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NVT: Korean War Veteran Rehabilitation Case Study

NVT has been in operation in the Veteran's Administration Western Blind Rehabilitation Center ("WBRC") in Palo Alto, California since 2006. The NVT neurological vision assessment and rehabilitation system, has assisted numerous clients with Neurological Vision Impairment following acquired or traumatic brain injury and provided an increase in quality of life for these clients. Outlined below is a testimonial from a Veteran injured in Korea in 1951, who received a gunshot wound to the head, and received no vision therapy until February 2007. His remaining intact field of vision is a superior right quadrantanopia.

On June 13 1952, I was shot through the head during Korean War combat. The bullet went through the skull behind the ears, blew off the back of the skull, damaged the occipital lobe, and left me legally blind. I lost 75% of the visual field in both eyes. After a lengthy stay in an Army hospital., I was discharged without the benefit of any rehabilitative therapy for my loss of vision.

Fifty-five years later I discovered the Veteran's Administration Western Blind Rehabilitation Center (WBRC) in Palo Alto, California. I was admitted to the Center on January 10, 2007: The staff and I soon realized that their standard program was geared to helping people suffering from vision loss due to eye pathology, not loss of vision due to traumatic brain injury. Therapy for loss of vision due to eye pathology relies heavily upon magnification devices. A person with vision loss due to traumatic brain injury does not need magnification aides, but does need to be trained to bring those objects, which he may not see, into the undamaged portion of his visual field.

Upon realization that the normal curriculum at the Center was not appropriate for traumatic brain injury vision loss, Elizabeth Jesson, WBRC Director, removed me from their standard program and assigned Visual Therapist, Scott Johnson as my coordinator.

Mr. Johnson employed a system developed in Australia by Gayle Clarke entitled Neuro Vision Technology. This system trains a person to move the undamaged portions of his visual field to cover areas where vision is unimpaired.

Even though I was fifty-five years late in receiving any visual therapy, I feel this system was beneficial. The Neuro-Vision Technology system would be even more successful if applied as soon as the WBRC becomes responsible for a veterans rehabilitation.

Mr. Johnson has been assigned to develop a program for the WBRC utilizing the Neuro-Vision Technology System. This program will give the WBRC the capability of providing vision loss rehabilitation to the large number of veterans who have received traumatic brain injuries from roadside bombs and other explosive devices in the O.I.F. and OEF.

***Please lend your support and encouragement,
Sincerely, Rodger L. Thisdell***