



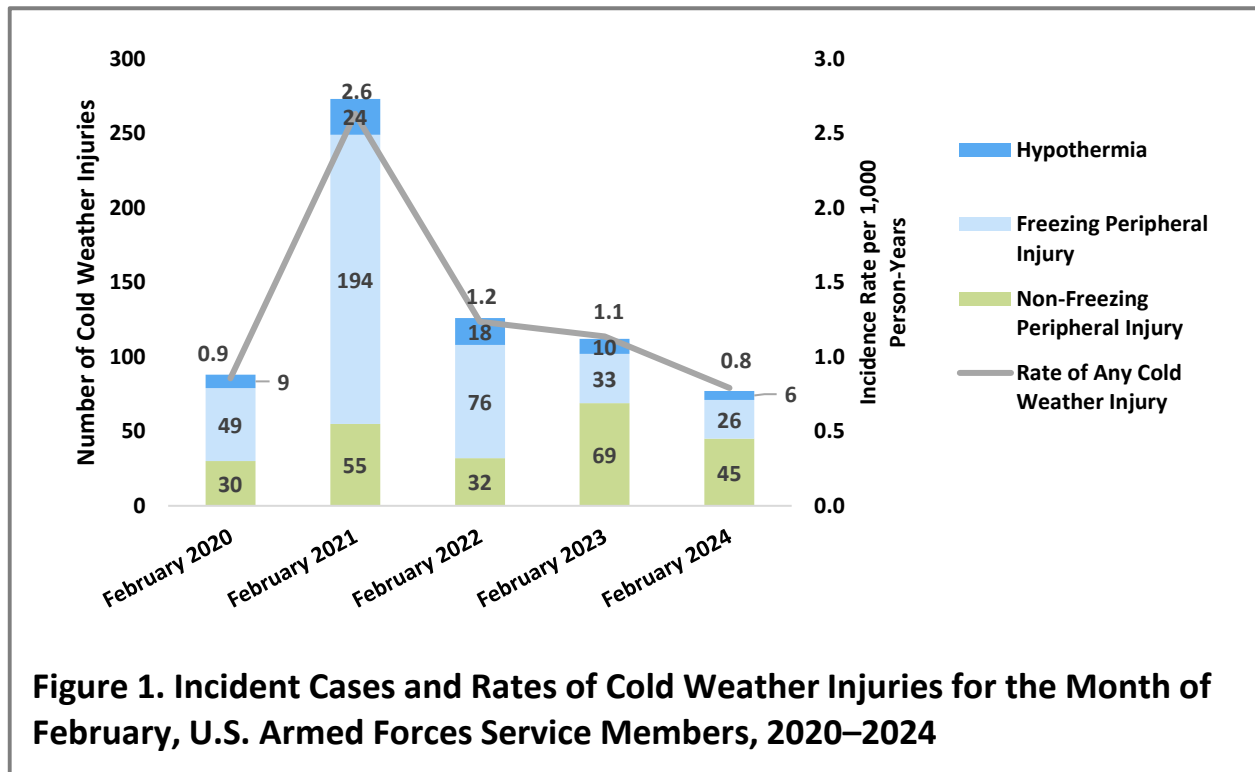
U.S. Armed Forces Cold Weather Injury Report February 2024

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Defense Centers for Public Health – Aberdeen

This report serves to describe incident cold weather injury (CWI) cases among United States (U.S.) Armed Forces Service members (SMs) including Active Duty, trainees, Reserve and Guard members. Non-Service member beneficiaries are excluded. The data for this report are obtained from the Defense Health Agency’s Weather-related Injury Repository (WRIR), which captures a selection of *International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM)* codes in inpatient and outpatient medical encounter records from the Military Health System Data Repository (MDR), as well as medical event reports of freezing peripheral injury, non-freezing peripheral injury, and hypothermia submitted through the Disease Reporting System-internet (DRSi). The medical event reports used to identify CWIs are adapted from standard case definitions established by the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Division (AFHSD). SMs are counted as an incident case if they have an initial encounter for a CWI within the cold year (1 July–30 June). Consistent with the AFHSD case definition, SMs are considered an incident case only once per cold year. Due to late data entry and delayed processing of data in the MDR, values for the 2023–2024 cold year may be artificially low.

