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Dear SCEG Members,

We are delighted that SCEG has agreed to participate in and promote the RAND Corporation study on the health and well-being of private contractor personnel who deploy to conflict zones, and we would urge all SCEG member companies to participate. It is vital for the reliability of the study's results – and hence its usefulness for the contractor community – that as many contractors as possible participate in the study by completing a short (10-minute) internet survey. This survey is entirely anonymous: RAND will have no way of knowing who completes it, or the companies for which those individuals work.

The RAND Corporation is a non-partisan, non-profit institution that helps improve policy and decision-making through research and objective analysis. RAND is sponsoring this study on the health and well-being of private contractor personnel who deploy to conflict zones in recognition that little is known about the health issues facing deployed contractors. Private contractors provide crucial support to both governmental and non-governmental entities across the globe and it is vital that a better understanding of their health issues is developed. Given the shortage of credible, objective research on these issues, RAND's study aims to contribute data and analysis to this topic in an effort to better understand the most important issues facing deployed contractors.

As indicated above, the study entails a short (10-minute), one-time, internet survey of current and former contractors who have worked in theaters of conflict. The survey covers topics such as respondents' military history, experience working on contract in a conflict zone, health status (including rating of overall health, current health conditions, tobacco and alcohol use, and mental health), health care use, and basic demographic information.

This study has been reviewed by RAND's Institutional Review Board (IRB), which reviews all research involving human subjects as required by U.S. federal regulations. As part of the IRB review process, we have ensured that both personal and company anonymity are maintained in the survey and in any documents that are produced to report the study's findings. No identifying information on either individual respondents or their employers will be collected and survey responses will go directly to RAND.

We would be pleased to have as many SCEG member companies as possible participate in this study, and we believe individual firms would benefit by taking advantage of this opportunity to better understand any health issues facing their workforce and contractors. Doing so could shed light on the possibility of increased insurance premiums or other unforeseen expenses that might arise related to contractor health and well-being issues.

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Moreover, participation in this study is a chance for each company to further its own corporate social responsibility and improve the private military and security industry's transparency and legitimacy as a whole, which is entirely consistent with SCEG's aspirations.

Participation in the study would entail a fairly small commitment on the part of each company: we would simply ask that company management send out the survey web link with a RAND-provided invitation to participate to all of their contractor personnel who deploy on contract.

Individual contractors' commitment, if they choose to participate, would involve filling out this short, one-time survey. Again, participation in this study is *entirely voluntary and anonymous*. RAND anticipates publishing the results of this study late in 2013. The resulting publication(s) will be briefed to industry executives and interested policymakers.

We have agreed with SCEG's Director, Paul Gibson, that if we receive a large number of survey responses, we would be happy to brief the results to a meeting of SCEG companies in early autumn 2013.

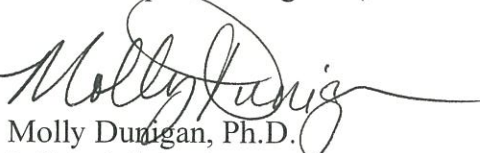
We hope you will agree to participate in this study by sending out the survey web link to your personnel who deploy on contract. The survey is available online at <http://mmic.rand.org/contractor>. Again, the reliability of the study's results will depend upon the number of contractors who complete the survey. You are in a position to improve the quality of this research by helping us to distribute this survey among contractors as widely as possible. If you have any questions about the study, please feel free to contact us at the following email address: [contractorsurvey@rand.org](mailto:contractorsurvey@rand.org)

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Sincerely,

The Principal Investigators, RAND Contractor Health & Well-Being Study

  
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