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## PERSONALITY TRAITS AS MEDIATORS OF THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN COMBAT EXPOSURE AND POST-DEPLOYMENT REINTEGRATION AMONG NIGERIAN MILITARY WAR VETERANS

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### ABSTRACT

Deployment of military personnel to combat zones is often followed by numerous occupational and social challenges that may hinder job performance, strain interpersonal relationships with colleagues and family members, and reduce readiness for future deployments. While many veterans experience work- and family-related difficulties after deployment, others are able to reintegrate effectively into their normal military lives upon returning home. This suggests that factors beyond deployment experiences may influence post-deployment reintegration outcomes.

The present study examined whether personality traits mediate the relationship between combat exposure and post-deployment reintegration among Nigerian military veterans. A total of 2,550 veterans were recruited through a national survey conducted across three divisions using a multi-stage sampling technique. The hypotheses were tested using the Hayes PROCESS macro for mediation analysis in the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

Findings revealed that, except for Openness to Experience, which showed no significant mediating effect ( $B = -.00$ , 95% CI =  $-.01, .00$ ), four personality traits—Extraversion ( $B = .01$ , 95% CI =  $.01, .02$ ), Agreeableness ( $B = -.02$ , 95% CI =  $-.03, -.01$ ), Conscientiousness ( $B = .02$ , 95% CI =  $.01, .03$ ), and Neuroticism ( $B = -.03$ , 95% CI =  $-.05, -.02$ )—significantly mediated the relationship between combat exposure and post-deployment reintegration.

These results suggest that, regardless of the nature and intensity of combat experiences, veterans' personality traits play a critical role in shaping how successfully they reintegrate into military and civilian life following deployment. It is therefore imperative for military leaders, commanders, and stakeholders to consider these dispositional factors to facilitate faster, more efficient, and effective reintegration of personnel after combat operations.

**Keywords:** Combat Exposure, Post-Deployment Reintegration, Military Veterans, Personality Traits.

### Introduction

Since 2009, nearly 300 thousand Nigerian military personnel have been deployed for offensive operation against Boko-Haram insurgents in the North East. Between 2009 till date, the operation has changed nomenclature, ranging from Task Force Mike (2009-2013), Operation Zaman Lafiya (2014-2015), Operation Lafiya Doyle

(2015- 2021) and Operation Hadin Kai (2022 till date). In the course of these operations, military veterans have encountered traumatic experiences ranging from killings, physical injury, ambush and moral injury (Anongo, Abel, Dagona & Dami, 2019), resulting to high prevalence of physical and mental health problems including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain

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injury (TBI), hazardous substance use, anxiety problems, major depression, and difficulty adjusting into post-deployment military life (Dami, James, Zubairu, Carrick, Dakwak, 2018; Anongo, et al., 2019; Abel, Anongo, Kum, 2019). Even among veterans without physical or psychological wounds, there are many indicators and anecdotal evidences suggesting poor reintegration, as evident in unethical and unprofessional military conduct, such as excessive alcohol use (Kazeem & Abdulkarim, 2014), military brutality of civilians and superiors (Bitrus, 2012), disobedience and flagrant disrespect for civil rules and regulations (Anongo, Abel, Dami & Dagona, 2019), which are against the ethics of military operations.

Similarly, empirical reports have shown that 25% or more of veterans report difficulty in social functioning, self-care, or other major life domains following deployment (Sayer, Frazier, Orazem, Murdoch, Gravely, Carlson et al. 2011; Ponce-deleon, Anderson, Karstoft, Elklit, 2018). Upon homecoming, many veterans also report relationship and work difficulties (Sayer et al., 2011), homelessness, post-deployment injury, or suicide (Bachynski, Black, Dada, Millikan & Jones, 2012). Thus, with the increasing number of deployment-related problems that are capable of affecting post deployment work and family functioning, it is expedient and indeed a national priority to identify factors that influence reintegration of military personnel in Nigeria. This will also help veterans resume and achieve efficient functioning in work and social domains of life.

