

**DRAPER**

# **A Unifying Framework for Defining and Measuring Physical and Cognitive Load**

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# DARPA Squad X Core Technologies (SXCT)

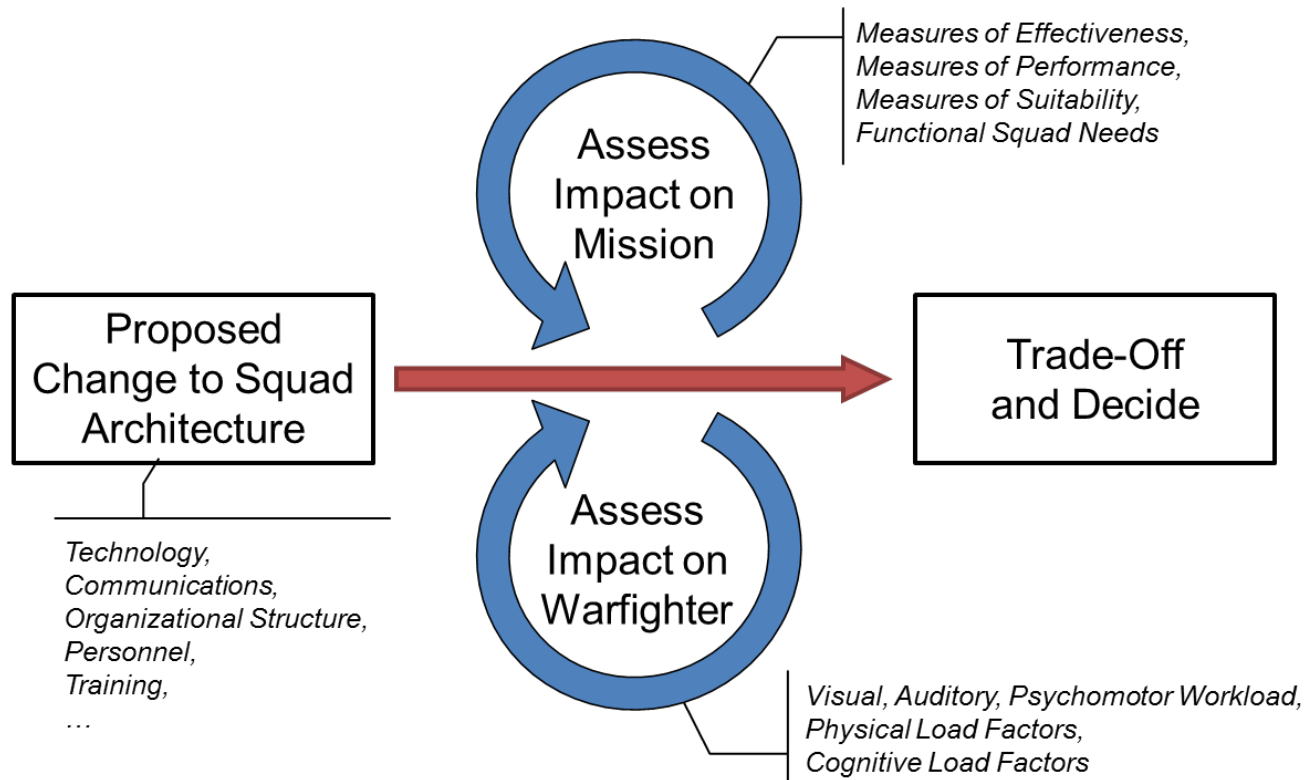


Artist's Concept  
Source: DARPA

Seeking to bring unprecedented capability to dismounted U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps squads...

# Mission vs. Warfighter Impact

...in part by implementing system-level changes to the squad architecture



# Two Contributions

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1. Framework: Defines human performance in terms of the physical and mental effort that are expended when accomplishing physical and mental tasks
2. “Load factors:” Define the impact of physical and cognitive load on the individual and on the mission

