

Researchers study married combat veterans' leisure habits

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Penn State researchers are studying leisure in the lives of married Iraq and Afghanistan veterans as a first step to ultimately designing an intervention program for veterans returning home after deployment.

The study's results will help investigators understand connections

between leisure and [veterans'](#) marital relationships as part of a larger effort to promote the health and well-being of recently returned veterans.

Existing programs supporting veterans may organize events that are too infrequent or at inconvenient times and locations as well as being focused primarily on the individual veteran, researchers said. The focus of the current effort is on increasing the quality and frequency of daily leisure to promote both individual and couple well-being.

"We're really thinking holistically about the military family by examining the role of leisure with the service member and their spouse, to examine how leisure engagement influences marital relationships," said Derrick Taff, lead investigator and assistant professor of recreation, park and tourism management.

Researchers with the College of Health and Human Development and the Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness are in the process of studying a small sample of married veterans who served during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The pilot study is intended to lead to a larger quantitative study with Iraq and Afghanistan veterans before researchers use the combined results to develop a [leisure](#) intervention program to help veterans and their spouses adjust post-deployment.

More information: Iraq and Afghanistan veterans who are married and interested in participating in the confidential study can contact Derrick Taff at 814-867-1756 bdt3@psu.edu.

Provided by Pennsylvania State University

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