Reintegration has been defined as “the

resumption of age, gender, and culturally appropriate roles in the family, community, and workplace” (US Department of Veterans Affairs, 2010), and the process of transitioning back into personal and organizational roles following deployment (Currie, Day & Kelloway, 2011). It has also been described as a dynamic process of adapting that is culturally bound, personal, and multidimensional (Reistetter & Abreu, 2005). The foregoing definitions have shown that reintegration is multidimensional; producing three major domains of personal, organizational and community reintegration. Personal or family reintegration entails how a veteran is able to attach and adapt to family environment following prolonged deployment. Similarly, organizational reintegration measures how well a veteran successfully resumes normal work functioning after deployment. Community reintegration has been described as the return of individuals to their role functions or participation in life roles (Bradford, Glynn, Jette, Johnson Hernandez & Wills, 2012). According to Crocker, Powell-Cope, Brown and Besterman-Dahan (2014) community reintegration has to do with the adaptive capacity of a veteran to return to life roles following discharge from military organization where he or she was separated from typical community life and then returns to life in a community. In this study, community reintegration is conceived as the level of functioning that a veteran exhibits to members of the public (excluding family and work) while still in active military service. Although, reintegration is often conceptualized as a positive series of events, it also maybe a time of personal stress and difficulty for military veterans. A review of the literature suggests that the period following a re-

turn from deployment may be associated with increased tension at the personal, family, and work levels, and exacerbation of deployment-related stress conditions (Bolton, Zimmerman, Bloom, Hunter, West, Hunt, et al. 2008).

A plethora of literature focusing on combat deployment and reintegration to family, work and community life have shown that military veterans face numerous issues during the reintegration process. For instance, Larson and Norman (2014) reported functional impairment in families, work, and community among returnee combatants. Similarly, Sayer, Carlson and Frazier (2014) reported that some veterans who return from combat duties experience physical and mental problems, which in turn adversely impair successful reintegration into civilian life. These findings are related to studies in Nigeria which have associated combat deployment to negative mental health outcomes and poor adaptation (Dami, et al., 2018; Abel, et al., 2019; Ameh, et al., 2014; Anongo, et al., 2019). Although a mounting body of empirical evidence exist in Nigeria on the mental health impact of combat deployment, further studies are needed, especially in trying to understand disposition factors that mediate association between combat deployment and its effects on post-deployment reintegration.

Personality traits reflects peoples' unique characteristics in thinking, feelings and behaviour. Differences in these traits have been linked to several behavioural outcomes in veterans, including but not limited to, substance use, aggression, anxiety, depression (Resnik et al., 2012). Particularly, research indicates that due to de-

ployment-related traumatic experiences, veterans may face unique physical and mental health challenges capable of causing personality changes. (Resnik et al., 2011). Combat veterans' personality changes may be linked to reintegration issues as research has shown that specific personality traits are associated with employees' ability to succeed in an organizational context (Neal, Yeo, Koy, & Xiao, 2012). The Big Five traits have particularly been associated with different behavioural outcomes among veterans. For example, studies have linked openness to experience with better adaptation following trauma (Soye & O'Súilleabháin, 2019). Openness to experience is also highly associated to divergent thinking and development of new ideas (Feist, 2018), which may be a strong resource to veterans' adaptation and reintegration. Similarly, research on conscientiousness have linked it to high level of obedience and respect to social rules (Moore, Holding, Levine, et al., 2012), implying that veterans who are high on the trait would be more likely to adapt better to work environment following deployment. Other studies have shown that reintegration among extroverts tends to be better and happen faster than individuals who are agreeable (Caska, & Renshaw, 2013; Mattson, James, & Engdahl, 2018), while neuroticism (generally characterized emotional instability) has been linked to emotional disengagement and avoidant coping (Carver & Connor-Smith, 2010), which may negatively affect reintegration.

However, while a strong body of empirical research and anecdotal evidences suggest poor reintegration among Nigerian military veterans who were deployed for insurgency in the North East (Anongo, et al., 2019), it is unclear whether

personality traits can mediate these relationships. Understanding the mediatory role of personality traits could guide Nigerian government and the Ministry of Defence in designing appropriate interventions that promote successful reintegration among veterans, with could have far reaching implications. The purpose of the present study was therefore to examine the mediatory role of personality traits (openness, conscientiousness, extraversion, agreeableness, neuroticism) in the association between combat exposure and reintegration among Nigerian military veterans. Accordingly, we hypothesized that the association between combat exposure and reintegration will be mediated by these personality traits of the military veterans.

