2020

Prior Military Combat Experience and Domestic Policing Use-of-Force Decisions

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Walden University
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Abstract

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by

Ernesto C. Muñoz

MA, Bowie State University, 2010

BS, Troy University, 2006

Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

Criminal Justice

Walden University

May 2020

Abstract

Use-of-force decisions are made in both the military combat and domestic policing

environments. In this phenomenological study I aimed to examine what, if any, the effect

of military combat experience has on domestic policing use-of-force decisions for

military combat veteran police officers. Schneider and Shiffrin's dual process of

automatic and controlled processing theory offered the theoretical framework that was

applied to how military combat veteran police officers may be affected by their military

combat experience in the application of domestic policing use-of-force decisions. This

qualitative study was designed to collect lived experiences of military combat veteran

police officers who transitioned from military combat to domestic policing jobs. The 5

participants for this study were police officers solicited from the California Peace

Officers Association and represented various law enforcement departments from

throughout the state of California. Data were collected from one-on-one interviews using

scripted questions regarding use-of-force application and training. The interviews were

audio recorded, transcribed, and then analyzed using NVivo qualitative analysis software

to identify themes. The results showed there were no significant effects experienced by

participants regarding use-of-force decisions during the transition from military combat

to domestic policing. The similarities and areas applicable to both environments

indicated that prior military combat experience positively contributes to domestic

policing use-of-force decisions. The results of this study may be used to improve police

and community relations, as well as benefit the citizens, police officers, departments, and

the communities in which they serve.

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Table of Contents

List of Tables

List of Figures

Chapter 1: Introduction to the Study

Background of the Study

The military combat environment is distinctly different from the environment of domestic policing. Each environment requires its own unique set of use-of-force laws, guidelines, and continuum. The use-of-force used in a military combat environment is not appropriate for use in the communities where domestic policing occurs. According to Doherty (2016), in a military combat environment, the mission is to defeat the enemy while the mission of domestic policing is to protect and serve the public. Due to the differing missions, each environment requires a unique use-of-force continuum, law, and policies.

Problem Statement

The military combat environment is drastically different from the domestic law enforcement environment in the United States. The laws, rules of engagement, use-of-force, and escalation of force differ in each of these environments. According to Doherty (2016), the military combat mission is to engage and kill the enemy while crime control and community policing is the mission of domestic policing. Since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the military has created the counterinsurgency doctrine that combines protection and policing with combating insurgent fighting (Laguna, 2015).

Lafferty, Alford, Davis, and O'Connor (2008) stated that the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan were different from previous wars with respect to danger level, disengagement from civilian culture, and tour of duty patterns and length. Another aspect of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars that differed from previous wars was the

identification of combatants and noncombatants. In previous wars, combatants wore uniforms that made them easily identifiable as lawful combatants, while in Iraq and Afghanistan, insurgent fighters wore civilian clothes (Lafferty et al., 2008).

Military conflict has changed in other ways as well. Unlike prior wars fought by adversarial uniformed militaries, recent wars have also changed in the area of military mission tactics. Rather than facing another army on the battlefield, the U.S. military has found itself engaged in military conflict that consists of combatant forces and the civilians who support them (Klein, Klein, Lande, Borders, & Whitacre, 2015). This adversarial interaction between the military and civilian populace in combat environments may lead to difficulties in military veteran police officers' use-of-force decisions in domestic policing.

In addition to the aforementioned differences between recent military conflicts and previous U.S. wars, the rules that govern the military and those that govern civilian society differ. According to Cooper, Caddick, Godier, Cooper, and Fossey (2018), due to the difference in rules in each environment, there can be both positive and negative effects of transition from the military environment to the civilian environment. Verey and Smith (2012) stated that military members returning from combat experience difficulties impacting their civilian work environment as well as their attitudes towards civilians. In this study, I sought to examine just one aspect of this transition with regard to prior military combat experience as it relates to the transition to domestic policing.

Previous research has addressed the psychological effects of combat and issues related to transitioning to civilian society. In this study, I sought to fill the gap and

specifically examine the effects of the transition of military members from combat to domestic law enforcement jobs in the United States. It is the potential effects on use-of-force decisions by new or returning police officers returning from military combat that was the focus of this study. The results of this study could help stakeholders and law enforcement policy makers enact changes regarding post deployment transition programs and training for police officers. The results of this study could also be used as justification for the creation and funding of such programs.

Purpose of Study

The purpose of this qualitative study was to examine the effects on use-of-force decisions by police officers with previous military combat deployments. These data were gathered by conducting one-on-one interviews. The results of this study may be used by stakeholders and policy makers in the allocation of resources for programs affecting the police force and the community they serve. Programs focusing on use-of-force decisions appropriate for domestic policing can benefit both police officers and members of the community.

Research Questions

The main research question (RQ) for this study was as follows: What are the significant effects of military combat experience on domestic policing use-of-force decisions? The following specific research questions supported the overall main research question:

1. RQ1: What were the effects the participants experienced regarding use-of-force decisions during the transition from military combat to domestic policing?

2. RQ2: How did the transition from military combat to domestic policing affect use-of-force decisions in domestic policing?

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework for this research was the dual process theory of automatic and controlled processing by Schneider and Shiffrin (Schneider & Chein, 2003). This theory was applicable to the research as use-of-force decisions consist of automatic and controlled processing. Although originally established in 1977 by Schneider and Shiffrin, in 2003, they provided a more contemporary view of the dual processing theory. According to Schneider and Chein, human performance is controlled by a combination of automatic and controlled decisions.

Automatic decisions are those that do not require analysis, are not affected by stressors, and can be trained (Schneider & Chein, 2003). Controlled decisions are those that are slow, analytical, and made with thought (Schneider & Chein, 2003). As previously mentioned, in this study, I aimed to examine the effects of military combat experiences on use-of-force decisions by police officers returning from combat. Policing requires a combination of both automatic and controlled decision processing as police officers could find themselves in situations ranging from routine and nonthreatening to high-risk life-threatening situations.

These potential effects may influence police organizations' resource management decisions related to use-of-force training and programs. Initial use-of-force training and post military combat retraining programs may be necessary to promote the appropriate use-of-force decisions by military combat veteran police officers. Stakeholders and

department policy makers have a vested interest in proper use-of-force decisions by the police officers who serve in their departments and communities.

Use-of-force decisions may be most affected by automatic decision processing. Many decisions in both law enforcement and military combat include high risk, life threatening situations in which decisions must be made instinctually, based on training and not affected by external stressors. The issue with use-of-force decisions in domestic policing for veteran officers who recently returned from military combat is which use-of-force decisions instinctually occur, those appropriate to domestic policing or those appropriate for military combat.

Nature of the Study

The research design for this study included a qualitative approach of data collection to examine the effects of transitioning from the military combat environment to the domestic policing environment. I used the qualitative method and approach of collecting data through the use of one-on-one interviews. An essential aspect of examining the effects of transitioning from military combat to domestic policing is obtaining this information directly from police officers who have experienced this transition first hand. The participants of this study included police officers who served in active combat in the post-9/11 wars in Iraq and Afghanistan where the unique environment and combat doctrine placed soldiers in daily interaction with the civilian population and under unique use-of-force guidelines.

Participants for this study were confined to those military veterans from the post-9/11 wars in Iraq and Afghanistan where their combat mission included policing and

protecting the local population (Laguna, 2015). The use-of-force guidelines and tactics in these two combat zones were unique due to the difficulty in identifying the enemy. The enemy insurgent fighters did not wear uniforms that would make them easily discernible from the civilian population, and battles were not fought on a traditional battlefield. Insurgents blending in and fighting among the local population created challenges for military personnel as they could not easily identify who to fight, police, or protect. Selecting participants who met this special demographic (having served directly in a combat role in Iraq or Afghanistan as well as having transitioned to domestic policing following their military combat deployment) served as a challenge.

Two separate solicitations for volunteer participants was sent to members of the California Peace Officers Association. Nine participants who responded to the solicitation and met the inclusion criteria were selected to participate in this study. This approach for identifying participants was selected as it garnered a varied group of participants from multiple combat locations and numerous police agencies within the state of California, therefore reducing the risk of inadvertent disclosure of identity to police agency leadership. This solicitation and selection approach supports confidentiality, possibly yielding more accurate data and results, while also providing a representative sample that may strengthen the external validity of the study.

In this research, I used the case study type/design. The case study design allowed me to examine the effects of transitioning from the military combat environment to the domestic policing environment. The research questions for this study focused on two basic areas. The first consisted of personal use-of-force experiences based on combat

guidelines and tactics appropriate in the military combat environment. The second focused on the lived experiences of police officers who transitioned from military combat to domestic policing with regard to their use-of-force decisions. The research questions were designed to capture the necessary data to examine the effects of transition from the military combat environment to the domestic policing environment with regard to use-of-force decisions for military combat veteran police officers.

Self-reported experiences were obtained from each participant on the effects of use-of-force decisions in domestic policing following a military combat tour. The limitation in this study is in reliability due to the small sample size. This limitation was mitigated by the selection of participants from a variety of law enforcement agencies in California and with a variety of combat experiences. Future research following this study may be quantitative in design, using multiple sources of data such as police agency records or other applicable secondary data.

The selection of a qualitative study using a case study design and a one-on-one interview approach was the best option to answer the research questions. Examining the effect of transitioning from a military combat environment to a domestic policing environment required a qualitative study to gather the lived experiences of subjects who met the demographic requirements and experiences. Conducting individual interviews provided participants an environment where they could be candid while also assuring confidentiality.

