



# FVAP Dispatch



SEPTEMBER 2014



FVAP.gov  
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Message from FVAP Director (page 1) | Media Overview (page 2) | Election Officials (page 3)  
Voting Assistance Officers (page 4) | CONTACT US (see footnote)

*FVAP works to ensure Service members, their eligible family members and overseas citizens are aware of their right to vote and have the tools and resources to successfully do so — from anywhere in the world.*

## ★ MESSAGE FROM THE FVAP DIRECTOR



Providing voting assistance to military members, their eligible family members and overseas citizens requires teamwork. That's why FVAP works so closely with the Military Services, advocacy organizations and State and local election officials on initiatives such as the upcoming absentee voting week September 29-October 6.

Election officials are hugely important. We understand that a successfully cast ballot is a transaction between a voter and his or her local or State

government — and focusing on one without the other just doesn't make sense.

In an effort to build State policymakers' awareness and understanding of our mission, FVAP entered into a cooperative agreement with the Council of State Governments (CSG). CSG is the only national membership association serving all three branches of State government in all 50 States, Washington, D.C. and the U.S. territories. It is uniquely positioned to conduct outreach and research in order to increase mutual awareness and find solutions benefiting military and overseas voters.

CSG has created two working groups consisting of State and local election officials. One focused on election policy issues is examining the Presidential Commission on election administration military and overseas voter recommendations; the other group is exploring technology issues, such as data standardization development. This valuable relationship will directly impact how we provide voting assistance and facilitate the connection between military voters and their home State.

Our collaborative efforts can help us reach one of our many shared goals: voting success for those who protect our freedom and defend our most fundamental right.

-Matt Boehmer

## EMAILS TO SERVICE MEMBERS



In early August FVAP emailed Service members about the upcoming November 4, 2014 General Election. The email included information on absentee voting eligibility, the steps to take and direct them on how to get started. Service members were sent to

FVAP.gov for more information and the site saw a significant increase in traffic. Specifically, FVAP provided 90 day pre-election guidance to more than 481,000 Soldiers, 286,000 Airmen, 275,000 Sailors, 136,000 Marines, 36,000 Coastguardsmen and 6,700

Merchant Marines and Public Health officers.

A 60-day email was sent on September 5th, and a 30-day email will be sent on October 5th.

## FVAP VALIDATES REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPATION RATES FOR 2012 ELECTION



FVAP released additional research findings from the 2012 General Election Post-Election Survey; once the Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) is adjusted to mirror the demographics of the Active Duty Military (ADM) population, the voter registration rate for the ADM is 7.92% higher than the CVAP. Additionally, the rate of voter participation for the ADM was 2.39% higher than that of the CVAP in 2012. These results validate the reported trends after the 2012 General Election and lower the

population differences when reporting registration and participation rates.

After each general election, FVAP reports the voter registration and participation rates for CVAP and for ADM as part of its post-election report to Congress. In the 2012 Post-Election Report to Congress, FVAP adjusted ADM to reflect the demographics of CVAP, which resulted in a 15% higher registration rate for ADM versus CVAP and a participation rate 9.5% higher for ADM versus CVAP.

However, as FVAP noted in its 2012 report, this approach is insufficient as research shows the two populations are significantly dissimilar regarding two additional characteristics, education and mobility.

FVAP employed a statistical modeling technique using its 2012 post-election data to develop these new results. To read the full research article, please visit this website: [http://www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Reports/2014\\_FVAP\\_Research\\_Note\\_1\\_Final\\_April\\_11\\_2014.pdf](http://www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Reports/2014_FVAP_Research_Note_1_Final_April_11_2014.pdf).

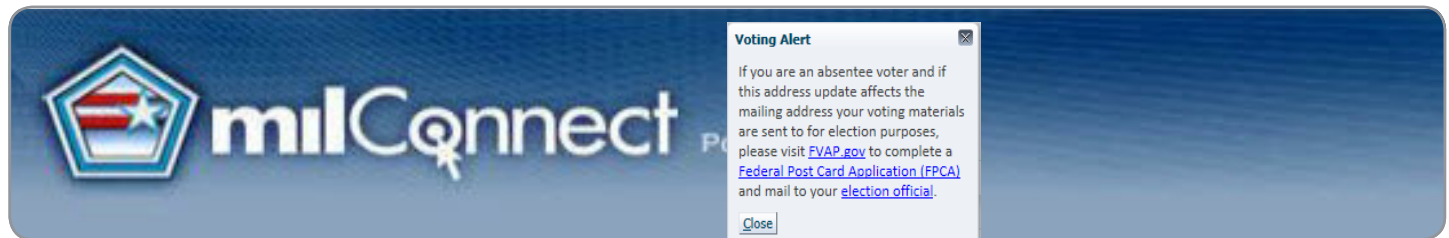
## HEADS UP: ADDRESS-UPDATE MESSAGE NOW LIVE ON MILCONNECT



Last month FVAP implemented a prompt for milConnect users, upon updating their address, to also visit FVAP.gov to complete a Federal

Post Card Application. This form will allow them to update their address and request an absentee ballot from their local election office. We hope

this change will lead to more Service members making their mailing addresses known to election officials as they move around the world.



