

1 **INFLUENCE OF AMBIENT LIGHT AND FEEDBACK ON MOTIVATION TO**  
2 **CARRY OUT A TASK: IMPLICATIONS FOR OPERATION OF UNMANNED**  
3 **AIRCRAFT**

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**Abstract**

Extensive aerial surveillance using unmanned aerial vehicles require persistent motivation to monitor areas under surveillance, track people or vehicles, and carry out multiple checklists. Environmental factors and behavioural triggers can attenuate or enhance the approach motivation. The aim of this study was to test whether ambient lighting in the ground control station of an unmanned aerial vehicle and task feedback can incite motivation changes. Thirty participants were randomly allocated to a light (red, blue, or control) condition and a feedback (negative or positive) condition to test the effects of light and feedback on motivation during a 20-minute study. Self-report measures of mood state and motivation were taken while the participant completed two rounds of a visual search task before and after the ambient light and feedback interventions. Positive motivation increased in the blue light condition and decreased in the red and the control group relative to the baseline. No other significant effects were found, however trends in the data suggest that blue light raises approach motivation, and red light decreases approach motivation. The findings suggest that ambient interventions could be a useful tool to ensure a positive motivation is maintained for the operation of unmanned vehicles.

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## Introduction

28 In the aviation field, the misuse of checklists was found to be a major contributing factor to  
29 many crashes (Rantz, Dickinson, Sinclair, & Van Houten, 2009). Whether the task is appraised  
30 as monotonous or the pilot 's cognitive workload is stretched by multitasking (Herbst &  
31 Klöckner, 2014), there is a high risk that motivation to perform the task is dropping (Fairclough  
32 & Ewing, 2017). Maintaining a positive motivation to approach and perform the task might be  
33 modulated by environmental factors. Previous studies (e.g., Spiridon & Fairclough, 2017)  
34 indicated that blue light is an efficient ambient intervention to reduce subjective negative  
35 feelings, but no links have been investigated in relation to the motivation. Positive motivation  
36 has also been found to be heighten by constant positive feedback (Rantz et al., 2009), but  
37 interactions with the ambient light have not been investigated. Many pilots in the armed forces  
38 already fly attack and surveillance unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) from confined ground  
39 control stations with minimal exposure to natural light and ambient blue light might have  
40 behavioural benefits on its own (e.g., go over a checklist regularly) by maintaining a high  
41 motivation, or in combination with feedback of performance. Hence, the current study  
42 examined whether ambient interventions and positive feedback could increase an approach  
43 motivation to carry out a set task. The results could be generalised to motivation triggers to use  
44 checklists in unmanned aviation.

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### *Light and Motivation*

47 Research on the way in which ambient lighting influences motivation has found some  
48 mixed findings (Knez, 2001; Mehta & Zhu, 2009; Wang et al., 2014). Red light is associated  
49 with failure or danger and leads to avoidance motivation (Mehta & Zhu, 2009). However,  
50 research also finds that people will attribute blue colours to fearful expressions which would  
51 suggest that in blue light there would be some avoidance motivation (Dael et al., 2016).  
52 Contrary to findings by Dael and colleagues (2016) and by Mehta and Zhu (2009) research  
53 found that blue light will induce approach motivation in tasks while learnt associations with  
54 blood and warnings cause red light to induce avoidance motivation (Wang et al., 2014). As  
55 blue light induces approach motivation it causes an individual to have the desire to face a task  
56 and perform best on this while red inspires the feelings to run away of withdraw from a task

57 (Wang et al., 2014). The presence of the colour or even the word red can cause anxious  
58 responses appearing as an avoidance motivation (Elliot et al., 2007). In an attempt to replicate  
59 Mehta and Zhu's (2009) findings in an exact replication of their anagram study with triple the  
60 number of participants, research by Steele (2014) failed to find significant effects of colour  
61 priming on approach or avoidance motivation.

