

**PROOF OF CONCEPTS TEST  
FIELD REPRESENTATIVE (FR) DEBRIEFING QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Q3: If you were dissatisfied with the amount of time your Field Supervisor and/or immediate supervisor were able to spend with you during and/or prior to the POC test, please explain below what caused the dissatisfaction.**

- RO Supervisors always seemed to be busy or out of reach.
- SFR was very busy – sometimes the only time available was late in the evening
- None - FS always called back or emailed within a reasonable time period.

**Q7: If you felt your Field Supervisor was not helpful, please explain how your Field Supervisor could have been more helpful? *(Please print)***

NO COMMENTS

**Q9: If you felt your SFR/Program Supervisor(s) were not helpful, please explain how they could have been more helpful?**

NO COMMENTS

**Q12: If you feel there was a change in how often you had to contact your Field Supervisor during the POC test compared with how often you had to contact your SFR/Program Supervisors prior to the POC test, please explain below why you think this occurred?**

- I spoke to my FS more during the POC because she was the only go-to person to discuss and resolve any issues that we had.
- I had to contact the FS more during the POC test to facilitate letters and supplies.
- Telephone contact kept to a minimum; lots of emails
- Pilot program – needed to get the kinks out
- We were required to contact the supervisor every Friday & Monday unless our workload was finished, so we had to contact them more often than before POC (sometimes also had to contact them in between as well because of special case situations).
- Because there were other circumstances, such as trouble with computer, payroll, etc., everything was done through the FS.
- I had to contact my FS much more often – could not call in for letters or get timely answers that I was used to getting. My production time went up by at least 15%.

- Tighter bond.
- She was the only person we could call. We could not call the office. I had a lot of questions and could not call the different people in the office, but now I had just one person to answer all my questions and handle my problems (on my cases, payroll, computer problems, questions about ordering, office notes, emails, and the list goes on). She was the only contact and I know she was busy with all of us just calling her. Before the POC, we could call the office and I did. Everyone there was polite, friendly and helpful.
- There seemed to be a lot of pressure put on the FS to make the POC work so there was much more contact than previously. In addition, automation, respondent letters, supplies and materials were all issues for which I had the independent discretion to contact the RO on an as needed basis and did not have to go through my SFR first.
- I was working a survey that was new to me.
- All my emails and letter requests went through her. Also, I had to let her know when I called the RO for CPS Fast Data. Also all my NAMCS/NHAMCS contact went through her but never did before.
- There was more contact at first but by the middle of September it was less often as new FS and I got to know each other better.
- Worked on additional survey for first time.
- Because it was mandated to notify her every time letters were requested, etc. etc.
- Having to send daily reports of the work I was going to do and work completed was over doing it.
- The FS handled it well. I saw no change in her service.

**Q14: If you were NOT satisfied with your Field Supervisor's ability to answer your questions on a topic, please list the topic(s), the question(s) that your Field Supervisor could not answer, and what you did to get your question(s) answered.**

- (a) Workload – why was 20 cases deleted from my temporary survey? I anticipated work for a longer time frame. Answer: the survey supervisor did it. (b) Why should I continue contacting refusing respondents if the requested letters have not been sent or confirmed sent? (c) When asked about the delay in RO response for letters, the answer was: there is only one clerk...but there were three clerks. (d) After a request for transfer of language barrier/refusal cases early on, the answer was “wait.” It was approximately a month later.

- FS needed to relay my message that a letter was needed - ended up with a one day delay of the information, which delayed my time to re-contact the household. Payroll concerns were never an issue before but were during the POC.
- My FS was very helpful and responsive – but it seemed there was an unnecessary step in contacting the FS when I ended up having to contact the RO anyway. It would have saved time to just contact the RO in the first place.
- If she did not know, she forwarded my question or request on to the appropriate department immediately, so I was always satisfied.
- None – no problems
- Not permitted to speak to anyone else so no resolution possible.

**Q16: If you were NOT satisfied with your SFR's/RO's/Program Supervisors' ability to answer your questions on a topic, please list the topic(s), the question(s) that your he/she could not answer, and what you did to get your question(s) answered. (Please print)**

- How to handle LWOP status – disability; What paper work do I need? Where do I get it? Where do I send it? AHS is very difficult.
- Workload – I requested additional work but the answer was due to “cutbacks” the work is limited. However, my SFR did get some additional work for me.
- RO did serve me well. My only concern with this order of operation was the delay in getting my letters to the household and the communication delay in general.
- My SFR did not have the same ability to change my workload around that the FS had.
- All email and phone requests were cc'ed to the department and to the SFR.
- No problems. Prior SFR was very cooperative.

