

Navy Optometry Research Update

CDR Hong Gao, OD, PhD, FAAO LCDR Micah Kinney, OD, PhD, FAAO LCDR Adam Preston, OD, PhD, FAAO 4 June 2021 1400-1500 (ET)





Tri-Service Vision Conservation and Readiness

CDR Hong Gao, OD, Ph.D, FAAO 04 JUN, 2021



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Presenter



Hong Gao, OD, PhD, FAAO Aerospace Optometrist CDR, MSC(AsO), USN Navy Section Chief

Tri-Service Vision Conservation & Readiness Branch U.S. Army Public Health Center Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD

CDR Hong Gao, OD, Ph.D





- 2003-2006: Staff Optometrist and Dept. Head at the Naval Branch Health Clinic Mayport, NS Mayport, FL.
- 2006-2009: Received a Ph.D in Vision Science degree under the Navy's FTOST/DUINS program.
- 2010: Completed Navy Flight Surgeon/Optometrist TH-57B and T-34C primary pilot instruction and successfully designated as a Naval Aerospace Optometrist. Had accumulated over 400 hours of military fixed and rotary wing flight time as 2nd pilot and aircrew 2009-2018.
- 2010-2014: Naval Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory, NS
 Pensacola, FL and Naval Medical Research Unit-Dayton, WPAFB, OH.
- 2014-2018: Research Director and Division Head at the Navy Warfighter Refractive Surgery Center, NMC San Diego, CA.
- 2018-present: Navy Section Chief, TSVCR Branch, Army Public Health Center, MD.

Disclosures



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At the conclusion of this activity, participants will be able to:

- 1. Summarize military vision readiness policy and regulation.
- 2. Show military vision and optical readiness.
- 3. List Navy & Marine Corps vision conservation and eye injury projects.

Vision Readiness – Purpose

Ensure performance, protection, safety
 Train-as-you-fight ethos
 Reduce pre-deployment demands
 Eye examination services

Optical fabrication services

Reduce in-theater demands

A <u>visually</u> and <u>optically **ready**</u> Force





Vision Readiness – Medical Requirements



- DODI 6490.07 Deployment-Limiting Medical Conditions for Service Members and DoD Civilian Employees
 - Best corrected visual acuity must meet job requirements to perform duties safely
- DODD 6200.04 Force Health Protection
 - Ensure appropriate utilization of effective personal protective equipment (PPE) and measures
- DODI 6490.03 Deployment Health
 - Combatant Commanders responsible for enforcing the use of PPE
 - □ Specific PPE requirement based on health threat
 - □ Issue PPE as required



DODD 6200.04 Force Health Protection (FHP) (2007)

□ To provide a healthy and fit force, the DoD components shall -

- Provide health assessments / wellness interventions to include:
 - ▷ Routine annual health... assessments
 - ▷ Annual IMR assessment
 - ▷ Pre- and post- deployment health assessments
- DODI 6200.05 Force Health Protection Quality Assurance Program
 - Establishes readiness metrics
 - □ 75% of DOD personnel at IMR Classification 1
 - □ 90% of DOD personnel in IMR Classification 1 or 2

IMR - This is a minimum requirement for readiness

DoD Vision Readiness



DODI 6025.19 Individual Medical Readiness (IMR)

Direct command responsibility for IMR

6 Elements

D PHA

Deployment-limiting medical and dental conditions

- Dental assessment
- Immunization status
- Medical readiness and laboratory studies
- Individual medical equipment

DOD "core" Requirement: One pair GMI (gas mask inserts) Services may specify additional medical equipment such as "2 pairs of prescription spectacles, laser eye protection, hearing aid batteries, etc."