62

63 Red light has a positive effect on tasks that require local attention style of processing  
64 (Mehta and Zhu, 2009). Exposure to red light increases performance on cognitive tasks and  
65 increases focus on detail oriented tasks (Mehta and Zhu, 2009). This increased focus may be  
66 due to strong effects of the colour or word red and its ability to cause a narrowing of attention  
67 (Maier, Elliot, & Lichtenfeld, 2008). Blue light has a significant effect on alertness and  
68 performance on both cognitive and creative tasks (Ekstrom & Beaven, 2014; Plitnick, et al.,  
69 2010). Blue light has been found to reduce the number of attentional lapses that occur during  
70 task participation leading to higher levels of focus and increased mental effort on a task  
71 (Holzman, 2010). Contrary to this, Knez (2001) states blue light impairs short term memory  
72 and attention on cognitive tasks. In support of research suggesting light influences motivation,  
73 research by Dzulkifi & Mustafar (2013) states that the presence of any colour at all will raise  
74 attention levels. This highlights the fact that any environment with non-white lighting will  
75 increase attention and alertness (Dzulkifi & Mustafar, 2013). In response to this raise in  
76 attention a person's reaction time increases, this will cause them to give a faster response time  
77 on a timed task (Dzulkifi & Mustafar, 2013).

78

### 79 *Feedback and Motivation*

80 Feedback can act as an external motivator, or be perceived as a threat to the self,  
81 encouraging withdrawal from a task to protect self-esteem (Cianci et al., 2010). Research by

82 Vellerand and colleagues (1988) and Tang and Baldwin (2001) discovered that verbal  
83 performance feedback on an interesting task would direct an individual's intrinsic motivation,  
84 specifically positive verbal feedback would raise intrinsic motivation in both males and  
85 females. When presented with negative feedback, there is a prospect of task failure inciting an  
86 individual to either disengage from a task or aim to work harder to aim to succeed, while this  
87 occurs a change in motivation can present as an increase or decrease in motivation (Fairclough  
88 & Roberts, 2011; Tang & Baldwin, 2001). Burgers and colleagues (2015) found that negative  
89 feedback decreased feelings of competence in game players but encouraged prolonged game  
90 play, while positive feedback satisfied feelings of competency boosting intrinsic motivation.  
91 Negative feedback in general will increase avoidance behaviour and reduce motivation to  
92 continue (Krenn et al., 2013). Feedback types either descriptive, comparative, or evaluative  
93 were also found to have differing results in changes in motivation and task engagement, with  
94 evaluative feedback increasing task continuation while comparative feedback decreased  
95 motivation to continue (Burgers, Eden, van Engelenburg, & Buningh, 2015). Some research  
96 suggests that higher motivation encourages an individual to be more responsive to feedback  
97 that is given in any form, as well as influence how they will use it to continue with the task  
98 (DePasque & Tricomi, 2015).

99

100 This research aims to understand further how feedback and ambient lighting in the  
101 environment will motivate an individual to pursue a task. Key research on how red and blue  
102 colours influence motivation tend to agree and suggest red leads to avoidance while blue leads  
103 to approach motivation (Mehta & Zhu, 2009). However, when attempting to replicate the  
104 research carried out by Mehta and Zhu (2009), Steele (2014) failed to find corresponding  
105 results bringing into question the replicability of the results. To address this discrepancy,  
106 further research needs to be explored into the area of light and colour and its subsequent

107 influence on motivation valence. Research on feedback is often conflicting or shows only  
108 smaller, minor effects particularly in terms of motivation (Krenn, Würth, & Hergovich, 2013).  
109 Varying methods are used to test motivation changes in people either through self-report  
110 (Matthews et al., 2002) or by timing how long a person is willing to do a task (Tang & Baldwin,  
111 2001). This present research aimed to address this by seeking to find a further, stronger effect  
112 of feedback on motivation using the self-report method of measuring motivation to get tangible  
113 scores for participant's feelings.

114 From research by Holzman (2010) and by Mehta & Zhu (2009) it is expected that red  
115 light will have a negative effect on motivation while blue light will increase task motivation.  
116 Negative feedback will incite a change in motivation, the direction of change is disputed in the  
117 literature however (Burgers et al., 2013; Krenn et al., 2013; Fairclough & Roberts, 2011; Tang  
118 & Baldwin, 2001; Vellarand et al., 1988). In response to the interaction between light and  
119 feedback the combination of red light and negative feedback will reduce approach motivation  
120 and focus of attention.

