

Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) Department of Defense

Overseas Voter Training



Introduction



If you wish to complete your Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot request form, <u>Click Here</u>.

If you wish to receive complete voter training, please continue with this presentation.



Introduction



Welcome to the **Overseas Voter** training. This training provides information to help you successfully register to vote, request your absentee ballot and successfully cast your ballot.

This training covers two areas:

- 1. Background information on UOCAVA
- 2. Available resources for overseas voters



2016 General Election



During the 2016 election cycle, a number of important offices will be decided by voters, including:

- President and Vice President
 34 seats in the U.S. Senate
 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives
 Governorships in 12 States and 3 U.S. territories
 State and local offices
- ✓ Ballot questions and referenda





Absentee Voting



MYTH: Absentee ballots are not counted unless it is a close race.

FACT: All valid absentee ballots are counted regardless of the closeness of the race.

- States differ as to when they count absentee ballots.
- Many States require absentee ballots to be received by Election Day so that they can be counted along with the in-person votes.
- Some States accept absentee ballots after Election Day.
- The election is not certified until all absentee ballots received by the State's deadline are counted.



Every Vote Counts





- Voters are encouraged to exercise their right to vote. Every vote counts.
- Recent elections have been decided by a margin of victory of less than 0.1%.

Election	Margin of Victory
2008 – Minnesota U.S. Senate	312 votes
2006 – Oklahoma State House of Representatives	2 votes
2005 – Virginia Attorney General	323 votes
2004 – Washington Governor	133 votes
2000 – Florida Electoral Votes (U.S. Presidential election)	537 votes



What Is UOCAVA?



The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act of 1986, or UOCAVA, allows certain U.S. citizens to apply to register and vote absentee in elections for Federal office.

Citizens covered under UOCAVA include:

- 1. Members of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine who are absent from their voting jurisdiction due to their service.
- 2. Dependents of members of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine who are absent from their voting jurisdiction with the member.
- 3. U.S. citizens residing outside the United States and its territories.

Note: Uniformed Service members and their eligible family members residing in their voting jurisdictions are not covered under *UOCAVA*.

UOCAVA covers more than six million potential voters worldwide.

What Is FVAP?



The Federal Voting Assistance Program, or FVAP, is charged with providing assistance and outreach to U.S. citizens covered under *UOCAVA*.

FVAP's **purpose** is 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.





The Absentee Voting Process





UOCAVA Forms



As a voter, you should be familiar with two forms unique to UOCAVA voters:

The Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)

Federal Post Card Application (F Instructions	 available on P424P gain for any guestions about this form, consult your voting Assettance Officer on the voting Assettance Guide available in fault copy or an P424F gain. 			n and Absentee Ballot Request rd Application (FPCA)
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The following slides will outline how these forms are used in the UOCAVA absentee voting process.

How Do UOCAVA Citizens Vote?





Step 1: A UOCAVA citizen completes the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to apply to register to vote and request an absentee ballot. The completed FPCA is submitted to the applicant's local election official.



Step 2: The local election official reviews the submitted FPCA. After verifying eligibility, the local election official sends the applicant an absentee ballot.



Step 3: The applicant receives the absentee ballot. votes the ballot and returns it to the local election official to be counted.

FWAB

Note: If applicants have not received an absentee ballot 30 days before the election, they should complete and submit the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) to ensure that their vote is received in time to be counted.



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Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)



By filling out the FPCA, UOCAVA voters can:

- 1. Apply to register to vote.
- 2. Request an absentee ballot.
- 3. Update a mailing address and/or other contact information.