SECNAVINST 6120.3A Periodic Health Assessment for Individual Medical Readiness (2019)

- Vision screening is not a PHA component
- Requires "individual medical equipment" if require vision correction
 - 2 pairs of eyeglasses
 - Deployment:
 - 2 Ballistic protective optical inserts
 - Protective mask insert (PMI) or gas mask insert (GMI)

Navy – Medical Readiness Reporting System (MRRS)



MARS	Comp	rehensive Medical	Entry	 System defaults assume no defects Blank VA field assumes no defects Does not trigger an incomplete PHA
Menu GAO HONG LCDR		IMR Status: Fully Medically Ready	[Logged in as: Help Log Out Find
Member Activity	Blood Eyes/Audio Dental Uncorrected: Both 2 Corrected: Both 2 Mear Vision Uncorrected: Both 2 Corrected: Both 2 Corrected: Both 2	Deploy Immune Tests Exams F 0/ V Right 20/ V Left 20/ V 0/ V Right 20/ V Left 20/ V 0/ V Right 20/ V Left 20/ V 0/ V Right 20/ V Left 20/ V	Forms Record Waivers Audiogram Conservation Program B aseline (DD 2215): Re-E stablished Baseline: WE SS/O SH A Reportable: Periodic (DD 2216): Termination (DD 2216):	Status
Eye Exam Required: Date Hx Spectacles Required: Date 2 Pair Verified:		Ballistics Inserts Required: Date: Hx Coas Mask Inserts Required: Type Of Insert: Date: Date:	Threshold Shift: EVASCurgery Surgery: Date: Interpupillary Distance PD: Trrm 1	NONE

Are we Vision & Optical ready?





Army Vision Readiness – MEDPROS



Vision Readiness Report Options	Home Medical Readiness Immunizations	MHA MRC Alerts Executive Reports	
Report Selection Criteria	Report Filter Criteria		
Report Criteria Type: Soldier Duty Location Soldier Duty Location: FT RILEY	Component: COMPO (all) (Vision Readiness Class: Vision Readin Include/Exclude TTHS: Include Format: Summary ▼ Records Per Page: 500 Run Report	(AC,NG,USAR)	

Army – Vision Readiness





Army – Strategic Management System (SMS)





Air Force- ASIMS



- Aeromedical Services Information Management System (ASIMS)
 - Uses established PHA rules
 - Flags physical exam requirements and clinical preventive services
 - Tracks DoD IMR requirements
 - GMI possession is tied to the IMR Calculation
 - Driven by distant visual acuity
 - ASIMS pulls GMI date from spectacle ordering system (SRTS)



- Aeromedical Electronic Resource Office (AERO)
 - A web-based DOD system used jointly by the U.S. Army, Coast Guard, and Navy
 - Linkage with the Air Force AIMWTS electronic waiver system is being investigated
- Aeromedical Information Management Waiver Tracking System (AIMWTS)
 - US Air Force plight physicals, Medical waivers, etc.

Vision Readiness – Summary







- The Army's Program Executive Office Soldier (PEO-Soldier):
 - Certifies all MCEP items -COTS Products approved for military

use

- American National Standards Institute Z87 Safety Eyewear standard
- U.S. Military ballistic fragmentation standards
 - 5-7 times greater ballistic fragmentation protection for the eyes than standard Z87 approved eyewear
- APEL approved eyewear
 - Authorized for use in deployments and military training for ground troops since 2005



AUTHORIZED PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR LIST (APEL) = PPE

Military Combat Eye Protection - APEL



• As of **02 July 2019**



Navy & Marine Corps MCEP





DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY 2300 E STREET NW WASHINGTON DC 20372-5300

MAY 1 8 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE EAST COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE WEST COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE SUPPORT COMMAND

SUBJECT: Military Combat Eye Protection

Optical Inserts

This memorandum clarifies and identifies Navy Medicine's responsible agency for providing refractive inserts for Military Combat Eye Protection (MCEP). This eyewear is for protection against combat ballistic threats and is not synonymous with industrial protective eyewear worn for protection against industrial or blood-borne pathogen hazards.

MCEP must pass independent testing prior to fielding with Navy and Marine Corps units. MCEP must have provisions for refractive correction. The Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC) and Marine Corps Systems Command are responsible for the MCEP program.

