Reviewer's report

Title: The Peritraumatic Behavior Questionnaire: Development and initial validation of a new measure for combat-related peritraumatic reactions

Version: 1 Date: 30 November 2012

Reviewer: Thomas Ehring

Reviewer's report:

The authors have generally been very responsive to the comments from the first round of reviews, and the manuscript has improved considerably as a consequence.

There are only a few issues remaining that should be addressed before publication of the manuscript is warranted.

Minor essential revisions
(1) Please move the section on "Participants" to the very beginning of your method section.
(2) The factor analysis is reported at the end of the Results section. I think that it would be much more meaningful to move it to the beginning of the Results section and then report all following analyses for the total score as well as the subscale scores.
(3) Participants with prior deployment were excluded from the analyses testing the validity of the new measure. Although I understand this decision on methodological grounds, I think that it severely limits the practical usefulness of the measure. It appears to me that it does not make much sense to develop a measure that can only be used to assess peritraumatic responses in personnel on their first deployment. In fact, I imagine that you would want the questionnaire to be useful to all individuals being deployed. I therefore strongly recommend that the authors report all analyses twice; first, using the whole sample, and second, using the subsample without prior deployment.

Discretionary revisions
(4) p. 7, line 12: should be 'questionnaire' instead of 'questionnaires'.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.