**Q18: If it took more/less time to get your questions answered during the POC test, please explain below how you handled/dealt with the situation.**

- Incident reports need - took more time because neither of us was familiar with what terms were necessary.
- Turnaround time from POC mailbox to survey specific clerk - response to request took way too long. Not the fault of the local SFR.

- I think it took less time for my questions to be answered because she was our dedicated person and was always on top of any issues that I may be having. She was very well prepared to help and answer any questions. I really preferred to deal with one person.
- If I was not getting a response from the RO, FS had to call them to facilitate.
- Fast Data took longer in every request. In one instance, it took 3 business days to get a response and then it was done because my supervisor called and requested it.
- Additional emails for letter requested from RO; additional email to SFR.
- Response time for letter requests for temporary surveys via email initially took too long. Clerk was not familiar with the survey. I made requests to FS – she brought attention to the issue and corrected it.
- Email to SFR
- I had to wait for the RO staff to contact me – because I was not permitted to call them. Most of the time they did not call/email to confirm my letter requests. (In 3 months I had only three contacts back from the RO) The office needs more staff!
- I called the FS, waited for a call back if busy, but sent emails as backup if extremely time-sensitive. FS would respond by either giving the necessary information or a contact, which was always right to the point; she would also give options if she did not know the answer.
- As my supervisor had more responsibilities it took longer to get in contact with her and we were not able to get some issues resolved without going through her first.
- My production level went down – I was unable to act on revisits until the letter arrived a day or two late. My response rate may have gone down as well. I need the quick response the RO call gave me.
- Patience.
- Less time to get answers to questions results in better productivity; case resolved faster.
- Before POC, I would call all the many people in the RO during business hours and there was always someone available all day. Evening/weekends I would call my supervisor. During the POC, I had to wait until she was available and could call me back. She always returned my calls/emails. I know she was extremely busy with all of us calling but she was always professional, helpful and friendly and always patient and willing to help. It did not matter what time we called – nights/weekends seven days a week. She was never irritated if I called 9-10 pm or on Sundays. She was always available. If she was at training, or whatever, she called as soon

as she could on her break or would send emails late at night. She spent a lot of time being helpful.

- Most of the areas ended up needing RO assistance and it seemed like an unnecessary step to go through the FS to get permission to contact the RO. In addition, my FS had more difficulty in getting my cases back from CAPI.
- Did not take that much more time, just a little. I liked being able to call or email the FS more; nice having a single point of contact.
- Contacted FS and usually had answer quickly.
- More: Just having to go through the process twice - calling FS and then calling survey clerks.

**Q25: Why do you think your workload changed during the POC test? Other – please explain:**

- Housing survey came on-line.
- Worked additional surveys (not too many!) Need more work!
- NHAMCS “kicked in” during the period; it had nothing to do with the test.
- More and different procedures on the computer (more passwords to use, new way of doing email, etc.)
- Because it was a test to see if we are able to handle any type of situation given to us, especially if others were sick, etc.
- Assisted other FRs; given additional cases; learned new programs.
- No survey work (DAAL, CAUS).
- Done because of S.S. restrictions.
- I was confined to inner city locations.
- FRs needed to be hired in several counties.

**Q29: If having one person to report to made your job easier, please explain how your job became a little/lot easier.**

- Time wasn't needed to discover who I should talk to. The time waiting for responses to messages was dramatically reduced.
- One person knew all of my workload for other surveys - this made it easier to set my work priorities and goals without another SFR thinking her survey was more important.
- With payroll, I had an issue where some of my hours were missing. In the past when I had to call the RO, the representative handling my payroll was busy, so I would have to try calling back many times in a day or week to reach her, as opposed to just getting the issue resolved with my SFR.

- SFR was always available
- It was nice, only having to dial one person's number and she was already familiar with FRs and their work habits. Worked more closely as a team to help one another as well; FS was also experienced in what we do.
- Consistency.
- More timely and efficient communication; continuity to conversations about cases – FS more familiar with progression of a case, specifically a difficult respondent. Thus the FS was able to provide more timely suggestions for a successful outcome; FS more familiar with field operations and the need for quick communication to resolve a case; FS more attuned to FR's cases on all surveys; Quicker response to resolving questions immediately rather than waiting for office direction during its hours of operation.
- My FS worked in the field and had a much better understanding of issues and problems that can cause FRs not to meet established goals. A lot of the tension between RO supervisors and FRs was alleviated by having the FS as the intermediary.
- One point of contact - who usually forwarded emails and responses – is in my opinion an easy way to do business.
- Less transferring around to get answers.
- I could just make one call and cover everything at once. Did not have to wait to reach others to get answers.
- One chief only to talk to and do as told and not so many different answers.
- I have always had strong SFRs. I like the idea of one person well trained on all surveys.
- Deadlines by different supervisors was diminished.
- One phone call to one person – but it's always been that way!