Beginning in 2024, Coast Guard data were added to the WRIR. Coast Guard data from 2018 to 2023 are included in the WRIR for historical comparisons and new records will be included in the monthly updates to the WRIR moving forward. The completeness of the Coast Guard data is unknown at this time. Due to the addition of the Coast Guard service data to this analysis, this CWI report should not be compared to previous CWI reports.

In February 2024, 77 CWIs (45 non-freezing peripheral injuries, 26 freezing peripheral injuries, 6 hypothermia cases) were diagnosed among SMs (Figure 1). Of these, no cases were hospitalized (data not shown). The incidence rate of any CWI in SMs for February 2024 was 0.8 cases of CWI per 1,000 person-years. In the month of February during the last 5 years, CWI rates increased in 2021 to 2.6 cases of CWI per 1,000 person-years before decreasing yearly to 0.8 cases of CWI per 1,000 person-years in 2024 (Figure 1).

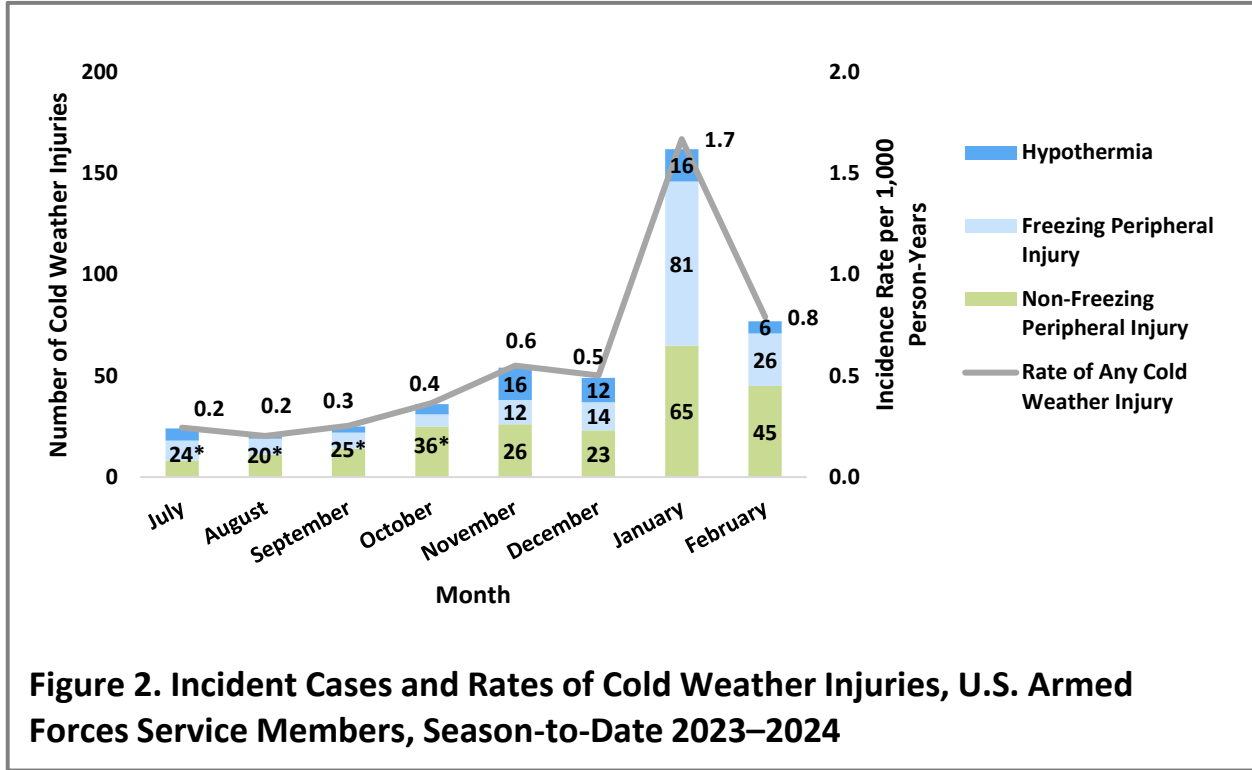




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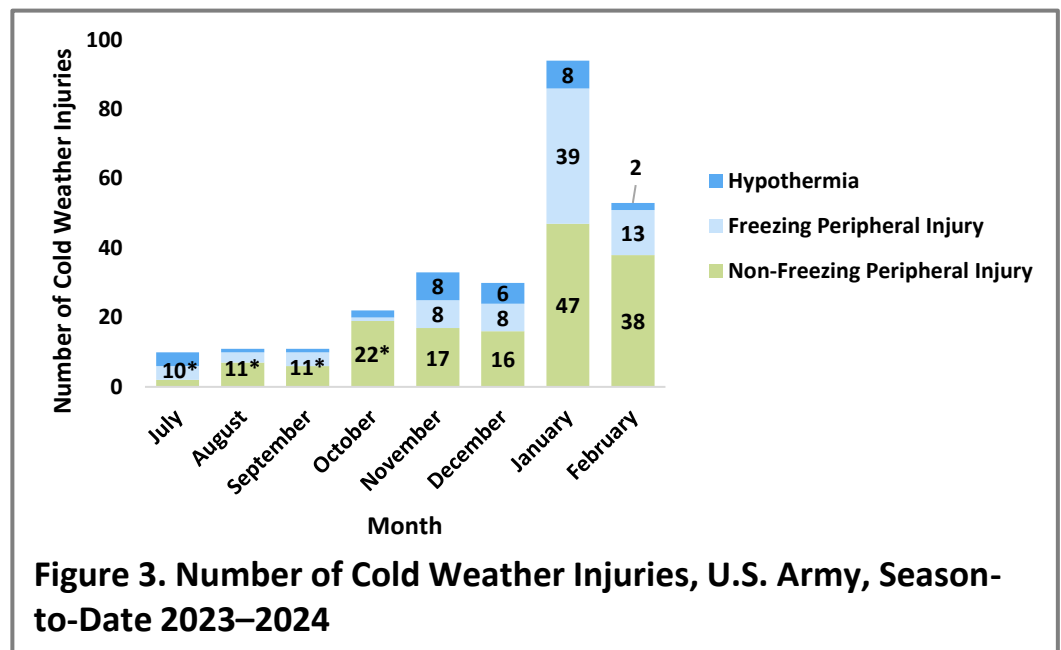
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During the 2023–2024 cold year, the rate of CWIs for SMs increased sharply, to a 2023-2024 cold year high, in January 2024 and decreased in February 2024 (Figure 2).



This section of the report contains additional figures and tables. Figures 3–7 present the number of CWIs by service branch. Table 1 provides a summary of CWI cases by service branch, type of CWI, hospitalizations, rank, sex, and age group. Figures 8 and 9 present CWIs by installation for the month and the cold year, when 10 or more CWIs occurred at the installation.

Army



*Sum of freezing peripheral injury, non-freezing peripheral injury, and hypothermia counts

Air Force and Space Force

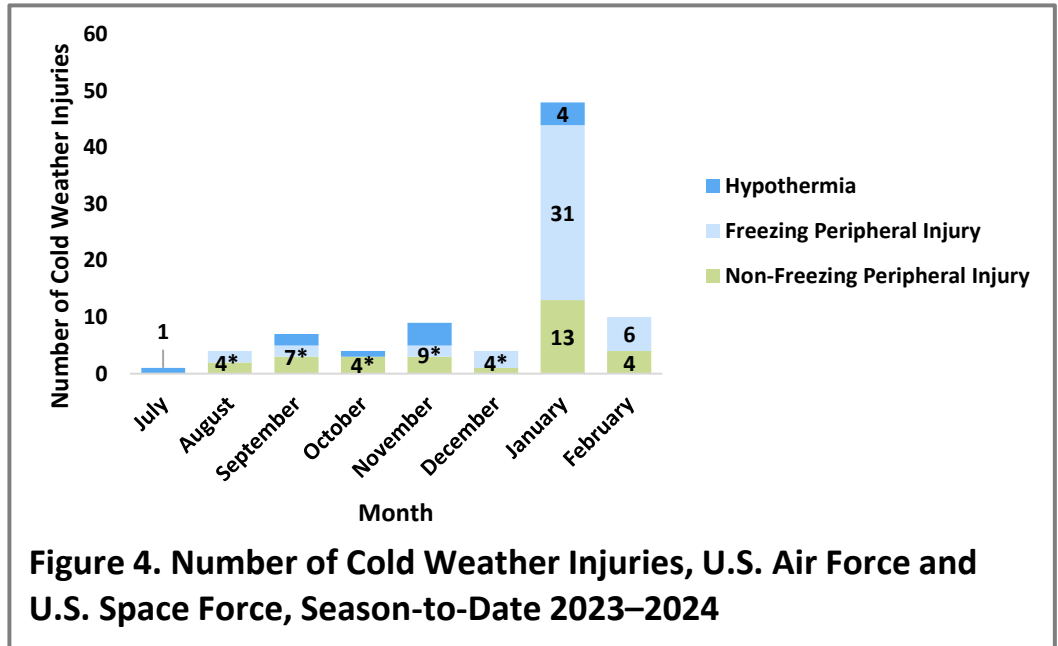
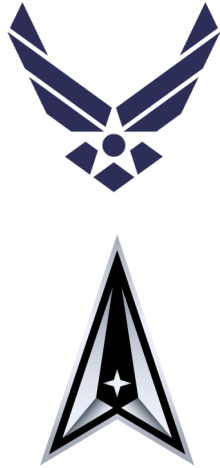


