



## NEWS RELEASE

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September 23, 2004

### Overseas voting regulations clarified

**HEIDELBERG, Germany** – As Election Day -- Nov. 2 -- draws near, many U.S. Army Europe Soldiers, civilian employees and family members may be wondering if, and when, they should submit a Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot, or FWAB.

Here are some guidelines for using the FWAB:

U.S. citizens who have registered to vote using a Federal Post Card Application should submit an FWAB after Oct. 8 if they have not received their state absentee ballots. To be eligible to use a Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot, a voter must be a U.S. citizen over the age of 18 who lives overseas and has already submitted an FPCA.

A frequent complaint from USAREUR voters who have submitted the Federal Post Card Application is that they have not received confirmation from their state that they are now registered to vote. Most states did not begin mailing state absentee ballots until the third week of September. Voters can check to see if their state has already begun mailing absentee ballots by using the resources available at the Army Voting Assistance Program web site. (The site address can be found at the end of this article.)

Information on current registration and voting status can also be obtained with a toll-free call to the Federal Voting Assistance Program and DoD Voting Information Center. From Germany the number is 0800-100-7428.

Before using the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot, voters should find out if they are eligible to receive and return a ballot to their local election officials by fax. Twenty-three states allow ballots to be returned by fax. To determine if their state allows voting materials to be faxed, voters can contact their voting assistance officers. (To link to an article listing contact information for V Corps unit voting assistance officers, click on the link at the end of this article.)

– MORE –

## **VOTE**

### **2-2-2-2**

Any materials sent by fax should have a signed and dated fax cover sheet. A fax cover sheet template for voting materials can be obtained from a voting assistance officer.

Voters who have not received their state absentee ballots by Oct. 8 should submit an FWAB no later than Oct. 15. All voting assistance officers have a supply of the forms on hand and can help voters fill them out.

The FWAB should be addressed to the same voting office where the Federal Post Card Application was sent. Not all of the information requested on the outside back of the FWAB envelope needs to be filled out, however it should include the voter's name, current mailing address, signature, and date.

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### **LINKS RELATED TO OR REFERRED TO IN THIS ARTICLE:**

**Federal Voting Assistance Program web site:** [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)

**Army Voting Assistance Program web site:**

<https://www.perscomonline.army.mil/tagd/pssd/psb/Voting/votingindex.htm>

*(Note: This is a secure site with limited access.)*

**Voting registration information article with a list of V Corps unit voting assistance officers:** [http://www.vcorps.army.mil/News/2004/apr13\\_vote.htm](http://www.vcorps.army.mil/News/2004/apr13_vote.htm)