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that our community receives the  
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# Military & Veterans

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
U.S. Census Bureau  
Office of the Director  
Washington, DC 20233-0001

## An Open Letter to the Veteran Community From the U.S. Census Bureau

To our Nation's Veterans:

Throughout our history, you have rallied time and again to protect and serve your family, neighbors, and friends. Your leadership, patriotism, and entrepreneurship exemplify the American spirit.

As Article I Section II of the Constitution directs, every 10 years, we conduct a census to determine representation in Congress. Think of it as a national roll call. The next national roll call is coming, and we must hear from you. The 2020 Census is a mission-critical opportunity to make your numbers known. This opportunity only comes once a decade, so 2020 will be the time to make sure your community is counted.

We need your help! Please get your community prepared by taking the following steps:

- **JOIN OUR TEAM.** We want to hire veterans for temporary census jobs. Apply to work as a census taker at [2020census.gov/jobs](https://2020census.gov/jobs). If you know others who are looking for work, please spread the word.
- **RAISE AWARENESS.** Tell other veterans how the 2020 Census impacts services they rely on. Discuss this at veteran service organization chapter meetings or the next veteran gathering you attend.
- **PARTNER WITH US.** Visit [2020census.gov/partners](https://2020census.gov/partners) to learn more, become a partner, and download materials to share with other veteran leaders, business owners, and nonprofit partners in your community.
- **RESPOND TO THE CENSUS.** Mark Census Day, April 1, 2020, on your calendar, and plan to respond to the short census questionnaire for your household as soon as you can. Mailings will go out, and the online response portal will open in mid-March. You can choose your preferred method of response: securely online, over the phone, or by mail.

Veterans benefit directly when their communities are counted correctly. Billions of dollars in federal funds are distributed each year based on census data that support education, housing, health care, hospitals, fire stations, and more. An accurate count is especially crucial for veterans in rural communities, those with disabilities, and those at risk of homelessness. Data from the 2020 Census will also help the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs plan programs and assess emerging needs for veterans.

To get started, visit [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov).

Sincerely,

Steven D. Dillingham  
Director





# Serve your country and your community.

As a member of the military, you and your family understand what it means to serve your country. You can provide another great service to your country and community by responding to the 2020 Census.

## Foundation of Our Democracy

Every 10 years, the federal government counts everyone who lives in the United States. The decennial count is required by the Constitution and is a foundation of our democracy, because the population of each state determines the number of representatives it has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

## Service to Your Community

Responses to the 2020 Census will drive decisions on how more than \$675 billion in federal funds is distributed each year for the next 10 years. That's money that is used for education, housing, health care, emergency services like firefighting, and more.

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## Get Counted!

The 2020 Census begins in early 2020. Most military households are responsible for submitting their own 2020 Census form online, by phone, or by mail. **You are counted with your household if that is where you live.** But, active duty service members may face some special circumstances. Here's how to be counted if:

➤ **You are stationed or living in the United States, and you are NOT deployed elsewhere.**

Unless you are staying in military barracks or dormitories on April 1, 2020, you should fill out a 2020 Census form for your household and list everyone who lives there.

➤ **You are staying in military barracks or dormitories on April 1, 2020.**

Census Bureau employees will work with a representative of the building to ensure you are counted. They may or may not ask you to complete an individual census form. If your family is living off base, they should fill out a 2020 Census form for that household, but they should not list you on that form.

➤ **You are stationed or deployed outside the United States, or you are assigned to a military vessel with a homeport outside the United States, as of April 1, 2020.**

The Census Bureau will use data from the U.S. Department of Defense to count you (and any family members that are living with you overseas). If your family is living in the United States, they should fill out a 2020 Census form for that household, but they should not list you on that form.

**Note: "Outside the United States" includes any place that is outside the 50 States and D.C.**

For more information, visit:

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# Your community is counting on you. Make sure you are counted in the 2020 Census.

A census is conducted every 10 years to count everyone living in the United States, including babies and young children. Responses help determine how billions of dollars in federal funding are distributed to states, counties, and local communities.

Some circumstances, like deployment, are unique to active duty service members and their families when it comes to completing the census. Make sure you know how to get counted correctly so you can support your community!

For information on how the census counts active duty military and their families, visit [2020CENSUS.GOV](https://2020CENSUS.GOV) and search **military**.

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# Census data impacts funding for things like:

- > Education
- > Housing
- > Emergency services
- > Libraries
- > Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- > Preventative health services
- > Medical facilities
- > School meal programs
- > Parks
- > Public transportation and roads

For more information, visit:  
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# Veterans shaped our past, and they shape our future.

Veterans are the backbone of communities across America. No matter when you served, your response to the 2020 Census will play a part in shaping our future.

Responses to the 2020 Census will determine how more than \$675 billion in federal funds is distributed annually for the next 10 years. That money is used for education and public services like parks, public transportation, health care, emergency services, and more.

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# Census data impacts funding for things like:

- > **Emergency services**
- > **Medical facilities**
- > **Community mental health services**
- > **Education**
- > **Public transportation and roads**
- > **Disabled Veterans Outreach Program**

If you live in a group housing or assisted living facility, a representative of the building will fill out the census questionnaire for everyone in the facility.

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# Heroes count in the 2020 Census.

Regardless of when you served, your secure and confidential response to the 2020 Census can shape the future for you and your community.

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