Figure 4. Number of Cold Weather Injuries, U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force, Season-to-Date 2023–2024

Navy

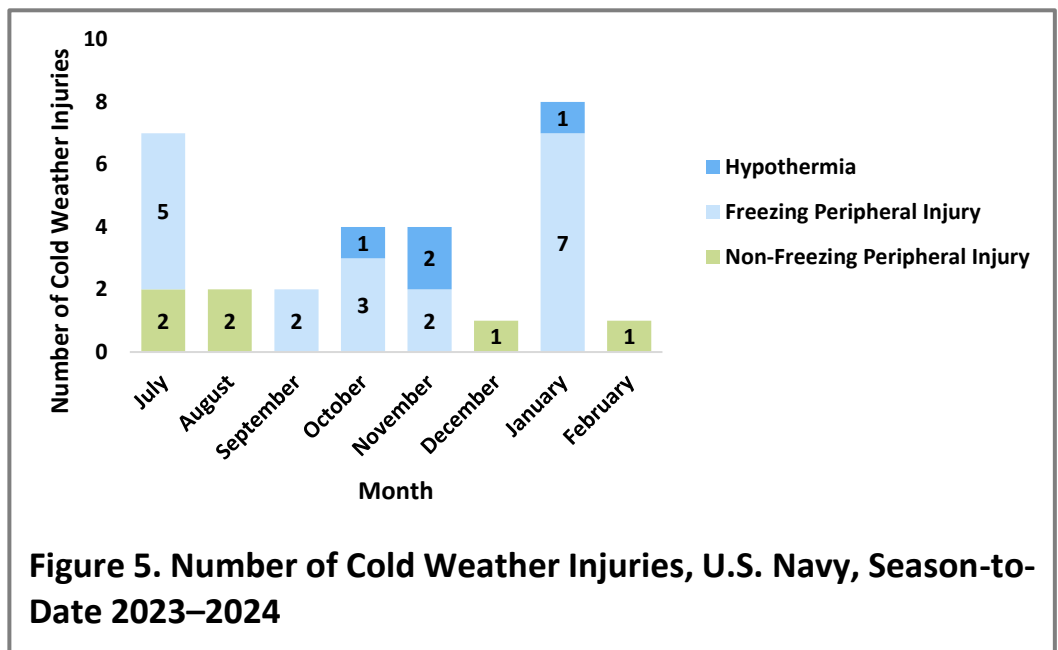
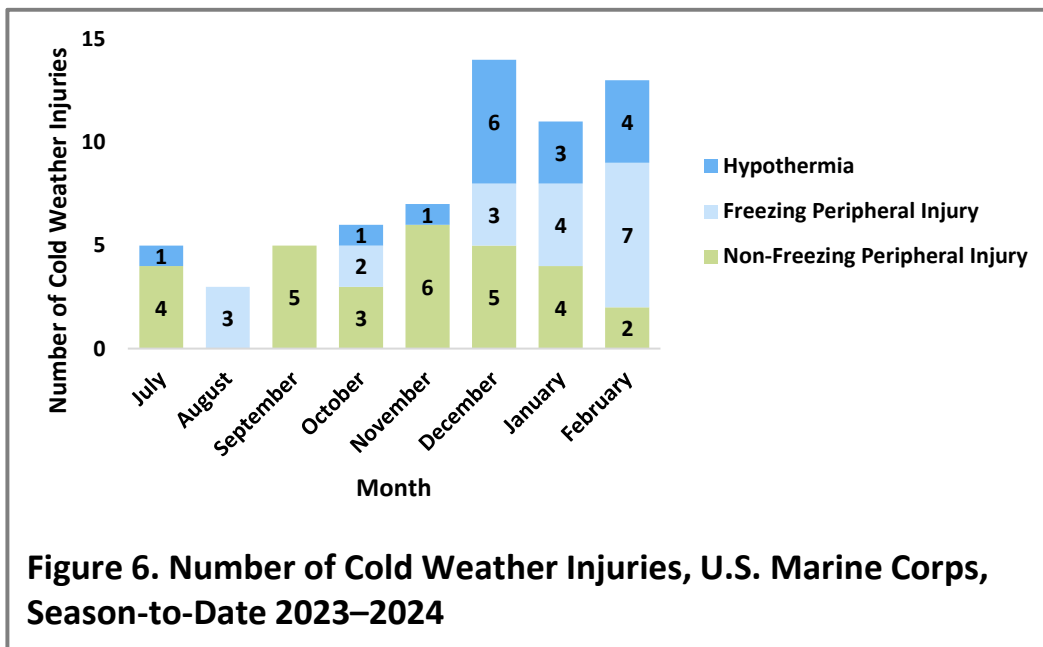


