

GROUP QUARTERS OPERATION

2020 CENSUS FACT SHEET



CENTER ON POVERTY and INEQUALITY
GEORGETOWN LAW



ECONOMIC SECURITY and
OPPORTUNITY INITIATIVE

COUNTING MILITARY PERSONNEL

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Military personnel living in group facilities on military installations will be counted in the 2020 Census through administrative data sent to the Census Bureau from the Department of Defense (DoD).
- Military personnel living on maritime vessels will be counted via in-person enumeration using Shipboard Census Questionnaires (SCQs).
- For the first time, the 2020 Census will count temporarily deployed military personnel with a stateside duty station at their usual residence in the United States. Personnel who are stationed or assigned overseas will be counted in their home state (determined by their “home of record”) for congressional apportionment purposes only.

COUNTING MILITARY PERSONNEL

Military personnel will be counted where they live and sleep most of the time, in accordance with the Census Bureau’s [2020 Census Residence Criteria and Residence Situations](#). Military personnel living in group facilities (e.g., military barracks, dormitories, or on vessels) will be counted in the [Group Quarters](#) (GQ) operation during April 2020. Most people who do not live in group quarters will receive a mailed or hand-delivered invitation (one per address) to self-respond to the census.

Military personnel living in group quarters will be counted by **electronic data transfer** (called In-Office Enumeration). Census data for military personnel and their dependents living on military installations (a fenced, secured area used for military purposes) will be electronically transferred to the Census Bureau from the Department of Defense’s (DoD) administrative data files through the DoD’s Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC). The DMDC will compile

data from multiple data sources including the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, Enterprise Military Housing system, and Contingency Tracking System Deployment File.

The DMDC also will provide the Census Bureau administrative records for military personnel living on U.S. military vessels (a U.S. Navy or U.S. Coast Guard vessel assigned to a homeport in the U.S.). That information will include the vessel’s homeport in the U.S., the military personnel assigned to the vessel, and their stateside address when available.

WHAT DO STAKEHOLDERS NEED TO KNOW?

- **How will military personnel be counted if they are deployed or stationed overseas on Census Day?** Military personnel who are [temporarily deployed](#) overseas will be counted (using administrative data) at their usual residence (which may or may not be

a military group quarters location) in the U.S. for all purposes for which census data are used, including apportionment, redistricting, and the allocation of federal program funding. Military personnel who are stationed or assigned overseas, and any dependents living with them, will be counted in their home state (determined by their “home of record” using administrative data) for congressional apportionment purposes only.

- **How will active duty military personnel who live off-base be counted?** Military personnel who do not live on a military installation will be counted where they live and sleep most of the time. Most can expect a mailed or hand-delivered census package inviting them to respond to the census online, by phone, or by mail (either in the 1st or 4th mailing).
- **Where will active duty patients assigned to military treatment facilities be counted?** Active duty patients will be [counted at the facility](#) where they are receiving treatment.

- **Where will people in U.S. military disciplinary barracks and jails be counted?** People in military disciplinary barracks and jails will be [counted at the facility](#).

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Support a fair and accurate census by joining or supporting the work of a local [Complete Count Committee](#). More resources about the 2020 Census can be found on the [Georgetown Center on Poverty & Inequality website](#) and at [censuscounts.org](#). The numbers for assistance in other languages are available at http://census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/2020-census/planning-management/memo-series/2020-memo-2019_18.html. They can also visit the Census Bureau’s [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors Christopher Brown and Cara Brumfield thank the following individuals for their input and feedback while producing this issue brief: Terri Ann Lowenthal; and Corrine Yu and Beth Lynk of The Leadership Conference Education Fund. Please contact Cara Brumfield (cb1542@georgetown.edu) or Beth Lynk (lynk@civilrights.org) with any questions.