# Voting Assistance Officer Workshop

**Uniformed Services** 



#### **Ground Rules**

- Sign-In and pick-up your workshop materials.
- Complete the Evaluation Form (prior to the workshop).
- Engage: Ask questions and participate.
- Complete the Evaluation Form (after the workshop).
- Receive your Certificate of Attendance.

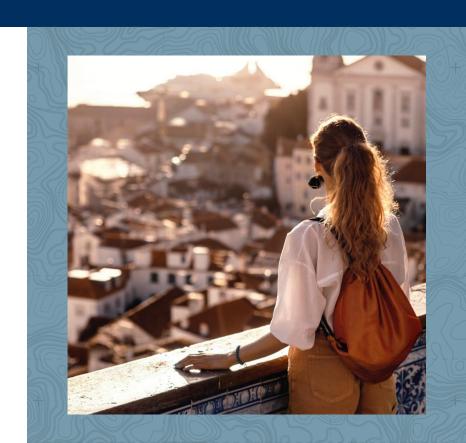
# **Your Greatest Weapon**



#### Why are We Here

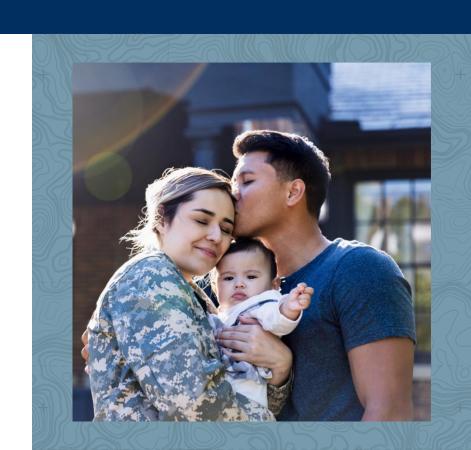
#### By the end of this workshop, you will be able to:

- Describe the purpose of the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA).*
- Identify the role of the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) and its voting assistance resources.
- Describe the UOCAVA absentee voting process.
- Recognize the resources available to assist voters.
- Recognize voting assistance guidelines.
- Identify your role as a Voting Assistance Officer (VAO) and how it fits into the structure of voting assistance programs.
- Identify best practices for conducting voter outreach and tracking voting assistance.
- Be able to manage your program.



### Why Are We Here?

- Voting is a right, privilege, and responsibility of U.S. citizens.
- For most citizens, voting is a simple process.
- But that process is more complicated for Uniformed Service members, their eligible family members, and U.S. citizens living overseas.



# Why is this Important?

#### 2024 Presidential Election

- 34 seats in the U.S. Senate.
- All 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- Governors in 13 States and three territories.
- State and local offices.
- Ballot questions and referenda.



# **Understanding the Law**

The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)



### **Understanding the Law**

#### What does UOCAVA do?

#### **UOCAVA** allows eligible citizens to:

- Register to vote and request an absentee ballot using one instrument (the FPCA).
- Vote by absentee ballot.

#### Who is covered by *UOCAVA*?

- Absent Uniformed Service members.
- Absent members of the Merchant Marine.
- Eligible family members of the two above groups.
- Other U.S. citizens residing outside of the United States.

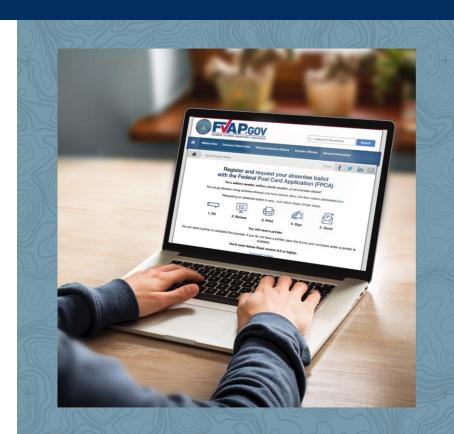
# What is FVAP?

