



US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

BLAST INJURY RESEARCH PROGRAM COORDINATING OFFICE

Neurocognitive and Psychological Health Treatment Strategies

Evaluation of Extended-wear Hearing Aid Technology for Operational Military Use

This study is performed at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) through the Henry M. Jackson Foundation. The objective of this study is to evaluate the ability of a commercially available extended-wear hearing aid to both mitigate the effects of prior hearing loss, and also prevent additional auditory injury from blast and impulse noise. Specifically, the investigators will evaluate if these devices are suitable for Service Members with mild-to-moderate hearing loss for use in austere operational environments that would otherwise preclude the use of normal hearing aid technologies. The study has just begun recruitment and data collection; however, in the last year they were able to fit two participants with the hearing devices and collect initial pilot data. Additionally, they gained information from an individual who wore the devices during two combat deployments and provided support for the use of these devices in military environments.

