## Contents

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**CHAPTER 1**

7
Introduction: Identity Reconstruction in Transition from Military to Civilian Life 7
1.1 Military cultures shape military identities 7
1.2 Transition from military to civilian life: The need of new identities 14
1.3 Review on self-identity work in transition from military to civilian life 18
1.4 The purpose of the PhD project, research question, contributions, and limitations 23
1.5 An overview of the dissertation 24

**CHAPTER 2**

28
Defining the Theological Features of this Project 28
2.1 An interdisciplinary approach 28
2.2 Context specific considerations for theological theory building 29
2.3 Lived religion, ordinary theology, and implicit religion 30
2.4 Correlational and critical theology 34
2.5 Defining the existential features of the study 36

**CHAPTER 3**

39
Narrative Identity and a Dialogical Self 39
3.1 Meaning through a narrative thought mode 39
3.2 A narrative approach to identity and self 40
3.3 The development of a self as a dialogical narrator 42
3.4 Dialogical Self Theory 44
3.5 Some key concepts of a dialogical self 46
3.6 Transition: A crisis or a process of adaptation 48
3.7 A narrative methodology embedded within the dialogical framework 51
3.8 Assessment of DST’s application to this chapter 55

**CHAPTER 4**

57
Method 57
4.1 Purpose, relevance, and research question 57
4.2 A qualitative, narrative, and longitudinal approach 59
4.3 The researcher’s positions 62
4.4 Methodology of the project: Sampling, participants, and interview design 65
4.5 Interview Methodology 70
4.6 Material of analysis 72
4.7 The process of analysis 73
4.8 Criteria to assess research 77

**CHAPTER 5**

81
Experiences of Swedish Military Personnel in Transition to Civilian Life 81
5.1 Common themes for leaving 82
5.2 Common themes found within transitional experiences 86
5.3 The transitional paths encountered across time 101

**CHAPTER 6**

107
How is Identity Constructed and Reconstructed in the Transition 107
6.1 A case study portrait of identity reconstruction in a full transition to civilian life 108
6.2 A case study portrait of self-identity work on a path of hybrid outcome 115
6.3 A case study portrait of military identity renewal via full return to military service 122
6.4 The dynamics of transition from military cultures to alternate ones

CHAPTER 7
Existential and Religious Elements in the Process
7.1 Shared themes found within the process
7.2 Divergent themes found between paths
7.3 Themes of sacrifices
7.4 The theme of nature
7.5 Religious/spiritual themes

CHAPTER 8
Investigating the Influence of the Interviews
8.1 Assisting the participants’ self-reflection
8.2 A full transition to civilian life (six participants)
8.3 A hybrid outcome of transition (nine participants)
8.4 A full return to military service (four participants)

CHAPTER 9
A Theological Theory on Transition from Military to Civilian Life
9.1 Potential advantages of practical theology
9.2 A theological perspective on military communal life and service
9.3 The concept of spiritual depth of life
9.4 Transition from military to civilian life as a period of estrangement from civilian world
9.5 Potential avenues to alternate spiritual depths of life
9.6 The old being and the new being of the self
9.7 The calling to friendship

CHAPTER 10
Conclusions
10.1 Lessons learned
10.2 Possible routes for future development
10.3 The evolution of the PhD project
10.4 Limitations and contributions of the study

Summary

APPENDIX I
APPENDIX II
APPENDIX III
APPENDIX IV
BIBLIOGRAPHY
BIOGRAPHY