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## Title registration for a review proposal: Deployment of military personnel to military missions

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**Title registration approval date:** 20 August 2010

To start a Campbell review, a title must be registered and approved by the appropriate Campbell review group. For information about the title registration and protocol and review steps, visit the Campbell website:  
[http://www.campbellcollaboration.org/systematic\\_reviews/index.php](http://www.campbellcollaboration.org/systematic_reviews/index.php)

Submitted to the Coordinating Group of:

- Crime and Justice
- Education
- Social Welfare
- Other

Plans to co-register:

- No
- Yes       Cochrane     Other
- Maybe

Instruction: Briefly address each item below. Provide enough precise information to allow us the ability to evaluate the scope of the review and its appropriateness for the Campbell Collaboration. Note the review proposal should not overlap with existing Campbell and Cochrane published reviews or registered reviews in progress.

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### TITLE OF THE REVIEW

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Suggested format

[intervention/s] for [outcome/s] in [problem/population] in [location/situation]  
*Note that Campbell reviews usually concern interventions, although this is not essential.*

Deployment of military personnel to international missions: Impact on mental health and social functioning

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## BACKGROUND

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### **Briefly describe and define *the problem***

Provide a brief description of the problem and the intervention. Why is this review important? (You may provide citations of relevant papers. Use APA style for referencing.)

There is an ongoing debate about the consequences for individuals of deployment to international military missions. In light of the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan this debate is as relevant as ever. The aim of this review is to investigate the effects of deployment to international military missions on individuals after they return home. Some will continue their service in the military after deployment with the possibility of being deployed again and others might take a civilian job or go back to school. The focus of this review is the link between deployment and mental health and social functioning.

### **Briefly describe and define *the population***

Outline types of participant to be included and who is excluded, with thoughts given to aspects of the participants /target audience receiving the intervention. E.g. age, gender, geographical location etc.

In this review deployment refers to *all* military personnel sent to a war zone or on a peace keeping mission. In this sense studies that include people who have been deployed to a combat zone, but that have not been in active combat will also be included in this review.

The review will include studies that focus on the consequences for the *individual who has been deployed*. Studies that solely focus on the consequences for the spouse and/or children will not be included. Studies that focus on the deployment of non-military personnel to peace keeping or war zone missions will also be excluded.

### **Briefly describe and define *the intervention***

*Define the intervention and specific comparisons to be made.*

*What is given, by whom and for how long?*

*Outline possible variations of the intervention.*

*What are the comparison conditions? E.g. no intervention, treatment as usual or alternative intervention.*

The primary intervention under consideration is deployment on an international military mission, typically for 6 months. This includes deployment to a war zone or deployment to a peace keeping mission.

The comparison condition will be military service without deployment to an international mission.

The effects of deployment under different conditions and circumstances such as differences in settings, military operations, tasks, and specifically the level of combat activity encountered are of interest and will also be explored in this review.

**Outcomes: What are the intended effects of the intervention?**

*What measurements will be used?*

*List primary and secondary outcomes (This will depend on the review and the field in question).*

The primary focus is on measures of mental health and social functioning.

Mental health outcomes:

Mental health outcomes include e.g. PTSD or depression diagnosis, measured by e.g. PTSD scales, Global Assessment of Functioning Scale including structured diagnostic interviews and self-report questionnaires

Social functioning outcomes:

Socioeconomic outcomes relevant for social functioning include e.g. income, criminal record, and marriage record.

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## OBJECTIVES

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The main objective is to seek answers to the question of what consequences does deployment have for those who are deployed on mental health and social functioning? The primary focus is on issues relating to mental health and social functioning, however unintended effects will also be of interest. The aim of this review is to uncover and synthesize relevant studies in the literature that measure the effects of deployment on the deployed.

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## METHODOLOGY

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***What types of studies designs are to be included and excluded?*** Please describe eligible study designs, control/comparison groups, measures, and duration of follow-ups. ***Inclusion criteria:*** What types of studies are to be included? ***Exclusion criteria:*** What types of studies are to be excluded?