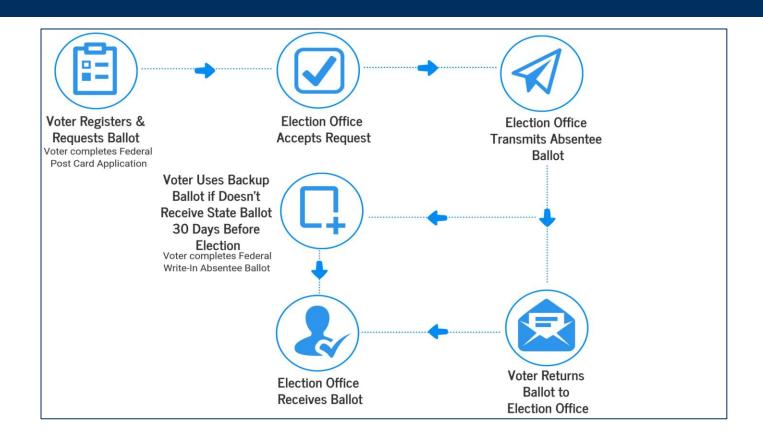
#### What is FVAP?

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (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.

#### **FVAP** does this by:

- Providing tools and resources to vote from anywhere in the world;
- Partnerships with the:
  - Military Services
  - Department of State
  - Department of Justice
  - Election Officials from all 50 States, territories, and the District of Columbia
- 32 CFR 233 prescribing Code of Federal Regulation, Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 1000.04, the overall DoD policy on the voting assistance program





#### Voting Assistance Officers

# **Voting Assistance Officers provide support all year by:**

- Informing unit members, you are their voting assistance point of contact.
- Disseminating FVAP and Installation Voting Assistance Officer (IVAO) messages.
- Reminding voters to update their mailing addresses.

#### **Voting Assistance Officers assist voters by:**

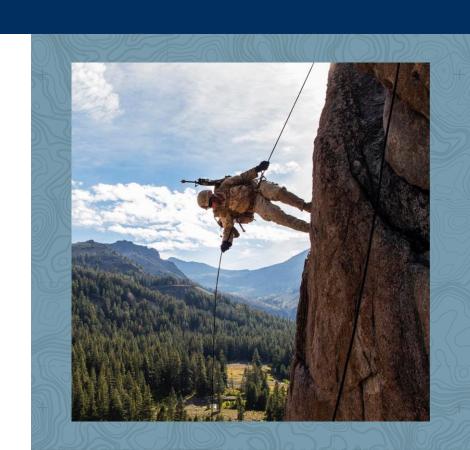
- Educating them about absentee voting.
- Answering questions.
- Providing the necessary forms.



#### Knowledge Check

# What office does a voter submit their absentee ballot application to?

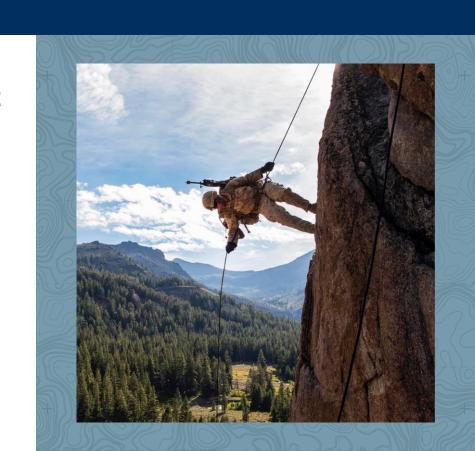
- A. Federal Voting Assistance Program
- B. Local Election Official
- C. Installation Voting Assistance Office
- D. Service Voting Action Officer



Knowledge Check Answer

# What office does a voter submit their absentee ballot application to?

- A. Federal Voting Assistance Program
- **B.** Local Election Official
- C. Installation Voting Assistance Office
- D. Service Voting Action Officer



FVAP provides a variety of resources for you and the voters who you assist. These resources include:

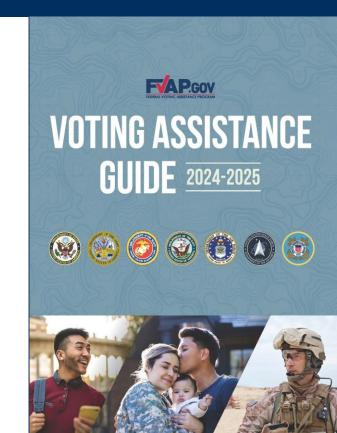
- The Voting Assistance Guide
- Resource Booklet
- FVAP Forms
- FVAP's Online Assistant
- Fact Sheets and Other Materials
- The FVAP Portal



