

July 11-12, 2007

ITEM NO 136-1004-R0707 **Approval of a new Montana Center for Work Physiology and Exercise Metabolism**

THAT: In accordance with Montana University System Policy, the Board of Regents of Higher Education authorizes The University of Montana-Missoula to create a Montana Center for Work Physiology and Exercise Metabolism.

EXPLANATION: In the area of applied human physiology, there are limited avenues to translate research findings into practice. Although there are U.S. military research facilities associated with the work physiology of the soldier, it has become difficult for smaller branches of the military to use these venues due to cost. Over the last four years, our current laboratory has been collaborating with the U.S. Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) and the U.S. Army (USARIEM) on a number of laboratory and field projects. However, the process of providing an efficient approach to research collaborations between these two agencies has been tangled with other laboratory obligations. Therefore, the current funding provides for dedicated laboratory space to continue and enhance these cooperative agreements.

The planned scope of practice for the Montana Center for Work Physiology and Exercise Metabolism include four primary objectives: 1. To give state, national, and international recognition for this unit of The University of Montana; 2. To enhance the connection between educational and research components of the Montana University System; 3. To have a specifically designated "Center" for bringing dedicated funds to the University (grants, contracts, donations) and for attracting students, visiting scholars, and global collaborative research colleagues; and 4. Promote an efficient approach to intensive data collection efforts in both laboratory and extreme field environments.