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## Method

### 123 Participants

124 University students were recruited through a poster campaign and opportunity  
125 sampling. In total there were 30 participants with an age range of 18-52 years, ( $M = 22.86$   
126 years). In total, there were 8 males and 22 females. Participants were pre-screened for heart  
127 conditions and colour blindness and state levels of anger. Through random selection 10  
128 participants received red light exposure, 10 participants received blue light exposure, and 10  
129 participants were in the control group receiving no light exposure (Table 1). A group of 15  
130 participants received positive feedback on task performance while 15 participants received

131 negative feedback on task performance. All participants provided informed written consent.  
132 Ethical approval was reviewed and approved by the institution.

133

134 **Table 1. Means and SD participant STAXI Trait in all experimental conditions**

	<b>Red Light</b>	<b>Blue light</b>	<b>Control</b>	<b>Positive feedback</b>	<b>Negative feedback</b>
<b>No. of Participants</b>	10	10	10	10	10
<b>Mean STAXI</b>	18.90	17.70	16.30	17.20	18.07
<b>SD</b>	6.12	4.00	2.00	3.57	5.12

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136

### 137 **Study Design**

138 A mixed groups design was utilised to investigate the effects of ambient lighting and  
139 feedback on negative emotional affect, attention, and motivation. The independent variables  
140 were ambient light and feedback given. The dependent variables were state anger level,  
141 attention, heart rate and motivation. Participants anger levels were measured with the STAXI-  
142 2 test (Spielberger, 1999) and through measures of heart rate. Motivation was measured using  
143 the motivation subset of questions from the Dundee Stress State Questionnaire (Matthews et  
144 al., 2002). Attention scores were given based on the error rate and reaction time on a visual  
145 search task. The formal design of the present study is presented in Table 1. It was predicted  
146 that mean anger levels would be higher in the negative feedback group and red-light group.  
147 Mean motivation was expected to be higher in the blue light condition and the negative  
148 feedback condition. It was further expected that attention would be higher in the red-light  
149 condition with feedback having no effect on attention.

150

151 **Materials**

152 *Light exposure*

153 Participants were randomly selected to receive exposure to red, blue, or no light  
154 exposure while sat in a darkened room. Ambient red light and blue light exposure were  
155 administered using unbranded 240V LED tape light placed on the desk around the computer  
156 the participant was sat at to complete the task. The light tapes were 6 m long with 60 LED  
157 lights per metre with a space of 16.7 mm between LEDs. A maximum of 225 lx was  
158 measured for both the blue light and red light in the room. Research on ambient light  
159 exposure completed by Plitnick et al. (2010) used lights of 10 lx and 40 lx. Other research,  
160 however, suggests that approximately 195 lx is required to incite changes in an individual  
161 (Varkevisser, Raymann & Keyson, 2011). This suggests that the lighting used should be  
162 strong enough to have witnessed significant changes. The total time exposed to ambient  
163 lighting did not exceed 25 mins for all participants, research suggests this ambient lighting  
164 exposure is harmless to an individual and safe to use for research purposes (Varkevisser et  
165 al., 2011).

166

167 *Negative Affect*

168 To obtain a measure of both state and trait anger, participants were asked to fill out the  
169 State anger scale (Spielberger, 1999). The questionnaire is made up of fifteen items measured  
170 on a Likert scale from 1 to 4 (1 = not at all, 5 = very much so). The response is formed into  
171 three subscales which are: a) feelings of anger (*S-Ang/F*), (b) feel like expressing anger verbally  
172 (*S-Ang/V*), and (c) feeling like expressing anger physically (*S-Ang/P*). Evidence of predictive  
173 validity of the STAXI-2 in the measurement of anger has been provided in several pieces of  
174 research (Spielberger & Reheiser, 2010; Deschênes, Dugas, Fracalanza, & Koerner, 2012).  
175 The internal consistency for all scales and subscales was reliable with Cronbach's alpha values

176 ranging from .76 for the 4-item T-Anger/R subscale to greater than .84 (Spielberger, 1999;  
177 Spielberger and Reheiser, 2004). Responses for the STAXI state questionnaire in this instance  
178 yielded Chronbach's alpha scores of .79 for trait anger and .95 for state anger.

