



**DEFENSE HUMAN RESOURCES ACTIVITY  
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**  
4800 MARK CENTER DRIVE, SUITE 03J25-02  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22350-4000

## **UOCAVA Address Maintenance for Local Election Officials**

In preparation for the November 2016 General Election, it is not too late to review your address file for voters covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). Taking these steps will often improve the efficiency and speed of ballot processing so materials do not require personal handling to overcome address exceptions. All of the mail will be delivered, but taking these steps increase opportunities for success.

In partnership with the United States Postal Service and the Military Postal Service Agency, the Federal Voting Assistance Program recommends the following address maintenance efforts:

1. Review your APO/FPO/DPO addresses for conformation to Military Postal System specifications:

**PFC John Doe  
PSC 3 Box 4120  
APO AE 09021**

**Military Postal Addresses will typically follow a 3-line address format:**

- a. Line 1: Full name and/or job title.
- b. Line 2: The delivery line (the second line from the bottom in the address) must show the word "UNIT", "CMR" or "PSC" and number; and box number assigned, when applicable. The Military Postal System does not use PO Boxes. If Ship name is the only known information, list it on line 2:

**ENS John Doe  
USS Nimitz  
FPO AE 095XX**

- c. Line 3: The bottom line must contain the APO or FPO ("city") designation and the appropriate two-letter AA, AE, or AP ("state") abbreviation followed by the ZIP Code or ZIP+4 Code.

*Note: Any address format is acceptable within the 093XX zipcode.*

**“May I include rank and title on an address line?”**

Yes.

**“Should APO/FPO/DPO addresses include a foreign city and/or country name?”**

No, this is because APO/FPO/DPO is the equivalent of a city designation and the classification of AA, AE or AP is the equivalent of a State (AA-Armed Forces Americas; AE--Armed Forces Europe/Atlantic; AP-Armed Forces Pacific). Please note that including the name of a foreign city or country with an APO/FPO address will potentially route mail into a civilian international mail stream leading to delays in handling.

**“I received various ballots that were returned to sender, can I verify addresses with you?”**

To anticipate ballots that may no longer be active, you can always refer to this list of active APO/FPO zipcodes <https://about.usps.com/postal-bulletin/2016/pb22446/html/apo.htm>. If your zipcode does not appear, there is a very strong likelihood that material will be Returned to Sender. Local Election Officials are encouraged to contact voters listed at potentially “inactive” zipcodes for address confirmation.

**“The address for a voter only contains a ship name, is this ok?”**

If you have only a ship name and an FPO zipcode, you may send the ballot with the ship name referenced on line 2 and it will be delivered; however, there may be some special handling required to locate the voter.

**“The address provided does not conform to your guidance, what do I do?”**

Election Officials are required to send ballots and are often limited to what the voter provides on an application. A lot of this information may simply not be necessary. We encourage you to conduct a general quality control check and if you find addresses that may be at risk, then reach out to your voters and seek clarifying information.

**“The ballot is being mailed to a voter who indicates they are military, but they do not have an APO/FPO designation, should I be concerned?”**

No, the military addressing standard only applies to those members of the military serving outside the United States. Many of our military members have other addresses that may list various military installations or regular addresses for those who are stationed at an installation, but live off-base.

2. Review your Overseas Addresses for confirmation to USPS and International Standards:
  - a. Line 1: Full name
  - b. Line 2: The delivery line in all capital letters.
  - c. Line 3: The city destination must appear in capital letters together with the correct post code number or delivery zone number, if any.
  - d. Line 4: The last line of the address must show only the country name, written in full (no abbreviations) and in capital letters. If possible, the address should have no more than five lines.

Sample:

JANE AND JOHN DOE  
117 RUSSELL DRIVE  
LONDON W1P 6HQ  
GREAT BRITAIN

*Exception:* To Canada, there must be two spaces between the province abbreviation and the postal code, as shown below between “ON” and “K1A 0B1”:

Sample for Canada:

MS HELEN SAUNDERS  
1010 CLEAR STREET  
OTTAWA ON K1A 0B1  
CANADA