

UNCLASSIFIED



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services Request for Information

Defense Health Agency
June 25, 2024

BLUF

- The Defense Health Agency (DHA) is responding to the June 2024 Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) request for information on updates to the DoD Instruction 6400.06, “Domestic Abuse Involving DoD Military and Certain Affiliated Personnel,” dated May 16, 2023, and determine whether the DACOWITS’ 2019 recommendations related to domestic abuse were implemented.
- DHA has been asked to provide a briefing in response to one specific question, detailed herein, related to domestic violence incidents involving physical force to the head, neck and face that may result in undetected and untreated traumatic brain injuries.



Intimate Partner Violence and Domestic Abuse 6ii

- **Question:** Recent research has revealed that “astounding numbers of TBIs” occur in domestic violence incidents involving physical force to the head, neck and face and that they often go undetected and untreated.
 - i. Are there existing protocols for medical health providers alerting them to the particular need to assess/examine the potential for TBIs when treating DA/IPV patients? Is this a routine consideration?
 - ii. Is there any data regarding the incidence of TBIs in Domestic Abuse/ Intimate Partner Violence patients? If so, please provide that information.



DHA Response

- All military medical treatment facilities (MTFs) have providers trained in TBI screening with the ability to refer patients to one of the TBI Specialty Care clinics or Intrepid Spirit Centers for more comprehensive care.
- As part of the continuum of care, Service members receive ongoing evaluation and treatment by a primary care provider during the annual Periodic Health Assessment, and those individuals reporting a history of TBI, or symptoms consistent with injury, are further assessed for their Service or treatment needs.
- There is not currently any data available on TBIs in Domestic Abuse/Intimate Partner Violence patients.

