

PUBLIC AFFAIRS, PRIVATE LIVES:
A STUDY ON THE EFFECT OF COMBAT EXPOSURE
ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS SOLDIERS

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ABSTRACT

This research probes into the attitudes and experiences of Army public affairs soldiers as they relate to combat exposure, looking at whether a spiral of silence inhibits them from reporting and seeking help for combat trauma. The research included interviews with both officers and enlisted soldiers serving in public affairs positions in the U.S. Army, both on active duty and on reserve status. Soldiers shared their personal experiences and opinions about deployment in support of combat and humanitarian missions and shared their perceptions about both the preparedness for their combat support roles and the stigma associated with post-traumatic stress disorder within the career field.