#### Voting Assistance Guide

The Voting Assistance Guide is a reference for state-specific absentee voting information:

- Published during every election cycle to include State deadlines and requirements for the FPCA and the FWAB.
- Up-to-date version of the Guide is always available at FVAP.gov
- Consult the Voting Assistance Guide for:
- Assisting voters with completing the FPCA or the FWAB.
- A voter has questions about state registration or ballot deadlines.
- You or a voter needs election office contact/mailing information.



#### Voting Residency for Service Members and Dependents

- Voters may have questions about their voting residence.
- Voting residence is your legal residence
- Voting residence is usually in the State listed for taxes on the Leave and Earnings statement
- Residency is not automatically lost nor gained during a move resulting from new orders
- Military family members do not automatically lose or gain residency, but the rules differ from those of Service members
- Service members and their eligible family members can have different voting residences
- Voters are allowed to have only one voting residence for Federal elections

#### Federal Post Card Application

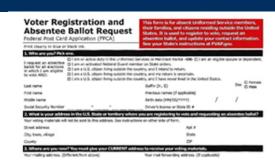
#### Federal Post Card Application

#### When assisting a voter in reviewing their FPCA, verify that:

- The forms are complete
- The handwriting is legible
- The forms are signed

#### When submitting the FPCA:

- Consult the Guide for election office contact information
- Assist with printing the postage-paid envelope
- Assist with email or fax submission when transmission method is supported by the State





#### **Online Assistant - FPCA**



Votor Information

#### Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot

Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)  Print clearly in blue or black link, please see back for instructions.			requested an absentee ballot?  Some states allow you to use this form to register and reques ballots for future elections. Visit FVAP.gov for more details.				
		see back for instructions.	Sanots for facure	elections. Visit F	TAT .gov i	or more c	- Carrier
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First name			Previous names	(if applicable)			
Middle name			Birth date (MM/E		/	/	
Social Security Number			Driver's license of	or State ID #			
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#### Official Backup Ballot

Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)

Vote by writing the NAME or PARTY of the candidates you choose. To find out about specific federal candidates and races go to EVAP gov.

Print clearly in blue or black ink.

- Instructions

  The FWAB is intended to serve as a backup ballot. It can be used to vote for federal offices. Refer to your state or local election official for any special ballot instructions (e.g., instant runoff voting or ranked choice voting).
- State laws vary on the use of the FWAB for state and local contests. Learn more online at FVAP.gov.
- . DO NOT write your name or any identifying number (SSN, driver's license) on this ballot.
- . If you are voting in American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands, you may vote for Delegate or
- Resident Commissioner, and in presidential primaries.

   Photocopy this page if you require additional room for candidates or ballot initiatives.

Federal offices President and Vice President U.S. Senator U. S. Representative, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner to Congress Other offices Office Candidate name Political party Ballot initiatives or other items

#### Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot



#### **Fact Sheets**

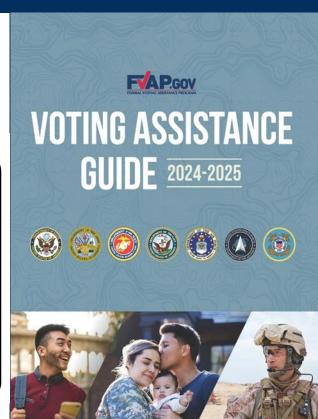
#### FVAP provides other useful resources that include:

- Fact sheets, brief informational bulletins that address specific topics related to *UOCAVA* voting,
- Handouts
- Posters
- Direct-to-the-Voter Training Videos
- Promotional Videos

