



US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

# BLAST INJURY RESEARCH PROGRAM COORDINATING OFFICE

## Risk Assessment and Surveillance

### Surveillance and Epidemiologic Analysis of Injuries among Deployed and Non-deployed Soldiers

Investigators at the Injury Prevention Program, USAPHC, conduct injury surveillance for the Army across the Army Force Generation cycle. The surveillance function of the Injury Prevention Program includes the systematic collection, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of injury data for the deployed and non-deployed Army populations. The Program's deployment injury surveillance activities use a combination of medical, air evacuation, casualty, and safety data to identify battle and non-battle injuries that result in death, in-theater hospitalization, or medical air evacuation from the theater. Annual surveillance reports describe injuries within the context of all medical encounters (both illness- and injury-related) to assess the overall impact of injuries in the Army. These reports also include the injury rates, trends, types, anatomic distributions, and causes for battle and non-battle injuries. Injuries that result from the effects of blast, such as TBI, urogenital injuries, and amputations, are included in these annual reports. The Injury Prevention Program also represented the USAPHC on USAMEDCOM's Complex Battle Injury Task Force and Council of Colonels, an effort which focused on identifying and implementing best practices to reduce the mortality and morbidity of blast-related injuries from IEDs. During FY14, the Injury Prevention Program provided updates to the Action Officer for the Complex Battle Injury Task Force at the Office of the Surgeon General on the number of battle-related amputations that were air evacuated from Central Command. A unique objective of the Program's deployment injury surveillance is to identify and classify the causes of non-battle injury that may be preventable; this is the only activity in DoD that routinely reports specific injury causes for non-battle injuries that did not require hospitalization. Accomplishments from the Injury Prevention Program contribute to the identification of risk factors for injuries (both battle and non-battle injuries) and support programs to reduce the injury risk among Service Members.