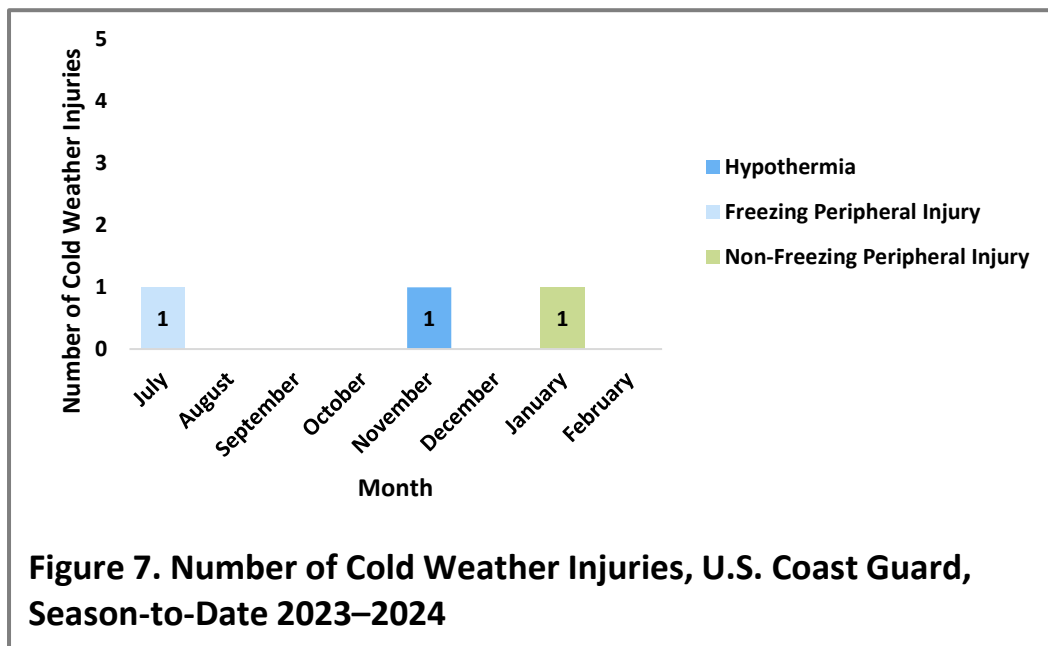
Figure 5. Number of Cold Weather Injuries, U.S. Navy, Season-to-Date 2023–2024

*Sum of freezing peripheral injury, non-freezing peripheral injury, and hypothermia
Note: Due to small numbers, rates are not calculated for each service.

Marine Corps



Coast Guard



Note: Due to small numbers, rates are not calculated for each service.



**U.S. Armed Forces
Cold Weather Injury Report
February 2024**

Table 1. Cold Weather Injuries by Service, Season-To-Date 2023–2024

	Number of Cases by Service Branch				
	Army	Air Force and Space Force	Navy	Marine Corps	Coast Guard
Total Cold Weather Injury Cases	264	87	29	64	3
Non-Freezing Peripheral Injury	152	29	6	29	1
Freezing Peripheral Injury	80	46	19	19	1
Hypothermia	32	12	4	16	1
Cold Weather Injury Hospitalizations					
Non-Freezing Peripheral Injury	0	0	0	0	0
Freezing Peripheral Injury	1	0	1	1	0
Hypothermia	0	0	1	2	0
Rank					
Trainee	1	0	1	0	0
Junior Enlisted (E1–E4)	171	53	15	53	0
Senior Enlisted (E5–E9)	63	24	10	7	1
Officer (O1–O10)	20	9	3	3	2
Warrant Officer (W1–W5)	2	0	0	0	0
Unknown	7	1	0	1	0
Sex					
Female	37	5	3	6	0
Male	226	52	16	51	1
Unknown	1	30	10	7	2
Age Group (Years)					
<25	152	56	15	56	0
25–34	82	21	5	6	0
35–44	22	9	8	2	2
45+	8	1	1	0	1

