



THE CASE FOR HEALTHY MILITARY HOUSING

According to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment, “The quality of military housing, as part of the military quality of life, is a key component of military readiness.” However, recent reports from [Reuters](#) and the [Military Family Action Network](#) present compelling evidence that a portion of current military housing is compromised by conditions including mold, moisture, and vermin that severely impact habitability and the health of occupants. Other reports ([DOD 2016](#)) clearly show that this problem has been known for years. This has serious implications for military readiness. Beyond readiness, unhealthy housing has impacts on health care costs and retention.

We are not aware of any large-scale assessment of the condition of military housing and its effect on occupant health. To gather that information using traditional methods of on-site inspection, testing, and surveys would be exceptionally costly (at least \$700/house) requiring months to complete. Those tasked with insuring the habitability of America’s military housing, readiness of our troops, and providing for the families of service members need a comprehensive assessment tool which can identify the problem, provide a roadmap toward an effective solution, and be implemented without delay.

[Hayward Score](#) has revolutionized the process of rapidly and effectively assessing the conditions in homes connected with health and deliver actionable steps to improve them at a fraction of the cost of traditional physical inspections. After years of development and testing, Hayward Score launched an online tool that assesses how the systems, characteristics, and conditions of the home interact with each other and dynamically with the climate, outdoor pollutants, and occupant behaviors. The results enable Hayward Score to highlight conditions which might impact occupants, and deliver actionable, fact-based recommendations on how to improve them.

Everyone can describe what he or she sees, smells, and how they feel in their home. Those senses are as reliable as most tests to indicate that “something” isn’t right. At Hayward Score we say, “*your senses, our science.*” In less than 15 minutes an occupant can complete the questionnaire and receive a score for their home at no charge. Occupants also receive a personalized, comprehensive 3-5 page report with detailed Action Plans outlining how to address the conditions in their home that could be compromising their health. This report can also inform an independently created scope of work to be used by a contractor tasked with fixing issues.

The Hayward Score leadership team have deep experience in healthy housing. Over 30,000 Americans have opted to get their Hayward Score with many reporting taking action to improve the health of their home. Hayward Score collects 50+ pieces of information about each home, including self-reported symptoms enabling Hayward Score to create one of the largest databases showing the correlation between homes and health.

Hayward Score stands ready to rapidly assess the condition of America’s military housing and its potential effects on our soldiers and their families. Once surveys are complete, we can we can help create a roadmap, with priorities for intervention, that can be used by all parties to ensure that America’s military housing is healthier for service personnel and their families. By rescoring houses each year as changes are made, we can measure progress towards the goal.