**Q30: If having one person to report to made your job more difficult, please explain how your job became a little/lot more difficult.**

- I prefer to go directly to the person who can handle my request and get it done rather than several hands just “passing the buck” and not knowing when or if the job request got done.

- It wasn't having one person to report to, it was the time it took to get response letters and supplies from the RO that made things more difficult (sometimes 2-3 days wait for phone call from RO).
- You don't always get direct answers to your questions. Subjected to transfer of cases because you have no voice other than the FS, which can be stressful. (less work/less money)
- One more channel to go through instead of direct contact with RO – took more time to get answers/help.
- Getting Fast Data information and sending letters to respondents was more difficult. It took longer.
- I did not consistently hear back from the supervisor as soon as I would have preferred, because she had to be out in the field, or busy with so many responsibilities to all the team members.
- More difficult as everything needed to go through my supervisor first, such as getting computer repaired, payroll questions answered, letter request okayed, etc.
- I could not get an answer to my concerns in a timely manner. Had to call FS who had to call ARD who had to call someone else to get a simple refusal letter sent etc. My production went down because of their timing problem.
- If that person was not available, had to wait. Old way - there was always (Mon-Fri) a person who could help us after hours.
- The SFR was not always available and, in one case, was not familiar with one of my surveys.
- Requiring daily emails - very time consuming. No other resource permitted if you disagreed with any decision.
- Had to go through channels when an immediate answer was necessary.
- Feeling micro-managed.

**Q32: What did you like about having one person (i.e., the FS) to report to for all surveys?**

- It saved time in that communications were easier. FS was familiar with assignments and able to respond with practical suggestions.
- It was easier and more efficient and more productive.
- It is always easier to “chase down” one person instead of ten!
- My FS was very helpful and responded in a timely manner to any issues.
- SFR was always available.

- Answers to question...I would usually call the RO and questions were answered in a timely manner – much faster.
- I have always had an SFR to report to for the surveys I worked.
- FS was experienced in all areas: FS encouraged us as to what we could do to get the job done; FS always communicated – kept us in constant motion as to what was expected; FS spoke with me everyday about deadlines, new polices, etc.
- Build rapport
- Availability of the FS on all the FR's surveys created faster solutions to questions and/or problems in the field.
- Only had one person following up on surveys instead of several calls from a variety of people. Only had one supervisor style to adapt to instead of three or four; didn't have competition between surveys for priority.
- One point of contact.
- FS was up to date on all my issues. Little confusion as to strategies taken.
- Easier chain of command.
- Easily accessible and extremely knowledgeable and helpful.
- Always speak to the same person and that way you don't get conflicting info, you are always on the "same page" with your SFR and then, if need be, she will tell you when to call someone else.
- Same as question 29.
- It is more efficient.
- She knows me and I know her way of doing things.
- A FS who is thoroughly trained in surveys and can answer our inquiries is very beneficial.
- Deadlines by different supervisors was diminished.
- One phone call to one person – but it's always been that way!

**Q33: What did you dislike about having one person (i.e., the FS) to report to for all surveys?**

- Rather go directly to source/tool - too much time to get what I needed done!
- If there is a case where my FS is unreachable, I would like the option of reaching someone else A.S.A.P.
- Nothing
- Each survey we know represents a concensus of people/change. No two respondents are exactly alike. The information obtained for two surveys from four respondents can be totally distinctive and/or varied because of their specific experiences.
- One more channel to go through instead of direct contact with the RO – took more time to get answers/help.
- Team building, strong SFR conference



- Not as many resources for me to use in my field work. Timing made me less effective. A simple phone call was now a series of conversations to get the job done.
- From my experience during the POC, field operations were very efficient reporting to one person for all surveys.
- The potential for conflict with one person and not having any options for who to talk to; My FS was great and this was not the case with her but I would be nervous if I only had one individual to confer with on difficult cases.
- Redundant for NAMCS/NHAMCS where FS had no direct experience or input - more work for her. Everything was forwarded anyway.
- No dislikes. Worked for me.
- Nothing.
- The FR position tends to be lonely with no office staff for interaction. Having only a FS took away some of the contact with RO personnel that had felt essential.
- Too much control for one person; too demanding. Too much “nit picking” – rarely any positive feedback.
- If we have an immediate question on a particular survey it would be helpful to call RO supervisor, who is thoroughly trained in the survey.