Naval Ophthalmic Support and Training Activity (NOSTRA) is responsible for developing, maintaining, and posting on their website the current authorized protective eyewear list (APEL). MCEP listed on the APEL is supported by NOSTRA for corrective inserts. All MCEP for Navy Medicine units must be purchased in accordance with the APEL.

Strategic Outcome



DOD Overall Risk of Blindness Injury Trend, CY 2000-CY 2015



Navy & Marine Corps – High Risk of Blindness





"Medically Ready Force...Ready Medical Force"

Navy & Marine Corps – Eye Injuries





(Tri-Service Vision Conservation and Readiness Program, 2019)

Navy & Marine Corps – Deployment Associated Eye Injuries





(Active Duty Annual Eye Injury Report, 2019)

Navy Protective Eyewear





Marine Corps MCEP



(Gao H, Clasing JE, Kang RN, Kinney MJ., 2020)



Intermediate-Tinted Lenses in Marksmanship Performance

FIGURE 1. Spectral characteristics of Eye Safety Systems (ESS) Bronze, Oakley Prizm TR45, and ESS Copper lenses. Each showed unique spectral characteristics with visible light transmittance (VLT) between the standard issue clear (ESS Clear and Oakley Clear) and sun (ESS Smoke Gray) lenses. Each line represents a moving average of three randomly selected right lenses measured by Lambda 1050 UV/Vis/NIR spectrophotometer (PerkinElmer, USA). Light transmittance starts at 380 nm for ESS lenses and 400 nm for Oakley lenses, which indicates that Oakley lenses offer a slightly wider UV protection range.

Performance: Intermediate Tinted

Defense Health Agency

Lenses

Intermediate-Tinted Lenses in Marksmanship Performance

TABLE I. Visual and Pistol Marksmanship Performance of Intermediate-Tinted Lenses Expressed as Mean \pm SD (ESS Clear Served as a
Baseline for Comparison)

	ESS Clear (baseline) VLT 90%	ESS Bronze VLT 62%	Oakley Prizm TR45 VLT 44%	ESS Copper VLT 32%
Visual ACUITY—CSF ACUITY				
LogMAR	-0.016 (0.122)	0.001 (0.115)	0.018 (0.118)	0.030 (0.118) ^a
(Snellen equivalent)	(~20/19)	(~20/20)	(~20/21)	(~20/21)
Visual quality—AULCSF				
(log unit)	1.76 (0.26)	1.74 (0.27)	1.69 (0.24) ^a	1.66 (0.25) ^a
Pistol marksmanship				
(Z-score) ^b	0.12 (1.02)	0.04 (1.11)	-0.04 (0.87)	-0.13 (1.03)

^aPost hoc test with Bonferroni correction: P < .05 relative to the baseline (ESS Clear).

^bZ-score = (raw marksmanship scores per second-the group average)/the group SD.

Abbreviations: AULCSF = area under a log contrast sensitivity function; CSF = contrast sensitivity function; ESS = Eye Safety Systems; VLT = visible light transmittance; SD = standard deviation; and LogMAR = logarithm of the Minimum Angle of Resolution.

(Gao H, Clasing JE, Kang RN, Kinney MJ., 2020)



■ Vision Requirement

□ Service member has the minimum visual function to perform the appointed mission in a deployed environment

Optical requirement

Service member has the required optical devices for deployment that correct his/her vision
Optical Inserts

Vision record is current

□Visual acuity

Rx



📁 GMI

LIPI C

Safety eyewear/MCEP are provided by each unit



Naval Medical Research Unit Dayton

LCDR Adam Preston, OD, MHA, Ph.D, FAAO 04 JUN, 2021



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Presenter



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Department Head, Acceleration and Sensory Sciences Naval Medical Research Unit Dayton Wright-Patterson AFB, OH

LCDR Adam Preston, OD, PhD, FAAO





- NAMRU-Dayton APR 2021-Present
- AMO Training Pensacola, FL 2020-2021
- PhD Pacific University 2016-2020
- NBHC Bahrain 2014-2016
- NHC Quantico 2011-2013
- OD Pacific University 2007-2011
- BS Biology Ohio State 2007

Ohio Air National Guard 2002-2007

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At the conclusion of this activity, participants will be able to:

- 1. Outline the research capabilities of NAMRU-Dayton..
- 2. Know NAMRU-Dayton's role within the DON/DOD
- 3. Identify some of the recent and current vision-science projects ongoing at NAMRU-D.