179

#### 180 *Motivation*

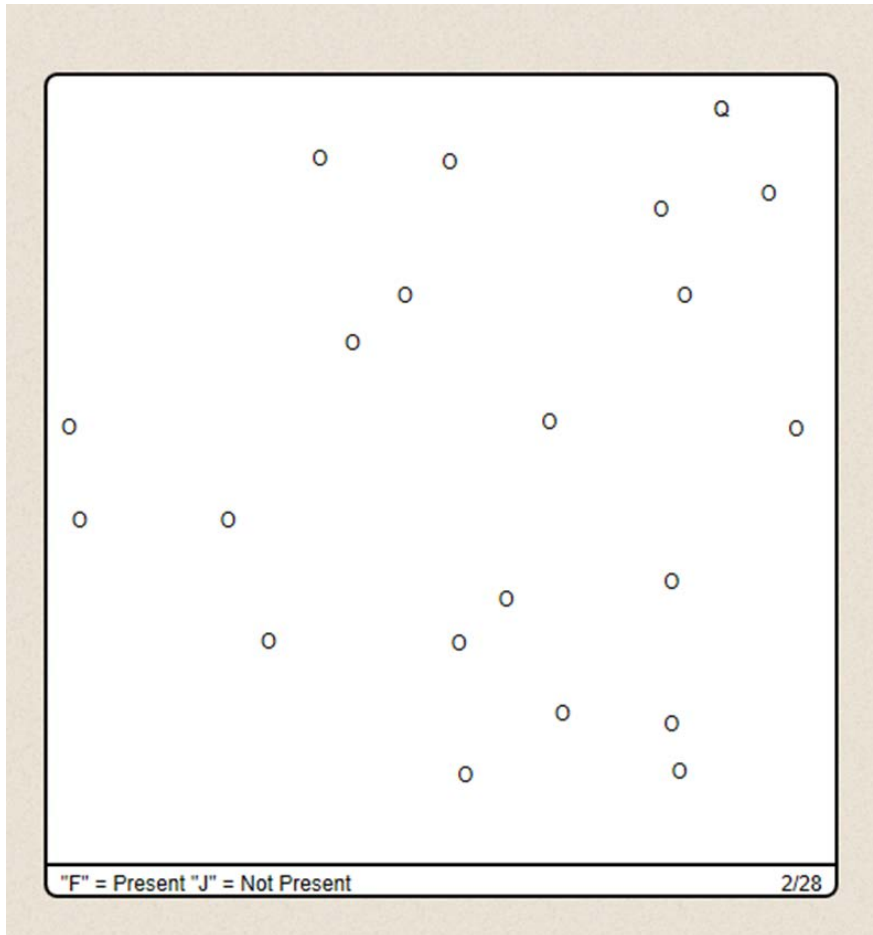
181 Motivation was measured with the Dundee Stress State Questionnaire (DSSQ)  
182 (Matthews et al., 2002). The 8-item questionnaire is formed into two subscales, which are  
183 positive and negative motivation. Internal consistency of all scales and subscales was found to  
184 be reliable with Cronbach's alpha values ranging from .05 for the positive motivation subscales  
185 to greater than .74 for negative motivation.

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#### 187 *Task*

188 To obtain a score of attention, participants completed a practice trial and full round of  
189 a visual search task available online ([www.swarthmore.edu](http://www.swarthmore.edu)); Figure 1. The sequences of  
190 searching consisted of either 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, or 28 distractors present on the screen while  
191 a participant was looking to locate the letter "Q" (the target) among letter "O" (the distractor).  
192 For the practice trial round there were 28 sequences of visual searching and 140 sequences for  
193 the actual task round. The use of visual search tasks as a measure of attention have been used  
194 and discussed in several pieces of literature (Verghese, 2001; Yantis & Jonides, 1984). Task  
195 error and response time were recorded to indicate task performance and attention as research  
196 suggests light exposure would influence response time (Chellappa et al., 2011).