**Q34: From an FR’s viewpoint, what are the advantages of this new RO structure?**

- The new structure is not clear to me besides wanting to be more efficient.
- I found that communicating by email with my SFR and other FRs was very convenient.
- None
- Consistency and reliability
- Quicker communication and faster resolution of field concerns. Better productivity, better response rates, quality data, and overall improved knowledge of survey concepts.
- One supervisor knows what you are doing or not doing.
- One person to answer to regarding survey issues, especially for FRs working on multiple surveys; Reduction in RO issues around survey prioritization; Difference in supervisor styles. The FS has a greater understanding of field issues having worked in the field. One supervisor’s input on performance.
- If your FS gives you a wrong turn, there is only one person responsible.
- Single point of contact for CPS and Admin, in some cases.
- One person to troubleshoot and strategize with - both of us on same page; RO 90% of time.

- Faster response to questions/problems.
- Single point of contact
- Less confusion, less time in contacting several program supervisors.
- It is more efficient.
- Not having to deal with the RO. This RO does not return calls unless they want something.
- Always someone available to give you an answer.
- I have always been able to go to my immediate supervisor with questions. Responding daily kept me more focused.
- I'm new but totally satisfied with my supervisor.

**Q35: From a Field Representative's viewpoint, what are the disadvantages of this new RO structure?**

- None
- Possible discrimination with personalities; work not getting done quickly enough.
- I did not like the letter request and Fast Data process.
- The disadvantages are not real damaging. The new RO structure was a smooth operation.
- The disadvantages were the problems/time it took to get the RO calls back to get respondent letters sent to correct respondent; and also supplies – the FS had to call them several times to facilitate.
- See 34 above
- No interaction with the RO – isolation in the field – lack of team concept.
- Breakdown in communication with the RO, in some instances, such as requests for supplies and letters - unless the email procedure will be monitored more intensely.
- More burden on FS; Making the FS an administrative position not a field position; no contact with the RO.
- I found it difficult to get letters send to respondents. Getting Fast Data information was also difficult.
- It does seem to be more efficient but in some ways it takes more time, especially all the work on the computer and waiting for letters to be handled. Plus, not being able to contact someone with urgent matters – if it takes more time, how is it saving money?
- Too much time before problems get solved – field work is fast paced.
- Less effective use of my time. Inability to get a small job done with one phone call vs. the chain reaction.
- None visible.
- From an FR's viewpoint, the implementation of the new RO structure will result in improved operations. No disadvantages at this time.
- If she's not available, you have to wait. They do a lot of other duties and have a lot of people calling them.
- FS's time is spread too thin - addressing conversion of potential reluctant respondents and workload issues; too much time on routine issues such as material/supply requests. Respondent letters need to have FS approval, which causes increase in lag time and decrease in productivity when you end up contacting the RO anyway.
- If your FS gives you a wrong turn, there is no alternative communication network.

- Redundant contact for NAMCS/NHAMCS, Admin (in some cases) and ROCS.
- None for me during test period.
- Requires one person to have broad knowledge.
- None.
- It was a little disheartening.
- Being forbidden to speak to anyone else, too controlling, gives one person too much power. They should not have access to my ?? rate!
- Too many people won't be able to keep track of one person and may cause conflict.
- If RO supervisors are not thoroughly trained in surveys -- and cannot answer our questions -- could be a hindrance in completing them in a timely manner. (i.e., A hospital calls with a question and would like an answer within a short period of time. Calling the Field Supervisor who calls their representative who goes to the RO who may not be thoroughly trained and may not know the answer takes away from the integrity of the Field Rep to represent the Census Bureau in a professional manner.)
- Don't see any.

**Q36: Do you think the FS job is one that you would like to have? No – *please explain:***

- Prefer to work more independently.
- I'm sure it was and can be very overwhelming at times.
- Medical issues would prevent me from doing it.
- As a field position – yes; as an administrative position – no.
- The SFR job is too much of an office job with little field work.
- Too many workload demands = too stressful.
- Maybe - I would have to know more details.
- Happy with my current role as an FR.
- Hours are long – seven days a week, nights, and days. I would not want to drive all over the state/county.
- Based on the POC, the Field Supervisor's job appears more difficult and time consuming than the SFR job.
- Too demanding on all sides.
- Never have wanted that job – nothing has changed; I'm retired senior.
- Hours I put in now are sufficient.
- Present assignments take as much time as I have available.
- Just don't want more hours!
- Too much work.
- Not sure what it entails.
- I like what I do now.
- Salary limitations.