UOCAVA citizens should submit an FPCA:

- 1. Once a year.
- 2. Any time they need to update their contact information.

		d Application (FPCA)		VAP.gov or your Voting Assistance Officer.
For absent Uniformed Se	rvice	members, their families, and citizens residing ou		Please print in black ink.
Classification Make only 1 selection. (In most States, you must be absent from your voting district to use this form).	1	Irequest an absentee ball (for all elections in which I an I am a member of the Uniformed Services or Merch i am an activated National Guard member on State i am a U.S. citizen residing outside the United State I am a U.S. citizen residing outside the United State I am a U.S. citizen and have neverresided in the Un	ant Marine on active orders. s, and lintend to retu s, and my return is r	eduty OR 🔲 I am an eligible spouse or dependent. .rn.
Political party	2	Your State may require you to specify a political party to	vote in primary elec	tions
Legal name	3	Last name First name Previous name (ifapplicable)	M	Suffix liddle name
Identification Some States require your full SSN. Check your State's pages in the Voting Assistance Guide on FVAP.go v.	4	State Driver's License or ID OR Social Security Number Birth date M M D Y Y Y Y Y	Sex M	F Race See instructions
Contact information Include international prefixes. No DSN numbers.	5	Telephone Fax Email		
Ballot receipt	6	Rank from 1-3 in order of preference; be sure appropria I prefer to receive my ballot, as permitted by my State, b		ion is provided above. nail/Online Mail Fax
Voting residence address Usually your last U.S. residence or your legal U.S. residence. See instructions.	7	Street Address (not P.O. Box) City/Town/Village County S	tate	Apt.#
Where to send my ballot This is your current mailing address and should be different from above. If required, place a forwarding address in Box 9.	8			
Additional requirements for your State Such as: mail forwarding address, address, address, address, address, address, address/phone number, or other State required information. See Voting Assistance Guide.	9			
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 I am not registering, reques United States, except the jur 	stinga	ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the	Date	



Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)

FINAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The FWAB is a backup ballot for *UOCAVA* voters who have not yet received their State absentee ballot and may not have time to return the State ballot before the deadline.

FVAP recommends that voters who have not received their absentee ballot 30 days before an election complete and submit a FWAB.

		tion/Affirmation For any quasitons about this form, consult the Votep Assignment Guide a sellate interact copy other Margon or Votep Assignment of the Ass	Official Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot Vote by writing the name and/or party affiliation of the candidate for whom you wish to vote. Some States allow the
		MDSET ILEE DAIIOL (FVVAD) Officer. members, their families, and citizens residing outside the U.S. Please print in black ink.	Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot to be used by military and overseas voters in elections other than general election
ualification &		Have you already registered and requested an absentee ballot?	for offices other than Federal offices. Consult the Voting Assistance Guide to determine your State's policy.
oter Registration my States require that you registered and request an series ballot before using this m	1	If you answer Ne, you can do this via the Federal Post Card Application, or in a few States, by marking the box below. Check your State is pages in the Voting Assistance Guide on FVAP port to see if your State allows registration via this form. I allow semi the registre's to vide and/or regust an a bearine build for all allocing in which it an eligible to vide.	President/Vice President:
n.	-	I am a member of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine on active duty OR I am an eligible spouse or dependent,	U.S. Senator*:
		Iam an activated National Guard member on State orders.	U.S. Representative/Delegate**/Resident Commissioner**:
assification ke only 1 selection.	2	arr a U.S. citizen residing outside the United States, and I intend to return.	* Legal residents of the District of Columbia may vote only for President/Vice President and Delegate.
only 1 selection.		arr a U.S. citizen residing outside the United States, and my return is not certain.	 Legal residence of columbia may vote only for President vice President and Delegate.
		are a U.S. citizen and have never resided in the United States.	** Legal residents of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands may vote only for D
	-	Lad name Suffix	or Resident Commissioner to the Congress.
1		First name Middle name	Addendum
gal name	3	Previous name (if appicable)	If you are eligible to use this ballot to vote for offices other than those listed above or for ballot initiatives, please in
			in the spaces provided below, the office for which you wish to vote (for example: Governor, Attorney General, May State Senator, etc.). You may also indicate the ballot initiative and your vote for the initiative.
entification		State Driver's License or I.D.	Office / Ballot Initiative Candidate Name, Party Affiliation,
ne States require your full J. Check your State's pages	4	OR Social Security Number	or Initiative Vote
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VAP.gov.	_	M M D D Y Y Y Y SeeInstructions	
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es in the Voting Assistance de on FVAP.gov.			
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e information on this form is	s true, a	accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge.	
Serstand that a material min inds for conviction of perjur	sstater ly.	ment of fact in completion of this document may constitute Signature X	
a U.S. citizen, at least 18 ested jurisdiction, and	years o	of age (or will be by the day of the election), eligible to vote in the You must sign and send in.	
	e to ha	aving been convicted of a felony or other disqualifying offense, Today's date / /	(PUT ONLY THE VOTED BALLOT INSIDE THIS ENVELOPE)
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Instructions



The instructions for completing the FPCA and FWAB differ across States -refer applicants to the *Voting Assistance Guide* for complete instructions.

