Deceptive Practices: The Issue of "Bullying-to-Suicide" in the U.S. Army

Brian V. Laws

Department of Anthropology, IU School of Liberal Arts

The United States Department of Defense reported that 182 active—duty Army soldiers took their own lives in 2012. Several key factors contributing to this high rate of suicide, such as Post-traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSD) and depression and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) have been intensely researched. This poster represents exploratory research on the issue of suicide in the military; paying particular attention to the practice of informal negative sanctions. Data on this issue was obtained from numerous articles, reports and qualitative interviews conducted with active-duty Army personnel and recently separated Army veterans. This study not only describes war's impact on human's mental health and the hidden realities of Army life. It additionally assesses how interpersonal procedures operate on different ranges.

Mentor: Wendy A. Vogt, Department of Anthropology, IU School of Liberal Arts, IUPUI