



## Moral Injury in Service Members

A commonly misunderstood consequence of exposure to traumatic or morally conflicting events of war is moral injury. This condition – sometimes characterized as *soul wounds* – occurs when an individual's deeply-held values, ideals, or expectations are severely transgressed, leading to inner conflict with a range of psychological, spiritual, and social implications. Over the past several years, this concept has received increased attention both in the psychological literature and popular press. Some experts have suggested that the extended operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, where Service members were exposed to unconventional guerrilla warfare and greater ambiguity, increased the risks for developing moral injury. This training will define moral injury, identify incidents that may contribute to it, and highlight why it remains controversial and requires further inquiry. The presenter will encourage participants to consider challenges they face in identifying and treating this condition, including how to create a nonjudgmental, safe space for clients, and how to distinguish moral injury from common co-occurring problems, including PTSD. Military cases will be introduced to demonstrate approaches for having a conversation about moral injury, as well as assessing and addressing it. This training is aimed at behavioral health providers and trainees working with Service members and Veterans as well as clinicians interested in trauma.

**Target Audience:** For behavioral health/healthcare providers who treat military personnel, veterans, and their families.

**Instructional Level:** Introductory

### Learning Objectives:

Attendees will be able to:

1. Justify the critical components of a comprehensive definition of moral injury
2. Distinguish moral injury from morally injurious events and common co-occurring problems
3. Formulate strategies for facilitating discussion of moral injury with military clients
4. Evaluate strategies for the assessment and treatment of moral injury

### Agenda

**Welcome and Speaker Intro**  
**Speaker Presents**  
**Discussion**

**12:00pm - 12:05 PM**  
**12:05pm - 1:45 PM**  
**1:45pm - 2:00PM**



## Location Information

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**Location Platform:** Zoom

**Date:** 29 March 2021

**Time:** 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm Eastern

## Participate

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### Registration Information:

<https://militaryfamily.secure.force.com/Tier3RegistrationForm?sState=Online>

**Cost/Refunds:** Free

### Special Accommodations:

If you require special accommodations due to a disability, please contact Janis Flemming at [janis.flemming.ctr@usuhs.edu](mailto:janis.flemming.ctr@usuhs.edu) 4 weeks prior to the training so that we may provide you with appropriate service.



## **Presenters**

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**Paula Domenici, Ph.D.**, is Director of Training and Education at the Center for Deployment Psychology (CDP) at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. She oversees the development of courses and training programs for providers on evidence-based treatments for Service members and Veterans. She also presents workshops on deployment behavioral health topics for clinicians across the country. Dr. Domenici specializes in trauma and the treatment of PTSD using Prolonged Exposure Therapy (PE). When she first joined CDP in 2006, she worked at the National Naval Medical Center in the outpatient clinic and inpatient casualty care unit. Earlier in her career, she was an APA Congressional Fellow as well as a Staff Psychologist at the San Francisco VA Medical Center.

**Debra Nofziger, Psy.D.**, is a Military Behavioral Health Psychologist and certified Cognitive Processing Therapy Trainer with the Center for Deployment Psychology (CDP) at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland.

From 2007 to mid-2020, Dr. Nofziger served as the CDP Military Internship Behavioral Health Psychologist at Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) in San Antonio, TX. She assisted with managing multiple behavioral health training programs, including the Clinical Psychology Internship Program, Psychology Residency, Social Work Internship Program, and multiple post-doctoral psychology fellowships.

Dr. Nofziger was an active duty Army psychologist with assignments at BAMC and the U.S. Army School of Aviation Medicine. She was also deployed for a year to Iraq as a Brigade Psychologist with the 4th Infantry Division. Her variety of Active Duty assignments included positions as a staff psychologist in medical settings, at a community behavioral health clinic for soldiers in training, and in an aviation school environment where she was the training director for the Army's Aeromedical Psychology Training Course.

Dr. Nofziger earned her masters and doctorate degrees from Forest Institute of Professional Psychology in Springfield, Missouri. Her interests continue to be providing support to Service members, Veterans and their families through the training of military and civilian medical and behavioral health providers. Her particular interest areas are in the treatment of trauma and moral injury.



## **Continuing Education**

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The Center for Deployment Psychology is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The Center for Deployment Psychology maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

The Center for Deployment Psychology offers attendees 2 credit hours for participation in this training. Participants attending events in person are required to sign-in at the start of the training and sign-out at the conclusion of the training in order to attain CE credit. Participant attendance data will be collected electronically during webinars. There is a 30-day time limit post-training to complete all CE requirements. Partial credits cannot be issued. Inquiries regarding CE credits may be directed via email to Janis Flemming at [janis.flemming.ctr@usuhs.edu](mailto:janis.flemming.ctr@usuhs.edu).

The CEs provided by the American Psychological Association are acceptable for most licensed professionals when renewing their license and it is our experience that APA CE credits have been recognized by most professional state license boards. However, please check with your board regarding the acceptability of APA CE credits for this activity.