**Description**

The Combat Exposure Scale (CES) is a 7-item self-report measure that assesses wartime stressors experienced by combatants. Items are rated on a 5-point frequency (1 = "no" or "never" to 5 = "26+ times" or "51+ times"), 5-point duration (1 = "never" to 5 = "7+ months"), or 45-point degree of loss (1 = "none" to 45 = "76% or more") scale.

Respondents are asked to reply based on their exposure to various combat situations, such as firing rounds at the enemy and being on dangerous duty.

**Administration and Scoring**

The CES was developed to be easily administered and scored and is useful in both research and clinical settings. The total CES score (ranging from 0 - 41) is calculated by using a sum of weighted scores, which can be classified into one of five categories of combat exposure ranging from "light" to "heavy." Scoring instructions are included with the measure.

Sample Item

* **Item:** Were you ever surrounded by the enemy?
* **Response:** 5-point frequency (1 = "no" to 5 = "26+ times")

**References**

Keane, T.M., Fairbank, J.A., Caddell, J.M., Zimering, R.T., Taylor, K.L., & Mora, C. (1989). [Clinical evaluation of a measure to assess combat exposure](https://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/articles/article-pdf/id01555.pdf) (PDF). *Psychological Assessment, 1*, 53-55. doi: 10.1037/1040-3590.1.1.53 PTSDpubs ID: 01555