



UNIVERSITY *of*
DENVER

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

Military Psychology

A Statement from the Military Psychology Specialty on Recent Events - June 17, 2020

The events of the past few weeks have shown that we as a nation are collectively experiencing trauma and stress, new and old. We see, feel, and hear the pain, grief, and anger felt by so many over the tragic killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Elijah McClain, and countless others. We see the exhaustion and moral conflict felt by some National Guard members called to serve in their own backyards. As a community, we are experiencing all of this while also dealing with the stress and uncertainty of a global pandemic and economic instability.

As therapists and human beings, we are concerned. We know the medical and behavioral health impacts of prolonged stressors, injustices, and traumas, including the potential for chronic posttraumatic stress, moral injury, and depression. We know how these racial and societal injustices often ripple across generations leading to intergenerational trauma, affecting the children and grandchildren of those bearing witness to these events today.

At the same time, we see strength and resiliency. We see it in communities of color who have fought against racial injustices for centuries. We see it in our military populations who are supporting our local communities as they respond to COVID-19, economic hardships, and social upheaval. Resiliency is visible across the faces of every person striving to make lasting changes towards securing the freedoms, hopes, and dreams of all people.

At the Military Psychology Specialty, we reaffirm our commitment to providing support and holding space for the military-affiliated community during this time. We know military members and their families are some of the most resilient people in the world. Our clinic, the Sturm Center, remains open, offering telehealth therapy for Servicemembers (including National Guard and Reserves), Veterans, and their families. We are hopeful that these trying times will be followed with growth and healing for our nation and community.