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## Concussions: Sometimes a Helmet Isn't Enough!

Everyone has heard of Frank Gifford or Brett Farve, but no one knows SFC Jones or Private Smith. What do these people have in common? They all suffer from the chronic effects (read long term) resulting from impacts to their head. More commonly known as concussions, yet medically labeled Traumatic Brain Injuries, or TBI's.

Obviously TBI's occur on the football field, and they happen quite often in combat, but we don't often think about them in a training environment. In recent years, the Army, more specifically the leadership at Ft. Leonard Wood, has taken a keen interest in TBI's. The Army's Medical Research and Materiel Command (MRMC), attended the Ft. Leonard Wood TBI Symposium on 31 March 2016, then the TBI Summit the following day. While the Symposium focused on training for TBI's, the Summit brought in Missouri University researchers with interest in TBI's from around the state.

As a result of last year's Summit, the General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital (GLWACH) Command and the Medical Research and Materiel Command recognized the synergy of bringing researchers to the Post. There exists a significant body of work from entities such as the Chronic Effects on Neurotrauma Consortium but very little on Acute. (Read that as: a TBI just happened and what happens up to a year later). Thus was formed the **Acute** Effects of Neurotrauma Consortium (AENC). The MRMC joined forces with the Leonard Wood Institute and the Phelps County Regional Medical Center (PCRMC) and entered into a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement, (CRADA) which allows for research to be pursued, highly coordinated through the GLWACH. Further, the GLWACH and PCRMC are entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence to provide linkage to the training brigades.

On 12 April the researchers will gather again, this time hosted by the AENC at the Waynesville Medical Plaza, with a tour of the Post in the morning and formal meeting in the afternoon. During the tour, researchers will visit the breeching training area, the grenade range, MP Rollover simulators, confidence courses, repelling towers and several other venues, both basic and advanced training, where TBI's regularly occur. The focus of Acute research is on prevention, identification, and treatment, with the ultimate goal of taking better care of soldiers in training and possibly adapting training to prevent TBI's. After the tour, researchers will travel to the Waynesville Medical Plaza for the rest of the AENC meeting, learning about the process of conducting research via the AENC and hearing about other researchers who are preparing projects.

On the following day, 13 April, the GLWACH is hosting its annual TBI Symposium at the Main Post Chapel. The speakers for the 13<sup>th</sup> are almost all medical doctors, with presentations for other doctors, but also for the MSCoE senior leaders. "Concussions do not simply heal like other wounds" said Kenneth Reinhard of GLWACH's TBI office.



