



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0200

05 SEP 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Command Emphasis – Army Voting Assistance Program

1. Voting is a privilege not all nations enjoy. We, as the Army, dedicate significant resources to ensure the best possible voting assistance to our force. As the 2012 Election approaches on November 6, 2012, we urge you to focus efforts during the last critical weeks leading up to the election to ensure our personnel complete the process of mailing in their ballots. It's a freedom you defend – VOTE!
2. It is our responsibility to help our eligible personnel vote. The commander of each unit in the Army is required to appoint a Voting Assistance Officer. Your Voting Assistance Officer is your asset to reach eligible voters in your organization and ensure they have the resources necessary to vote.
3. Voting Assistance Officers must notify personnel who have not received their state absentee ballot to complete the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB, Standard Form 186) at least thirty days before the election. The FWAB is available online at <https://www.fvap.gov>. The completed FWAB must be received by the local election office before the deadline established by their state. Unit Voting Assistance Officers have access to mail-in deadlines for all states and territories. Ensure your Soldiers know who their Voting Assistance Officer is and allow sufficient time for the Voting Assistance Officers to execute their duties.
4. Thank you for your personal involvement and efforts to ensure the continued success of this important program.

Raymond T. Odierno
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

John M. McHugh
Secretary of the Army

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