

The Ferocious Fighters: Understanding The Lived Experiences Of The Battle-Tested Soldiers In Combat Area

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ABSTRACT

This qualitative narrative study research delved deeply into the personal and collective experiences of soldiers actively engaged in combat. This study employed qualitative interviews and ethnographic methods to gather rich, first-hand accounts from soldiers on the front lines. The research uncovered the emotional, psychological, and physical challenges these soldiers face, providing a holistic view of their experiences in war zones. A significant theme that emerges is the intense camaraderie among soldiers, which serves as a crucial support system in coping with the stresses of combat. Fear and resilience are central to the soldiers' narratives. Fear manifests in various forms, from the anticipation of conflict to the immediate threats of battle. However, alongside this fear is a remarkable display of resilience, where soldiers develop strategies to manage their anxieties and maintain their focus. These coping mechanisms were diverse, ranging from mental conditioning and physical training to reliance on camaraderie and humor. The soldiers' stories also highlight the importance of leadership and trust within their units; by examining these multifaceted experiences, the study provides a nuanced understanding of the soldier's perspective, contributing to a broader comprehension of the impacts of warfare. These insights were crucial for informing the development of support systems for veterans, the research emphasizes the need for tailored support that addresses both the immediate and long-term effects of combat on soldiers' lives.

Keywords: Combat Area, battle-Tested Soldiers, Ferocious Fighters, Soldier Story

1. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

Rationale

Realm of conflict turmoil soldiers find themselves at the forefront, facing the harsh realities of the combat field. This study of the lived experiences of soldiers in combat areas among the military personnel of the headquarters, 1204th Community Defense Center (CDC), in the City of Koronadal. This topic explores the personal, physical, and emotional tools that soldiers experience while serving in combat areas, as well as the profound impact these experiences have on their lives. The research can be of great significance and interest, as it delves into the unique challenges, emotions, and perspectives that individuals face while serving in regions affected by conflict. The experiences of soldiers hold immense potential for validity in the study of various academic disciplines. Their unique perspectives, skills, and insights can contribute significantly to research in fields such as psychology, sociology, leadership, and international studies. However, it is important to approach their experiences with a critical lens, acknowledging potential limitations and biases, and ensuring that their applicability is appropriately assessed within the specific context of academic research. In addition, the importance of this study was to address the difficulties of the soldier based on their experiences and points of view.

The European theatre of the Second World War has often been perceived as an ideological conflict driven by nationalism and patriotism. European theatre was motivated by many identical factors while facing similar obstacles that decreased morale. Despite counterarguments from various historians, neither patriotism nor ideology were common motivating factors for these soldiers. Rather, the American and German soldier fighting for their life on the frontline were primarily focused on their immediate circumstances and concerned with their survival. Several secondary motivational factors including a soldier's trust and respect for their officers, trust in their training and preparedness, thoughts of home, and letters from home were crucial in boosting morale. Although many secondary motivational factors for American and German soldiers were nearly identical, the American and German armies functioned and emphasized these factors differently. Therefore, the impact that they had on combat motivation differed according to the emphasis that each army placed on them (Hart, 2018).

According to Grosse (2023), it was concluded that the war in Ukraine was not a catalyst for shaping state functions in the EU or developing the CSDP. According to representative of the assumptions of German and French politicians, the aforementioned policy was not supposed to counteract Russia's imperial attempts and thus strengthen the security of the Member States in the east. This undermined the legitimacy of further centralization and federalization of the EU. Although Western European elites were pushing for greater integration, politicians in Central Europe showed less confidence in these plans, which could have thwarted them, or at least made their implementation more difficult.

The second theme under the soldier's habitus is social support which explains that soldiers need different kinds of support to survive. Comrades are viewed as essential for survival because their survival depends on their trust and support for each other. In this theme, it is shown that soldiers keep their significant others with them in the warzone. Power is shared among them, and their degree of trust, cooperation, and resilience helps them become more capable of defeating their enemies. Family, as an internalized agent in the field, also provides support, particularly, emotional support, but this is done by minimizing their involvement with them while they are in the war (Sasot, 2020).

Furthermore, this study was focused on the lived experience of battle tested soldiers in combat areas who exhibit extraordinary bravery and courage. It really motivating to see how eager they are to sacrifice their safety for the sake of others. They serve as a powerful reminder of the resilience of the human spirit. The researcher to exposed the actual experiences of the participants in this study by, identifying and interpreting the given data, and by this, the goal of this paper to know and understand the live experiences of soldiers throughout their combat zone journey based on the time of their duties. In addition, the soldier's experience in the study benefits researchers by providing a rich source of information and enhances readers' understanding by offering real-life perspectives and actionable outcomes. This study was conducted in a specific time frame of the academic year 2023-2024 to provide facts and unbiased results of the study.

Research Questions

This study aimed to explore the lived experiences of soldiers in disputed areas.

Specifically, it sought to answer the following statements:

1. What are the motivations by the soldiers in combat areas?
2. What are the difficulties being encountered by the soldiers during their combat journey?
3. How do soldiers in combat areas survived?
4. How do soldiers in combat areas maintain relationships with their families and friends back home?
5. What are the lessons of the soldiers out of their experiences in the combat area?

Theoretical Lens

This part presents the explanation of variables, concepts, and theories that were related to the study. This study grounded in the qualitative phenomenological approach as its primary theoretical framework. It focuses on subjective experiences, feelings, and thoughts. The goal to understand the meaning people make of their lived experiences (Tutorsplot, 2023).

The theoretical underpinning of this study is the theory of Wundt and James (1879), the psychological theory. This explains the long-term consequences of human behavior and provides robust evidence-based clarifications as to why people believe, behave, and react how they do. It can be used to understand individual behavior as well as group dynamics. Theories are developed through research and observation, and they can be tested to see if they hold up under scrutiny. In addition, these theories discuss factors of personality, early experiences, and interpersonal relations (Rawat & Jain 2022).

Supported by the theory of Sherin K (2022) experimentation data towards understanding, predicting, and countering behavior either in friendly or enemy forces or civilian populations that may be disagreeable, threatening, or potentially dangerous to the conduct of military operations and war. This is applied to counseling and treatment of stress and fatigue of military personnel or military families as well as treatment of psychological trauma suffered as a result of military operations. An alternative use of military psychology has been in the interrogation of convicts who were thought to be able to provide information that would enhance outcomes of friendly military operations or reduce friendly casualties. The aims and missions of current military psychologists have been retained over the years, varying with focus and strength of intensity to put forth into each sector.

Significance of the Study

The study aimed to determine what are the difficulties they encountered during their combat journey, what their survival strategies and those difficulties are, and what lessons they have gained in overcoming those difficulties.

The result of the study would help and benefit the government and policymakers, soldiers and veterans, future soldiers and military personnel, educators, family members, researchers and academics, and future researchers.

Government and Policymakers. Governments and policymakers can benefit from the experiences of soldiers when making decisions related to defense, foreign policy, and veterans' affairs. They also shape the scope and support for decision-making by organizational leaders, professionals, and citizens, just as organizational leaders can do this for soldiers, and professionals can do it for citizens. Soldiers' firsthand experiences can provide valuable insights and inform policy choices.

Soldiers and Veterans. Soldiers and veterans are individuals who have served or are currently serving in the military. They play a crucial role in protecting and defending their country, often putting their lives at risk for the safety and security of others. are the primary beneficiaries of such studies. Understanding their experiences can lead to improved mental health services, more effective training, and better post-service transition programs, ultimately enhancing their well-being and quality of life.

Future Soldiers and Military Personnel. Those who are planning to join the military can benefit from the experiences of current and former soldiers. They can learn about the challenges, training, and expectations, which can better prepare them for their service. play a crucial role in defending their countries and ensuring national security. As an assistant, I can provide information and support related to their training, career development, and personal well-being.

Educators. Teachers and educators can use soldiers' experiences to teach students about history, geography, and the impact of wars and conflicts. Soldiers can provide firsthand accounts of historical events. support soldiers transitioning out of the military and into civilian life. This can include guidance on education. Play a critical role in providing training and educational support to military personnel. They are responsible for enhancing the knowledge, skills, and abilities of soldiers in areas such as military tactics, strategy, leadership development, and specialized technical training.

Family Members. Families of soldiers often bear the brunt of the challenges associated with military service. Understanding the lived experience of soldiers can help family members provide better support and navigate the unique stresses of military life made up of caring, fun-loving, and dedicated husbands. They can include spouses, parents, siblings, and children of soldiers. These family members often play a crucial role in providing support, encouragement, and understanding to their loved ones who are serving in the military. They may experience unique challenges and emotions, such as separation anxiety, worry for their loved one's safety, and adjusting to frequent relocations or deployments. Many military organizations and support groups exist to provide assistance to family members of soldiers, offering resources, guidance, and a sense of community.

Researchers and Academics. Researchers in fields such as psychology, sociology, military science, and anthropology can build upon the findings to further explore aspects of soldiers' lived experiences. This research contributes to the academic knowledge base. Apply expertise and skills developed through study and research. Their work can involve conducting empirical research, analyzing historical data, developing theories, and publishing their findings in academic journals or presenting at conferences. They contribute to the body of knowledge about the military, provide insights into best practices for training and supporting soldiers, and inform policymakers on important military-related matters.

Future Researchers. This study would aid them in their future research on the experiences of the soldiers. As a systematic study of possible future events and circumstances. This study would also serve

as a foundation for their research projects, providing them with data to use in developing questions for their studies.

Future researchers are individuals who aspire to pursue a career in research and scholarly inquiry. They have a strong passion for a specific field of study and a desire to contribute to its knowledge base through original research. requires dedication, perseverance, and a genuine passion for advancing knowledge in a particular field. It is a rewarding career path that offers opportunities to make a significant impact and contribute to the betterment of society through research.

Delimitations and Limitations

This study was conducted to understand the experiences of soldiers in dispute areas, specifically on what are the difficulties they encountered during their combat journey, what are the survival strategies to survive in combat areas and what are the lessons they have gained in overcoming those difficulties.

This study used Descriptive Qualitative Narrative Research Design was the Complementary method for Research in Education by Clandinin and Connelly (1990). This method is used to understand the personal experiences of individual participants.

After the interview, the data gathered were transcribed. All the transcribed interviews were presented to the participants for them to validate. Clandinin and Connelly, concentrate on specific aspects of qualitative research.

The participants of this study were chosen from the selected headquarters in the City of Koronadal namely the 1204th Community Defense Center (CDC). The participants are chosen through the pre-determined criteria which the researcher will use to identify and select the participants.

Definition of Terms

This section presents a clear definition of the key and important terms in the study. The following terms were defined conceptually and operationally for a better understanding of this paper. Conceptual is define as the universal meaning of words or groups of words that many people understand. On the other hand, operational definition is the meaning of the terms as used in this study.

Soldier. Conceptually, Toppr-guides (2019) define this term as the guardians of the nation and protect its citizens at all costs. Moreover, they are a very selfless lot who put the interest of the country above their personal interest. Operationally, this refers to the soldier's job as one of the toughest things to do in the world. They are supposed to fulfill challenging duties and possess exceptional qualities to become a great soldier.

Lived Experience. Conceptually, Talking HealthTech (2022) defines this term as the depiction of a person's experiences and decisions, as well as the knowledge gained from these experiences and choices. It is also used when describing a type of qualitative study that includes studies on culture and society, as well as, linguistics and communication. Operationally, this refers to the depiction of a person's experiences and decisions, as well as the knowledge gained from these experiences and choices.

Combat Experience. Conceptually, Ruger (2021) defines this term as the long-term social effect of military service as a little-studied topic, and some have dismissed any direct impact of service on civic participation. Using data from a large, national survey, our estimates show, in contrast, that the likelihood and intensity of group participation is higher among veterans than other men and that combat veterans have the highest level of participation. Operationally, this refers to the physical changes resulting from the experiences or consequences of repeated exposure to a single stressor, or multiple stressors, in combat or non-combat operational settings.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Conceptually, Mayo Clinic (2022) defines this term as the mental health condition that's triggered by a terrifying event either experiencing it or witnessing it.

Symptoms may include flashbacks, nightmares, and severe anxiety, as well as uncontrollable thoughts about the event. Operationally, this refers to the people who go through traumatic events and may have temporary difficulty adjusting and coping, but with time and good self-care, they usually get better. If the symptoms get worse, last for months or even years, and interfere with your day-to-day functioning, you may have PTSD.

Combat and Operations. Conceptually, UpToDate (2023) defines this term as the wide range of anticipated, maladaptive psychological and behavioral symptoms, often transient, that may emerge in response to these stressors following exposure to combat or other particularly stressful military operations. Operationally, this refers to the impact of stress on Soldiers' physical, psychological, behavioral, and social health as early as possible to promote mission readiness, increase individual and unit resilience, and enhance mission performance.

Leadership. Conceptually, Barney (2023) defines this term as the ability of an individual or a group of people to influence and guide followers or members of an organization, society, or team. Leadership often is an attribute tied to a person's title, seniority, or ranking in a hierarchy. Operationally, this refers to the attribute anyone can have or attain, even those without leadership positions. It's a developable skill that can be improved over time.

Organization of the Study

The first chapter of the study describes the problem and why it is important to perform the thesis research. This enables the researcher to address the issues that have arisen. The justification that exposes the true problem, the thesis objectives, and the literature that concludes why the study is needed are all included in this chapter. When writing Chapter 1, it was anticipated that the research questions would answer the problems stated in the rationale. This chapter also serves as a resource for school administrators, teachers, beneficiaries, students, researchers, and future researchers in dealing with student-mother issues.

Chapter 2 is the thesis study's backbone; it is here that we can see the benefits, the problems, and the linked literature that explains why we were undertaking the study. This chapter was crucial in determining the true problem of the research study, as well as compensating for the respondent's responses to the literature and related studies. Furthermore, it specifies the problem that must be addressed during the course of the thesis research. This will also support the respondents' claims and make reading the entire chapter of the study more valid.

The synergy of the thesis study in Chapter 3 provides energy on where to begin and what tools must be used to complete the investigation. This is where researchers can look at the study's methods, such as how the researcher completed it and the techniques used to make the thesis more realistic. The research design is one of the most important tools that can be seen in this chapter, as it will show the reader what design is being used to make the study look less futile. The study's sequence is more obvious in this chapter; it provides promises of ethical consideration and trustworthiness, implying that the respondents will be given the benefit of the doubt.

The outcomes of the study's problems are presented in Chapter 4, which refers to what would be the expectations and reality after reviewing the results derived from each respondent's responses. The study's findings are the most important portion of the chapter since they show whether the thesis is successful or not. The results, on the other hand, would reveal how the researcher supported the issues raised in the study, they would also reveal the absence of proof in some of the research studies indicated in Chapter 2. The tools mentioned in each chapter will compensate for the tools utilized throughout the chapter. When

the data is validated, it is clear that the respondents answered the study questions. This chapter will determine the study's effectiveness.

In Chapter 5, this is where the results are interpreted, and it is an important component of the chapter because it broadens the reader's and future researcher's viewpoints. This also covers the implications for practice, which emphasize the need for the teacher to practice handling student difficulties. Implications for future research are a one-way street to enlighten the study's flaws and broaden the scope of an issue. Overall, with the help of the entire chapter, it will provide an exquisite discussion and conclusion to the thesis study's disparities, therefore sufficing the remedies to the genuine difficulties of battle tested soldier in combat area.

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND STUDIES

This chapter explores the literature and studies which encompass relevant information to this study. This review of literature and studies provides an understanding of the large discussion on the difficulties experienced by the soldiers in facing the difficulties they encountered during their field journey, that they made survival strategies and the learnings gained out of the experience in dispute area.

Motivation of Soldiers

According to Malešević & Dochartaigh (2018), this article investigates what motivates combatants to fight in non-conventional armed organizations. Drawing on interviews with ex-combatants from the Army of the Serbian Republic in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Provisional Irish Republican Army, the article compares the role of nationalist ideology, coercive organizational structures, and small group solidarity in these two organizations. Our analysis indicates that coercion played a limited role in both armed forces: in the VRS coercion was relevant mostly in the recruitment phase, while in the IRA its direct impact was only discernible during armed operations. We also find that although both organizations are seen as being highly motivated by nationalist ideas, the picture is much more complex and nationalism is less present than expected. The study demonstrates that nationalism played a relatively marginal role in combatants' motivation to fight. Instead, our research indicates that individualist motivations, small-group solidarity, and local networks dominate.

The motivations and dynamics of Operation Restore Legacy, which it characterized as a coup by military generals had significant commonalities with historical coups in Africa. This characterization, which is informed by the accounts of coup participants and a reading of the literature, challenges interpretations of the coup as a 'non-coup-coup', 'very Zimbabwean', or 'special'. The article argues that the coup was a vote of no confidence in Mugabe's leadership, which succeeded because soldiers from Zimbabwe's 1970s independence war subscribed to the coup's stated ideal to restore liberation struggle principles in the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front party as well as party members who had been sidelined. Liberation war veterans held decisive army and air force command posts when the coup occurred (Blessing-Miles & Tendi, 2020).

Music can be a helpful motivator for many and is generally able to be conveniently reached—even if you're deployed. You may listen to music as you take your morning run, workout in the gym, or at any other time when it's allowed. You may find yourself more awake, alert, and ready to move as a result. Podcasts can be another great option for enhancing motivation in many. Many may find that there are plenty to choose from that focus on motivation, and they can provide benefits similar to music (Better Help Editorial Team, 2023).

In the study of Kumar et al. (2021), military morale and motivation formulate the signature strength of a fighting force. However, the sustenance of these faculties is a bigger challenge than generating them. The exponential development in the neo-cortex and emerging social structure has made human beings hardcore individualistic. The sense of 'self' has become much stronger than the sense of the whole. This results in the recurrent violation of collective identity, as evidenced by the rise in numbers of misconduct behaviors, mutinies, estranged leader-led relations, desertion, fragging, and suicides. Utilizing the lessons from various ecological systems and derived scientific principles, the present paper takes note of significant research in the area to arrive at a reflective model of Morale and Combat Motivation in soldiers.

As for military motivation, it's the force that makes military men keep trying when the challenges seem overwhelming or nearly impossible. It's what keeps them engaged for as long as they're needed. Military motivation comes into play when they have a mission to accomplish, duty nights, or are standing watch on very little sleep. Military motivation is special because, more often than not, lives, freedoms, and security are at stake. The Defense Services have unique conditions like the risky nature of the job, difficult and hazardous working conditions, frequent job rotation & periodic transfers. It is an accepted fact that in the current global security scenario, armed forces the world over have to be ready always to launch into combat at a moment's notice (Sekhar, 2023).

Lastly, motivation is based on heteronomy and self-reporting bias. The current model does not consider motivation as a separate entity from cohesion; it does not place motivation as a fundamental human value; in addition, it takes motivation as granted by-product of socialization. The article proposes a new combat motivation model based on Self-Determination. They maintain that human motivation requires satisfaction needs of competence, relatedness, and autonomy. The degree of satisfaction of those three needs leads to different types of regulated motivations – a continuum from intrinsic to extrinsic – each of which has specifiable consequences for the learning, performance, and well-being of an individual (Pawiński & Chami, 2019).

Survival Strategies of Soldiers

According to Shalev (2022) successfully survive whatever level of adversity and horror they have been exposed to; efficiently protect themselves and others around them, and ultimately emerge victorious and minimally scathed by war. This document offers easy-to-follow survival advice. We start by defining war stress and its many facets, review successful and less successful ways to mitigate war stress, outline critical aspects of life that must be dealt with during war, and provide a simple self-assessment tool for one's achievement and resilience.

The article substantiates the methods of survival of the personnel of the rear units of the military units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU) in extreme conditions. The study was carried out in relation to military specialists of the rear services in the areas of food and physical support, as well as providing fuel and lubricants in various types of combat and other actions. The experience of the participation of servicemen of the rear units in the anti-terrorist operation (ATO), the operation of the joint forces (USO) shows that the successful implementation of logistics tasks depends not only on their professional and moral and readiness but also on the extreme training of personnel composition of rear units of military units, that is, their readiness, reliability and ability to perform tasks at any time and under any conditions under the influence of physical and stress (Litvinovsky et al., 2021).

The first thought one has when reading Professor Shalev's analysis and the advice that is based on this brief but meaningful analysis by this well-known and thoroughly quoted author is that Arie Shalev is an

optimist and someone who loves and values life. Perhaps such things come as a result of certain existential upheavals and living several lives at once. Both his life and his patients. How was I able to arrive at such a conclusion? Because Arie Shalev points out something that I also see in my patients. Despite all the shocks and adversity of the war, the genetic program to continue life and keep building again and again the map of their lives remains the foundation of people's survival (Chaban, 2022).

Lastly, according to Idler (2019), the chapter argues that community members experience or expect to experience physical violence and fear but can partly adapt their behavior to the rules imposed by the opposing actors to maximize chances for survival. It shows how geography and the modus operandi of the groups involved influence the extent to which communities have clarity on behavioral rules. It also explains how, during periods of "tense calm" in between violent clashes, the anticipation of an outbreak of violence fuels perceptions of insecurity. The transnationality of borderlands makes these spaces prone to impunity, lowering the threshold for violent non-state groups to resort to violence.

Difficulties faced by soldiers

There is increasing concern regarding health problems among veterans and military personnel related to their (post) deployment. A broad range of symptoms can arise during and after deployment. Changes in mental and physical health may result in significant personal and social burdens and decreased quality of life difficulties in vocational rehabilitation. Numerous studies of military personnel describe the aggregated rates of the leading mental health disorders in veterans such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), depressive disorders, anxiety, and substance (alcohol or drugs) dependence.

However, fewer studies have systematically examined data regarding the physical health of deployed veterans (Bekkers, 2021).

In the study by Perry (2021), a wide range of physical symptoms were linked to this war. At least 25% of Gulf War veterans from different countries have experienced persistent physical health problems since returning home, such as pain, fatigue, and gastrointestinal symptoms. A range of hypotheses have been proposed for the mechanisms of persisting health changes after being deployed in war theaters: (persistent) infection, abnormal immune response, administration of multiple vaccinations within a short period, use of malaria chemoprophylaxis, exposure to blasts, noise, central sensitization, toxicological substances, and environmental factors.

Moreover, changes in sympathetic-parasympathetic balance and the tone of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis, stress, and behavioral responses are also believed to be important factors in pathogenesis. Based on Teplova (2021), the heterogeneity of the results for physical health problems makes it difficult to determine whether the differences among the countries of origin, location, duration, and type of deployment (combat vs. non-combat) are real or due to a variety of methodological issues. A better understanding of incidence and prevalence rates is necessary to educate, monitor trends in disease burden, inform treatment strategies, and project healthcare needs and costs.

Therefore, the objectives of this study were to systematically review the available literature to determine the incidence and prevalence of physical health problems among military personnel during and after deployment and investigate the risks of being afflicted with these conditions after being deployed relative to non-deployed military personnel and being exposed to combat situation relative to non-combat setting. Lastly, according to Van Etten-Jamaludin (2021), related to deployed military personnel (all branches). For the first objective, we searched the incidence and prevalence of physical health problems based on definitions of the International Classification of Functioning and Medical Subject Headings (MeSH)

terminology. they grouped the outcomes in disorders of cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, hematologic and lymphatic, musculoskeletal (MS), nervous, respiratory, and sense organs and urogenital systems. Conditions such as dizziness, fatigue, headache, and tinnitus were specified separately as they can be symptoms of several syndromes/diseases.

Lesson of the soldier gained out of their experience

According to Skove (2023) the lessons only for combat soldiers, but also for those who work in public affairs and psychological operations, with one eye on how Russia and Ukraine have advanced their causes through the media. considering the grim consequence of higher casualties how to integrate new units that are replacing those decimated in combat. Right now, a platoon that suffers simulated casualties will simply return to the same company. In the future, it may return to a different company, learning how to operate under new commanders just like real replacements would. But reflecting on the many problems Ukraine's army has faced in trying to breach Russian defensive lines, both commanders emphasized how much combat still boils down to coordination and training.

