

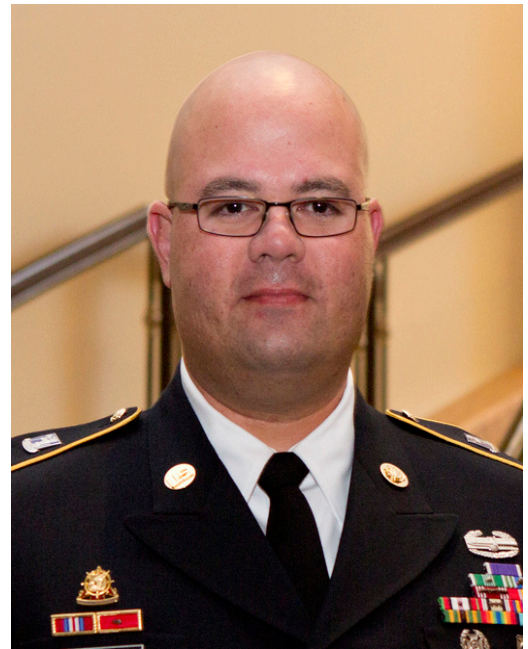
# Medical Research: It's About Victor



**“I still cope with lingering side effects. Problems with my vision, hearing, balance, headaches, speech disfluency, including the obvious cognitive impairments, are all there.”**

Retired Sergeant First Class Victor Medina was serving his second tour in Iraq in 2009 when he was severely injured by an explosive-formed projectile. In the weeks following the blast, while in rehabilitation, he suffered from cognitive impairments as well as decreased vision, hearing, speech and motor skills and migraine headaches, injuries that led to his retirement from the military. He receives ongoing care from the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE) in Bethesda, MD, a Department of Defense (DoD) facility on the front lines of traumatic brain injury (TBI) care.

The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke collaborates with academic and industry partners as well as other governmental agencies including the DoD to engage in research aimed at advancing the quality of clinical care. With the individualized treatment he receives, Victor has been able to recover many of the abilities that he lost from the injury. Against all odds, he obtained a Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling and now works with the Army Wounded Warrior program to help other soldiers with TBI.



**287,911 members of the United States military have been diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury since 2000\*.**  
**Researchers are working to better understand these largely invisible wounds.**  
**We've made progress. But the funding to sustain it is eroding.**  
**Congress: harness your compassion, gather your will, and fund the National Institutes of Health at \$32 billion in FY15.**  
**Do it for Victor.**

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[www.ninds.nih.gov](http://www.ninds.nih.gov)

\*Fischer, H (2014) CRS Report RS22452