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**HOW DO MULTIPLE DEPLOYMENTS AFFECT SOLDIERS AND THEIR FAMILIES?
RESEARCH PUBLISHED BY SAGE IN A SPECIAL ISSUE OF *TRAUMATOLOGY***

Los Angeles, London, New Delhi, and Singapore (January 30, 2008) –Studies over the years have shown that highly stressful situations like divorce, natural disasters, and accidents can produce immediate and long-term physical and emotional problems for the victim. What similar consequences do soldiers and their families face as a result of long and repeated deployments into war-torn areas of the world?

The U.S. Military researched that question last year and put together a report, “the Mental Health Advisory Team IV,” that studied soldier mental health and well-being. The current issue of *Traumatology*, published by SAGE, takes a sobering look at that study, exploring the three most critical elements of the 100-page report:

- The intensity of combat and other stressors of those serving “down range”
- Battlefield ethics
- Results of efforts to prevent suicides

The special issue of the journal features commentaries written by mental health professionals, most of whom are members and veterans of the U.S. armed forces. They each write about aspects of the study’s findings, for example, how early interventions are critical in avoiding stress injuries and subsequent long-term mental health problems, including such things as: posttraumatic stress disorder, depression, substance abuse, family violence and suicide. The commentaries will enable readers to more effectively understand and help the brave combatants and their families return to civilian life with excellent prospects for resilience and post trauma growth.

“What has set these most recent wars apart from the Vietnam War is the enduring appreciation and respect for the men and women in uniform who, despite their personal misgivings, answer the call to serve their country in war,” writes Charles R. Figley, PhD, *Traumatology* editor. “We as a nation and as mental health professionals owe them and their families the very best help possible for as long as it is needed. I trust that this special issue contributes to that goal.”

SAGE has made this special issue of *Traumatology* available free-of-charge for a limited time at <http://tmt.sagepub.com/content/vol13/issue4/>.

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Traumatology is a primary reference for professionals worldwide who study and treat people exposed to highly stressful and traumatic events, such as terrorist bombings, war disasters, fires, accidents, criminal and familial abuse, hostage-taking, hospitalization, major illness, abandonment, and sudden unemployment. Each unique issue offers original articles, reviews, field reports, brief reports, commentary, and media reviews on trauma research, treatment, prevention, education, training, medical, legal, policy and theoretical concerns. <http://tmt.sagepub.com>

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