- Some States may require a full Social Security Number, while other States may require a driver's license or State identification number.
- ✓ The Voting Assistance Guide also includes Statespecific deadlines for voter registration, absentee ballot requests and ballot returns.



FVAP recommends using the online *Voting Assistance Guide* available at http://www.fvap.gov/vao/vag.

Review of Voting Materials



Should be completed by:

All UOCAVA voters once a year and any time they need to update their contact information.

Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)

Allows voters to:

Apply to register to vote, request an absentee ballot and update their contact information.

Should be completed by:

All *UOCAVA* voters as an emergency write-in absentee ballot should they not receive their ballot 30 days before the election.

Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)

Allows voters to:

Vote in all Federal elections. Some States allow the FWAB to be used for State and local elections or as a simultaneous application for voter registration and write-in absentee ballot.

Online Assistants



FVAP has created Online Assistants that automate and simplify the process of filling out the FPCA and FWAB.

- The Online Assistant offers point-and-click assistance and produces printable forms that eliminate legibility errors.
- The Online Assistant also produces a postage-paid template that then may be printed onto an envelope and mailed.



Completing the FPCA/FWAB Online



Benefits of the Online Assistants:

- 1. Generate only fields required by the applicant's State, decreasing confusion over voter information requirements.
- 2. Provide up-to-date State information such as important State voting deadlines.
- 3. Provide an output package that includes applicant's completed FPCA or FWAB, instructions for submitting and envelope template.





Completing the FPCA: Classification



Block 1 on the FPCA asks applicants to indicate their *UOCAVA* voter classification. This classification determines in which contests their election jurisdiction will allow them to vote.

		House prink in black mis.
Classification Make only 1 selection. (In most States, you must be absent from your voting district to use this form).	 I request an absentee ballot for all elections in which I am eligible to vote AND: I am a member of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine on active duty of I am an activated National Guard member on State orders. I am a U.S. citizen residing outside the United States, and I intend to return. I am a U.S. citizen residing outside the United States, and my return is not certain and U.S. citizen and have never resided in the United States. 	

Applicants should select the classification that best represents their current situation.

 In some States U.S. citizens, 18 years or older, who were born abroad but have never resided in the United States are eligible to vote absentee.

http://www.FVAP.gov/citizen-voter/reside



Completing the FPCA: Political Party



In order to participate in partisan primary elections, most States require voters to indicate a political party preference. Voters should refer to the *Voting Assistance Guide* for their State's specific requirements.

Political party	2	Your State may require you to specify a political party to vote in primary elections:	Abcdef Party
	8		

✓ Applicants who do not want to be affiliated with a political party should write "no party" in Block 2.

✓ Note that if applicants enter "no party," they will still receive the November General Election ballot.



Completing the FPCA: Voter Information

Requirements for voter identification differ by State; refer to the *Voting Assistance Guide* for the applicant's State-specific guidelines.

		Last name Jones	Suffix
Legal name	3	First name James	Middle name Larry
		Previous name (if applicable)	,
Identification		State Driver's License or ID A 1 3 1 5 6 7 4 9	394
Some States require your full SSN. Check your State's	4	OR Social Security Number	
pages in the Voting Assistance Guide on FVAP.gov .		Birth date 1 1 / 2 9 / 1 9 8 5 Sex X M	F Race See instructions
Contact		Telephone 0 1 1 4 4 2 0 1 4 0 3 5	
information	5	Fax 0 1 1 4 4 2 0 14 0 3 5	4700
Include international prefixes. No DSN numbers.		Email j.l.jones85@hawkstooth.	