In a world filled with uncertainty and rapidly evolving global challenges; it is becoming increasingly vital for individuals to possess a fundamental understanding of military combat techniques. While the prospect of armed conflict may seem distant and unfamiliar to many, the benefits of acquiring military combat skills extend far beyond the realm of traditional warfare. From personal safety and self-defense to fostering discipline and resilience, learning military combat equips individuals with invaluable abilities that can be applied in various aspects of life. In this article, we will explore the reasons why everyone should consider learning military combat, emphasizing its significance in an ever-changing world (Johnson 2023).

Although these lessons are learned in the military, regardless of the product we sell. Mission statements need to be actionable missions, not PR statements. Soldiers know the true value of a mission. When asked about their motivation in combat, the most common answer received was to get the mission done and to do it while keeping themselves and those around them alive. They give soldiers insight into virtues that are often neglected in civilian life. Even sleepwalking through life or do you have a vigorous sense of purpose Are you trying to "self-actualize" by overthinking it or are you getting out into the world and trying things? And next time you're going through a bit of adversity, perhaps they can take solace in the fact that at least you're not being shot. These are some of the lessons that stuck with me during my conversations with Canadian soldiers (Steve Rose 2022).

The Americans who began pouring into France at the end of 1917 were largely unaware of this new form of warfare, due in part to senior commanders' unwillingness to learn from the belligerents as well as an inexplicable sense of exceptionalism and an imagined innate superiority of the young country over the old. Once in France, most American units were taken under the wing of the French army (the rest by the British), which tried to teach what it could. Sometimes these lessons ran contrary to the preferences of American commanders who, according to Grotelueschen as well as Kenneth Hamburger, feared the foreign advisers might pollute the men with their ideas about trench warfare. Both studies describe a tug of war in the training camps between the French, who wanted to teach trench warfare, and the AEF headquarters, which clung to other ideas (Sahay, 2018).

Military life can bring powerful life lessons we all can learn. There are just over 20 million military veterans in the United States. Each veteran has unique experiences from their time in service. There are common themes among veterans as to the value and lessons they learned in the military. Those lessons

are carried through to their daily lives, as business owners, as employees, and as husbands, wives, and parents. As well as challenges such as PTSD and physical disabilities sustained during combat that may require litigation for financial support, which is made possible. What they learn from these people who put their lives on the line for our country to Keep reading to find out the 8 life lessons from military service (Jakobsson, 2022).

Synthesis

The experiences of battle tested soldiers in combat areas can be extremely challenging and impactful. These soldiers often find themselves in high-stress environments, facing constant danger and uncertainty. They are required to navigate through hostile territory, where their lives are at risk on a daily basis. Soldiers in disputed areas may witness the devastating effects of conflict firsthand. They may encounter the destruction of homes, infrastructure, and communities, and witness the suffering of innocent civilians caught in the crossfire. These experiences can be emotionally and mentally taxing, as soldiers grapple with the harsh realities of war.

Moreover, soldiers in combat areas often face difficult moral dilemmas. They may be required to make split-second decisions that can have life-or-death consequences for themselves, their comrades, or civilians. These decisions can weigh heavily on their conscience and have long-lasting psychological effects.

In addition to the physical and emotional toll, soldiers in disputed areas also endure long periods of separation from their families and loved ones. They may miss important milestones and events, and the constant worry for their safety adds to the emotional burden they carry. Despite these challenges, soldiers in combat areas often demonstrate immense bravery, resilience, and dedication to their mission. They form strong bonds with their fellow soldiers, relying on each other for support and protection. These experiences can also foster personal growth and a deep sense of purpose as they strive to bring stability and peace to the combat area.

3. METHODS

This chapter discusses the methods of research used during the course of the study. It includes the research design employed in the exploration of the experiences of battle tested soldier in combat areas. Furthermore, it discusses the overall design of the study: the participants, the sources of data, data gathering procedure, analysis, and ethical considerations in the conduct of this study.

Research Design

This study used Qualitative Narrative Analysis. Qualitative narrative analysis is a qualitative research method is the chosen approach for this study to focus on the individual's or group of people experiences within the scope of the study. The focus is on writing narratives about the experiences of individuals. It involves presenting a narrative that captures the essence of a particular situation. According to White (2023), doing descriptive analysis also allows for a compilation of data on how the person expressed themselves, what language they used when describing a particular event or feeling, and the thoughts and motivations they experienced. A narrative analysis will also consider how the research participants constructed their narratives.

Role of the Researcher

This study allowed the researcher who was a criminology student to enhance his skills and suffice his knowledge. The role of the researcher was to document the study for the readers (documenter) and to enable them to understand (enabler) what the difficulties are faced by the soldiers, how they overcome those difficulties, and their survival strategies in overcoming those difficulties. Furthermore, the researcher's participation in seeking to reach the study participant's ideas, feelings, and experiences is required, as this is a difficult undertaking that entails asking individuals to talk about topics that are potentially extremely personal to them. Another primary role of the researcher was to safeguard participants' data such as information and answers, mechanisms for safeguarding participants must be properly communicated to them and authorized by a competent research ethical review board before the study may begin. Lastly, it is a must role of the researcher to seek advice from an experienced and reliable qualitative researcher before embarking on and publishing the study.

Research Participants

As a descriptive qualitative narrative to explore individuals' lived experiences, Budiu (2021) purports that the researcher identified participants from 5-7 participants who are able to talk about personal experiences the time in real-life experiences under review and it includes criteria to be needed in the study. The inclusion criteria for this study are the participants that have experiences in the combat area. This comprises five (5) male soldiers. The participants must be assigned to Koronadal City. The wounded soldiers survived in the combat area. Participants have a duty rate of more than 15 years in service. Participants must also have experience in the combat area. Participants ensure their freedom to share their experiences without being forced into legal repercussions. For this reason, experiences of soldiers in combat areas who had experienced leaving their families and friends for how many months or more and stating their reasons on why they did so and were willing and able to talk about it were sought for the purpose of this study and that is included in the said criteria that deal based on the definition presented. The researcher coordinated with the local Barangay Sta Cruz, Koronadal City, South Cotabato to access the participants.

Locale of the Study

This study was conducted within the headquarters of Koronadal City, South Cotabato namely Headquarters 1204 Community Defense Center (CDC). The researcher conducting this study to understand and focus on the lived experiences of soldiers in disputed areas.

1204th Community Defense Center is a military facility in Koronadal, South Cotabato, Socksargen located on Alunan Avenue. 1204th Community Defense Center is situated nearby to the public building Privatization and Management Office and the town hall South Cotabato Provincial Capitol.

KORONADAL CITY, South Cotabato (PIA) -- Officers set to occupy major positions in the Philippine Army's Ready Reserve Units (RRU) here recently finished a one-day training to upgrade their military skills and readiness when the call of duty arises.

According to 1204 Community Defense Center Director Maj. Dennie Pajel, some 20 officers under the 1204 Ready Reserve Infantry Battalion (RRIBn) participated in the Battalion Staff Training for 2022 held on July 8 in Koronadal City. About 27 enlisted personnel and reserve officers from different army Community Defense Centers (CDC) in Region 12 joined the one-day activity, in partnership with the Philippine Information Agency.

“The training is offered as a pre-positioning requirement to instill military character, skills, and knowledge prior to being deployed as officers. The training aims to develop the reservist officer into a competent battle staff, enhance leadership skills and military knowledge, and acquire proficiency in weapons organic to the battalion. Information is vital in our campaign. It is important to craft stories that the public can easily understand for them to know what we are doing,” Maj. Pajel said.

Lastly, based on the official; by engaging the public and having a presence on social media, they are hoping to recruit more reservists that will effectively complement the army’s regular force. The participants were tested and evaluated in the fields of Military Character Development, Military Leadership Development, Military Knowledge, Weapons Proficiency, and Military Skills Module.

In South Cotabato, the Army currently has around 7,000 standby and ready reserves that perform crucial roles in the implementation of development support and security operations of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, especially humanitarian assistance and disaster response efforts (PIA XII).

The participants were tested and evaluated in the fields of Military Character Development, Military Leadership Development, Military Knowledge, Weapons Proficiency, and Military Skills Module.

1204 Community Defense Center (CDC) stated that the primary aims of a soldier is to defend their nation from external threats. Soldiers are often responsible for protecting their country's borders and citizens from aggression and ensuring national security. Soldiers have to serve their country and obey orders from their superiors. They are often guided by principles of loyalty and dedication to their nation. Maintaining discipline and following a code of conduct is crucial for soldiers. Discipline helps ensure that the military operates efficiently and effectively.

Research Instrument

The researcher uses a semi-structured interview. The semi-structured interview is a research approach that employs both predetermined questions and open-ended investigation to acquire a deeper understanding of participants' opinions, thoughts, and experiences, that the interviewer will going to use during the course of an interview. According to Adeoye-Olantunde and Olenik (2021), semi-structured interviews are the most effective method of data collection when a researcher seeks to understand the participant's unique perspective rather than a broad understanding of a topic. Additionally, semi-structured interviews provide researcher the opportunity to explore any relevant ideas that may arise while the interview is still going on while still allowing researcher to concentrate on the subject of interest. Qualitative researchers frequently utilize semi-structured interviews as a way to collect new data and gauge participants' opinions on a certain topic.

Data Collection

The data and information were collected using key informant interviews. An interview which composed of five (5) questions mainly formulated to ask about the difficulties they encounter during their combat journey, what are the survival strategies to overcome those difficulties, and lessons the soldiers gained out of their experiences in dispute areas. First, the researcher prepared a letter such as a Permission Letter for the Instructor, an Informed consent for the participants, Participants' Agreement Form, a Parents Consent Form, and a military personnel head Consent Form. Second, the researcher asked permission from his instructor to conduct an interview with his selected participants and to ask an approval on it. Third, when the letter was approved by the instructor, the researcher printed it and held a photocopy served as his reference. Fourth, the researcher gives a letter of informed consent that will inform the participant that the researcher will conduct an interview and information about the obstacles they encountered during their combat journey, what are the survival strategies to overcome those difficulties, and what lessons they have

gained in overcoming those difficulties. It was followed by the Participants Agreement Form which comprised the participants' and researchers' agreement for the conduct of the interview and transcription of the data collected then, the researcher sent the Parents' Consent Form to the parents and to the Military Personnel Head Consent Form, which contains the agreement between the researcher and the Military Personnel Head indicating that they are allowing their personnel to participate in the study. After that, the researcher started to conduct a virtual interview with his participants and the researcher took a picture and recorded an interview that serves as his guide. Lastly, the researcher will analyze the data that has been gathered.

Analysis of the Data

Descriptive Qualitative Narrative Research Design was used in this study to relate the Complementary methods for Research in Education by Clandinin and Connelly (1990). This method is used to understand the personal experiences of individual participants.

After the interview, the data gathered were transcribed. All the transcribed interviews were presented to the participants for them to validate. Clandinin and Connelly, concentrate on specific aspects of qualitative research. Prioritize the individual's experience and the private area. Personal experience, according to Clandinin and Connelly, is best understood through storytelling since "experience is the stories people live" (Clandinin & Connelly, 2000).

Methods by Clandinin and Connelly were utilized in exploring the perceptions and personal stories of the way participants experience the world. Narrative researchers collect stories from individuals retelling of their life experiences on a certain topic. Participants must meet a form of requirement that fits the purpose, problem, and objective of the study. Participants and researcher collaborate through the research process to ensure the story is told and the story aligns. After collecting the narrative data, researchers organize it systematically. This involves transcribing interviews, coding, and categorizing the data. There will be a field study, to have a panel of experts in the profession of the study review the research protocol and interview questions to ensure they align to the purpose statement and research questions. This revealed the experiences of the rebel returnees in abandoning their rebel life. The emergent themes were the basis for discussion and recommendation of the study. Referrals of emergent themes to participants were also done to validate the data.

Trustworthiness

Data was obtained through an informative interview with the participants at a mutually convenient time. Interviews were done one-on-one through face-to-face interviews with the interviewer and the selected participants establishing a pleasant fellowship. Interviews will be recorded using a cellphone/laptop and also manually by the researcher.

The interview was conducted according to the interview procedure. The interview began with an introduction to the interview mechanics, with a focus on the ethical issues highlighted in this study, as well as the interview methods and duration. The following was presented to the identified participants: Informed Consent Form, Participant's Agreement Form, Parents Consent Form, Military Personnel Head Consent Form, and the Interview Protocol for the Participants.

Before the interview, the elements and substance of the interview questionnaire were addressed. During the actual interview, the researcher asked for detailed accounts of the experiences of the soldiers in the disputed area.

Their lived experiences are divided into information about the difficulties they encountered during their combat journey, the survival strategies to overcome those difficulties, and lessons the soldiers gained

out of their experiences in dispute areas. For emphasis and clarification, follow-up questions will be asked.

The researcher kept track of the exit interview data, which included the precise date, the start and finish times, and the respondents' names. This was done to track the duration of the interview with the respondents.

Ethical Considerations

In this investigation, ethical concerns could potentially arise at any stage of the research process. The study involves collecting and sharing data about the experiences of the soldiers in the disputed area. First, it is important to get permission for participation from the military personnel and from their commissioned officers. Before the conduct of the actual gathering of data, the researcher explained to the participants the purpose of the study. Included in the permission is a clear explanation of what the study entails, the potential risks, and confirmation of anonymity. It also makes clear to the participants that they can choose to discontinue their participation at any time without penalty. The researcher then explained that the signed form needed to be returned in order for the student to participate in the interviews. After the research participants are selected, the researcher meets each participant individually. Furthermore, it was made clear to the participants that the purpose of this study was not to evaluate their doings of anything. The nature of the interview questions only provides a focus for participants to share their experiences as the soldiers in disputed area.

4. Result

The themes identified from the responses analyzed during the key informant interview (KII) process are presented in this chapter. The investigator transcribed the audio recording of the interview to identify themes. Important statements were extracted from the interview transcripts. These were used to understand the lived experience of battle-listed soldiers in combat areas in response to the main research questions.

Because there were several significant statements in the study, caution was exercised to ensure that they were relevant to the study. The discussion in this chapter is arranged according to the emerging themes that provided a substantial response to the research questions.

A. THE MOTIVATION OF THE SOLDIER IN THE COMBAT AREA?

Table 1. Motivations of the soldiers in the combat area

CLUSTER THEMES	FORMULATED MEANINGS
1.1 Family as a source of resilience and motivation in combat	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Motivation in combat is driven by the thought of reuniting with their family post-risky operation and the desire to bond with loved ones.• The strong emotional have a connection to the family acts as a powerful tool's motivator during combat situations.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedication to family serves as a source of determination in challenging combat scenarios.
1.2 Empowerment through experience and training in combat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finds a motivation of every soldier in the experience and training acquired, leading to confidence in combat situations.
1.3 Interpersonal trust, training and faith as foundations of motivation in combat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-assurance, trust on you and colleagues, and faith in a higher power drive motivation during combat operations. • The combination of a training, self-confidence, and belief to a systems fuel's determination in combat. • Motivation stems from the trust placed in or from superiors and colleagues, driving the desire to excel in combat duties. • Trust in commanding officers and personal abilities acts as a strong motivator to achieve success in combat operations. • The reliance on leadership and team support serves as a key source of motivation in combat. • Motivation in combat area is fueled by the knowledge and mentorship received from senior soldiers, guiding to a personal success.
1.4 Heightened vigilance as a core motivator in risky operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The concept of being vigilant and submissive or observant ("mapagmatyag") serves as a critical motivator to navigate risky operations.
1.5 Commitment to protection family as driving focus in combat motivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedication to helping others, preventing violence, and very concern for family's well-being are strong motivational factors during combat
1.6 Strengthening resolve through family communication and support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary motivation in combat stems from the unwavering support and connection with family, boosting morale and determination

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communication with the family through various means fosters a solid foundation of motivation during challenging encounters
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1.1 Family as a source of resilience and motivation in combat

This chapter used the resilience-enhancing stress model to help reunite military families who have been separated by deployment. Group workshop techniques and family-centered techniques are used to engage, understand, and support soldiers, their families, and the military community as a relationship network within the context of the distinct military organizational culture. Additionally, pajz say his family as a source of resilience and motivation in combat.

“So with regard on motivation, just take to your family, a naghihintay sila sayong pag babalik so that is the greatest motivation for every soldier while in combat area or conducting combat operation kasi nga, a syempre alam naman natin na yung risks or yong ahhhhhhhhh, yun yung risk nga alam naman nating na ganon talaga ang buhay mag conduct ng operation.” (Pajz:P1:7-14)

(So, with regard to motivation, just take to your family. They are waiting for your return so that is the greatest motivation for every soldier while in combat area or conducting combat operation because well, of course, we already know the risks or the ahhhhhhhhh, that's the risk, that's just how life is, to conduct an operation).

1.2 Empowerment through experience and training in combat

The equipment routinely exceeds the resources available on most US Army facilities. Soldiers on an installation typically conduct physical training during similar times, with all installation soldiers competing for space and equipment in a limited number of communal gyms. Additionally, Val say his empowerment through experience and training in combat.

“Ang Motivation ko ay sa pamamagitan ng Experience Tsaka yong training na tinuro samin, during the time na pumasok kami sa army nag training kami. So nagamit namin yong training so pagdating sa real mac koy na tinatawag so ang motivation namin nagkaroon kami ng confident sa sarili, so yun yung reason na pundasyon namin regarding sa pag survive namin sa ahhh mga encounter na na experience ko.” (Val:P2:9-15)

(My motivation is through experience and training that was taught to us, during the time we entered the army we did training. So, we used our training so when it came to the real so-called Mackoy, so, our motivation is to have confidence in ourselves, so that is the reason for our foundation regarding how we survived ahhh encounters that I have experienced).

1.3 Interpersonal trust, training and faith as foundations of motivation in combat

Will embody the five characteristics of the Army profession, which includes trust, honorable service, military expertise, stewardship of the profession, and esprit de corps. All of these characteristics reside within the social contract between the American public and their Army. Nevertheless, within the Army profession, and in consideration of the many military scandals that have come to light in the last decade, the efficacy of the Army's culture of trust continues to be a topic of debate. Additionally, Val say his interpersonal trust, training and faith as foundations of motivation in combat.

“So nagamit namin yong training so pagdating sa real mackoy na tinatawag so ang motivation namin nagkaruon. kami ng confident sa sarili, so yun yung reason na pundasyon namin regarding sa pag survive namin sa ahhh mga encounter na na experience ko”. (Val:P2:11-15)

(So, we used our training, so when it comes to the real so-called Mackoy, our motivation is to have self-confidence, so that is the reason for our foundation regarding how we survive on the ahhh encounters that I have experienced)

1.4 Heightened vigilance as a core motivator in risky operations

This belief is most heavily concentrated among conservative Americans. Liberal Americans are more likely to believe that service members join primarily for economic reasons. Those furthest to the left are more inclined to aver that service members join chiefly to escape desperate circumstances. Perhaps most surprising, we discover a disconnect between respondents with military experience and their families: The former are more likely to acknowledge that pay and benefits are a primary motivation for service, whereas their families are more likely to embrace a patriotic service narrative. The faith of the soldier most high. Additionally, Val say his heightened vigilance as a core motivator in risky operations.

“Yung ma eh share ko sa experience to regarding sa combatant, yong first encounter namin sa lahat 2013 bali ang na experience ko doon yung hirap at tsaka di bero yong experience na pinagdaanan ko, may halong kaba at the same time risty sya so ibig sabihin tinawag na risky sya dahil buwis buhay ang trabaho namin, so ganon yong na experience to sa field.” (Val:P2:21-17)

(What I can share from my experience regarding combatants, is our first encounter in all was in 2013 I experienced there the struggle and it's no joke what I went through, it was mixed with nervousness and at same time risky because our job is life-threatening, so that's my experience in the field)

1.5 Commitment to protection family as driving focus in combat motivation

Social resource theory to develop a model whereby serving culture starts with department level servant leadership. We theorize that department servant leadership influences team leader servant leadership, which enhances social resources including trust in team leader, trust in team, and team cohesion, which hen translate into serving culture and team service performance in an extreme setting. Additionally, say his commitment to protection family as driving focus in combat motivation.

“Ang naga motivate sakin is yung ahhh para sakin is yung ahh tiwala trust ng aking ah commander kasi kung hindi ko isipin yung tiwala na binigay sakin yung trust is ah eh baka mag down yung aking mga kwan mga ka team mate yon, yun kaya iniisip ko palagi yung trust na dapat hindi mawala is gampanan ko yung task information na binigay sakin.” (Chez:P3:9-15)

(What motivates me is the ahhh for me is the ahhh trust of my commander. It's because if I don't mind the trust that is given to me, it's more likely that my teammates will be down. That is why, I always keep in mind that I should never lose the trust and fulfill the task information given to me.)

1.6 Strengthening resolve through family communication and support

As armies across Europe are currently developing capabilities to fight a high-intensity conventional war against a peer adversary, Sigmund Valaker (2023), these armies will have to develop units that can fight independently in a complex environment, with limited direction from higher levels of command. Integral to this process is the need for a competent practice of mission command, viewed as a key component of maneuver warfare. Additionally, chez say his strengthening resolve through family communication and support.

“Saakin aaa yung tiwala gaya ng sabi ko kanina yong tiwala, yung trust pag binigyan ka ng task sakin isa na ako masaya din ako maaga na napromote ako ng maaga non on time kasi marami pang senior sa akin pero yung gi designate na team leader is ako na marami pang senior ibig sabihin aaah yung tiwala ng commanding officer ko is andon sa akin kaya ako kumbaga natatrabaho ako, masaya ako kasi andon yung trust nya aaahh marami akong senior na di naman sa dinadown ko pero yung binigay na tiwala sa akin is kasi yung mga kasama ko bilib na bilib sa akin dahil sa trust ng binigay sakin ah ng commanding officer ko.” (Chez:P3:19-30)

(For me, trust, just like what I said earlier, the trust. If you were given a task, for me, I would be happy. I will be promoted early. Because, during those times, I had lots of seniors, however, I was the one designated as a team leader even though I have a lot of seniors. That means, ahhh I have gained the trust of my commanding officer. That is why I am working happily because the trust is there. I have lots of seniors, I'm not looking down on them, but the trust given to me is because my friends are very proud of me because of the trust given by my ah commanding officer.)

THE DIFFICULTIES BEING ENCOUNTERED BY THE SOLDIER DURING THEIR COMBAT JOURNEY

Table 2. Difficulties being encountered by the soldier during their combat journey

CLUSTER THEMES	FORMULATED MEANINGS
2.1 Navigating uncertainly and command challenges in combat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have lack of idea where to find the enemy it is difficult to find them even though, you know the terrain but the struggle to take a command to overcome them

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The challenges effect the overall experience, don't have the capabilities to predict the situation and also if there is possibility to overcome the enemy or cause of casualties
2.2 The emotional toll of loss and impact on focus and morale in combat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Losing of one member of the team and cannot focus to situation and felt low morale
2.3 Sacrifice and commitment in the face of danger, the drive to accomplish the mission.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operating troops are prone in the danger zone they sacrifice everything just to accomplish the mission All of those encounters are very difficult and risky, need to be strong to survive
2.4 Confronting fear with composure, the balance of emotion and strategy in combat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Normal in the encounter to be afraid but need to stay calm to think on how to overcome the enemy
2.5 The burden of gears	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Struggle due to the weight of what is being carried, the gun and bullets are already lost, so it is difficult to maneuver
2.6 Survival struggles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> first, the water runs out in the distance of running and walking, accompanied by the heat of the weather, but the lord has mercy to survives

2.1 Navigating uncertainly and command challenges in combat

These two networks together provide a suitable solution for military applications as they can satisfy the unique requirements for military mobile networks which needs to be adaptable to changing and often unpredictable environmental conditions and needs. Computational and battery constraints remain a challenge for military mobile network sensors and devices as many uses portable batteries which have power constraints. Additionally, Pajz shows the difficulties being encountered. Additionally, Pajz say his navigating uncertainly and command challenges in combat.

