DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0200

19 AUG 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Command Emphasis-Army Voting Assistance Program

1. The right of the people to choose the leaders of their government is fundamental to our way of life; thus, it is our duty, as leaders of the United States Army, to do everything we can to ensure Soldiers have the opportunity to exercise their right to vote. The 4 November 2008 Federal Elections are fast approaching. Your responsibility is to provide all the support you can to ensure each Soldier has the opportunity to either vote in person or by absentee ballot.

2. Your organization should have a senior Voting Assistance Officer (VAO) (Colonel or above, or a civilian equivalent) to manage this program. The appointed VAO will ensure subordinate VAOs assist Soldiers and eligible Family members at every level of your organization. The appointed VAO must be fully-trained, aggressive, and prepared to provide all of the support necessary to successfully execute their duties.

3. Soldiers who want to vote may complete the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA Standard Form 76) or comply with the ballot request procedures enacted by the state in which they vote. The FPCA Standard Form 76, or other request, should be mailed as soon as possible. Completed absentee ballots must be in the mail to the United States by 14 October 2008, for overseas voters. Soldiers registered to vote who have not received their State ballots by 14 October 2008, should complete the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB Standard Form 186). The FPCA and FWAB are available online at https://www.fvap.gov.

4. Voting is both a privilege and responsibility of citizens in a democracy. Thank you for your personal involvement to ensure the success and effectiveness of this most important program.

George W. Casey, Jr.
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

Pete Geren
Secretary of the Army

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