

MS 253 Voter Assistance Program

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MS 253 Voter Assistance Program Procedures

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1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this Manual Section is to set forth how the Peace Corps will assist overseas staff (including spouses and dependents) and Volunteers (as used herein the term Volunteers includes Trainees) who vote by absentee ballot. Implementing procedures are set forth in *MS 253 Voter Assistance Program Procedures* (Procedures).

2.0 Authorities

The legal authority for U.S. citizens to vote absentee in U.S. elections is set forth in the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (Absentee Voting Act), as amended, 42 U.S.C 1973ff *et seq.* and in state election laws.

E.O. 12642, June 8, 1988, 53 Fed. Reg. 21975 (Designation by the President of the primary responsibility for carrying out the Absentee Voting Act to the Secretary of Defense or his designee).

DOD Directive 1000.04, Federal Voting Assistance Program (requiring that non-DOD Federal agencies participating in the Federal Voting Assistance program adopt regulations and procedures that conform with the Directive to the maximum extent practicable, consistent with their organizational missions).

3.0 Responsibilities

- (a) The Chief, Office of Administrative Services, is designated as the Peace Corps Voting Officer for purposes of the Absentee Voting Act and is responsible for providing

overseas staff and Volunteers with information and materials on voting by absentee ballot, as requested by the Secretary of Defense. Such information includes the forms and publications described in the Procedures. The Voting Officer will cooperate with the Secretary of Defense to coordinate government-wide efforts to implement absentee voting, and will be responsible for the transmission of all voting materials to and from overseas staff and Volunteers.

- (b) Peace Corps Country Directors are responsible for distributing voting materials and information to overseas staff and Volunteers.
- (c) Overseas staff and Volunteers who wish to vote by absentee ballot are personally responsible for observing the requirements and regulations of the jurisdictions where they intend to vote.

4.0 Procedures

Procedures implementing this Manual Section may be revised by the Chief, Office of Administrative Services, if approved by the Office of Global Operations and the Office of the General Counsel.

5.0 Effective Date

The effective date of this Manual Section is the date of issuance.