



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

DEC 22 2005

HEALTH AFFAIRS

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

**SUBJECT: Appointment of Active Duty Liaison Officers for the Department of Defense
Lifestyles Assessment Program: 2006 Unit Level Influences Study**

Department of Defense Lifestyle Assessment Program (DLAP) information continues to be collected and analyzed on the behavioral and health readiness of active duty personnel. For more than 20 years, the active duty Health Behavior Survey has provided you with information on various lifestyle behaviors that affect military readiness to include the fitness of your combined force with detailed estimates of alcohol, drug, and tobacco use, nutrition and physical activity, and critical assessments of emotional stress and other issues. In the past, you have used the results to implement and improve force health protection policies and programs. Recent results have shown increases in heavy drinking and cigarette smoking. To understand these behaviors more fully, we will be conducting a special study in 2006 to assess unit level influences of alcohol and tobacco use that may impact troop readiness.

I request each Service appoint two senior line officers, preferably at the O-6 level, from your training branch to be your Service Primary and Alternate Liaison Officers (LOs). LOs are required from Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps. LOs must possess the appropriate military leadership credentials to carry out necessary survey requirements, participate in the establishment and implementation of plans to ensure full participation in this on-site survey, assist in selection of bases from their Service to participate in the study, contribute to Service-specific project management, and secure all logistic and timely access requirements at their Service-specific selected installations. Completion of this project requires an ongoing commitment of at least 15 months from the LOs.

Collecting this information for our commanders and senior leaders/policymakers requires the right people and full support of the Services. Please send your Service representative's contact information, within two weeks of receipt of this memo, to my point of contact for the DLAP, Ms. Lynn Pahland, lynn.pahland@ha.osd.mil, or (703) 681-1703. Thank you for your support of this important survey effort.


William Winkenwerder, Jr., MD

cc:
Service Chiefs of Staff