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## Overseas Voting Pilot Project Scheduled for 2008 General Election

*December 5, 2007 – Washington, D.C.* – The Operation BRAVO (Bring Remote Access to Voters Overseas) Foundation announced its partnership with the Supervisor of Elections of Okaloosa County, Florida and the SAIT (The Security and Assurance in Information Technology) Laboratory at Florida State University to conduct the Okaloosa Distance Balloting Project (ODBP) during the November 4, 2008 general election.

The ODBP is an experiment designed to make absentee voting more reliable for overseas civilian and military voters. The project will establish a secure and scalable distance balloting environment for up to 900 self-selecting overseas voters. This environment will be created by placing voting kiosks in three overseas locations.

“This is a monumental step in the right direction. Overseas voters have been left without a reliable voting method for far too long,” said Operation BRAVO Director Carol Paquette.

The kiosks will employ proven, transparent, and secure electronic remote voting technology and will be operated under the management and control of the Okaloosa County Supervisor of Elections. Each location will be staffed by election officials and connected to a secure server in Okaloosa County by a secure Virtual Private Network (VPN). The locations will be selected for their proximity to Okaloosa voters based at U.S. military installations in the U.K., Germany, and Japan.

“We feel incredibly privileged to be part of this scientific experiment. It is unacceptable to think that 20 to 30 percent of our nation’s overseas military and civilian voters are disenfranchised due to international mail delivery. It is our hope that the Okaloosa Distance Balloting project is a step in correcting this issue,” said Okaloosa County, Fla. Supervisor of Elections Pat Hollarn.

For more information on the Operation BRAVO Foundation and the ODBP, please visit [www.operationbravo.org](http://www.operationbravo.org).

*The Operation BRAVO Foundation has been organized exclusively for the charitable purpose of helping overseas civilian and military citizens effectively exercise their Constitutional right to vote. The foundation is dedicated to finding solutions to enable these voters to fully participate in this most fundamental of democratic activities. Operation BRAVO’s mission is to foster the exploration and development of practical and reproducible electronic alternatives that can significantly improve the overseas absentee voting process.*

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