Combat Exposure Scale

**Version date:** 1989


**URL:** [http://www ptsd.va.gov/professional/assessment/te-measures/ces.asp](http://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/assessment/te-measures/ces.asp)
## Combat Exposure Scale

Please circle the number above the answer that best describes your experience.

1) Did you ever go on combat patrols or have other dangerous duty?
   - 1: No
   - 2: 1-3 times
   - 3: 4-12 times
   - 4: 13-50 times
   - 5: 51+ times

2) Were you ever under enemy fire?
   - 1: Never
   - 2: <1 month
   - 3: 1-3 months
   - 4: 4-6 months
   - 5: 7+ months

3) Were you ever surrounded by the enemy?
   - 1: No
   - 2: 1-2 times
   - 3: 3-12 times
   - 4: 13-25 times
   - 5: 26+ times

4) What percentage of the soldiers in your unit were killed (KIA), wounded or missing in action (MIA)?
   - 1: None
   - 2: 1-25%
   - 3: 26-50%
   - 4: 51-75%
   - 5: 76% or more

5) How often did you fire rounds at the enemy?
   - 1: Never
   - 2: 1-2 times
   - 3: 3-12 times
   - 4: 13-50 times
   - 5: 51+ times

6) How often did you see someone hit by incoming or outgoing rounds?
   - 1: Never
   - 2: 1-2 times
   - 3: 3-12 times
   - 4: 13-50 times
   - 5: 51+ times

7) How often were you in danger of being injured or killed (i.e., being pinned down, overrun, ambushed, near miss, etc.)?
   - 1: Never
   - 2: 1-2 times
   - 3: 3-12 times
   - 4: 13-50 times
   - 5: 51+ times
Combat Exposure Scale Scoring Sheet

Answers (raw scores) on the Combat Exposure Scale can range from 1 to 5. However, the scoring of the items requires the conversions described below:

1) **SUBTRACT 1 FROM THE RAW SCORE AND MULTIPLY BY 2**
   (e.g., a raw score of 4 becomes a converted score of 6).
   _________ (Item 1 converted score)

2) **SUBTRACT 1 FROM THE RAW SCORE**
   (e.g., a raw score of 4 becomes a converted score of 3).
   _________ (Item 2 converted score)

3) **IF THE RAW SCORE IS BETWEEN 1 AND 4:**
   **SUBTRACT 1 FROM THE RAW SCORE AND MULTIPLY BY 2**
   (e.g., a raw score of 4 becomes a converted score of 6).
   **IF THE RAW SCORE IS 5:**
   **SUBTRACT 2 FROM THE RAW SCORE AND MULTIPLY BY 2**
   (e.g., a raw score of 5 becomes a converted score of 6).
   _________ (Item 3 converted score)

4) **IF THE RAW SCORE IS BETWEEN 1 AND 4:**
   **SUBTRACT 1 FROM THE RAW SCORE**
   (e.g., a raw score of 4 becomes a converted score of 3).
   **IF THE RAW SCORE IS 5:**
   **SUBTRACT 2 FROM THE RAW SCORE**
   (e.g., a raw score of 5 becomes a converted score of 3).
   _________ (Item 4 converted score)

5) **SUBTRACT 1 FROM THE RAW SCORE**
   (e.g., a raw score of 4 becomes a converted score of 3).
   _________ (Item 5 converted score)

6) **SUBTRACT 1 FROM THE RAW SCORE AND MULTIPLY BY 2**
   (e.g., a raw score of 4 becomes a converted score of 6).
   _________ (Item 6 converted score)

7) **SUBTRACT 1 FROM THE RAW SCORE AND MULTIPLY BY 2**
   (e.g., a raw score of 4 becomes a converted score of 6).
   _________ (Item 7 converted score)

**ADD ALL CONVERTED SCORES TO OBTAIN A TOTAL SCORE:**
   _________ (TOTAL SCORE)

The total exposure to combat score can be categorized according to the following scale:

- 1 = 0-8 light
- 2 = 9-16 light - moderate
- 3 = 17-24 moderate
- 4 = 25-32 moderate - heavy
- 5 = 33-41 heavy