## Method

### Participants

This is a National Survey that sampled (N = 2550) Nigerian Veterans who were returnees combatants deployed for Boko Haram Insurgency. The study covered personnel of Nigerian Army across the country who were recruited into the research at their various divisions. Multi-stage sampling technique was used to sample participants who met research criteria. The first stage was random selection of three division from the six divisions across the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria. The division were 81 Division Lagos, 6 Division Port Harcourt and 7 Division Maiduguri. At the second stage, units with deployed personnel were recruited. The final stage comprised purposively selection of veterans from the units who met research criteria for participation. The mean age for participants was 34.8; SD=9.08. About 60% of the participants were SSCE holders, while

the remaining 40% had either NCE, ND or Degree certificates. About 46% of the participants were married and the remaining 54% single. 78% of the participants were enlisted military personnel, while 22% were commissioned officers.

### Measures

**Combat Exposure** was measured with the Combat Exposure Scale (CES; Keane et al. 1989). The CES is a 7-item self-report scale that investigates wartime stressors that personnel are exposed to during combat deployment. Items in CES are rated on a 5-point Likert scale (1 = no or never to 5 = more than 50 times), 5-point duration (1= never to 5 = more than 6 months), 4-point frequency (1 = np to 4 = more than 50%) or 4-point degree of loss (1 = no one to 4 = more than 50%). The score for CES scoring (ranging between 0-41) was calculated by using a sum of weighted scores. The alpha coefficient was .81.

**Personality traits** were assessed using Ten-Item Personality Inventory (Gosling, Rentfrow, & Swann, 2003). TIPI is a brief assessment of the Big Five personality dimensions: (1) Extraversion, (2) Agreeableness, (3) Conscientiousness, (4) Emotional Stability, and (5) Openness to Experience. Participants rated the items on a 7-point Likert scoring format :1= disagree strongly, to 7= agree strongly. Test scores are scored based on the responses. The scale has an alpha coefficient of .61

**Post-Deployment Reintegration** was assessed using the Post-Deployment Reintegration Inventory (Katz et al., 2010). The scale is designed to measure the level and rate of post deployment reintegration of soldiers upon home coming. The Post Deployment Reintegration Scale

covers the following different dimensions: adjustment to personal life (i.e., feeling like oneself again), family (i.e., feeling like a member of the family again), work (i.e., adjusting back to normal military work life), and cultural or social adjustment. All the items were rated on a 5-point Likert scale (1= not at all to 5 = completely. The alpha coefficient is .89. In our study, we utilised the composite scores for reintegration.

### Procedure

The General Officer Commanding (GOC) for the participating divisions were contacted, informed about the research and presented with the research proposal for consideration. The protocol and instruments were thoroughly reviewed by the committee set -up by the GOC and subsequently approved, giving official permission for the study to be conducted.

Upon receiving introduction letters from the GOCs, the Unit Commanders were contacted and intimated on the research and the procedure of data collection. They participating unit commanders assembled eligible participants for the study based on the inclusion criteria. Participants were selected in three divisions; 81 Division Lagos (N=800), 6 Division Port Harcourt (N= 550) and 7 Division Maiduguri (N=1200). Recruitment of eligible participants was done in adherence to ethical codes and principles as contained in Helsinki declaration. In a short statement, the researchers assured respondents that their answers would be held confidential and anonymous. Participation was voluntary and the privacy of the respondents was respected. With the assistance of some officers, the researchers administered 2800

questionnaires to the respondents in the three divisions for a period of two months. Each questionnaire took approximately 15 minutes of the respondent's time. 2550 out of 2800 administered questionnaires were returned with usable data, representing 91% response rate. The data was collected and analysed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences ( Hayes PROCESS Macro for mediation test).

### Data Analysis

Data collected were analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS-version 23). Mean, percentage and Standard deviation were used to analyses the demographic data, after which they were analyzed for mean comparison and correlation matrix. Mediation test was performed by conducting several regression analyses to analyze the significance of the coefficients at each step (Tabachnick & Fidell, 2007). Hierarchical multiple regression was used to achieve this in order to control the effects of covariates. To make sure that age, education, and role of deployment do not explain away the entire association between our predictors and reintegration, they were put in a model fit.

In a second step, we entered the variables that we wanted to put into the model. To test if personality trait of openness was a mediator of the effect of combat exposure on reintegration, we first analyzed with the effect of combat exposure on reintegration. Secondly, we analyzed the effect of combat exposure on personality. Thirdly, we analyzed the impact of personality on reintegration. The essence of step 1-3 was to establish that zero-order relationships among the variables. Lastly, we analyzed the effects of both

personality and combat exposure on reintegration.

