



Participant Information Form

Project title: Human Performance in the Submarine Command team

Name of Researchers: Stephanie Chen, Associate Professor Shayne Loft

Invitation:

You are invited to take part in this research project. This participant information form contains detailed information about the research project, and aims to explain to you as openly and clearly as possible all the procedures involved in this project before you decide whether or not to take part. Please read this information carefully, and feel free to ask questions about any information in the document.

Once you understand what the purpose of this project is and if you agree to take part in it, you will be asked to sign a Statement of Informed Consent form. By signing the statement of consent, you indicate that you understand the information provided to you and that you give your consent to participate in the research project. You will be given a copy of this Participant Information document to keep.

Aim of the Study (What is the project about?)

The research aims to investigate team performance within complex work environments which involve both human and technical agents. These environments are referred to as sociotechnical systems. The control room on the submarine has many factors in its design, which includes console configuration, how information is displayed, and the level of automation. Each of these can influence how teams interact, and ultimately the overall team performance. This experiment examines how specific control room design impacts upon team interaction, team cognition and team performance, which will be measured.

What does participation involve?

The experiment will be conducted over one day. During the first half of the day you will be invited to attend training. During the second half you will be invited to participate in a team of individuals operating the submarine simulation under experimental conditions.

In the morning you will be introduced to basic maritime concepts through a training presentation to the whole team. The team will be invited to participate in group activities to consolidate the learning during the team training. You will be assigned to a role within the team. The training will then continue at an individual level that is specific to the assigned role. The team then takes their position within the simulation and a practice scenario will be conducted. In this practice you will experience for the first time, what it is like to operate your console and to work as a team. Researchers will help you with your tasks during this practice run. The team will practice several more times, the last one with little to no

researcher assistance. Each run is followed by a debrief and a chance to ask any questions. By this time, you should feel confident in your tasks, and your role within the team.

In the afternoon you will start with brief refresher training and a short practice scenario. You will then be invited to operate under experimental conditions. These conditions will be video-taped to enable transcription. After each condition you will be invited to complete some questionnaires. The questionnaire will ask you about your experiences, your workload, and your thoughts on your working as a team.

The experimenter will explain the exact requirements of the study you should you choose to participate, and you will have an opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

Voluntary Participation and Withdrawal from the Study

As you are voluntarily participating in this research, you are free to withdraw from the study at any time, and for any reason. If choosing to withdraw, you do not have to provide any explanation of your decision, and you may request that any unprocessed data collected from you be removed from the database.

Your name will not be associated with any audio, visual or data file. If you choose to end your participation the video/audio files as well as paper data will be erased. Importantly, non-participation, withdrawal from the study, or withholding of data, will not affect your relationship with the University of Western Australia. For students of the University, withdrawal will have no effect on your grades.

Your privacy

This data will not disclose any identifying information about you, or provided by you during the research, without your written permission or as required by law. Findings will be disseminated to Defence Science and Technology in the form of a report, as well as to the scientific community in the form of journal articles and conference presentations. No identifying information will be included. Following completion of the study, a summary of the overall findings will be made available to those participants who wish to know the outcome of the research.

All data from this study will be stored securely in accordance with regulations prescribed by the University of Western Australia and the National Health & Medical Research Council of Australia. Data will be coded so that participants' identity is known only to the principle investigators. All video/audio recordings will be destroyed after five years in accordance with the Western Australian Sector Disposal Authority.

Possible Benefits

Data obtained from this research will be used to advance scientific knowledge concerning team cognition, team process and team performance, specifically within a Submarine Command team context.

Possible Risks and Risk Management Plan

There are no foreseeable risks associated with this research.

Reimbursement

If you are a student enrolled in an undergraduate Psychology unit, you may be eligible to claim credit towards a research participation component of your unit. Participants who are not students or who are not enrolled in units where research participation can be credited will be offered \$10 dollar per hour spent to cover incidental expenses such as travel and parking.

Contacts

This study has been cleared by one of the human ethics committees of the University of Western Australia in accordance with the National Health and Medical Research Council's guidelines. Please feel free to discuss your participation in this study with the following project staff, who can be contacted as follows:

Steph Chen
Phone: 6488 3312
Email: steph.chen@uwa.edu.au

Associate Professor Shayne Loft
Phone: 6488 4610
Email: Shayne.loft@uwa.edu.au

Sincerely,

Chief Investigator

Approval to conduct this research has been provided by the University of Western Australia, in accordance with its ethics review and approval procedures. Any person considering participation in this research project, or agreeing to participate, may raise any questions or issues with the researchers at any time. In addition, any person not satisfied with the response of researchers may raise ethics issues or concerns, and may make any complaints about this research project by contacting the Human Ethics office at UWA on (08) 6488 3703 or by emailing to humanethics@uwa.edu.au. All research participants are entitled to retain a copy of any Participant Information Form and/or Participant Consent Form relating to this research project.