



## Frequently Asked Questions About the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center

### Center Headquarters

Walter Reed Army Medical Center  
Washington, DC

### Lead Sites

Walter Reed Army Medical Center  
Washington, DC

Naval Medical Center San Diego  
San Diego, CA

Wilford Hall Medical Center/  
Brooke Army Medical Center  
Lackland Air Force Base/  
Fort Sam Houston, TX

James A. Haley Veterans Hospital  
Tampa, FL

Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center  
Minneapolis, MN

Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health  
Care System  
Palo Alto, CA

Hunter McGuire Veterans Affairs  
Medical Center  
Richmond, VA

Lakeview Virginia NeuroCare, Inc.  
Charlottesville, VA

Laurel Highlands Neuro-Rehabilitation Center  
Johnstown, PA

### Concussion Clinics

Fort Bragg, NC  
Camp Pendleton, CA

### Affiliated Sites:

Soldier Readiness Process (SRP) Site,  
Fort Carson, CO

Landstuhl Regional Medical Center,  
Germany  
Fort Bragg, NC

### What is the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC)?

DVBIC is a group of seven traumatic brain injury (TBI) programs in Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals and two civilian TBI community re-entry programs. These DVBIC sites work collaboratively to provide and improve TBI care for active duty military and reserve component military personnel, veterans, and their eligible beneficiaries.

Our goal is to provide expert care coordination and individualized, evidence-based treatment for each patient in order to maximize function and decrease or eliminate TBI-related disability. We work together to provide services and supports to help the individual with TBI return to duty, work and community.

### What are the risks and costs of traumatic brain injury (TBI) for military personnel and veterans?

- In prior conflicts, TBI was present in at least 14-20% of surviving combat casualties; preliminary information from the current conflict in the Middle East suggests that this number may be higher.
- In peacetime, over 7,000 Americans with TBI are admitted to military and veterans hospitals each year.
- TBI is a major cause of life-long disability and death.
- Certain military assignments, such as airborne operations or policing in combat areas, carry above average risk for TBI.
- Blast injuries are a growing cause of TBI in combat.

### How is DVBIC different from the National Institutes of Health and other brain injury research programs?

- DVBIC focuses on the well-being of those who put themselves in harm's way for our country.
- No other brain injury program conducts clinical studies with active duty and reserve component personnel.
- DVBIC offers specialized focus on the unique needs of military and veteran beneficiaries including return to duty considerations and continuity of care with military and veterans hospitals and TRICARE.

### What value is added to a site's TBI program from being a part of DVBIC?

Collaboration with DVBIC enhances a site's:

- communication among member programs
- patient care coordination
- clinical care practice
- provider, patient and family education capability
- funding for TBI research
- access to collaborators for multi-site studies
- knowledge of emerging technologies to enhance care



### Center Headquarters

Walter Reed Army Medical Center  
Washington, DC

### Lead Sites

Walter Reed Army Medical Center  
Washington, DC

Naval Medical Center San Diego  
San Diego, CA

Wilford Hall Medical Center/  
Brooke Army Medical Center  
Lackland Air Force Base/  
Fort Sam Houston, TX

James A. Haley Veterans Hospital  
Tampa, FL

Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center  
Minneapolis, MN

Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health  
Care System

Palo Alto, CA

Hunter McGuire Veterans Affairs  
Medical Center

Richmond, VA

Lakeview Virginia NeuroCare, Inc.  
Charlottesville, VA

Laurel Highlands Neuro-Rehabilitation Center  
Johnstown, PA

### Concussion Clinics

Fort Bragg, NC  
Camp Pendleton, CA

### Affiliated Sites:

Soldier Readiness Process (SRP) Site,  
Fort Carson, CO

Landstuhl Regional Medical Center,  
Germany  
Fort Bragg, NC

Other evaluations (i.e., neuro-ophthalmology, dental, ear/nose/throat (ENT), vestibular [balance] testing and treatment, psychiatry, etc.) may be obtained if a need for these services is identified. Treatment is based on individual goals in a multi-disciplinary team setting. Persons who require community re-entry rehabilitation in a residential setting can receive it at our civilian partner sites, Lakeview Virginia NeuroCare in Charlottesville, VA and Laurel Highlands Neuro-Rehabilitation Center in Johnstown, PA.

TBI education is available. Visit [DVBIC.org](http://DVBIC.org) for downloadable brochures and other resources.

### What type of care is available for persons with TBI through DVBIC sites?

Each facility provides brain injury evaluations. Each individual evaluated at a DVBIC site receives a comprehensive assessment and treatment that may include any of the following components:

- Neurological evaluation
- Neuropsychological interview
- Neuropsychological testing
- Psychiatric interview
- Medical/social history interview
- Audiology, EEG or MRI screening, as indicated

Additionally, persons admitted to inpatient TBI rehabilitation programs at a VA site receive:

- Physiatry assessment
- Occupational therapy
- Rehabilitation nursing
- Vocational assessment
- Other rehabilitative therapies as indicated
- Physical therapy
- Speech therapy
- Cognitive therapy
- Therapeutic recreation
- Psychology

### Do DVBIC sites provide a specific set of treatments or services?

TBI results in a broad range of physical, cognitive, behavioral, emotional and social challenges. DVBIC sites provide a consistent standard of clinical care and rehabilitation. At the same time, each person has an individualized plan of care that addresses his/her needs. Persons with TBI have access to ongoing DVBIC clinical research trials.

### Who can refer someone with TBI to DVBIC?

People with TBI who are served by TRI-CARE or VA benefits may be referred to DVBIC. Referrals are accepted from primary care and other physicians/health care providers, family members, and/or by self-referral.

### How can you refer a patient to DVBIC?

You can contact the sites directly to begin the referral process, which includes a review of all related medical documentation, or you may contact DVBIC headquarters at either 1-800-870-9244 or [info@dvbic.org](mailto:info@dvbic.org). Headquarters will direct your referral to the appropriate staff member.

### Where can one learn more about brain injury and DVBIC?

Visit [DVBIC.org](http://DVBIC.org) for updates on clinical treatment, research, and educational programs/materials available from DVBIC. Our web site also has numerous links to other brain injury web sites

**Call Toll Free for  
Information  
1-800-870-9244  
Or Visit our Web Site  
[www.DVBIC.org](http://www.DVBIC.org)**