“Syempre yung ahhh the moment naaa, nag start yung putukan then the, hindi mo alam kung saan banda yong kalaban mo you have to ano pa, hahanapin mo pa sila kung saan banda so you yung mga difficulties na ano, kasi you have to assist the situation. Yun yung e assist mo yung e assist mo youg situation, yung assess the terrain, assist yung ano ng ano kalaban mo kasi nga di mo ano, so yung maasasabi siguro naa naaa difficulties na ano, na ma encounter, during the time na magkaroon ka ng combat encounters sa kalaban.”

(Pajz:P1:77-99)

(Of course, the ahhh the moment that the shooting started then you don't exactly know where your enemy is. You have to assess the situation, assess the terrain, and assess your enemy, it's because you don't know. So, that's the difficulties I can say during the time you have combat encounters with the enemy.)

2.2 The emotional toll of loss and impact on focus and morale in combat

Using in-depth interviews with Sierra Leonean soldiers who were part of the deployment, military decision makers, and foreign advisors, this article lays out specific factors that created family-related tensions and contributed to lowered morale for Sierra Leonean peacekeepers. It demonstrates that the family-related stress on deployment is not only an issue of family separation, it is entangled with the historic trajectories of the armed forces and the sending country's socio-economic conditions. The focus on Sierra Leone highlights the additional and unique burdens that soldiers and their families may endure in troop contributions from lower-income countries. Additionally, Val say his The emotional toll of loss and impact on focus and morale in combat.

“Ang una jan na mahirap na experience ko yung namatayan ka ng tropa, lalo na yong experience namin na inkwentro don sa side ng team namin, so sa unit namin that time na nag operate kami noon sa experience ko sa 2012 bali di naman sakina experience bali sa mga kasamahan ko sa kabilang team, so ang na experience mo doon na nag operate kami, may nabalitaan namin na may namatay na tropa namin na ambush tsaka, yun yung pinaka mahirap samin na experience na ah ilang mga operating troops.”

(Val:P2:43-60)

(The first difficulty that I experienced was the death of our troop. Especially our experience of encountering it on the side of our team. So, in our unit when we operated in my experience in 2012, it was not directly my experience but my colleagues on the other team, I experienced there during our operation, we heard that one of our troops died in an ambush besides, that was the most difficult experience for us some operating troops.)

2.3 Sacrifice and commitment in the face of danger, the drive to accomplish the mission

They are powerful and important and must continue as an integral part of daily health and safety management. A continuous risk assessment focuses on daily hazard awareness which is created through hazard identification and immediate risk treatment. By developing hazard awareness, inspections, checklists, pre-use checklists, and critical part and path inspections, can be designed and produced from

the management controls as a product of issue-based risk assessments. Additionally, Val, Gay say there sacrifice and commitment in the face of danger, the drive to accomplish the mission.

“Ang pinaka mahirap na experience during battle is syempre wala namang di mahirap Jan inisisip nalang Talaga na kung pano ka mabuhay, minsan mahirap kahit na alanganin pa yun basta ang pinaka Importante ay na safe mo ang sarili mo, yan talaga ang unang una mong e take sa sarili mo para masurvive mo yung kahirapan.” (Gay:P:39-44)

(The most difficult experience during battle is, Of course, nothing is not difficult. We just think about how we can survive. The most important thing is to secure your life even though sometimes it's difficult and uncertain. That is the very first thing you must consider to survive the difficulty.)

2.4 Confronting fear with composure, the balance of emotion and strategy in combat

“kwan yung first inkwentro ko nung 2013 nung kwan napa isip ako kung mabubuhay paba ako kasi mag 1st encounter kami diko makakalithutan you ahhh talagang naramdaman ko ang takot tsaka dapat may presence of mind ka talaga yun sya.” (Val:P3:66-70).

(My first experience was in 2013, and I thought about whether I would survive because I cannot forget our first encounter. I really felt fear and you should have a presence of mind. That's it.)

2.5 The burden of gears

Being deployment ready is part of military life, may be prepared for duty, but make sure to get organized on the Homefront too. Learn about creating or updating essential legal documents, organizing your finances, creating a family care plan and designing a contingency plan in case things change. Get organized and prepared for your sake and your family's. Additionally, Gay say his the burden of gears

‘Iyon talaga ang pinakamahirap na parte na na-encounter namin; bukod sa gabing yun nasugatan kami may kasamahan din na sugatan ang kalaban mabubuhay sana ako kung may araw pero sa kasamaang palad sa gabi wala kaming rescue, hingal na hingal na siya, yun talaga ang pinakamahirap na encounter. Naranasan ko na.” (Gay:P3:58-64)

(That was really the most difficult part we encountered. Aside from that night that we were injured, the enemy also had a wounded colleague. He would have lived if there was a day but unfortunately, at night we didn't have any rescue, he was already gasping for breath, that was really the most difficult encounter I have ever experienced.)

2.6 Survival struggles

Military strategy is the practice of reducing an adversary's physical capacity and willingness to fight, and continuing to do so until one's aim is achieved. It takes place in wartime and peacetime and may involve using force, directly or indirectly, as a threat. Additionally, Bel say his Survival struggles.

“Syempre una yung bigat ng dala ko na habang nasa gera ako nakikipag bakbakan sa kalaban dala dala ko yung mga gamit na yun tapos minsan sa hirap ng daan lalo na't gabi yun yung pinaka mahirap na

situwasyon ko dati, tsaka na shoshort din kami ng tubig lalo na sa haba ng nalakad namin uhaw talaga tsaka samahan pa ng mainit na panahon, napaka hirap talaga ng sitwasyon ko dati sa field pero sa awa ng panginoon naka survive din ako sa sitwasyon na yun, mag tiwala lang talaga sa taas tsaka magdasal parati.” (Bel:P5:69-77).

(Of course, the first thing is the weight of what I was carrying. When I was in the war fighting with the enemy, the most difficult situation I had before was carrying those things with me, then sometimes, the difficulty of the road, especially at night. Apart from that, we were also short of water, especially for the length of the walk we took we were really thirsty, and in addition, the hot weather. My situation was really difficult before in the field, but by the mercy of the Lord, I was able to survive that situation, just trust in the highest and always pray.)

B. SOLDIERS IN COMBAT AREAS SURVIVED

Table 3. Soldiers in the combat area survived

CLUSTERED THEME	FORMULATED MEANINGS
3.1 Rigorous training in fostering resilience and preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training often pushes your body to its limits. • Training provides you with the knowledge base how to make informed or wise decisions stability under pressure. You'll understand the potential risks and consequences associated with different actions, allowing you to choose the best course of action in a dangerous situation. • A strong foundation to ensures something can be with stand challenges without crumbling or collapsing. Imagine a house built on a sturdy foundation versus one on weak soil. The strong foundation can provide stability during the hard storms, earthquakes, or other stresses. • By dedicating yourself to quality training and staying engaged in the process and, you'll be well-equipped and to be handle the challenges that life throws your way.
3.2 The value of sacrifice and knowledge acquisition in combat preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By making sacrifices during training and actively acquiring knowledge, you'll be enough well-equipped be to

	<p>handle the situations you're preparing for. Remember, the knowledge is a power, and the power gained through hardest training can be invaluable in a time of need.</p>
3.3 The power of spirituality and preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prayer being the 1st foundation highlights the importance of a strong internal foundation that provides strength, guidance to the people around on you, and resilience. This foundation can be religious faith and, personal beliefs, or a combination of both. • The most important thing is to find a combination of prayer and preparation that brings you comfort, strength, and a sense of control in challenging situations. • prayer being the 1st foundation highlights the importance of a strong internal foundation that provides strength, guidance, and resilience. This foundation can be religious faith, personal beliefs, or a combination of both.
3.4 Commitment to quality training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By dedicating yourself to quality training and staying engaged in the process, you'll be well-equipped be to handle the challenges that life throws your way.
3.5 Focused determination and clear communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When determined to survive, your mind becomes laser-focused on finding solutions. You start looking at your surroundings with a new perspective, seeking resources and opportunities you might have missed before. This can lead to creative problem-solving and innovative ways to overcome challenges. • Instructions and expectations are communicated clearly, concisely, and in a way that everyone understands. This includes avoiding ambiguity and ensuring

	everyone is on the same page about the mission and goals.
3.6 Leadership and resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every encounter is very difficult but making an initiative step to be stable and to lead his personnel. • The situation is very difficult as a platoon leader he adapts the stability under pressure to stay calm and make a wise decision even though he don't have the capacity to predict the mind of the enemy. • Dedication and determination they overcome those difficulties they encountered. • Struggling to survive even it is a first encounter but need to overcome those fear. • The lesson in the field in need to focus in the situation not to relax so many lives will be wasted. • The platoon leader focus in the task given to him. • The strong foundation his preparedness in every task and situation.
3.7 Morale and motivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determination and dedication and boost their morale to overcome the enemy.

3.1 Rigorous training in fostering resilience and preparedness

Military personnel, equipment on hand, equipment serviceability, and training to meet mission-essential tasks. Surprisingly, these assessments do not include factors identified in surveys, personal interviews, and observational accounts of soldiers regarding what prepares them for combat and contributes to their combat effectiveness. Additionally, Pajz, say his rigorous training in fostering resilience and preparedness.

“So yung survival naman kasi ah hindi yan basta basta na maka survive sa sinasabi mong dispute area sooo, kailangan talaga Jan ng training more time sa training talaga kaya meron tayong kasabihan na "the more you sweat in training the less you bleed in battle" yun yung purpose ng training, para once na nagkaroon ng encounter ma overcome nyo ang mga kalaban, training talaga yan ang pinaka importanti,

kaya hindi dapat e take for granted ang mga ginagawang training kasi yun yung nakakatulong sa inyo, kung Sakasakali magkaroon kayo ng experience na yung real time na encounter.” (Pajz:P1:132-150)

(So, survival is not just to be able to survive what you say in dispute area. So, you really need to train, more time in training, that's why we have a saying "The more you sweat in training the less you bleed in battle". That's the purpose of the training. So, once you have an encounter, you can overcome the enemies. Training is really the most important thing, so you should not take the training for granted because this will help you in case you experience a real-time encounter.)

3.2 The value of sacrifice and knowledge acquisition in combat preparedness

Mindfulness-based psychological skills training package that integrates cognitive behavioral and mindfulness-based principles and techniques, which have been proven to improve stress regulation, emotional and cognitive control and self-confidence in military personnel. MRT is based on an extensive evidence base that has demonstrated that psychological skills training delivers tangible improvements in performance in elite sport and in healthcare, business and military contexts. Additionally, Pajz, say the value of sacrifice and knowledge acquisition in combat preparedness

“Yun na yun, yung na kwento ko kanina nung sa experience ko naaa, nagkaroon kami ng encounter with ah communist terrorist group (NPA) dun sa Samar sooo, during training naturoan kami kung ano ang mga gagawin para ma compromise mo yung kalaban kasi nga yung na kwento ko kanina, Yung sa experience namin yung ano kami disadvantage kami kasi nasa lower ground kami, high ground ang kalaban at with ah because of the skills na naturo during training na overcome namen sila.” (Pajz:P1:179-200)

(That's it, the one I told you earlier about my experience, we had an encounter with a communist terrorist group NPA in Samar. So, during the training, we were taught what should be done to compromise the enemy, because what I told you earlier, in our experience, we are at a disadvantage because we are on lower ground, the enemy is on high ground and because of the skills that were taught during training we overcame them.)

3.3 The power of spirituality and preparation

Praying without ceasing seems a formidable task. How can any modern person pray without ceasing Were you to become a hermit or a monk, there would still be things that would “interrupt” ceaseless prayer. How is ceaseless prayer possible. The Bible is its own best commentary. Another verse sheds light on ceaseless praying. Additionally, Chez say his the power of spirituality and preparation.

“Sa akin yung aaah skill talaga na kumbaga nagpatibay during ahhh combat operation is yung ahhh natutunan ko during my schooling in a scout ranger yung nakapag tapus ako ng scout ranger yun yung naga ibig sabihin nagpatindi saakin aaah para magamit ko during combat operation yun yung haka survive.” (Chez P3 70-75).

(For me, the aaah skill that seems to have strengthened during ahhh combat operation is the ahhh I learned during my schooling as a scout ranger, when I finished as a scout ranger, that's what made me stronger aaah so that I can use it during a combat operation, that's the idea to survive.)

3.4 Commitment to quality training

Safety is one of the Army's core values and is integral to mission success. Safety enhances our soldiers' confidence and enables the Army to conduct tough and realistic training and to operate effectively during missions. Additionally, Val say his commitment to quality training.

“kwan ahhhh yung karanasan yung mga tinuro samin sa training inapply namin yun yung Pondasyon kung bakit namin na overcome yung mga obstacle na pinagdaan namin during the time na nasa field ato noon, kwan lang talaga presence of mind at tsaka e apply mo yung mga tinuro sayo.” (Va:P2:115-119)

(ahhhh, the experience that was taught to us during the training, we applied that, that is the foundation of why we overcame the obstacles that we went through during the time we were in the field, it was just the presence of mind, and you must apply what was taught to you.)

3.5 Focused determination and clear communication

Determine the influence of message presentation rate (MPR) and sensory modality on soldier cognitive load. Soldiers commonly communicate tactical information by radio. The Canadian Army is equipping soldiers with a battle management system (BMS), which also allows them to communicate by text. Suggesting that promotion focus reduces conspiratorial perceptions by activating a sense of personal control. Established that individuals primed with promotion focus are less likely to perceive conspiracies than those in a baseline condition. However, individuals primed with prevention focus and those in a baseline condition did not differ in their levels of conspiratorial beliefs. Additionally, Bel say his focused determination and clear communication.

“kung paano kami naka survive sa combatant, dahil din sa mga kasama ko nakinig sila sa command ko, dahil that time ako ang platoon leader samin gi secure ko talaga na maayos ang pag deliver ko ng command para maintindihan nila yung mga gina sabi ko, kaya yon naka survive kami sa encounter na yun, isa din nga sa naka tulong sa amin nung nasa clip zone kami e yung pagdarasal nanalangin kami na sana makauwi kami ng kampo or sa mga bahay namin na buhay, at tsaka ginamit din namin yung training namin sa training school na na apply namin sa real life situation kaya yun naka survive kami sa killing zone na iyon.” (Bel:P5:137-147).

(How we survived the combatant, was also because of my companions who listened to my command, because at that time, I was the platoon leader, I really ensured that the delivery of my command was done properly so they could understand that's why we survived that encounter. Prayers also helped us when we were in the clip zone. We prayed that we could go home safely, and we used our training in school, we applied it in real-life situations. That's why we survived the killing zone.)

3.6 Leadership and resilience

Army is unprepared to occupy and stabilize territory because it does not adequately educate active-duty officers to do so. One way to professionalize the Army's ability to carry out military government and stability operations is to develop active-duty functional area officers who can advise commanders and integrate staff planning for these operations. Additionally, Pajz say his Leadership and resilience.

“So, ah pag ahhh ano pag kasi sinabi mo kasing ah combat ahhhh, ah ah encounter, hindi naman natin hinihingi yan sooo, lahat naman ng combat encounter o yung encounter na tinatawag na ano, is mahirap during my platoon Leader that time day ahhhh nagkaroon ako ng encounter with ahhh ah sa samar so yun lang talaga yung ano namin, dapat ano kalang, kasi as a leader you need to become stable para ma lead moo yung ahhh mga personnel ko na walang masamang mangyari sa kanilayun lang talaga yan. Soooo ano lang ahhh dapat ahhh stability under pressure, sa experience ko ahhhh yung difficulty kasi hindi mo, hindi mo alam yung ano eh, hindi mo alam yung iniisip ng kalaban mo eh.” (Pajz:P1:50-72)

(So, ah when you said combat encounter, we don't really ask for that. So, all the combat encounters or encounters that are called are totally difficult. During my time as a platoon leader, ah I had an encounter with the NPA in Samar. So, you should be stable because as a leader, you need to become stable for you to lead your personnel so that nothing bad will happen to them. That's it. So, you should maintain stability under pressure. In my experience, ah the difficulty is you don't know what your enemy thinks.)

3.7 Morale and motivation

Utilizing the framework of self-determination theory, the current research was designed to examine the validity and reliability of existing instruments in measuring, basic psychological need satisfaction, and motivation based on their class in the program, age, gender, and race. Additionally, Gay say his morale and motivation.

“Ang pinaka mahirap talaga na naranasan during encounter is yong pag schooling ko ug ranger yun napalaban kami, medyo na disadvantage kami sa kalaban kasi parang na silipan kami pero na ano parin namin na survive, Sa kasamaang palad namatayan kami ng kasamahan tapos may mga wounded sa amin, pero di kami basta basta mag patinag sa kalaban, nalagasan man kami, pero naka recover din kami ng kalaban pero grabe kahirap ang pinagdaanan namin kasi nasa disadvantage position kami yung kalaban nasa taas matagal ang encounter bago namin na overan ang kalaban namin na naagaw namin ang position nila.” (Gay P3 43-47)

(The most difficult experience during the encounter was when I was schooling as a ranger. We fought, and we were at a slight disadvantage because it seemed like the enemy knew our moves. Unfortunately, we lost a comrade and some of us were wounded, but we could not just give in to the enemy, even if we lost some members, we were also able to recover from the enemy. But we've been through a lot of difficulties because we were in a disadvantageous position. Our enemy was at the top and it took a long time for us to overcome their position.)

D. SOLDIERS IN THE COMBAT AREA MAINTAIN THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS BACK HOME

Table 4. Soldiers in the combat area maintain the relationship with their families and friends back home

CLUSTERED THEMES	FORMULATED MEANINGS
4.1 Open communication and connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have a more open line of communication, be honest and transparent with your loved ones about the situation. Explain the dangers involved without going into excessive detail that might cause undue worry. • In the very most dangerous situations, where the weakest communication is impossible or highly risky, the focus should be on your own survival. There might not be anything you can do to directly inform your loved ones, but hoping for a rescue or a chance to reach out later is a possibility. • Practice to be open and honest communication. Share all your thoughts and feelings with your loved ones, and actively listen to theirs. • Schedule regular catch-ups with family and friends. This could be a weekly dinner, a monthly movie night, or even just a virtual coffee chat. Consistency helps maintain connections and keeps communication flowing. • Feel comfortable sharing your thoughts and feelings with your family and friends. Encourage them to do the same. Open communication fosters trust and understanding • Strive for open and honest communication with your family members. Share your thoughts and feelings openly, while also being receptive to theirs. This fosters trust and allows for deeper connections. • By prioritizing communication, offering support, and planning for the

	<p>future, you can maintain a strong relationship with your family back home, even when miles apart.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule regular calls, video chats, or even text messages to stay connected with your family. This allows you to share updates, offer support, and maintain a strong bond.
4.2 Balancing the situation and individual connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While group activities are fun, dedicate time for individual bonding as well. Have a heart-to-heart conversation with a sibling, plan a special outing with a friend, or simply enjoy a quiet activity together. • Plan activities you can all enjoy together. This could be anything from playing games or watching movies to going for hikes or exploring new places. Shared all experiences create lasting memorable memories to the person around and provide opportunities for conversation and laughter.

4.1 Open communication and connection

Military communication, the transmission of information from reconnaissance and other units in contact with the enemy and the means for exercising command by the transmission of orders and instructions of commanders to their subordinates. As such, it comprises all means of transmitting messages, orders, and reports, both in the field and at sea and between headquarters and distant installations or ships. Military communication has thus long played an important role in warfare. Additionally, Pajz, say his open communication and connection.

“So usually naman kasi yung pagiging military or officer mo is just a Profession mo yan, how you deal with your families and friends back home sooo, nandyan na yan sayo simula pa nung malit ka palang hanggang sa lumaki ka kasi nga, simula bata ka di kapa sundalo nandyan na yang family’s mo sila na yong kasama mo, yung friends mo habang naga aral ka, bago naging sundalo nandyan na yan sila, so sa pag maintain naman sa relationship na sa family tsaka sa friends mo.” (Pajz:P1:203-219).

(Being a soldier is just a job. What really matters is how you balance that with your family and friends. Those relationships were there long before I joined up—they were my support system growing up, through school, and until now. So, maintaining those relationships with family and friends is crucial.)

4.2 Balancing the situation and individual connection

Those ties of trust and togetherness, can help alleviate and mitigate feelings of loneliness in both young children and grown-ups. Fortunately, there are many ways to strengthen your family's closeness. Consider these ideas, can help to create an environment of respect. Let "thank yous" and "I love yous" abound in your home! Remind your children regularly that you are proud of and thankful for them, and that you see the big (and small!) ways they are growing each day. Additionally, Chez say his balancing the situation and individual connection.

"Kumbaga bali бага halimbawa pagnakauwi ako sa aking pamilya during ahhh passes or ahh rest and recreation kami ng pamilya ko ay ahh nagpasyal lumalabas kumain sa labas nagpunta ng chowking or jollibee or dito sa south cotabato magpunta ng ahhh jan sa tupi sa may da farm yan. So sa mga kaibigan naman, kaibigan so pagmay time ahhh bali nagkaroon tayo ng aahhh konting socials kumbaga tagay tagay kunti syempre makausap din ang aking mga kaibigan." (Chez:P3:118-126)

(Let's say for instance, when I returned home to my family during passes or rest and recreation, we roamed around, we went out to eat at Chowking or Jollibee, or here in South Cotabato, we went to Tupi where there is a farm. So, to my friends, if we have free time we get together for some social events, maybe have a few drinks, and just catch up.)

E. LESSON OF THE SOLDIER OUT OF THE EXPERIENCES IN THE COMBAT AREA

Table 5. Lesson of the soldier out of the experiences in the combat area

CLUSTERED THEMES	FORMULATED MEANINGS
5.1 Minding Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's a reminder that soldiers carry a heavy responsibility and their possible actions have lasting consequences.
5.2 Building resilience and confidence through comprehensive military training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training pushes soldiers to their physical and mental limits. Successfully overcoming these challenges builds confidence in their abilities and fosters resilience in the face of adversity. Combat can be mentally and emotionally taxing. Having self-confidence helps other soldiers bounce back from setbacks, overcome fear, and maintain focus in difficult situations. Even experienced soldiers that continue to train and refine their skills to stay sharp and adapt to new situations. By investing in comprehensive or preparation,

	<p>militaries empower their soldiers to perform effective their duties effectively and return to home safely.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Military training grounds are designed to replicate real-world combat scenarios. Soldiers train in various environments, facing simulated challenges and that require them to assess the situations, make decisions, and adapt their tactics.
5.3 Balance and well-being in demanding roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By understanding the face those challenges, and maintaining a balance, and prioritizing your well-being, you can navigate this demanding role effectively.
5.4 Calmness under pressure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When under pressure, staying calm allows you to think clearly and make rational decisions. This is crucial in any situation that requires quick thinking and problem-solving, from the very emergency situations. • Despite the danger, soldiers develop mental fortitude and courage to face adversity. This inner strength might be seen as a form of "untouchability".
5.5 Vigilance and adaptability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assuming the enemy is weak or incapable is a recipe for all disaster. Enemies can be very resourceful, cunning, and to be capable of adapting all the situations. Soldiers must always be prepared for every a fight, regardless of perceived enemy strength. • Reflecting on mistakes can help soldiers identify blind spots in their awareness or decision-making processes. This allows them to be more vigilant and anticipate potential problems in future situations.
5.6 Effective communication and structured operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging to all that open communication within the unit builds a solid trust and respect. Soldiers should feel

	<p>comfortable sharing concerns, ideas, and observations with their team members and leaders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOPs ensure everyone in the unit performs tasks the same way. This promotes smooth operation, minimizes confusion, and reduces the risk of errors. • The military operates under a clear chain of command. This ensures everyone knows who to report to, who gives orders, and how to give information flows. Following the chain of command prevents confusion and ensures everyone is working towards the same objective.
5.7 Prayer as a source of strength and solace in times of danger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prayer provides a source of comfort, strength, and hope in the face of every danger and uncertainty. It allows them to connect with something larger than themselves and find solace in their faith.