NAVAL MEDICAL RESEARCH UNIT DAYTON Aeromedical Research Programs

LCDR Adam Preston, Department Head, Acceleration and Sensory Sciences NAVAL MEDICAL RESEARCH UNIT DAYTON

USNAC 2021

U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Devin M. Lange

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Navy Medicine Research & Development



Navy Medicine Research & Development



NAMRU-D

Naval Medical Research Unit - D Dayton, OH NHRC

Naval Health Research Center San Diego, CA NAMRU-2

Naval Medical Research Unit - 2 Cambodia

NAMRU-3

Naval Medical Research Unit - 3 Sigonella, Italy

NAMRU-SA

NAMRU-6

Naval Medical

Research Unit - 6

Lima, Peru

Naval Medical Research Unit - Sa San Antonio, TX NSMRL

Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory Groton, CT

NAMRU Dayton Mission & Vision

Mission

NAMRU Dayton protects and optimizes the readiness, performance, and survivability of the naval and joint warfighter by conducting operationally relevant environmental health effects, toxicology, and aerospace medical research.

Vision

NAMRU Dayton will be the premier environmental health effects, toxicology, and aerospace medical laboratory delivering world-class medical research in support of naval and joint warfighter superiority.

Naval Medical Research Unit Dayton

• 1 mission; 2 unique science labs

Environmental Health Effects Laboratory

Naval Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory

2010 Command established at Wright-Patterson AFB & collocated with Air Force Research Laboratory

Naval Medical Research Unit Dayton



Workforce

SPECIALTIES

SCIENTISTS & ENGINEERS

Behavioral & Cognitive Sciences Engineering Life Sciences Math/Computer Science

OFFICERS

Medical Service Corps Medical Corps **Veterinary Corps**

MISSION ENABLING EXPERTISE

- ContractingFacilities

- Info Technology
 Institutional Animal Care and Use (Air Force)Institutional Review Board
- Resource Management
- Security

Collaborations and Partners









28 Support Agreement s

Environmental Health Effects Laboratory

Health effects of environmental hazards/stressors.

Chemical stressors



Physical stressors



Combinations/Costressors



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NAMRU-DAYTON

Environmental Health Effects Laboratory

Core Capabilities:

- *In vivo* exposures; unique expertise in inhalation toxicology
- In vitro exposures
- Determinations of health effects of exposure
 - General/gross tissue changes
 - Hematology & clinical chemistry
 - Ex vivo tissue analyses
 - Hearing testing
 - Microbiological/microbiome alterations
 - · Chemical & analytical testing
 - Pulmonary assessments
 - Cognitive & behavioral testing
 - Neurophysiology evaluation
 - Reproductive & developmental effects
- Risk Assessment







Environmental Health Effects Laboratory

Science Facilities:

- Analytical/Chemistry
- Animal Exposure Facility
- Animal Hearing Assessment
- Animal Imaging
- Animal Pulmonary Assessment
- Cell/Tissue Culture (In vitro)
- Pre-clinical Assessment
- DoD Animal Facility (AFRL operated)
- Animal Behavioral/Cognition
- Neuroelectrophysiology
- Physical Performance
- Molecular Biology
- Rodent Centrifuge













Naval Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory

Mitigate and prevent leading factors associated with aviation mishaps. Protect and enhance the health, readiness, and performance of aircrew.

