

Risk and Resilience Factors for Combat-Related Posttraumatic Psychopathology and Post Combat Adjustment

Joseph Calabrese M.D. and the Center for Bipolar Disorder are working with Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur and the Department of Defense on the Kaptur DoD/DVA Mental Health Initiative. The general objective of this initiative is to evaluate the relationships between resilience and risk factors, both cross-sectionally and longitudinally, before, during, and after treatment within the DVA.

The “Risk and Resilience” project is Co-Directed by Joseph R. Calabrese, MD and Marijo Tamburrino, MD and is designed to study the relationships between 1) pre-existing mental illness/substance use disorders, 2) deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) or Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), and 3) post-deployment related mental health and overall psychosocial adjustment. The study will evaluate several groups of the Ohio National Guard: those deployed to OIF (Iraq, Kuwait, or Qatar), those deployed OEF (Afghanistan), those deployed to other theaters (Bosnia, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Kosovo, on a ship, or other), those deployed domestically, and those not deployed. This project will enroll up to 3,000 members of the Ohio National Guard and Reserves beginning in 2007. Research visits will be conducted at time of enlistment, 90-180 days post-deployment, and then every 12 months for a minimum of 10 years.

The project aims to build support and stimulate additional interest in the study of the role of resilience and risk in combat-related posttraumatic psychopathology and other similar adjustment problems. A specific aim of this project is to obtain permission to re-contact previously studied, well-characterized research subjects and their family members for future research that specifically targets the improvement of the scientific understanding of combat-related posttraumatic psychopathology and similar adjustment problems.