Police officers may have been hesitant to disclose challenges with transitioning to the appropriate use-of-force laws and tactics in the domestic policing environment if they

were in the company of other police officers. Officers may also have been hesitant to disclose their transition challenges if they believed their police department would learn of their participation in this study as well as their answers to interview questions. In order to ensure confidentiality, a solicitation for volunteers was sent to members of the California Peace Officers Association. This approach was preferential over selecting participants from a single police department as it decreased the possibility of comprising confidentiality while increasing the pool of participants who met the inclusion criteria for this study. Furthermore, appropriate care was taken to keep participants' identities confidential throughout the research and reporting process.

The problem statement, purpose statement, and research questions aligned with the methodology and design of this qualitative study. This alignment was supported by the problem statement consisting of the recognition that combat and domestic policing environments are very different with respect to use-of-force laws and tactics. The purpose statement aligned with this issue as I described that the purpose of this study was to examine the effects of transitioning from the military combat environment to the domestic policing environment for police officers.

The research questions selected for this study also aligned with the topic area and provided the information sought to examine the effects of transition from one use-of-force environment to another. The questions were specifically formulated to address the experiences and effects of transitioning from the military combat environment to the domestic policing environment for police officers.

Procedures

This study was conducted by obtaining volunteer participants from the California Peace Officers Association. Two separate solicitations for volunteers was sent to all members of the association via an e-blast email outlining the inclusion criteria of having military combat experience in the Iraq and/or Afghanistan wars and subsequent transition to domestic policing where use-of-force decisions were part of their regular duties.

Volunteers who met these inclusion criteria were selected to be participants in this study and were scheduled for one-on-one interviews that were conducted via telephone, video teleconference, or offered to be in-person when possible. Although nine police officers volunteered for this study, only five participants were able to complete an interview. Interviews were audio recorded and transcribed for future coding and thematic analysis, using NVivo qualitative data analysis software.

Possible Types and Sources of Information or Data

The population required for this research study was police officers who experienced the transition from military combat to domestic policing. Due to the numerous factors possible in this population, military combat experience was confined to the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Selecting participants from these wars afforded the collection of the most recent memories and experiences regarding the effects on use-of-force decisions by returning or new military veteran police officers. According to Laguna (2015), the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan were marked with unique rules of engagement and use-of-force laws and tactics. In these recent wars, the military was faced with insurgent fighters who blended in with the civilian population (Laguna, 2015).

Complicating the military combat mission was the shift from uniformed armies engaged in combat on a battlefield to military operations of policing and protecting the public (Laguna, 2015). The mission of policing and protecting the public in a combat environment placed military members in constant interaction with a civilian population. This interaction with the civilian population combined with the unique combat mission made aggressive use-of-force tactics and instinctual responses to situations necessary for survival.

Placing limitations on specific military branches and/or military jobs was not a prudent approach as these were not dependable predictors of military combat experience. Furthermore, limiting the potential pool of research participants could have resulted in an insufficient number of participants for the study. The participants were solicited through a call for volunteers through the Peace Officers Association in California.

The data for this study were collected through one-on-one interviews and were recorded for analysis. The data and research findings show there were no significant effects experienced by participants regarding use-of-force decisions during the transition from military combat to domestic policing. Further research could consist of a quantitative study on the statistics of use-of-force incidents, complaints, and disciplinary actions involving police officers who transitioned from military combat to domestic policing.

The sampling method for this study was the homogenous purposeful sampling strategy, selecting participants based on shared backgrounds and military combat experiences. A total of nine volunteer participants from the California Peace Officers

Association who transitioned from military combat to domestic policing requirement were selected to participate in this study. I hoped that the response rate would result in a small sample of participants consisting of police officers from various police agencies throughout the state and from various military branches and military jobs. Having a sample from various police agencies helped avoid certain ethical issues and concerns related to confidentiality.

Definition of Terms

The words and phrases used in this study are defined as follows (Merriam-Webster, n.d.):

Domestic policing: The law enforcement mission for police officers in the United States.

Escalation of force: The application of the use-of-force continuum from lesser force to greater force.

Excessive use-of-force: The application of more force than is necessary to achieve a desired outcome. The determination of excessive is based on training, rules of engagement, and police policy/laws.

Inappropriate amount of force: The application of too little or too much force than what is necessary or appropriate in accordance with training, rules of engagement, and/or police policy/laws.

Military combat environment: The environment in which the military is actively engaged in combat with an enemy force and/or military police actions with the local

population. The environment where the likelihood of physical danger and existence of life-threatening situations are the norm.

Military combat veteran police officer: A police officer who served in the military and in a military combat environment.

Police officer: A peace officer/law enforcement officer in the United States responsible for law enforcement and domestic policing.

Rules of engagement: The rules, policies, and/or laws that govern the use-of-force and interaction between military forces and enemy combatants and/or the civilian population in a military combat environment.

Tactics: The practices and maneuvers used to deal with or respond to situations, based on training and practice.

Use-of-force: The application of force used to achieve a specific outcome.

Use-of-force continuum: The spectrum of force ranging from the least amount of force to the greatest amount of force (i.e., physical presence to lethal force).

Assumptions

This study was designed to obtain real world experiences from police officers who transitioned to domestic policing following a military combat tour. The goal was to examine if/how military combat experience affects the use-of-force decisions military combat veteran police officers make while transitioning to domestic policing. I assumed that because use-of-force is applied differently in a military combat zone than in domestic policing, police officers who transition from military combat to domestic policing may

experience potential effects in their use-of-force decisions in the new domestic policing environment.

Scope and Delimitations

The specific aspects of the research problem addressed in this study were the effects on use-of-force decisions in military combat veteran police officers who transition to domestic policing following military combat. This specific focus was chosen in recognition of the difference between use-of-force applications in the military combat environment and in the domestic policing environment. The difference in the application of use-of-force in these two environments may or may not have a significant impact on the use-of-force decisions police officers make when domestic policing is preceded by military combat.

The populations included in this study consisted of military combat veteran police officers who met the following inclusion criteria: served in a military combat environment, transitioned to a domestic policing job following the return from military combat, and had to make use-of-force decisions in their domestic policing job. Those excluded from participating in this study included military veteran police officers who did not serve in military combat prior to their domestic policing job and those military combat veteran police officers who did not transition to a domestic policing job involving use-of-force decisions.

Although previous studies have been conducted involving military veteran police officers, many of those studies addressed other aspects such as the transition from military service to civilian life, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and general police

use-of-force. These studies included using the data/frame model of sensemaking (Klein et al., 2015) and examination of the paramilitary model in law enforcement (Patterson, 2002). The potential transferability of this study can be found in the broad selection of the participants who ranged from all branches of the military and various police departments throughout the state of California. The varied participant demographics coupled with their individual use-of-force decision experiences allow for the potential to compare this study's findings to other contexts.

Limitations

The limitations in this study included the varied experiences of the participants and the data collection method of interviews. The participants of this study consisted of military combat veteran police officers from various military branches and various police departments. Although military combat experience was one inclusion criterion for this study, military combat experience varies for each individual. In addition, police department use-of-force policies may vary from department to department. The combination of unique military combat experience and department use-of-force policy may have limited the identification of viable themes and conclusions on the effects on use-of-force decisions for transitioning police officers from military combat to domestic policing.

Significance of the Study

The anticipated significance of this study and the implications for social change can affect law enforcement agencies, police officers, and the public they serve. In this study, I aimed to examine the effects of transitioning from the military combat

environment to the domestic policing environment with regard to use-of-force decisions. The results of this study may provide insight and justification for transition training for police officers transitioning from military combat deployments to domestic policing. For instance, the results of this study identified there is applicability and commonality between use-of-force in the military combat and domestic policing environments, differences in the use-of-force used in each environment exists

This study is important to public policy and administration as the results may directly affect police use-of-force incidents, complaints, and disciplinary actions. When inappropriate use-of-force is used by a police officer, a number of possible negative effects can result. Police officers who use too little force may place themselves and their fellow officers in added danger while using too much force may result in unjustified harm to citizens and disciplinary action and liability for police officers and their agency. If too much force is used, citizens may be unduly harmed, police officers may face disciplinary action, and police agencies could be held liable.

Social Change

Having a trained police force who uses the appropriate level of use-of-force is in the best interest of the aforementioned stakeholders as well as the general public. The topic may lend itself to research-based solutions through the creation of postmilitary combat use-of-force transition training for police officers transitioning to domestic policing. Further research may compare use-of-force incidents, complaints, and disciplinary actions from pretransition program statistics to post program creation statistics. A significant reduction in use-of-force incidents, complaints, and disciplinary

actions may be attributed to the use of transition programming for military combat veteran police officers.

Summary

The use-of-force applied in a military combat environment differs from that applied in a domestic policing environment. In this study, I aimed to examine the effects of military combat experience on use-of-force decisions for military combat veteran police officers who transitioned from combat to domestic policing. As use-of-force decisions are typically made instinctually and in the moment, the theoretical framework selected for this study was Schneider and Shiffrin's (Schneider & Chein, 2003) dual process theory of automatic and controlled processing. Through a qualitative approach using one-on-one interviews, this study was designed to collect personal experiences of military combat veteran police officers who transitioned to domestic policing following a military combat tour.

Interviews were audio recorded, transcribed, coded, and then analyzed using computer software. The findings of this study can benefit all stakeholders in domestic policing, which include the citizens of the community, police officers, and the law enforcement agencies for which they serve. All benefit from a police force who uses the appropriate of use-of-force and agency or department funds that are spent based on study findings and data supported by approved research. Previous research and literature provide background and material related to the issues of use-of-force, military combat, and domestic policing. In a review of the literature, I examine this background and identify a gap in the research that this study was designed to fill.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

Introduction

The use-of-force application, laws, and tactics in a military combat environment differ from those in domestic policing. Military combat veterans are trained and become accustomed to using force appropriate in the military combat environment. As these military combat veterans transition to domestic policing jobs that require different use-of-force applications, laws, and tactics, it is necessary to examine if the military combat experience affects the use-of-force decisions in these police officers. Curran, Holt, and Afanador (2016) stated that the skills obtained in the military can be used in domestic policing; however, there are notable differences between the two missions. A review of existing literature was conducted to examine aspects of this phenomenon and to identify a gap in the research that I aimed to fill.

