



Absentee VOTING

Absentee Voting Program Kicks into High Gear

If you think your vote doesn't count, just ask George W. Bush and Al Gore. With the 2002 general election fast approaching Nov. 5, Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) officials are sponsoring Armed Forces Voters Week, Sept. 1-7. The week is designed for military installations worldwide to highlight voting issues. The states govern the voting rules for their residents. The FVAP works with state officials to ease absentee ballot processes. For example, the program asked the states to allow service members deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to receive voting materials by facsimile machines and to fax in completed ballots. The agency urges military personnel to contact installation voting assistance officers to learn about what they must do to vote in 2002. All units with more than 25 people also have voting assistance officers. U.S. citizens residing overseas can visit embassies and consulates and get the same information. The program launched an education process to teach voting assistance officers what they need to know to help service members. Worldwide, the office sponsored more than 100 workshops.

For more information on Armed Forces Voting Week or absentee voting, point your Web browser to 'HYPERLINK "<http://www.fvap.gov>" www.fvap.gov'.

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