

As counseling psychologists, providing services to military service members as well as their families requires unique training that may not necessarily be covered in programs geared toward working with civilian populations. The military is a distinct culture unto itself, replete with its own unique stressors, language, interests, and collective goals. Furthermore, there are vast ethnic and cultural differences found within the body of military service members and their families. In keeping with counseling psychology's goal of multicultural awareness and competence, this presentation will consider the body of military service members and their families as a distinct culture and elucidate some of the necessary training and considerations that are required for counselors to work toward awareness and competence.

Rationale: Counseling psychologists working with military personnel need specific training and competence because of the distinct military culture.

Methods: Literature review of the current research conducted regarding this issue.

Data analysis: Summary of the current research specific to competencies necessary for psychologists working in the military.

Results: Specific competencies necessary for psychologists who work within the military culture are identified and defined.

Discussion: Implications for psychologists working with military personnel are listed.