

Award Number: W81XWH-08-2-0105

TITLE: Deployment- Related Mild Traumatic Brain Injury (mTBI): Incidence Natural History and Predictors of Recovery in Soldiers Returning from OIF/OEF

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Karen Schwab, Ph.D.

CONTRACTING ORGANIZATION: The Henry M. Jackson Foundation
for the Advancement of Military Medicine
Rockville, MD 20852

REPORT DATE: May 2009

TYPE OF REPORT: Annual

PREPARED FOR: U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command
Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702-5012

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT: Approved for Public Release;
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REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

Form Approved
OMB No. 0704-0188

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing this collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports (0704-0188), 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number. **PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR FORM TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS.**

1. REPORT DATE (DD-MM-YYYY) 05/31/2009		2. REPORT TYPE Annual		3. DATES COVERED (From - To) 1 MAY 2008-30 APR 2009	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Deployment- Related Mild Traumatic Brain Injury (mTBI): Incidence Natural History and Predictors of Recovery in Soldiers Returning from OIF/OEF				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER W81XWH-08-2-0105	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S) Karen Schwab, Ph.D. *				5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
Go ckn"nctgp0ej y cdB co gff0to {0 kn				5e. TASK NUMBER	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) ÚãæÃÒæ^ã]ÁRÈÃÕá´←b~^ÁÔ~ ^ãá\↔~^ à~ãÁ\áæÃNã {á^´æ↑æ^Á~àÁR↔→\áã]ÁRæã↔´↔æ 'FcWjJ`YZA8`&\$,) &				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) US Army Medical Research and Material research Command Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702-5012				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES					
14. ABSTRACT No research findings are available at this time.					
15. SUBJECT TERMS Traumatic Brain Injury, Recovery, Incidence, Natural History, Soldiers,					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT UU	18. NUMBER OF PAGES 5	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON USAMRMC
a. REPORT U	b. ABSTRACT U	c. THIS PAGE U			19b. TELEPHONE NUMBER (include area code)

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Introduction

The overarching aim of this study is to describe the epidemiology, natural history, and prognostic predictors of mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI) in a well- defined cohort of recently- deployed soldiers at Fort Carson and Fort Bragg. This study will augment the ongoing surveillance and clinical efforts at these locations by expanding the post- deployment assessment of traumatic brain injury (TBI) and TBI- related exposures; identifying pre-existing and deployment- related exposures and comorbid conditions that may influence the risk or prognosis of mTBI-related sequelae; and re- assessing this cohort at three, six, and twelve months after deployment with the aim of determining the persistence of post-deployment symptoms and the degree to which these symptoms impact on military or civilian employment, including fitness for military duty, functional status, and quality of life.

Body

Award W81XWH-08-2-0105 was issued to the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine (HJF), effective 1 May 2008. The protocol review process is in its final stages. It was pre-reviewed by HRPO in February 2009 and HRPO recommendations were incorporated for review by local IRBs. The protocol for the Fort Bragg study site was approved by the WAMC IRB and CIRO on 22 April 2009. HJF signed a CRADA with CIRO on 12 May 2009 for the WAMC protocol. Final approval to start the study at Fort Bragg is expected from the WAMC IRB at any time. The protocol for the Fort Carson study site was approved by the BAMC IRB on 1 April 2009 contingent upon minor clarifications. These clarifications have been made and the protocol has been resubmitted to the BAMC IRB for review by CIRO.

Key Accomplishments

- All Quarterly Reports submitted on schedule, per (award) terms and conditions.
- Protocol for the Fort Bragg study site approved by local IRB and CIRO on 22 April 2009
- CRADA between HJF and CIRO signed on 12 May 2009 for the Fort Bragg protocol
- Protocol for the Fort Carson study site approved by local IRB on 1 April 2009 pending minor clarifications which have been made and resubmitted

Reportable Outcomes

No research findings are available at this time.

Conclusion

The following is a summary of key administrative/management actions during the reporting period:

- Award W81XWH-08-2-0105 issued to HJF, effective 1 May 2008.
- Staff required for the study at Fort Bragg have been hired and trained
- Recruitment of study staff at Fort Carson is currently underway

References

N/A at this time

Appendices

N/A at this time

Supporting Data

N/A at this time