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*Figure 1. Visual search task*

200 **Procedure**

201 Participants were pre-screened for colour blindness, heart conditions, other medical  
202 conditions, medication, and trait levels of anger were taken. Self-report measures were tested  
203 between positive and negative feedback, between light conditions, and across all experimental  
204 stages (baseline, trial and task). The participants then took a seat in front of a computer in a  
205 darkened room. Participants completed a STAXI-II to assess a present state level of anger.  
206 Before completing a trial round of a visual search task on the computer, the relevant light for  
207 the condition the participant was assigned to was turned on. This light remained on throughout  
208 the rest of the study, approximately 10 minutes. Participants were instructed to complete the  
209 trial round of a visual search task as quickly and accurately as possible. Upon completing the  
210 trial, the participant filled out STAXI-II and motivation questionnaires while the researcher

211 looked over and saved results from the trial. False feedback either positive or negative  
212 depending on the condition participant was assigned to was then handed to the participant.  
213 They were then instructed to take a minute to read over the feedback before being given a  
214 further STAXI-II questionnaire to assess any change in mood state after feedback. They then  
215 moved on to a second round of the visual search task. After task completion, a final STAXI-II  
216 and motivation questionnaire were given before the participant was handed a debrief.  
217 Deception of the false feedback was revealed, and the participant was given opportunities to  
218 ask any questions before leaving. The whole procedure lasted between 10 and 25 minutes with  
219 some participants responding slower than others on both self-report and visual search tasks.

220

221

## Results

222 *Self-report measures*

223 State levels of negative affect was examined in terms of a 3 (Light: red vs. blue vs.  
224 control) x 2 (Feedback valence: positive vs. negative) x 4 (STAXI measure: pre-trial vs. post-  
225 trial vs. post-feedback vs. post-task) mixed ANOVA. It was expected that negative affect  
226 would be higher in the red-light condition, and in the negative feedback condition, and in the  
227 post-feedback and post-task responses.

228 There was no significant main effect of light,  $F(2, 24) = 1.13, p > .05, \eta_p^2 = .08$ ,  
229 negative affect was higher in the control group ( $M = 16.35, SD = .40$ ) relative to the red light  
230 condition ( $M = 15.55, SD = .40$ ) and blue light condition ( $M = 15.68, SD = .40$ ).

231 There was no significant effect of light across experimental stages,  $F(6, 72) = 0.47, p$   
232  $> 0.05, \eta_p^2 = .04$ , however, negative affect scores raised for red ( $M = 15.2, SD = .83, M =$   
233  $16.10, SD = .52$ ) and blue light conditions ( $M = 15.40, SD = .83, M = 16.20, SD = .52$ ) while  
234 in the control group scores lowered slightly ( $M = 16.80, SD = .83, M = 16.60, SD = .52$ ) from  
235 first to last measure, respectively. No significant effect of feedback was found,  $F(1,24) = .22$ ,

236  $p > .05$ ,  $\eta_p^2 = .01$ . Means were slightly higher as expected in the negative feedback condition  
 237 ( $M = 15.97$ ,  $SD = .32$ ) than positive feedback ( $M = 15.75$ ,  $SD = .32$ ). Additionally, no  
 238 significant effect was found of feedback across experimental stages  $F(3, 84) = 2.43$ ,  $p > .05$ ,  
 239  $\eta_p^2 = .08$ . STAXI scores rose for the negative feedback ( $M = 15.47$ ,  $SD = .67$ ,  $M = 16.67$ ,  $SD$   
 240  $= .40$ ) while lowering for positive feedback conditions ( $M = 16.13$ ,  $SD = .67$ ,  $M = 15.93$ ,  $SD$   
 241  $= .40$ ) from the first measure to the last, respectively. There was also a non-significant  
 242 interaction between Light and Feedback,  $F(2,24) = .06$ ,  $p > .05$ ,  $\eta_p^2 = .01$ . Means and SD are  
 243 listed in Table 2.

244

245 **Table 2. Means and SD of STAXI scores in red, blue and control across experimental**  
 246 **stages.**

Light	Feedback	Experimental stage	Mean	SD
Red	Positive	1	15.20	.45
		2	15.60	.89
		3	15.20	.45
		4	15.60	.89
	Negative	1	15.20	.45
		2	15.40	.89
		3	15.60	1.34
		4	16.60	1.67
Blue	Positive	1	15.40	.55
		2	15.60	.89
		3	15.20	.45
		4	15.80	1.30
	Negative	1	15.40	.89

2	15.00	.00
3	16.40	2.61
4	16.60	1.67

247

248 Positive motivation was examined in terms of a 3 (Light: red vs. blue vs. control) x 2

249 (Feedback valence: positive vs. negative) x 2 (Motivation measure: post-trial vs. post task)

250 mixed ANOVA. It was expected that positive motivation would be higher in the blue-light

251 condition and would increase over the progression of the study, and in the positive feedback

252 condition in the post-task responses positive motivation would also be higher.

