

Table of Contents

	Page
Acknowledgments	i
Abstract	iii
List of Tables	x
Chapter I	
Introduction	1
Research Question	1
Background	2
Disasters	3
Humanitarian Missions	5
Austere Health Care	7
Significance	8
Methodological Considerations	9
Assumptions	10
Limitations	10
Presuppositions	11
Chapter II	
Review Of The Literature	12
Military Nursing Experiences	12
Leadership Challenges for Nurses	14
Challenges Identified	15
Decision Making	17
Moral Conflicts	19
Chapter III	
Methods Of The Study	22
Phenomenology	22
Disclosing Lived Experience	22
Worldview assumptions	22
Worldview characteristics	23
Phenomenology As Philosophy And Method	23
Inner perception and intentionality	24
Scientific rigor	24
Essences, intuiting and reduction	25
Intersubjectivity and lifeworld	25
The Work of Merleau-Ponty	26
Embodiment	26
Perception	27
Bracketing	27

Lived experience	28
Achieving balance	28
Rationale for Phenomenological Approach	29
Research Approach	30
Sample Selection Procedures	30
Criteria for selection	30
Selection strategies	30
Data Collection Procedures	31
Interview preparation	31
Interview process	32
Core questions	33
Additional considerations	33
Data Analysis Procedures	34
Transcript management	34
Approaches to analysis	34
Procedural steps	34
Trustworthiness	37
Credibility	37
Prolonged engagement and trust	37
Potential distortions and persistent observation	38
Triangulation	38
Peer debrief and participant check	38
Other Elements of Trustworthiness	39
Final Review	40
Human Subjects Considerations	40

Chapter IV

Findings of the Study	41
Description of the Sample	41
Fundamental Structure	42
Preparing	42
Notification	42
Urgency, packing and gathering information	45
Picking people	46
Previous experience	47
Arriving	48
Getting here	48
Initial arrangements	48
Natural and hostile environmental factors	50
Orientation and setting up	51
First casualties	53

Living	54
Communal living	54
Daily living and elements of life	55
Humor and little luxuries	57
Boredom and problems from home	59
Opportunities	61
Cultural differences	62
Human responses and danger	63
Working	65
Challenges and language barriers	65
Daily routine	67
Logistics and improvization	68
Additional duties and staffing mix	72
Population diversity and patient conditions	73
Dangerous environment and bunkers	77
Practice standards	79
Competency and translating into different environments	80
Leaving	82
Looking back	82
Saying goodbye and closing down	83
Lessons learned and next time	84
Going home	86
Essential Themes	86
Paradoxes	86
High tech/low tech	86
Luxuries and necessities	88
Irony and parallel realities	90
Leading	91
Greater than the sum of the parts	91
Role identity and role confusion	93
Coming together and building trust	94
Concerns for the welfare	97
Living in community	99
Helping to understand	101
Responsibilities	102
Communication	104
Staffing	106
Making decisions	108
Pride	109
Caring	111
A way of being	111
Being present	112
Compassion	113
Supporting each other	115
Support received	117
Lack of support	119

Doing their best	119
Profound experiences	121
Knowing	121
Ways of knowing	121
Previous knowledge	122
Uncertainty	124
Possibilities and probabilities	126
Moral distress	127
Understanding	130
True military	133
Fullness of two professions	133
From rehearsals to opening night	134
The big picture and defining moments	135
Willing to go again	136
Comprehensive Description of the Experience	136
The Existential Themes	137
Lived Space	138
Lived Body	142
Lived Other	146
Lived Time	149

Chapter V

Discussion of the Findings	154
Integration of Findings	154
Integration of Meaning	155
Authenticity	155
Imaginative Awareness	157
Pride	159
The Unity of Meaning	160
Context of the Literature	160
Chief Nurses' Responses to the Research Process	164
Commitment to the Study	165
Commitment to the Interview	165
Implications of the Findings	166
Significance to Nursing	166
Implications	166
Education	166
Policy Development	167
Administrative Practice	167

	Chapter VI	
Summary of the Study and Recommendations		169
Summary of the Study		169
Research Approach		169
Research Conclusions		170
Recommendations		172
References		174
	Appendix A	
Air Force Approval Letter		182
	Appendix B	
IRB Approval Letter		183
	Appendix C	
Letter of Invitation to Participants		184
	Appendix D	
Consent Form		186
	Appendix E	
Demographic Data		188
	Appendix F	
Followup Letter		189