

From: Lunday, Kevin ADM <ADMKevinLunday@uscg.mil>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 6:45 PM
To: Lunday, Kevin ADM <ADMKevinLunday@uscg.mil>; Waldron, Phillip N MCPOCG USCG COMDT (USA) <MCPOCGPhilWaldron@uscg.mil>
Subject: UPDATE 1: Your Brain Health and Readiness

Coast Guard Men and Women,

In late July we told you the Coast Guard is taking decisive action to address the risk of brain injuries to our people who are conducting operations and training that involve wave-pounding, blast overpressure, and concussive events through the Coast Guard Brain Health Initiative (BHI).

We will develop and implement the most effective brain health initiative among the military services.

Here's what we're doing and where we're going.

First, we will start by focusing on the highest risk population of personnel who are directly exposed to a higher risk of brain injuries during operations and training: boat crews, cutter crews, aviation crews, deployable specialized forces, gunners mates/small arms instructors, and those involved in combat operations.

Second, we will take a holistic approach to the brain health of our people, meaning we recognize that actual or potential traumatic brain injuries are frequently accompanied by post-traumatic stress or other medical issues that also require treatment and care. We will recognize and treat all medical conditions related to potential brain injury.

Our Brain Health Initiative involves the following actions:

1. **Learn:** Leverage all available military, civilian, and other research and knowledge about brain health. Direct our own Coast Guard-specific research to inform our work. Establish pathways for prior-service Coast Guard men and women who may have suffered brain injury during their service to self-report, documenting their exposure and informing our current understanding.
2. **Protect:** Reduce the risk of exposure to brain injuries by improving human systems and protective equipment, and by raising awareness among medical providers and those who may be exposed to potential brain injury. Adjust tactics, techniques, and procedures where necessary to mitigate these risks.
3. **Recognize:** Improve brain injury awareness among medical providers, supervisors, and crew members to ensure they understand and rapidly report potential brain injuries.

4. **Treat:** Provide early, effective medical treatment to personnel exposed to brain injuries while improving access to Department of War and other resources.
5. **Care:** Deliver long-term care and support for injured personnel and their families, leveraging all available government and private resources.
6. **Monitor:** Conduct a baseline assessment of all personnel entering the Coast Guard for brain injuries starting 1 Jan 2027. Regularly assess those involved in higher-risk activities for potential brain injuries and monitor the conditions of those with documented injuries to track long-term impacts.
7. **Document:** Fully and accurately document brain injuries, potential exposures, and related medical conditions (e.g., post-traumatic stress) in service and medical records. This ensures that when personnel separate or retire, they possess a complete and accurate record.

In the coming weeks, we will release initial policy and information on recognizing brain injuries.

This is essential to our readiness and taking care of our people.

Semper Paratus.

ADM Kevin E. Lunday
Commandant

MCPOCG Phillip N. Waldron
Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard

From: Lunday, Kevin ADM <ADMKevinLunday@uscg.mil>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2026 7:08 PM
To: Lunday, Kevin ADM <ADMKevinLunday@uscg.mil>
Cc: Waldron, Phillip N MCPOCG USCG COMDT (USA) <MCPOCGPhilWaldron@uscg.mil>
Subject: Your Brain Health and Readiness

Coast Guard Men and Women:

Many of you have seen recent media reporting detailing the damage that repetitive wave impacts take on our Coast Guard boat crews, including the heartbreaking loss of a retired Coast Guard Surfman. The risk of brain injuries comes from our men and women conducting operations, training, and other duties across our entire service.

Our crews operate in a dangerous and unforgiving maritime environment. The demands of our missions are immense. We owe it to you to protect your long-term health from the

damage caused by relentless wave pounding, blast overpressure, and other concussive events that may cause a brain injury.

We are taking decisive action on this issue.

In April, I directed a service-wide Brain Health Initiative (BHI) to improve how we prevent, recognize, and treat brain injuries. That includes training crews and supervisors on how to recognize brain injuries and encouraging our people to come forward and report symptoms indicating potential injuries. We are implementing a single, high standard of care across our medical providers, partnering with other military and civilian medical experts, to ensure our men and women receive the best care possible.

Taking care of your brain health is an operational necessity and a matter of readiness. We need leaders at every level to ensure our people are aware of potential brain injury symptoms, get medical attention without hesitation or fear of stigma, and receive proper medical care. If you or a teammate are concerned you may have a potential brain injury, please tell your supervisor and immediately seek medical care.

We owe it to ourselves, our families, and the Nation to remain ready.

Semper Paratus.

ADM Kevin E. Lunday
Commandant

MCPOCG Phillip N. Waldron
Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard