Reviewer’s report

Title: Effects of deployment on diet quality and nutritional status markers of elite U.S. Army Special Operations Forces Soldiers

Version: 0 Date: 09 Apr 2017

Reviewer: Bin Yu

Reviewer's report:

In this paper, Farina and the colleagues investigated potential effects of deployment on diet quality and nutritional status markers of elite U.S. Army SOF Soldiers. They provided important information regarding dietary intake and nutritional status in deployed environments. This paper is novel and well written. However, several aspects should be addressed and revised by the authors.

1. Abstract section:

   (1) (Line 62-63) What's the n=33/n=50 stands for? Number of participants? Please describe these more clearly.

   (2) (Line 77-83) conclusions of the abstract should be in brief and summary.

2. Methods section: Detailed inclusion and exclusion criteria should be provided.

3. Flow chart for participants selection should be provided (This chart should list detailed reasons for exclusions or withdrawals).

4. Statistical analysis in methods section: Line 226 to 233, this section should be described in results section.

5. Results section: Detailed information should be provided regarding demographic information for included participants, including no, gender, mean/median age, deployed locations et al.

6. Discussion section: the authors should also address that many potential factors (including environmental and host factors) may affect the outcomes. For example, even climate among different areas may affect the changes.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal