



DON Human Research Protection Program

Department of the Navy Human Research Protection Program (DON HRPP)

DoD Personnel in Research

April 2013

Unclassified

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Military Personnel as Subjects



DON Human Research Protection Program

A convenient research population, may be “vulnerable”:

- Ideal healthy volunteer population
- Adherence to Chain of Command and requirement to respect rank
- May forsake their autonomy for the sake of accomplishing the mission

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SECNAVINST 3900.39D



DON Human Research Protection Program

“Regardless of the risk level of the research, no superiors (civilian supervisors, officers, and noncommissioned officers (NCOs)) shall influence the decisions of their subordinates (e.g., junior enlisted personnel) whether to participate as research subjects.”

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Military Personnel



DON Human Research Protection Program

- Service members shall follow their command policies regarding the requirement to obtain command permission to participate in research involving human subjects while on-duty.
 - Commands may require PIs confirm that a Service member's commander supports the member's participation in the research.
- Superiors are prohibited from influencing the decisions of their subordinates regarding participation in the research.
- Superiors of Service members in the chain of command shall not be present at any recruitment sessions or during the consenting process.

from DoDI 3216.02

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Military Personnel

DON Human Research Protection Program

- For greater than minimal risk research involving Service members **and** when recruitment occurs in a group setting, the IRB shall appoint an ombudsman, who:
 - shall not be associated in any way to the research and,
 - shall be present during the recruitment and,
 - ensures the information provided about the research is clear, adequate, and accurate.
- For research involving Service members that has been determined to be NO greater than minimal risk and when recruitment occurs in a group setting, the IRB shall determine when it is appropriate to appoint an ombudsman.

from DoDI 3216.02

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Civilian Personnel

DON Human Research Protection Program

- DoD Civilians shall follow their organization's policies regarding the requirement to obtain permission to participate in human subject research.
- Supervisors are prohibited from influencing the decisions of their subordinates regarding participation in human subject research.
- Supervisors shall not be present at any human subject recruitment sessions or during the consenting process.
- For research involving civilians and when recruitment occurs in a group setting, the IRB shall discuss appointing an ombudsman.

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from DoDI 3216.02



Questions

DON Human Research Protection Program

Please contact DON HRPP with any follow-up questions or concerns.

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