**Q37: If there are any additional comments you would like to share about your experiences during the POC test and its impact on your job as a Field Representative, please describe them below. If you need more space, please attach an additional piece of paper.**

- I would declare it a success from all aspects. We worked together to improve the Census Bureau efficiencies and it was exciting to help do this. Keep up the avenues of change. Thank you.
- I appreciate being part of the POC test. Thank you!
- Again, letters going to deceased/incorrect respondents and not in a timely manner. Also not getting supplies until FS intervened. The clerks at the RO said they weren't getting emails. In emails where a (PII) phone call was required, it was often 2-3 days before responses came and sometimes they sent letters to incorrect respondents. It was frustrating as we weren't supposed to call them.
- As stated, it had little impact on me.
- Withheld
- More emails and less phone contact further alienates any field employee from much needed personal contact. When I sent emails for AHS letters it took weeks to get a response. I received this questionnaire via an email on Thursday Nov 3, 2011 and was expected to FedEx it the next day Friday, which was not possible for me. That's NOT FAIR that your urgency is my emergency but my request took weeks. Sorry this is one day late.
- I think as we work with the concept more, the more proficient we will become. I did enjoy learning the POC.
- We had to fit in more detailed ways of doing our work, but were not allowed more hours per case to do it. The new procedures are supposed to be more cost-effective, but how is that possible when it takes longer? We tried it for three months, but the 3<sup>rd</sup> month did not take any less time than in the beginning. (i.e., we don't get used to it just because we've done it longer.) There is just so much of us to go around and only so many hours in the day. Time schedule changes and weather also affected our ability to contact respondents (they won't answer the door after dark), and the general public is more and more frustrated with the government (harder to get them to respond = more visits = more time!)
- The (POC test and FS test) are only as good as the FS. The person has to be positive, energetic, have ideas and be able to communicate with FRs, have experience and know the challenges that we face daily with the respondents, as well as challenges that come with this job (well rounded individuals); The best key to the program was communication, communication, communication – everything else will follow; Our FS definitely fit the bill. She did a great job! She was excellent!

- Thank you very much for the opportunity to work on the POC. Denver's field operations were extraordinary with an incredibly knowledgeable and talented Field Supervisor.
- (1) On Sept 30 went to do payroll and the code would not work. Tried many times to call supervisor late that evening. She did not have new project code for several days. (2) Received mail packet (notes, etc.) the end of the month while getting new cases (last day). Could we get it 4-5 days before new cases so we can review it? (3) I received this POC debriefing survey at 5:30 pm when arriving home from out on my cases on Nov 3. It's due Nov 4<sup>th</sup> so I had to do it that night immediately and put everything else on hold. A survey this important needed more time to read, think and write. It was rushed. It took one hour and 45 minutes to complete.
- I would suggest having a person, with the appropriate level of authority, identified to aid in reluctant respondent conversion; Continue to allow FRs the discretion to contact RO for routine issues such as automation/computer issues, respondent letters, materials and supplies; Have POC last longer than three months since not all the kinks could get worked out or tested (i.e., how would performance evaluations work). It seems pointless to have a POC team and then disband it only to reorganize this same structure in six months or less; Have entire team cross trained on all surveys so all team members can act as back up for each other.
- My FS was very knowledgeable and, thanks to her, several interviewing and transmission errors were ironed out due to the one-on-one help. However I felt that at the end, she might have been dreading my phone calls.
- The only time there was a lack of communication was when some of my cases were reassigned or I was given another FR's cases to follow-up on. A couple of times we ended up working on the same cases at the same time. It would help to get an email when reassignments are made and instructions on what the follow-up expectations are specifically.
- My SFR is the most knowledgeable SFR I've ever worked with.
- Just started with September case load - don't know how things were before POC Test.
- I have been very fortunate to have a wonderful SFR, who is always timely and helpful.
- Never got specific written instructions for this test - UNKNOWN if guidelines were followed. Cannot understand how you can evaluate the POC when there were no written guidelines provided. If the supervisor could do letter requests and Fast Data, it would be helpful.
- My FS was a great supervisor.
- This concept in my mind was a good one, though not having any information about it, I had difficulties; having to request Fast Data from a different check was untimely.