253 There was no significant main effect of light,  $F(2, 24) = .08, p > .05, \eta_p^2 = .01$  positive

254 motivation was higher in the control group ( $M = 7.10, SD = .78$ ) than red light ( $M = 6.65, SD$

255  $= .78$ ) and blue light ( $M = 6.85, SD = .78$ ). There was a significant effect of light across

256 experimental stages,  $F(2,24) = 3.85, p < 0.05, \eta_p^2 = .24$ , positive motivation scores raised in

257 the blue light group ( $M = 6.60, SD = .66, M = 7.10, SD = .96$ ) and lowered for red light ( $M =$

258  $6.80, SD = .66, M = 6.50, SD = .96$ ) and the control group ( $M = 7.80, SD = .66, M = 6.40, SD$

259  $= .96$ ) from first to second measure, respectively. No significant effect of feedback was

260 found,  $F(1,24) = .54, p > .05, \eta_p^2 = .02$  means were slightly higher in the negative feedback

261 condition ( $M = 7.20, SD = .64$ ) than positive feedback ( $M = 6.53, SD = .64$ ). Additionally,

262 no significant effect was found of feedback across experimental stages  $F(1,24) = 3.61, p >$

263  $.05, \eta_p^2 = .13$ , positive motivation scores rose for the negative feedback ( $M = 7.13, SD = .54,$

264  $M = 7.27, SD = .78$ ) while lowering for positive feedback conditions ( $M = 7.00, SD = .54, M$

265  $= 6.07, SD = .78$ ) from the first measure to the second measure, respectively. There was also

266 a non-significant interaction between Light and Feedback,  $F(2,24) = .03, p > .05, \eta_p^2 = .00$ .

267 Means and SD are listed in Table 3.

268

269 **Table 3. Means and SD of positive motivation scores in red, blue and control, as well as**  
 270 **positive and negative feedback across experimental stages.**

Light	Feedback	Experimental stage	Mean	SD
Red	Positive	1	6.80	2.17
		2	5.80	2.39
	Negative	1	6.80	2.77
		2	7.20	3.56
Blue	Positive	1	7.00	1.87
		2	5.80	3.27
	Negative	1	6.20	1.79
		2	8.40	3.36
Control	Positive	1	7.20	2.17
		2	6.60	2.97
	Negative	1	8.40	1.52
		2	6.20	2.39

271

272 A 3 (Light: red vs. blue vs. control) x 2 (Feedback valence: positive vs. negative) x 2  
 273 (Motivation measure: post-trial vs. post task) mixed ANOVA was utilized to examine  
 274 negative motivation. It was expected that negative motivation would be higher in the red-light  
 275 condition, and positive feedback condition in the post-task responses.

276 There was no significant main effect of light,  $F(2, 24) = 2.15, p > .05, \eta_p^2 = .15$   
 277 negative motivation was higher in the blue light group ( $M = 14.15, SD = .68$ ) than red light  
 278 ( $M = 14.10, SD = .68$ ) and control ( $M = 12.40, SD = .68$ ). No significant effect of light was  
 279 seen across experimental stages,  $F(2,24) = .43, p > 0.05, \eta_p^2 = .04$ , negative motivation scores  
 280 lowered in the blue light group ( $M = 15.10, SD = .71, M = 13.20, SD = .81$ ), red light ( $M =$

