# Structural Definitions of Shock-Origin Neurostructural Trauma Modalities in Combat-Exposed Systems

Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA
Staring Down The Muzzle LLC
Grain Valley, MO 64029, United States

Biological Sciences | Medical Sciences

Keywords: neurostructural trauma; autonomic regulation; cardiovascular load; combat

Corresponding Author
Justin Lawrence Brown-Stephens, MBA
Grain Valley, MO 64029
United States
Email: jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com

## Prior Submission Record Statement

The manuscript titled Structural Definitions of Shock-Origin Neurostructural Trauma Modalities in Combat-Exposed Systems was submitted as follows:

**Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences | PNAS**

Submission Date: January 6, 2026, 08:38
Tracking Number: 2025-37632
Disposition: Declined on the basis of journal scope and audience relevance.

**The Lancet**

Submission Date: January 6, 2026, 05:15
Manuscript ID: THELANCET-D-26-00085
Disposition: Declined on the basis of journal scope and audience relevance.

**Science Advances**

Submission Date: January 12, 2026, 15:31
Manuscript ID: aef3240
Disposition: Declined on the basis of journal scope.

**Journal of Special Operations Medicine | JSOM**

Submission Date: January 8, 2026, 17:07
Submission ID: 2887422
Status: External blind peer reviewers confirmed in 20 hours. Blinded review in progress.

**Disposition |** Voluntarily withdrawn prior to final editorial decision for publication sequencing realignment.

**Technical Quality Record |** Where explicitly stated in editorial correspondence, scope and venue determinations did not constitute adverse evaluation of technical merit, methodological soundness, or analytical rigor. No submission listed were declined on the basis of documented methodological deficiency.

## Abstract

Current clinical and research models addressing trauma-related collapse in combat-exposed populations rely heavily on symptom clustering, behavioral inference, and post hoc interpretation. These approaches obscure underlying structural failure modes that govern load routing, physiologic dominance, collapse sequencing, and recovery constraint. This paper presents a bounded set of structural definitions describing shock-origin neurostructural trauma modalities observed in combat-conditioned systems. The definitions are non-diagnostic, non-prescriptive, and framework-neutral, intended solely to clarify system behavior independent of narrative report or affective interpretation. Each modality isolates a distinct regulatory domain, specifies its governing boundaries, and delineates failure conditions without asserting causality, treatment, or outcome. By separating structural state from psychological attribution, these definitions aim to reduce misclassification, improve interpretive accuracy, and establish a shared descriptive language for interdisciplinary research. This work does not propose a therapeutic model or validation outcome; it provides definitional infrastructure necessary for accurate observation, comparison, and future empirical study of trauma-related system degradation.

 DOI: https://doi.org/10.66122/4tdwd198

## Significance

Trauma research and clinical practice frequently rely on symptom description and behavioral interpretation, which can obscure the structural mechanisms governing system collapse in combat-exposed populations. This work provides precise, non-diagnostic definitions for shock-origin neurostructural trauma modalities, separating structural state from psychological attribution. By clarifying how load routing, physiologic dominance, and regulatory failure operate independently of narrative report, these definitions reduce misclassification risk and improve interpretive accuracy across disciplines. Establishing a shared structural language enables more reliable observation, comparison, and future empirical investigation of trauma-related degradation without presupposing treatment pathways or outcomes.

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## Introduction

Trauma-related collapse in combat-exposed populations is commonly interpreted through symptom presentation, behavioral reports, or retrospective narrative. While these approaches are valuable for description, they often fail to capture the structural mechanisms that govern how shock-origin load is acquired, routed, escalated, and constrained within the system. As a result, distinct failure states are frequently collapsed into broad diagnostic categories, obscuring regulatory dynamics that operate independently of affect, intent, or conscious awareness.

Combat conditioning introduces durable alterations in physiologic authority, load prioritization, and execution bias that persist beyond the original exposure. These alterations shape how stressors are absorbed and managed long before they manifest as recognizable clinical symptoms. When structural degradation progresses without precise description, interpretation drifts toward psychological attribution, leading to misclassification, sequencing error, and inappropriate inference about causality or risk.

The purpose of this paper is to provide a concise set of structural definitions for shock-origin neurostructural trauma modalities observed in combat-conditioned systems. These definitions are descriptive rather than diagnostic and do not propose mechanisms of treatment, prediction, or outcome. Each modality delineates a distinct regulatory domain, specifies its operational boundaries, and identifies characteristic failure conditions without reliance on subjective report.

