



NEWS RELEASE
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (ASD-HA)



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**2011 Health Related Behaviors Survey to Be Launched in August
300,000 Service Members to be Asked to Participate; 1st Time On-line**

Falls Church, VA – The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and the Director, TRICARE Management Activity (TMA), today announced the 2011 Health Related Behaviors (HRB) Survey will be launched starting the week of August 15th. Approximately 300,000 randomly selected Active Duty Service members will be asked to complete the anonymous survey, on site or via Internet. The HRB Survey has been conducted every 3 years since 1980 and is used to measure the health related behaviors and lifestyles of Active Duty military personnel that have the potential to impact readiness.

“Through this anonymous survey, our experts are able to uncover those issues that may affect the health and well-being of our Service members,” said Dr. Jonathon Woodson, Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs and Director, TMA. “Information gleaned from the survey is used to ensure we are providing the right kinds of guidance services, programs and support essential to maintaining a ready force which can be deployed at a moment’s notice.”

The Department of Defense (DoD) uses data from the HRB Survey to improve education, training, treatment, and counseling to support the Services and optimize individual and overall health status and fitness. The survey will be fielded via the web to randomly selected (.mil) e-mail addresses of Service members, as well as via on-site administration at select installations.

For those who will be asked to participate via Internet, a secure e-mail invitation will be sent together with several follow-up reminders to complete the survey. The survey will likely take 40-45 minutes to complete and Service members are asked to be as candid as possible when responding. As mentioned previously, the survey is anonymous; at no time will the names of respondents be known to DoD. Members selected to complete the survey in person will be given instructions by their installation points of contact.



About the MHS

The MHS comprises 133,000 military and civilian doctors, nurses, medical educators, researchers, healthcare providers, allied health professionals, and health administration personnel worldwide, providing our nation with an unequalled integrated healthcare delivery, expeditionary medical, educational, and research capability. We provide expert care for more than 9.7 million beneficiaries worldwide, including active duty service members, retirees, National Guard, Reservists, families, and uniformed members of the Coast Guard, Public Health Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. In any given week, the MHS experiences approximately 21,800 inpatient admissions; 1.6 million outpatient visits; 2,300 births; 2.5 million prescriptions filled; and 3.5 million claims processed. Our mission is to provide the best health care possible to our beneficiaries who so richly deserve it. The MHS Quadruple Aim seeks to enhance health outcomes by encouraging healthy behaviors; ensure satisfaction with accessible, high quality and patient-centered care; achieve maximum force readiness at all times; and manage per capita health costs. The MHS is a leader within the global medical community.