



PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
FORT LEONARD WOOD, MISSOURI 65473
VOICE: 573-563-4145
FAX: 573-563-4012
BY: Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office
EMAIL: shatara.r.seymour.civ@mail.mil

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release No. 14-039

June 5, 2014

Fort Leonard Wood hosts TBI symposium

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. – More than 750 service members, civilian employees and family members attended Fort Leonard Wood’s Traumatic Brain Injury symposium today where leading Army experts provided a better definition and understanding of the causes, symptoms and impacts of mild TBI.

The symposium’s panel of speakers included the Army’s TBI program manager, Dr. Stephanie Maxfield-Panker, from the Office of the Army Surgeon General; Head Protection Lead, Donald R. Lee II, from the Warfighter Directorate at Natick Soldier Research, Development & Engineering Center; and Dr. Gary Southwell from the Center for Military Psychiatry and Neuroscience at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research; Dr. Tom Buckley, representing the Georgia Southern University athletic department; and Capt. Matthew LoPresti, a research psychologist at Fort Leonard Wood.

Each year, traumatic brain injuries contribute to a substantial number of deaths and cases of permanent disability. In 2010, 2.5 million TBIs occurred either as an isolated injury or along with other injuries, according to the Center for Disease Control.

A TBI is caused by a bump, blow or jolt to the head or a penetrating head injury that disrupts the normal function of the brain.

The severity of a TBI may range from mild — a brief change in mental status or consciousness, to severe — an extended period of unconsciousness or amnesia after the injury.

Sharing techniques and procedures for identifying potential head injuries, how to address and treat these injuries, and methods and practices for protection and prevention were specific goals of the event.

- more -

“People don’t know that a concussion is the same as a TBI,” said Dr. Tom Van Dillen, neuropsychologist at General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital.

Symptoms of TBI can include reduced attention and concentration, and difficulty with memory and problem solving, which can exacerbate issues effecting mood and relationships, and impact job performance.

“Reduced efficiency is the hallmark, number-one symptom of TBI,” Dillen said.

Army subject matter experts discussed their specialty work in ongoing Army studies and efforts; Army assessment methods, approach and treatment; helmet technology to prevent and detect head trauma; and impairment study data associated with measured blasts.

Presenters also spent the afternoon visiting high-impact training areas here as they continued the TBI discussion.

-30-

For more information, contact the Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office at (573) 563-4145.

Encl(s). Photos

Photo Caption: Capt. Kirsten Ouimette, General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital, checks out a helmet at the Warfighter Directorate at Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center's display during Fort Leonard Wood's TBI symposium today.

Photo Caption: Fort Leonard Wood held a Traumatic Brain Injury symposium here today at Nutter Field House. More than 750 personnel attended the event.

About Fort Leonard Wood

Fort Leonard Wood is a thriving and prosperous installation that has evolved from a small basic training post 70 years ago to a premier Army Center of Excellence that trains 80-90,000 military and civilians each year.

Home to the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, Fort Leonard Wood now trains and educates service members and develops doctrine and capabilities for the Training and Doctrine Command’s U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School, U.S. Army Engineer School, and U.S. Army Military Police School, three gender integrated Initial Military Training brigades, one of only five reception stations in the Army, and the Army’s largest Non Commissioned Officers Academy.

Over the past several years, Fort Leonard Wood has received numerous additional responsibilities to include supporting the 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, a large Forces Command unit that is responsible for all deployable capabilities at Fort Leonard Wood. A colonel-commanded Marine Corps Detachment and an Air Force Detachment, which are both the largest on any Army installation, are located on Fort Leonard Wood; a large Navy Seabee Detachment and elements of the Coast Guard train here as well.

www.facebook.com/fortleonardwoodmissouri

www.wood.army.mil