**Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Interviewees (N=22)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Gender** | **Male**  **Female** | **14% (N=3)**  **86% (N=19)** |
| **Average age** | **During military service**  **At time of interview** | **25.5 years**  **69 years** |
| **Marital status during deployment** | **Single**  **Married** | **19 (86%)**  **3 (14%)** |
| **Military status during deployment** | **Civilian reserve nurse**  **Mandatory military nurse** | **20 (91%)**  **2 (9%)** |
| **Clinical setting belonging** | **ICU**  **Emergency Department**  **Operating Room** | **5 (23%)**  **7 (32%)**  **10 (45%)** |
| **Years of critical care nursing experience** | **During deployment**  **Total after deployment** | **4.4 years**  **22.4 years** |

**Table 2: Themes and Subthemes that Emerged in the Study**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Main Themes | Subthemes |
| Field Service Challenges | * War service without military experience * Water supply and difficulties in maintaining bodily hygiene * Exposure to harsh war scenes |
| Coping with Field Service Challenges | * Improvisation * Maintaining cohesive staff relationships * Emotional/Mental ventilation * Avoidance and denial |
| Nurses need for recognition of their contributions | * Organizational and management aspects * Contribution to helping the wounded * Expectation of acknowledgement and recognition from military and governmental authorities |