# Mental vs. Cognitive Workload

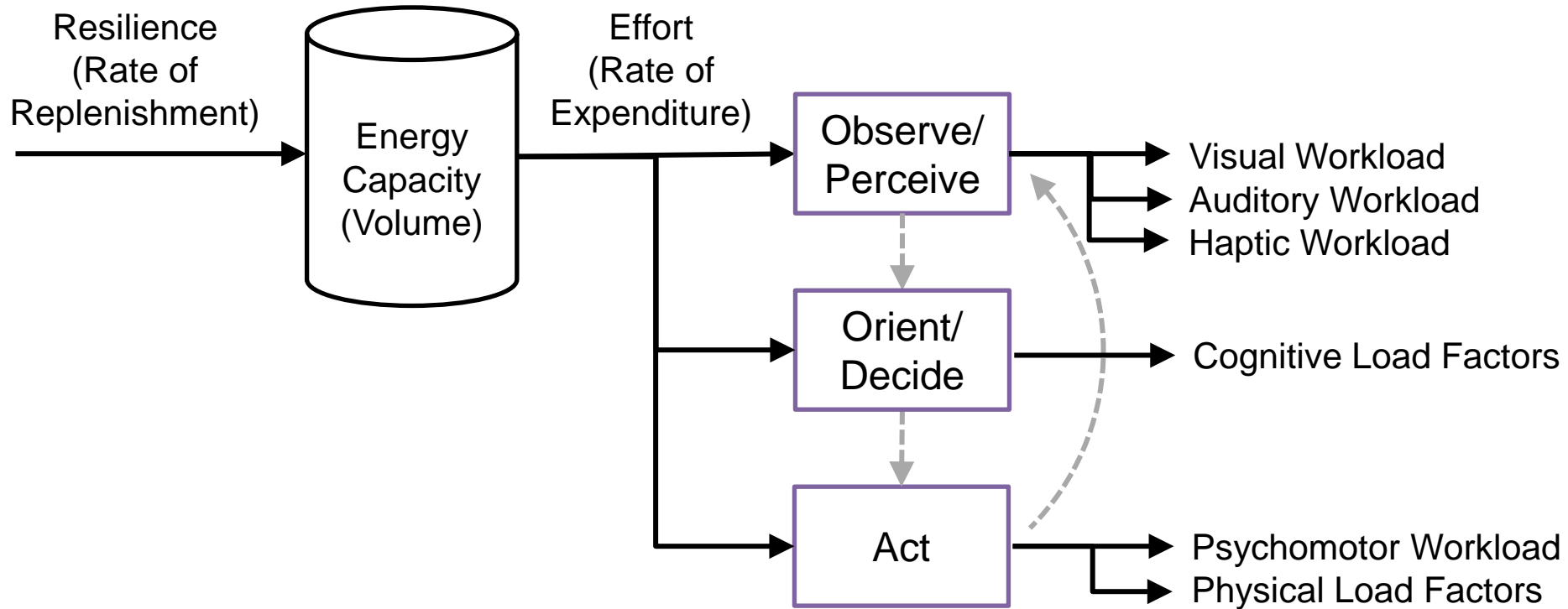
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Mental Workload ISO-10075-1:  
How hard a part or multiple parts of a person's brain is working during performance of a task

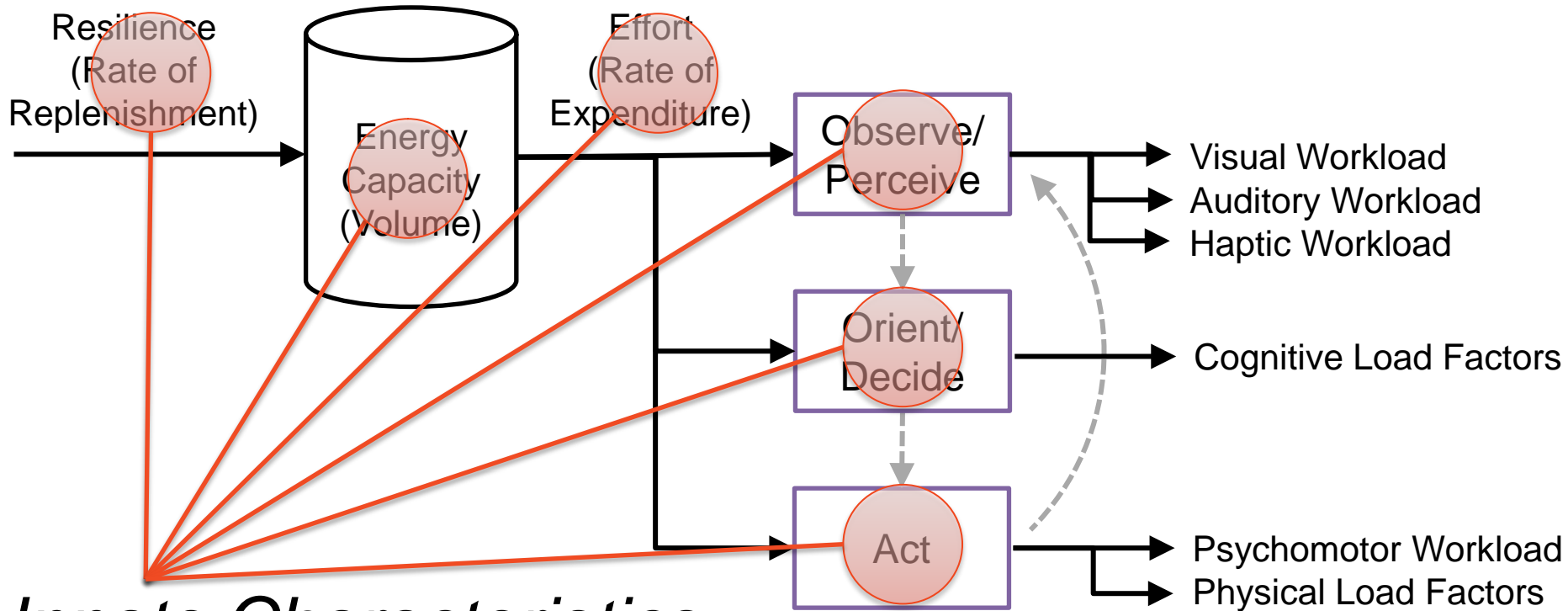
VACP Mental Workload (Mitchell, 2000):

