

Title:

What Factors Influence Veterans Returning to Civilian Life to Go Back to School: Grounded-Theory Study

Sarah G. Long, DNP

School of Nursing and Health Sciences, Robert Morris University, Moon Township, PA, USA

Carl Ross, PhD

School of Nursing and Health Sciences, Robert Morris University, MOON TOWNSHIP, PA, USA

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References:

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Abstract Summary:

As millions of veterans return home to civilian life it's imperative for healthcare providers to be aware of what these veterans face during transition. Understanding what the transition is like for them and their families better enable providers in meeting veterans unique needs, and assist in a healthy transition.

Learning Activity:

LEARNING OBJECTIVES	EXPANDED CONTENT OUTLINE
The learner will be able to identify common obstacles that veterans experience during the transition to civilian life.	A. What is it like for veterans to transition from Military life to Civilian life? (emotionally, mentally, and physically) B. Do veterans feel that they were adequately prepared for this transition? Why or why not? C. What obstacles/challenges do veterans face during their transition to civilian life?
The learner will be able to identify the common supports that veterans have during the transition to civilian life.	D. What aspects of transitioning to civilian life do veterans most enjoy? E. What supports do veterans have available to them during this time of transition? F. At what point do veterans decide to return to school to further

	their education? G. What factors motivate veterans to return to school during this time? H. What do veterans hope to accomplish or gain from returning to school?
The learner will be able to identify what motivates this population to return to school.	
The learner will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the importance of collaboration with other healthcare providers when treating the veteran population.	

Abstract Text:

Approximately 2.5 million veterans have been deployed and returned home since the war on terror began on September 11, 2001 (Leipold, 2013). These veterans face complex challenges of processing combat experiences and reentering community life. Although psychiatric disturbance in individuals formerly deployed to Operation Enduring Freedom /Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF) has received considerable attention, much less is known about their experiences and service needs as they attempt to reintegrate into their communities (Sayer et al., 2011). Review of the literature focuses more on mental health and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and the effects of subsequent education choices. There is minimal research on the long-term outcomes that reflect positive reintegration into civilian life, such as continuing education.

The Veterans Administration (VA spends more than \$70 billion annually (half goes toward medical care), and has suffered budget shortfalls for years as of 2006 (Axe, 2006). As more and more veterans seek assistance in the VA system these figures will only continue to increase as well. Since the VA is purely funded by tax payer dollars this has significant impact on everyone.

This qualitative study is a result of interacting with numerous veterans in various stages of reintegration as result of the author’s clinical experiences. Many of whom voiced similar struggles and obstacles involving reintegration into civilian life. Due to time constraints it was difficult to ascertain specific positive factors that assisted in their reintegration, especially in regards to those who chose to return to school after their service time. It is of great interest and potentially the well-being of these veterans to further investigate the long-term outcomes that reflect positive reintegration into civilian life, such as continuing education to better assist in this transition for these men and women in the future. It is also of great significance for those medical providers in the civilian sectors to be aware of the issues that veterans and their families face during the time of transitioning to civilian life as to better serve the needs of this population.