UOCAVA Roadmap Activities

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http://vote.nist.gov
Goal

- The establishment of guidelines for electronic absentee voting systems
Background

- The National Defense Authorization Act of 2009 required the EAC to submit a report to Congress within 180 days after enactment if “… EAC has not established electronic absentee voting guidelines”
- The report outlined a deliberative and iterative approach to develop guidelines for electronic absentee voting systems
Who Conducts Roadmap Activities

- Election Assistance Commission (EAC)
- Technical Guidelines Development Committee (TGDC)
- DoD Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP)
- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
Major Activities

- Perform initial research and create initial guidance
- Identify and specify aspects of remote electronic absentee voting that can be implemented immediately
- Execute a phased, iterative approach for remote electronic voting pilots
- Development of final guidelines for remote electronic absentee voting systems
Initial Research

- Collect and compile information on previous international Internet voting efforts
  - Final report scheduled for release in Spring 2011 by EAC
- Detail the extent and nature of UOCAVA voter success and the applicability of historical programs to address the causes of lower success rate
  - Found in FVAP’s 2008 Post Election Survey Report
- Update recommended metrics for UOCAVA voter success
  - Completed by FVAP in 2010
Initial Research, Cont’d

- UOCAVA Solutions Summit in August 2010
  - Sponsored by EAC, FVAP, and NIST
  - Final workshop report released by March 2011
- EAC and NIST developing an approach to work with election officials on risk management
  - Completed by Summer 2011
- In January, the TGDC passed a resolution for its UOCAVA working group to prepare a narrative risk assessment
  - Comparing the current UOCAVA voting process to electronic absentee voting systems
  - Completed in Spring 2011
Initial Research, Cont’d

- Workshop on end-to-end cryptographic voting systems to support UOCAVA voters
  - In the process of being organized by EAC and NIST
  - August/September 2011
Initial Guidance

- EAC, FVAP, and NIST to provide EAC’s advisory boards with information about legal, technical, and policy issues associated with remote electronic voting systems
- Update existing EAC UOCAVA best practices documents
- *Security Considerations for Remote Electronic UOCAVA Voting*
- Finalized and available
- In January, TGDC approved the Draft *Accessibility and Usability Considerations for Remote Electronic UOCAVA Voting* for delivery to the EAC
Initial Guidance

- Security best practices documents
  - Release for second round of public comments in February 2011
  - Documents finalized by May 2011

- Develop high-level guidelines for remote electronic absentee voting systems
  - In January, the TGDC passed a resolution tasking its UOCAVA working group to develop high-level guidelines
  - Completed by Spring 2011
Areas Prime for Implementation

- Secure ballot delivery workshop in March 2011
  - FVAP helping to organize
  - NIST to participate
- Common data format for blank ballot delivery systems
  - EAC, FVAP, and NIST working with IEEE P1622 to modify OASIS election markup language (EML) to support blank ballot delivery
  - Draft finalized by Summer 2011
Phased, Iterative Approach

- Identify pilot projects with specific set of goals that advance existing guidelines and technology
- Develop materials to support the pilot projects
- Conduct the pilot projects
- Perform lessons learned analysis of pilot project
- Determine if additional pilot projects are needed
In January, the TGDC approved the whitepaper *Possible UOCAVA Pilot Projects for the 2012 and 2014 Federal Election* for delivery to EAC.

Lessons learned from 2010 election related to FVAP wizard applications: *Federal Postcard Application, Online Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot*, and *Online Ballot Delivery and Marking*

- Data being analyzed and collected

EAC and FVAP review of 2010 state activities for UOCAVA voters
- Complete by April 2011
Pilot Project Material

- Testable guidelines for kiosk-based remote voting pilot projects issued by EAC in August 2010
- In January 2011, the TGDC passed a resolution for its UOCAVA working group to develop guidelines for a demonstration project for military voters only
  - Assumes voters have a Common Access Card and professionally-administered systems with appropriate accommodations
  - Assumes voters will be choosing between this method and other methods currently available to UOCAVA voters
  - Consideration should be given to the ability to extend the guidelines to a broader segment of the UOCAVA voting population
  - Initial draft completed December 2011
Final Guidelines Development

- Create final draft of guidelines
- Release draft guidelines for public comment
- Update guidelines based on public comments
- Issue final guidelines for remote electronic absentee voting systems
Questions