



US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

BLAST INJURY RESEARCH PROGRAM COORDINATING OFFICE

Threat Analysis

Surveillance of Battle from Blast-Related Causes during Operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, FY15

The Injury Prevention Program, USAPHC, conducted deployment injury surveillance for the Army during OEF (Afghanistan: October 2001 to December 2013) and OIF-New Dawn (Iraq: March 2003 to December 2011). This injury surveillance used a combination of medical, air evacuation, casualty, and safety data to identify and categorize the causes of battle and non-battle injuries among US Army Service Members. The Injury Prevention Program has continued the same level of surveillance for the ongoing operation in Afghanistan since December 2014 (Operation Freedom's Sentinel). During FY15, there were 563 medical evacuations from Afghanistan. Of these, 37 (6.7 percent) were for battle injuries. According to the narrative patient histories in the medical evacuation records, 14 of these battle injuries were blast-related (38 percent of battle injuries). By comparison, during the period October 2001 to December 2014, a higher percentage of all medical evacuations were for battle injuries (n=11,987; 17.2 percent), and 73.3 percent of these battle injuries were blast-related (includes mortars, grenades, and IEDs). The deployment injury surveillance conducted at the USAPHC has informed senior Army leaders of the overall impact of battle and non-battle injuries that required medical evacuation (17 percent and 36 percent, respectively, of all medical evacuations) from the Army Central Command. By coding and reporting causes of battle and non-battle injuries that required medical evacuation, greater attention has been given to the leading causes of both battle and non-battle injuries among deployed Service Members.