This framework does not replace or intend to contradict existing medical or behavioral doctrine; it provides a parallel structural descriptive vocabulary for characterizing shock-origin load routing, authority, and collapse sequencing. By establishing a shared structural vocabulary, this work aims to improve interpretive clarity and support future empirical study without asserting diagnostic, therapeutic, or predictive claims, and without presupposing theoretical alignment or intervention strategy.

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## Results

The following sections present concise structural definitions of selected shock-origin neurostructural trauma modalities observed in combat-conditioned systems. Each modality delineates a distinct regulatory domain governing load routing, physiologic dominance, collapse dynamics, or recovery constraint. Definitions are descriptive and bounded. They do not assert diagnostic criteria, causal primacy, treatment implication, or outcome prediction. Modalities are presented in numerical order to preserve structural sequencing and jurisdictional alignment.

### Modality I: Neurostructural Load Intake

Neurostructural Load Intake defines the initial phase in which shock-origin load is acquired and routed by the nervous system prior to conscious interpretation, affective labeling, or symptom formation. During this phase, load enters through a dominant routing entry shaped by conditioning, exposure history, and intergenerational regulatory bias, operating within a finite baseline regulatory margin that constrains processing capacity. When incoming load exceeds this margin, a load-intake mismatch occurs, producing early compression of routing flexibility and accelerating accumulation along the primary routing vector. This intake compression establishes a measurable structural imbalance that governs subsequent routing behavior, collapse thresholds, and downstream system degradation through forward-causal mechanisms independent of subjective awareness, emotional reactivity, or narrative report.

### Modality II: Structural Diagnostic Patterning

Structural Diagnostic Patterning defines how overall system state is identified through coherent relationships among structural signals rather than symptom clusters, narrative report, or isolated metrics. In this modality, diagnostic resolution depends on cross-domain pattern consistency across cognitive routing, autonomic regulation, stability range, integrative bandwidth, and temporal sequencing. One subset reflects core structural degradation characterized by routing deterioration, autonomic compression, instability range drift, dissociative fluctuation, and progressive loss of integrative capacity. A second subset reflects amplification effects when reduced structural connectivity, impaired temporal sequencing, and lowered threshold tolerance interact with existing degradation. Divergence between subsets arises from differential structural constraints rather than categorical separation, preserving unity at the systems' level. Compression of complex signal relationships into simplified labels or imposed interpretive meaning produces loss of structural resolution, resulting in misclassification drift and sequencing failure that obscures severity gradients, progression stages, and collapse-risk trajectories prior to catastrophic instability.

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## Modality III: Physiologic Collapse Events

Physiologic Collapse Events define the internal structural processes through which the system transitions from stable to unstable operation under increasing load. This modality identifies collapse-state cognition as an emergent structural mode produced by predictable sequencing failures rather than psychological escalation. Collapse initiation occurs when cumulative load exceeds integrative capacity, triggering dissociative routing failure marked by disruption of executive-level processing and transient loss of system coherence. [1] As instability windows emerge, baseline stability markers drift, producing progressive deviation from regulated operation. Autonomic compression manifests as non-linear physiological behavior inconsistent with cognitive expectation, while bandwidth constriction narrows available cognitive and regulatory channels. [2] Temporal fragmentation disrupts sequencing, timing, and alignment across systems, resulting in identity disjunction between internal state and environmental demand.

Once initiated, collapse persists through enforcement dynamics that stabilize the preservation-dominant state beyond the initiating load rather than restoring integrative capacity. During this period, transient signals of apparent stabilization may emerge without resolution of underlying degradation, producing false recovery impressions. The post-collapse state is characterized by heightened sensitivity to subsequent load, such that reduced threshold tolerance increases recurrence risk. This modality governs the onset, persistence, and recurrence classification of collapse independent of subjective distress, emotional appraisal, or narrative interpretation.

## Modality IV: Cognitive Command and Control Autonomic Interface

The Cognitive Command and Control Autonomic Interface defines the regulatory control layer through which cognitive command-state modulates autonomic output in conditioned systems. This modality establishes cognition as a command authority governing the timing, intensity, and release of autonomic activity independent of emotional state, exertion, illness progression, or organ-specific pathology. Sustained executive focus, analytical engagement, anticipatory planning, or internal monitoring increases central command signaling, elevating sympathetic dominance, and narrowing autonomic margin, while reduction of cognitive command permits parasympathetic influence to reassert without structural or metabolic change. [3]

Failure within this modality occurs when cognitive command engagement is unrecognized or unaccounted for, resulting in misinterpretation of command-driven autonomic modulation as instability, anxiety, or intrinsic physiological dysfunction. This failure produces paired-measurement divergence and apparent volatility in physiological readings without loss of system coherence. Identification of the Cognitive Command and Control Autonomic Interface is therefore required for accurate interpretation of downstream cardiac, pulmonary, and cerebrovascular expression and for prevention of diagnostic misclassification.

