### U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School The U.S. Army's Special Operations Center of Excellence



# Sleep: The Secret Weapon for Battlefield Overmatch

Major Allison Brager, PhD Chief Science Officer





Opinions are mine and do not represent those of the Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or federal government

**Conflicts of Interest:** Consultant to National Academy of Sports Medicine, WHOOP, Inc., Momentous, Inc., FitAid, Inc.



### **Sleep Deprivation Kills**









### The Problem (in Combat)





# LOSS OF COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS US Army Artillery Study

	7 Hours	6 Hours	5 Hours	4 Hours
Combat Effectiveness	98%	50%	28%	15%



#### The Problem (in Garrison)







< 3 SD from mean

Geographically based risk assessment of sleep disorders and disease states impacting medical readiness across active duty army installations from military medical databases in fiscal year

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#### Fatigue Management Policies Help



## Sleep Health: Journal of the National Sleep Foundation Commanding Fatigue Management in the Army's Fleet of Commercial Truck Drivers

Quarterly Travel	Type of Day	# Times **
	Full Travel Day	166
	Maintenance Day	64
	Recovery Day	50

<sup>\*\* 10</sup> trucks on the road per quarter

#### **Restrictions:**

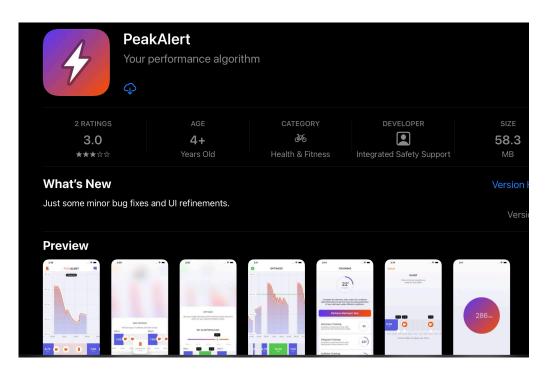
- Both driver and TC (Truck Commander) are CDL-licensed
- Drive no more than 585 miles in a day
- Drive only during daylight hours (more travel days between events required during winter)



#### Fatigue Management Tools Help



Machine-learning app (iPhone/Android) to identify inter-individual differences in waking performance and how to counteract it with caffeine under restricted sleep.





Caffeine gum – Originally developed for Soldiers during the Gulf War by scientists at Walter Reed. Each piece of gum contains 100 mg of caffeine and for purchase on Amazon.



### Challenges of the Operational Environment



www.nature.com/npp

Neuropsychopharmacology

Sleep in the United States Military

Cameron H. Good<sup>1</sup>, Allison J. Brager<sup>2</sup>, Vincent F. Capaldi<sup>3</sup> and Vincent Mysliwiec<sup>4</sup>

1. Sustained Operations (Sleep Amount)

2. Night Operations (Sleep Timing)

3. Austere Environments (Sleep Continuity)





#### Future Gaps and Capabilities – Limited Sleep



- 1. Sustained Cyber Operations (Sleep Amount)
- 2. Night/Subterranean Operations (Sleep Timing)
  - 3. Austere Environments (Sleep Continuity)

Article | Open Access | Published: 26 July 2019

#### Sleep, napping and alertness during an overwintering mission at Belgrano II Argentine Antarctic station

Agustín Folgueira, Guido Simonelli, Santiago Plano, Camila Tortello, Juan Manuel Cuiuli, Abel Blanchard, Alejandro Patagua, Allison J. Brager, Vincent F. Capaldi, André E. Aubert, Marta Barbarito, Diego A. Golombek & Daniel E. Vigo ⊡

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Current state of sleep-related performance optimization interventions for the Esports industry

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#### Future Gaps and Capabilities - Resiliency

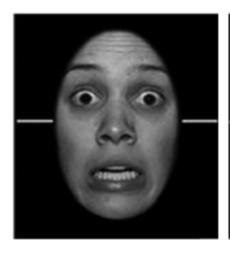


ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Effect of cognitive load and emotional valence of distractors on performance during sleep extension and subsequent sleep deprivation

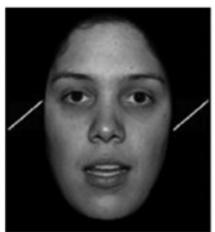
Sara E. Alger<sup>1,\*,</sup>, Allison J. Brager<sup>1</sup>, Thomas J. Balkin<sup>1,2</sup>, Vincent F. Capaldi<sup>1</sup> and Guido Simonelli<sup>1</sup>

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#### Future Gaps and Capabilities - Resiliency



#### **Military Culture**

## The military's obsession with energy drinks is contributing to PTSD, study finds

By: J.D. Simkins October 26, 2018



	<b>Optimal Caffeine</b>
Amount	< 200 mg/time
OPTEMPO < 24 h	4- 6 hours/stop at 1800
OPTEMPO > 24 h	4 -6 hours, as needed

#### **Energy Drinks:**

Monster: 240 mg Rockstar: 240 mg

Bang: 300 mg



#### **Executive Summary**



• Lack of sleep directly (and exponentially) compromises safety, performance, morale, health, and welfare

Fatigue management policies and strategies can mitigate risk

 Operational environments requires optimized performance under limited sleep opportunities

 Although capabilities have been identified, gaps remain in how to monitor, mitigate, and predict military performance







Sleep Research Center Walter Reed Army Institute of Research