



NAEVR
National Alliance For
Eye And Vision Research

Serving as Friends of the National Eye Institute

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EYE AND VISION RESEARCH SHOULD REMAIN ELIGIBLE IN THE CDMRP/PRMRP PROGRAM IN FY2009 DOD APPROPRIATIONS

- “Eye and vision research” has been listed as eligible from FY2006-FY2008 (even though the PRMRP program was not funded in FY2007).
- In FY2006, the first year that vision research was eligible for the PRMRP program, vision researchers submitted 52 grants requests, or 8% of 651 total grant requests submitted. Vision researchers were awarded 6 grants or 12% of the 51 awarded, for a funding total of \$5.4 million.
- Examples of vision research grants awarded include: corneal healing, improvement in corneal transplantation, and retinal implants.
- In battlefield conditions, the eye can experience traumatic injury due to explosive devices; exposure to chemical, biohazard, and laser assaults; and extreme environmental conditions that can cause dry eye/corneal abrasions or impede wound healing.
- According to the Blinded Veterans Association, 16% of all Iraq war injuries involve the eye, with traumatic eye injury the most severe. BVA estimates that 80% of Traumatic Brain Injured (TBI) personnel complain of visual symptoms related to their TBI, while 62% have associated neurological visual disorders, including double vision, light sensitivity, ocular-motor dysfunction, and inability to interpret print.
- Major areas of defense-related eye research include: eye trauma and wound healing; visual function and visual acuity; and vision health disparities (due to a disproportionate incidence of eye disease in the African American and Hispanic population).
- Vision is the sense most important to optimal performance—whether in battlefield conditions or in support functions (especially computer-assisted guidance/tracking systems that present data almost exclusively through a readout).