Reviewer's report

Title: Do adverse childhood experiences increase the risk of postdeployment posttraumatic stress disorder in US Marines?

Version: 2 Date: 12 May 2010

Reviewer: Matthew Jakupcak

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I have read the authors' response to my previous review and the feedback of the other two reviewers. The authors have adequately addressed my previous concerns, now providing greater context for the current study of ACE in relationship to post deployment PTSD and more clearly detailing the RAP from which the data was gathered. One remaining suggestion, although not critical, is detailed below:

Because two of the three reviewers noted the limitations of using the proxy of combat exposure (months deployed), I would suggest that the authors provide some citation justifying their position that "....exposure would have been similar as they all had recently finished recruit training and were deployed for the first time." The Hoge et al., 2004 paper showed high rates of overall exposure among Marines (although there was greater variability reported across various types of specific combat stressors) —citing this might help to address this point for readers.