The automatic processing and controlled processing theory by Schneider and Shiffrin (Schneider & Chein, 2003) was applied to the phenomenon of use-of-force decisions in both military combat and domestic policing. A review and analysis of the military combat environment and domestic policing environment is presented to draw comparisons between the two as they each rely on use-of-force decisions based on both automatic and controlled processing. Although each environment requires use-of-force decisions, it is the difference in application, laws, and tactics in each environment that was the focus of this study addressing the effects on use-of-force decisions by military combat veteran police officers who must transition from automatic processing decisions

appropriate in a military combat environment but not appropriate in domestic policing.

To prepare for this study, I conducted an extensive literature search.

Literature Search Strategy

The library databases used in this literature research were located in the Walden

University Library and included the following: Criminal Justice Database, Political

Science Complete, SAGE Journals, SocINDEX, Taylor and Francis Online, Digital

National Security Archive, Federal Digital System, and Military and Government

Collection. Through these library databases, the following search terms and

combinations of search terms were used: *use-of-force, training, military, police,*

decision/process, combat, Iraq, and *Afghanistan.* The use of these databases and search

terms resulted in identifying literature related to military combat and police use-of-force;

however, I only found one study that was directly related to military combat veterans'

transition to domestic policing.

Theoretical Foundation

The theoretical foundation for this research was Schneider and Shiffrin's

(Schneider & Chein, 2003) dual process of automatic and controlled processing theory.

This theory, originally established in 1977, was further developed by Schneider and

Chein in 2002 (Schneider & Chein, 2003). Automatic process applies to the situation of

military combat, where instinctually responding to life threatening situations is necessary

for survival. Schneider and Chein (2003) stated that automatic process occurs when a

responsive takes place without control or attention and is based on training (p. 527).

Police officers and military members receive use-of-force training that is engrained in

them so that when needed, their response is instinctual and automatic and can be executed without control or attention.

Automatic processing decisions result in an automatic attention response, wherein stimuli are automatically responded to (Schneider & Chein, 2003). In the case of police officers trained in conducting domestic policing duties, their response to these situations would be responded to using automatic processing. These situations may include routine activities such as traffic stops, responding to domestic calls, or any situation where police come in contact with the public. Given that police duties are inherently dangerous and can turn from uneventful to life threatening in an instant, a police officer's ability to instinctually and automatically respond with the appropriate amount of use-of-force is essential to the police officer's survival and protection of others. The same automatic processing is equally necessary for military members in the military combat environment where life and death situations are the norm. However, not all decisions are made using automatic processing. The adverse of automatic process in decision making is controlled process.

According Schneider and Shiffrin, a controlled process involves attention and control of subject (as cited in Schneider & Chein, 2003). Controlled process consists of decisions based on conscious consideration and are made in the absence of automatic processing (Schneider & Chein, 2003). The person making decisions based on new situations not previously experienced or trained for will use controlled processing (Schneider & Chein, 2003). Not all situations can be addressed and prepared for in police or military combat training, and, therefore, some level of controlled processing

must be used. Even controlled processing can result in automatic processing. In what is

termed consistent mapping, repeated controlled processing responses over time can result

in automatic process decision making (Schneider & Chein, 2003).

Military Combat and Use-of-Force

The military combat environment can be viewed in two different environments.

One is the traditional combat environment of the battlefield where two armies engage in

one-on-one combat. In this environment, soldiers and armored vehicles engage in

combat against an enemy force that is distinguishable by uniform and vehicle markings.

The second type of combat environment is the urban combat environment where military

forces operate in an urban area or area inhabited by the local population. In this urban

environment, the military force may have a mission consisting of both engaging in

military combat operations against an enemy force as well as policing and protection of

the local noncombatant population.

Vietnam era studies on the effects of military combat focused on areas such as

PTSD and postmilitary combat criminal activity by combat veterans (Lee, 2013). A

study conducted by U.S. Army General S. L. A. Marshal addressed the number of

military members who engaged the enemy with lethal force and found that only a small

percentage of 15 to 20% engaged the enemy while the rest were not reluctant to directly

engage and kill the enemy (Lee, 2013). Studies such as Marshal's have contributed to the

need for military combat training to include overcoming the aversion to kill or engage the

enemy (Lee, 2013). Unlike the Vietnam War, which was short in duration and required

only a single tour, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have lasted much longer and have required many military members to serve multiple tours (Lafferty et al., 2008).

The wars following the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001 in Iraq and Afghanistan were different from previous U.S. wars. Laguna (2015) stated that the use of counterinsurgency tactics by the enemy required the U.S. military to alter its military combat rules of engagement and use-of-force. The U.S. military did not face an easily identifiable enemy on a battlefield but rather faced enemy combatants who launched attacks while blending in with the local civilian population (Laguna, 2015). Military members must make conscious decisions to follow the established rules of engagement, tactics, and use-of-force in a military combat environment; however, they are bounded by law to act and could face legal penalties for failure to do so (Laguna, 2015). Although not a research study, Laguna's examination of the difference between past and recent wars highlighted the need for further study on how contemporary combat environments may affect the transitioning military combat veteran.

Warren and Bode (2015) examined the George W. Bush and Barrack Obama era military use-of-force policy that promoted preemptive military use-of-force rather than the previously followed reactive self-defense policy. This shift of preemptive use of military force was established in response to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 and used in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan (Warren & Bode, 2015). The information gathered and analyzed by Warren and Bode contributed to the existing literature on military use-of-force by addressing the military use-of-force policies from one presidential administration to another and the specific use-of-force policies of the Obama

administration. The stark difference between the military use-of-force policies implemented after the 9-11 terrorist attacks and those used in domestic policing is that current military use-of-force no longer requires the element of self-defense. Warren and Bode called for further study in this area, focusing on the microlevel of presidential personality and socialization differences and the effects they have on military use-of-force policies.

The evaluation of military combat and use-of-force was presented by Dorn (2011) in terms of being ethically just or unjust. Dorn examined the use-of-force in the post 9-11 war in Afghanistan using the ethical framework and evaluation Just War Index (JWI) consisting of seven criteria and a 7-point scale. With regard to use-of-force in war, factors such as just cause, benefit, and proportional means are graded on a sliding scale to provide a JWI score (Dorn, 2011). The results of Dorn's JWI examination of the post 9-11 war in Afghanistan revealed it to be justified and ethically deficient. The applicability of Dorn's work on this study is in the application and evaluation of use-of-force in military combat operations and the potential transferability to evaluate use-of-force in domestic policing.

The use-of-force in the military combat environment was further examined by Gaston (2017), who addressed use-of-force in terms of self-defense, hostile act, and hostile intent. Although directly addressing military combat, these concepts can be applied to use-of-force in domestic policing and is yet another parallel for transitioning military combat veteran police officers to consider. Gaston stated that deadly/lethal use-of-force is authorized in a military combat environment when necessary for self-defense,

in response to a hostile act, or when witnessing hostile intent. The guidance on the definitions or situations authorizing use-of-force can be found in the rules of engagement for the specific combat environment (Gaston, 2017). Gaston conducted a case study on four countries involved in the war in Afghanistan and examined how each applied rules of engagement to address use-of-force in self-defense, hostile act, and hostile intent situations. Of particular note was the justification and authorization to use lethal force in response to hostile intent, which in Iraq could be a person using a cell phone in proximity to U.S. military troops (Gaston, 2017). Because improvised explosive devices were known to be command detonated using cellular phones, the rules of engagement in Iraq authorized the use of lethal force if an Iraqi civilian was observed using a phone near military members (Gaston, 2017). This type of use-of-force is in stark contrast to that which is appropriate in domestic policing.

Sandvik (2014) further examined military combat rules of engagement in terms of the effects they have on civilian populations. Sandvik conducted a review of the unclassified rule of engagement documents spanning multiple military conflicts. Sandvik's review focused on legality and legitimacy of use-of-force and the aforementioned areas identified by Gaston (2012), self-defense, hostile act, and hostile intent. Sandvik concluded with a call for further analysis and development of rules of engagement in an ever-evolving military combat/war environment.

In 2004, the Operation Law Division of the Multi-National Corps-Iraq (MNC-I) published a Rules of Engagement document outlining the rules of engagement guidance, responsibility, and training for the military combat environment in Iraq. The Law of

Armed Conflict was presented in four areas of: military necessity, discrimination, proportionality, and unnecessary suffering (MNC-I, 2004). In addition to military combat rules of engagement, these four areas of the Law of Armed Conflict must also be considered as factors in use-of-force decisions (MNC-I, 2004). Rules of engagement were identified as a combination of: national policy and political factors, operational requirements, and law (MNC-I, 2004). As reported by Gaston and Sandvik, self-defense, hostile act, and hostile intent are identified as factors in authorized use-of-force (MNC-I, 2004). Provided in the military combat rules of engagement is the continuum of force consisting of: verbal commands, display of a weapon, physical restraint, warning shot, and finally lethal force (MNC-I, 2004). One particular difference between the use-of-force continuum in domestic policing when compared to military combat is that in domestic policing warning shots are not authorized.

Following the start of the Iraq war in 2003, Mertus and Hallward (2005) conducted a case study of the military war in Iraq which analyzed use-of-force and alternative actions short of war using the human rights framework. Mertus and Hallward (2005) argued that their case study of Iraq demonstrates how applying the human rights framework can be useful in for policy makers and analysis of use-of-force. At the time of this case study, violence on Iraq was identified to be on the rise with insurgent attacks preventing the forming of a law and order society (Mertus & Hallward, 2005).

