

# **PTG\_T Consent Form Phase I Online Survey**

## **TITLE OF PROJECT**

Posttraumatic Growth and Transformation in Military-Connected Populations

## **RESEARCH TEAM**

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## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS RESEARCH PROJECT**

The purpose of this research study is to better understand the factors, elements and turning points that contribute to a military loss or trauma becoming a personal posttraumatic growth experience that results in a transformation outcome of helping others. In other words, a transformation outcome creates a ripple effect of paying it forward in service to one's community through helping others. An additional purpose of the study is to educate others to the power of posttraumatic growth and transformation outcomes through identifying factors that foster hope, growth, and purpose.

You can choose to participate in this research study if you are: 1) over 18 years old, 2) are a member of a military-connected population (i.e., Service Member, Reservist, National Guard member, Veteran, or family member, 3) have directly or indirectly experienced a loss or trauma that is military-related, 4) have transformed your trauma into a personal growth experience and transformation outcome of helping others and 5) and have at least 2 years from last traumatic experience.

You might choose to participate in this study if you want to contribute your perspective and experience to a scientific study of posttraumatic transformation. However, you may not want to participate in this study if you feel uncomfortable sharing your personal experiences with others

This study has been reviewed and approved by an Institutional Review Board (IRB). An IRB is an ethics committee that reviews research with the goal of protecting the

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rights and welfare of human research subjects. Your most important right as a human subject is informed consent. You should take your time to consider the information provided by this form and the research team and ask questions about anything you do not fully understand before making your decision about participating.

In the online survey, you will be asked questions about your background, military connection, health, psychological symptoms, loss/trauma, posttraumatic growth, resilience, and factors affecting your personal growth.

### **TIME COMMITMENT**

You will be asked to complete an anonymous online survey through QuestionPro, lasting approximately 10-15 minutes. At the end of the survey, we will ask if you would be willing to participate in an optional confidential follow-up interview to answer additional questions about your responses. You do not have to participate in the follow-up interview to participate in the survey. If you would like to participate in a follow up interview, we will ask that you provide an email or phone number where we can contact you. Alternatively, you may email us at [PTG\\_T@uta.edu](mailto:PTG_T@uta.edu) to let us know you are interested in participating in a follow-up interview. If you are selected for an interview, it will last approximately 45 to 120 minutes. Interviews will be face-to-face in MS TEAMS. Instructions will be provided in setting up access to TEAMS on your computer or tablet.

### **RESEARCH PROCEDURES**

If you decide to participate in this research study, this is the list of activities that we will ask you to perform as part of the research:

- Read through this Informed Consent and make sure that any questions you may have are answered. Next, make a choice whether or not to participate.
- If you agree to participate, you will be presented with survey questions.
- At the end of the survey questions, indicate whether or not you would be willing to participate in a follow-up interview and provide an email and/or phone number.
- If you are selected for a follow-up interview, you will be notified via email. Respond to the email indicating your preferred date and time for your virtual MS Teams interview.

### **POSSIBLE BENEFITS**

There are no direct benefits to you as a participant. You may receive personal satisfaction for contributing to the knowledge about the experience of posttraumatic growth and transformation outcomes.

### **POSSIBLE RISKS/DISCOMFORTS**

You may experience emotional discomfort when talking about your trauma, posttraumatic transformation outcomes and/or experiences. You have the right to

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not answer questions and you may stop and/or exit the survey/interview at any time.

### **COMPENSATION**

If you complete the survey and are willing to provide your name, phone number, and email address, we will enter you into a drawing to win a \$100 Amazon gift card. If you are selected and complete a follow-up interview and provide an email address, a \$25 Amazon gift card will be emailed to you. You may choose to participate in the interview without providing an address and waive the right to receive a \$25 Amazon gift card.

### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

There are no alternative procedures offered for this research survey study. Your participation is voluntary. You may choose to withdraw at any time, or you may select not to answer some/all of the questions. You do not need to provide your name to complete the survey.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

The research team is committed to protecting your rights and privacy as a research subject. All electronic data collected from this study will be stored in a secure location on the UTA campus and/or a secure UTA server for at least three (3) years after the end of this research. A copy of this signed consent form and all data collected will be stored in the UTA School of Social Work office of Dr. Donna Schuman for at least three (3) years after the end of this research. The results of this study may be published and/or presented without naming you as a participant. The data collected about you for this study may be used for future research studies that are not described in this consent form. If that occurs, an IRB will first evaluate to ensure there is no information that is identifiable to you, and that all confidentiality protection would be maintained.

While absolute confidentiality cannot be guaranteed, the research team will make every effort to protect the confidentiality of your records as described here and to the extent permitted by law. In addition to the research team, the following entities may have access to your records, but only on a need-to-know basis: the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the FDA (federal regulating agencies), the reviewing IRB, and sponsors of the study.

### **CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS**

Questions about this research study or reports regarding an injury or other problem may be directed to Dayton Williams, School of Social work, University of Texas at Arlington [PTG\\_T@uta.edu](mailto:PTG_T@uta.edu) or 469-364-9403. You may also learn more about this research project at our website by clicking [here](#). Any questions you may have about your rights as a research subject or complaints about the research may be directed to the Office of Research Administration; Regulatory Services at 817-272-3723 or [regulatoryservices@uta.edu](mailto:regulatoryservices@uta.edu).

### **CONSENT**

By signing this form, you are confirming that you understand the study's purpose,

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procedures, potential risks, and your rights as a research subject. By agreeing to participate, you are not waiving any of your legal rights. You can refuse to participate or discontinue participation at any time, with no penalty or loss of benefits that you would ordinarily have. Please click "I agree" if you are at least 18

years of age and voluntarily agree to participate in this study. If you do not wish to participate, you may exit the survey at this time by closing it.

\_\_\_\_\_ **I Agree (date)**

*\*You may save a copy of this consent form to keep for your records.*

*\*You may download a copy of this consent form from the study website by clicking [here](#) to keep for your records.*