



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

JUL 09 2018

HEALTH AFFAIRS

Dear Service Member:

You are invited to participate in the 2018 Department of Defense (DoD) Health Related Behaviors Survey, which we have asked the independent, non-profit RAND Corporation to design, implement, and analyze. This health survey is important to the DoD and the Services, and I strongly encourage you to participate.

The purpose of this web-based survey is to assess the health related behaviors and lifestyles of military personnel that have the potential to impact readiness. We use data from this survey to improve education, training, treatment, and counseling to support the Services and optimize individual and overall health status and fitness.

The survey is confidential. This means that no one within DoD or the Services, including your immediate chain of command, will know who participated in the survey or will have access to your individual responses to survey items. Only the survey contractors, RAND and Westat, will be able to use unique identification codes to distinguish who has been selected to participate in the survey. Survey results will be presented in such a way that your individual survey responses cannot otherwise be linked back to you. DoD and the Services have agreed to this condition to protect your privacy so you can feel comfortable answering the survey questions truthfully and honestly.

Although your participation in the survey is voluntary, I hope you will recognize its importance and find time to sit down and answer these questions about your health. This survey can be completed online using a government computer during duty hours, a home computer, a smartphone or a tablet.

For further information about the survey and instructions for accessing and completing the survey on the Internet, please read the enclosed RAND Corporation letter and Frequently Asked Questions. Thank you for your continued service to our country and thank you in advance for your time and assistance in this important effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom McCaffery".

Tom McCaffery
Acting