

Recruiting Offices as Voter Registration Agencies

# **RECRUITERS AND VOTING**

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# Recruiting Personnel

All personnel assigned to duty at Recruiting Offices for the Armed Forces shall be trained and capable of providing these services or assistance.

# Background

- 42 U.S.C. 1973gg-5 (NVRA) designates Armed Forces recruiting offices as voter registration agencies
- DoD Directive 1344.13 implemented 42 U.S.C. 1973gg within all Services requiring recruiting offices to:
  - Provide prospective enlistees the mail voter registration application and the DD Form 2645
  - Assist the citizen in completing the voter registration application
  - Transmit the completed voter registration application to the appropriate State office
  - Maintain statistical information and records on voter registration assistance
- Services to ensure all recruiters are informed and trained in the voter registration assistance duties.

# NVRA

- National Voter Registration Act (NVRA)
- NVRA designates recruiting offices as voter registration agencies.
- NVRA defines the assistance recruiting offices must provide for voter registration.
  - Must offer to each voting-eligible person who comes into the recruiting office the opportunity to apply for voter registration.
  - Includes prospective recruits as well as anyone who enters the office.
  - Must assist the citizen in completing the application.
  - Must be totally non-partisan and not display any political leaning.
  - Must inform citizen that voter registration will not have any effect on joining the military.
  - Must mail the completed application to the appropriate state office.
  - Must keep and report metrics regarding voter registration assistance

# How to Do it- Voting Assistance

- Maintain local stock of two forms:
  - National Mail Voter Registration Form
    - Available at  
<http://www.eac.gov/assets/1/Documents/national%20mail%20voter%20registration%20form%20english%20February%202015%202011.pdf>
  - DD Form 2645, Voter Registration Information (Yes/No) Form
    - Available at  
<http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/forminfo/forminfo2084.html>

# Voting Assistance

- Offer the Voter Registration Information Form ([DD Form 2645](#)) to ALL voter eligible persons entering the recruiting office who are U.S. citizens and will be 18 years old by the date of the next federal General election.
  
- Ask ONLY two questions pertaining to voter registration upon applicant walk-in:
  1. Are you a U.S. citizen?
  2. Will you be 18 years old by the date of the election.

DO NOT ask, "Are you a convicted felon"?

- *NOTE: If an applicant is currently 17 years old but will be 18 by the date of election, they may be assisted with voter registration now.*

# DD Form 2645

VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION		
<p>1. If you are not registered to vote where you live now, would you like to apply to register to vote here today? (X one)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> YES                      <input type="checkbox"/> NO         </p>		
<p><b>IF YOU DO NOT MARK EITHER BOX, YOU WILL BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE DECIDED NOT TO REGISTER TO VOTE AT THIS TIME.</b></p> <p>Applying to register or declining to register to vote will not affect the amount of assistance that you will be provided by this agency.</p> <p>If you would like help filling out the voter registration application form, we will help you. The decision whether to seek or accept help is yours. You may fill out the application form in private.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">If you believe that someone has interfered with your right to register or to decline to register to vote, your right to privacy in deciding whether to register or in applying to register to vote, or your right to choose your own political party or other political preference, you may file a complaint with:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Federal Voting Assistance Program 1155 Defense Pentagon Washington, DC 20301-1155</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Telephone Number: 800-438-VOTE</p> </div> <p>If you decline to register to vote, that information will remain confidential and will only be used for voter registration purposes.</p> <p>If you register to vote, information regarding the office in which the application was submitted will remain confidential and only be used for voter registration purposes.</p>		
<p><b>2. PRINTED NAME</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%; background-color: #e0e0e0;"></div>	<p><b>3. SIGNATURE</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%; background-color: #e0e0e0;"></div>	<p><b>4. DATE</b> (YYYYMMDD)</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%; background-color: #e0e0e0;"></div>
<p>DD FORM 2645, NOV 2008                      PREVIOUS EDITION IS OBSOLETE.                      <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Reset</span>                      Adobe Professional 8.0</p>		

# DD Form 2645 (“yes” answers)

- When the applicant checks "Yes", recruiters will proceed to provide a [National Mail Voter Registration Form \(NVRF\) and Guide](#).
- Applicants will be given the option to take home the completed NVRF or request assistance from the recruiter in completing the NVRF then submit it to the recruiting station via the recruiter.
- For completed NVRFs submitted to the recruiting station, the recruiter will affix First Class postage and mail the NVRF to the appropriate state election office no later than:

10 days from acceptance

OR

5 days from acceptance if a looming election deadline merits

# DD Form 2645 (“no” answers)

- When the applicant checks "No", recruiters will cease voting registration assistance.
- If the date of signature is 18 Dec 11 for example, write "Destroy: 18 Dec 13" in the upper right corner of the completed DD Form 2645.
- If an applicant refuses to complete a DD Form 2645, do not be pushy.
- Credit ALL walk-in attendance for recruiting services in column 1 of the monthly/quarterly Voting Registration Assistance Metrics report.

