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## **FOR RELEASE**

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### **RAND CORPORATION LAUNCHES STUDY ON HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF PRIVATE MILITARY AND SECURITY CONTRACTORS**

The health and well-being of private military and security contractors is the focus of a RAND Corporation study of personnel who have worked in theaters of conflict such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

“The health and well-being of contractors has been largely overlooked in previous studies,” said Carrie Farmer, a co-leader of the study and a policy researcher at RAND, a nonprofit research organization. “We hope to provide an objective account of the health and well-being challenges that contractors may face.”

The RAND study is the first comprehensive survey of the health and well-being of individual contractors who have worked in theaters of conflict, and gives them an opportunity to tell researchers what it is like to be a contractor in a conflict zone.

“Private contractors provide critical support to both governmental and nongovernmental entities across the globe,” said Molly Dunigan, project co-leader and a RAND political scientist. “We hope the data we collect will give a more accurate picture of what contractors experience.”

The study will include a web-based survey of private military and security contractors. Anyone who has deployed on contract to a theater of conflict at any point over the past two years is eligible to complete the survey, regardless of the job he or she performed. The survey is anonymous, with no information collected about either the survey respondents or their employers.

Anyone who wants to take part in the survey can access it at <http://mmic.rand.org/contractor>.

The study is part of RAND’s continuing program of self-initiated independent research. Support for such research is provided, in part, by donors and by the independent research and development provisions of RAND’s contracts for the operation of its U.S. Department of Defense federally funded research and development centers. It is being conducted within the Forces and Resources Policy Center, a component of the RAND National Security Research Division helping to improve policy and decision making governing personnel management and use of defense resources to enhance readiness and sustain the nation’s all-volunteer force.

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