting.



*Ruth standing left and Kim standing right at their State Department Office*

These two lead a host of voting assistance officers at US Embassies and Consulates worldwide.