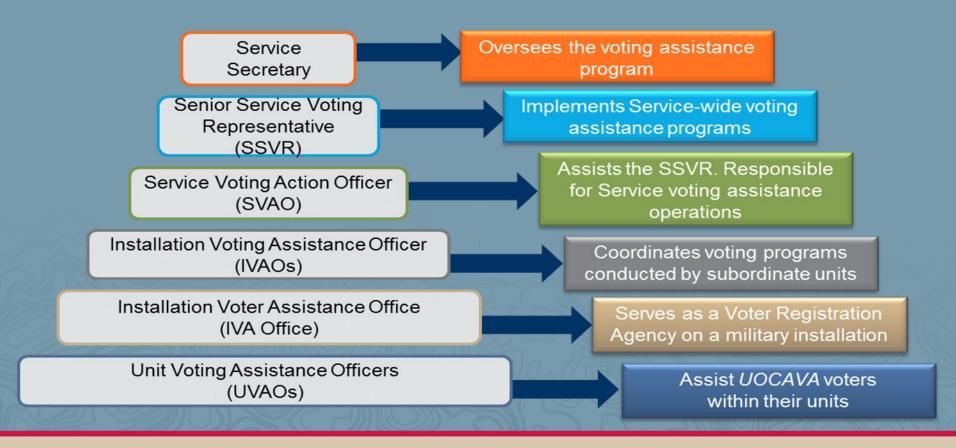
#### Fact sheet topics include:

- The FPCA
- The FWAB
- UOCAVA voting
- Voting residence information
- Spouse Information
- Separating from Active Duty
- UOCAVA myths and realities











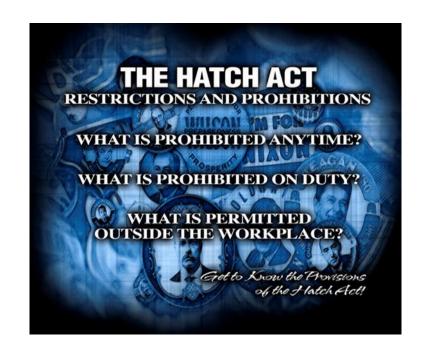
#### DoD Instruction 1000.04

- DoDI 1000.04 Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) provides instructions for:
- Establishing Installation Voter Assistance (IVA) Offices, including:
- Designation and location
- Personnel, equipment, and materials
- Outreach about assistance available to the installation
- Service voting requirements
- VAO requirements



# **Voting Assistance Guidelines on Non-Partisanship**

- VAOs may provide only non-partisan voting information and may not distribute any literature from candidates, political parties, or partisan organizations
- Organizations become partisan when they endorse or imply endorsement of candidates or identify with issues in a campaign
- For more information, refer to:
  - DoD Directive 1344.10
  - Public Affairs Policy Guidance
  - The Hatch Act



#### **Voting Action Plans**

#### **FVAP** provides a Voting Action Plan that outlines:

- · Election cycle action dates.
- Recommended dates for outreach leading up to the election.
- · Registration and ballot return recommended dates.

The FVAP Voting Action Plan and Service Voting Action Plans are available at FVAP.gov.



#### Managing your Program

#### **Voting Assistance Officers should:**

- Work to manage your voting assistance program
- Establish personal relationships with your unit
- Maintain regular meetings with your Installation Voting Officer

#### **Assist voters by:**

- Sharing all voting information
- Conducting outreach
- Posting voting information in common areas
- Ensure delivery of the FPCA
  - January 15 of every year
  - July 15 of election years



#### Types of Outreach

- Reach as many voters as possible:
- Posting voting information on unit social media sites;
- Share information shared by FVAP on Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram:
- Twitter: @FVAP
- Facebook: Facebook.com/DoDFVAP
- Instagram: @FVAP\_gov
- Display voting banners and posters in key locations around your unit.
- You can download motivational posters from the FVAP website
- Order posters through your Service channels
- Assist your IVAO with Armed Forces Voters Week (Jun 28-Jul 4, 2024)
- Military Spouse Voters Week events (1-8 Aug 2024)
- Absentee Voting Week events (1-8 Oct 2024)



#### Continuity Folder

# You must maintain a Continuity Folder:

- Continuity Folder should contain all pertinent and important voting assistance information
- Continuity Folder can be maintained in hard copy or electronically
- Continuity Folder is an IG inspectable

item



- Voting Assistance Guide
- FPCA/FWAB
- Election Dates Calendar
- Voting News Releases
- Good Ideas and lessons learned
- Support Activities
- Metrics
- Training certificate/Designation Letter
- DoD Guidance/The Hatch Act

