



## The Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center Naval Medical Center San Diego



The DVBIC program at Naval Medical Center San Diego has been actively evaluating and caring for TBI patients since 1994. The DVBIC mission of providing clinical service while engaging in an active program of clinical research has been a consistent goal since the project's inception at NMCSN Neurosciences Department. DVBIC staff work closely with staff Neurosurgeons, Neurologists, Psychiatrists in managing TBI cases. The DVBIC staff also assists Fleet Medical Liaison, Marine Medical Liaison and individual commands to facilitate appropriate medical management of our patients. The DVBIC at NMCSN has a huge service area, which includes commands across the Western Hemisphere, including Japan, Hawaii, Guam and the western part of the United States. The DVBIC at NMCSN provides services to all branches of the military.

In 1996, the DVBIC at NMCSN was awarded additional funding for a study investigating mild TBI and its effect on everyday functioning, with particular emphasis on return-to-duty. This clinical research study involved an interdisciplinary team: Psychiatry, Psychology, Neuropsychology, Occupational Therapy, Clinical Social Work, Vocational Rehabilitation and the Vestibular and Balance Disorders Clinic (ENT). The MTBI program further facilitated identification of TBI patients in a rapid, time-efficient manner. This program enabled the DVBIC to further expand services to provide appropriate evaluations and treatment recommendations to a broader range of individuals with TBI, including those with mild injuries and post-concussive syndrome patients.

The TBI surveillance program established at Camp Pendleton has been a source of data on the incidence and prevalence of MTBI/concussive injury in operational military settings. The 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Expeditionary Force encompasses over 38,000 active duty personnel; by implementing a comprehensive surveillance system, using existing medical reporting systems, and increasing awareness of MTBI through systematic educational offerings, the DVBIC has had a positive impact on the standard of care and has also increased accessibility to speciality care in this operational setting. The DVBIC at NMCSN is currently working on a tele-medicine link between the Concussion Clinic at Camp Pendleton and the Neurosciences Department at NMCSN, further improving care of military personnel with TBI.

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