Transition From Military to Civilian Life

In an examination of transition from military to civilian life, Cooper et al. (2018) applied Pierre Bourdieu's theoretical framework and social theory to understand this

phenomenon. Cooper et al. (2018) highlighted the differences between military and civilian life with regard to structure, culture, and identity. Identifying Bourdieu's three areas of habitus, fields, and capital, Cooper et al. (2018) applied these areas to the transition from military to civilian life. Habitus is Bourdieu's concept that repeated and regular social encounters and experiences result in unconscious decisions and establishes a template for which future experiences are placed (Cooper et al., 2018). Fields are the environments in which habitus are formed, such as the military combat environment or a specific military unit (Cooper et al., 2018). Finally, capital is simply identified as that which is obtained and recognized in a particular field, such as experience, education, position, and authority (Cooper et al., 2018). Although applicable and relevant to the phenomenon to military transition to civilian life, Bourdieu's theoretical framework and concepts were not selected for this study as it did not directly relate to the effects of military combat on use-of-force decisions in domestic policing.

Patterson (2002) examined military service experience and domestic policing that resulted in a number of findings regarding the paramilitary police model, prior military service, and police work events. Patterson discovered a growing preference for military veterans in domestic policing, to the extent that military service was sought and rewarded in police recruitment and promotion (Patterson, 2002). Further empirical studies examined the areas of military veteran police officers and their response to domestic policing stressors (Patterson, 2002). What was lacking in these studies was a specific focus on military combat experiences and their effects in domestic policing.

Later studies of war included areas such as PTSD but also included issues such as postcombat transition. In a study by Verey and Smith (2012), qualitative data was collected on the transition from military combat to civilian life back home. This study examined the relationship between military combat experiences and the affects these experiences may have on transition to home life, work, society, and emotional health (Verey & Smith, 2012). Fifteen participants were interviewed and thematic analysis of the interview transcripts revealed six themes related to post combat adjustment to civilian life, emotional and professional support, relationships, and thrill-seeking behavior (Verey & Smith, 2012).

Lafferty et al. (2008) provided a practitioner's to assisting combat veterans' reintegration to civilian life. The standard issues of PTSD, mental health, and physical injuries were identified as factors to consider and address with regard to reintegration support (Lafferty et al., 2008). The difference between the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, compared to previous wars, was highlighted as contributing factors to both mental and physical combat injuries (Lafferty et al., 2008). Those assisting military combat veterans with their transition back to civilian life were encouraged to recognize the stark contrast between the combat and civilian environments, and the psychological and physical challenges combat veterans may face transitioning to civilian life (Lafferty et al., 2008).

In 2009, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) published their findings of a study on employing military combat veterans as police officers. In this study, a combination of data collection methods and study groups were used to develop useful information for military combat veterans and police leadership (IACP, 2009).

Focus groups comprised of military veteran police officers discussed the effects military combat had on their decision-making process with regard to perception and situational awareness and understanding (IACP, 2009). Interviews of select focus group participants were conducted to allow participants to expand on their input provided during the focus groups (IACP, 2009). Finally, surveys were conducted to obtain data from both military veteran police officers who served in the military in the previous five years and law enforcement leadership (IACP, 2009). These surveys collected data pertaining to military and law enforcement experience as well as the transitional issues related to behavior, performance, health, and assistance (IACP, 2009). This study found that only some police agencies offer transition programs for military veteran police officers (IACP, 2009). Although military veterans obtain many skills useful in law enforcement, there are challenges to transition from the military to domestic policing, such as a change in ROE (IACP, 2009). The IACP (2009) identified further study needed to examine specific factors related to military personnel who transition to domestic policing.

Domestic Policing Use-of-Force

In the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan the U.S. military found itself fighting an enemy with a demographic different from its own. In the study by Trochmann and Gover (2016), they examined the relationship between police use-of-force when the demographic of the police differs from that of the community they serve. This study was conducted using city fixed-effects models and ordinary least squares regression (Trochmann & Gover, 2016). The data for this study was collected from surveys from the Bureau of Justice Statistics Law Enforcement Management and Administration

Statistics and the U.S. Census and Equal Employment Opportunity (Trochmann & Gover, 2016). An analysis of this survey data, which was taken from various timeframes and from 100 large cities in the U.S. resulted in a finding that a difference between police officer and community citizen demographics may lead to higher incidents of use-of-force complaints (Trochmann & Gover, 2016). In a related study conducted by Boivin (2017) in Canada, citizen demographics were found to be less relevant in police officer use-of-force decisions. Trochmann and Gover (2016) identify the need for further research and obtain data from other use-of-force data sources to examine complaints and the complaint processes.

In a study by Klein et al. (2015), they examined use-of-force between military members and civilians and police officers and civilians. A cognitive task analysis consisting of one-on-one interviews of 24 military members and 17 police officers was conducted to identify the skills utilized in what Klein et al. (2015) termed "Good Strangers" (GS). In GS, a balance between use-of-force and security was sought with the goal of promoting the cooperation and reduce or avoid antagonism (Klein et al., 2015). In addition to interviews, the researchers conducted ride-alongs with 4 police officers (Klein et al., 2015). Data collected from the interviews and ride-alongs were coded, interviewees were rated on a 7-point scale, and the data was categorized in to behaviors and cognitive processes (Klein et al., 2015). To determine the consistency of interviewee ratings, the researchers used Interclass correlations (Klein et al., 2015). The researchers also used multiple regression to analyze and identify GS behaviors as well as GS cognitive strategies (Klein et al., 2015). The results of this study identified the factors or

attributes which make GS military and police officers effective at obtaining cooperation, while avoiding antagonizing the civilian population (Klein et al., 2015). Further research is suggested to include a broader population of military members and police officers for a similar study (Klein et al., 2015).

In a study conducted by Hyland, Langton, and Davis (2015), Public Contact Survey data from 2002 to 2011 was used to examine police use-of-force in the U.S. during the periods of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. This study found that there was no rise or decline in police use of nonfatal force (Hyland, Langton, & Davis, 2015). A difference in use-of-force experiences with police officers based on race was identified; however, the differences were not found to be statistically significant (Hyland et al., 2015). Although this study focused on police use-of-force perceptions by members of the community, it did not further examine the demographics of the police officers to determine if their demographics were a factor in the study's findings. Hyland et al. (2015) acknowledged the relationship between variables included in this study as well as those that did not warrant further examination.

Ivie and Garland (2011), studied the relationship between military experience, police stress, and burnout. This study utilized data from previous studies and consisted of *t*-tests and multivariate regression analysis (Ivie & Garland, 2011). Ivie and Garland (2011) reported findings that identified burnout due to exposure to negative events affected both military and non-military veteran officers, and that policing experience was not a factor in stress or burnout. However, this study found that police officers with prior military experience were less affected by stress from challenging police situations (Ivie &

Garland, 2011). Law enforcement agencies were recommended to use these findings to identify and use military training examples and models in the transition of military veteran police officers in to domestic policing (Ivie & Garland, 2011).

Rosenbaum and Lawrence (2017) conducted a study on police use-of-force with regard to decision making, stress management, cultural awareness, interpersonal communication, and procedural justice, based on the use of the Chicago's Quality Interaction Program (QIP). A randomized control trial consisting of 142 police officers was conducted using a combination of self-reported questionnaires, applied case studies, repetitive practice, role-playing scenarios, and research-coded videos (Rosenbaum & Lawrence, 2017). To evaluate use-of-force, attitudes on use-of-force were categorized and coded on a 5-point scale and seven statement Use-of-force Index (Rosenbaum & Lawrence, 2017). The results of this study revealed QIP contributed to improved police use-of-force decisions (Rosenbaum & Lawrence, 2017). Rosenbaum and Lawrence (2017), stated further benefit could come from research on all aspects of police training, from initial academy training to field training.

Noppe (2018) researched police officers' self-reported police use-of-force as affected by exposure to provocative settings and moral support. The theoretical frame for this study was Wikstrom's situational action theory (SAT), which was used to examine the motivations for police use-of-force (Noppe, 2018). Rather than use theories applicable to situation or attitude-based actions, Noppe (2018) selected the sociological framework of SAT to identify what causes police officers to use force in domestic policing. Wikstrom's SAT was selected as it divided use-of-force decisions in to two

categories of moral based decisions and self-control (Noppe, 2018). This study collected

data from on-line surveys completed by Belgian police officers from three different

police zones over a four-month period (Noppe, 2018). A frequency scale was used to

measure police officer use-of-force in which the study participants identified their level

and frequency of force used over a 12-month period (Noppe, 2018). Participants also

scored the moral support they received using a five-point scale identifying low to high

levels of moral support (Noppe, 2018). Finally, participants identified the number of

provocative instances and types they experienced over the same 12-month time period

(Noppe, 2018). Exploratory factor analysis and Cronbach's alpha were used to test scale

constructs and internal consistency, respectively (Noppe, 2018). The analysis strategy for

this study consisted of identifying bivariate relationships and multicollinearity between

the study variables (Noppe, 2018). The participants reported use-of-force was described

using block-wise regression analysis, with sex and years of police service being statistical

control variables (Noppe, 2018). This study found that with regard to police use-of-force,

there is a relationship between a higher propensity to use force and sensitivity to

provocation (Noppe, 2018). Noppe (2018) stated a higher propensity to use force results

in a higher sensitivity to provocation. Noppe (2018) suggested additional training for

police officers who have this sensitivity to provocation and propensity to use force.

Silver et al. (2017) conducted a study examining the relationship between

traditional police culture (TPC) and police use-of-force. This study also examined TPC

in relation to endorsement of individual and organizational contexts (Silver et al., 2017).

