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The Impact of Preservice Trauma on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Symptomatology in U.S. Marine Corps Reservists

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THE IMPACT OF PRESERVICE TRAUMA ON POST TRAUMATIC STRESS
DISORDER SYMPTOMATOLOGY IN U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVISTS

A Dissertation

Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies and Research

in Partial Fulfillment of the

Requirements for the Degree

Doctor of Psychology

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Title: The Impact of Preservice Trauma on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Symptomatology in U.S. Marine Corps Reservists

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The identification of predictors for combat-related PTSD has been a subject of scientific inquiry for decades. Using a sample of United States Marine Corps Reservists (N=121), this study investigated whether trauma prior to military enlistment could be a predictor for symptomatology and severity of combat-related PTSD, depression, and alcohol abuse. Results did not indicate any significant differences in PTSD, depression, and alcohol abuse symptomatology between Marines who have experienced pre-military trauma and those who have not, although many of the mean scores were found to be in the hypothesized direction. The implications of these findings on future research are discussed.