### Results

In line with our study objective, we hypothesized that personality traits will mediate the association between combat exposure and post-deployment reintegration among Nigerian military veterans. To test the hypothesis, the Hayes PROCESS Macro for mediation analysis was utilised as shown in table 1.

Table 1 presents the results of the regression-based Hayes PROCESS Macro for the test

reintegration ( $\beta = -.05, p < .05$ ). The *B* showed that for each unit rise in number of deployments, reintegration decreases by -.31 units. Senior personnel were associated with higher reintegration ( $\beta = .05, p < .05$ ), than junior personnel. The *B* showed that being senior in rank increases reintegration by 1.61 units. Combat personnel were associated with higher reintegration ( $\beta = .04, p < .05$ ), than support personnel. The *B* showed that being a combat personnel increases reintegration by 1.56 units. Education was a significant positive predictor of reintegration ( $\beta = .13, p < .001$ ). The *B* showed that for each unit rise in

Table 1

### Hayes PROCESS macro results for predicting reintegration among Nigerian military war veterans by combat exposure, extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism, and openness to expression with age, number of deployments, rank, role, education and marital status as control variables

Variables	<i>B</i>	$\beta$	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>	95% <i>CI</i>	<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	<i>F</i>
Age	.31	.23	11.24	.000	[.25, .36]	.15	37.60 (12, 2520)****
Number of Deployment	-.31	-.05	-2.58	.010	[-.55, -.08]		
Rank	1.61	.05	2.38	.017	[.28, 2.93]		
Role	1.56	.04	2.31	.021	[-.23, 2.89]		
Education	1.65	.13	5.83	.000	[1.09, 2.20]		
Marital Status	-1.23	-.04	-1.95	.051	[-2.46, .01]		
Combat exposure	-.50	-.03	-1.37	.171	[-.12, .02]		
Extraversion	.38	.09	4.76	.000	[.22, .53]		
Agreeableness	.89	.17	8.57	.000	[.68, 1.09]		
Conscientiousness	.45	.09	4.56	.000	[.26, .65]		
Neuroticism	.84	.19	9.96	.000	[.68, 1.01]		
Openness to expression	-.18	-.40	-2.02	.044	[-.35, -.01]		

*CI* = confidence interval; rank (1 = Junior, 2 = Senior); role (1 = support, 2 = combat); marital status (1 = single, 2 = married)

of the study's hypothesis. Age, number of deployments, rank, role, education and marital status were added to the model as covariates. Result indicated that age was a significant positive predictor of reintegration ( $\beta = .23, p < .001$ ). The *B* showed that for each unit rise in age, reintegration increases by .31 units. Number of deployments was a significant negative predictor of

education, reintegration decreases by 1.65 units. Single personnel were associated with higher reintegration ( $\beta = -.04, p < .05$ ), than married personnel. The *B* showed that being a single personnel increases reintegration by 1.56 units.

For the test of the hypothesis in the study, result indicated that combat exposure was not a significant predictor of reintegration among Ni-

gerian military war veterans ( $\beta = -.50, p > .05$ ). Extraversion was a significant positive predictor of reintegration among Nigerian military war veterans ( $\beta = .09, p < .001$ ). The *B* showed that each unit rise in extraversion was associated with .38 increase in reintegration among Nigerian military war veterans. Agreeableness was a significant positive predictor of reintegration among Nigerian military war veterans ( $\beta = .17, p < .001$ ). The *B* showed that each unit rise in agreeableness was associated with .89 increase in reintegration among Nigerian military war veterans. Conscientiousness was a significant positive predictor of reintegration among Nigerian military war veterans ( $\beta = .09, p < .001$ ). The *B* showed that each unit rise in conscientiousness was associated with .45 increase in reintegration among Nigerian military war veterans. Neuroticism was a significant positive predictor of reintegration among Nigerian military war veterans ( $\beta = .19, p < .001$ ). The *B* showed that each unit rise in conscientiousness was associated with .84 increase in reintegration among Nigerian military war veterans. Openness to expression was a significant negative predictor of reintegration among Nigerian military war veterans ( $\beta = -.40, p < .05$ ). The *B* showed that each unit rise in openness to expression was associated with -.18 decrease in reintegration among Nigerian military war veterans. All the variables in the regression model accounted for 15% of the variance in reintegration among Nigerian military war veterans  $\{R^2 = .15, F(12, 2520) = 37.60, p < .001\}$ .