Silver et al. (2017) defined TPC as the values and coping mechanisms developed by

police officers which results in distrust and isolation from the members of the community for which they serve. The participants of this study consisted of 781 police officers, divided in to two categories of line officers and managers, who completed an online survey capturing data on TPC, use-of-force, and procedural tactics (Silver et al., 2017). The sampling strategies used to select the participants in this study were convenience and snowball sampling of police officers across the United States, as Silver et al. (2017) stated a national sampling frame for U.S. police officers does not exist. Mailing lists for active police officers from three law enforcement organizations was used to solicit volunteers to participate in this study (Silver et al., 2017). The survey used in this study measured rankings of five items of TPC and incorporated exploratory factor analysis and principle axis factoring combined with promax rotation (Silver et al., 2017). The findings of this study suggest there is a solid association between use-of-force attitudes, procedural tactics, and TPC (Silver et al., 2017). Silver et al. (2017) recommend further research regarding TCP and domestic policing, with regard to citizen interaction.

Conclusion

A review of the current literature revealed military combat operations have changed over time and now include counterinsurgency operations. This new military combat environment requires the military to fight a non-traditional enemy which hides amongst the local civilian population. New rules of engagement and use-of-force laws were made to address the combat environments in Iraq and Afghanistan, and these laws differ from those which govern domestic policing. Early research focused on the effects of combat on mental health effects and reintegration. Later research examined the affects

of military combat veterans' transition to civilian life after combat; however, specific

research on military combat veterans' transition to domestic policing lacks in detail

regarding specific effects on use-of-force decisions.

Chapter 3: Research Method

Introduction

This research was a qualitative phenomenological study addressing the effects on use-of-force decisions for military combat veteran police officers who transitioned from military combat to domestic policing. Participants who met the inclusion criteria were selected from a state peace officers association and were personally interviewed to obtain their lived experience transitioning from military combat to domestic policing. Soliciting volunteer participants from a single peace officers association allowed for ease of recruitment from a single source while also ensuring a representation from various law enforcement agencies from throughout the state. Data obtained during the interviews were coded to identify themes with the assistance and use of NVivo qualitative data analysis software. The design and method of this research was made with the goal of ensuring credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability.

Research Design

The main RQ for this study was as follows: What are the significant effects of military combat experience on domestic policing use-of-force decisions? The following specific research questions supported the overall main research question:

1. RQ1: What were the effects the participants experienced regarding use-of-force decisions during the transition from military combat to domestic policing?

2. RQ2: How did the transition from military combat to domestic policing affect use-of-force decisions in domestic policing?

The phenomenon studied in this research was the effects on domestic policing use-of-force decisions based on prior military combat experience. As previously established, the application and rules that apply to use-of-force in a military combat environment differ from those appropriate in domestic policing. In this research, I aimed to examine how military combat veteran police officers transition from the instinctual use-of-force in military combat to instinctual use-of-force in a domestic policing.

The prior research in this general area has addressed military combat use-of-force and use-of-force in domestic policing; however, the transitioning between the two environments with regard to the effects on use-of-force decisions has not been specifically examined. This qualitative study, consisting of data obtained during one-on-one interviews of military combat veteran police officers, was selected to examine the lived experiences of police officers who transitioned from military combat to domestic policing and the effects on their use-of-force decisions.

Role of the Researcher

My role as observer-participant in this research was to conduct this research study with an objective unbiased view and with no predetermined conclusions as to the outcome of the research. Although I am a law enforcement officer in California and investigator for my agency in the Western region of the United States, I do not maintain a personal relationship with other law enforcement officers in California. My agency is a U.S. Department of the Air Force organization with missions in both the combat and law enforcement environments.

In order to obtain and secure the required number of participants or reach data saturation, I offered each participate who completed an interview a $10 gift card to a business of their choice. The incentive was not listed on the original e-blast solicitation email but was only mentioned during the coordination phase of scheduling the interview. A mailing address was needed to send the incentive gift card to each participant wishing to receive one.

Methodology

Participation Selection

The participants selected for this study were law enforcement officers from various agencies and departments throughout the state of California. The California Peace Officers Association contains a membership of reserve, active, and retired peace officers from local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies throughout the state of California. The members of this association presented the most potential for obtaining a varied group of participants from different departments and agencies.

The sampling strategy for this study was homogenous purposeful sampling. This sampling strategy was selected as there were specific inclusion criteria required in this study. Participants in this study had to be police officers who transitioned from military combat to a domestic policing and who had duties that required routine use-of-force decisions. All participants had the same shared experiences of serving in a military combat environment prior to domestic policing; however, in this study, I aimed to examine each individual officer's experience to find common themes with regard to the effects on use-of-force decisions.

Participant inclusion criteria consisted of prior military combat experience from the post 9-11 wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, followed by a transition to domestic policing wherein use-of-force decisions were made on a regular basis. Military veteran police officers with no combat experience or military combat veteran police officers who transitioned to a domestic policing job with no routine use-of-force decisions were excluded from the participant pool. There were nine participants for this study who volunteered to participate in one-on-one interviews; however, only five participants completed interviews and provided their personal experiences with transition from military combat to domestic policing.

Two e-blast emails were sent to all members of the California Peace Officers Association with a solicitation to participate in this study. The inclusion criteria were provided to ensure respondents met the requirements for participation in this research. Qualified volunteers who responded to the solicitation email were contacted and scheduled for a one-on-one interview that was offered to be conducted either in person, by telephone, or by video teleconference. Interviews were conducted until saturation was met or all possible interviews had been conducted. Qualified volunteers who were not interviewed received a thank-you email for their willingness to participate in the study.

Instrumentation

The data collection instrument for this study consisted of a list of predetermined questions regarding the military combat environment, use-of-force aspects in the military combat environment, transition between military combat and domestic policing job, domestic policing use-of-force training received, use-of-force in the domestic policing

environment, and the personal perceived effects on the officer's use-of-force decisions in domestic policing. An interview sheet containing the predetermined questions was used to take notes, and extra space was used for follow-up questions.

Data Analysis Plan

All interviews were audio recorded, and notes related to my observations of the interviewee were recorded on the aforementioned interview sheet. Information obtained from the individual interviews were inputted in to the NVivo qualitative analysis software. Data were analyzed and coded to identify themes. Coding was conducted in three stages, beginning with the coding of raw data or statements made during the personal interview. From the raw data, preliminary codes were identified and used to establish final codes. This coding took place as data were collected following each interview, as recommended by Saldaña (2016).

Issues of Trustworthiness

In this study, I sought to examine the phenomenon of transitioning from military combat to domestic policing, with respect to the effects on use-of-force decisions in domestic policing. The credibility and internal validity in this study exists in the research design and goal to reach saturation in the data obtained through personal interviews. According to Ravitch and Carl (2016), credibility and internal validity in a study are related to the design, instruments, and data collected as intended. The design and instruments of this study were specifically and purposefully designed to obtain data that answer the research questions and support the credibility and internal validity of the study.

The selection of participants from varied police agencies and with varied military service representation support the transferability in this study. Rather than selecting a single police department or members from a single military branch, participants represented a number of law enforcement agencies from throughout the state of California and all branches of the military in an effort to obtain a generalized result that can be applied in other contexts. The transferability of this study allows for its findings to be applied in other contexts without the need for additional study (Ravitch & Carl, 2016). The data obtained from interviews were presented without bias and as provided by the research participants. This unfiltered and unbiased method of reporting data supports the external validity, transferability, and dependability of this study (Ravitch & Carl, 2016).

I aimed to obtain lived experiences of military combat police officers who transitioned from military combat to domestic policing through one-on-one interviews using predetermined and focused questions designed to elicit the related effects on use-of-force decisions. The coding approach and use of NVivo qualitative data analysis software developed themes and result in the findings for this study by answering the research questions. The design and approach of this study support the dependability of the research. Ravitch and Carl (2016) stated that dependability is the result of a properly designed and executed study that sufficiently answers the research questions.

Ethical Procedures

Although two e-blast emails were sent to all members of the California Peace Officers Association soliciting volunteers to participate in this study, only those who

responded positively were directly contacted by me in a follow-up email. The original e-blast email directed qualified volunteers to contact me directly via email for follow on coordination and to be scheduled for a one-on-one interview. The names and identifying information of the volunteers was not shared and numbers were assigned to each participant to identify them throughout the study as needed. For example, participants were identified as participant #1, #2, #3, etc., and the names of the participants with their corresponding number were kept in a secure location accessed only by password and/or lock and key.

When conducting interviews and taking notes, the participant's number was used to identify which participant was providing the data. Interviews were audio recorded and I identified which participant number was participating in the interview. Interview notes, other associated documents, and data input in to NVivo only contained the participant's identifying number. In the event participants withdrew their consent to participate in this study, they were thanked for their support and replaced with a new participant. All documents and recordings associated with this study were secured via password and/or lock and key, accessible only by me.

Questions concerning specific combat experiences, that may have inadvertently resulted in traumatic memories, were avoided at all cost. Purposeful prefaces to each combat use-of-force experience question emphasized the question was only seeking nondetailed examples military combat use-of-force. The phone number to a crisis mental health provider was readily available as well as the means to call 911 in the event a

participant experienced a mental health crisis and required assistance. This method was approved by the institutional review board (07-17-19-0675828).

Summary

This study was designed to answer the research question with specific consideration of my role as the researcher, the research methodology, and the trustworthiness of the research. The issues of objectivity, personal bias, participant selection, ethics, data collection and analysis, and research documents and participant identify safeguards were carefully examined and addressed. Areas of potential concern were identified and issues were mitigated. The design of this study incorporated the correct methodology for qualitative research, using the appropriate method and participants to obtain the information needed to answer the research questions.

Chapter 4: Results

Introduction

The purpose of this qualitative study was to examine the effects of military combat experience on domestic policing use-of-force decisions. Data for this phenomenological study were collected via one-on-one personal interviews of current law enforcement officers who served in a military combat environment prior to assuming their domestic policing job. The following RQs were specifically designed to examine the effects, if any, of military combat experience on domestic policing use-of-force decisions:

1. RQ1: What were the effects the participants experienced regarding use-of-force decisions during the transition from military combat to domestic policing?

