

Fiscal Year:	FY 2015	Task Last Updated:	FY 08/11/2014
PI Name:	Roma, Peter Ph.D.		
Project Title:	Development of an Objective Behavioral Assay of Cohesion to Enhance Composition, Task Performance, and Psychosocial Adaptation in Long-Term Work Groups		
Division Name:	Human Research		
Program/Discipline:	HUMAN RESEARCH		
Program/Discipline--Element/Subdiscipline:	HUMAN RESEARCH--Behavior and performance		
Joint Agency Name:	TechPort:	Yes	
Human Research Program Elements:	(1) BHP: Behavioral Health & Performance (archival in 2017)		
Human Research Program Risks:	(1) Team: Risk of Performance and Behavioral Health Decrements Due to Inadequate Cooperation, Coordination, Communication, and Psychosocial Adaptation within a Team		
Space Biology Element:	None		
Space Biology Cross-Element Discipline:	None		
Space Biology Special Category:	None		
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PI Organization Type:	NASA CENTER	Phone:	
Organization Name:	KBR/NASA Johnson Space Center		
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City:	Houston	State:	TX
Zip Code:	77058	Congressional District:	36
Comments:			
Project Type:	Ground	Solicitation / Funding Source:	2011 Crew Health NNJ11ZSA002NA
Start Date:	10/10/2012	End Date:	10/09/2015
No. of Post Docs:		No. of PhD Degrees:	
No. of PhD Candidates:		No. of Master' Degrees:	2
No. of Master's Candidates:	2	No. of Bachelor's Degrees:	3
No. of Bachelor's Candidates:	2	Monitoring Center:	NASA JSC
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Flight Program:			
Flight Assignment:			
Key Personnel Changes/Previous PI:			
COI Name (Institution):	Hursh, Steven (Institute for Behavior Resources, Inc.)		
Grant/Contract No.:	NNX13AB39G		
Performance Goal No.:			
Performance Goal Text:	<p>The long-term goal of the proposed research is to deliver a software tool (currently referred to by its working title of "Team Performance Task" or "Price of Cooperation," TPT/PoC) that will allow long-duration exploration crews to autonomously derive objective, standardized, and quantifiable measures on social dynamics while serving as a decision-aid tool in astronaut selection and multinational crew composition. The TPT/PoC is a unique tool because it is simple, rapid, and operationally feasible like a questionnaire, but is entirely objective, is innovative in that it requires a group-level demonstration of social dynamics rather than relying on individual opinions, and is language-independent, thus making it suitable for cross-cultural applications. Such an empirically validated and operationally feasible software deliverable will contribute to an overall risk mitigation strategy comprised of quantitative, qualitative, objective, and subjective assessment technologies.</p>		

Task Description:	<p>To accomplish this, we have been conducting ground-based experiments to systematically investigate the effects of group composition (gender and personality) on voluntary cooperative propensity in 3-person groups. We are also assessing the predictive validity of pre-mission TPT/PoC "social personality profiles" and the effects of group composition on performance, task cohesion, social cohesion, and biopsychosocial adaptation in mixed-gender "crews" participating in a long-term simulated space exploration task. We are also developing next-generation TPT/PoC software to advance the technology beyond our current prototype used for proof-of-concept/validation research into a broadly applicable tool with cross-platform networking and connectivity, enhanced usability/human factors features, extensive parameter manipulation/flexibility to maximize sensitivity, and integrated data collection, archiving, and visualization capabilities.</p> <p>The proposed project will elucidate the influences of personality, gender, behavior, and neurobiology at the individual and group levels while yielding powerful experimental insights on the relationships between group composition, mission performance, task cohesion, social cohesion, and psychosocial adaptation in long-term work groups. The work will provide a scientifically validated TPT/PoC concept translated into a flexible and operationally acceptable software tool suitable for field studies of predictive validity and/or countermeasure potential in mission-oriented analog populations and/or high-risk operational and long-duration space analog environments. This work will contribute to the empirical knowledge base used to inform the processes of crew selection, composition, training, monitoring, and maintenance, and will ultimately yield a broadly applicable software tool to help mitigate risks and maximize behavioral health and performance for long-duration space exploration.</p>
Rationale for HRP Directed Research:	
Research Impact/Earth Benefits:	<p>The project will elucidate the interacting influences of personality, gender, behavior, and neurobiology at the individual and group levels while yielding powerful experimental insights on the relationships between group composition, task cohesion, social cohesion, and biopsychosocial adaptation in long-term work groups. The broad knowledge-base and software tools derived from this work are relevant to social relationships, business, and education, as well as military, healthcare, commercial transportation, and other settings involving high-risk/high-performance teamwork.</p>
Task Progress:	<p>As of August 11, 2014, the Short-Term study is 84% complete (up from 46% this time last year), the Long-Term study is 59% complete (up from 16%), and overall data collection is 64% complete (up from 21%). Total data collection complete or in progress is at 79%. We expect to have a working prototype of next-generation software by the end of 2014, and fully expect to have a functional software deliverable with some parametric usability data by the end of the current grant cycle.</p> <p>Two papers are in progress as invited papers for a special issue to Managerial and Decision Economics: Hursh, S. R., & Roma, P. G. 'Introduction to operant behavioral economics' Managerial and Decision Economics; and Roma, P. G., Hudja, S. N., & Hursh, S. R. 'Structure and function of hypothetical purchase task questionnaires for behavioral economic assessments of value and motivation' Managerial and Decision Economics."</p>
Bibliography Type:	Description: (Last Updated: 01/20/2025)