Acceleration & Sensory Sciences

Biomedical Sciences

Environmenta

Engineering & Technical Services



Naval Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory

Core Capabilities:

- Altitude effects
- Fatigue assessment & mitigation
- Acceleration & motion effects
- Motion sickness countermeasures
- Spatial disorientation mitigation
- Aircrew neck/back pain & injury
- Vision standards & performance
- Aviation personnel selection testing
- En route care







Naval Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory

Science Facilities:

- Electroencephalography
- Fatigue Assessment & Countermeasures
- Fabrication Shop
- Human-rated Motion Platforms
- Hypoxia
- Mixed Reality Simulation
- MV-22 Osprey
- Physiologic Sensors
- Respiratory Physiology
- Spine Biodynamics
- Spatial Disorientation Simulator
- Vision Science
- Wet Lab





Courtesy photo by ET









The Kraken







Applied Vision Science

- Monocular Reduced Vision in Pilot Performance
 - · Current policy: NPQ for DIFOPS if vision is mildly reduced in one eye
 - NAMRU-Dayton & NAMI effort to update USN/USMC waiver policy for mild reductions in one eye of visual acuity less than 20/20-0
- Adaptive Display Technology to Mitigate Color Vision Anomalies
 - Setting on MFD or HMD to adjust display colors to be more compatible with <u>LEP</u> or <u>mild</u> <u>color vision deficiencies</u>
 - Industry partner: Collins Aerospace
- Evaluation of Laser-Induced Fluorescence as an Artifact of Dye-Polycarbonate Laser Eye Protection
 - · Study outcomes will supplement current USAF/AFRL psychophysical glare models
- Impact of Low-level Weaponized Neurotoxin Exposure on Pilot Performance
 - DTRA-funded minimal risk simulation studies using an FDA approved surrogate to safely induce miosis and accommodative spasm similar to GB nerve agents









Spatial Disorientation (SD) Projects

Volitional Influences on Vestibular Perception

- <u>DRD (roll axis)</u>: Comparison of perception of vertical under subject-controlled or experimenter-controlled motion
- Incorporate body and head motion with and without feedback
- Data collection to begin Summer 2021
- Visuospatial attentional training and SD mitigation
 - <u>Fixed-base flight simulator</u>: Develop and validate a training paradigm to improve attention allocation during periods of high mental workload to mitigate SD risk
 - Pilots fly scenarios designed to induce black hole and false horizon illusions
 - Data collection to begin Spring 2021





Spatial Disorientation (SD) Projects

• Effects of Hypoxia on SD Susceptibility

- <u>Fixed-Base Flight Simulator</u>: Pilots fly a series of maneuvers and unusual attitude recoveries in a degraded visual environment
- · Compare performance in normoxic and hypoxic conditions
- 12 of 20 participants complete



Photo Source: NAMRU-Dayton

- SD Modeling: Workload & Motion as Contributing Factors
 - **DRD 6 DOF + Planetary**: Pilots flew a series of maneuvers in a degraded visual environment
 - Compared performance in 3 cockpit workload conditions, with and without flight-realistic motion
 - Variable Following Distance Task resulted in 2X increase in CREs
 - Motion increased realism ratings from 4.0 to 7.6 (10 point scale).

Spatial Disorientation (SD) Projects

- HMD Symbology & Spatial Audio Cueing for SD Prevention
 - <u>In-Flight Study</u>: Compared 3 HMD symbology formats, with/without spatial-audio attitude-cueing
 - F-35 representative, Gen IV OLED HMD
 - Military pilots flew air-to-air search & track task
 - Data collection complete; analyses underway



Photo Source: University of Iowa Operator Performance Lab



Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division

LCDR Micah Kinney, OD, Ph.D, FAAO 04 JUN, 2021



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"Medically Ready Force...Ready Medical Force"

Presenter



Micah Kinney, OD, PhD, FAAO Aerospace Optometrist LCDR, MSC(AsO), USN

Project Officer, Human Systems Engineering Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division NAS Patuxent River, MD

"Medically Ready Force...Ready Medical Force"

