



Neurocognitive Testing for USASOC



Agenda

- **Directives**
- **ANAM**
- **ImPACT**
- **Side by Side Comparison**
- **Plan**
- **Current Status**



Directives

- **ASD(HA) Memo 28 May 2008**
 - **Baseline Pre-deployment Neurocognitive Functional Assessment – Interim Guidance**
- **ALARACT 173/2008**
 - **Recommends Military Acute Concussion Evaluation (MACE) as the primary tool**
 - **If symptoms persist beyond 7 days, then refer to a Level 2 or 3 facility for further neurocognitive evaluation**
 - **ANAM encouraged, can only be performed at facilities approved by the MNFI/MNCI Surgeon**
 - **ANAM interpretation will be done only by psychologists or neurologists with specific additional ANAM training**



ANAM

- **Automated Neuropsychological Assessment Metrics**
- **Not designed for concussion**
 - **Designed to assess effect of chemical warfare, sleep deprivation, radiation, temperature extremes**
- ***No proven validity/specificity for mild traumatic brain injury***
- ***No clinical evidence that is can help diagnose mTBI***
- **Must be interpreted by a trained neurologist or psychologist**
- **No assessment of symptoms**
- **Long flash-bang time for follow-up results, *not clinically useful* for Battalion and Group medical officers**
- **Centralized administration (coordination with testing center – lead time, special computers, testing facility/classroom)**



ImPACT

- **Immediate Post-concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing**
- **Designed for evaluation of mild Traumatic Brain Injury in athletes, clinically proven diagnostic aid**
- **NIH, NCAA sponsored research – 100 peer-reviewed publications**
- **Used by NHL, NFL, MLB, NASCAR to aid in evaluation and return to play decisions**
- **Available at any FOB/Base with NIPR connection**
- **Immediate availability of follow-up test and baseline for clinical use**
- **Includes symptom score**



Current ImPACT Use in SOF

- **Over 1000 baselines complete**
- **Unit PA Comments:**
 - ***“Post-injury testing has assisted us in RTD decisions, medical record documentation, and Chain of Command recommendations”***
 - ***“Overall...invaluable, in my opinion...with far greater reliability than the ANAM.”***



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Comparison

ANAM vs. ImPACT

	<u>ANAM</u>	<u>ImPACT</u>
Baseline Administration	Centralized	Decentralized
F/u Testing	Level 2/Level 3 MTF	Anywhere NIPR Access
Symptom Score	No	Yes (and tracks symptom resolution in med record)
Interpretation	Trained Psychiatrist or Psychologist	Any Trained Medical or Behavioral Health Officer
Clinical Utility	No immediate proven clinical utility; only given after patient evacuated to higher level of care (7 days post-injury for mTBI)	Immediate proven predictive ability for RTD decisions; useful in tracking resolution of injury back to baseline. Immediate feedback to Commander.
Documentation of Event Circumstances for Medical Record	No	Yes
Clinical Practice Guideline	Not Addressed	Yes



ImPACT Plan

- **Decentralized pre-deployment baseline testing**
 - Training of unit medical officers and medics to administer the test
- **Follow-up testing post injury/accident**
- **Results used in conjunction with clinical evaluation to guide treatment, RTD, and evacuation decisions**



Current ImPACT Status

- **5th SFG(A) has started pre-deployment baseline testing**
 - 824 done since 1 Dec 09
 - No significant implementation issues
 - Expanding to the rest of USASOC
- **70 USASOC Medical Officers and Medics trained in the course of two sessions (19 Nov 09, 17 Dec 09)**
- **Training at Fort Campbell for 5th SFG(A) and 160th SOAR(A) Medics and Medical Officers completed 22 Jan 10**
- **95th CAB training to commence within the next few weeks**
- **Article titled “Evidence Based Diagnosis and Management of mTBI in Deployed Settings” to be published in the *Journal of Special Operations Medicine*, Spring Edition**
- **USASOC Policy in staffing**
- **Request sent to MEDCOM to add tracking field in MEDPROS**
- **Clinical Practice Guidelines and relevant documents posted on USASOC Surgeon Website, and on USASOC Surgeon AKO Website**



Questions