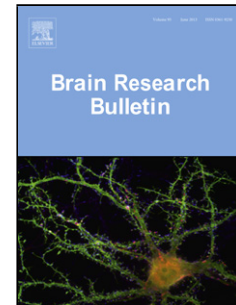


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# Facilitated Acquisition of the Classically Conditioned Eyeblink Response in Active Duty Military Expressing Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Symptoms

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## Highlights

- There was high concordance between behavioral inhibition and PTSD classification.
- Facilitated acquisition was apparent in PTSD under partial reinforcement.
- Perseverative conditioned responding was evident in PTSD during extinction.
- Results align with a learning diathesis model of stress and anxiety disorders.

## Abstract

**OBJECTIVE:** Learning diathesis models underscore the role of hyper-conditioning in the development of PTSD following trauma exposure. Eyeblink classical conditioning is one method of examining associative learning biases independent of fear and threat produced by trauma. Facilitated learning is apparent in individuals self-expressing PTSD symptoms, as well as behaviorally inhibited (BI) temperament, a vulnerability factor for PTSD. Here, we examine eyeblink conditioning in active duty military personnel and relate learning with PTSD symptomology. **METHOD:** Volunteers were 83 active duty United States Coast Guard

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