2. RQ2: How did the transition from military combat to domestic policing affect potential use-of-force decisions in domestic policing?

The following sections of this chapter provide the details of this study from the institutional review board approval through study results. The demographics of the participants, data collection, data analysis, and evidence of trustworthiness provide study information detailing characteristics of the participants, how the data were collected and analyzed, and the credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability of this study.

Setting

Following institutional review board approval (07-17-19-0675828), two separate email solicitations were sent from the California Peace Officers Association to its over

32,000 members. The solicitations outlined the purpose and intent of the study as well as the inclusion criteria, participation process, and sample questions. Members of the peace officers association who wished to volunteer for this study contacted me via email and/or phone as instructed in the solicitation, and a consent form was sent to them via email. Once the participant responded to the consent form email with "I consent," an interview date and time was scheduled. The decision to solicit only members of the California Peace Officers Association to participate in this study was made with two goals in mind.

The California Peace Officers Association was selected for this study as it provided various benefits as well as avoided potential pitfalls. The main benefit of using the peace officers association was that it provided a large pool of potential participants. The association boasts a membership of over 32,000 reserve, active, and retired law enforcement officers from agencies and departments throughout the state of California. This vast and varied population increased the potential of obtaining the desired number of participants for this study while also providing a diverse selection of officers from throughout the state. This diversity contributed to ensuring the anonymity of the participants as their departments and agencies were not involved nor aware of their individual participation.

This approach ensured anonymity and was selected to increase the likelihood of honest and open answers to the interview questions and to avoid the influence from department or agency superiors to participate in the study. The identity of the participants was not divulged to the California Peace Officers Association, other participants, or the departments or agencies that they were employed by.

Although nine California Peace Officer Association members initially volunteered to participate in this study, only five participants were able to schedule and complete an interview. When the desired number of participants were not reached after the first solicitation was sent, a second solicitation was emailed to association members. Though multiple attempts were made to obtain the desired number of participants and schedule the four remaining volunteers, efforts were not successful, and the final number of participants to take part in this study was five.

Demographics

The participants in the study met the inclusion criteria of having served in the military combat environments of Iraq and Afghanistan prior to assuming domestic policing duties. Officers who also served in previous military conflicts and/or served as police officers prior to their military combat experience were not excluded from participation. All five participants who completed interviews were male law enforcement officers from various departments and agencies throughout the state of California. Two participants served in multiple branches of the military, and three participants served in more than one combat environment. Further identifying demographic data were not collected or deemed relevant to the study.

Table 1

Demographics

Participant #	Gender	Military branch	Deployed location
1	Male	Marine Corp & Army	Afghanistan & Iraq
2	Male	Army	Iraq
3	Male	Marine Corp & Army	Afghanistan & Iraq
4	Male	Marine Corp	Iraq
5	Male	Marine Corp	Afghanistan & Iraq

Note. $N = 5$.

Data Collection

Interviews were scheduled with each participant and were conducted via telephone or Skype. In person interviews, although offered, were not conducted due to logistical constraints and convenience factors. All interviews were audio recorded via a digital portable audio recorder, and handwritten notes were made on an interview sheet that contained the interview script and questions. The duration of the interviews ranged from approximately 15 minutes to 45 minutes.

After beginning each interview with rapport building and answering participants' questions, I initiated the audio recording and read the opening statement from the interview script. Interview questions were then read from the script and elaborated on as needed. Once all interview questions were asked and answered, each participant was offered the opportunity to add any input if desired or to ask me questions.

Upon completion of the interview, the audio recorder was turned off, and the participants were offered a $10 gift card to a business of their choice. All five

participants declined to receive a gift card and were thanked for their time and participation. Interest in receiving a copy of this study was voiced by some participants, and they were advised that a copy would be provided once approved by the university.

There were no variations in data collection from those presented in Chapter 3 of this study, and no unusual circumstances were encountered during data collection. During the beginning of one interview, there was a short period of loss of telephone reception; however, connectivity was reestablished, and the interview continued without further interruption. Finally, although emergency procedures were in place in the event a participant experienced distress due to the nature of the interview topic, no participants displayed signs of distress, and, therefore, there was no need to use emergency procedures.

Data Analysis

The data collected during interviews were audio recorded and then transcribed into a Word document. Hard copy transcriptions were first analyzed for content and initial coding to develop categories and finally themes. Notes were placed in the margins of the hard copy transcripts, and words or sections were underlined to identify key content, contributing to the coding, categories, and themes. Electronic versions of the original transcripts were then imported into NVivo qualitative data analysis software for final or second cycle coding and theme identification.

The interview questions were designed to obtain specific information, such as comparisons, descriptions, explanations, and effects related to use-of-force training, decisions, and transition. Answers to the interview questions were closely examined to

identify the aspects relevant to the aforementioned areas. Five prominent themes were developed to answer the two research questions in this study (see Table 2).

Evidence of Trustworthiness

The strategy to address credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability were implemented, as outlined in Chapter 3 of this study. This qualitative study was designed to examine the effects of military combat experiences on domestic policing use-of-force decisions. The design and method of this study was formulated to ensure credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability. The foundation of the credibility for this study is in the data collection method and participant selection sampling.

The data for this qualitative study were obtained from one-on-one interviews designed to gather personal experiences related to the phenomenon of transferring from military combat to domestic policing. The focus of this transition was in the area of the effects on domestic policing use-of-force decisions due to varied rules, laws, and tactics associated in each environment. Participants for this study were solicited and selected using homogenous purposeful sampling, where only those law enforcement officers who met the inclusion criteria of having transitioned from military combat to domestic policing.

The selection of law enforcement officers from various departments and agencies throughout the state of California promoted the transferability of this study. In addition to ensuring a level of anonymity for the participants, having participants from various departments and agencies provided a breadth of views and experiences with domestic

policing use-of-force. Participants also served in different branches of the military, in either or both of the Iraq and Afghanistan combat environments, and therefore presented varied perspectives of combat experience, further promoting the transferability of this study. The diversity in departments, agencies, and experiences allows for the findings of this study to be applied more broadly.

The design and method for this study lends to its dependability. Each participant met the inclusion criteria, interview questions were scripted, and interviews were recorded, transcribed, and coded in the exact same manner. The controls and design for this study resulted in no adjustments to consistency strategies or the need for conformability.

Results

The results of this study identify that while there is applicability and commonality between use-of-force in the military combat and domestic policing environments, differences in the use-of-force used in each environment exists. A varied foundation for use-of-force decisions was provided, with the most common factors identified and illustrated later in this chapter (see Figure 1).

Two participants specifically highlighted the benefit of having prior military combat experience affecting their domestic policing use-of-force decisions. The benefits included quicker reaction times, enhanced perception and detection of emerging threats, and being able to communicate nonverbally and bond with fellow military veteran officers. Four participants identified a number of areas (i.e. rules, laws, and training) they believed were applicable to both the military combat and domestic policing.

Military combat and domestic police share the applicable factors of being regulated by rules and laws, based on training and experience, and a similar use-of-force thought process.

While military combat and domestic policing share aspects in common, there were differences identified in the application of use-of-force. Three participants stated military combat and domestic policing share being governed by rules, laws, and standards, as well as consequences for when these guidelines are not followed. The criteria used to judge use-of-force application is also similar in both environments. The differences in the application of use-of-force was identified by all five participants. The objective of de-escalation and starting at a lower level of continuum of force is expected in domestic policing. Domestic policing was categorized as more dangerous as officers are expected to pursue and apprehend suspects, unlike military combat where options include the option of disengaging from the enemy. Domestic policing offers a wider range and level of weapons and tools but also comes with additional scrutiny and documentation requirements. Police officers typically have weapons and tools ranging from less lethal options such as batons, pepper spray, and tasers to lethal options of hand guns, rifles, and shotguns.

The last theme identified by all five participants was the varied basis for use-of-force decisions. Use-of-force decisions were described to be calculated, instinctual, strategic, and situational. These were based on many contributing factors such as the environment, laws/policies, ability, training, experience, education, circumstances, and understanding of the situation.

The final two themes which were supported by all five study participants highlight the differences between law enforcement and military combat use-of-force, as well as the basis for decisions used in each environment. Although law enforcement and military combat share many similarities, the study participants reported differences in use-of-force tactics, objectives, laws, and policies.

The following table illustrates the themes identified from analysis of participant interviews. In addition to the identified themes, the number of occurrences and occurrence percentage is also listed for context. The themes and supporting quotes extracted from interview transcripts are listed below (see Table 2). Two themes were supported by answers from all five participants, while others were derived from statements made by two, three, or four study participants.

Table 2

Themes

Themes	Number of contributing participants (*N* = 5)	Contributing participants	Number of supporting statements
Benefits in reaction	2 (40%)	#1 & #5	6
Applicability between LE and military	4 (80%)	#1, #2, #3, & #5	5
There are commonalities in LE and combat/military	3 (60%)	#1, #3, &#4	16
Use-of-force is different in LE and combat	5 (100%)	#1, #2, #3, #4, & #5	29
Basis for use-of-force decisions are varied	5 (100%)	#1, #2, #3, #4, & #5	38

The following statements were provided by the corresponding participant and directly supported the identified theme. The italicized words in each quote indicate the key words or phrases that directly supported the identified theme.

Theme 1: Benefits in Reaction

- Participant 5 shared, "Sometimes you're *quick to react* for your partners."

- Participant 5 stated, "Make *decisions* a little bit *quicker*, I and *perceive threats* a little bit *more clearly*."

- Participant 5 said, "Military guys we're a little bit quicker."

- Participant 1 claimed, "You train the way you are going to *react*, both in the military and in uh law enforcement."

