

FOR RELEASE

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From Vietnam to Iraq Brain Injuries Impact Soldiers of Past and Present Wars

YPSILANTI, Mich., March 31, 2008 — Screenings conducted by the U.S. military on soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan indicate that approximately 10 percent have incurred a brain injury. Many admit that they never associated their short-term memory problems or difficulty multi-tasking with a possible brain injury following a blast.

Unfortunately, head injuries are an inevitable result of war. U.S. Navy veteran Charlie Morris knows this all too well. Morris had been in Vietnam only eight months when he sustained a traumatic brain injury. As a member of the Navy's Sealords, he and his comrades served as a pickup and delivery service to and from detachments in the field. While flying a mission in the Mekong Delta, the helicopter he was riding in was fired upon. As he tried to locate the source, Charlie was struck in the head by a bullet from an AK- 47, which entered behind his right ear and exited through the top of his skull. He hung outside the helicopter the entire way back to the base with just a safety strap preventing him from plunging to the ground below.

Charlie was rushed to the mobile surgical hospital at Long Binh and prepped for neurosurgery where a portion of his brain was removed. The result was right-side paralysis. His prognosis was grim. Doctors said he would spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair, but through hard work and determination, Charlie learned to walk and talk again and found ways to compensate for his injuries.

He also learned to cope with the devastating effects of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) through counseling and anger management training. Determined to live a normal life, Charlie resolved not to allow others to determine what he was or was not capable of doing. With the help of a therapist, he was able to build his reading skills from a seventh grade to a college level. Six years after his injury in 1977, he completed his teaching degree at Kent State University and went on to teach marketing education to high school students for the next 18 years.

After he retired from teaching, he began a small business that he sold in 2006. Today, he volunteers with Veterans Affairs, helping brain injury and PTSD survivors. In 2006, he published the book, "Just a Regular Guy" based on his life story. He also speaks to PTSD veteran groups, brain injury groups and TBI associations.

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Charlie's story and more are featured in RainbowVisions magazine, a quarterly publication of Rainbow Rehabilitation Centers Inc. that covers all aspects of brain injury including clinical news, current technology, rehabilitation techniques, behavioral information and medical articles for industry professionals, patients and their families. To download a copy, log on to www.rainbowrehab.com. For additional resources about brain injury, visit the Brain Injury Association of America's Web site at www.biausa.org or the Brain Injury Association of Michigan's Web site at www.biami.org.

About Rainbow Rehabilitation Centers Inc.

Rainbow Rehabilitation Centers Inc. headquartered in Ypsilanti, Michigan has been a provider of rehabilitation services for children, teens and adults with brain injuries since 1983. With more than 30 residential locations, two treatment centers, a NeuroRehab Campus and a vocational center, our organization offers services that span nearly every aspect of brain injury recovery and rehabilitation. Our residential settings include adult homes, child and adolescent homes, townhouses and semi-independent living apartments. Day treatment and outpatient services are also available.

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