

Conducting Psychological Research in a Combat Environment

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The impact of combat on the health and well-being of Soldiers is an important area of research for the U.S. military. The Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) is currently conducting a study entitled, "The WRAIR Land Combat Study," involving Soldiers, Marines, and Navy combat engineers. The study is longitudinal in design and involves assessments before, during and after deployments to the Iraqi theatre of operations. This presentation will focus on the initial findings of this study, highlighting the combat and operational stressors military personnel face in Iraq, the impact of combat/deployment on their mental health, the psychological stigma and barriers that prevent them from obtaining psychological support, and how the delivery of services on the battlefield can be improved.