

Investigating Military Medicine

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The Basics

ALWAYS keep in mind that two different institutions provide medical help to wounded soldiers and veterans

Department of Defense

- Return to Duty
- Chronic Care



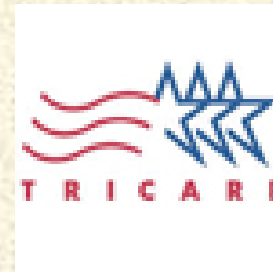
Department of Veterans Affairs

- Disability and Medical Care
- <http://www.va.gov/vetdata/index.asp>



Tricare

- Tail that ate the dog
- Largest single contracts



The Investigating:

- **Military wives**
- **Local veterans groups**
[Veterans for Common Sense](#), [Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America](#) [Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors](#)
- **Get on the base**
- **And, of course, social media**

The Foibles of FOIA

- FOIAs can be useful but they will take time.
 - Quickest I have ever received a FOIA from medical command is six months
- Make friends with FOIA officer
- Some agencies better than others
 - TRICARE -- black hole
 - Army Medical Command -- very helpful
- Best tactic: Avoid FOIA if possible
 - Convince source/PAO to provide documents

Special Concerns

Consent

- Always a balance
- Chance to review

Records

- Always try to seek out a service member's health records.
- Complete print out of their AHLTA record--Armed Forces Health Longitudinal Technology Application.

Your Hometown

The Friends and Family War

- 2,000,000 million people have served in Iraq and Afghanistan
- More than 500,000 have filed claims
- More than half of all claims at VA now for mental health issues

Questions?

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Presentation: www.bit.ly/medillmedicine

Handout: <http://j.mp/iGRyff>