

Innovative Approaches to Military Voting: Okaloosa County, Florida Remote Voting Project Overview and Proposed Next Step

**National Association of Secretaries of State
Voter Participation Committee**

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www.OperationBRAVO.org

Okaloosa Distance Balloting Pilot (ODBP)

Objective: Evaluate the effectiveness of remote voting kiosks to improve overseas voting access

- Project conceived and conducted by the Supervisor of Elections, Okaloosa County, Florida
- Authorized by Florida Administrative Rule 1S–2.030 Electronic Transmission of Absentee Ballots
- Based on Scytl Pnyx secure voting system, tailored to meet Florida requirements
- System certified by Florida as adjunct to pollsite system
- Project managed by Operation BRAVO Foundation

Three Overseas “Early Voting Centers”

- Staffed voting kiosks set up in England, Germany, Japan
- Open for 10 days
- 94 voters participated, 93 ballots cast
- All 78 ballot styles available, 23 different styles voted
- Paper records produced for all electronic ballots cast
- Canvassing Board validated, decrypted, and tabulated electronic ballots
- Kiosk officials set up and operated kiosk systems
- Elections staff administered central office system

UK Kiosk : Mildenhall, England



Voting System Security Elements

- Voter identity and eligibility verified by kiosk officials
- Secure laptops used for voting
- Voting software verified by Florida Division of Elections
- Voted ballot signed by voter's digital signature, then encrypted with Canvassing Board key
- Encrypted ballot transmitted by secure communications to a BS7799 certified Tier 3 secure data center for storage
- All system transactions logged in patented immutable system logs
- System performance validated by manual count of all races on 100% of paper records

Some Lessons Learned

- Kiosk system easy for kiosk officials to set up and operate with minimal training (< 8 hours)
- Only technology issue was setting up network connection in hotels where kiosks were located
- System easy for voters to use; would like to continue voting this way; experienced greater sense of participation and confidence that ballot would be counted
- Comprehensive project evaluation report in progress

Proposed Next Step: Combat Zone Kiosks

- Assess feasibility of kiosk concept to enfranchise military and civilian voters in combat zone locations
- Kiosks staffed by Voting Assistance Officers
- Need 4 to 5 states for meaningful scope to test concept
- Deadline for commitment: June 2009