- Participant 5 revealed, "I feel that uh my *process making* is a little bit *more on point*."

- Participant 5 asserted, "We're a little bit *quicker* and we kinda have a different uh *instinctual mindset* from having our other previous experience to where we didn't have to speak and I don't know kinda like a different bond with being able to *not verbally communicate* and know when to step up when it needs to be stepped up."

Theme 2: Applicability Between LE and Combat

- Participant 1 said, "Train the way you are going to react, *both in* the *military and* in uh *law enforcement.*"

- Participant 5 revealed, "Training and experiences…I feel that some of the *stuff from* the *military does carry over* and transpire it *in to law enforcement* because you're still taught a decision-making process."

- Participant 3 stated, "There's this set of *rules* that you have to abide by in um *in both jobs* so *I don't think there's* you know *any real difference*."

- Participant 5 claimed law enforcement and combat have, "That *same thought process*."

- Participant 2 asserted, "*Either combative or noncombative* um and so you're really just *working off of the rules and laws* of and you know of choosing to engage or not to engage based on threat or not a threat."

Theme 3: There Are Commonalities in LE and Combat/Military

- Participant 1 stated there is a, "*Similarity* to the extent that *we had a rules of engagement*."

- Participant 1 said, "In the *military* we have the *rules of engagement* uh so *there's some similarities*."

- Participant 1 asserted, "So the *situations* are, there are some *similarities*."

- Participant 1 claimed, "We have uh *similar rules* in the *in California*."

- Participant 1 stated, "*Military members* are going to *reflect society* because you're getting the *same people in* to the *military*."

- Participant 3 said, "Based on the *use-of-force in law enforcement* I think it's uh pretty much *similar*."

- Participant 3 claimed, "There's this *set of rules* that you have to abide by in um *in both jobs* so I don't think there's you know any real difference."

- Participant 3 asserted, "If you *act outside* of you know *the laws* of that I mean you're still *subject to criminal prosecution just like* uh *civilian law enforcement*."

- Participant 3 stated, "In that aspect that *they're very similar*."

- Participant 3 claimed, "*Tactics* are the *same*."

- Participant 3 asserted, "Like fire and maneuver *tactics* I mean it's pretty much the *same*."

- Participant 3 said, "If you're engaging a suspect or you're engaging an enemy you're still gonna use the *same tactics*."

- Participant 3 claimed, "The *criteria* that you're *judged on* when you use the use-of-force. Um, *same* thing *in military*."

- Participant 4 said, "Those *rules of engagement also existed in* the *military*."

- Participant 3 stated, "*Same* thing *in military* I mean you're *IDing* your *target* your enemy you're *assessing* what would be the *most appropriate level of force* to neutralize your target."

- Participant 4 claimed, "It's still the *same standard applies*."

Theme 4: Use-of-Force is Different in LE and Combat

- Participant 1 claimed, "In civilian *law enforcement*, uh especially in uh this modern era there's a *great effort to* uh *deescalate*… there's a lot of *scrutiny on* uh the *use-of-force*."

- Participant 1 shared that it is, "*More dangerous* out there *for peace officers*."

- Participant 1 stated, "*Pulled my gun hundreds of times*, but I've *never used my gun*."

- Participant 1 said, "Been able to *use other techniques, tactics*, and *procedures to mitigate* uh possible *deadly force incidents*."

- Participant 1 stated, "In the *military*…there's a *good chance* that…you're going to *have to use your use your weapon* uh, even if you don't shoot somebody for *covering fire* or *other purposes*."

- Participant 1 claimed, "*Overseas* a lot of times you know if you encounter a *deadly situation* a lot of times *you can shoot* with em *and communicate*, you can *maneuver*, uh you can *take cover*."

- Participant 1 said, "In *law enforcement* you have to you *have to deal with* that *situation*, because if someone pulls a gun on you or tries to assault you, first of all that's a major felony and *you have to apprehend* that individual."

- Participant 1 claimed, "*Overseas*, some of these *people get away* because they could *escape and evade*, uh hit you and then run."

- Participant 1 stated, "In *policing* uh some of them will get away but we our *job is to apprehend* that suspect and to *protect ourselves and others*."

- Participant 2 shared, "*Here's a lot more to go through in your head* as you're *engaging or choosing not to engage* in use-of-force incidents *domestically*. Whereas, *overseas* it's kind of *more black and white*."

- Participant 2 said, "*Deployed overseas* uh you basically *have* your *lethal weaponry* and that's about it. Whereas stateside, *domestically* you *have an array of use-of-force options*."

- Participant 3 stated, "*Tools* that are *available* for me that are available *are a little bit different*."

- Participant 3 claimed, "*Military*…the *focus is* uh when you're doing like uh hand to hand combat stuff is more to *maim or kill* your enemy um while civilian *law enforcement* is *designed to control*."

- Participant 4 said, "In the *military* um when you take a sniper shot you're just you're going to take down the targets your *mission is to kill*. Where as in *police*, you you're *trying to stop the threat*."

- Participant 4 stated, "In the *police* world there is *no misses* you *have to be 100% precise every time*."

- Participant 4 claimed law enforcement has a higher, "Level of *scrutiny and documentation* and everything that follows…*as opposed* to my time in the *military*."

- Participant 4 stated, "There was a lot *more leeway* there was a lot *less documenting* what actually took place um there was a lot *more grey area in military use-of-force* where *in police* its it there are *really defined lines and parameters* um to work within."

- Participant 4 said, "*Rules of engagement also existed in the military* world and while yes there were rules of engagement, there certain *was a lot more freedom of movement* and um uh uh a *lot more creativity* that that you *could use to deploy your force*."

- Participant 5 stated, "They're *completely different*."

- Participant 5 claimed, "*Overseas* there's really *not* like *a whole de-escalation of force*."

- Participant 5 claimed, "In *combat* you're not looking you know you're not I mean yes we are *trying to capture targets* but you're *engaging enemies* in a combative in in a combat environment *versus* you're *trying to arrest* somebody for some type of crime you're in in *as a police officer*."

- Participant 5 stated, "*Decisions* that we made *in combat* are much *more on the fly*."

- Participant 5 said, "You're *not* at that *same level of fear and danger*."

- Participant 5 asserted, "You're *not* having to be *as far with that continuum of force right off the bat* you *have different* levels of tool belts *levels of tools* on your belt to use to try to apprehend and detain the subject with the less use-of-force."

- Participant 3 stated, "In a *combat zone* and its you know depending on what you're doing its I mean *tactics are gonna be different*."

- Participant 2 said, "*Overseas* the *thought process* is really *is this person trying to kill me or not* and…are they an immediate…do they present an *imminent danger* to uh you know basically myself and other soldiers."

- Participant 2 claimed, "*Domestically* it's a lot *more calculated* it's a lot *more strategic*."

- Participant 3 asserted, "Within civilian *law enforcement*, I mean the whole point is you're taking someone you're *trying to control somebody* and based on their behavior."

Theme 5: Basis for Use-of-Force Decisions Varied

- Participant 2 claimed, "*Domestically* it's a lot *more calculated* it's a lot *more strategic*."

- Participant 2 shared, "*In the beginning* its *very calculated*."

- Participant 2 stated, "*Once its second nature* then it *becomes more instinctual* but it's *still very strategic and calculated*."

- Participant 2 shared, "When I'm presented with what I perceive to be a threat there's a there's a *calculated response* of you know uh what's my environment."

- Participant 2 asserted, "It's a very *calculated approach* that that requires you to *quickly scan* your brain *for applicable case laws, policies, laws that apply before* you *decide* if and when and what *type of force*."

- Participant 4 said, "Now, um certainly a lot more calculated."

- Participant 4 stated, "It's a *calculated decision based on instinctual* um *abilities*."

- Participant 1 said, "It may be *instinctual*."

- Participant 1 stated, "*Reacted* the way my *training* and *instincts* dictate."

- Participant 2 revealed, "It becomes *more instinctual* the *more you do it*."

- Participant 2 asserted decisions are based on, "*How close* are my *resources*, what *type of threat* does this person present and then the *more you're in that situation* the *more it becomes instinctual* to say okay I'm going to talk my way out of this."

- Participant 2 stated, "My *instinct* is I can talk my way out of this or my *instinct* is there's nothing I can do or say to this guy to get him to comply because he's so far in."

- Participant 2 claimed, "It *becomes more instinctual* cuz you're *doing it constantly*."

- Participant 4 asserted, "It's *all your senses working together* that you've um uh *honed to be more efficient* over the years and it's those *perceptions* uh from those *senses* that are *collectively helping* you to *decide* much *quicker* uh eh much more *instinctively*."

- Participant 4 stated, "I use that experience in that uh *instinctual level of understanding* to make my decisions before a use-of-force arrives."

- Participant 5 shared, "It's uh a *combination of instincts* and as well as uh your…*training* to make those decisions and what not you know in in everything you've done before hand kinda comes in to that place…that um *instinct*."

- Participant 5 claimed, "Stuff that you pick up through…growing up uh that that kinda builds that *instinctual reaction* as a police officer for your decision-making process. As well as what you've learned to from *training* to help out with that process as well."

- Participant 5 stated, "Because uh my *training* and *experience*."

- Participant 1 asserted, "*Depends on* the *situation*."

- Participant 1 claimed, "Because of the *circumstances* I able to use a lesser means of force."

- Participant 1 said, "Also involves what *kind of weapon* does he does he or she have."

- Participant 1 stated, "*What kind of* uh *immediate harm* can they cause."

- Participant 3 said, "You're using all your *training* your *experience* and all that *to constantly reassess the situation*."

- Participant 1 stated, "*Train* the *way you* are going to *react*."

- Participant 1 claimed, "I *would have* had to have *reacted* the way my *training* and *instincts dictate*."

