



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE
NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
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NBG-ARH

11 AUG 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ADJUTANTS GENERAL OF ALL STATES, PUERTO RICO, GUAM, THE VIRGIN ISLANDS AND THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

SUBJECT: Army Voting Assistance Program (ARH-S Memo 04-021)

1. Purpose: Insure the implementation of the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) and Department of Defense (DoD) Directive 1000.4 and provide information necessary for the conduct of the Army Voting Assistance Program (AR608-20) during the 2004/2005 election years.
2. References:
 - a. DoD Directive 1000.4, Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP)
 - b. DoD Directive 1344.10, Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces on Active Duty.
 - c. AR 608-20, Voting by Personnel of the Armed Forces.
 - d. Misc Pub 360-04.05, Voting Assistance Guide – 2004-2005.
3. There are two basic missions associated with the Army Voting Assistance Program. The first is to educate every Soldier about the importance and usefulness of voting and the opportunities and procedures outlined in the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). Second is to provide traditional voting assistance to Soldiers and their family members.
4. The program requires the appointment of Senior Voting Assistance Officers (SVAOs) at MACOM level and Unit VAOs at company level. The active Army SVAOs are to be a resource and provide voting assistance to members of their command as well as Army National Guard and Reserve soldiers serving within their subordinate commands, whether in CONUS or OCONUS.

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5. The VAOs will:

a. Attend Federal Voting Assistance Workshop (FVAP) or become familiar with duties and information available on the Army's voting assistance program website (<https://www.hrc.army.mil/tagd/pssd/psb/voting/votingindex.htm>).

b. Post notice of names, office telephone numbers of all unit VAOs.

c. Provide Standard Form 76, Federal Post Card Applications (FPCA).

d. Assist in the success of the "Army Voter Registration Month" campaign during August 2004. Soldiers will be briefed on their right to vote and be encouraged to register to vote.

e. Educate Soldiers on policies in Department of Defense (DoD) Directive 1344.10, reference what is and is not permissible conduct.

f. Educate commissioned, warrant and noncommissioned officers that it is illegal to use military authority to influence anyone to vote or not to vote. The goal is not to pressure, conjoin, or order soldiers to register or to vote. Doing so violates Federal Law, DoD and Army policies.

6. VAOs and Soldiers should be aware of the useful information available on the internet at the following websites:

a. Federal Voting Assistance Program (<http://www.fvap.gov/>).

b. Army Human Resource Command
(<https://www.perscomonline.army.mil/tagd/pssd/psb/voting/votingindex.htm>).

7. Point of contact is Mr. Tim Rootes, DSN 327-5351 or 703-607-5351.


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