- Visual: Stimuli seen
- Auditory: Stimuli heard
- Cognitive: "Thinking"
- Psychomotor: Movement

# Human Performance Framework



# Individual Differences Factors



*Innate Characteristics*

*Past and Recent Experiences*

# Physical Load



[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/6/65/Svetlana\\_Podobedova\\_2012c.jpg/309px-Svetlana\\_Podobedova\\_2012c.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/6/65/Svetlana_Podobedova_2012c.jpg/309px-Svetlana_Podobedova_2012c.jpg)

**Strength**



[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/38/Meib\\_Kellezighi\\_2009\\_London\\_Marathon.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/38/Meib_Kellezighi_2009_London_Marathon.jpg)

**Endurance**



[http://cdn.abclocal.go.com/images/wpvil/cms\\_e/xf\\_2007/news/sports/8759979\\_448x252.jpg](http://cdn.abclocal.go.com/images/wpvil/cms_e/xf_2007/news/sports/8759979_448x252.jpg)

**Coordination**



# Physical Load Factors Derivation

$$\frac{\Delta E}{t} = P$$

Stamina: Magnitude of physical work performed

$$P = \frac{W}{t}$$

Endurance: Duration of sustained physical effort

$$W = \vec{F} \cdot d$$

Strength: Amount of directed force

Posture: Difference between desired and achieved body position

$$P = \frac{\vec{F} \cdot d}{t} = \vec{F} \cdot \frac{d}{t}$$

Coordination: Difference between desired and achieved body position over time

$$P = \vec{F} \cdot \vec{v}$$

Speed: Linear and angular displacement over time

$$P = m\vec{a} \cdot \vec{v} = m\vec{v} \cdot \vec{a}$$

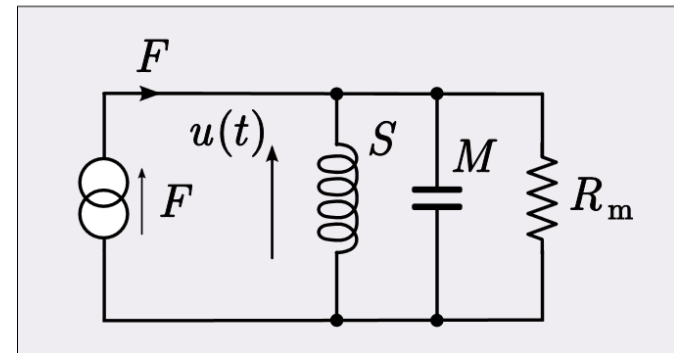
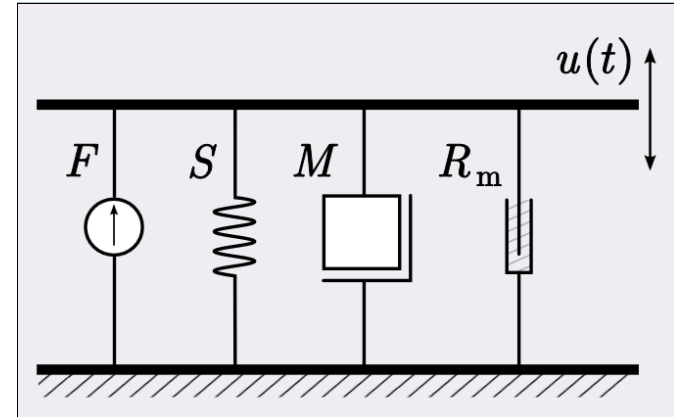
Acceleration: Ability to change speed over time

$$P = p \cdot \vec{a}$$

Agility: Ability to change velocity vector over time

# Cognitive Load Factors Derivation

We often turn to mechanical analogies when non-mechanical systems exhibit behaviors that are analogous to mechanical systems