# Managing Your Program: FVAP Portal and Metrics



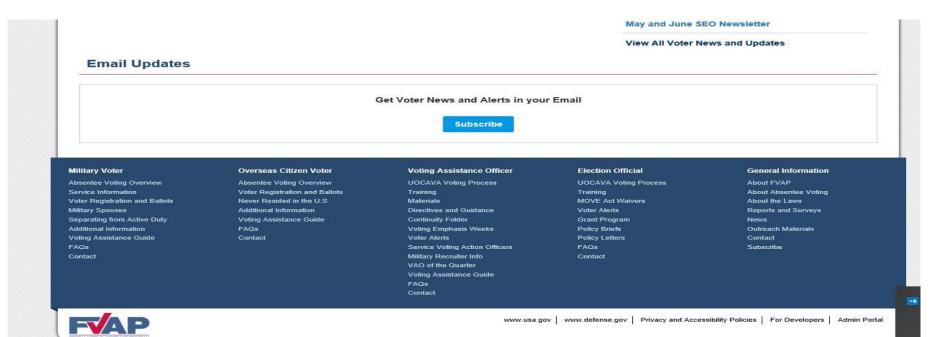
#### **FVAP Portal and Metrics**

#### The FVAP Portal allows you to:

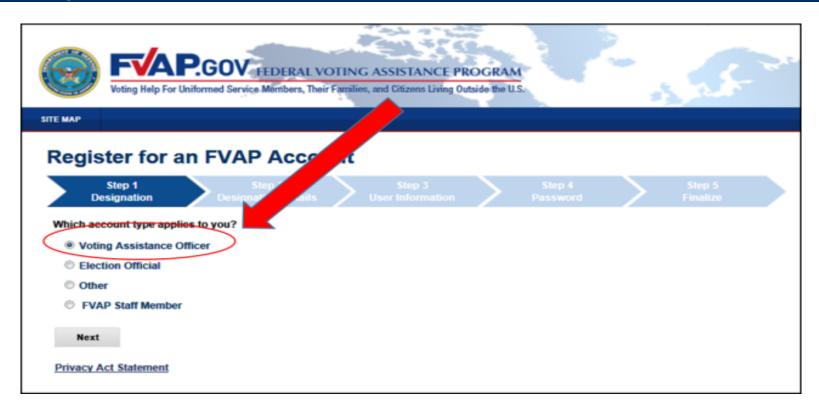
- View voting news and alerts from your Service Voting Action Officer (SVAO)
- Report voting assistance metrics