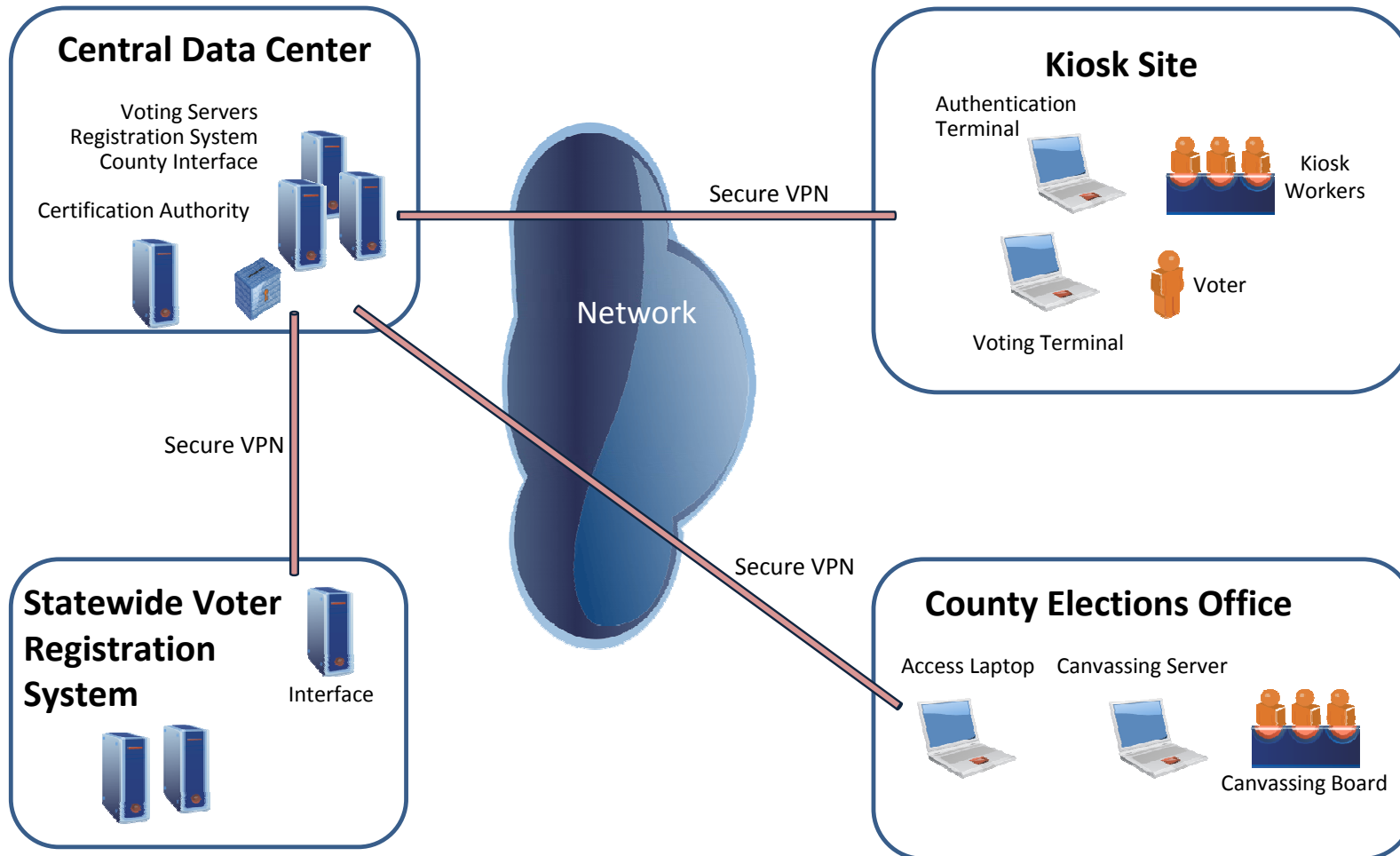
Participation Criteria

- Authorizing legislation to allow electronic UOCAVA voting
- Large population of deployed military and civilian voters
- Central count jurisdictions only
- Statewide election in 2010
- Common voter registration interface statewide
- Strong local information systems support

Some Considerations

- Addresses most challenging voting scenario
- Maintains momentum and focus on overseas voting issue
- Pnyx voting system capacity, security, and operating procedures easily expandable to more jurisdictions
- Additional system tailoring required to interface with registration and election management systems
- Will need support of Defense and State Departments

Combat Zone Voting System



Preliminary Timeline

- State commitment: June 2009
- Conduct requirements analysis: June–October
- Tailor system to requirements: July–December
- Coordinate kiosk locations: September–December
- Certification testing: February 2010–July
- Voting system setup: August–September
- Open kiosks for voting: September 18
- Close kiosks: October 31
- Close out voting system: November 30
- Project evaluation report: March 2011

Preliminary Cost Estimate

Scoping assumption: 5 states, 35 counties participating

Total cost: \$4 to 5 million

Includes:

- Requirements analysis
- System tailoring
- System testing and certification
- Software licenses
- System implementation
- Project management
- Project evaluation

Why Participate?

- Be a leader in preserving voting rights for military and overseas citizens
- Develop specifications for a repeatable secure UOCAVA solution
- Help define standards for remote voting for UOCAVA voters
- Help define voting system data interchange requirements
- Can share costs among participating jurisdictions, federal agencies, foundations

Operation BRAVO Foundation

- Non-profit 501(c)(3) organization
- Established to foster exploration and development of practical and reproducible electronic solutions to improve overseas voting process
- Partners with state and local governments, other organizations, to conduct demonstration projects
- Provides project planning, budgeting, and management; functional requirements analysis; governmental coordination; legal and regulatory compliance assessment; and project evaluation

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QUESTIONS?