- Participant 1 shared, "It's a *combination of instinct* its mostly *based on* your *training* and also on the *situation*."

- Participant 1 said, "It's a *combination of* the *instinct*, it's more a reflection of your *training*, your uh training your *experience*, your *education* to some degree."

- Participant 2 stated, "What type of *laws* apply what type of laws have they *violated* what type of *policy* determines my actions what type of *case law* determines my action."

- Participant 3 said, "*Tactics* wise yeah, it just *depends on* the *circumstance* you're in."

- Participant 3 claimed, "Civilian policing you're in a you know more *urban environ rural environment* um, there's *no enemies around* or anything like that so *tactics* it's just very *dependent* on what you're doing and where you're doing."

- Participant 3 stated, "The decision process is I mean you're using you're *making an assessment* of the *environment* and based on what *threats* are in the environment um you *respond accordingly*."

- Participant 3 asserted, "*As you apply force*, you're *constantly reevaluating* what's going on *is the threat being neutralized* or is the threat still fighting back."

- Participant 3 claimed, "*More seasoned officers* that have *been in more incidents* or um *better at use-of-force* incidents versus maybe an unexperienced officer."

- Participant 3 stated, "It's *helpful to have* that *experience* and know what it's like to operate when you're doing police work and you're getting in to a use-of-force incident."

- Participant 4 said, "Based upon that *training* and *experience*."

- Participant 4 shared, "It's my *experience* and it has just has *given* me such an *appreciation* for uh for life that I think that has certainly had the *greatest influence* in shaping my decision making."

- Participant 5 claimed, "You kinda use all of that that stuff that you *learned* at the academy."

- Participant 5 stated, "As well as what you've *learned* to from *training* to help out with that process as well."

An analysis of domestic policing use-of-force decision answers by all the participants in this study resulted in the following word cloud (Figure 1). Participants identified use-of-force decisions were made based on training and experience, resulting in

calculated and instinctual responses that were situational and in accordance with the law.
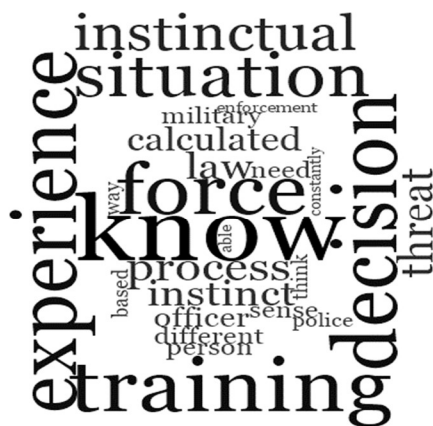
Figure 1. Word cloud. Most used words from participants' answers related to their domestic policing use-of-force decisions.

Summary

Based on the aforementioned analysis, there were no significant effects experienced by participants regarding use-of-force decisions during the transition from military combat to domestic policing. The similarities and areas applicable to both environments contributed to an overall indication that prior military combat experience positively contributes to domestic policing use-of-force decisions. The transition from military combat to domestic policing effected potential use-of-force decisions in domestic policing by decreasing the reaction time of some officers and enhancing the decision process through the added experience and training.

Chapter 5: Discussion, Conclusions, and Recommendations

Introduction

The purpose of this qualitative study was to examine the effects of military combat experience on domestic policing use-of-force decisions. The military combat environment and domestic policing environment are different in terms of dangers, threats, and use-of-force guidance (i.e., rules of engagement, laws, and tactics). In this study, I focused on the phenomenon of transitioning from the military combat environment to the domestic policing environment with respect to the effects this transition has on domestic policing use-of-force decision. I found that prior military combat experience may affect domestic policing use-of-force decisions in that there may be benefits and added experience in making use-of-force decisions.

Interpretation of the Findings

The findings of this study confirm and extend the knowledge regarding the comparison and contrast between military combat and domestic policing use-of-force decisions. As identified in Chapter 2, Curran et al. (2016) stated that the skills obtained in the military can be used in domestic policing; however, there are notable differences between the two missions. The results of this study support the premise that the skills and training obtained by military combat veterans are transferrable to domestic policing; however, the two environments have both similar and differing aspects affecting use-of-force.

The participants in this study identified a number of factors that influenced use-of-force decisions. Use-of-force decisions in military combat and then domestic policing

were based on experience, training, and became instinctual. This further supports Schneider and Shiffrin's (Schneider & Chein, 2003) dual process of automatic and controlled processing theory. Military combat veteran police officers credit both their military and police use-of-force training and experience in shaping their use-of-force decision process and responses

Limitations of the Study

The participant goal for this study was 15; however, after two rounds of solicitations for participants, only nine officers volunteered. Of the nine volunteers, only five completed the scheduling process and participated in an interview. The first limitation of this study was in the potential pool of volunteer participants. The small number of participants in this study may lead to doubts of credibility in the research results. However, I believe that this doubt is mitigated through the sample collection method and transferability of the results of this study.

The California Peace Officers Association has over 32,000 members from law enforcement agencies throughout the state of California. The limitation in this participant pool was underestimating the number of association members who not only met the inclusion criteria of having served in a military combat environment prior to assuming domestic policing duties but how many of that smaller population would volunteer and participate in the study. Although five was not the initial desired number of participants, the data collected provided useful results and identified the need for further study.

Recommendations

While this study confirms and extends the knowledge on domestic policing use-of-force decisions, further research in this area may include additional qualitative studies, mixed methods, and or quantitative research. The following are recommendations for further study that do not exceed study boundaries:

- Recommendation 1: Conduct a qualitative study on the same topic and design but solicit participants from multiple states to increase the likelihood of much larger participant number. Research questions, data collection format, and data analysis approach should remain the same.

- Recommendation 2: Conduct a qualitative study of similar design; however, expand the participant pool to include nonmilitary combat veteran police officers and compare the use-of-force decisions between military combat veteran police officers and nonmilitary veteran police officers. Research questions, data collection format, and data analysis approach should remain the same.

- Recommendation 3: Conduct a quantitative study examining the use-of-force by military combat veteran police officers. This study could use police use-of-force data such as civilian use-of-force complaints, police officer disciplinary records, reports of inappropriate use-of-force (either greater or less than, according to training and department policy), and other department records related to use-of-force.

- Recommendation 4: Conduct a quantitative study comparing the use-of-force by military combat veteran police officers and that of nonmilitary veteran police officers. This study could use police use-of-force data such as civilian use-of-force complaints, police officer disciplinary records, reports of inappropriate use-of-force (either greater or less than, according to training and department policy), and other department records related to use-of-force.

- Recommendation 5: Conduct a mixed methods study on police use-of-force, examining muscle memory and instinctive reactions. A combination of qualitative interviews and data on police use-of-force training effectiveness. Military combat veteran police officers would be replacing military combat muscle memory and instinctive reaction with that appropriate for law enforcement, while nonmilitary veteran officers are simply training new muscle memory reactions. The qualitative data could be combined with quantitative data comparing the use-of-force between the two aforementioned populations.

Implications

There are many levels of potential impact for positive social change. Using the proper use-of-force in domestic policing not only affects law enforcement officers and those they make contact with but it also affects the communities they serve, their families, and the departments and municipalities for which they serve. Ensuring military combat veteran police officers' transition to making domestic policing use-of-force

decisions is in the best interest of all stakeholders and contribute to positive social change.

Ensuring the proper use-of-force is applied in domestic policing can avoid legal and employment issues for the involved officer as well as the department that employs them. The inappropriate use-of-force could potentially result in disciplinary action or civil and legal liabilities. There may also be potential negative impacts on police/community relations when excessive force is used.

Conclusion

The environments of military combat and domestic policing have many differences regarding use-of-force guidance, tools, and application. Although the two environments also share similarities, it is the effects of the differences and experience of military combat on domestic policing use-of-force decisions that was the focus of this study. The results of this qualitative study revealed that the objectives and options between the two environments differ, and, therefore, the law, policies, tools, and application of force are different.

The military combat and domestic policing environment are governed by laws and rules of engagement; however, the objectives are different. The ability to disengage from an enemy or focus ending the threat with only lethal force is in contrast with the law enforcement approach of arrest and apprehension without the option to disengage from a suspect. The tools available in domestic policing give officers more options ranging from less than lethal to lethal. These differences may offer considerations to address during transition from military combat to domestic policing. Overall, it appears that the

experience and training in use-of-force benefits military combat veteran police officers as these two factors affect domestic policing use-of-force decisions.

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Appendix A: Interview Questions

<u>Opening Statement:</u> Thank you for volunteering to participate in this research study. As a reminder, this study aims to collect the effects of having to transition from military combat use-of-force to domestic policing use-of-force. You were selected to participate in this study because you meet the inclusion criteria of having served in a military combat environment then transitioned to a domestic policing job following your military combat tour. As we begin this interview, please keep in mind the following questions do not seek nor are designed to elicit specific examples of your use-of-force in either the military combat or domestic policing environments. These questions are designed to simply collect your experience of transition from military combat use-of-force to domestic policing use-of-force, to determine what, if any, are the effects of this transition as it pertains to domestic policing use-of-force decisions. Each question will be expanded upon based on the answers given in order to collect more details. Once again, please keep in mind, specific examples of use-of-force incidents are not required nor necessary to answer the following questions:

1. Question 1: How would you compare military combat use-of-force and domestic policing use-of-force rules, laws, and tactics?

2. Question 2: How would you describe your decision process when applying use-of-force (for example: instinctual, calculated, thought out, etc.)?

3. Question 3: Please explain what, if any, use-of-force training you received prior to beginning domestic policing (following your combat tour)?

4. Question 4: After transitioning to domestic policing, how would you describe your experience in making domestic policing use-of-force decisions?

5. Question 5: What, if any, would you say are the effects in making domestic policing use-of-force decisions following your return from a military combat tour?