

Apr 24th, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

# Military Transitioning Programs and Civilian Life Preparedness: A Phenomenological Study about the Process of Transitioning out of the Military and into the Civilian Life

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## Repository Citation

Daniels, Wilisha, "Military Transitioning Programs and Civilian Life Preparedness: A Phenomenological Study about the Process of Transitioning out of the Military and into the Civilian Life" (2017). *Graduate Research Symposium (GCUA)*. 4.  
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# Military Transition Programs and Civilian Life Preparedness

## Abstract

- In recent years, there has been an increase in transitioning programs for military personnel. Since the September 11, attacks on America, millions of U.S. troops have been deployed to the Middle East.
- . Over the past 15 years, approximately, 2.3 million servicemembers have served in the U.S. military during this conflict.
- This study will investigate the process of transitioning of servicemembers from a perspective of acculturation.
- This study will attempt to gain a better understanding of the transition assistant program (TAPs) and the transition process of military servicemembers.

## Problem

- The problem identified is this study focuses on the difficulties that veterans face transitioning.

## Research Questions

- *What was the servicemembers' experience transitioning between the military to civilian life?*
- *What strategies did the veteran employ while transitioning back into the civilian life?*
- *What type of support services or assistance was utilized to help or hinder the veteran transition?*

## Literature

- Approximately 44 percent of the current OIF, OEF, OND veterans state that readjustment to civilian life was difficult compared to just 25 percent who served in previous wars (Roberts, 2015).
- The government's Transition Assistance Program (TAPS) could potentially help identify some of those at risk having difficulty adjusting (GAO, 2014).
- The phenomenological process of acculturation is often used to explain the lived experiences individuals of different cultural backgrounds transitioning into another unfamiliar culture (Sam & Berry 2010).
- The research will analyze the data to find themes according to Moustakas (1994) recommendations of phenomenological research analysis.

## Framework

### *Acculturation Perspective*

- The acculturation perspective is not new to the field of research. However, there is limited research examining the connection between acculturation and transitioning for veterans.
- The phenomenological process of acculturation is often used to explain the lived experiences individuals of different cultural backgrounds transitioning into another unfamiliar culture.
- Military members experience this phenomenon of acculturation due to the dual cultures they learn to exist in during and after their military service.

## Methodology

- The qualitative study will consist of 20 interviews from student veterans who have experienced the process of transitioning out of the military.