281 14.80, SD = .71,  $M = 13.40$ , SD = .81), and the control group ( $M = 12.90$ , SD = .71,  $M =$   
 282 11.90, SD = .81) from first to second measure, respectively. No significant effect of feedback  
 283 was found,  $F(1,24) = 1.32$ ,  $p > .05$ ,  $\eta_p^2 = .05$  means were slightly lower in the negative  
 284 feedback condition ( $M = 13.10$ , SD = .55) than positive feedback ( $M = 14.00$ , SD = .55).  
 285 Additionally, no significant effect was found of feedback across experimental stages  $F(1,24)$   
 286 = 3.14,  $p > .05$ ,  $\eta_p^2 = .12$ , negative motivation scores rose for the negative feedback ( $M =$   
 287 13.47, SD = .58,  $M = 12.73$ , SD = .66) and positive feedback conditions ( $M = 15.07$ , SD =  
 288 .58,  $M = 12.93$ , SD = .66) from the first measure to the second measure, respectively. There  
 289 was also a non-significant interaction between Light and Feedback,  $F(2,24) = .45$ ,  $p > .05$ ,  $\eta_p^2$   
 290 = .04. Means and SD are listed in Table 4.

291

292 **Table 4. Means and SD of negative motivation scores in red, blue and control and positive**  
 293 **and negative feedback across experimental stages.**

Light	Feedback	Experimental stage	Mean	SD
Red	Positive	1	15.60	.89
		2	13.40	3.21
	Negative	1	14.00	2.45
		2	13.40	2.88
Blue	Positive	1	15.40	1.34
		2	12.40	3.05
	Negative	1	14.80	1.09
		2	14.00	.07
Control	Positive	1	14.20	1.30
		2	13.00	.70
	Negative	1	11.60	4.34

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295

## Discussion

296

Environmental visual cues are important in human mood, cognitions and behaviours.

297

Ambient lighting, of both red and blue colour, have been shown to incite changes in

298

individual mood, motivation, attention and heart rate (Dzulkifi & Mustafar, 2013; Elliot &

299

Maier, 2007; Plitnick et al., 2010, Santesso et al., 2012). Task feedback additionally has been

300

shown to cause changes to mood, motivation, attention and heart rate (Cianci et al., 2010;

301

Fairclough & Roberts, 2011; Hattie & Timperley, 2007). For optimal performance in learning

302

and achievement contexts an awareness of how both these factors influence a person is highly

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important. The present study aimed to address gaps and discrepancies in the literature as well

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as combine the use of multiple independent variables discussed in other research. This was

305

achieved by investigating the effects that both ambient lighting (red and blue) and task

306

feedback (positive and negative) had on a person's mood, motivation, attention, and heart

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rate.

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309

### *Light and Motivation*

310

A significant effect of light on positive motivation was found across experimental

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stages. In the blue light condition, positive motivation raised while it lowered in both the red

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ambient light and control groups. Means were higher in the blue light condition than the red

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light or control group. It can be inferred that ambient lighting does influence positive

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motivation and the presence of blue light is associated with higher positive motivation.

315

However, negative motivation was not affected by the ambient light.

316

Overall these findings agree with Wang and colleagues (2014) that states blue light

317

will induce approach motivation. Over the progression of the study means of positive

318 motivation were seen to decrease in both the red light and the control condition suggesting  
319 that the participant was becoming more avoidant of the task and desire to continue with the  
320 task lowered. This supports research that red will induce anxious and avoidance responses  
321 (Elliot et al., 2007). However, negative motivation scores were not found to be affected by  
322 light conditions which may indicate that subjective appraisal of negative motivation might be  
323 underrated to avoid negative feelings or could be attributed to individual differences to light  
324 perception. Pervious research found that blue light tends to invoke also avoidance motivation  
325 (Dael et al., 2016); although this study found such trend in the data, the results remained  
326 inconclusive related to the negative motivation imposing the need for a further expansion of  
327 the research in this topic.

328

### 329 *Feedback and Motivation*

330 No significant effect of feedback on positive motivation was found. Positive motivation  
331 was higher in the negative feedback condition than positive feedback condition. No  
332 significant effect of feedback was found across experimental stages either. Positive  
333 motivation did raise in response to negative feedback while lowering in the positive feedback  
334 condition. Changes in means found suggest that negative feedback increases approach  
335 motivation that causes an individual to become more motivated to continue with the task.

336 Negative motivation was not significantly changed by feedback given to participants.  
337 Means were lower in the negative feedback condition than the positive feedback condition.  
338 Over experimental stages, negative motivation did not significantly change. Negative  
339 motivation means rose for both feedback conditions. Positive feedback increased negative  
340 motivation suggesting a disengagement from the task after receiving the feedback.