Completing the FPCA: Ballot Receipt



States' laws differ as to how blank ballots can be delivered to voters. All States will send ballots via mail; however, States differ as to which electronic methods can be used: email, online download and fax.

B II () (Rank from 1-3 in order of preference; be sure appropriate cont	tact information is provid	ed above.	
Ballot receipt	6	I prefer to receive my ballot, as permitted by my State, by:	1 Email/Online	3 Mail	2 Fax

✓Applicants should rank order their preferences for receiving their blank ballot.

✓ Refer to the Voting Assistance Guide to see what methods are permitted by an applicant's State.

✓ If an applicant wants to receive a ballot via email or fax, he or she must provide appropriate contact information in Block 5 (email address or fax number).

Completing the FPCA: Voting Residence



A local election official needs an applicant's voting residence address in order to confirm the applicant's voting precinct. The address must be for a residence (i.e., not a P.O. box).

Voting residence address		Street Address (not P.O. Box) 122	Maple Terrace	:	Apt.#
Usually your last U.S.	7	City/Town/Village Mayville			
residence or your legal U.S. residence. See instructions.		County Orange	State CA	Zip Code 9 5 5 5	1-

For Overseas Citizens: Your "legal State of residence" for voting purposes is the State or territory where you last resided immediately prior to your departure from the United States. This applies to overseas citizens even though you may not have property or other ties in your last State of residence and your intent to return to that State may be uncertain.

For U.S. citizens who have never resided in the U.S.: Your "legal State of residence" for voting purposes is the State or territory that your parent or legal guardian would be eligible to register and vote.

FVAP recommends using old tax documents, passports, or contacting your local election official to identify your voting residence address.

Completing the FPCA: Mailing Address



Voters should enter their current mailing address.

Where to send my ballot		14050 Park Lane	
This is your current mailing address and should be different from above. If	8	London, W1K 7AA United Kingdom	
required, place a forwarding address in Box 9.			

 Remind applicants to notify their local election official if their address changes before the election to ensure their local election office has the correct contact information.



Completing the FPCA: State Requirements



In Block 9, applicants should include any additional information required by their State. For example, some States require applicants to include information such as the length of time they resided in that State or where they were last registered to vote.

Additional requirements			
for your State Such as: mail forwarding address, additional email	9		
address/phone number, or other State required information. See Voting Assistance Guide.			

- Applicants may also include additional information that would assist the local election official in accepting the application or sending their ballot, such as a forwarding address.
- ✓ Refer to the Voting Assistance Guide for State-specific requirements.



Completing the FPCA: Affirmation and Witness



After applicants read the affirmation, they should sign and date their form.

 The information on this form is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that a material misstatement of fact in completion of this document may constitute grounds for conviction of perjury. 	Signature X James Jones You must sign and send in.
 I am a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age (or will be by the day of the election), eligible to vote in the requested jurisdiction, and 	Today's date 1 1 1 1 1 2 0 1 3
 I am not disqualified to vote due to having been convicted of a felony or other disqualifying offense, nor have I been adjudicated mentally incompetent; or if so, my voting rights have been reinstated; and 	M M D D Y Y Y Y Witness signature / date if required by your State. Signature
 I am not registering, requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the United States, except the jurisdiction cited in this voting form. 	Date

✓ You should remind applicants that by signing the FPCA, they are verifying their information under the penalty of perjury.

✓ Refer to the *Voting Assistance Guide* to see if an applicant's State requires a witness signature.

Completing the FPCA: Submission Methods



Completed FPCAs should be submitted to the applicant's local election official for processing.

✓ All States and territories accept the FPCA via mail.

- ✓ Mailing addresses for local election officials are available in the Voting Assistance Guide.
- The FPCA can be mailed postage paid through the U.S. Postal Service, Military Postal Service or State Department pouch mail. The postage-paid envelope template is produced by the Online Assistant and is also available at

http://www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Forms/returnenvelope.pdf.

✓ Never mail forms to your embassy/consulate. Consult them first before dropping forms off.

