

## CONUS LPS SmartDocs Message

Subject: 2024 Continental U.S. Living Pattern Survey

Dear Service Member,

The 2024 Continental U.S. (CONUS) Living Pattern Survey (LPS) is conducted on behalf of the Department of Defense and administered by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Military Compensation Policy Directorate. The survey is designed to collect data on shopping patterns of Service members and their families and will be used to assist in the determination of Overseas and CONUS Cost-of-Living Allowance (COLA) rates.

Information about COLAs and how LPS data is utilized in the COLA calculation can be found here:

- CONUS COLA: <https://www.travel.dod.mil/Allowances/CONUS-Cost-of-Living-Allowance/>
- Overseas COLA: <https://www.travel.dod.mil/Allowances/Overseas-Cost-of-Living-Allowance/>

### Survey Participants and Web Link

The survey is open to all active duty and full-time National Guard members stationed in the CONUS who have been at their current permanent duty station for at least three months. The survey will be open to participants from January 1, 2024, at 0001 Eastern Standard Time (EST) through March 31, 2024, at 2400 EST. Members may access the survey at the following link:

<https://www.travel.dod.mil/Allowances/CONUS-Cost-of-Living-Allowance/Living-Pattern-Survey/>

### Participating in the Survey

Participation in this survey is voluntary; however, we encourage maximum participation. Service members' feedback is imperative in ensuring the Department has accurate data necessary to compute COLA. A Common Access Card or government computer is not required to access the survey.

This is an opportunity for the CONUS military community at-large to participate in the COLA process. The survey takes approximately 15 minutes to complete and only one survey per household should be completed by the primary shopper. Members will be asked to select which goods and services they regularly purchase and the percentage of shopping they complete on base and online.

Individual responses will be treated as confidential. Only group statistics will be reported.

Thank you for your participation in this important survey.