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## Modality V: Cardiac Execution Authority

Cardiac Execution Authority defines the cardiac domain as the primary physiological execution system responsible for sustaining output, pressure, and flow in response to upstream cognitive and autonomic command in conditioned systems. Under sustained conditioning, cardiac output and vascular tone are maintained at elevated readiness to support rapid execution and anticipatory demand independent of immediate metabolic necessity. Baseline elevation in blood pressure within this modality reflects compression of the transition range between rest and execution, preserving response legality and operational readiness rather than indicating intrinsic cardiac pathology. [4] When downstream structural capacity weakens, increases in adrenergic signaling may occur as the system attempts to reestablish functional coherence through heightened cardiac drive rather than through structural reinforcement. [5]

Failure within this modality occurs when adrenaline-mediated escalation of cardiac execution persists against inadequate structural containment and dispersion capacity. [6] In this state, the heart continues to function effectively as an execution engine, while supporting cerebrovascular and systemic structures experience progressive shear stress, displacement, and perfusion margin breach. This phase may coincide with heightened behavioral activation driven by sustained adrenergic output rather than emotional dysregulation. Cerebrovascular vulnerability increases as a secondary consequence of structural dispersion failure under preserved cardiac performance, not as primary cardiac dysfunction. Apparent stability may persist due to maintained consciousness and execution capacity, masking vulnerability until containment thresholds are exceeded and collapse occurs.

## Modality VI: Pulmonary Execution and Airway Control

Pulmonary Execution and Airway Control define the pulmonary domain as an execution-sustaining system activated under conditioned high-demand states. In combat-conditioned systems, airway patency and oxygen delivery are regulated beyond metabolic demand through catecholamine-mediated enforcement. Under this modality, adrenaline-driven signaling prioritizes airflow and ventilation continuity to sustain execution, maintaining respiratory drive and airway openness independent of recovery or homeostatic balance.

Failure within this modality occurs when prolonged execution-state respiratory enforcement suppresses ventilatory margin and delays adaptive stand-down. Respiratory drive remains elevated beyond its functional window, resulting in residual airway instability once execution pressure subsides. This produces post-execution vulnerability characterized by impaired respiratory regulation rather than intrinsic pulmonary pathology. Misinterpretation of this state as anxiety-related dyspnea or primary respiratory disease obscures the role of delayed autonomic release and altered airway control in conditioned systems.

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## Modality VII: Volitional State Override and Manual Control Architecture

This modality defines the emergence of deliberate manual control over internal state following loss of reliable autonomous physiological and emotional regulation. When intrinsic regulatory systems no longer provide predictable stabilization, the individual asserts volitional command through chemical override, chemical refusal, or conditional chemical authorization to force state transition. These strategies do not originate from addiction pathology or treatment resistance alone. They represent structural attempts to restore governance over an unstable internal environment when autonomous downshift, recovery, and containment can no longer be trusted. Within this modality, chemical agents, and their deliberate absence function as control instruments rather than treatments, and the individual operates as an active regulator of state rather than a passive recipient of symptoms.

Failure within this modality occurs when manual override replaces autonomous regulation without restoring underlying stability, producing controlled but structurally fragile function dependent on continuous intervention, rigid containment, or crisis-driven authorization. Chemical dominance, absolute refusal, and conditional override differ in expression but share the same failure risk: persistent residual instability that remains energetically costly and incomplete. This instability propagates beyond the individual boundary through affective availability, behavioral regulation, communication bandwidth, intimacy access, and identity expression, shaping the form in which collapse enters relational and environmental systems. Volitional State Override does not resolve collapse. It reorganizes it, establishing the mechanical bridge through which instability is transmitted downstream despite preserved surface functioning.

## Modality VIII: Fractured State Family System Dynamics

This modality defines the structural propagation of prolonged collapse-state instability from the individual into the bonded relational environment. When autonomic instability persists while identity roles as partner, parent, protector, or provider remain intact, the household reorganizes from relational regulation to survival-oriented operation. This shift is driven by sustained loss of physiological and regulatory capacity rather than emotional contagion. Emotional presence, intimacy access, and parasympathetic availability progressively narrow as the family system adapts by prioritizing predictability, threat avoidance, and stability preservation, maintaining attachment while reducing relational bandwidth.