Name and complete address Kathleen McDonnell 1155 Defense Pentagon Washington, DC 20301-1155		OFFICIAL ELECTION MAIL Autorned by the U.S. Postal Service		US Postage Paid 39 USC 3406 PAR AVION
		SENTEE BALLOTING MATERIAL - FIRST CL		
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	10: _	PO Box 315 Morristown, NJ 07963-0315		
	-	Monistowii, NJ 07905-0315		

Completing the FPCA: Submission Methods



Some States and territories will accept the FPCA via email and/or fax.

✓ Check the *Voting Assistance Guide* to see if the applicant's State will accept the form by email or fax.

✓The Online Assistant will produce an email and/or fax cover sheet if online or faxed submissions are allowed by the applicant's State.

	Automated Register, Request and Receive Ballot Process (R3) Official Election Materials - Electronic Transmission Sheet (FWAB) Transmission (Cover) Sheet from Absentee Voter to Election Official		
	To:		
Email FPCA to this address	City/County	Morris County Clerk	
	Board Of Elections		
	State	New Jersey	
	LEO Email	jbramhall@clerk.morris.nj.us	
	Fax Number	973 285-6136	
Fax FPCA to this number	Last Name First Name Middle Name Telephone Number Fax Number	McDonnell Kathleen	
	Email Address		
		smitted, including this sheet:	
	Fa	ax/Email Cover Sheet	



Reviewing the FPCA



Before submitting your FPCA, make sure you have:

- ✓ Completed the forms completely and legibly
- ✓ Applied to the correct jurisdiction
- ✓ Indicated your party preference for a primary election
- ✓ Signed your FPCA

Incomplete or illegible FPCAs may result in your being unable to receive or cast your ballot.



Completing the FPCA: After Submission



- After receiving an FPCA, a local election official will process the form and verify the applicant's eligibility.
- You are encouraged to call, fax or email your local election official to verify that your application has been received.
- ✓ You should receive your regular State absentee ballot from the local election official in time for you to vote and return the ballot by the State's deadline.

Voters who have submitted an FPCA and have not received their absentee ballot 30 days before the election should submit the FWAB.



Completing the FWAB



The **Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot** (FWAB) allows *UOCAVA* voters who have not yet received their absentee ballot to vote in elections for Federal offices.

The instructions for completing the FWAB and uses of the FWAB **differ across States**. Refer applicants to the *Voting Assistance Guide* to ensure that they complete it

correctly.

For absent Iniformed Con	-111	Absentee Ballot (FWAB) or on FVAP.gov or your Voting A Officer. Please print in bi	Federal Write-In Absentee Ball
Qualification &	VICET	Have you already registered and requested an absentee ballot?	for onces other than Federal of
Voter Registration Many States require that you be registered and request an absentee ballot before using this	1	If you answer No, you can do this via the Federal Post Card Application, or in a few States, by marking the box below. Check yo State's pages in the \oting Assistance Guide on FVAP.gov to see if your State allows registration via this form.	
form.	_	I also want to register to vote and/or request an absentee ballot for all elections in which I am eligible to vote.	U.S. Senator":
		I am a member of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine on active duty OR I am an eligible spouse or d I am an activated National Quard member on State orders.	U.S. Representative/Delega
Classification Make only 1 selection.	2	I am a U.S. otizen residing outside the United States, and I intend to return.	* Legal residents of the Dis
Make only 1 selection.		I am a U.S. citizen residing outside the United States, and my return is not certain.	
		I am a U.S. otizen and have never resided in the United States.	** Legal residents of Americ or Resident Commissioner
		Last name Suffix	
Legal name	3	First name Middle name	If you are eligible to use this to
		Previous name (If applicable)	in the spaces provided below;
Identification		State Driver's License or I.D.	State Senator, etc.). You may
Some States require your full		OR Social Security Number – –	Office / Ball
SSN. Check your State's pages in the Voting Assistance Guide		Birth date / / Sex M F Race	
on FVAP.gov.	_	M M D D Y Y Y Y SeeInstructions	
Contact information		Telephone	
Include international prefixes.	5	Fax Final	
No DSN numbers.		Email Atemate Email	
-		Akenale chan	
Political party	6	Your State may require you to specify a political party to vote in primary elections:	
Voting residence address		Street Address (nit PO, Birk) Apt. #	
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above. If required, place			OFFICIAL F
a forwarding address in Box 9.			
Additional			
requirements for your State			
Such as: future ballot receipt preference, mail forwarding	9		
address, additional phone, or other State required	Ĩ.,		
information. See your State's			3
pages in the Voting Assistance Guide on FVAP.gov.			
The information on this form is lunderstand that a material min	true, a statem	1: Iswear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that: ocurate, and complete to the best of my innovidedge. end offsci in completion of this document may constitute	
grounds for conviction of perjur I am a U.S. oitizen, at least 18		fage (or will be by the day of the election), eligible to vote in the You must sign and send in.	
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nor have I been adjudicated me	a a ball	ot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the United States, except Viltness signature / date if required by your State	
nor have I been adjudicated mi I am not registering, requestin the jurisdiction cited in this voti	g a ball		5 Standard Form 186 (Rev 08-2013)

