



Sam Houston State University

A Member of The Texas State University System

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY

CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN A RESEARCH STUDY

Emotional Functioning of Post-9/11 Veterans Informed Consent



**Institutional Review Board
Protocol Number**

3524

Approval Valid

9/11/20-8/20/22

Key Information

You are being invited to participate in a research study. This document includes important information you should know about the study. Before providing your consent to participate, please read this entire document and ask any questions you have.

Do I have to participate? Why am I being asked to participate?

You are being asked to be a participant in a research study about assessing mental health symptoms among U.S. military veterans using a series of psychological tests. This study is conducted by Dr. Dustin Wygant at Eastern Kentucky University and Dr. Jaime Anderson at Sam Houston State University, along with graduate research assistants under their direction. You are being asked to participate in this study because you are a post-9/11 military veteran and responded to an ad for the study.

If you decide to take part in the study, it should be because you really want to volunteer. You will not lose any benefits or rights you would normally have if you choose not to volunteer. You can stop at any time during the study and still keep the benefits and rights you had before volunteering. If you decide to participate, you will be one of about 300 people in the study.

What is the purpose of this study?

There are over 3 million Post-9/11 veterans, which includes veterans of the U.S. military who served after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 (Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom). Post-9/11 veterans are about twice as likely as their earlier veteran counterparts to have served in a combat zone. The current research aims to investigate the emotional functioning of Post-9/11 veterans using a series of personality tests. We are interested in looking at the extent to which commonly used psychological tests are useful in the assessment of veteran mental health. This study is being limited to only Post-9/11 veterans.

Where is the study going to take place and how long will it last?

This study will take place completely on ZOOM. After responding to the ad for the study, you will be scheduled to complete the data collection during a ZOOM session with a graduate research assistant. The study will take 2 hours to complete and will need to be completed in one session.

What will I be asked to do?

In this study, you will be asked to participate in a two-hour testing session consisting of several self-report personality surveys. After expressing interest in the study, you will schedule a 2-hour block of time with a graduate research assistant. You will be emailed a link for the session on ZOOM. The link will be private and password protected. You will be required to remain in a ZOOM session for the duration of the session so that your participation can be monitored by a graduate research assistant. This is to ensure that you can ask any questions that arise during your participation.

Once the ZOOM session begins, a message will be sent in the chat feature with a private link to an online survey platform (Qualtrics), which is how this consent form will be presented, along with the survey questions. This consent form will be explained to you by the research assistant in the ZOOM session, along with an opportunity for you to ask any questions about the study. Once you agree to participate in the study, the survey questions will be presented and the research assistant will provide the instructions.

Are there reasons why I should not take part in this study?

Due to the nature of the questionnaires and goals of the current study, participants must be older than 18 years of age, English-speaking, able to read, and a post-9/11 U.S. military veteran.

You should not complete this study if you are under the age of 18 and are not a veteran of the United States military.

What are the potential risks and discomforts?

To the best of our knowledge, the things you will be doing in this study have no more risk of harm or discomfort than you would experience in everyday life. You may, however, experience a previously unknown risk or side effect. The survey questions in the current study are related to personality traits, mental health symptoms, and your history of behavior and relationships. Some of the survey questions will cover potentially sensitive topics such as personal experiences with mental health difficulties, previous legal issues, alcohol/drug consumption, and interpersonal relationship difficulties. Although we have made every effort to minimize this, you may find some questions we ask you (or some procedures we ask you to do) to be upsetting or stressful. If so, we can tell you about some people who may be able to help you with these feelings. Should you experience emotional distress as a result of your participation in this study and would like to speak to someone about this, we will provide you with a list of mental health resources at the completion of the study.

What about privacy and confidentiality?

The only people who will know that you are a research participant are members of the research team. No information about you, or provided by you during the research will be disclosed to others without your written permission, except:

- if necessary to protect your rights or welfare (for example, if you are injured and need emergency care or when the SHSU Protection of Human Subjects monitors the research or consent process); or
- if required by law.

The ZOOM session will not be recorded. The link for the ZOOM room for your session will be private, password-protected, thus ensuring your confidentiality will be maintained during the ZOOM session. Additionally, the graduate research assistant conducting the session will be alone in a private setting.

SHSU Finance (who will issue you a check for participation) will know that you are a research participant, but no one from that department will have access to the data you provide.

Your name and email will be needed for scheduling purposes only. We will use your email address to send you the ZOOM link for the data collection session. After completion of your data collection session, your name and email will be removed from the schedule. At no point will your name be linked to your data. Everything you disclose in self-report questionnaires will be kept confidential.

Prior to beginning the study, you will be assigned an ID number. We will use this ID number to link your data together rather than using your name. In other words, your name will never be directly linked to the data you provide us in this study. No information about you, or provided by you during the research will be disclosed to others. When the results of the research are published or discussed in conferences, no information will be included that would reveal your identity.