Failure within this modality occurs when the relational environment becomes a secondary trauma structure. Silence replaces communication as the primary adaptive behavior, partners and children assume persistent monitoring roles, and intimacy becomes biologically unavailable rather than voluntarily withdrawn. Apparent household stability may persist through suppression and distance, masking developmental arrest and internal fracture. This modality does not describe loss of commitment or affection; it describes conversion of the family system into an operational containment structure that preserves attachment while transmitting unresolved collapse downstream toward terminal governance failure.

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## Modality IX: Cognitive Command and Control Dysregulation

This modality defines a failure state in which cognitive command activity amplifies autonomic load rather than regulating it. In combat-conditioned systems, cognition is trained to sustain execution through persistence, monitoring, and directive control. When this command function is carried forward without recalibration, cognition attempts to directly manage states that are autonomically governed. Cognitive activity becomes a load amplifier, increasing sympathetic dominance through continuous analysis, anticipatory planning, internal monitoring, and effortful control, narrowing autonomic margin instead of restoring coordination. [7] Physiological escalation under this modality is driven by command saturation rather than external threat, emotional distress, or metabolic demand.

Failure within this modality occurs when cognitive command overwhelms available control channels, disrupting synchrony between intent and autonomic response. Effort increases while regulatory effectiveness declines and attempts to think through instability intensify cardiovascular and autonomic activation rather than correcting it. Individuals may appear organized, decisive, and engaged while internal regulation degrades. Interventions that add instruction, analysis, or decision load further increase strain under these conditions. This modality does not redefine cognitive or behavioral function; it classifies the control condition under which cognition ceases to operate as a regulator and instead drives dysregulation, constraining what downstream strategies can safely achieve.

## Modality X: Uncontrollable Catastrophic Self Termination via Trigger–Muzzle End State Collapse

This modality defines a terminal structural collapse state in which catastrophic self-termination becomes possible through failure of governance rather than intent, emotion, or psychopathology. Cognitive awareness and decisional capacity remain intact; what fails is shared regulatory constraint. Risk is present when trigger (the internal authority threshold that permits conversion of state into irreversible action) becomes isolated and muzzle (non-lethal structural constraints that prevent catastrophic discharge while preserving agency and dignity) have collapsed or removed faster than structural governance can be restored. In this condition, choice persists without lawful containment, and lethal outcome becomes possible because no remaining structure exists to delay, interrupt, or absorb consequence once the action threshold is crossed.

Failure within this modality occurs when isolated trigger authority is not reintegrated with shared governance and muzzle integrity is absent, such that constraint removal or procedural substitution increases risk rather than reducing it. System activity may escalate while regulatory effectiveness declines, producing operational engagement without restoration of control architecture. Catastrophic outcome arises from the absence of binding constraint under preserved agency, not from desire for death or loss of rational function. This modality is classificatory and explanatory rather than prescriptive. It assigns risk to governance isolation and constraint failure rather than to subjective experience, affective state, or diagnostic category, and it delineates the structural conditions under which late-stage intervention is unlikely to regain control once end state collapse has occurred.

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## Modality XI: Metabolic and Endocrine Suppression

This modality defines downstream suppression of endocrine signaling, anabolic support, and circadian repair under sustained execution states and unresolved physiologic load. In trauma-conditioned systems, prolonged prioritization of readiness diverts resources away from growth, repair, and reproductive regulation. Catabolic signaling predominates despite adequate intake or rest opportunity, and circadian alignment degrades, impairing metabolic recovery. [8] Suppression in this domain reflects enforced load allocation rather than behavioral noncompliance or primary endocrine pathology. [9]

Failure within this modality occurs when metabolic and endocrine systems do not rebound after load reduction, producing persistent vulnerability to injury, illness, and delayed recovery. Anabolic output remains blunted, including suppression of gonadal axis signaling, which may manifest as reduced testosterone availability and impaired sexual function without primary vascular or psychogenic cause. Engagement with nutrition, exercise, or treatment may continue without physiologic restoration due to constrained regulatory capacity. This modality classifies the conditions under which metabolic recovery is structurally inhibited until upstream autonomic and circadian regulation is restored.

