

Referee report

"The Impact of Military Work Experience on Later Hiring Chances in the Civilian Labour Market. Evidence from a Field Experiment."

I think that the paper is well written and is clear in form. The research question is clearly formulated and I think the empirical method is in accordance with previous studies. A general comment is that the paper lacks a solid foundation in the defence economics literature. I get the impression that the authors are not foremost interested in defence economics but see military experience as a nice topic for an experimental study. My comments on the paper are listed below. 1) The authors state that previous studies suffer from selection bias and that studying employment chances instead of wages is therefore fruitful. I do not understand this argument. Furthermore, there are several studies that make use of register data in a way that training/service effect can be identified. This is poorly discussed in the paper. 2) The authors state that researchers using non-experimental data have less information compared to employers that make hiring decisions. I don't fully agree with this description. A number of studies use extensive register data covering education, grades, parental characteristics, enlistment test, etc. 3) One concern is whether they can state that there is no difference between civil and military experience? I guess that there are many applications for each vacancy and there is no information about other applicants and their characteristics. This must introduce some bias in the results? The active troops consist of approximately 30,000 men. Consequently, the share of men within a cohort with military experience should be relatively small? I'm not so familiar with the experimental literature but maybe this should be discussed? 4) Overall, regarding the large literature on military experience and labour market outcomes, I do not think the paper makes a significant contribution to the literature and I think it's questionable whether the paper should be published.