
RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

**Effective Diagnosis and Treatment for Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI)
Resolution No. 17-09**

WHEREAS, mild TBI (mTBI) is a signature wound of recent warfare, causing reduced brain processing which includes memory, attention, and thought process impairments; not always striking but nevertheless debilitating and leading to associated conditions such as substance abuse, unemployment, homelessness, and even suicide; and

WHEREAS, objective diagnostic protocols for mTBI on the battlefield have been documented by Kara E. Schmid, PhD and Frank C. Tortella, PhD, at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, and diagnostic protocols to identify the location of damage caused by mTBI and TBI have been developed by David Hovda, PhD, at the University of California at Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Schmid and Dr. Tortella have identified successful blood based tests for TBI and mTBI, as well as other imaging techniques that are less subjective than the current Department of Defense protocols; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hovda has diagnosed veterans with severe facial and head injuries as having TBI; and

WHEREAS, the foregoing research has proved that it is time to update the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs approach to diagnosing and treating military personnel and veterans affected possibly by TBI or mTBI; and

WHEREAS, it is now agreed by many of those performing TBI research that it is more than just an injury but should be classified as a chronic condition because of overwhelming evidence that it predisposes affected service members and veterans to other conditions such as Parkinson's disease, dementia, depression, seizures, pituitary/hypothalamus conditions (as accepted by the Veterans Administration in January 2014), and immune suppression leading to infections and other brain disorders; and

WHEREAS, there are indications that many service members and veterans are being misdiagnosed as suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) instead of mTBI, it is imperative that objective diagnostic protocols be used to make a proper diagnosis followed by treatment by a rehabilitation team including speech, physical, and occupational therapy; and

WHEREAS, many military personnel and veterans subjectively diagnosed with mTBI are being prescribed multiple medications for their symptoms, without rehabilitation treatment or objective proof of brain healing, are too often committing suicide,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Reserve Officers Association of the United States, chartered by Congress, urge the Congress, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Veterans Affairs to update the protocols for diagnosis and treatment of military personnel and veterans who may be suffering from severe or mild Traumatic Brain Injuries.

Renewed by the National Convention, 23 July 2017
Adopted by the National Convention, 26 July 2014 as 14-03
Source: Department of the Golden West