

# No Status Quo for Military and Overseas Voters

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Alec Yasinsac

School of Computer and Information Sciences

University of South Alabama

Mobile, Alabama



## Overseas Voting The *Good News*\*

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- 31 of our 50 states provide *adequate* time for their military and overseas residents to vote
- The average time required for overseas voters to cast their ballots in those states is *29 days*

\*Pew Trusts, "No Time to Vote", January 6, 2009, [http://www.pewtrusts.org/news\\_room\\_detail.aspx?id=47924](http://www.pewtrusts.org/news_room_detail.aspx?id=47924)



## Overseas Voters Can't:

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- Change their mind
- Fix mistakes
- Reliably track their ballot
- Ask a poll worker
- Stop in to vote on their way to work
- Register on election day



## The Collective Impact on Voter Participation

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Comparing apples to apples

Contrast the % of 2006 *requested absentee ballots* that were returned\*:

- General Voting Population: 86%
- Overseas/Military Voting: 27%

\*Pew Trusts, "No Time to Vote", January 6, 2009, [http://www.pewtrusts.org/news\\_room\\_detail.aspx?id=47924](http://www.pewtrusts.org/news_room_detail.aspx?id=47924)



## Untapped Opportunity

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- ❑ Typical of the frustration of military voters, one soldier wrote in, "Registered to vote. Serving in Afghanistan. Never received a ballot. Tried to use the Federal Absentee Write in process - still required me to mail in the ballot and I was out of time... am very angry!"
- ❑ Electronically returning marked ballots can functionally fix many of the present problems



## The Risks of Electronically Transmitting Voted Ballots

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- ❑ The SERVE Report
  - Private PCs
  - Attractive target
  - Wholesale attacks
- ❑ Security of the status quo
- ❑ The Main Worry: The Slippery Slope



## Electronic Marked Ballot Return

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- Fax
  - Email
  - Phone
  - Digital ballot upload
  - Cryptographic Voting Applications
- There is no panacea,  
but there may be  
suitable combinations!



## Recent Non-Federal Overseas Voting Pilots

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- 2008 Okaloosa Distance Balloting Pilot:
  - Operation BRAVO Foundation ([www.OperationBRAVO.org](http://www.OperationBRAVO.org))
  - <http://election.dos.state.fl.us/voting-systems/cert-vote-system/scytl2008.shtml>
  - The plan itself is the June 19 document.
- 2008 Arizona:
  - <http://www.azsos.gov/releases/2008/pressrelease34.htm>
  - 223 people uploaded a ballot to the system
  - 1424 people used the system since 9/26/2008
  - 1060 were authorized to upload their ballots
  - 566 requested an FPCA card to register to vote
  - 1129 requested an early ballot



# Crypto-Voting Systems

## Academic

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- Civitas (Cornell University)
  - [http://www.cs.cornell.edu/people/clarkson/papers/clarkson\\_civitas\\_tr.pdf](http://www.cs.cornell.edu/people/clarkson/papers/clarkson_civitas_tr.pdf)
- Punchscan (Chaum):
  - <http://www.punchscan.org/>
- Three Ballot (Rivest):
  - <http://people.csail.mit.edu/rivest/Rivest-TheThreeBallotVotingSystem.pdf>
- VoteBox (Wallach):
  - <http://www.cs.rice.edu/~dsandler/pub/sandler08votebox.pdf>



# Call to Action

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- Fully implement the OVF framework
- Continue to gather information
- Take no options off of the table
- Pilot, Pilot, Pilot, .... now!
- Engineer security in up front
- Reinforce success



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## They deserve better!

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