5.1 Minding Accountability

Argues that this polarized view of the son-soldier nexus, foundational to the republican ethos of Jewish-Israeli society, affects the legal accountability of soldiers as official duty holders. identifying two distinct yet intertwined processes of infantilization underlying this change additionally, Pajz say his minding accountability

“Lessons sooo, ang pinaka lesson talaga jan is ahhhh walang retake sa actual na combat Ibig sabihin nyan mas maganda pang paulit-ulita ka sa, during training kasi nga doon sa paulit-ulit mo na cocorect mo yung mali mo kasi pag dating na sa actual na experience sa combat area, wala ng retake yan, Pag tinamaan ka ng bala di muna pweding sabihin na retake retake, yun yung pinaka lesson jan na, dapat during training seryosohin mo yung training mo, kasi yon ang makakatulong sayo sa real time senario na walang mayayaring masama sayo at sa unang question kanina ha makakamuwi ka sa pamilya mo.” (Pajz:P1:223-230).

(The main lesson here is that there are no retakes in actual combat. This means that it’s better to practice repeatedly during the training because that’s where you correct your mistakes. Once you’re in a real combat situation, there are no second chances. If a bullet hits you, you can’t ask for a retake. The lesson is to take your training seriously because that’s what will help you survive a real-time scenario and return home safely to your family.)

5.2 Building resilience and confidence through comprehensive military training

Joining the military is a big commitment, not to be taken lightly. Most first-term enlistments require a commitment to four years of active duty and two years of inactive (Individual Ready Reserve, or IRR). But the services also offer programs with two-, three- and six-year active-duty or reserve enlistments. It depends upon the service and the job you want. Additionally, Pajz, say the building resilience and confidence through comprehensive military training

“so professionally ahh meron kasi tayong mga ahhhhh kahit na sundalo tayo meron parin tayong tinatawag na roles of engagement, so as ahhh professional soldier we have to abide sa mga rules na yon, kaya nga meron tayong. yong mga ano na bawal e mistake yung mga ahh P.O.W natin, no yun yung kwan natin as a professional na soldier, kaya nga nasa modern age na tayo na ano, isa yan sa mga dapat na ma ano natin being a professional soldier we have to ah follow talaga yung mga rules or laws yung sabi ko nga e young rules of engagement pagdating dun sa combat area. personally, naman ahhh based dun sa pagiging ano mo yung pagiging officer ko yung sa pagkaka roon ng experience during real time na combat, yon nga yong tinatawag na real time combat experience, na may karoon ka ng ah, good command stability under pressure.” (Pajz:P1:242-270)

(Professionally speaking, even as soldiers, we have what is called Rules of Engagement. As professional soldiers, we must abide by those rules. That’s why there are things we can’t do, like mistreating P.O.W. That’s our responsibility as professional soldiers. We’re in the modern age now, and that’s something we must uphold. Being a professional soldier means we must follow the rules and laws the Rules of Engagement in a combat zone. Personally, based on my experience, it’s about maintaining good command and stability under pressure.)

5.3 Balance and well-being in demanding roles

Legal immunity was provided not only to soldiers who obeyed orders contrary to international law, but also to those who under orders violated domestic standing legislation of the Japanese Army. This gave rise to a so-called “paradox of obedience”: while disobedience among officers was rampant, their subordinates were expected to unquestionably obey their orders, even in rebellion against the Japanese government. This mix of blatant disobedience to the system at large on the one hand, and blind obedience to immediate superiors on the other, was a remarkable feature of the Imperial Japanese armed forces. Additionally, Pajz say the balance and well-being in demanding roles

“So professionally ahh meron kasi tayong mga ahhhhh kahit na sundalo tayo meron parin tayong tinatawag na roles of engagement, so as ahhh professional soldier we have to abide sa mga rules na yon, kaya nga meron tayong. yong mga ano na bawal e mistake yung mga ahh P.O.W natin, no yun yung kwan natin as a professional na soldier, kaya nga nasa modern age na tayo na ano, isa yan sa mga dapat na ma ano natin being a professional soldier we have to ah follow talaga yung mga rules or laws.” (Pajz:P1:242-251)

(Professionally, even as soldiers, we have what we call Rules of Engagement. As professional soldiers, we must adhere to these rules. That’s why there are things we’re prohibited from doing, such as mistreating

P.O.W. That's our responsibility as professional soldiers. We're in the modern age, and that's something we must uphold. Being a professional soldier means we absolutely must follow the rules and laws.)

5.4 Calmness under pressure

Displaying grace under pressure is a cultivated skill, not something we are born knowing how to do. We learn through experience and practice. Yet many of us ourselves are tapped out. Patience is thin, and demands are high to accelerate the pace of growth and recovery. And we cannot hide, because now is the moment of opportunity that requires our full attention and our best selves. Additionally, Pajz say the calmness under pressure.

“based dun sa na gained mo na stability under pressure kayang kaya munang harapin yung mga problema na yan na dadating sayo kasi nga kaya mo ngang e survived yung combat experience nyo na may mga na life na naka kwan jan life na yung naka ano Jan yung buhay na ang naka taya Jan soo, one wrong moved either may mamatay sa kasama mo or ikaw yung. Mamamatay, kung makaya mo e survive yun siguro naman based on that experience na yong Stability under pressure yung maliit na problema na yan kayang kaya munang harapin you personally.” (Pajz:P1:257-270).

(Based on the stability you gained under pressure during combat, you'll be able to handle the problems that come your way. You survived combat situations where lives were on the line one wrong move could mean the death of a comrade or yourself. If you could survive that, then based on that experience and your developed ability to remain stable under pressure, these smaller problems should be easily manageable for you personally.)

5.5 Vigilance and adaptability

Foreign-born personnel, and current US law allows some immigrants to apply for expedited citizenship through military service. The US Army, thus, offers a compelling context in which to explore how such institutional factors might facilitate immigrant incorporation, yet we know little about the experience of foreign-born soldiers because most surveys exclude active-duty personnel. Additionally, Chez say the vigilance and adaptability.

“So yung lesson learned na natutunan ko during operation wag ka talagang magpakaang kaang wag kang magkompyansa wag kang mag relax. kaya ako iniemphasize ko palagi kong sinasabi sa mga kasama ko na dapat wag nilang iwala Sa isip nila yung pro, yung pro panilag at pro paniid.” (Chez:P3:140-145).

(The lesson I learned during the operation is that you should never be complacent, never be overconfident, and never relax. That's why I always emphasize and tell my team that they should never forget the “pro”, pro panilag (observe), and pro paniid (attack)).

5.6 Effective communication and structured operation

The proposed War Strategy Optimization (WSO) is based on the strategic movement personnel as one of army troops during the war. War strategy is modeled as an optimization process wherein each soldier dynamically moves towards the optimum value. The proposed algorithm models two popular war

strategies, attack and defense strategies. The positions of soldiers on the battlefield are updated in accordance with the strategy implemented. Additionally, Gay say the effective communication and structured operation.

“Ang lesson learn sa combatant ay dapa lang talaga na yong mag ingat lagi, dapat unahin mo yung safety mo tsaka tha mga kasavaa, lalong. lalo na na pangaralan mo ang mga kasama mo para mas lalong matibay ang communication nyo ng Kasama mo kung unite ba kayo.” (Gay:P4:197-202).

(The lesson learned in combat is that you should always be careful, you should prioritize your safety and that of your comrades, especially. You should also teach your comrades to strengthen communication with them, and you are united.)

5.7 Prayer as a source of strength solace in times of danger

Let go and let God, the battle is the lords, after doing his part while trusting in God, the lord allowed Joshua to experience breakthrough and the impossible happened—the wall fell in a crumbly heap! The power to destroy the wall came from above not through the soldiers, nor the priests not even from Joshua. Joshua’s experience of victory over Jericho was simply the fulfilment of God’s promise. God will always win, He just wants us to do our part and have faith His process. Additionally, Gay say the prayer as a source of strength solace in times of danger.

“Ang pinaka Susi ko jan sa lesson learned ko sa combatant is unang una jan yung pray always para sa sarili ko para matulungan ako kung paano ma survive itong misyon namin o yung mga combat situation namin, dapat kahit na anjan na yan, wag mo talagang kalimutang mag pray, pag bakkakan na jan ang number one na weapon mo ay ang ay ang pagdarasal sa pag tawag sa panginoon na hindi nya ka pababayaang sa pag encounter na kinakaharap mo, yan din ang dahilan kung bakit ko na survive ko yung combat situation ko na na ambush kami.” (Gay:P4:206-216)

(The most important lesson I learned from combat is the power of prayer. It’s always the first thing I do, praying for myself to survive the mission, to get through any combat situation. Even in the heat of battle, never forget to pray. In combat, prayer is your number one weapon, your connection to God, your assurance that He won’t abandon you in the face of danger. That’s why I survived the ambush—prayer was my lifeline.)

5. DISCUSSION

This chapter provides a summary of participants' experiences, key insights, and implications derived from the study's findings “THE FEROCIOUS FIGHTERS: UNDERSTANDING THE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF BATTLE LISTED SOLDIERS IN COMBAT AREA”.

Motivation by the soldiers in combat area

The motivations driving soldiers in combat areas are multifaceted and complex, encompassing a range of psychological, social, and ideological factors. Understanding these motivations crucial for comprehending the behaviors and resilience of military personnel under extreme conditions. From a sense of duty and

patriotism to camaraderie and personal survival, soldiers' motivations are influenced by both intrinsic and extrinsic factors.

One of the primary motivations for soldiers in combat areas is a profound sense of duty and patriotism. Many soldiers are driven by a commitment to protect their country and its values. This sense of duty often stems from a deep-seated belief in the importance of national security and a desire to contribute to the greater good.

Additionally, the instinct for self-preservation is a fundamental human motivation that becomes particularly pronounced in combat zones. Soldiers are constantly aware of the risks to their lives and the necessity of staying alert and responsive to threats. This drive for personal survival can be a powerful motivator, compelling soldiers to take necessary actions to protect themselves and their comrades. The adrenaline and heightened senses experienced in combat can also sharpen focus and enhance performance under pressure.

Lastly, the motivations of soldiers in combat areas are diverse and deeply interwoven, encompassing a range of personal, social, and ideological factors. A sense of duty and patriotism, the bonds of camaraderie, effective leadership and training, the instinct for self-preservation, and strong ideological convictions all contribute to the resilience and determination of soldiers facing the dangers of combat. By understanding these motivations, we gain insight into the complex psychological landscape of military personnel and the factors that enable them to endure and perform in the most demanding environments. This comprehension not only honors their sacrifices but also informs strategies to support and enhance their well-being and effectiveness.

Difficulties being encountered by the soldiers during their combat journey

Soldiers in combat areas encountered difficulties that challenged their physical, psychological, and emotional resilience. These challenges are not only immediate and life-threatening but also have long-term effects on their well-being. Understanding the difficulties encountered by soldiers during their combat journeys is essential for providing adequate support and developing effective strategies to mitigate these hardships. This exploration was high lightly the primary difficulties soldiers face, ranging from the harsh physical conditions and the constant threat of danger to the psychological stresses and moral dilemmas inherent in combat situations.

One of the most immediate difficulties soldiers face in combat areas is the harsh physical environment. Soldiers often operate in extreme conditions, including severe weather, rugged terrain, and inadequate shelter. These physical hardships can lead to exhaustion, dehydration, and exposure-related illnesses. Additionally, the physical demands of carrying heavy equipment and maintaining a high level of readiness take a toll on the body, leading to injuries and long-term musculoskeletal problems. The scarcity of proper medical care and supplies in combat zones further exacerbates these physical challenges, making recovery from injuries slow and arduous.

Lastly, the combat journey of a soldier is fraught with numerous difficulties that test their physical, psychological, and emotional limits. From the harsh physical conditions and the ever-present threat of danger to the psychological stresses and moral dilemmas, soldiers endure immense hardships in the line of duty. The social strain of prolonged separation from loved ones and the operational challenges of modern warfare further compounds these difficulties. By understanding and addressing these challenges, we can better support our soldiers, ensuring they receive the care and resources needed to cope with their experiences and reintegrate into civilian life. This understanding not only honors their sacrifices but also enhances the overall effectiveness and resilience of our military forces.

Soldiers in combat areas survived

Survival in combat areas requires soldiers to rely on a combination of training, resilience, and resourcefulness. The harsh realities of combat demand not only physical endurance but also mental fortitude and adaptability. Soldiers must navigate a myriad of challenges, from immediate threats to long-term psychological impacts. This exploration will delve into the strategies and practices that enable soldiers to survive in combat areas, focusing on their training, psychological resilience, support systems, and the use of technology and tactics.

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Additionally, tactical proficiency and the ability to adapt to rapidly changing situations are critical for survival in combat. Soldiers must be adept at employing various combat tactics, from defensive maneuvers to offensive operations. Understanding the terrain, utilizing cover effectively, and maintaining situational awareness are essential tactical skills. Adaptability is equally important, as combat scenarios often involve unexpected challenges and threats. Soldiers must be able to quickly adjust their strategies and actions to respond to new information and changing circumstances, ensuring they can effectively counter threats and protect themselves and their units.

Lastly, surviving in combat areas demands a multifaceted approach, encompassing rigorous training, psychological resilience, tactical proficiency, technological support, and robust logistical systems. Soldiers rely on their training and adaptability to navigate the immediate dangers of combat while maintaining mental fortitude to cope with stress and trauma. Technological advancements and effective support systems further enhance their ability to survive and succeed in hostile environments. By understanding and supporting these various survival strategies, we can better appreciate the challenges faced by soldiers and contribute to their overall effectiveness and well-being in combat zones.

Soldiers in combat areas maintain relationship with their families and friends back home

Maintaining relationships with family and friends back home is a crucial aspect of a soldier's life, even while stationed in combat areas. The physical distance and the emotional toll of deployment create significant challenges, but soldiers employ various strategies to stay connected with their loved ones. This connection is vital for their morale and psychological well-being, providing a source of comfort and support amid the stresses of combat. This exploration delves into how soldiers maintain these important relationships, highlighting the role of communication technologies, support systems, and personal strategies in bridging the gap between the battlefield and home.

Modern communication technologies play a pivotal role in helping soldiers maintain relationships with their families and friends. Internet access, satellite phones, and video conferencing tools such as Skype, Zoom, and FaceTime enable real-time communication, allowing soldiers to see and speak with their loved ones regularly. Social media platforms also provide a way for soldiers to share updates and stay connected with their social networks.

Additionally, maintaining relationships while deployed is not without its challenges. The time difference, the unpredictability of combat missions, and the emotional strain of deployment can make regular communication difficult. Soldiers and their families must learn to cope with the uncertainty and stress that

comes with deployment. Developing strong communication skills and being understanding and patient with each other helps mitigate these challenges. Both soldiers and their families often seek support from counseling services and peer groups to manage the emotional difficulties of separation. Building a network of support among fellow soldiers and military families also helps in sharing experiences and coping strategies.

Lastly, maintaining relationships with family and friends while in a combat area requires a combination of modern communication technologies, military support systems, personal strategies, and coping mechanisms. These connections are essential for the morale and psychological well-being of soldiers, providing a vital link to normalcy and emotional support amid the stresses of deployment. Despite the significant challenges, the efforts made by soldiers and their loved ones to stay connected demonstrate the resilience and adaptability of military families. By understanding and supporting these efforts, we can help ensure that soldiers remain emotionally connected to their home front, enhancing their overall well-being and effectiveness in the field.

Lesson of the soldiers out of the experiences in the combat area

The experiences of soldiers in combat areas impart profound lessons that extend beyond the battlefield. These lessons, forged under the intense pressures of combat, encompass personal growth, leadership, resilience, and the value of camaraderie. Understanding these lessons provides insights into the transformative impact of military service and the ways in which combat experiences shape soldiers' perspectives and skills. This exploration will delve into the key lessons learned by soldiers from their time in combat, highlighting how these experiences influence their lives and contribute to their development both during and after their military service.

One of the most significant lessons learned by soldiers in combat is the importance of resilience and adaptability. Combat situations are unpredictable and often require soldiers to quickly adjust to changing circumstances. The ability to remain calm under pressure, think critically, and adapt to new challenges is crucial for survival. This experience teaches soldiers to be resourceful and resilient in the face of adversity, skills that are invaluable in both military and civilian life. The process of overcoming obstacles in combat instills a sense of confidence and the belief that they can handle difficult situations in the future.

Additionally, combat experiences also emphasize the critical role of leadership and teamwork. Soldiers learn to lead by example, make swift decisions, and take responsibility for the welfare of their comrades. Effective leadership in combat involves not only strategic thinking but also empathy and the ability to inspire and motivate others. Additionally, the reliance on teamwork is paramount; soldiers must trust and support one another to achieve their objectives and ensure their mutual survival. These lessons in leadership and collaboration foster strong interpersonal skills and a deep appreciation for the power of collective effort.

Lastly, the lessons learned by soldiers from their experiences in combat areas are profound and multifaceted, encompassing resilience, leadership, camaraderie, a deep appreciation for life, and ethical reflection. These lessons not only shape their conduct and mindset during military service but also have a lasting impact on their personal and professional lives. By understanding and acknowledging these lessons, we can better appreciate the transformative effect of combat experiences on soldiers and support

their transition to civilian life, ensuring that the skills and insights they have gained contribute positively to society.

Implication for Future Research

This Qualitative Study of the lived experiences of battle-listed soldiers in combat areas provides rich insights into the personal and collective dimensions of military service. These experiences encompass physical, psychological, social, and ethical aspects that deeply influence soldiers' lives. Future research in this domain could explore several key areas to further understand and support these individuals.

One of the most significant lessons learned by soldiers in combat is the importance of resilience and adaptability. Combat situations are unpredictable and often require soldiers to quickly adjust to changing circumstances. The ability to remain calm under pressure, think critically, and adapt to new challenges is crucial for survival.

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The lessons learned by soldiers from their experiences in combat areas are profound and multifaceted, encompassing resilience, leadership, camaraderie, a deep appreciation for life, and ethical reflection. These lessons not only shape their conduct and mindset during military service but also have a lasting impact on their personal and professional lives. By understanding and acknowledging these lessons, we can better appreciate the transformative effect of combat experiences on soldiers and support their transition to civilian life, ensuring that the skills and insights they have gained contribute positively to society.

Concluding Remarks

The exploration of the lived experiences of battle tested soldiers in combat areas reveals the profound complexities and challenges faced by these individuals. These soldiers endure physical hardships, psychological stress, ethical dilemmas, and the constant threat of danger, yet they demonstrate remarkable resilience, adaptability, and camaraderie. Understanding these experiences is crucial not only for appreciating the sacrifices and strengths of our military personnel but also for developing effective support systems to aid their well-being and reintegration into civilian life.

The lessons learned from soldiers' experiences in combat extend beyond the battlefield, offering insights into leadership, teamwork, and the human spirit's capacity to endure under extreme conditions. These insights can inform military training programs, mental health interventions, and support systems, ensuring that soldiers are better prepared for the challenges of combat and supported in their recovery and adjustment post-deployment.

Moreover, Future research in this field holds significant potential to further enhance our understanding and support of combat soldiers. By delving into the psychological, social, ethical, and technological

dimensions of their experiences, researchers can develop comprehensive strategies to improve soldiers' resilience, mental health, and overall quality of life.

Ultimately, the ferocious fighters who serve in combat areas deserve recognition and support for their bravery and dedication. By continuing to study and address the multifaceted aspects of their lived experiences, we can honor their service and ensure that they receive the care and resources needed to thrive both during and after their military careers.

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APPENDIX A

COVER LETTER



RAMON MAGSAYSAY MEMORIAL COLLEGES – MARBEL, INC.
Purok Waling – Waling, Arellano Street, Koronadal City, South Cotabato
Tel. No.: (083) 221 - 2880

CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



March 9 2024

MAJ DENNIE M. PAJEL (ARM) PA
1204 CDC Director
1204 CDC Headquarters
Koronadal City, South Cotabato

Dear Sir Pajel,

Greetings!

I am a Third-year student taking up Bachelor of Science Criminology and was officially enrolled this Second Semester of School Year 2023-2024 at Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Colleges-Marbel, Incorporated. Currently, I am conducting a research study entitled **"THE FEROCIOUS FIGHTERS: UNDERSTANDING THE LIVE EXPERIENCES OF BATTLE LESTED SOLDIERS IN COMBAT AREA"**

With this, I am gratefully asking for your valuable support to allow me to conduct the said research to the lested soldiers located in the Brgy. Sta Cruz, Koronadal City, South Cotabato. I assured you that the data to be gathered will be treated confidentially.

If there are any questions and queries on this matter, you may contact my personal number 09696178419.

Thank you!

Sincerely:


RALPH R. PAJEL
Researcher

Noted By:


ALBERT P. BALONGOY, PhD
Research Adviser

APPENDIX B QUESTIONNAIRE



RAMON MAGSAYSAY MEMORIAL COLLEGES – MARBEL, INC.
Purok Waling – Waling, Arellano Street, Koronadal City, South Cotabato
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CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Part 2: Questions

SOP	Main Question	Probing Question
1. What is the motivation by the soldier in the combat area?	1.1 How did you motivate yourself during in combat area?	<p>1.1.1 Do you have any personal experiences you can share that motivated you while were at the combat area?</p> <p>1.1.2 What are the thoughts and reasons that keep you motivated during your time in combat area?</p> <p>1.1.3 How did you encourage or motivate yourself in combat area?</p>
2. What are the difficulties being encountered by the soldiers during their combat journey?	2.1 How did you face those difficulties that have you encountered during battle?	<p>2.1.1 Based on your experience, what are the difficulties that you encountered during your combat journey?</p> <p>2.1.2 What are the particular moments that gives you difficulties during</p>

		<p>your combat journey?</p> <p>2.1.3 How does going through these challenges affect your overall experience in your combat journey?</p>
3. How do soldiers in dispute area survived?	3.1 How did you survive in the dispute area?	<p>3.1.1 What are your survival skills that you rely on during your time in combat area?</p> <p>3.1.2 Do you have preparation to survive on the combat area?</p> <p>3.1.3 Based on your experience, can you share a situation where you used your survival skills to survive in combat area?</p>
4. How do soldiers in combat area maintain relationship with their families and friends back home?	4.1 How did you maintain your relationship between your families and friends back home?	<p>4.1.1 Do you have any ways to maintain your relationship with your family and friends back home <u>while</u> you are in the combat area?</p> <p>4.1.2 What approach did you employ as a soldier to maintain your relationships with</p>

		<p>your families and friends back home?</p> <p>4.1.3 What did you go through, to maintain your relationship between your families and friends back Home?</p>
<p>5. What are the lesson of the soldiers out of the experiences in combat area?</p>	<p>5.1 As a soldier, what are the things you got lessons out of the combat area?</p>	<p>5.1.1 What lessons did you learn as a soldier from the combat area?</p> <p>5.1.2 What are the key lessons or insights you gained from this experience, both professionally and personally?</p>

APPENDIX C VALIDATION SHEET



RAMON MAGSAYSAY MEMORIAL COLLEGES-MARBEL, INC.
Purok Waling-Waling, Arellano Street, Koronadal City, South Cotabato
Tel. No.: (083) 228-2880



COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDUCATION

VALIDATION RATING SHEET OF EXPERT VALIDATORS

For the Evaluator. Please check the appropriate box for your rating.

