



## FLAG VOICE #533

### Announcement of 2021 CONUS Living Pattern Survey

11 January 2021

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I am pleased to announce the opening of the 2021 CONUS Living Pattern Survey (LPS). As the first step in the Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) rate setting process, the LPS is an opportunity for the CONUS military community to influence future rates. Coast Guard participation helps ensure that the DoD has the necessary data to accurately compute COLA for the next three years (CYs 2022-24). Members will be asked to select which goods and services they regularly purchase at local stores and the percentage of shopping they complete at on-base facilities (commissaries & exchanges – if available) and online. This survey is extremely important for remote locations where Coast Guard units have the only COLA-eligible footprint in the area (i.e. where there is no DoD presence).

The survey is available for all CONUS-assigned active duty members (including Reserve members on long-term active duty) currently stationed at CONUS duty stations for at least three months. It is also available for family members to complete.

The survey will be available to participants through March 31, 2021, and can be accessed at: <https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/conusColaSurvey.cfm>. A Common Access Card or government computer is not required to access the survey. The survey takes approximately 15 minutes to complete.

Only one LPS survey response is permitted per active duty household; however, in cases where members are residing apart from their dependents, the member at a CONUS PDS or homeport can submit a survey on their own behalf as a member without dependents. Spouses of member's who reside at a designated place in CONUS that is not in the vicinity of the members CONUS PDS may also submit a survey.

More information about this survey is in ALCOAST 006/21.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joanna M. Nunan".

Joanna M. Nunan, RADM, USCG  
Assistant Commandant for Human Resources