Data will be stored on a password-protected computer and locked in secure premises. Data will not be destroyed in order to facilitate future research; however, no stored data will include personally-identifiable information. We will make every effort to safeguard your data, but as with anything online, we cannot guarantee the security of data obtained via the Internet. Third-party applications used in this study may have terms of service and privacy policies outside of the control of Sam Houston State University.

What are the costs for participating in this research?

There is no cost to you (beyond your time) for participating in this research. The study should take 2 hours to complete.

What are the benefits to taking part in this study?

The study should take 2 hours to complete. You will receive up to \$30 for taking part in this study. If you should have to quit before the study finished, the payment you receive will be based on the amount of time you were in the study. You will be paid \$15 per hour. You would not receive

payment for less than an hour of participation. If you complete the study faster than 2 hours, you would still receive the full amount of \$30.

There are no direct benefits to you beyond financial compensation. However, we anticipate that the current study will help us to understand the emotional experiences of veterans better. The results will also help us improve the assessment and treatment of veterans.

If I don't take part in this study, are there other choices?

If you do not want to be in the study, there are no other choices except to not take part in the study.

Now that you have some key information about the study, please continue reading if you are interested in participating. Other important details about the study are provided below.

Other Important Details

How will I be reimbursed for my participation in this research?

Participants who complete the study will be provided up to \$30 USD for their participation. In order to receive a check payment for your participation, you will be required to complete and sign a Vendor Taxpayer Identification Number Request Form. Upon completion of the study, you will be provided a taxpayer identification number request form (in PDF). This form will not specify that you are a participant in this study, but will be submitted to SHSU's office of Disbursement and Travel Services along with a pay request for your check payment. The information you provide as part of the study will not be shared through this process.

This form will require you to enter your name, address, and social security number. The form will request information about your bank account if you would like the funds deposited directly in your bank. You can also request payment in the form of a check. Once you have completed the form, you will email it to Disbursement and Travel Services at acctspay@shsu.edu.

The tax ID form is for the purposes of reimbursement. None of your responses to the survey will be available to anyone involved in your payment as a participant. Likewise, none of the information provided for payment will be available to the research team. Thus, your personal information will not be directly linked to your responses to the survey questions.

The check payment may be considered taxable income by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and may be reported on your tax Form W-2 or Form 1099-MISC. You may contact the disbursement office at 936-294-4801 if you have questions regarding reporting for tax purposes. If you are an SHSU student, the check payment may be treated as a financial aid award and may be reported on Form 1098-T. This may affect your eligibility for other forms of financial aid, and you may contact SHSU's Financial Aid office at (936) 294-1774 with any concerns.

Can I withdraw or be removed from the study?

You can choose whether to be in this study or not. If you volunteer to be in this study, you may withdraw at any time. You may also refuse to answer any questions you don't want to answer and still remain in the study. The investigator may withdraw you from this research if circumstances arise which warrant doing so. They may do this if you are not able to follow the directions they give you, if they find that your being in the study is more risk than benefit to you, or if the University or agency funding the study decides to stop the study early for a variety of reasons.

As explained above, you will be paid \$15 per hour, with a maximum of \$30 for completing the study. You would not receive payment for less than an hour of participation. If you complete the study faster than 2 hours, you would still receive the full amount of \$30.

What happens if I get hurt or sick during the study?

If you believe you are hurt or get sick because of something that is done during the study, you should call Dr. Anderson at (936) 294-4745 immediately. It is important for you to understand that Sam Houston State University will not pay for the cost of any care or treatment that might be necessary because you get hurt or sick while taking part in this study. Also, Sam Houston State University will not pay for any wages you may lose if you are harmed by this study. These costs will be your responsibility.

Usually, medical costs that result from research-related harm cannot be included as regular medical costs. Therefore, the costs related to your care and treatment because of something that is done during the study will be your responsibility. You should ask your insurer if you have any questions about your insurer's willingness to pay under these circumstances.

What else do I need to know?

This study is being funded in part by the University of Minnesota Press.

You will be told if any new information is learned which may affect your condition or influence your willingness to continue taking part in this study.

CONSENT

Before you decide whether to accept this invitation to take part in the study, please ask any questions that come to mind now. Later, if you have questions about the study, you can contact the investigator, Dr. Jaime Anderson at 936-294-4745 or jla068@shsu.edu. If you have any questions about your rights as a research volunteer, you can contact the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs – Sharla Miles at 936-294-4875 or e-mail ORSP at sharla_miles@shsu.edu.

If you would like to participate, please read the statement below and click in the box.

- By clicking here, I indicate that I am at least 18 years of age, have thoroughly read this document, understand its contents, have been given an opportunity to have my questions

answered, and voluntarily agree to participate in this research study. A copy of this consent form was emailed to you when your appointment was scheduled