Rating: Number of "Yes" marks

() 12-13 Very Good

() 6-8 Fair

() 9-11 Good

() 0-5 For Revalidation

Kindly check the Column which fits your evaluation for the item.

ITEMS	YES	NO
ETHICS		
1. Introduce (Purpose, confidentiality, duration and a way to conduct) and closing components.	/	
2. Informed consent is provided.	/	
3. Interview protocol for participant is available.	/	
4. Interview Consent form is available.	/	
5. Participants Verification Form is included.	/	
ARTISTRY		
1. Questions are heading towards description of the research topic.	/	
2. script is included, so interview can introduce, guide and conclude the interview in a consistent manner.	/	
RIGOR		
1. Questions are open-ended to encourage in-depth responses avoiding close-ended questions which answered by "yes" or "no".	/	
2. Coherence of the research with the research paradigm is evident.	/	
3. Questions are stated in the affirmative.	/	
4. Research question is semi structured.	/	
5. Questions are sequenced in logical order.	/	
6. Questions are focused and expressed in a concise manner as to be worked and researchable	/	

Lawrence G. Flores
Name and Signature of Evaluator



RAMON MAGSAYSAY MEMORIAL COLLEGES-MARBEL, INC.
Purok Waling-Waling, Arellano Street, Koronadal City, South Cotabato
Tel. No.: (083) 228-2880



COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDUCATION

March 12, 2024

Dear Validator,

I am presently conducting a study entitled **"THE FEROCIOUS FIGTHERS: UNDERSTANDING THE LIVED EXPERIENCE OF BATTLE LESTED SOLDIERS IN COMBAT AREA"**. I need your expertise in validating the instrument to be used.

Attached is the questionnaire to be used in the study. Please help me evaluate the questions and the option whether they are relevant or irrelevant basing on the following criteria: Suitability and relevance of the study evaluated, appropriateness of the language used and correctness of grammar. You could use the following symbols for the comments.

S means not suitable. This shows that the questions and the option in that item are relevant. (Yes)

NS means not suitable. This shows that the questions and the option are not suited or irrelevant in the study. (No)

Any other comments you want to say about the question please feel free to write it under the specified columns.

Thank you.



RALPH R. PAJEL
Researcher

Noted by:



ALBERT P. BALONGOY, PhD
Research Adviser



RAMON MAGSAYSAY MEMORIAL COLLEGES-MARBEL, INC.
Purok Waling-Waling, Arellano Street, Koronadal City, South Cotabato
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COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDUCATION

March 12, 2024

Clarence C. Flores, LPT
RMCM - HR, OIC DEPUTY, REED
KORONADAL CITY, SOUTH COTABATO

Dear Sir,

The undersigned would like to request your approval to be one of the evaluators in the research study entitled **"THE FEROCIOUS FIGHTERS: UNDERSTANDING THE LIVED EXPERIENCE OF BATTLE TESTED SOLDIERS IN COMBAT AREA"** as a requirement for the degree of Bachelor Science in Criminology. Undoubtedly, your expertise would make the instrument rich and substantive in content.

Attached to this request is the actual printout of the questionnaire guide and research objectives. Your comments and suggestion will be a great help in the realization of this study.


Looking forward for your favorable response on this request. Thank you and God Bless.

Sincerely,



RALPH R. PAJEL
Researcher

Noted by,



ALBERT P. BALONGOY, PhD
Research Adviser

APPENDIX D**SAMPLE OF INFORMED CONSENT FORM**

RAMON MAGSAYSAY MEMORIAL COLLEGES-MARBEL INC.
Purok Waling-Waling, Arellano Street, Koronadal City
Tel. No.: (083) 228-2880



COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDUCATION

Participants Consent**Informed Consent to Participate in a Research Study**

Title: " The ferocious fighters: Understanding the lived experiences of the listed soldier in combat area"

Researcher: Ralph R. ~~Pajel~~

09898178419

A. PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

Ralph R. ~~Pajel~~ is conducting research " The ferocious fighters: Understanding the lived experiences of the listed soldier in combat area." This study of the lived experiences of soldier in combat area among the military personnel of headquarters, 1204th community defense center (CDC), in City of Koronadal. This topic explores the personal, physical, and emotional toll that soldiers experience while serving in combat areas, as well as the profound impact these experiences have on their lives. You were selected as a possible participant in this study because you are one of the best and fit to the study.

B. PROCEDURES

If you agree to participate in this research study, the following will occur: Focus on the experiences of listed soldier in combat area. The process are as follows; first, will have interview Semi-Structured and Confidential Interview which will ~~entake~~ about 10-20 minutes interview. The interview will have audio recording for quality purposes.

C. CONFIDENTIALITY

The records from this study will be kept as confidential as possible. No individual identities will be used in any reports or publications resulting from the study. All descriptive qualitative interview answers will be given codes and stored separately from any names or other direct identification of participants. Research information will be kept in locked files at all times. Only research personnel will have access to

the files and only those with an essential need to see names or other identifying information will have access to that particular file. After the study is completed will state who will be able to see the result, and the instrument in data gathering.

D. BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

There will be direct benefit to you from participating in this research study as it is for the better experience on the listed soldiers in combat area. The anticipated benefit of your participation will have its significance to the policy makers, security and law enforcers, community members affected by conflict, researcher and future researchers. The benefit might be general but the participation is much appreciated.

APPENDIX E

E. VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION

PARTICIPANTS AGREEMENT FORM SAMPLE

Your decision whether or not to participate in this study is voluntary. If you choose to participate in this study, you can withdraw your consent and discontinue participation at any time without prejudice

F. QUESTIONS

If you have any questions about the study, please contact Ralph R. ~~Pajel~~ ^{www} by calling 09898178419 with any questions about the rights of research participants or research related concerns.



RAMON MAGSAYSAY MEMORIAL COLLEGES-MARBEL, INC.
Purok Waling-Waling, Arellano Street, Koronadal City, South Cotabato
Tel. No.: (083) 228-2880



COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDUCATION

INFORMED CONSENT

DATE: _____

Dear Participants,

I am third-year student at Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Colleges- Marbel Incorporated, pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Criminology degree. I am conducting a study intitled "THE FEROCIOUS FIGHTERS: UNDERSTANDING THE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF BATTLE LISTED SOLDIERS IN COMBAT AREA," and you have been chosen as one of the participants. The findings of this study will specifically assist me in gathering data based on the interviewer's prepared research questions.

I would like to hear your stories and personal experience in your relationship. I want to emphasize that your participation in this study is completely optional, and we will make every attempt to safeguard your identity and keep your information private. I'm excited to hear more about your perceptions and have a better understanding of them. Your involvement will be immensely value.

Sincerely yours,

RALPH R PAJEL
The Researcher

Noted by:

ALBERT P. BALONGOY, PhD
Research Adviser

APPENDIX F INTERVIEW MATRIX

THE FEROCIOUS FIGHTERS: UNDERSTANDING THE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF BATTLE LISTED SOLDIERS IN COMBAT AREA

CLUSTERED THEMES

SOP NO. 1 WHAT IS THE MOTIVATION BY THE SOLDIER IN THE COMBAT AREA?			
SIGNIFICANT STATEMENTS	CODE	FORMULATE D MEANINGS	CLUSTER THEMES
7. so with regard on motivation, just take to your family, a naghihintay sila sayong pag babalik so that is the greatest motivation for every soldier while in combat area or conducting combat operation kasi nga, a syempre alam naman natin na yung risks or yong ahhhhhhhh, yun yung risk nga alam naman nating na ganon talaga ang buhay mag conduct ng operation.	A. 7- 46 Pajz	Motivation in combat is driven by the thought of reuniting with their family post-risky operation and the desire to bond with loved ones.	Reunited with Family
9. Ang Motivation ko ay sa pamamagitan sssng Experience Tsaka youg training na tinuro samin, during the time na pumasok kami sa army nag training kami.	A. 9- 37 Val	Finds motivation in the experience and training acquired, leading to confidence in combat situations.	Equipped in Training
9. ang naga motivate sakín is yung ahhh para sakín is yung ahh tiwala trust ng aking ahh commander kasi kung hindi ko isipin yung tiwala na binigay sakín yung trust is ahh eh baka mag down yung aking mga kwan mga ka	A. 9-39 Chez	Motivation stems from the trust placed in or from superiors and colleagues, driving the desire to excel in combat duties.	Trust in Leadership

team mate yon, yun kaya iniisip ko palagi yung trust na dapat hindi mawala is gampanan ko yung task information na binigay sakin			
7. Syempe ang una kung Inspiration Jan sa combat area is gagamitin ko ang knowledge ko about sa training tapos yung mga inspirasyon ko sa senior ko kung ano man yung magandang ehimplo para sa kanila, para maging successfull ako sa combatant at sa mga hindi dapat mayari sa combat area.	A. 7- 36 Gay	Motivation in combat is fueled by the knowledge and mentorship received from senior soldiers, guiding personal success.	Guidance and Mentorship
8. Syempre una yung pamilya ko ak parating nag dadasal para saakin tapos through cellphone makita ko sila, ginagamit to yung cellphone para syempre magkausap tsaka magkita kami through video call, dahil sila talaga ang motivation ko ang pamilya ko sa bawat encounter na dumadaan sa buhay naming mga sundalo, pero you no talaga ang buhay namin na napaka dilikado di namin alam kung mabubuhay paba ako sa mga encounter, pero buti nalang andyan ang pamilya ko sila yung nag sisilbing motivation ko.	A. 10- 64 Bel	Primary motivation in combat stems from the unwavering support and connection with family, boosting morale and determination.	Constant Communication

SOP NO. 2 WHAT ARE THE DIFFICULTIES BEING ENCOUNTERED BY THE SOLDIER DURING THEIR COMBAT JOURNEY?

SIGNIFICANT STATEMENTS	CODE	FORMULATE D MEANINGS	CLUSTER THEMES
<p>50. So ah pag ahhh ano pag kasi sinabi mo kasing ah combat ahhhh, ahh ahh encounter, hindi naman natin hinihingi yan sooo, lahat naman ng combat encounter o yung encounter na tinatawag na ano, is mahirap during may platoon Leader that time day ahhhh</p> <p>nagkaroon ako ng encounter with ahhh ahh sa samar so yun lang talaga yung ano namin, dapat ano kalang, kasi as a leader you need to become stable para ma lead moo yung ahhh mga personnel ko na walang masamang mangyari sa kanilayun lang talaga yan.</p>	<p>B. 50- 61</p> <p>Pajz</p>	<p>Every encounter is very difficult but making an initiative steps to be stable and lead his personnel.</p>	<p>Focus and Stability</p>
<p>43. Ang una Jan na mahirap na experience ko yung namatayan ka ng tropa, lalo nayong experience namin na inkwentro don sa side ng team namin, so sa unit namin that time na nag operate kami noon sa experience ko sa 2012 bali di naman sakina experience bali sa mga kasamahan ko sa kabilang team, so ang na</p> <p>experience mo doon na nag operate kami, may nabalitaan namin na may</p>	<p>B. 43- 65</p> <p>Val</p>	<p>Losing of one member of the team and cannot focus to situation and felt low morale.</p>	<p>Low Morale</p>

<p>namatay na tropa namin na ambush tsaka, yun yung pinaka mahirap samin na experience na ah ilang mga operating troops, tsaka sa experience ko naman yung mahirap dun e yung kwan yung di mo alam yong, yong sitwasyon mo kung mabuhay kapa ba o makakauwi kapa ba Sa pamilya mo, kasi nasa gitna ka ng kamatayan eh sa gitna kayo tinatawag na endanger zone dun sa area na kung saan ahh pinapasabak kayo ng officers nyo katulad samin na kami yong mga operating troops, so kaylangan din namin e accomplish yung mga binibigay na mission, so ang mahirap doon mamatayan kami kasi di namin alam kung mabubuhay paba kami o hindi na.</p>			
<p>42. So bali para saakin is yung ahh focus, focus lang palagi don sa binigay na tasking, yung ahh mission para ma-accomplish kasi kung mawala ka dan sa focus posible na ikaw na team leader or Squad leader yung mga ka team mate mo posibling ahhh di natin alam kung anong manyari na once na ikaw ang leader is ahhh</p>	<p>B. 42-61 Chez</p>	<p>The platoon leader focus in the task given to him</p>	<p>Focus and Stability</p>

nag down dapat mayron kang focus doon sa binigay sayo na task or mission			
39. Ang pinaka mahirap na experience during battle is syempre wala namang di mahirap Jan inisip nalang Talaga na kung pano ka mabuhay, minsan mahirap kahit na alanganin pa yun basta ang pinaka Importante ay na safe mo ang sarili mo, yan talaga ang unang una mong e take sa sarili mo para masurvive mo yung kahirapan.	B. 39-74 Gay	All of those encounters are very difficult and risky, need to be strong to survive.	Continuous Risk
69. Syempre una yung bigat ng dala ko na habang nasa gera ako nakikipag bakbakan sa kalaban dala dala ko yung mga gamit na yun tapos minsan sa hirap ng daan lalonat gabi you yung pinaka mahirap na situwasyon ko dati, tsaka na shoshort din kami ng tubig lalo na sa haba ng nalakad namin uhaw talaga tsaka samahan pa ng mainit na panahon, napaka hirap talaga ng sitwasyon ko dati sa field pero sa awa ng panginoon naka survive din ako sa sitwasyon na yun, mag tiwala lang talaga sa taas tsaka magdasal parati.	B. 69-119 Bel	Struggle due to the weight of what is being carried, the gun and bullets are already lost, so it is difficult to maneuver.	Strategies and skills

SOP NO. 3 HOW DO SOLDIERS IN COMBAT AREA SURVIVED?

SIGNIFICANT STATEMENTS	CODE	FORMULATED MEANINGS	CLUSTER THEMES
132. So yung survival naman kasi ah hindi yan basta basta na maka survive sa sinasabi mong dispute area sooo, kailangan talaga Jan ng training more time sa training talaga kaya meron tayong kasabihan na "the more you sweat in training the less you bleed in battle" so you isa yun sa mga naka tulong sakin para maka survive due sa mga ganyang bagay kasi nga ahhh, we have to make a sacrifice during our training, for us na ma survived natin if ever mag karoon ahhh encounter hindi hindi hindi kayo malalagay sa negative side kasi nga nag kartoon kayo ng matinding training, yun yung purpose ng training, para once na nagkaroon ng encounter ma overcome nyo ang mga kalaban, training talaga yan ang pinaka importanti, kaya hindi dapat e take for granted ang mga ginagawang training kasi yun yung nakakatulong sa inyo, kung Sakasakali	C. 132-200 Pajz	Training often pushes your body to its limits. You might experience soreness, fatigue, and even pain during and after workouts.	Trained and Equipped

magkaroon kayo ng experience na yung real time na encounter.			
104. kwan lang talaga ah fighting spirit, presence of mind tapos dasal yun ang pinaka number one talaga dasal kasi yung pagdarasal kasi sa naging karanasan ko bawat inkwentro namin noon, first inkwentro namin noon wala kaming ibang hinihingi talaga, dasal kasi yung pagdarasal yun yung naging pundasyon namin na naging matatag kami at nay kakaroon kami ng tapang sa labanan, Yun yung pundasyon namin.	C. 104-145 Val	prayer being the 1st foundation highlights the importance of a strong internal foundation that provides strength, guidance, and resilience. This foundation can be religious faith, personal beliefs, or a combination of both.	Pray without Ceasing
63. So para maka survive para sa kin is ahhh inapply ko lang yung anh training na aking na acquired. yung aking natutunan, yung mga TTP's yung mga tactics techniques in procedure para kwan para maka survive sa binigay na task or mission.	C. 46-101 Chez	By dedicating yourself to quality training and staying engaged in the process, you'll be well-equipped to handle the challenges that life throws your way.	Trained and Equipped
76. Isa jan pasalamat ako sa panginoon na masurvive ko yung mga defficulties na nangyari sa akin tsaka sa mga tropa ko basta kahit	C. 76- 135 Gay	By dedicating yourself to quality training and staying engaged in the process, you'll be well-	Trained and Equipped

<p>nasa dis advantage ka pag ginagamit mo yong.</p> <p>training, makapagisip ka talaga kung pano mo iligtas ang buhay so mo, kasi lalo na pag ranger ka malalim yung experience mo sa training about sa combatant na tinuturo sa training school kaya dun medyo advantage na maka survive ka talaga basta di kalang talaga matamaan ng first shoot ug bala, kung mga matagalan the</p> <p>entwentro kasi jan kami magagaling na ranger sa mga ideal techneque na tinuturo samin dati sa ranger.</p>		<p>equipped to handle the challenges that life throws your way.</p>	
<p>123. Ang ginagawa ko lang through dasal, nagdadasal ako tapos</p> <p>Syempre ang fighting spirit ko. Syempe wag mo naman lahat e asa sa diyos, na di mo ginagawa ah tanggalin mo yung takot mo laban lang hanggang sa malampasan ang mga pinaka mahirap na mision.</p>	<p>C. 123-160</p> <p>Bel</p>	<p>prayer being the 1st foundation highlights the importance of a strong internal foundation that provides strength, guidance, and resilience. This foundation can be religious faith, personal beliefs, or a combination of both.</p>	<p>Pray Without Ceasing</p>

SOP NO. 4. HOW DO SOLDIERS IN THE COMBAT AREA MAINTAIN THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIEND BACK HOME?

SIGNIFICANT STATEMENTS	CODE	FORMULATED MEANINGS	CLUSTER THEMES
<p>203. So usually naman kasi yung pagiging military or officer</p> <p>mo is just a Profession mo yan, how you deal with your families and friends back home sooo, nandyan na yan sayo simula pa nung malit ka palang hanggang sa lumaki ka kasi nga, simula bata ka di kapa sundalo nandyan na</p> <p>yang family's mo sila na yong kasama me, yung friends mo habang naga aral ka, bago naging sundalo nandyan na yan sila, so sa pag maintain naman sa relationship</p> <p>na sa family tsaka sa friends mo, so nandyan na yan wala naman na babago jan dahil lang naging sundalo ka eh ahh yun parin yung dati unless otherwise ahh magkaroon ka ng traumatic experience during encounter pero yun nga sabi ko, pero wala namang ganon, so same parin naman yung ah ah ah relationship with regard sa family and friends sa sa sa during ah sa and ah sa families and friends back home, wala naman nababago yan.</p>	<p>D. 203-219</p> <p>Pajz</p>	<p>If you have a more open line of communication, be honest and transparent with your loved ones about the situation. Explain the dangers involved without going into excessive detail that might cause undue worry.</p>	<p>Constant Communication</p>

<p>151. ahh, ang isa na nag bigay sakín ng pondasyon ay yung kwan yung mga samahan namin pag dating naman sa pamilya ko sila yung inspirasyon to, kaya nga pumasok ako ng sundalo sab hirap ng buhay kaya sila yung nag bibigay sakín ng lakas, energy ba, Pagdating naman sa mga kasamahan ko sila din yung sandigan ko kasi walang ibang makakatulong sa field eh kundi kasama nyo lang, sila kasama mo sa hirap ginhawa, pagdating naman sa pamilya mo ganun din sila yung pondasyon mo Para inspirasyon mo kasi paggaling kang area pago d ka pan nakita mo yung pamilya mo patang kang kung sa cellphone ma fullcharge kaba tawag dun parang sila yung inspirasyon mo.</p>	<p>D. 151-173 Val</p>	<p>Simply having your family around can be a source of inspiration. Appreciate their love, support, and the unique qualities each member brings to your life. Tell them how much they mean to you.</p>	<p>Inspired by Loved Ones</p>
<p>105. Syempre ahhh para ma maintain yung magandang relasyon sa aking pamilya at sa aking mga kaibigan paguwi ko, sooo nagkaroon mona kami ng aaah unang una sa</p>	<p>D. 105-126 Chez</p>	<p>Schedule regular catch-ups with family and friends. This could be a weekly dinner, a monthly movie night, or even just a virtual coffee chat. Consistency helps</p>	<p>Constant Communication</p>

<p>pamilya ko syempre, nagkabonding mona kami, kumbaga halimbawa during sunday is a magsimba mona tsaka magbonding kung saan magpasyal edi syempre pag may bakante naman doon naman tayo sa aking mga kaibigan kumbaga magbigay din tayo ng time na may kwan tayo may magandang relasyon sa ating mga kaibigan lalong lalo na sa mga kapit bahay.</p>		<p>maintain connections and keeps communication flowing.</p>	
<p>138. Siyempre isa jan ipaalam mo yung misyon mo para di sila mag worry pero andyan naman talaga yan di na yan mawawala sa pamilya na mag-alala, pero kung sa kaibigan mo di mo talaga pweding sabihin na may operation kayo, pero kung sa pamilya paun mo pwede mong sabihin kasi nga may tiwala ka doon eh, tsaka isa jan communication mo sa pamilya mo kung may time ka sabihin mo lang na "Okay lang ako dito" "wag kayo mag alala Safe ako!" kasi normal lang</p> <p>ito sa trabaho ko para malaman din ng pamilya at para maka adjust din sila sa iyo, kay syempre normal lang yan kasi trabaho ko ito en mission ko ito na talaga ang sinupaan kung tung</p>	<p>D. 138-182</p> <p>Gay</p>	<p>Feel comfortable sharing your thoughts and feelings with your family and friends. Encourage them to do the same. Open communication fosters trust and understanding.</p>	<p>Constant Communication</p> <p>Constant Communication</p>

kolin ganun lang talaga ang buhay naming mga sundalo.			
<p>164. Papaano ko ma maintain syempre through cellphone yun naman talaga mga bagong kagamitan, ginagamit ko yun para makipag communicate sa pamilya ko, tsaka yung pera ko</p> <p>mag seset aside ako para sa load at para di ako maubosan ng load, tsaka yung naipon ko na pera yun yung gagamitin ko</p> <p>pambili ng mga pasalubong sa pamilya ko pag uwi ko galing sa gera, ganun din pag magka bakante gigimik din kami ng mga kaibigan ko para syempre mapanatili ko yung relasyon ko sa kanila.</p>	D. 164- 201 Bel	Schedule regular calls, video chats, or even text messages to stay connected with your family. This allows you to share updates, offer support, and maintain a strong bond.	Constant Communication

SOP NO. 5. WHAT ARE THE LESSON OF THE SOLDIER OUT OF THE EXPERIENCES IN THE COMBAT AREA?

