

Resilience and Vulnerability: The Experiences of Military Families and Veterans Through Their Own Eyes

Jay A. Mancini, PhD

The University of Georgia

Thursday, April 7, 2011 ❖ 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

at Bryn Mawr College,

Dalton Room 300, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

Note room change !

Jay A. Mancini is the Haltiwanger Distinguished Professor at The University of Georgia and head of the Department of Child and Family Development. His work has focused on lifespan human development, community systems, building community capacity, military family support systems, time-use and families, and psychological well-being.



A resilience and vulnerability framework is accessed in order to more completely understand the experiences of military family members and Veterans. Four studies, all centered on verbatim accounts, elaborate different aspects of how military life is experienced. Their lives through their own eyes are organized into themes that capture elements of resilience and vulnerability and their intersections. Among the themes are: interrupted relationships; identity and connections; new pathways and



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uncertainty; looking inward and moving on; limits of personal experience; and, locations in the family. These accounts are presented within the contexts of the critical issues military families face. This presentation concludes with a discussion of "over the horizon" research, including the importance of differentiating between normative changes in youth and those changes related to deployment, and implications for supporting military families, including building community capacity.

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