



FVAP UPDATE

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FVAP.GOV
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

THE NATIONAL GUARD & UOCAVA



Iowa National Guard members complete the FPCA on October 2, 2017 before deploying. Photo Courtesy of Iowa Secretary of State.

Members of the National Guard have recently come under federal orders and have been activated to support the southern border of the United States. With these new activations, we wanted to remind the election community that federally activated National Guard service members are covered under the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)*, and are entitled to all the rights and privileges of UOCAVA. National Guard service members wishing to vote while activated would simply complete the FPCA, selecting the “active duty” classification on the FPCA, and send the completed form to their local election official.

While National Guard service members activated under federal orders are covered under UOCAVA that might not be the case when they are activated on state orders. The absentee voting rules for National Guard Members activated on state orders are dependent on the state of residency. Currently, 40 states and the District of Columbia allow UOCAVA protections for members of the National Guard activated on state orders. Reservists are only activated federally, so they are covered by UOCAVA while on orders. If you have questions about UOCAVA protections for National Guardsmen, please contact your state analyst Nate (nate.a.bacchus@fvap.gov) or Meghan (meghan.kelly@fvap.gov) and they will be able to assist you.

CALL FOR PRIMARY CANDIDATES

As a reminder, your FVAP state analyst will be requesting a certified list of federal candidates that will appear on primary ballots you will send out 45 days before the election. These candidate names are published within FVAP.gov so that UOCAVA voters using the Online Assistant to complete their Federal Write-In Absentee ballot, can easily choose candidates based on their voting jurisdiction. If you have any questions or already have a certified list, please reach out to Nate (nate.a.bacchus@fvap.gov) or Meghan (meghan.kelly@fvap.gov).

2017 REPORT TO CONGRESS

FVAP's [2017 Report to Congress](#) has been released and we are pleased to share some of the findings. Our emphasis in 2017 was on making improvements to resources and driving research efforts in preparation for the 2018 election cycle. The Federal Postcard Application and Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot received updates to reduce obstacles and make it easier for U.S. citizens covered under *UOCAVA* and election officials. Additionally, the 2018-2019 Voting Assistance Guide was published to reflect changes to absentee voting forms, absentee voting instructions, and state and local election official contact information. In 2017 FVAP also enhanced research efforts and leveraged relationships with fellow government agencies, the Council of State Governments, and election officials to continue to produce the most comprehensive data available on *UOCAVA* voters. FVAP's contributions included a policy brief on the voting rights of overseas citizen voters who have never resided in the United States and a collaboration with the Council of State Governments (CSG) and the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to enhance Section B of the EAC's post-election survey. Section B focuses on *UOCAVA*-specific election data, such as number of *UOCAVA* ballots transmitted, *UOCAVA* ballots received and the number of *UOCAVA* ballots rejected.

We invite you to read the full [Report to Congress](#) on our website at [FVAP.gov](#).

ONLINE *UOCAVA* TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

With primary season in full swing, we wanted to remind everyone that we offer an online training module for election officials. The easy to follow, 30-minute training is a great opportunity to brush up on *UOCAVA* specific guidelines and best practices or to provide a base of information for new staff. Please visit our training page to find the election official training at <https://www.fvap.gov/eo/training>.

WELCOME BOREN SCHOLARS & FELLOWS

FVAP recently welcomed our fourth Boren Scholarship employee, Ms. Sarah Vella. The [National Security Education Program's \(NSEP\) David L. Boren Scholarship](#) is designed for university students who want to study abroad learning less commonly taught languages and in countries that are critical to U.S. national security interests. Upon return from abroad, Boren alumni are committed to fulfilling a service requirement with the federal government. Ms. Vella studied abroad with the Boren Scholarship program in Thailand while completing her Bachelor's degree from the University of California-San Diego. Ms. Vella also holds a Master's degree in International Affairs from the same university.

Ms. Vella joins three others on the FVAP team that participated in NSEP Boren programs. Ms. Sarah Gooch studied abroad as a Boren Scholar in Japan while completing her Bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky. Mr. Nathan DuBois studied abroad as a Boren Scholar in South Korea while completing his Bachelor's degree from Boston College; and, Mr. Nick Smith studied abroad as a Boren Fellow in Jordan while completing his Master's degree from Portland State University.

FVAP is lucky to have such a diverse team working on behalf of *UOCAVA* voters worldwide. The skills these Boren Scholars have developed through their time spent overseas are truly an asset to our program. Welcome Boren Scholars & Fellows!