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 with 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.

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