LCDR Micah Kinney, OD, PhD, FAAO





Photo courtesy of LCDR Micah Kinney

- Aerospace Research Optometrist at NAWC-AD 2020-Present
- NAMRU-D 2017-2020
- NAMI 2016-2017
- DUINS PhD at UAB 2013-2016
- NAS Oceana 2010-2013
- OD from UAB 2010

"Medically Ready Force...Ready Medical Force"

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At the conclusion of this activity, participants will be able to:

- 1. Comprehend how optometry is enabling the US Naval Aviation Enterprise.
- 2. Generate a familiarity with human systems engineering and how optometry fits within that domain.
- 3. Discover how vision science is critical to warfighter performance.



Navy Aerospace Optometry: Supporting the Fleet

5 June 2021

Presented to: Navy Operational Optometry Conference

Presented by: LCDR Micah Kinney



Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division







Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division





NAS Patuxent River





Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division

22,100

- Containing over 8.2M sq. feet
 of labs and facilities
- 12 hangars
- 6 RDT&E runways (longest 12,000 ft)
- -Aircraft catapult launch and recovery capable, replicating shipboard operations

2,700 SQ. MILES OF RESTRICTED AIRSPACE

- Littoral location and proximity to the Atlantic Fleet provides a unique resource of sea level test range systems to support T&E and fleet training
- Atlantic warning area expands range area to over 50,000 sq. miles

Lakehurst, NJ.

Patuxent River, MD.

St. Inigoes, MD.

300+ MAJOR LABS & FACILITIES

 World's most capable Installed Systems Test Facilities enabling end to end testing of mission systems in a fullspectrum synthetic environment

2,000 AVERAGE ANNUAL

TEST EVENTS

- Over 13,000 range hours annually
- Capable of supporting 12
 simultaneous test events
- Naval Test Wing Atlantic inventory of 259 manned/ unmanned aircraft

MAJOR LOCATIONS

Orlando, FL.



Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division

300 +

Labs

Joint Simulation

Environment

Atlantic Test

Ranges

AT AT GLANCE: WHAT WE DO & WHAT WE HAVE



FACILITIES



Manned Flight Simulator



Surface/Aviation Interoperability Lab



Naval Test Wing Atlantic



Anechoic Chamber & Facility Antenna RCS Measurement



Electromagnetic Pulse Facility



U.S. Naval Test Pilot School



Human Systems Engineering





- Aeromedical Monitoring and Analysis Branch
 - 6 new billets
 - Branch Head
 - Flight Surgeon
 - Audiologist
 - Research Physiologist
 - Aerospace Experimental Psychologist
 - Aerospace Research Optometrist **

First U.S. Navy Optometry Fleet Billet

Human Systems Engineering

- Aeromedical Monitoring and Analysis Branch
 - Physiological Episodes
 - Human Performance in Environmental Extremes
 - Operator Monitoring
- Electro-Optics Branch
 - Laser Eye Protection
 - Night Vision Systems
 - Helmet Mounted Displays
 - Eye Protection
 - Displays
 - VR/AR





QUESTIONS?



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- Eye protection and the prevention of ocular injuries are critical to the warfighter mission
- Vision is a key component to spatial orientation
- Navy Optometry actively supports the Naval Aviation Enterprise both clinically and with applied research.





Gao, H., Clasing, J. E., Kang, R. N., & Kinney, M. J. (2020). Effects of Intermediate-Tinted Lenses on Pistol

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 - b. If you have not previously used the CEPO CMS click register to create a new account.
- 4. Follow the onscreen prompts to complete the post-activity assessments:
 - a. Read the Accreditation Statement
 - b. Complete the Evaluation
 - c. Take the Posttest
- 5. After completing the posttest at 80% or above, your certificate will be available for print or download.
- 6. You can return to the site at any time in the future to print your certificate and transcripts at <u>https://www.dhaj7-cepo.com/</u>
- 7. If you require further support, please contact us at <u>dha.ncr.j7.mbx.cepo-cms-support@mail.mil</u>

"Medically Ready Force...Ready Medical Force"