SIGNIFICANT STATEMENTS	CODE	FORMULATED MEANINGS	CLUSTER THEMES
223. Lessons sooo, ang pinaka lesson talaga jan is ahhhh walang retake sa actual na combat Ibig sabihin nyan mas maganda pang paulit-ulita ka sa, during training kasi	E. 223-270 Pajz	It's a reminder that soldiers carry a heavy responsibility and their actions have	Minding Accountability

nga doon sa paulit-ulit mo na cocorect mo yung mali mo kasi pag dating na sa actual na experience sa combat area, wala ng retake yan, Pag tinamaan ka ng bala di muna pweding sabihin na retake.		lasting consequences.	
<p>181. Ang nakuha ko sa combatant sa experience ko madami, una jan yung hirap eh, yung untouchable experience na , di mo makakalimutan sa mga kasamahan mo, sa hirap at ginhawa, tsaka yung mga time na di mo inaasahan may time din na nagkakamali kami pinaparusahan kami ng senior namin dahil doon ah bali yun yung naging pondasyon namin na kwan kaylangan namin itama yung mali namin, tsaka marami, marami akong natutunan unang una disiplina tapos pangalawa yung pagiging talaga, pagiging mabuting sundalo kung pano ka makisama sa tao mo mapa junior man o senior, traka madami din akong natutunan sa pagiging sundalo ko, di lang sa disiplina dila lang sa skills kung paano mo maka ka survived sa field ako din, natutunan ko kung paano yung maging matapang talaga, kasi pag sundalo</p>	E. 181-230 Val	Despite the danger, soldiers develop mental fortitude and courage to face adversity. This inner strength might be seen as a form of "untouchability."	Grace Under Pressure

<p>ka, kailangan talaga matapang ka, dahil isa dun sa nagpatatag sa kin, yung lahat ing pagkakamali ko natama talaga kasi may mga senior talaga na kunting mali disiplin talaga, so ang doctrine sa military disiplin talaga so yun yung natutunan ko.</p>			
<p>129. Yong mga lessons na natutunan ko during combat operation bali yung aaah dapat bago talaga mag aah move after that talaga lahat yung sarili mo aaah yung mga gamit mo para maiwasan natin yung ahhh hindi maganda na mangyari na gaya ng ah mamatayan ka ng kasama tsaka lalong lalo na tung dapat aahhh once na ikaw yung ahhh team leader or squad leader madiskarte ka or may diskarte ka yung ahhh mabilis ka na makapaisip tsaka maka pag decide.</p>	<p>E. 129-155 Chez</p>	<p>Even experienced soldiers continue to train and refine their skills to stay sharp and adapt to new situations. By investing in comprehensive preparation, militaries empower their soldiers to perform their duties effectively and return home safely.</p>	<p>Commitment to Training</p>
<p>185. Ah Syempre ang sa lesson sa bawat combatant ang mga lesson na natutunan ko sa mga bawat sitwasyon kung paano ko sya ma develop</p>	<p>E. 185-216 Gay</p>	<p>Military training grounds are designed to replicate real-world combat scenarios. Soldiers</p>	<p>Commitment to Training</p>

<p>o ma adapt sa sarili ko syempre next time pag may manggari ulit na ganyan na mag ka encounter ulit sa field, syempre alam mo na ang mga dapat gawin yung mga desisyon na dapat mong bitawonn, kaya dun sa mga encounter na nalampasan ko napakarami kung nakuna nakuha na lesson ha nagdevelop sakin na mas lalo akong pinatatag sa field tsaka paano maging advantage o maging successful and misyon.</p>		<p>train in various environments, facing simulated challenges that require them to assess situations, make decisions, and adapt their tactics.</p>	
<p>206. Papaano ko ma Number one talaga ang pag gamit ng SOP, pero maraming mangyayari pag di nagamit ang sop kaya nga tinatawag itong standard operating proceedure kumbaga yun talaga ang unang una ginagamit sa operation o sa combatant, pero kung hindi ginamit ang Sop sa operation posible na madaming error or casualties.</p>	<p>E. 206- 231 Bel</p>	<p>SOPs ensure everyone in the unit performs tasks the same way. This promotes smooth operation, minimizes confusion, and reduces the risk of errors.</p>	<p>Move as One</p>

APPENDIX G**TRANSCRIPTIONS OF DATA**

1. **Interviewee Name:** Dennie M. Pajel
2. **Listed Soldier From:** 1204 CDC Headquarters
3. **Rank:** Major
4. **Interviewer:** Uhm good afternoon, sir, uhm first question ko sir is a
5. how did you motivate your self during in combat area
6. Sir?
7. **Interviewee:** so with regard on motivation, Just take to your family.
8. a naghihintay sila sayong pag babalik so that is
9. the greatest motivation for every soldier while in
10. combat ared or conducting combat operation kasi
11. nga, a syempre a alam naman natin na yung risks
12. or yong ahhhhhhhhh, yun yung risk nga alam naman
13. nating na ganon talaga ang buhay mag conduct ng
14. operation, So yun yung e motivate lang natin yung
15. sarili natin na not, not only me, siguro lahat naman
16. ng sundalo na na na nag coconduct ng combat operation.
17. Siguro yun naman talaga ang pinaka ahhh
18. motivation talaga nila yung family nila na na
19. nag hihintay sakanila pagbalik nila yun, yun yung pinaka
20. motivation namin, ah sa Para makauwi kami at
21. makasama pa namin sila after ng combat operation
22. **Interviewer:** So sir ah do you have any personal experiences you
23. can share that motivated you while were, were at the
24. combat, combat area sir?
25. **Interviewee:** personal experiences
26. **Interviewer:** Yes sir
27. **Interviewee:** Wala naman kase eh lahat naman ng ano ah ah
28. ah ah magagawan nating ng combat operation, is ah
29. ano naman yan, alam naman natin na risky
30. talaga you so with regard sa personal experience.
31. ah ah ah, I dont have person personal experience
32. na masasabi na nag momotivate sakn kasi nga yun nga
33. lang yung maaano ko lang talaga na once na nag coconduct
34. ng combat operation, dito man sa Mindanao sa sa sa sa
35. Kalaban nyo na BIFF or sa NPA area yun lang yung
36. motivation ko na makauwi, makasama ko ang family ko.
37. with regard sa personal experience wala naman talaga tayong
38. kasi, ahh yung personal experience kasi, para masasabin
39. mo na na combat, ahhhhh combat ahhhla, tawag
40. Jan, ahhh combat ready kana talaga is yong operation
41. Or yung experience para masabi mo nan ga combat

42. ready ka talaga ohhh combat ano kana, combat experience
43. kana sa combat operation, pero with regard sa personal
44. experience wala talaga akong masasabi na motivation
45. Kasi nga, ang Motivational during sa time na nag
46. operate ako noon, gi pray ko na Maka uwi ako yun.
47. **Interviewer:** So mag proceed tayo sa question Number two Sir,
48. how did you face those difficulties that you have encountered
49. during battle sir?
50. **Interviewee:** So ah pag ahhh ano pag kasi sinabi mo kasing
51. ah combat ahhhh, ah ah encounter, hindi naman natin
52. hinihingi yan sooo, lahat naman ng combat encounter
53. o Yung encounter na tinatawag na ano, is mahirap
54. during may platoon Leader that time day ahhhh
55. nagkaroon ako ng encounter with ahhh ah sa
56. Samar so yun lang talaga yung ano namin, dapat
57. ano kalang, kasi as a leader you need to become
58. Stable para ma lead moo yung ahhh mga personnel ko
59. na walang masamang mangyari sa kanila
60. yun lang talaga yan. soooo ano lang ahhh dapat ahhh
61. Stability under pressure, sa experience ko ahhhh
62. Yung difficulty kasi hindi mo, hindi mo
63. alam yung ano eh, hindi mo alam yung iniisip
64. ng kalaban mo eh, so yun dimo
65. wala naman tayong capability na e predict kung ano
66. din ang iniisip ng kalaban natin
67. so yun yung isa sa mga mahirap na e ano, so yun nga
68. dapat bilang sa side na man na na na naman namin
69. as officer, kaylangan naman talaga na ahhh ano ka
70. ah ah ah under stability under pressure kahit ano man mga
71. Situation na dumating you can Lead you can command
72. your men na ma overcome Yung mga ahhh encounter.
73. **interviewer:** So ah what are the particular moments that you give
74. you difficult during your combat Journey sir?
75. **Interviewee:** Paticular moments?
76. **Interviewer:** Yes sir
77. **Interviewee:** Syempre yung ahhh the moment naaa, nag
78. Start yung putukan then the, hindi mo
79. alam kung saan banda yong kalaban mo
80. you have to ano pa, hahanapin mo pa sila
81. Kung saan banda, so you yung mga difficulties
82. na ano, kasi you have to assist the situation.
83. Yun yung e assist mo yung e assist mo youg situation, yung assistoring
84. Assist yung ano ng ano kalaban mo kasi nga

85. di mo ano, so yung maasasabi siguro naa naaa
86. difficulties na ano, na ma encounter, during the time
87. na magkaroon ka ng combat encounters sa kalaban.
88. Kasi di mo nga alam kung ano eh kaya nga
89. yung mga ano ahhhh mga risky na encounter
90. na kung ano talaga, biglaan nag kabulagaan so ahh
91. dimo alam ang kalaban mo, just like yung nangyari
92. sa amin, diko alam kung ilan sila ang kalaban
93. pati sa terrain, although ang terrain alam namin
94. pero yung ano, yung kalaban di namin alam kung ilan
95. sila o ano ba ang capabilities nila ang Fire power nila
96. yun yung mga difficulties na kailangan mong na ma
97. Assist agad for you take action or to make your command
98. kung anong gagawin mo sa tropa mo. Para ma overcome
99. mo yung kalaban mo.
100. **Interviewer:** So sir um how does going through the challenges
101. affect your overall experiences in your combat Journey
102. Sir?
103. **Interviewee:** Hindi mo talaga you mapredict unless other
104. wise ahhh previtative na yung operation nyo
105. na alam muna kung ilan yung, kung ilan yung
106. Kalaban nyo, pero yung mga risky ahhh encounter
107. yun talaga ang pinaka Challenge dun kasi di mo alam
108. yung ano ng kalaban mo situation ng kalaban mo
109. Kaya dun talaga may kakaroon ng epekto sa overall
110. experience mo, with regards so combat Journey mo kasi
111. kung di mo agad ma assist yung kalaban mo
112. there is a possibility na ma overcome kayo matatalo
113. o magkakaroon kayo ng casualty. So Lucky for us
114. na hindi naman sa ano ah, na assist ko naman agad
115. ang kalaban sooo, Walang casualty sa team to anddd
116. ah may mga narikuber kaming mga Suversive document
117. Sa kalaban based dun sa signal ahhhhh
118. Sa unit intelligence nakuha namin meron namatay
119. na kalaban during the time of our encounter na
120. hindi lang na recover dun sa area ng encounter
121. na dala ng kalaban naiano nila
122. inilibing nila pero mirong document na nabigay samin
123. na patay na kalaban during sa aming operation
124. so yun yung mga ano mga challenges siguro na
125. most likely na makaka apekto sa overall experience
126. namin sa combat Journey ko.
127. **Interviewer:** Sige sir, so mag proceed tayo sa number

128. Three sir.
129. how did you survive in the dispute area sir?
130. **Interviewee:** Survive?
131. **Interviewer:** Yes sir
132. **Interviewee:** So yung survival naman kasi ah hindi yan
133. basta basta na maka survive sa sinasabi mong
134. dispute area sooo, kailangan talaga Jan ng training
135. more time sa training talaga kaya meron tayong
136. Kasabihan na "the more you sweat in training the less
137. you bleed in battle" so you isa yun sa mga
138. naka tulong sakin para maka survive due sa mga
139. ganyang bagay kasi nga ahhh, we have to make
140. a sacrifice during our training, for us na ma survived
141. natin if ever mag karoon ahhh encounter hindi hindi
142. hindi kayo malalagay sa negative side kasi nga
143. nag kartoon kayo ng matinding training, Yun yung
144. propuse ng training, Para once na nagkaroon ng
145. Encounter ma overcome nyo ang mga kalaban, Training
146. talaga yan ang pinaka importanti, kaya hindi dapat
147. e take for granted ang mga ginagawang training kasi
148. yun yung nakakatulong sa inyo, kung Sakasakali
149. magkaroon kayo ng experience na yung real time na
150. encounter.
151. **Interviewer:** So next sir, is what are your survival skills that
152. you rely on during your time in combat area sir
153. **Interviewee:** rely?
154. **Interviewer:** Yes sir rely
155. **Interviewee:** Survival skills, so yung pinaka ano naman
156. Talaga jan eh is yung survival skills namin dapat
157. you will to survive eh, yun yung pinaka ano na survival
158. technique namin, sabi ko nga kanina during training
159. natutunan naman Lahat Jan eh, kung paano ka bumaril
160. kung pano ka maka tama, Ano gagawing mong strategy
161. andun na yan lahat during training tinuturo nayan sa inyo
162. yun na yung mga skills na denevelop nyo pagdating
163. ng real time na encounter mag survive, mag survive
164. ka, so yun na yun, yung na makakatulong talaga na
165. masurvive mo yung experience mo sa combat, sa During
166. training kasi nga ahhh Lahat ng ano habang
167. ahhhh magtraine kayo lahat naman andun, na sa
168. training ninyo tinuturo na yang survival skills
169. kung pumutok pano may ahhhhhh mag maneuver
170. lahat lahat na yun ahh anong gagawin nyo kung

171. nandyan ang baril tinuturo nayan during training kasi
172. yun na nga, kaya sabi ko kanina dun sa training wag nyo
173. e take for granted, wag kayo patulog tulog during training
174. kasi dun sa training dun mo matutunan pano mag survive
175. sa real time senario, so yun.
176. **Interviewer:** Sige sir, sir, the ahh based on your Experience
177. Sir can you share a situation where you used your
178. survival skills to survive in combat area sir?
179. **Interviewee:** Yun na yun, yung na kwento ko kanina nung sa
180. Experience ko naaa, nagkaroon kami ng encounter with ah
181. Communist terrorist group, NPA dun sa Samar sooo
182. during training naturoan kami kung ano ang mga
183. gagawin para ma comprmise mo yung kalaban
184. kasi nga yung na kwento ko kanina, Yung sa Experience
185. namin yung ano kami disadvantage kami kasi nasa
186. Lower ground kami, high ground ang kalaban at with ah
187. because of the skills na naturo during training na
188. Overcome namen sila and yun na Tumakbo sila
189. naiwan ang mga gamit nila, yun may balita pa kami
190. na may namatay sa kanila, and sa side naman na
191. government Side Walang, walang casualties na nangyari
192. so yun, yun yung unga Experience ko na masasabi ko
193. Kaya nga sabi ko sa training talaga tahat yan, survival
194. skills kasi ahh di naman yan abbrapt na makukuha mo eh
195. makukuha mo talaga yan through training ahhh practice
196. Practice yung mga tinuturo sa inyo eh practice mayo talaga
197. after na maturo sa ingo yan, kung pwede nga before ka
198. matulog eh anu mo pa yan sa utak mo para ma amo mo
199. yang ano mo, yun yung pag ano mo sa skills mo kasi nga
200. madedevelop mo talaga yan during training.
201. **Interviewer:** So proceed tayo sir, how did you maintain your relationship
202. Between your families and friends back home sir?
203. **Interviewee:** so usually naman kasi yung pagiging military or officer
204. mo is just a Profession mo yan, how you deal with your
205. families and friends back home sooo, nandyan na yan sayo
206. simula pa nung malit ka palang hanggang sa lumaki ka
207. kasi nga, simula bata ka di kapa sundalo nandyan na
208. yang families mo sila na yong kasama me, yung friends
209. mo habang naga aral ka, bago naging sundalo nandyan
210. na yan sila, so sa pag maintain naman sa relationship
211. na sa family tsaka sa friends mo, so nandyan na yan
212. wala naman na babago jan dahil lang naging sundalo
213. ka eh ahh yun parin yung dati unless otherwise ahh

214. magkaroon ka ng traumatic experience during encounter
215. pero yun nga sabi ko, pero wala namang ganon, So
216. same parin naman yung ah ah ah relationship with regard
217. sa family and friends sa sa sa during ah sa and ah
218. sa families and friends back home, wala naman nababago
219. yan.
220. **Interviewer:** So mag proceed tayo sa last question sir, ahhhh
221. Number five, As a Soldier, what are the lessons you got out
222. of the combat area sir?
223. **Interviewee:** lessons Sooo, ang pinaka lesson telaga jan is ahhhh
224. Walang retake so actual na combat Ibig sabihin nyan
225. mas maganda pang paulit-ulita ka sa, during training kasi nga
226. doon sa paulit-ulit mo na cocorrect mo yung mali mo kasi pag dating
227. na sa actual na experience sa combat area, wala ng retake
228. yan, Pag tinamaan ka ng bala di muna pweding sabihin na retake
229. retake, yun yung pinaka lesson jan na, dapat during training
230. seryosohin mo yung training mo, kasi you ang makakatulong sayo
231. Sa real time senario na walang mayayaring masama sayo
232. at sa unang question kanina ha makakamuwi ka sa
233. pamilya mo, so yun talaga kaya nga pagdating sa training
234. yan yung sinasabi ko parati na wag nyong eh take for granted
235. yung tinuturo sa inyo dahil don sa tinuturo sa inyo e yun yung
236. mga makakatulong sa inyo, para makauwi kayo sa pamilya
237. nyo, kahit na mag karoon kayo ng experience na real time na
238. combat sa kalaban.
239. **Interviewer:** Yes sir, so my last probing question sa kwan sir
240. Is what are the key lessons or insight you gained from
241. this Experience, both professionally and personally sir?
242. **Interviewee:** so professionally ah meron kasi tayong mga ahhhh
243. Kahit na sundalo tayo meron parin tayong tinatawag na roles
244. of engagement, so as ah professional soldier we have
245. to abide sa mga rules na yon, kaya nga meron tayong.
246. yong mga ano na bawal e mistake yung mga ah P.O.W
247. natin, no yun yung kwan natin as a professional na
248. soldier, kaya nga nasa modern age na tayo na ano, isa yan
249. sa mga dapat na ma ano natin being a professional soldier
250. we have to ah follow talaga yung mga rules or laws
251. yung sabi ko nga e young rules of engagement pagdating
252. dun sa combat area. Personally, naman ah based dun sa
253. pagiging ano mo yung pagiging officer ko yung sa pagkaka
254. roon ng Experience during real time na combat, yon nga
255. yong tinatawag na real time combat Experience, na
256. May karoon ka ng ah, good command Stability under pressure

257. so personally because of that experience siguro masasabi natin
258. na, kung ano man yang ma experience mo sa buhay mo na
259. di naman talaga ganun na parang ah experience so
260. based dun sa na gained mo na stability under pressure
261. kayang kaya munang harapin yung mga problema na yan na
262. dadating sayo kasi nga kaya mo ngang e survived yung
263. Combat experience nyo na may mga na life na naka
264. kwan jan life na yung naka ano Jan yung buhay na
265. ang naka taya Jan soo, One wrong moved either
266. may mamatay sa kasama mo or ikaw yung.
267. mamamatay, kung makaya mo e survive yun siguro naman
268. based on that experience na yong Stability under pressure
269. yung maliit na problema na yan kayang kaya
270. munang harapin yun personally.
271. **Interviewer:** Yes sir. Yun lang sir
272. **Interviewee:** Okay na?
273. **Interviewer:** Yes sir, thank you sir.

TRANSCRIPTION OF DATA

1. **Interviewee Name:** James N Valdes
2. **Lasted Soldier From:** 1209 CDC Headquarters
3. **Rank:** CPL
4. **Interviewer:** Good afternoon, sir mag start tayo sir, So ang first
5. question to sir is how did you motivate yourself during
6. in combat area, So bali dito ak paano, paano mo gi
7. motivate yong sarili mo sir sa, during sa gera
8. ka sir?
9. **Interviewee:** Ang Motivation ko ay sa pamamagitan ng Experience
10. Tsaka youg training na tinuro samin, during the time
11. na pumasok kami sa army nag training kami. So nagamit
12. namin yong training so pagdating sa real mac koy na tinatawag
13. So ang motivation namin nagkaruon. kami ng confident sa
14. Sarili, so yun yung reason na pundasyon namin regarding sa
15. pag survive namin sa ahhh mga encounter na na experience ko.
16. **Interviewer:** Sige sir, so next question sir is do you have personal
17. experiences you can share that motivate you while were at
18. the combat area? So dito sir ano daw ang mga personal
19. experiences mo sir na na mashashare mo sakin sir na Samin
20. sa during sa combat area ka sir?
21. **Interviewee.** Yung ma eh share ko sa experience to regarding
22. sa combatant, yong first encounter namin sa lahat 2013
23. bali ang na experience ko doon yung hirap at tsaka di bero
24. yong Experience na pinagdaanan ko, may halong kaba at
25. the same time risty sya so ibag Sabihin tinawag na risky
26. sya dahil buwis buhay ang trabaho namin, so ganon
27. yong na experience to sa field.
28. **Interviewer:** So next question sir, ahh paano mo na encourage
29. Sir na na still padin ang motivation sir.
30. **Interviewee:** kwan lang confidence sa sarili
31. at tiwala sa mga Kasama, kasi kung wala kang confidence
32. sa sarili, wala kading motiavion sa sarili mo, kasi ang motivation
33. yung kwan ko eh yung Experience ahhhhh karanasan tsaka yong
34. mga kasama ko, kasi yung mga kasama ko isa ding yan na pundasyon
35. namin lag enkwentro ang na experience ko sa field, bali ang nag
36. Momotivate sakin katapangan kung kasamahan ko yung tiwala sa mga
37. kasama, tsaka number one yung pananalig sa taas.
38. **Interviewer:** So ang Number two question ko sir is How did you face
39. those difficulties that have you encountered during batle field? So
40. dito sir ahhhhh ano daw yung mga kinaharap mo sir na mga na
41. mahihirap na kwan sir mahihirap nor encounter sa kwan sir
42. nung nasa combat area ka sir?

43. **Interviewee:** Ang una Jan na mahirap na experience ko yung namatayan
44. ka ng tropa, lalo nayong experience namin na inkwentro don
45. sa side ng team namin, so sa unit namin that time na nag operate kami
46. noon sa experience ko sa 2012 bali di naman sakin na experience
47. bali sa mga kasamahan ko sa kabilang team, so ang na
48. experience mo doon na nag operate kami, may nabalitaan
49. namin na may namatay na tropa namin na ambush
50. tsaka, yun yung pinaka mahirap samin na experience na ah
51. ilang mga operating troops, tsaka sa experience ko naman yung
52. mahirap dun e yung kwan yung di mo alam yong, yong
53. sitwasyon mo kung mabuhay kapa ba o makakauwi kapa ba
54. Sa pamilya mo, kasi nasa gitna ka ng kamatayan eh sa
55. gitna kayo tinatawag na endanger zone dun sa area
56. na kung saan ahh pinapasabak kayo ng officers nyo katulad
57. samin na kami yong mga operating troops, so kaylangan
58. din namin e accomplish yung mga binibigay na mission, so
59. ang mahirap doon mamatayan kami kasi di namin alam kung
60. mabubuhay paba kami o hindi na.
61. **Interviewer:** So sunod sir is based on your Experience what are
62. the difficulties that you encountered during your combat area
63. so ang sa kwan lang sir sa ahh sa inyong Expereince
64. sir and yung mga difficulties na na encounter mo sir
65. during sa laban sir?
66. **Interviewee:** kwan yung First inkwentro ko nung 2013 nung kwan
67. napa isip ako kung mabubuhay paba ako kasi mag Ist
68. encounter kami diko makakalithutan you ahhh talagang
69. naramdaman ko ang takot tsaka dapat may presence of
70. mind ka talaga yun sya
71. **Interviewer:** So next sir. what are the particular moments that you
72. give difficulties in combat area sir? During sa operation nye sir ano
73. yung mga moments na sir na nag pa difficult sa sarili mo sir
74. during bakbakan na Sir?
75. **Interviewee:** Yung kwan kay na blanko ako di ko na alam
76. kung ano yung gagawin ko kasi naghalo yung takot at
77. Pangamba ko sa sarili, kung pano makaka survive kung
78. mabubuhay paba ako kasi sa Ist inkwentro namin talagang
79. nakakatakot yun eh kaya dapat matapang ka, so mararamdaman
80. mo talaga dun ang takot yun yung pinaka mahirap doon
81. So dapat labanan mo yung takot nayun para malabanan ah
82. ahhh masurvive mo yung inkwentro kasi kung di ma kasi
83. na survive you, yong takot na sa talaga mamamatay ka
84. talagang kaya dapat labanan mo yung Fear na tinatawag
85. Kaylangan maging matapang.

