Appendix D. Active Duty Overseas Absentee Ballot Questionnaire

Overseas Absentee Ballot Questionnaire —Active Duty

Concerns About This Questionnaire

Will my questionnaire responses be kept anonymous? Yes. There is no information being collected that could be used to identify individuals. Your responses will be combined with information from other DoD personnel to report the views and experiences of groups of personnel. Do not use any personal names anywhere on this questionnaire.

Why me? Installations have been selected to solicit information from DoD personnel regarding the overseas absentee ballot process. Information collected in this questionnaire will be used to report DoD personnel awareness and satisfaction with the overseas absentee ballot voting process. Your responses are important to provide us with insights to this process.

Privacy Notice

Authority: This questionnaire is being conducted by the DoD IG under authority of the Inspector General Act and at the request of Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Absentee Ballots," November 28, 2000.

Principal Purpose: Information collected in this questionnaire will be used to determine DoD personnel awareness, satisfaction, and understanding of the overseas absentee ballot voting process. This information may assist in the formulation of policies to improve the overseas absentee ballot voting process.

Routine Uses: None.

Disclosure: Providing information on this questionnaire is voluntary. There is no penalty if you choose not to respond. However, maximum participation is encouraged. Your questionnaire form is anonymous. No identifying information is being collected that could identify individuals. Only summary information will be reported.

Completing This Questionnaire

- **This is not a test.**
- **Use a blue or black pen or dark pencil.**
- **Select answers that you believe are most appropriate.**
- **Fill in the appropriate circle or circles.**

Demographic & Voting Questions

1. **What is your service?** *Fill in one circle.*
   - O Army
   - O Navy
   - O Marine Corps
   - O Air Force

2. **What is your paygrade group?** *Fill in one circle.*
   - O E1 – E4
   - O E5 – E9
   - O WO1 –WO5 or O1 – O10

3. **While in the military, how many times have you voted absentee?** *Fill in one circle.*
   - O 0
   - O 1
   - O 2
   - O 3 - 4
   - O 5 or more

4. **Overall, at your installation or ship how much emphasis was placed on voting during the November 2000 election?** *Fill in one circle.*
   - O Too much
   - O Sufficient
   - O Not enough
   - O None

5. **Were you aware of the voting and communication tools listed below?** *Fill in* ***one*** *circle for* ***each*** *item.*

--Fully aware
| --Somewhat aware
| | --Unaware

O O O **a. The Federal Voting Assistance Program website that provides voting-related information and resources**
O O O **b. The DOD 2000-01 *Voting Assistance Guide* that provides state by state information that enables you to register and vote absentee**
O O O **c. The Federal Voting Assistance Program toll-free telephone service that allows a caller to talk with the Federal Voting Assistance Program Staff for voting information or assistance**

6. **Overall, how satisfied were you with the following voting information and communication tools during the November 2000 election?** *Fill in* ***one*** *circle for* ***each*** *item.*

--Did not use
| --Satisfied
| | --Somewhat satisfied
| | | --Somewhat dissatisfied
| | | | --Dissatisfied
| | | | |

O O O O O **a. The Federal Voting Assistance Program website that provides voting-related information and resources**
O O O O O **b. The DOD 2000-01 *Voting Assistance Guide* that provides state by state information that enables you to register and vote absentee**
O O O O O **c. The Federal Voting Assistance Program toll-free telephone service that allows a caller to talk with the Federal Voting Assistance Program Staff for voting information or assistance**

7. **For the November 2000 election, did you receive at least one briefing, training, or instruction period devoted to the absentee ballot registration and voting process?** *Fill in* ***one*** *circle.*

O Yes
O No

8. **To what extent did you understand the absentee ballot process during the November 2000 election?** *Fill in* ***one*** *circle.*

O Completely
O Large extent
O Moderate extent
O Small extent
O Not at all

9. **Overall, how easy or difficult did you find the absentee voting process for the November 2000 election?** *Fill in* ***one*** *circle.*

O I did not vote by absentee ballot in the November 2000 election
O Easy
O Somewhat easy
O Somewhat difficult
O Difficult

10. **Did you know who your Unit Voting Assistance Officer was for the November 2000 election?** *Fill in* ***one*** *circle.*

O Yes
O No→***SKIP TO QUESTION 12***

11. **How satisfied were you with the performance of your Unit Voting Assistance Officer in the following areas?** *Fill in* ***one*** *circle for* ***each*** *item.*

--Did not use
| --Satisfied
| | --Somewhat satisfied
| | | --Somewhat dissatisfied
| | | | --Dissatisfied
| | | | |

O O O O O **a. Availability to provide assistance**
O O O O O **b. Knowledge of the election process**
O O O O O **c. Provided materials upon request**

12. **Were you registered to vote in the November 2000 election?** *Fill in* ***one*** *circle.*

O Yes
O No→***SKIP TO QUESTION 14***

13. **In what state or territory is your voting residence?** *Spell out the name of the state or territory; do not use abbreviations.*

State or territory: _____

14. **In what month did you request your absentee ballot?** *Fill in* ***one*** *circle.*

O Did not request an absentee ballot
O July or earlier
O August
O September
O October
O November
O Do not recall

15. **The Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (Standard Form 186) is a back-up ballot used if you were overseas and you did not receive your regular absentee ballot. Did you use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot in the November 2000 Presidential Election?** *Fill in* ***one*** *circle.*

O Yes
O No
O Don't know

16. The following are potential problems about the absentee ballot voting process. Which, if any, applied to you during the November 2000 election? *Fill in all circles that apply.*

- O a. Voting procedures complicated
- O b. Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) confusing
- O c. No response/delayed response to FPCA
- O d. FPCA returned because it was not accepted by election officials
- O e. Having to submit FPCA twice to register and to request a ballot
- O f. Having to submit FPCA for primary and general elections
- O g. Having to complete FPCA and State registration forms
- O h. Absentee ballot confusing
- O i. Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) confusing
- O j. Voting assistance guide confusing
- O k. Not enough information on candidates/issues
- O l. Difficulty in maintaining current mailing address with local election officials
- O m. No way to know if election officials received FPCA
- O n. Difficult to have FPCA or ballot notarized
- O o. Absentee ballot arrived too late
- O p. Absentee ballot never arrived
- O q. Other—*Please specify*: _____

_____

I did not have any problems

17. Did you vote in the November 2000 election? *Fill in one circle.*

- O Yes, I voted in person→***DO NOT ANSWER QUESTIONS 18 OR 19***
- O Yes, I voted by absentee ballot→***DO NOT ANSWER QUESTIONS 18 OR 19***
- O No, I did not vote→***ANSWER QUESTIONS 18 AND 19***

18. Which of the following were reasons why you did not vote in the November 2000 election? *Fill in all circles that apply.*

- O a. I did not think I was eligible to vote
- O b. I did not know about the election
- O c. I knew about the election, but was not interested in voting
- O d. I was not familiar with the candidates or issues
- O e. I had no candidate preference
- O f. I did not think my vote would matter
- O g. I did not know how to get an absentee ballot
- O h. I did not know my state of legal residence for voting
- O i. My absentee ballot arrived too late
- O j. My absentee ballot did not arrive at all
- O k. The requirement for notarization of election materials was too difficult
- O l. I was discouraged by the process of absentee voting
- O m. I was concerned that voting might affect my Federal or State tax obligation
- O n. Other—*Please specify*: _____

_____

19. Of the reasons listed in Question 18, write the letter ("a" through "n") that was the most important reason that you did not vote in the November 2000 election.

Letter corresponding to most important reason: _____