

Control Number:

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BACKGROUND

In June 2008, the Secretary of the Navy tasked the Inspector General of the Marine Corps (IGMC) to conduct a Financial Health Quick Poll (FHQP) to determine the level of financial stress the recent economic environment was having on our Marines and their families (e.g., increased gas prices, insurance rates, mortgage issues, etc.). This assessment is a follow up to the 2008 FHQP assessment, and includes the financial health stress assessment of Marine Corps Reservists.

MARADMIN 0558/09 announced the Financial Health Quick Poll, which ran from 17 September to 16 October 2009. Access to the survey was controlled by information loaded into the Marine Corps Total Force System (MCTFS); last five digits of their social security number and birth date. The 2009 survey resulted in over 14,000 (7%) Active Duty Marines and 4,000 (4%) Reserve Marines participating in the survey which is an increase of over 5,000 responses from 2008. No responses were received from Sailors attached to Marine Corps units.

The IGMC collaborated with Manpower and Reserve Affairs (M&RA) to assimilate a web-based survey for Active Duty Marines and, with the assistance of Marine Forces Reserves (MARFORRES), created a separate survey for Reserve Marines.

SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

The Scope of this assessment encompassed the entire population of Active Duty and Reserve Marine Corps personnel to measure the economic stress of Marines and their families as a result of the 2008 - 2009 economic down turn that effected the national economy.

The method used in the assessment consisted of web-based surveys, which were similar to the 2008 survey, which were open to all Active Duty and Reserve Marines, as well as Sailors assigned to Marine Corps units, and research. The research was conducted through discussions and interviews with the Henderson Hall Marine Corps Community Service Personal Financial Management Officer, Financial Managers from other U.S. Military Services, and other Financial Management organizations. Data was also reviewed from the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society.

The difference in the 2008 and 2009 Assessments are the addition of Reserve Marines and Sailors assigned to Marine Corps units and the research. However, the this report also makes a comparison between the 2008 and 2009 Active Duty data where there is comparable data.

The survey instrument was placed on the M&RA website and data was analyzed by M&RA, Personal and Family Readiness Division, Future Operations, Analysis (MRW) Section.