Pentagon says over 100 U.S. forces diagnosed with brain injuries from Iran strikes

Washington, February 12 (RHC)-- The U.S. military is announing a more than 50-percent rise in the number of cases of traumatic brain injury (TBI) among its soldiers following Iran's retaliatory strikes on an American military base in Iraq last month.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity ahead of the announcement, told Reuters on Monday that there were over 100 cases of TBI after the attacks, up from the 64 previously reported last month. The Pentagon had stated weeks after the strikes that the numbers were expected to increase because the TBI symptoms could take time to manifest.

On January 8, Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) fired volleys of ballistic missiles at the Ain al-Assad airbase in the western Iraqi province of Anbar.

The missile strike was in response to the January 3rd assassination by U.S. terrorists of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, commander of the IRGC's Quds Force, and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the second-in-command of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), and a group of their companions in Baghdad. The operation was conducted under U.S. President Donald Trump's direction and the U.S.

Department of Defense took full responsibility for the assassination.

At the White House, Trump adamantly denied the Iranian missiles left any casualties. But Tehran said the U.S. military conducted at least nine sorties after the operation, air-lifting the wounded to Jordan and the Israeli-occupied territories, while Chinook helicopters transferred the injured to a U.S. hospital in Baghdad.

Out of despair and under pressure from Congress, the Trump administration has gradually announced casualties from the Iranian attack, most recently claiming that 64 U.S. troops have been diagnosed with traumatic brain injuries.

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