341 Negative feedback was seen to cause higher positive motivation which increased through  
342 experimental stages while negative motivation was lower in the negative feedback and rose



343 with task progression. Findings do support prior research that suggested negative feedback  
344 would cause an increase in motivation as both positive and negative motivation increased  
345 showing an overall increase in motivation (Burgers et al., 2015; Fairclough & Roberts, 2011;  
346 Tang & Baldwin, 2001).

347 Positive feedback was seen to have higher negative (avoidance) motivation as well as  
348 a lowered positive (approach) motivation this is conflicting to research that suggested that  
349 positive feedback would increase intrinsic motivation (Tang & Baldwin, 2001; Vellerand et  
350 al., 1988). These findings are of little importance as overall they were not seen to be  
351 significant, therefore any changes will have been mild and more likely due to extraneous  
352 variables than feedback manipulation.

353

#### 354 *Limitations of the study*

355 Most research on ambient light interventions exposed participants to 30 minutes or more  
356 of whichever form or colour of light that was chosen (Drummond & Quah, 2001; Gabel et al.,  
357 2017; Yuda et al., 2017). While based on the design of this research participants received a  
358 maximum of 15 minutes of ambient light exposure. It is possible that the time of exposure  
359 was not enough to cause any significant effects or changes in the participants, particularly  
360 those that completed the task in faster time periods. Additionally, as the participants were  
361 instructed to complete computer tasks as quickly and accurately as possible this led to  
362 inequality in overall time of light exposure which would be an extraneous variable affecting  
363 result's significance.

364 An imbalance in the numbers of each gender of participant may be problematic as gender  
365 differences in susceptibility to feedback are present. Research by Tan and Pang (2012)  
366 suggest that females may be more likely to avoid stressors and engage in emotionally  
367 focussed coping strategies in response to stress such as negative task feedback. Alternatively,

368 males were found to be more likely to adopt both cognitive and behavioural avoidance  
369 strategies when faced with failure such as in negative feedback (Brougham, Zail, Mendoza, &  
370 Miller, 2009).

371 Hattie and Timperley (2007) suggest that feedback has more of an influence on an  
372 individual when they are additionally given details on how to improve. This may suggest why  
373 the feedback given in this research had not revealed a significant effect as the participants  
374 were not presented with information on how to improve. In addition, research suggests that  
375 the most effective forms of feedback are those given through video, audio, or computer  
376 assisted mediums which were not used in the present study and could have potentially  
377 assisted in the lack of significant effects of feedback (Hattie & Timperley, 2007).

378

### 379 *Practical Applications*

380 In the aviation contexts the use of feedback on task performance can encourage an  
381 individual to become more motivated to continue with a task, and if used in combination with  
382 a blue-light intervention an overall highest level of approach motivation could be achieved.  
383 The presence of blue light could provide the optimal performance situation for an UAV pilot  
384 of payload operator and will lead to higher motivation to do a task even it is routinely  
385 unchallenging (e.g., performing regularly checklists). Although the GCS architecture is  
386 highly processor-oriented, the GCS requires pilots to maneuver the UAVs and a payload  
387 operator to monitor the computer systems, gather intelligence, and forward intelligence from  
388 the UAV to other end users (Natarajan, 2001). By ensuring motivational self-control of GCS  
389 operators, we would be developing a two way interactive platform where the user controls the  
390 UAV while another computer controls the user's motivational state to ensure optimum  
391 performance.

392

393 *Future Directions*

394 Future research should consider limitations in the present study in terms of design and  
395 adjust to improve these. As trends in the data do appear to head in the direction of the  
396 hypotheses it could be worthwhile to re-examine the effects that the combination of ambient  
397 lighting and feedback have on mood state, motivation, and psychophysiological effects.  
398 There is evidence for the fact that blue light and feedback can influence positive affect, a  
399 future study could explore a comparison between positive and negative affect in response to  
400 ambient lighting and feedback valence. A deeper exploration of the interaction specifically  
401 between blue light and positive feedback should be completed as the present study's findings  
402 suggest the combination of the two will lead to highest levels of motivation, attention, and  
403 affective state.

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