

Veterans Fact Sheet – March, 2007

- 60 percent of troops who survive external injuries from bomb blasts – the number one cause of deaths – could also have a brain injury (*Stars and Stripes, Mideast Edition, 2006*).
- 11, 513 have been injured by bomb blasts (*Stars and Stripes, Mideast Edition, 2006*).
- Battlefield medics and military supervisors often fail to spot TBI and troops don't always discuss their difficulties (*Stars and Stripes, Mideast Edition, 2006*).
- Traumatic brain injuries are more common in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts than in past wars because more soldiers survive due to advanced body armor and better medical treatment (*Brain Injury and Sports Concussion Institute, 2006*).
- Mild to moderate closed head injury may be overlooked when considering blast-related polytrauma (multiple complex injuries) (*Brain Injury and Sports Concussion Institute, 2006*).
- 40 percent of all blast injuries involve traumatic brain injury (*Brain Injury and Sports Concussion Institute, 2006*).
- In the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, there have been over 1,700 treated traumatic brain injuries (*Brain Injury and Sports Concussion Institute, 2006*).
- The VA expects to treat about 5.8 million patients next year, including 263,000 veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan (*MSNBC, 2006*).
- The number of veterans coming into the VA health care systems has been rising by about 5 percent a year as the number of people returning from Iraq with illnesses or injuries keep rising. Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans represent almost 5 percent of the VA's patient caseload, and many are returning from battle with grievous injuries requiring costly care, such as traumatic brain injuries (*MSNBC, 2006*).
- As of September 30, 2006 more than 50, 500 US soldiers have suffered non-mortal wounds in Iraq (*Kennedy School of Government, 2006*)