

join and ultimately separate from military service. The process of leaving military service and resuming life as a civilian is called reintegration (Elnitsky et al., 2017). Prior to this study, research had not yet investigated trans veterans' reintegration experiences.

Trans veterans may encounter unique changes during reintegration, e.g., in cultural identification, values, and behaviors within and across challenging military and civilian sociopolitical contexts which are associated with acculturative processes (Cicognani et al., 2018; Sam & Berry, 2006; Schwartz et al., 2010; Trivette, 2010). Gaining insight about reintegration experiences can promote understanding of difficulties encountered by, and inform development of supportive interventions for, trans veterans (Ahern et al., 2015).

This qualitative research study asked: What is the lived experience of U.S. trans veterans' cultural reintegration from life in military society to life in civilian society?

Method

Participants completed **(1)** a Qualtrics demographic survey, and **(2)** two semi-structured video interviews lasting 60-90 minutes via Zoom and Skype. The first interview asked questions regarding the reintegration experience, advice for reintegrating trans veterans, and recommendations for reintegration service providers; the second interview asked questions regarding the military culture(s) and civilian culture(s) relevant to the participant. Participants were compensated with an \$15 electronic VISA gift card per interview completed.

NVivo was used to develop codes, categories, and themes, resulting in a composite description of the experiential essence including "what" participants experienced (i.e., textural description) and "how" they experienced it (i.e., structural description). Then, a composite description was created to represent the essence of the reintegration phenomenon for trans veterans.

3	Trans man	White	35-40	Army	E-4	1-5	Voluntary, Medical, involuntary
4	Transgender man	White	25-30	Marine Corps	E-5	1-5	Honorable, voluntary
5	Trans woman	White	30-35	Army, Air Force	E-4	1-5	Honorable, involuntary
6	Trans man	White	45-50	Army	E-5	25-30	Retired
7	Transman	Black/European	25-30	Air Force	E-4	5-10	Honorable, voluntary
8	Woman (soft butch)	White	25-30	Army	E-4	1-5	Honorable, involuntary