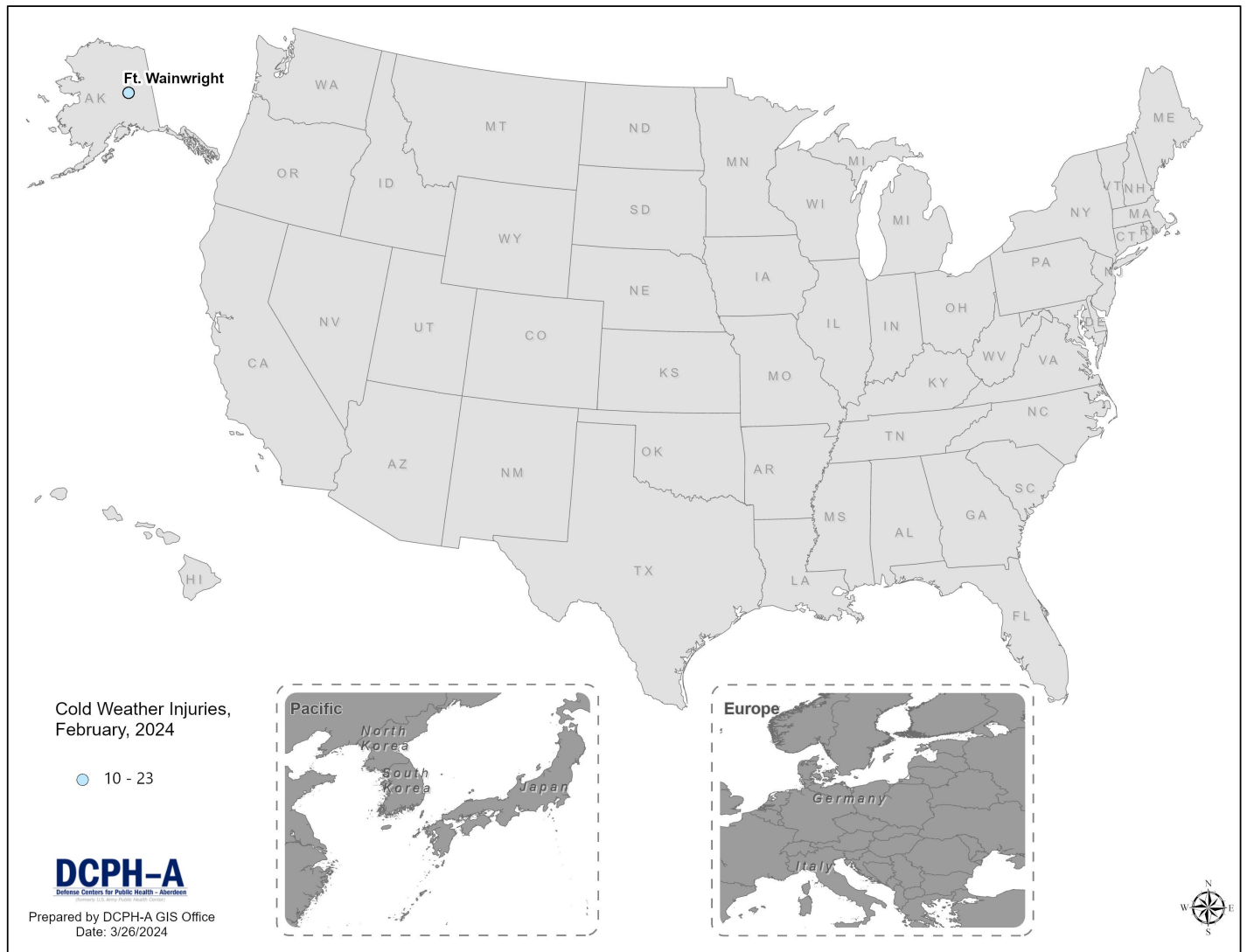


Figure 8. Cold Weather Injuries by Installation, February 2024

Installations where the total number of diagnosed cases were less than 10 are not shown.

