

STATE OF NEBRASKA

John A. Gale
Secretary of State

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 6, 2004

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Deploying military reminded to apply for ballots

Lincoln – Nebraska Secretary of State John Gale reminded Nebraska military personnel that they should consider registering to vote and applying for absentee ballots before being deployed outside the United States.

Many Nebraskans in Reserve and National Guard units face deployment in coming months as part of U.S. military commitments worldwide. “Once they know their deployment schedule, I hope they will give some thought to the 2004 elections,” Gale said.

He said the easiest way for military personnel to make sure they get to vote is to fill out a Federal Post Card Application, which can be used for both registering to vote and applying for an absentee ballot. The application is available from unit or base voting assistance officers or online from the Federal Voting Assistance Program at www.fvap.gov.

Gale said military personnel may get an application and fill it in now if they know where they will be stationed at the time of the 2004 primary and general elections. If they do not know, they can take the application with them and mail or fax it in later.

Nebraska law makes it easy for military personnel living outside the country to vote absentee, Gale said.

“Serving our country overseas requires many sacrifices and imposes numerous burdens for our military personnel. Their service is deeply appreciated by us all, and we want to help them to preserve their rights as citizens while they are abroad,” Gale said.

“We have already taken steps to make it easier for our military personnel to vote and participate in our democratic process. This review will continue as a high priority for my office,” he added.