ote by writing the name and/or party affiliation of the can	rite-in Absentee Ballot didate for whom you wish to vote. Some States allow the
deral Write-In Absentee Ballot to be used by military an offices other than Federal offices. Consult the Voting A	d overseas voters in elections other than general elections or asistance Guide to determine your State's policy.
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J.S. Representative/Delegate**/Resident Commission	ner**:
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ate Senator, etc.). You may also indicate the ballot initiative and your vote for the initiative. Office / Ballot Initiative or Initiative Vote or Initiative Vote	
etach here, fold and insert into security envelope	(Use reverse side for additional space)
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Submitting the FWAB: Submission Modes



Completed FWABs should be submitted to the applicant's local election official for processing. All States and territories will accept the FWAB via mail. Some allow it to be faxed or emailed.

To mail the FWAB, the voter should insert the voted ballot (1) into the security envelope (2).

Then, the sealed security envelope (2) and the declaration/affirmation (3) should be placed in the prepaid mailing envelope (4).

- ✓ Mailing addresses for local election officials are available in the Voting Assistance Guide.
- The FWAB can be mailed postage paid through the U.S. Postal Service, Military Postal Service or State Department pouch mail. The postage-paid envelope template is produced by the Online Assistant and is also available at www.fvap.gov.

	Official Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot President/Vex President	
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FVAP Resources: Electronic Transmission Service



FVAP provides an Electronic Transmission Service (ETS) that allows *UOCAVA* balloting materials (including the FPCA and FWAB) to be faxed **at no cost**.

If a voter does not have a fax machine, the voter may email his or her materials to FVAP and FVAP will fax the materials to the local election official, if allowed by the voter's State.

Here's how it works:



ETS Resources:

- ETS Fax: http://www.fvap.gov/vao/vag/appendix/toll-free
- ETS Email: ETS@fvap.gov
- ETS Cover Sheet: http://www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Forms/coversheet.pdf

Note: Not all States allow absentee ballots to be delivered or returned via fax. Check the applicant's State's guidelines.

Completing the FWAB: A Common Concern



What if you receive your State ballot after voting the *FWAB*?

- Voters in this situation should *always* complete their State absentee ballot and return it to their local election official. If the absentee ballot is received by the State's deadline, it will be counted instead of the FWAB.
- Some States allow absentee ballots from UOCAVA voters to be counted even if they are received after Election Day.

Answers to additional FAQs may be found at www.fvap.gov



Contacting FVAP



If you have questions or concerns about absentee voting, you can contact FVAP:

Questions? Contact FVAP!			
Email	vote@fvap.gov	Email FVAP for assistance filling out forms or additional questions	
Commercial	703-588-1584		
Toll-Free	800-438-VOTE (8683)	Call FVAP for assistance filling out forms or additional questions	
DSN	425-1584	·	
Facebook	Facebook.com/DoDFVAP	FVAP and UOCAVA updates	
Twitter	Twitter.com/fvap	I VAF and OOCAVA upuales	