86. **Interviewer:** So next sir How does the challenges your overall
87. experience in your combat journey sir? so dito sir ano
88. daw yong mga nakaka apekto sa chanllenges na sa
89. pangkalahatan sir kung ano ba ang mga challenges na na na
90. kinaharap mo sir?
91. **Interviewee:** Siguro isa Jan ang naka apekto sakin sa experience
92. ko number I lesson Learn mga pag kakamali na hindi dapat gawin
93. sa field like yong mag relaxe ka kasi buhay ang maka
94. taya doon el so you yung mga part doon na diko makakalimutan
95. na mamatayan kami ng kasamahan na matagal na namin na kasama
96. pagdating sa inkwentro hindi namin inaasahan na hanggang doon nalang
97. So mahirap talaga kung totousin mahirap talaga ang buhay
98. sundalo pero sa awa ng diyos yung mga naging karanasan ko sa field
99. yun yung maging pundasyon ko, Kaya hanggang ngayon anh bahay
100. Parin.
101. **Interviewer:** Mag proceed tayo sa third question sir ahh how did you
102. sirvive in dispute area sir? So Paano ka naka survive sa battle field
103. sir?
104. **Interviewee:** kwan lang talaga ah figthing spirit, presence of mind
105. tapos dasal yun ang pinaka number one talaga dasal kasi
106. yung pagdarasal kasi sa naging karanasan ko bawat inkwentro
107. namin noon, first inkwentro namin noon wala kaming ibang hinihingi
108. talaga, dasal kasi yung pagdarasal yun yung naging pundasyon
109. namin na naging matatag kami at nay kakaroon kami ng tapang
110. sa labanan, Yun Yung pundasyon namin.
111. **Interviewer:** So next sir is what are your survival skills
112. that you rely on our during your time in combat area? so
113. ano dito yung mga survival skills sir na nagamit mo sir
114. During combat area sir?
115. **Interviewee:** kwan ahhhh yung karanasan yung mga tinuro samin
116. sa training enapply namin yun yung Pondasyon kung bakit namin
117. na overcome yung mga obstacle na pinagdaan namin during
118. the time na nasa field ato noon, kwan lang talaga presence of
119. mind at tsaka e apply mo yung mga tinuro sayo
120. **Interviewer:** So next sir ahh Do you have preparations to
121. Survive on the combat area sir? ano ba yung mga preparation
122. mo sir bago ka sumabak nang gera Sir?
123. **Interviewee:** kwan ahhhhh simulat Sapol simula pumasok ng
124. Sundalo talagang etraitraine ka e, so before kami
125. Sasabak kailangan mo talaga mapagdaanan ang hirap sa
126. training, bago ka Isasabak gera kasi sa pagiging
127. sundalo kasi di ka ilalagay sa field kung dika naka training
128. so ibing sabihin e traitraine ka talaga para kung naka graduate ka

129. Naka survive ka so yun na yung Pondasyou mo na first step na
130. ilalagay kana sa field, para kung ano man yung tinuro sa inyo sa
131. school ma aapply mo sa real makoy yun na yun.
132. **Interviewer:** So next sir is based on your Experience sir can you
133. Share the situation where you used your survival skills to survived
134. in combat area Sir? So basi Sa Experience mo sir ano yung mga
135. situation na mababahagi mo samin sit na mga survival stills during
136. sa combat area sir?
137. **Interviewee:** ang maishare ko lang sa experience ko kaylangan
138. mo talaga isapuso yung binigay sayo Number one dapat pag
139. Sundalo ka dapat matibay ang dibdib mo Pangatlo mag dasal
140. talaga pang apat marunong kang maki sama sa mga kasamahan
141. mo kay sa area walang ibang tutulong sayo kundi yung mga
142. Kasamo mo eh, tapos be humble lang talaga tsaka pinaka
143. Importante sa lahat yung meron kang presence of mind tsaka sa naging
144. karanasan ko yung isang ding nagpatatag sa kin yung pagiging
145. matibay yun yun.
146. **Interviewer:** So, mag proceed tayo sa Fourth question sir. so how
147. did you maintain your relation between your families and friends
148. back home sir? So dito sir paano mo daw na maintain Sir yung
149. relationship mo sa family's mo tsaka sa mga kaibigan Mo paguwi
150. mo sir galing sa gera?
151. **Interviewee:** ahh, ang isa na nag bigay sa kin ng Pondasyon ay
152. yung kwan yung mga samahan namin pag dating naman sa
153. pamilya ko sila yung inspirasyon to, kaya nga pumasok ako
154. ng sundalo sab hirap ng buhay kaya sila yung nag bibigay sa kin
155. ng lakas, energy ba, Pagdating naman sa mga kasamahan ko
156. sila din yung sandigan ko kasi walang ibang makakatulong sa
157. field eh kundi kasama nyo lang, sila kasama mo sa hirap
158. ginhawa, Pagdating naman sa pamilya mo ganun din sila yung
159. pondasyon mo Papas inspirasyon mo kasi paggaling kang area
160. pagod ka pan nakita mo yung pamilya mo patang kang kung sa
161. Cellphone ma fullcharge kaba tawag dun parang sila yung
162. inspirasyon mo.
163. **Interviewer:** Yes sir, so next sir do you have any ways to
164. maintain your relationship between your families and Friends
165. back home while you are in combat area sir? So dito sir paano
166. mo daw na maintain sir yung relationship mo between your family
167. and friend's mo sir during nasa combat area ka sir sa field
168. **Interviewee:** Na maintain ko yung relasyon ko sa kasamahan
169. pati yung sa pamilya ko, sa pamamagitan ng kwan ko
170. yung pakikitungo ko sa kanila, yung pagdating sa mga
171. Kaibigan ko kailangan wag kang may bago dapat pakita

172. mo na sila yung tunay na kaibigan, Pagdating naman sa Pamilya
173. kailangan sila yung sandigan mo sa tano mang oras
174. **Interviewer:** last sir ah, what did you go through to maintain
175. your relationship between your families and friend back
176. Home sir? So dito sir ahh ganon man padin sir HAHAAHAHA
177. Mag diritso nalang tayo sa question number Five sir.
178. As a soldier, what are the lessons you got at the combat
179. area sir? So ikaw sit bilang sundalo sir ano yung mga
180. lesson sir na nakuha mo dun sa combat sir?
181. **Interviewee:** Ang nakuha ko sa Combatant sa experience ko
182. madami, Una Jan yung hirap eh, Yung untouchable
183. experience na , di mo makakalimutan sa mga kasamahan
184. mo, sa hirap at ginhawa, tsaka yung mga time na
185. di mo inaasahan may time din na nagkakamali kami
186. pinaparusahan kami ng senior namin dahil doon
187. ah bali yun yung naging Pondasyon namin na kwan
188. kaylangan namin itama yung mali namin, tsaka marami,
189. marami akong natutunan unang una disiplina tapos
190. pangalawa yung pagiging talaga, pagiging mabuting sundalo
191. kung pano ka makisama sa tao mo mapa Junior man
192. o Senior, traka madami din akong natutunan sa pagiging sundalo
193. ko, di lang Sa disiplina dila lang sa skills kung paano mo maka
194. ka survived sa field ako din, Natutunan ko kung paano yung
195. maging matapang talaga, kasi pag sundalo ka, Kailangan talaga
196. matapang ka, dahil isa dun sa nagpatatag sakín, yung
197. lahat ing pagkakamali Ko natama talaga Kasi may mga Senior
198. talaga na kunting mali disiplina talaga, So ang doctrine
199. Sa military disiplina talaga so yun yung natutunan ko.
200. **Interviewer.** So ang follow up question ko sir what lesson
201. did you learn as a soldier from the combat area sir?
202. so kwan sir um ano daw yung mga lesгон na
203. natutunan mo sir bilang isang sundalo sa gera sir?
204. **Interviewee:** Lesson learned?
205. **Interviewer:** Yes Sir
206. **Interviewee:** Yung mga mali kaylangan mo e tama kasi dun
207. area dun sa combat area combatant wala kang
208. retake doon tapos dika Pakaang kaang kaylangan
209. presence of mind ka doon, ang lesson learn yung
210. Maga kwan mga Pagkakamali na na di mo dapat gawin.
211. yung mag relax, kasi kung nag relax ka kasi sa field
212. mamatay ka talaga yun yun sya yung mga lesson learn.
213. **Interviewer:** Ah Last question sir, what are the key lessons
214. or insights you gained from the experience both ah

215. professionally and personal sir? So ano daw yung mga key mo
216. lesson na natutunan mo Sir na nagained mo sir sa
217. Sarili mo as sa Experience mo sir as ah professionally at
218. sa iyong sarili sir?
219. **Interviewee:** Parang susi?
220. **Interviewer:** Yes sir
221. **Interviewee:** Na Natutunan ko?
222. **Interviewer:** Yes sir
223. **Interviewee:** Ang isa doon an yung pagiging matatag ko
224. sa sarili Pangalawa yung Pagkakaroon ko ng self-confidence
225. Pangatlo Yung mga natutunan ko sa training, Yun yun yung
226. Naging Susi ko, kung bakit ko na survive yung mga
227. naging karanasan ko sa field, So ayun andito ako,
228. kasi diko ma survive yung kwan eh yung mga
229. experience ko sa field eh kung di dahil sa pagiging
230. matatag ako, Yun Yung natutunan ko sa field.
231. **Interviewer:** Yes sir, so yun lang Yung sa lahat Sir thank
232. You sir.

TRANSCRIPTION OF DATA

1. **Interviewee Name:** Catalino Gasque Sanchez Jr.
2. **listed Soldier From:** 1204 Cdc Headquarters
3. **Rank:** Tsg
4. **Interviewer:** Okay sir, good evening, sir amm my first question is
5. how did you motivate your self during combat area
6. **Interviewee:** During ahhh, during sa combat area ang.... pwede ba
7. tagalog?
8. **Interviewer:** Yes sir.
9. **Interviewee:** Ang naga motivate sakin is yung ahhh para sakin is
10. yung ahh tiwala trust ng aking ahh commander kasi kung
11. hindi ko isipin yung tiwala na binigay sakin yung
12. trust is ahh eh baka mag down yung aking mga kwan
13. mga ka team mate yon, yun kaya iniisip ko
14. palagi yung trust na dapat hindi mawala is gampanan ko
15. yung task information na binigay sakin
16. **Interviewer:** So sir ahh procced tayo sa follow up question sir amm
17. do you have any personal experiences you got share
18. that motivated you while you at a combat area sir?
19. **Interviewee:** Saakin aaa yung tiwala gaya ng sabi ko kanina

20. yong tiwala, yung trust pag binigyan ka ng task
21. sakin isa na ako masaya din ako maaga na napromote ako ng
22. maaga non on time kasi marami pang senior sa akin
23. pero yung gi designate na team leader is ako na
24. marami pang senior ibig sabihin aaah yung
25. tiwala ng commanding officer ko is andon sa akin kaya
26. ako kumbaga natatrabaho ako, masaya ako kasi andon yung trust nya
27. aaahh marami akong senior na di naman sa dinadown
28. ko pero yung binigay na tiwala saakinis kasi yung
29. mga kasama ko bilib na bilib saakin dahil sa trust ng
30. binigay sakini ahh ng commanding officer ko.
31. **Interviewer:** So sir next sir is how did you encourage or motivated your
32. self in combat area?
33. **Interviewee:** Para saakin ahhh 'iniisip ko palagi na pag aaah naging
34. pabaya ako sa binigay sakini na task posible na diko
35. alam ano yung magiging manyare don sa aking mga ka
36. team mate ko kong magiging pabaya ako kaya parati ko
37. Iniisip na yung attitude yung attitude palagi na para
38. maka survive para ma accomplish na para comply yung
39. binigay na task or mission.
40. **Interviewer:** so sir next sir is how did you face those difficulties that
41. have you encountered during battle sir
42. **Interviewee:** so bali para raakin is yung ahh focus, focus lang palagi
43. don sa binigay na tasking, yung ahh mission para ma-accomplish
44. kasi kung mawala ka dan sa Focus posible na ikaw na
45. team leader or Squad leader yung mga ka team mate mo
46. posibling ahhh di natin alam kung anong manyari na once
47. na ikaw ang leader is ahhh nag down dapat mayron kang
48. Focus doon sa binigay sayo na task or mission
49. **Interviewer:** So next is base on your experience what are the difficulties
50. that you encountered during your combat journey sir
51. **Interviewee:** So yung mga mga naexperience to na kumbaga yung
52. mahirap is yung namatayan ka ng kasama yun yong pinaka
53. mahirap.
54. **Interviewer:** So next sir is ahh how does going to challenge. challenges
55. affect your overall experience in your combat area sir?
56. **Interviewee:** So challenges affect ahhh for me overall experience in
57. ahh experience in combat yun yung mga time na ngayun
58. is ahh naga patibay sakini na naging ahh matatag
59. so kung ano man yung ahh mga pagsubok pa man o
60. experience na mag dating is alam ko na alam ko na
61. kung ano yung gagawin.
62. **Interviewer:** So next is how did you survive in the combat area sir?

63. **Interviewee:** So para maka survive para sakin is ahhh inapply ko lang
64. yung anh training na aking na acquired. yung aking
65. natutunan, yung mga TTP's yung mga tactics techniques
66. in procedure para kwan para maka survive sa binigay na
67. task or mission.

68. **Interviewer:** Um next is what are the survival skills that you rely
69. on during your time combat area sir?

70. **Interviewee:** sa akin yung aaah skill talaga na kumbaga nagpatibay
71. during ahhh combat operation is yung ahhh natutunan ko
72. during my schooling in a scout ranger yung nakapag tapus
73. ako ng scout ranger yun yung naga ibig sabihin nagpatindi
74. saakin aaah para magamit ko during combat operation yun
75. yung haka survive.

76. **Interviewer:** Yes sir. Next sir is do you have preparation
77. to survive on the combat area sir?

78. **Interviewee:** Syempre ahmm mayron talagang ahh preperation bago
79. tayo magsabak sa combat operation..... Unang una is
80. yung ahh isipin mo mona yong sarili mo na magdasal
81. na ikaw ay gabayan ng ating panginoon sa pagpunta
82. mo doon sa combat operation hindi yong pag think ng
83. gamit kung ano ba dapat ang dalhin ahhh don sa mga
84. taohan mo don sa mga kasama mo icheck bawat
85. isa kung nasa kondesyon ba o wala young mga gamit
86. lahat icheck mo yan. yan yung kumbaga prepare bago
87. pumunta sa combat operation.

88. **Interviewer:** ahmm base on your experience sir can you share a
89. situation where you use your survival skills to survive in
90. combat area sir?

91. **Interviewee:** Syempre yung skills na natutunan ko sa scout ranger
92. yung time na wala na kaming pakain
93. naubos na yung aming pagkain so inapply namin yong aah
94. survival technique so ibig sabihin kung ano yung mga
95. aviable Food na andon sa isang area kagaya nong aahh
96. napuntahan naming campo ng NPA so hindi makalapag
97. yung helicopter kasi nga fuggy grabe yung Fugs so ang ginawa
98. namin kasi madami man doon naka tanim na mais tsaka
99. kamote yun yung ginawa naming pagkain yun na
100. yung linuto naming para maka survive bago dumating
101. yung supply ah supply dala ng helicopter.

102. **Interviewer:** Ahhh so proceed tayo sa fourth question sir, How did you
103. maintain your relationship between your familys and friends
104. back home sir?

105. **Interviewee:** Syempre ahhh para ma maintain yung magandang relasyon

106. sa aking pamilya at sa aking mga kaibigan paguwi
107. ko, sooo nagkaroon mona kami ng aaah unang una sa
108. pamilya ko syempre, nagkabonding mona kami, kumbaga
109. halimbawa during sunday is a magsimba mona to magbondi-
110. ng kung saan magpasyal edi syempre pag may bakante
111. naman doon naman tayo sa aking mga kaibigan
112. kumbaga magbigay din tayo ng time na may kwan tayo
113. may magandang relasyon sa ating mga kaibigan lalong
114. lalo na sa mga kapit bahay.
115. **Interviewer:** Next is what approach did you employ as a
116. Soldier to maintain your relationship between
117. Families and friends back home sir?
118. **Interviewee:** kumbaga bali бага halimbawa pagnakauwi ako sa aking
119. pamilya during ahhh passes or ahh rest and recreation
120. kami ng pamilya ko ay ahh nagpasyal lumalabas
121. kumain sa labas nagpunta ng chowking or jollibee
122. or dito sa south cotabato magpunta ng ahhh jan
123. sa tupi sa may da farm yan. So sa mga kaibigan
124. naman, kaibigan so pagmay time ahhh bali nagkaroon tayo
125. ng aahhh konting socials kumbaga tagay tagay kunti
126. syempre makausap din ang aking mga kaibigan.
127. **Interviewer:** so mag proceed tayo va last question in number five so
128. as a soldier what are the lessons you got the combat area sir?
129. **Interviewee:** Yong mga lessons na natutunan ko during combat operation
130. bali yung aaah dapat bago talaga mag aah move after
131. that talaga lahat yung sarili mo aaah yung mga gamit
132. mo para maiwasan natin yung ahhh hindi maganda na
133. mangyari na gaya ng ahh mamatayan ka ng kasama
134. tsaka lalong lalo na tung dapat aahhh once na ikaw yung
135. ahhh team leader or squad leader madiskarte ka or
136. may diskarte ka yung ahhh mabilis ka na makapaisip
137. tsaka maka pag decide.
138. **Interviewer:** So ahhh next is sir what lesson did you learn as a
139. soldier from the combat area sir?
140. **Interviewee:** So yung lesson learned na natutunan ko during operation
141. wag ka talagang magpakaang kaang wag kang magkompyansa
142. wag kang mag relax. kaya ako iniemphasize ko palagi
143. kong sinasabi sa mga kasama ko na dapat wag nilang
144. iwala ra isip nila yung pro, yung pro panilag at pro
145. paniid.
146. **Interviewer:** And last follow up questioned sir is what are the key
147. lesson or insights you gain from this experience both
148. professionally and personally?

149. **Interviewee:** para sa akin ahh yung lesson learned na natutunan ko
150. is halimbawa yung experience na yan ay hindi
151. maganda ahh wag mo ng gawin wan mo ng ahh
152. gawin ulit at antayin na sayo pa mismo mangyari yon
153. yong mga lesson na natutunan ko
154. matutu tayo don sa nangyari sa iba wag na nating antayin
155. na mangyari sa sarili natin.
156. **Interviewer:** sir ahh thank you sa konting oras.

TRANSCRIPTION OF DATA

1. **Interviewee Name:** Rommel N. Nuangay
2. **Listed Soldier From:** 1204 CDC Headquarters
3. **Rank:** Tsg
4. **Interviewer:** Okey sir, good afternoon, sir um ang first question
5. Ko sir is How did you motivate your self during in combat area sir?
6. So ano yung mga inspiration mo sir during nasa gera ka sir?
7. **Interviewee:** Syempe ang una kung Inspiration Jan sa combat area is
8. Gagamitin ko ang knowledge ko about sa training tapos yung mga
9. inspirasyon ko sa senior ko kung ano man yung magandang
10. ehimplo para sa kanila, para maging successfull ako sa combatant
11. at sa mga hindi dapat mayari sa combat area.
12. **Interviewer:** So next sir is Do you have personal experiences you can
13. Share that motivated you white were at combat area?
14. ah dito sir ano yung mga personal experience mo sir na
15. maeeshare mo sa amin kung bakit ka motivated sa
16. Combat area sir?
17. **Interviewee:** Ang maeshare ko lang sa inyo basi sa aking
18. experience ko sa combat is para still motivated yung ano lang,
19. Kung nasa area dapat maging mapagmatyag tsaka gamitin mo
20. lang talaga kagaya ng S.O.P. at para maiwasan na
21. maisahan ka kalaban at para ma advantage ka parati ganun
22. yun. Ang rason na para ma inspard ako sa combat is, Syempre
23. Isa jan maka tulong tayo sa kapwa natin, Masugpo din
24. natin yung karahasan na ginagawa ng mga kalaban ng governo.
25. **Interviewer.** So How did you encourage or motivate yourself in
26. Combat area sir?
27. **Interviewee:** E momotivate to yong sarili ko sa combatant para
28. encourage ko ang sarili ko is mabuhay sa combat. Syempre
29. isa jan iniisip ko ang pamilya ko kung mawala ako syempre
30. kawawa sila, Pagdating sa combat is dapat mag ingat parati
31. Tsaka paglabag sa Loob mo ang SOP. wag muna talagang
32. gagawin at tsaka sa mga combat pag may kalaban kasi jan dapat pag

33. nag momove kayo sa combatant dapat nasa advantage pasition kayo
34. Pariti, para incase na magka encounter man, syempre maging safe
35. kayo tsaka malayo kayo sa disgrasiga, para din sa pamilya mo
36. matulongan mo sila kung buhay ka.
37. **Interviewer:** Okey sir, How did you face those defficulties that have you
38. encounter during battle sir?
39. **Interviewee:** Ang pinaka mahirap na Experience during battle is
40. Syempre wala namang di mahirap Jan inisisip nalang Talaga
41. na kung pano ka mabuhay, minsan mahirap kahit na
42. alanganin pa you basta ang pinaka Importante ay na
43. Safe mo ang sarili mo, yan talaga ang unang una mong
44. E take sa sarili mo para masurvive mo yung kahirapan.
45. **Interviewer:** Based on your Experience what are the defficulties that
46. you encountered during your combat area / Journey Sir?
47. **Interviewee:** Ang pinaka malmirap talaga na naranasan during
48. encounter is yong pag schooling ko ug ranger yun
49. napalaban kami, medyo na disadvantage kami sa kalaban kasi
50. parang na silipan kami pero na ano pavin namin na
51. Survive, Sa kasamaang palad namatayan kami ng kasamahan
52. Tapos may mga wounded sa amin, pero di kami basta basta
53. so mag patinag sa kalaban, nalagasan man kami, katra pero
54. naka recover din kami ng kalakan pero grabe Kahirap ang
55. pinagdaanan namin kasi nasa disadvantage position kami
56. yung kalaban nasa taas matagal ang encounter bago namin
57. na overan ang kalaban namin na naagaw namin ang position
58. nila. Yun talaga ang pinaka mahirap na parti na encounter namin,
59. Tsaka meron payou gabi may na wounded pa kami na
60. kalaban tsaka meron din na wounded na kasamahan ko
61. mabubukay pa sana kung may araw kaso sa kasamaang
62. palad gabi wala na namin na rescue, dun na sya
63. halagutan ng hininga, Yun talaga ang pinaka mahirap na encounter
64. na naranasan ko.
65. **Interviewer:** So what are the particular momment that you give you
66. defficulties during combat area sir?
67. **Interviewee:** During combat na yung isa yung gi umbush. kami na hindi
68. kami pweding mag maneuver kasi clip, clip yung lugar tsaka
69. yung daanan kumbaga clip kabilaan tapos yung talaga kala mo
70. mamatay kana kasi di ka makapag tago dahil nga di kami maka
71. maneuver, clip sya pero yo sa awa ng panginoon maka survive
72. kami kahit na isa sa mga kasamahan ko na wounded pero naka
73. exit Kami sa killing zone na yun, yom isa din yuu sa napakahirap
74. na encounter na na experience ko sa kamay ng mga rebelde
75. **Interviewer:** Next sir is How did you survive in the combat area sir?

