

# Center for National Preparedness

## Seminar Series

Hearing and Balance Disorders and the Global War on Terrorism: What is happening – What can be done?

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Date: Thursday January 10th 2008

Time: 3:00pm - 4:00pm (Reception to follow)

Location: 5th floor Alumni Hall

RSVP: <http://www.cnp.pitt.edu/seminar> (by: Jan 8 )

### ABSTRACT

The twenty-first century global war on terrorism and United States military operations overseas have presented unique challenges to the American people and the American military. The injury patterns more commonly seen in previous conflicts have been mitigated by body armor and affected by the urban warfare nature of the current fight. Abdominal and thoracic injuries with high mortality rates have given way to more survivable orthopedic and head injuries. The style of the enemies' weapons, the locations of the battles, and the constant presence of home made explosive devices (IEDs) has resulted in over 15% of war fighters being exposed to enough blast to cause head injury. The injury pattern being seen in these modern military operations represents the same expected pattern from urban terrorism.

In this presentation the speakers will examine the impact of blast injury and its relationship to traumatic brain injury. Patterns of disorders will be described with special attention given to hearing and balance injuries. The speakers will describe the presentation of these disorders and the optimum work-up and current standard of care. Attention will then be turned to research on countermeasures which may prevent, treat, or reverse disorders secondary to blast injury. The discussion will conclude with a look at how to deploy countermeasures for both military and civilian situations.