Extraversion mediated the relationship between combat exposure and reintegration among Nigerian military war veterans because the 95%CI of the completely standardized indi-

rect effect did not contain zero ( $B = .01, 95\%CI = .01, .02$ ). This indicated that the association

**Table 2.**  
**Completely standardized indirect effect of the mediators on reintegration among Nigerian**

Mediators	<i>B</i>	95%CI	
		Lo- wer Level	Up- per Level
Extraversion	.02	.01	.02
Agreeableness	-.02	-.03	-.01
Conscientiousness	.02	.01	.03
Neuroticism	-.03	-.05	-.02
Openness to expression	-.00	-.01	.00

between combat exposure and reintegration among Nigerian military war veterans passed through or is mediated by extraversion.

Agreeableness mediated the relationship between combat exposure and reintegration among Nigerian military war veterans because the 95%CI of the completely standardized indirect effect did not contain zero ( $B = -.02, 95\%CI = -.03, -.01$ ). This indicated that the association between combat exposure and reintegration among Nigerian military war veterans passed through or is mediated by agreeableness.

Conscientiousness mediated the relationship between combat exposure and reintegration among Nigerian military war veterans because the 95%CI of the completely standardized indirect effect did not contain zero ( $B = .02, 95\%CI = .01, .03$ ). This indicated that the association between combat exposure and reintegration among Nigerian military war veterans is mediated by conscientiousness.

Neuroticism mediated the relationship between combat exposure and reintegration among Nigerian military war veterans because

the 95%CI of the completely standardized indirect effect did not contain zero ( $B = -.03$ , 95%CI =  $-.05$ ,  $-.02$ ). This indicated that the association between combat exposure and reintegration among Nigerian military war veterans is mediated by neuroticism.

Openness to expression did not mediate the relationship between combat exposure and reintegration among Nigerian military war veterans because the 95%CI of the completely standardized indirect effect contained zero ( $B = -.00$ , 95%CI =  $-.01$ ,  $.00$ ). This indicated that the association between combat exposure and reintegration among Nigerian military war veterans is not mediated by openness to expression.

## Discussion

Deployment of military personnel to war-zones has historically been associated with negative psychosocial consequences that may impede quick, effective and efficient work and interpersonal reintegration after homecoming. However, while many war veterans are strained, others with same combat experiences may be unaffected, implying that factors outside the combat environment may constitute risk. The present study therefore examined personality traits as mediators of the association between combat exposure and post-deployment reintegration among 2550 Nigerian military veterans who were deployed for military operation in north eastern part of Nigeria. We hypothesised that the association between combat exposure and post-deployment reintegration will be mediated by the big five personality traits of openness, conscientiousness, agreeableness, extraversion and neuroticism. To test the hypothesis, we utilised Hayes PROCESS Macro test

for mediation.

Preliminary results indicated that about 43% of military veterans are currently unable to reintegrate to either work, family or social life after returning from the operation. Combat exposure was not a significant predictor of reintegration among Nigerian military war veterans. Rather, the association between combat exposure and reintegration was explained by veterans' personality traits. Specifically, openness to experience, conscientiousness, agreeableness and neuroticism mediated the association between combat exposure and reintegration in the personnel, after controlling for covariates. This result implies that, amongst veterans who are deployed for combat operations, differences in personality make-up may significantly impede their ability to successfully adjust into work and social lives. Irrespective of the form or magnitude of combat operation and devastating events thereof, the ability or otherwise of veterans to effectively reintegrate after deployment is greatly determined by their personality disposition, such as being emotionally unstable, easily agitated, excessively careful and socially withdrawn from colleague and family members.

The result of this research is supported by previous literature on the role of personality in trauma adaptation. For example, the result aligns with studies that have linked openness to experience with better adaptation following trauma (Soye & O'Súilleabháin, 2019; Feist, 2018). The result also corroborates the findings of Moore, Holding, Levine, et al., (2012), that having high levels of obedience and social rules (characteristics of conscientiousness) could enhance better adaptation to occupational function.

ning after traumatic experiences. It is however, in contrast with the findings of Caska and Renshaw (2013) and Mattson, James and Engdahl (2018) which found low adaptation in individuals with agreeable personality traits. In all, these highlight the importance of assessing personality traits in veterans who have returned from combat operations to unravel traits that increase vulnerability and which also impede adaptation.

