



National Center for
PTSD

POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

Combat Exposure Scale

Version date: 1989

Reference: Keane, T., Fairbank, J., Caddell, J., Zimering, R., Taylor, K., & Mora, C. (1989). *The Combat Exposure Scale (CES)*. [Measurement instrument]. Available from <http://www.ptsd.va.gov>

URL: <http://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/assessment/te-measures/ces.asp>

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Combat Exposure Scale

Please circle the number above the answer that best describes your experience.

- 1) Did you ever go on combat patrols or have other dangerous duty?
- | | | | | |
|----|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| No | 1-3 times | 4-12 times | 13-50 times | 51+ times |

- 2) Were you ever under enemy fire?
- | | | | | |
|-------|----------|------------|------------|-----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Never | <1 month | 1-3 months | 4-6 months | 7+ months |

- 3) Were you ever surrounded by the enemy?
- | | | | | |
|----|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| No | 1-2 times | 3-12 times | 13-25 times | 26+ times |

- 4) What percentage of the soldiers in your unit were killed (KIA), wounded or missing in action (MIA)?
- | | | | | |
|------|-------|--------|--------|-------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| None | 1-25% | 26-50% | 51-75% | 76% or more |

- 5) How often did you fire rounds at the enemy?
- | | | | | |
|-------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Never | 1-2 times | 3-12 times | 13-50 times | 51+ times |

- 6) How often did you see someone hit by incoming or outgoing rounds?
- | | | | | |
|-------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Never | 1-2 times | 3-12 times | 13-50 times | 51+ times |

- 7) How often were you in danger of being injured or killed (i.e., being pinned down, overrun, ambushed, near miss, etc.)?
- | | | | | |
|-------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Never | 1-2 times | 3-12 times | 13-50 times | 51+ times |

Combat Exposure Scale Scoring Sheet

Answers (raw scores) on the Combat Exposure Scale can range from 1 to 5. However, the scoring of the items requires the conversions described below:

- 1) SUBTRACT 1 FROM THE RAW SCORE AND MULTIPLY BY 2
(e.g., a raw score of 4 becomes a converted score of 6). _____ (Item 1 converted score)

- 2) SUBTRACT 1 FROM THE RAW SCORE
(e.g., a raw score of 4 becomes a converted score of 3). _____ (Item 2 converted score)

- 3) IF THE RAW SCORE IS BETWEEN 1 AND 4:
SUBTRACT 1 FROM THE RAW SCORE AND MULTIPLY BY 2
(e.g., a raw score of 4 becomes a converted score of 6).

IF THE RAW SCORE IS 5:
SUBTRACT 2 FROM THE RAW SCORE AND MULTIPLY BY 2
(e.g., a raw score of 5 becomes a converted score of 6). _____ (Item 3 converted score)

- 4) IF THE RAW SCORE IS BETWEEN 1 AND 4:
SUBTRACT 1 FROM THE RAW SCORE
(e.g., a raw score of 4 becomes a converted score of 3).

IF THE RAW SCORE IS 5:
SUBTRACT 2 FROM THE RAW SCORE
(e.g., a raw score of 5 becomes a converted score of 3). _____ (Item 4 converted score)

- 5) SUBTRACT 1 FROM THE RAW SCORE
(e.g., a raw score of 4 becomes a converted score of 3). _____ (Item 5 converted score)

- 6) SUBTRACT 1 FROM THE RAW SCORE AND MULTIPLY BY 2
(e.g., a raw score of 4 becomes a converted score of 6). _____ (Item 6 converted score)

- 7) SUBTRACT 1 FROM THE RAW SCORE AND MULTIPLY BY 2
(e.g., a raw score of 4 becomes a converted score of 6). _____ (Item 7 converted score)

ADD ALL CONVERTED SCORES TO OBTAIN A TOTAL SCORE: _____ **(TOTAL SCORE)**

The total exposure to combat score can be categorized according to the following scale:

1 = 0-8 light

2 = 9-16 light - moderate

3 = 17-24 moderate

4 = 25-32 moderate - heavy

5 = 33-41 heavy