



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON DC 20310

26 MAY 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Command Emphasis - Army Voting Assistance Program

These are extremely busy times, but we should always remember that voting is one of the freedoms our Soldiers have fought so hard to defend. It is our duty, as leaders of the U.S. Army, to do everything we can to ensure Soldiers have the opportunity to exercise their right to vote. The 2 November 2004 Federal Elections are fast approaching. Your responsibility is to provide all the support you can to ensure each of our Soldiers has the opportunity to cast a valid ballot.

Your organization should have a senior Voting Assistance Officer (VAO) (Colonel or above or a civilian equivalent) to manage this program. A VAO should be appointed to assist Soldiers and eligible family members at every level of your organization. Those appointed for VAO duty must be fully trained, aggressive, and provided all the support necessary to successfully execute their duties.

Soldiers who want to vote must complete the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA Standard Form 76) by 15 August 2004. Once received and voted, ballots must be in the mail to the States by 11 October 2004 for overseas voters. Soldiers registered to vote that have not received their State ballots by 11 October, should complete the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB Standard Form 186). Your personal involvement will ensure the success and effectiveness of this most important program.

Voting is both a privilege and responsibility of citizens in a democracy. Your personal involvement will ensure the success and effectiveness of this most important program.

PETER J. SCHOOMAKER
General, US Army
Chief of Staff

R. L. Brownlee
Acting Secretary of the Army

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