



## ***U.S. Department of Defense***

**FACT SHEET: Absentee Voting Week (September 27 – October 4, 2010)**

**Background:** The Department of Defense announced Absentee Voting Week from Sept. 27 to Oct. 4, 2010. The week is set aside to encourage all citizens voting under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, who have not received their absentee ballot, to go to [FVAP.gov](http://fvap.gov) to fill it out as soon as possible.

During Absentee Voting Week, Voting Assistance Officer (VAOs) worldwide will emphasize the importance of filling out and returning the absentee ballot. VAOs will educate voters on the electronic alternatives for ballot completion and submission as well as encourage use of the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot. They will develop programs to educate and motivate voters to participate in the general election and disseminate information on voting and voting assistance.

- If you haven't received your state absentee ballot, it is not too late to vote. Go to <http://www.fvap.gov> to fill out the state absentee ballot or the online Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot. Then send it to your local election official today.
- Voters may still have time to register; visit <http://www.fvap.gov> to determine your state's registration deadline.
- Absentee Voting Week is one of several initiatives to get military and overseas voters to participate in the upcoming November general election.
- The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) is the resource for military and overseas voters to exercise their right to vote from anywhere in the world.

### **Voting tools to improve the voting process:**

- **Electronic Voting Support Wizard (EVSZ):** Several states have developed electronic tools that allow voters to access and complete precinct-specific absentee ballots which they can submit to their states by the methods allowed (mail, email, or fax). Voters should visit <http://www.fvap.gov> to begin the process of filling out their state absentee ballot.
- **Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) Automated Assistant:** An FVAP tool which guides the voter through identifying themselves and their jurisdiction and provides them with an absentee ballot populated with their candidate choices. Once populated, the voter can mark, print and return to their state according to state law (mail, email, or fax). The entire process only takes minutes to complete and the voter's information is not stored.

**Where to go for more help?** Access <http://www.fvap.gov> or see your local voting assistance officer.