

**Translational Research Group
Marine Corps University
Senior Noncommissioned Officer Advanced Degree Proof of Concept Project
(Enlisted Marine Education Project)**

**Notice of Data Availability in Qualitative Data Repository
June 2020**

Project Location in Repository: <https://doi.org/10.5064/F6AHDREQ>

Translational Research Group Background:

The Translational Research Group (TRG) was a multidisciplinary group of social scientists within the U.S. Marine Corps' culture center that focused on providing cultural, regional, and language education and training. TRG operated from 2010 through June 2020. Its work was balanced between two core functions. Its primary function was to conduct social science research on Marines and Marine Corps organizations and provide scientific advising to Marine Corps leaders. It also supported the culture center by providing conceptual guidance for education and training and by running the center's assessment program to evaluate the effectiveness of the center's activities. The group's director was the cultural anthropologist, Kerry Foshier (<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9421-9243>). Additional information about the group can be found in two articles:

- Foshier, K. 2018. Field Report: Implementing a Social Science Capability in a Marine Corps Organization. *Journal of Business Anthropology*. Spring. 7(1):133-152. <https://doi.org/10.22439/jba.v7i1.5495>.
- Foshier, K. et al. 2020. Translational Research in a Military Organization: The Marine Corps Organizational Culture Research Project. *Annals of Anthropological Practice*. May. 44(1):14-32. <https://doi.org/10.1111/napa.12130>.

Qualitative Data Repository (QDR) Information:

The [QDR](#) is an archive for storing and sharing data and associated materials from qualitative and mixed methods projects. It is hosted by the [Center for Qualitative and Multi-Method Inquiry](#), a unit of the [Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs](#) at [Syracuse University](#). Users do not have to have an institutional membership agreement to access materials on the QDR, but do need to sign up for a free account.

Project Background:

The Senior Noncommissioned Officer (SNCO) Advanced Degree Proof of Concept Project was developed after several U.S. Marine Corps organizations voiced requirements for enlisted Marines with advanced degrees but lacked a means to formalize the requirement or create the capability. The Marine Corps decided to initiate a proof of concept within Enlisted Professional Military Education (EPME) to assess the impact on organizational ability to accomplish mission and the potential return on investment of placing such capabilities within the enlisted force in select organizations to determine if the Marine Corps should institutionalize its investment in SNCO advanced education. This project was determined to not be human subjects research by the Marine Corps Human Research Protection Program. Note that this was an early project from TRG and not all data or project information was available at the time of deposit in the QDR. A more detailed project overview is available in the applied report in the QDR at <https://doi.org/10.5064/F6AHDREQ/A7RFMJ>.

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Data and Supplementary Material Overview:

This dataset comprises 19 interview transcripts. Interviews were of varying length and were conducted in 2012 in and around Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia. Participants included Marine officers, enlisted Marines, and civilian employees within the Marine Corps' enlisted education program. Also included in the archive are a project overview, an project report, and the original human subjects protection documentation. All data and materials are publicly available on the QDR.

Methods:

TRG reviewed various doctrinal, policy, and programmatic documents for context and reference and conducted semi-structured interviews with each of the project participants during February and March 2012.

Recruitment and Sample:

Enlisted Professional Military Education (EPME) leadership provided the names and contact information of potential participants in the research. TRG researchers conducted a total of 19 interviews. Transcripts were not marked with the characteristics of the interviewees, such as rank, sex, age, etc. and those characteristics were not available in any of the project documentation. Interviewees were categorized as follows: EPME leadership (civilian and uniformed), Team members (civilians), SNCOs with high school or some college, SNCOs with bachelor's degrees, and SNCOs with master's degrees in the field of education.

Interview Location and Length:

Interviews were conducted by two researchers at Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia. Each interview was tentatively scheduled for one hour, but actual length varied based on the interviewees' preference.

Dataset:

This dataset comprises 19 interview transcripts as follows:

- EPME leadership: four individuals (two civilian, two officers)
- Civilian team members: four individuals
- SNCOs with high school or some college: two individuals
- SNCOs with bachelor's degrees: six individuals
- SNCOs with master's degrees in the field of education: three individuals

Data Processing:

All audio files were transcribed by an outside service. TRG researchers did a secondary review of each transcript and audio file to correct acronyms and mis-transcribed Marine references and remove names of interviewees. All raw data, code keys, and participant contact information have been destroyed.

Topics:

Discussions generally covered participant perceptions of the roles of SNCOs in EPME and perceptions of the importance of advanced education.

Additional Materials:

The documentation associated with this project includes human subjects review documentation and a public domain project report.

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