

Survey Authorization Process

While the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC) is an independent agency established by the Congress,¹ conducting a survey of active and/or reserve Service members by any government agency requires approval from DOD. The principal organization within DOD that reviews survey requests that require access to Service member records is the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC). We have included documents reviewed by DMDC and other DOD organizations in the authorization process. This list includes DD Form 2936 which provides ultimate signature authority by DOD to proceed with the survey.

Note that while DOD's authorization was needed to access military personnel records, MCRMC had sole authority over the design of the survey and the methods used to analyze and report on the results. DMDC did, however, provide helpful advice on how best to reach Service members and what to anticipate in terms of response rates.

MCRMC also surveyed the military retired population, but instead of DMDC, this required approval from OMB. The OMB approval documents are also included.

Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission

November, 2015

¹National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2013, Pub. L. No. 112-239, 126 Stat. 1632, 1787 (2013) (as amended by National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2014, Pub. L. No. 113-66, Sec. 1095(b), 127 Stat. 672, 879 (2013)).