

Can I drop out of the study once I have begun?

Yes, you are free to withdraw your consent and stop participation, either full or in part, at any time. Participation in the study is voluntary and you may refuse to participate without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.



What will the study cost me?

You will not be asked to pay any costs related to this research study regardless of whether you are a veteran or a nonveteran.

Some veterans are required to pay copayments for medical care provided by VA, and this will continue to apply to services NOT part of this study.

San Antonio, Texas
Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center
South Texas Veterans Health Care System: Audie L. Murphy Division

You may be compensated if you are eligible to participate. For additional study information, please contact:

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Observational Study on Late Neurologic Effects of Combat



Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)
Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)
Operation New Dawn (OND)

WHAT IS CENC?

The Chronic Effects of Neurotrauma Consortium (CENC) is a team of doctors and researchers from the U.S. Departments of Defense (DoD) and Veterans Affairs (VA), academic universities, and research institutes. It is funded by VA and DoD to study traumatic brain injury (TBI) in active service members and Veterans.

What is this study about?

This is a study of the long-term effects that military deployment may have on the brain. Many Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)/Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)/Operation New Dawn (OND) Veterans and service members suffer from the following conditions:

- Concussion
- Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Depression

This study will measure brain function over time and learn how having/not having the above conditions affects one's brain and long-term health.



Who is eligible for this study?

Men and women who have been deployed for OEF/OIF/OND whether or not they have a known injury or condition.

Why is this study important?

- Nearly 20% of the more than 2.5 million service members deployed since 2003 to OEF/OIF/OND have sustained at least one TBI.
- Almost 8% of all OEF/OIF/OND Veterans demonstrate persistent symptoms more than 6 months after their brain injury.
- Many mild TBIs are not found during and after deployment because more visible injuries are the focus.
- Acute mild TBI effects (1–3 months after injury)—headache, cognitive, behavioral, balance, and sleep symptoms—may persist and lead to lifelong disability.

What will I be asked to do?

- Sign consent for the study
- Answer questions about mood, sleep, and other symptoms you may have
- Perform simple tasks that test your thinking abilities, vision, sense of smell, hearing, strength, and balance—these assessments will alternate every year in two ways:
 - brief phone assessment
 - longer in-person assessment
- Give a blood sample (3-4 teaspoons)
- Give a saliva sample
- Have an MRI scan

You may participate in the study even if you choose NOT to give blood or saliva samples or NOT to have the MRI scan.



What happens to the information collected about me?

The confidentiality of your research records will be maintained according to professional standards of confidentiality and VA regulation.