76. **Interviewee:** Isa jan pasalamat ako sa panginoon na masurvive ko
77. yung mga defficulties na nangyari sa akin tsaka sa mga tropa ko
78. basta kahit nasa dis advantage ka pag ginagamit mo yong.
79. training, makapagisip ka talaga kung pano mo iligtas ang buhay so
80. mo, kasi lalo na pag ranger ka malalim yung experience mo sa
81. training about sa combatant na tinuturo sa training school kaya
82. dun medyo advantage na maka survive ka talaga basta di kalang
83. talaga matamaan ng First Shoot ug bala, kung mga matagalan the
84. entwentro kasi Jan kami magagaling na ranger sa mga ideal
85. Technique na tinuturo samin dati sa ranger."
86. **Interviewer:** Next sir, what are your survival skill that you rely on
87. during your time in combat area sir?
88. **Interviewee:** Ang naranasan ko jan sa survival during combat is yong
89. nag ka encounter kami mag hapon, magdamag wala kaming
90. kain, kung Paano namin e survive youg sarili namin, Syempre
91. yung isang problema mo jan ay di ka makapag luto kung
92. paano ka maka survive kasi nga nasa gitna kayo ny labanan,
93. kahit na kunting tubig tsaka kahit na damo papatusin muna
94. Maka survive kalang sa gutom sa gitna ng labanan, ganun lang
95. Talaga ang buhay naming anga army, kaht anong hirap yan basta
96. mission ma cocomprimize tellaga yan ganyan kaming mga sundalo.
97. **Interviewer:** Auhm Do you have preperation to survive in the
98. Combat area sir?
99. **Interviewee:** Isa jan unang-una Syempre wag nating kalimutang
100. Manalangin humingi ng basbas ng panginoon pa bago pumunta
101. sa operation na sana bigyan kaya ka ng shield na para
102. maka uwi ka ng ligtas, at para makita mo pa ang Pamilya mo
103. Kapiling mo pa sila yun lang talaga ang number one na
104. Sagot sa ating mga problema kanya. na maka hingi tayo ng tulong
105. galing sa kanya
106. **Interviewer:** Auhm based on your Experiences can you share a situation
107. where you used your survival skills to survive in combat area
108. Sir?
109. **Interviewee:** Ang at maeshare ko sa inyo about sa survival
110. situation sa combat is isajan yung determinado kang tao
111. dika dapat pa lawsy, Lawsy tsaka gawan mo talaga ng
112. paraan kung paano ka maka survive, isa jan ay gamitin mo
113. yung training, may training jan sa amin kasi tinuturoan Fami
114. kung paano mag survival yung nga minsan aabot ng three days
115. wala kaming ni isang gamit kahit na lighter tsaka kaldered
116. wala talaga, Jan na masusukat or mapapakita mo yung
117. mga natutunan mo sa training school kung pano gumawa
118. ng apoy amit ang mga kahoy, tsaka pano mag luto na

119. walang kaldero na kawayan lang ang damit gamit, pero sa
120. combat naman kung ano di naman talaga sa survival halimbawa
121. inkwentro kayo, maliban nalang talaga kung ma kurdon kayo
122. ng kalaban, yun yung pinaka mahirap kasi wala kanang
123. pupuntahan eh. pero pwede naman na hatin ang mga team
124. yung kalahati gera muna tapos yung kalahati kakain muna
125. Haltaltatta pero sa totooong gera walang ganun, Kaan kwan lang
126. talaga diskarte lang talaga kung pano ka mabuhay tapos ang
127. isa jan ay mag ingat talaga kung baga yung sop or yung
128. training, training talaga kaya nga yang sundalo libre siminar
129. para jan na purpose, kasi lahat ng training tsaka
130. libre training para jan na purpose, kasi lahat ng training tyla
131. mga siminars may purpose or may patutungokan pag dating
132. sa combatant, kasama na yan sa survival, maka survive ka
133. talaga pag ma adapt mo lahat ng naituro sayo during training
134. kaya posible talaga na maka survive ka sa mga kalaban
135. pag nae apply mo lahat ng itinuro sayo during training.
136. **Interviewer:** Aumh sir How did you maintain your relationship
137. between families and friends back home sir?
138. **Interviewee:** Siyempre isa jan ipaalam mo yung misyon mo
139. para disila mag worry pero andyan naman talaga yan
140. di na yan mawawala sa pamilya na mag-alala, pero kung
141. ka kaibigan mo di mo talaga pweding sabihin na may
142. operation kayo, Pero kung sa pamilya paun mo pwede mong sabihin
143. kasi nga may tiwala ka doon eh, tsaka isa jan communication
144. mo sa pamilya mo kung may time ka sabihin mo lang na "Okay
145. lang ako dito" "wag kayo mag alala Safe ako!" kasi normal lang
146. ito sa trabaho ko para malaman din ng pamilya at para
147. maka adjust din sila sa iyo, kay syempre normal lang yan
148. kasi trabaho ko ito en mission ko ito na talaga ang sinupaan
149. kung tung kolin ganun lang talaga ang buhay naming
150. mga sundalo.
151. **Interviewer:** Okey sir, Do you have any ways to maintain your
152. relationship between your families and friends back home
153. while you are in combat area sir?
154. **Interviewee:** Syempre isa jan yung communication sa pamilya
155. di mo naman yan talaga magagawa during combat di ka
156. pwede maka communicate sa kanila sa mga friends mo
157. ang ma kwan mo talaga jan is after ng encounter puede kanang
158. mag communtate sa kanila kasi tapos na gang encounter, masasabi
159. muna sa pamilya mo na "okay lang ako" "walang masamang
160. ngung yari sakin" although mahirap paniwalaan pero buhay ako
161. walang gales wala akong tama, yung lang ang pwede kung

162. masabi sa pamilya ko after ng laban, Pero pag nasa entwentro
163. talaga dimuna inisip yan, kasi ang iniisip mo en yong
164. Kalaban mo kung pano mo sya ma tatalo at para din
165. maka concentrate ka sa kalaban mo na Inay balbakkbakorn na kayo
166. after nyan pwedi kang maka communicate sa pamilya mo.
167. **Interviewer:** Sir what did you go through to maintain your
168. relationship between your families and friends back home
169. Sir?
170. **Interviewee:** Syempre pagka ma maintain mo ang responsibilidad
171. mo sa pamilya mo, maka Uwi ka sa mga bahay nyo
172. Ti Syempre ibuhos mo ang time mo sa pamilya mo, kasi bihira
173. lang kayo may sama, ilang buwan aabot pa minsan sa three
174. months to four months or minsan sa time na isang linggo
175. yan dapat ibuhos mo ang time mo sa pamilya mo, tapos sa
176. mga bonding nyo ng mga kaibigan mo Para di talaga
177. mag bago, natural talaga pag sundalo ka is Pakasama talaga
178. ang makatulong sayo, pero kung matapang ka
179. Sa mga tao tao sa mga kapitbahay mo, sino ang mag tulong
180. sayo pagdating na ikaw na ay may problema, baka
181. mayaya ibenta nya kapa sa kalaban kasi mayabang
182. ka dahil matapang ka talaga be humble lang talaga.
183. **Interviewer:** Ah last question sir as a soldier what are the lessons
184. You got out the combat area sir?
185. **Interviewee:** Ah Syempre ang sa lesson sa bawat combatant
186. ang mga lesson na natutunan ko sa mga bawat sitwasyon
187. kung paano ko sya ma develop o ma adapt sa sarili ko
188. Syempre next time pag may manggari ulit na ganyan na mag ka
189. encounter ulit sa field, syempre alam mo na ang mga dapat gawin
190. yung mga desisyon na dapat mong bitawonn, kaya dun sa
191. mga encounter na nalampasan ko napakarami kung nakuna nakuha na
192. lesson ha nagdevelop sakin na mas lalo akong pinatatag sa
193. field tsaka paano maging advantage o maging successful and
194. Misyon.
195. **Interviewer:** Ah sir what lesson did you learn as a soldier
196. From the combat area sir?
197. **Interviewee:** Ang lesson learn bo sa combatant ay dapat
198. lang talaga na yong mag ingat lagi, dapat unahin
199. mo yung safety mo tsaka tha mga kasavaa, lalong.
200. lalo na ha pangaralan mo ang mga kasama mo para
201. mas lalong matibay ang communication nyo ng
202. Kasama mo kung unite ba kayo.
203. **Interviewer:** Ang lastly sir What are the bey lesson or insight
204. you gained from the experience both professionally or

205. personally sir?
206. **Interviewee:** Ang pinaka Susi ko jan sa lesson learned
207. ko sa combatant is unang una jan yung pray
208. always para sa sarili ko para matulungan ako kung paano
209. ma survive itong misyon namin o yung mga combat
210. situation namin, dapat kahit na anjan na yan, wag mo
211. talagang kalimutang mag pray, pag bakkakan na jan ang
212. number one na weapon mo ay ang ay ang pagdarasal sa pag
213. tawag sa panginoon na hindi nya ka pababayaang sa pag
214. encounter na kinakaharap mo, yan din ang dahilan kung
215. bakit ko na survive ko yung combat situation ko na
216. na ambush kami.
217. **Interviewer:** So, you lang po sir thank you
218. Sakunting oras na binigay mo sakin sir.

TRANSCRIPTION OF DATA

1. **Interviewee Name:** Dennis R. bello
2. **listed Soldier From:** 1204 CDC Headquarters
3. **Rank:** Ssg
4. **Interviewer:** Ah sir good afternoon, sir My first question sir is How
5. did you motivate yourself during in the combat area sir?
6. Um dito sir um paano mo na motivate yung sarili mo
7. Sir nung hasa gera ka sir?
8. **Interviewee:** Syempre una yung pamilya ko ak parating nag dadasal
9. para saakin tapos through cellphone makita ko sila, ginagamit
10. to yung cellphone para syempre magkausap tsaka Magkita
11. kami through video call, dahil sila talaga ang motivation ko
12. ang pamilya ko sa bawat encounter na dumadaan sa buhay
13. Naming mga sundalo, pero you no talaga ang buhay namin
14. na napaka dilikado di namin alam kung mabubuhay paba
15. ako sa mga encounter, pero buti nalang andyan ang
16. Pamilya ko sila yung nag sisilbing motivation ko.
17. **Interviewer:** um ano ang, kwan sir Do you have personal
18. experiences that motivated you while in the combat area?
19. So dito sir ano yung mga personal experiences mo sir na
20. ma share mo samain na kung bakit ka motivated sir
21. during nasa combat area ka sir?
22. **Interviewee:** Masaya ako nung una maliban sa cellphone may mga
23. Sulat na dumadating na nababasa ko galing sa pamilya ko
24. tsaka bilang isang sundalo mapaka-laking bagay ang
25. ganitong komunikasyon para mas maging Solid ang pondasyon
26. ko para maging motivated ako sa ano mang encounter. At

27. lalong mas kampante ako dahil nakakausap ko ang pamilya, lalo
28. na pay may mga problema sa bahay nakakatulong din naman ako
29. kahit na papaano, isa pa kung kahit ako motivated sa mga
30. laban ko ay yung mga senoir ko o yung mga Commanding
31. officers to na umaasa sa kin na magiging successful ang misson
32. na binigay nila sa kin, lalong lalo na yung tiwala nila
33. na binigay sa kin. Kaya mas tinaasan ko ang aking
34. motivation para ma accomplish ang lahat ng iyon.
35. **Interviewer:** Um next sir what are the reason that keep you
36. motivated during your time in combat area sir? So dito
37. Sir ano yung mga rason sir kung bakit ka Still motivated nang
38. nasa combat area ka sir?
39. **Interviewee:** Para magkaisa lang syempre tulad ng sabi ka kanina
40. through Family, dahil sa pamilya ko motivated ako sa
41. Trabaho ko dahil sa kanila, kasi napaka raming beses na akong
42. Na low morale o nawalan ng pag-asa tsaka nawalan ng
43. kompyensa sa sarili ko. Nangyari to sa kin nung nagka
44. encounter kami ng mga NPA Sa T'boli na side habang
45. nag papatroling kami ng bigla nalang na pinaputukan kami ng
46. mga kalaban, sa kasamaang palad nasawi ang tatlo ko na
47. Kasamahan sa encounter na na blackout talaga ang isip ko
48. na low morale ako sa mga na saksihan ko, buti nalang
49. andyan yung mga officers namin, sila yung
50. nag alalay sa kin sila yung nag boost ng motivation ko
51. para na compromise ang mga kalaban.
52. **Interviewer:** Tsaka kwan sir Um, How did you encourage or motivate
53. yourself in combat area Sir? ikaw sir bilang sundalo Sir Um
54. paano mo ha encourage mo yung sarili mo sir na
55. malampasan ang mga pagsubok sir ing nasa combat area ka sir?
56. **Interviewee:** Bilang isang sundalo kinakaya talaga naming lampasan
57. na kung minsan mahirap ang pagiging sundalo lalo na sa
58. gera, dahil yung mga kaibigan ko mga kasama ko nag
59. titiwala sila sa kani kanilang sarili lalo na sa akin, dahil sa
60. mga encounter na nakakatakot pero sa awa ng diyos nalampasan
61. din naman namin yung mga encounter na yun, dahil dun
62. ginawa naming Motivation para maka survive sa mga pagsubok
63. Na dumadaan saamin, Pagkatapos ng mga hirap namin pagbalik ng kampo
64. masaya na naman kami dahil naka uwi kami ng buhay.
65. **Interviewer:** lets proceed to the Second question sir, Um How did you
66. face these difficulties that have you encountered during battle sir?
67. Ano yung mga kinaharap mo sir na mga difficulties of kahirapan
68. na na encounter during na nasa gera ka sir?
69. **Interviewee:** Syempre una yung bigat ng dala ko na habang nasa gera ako

70. nakikipag bakbakan sa kalaban dala dala ko yung mga gamit
71. na yun tapos minsan sa hiras ng daan lalonat gabi you yung
72. pinaka mahiras na situwasyon ko dati, tsaka na shoshort din
73. kami ng tubig lalo na sa haba ng nalakad namin uhaw talaga
74. Tsaka samahan pa ng mainit na panahon, napaka hiras talaga
75. ng situwasyon ko dati sa field pero sa awa ng panginoon
76. nakasurvive din ako sa situwasyon na yun, mag tiwala
77. lang talaga sa taas tsaka maydasal parati.
78. **Interviewer:** Um based on your experience sir what are the difficulties
79. that you encountered duru during your combat Journey sir? So dito
80. sir um kasi sa iyong personal experience sir ano yung pinaka
81. mahiras na naencounter mo nung nasa gera ka sir?
82. **Interviewee:** Unang una yung gi ambush Kami dalawang besses
83. Kaming gi ambush ng kalaban, yung una yun yung may mga
84. namatay sa mga kasamahan ko apat sila na nasawi sa
85. encounter, at tsaka nag struggle talaga kami kung pano namin
86. yun mariricover kasi ng Konti lang kami, Yung time na yun
87. hihingi sana kami ng tulong sa iba pa naming kasamahan
88. kasi nga dalawang groups kami, kaso sa kasamahang palad
89. yung groupo ko yung na ambush, nahirapan talaga kami maka
90. Survive dun kasi napaka daming kalaban. Hindi kami maka
91. counter attack sa kanila kasi na clip kami sa position namin
92. tsaka yung last na encounter ko nahuli ako ng Rebelde nong nasa
93. S2 ako noon ah 3hours Binigyan kami ng tanning
94. ah Syempre hindi namin alam kung anong gagawin sakin basta binigyan
95. kami ng tanning na 3 hours di namin alam kung ano yung 3hours
96. na yun, baka siguro papatayin kami, kaso lang yung time na yun
97. may kakilala kaming dating rebelde kaya yun pinalabas kami.
98. **Interviewer:** what are the particular moments that you give you difficulties
99. in the combat area sir? So dito sir ano yung mga defficulties
100. na mga moment mo sir na nasa gera ka sir na napakahiras
101. mo lampasan sir?
102. **Interviewee:** Ang pinaka defficult na naranasan ko e yung Nagbaha
103. tapos doon kami pinadaan sa baka na tanging baging ang
104. hinahawakan namin pero dalawa kasi yun e, isang baging tsaka
105. isang tulay na kawayan dun dumadaan lahat pero tigiisa isa lang
106. ang tumatawid kasi nga bawat isa samin mabibigat ang dala andun
107. nayung mga bala, baril mo, mga pagkain tsaka Kasali nayung bigat
108. mo sa isang kawayan tig isa lang talaga ang maka daan may
109. nahulog nga samin dalawa pero na recover manan yun yung
110. pinaka mahiras na daan na naranasan ko gabi panam yun okay
111. lang pag may araw.
112. **Interviewer:** How does the challenges affect your overall experience in

113. your combat journey? So dito sir ano yung challenges na naka
114. apekto sa bullay mo sir na na experience mo sa combat area
115. Sir?
116. **Interviewee:** Wala naman akong masabi na nakaapekto talaga, Yun
117. lang man talaga ang naranasan ko na mahirap, although mahirap
118. malampasan man din namin, wala namang epekto kasi trabaho
119. naman kasi yun, kaya dapat lampasan.
120. **Interviewer:** third question tayo sir, How did you survive in the
121. Combat area sir? So dito sir bailang isang sundalo sir paano ka
122. naka survive sa gera Sir?
123. **Interviewee:** Ang ginagawa ko lang through dasal, nagdadasal ako tapos
124. Syempre ang fighting spirit ko. Syempe wag mo naman lahat e asa sa
125. diyos, na di mo ginagawa ah tanggalin mo yung takot mo laban lang hanggang
126. sa malampasan ang mga pinaka mahirap na mision.
127. **Interviewer:** So follow up question tayo sir, what are your survival
128. skills that you rely on during your time in combat area? So dito sir
129. Um ano yung mga survival skills na ginawa mo sir nung nasa gera ka sir?
130. **Interviewee:** Ang pagiging leader, kasi naging leader naman din ako, syempre
131. yung command talaga yung clarity ng command para walang madali sa
132. mga kasamahan tao ma less youg casualties, tapos magaling din ako
133. Sa pagbasa ng mapa or map reading.
134. **Interviewer:** So next sir, is do you have preparation to on the combat area?
135. So dito sir ano daw yung mga preparation mo Sir para maka survive ka sa
136. Field sir?
137. **Interviewee:** kung paano kami naka survive sa combatant, dahil din sa
138. mga kasama ko nakinig sila sa command ko, dahil that time ako ang
139. platoon leader samin gi secure ko talaga na maayos ang pag deliver
140. ko ng command para maintindihan nila yung mga
141. gina sabi ko, kaya yon naka survive kami sa encounter na yun, isa din nga sa naka
142. tulong sa amin nung nasa clip zone kami e yung pagdarasal
143. nanalangin kami na sana makauwi kami ng kampo or sa mga
144. bahay namin na buhay, at tsaka ginamit din namin yung training
145. namin sa training school na na apply namin sa real life
146. situation kaya yun naka survive kami sa killing zone na
147. iyon.
148. **Interviewer:** Based on your Experience sir can you share a situation
149. were you used your survival skills to survive in combat area? So dito sir
150. ah basi sa mga karanasan mo maaari ba naming malaman
151. or maaari mo bang mabahagi Samin sir ang mga or sa mga
152. sitwasyon na ginamit mo yung survival skills sa combat area sir?
153. **Interviewee:** yun nga sa una kung sinabi kanina yung pag ambush
154. Samin ginamit ko dun yung galing ko sa pag command, kasi
155. pag pumalya ang command ko madadali talaga kami ng mga

156. kasamahan ko mas lalong mas marami ang mamatay samin, dahil dun
157. Sa pag prapractice to kung paano mag command ng loud and clear
158. para sa ganun ma intindihan ng mga kasamahan ko, at para
159. posibli ang pag survive nyo, at syempre dapat makisama ako sa
160. mga kasamahan ko para sila makisama din sayo.
161. **Interviewer:** mag proceed tayo sa fourth question sir How did you
162. maintain your relationship between your Families and Friends
163. back home sir?
164. **Interviewee:** Papaano ko ma maintain syempre through cellphone
165. Yun naman talaga mga bagong kagamitan, ginagamit ko yun
166. para makipag communicate sa pamilya ko, tsaka yung pera ko
167. mag seset aside ako para sa load at para di ako maubosan
168. ng load, tsaka yung naipon ko na pera yun yung gagamitin ko
169. pambili ng mga pasalubong sa pamilya ko pag uwi ko galing
170. sa gera, ganun din pag magka bakante gigimik din kami ng
171. mga kaibigan ko para syempre mapanatili ko yung relasyon ko
172. sa kanila.
173. **Interviewer:** so ah do you have any ways to maintain your relationship
174. between your family and friend back home while you are
175. in the combat area sir?
176. **Interviewee:** Wala naman din yun lang talaga yung cellphone
177. lang talaga syempre nakikita mo sila to through Video call
178. para kahit na sa ganoon mabawasan ang pag aalala mo sa
179. kanila, Pero pag na distino naman kami sa mga lugar na
180. wala talagang Signal Sulat talaga ang malimit na ginagamit
181. ko para sa ganoon di sila mag alala sa akin.
182. **Interviewer:** Sir, Um what approach you did you employ as a
183. Soldier to maintain your relationship between your Families
184. and Friends back home sir?
185. **Interviewee:** Um pag dating sa bahay mag pahinga tapos
186. mag simba tsaka syempre pupunta sa mga Lugar na
187. Na ika sisiya ng pamilya ko na kahit ganun syempre
188. parang napapawi yung mga araw at oras na di ka nila
189. nakasama, kahit na sa kunting araw na binigay samin na
190. passes ginagawa talaga namin ang lahat para ma punan
191. ang pag kukulang namin sa pamilya namin.
192. **Interviewer:** What did you go through to maintain your
193. relationship between your families and friends back home sir?
194. ano dito yung mga kwan sir mga other ways na para.
195. maging masaya yung pamilya at para mamaintain yung
196. relationship sir between families and friends sir back home?
197. **Interviewee:** Syempre pagkatapos ang pamilya pero totally
198. nauuna talaga ang pamilya na mabigyan mo sila ng enough time

199. mapasaya mo sila, dun ka naman sa mga friends mo
200. di maiiwasan na mang Kunting inoman para yung mga friend
201. at mag kita kita at mag kakausap-usap kayo.
202. **Interviewer:** So mag proceed tayo sa last question sir, As a
203. Soldier what are the lesson you got out of the combat area
204. Sir? Bilang isang sundalo sir ano yung mga lesson na nakuha
205. mo dun sa gera sir?
206. **Interviewee:** Number one talaga ang pag gamit ng SOP, pero
207. maraming mangyayari pag di nagamit ang sop kaya nga
208. tinatawag itong Standard Operating Proceedure Kumbaga
209. yun talaga ang unang una ginagamit sa operation o sa
210. Combatant, Pero kung hindi ginamit ang Sop sa Operation
211. Possible na madaming error or casualties ang
212. mangyayari.
213. **Interviewer:** What lesson did you learn as a soldier from
214. The combat area? So ano yung mga kwan sir lesson the na
215. learn or na adapt mo sir na natutunan mo dun sa gera na
216. yun sir belang isang sundalo sir?
217. **Interviewee:** Mga lesson Learned na natutunan ko wag kang
218. Una-una hintayin always ang command ng platoon Leader
219. ninyo wag talaga mag sarcom para walang ma disgrasa talaga
220. Sa inyo.
221. **Interviewer:** Um ang last na follow up question ko sir what are
222. the key lesson or insights you gained from this Experience
223. both professionally or personaly? So ano yung mga susi sir sa
224. lesson or insights mo sir na nagained mo sir or nakuha mo
225. dun sa gera na pinuntahan mo sir? Both Professionally and Personaly?
226. **Interviewee:** Sa mga lesson na nakuha ko sa gera Syempe ang
227. Pinaka una yung samahan nyo talagang ang samahan ninyo
228. lang kayo dahil nga iisang Uniporme lang kayo, yun
229. yung mga lesson learned na nakuha ko dapat kung sa time
230. ng encounter dapat magbigayan kayo mag unawaan kasi iisa lang
231. Kayo taka magtiwala sa bawat isa.
232. **Interviewer:** So yun lang yung mga question ko sir at maraming-
233. maraming salamat sir.

APPENDIX H**CERTIFICATE OF GRAMMARIAN**

RAMON MAGSAYSAY MEMORIAL COLLEGES – MARBEL, INC.
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COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDUCATION

GRAMMARIAN'S CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the undersigned research entitles **“THE FEROCIOUS FIGHTERS: UNDERSTANDING THE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF THE BATTLE-TESTED SOLDIERS IN COMBAT AREA”** by **RALPH R. PAJEL** aligned with the set of structural rules that govern the composition of sentences, phrases, and words in English Language.

Signed this 15th day of April of the year 2025 at Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Colleges-Marbel Incorporated, Purok Waling-Waling, Arellano Street, Koronadal City, South Cotabato

Signed by:


CLARENCE C. FLORES, LPT

Grammarian

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