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COUNSELOR EDUCATION
AND SUPERVISION

THE REINTEGRATION EXPERIENCES OF ENLISTED ARMY AND NAVY NON
COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AFTER COMBAT: A QUALITATIVE
PHENOMENOLOGICAL STUDY (176 pp.)

Co-Directors of Dissertation: J. Steve Rainey, Ph.D.
Jason McGlothlin, Ph.D.

The purpose of this study was to understand the reintegration experiences of Military Leaders after combat. This study was open to both commissioned and noncommissioned military officers from all 5 branches of the United States Military: Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marines, and Navy. The researcher contacted counselor colleagues to gather a purposeful sampling of military leaders. Through referrals, this study included 5 participants who were noncommissioned officers in the Army or Navy. Participation included two semi-structured interviews: one centering on the combat experience of the individual while the second focused on details of the reintegration experience.

Results of this study indicated that the military leaders' deployment missions left a lasting impact on civilian life, their deployment experiences elicited strong emotional reactions stateside, the leaders' sense of duty and responsibility are still prevalent in civilian life, leaders have sought positive ways to deal with stress, and the connections with others in civilian life had a significant impact on reintegration.

It is unknown if the positive outcomes of this study are in part due to the positive experiences participants had with counselors and/or reaching out to others. Nevertheless, results indicate leaders' insightfulness of their experiences, many who have stated they

have made a conscientious attempt to look at the positive side of situations. Thus, results suggest that leaders have experiences that could help others view reintegration in a positive way while simultaneously working through challenges. Further research is warranted in order to further explore variances among leaders.