The mediating influence of personality traits such as extraversion on post-deployment reintegration is not surprising (because it is not difficult to conclude that veterans who are adventurous and socially inclined would be more likely to integrate faster and better after homecoming) and thus implications for post-war military-civilian relationship development. This simply means that encouraging social contact and interpersonal interaction among veterans can reduce the impact of combat, reduce negative coping strategies such as alcohol use, thus making them to adapt better. Similarly, military personnel with high conscientiousness traits may be more likely to follow and obey rules from military command, which could aid their adaption to work environment after they have returned from combat duties to continue with normal routine military work. On the other hand, the implication for the mediating role of neuroticism on post deployment reintegration is that veterans who exhibit fearful, anxious and emotionally unstable disposition may experience challenges coping with family, occupation or general societal demands when they return from operations. Thus, personality traits are stronger in explaining whether and how well a veteran can integrate into the society after returning from

combat duties.

The conclusion drawn from this study is that military veterans who experience work stress, especially during operational duties may not always have problems of reintegrating into their work or families. What is more important to their ability or inability to reintegrate is the influence of certain personality traits that continue to affect their ability to relate, follow instruction, maintain emotional stability and learn appropriate coping skills that that can facilitate effective and efficient work and family relationships. Based on this finding, our study recommend that Nigerian military (through its Medical Corps) should periodically screen military personnel with problematic personality traits, especially immediately they return from combat operations. Such screening will help in identifying and counseling those at risk, to facilitate their post-deployment reintegration. Given the dearth of empirical work on military reintegration in Nigeria, we recommend for more research to explicitly explore other mediating variables that may influence post-deployment reintegration among veterans. Further studies should focus on factors such as moral injury, social support, religiosity, etc, to ascertain how they influence reintegration in military veterans who are exposed to combat operations.

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## **ОСОБИСТІСНІ РИСИ ЯК ПОСЕРЕДНИКИ ЗВ'ЯЗКУ МІЖ БОЙОВИМ ДОСВІДОМ ТА ПІСЛЯВОЄННОЮ РЕІНТЕГРАЦІЄЮ СЕРЕД НІГЕРІЙСЬКИХ ВЕТЕРАНІВ ВІЙНИ**

### **АНОТАЦІЯ**

Розгортання військовослужбовців у зонах бойових дій часто супроводжується численними професійними та соціальними труднощами після повернення, які можуть заважати ефективному виконанню службових обов'язків, погіршувати міжособистісні стосунки з колегами та членами родини, а також знижувати готовність до майбутніх завдань. Хоча багато ветеранів після розгортання стикаються з проблемами в сімейному та професійному житті, деякі з них успішно повертаються до звичного військового ритму, що свідчить про роль додаткових чинників, окрім самого бойового досвіду, у процесі реінтеграції.

У цьому дослідженні розглянуто особистісні риси як медіатори зв'язку між бойовим досвідом та пост-деплойментною реінтеграцією серед військових ветеранів у Нігерії. Загалом у національному опитуванні, що охопило три військові дивізії, було залучено

2550 ветеранів за багаторівневою вибіркою. Для перевірки гіпотез було використано модуль PROCESS Макро Гейса у програмі SPSS.

Результати показали, що за винятком відкритості до досвіду ( $B = -.00$ , 95% ДІ =  $-.01, .00$ ), яка не мала значущого медіаційного ефекту, чотири інші риси — екстраверсія ( $B = .01$ , 95% ДІ =  $.01, .02$ ), доброзичливість ( $B = -.02$ , 95% ДІ =  $-.03, -.01$ ), сумлінність ( $B = .02$ , 95% ДІ =  $.01, .03$ ) та невротизм ( $B = -.03$ , 95% ДІ =  $-.05, -.02$ ) — істотно посередництвували зв'язок між бойовим досвідом та реінтеграцією.

Ці результати свідчать, що незалежно від характеру та інтенсивності бойових подій, особистісні риси ветеранів мають вирішальне значення для успішного повернення до військового та соціального життя після участі у бойових діях. Тому військове керівництво та інші зацікавлені сторони повинні враховувати ці індивідуальні чинники для забезпечення швидкої, ефективної та стійкої реінтеграції військовослужбовців.

**Ключові слова:** Бойовий досвід, Пост-деплойментна реінтеграція, Особистісні риси, Військові ветерани.

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