## Modality XII: Acid Enforcement Collapse State

Acid Enforcement Collapse State describes a late-stage biochemical enforcement mechanism in which systemic acidification constrains sustained autonomic and metabolic load after higher order regulatory control has failed. It is not a primary pathology and does not initiate disease. Instead, it represents a late-stage chemical constraint engaged when command modulation, cardiopulmonary execution, sleep-mediated reset, and autonomic disengagement are insufficient to restore functional margin. Elevated hydrogen ion burden, reduced buffering capacity, and downstream inflammatory signaling increase the metabolic cost of continued readiness and exertion, rendering high load states unsustainable when precision regulation is no longer available.

Acid Enforcement Collapse State emerges downstream of persistent autonomic activation and compounding sleep failure while structural integrity may initially remain preserved. Peripheral tissues become the primary precipitation domains, manifesting pain, inflammation, and degenerative change as enforcement operates under reduced regulatory precision. Decline under this state reflects capacity saturation rather than tissue weakness. Chemical enforcement degrades recovery and narrows tolerance for repetition, producing cumulative damage when maintained chronically. [10] This mechanism distinguishes active regulation from downstream mechanical malfunction and explains why restoration requires resolution of upstream regulatory failures rather than localized suppression of acidification.

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## Modality XIII: Interpretive Authority Collapse

Interpretive Authority Collapse describes a failure state in which meaning, sequencing, and decision authority are displaced from system-origin signals and reassigned to external interpretation after physiologic and enforcement mechanisms are active. In this state, valid data are applied under interpretive frameworks that no longer hold jurisdiction over the system's regulatory condition. Harm arises not from absence of information, but from misassignment of authority over meaning, producing action that violates lawful sequencing despite apparent clinical or institutional correctness.

Failure within this modality occurs when imposed interpretation drives intervention, escalation, or withdrawal of safeguards out of sequence, overriding signals that should constrain action. Metrics that were valid prior to collapse are treated as evidence of normalization despite ongoing autonomic persistence or chemical enforcement, resulting in degradation under continued care or compliance. This modality does not replace diagnostic doctrine; it defines the authority conditions required for interpretation to bind safely and formalizes misaligned interpretation as a structural injury rather than a corrective process.

## Modality XIV: Combat Precision Language Authority

Combat Precision Language Authority defines a governance domain in which language functions as an operational control mechanism rather than descriptive expression. In shock-origin combat-conditioned systems, meaning is intentionally compressed to preserve regulation, survivability, and load management. Precision, brevity, and restraint bind language to internal state and constraint, allowing sufficiency, limit, or control to be communicated without narrative expansion or autonomic escalation.

Failure within this modality occurs when authoritative language is extracted, reinterpreted, or subjected to external narrative expectations by observers lacking jurisdiction over the originating state. Precision signals are treated as minimization or avoidance, producing misclassification, unsafe sequencing, and regulatory destabilization despite apparent communication. Increased probing or forced elaboration converts language from a stabilizing control surface into an added load, accelerating downstream collapse rather than improving understanding.

## Modality XV: Structural Recovery Constraint Domain

Structural Recovery Constraint Domain defines the governing conditions under which recovery inputs are permitted or prohibited based on unresolved authority and current system state. Recovery is not inherently restorative and does not bind by default. It becomes lawful only after execution authority has disengaged and regulatory signals indicate tolerance for transition. When rehabilitation, reintegration, or functional escalation is imposed out of sequence, recovery itself becomes load. Apparent improvement may reflect suppression or accommodation of instability rather than restored capacity, increasing vulnerability to reinjury or collapse once demand resumes. This modality does not replace rehabilitation or clinical recovery doctrine. It specifies the authority and sequencing conditions required for recovery efforts to bind without producing secondary structural harm.

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## Conclusion

This paper establishes a structurally ordered set of upstream neurostructural trauma modality definitions describing how shock-origin load is governed, escalated, enforced, and constrained in combat-conditioned systems prior to symptom expression, narrative interpretation, or behavioral attribution. The framework does not replace or revise existing medical, psychiatric, or behavioral doctrine. It operates at a pre-diagnostic level of authority, clarifying the sequencing and jurisdictional conditions under which downstream assessment, interpretation, and intervention can bind safely or produce harm.

By formalizing these domains and their failure modes, the framework addresses a persistent source of misclassification in trauma science: the application of valid tools and interpretations outside their lawful position in system progression. The contribution of this work is the establishment of a precise, non-prescriptive vocabulary that enables alignment across disciplines without requiring theoretical convergence, predictive claims, or treatment implication. This structure is offered as a foundation for improved interpretive accuracy, reduced secondary injury from sequencing violations, and future empirical investigation of shock-origin trauma systems under conditions of extreme load.

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