



Federal Voting Assistance Program Demonstration and Pilot Programs

**Election Assistance Commission
December 3rd, 2009**



Demonstration Projects vs Pilot Projects

➤ **Demonstration Project:**

- Required by 42 USC 1973ff (note)
- Pre-MOVE Act
- Requirements:
 - Statistically significant
 - Electronic voting demonstration Project
 - Uniformed Services voters
- DoD can initiate after EAC:
 - Establishes electronic absentee voting guidelines
 - Certifies ready to assist DoD

➤ **Pilot Project:**

- Allowed under Section 589 of FY10 NDAA (MOVE Act)
- Optional
 - At least 1 if undertaken
 - Numerous recommended areas of study
 - Shall not conflict or substitute with existing UOCAVA voting laws and regulations
- NIST and EAC support
 - Best practices
 - Electronic absentee voting guidelines

2007 GAO Recommendation

- **Long-term plan** for future electronic voting programs
- **Comprehensive, results-oriented**
- **Specifies**
 - Goals
 - Milestones
 - Time frames
 - Contingencies
- **Identifies safeguards**
- **Synchronized with EAC** guideline development
- **Coordinated with Stakeholders**
 - State and local election officials
 - EAC
 - Overseas voting groups
 - Armed Services
- **Deployment /training plan**

May 2007 IVAS Report; Electronic Voting Plan

➤ Key Planning Factors

- Start small;
- Integrate State variations;
- Build consensus;
- Risk management education;
- Testable and replicable;
- Standard voting interfaces;
- Integrity of the process; and
- Digital certificate technologies.

➤ Long Range Strategy

- 2007 EAC Internet Report basis for guideline development
- Use guidelines for deploying demonstration project
- Strategy dependent upon requirements of guidelines
- “24 to 60 months.”
- Incremental deployment over multiple election cycles

Phase	Timeline
Concept Development	6-12 months
Communications Plan	2 months
Contracting Process	3-5 months
Design Phase	3.5-7 months
Development Phase	13-23 months
Testing Phase	5-8 months

Key Planning Issues

➤ What is the goal of the proposed program?

- What problem are we trying to address?
- What problem do we believe we will solve?
- Where do the actual failures in UOCAVA voting lie, and how will this program address them?
- What is the eventual goal we hope electronic absentee voting to achieve or problem to address?
- What is the expected cost-benefit analysis of any such program?

➤ What does electronic absentee voting actually mean?

- Does it require the return of a voted ballot electronically?
- Does it require independent access to the electronic absentee voting process by the individual voter?

➤ What is an acceptable level of risk?

- Level of Risk = probability x impact
- What is the level of risk we accept with our current voting systems?
 - UOCAVA absentee voting systems
 - National absentee voting systems
 - In-person voting systems

➤ What are the comparable voter verification and privacy/secretcy standards for national absentee voting systems?

- Do electronic absentee voting systems need a higher standard?
- Is it fair to subject UOCAVA voters to a system requiring a higher standard simply because they are UOCAVA voters?

Road Ahead Ideas

- **Joint plan of all involved parties**
 - FVAP
 - EAC
 - Technical assistance provider

- **Congressional intent appears to be fully electronic absentee voting guidelines**
 - Senate 2002 Report:
 - “...cast ballots through an electronic voting system”;
 - “...secure, easy-to-use, and expedient remote internet registration and voting system”
 - House 2002 Report: “...method for absentee voting that holds the most promise for protecting the voting rights of military members in the future is electronic voting using computers.”
 - Senate 2005 Report: “...continued examination of feasible means to carry out secure electronic voting”

- **Definitive Timelines**
 - Dates
 - Interim technical milestones



Federal Voting Assistance Program Department of Defense

Bob Carey, Director

**1777 North Kent St., 13004
Washington, DC 20301-1155**

Phone: 703-588-8118

Fax: 703-696-1352

Email: Robert.Carey@fvap.ncr.gov