

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

ONR RFI Announcement # 12-RFI-0002

I. DISCLAIMER:

This announcement constitutes a Request for Information (RFI) for the purpose of determining market capability of sources or obtaining information. It does not constitute a Request for Proposals (RFP), a Request for Quote (RFQ) or an indication that the Government will contract for any of the items and/or services discussed in this notice. Any formal solicitation that may subsequently be issued will be announced separately through Federal Business Opportunities (FedBizOpps). Information on the specific topics of interest is provided in the following sections of this announcement. Neither ONR nor any other part of the federal government will be responsible for any cost incurred by responders in furnishing this information.

II. BACKGROUND:

Office of Naval Research (ONR), Code 30, Expeditionary Maneuver Warfare and Combating Terrorism Department, Human Performance Training & Education (HPT&E) Thrust Area is seeking FY13 white paper proposals. The HPT&E Thrust seeks to develop, evaluate, and deliver scientifically proven methodologies and technologies that enable the cognitive and physical superiority of Marines. Specifically, this thrust seeks to develop methods, technologies, and systems that accelerate training at the individual and small unit tactical level by enhancing physical and cognitive preparedness. White papers must focus on providing tools, technologies, and/or methodologies to support the technology areas of investment. For FY13, HPT&E has two technical investment areas: (1) Decision making and Expertise Development, and (2) Warrior Resilience.

III. SPECIFIC INFORMATION OF INTEREST:

- **Decision Making and Expertise Development Objective:** Develop advanced instructional methods and training technologies for rapid knowledge and skill acquisition and development to the expert level. Enhance cognitive agility, confidence, and decision-making abilities.
 - Training technology capabilities (hardware & software) fully integrated with advanced instructional delivery assessment strategies that are targeted toward the development of small unit leaders.
 - Training technologies that provide individually-paced learning and team learning environments that incorporate proven instructional systems design and significantly improve training over current practices.
 - A scientifically validated learning feedback model (e.g., metacognitive prompts) appropriate to the stage of development that provides enhanced after action review and measures of performance.
 - Methods that enable small unit leaders to solve ill-defined problems processes and make complex decisions (e.g., ethical) in an uncertain operating environment.

- **Warrior Resilience Objective:** Develop integrated training systems and learning strategies that enhance individual and leader psychological, physical, and social resilience skills. Deliver strategies that optimize physical performance and injury resistance. Harden warfighters to adapt to and recover from operations in complex, chaotic, and full-spectrum environments.
 - A scientifically comprehensive understanding of the psychological, physical, and social elements of resilience and their interrelationship with warfighting performance, on and off the battlefield.
 - Knowledge products to characterize the fundamental constructs of resilience, to include brain, behavior, biomarkers, and environmental/contextual/social components, for directing more effective applied resilience building strategies and interventions, and mitigation.
 - Advanced instructional methods for resilience training strategies for Marine leaders that result in measureable improvements in individual, family, and community resilience and reductions in mental health injuries.
 - Knowledge products reflecting state of the art physical and cognitive conditioning strategies that minimize injury, maximize home station performance gains, and enable sustainable physical and cognitive performance throughout a deployment, and in garrison.
 - Products that improve warfighter attitudes and knowledge on the value of proper nutrition, factors of fatigue, limits of sleep deprivation.

IV. SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS and FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS

- a. Responses are requested by February 2nd, 2012. Any response received after this date will also be considered but may not be included in initial reporting or assessments.
- b. All responses should be in PDF format and emailed to the technical point of contact: Peter Squire email address: peter.squire@navy.mil . The subject line of the email should read as follows “RFI: FY13 start up research projects”.

Unclassified/Classified RFI Responses:

All responses should be unclassified. If desired, a classified supplement may be submitted separately. Please contact the Technical Point of Contact for directions on submission of any sensitive or classified information. All information received in response to this RFI that is marked proprietary will be handled accordingly. Responses to this notice will not be returned.

- c. Responses should not exceed 5 pages and assume that we understand the training and operating environment in which we are seeking to address S&T challenges. Research efforts should focus on budget activity 2 and budget activity 3 research.

- d. A suggested submission organization:
1. Cover Sheet – RFI number and name, address, company, technical point of contact, with printed name, title, email address and date.
 2. Table of Contents with page numbers
 3. Technical data

No cost or pricing information should be provided. Any received will be deleted and destroyed.

V. QUESTIONS AND POINT OF CONTACT

Questions of a technical nature regarding this RFI may be sent to the following Technical Point of Contact:

Name: Peter Squire
Title: FY13 Start up research projects
Division Title: Deputy Program Manager
Division Code: 30
Address: 875 N. Randolph Street Arlington VA 22203
Email Address: peter.squire@navy.mil