Ft.=Fort

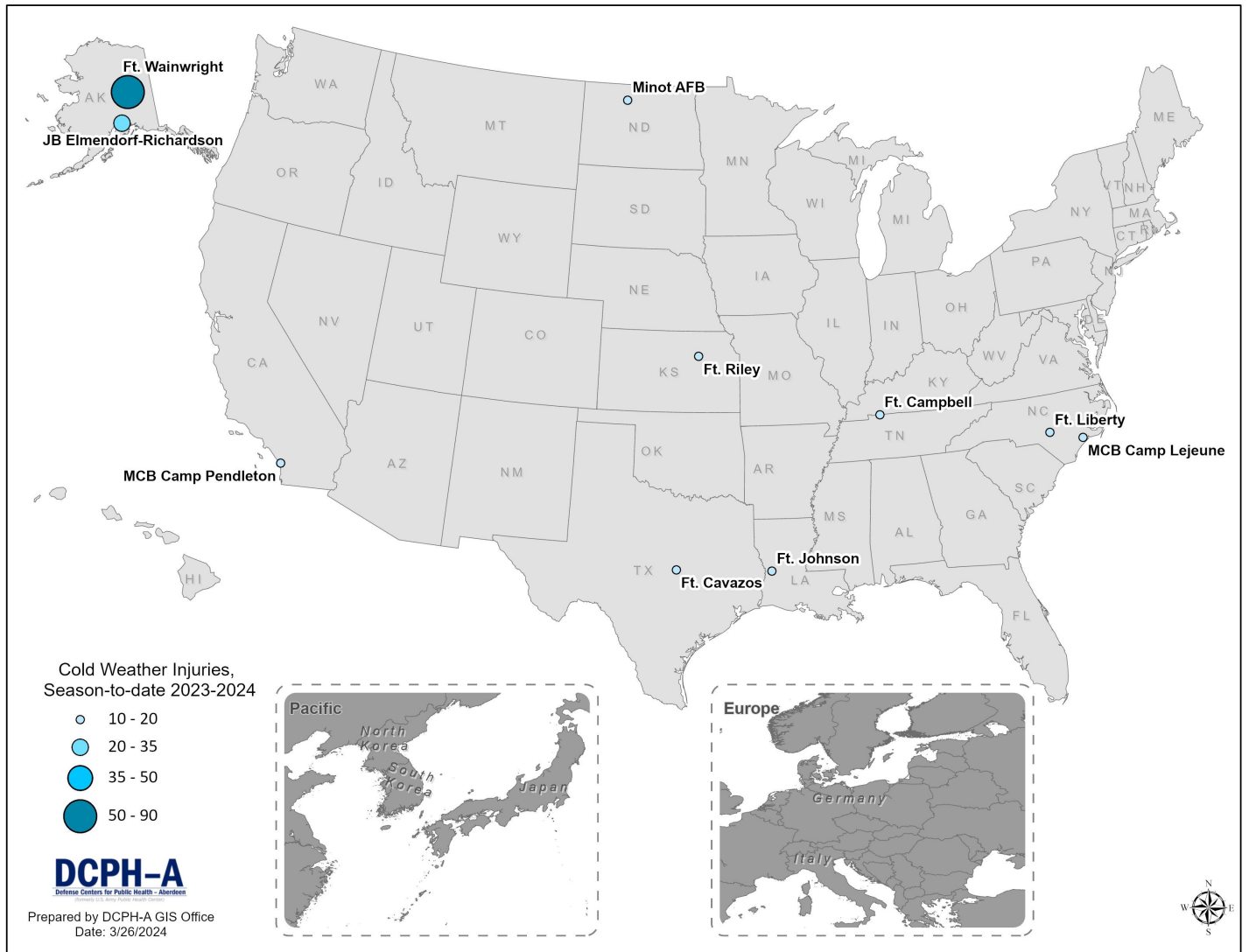


Figure 9. Cold Weather Injuries by Installation, Season-to-Date 2023–2024

Installations where the total number of diagnosed cases were less than 10 are not shown.

AFB=Air Force Base

Ft.=Fort

JB=Joint Base

MCB=Marine Corps Base