

SUPPORTING STATEMENT – PART B

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

1. Description of the Activity

This study is a longitudinal examination of performance, attitudes, and behaviors of Option 20 Soldiers, who are Soldiers who select to come to Alaska as their first duty station at time of enlistment. Non-Option 20 Soldiers are those who are assigned to Alaska but did not choose it as their first duty station. We expect to collect data from Option 20 and Non-Option 20 Soldiers, culminating in a sample of approximately 400 junior enlisted Soldiers in Alaska (see Table 1). Up to 600 participants may be tasked to show up to the data collection across two posts (e.g., 300 at each post). This is the first data collection, so there are no previous response rates.

Table 1

Experiences of Soldiers in Alaska Estimated Sample

Group	Tasked to Attend	Estimated Participants
Option 20	300	200
Non-Option 20	300	200
Total	600	400

2. Procedures for the Collection of Information

Individuals are eligible to participate in this study if they are junior enlisted Soldiers in their first term of enlistment in Alaska. Data will be stratified by Option 20 status for data analysis (e.g., Option 20 or Non-Option 20 Soldiers). We will stratify the sample by using the split file, ANOVA, or a similar analysis. Analysis will occur after the data has been cleaned.

We do not expect any unusual problems that require more specialized sampling procedures. However, the reason we task Option 20 and Non-Option 20 Soldiers is because our project seeks to investigate if there are differences between those who select Alaska (i.e., Option 20) and those who are assigned to Alaska (i.e., Non-Option 20), so it is critical that we have both of these groups of participants represented.

We will not be using periodic or cyclical data collections. This data collection will only occur one time, which reduces respondent burden.

3. Maximization of Response Rates, Non-response, and Reliability

At least one ARI representative will be present at each data collection, which will maximize response rates. Participants will be tasked to attend the data collection, but participation in the study is voluntary. We are aiming to collect a sample of approximately 400 junior enlisted Soldiers from two Army bases in Alaska in order to increase the generalizability of the data. This sample size will ensure that we have adequate data for analysis. All data will be cleaned and screened for careless responding.

4. Tests of Procedures (1-2 paragraphs)

We have not conducted any tests of procedures or methods specific to this study. However, ARI has a history of developing and administering assessments, so we were able to utilize similar procedures and methodology. Specifically, we are utilizing the same procedures as the Validation of Accessions Screening Tools project (VAST), which is a longitudinal validation effort that has been conducted for numerous years. ARI will also test the assessment internally to ensure that all measures are functioning as designed. Testing a small group of potential respondents in Alaska is not feasible.

5. Statistical Consultation and Information Analysis

All individuals who will collect and analyze the collected information are ARI personnel. All personnel will be HRPP-approved.

Provide name/telephone number of individual(s) consulted on statistical aspects of the design.

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Provide name/organization of person(s) who will actually collect and analyze any information.

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No additional consultation apart from soliciting public comments through the Federal Register was conducted for this submission.