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# United States Patent [19]

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**Bowles et al.**

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[54] ALERTNESS TESTER

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### Related U.S. Application Data

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[52] U.S. Cl. .... **600/300; 600/558**

[58] Field of Search ..... 600/300, 558; 180/272; 128/745; 364/413.02, 300

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### [57] ABSTRACT

A special-purpose computer is provided along with a method for testing users for alertness and mental fitness before beginning work or a potentially dangerous activity. The system and method are usable wherever there is a risk to persons, property, or the environment from individuals not fit to operate machinery or enter an work area safely. The testing methods resemble computer games, but they actually measure mental fitness and alertness rather than aptitude, ability, or intelligence. The disclosed basic test is general, simple and non-intellectual, and compatible with worldwide, multilingual use. Other tests are more specifically designed to test for the ability to perform certain occupational duties or types of activities. The basic test preferably comprises a plurality of yes or no questions based upon graphical data displayed to the user. Each user's answers and performance are preferably maintained in strict confidence through storage only on a removable storage medium, such as a Smart Card.

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### 24 Claims, 1 Drawing Sheet