Study designs with a quantitative approach and including a control group.

Randomised Control Trials, cluster randomised trials quasi-randomised control studies will be included in this review. Quasi-experimental design studies (QEDs) will also be included. By QEDs we are referring to quantitative effect study designs where a counterfactual is established; this may be by means of a control group such as controlled before and after designs with prospective parallel groups, or by means

of statistical modelling using e.g. matching or other statistical methods to establish an appropriate comparison and counterfactual.

Studies that do not compare results of intervention with a suitable control group and cannot establish an appropriate counterfactual will therefore be excluded.

Duration of follow-up will be:

- Short term (i.e. end of deployment to 6 months)
- Medium term (i.e. 6 months to 1 year)
- Long term (i.e. > 1 year)

According to which duration is most relevant for each particular outcome.

**Your method of synthesis:**

Will you use meta-analysis, etc?

Yes, if possible and appropriate.

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## REFERENCES

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Bouffard, L.A. (2003): "Examining the relationship between military service and criminal behavior during the Vietnam era: a research note." *Criminology* 41(2), 491-510.

Browne et al. (2007): "Explanations for the increase in mental health problems in UK reserve forces who have served in Iraq." *British Journal of Psychiatry* 190, 484-489.

Engelhard et al. (2007): "Deployment-related stress and trauma in Dutch soldiers returning from Iraq." *British Journal of Psychiatry* 191, 140-145.

Hansen-Schwartz, Jessen, Andersen & Jørgensen (2002): "Suicide after Deployment in UN Peacekeeping Missions-A Danish Pilot Study." *Crisis* 23(2), 55-58.

Ismail et al. (2002): "The mental health of UK Gulf war veterans: phase 2 of a two phase cohort study." *British Medical Journal* 325.

Jacobson et al. (2008): "Alcohol use and alcohol-related problems before and after military combat deployment." *Journal of the American Medical Association* 300(6), 663-675.

Marshall et al. (2005): “Intimate partner violence among military veterans and active duty servicemen.” *Clinical Psychology Review* 25(7), 862-876.

Teachmana J.D. & V.R.A. Call (1996): “The Effect of Military Service on Educational, Occupational, and Income Attainment.” *Social Science Research* 25(1), 1-31.

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## **SOURCES OF SUPPORT**

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**Internal funding:** SFI Campbell

**External funding:** None at this stage

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## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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None know

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## **REQUEST SUPPORT**

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Do you need support in any of these areas (methodology, statistics, systematic searches, field expertise, review manager etc?)

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## **AUTHOR(S) REVIEW TEAM**

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**Include the complete name and address of reviewer(s)** (can be changed later). This is the review team -- list the full names, affiliation and contact details of author's to be cited on the final publication.

**Lead reviewer:**

The lead author is the person who develops and co-ordinates the review team, discusses and assigns roles for individual members of the review team, liaises with the editorial base and takes responsibility for the on-going updates of the review. Add all authors.

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## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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Please give brief description of content and methodological expertise within the review team. The recommended optimal review team composition includes at least one person on the review team who has content expertise, at least one person who has methodological expertise and at least one person who has statistical expertise. It is also recommended to have one person with information retrieval expertise. Who is responsible for the below areas? Please list their names:

- Content: Joannes Jacobsen, Julie Heidemann
- Systematic review methods: Krystyna Kowalski
- Statistical analysis: Joannes Jacobsen, Julie Heidemann
- Information retrieval: Anne Marie Klint Jørgensen

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**PRELIMINARY TIMEFRAME**

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Approximate date for submission of Draft Protocol (please note this should be no longer than six months after title approval. If the protocol is not submitted by then, the review area may be opened up for other reviewers):

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**TITLE REGISTRATION APPROVAL DATE**

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**Title registration approval date:** 20 August 2010

**Draft protocol submission date:** November 2010