# Voting Assistance

- Provide to any eligible citizen who enters a recruiting office, the same level of voters registration assistance as any prospective recruit/applicant.
- Regardless of the applicant's response, "Yes" or "No", on the DD Form 2645, completed forms must be forwarded to the District's Voting Assistance Officer for retention for a minimum of *two years*.
- For further guidance, visit the following websites:
  - U.S. Election Assistance Commission: [www.eac.gov](http://www.eac.gov)
  - Military Recruiter Information: <http://www.fvap.gov/vao/recruiter>

# How to Do It

- Keep records of
  - The number of citizens entering the recruiting office.
  - The number of citizens provided a DD 2645.
  - The number of citizens provided the National Mail Voter Registration Form.
  - The Number of National Mail Voter Registration Forms mailed for the citizen.
    - The cost of postage to mail the form.
  - The number of citizens taking their National Mail Voter Registration Form with them.
  - Keep the DD 2645s for a period of two years.
- Suggestions:
  - Print several copies of the instructions contained in the National Mail Voter Registration Form for citizens to use.
  - Print multiple copies of the actual form and/or,
  - Set up a computer where the citizen can complete and print the form.

# Voting Metrics Reports

Voter Registration Assistance Metrics Report: monthly and quarterly format used to track recruiting station voting assistance data. 6 columns of reporting criteria:

1. **State**: Enter the state for which your data is reported. If your recruiting area covers more than one state, then data must be reported for each state
2. **Number of Persons Assisted for Recruiting Services**: Enter the number of people assisted for recruiting service, to include non-prospect walk-ins seeking application forms or voting information. NOTE: List everyone regardless of age.
3. **Completed DD Form 2645 (Yes or No)**: Enter the number of DD Form 2645 completed regardless of the answer (yes or no), NOTE: Only U.S. citizens 18 years old by the date of election will complete this form.
4. **Number of Voter Registration Applications Submitted by Recruiting Offices by State**.
5. **Number of Voter Registration Applications Taken by Citizens but not Submitted by Recruiting Offices**.
6. **Total Mailing Costs to Submit Voter Registration Applications to States**.

# Stay Nonpartisan

## Recruiting personnel must NOT at any time:

- Seek to influence an applicant's political preference or party registration.
- Display any political preference or party allegiance.
- Make any statement to an applicant or take any action in order to discourage the applicant from registering to vote.
- Make any statement to an applicant or take any action in order to lead the applicant to believe that a decision to register or not to register has any bearing on the availability of services or benefits.
- Use information relating to a declination to register to vote in connection with an application made at your office for any purpose other than voter registration.

# Recruiting Personnel

Recruiting personnel and their voting eligible family members may register to vote absentee using the automated assistant at [WWW.FVAP.GOV](http://WWW.FVAP.GOV).

- Once complete, the Federal Post Card Application (SF-76) must be printed and mailed by the service member upon completion (may not be submitted online).
- Postage is pre-paid by the federal government for uniformed service members and their voting eligible family members.
  - National Mail Voter Registration Form for civilians requires first class postage for mailing.

# Summary

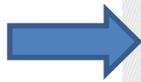
- Recruiters are required by law to provide non-partisan voter registration assistance.
- Applies to all citizens who enter the recruiting office.
  - Not required during field visits.
- Office must print and maintain stocks of the National Mail Voter Registration Form and the DD 2645.
- Must collect and maintain statistics for voter registration assistance.
- Report voter registration statistics quarterly or as required by the recruiting command.
- Must retain DD 2645s for two years.

# Resources

Access Online Assistants  
for Registration



Access Recruiter  
Information and Handouts



The screenshot shows the FVAP.GOV website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'FAQs', 'Links', 'Contact', 'Election Materials', and 'News'. Below this is a search bar. The main navigation menu includes 'Home', 'Military Voter', 'Overseas Citizen Voter', 'Voting Assistance Officer', 'Election Official', and 'General Information'. The 'Voters Start Here' section features a dropdown menu for 'Select a State'. The 'Help a Voter' section lists 'Voting Assistance Officers' and 'Election Officials'. The 'Upcoming Election Dates' section lists events for March 4 (Texas - State Primary), March 18 (Illinois - State Primary), and April 1 (District of Columbia - District Primary). The 'Quick Links' section includes links for 'Downloadable Election Materials', 'Where do I send my forms?', 'About the Absentee Vote Process', 'Voting Assistance Guide (VAG)', and 'Locate a Voting Office Near You'. The 'Latest FVAP News' section lists several news items with dates from August 07 to September 30. At the bottom, there is a footer with links for 'Military Voter', 'Overseas Citizen Voter', 'Voting Assistance Officer', 'Election Official', and 'General Information'. A 'Contact FVAP' button is also visible.

# Contacting FVAP

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

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