Going Straight to the Source:

Using Human Subjects Data in Your Thesis, Capstone Report, or Dissertation

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Chair, Institutional Review Board
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How Can We Help Pilots Transition from Day to Night Missions?

Marine Corps finds flaws in investigation of deadly 2018 F/A-18 crash off coast of Japan

Philip Athey
July 3, 2020

In the early morning of Dec. 6, 2018, two F/A-18s assigned to Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242, based in Iwakuni, Japan, met off the coast with a KC-130J bearing the call sign Sumo 41 from Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152.

During an attempt to refuel the jets in the dark, one of the F/A-18s crashed into refueling aircraft, which led to the death of six Marines.

How Can We Help Pilots Transition from Day to Night Missions?

Three consecutive nights

- **Night 1** – baseline; determine melatonin onset; fly three 25-minute missions
- **Night 2** – light exposure; melatonin; fly three 25-minute missions
- **Night 3** – no light exposure; melatonin; fly three 25-minute missions

Data Collected: Flight performance, melatonin onset, reaction time

Human Systems Integration Laboratory

Experiment and/or Simulation
What is the Impact of Videogaming on Warfighter Performance?

Surveys
Questionnaires
Focus Groups
Interviews
How do deployments affect children’s performance in school?

Compare performance of school children whose military parents are deployed to those children whose parents are not deployed.

- School grades
- Special classes (advanced or challenged)
- Disciplinary issues
- Number of deployments
- Length of deployments
- Age of children
What is Human Subjects Research (HSR)?

Research
“A systematic investigation designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge”

Human Subject
“A living individual about whom an investigator... conducting research obtains (1) data through intervention or interaction with the individual, or (2) identifiable private information” about an individual.”

Common Types of HSR
- Surveys, questionnaires
- Interviews
- Equipment testing on people
- Audio/video recording
- Archived data mining
- Task/work analysis

Yours might be HSR!
Process for when a student plans to engage in an activity that may be considered human subjects research.

Student identifies a topic for a thesis or capstone

Student selects an advisor and the advisor agrees to the topic

Student conducts a brief literature review and develops a method

The advisor agrees to the method

The student drafts a thesis or capstone proposal

Does proposal include activity that may involve interaction with humans or information about humans?

Yes

Complete a determination request form, have advisor sign it, and submit it to IRB. Wait for a response before undertaking any activity that may involve human subjects research

Did the IRB determine that the activity was human subjects research?

Yes

Student and advisor must complete IRB application and CITI training, submit to IRB, and wait for approval prior to engaging in any human subject research activity

No

Activity does not constitute human subjects research and student can begin research activity

Survey, focus group, interview, questionnaire, audio/video recording, or secondary information about people
HRPP and IRB Contact Information

IRB Contact Information:

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Cooperate and Graduate!!