SUPPORTING STATEMENT – PART B

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

1. Description of the Activity

The survey will be conducted online. Survey variables will be used to provide a snapshot of the current and emerging non-medical counseling needs for military children, to better understand how the current CYB-MFLC program addresses those needs within the school context, and to identify how the CYB-MFLC program operates within the broader landscape of non-medical counseling services in the community. Data analysis will be descriptive and will not focus on specific outcomes.

The Needs Assessment of Child and Youth Non-Medical Counseling will collect information from the universe of school principals at civilian schools involved with the CYB-MFLC program (N=900). We are expecting a lower than average response rate (~180 assuming a 20% response rate). Thus, a census survey is proposed which will allow for an adequate final sample size to look at important subgroups and thereby increasing the usefulness of the data.

By collecting information on the non-medical counseling needs for all CYB-MFLC programs, the study will accurately identify the full range of non-medical counseling needs across all CYB-MFLC programs. As no data currently exists on many of the potentially important grouping variables (for example, presence of counseling staff or resources to address nonmedical counseling needs), no sampling frame could be created that would adequately reflect these variables.

2. Procedures for the Collection of Information

Describe any of the following if they are used in the collection of information:

a. Statistical methodologies for stratification and sample selection

The Needs Assessment of Child and Youth Non-Medical Counseling survey will be conducted online. The target population includes school principals associated with the CYB-MFLC program (N=900). As no data currently exists on many of the potentially important grouping variables (for example, presence of counseling staff or resources to address nonmedical counseling needs), no sampling frame could be created that would adequately reflect these variables

b. Estimation procedures;

The Needs Assessment of Child and Youth Non-Medical Counseling will collect information from the universe of school principals at civilian schools involved with the CYB-MFLC program (N=900). We are expecting a lower than average response rate (~180 assuming a 20% response rate). Thus, a census survey is proposed which will allow for an adequate final sample size to look at any important subgroups and thereby increasing the usefulness of the data.

c. Degree of accuracy needed for the Purpose discussed in the justification;

Survey variables will be used to provide a snapshot of the current and emerging non-medical counseling needs for military children, to better understand how the current CYB-MFLC program addresses those needs within the school context, and to identify how the CYB-MFLC program operates within the broader landscape of non-medical counseling services in the community. Data analysis will be descriptive and will not focus on specific outcomes.

d. Unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures; and

N/A

e. Use of periodic or cyclical data collections to reduce respondent burden.

N/A. Stakeholder survey questions are unique to the CYB-MFLC program. Stakeholder perceptions of military child needs, CYB-MFLC services, and gaps in non-medical counseling support for military children have not been assessed in other data collection efforts.

3. Maximization of Response Rates, Non-response, and Reliability

This study will employ several approaches to maximize response rate and reliability.

Introductory email from Military Community and Family Policy (MC&FP). Leadership from MC&FP will send an email to potential respondents the day before the survey launch to provide information about the purpose of the survey, and summarize the value of their responses to MC&FP leadership. This email also lets respondents know that MC&FP has approved of this data collection effort. A draft of this email is included in Appendix A.

Reminder emails. Reminder emails will be sent 3 days and 2 weeks after survey launch. Drafts of these email reminders are included in Appendix B.

Development of nonresponse weights. A number of strategies to maximize response rates to the survey will be used. However, some nonresponse is expected so appropriate statistical procedures to correct for any potential nonresponse bias will be used. To allow for survey results to be generalizable to all schools that participate in the CYB-MFLC program, non-response weights will be designed based on program and school characteristics (e.g., type of school—elementary/middle/high, size of student body, setting) that will allow for reweighting the sample of survey respondents to be similar to the population of schools that were invited to participate. Logistic regression models will be used to predict the propensity of a school principal participating in the survey and the inverse of the propensity will be used as non-response weights. Extremely large weights will be trimmed to avoid outliers and influential observations. These obtained weights will be used throughout the analyses for inference.

4. Tests of Procedures

The survey will be quality reviewed internally once programmed to ensure clarity and accuracy and to ensure it does not take longer to complete than anticipated.

5. Statistical Consultation and Information Analysis

a. Provide names and telephone number of individual(s) consulted on statistical aspects of the design.

Lane Burgette (burgette@rand.org) RAND Corporation, 412-683-2300 ext. 4148

b. Provide name and organization of person(s) who will actually collect and analyze the collected information.

Thomas Trail (ttrail@rand.org) RAND Corporation, 703-413-1100 ext. 5681

Laurie Martin (lamartin@rand.org) RAND Corporation, 703-413-1100 ext. 5083.

Lane Burgette (burgette@rand.org) RAND Corporation, 412-683-2300 ext. 4148.