

TALKING PAPER  
ON  
MILITARY INJURIES AT MIDDLE EAST DEPLOYED LOCATIONS

**PURPOSE**

- Provide data analysis on the mishaps occurring during Middle East deployments

**BACKGROUND**

- An AFSAS mishap review showed approximately 2123 class C and D injuries (military) occurred between FY11 and FY15
- These mishaps resulted in 6,803 lost work days with 10,918 work days being affected at a cost of over 8.2 million dollars.

**DISCUSSION**

- The injuries were categorized as (see graphs page 2):
  - *Contact with Objects and Equipment*: Injuries produced by contact between the injured person and the source, except when contact was due to falls, transportation accidents, etc. Most of these injuries were to the hands, fingers and head due to pinching, cutting or running into objects.
  - *Bodily Reaction and Exertion*: Usually non-impact, in which injury or illness resulted from free bodily motion or from excessive physical effort. These injuries were mostly sprains and strains to the body, including twisted ankles and knees.
  - *Slips/Trips and Falls*: Events in which the injury was produced by impact between the injured person and the source of injury when the motion was generated by gravity. A large number of these injuries were caused by stepping on uneven surfaces.
  - *Sports Injuries*: Primarily off-duty injuries resulting from sports such as Football, Soccer, Basketball, etc. The majority of these injuries involved ankle and knee sprains.
  - *Physical Fitness*: Injuries resulting from exercise programs such as running, calisthenics, weightlifting, etc. Similar to “Sports Injuries” in the majority being ankle and knee sprains.
  - *Exposure to Substances or Environment*: Injury or illness resulted from contact with, or exposure to, a condition or substance in the environment. Although some injuries were dehydration from heat exposure most were foreign material entering the eyes.

**SUMMARY**

An analysis of these mishaps showed “Inattention” as a common contributing factor across all of the categories. Many of these mishaps would have been avoided by maintaining situational awareness and not becoming complacent with the task. Another mishap factor identified was the inappropriate use of a tool or not wearing proper PPE.

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