

HISTORY

At one time the mission was scattered throughout many states under the command of the Army Quartermaster Corps. The Army saw a need to consolidate those diverse functions into a single scientific complex. By 1954, operational centers in Indiana, Virginia, Massachusetts, Washington DC, and Pennsylvania had moved to Natick. The Food and Container Institute, Chicago, completed the consolidated plan by 1963. That same year, the Quartermaster Research and Engineering Center at Natick changed its name to the U.S. Army Natick Laboratories. Today, four major support activities including separate directorates are found within the main scientific community. The Center is now renamed the Soldier Systems Center-Natick. We provide dedicated research, development, engineering and acquisition support for the Soldier in any and all environments. In the development of equipment and clothing we are taking a revolutionary approach to the oldest and most basic item of warfare by looking at the individual Soldier.



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"The Leader in Empowering the World's Most Capable Soldiers"

HUMAN RESEARCH VOLUNTEER PROGRAM (HRV)





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THE U. S. ARMY SOLDIER SYSTEMS CENTER-NATICK NEEDS RESEARCH VOLUNTEERS

The Human Research Volunteers (HRV) are Soldiers who perform a unique and important mission for the military. HRV's are the first line of research for testing everything that's worn, carried or consumed by the Warfighter. Soldiers are the subject matter experts and we recognize the importance of their opinion. Since 1954 about 4,000 Soldiers have volunteered for this important duty.



VOLUNTEERS WILL

- Try new uniforms, protective clothing and garments straight from the drawing board.
- Give engineers immediate feedback when evaluating the equipment.
- Test the tasks affecting the Soldiers in the field under actual conditions.
- Endure environmental conditions that Soldiers in the field could encounter.
- Test developmental equipment items; sleep in sleeping bags or shelters, taste-test new menu items being cooked up for field rations.
- Contribute to forming army training aids and guidelines.
- Affect military clothing, equipment, food and shelter systems many years down the road.

HOW IT WORKS

- Studies are always analyzed by our Human Use review board who



"As an HRV, I have had the unique opportunity to experience a different side of the Army most people don't get to see. My participation in numerous physically demanding studies has contributed to the Army, and has also given me a better understanding of science and research. I was fortunate to have the chance to go to Natick, and would recommend it to anyone."

— SGT Michael Stepien

work within a body of federal regulations and laws, ensuring the volunteers' safety.

- Soldiers volunteer to participate in the program, or a particular study. They're called volunteers because that is what they do.
- Studies take place primarily at the NSRDEC. During a complicated study, there could be as many as a dozen research personnel involved in the study. They monitor heart rate, blood pressure and other physiological indicators according to their area of expertise.
- Soldiers come to Natick following Advanced Individual Training and prior to their first permanent duty station.
- To be eligible for the program, Soldiers must be Regular Army. We can't recruit National Guard or Reserve Soldiers. Soldiers are between the ages of 18-39, in good physical health with no prior heat, cold or orthopedic injuries. It is a temporary duty assignment from 90 to 179 days. This is the ultimate challenge, both mentally and physically.



WHAT IS THE U. S. ARMY SOLDIER SYSTEMS CENTER-NATICK?

It's a military facility with fewer than 100 military personnel where researchers design and develop food and food service equipment, parachutes, tents and all the clothing and individual equipment Soldiers will ever need to protect themselves in any climate or situation.

MISSION

The U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center-Natick, located in Natick, Massachusetts, is the Army's one-stop Soldier-support organization. We are responsible for researching, developing, fielding, and managing food, clothing, shelters, airdrop systems, and Soldier support items.



Our goal is simple: Provide America's Soldiers with the best equipment in the world. To achieve this goal, the Natick team has consolidated full life-cycle management of Soldier items into a one-stop, Soldier support organization.

Within the Soldier Systems Center two main organizations who utilize HRVs. Natick Soldier Research, Development & Engineering Center (NSRDEC) and U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine (USARIEM).

The USARIEM mission is to conduct basic and applied research to determine how exposure to extreme heat, severe cold, high terrestrial altitude, occupational tasks, physical training, deployment operations, and nutritional factors affect the health and performance of military personnel.