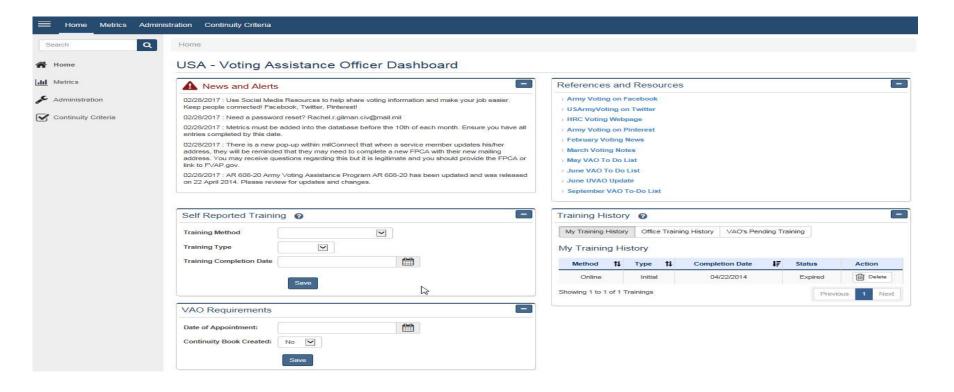


# **FVAP Portal and Metrics – Logging-In**



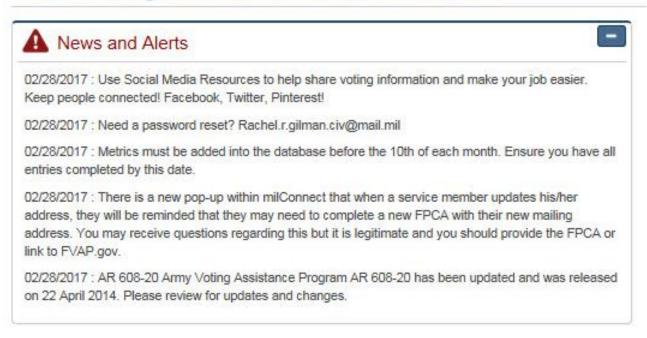
#### Creating an Account

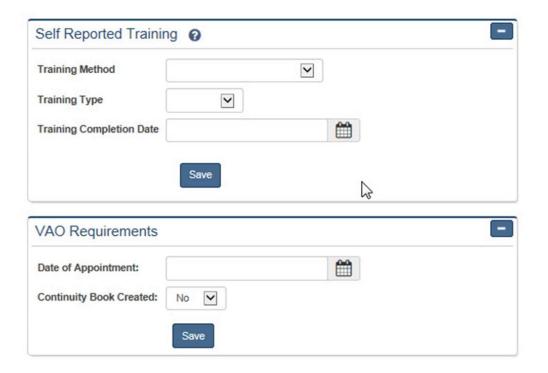


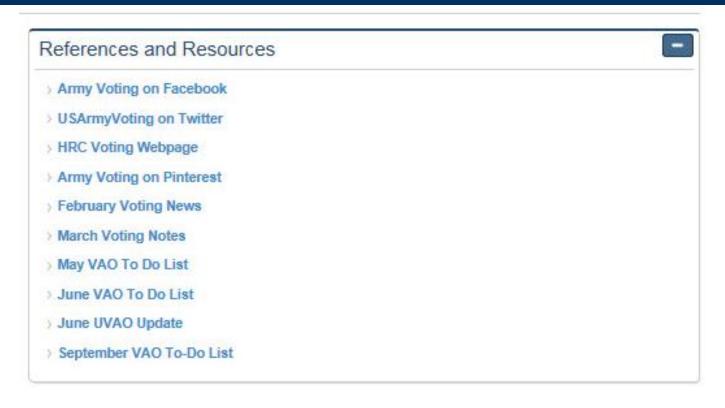


#### VAO Dashboard

#### USA - Voting Assistance Officer Dashboard





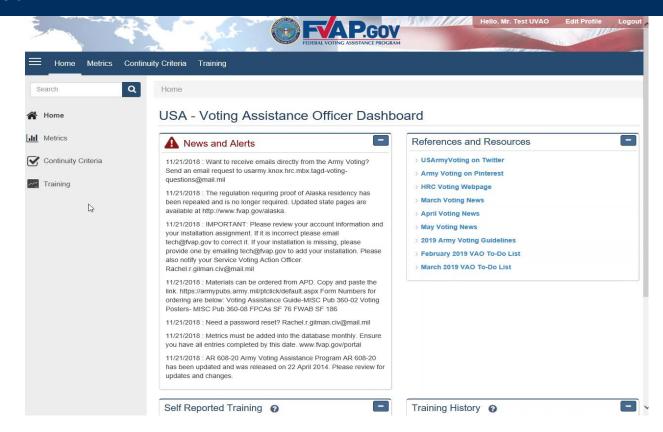


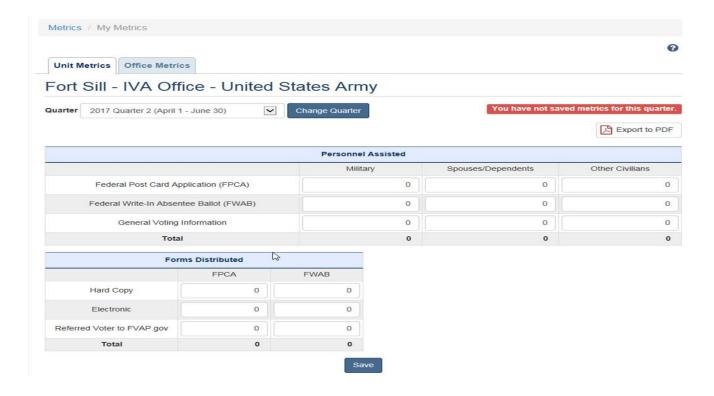


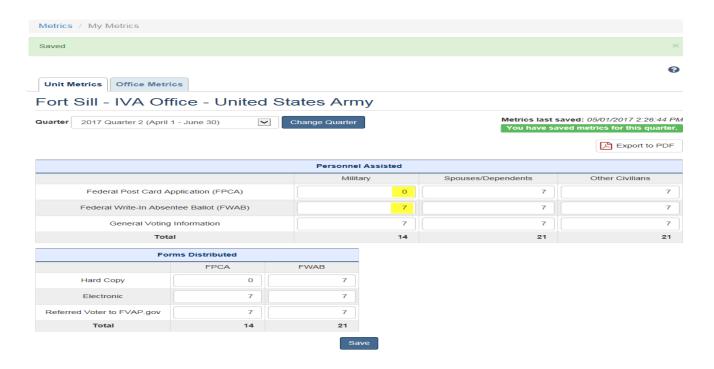
#### **Metrics Collected**

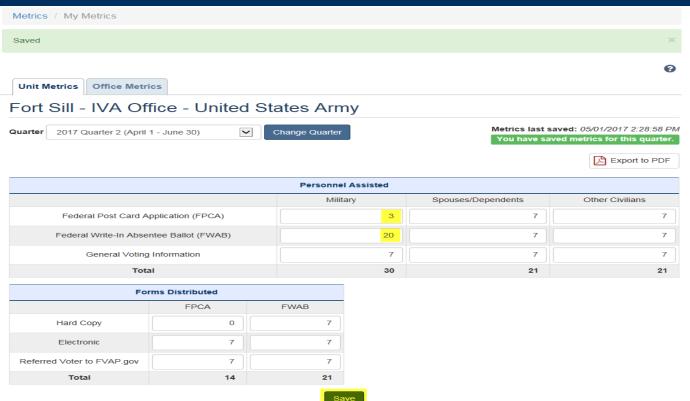
- Use the FVAP to report voting assistance metrics:
  - Metrics must be submitted according to Service guidelines.
- Metrics to be reported:
  - Personnel assisted a voter with a FPCA, FWAB, NVRA or general voting information in-person, telephonic or electronic assistance.
    - Military spouses, dependents, other civilians.
  - Type of assistance:
  - FPCA, FWAB, General voting assistance.
  - Forms distributed: any verifiable method to provide a form, whether it be a hard copy, via email, or referral to FVAP.gov.
    - Type (FPCA, FWAB).
    - Method hard copy, via email, or referral to FVAP.gov.

Note: Report 0 if no Services rendered during that reporting period.









## **Summary and Review**

#### Your Roles as a VAO include:

- Assisting eligible voters with FPCA, FWAB, and other absentee voting needs.
- Using the resources available at FVAP.gov and your Service Voting Assistance Website.
- Managing your VAO program and tracking voting assistance.
- Providing outreach to ensure voters are aware of their right to vote.

## **Summary and Review**

#### The Absentee Voting Process

- The voter submits the FPCA to register to vote and request an absentee ballot;
- The election official receives and verifies FPCA information, registers the voter, and sends the voter an absentee ballot;
- The voter then receives their ballot, votes it, and returns it to their local election office.
- Finally, if the State ballot does not arrive, the voter uses the FWAB, votes it, and returns it to their local election office.

## **Summary and Review**

#### You are now able to:

- Describe the purpose of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)
- Identify the role of the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) and its voting assistance resources
- Describe the UOCAVA absentee voting process
- Recognize the resources available to assist voters
- Recognize voting assistance guidelines
- Identify your role as a Voting Assistance Officer (VAO) and how it fits into the structure of voting assistance programs
- Identify best practices for conducting voter outreach and tracking voting assistance
- Be able to manage your program

# Questions?

## **Evaluation Forms**



## Federal Voting Assistance Program

FVAP.gov vote@fvap.gov

1-800-438-VOTE(8683)

DSN: 425-1584

@FVAP Facebook.com/DoDFVAP



