Reintegration Experiences of a Combat Wounded Veteran and His Family

Oyoana Allende, OTS
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy

Background & Purpose

- Increase in combat wounded veterans since the start of OEF and OIF
- Wounded veterans report having difficulties readjusting to civilian life
- Limited research on reintegration of combat wounded veterans into family life

Research Question

How is reintegration to civilian life experienced by a combat wounded veteran and his family?

Methods

- Qualitative research design
- Purposive sampling
- Semi-structured interviews
- Thematic Coding
- Participants: Family of 4 in Texas

Findings

Challenges & Barriers

Family Engagement in New Occupations

Resilience and Sense of Gratitude

Discussion

- Access to support from other veterans facilitates the reintegration process
- Participation in new occupations contributes to family cohesion
- Through engagement in occupational routines the family supports a lifestyle balance

Implications for OS & OT

- Insight into the lived experiences of a combat wounded veteran’s family life
- Need for OT interventions that address daily family routines and foster resilience
- Need for further research on combat wounded veterans and families with diverse characteristics

References