



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

June 1, 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (MRAI&E)

SUBJECT: 2011 Department of Defense Survey of Health Related Behaviors among Active Duty Military Personnel

As the Department seeks to attract and retain quality military personnel, we must find ways we can influence lifestyle behaviors to support our readiness requirements. This memorandum requests your continued support for the Department of Defense (DoD) Lifestyle Assessment Program (DLAP), a program that complements DoD's Human Resources Strategic Plan by assessing Service members' healthy lifestyle knowledge and choices. These behaviors affect short- and long-term well-being and greatly impact readiness and retention. Information on these issues has been, and will continue to be, collected through surveys and special studies. The next planned event in the program is the 2011 DoD Survey of Health Related Behaviors Among Active Duty Military Personnel (2011 Active Duty HRB Survey).

For nearly 30 years, the HRB has provided information on various health behaviors and the health status of Active Duty personnel. This anonymous survey provides detailed estimates of alcohol, drug, and tobacco use; critical assessments of stress and other related mental health issues; and information about lifestyle choices impacting the readiness of the Active Duty force. The results are used to improve Force Health Protection policies and programs. Collecting this valuable information for our commanders and senior leaders/policymakers requires full support of the Services and a commitment to the successful completion of the survey by Active Duty personnel.

The 2011 Active Duty HRB Survey requires survey completion by approximately 30,000 Active Duty members worldwide via in-person and online administration. The survey will be conducted in the spring of 2011, and results are expected by the end of the year. Services are asked to fully participate in this survey, ensure appropriate support staffing is provided, and incorporate the survey administration into duty schedules.

Service Liaison Officers (SLOs) are required from the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps. I request that you appoint two senior line officers (06/05) as a primary and an alternate SLO from each Service to assist with logistics required for the completion of this effort. Completion of this project requires an ongoing commitment of 18 months from the SLOs. Your support is critical for success.

The names and contact information of the primary and alternate representative for each Service should be sent to the DoD project officer, Ms. Kim Frazier at Kim.Frazier@tma.osd.mil, or (703) 681-3636 (DSN: 761-3636), within 10 days of receipt of this memorandum.

The point of contact for the overall DLAP is Ms. Ginnean Quisenberry, who may be reached at GinneanQuisenberry@tma.osd.mil, or (703) 681-6717 extension 1237. Thank you for your ongoing support of this important survey effort.

Original Signed

cc:

Surgeon General of the Army

Surgeon General of the Navy

Surgeon General of the Air Force

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Budgets and Financial Policy)

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Clinical and Program Policy)

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Force Health Protection and Readiness)