

ELECTION OFFICIAL NEWS

Military and Overseas Voting

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FVAP Welcomes Our New Director: Mr. Bob Carey

Bob Carey was appointed as the Director of the Federal Voting Assistance Program on July 6, 2009. As Director, Mr. Carey will administer the Federal responsibilities of the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)* for the Secretary of Defense—the Presidential designee. The Act covers the voting rights of all members of the Uniformed Services, Merchant Marine, and their family members, the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and all U.S. citizens residing outside the United States. His responsibilities include executive oversight of other Federal government departments, agencies, and entities that cooperate in carrying out the Act.

Prior to this appointment, Mr. Carey served as Executive Director of the National Defense Committee, a grass-roots military service organization focused on protecting the legal rights (including military voting rights) of service members and strengthening the civil-military relationship. At the National Defense Committee, Carey was an active advocate for reforming the voting systems for military and overseas citizen voters. He also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Vote Foundation. After graduating in 1985 from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA, he was commissioned an Ensign in the United States Navy and reported to USS COMTE DE GRASSE (DD 974).

After earning his Surface Warfare Officer designation, he reported to Pensacola, FL, earning his Naval Flight Officer wings in 1989. After additional training, he reported to Attack Squadron 85 onboard USS AMERICA, flying the A-6E Intruder through two deployments, including 37 combat missions during DESERT STORM. Mr. Carey left active duty in 1995 after serving on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations and immediately accepted a Reserve Commission. Mr. Carey then served on the staff of two U.S. Senators as a Legislative Assistant and Legislative Director from 1995 to 2002, until mobilized from the Reserves to active duty, again to serve on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations. Upon his demobilization, he was appointed a Senior Policy Advisor to the Secretary of Energy.

Again recalled to active duty in 2003, Mr. Carey moved to New York City where, upon his release from active duty, he started Empire-Capitol Strategies, a strategic planning and policy development consulting firm. Mobilized again to active duty in 2004, Mr. Carey deployed to the staff of the U.S. Fifth Fleet, serving as the coordinator of all Coalition maritime forces involved in

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Look Out For LEO Lessons!

Starting with this edition, you'll be able to find lessons on how to assist military and overseas voters. In this edition's lesson (on the next page), we teach the basics of the Federal Post Card Application, the form used to register and request absentee ballots. In future lessons, we'll talk about other forms and topics concerning military and overseas voters.

Have a topic you want to learn more about?
Contact us at
vote@fvap.ncr.gov

Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM, and as Executive Assistant to the Fleet Commander.

Mr. Carey returned to Empire-Capitol Strategies upon his release from active duty in 2005 until his return to active duty in 2007 where he served on the staff of the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, RI. After graduating from the Naval War College in 2008, Mr. Carey became Executive Director of the National Defense Committee, helping to establish the Alliance on Military and Overseas Voting Rights, and consulting to the Pew Center on the States' Military and Overseas Voting Reform Initiative. Mr. Carey continues to serve in the U.S. Navy Reserve.

FVAP is very pleased to welcome Mr. Carey as our new Director!

Local Election Official Lessons: Hints for Helping Military and Overseas Voters

This Edition's Lesson: The FPCA

The Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) is accepted by all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 4 US Territories for military and overseas citizens to register to vote and request an absentee ballot in their state of legal residence.

One FPCA is used to register to vote and request ballots for primary and general elections for Federal offices (President/Vice President, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, Delegate or Resident Commissioner). The FPCA is effective through two regularly scheduled general elections.

Military and overseas voters are not required to fill out the entire FPCA, and most states do not require a witness or notary. In many states, military and overseas voters have different registration and ballot request deadlines than absentee voters who are not military or overseas. (For example, a citizen who is away from their polling place on Election Day for vacation or other purposes.) The requirements vary by state. You can find out your state's requirements for the FPCA by contacting your state election office.

FVAP also recommends that military and overseas citizens complete and submit a new FPCA every year and every time they change addresses. We also encourage all military and overseas voters to provide an email address, phone number, and/or fax number so that you can easily follow up with them if you have questions about their application.

When you get an FPCA, be sure to:

- Process the request quickly
- Send the voter a response letting him/her know whether or not the request was approved. If it was rejected, tell the voter what information he/she must still provide.
- Follow up with the voter so that he/she knows when and how to expect the ballot

To find out more about the FPCA, go to www.fvap.gov or contact us.

Have Military and Overseas Absentee Voting Questions?

Contact FVAP:

1-800-438-VOTE (8683)
Fax: 703-696-1352
vote@fvap.ncr.gov
www.fvap.gov

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