[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/6/65/Mobility\\_analogy\\_resonator\\_vertical.svg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/6/65/Mobility_analogy_resonator_vertical.svg)

*The Maxwell Analogy (1861) – electrical circuits represented as mechanical systems*

# Physical and Cognitive Load Factors

<b>Physical Load Factors</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Stamina	Magnitude of physical work performed
Endurance	Duration of sustained physical effort
Strength	Amount of directed force
Posture	Difference between desired and achieved body position
Coordination	Difference between desired and achieved body position over time
Speed	Linear and angular displacement over time
Acceleration	Ability to change speed over time
Agility	Ability to change velocity vector over time

<b>Cognitive Load Factors</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Stamina	Magnitude of cognitive work performed
Endurance	Duration of sustained cognitive effort
Skill	Ability to deal with complexity; ability to oppose cognitive stress
Mental Stability	Ability to regulate or maintain mental state
Sensemaking	Accuracy of projection of future outcomes
Processing Rate	Number of cognitive processes over time
Cognitive Acceleration	Ability to achieve a level of performance when switching tasks and/or states
Cognitive Agility	Ability to incorporate and prioritize new cognitive demands

# Future Work

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Physical and cognitive load factor decomposition

Interaction between physical and cognitive loads

Cognitive load factor operationalization

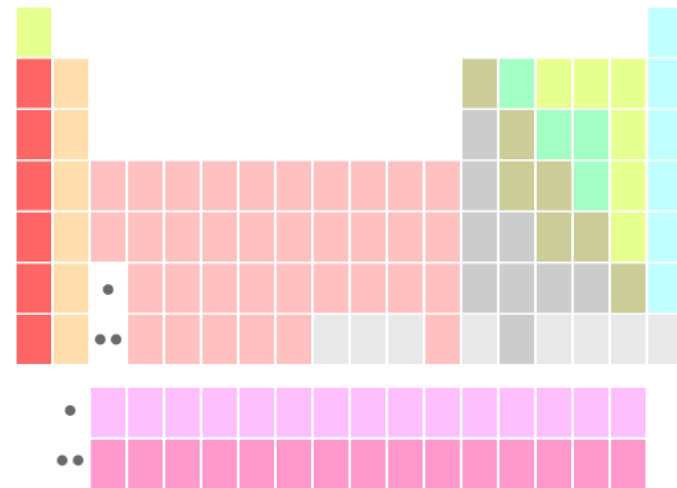
Applications to team performance assessment

# Final Thought

## “Periodic Table” for Human Performance

ОПЫТЪ СИСТЕМЫ ЭЛЕМЕНТОВЪ,  
ОСНОВАННОЙ НА ИХЪ АТОМНОМЪ ВѢСѢ И ХИМИЧЕСКОМЪ СХОДСТВѢ.

		Ti=50	Zr=90	?=180.	
		V=51	Nb=94	Ta=182.	
		Cr=52	Mo=96	W=186.	
		Mn=55	Rh=104,4	Pt=197,1.	
		Fe=56	Ru=104,4	Ir=198.	
		Ni=Co=59	Pd=106,6	Os=199.	
H=1		Cu=63,4	Ag=108	Hg=200.	
	Be=9,4	Mg=24	Zn=65,2	Cd=112	
	B=11	Al=27,3	?=68	Ur=116	Au=197?
	C=12	Si=28	?=70	Sn=118	
	N=14	P=31	As=75	Sb=122	Bi=210?
	O=16	S=32	Se=79,4	Te=128?	
	F=19	Cl=35,5	Br=80	I=127	
Li=7	Na=23	K=39	Rb=85,4	Cs=133	Tl=204.
		Ca=40	Sr=87,6	Ba=137	Pb=207.
		?=45	Ce=92		
		?Er=56	La=94		
		?Yt=60	Di=95		
		?In=75,6	Th=118?		



Д. Менделѣевъ

Not all defined, but recognizing an underlying structure to derive new insight

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/c/ce/Periodic\\_table\\_by\\_Mendeleev%2C\\_1869.svg/250px-Periodic\\_table\\_by\\_Mendeleev%2C\\_1869.svg.png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/c/ce/Periodic_table_by_Mendeleev%2C_1869.svg/250px-Periodic_table_by_Mendeleev%2C_1869.svg.png)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Periodic\\_Table\\_overview\\_\(standard\).svg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Periodic_Table_overview_(standard).svg)

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**Thank you**

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