

University of Southern California
School of Social Work
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INFORMATION SHEET FOR NON-MEDICAL RESEARCH

**SoarTech “Helping our Heroes” Simulation Game
Safety and Effectiveness Study
Screening**

You are invited to participate in a research study conducted by Maryalice Jordan-Marsh, PhD, Marientina Gotsis, MFA and David Baron, DO, MEd at the University of Southern California, because you are aged between 18 and 86 and a family member or friend of an individual who (a) is military personnel on active duty with recent deployment experience, or (b) is a veteran with deployment experience who returned no earlier than 2007. We are looking for participants whose veteran family member or friend is not currently receiving treatment for any post-deployment issues. This work is supported by the US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command under Contract No.W81XWH-09-C-0070. Your participation is voluntary.

You should read the information below, and ask questions about anything you do not understand, before deciding whether to participate. Please take as much time as you need to read the information sheet. You may also decide to discuss participation with your family or friends. You will be able to print a copy of this form.

Completion and return of the questionnaire will constitute consent to participate in this research project.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

This study is being done to learn if a simulation game can help families and friends of active duty military personnel or veterans to recognize potential signs of readjustment issues and to learn when and how to have conversations about readjustment issues with their loved ones. Information gathered from the study will help to understand whether families and friends think such an experience would be an effective and comfortable way to learn about readjustment issues.

STUDY PROCEDURES

There are three parts to this study. The first part is an online survey, which includes questions about your active duty military personnel or veteran family member/friend’s exposure to combat and their deployment history, your active duty military personnel or veteran family member/friend’s service affiliation, place and time of deployment (if known), how you are

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feeling since the active duty military personnel or veteran return, what you know about readjustment issues and related resources for active duty military personnel or veterans and your experience with playing video games and general computer usage. This survey is anticipated to take no more than 20 minutes to complete. You can only participate in this survey if you have internet access.

If you are eligible, you may be invited to participate in the second and third portions, which include additional surveys, playing a simulation game and answering questions about your experience playing the game in an interview with our study personnel. You will be able to complete the second and third portions of the study at your home, at USC, or at a place convenient to you. A member of the research team will be present when you participate in the second and third portions

If you are eligible to participate in the second and third portions of the study, you will be contacted by the researchers and additional information given to you. You will also be given a second consent form to review. You do not have to participate in the second/third portions if you don't want to. You will also be asked to sign the second consent form.

POTENTIAL RISKS AND DISCOMFORTS

Some of the questions may make you feel uneasy or embarrassed. You can choose to skip or stop answering any questions that make you uncomfortable.

There is a small risk that people who are not connected with this study will learn your identity or your personal information.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS TO PARTICIPANTS AND/OR TO SOCIETY

There are no anticipated benefits from your participation in this study. However, your participation in this study may help us learn how to improve software and games for other participants who are similar to you.

PAYMENT/COMPENSATION FOR PARTICIPATION

You will not be compensated for completion of the screening survey. If you are eligible and participate in the second and or third parts, you will receive compensation; the compensation will be fully described in the second consent document.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Any identifiable information obtained in connection with this study will remain confidential and will be disclosed only with your permission or as required by law.

The members of the research team, the funding agency and the University of Southern California's Human Subjects Protection Program (HSPP) may access the data. The HSPP reviews and monitors research studies to protect the rights and welfare of research subjects.

All your information will be confidential and coded. Each participant will have an ID code number. The ID code number, not your name, will be used on all data collected. If someone were to see the data, they would not see your name.

The researchers at USC will keep all of the data in a locked filing cabinet or secure servers. When data is entered into a computer, the computer file will be protected with a password. De-identified data will be maintained indefinitely; identifiable data will be destroyed three years after the study has been completed.

The University of Southern California and Soar Technology, Inc. may use the de-identified data for other research studies. Those studies may develop products that can be sold. If they make money from these products, you will not receive any money. The product you may be testing is intended to be released free of charge.

The U. S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (or the DOD) are authorized to review research records.

PARTICIPATION AND WITHDRAWAL

Your participation is voluntary. Your refusal to participate will involve no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. You may withdraw your consent at any time and discontinue participation without penalty. You are not waiving any legal claims, rights or remedies because of your participation in this research study. You may be removed from this study without your consent for any of the following reasons: you do not follow the investigator's instructions, at the discretion of the investigator or the sponsor, if you demonstrate acute anxiety or depression, or the sponsor closes the study. If this happens, the investigator will discuss other options with you.

INVESTIGATOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions or concerns about the research, please feel free to contact Maryalice Jordan-Marsh, PhD at jordanma@usc.edu or Marientina Gotsis, MFA at, mgotsis@cinema.usc.edu. You may contact us by phone at 213 740 4600.

RIGHTS OF RESEARCH PARTICIPANT – IRB CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions, concerns, or complaints about your rights as a research participant you may contact the IRB directly at the information provided below. If you have questions about the research and are unable to contact the research team, or if you want to talk to someone independent of the research team, please contact the University Park Institutional Review Board (UPIRB), 3720 South Flower Street #301, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0702, (213) 821-5272 or upirb@usc.edu.