



NEWS RELEASE

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NASS President Todd Rokita to Address Military & Overseas Voting Issues for 2008

Indiana Secretary of State Represents Chief State Election Officials at Summit in Munich, Germany

Washington, DC—The National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS), in keeping with the association's long history of working with the federal government to ensure the enfranchisement of the more than six million uniformed and civilian citizens living and working overseas, today announced that NASS President Todd Rokita will participate in the Overseas Vote Foundation's Second Annual UOCAVA Summit on April 4 in Munich, Germany. The event will bring together nearly 200 participants from federal, state and local government, as well as nonprofit and diplomatic channels, to discuss voting issues related to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Voting Act (UOCAVA).

"I am very honored to help the troops and civilians overseas by representing my colleagues across the country at this important summit," said NASS President Todd Rokita, Indiana Secretary of State. "With registration and turnout numbers for this year's primary elections reaching record-setting levels in many states, it is critical for state election officials to help overseas Americans and uniformed services voters take part in this process through fast, reliable and accurate services. Secretaries of state are also interested in hearing how the federal government plans to reach out to UOCAVA voters for the 2008 general election in November."

According to 2006 figures from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, nearly 1 million UOCAVA ballots were requested, with more than a third of that number being cast.

The Second Annual UOCAVA Summit in Munich, Germany will focus on the effectiveness of UOCAVA and related programs. New technologies will serve as a key element of discussion, as more than a third of all states now use the Internet to help electronically transmit ballots to UOCAVA voters. Other topics include: UOCAVA participation in caucuses, ballot-counting issues, voter confidence, state deadlines and proposed federal and state legislation.

"I think it is wonderful that our elected officials are making the commitment to afford our service members, even while deployed, every opportunity to cast their votes for those they feel would be best to lead our local, state and federal governments," remarked the adjutant general of Indiana's National Guard, Major General R. Martin Umbarger.

As president of NASS, Rokita is responsible for representing the association to the federal government and related agencies, as well as serving as the leading spokesperson for its members. NASS is covering Rokita's costs for the UOCAVA summit.

Immediately after the summit, Rokita will visit wounded troops and medical staff at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center at Ramstein U.S. Airforce Base in Germany. He will personally deliver a package containing hundreds of prepaid phone cards donated by NASS members and Indiana citizens.

Rokita will also lead an annual delegation of secretaries of state to the Republic of China (Taiwan) in late May for the inauguration of that country's new president.

For more information, visit www.nass.org.

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Founded in 1904, the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) is the oldest professional, non-partisan organization of public officials in the United States. Members include the 50 states, the District of Columbia and the territories of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. For more information, visit www.nass.org.