## LOOK FOR US IN THE MEDIA!



FVAP uses media placements to reach our specific audience of Service members and their families, overseas citizens and other stakeholders. During the voting emphasis week in July, we reached as many as 18,021,758 people through placements in Military.com,

Military Spouse and other outlets targeted specifically to military and overseas voters.

To grab the attention of our younger Service members and overseas citizen voters, FVAP created a new campaign focused on "Voting is

Easy". The campaign hinges on the fact that we "vote" every day - window or aisle, ketchup or mustard, etc. Print, digital and video ads can be found at FVAP.gov for download. Feel free to use these to help spread the word! [www.FVAP.gov/info/outreach](http://www.FVAP.gov/info/outreach).



## **ELECTION OFFICIALS: WORKING WITH YOU TO ASSIST VOTERS**

### **WE HOPE TO SEE EVEN MORE OF YOU!**

FVAP maintains close relationships with State and local election officials. Recently, Director Matt Boehmer spoke to attendees at the National Association of Secretaries of State, the Washington State Elections Conference and the Texas Election Law Seminar.

Staff also attended and presented

at additional election conferences, including the International Association of Clerks, Recorders, Election Officials and Treasurers, the National Association of State Election Directors, the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials, Florida Association of Supervisors of Elections and the Virginia 2014 Election Uniformity Training Workshop.

FVAP will seek legislative and administrative changes in States that FVAP identified as having higher than average rejection rates of ballots from Uniformed Service members and overseas voters. For example, States providing extra days after Election Day for Uniformed Service members' and overseas ballots to be received by the election official back home, have a lower rejection rate than States requiring the ballots to be received by Election Day.



Have a question? As always - FVAP is here to help! While most information can be found at [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov), you can also call us at 1-800-438-VOTE or email [Vote@FVAP.gov](mailto:Vote@FVAP.gov).

### UPCOMING CHANGES FOR VAG COORDINATION

FVAP now has an integrated content management system for displaying the contents of its Voting Assistance Guide across its public web pages with the same content that will be used to generate the next edition of the Voting Assistance Guide (VAG).

The printed and electronic versions of the VAG will continue to serve as the

primary tool for our Voting Assistance Officers in the field when they are assisting our military and overseas voters.

The content of the VAG is coordinated directly with State Election Officials (SEOs) as FVAP prepares for each election cycle. The FVAP portal will now be used as one of the primary

tools for coordinating this State content directly with State Election Officials.

In the coming months, FVAP will actively encourage SEOs to request accounts through the FVAP website to prepare for the 2016-2017 VAG Coordination.



## VOTING ASSISTANCE OFFICERS

### ABSENTEE VOTING WEEK

Absentee Voting Week is scheduled from September 29 through October 6, 2014. Voting Assistance Officers (VAOs) at every level are encouraged to participate. The goal is to encourage everyone, who wants to vote, to return their voted ballot immediately upon receiving it or to use the backup Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB).

Want to get involved in Absentee

Voting Week?

- Ask voters if they have received their ballot. If not, give them a backup FWAB and tell them how to fill it out and mail it in.
- Use media outlets to encourage people to vote using their State ballot or the backup FWAB.
- Enlist the help of other VAOs, base organizations, or overseas citizen organizations to conduct events

encouraging people to return their absentee ballots.

- Put up posters that tell people how to reach you for help.
- Hang banners at base entrances and update base marquees with voting information.
- Run FVAP videos.
- \* Need more copies or any materials, including PSAs? Email [vote@fvap.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.gov).

# VAOS: REGISTER NOW FOR YOUR PORTAL ACCOUNT AT FVAP.GOV



FVAP has created a portal to make communication and the dissemination of UOCAVA information easier amongst all military absentee voting stakeholders. The portal will allow Voting Assistance Officers to input UOCAVA voting assistance metrics directly in to the system and access pertinent information from their Service Voting Action Officers (SVAO). If you haven't already done so, please register today!

**To start:** Visit FVAP.gov and click on Admin Portal in the bottom right corner

of the homepage. Under the Login screen, click "Register for an Account" and you can start the process:

**Step 1: Account Designation** – select what type of voting assistance role you perform.

**Step 2: Voting Assistance Officer Information** – select your service and the installation location for which you will be reporting metrics.

**Step 3: User Information** – enter your name and work information (the

verification email will be sent to the official email you enter in this step).

**Step 4: Password Selection** – create a 16-character password to comply with DoD standards.

**Step 5: Finalize Account** – Identify the image, review the user agreement terms and register for an account.

For any questions or issues regarding portal registration, contact your SVAO or email [tech@fvap.gov](mailto:tech@fvap.gov).

**Register for an FVAP Account**

Step 1 Designation | Step 2 Designation Details | Step 3 User Information | Step 4 Password | Step 5 Finalize

**Account Designation**

**Which account type applies to you?**

- Unit Voting Assistance Officer
- Installation Voting Assistance Officer
- IVA Office Staff
- Recruiter
- State Election Official

Next