

---

## Earl A. Alluisi (1927–1993)

---

Earl A. Alluisi died of cancer on August 14, 1993. His death ended a valiant struggle, during which he battled cancer with the same vigor, attention to detail, and intensity that characterized his life. With his death, psychology lost a real friend and one of its strongest supporters.

Earl was born on June 11, 1927, in Richmond, Virginia. He served an enlistment in the army before entering the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, where he studied under Edgar M. Foltin and Stanley B. Williams. After completing his BS in psychology in 1949, Earl went to Ohio State University to study "human engineering," or "applied experimental psychology," with Paul Fitts and other notables such as John Kinzer, Samuel Renshaw, Herbert Toops, Robert Wherry, and Delos Wickens. His studies were interrupted when the army reserve unit that he commanded was activated during the Korean War. He returned to Ohio State after his tour of duty and completed his PhD in December 1954. He continued to serve in the army reserves until 1978, when he retired with over 41 years of service.

After completing his PhD, Earl worked for successive periods with Paul Fitts's Aviation Psychology Laboratory at Ohio State University, the Lockheed Missiles and Space Division in Palo Alto, California; the Stanford Research Institute's scientific advisory team at Fort Ord, California; the psychology department at Emory University; and the Human Factors Research Laboratory at the Lockheed Georgia Company in Marietta, Georgia. In August 1963, he moved to the University of Louisville in Kentucky and began a period that he considered to be among his most enjoyable and productive years.

At the University of Louisville, Earl helped establish a successful PhD program in psychology. He also founded the Performance Research Laboratory, which he supported through a variety of research grants and contracts. With a scientific staff that included John Binford, Glynn Coates, Michael Loeb, Ben Morgan, Richard Smith, John Thurmond, and Joel Warm, among others, this laboratory was highly productive. Well before dual-task performance research became popular, Earl pioneered the development and application of the Multiple Task Performance Battery (MTPB), which was designed to measure individual and group performances of several concurrently presented tasks. Using the MTPB, he conducted studies of the performance effects of infectious diseases and temporal factors such as work-rest schedules, sleep-wakefulness cycles, and sleep loss and recovery. His supporting laboratory research concentrated on human information processing, vigilance, and form perception. Before leaving Louisville, Earl advanced to the position of Vice President for Planning and Institutional Research.

In January 1974, Earl accepted a partially endowed chair in psychology at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, where he initiated the development of a doctoral program in industrial and organizational psychology. He also helped to establish the Performance Assessment Laboratory and the Tidewater Chapter of the Human Factors Society. In collaboration with Glynn Coates and Ben Morgan, he continued to use his multiple task performance assessment methodology as a basis for productive research and doctoral training. After five years at Old Dominion, he went on assignment for the university to the Air Force Human Resources Laboratory at Brooks Air Force Base, Texas.

Earl enjoyed life in Texas and his role as Chief Scientist of the Human Resources Laboratory so much that he accepted an appointment in the Senior Executive Service in December 1982. He continued this appointment until the fall of 1986, when he transferred to the Pentagon as Assistant for Training and Personnel Systems Technology in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. After three years at the Pentagon, Earl accepted a position on the research staff of the Science and Technology Division of the Institute for Defense Analyses, where he worked until his untimely death.

Throughout his career, Earl contributed substantially to psychology and to his chosen areas of concentration, human factors and human performance assessment. He authored or co-authored over 350 publications, presentations, and research reports. He served as president of the Human Factors Society, the Society of Applied Experimental and Engineering Psychologists, the American Psychological Association's Division of Military Psychology, the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, and the Kentucky Psychological Association. He received numerous honors, including the Jerome Ely Award of the Human Factors Society, the Franklin V. Taylor Award of the Society of Applied Experimental and Engineering Psychologists, and the Air Force Meritorious Civilian Service Medal.

On one occasion, Earl noted that the rewards of his life included "a loving and loyal wife, four wonderful kids, grandkids, many wonderful mentors, students, friends, and professional colleagues, lots of good luck, reasonably good health, and a zest for life." Although his enthusiasm, encouragement, commitment to excellence, and professional leadership are truly missed, it helps to know that Earl enjoyed the rewards of his life to the fullest and that he maintained his zest for life until the very end.

Ben B. Morgan, Jr.  
*Department of Psychology*  
*University of Central Florida*