

**The  
Major Charles Robert Soltes, Jr., O.D.,  
Blind Rehabilitation Center**

will be dedicated on

**January 25, 2012  
At 10:00 o'clock in the Morning  
Long Beach, CA**



1968 – 2004

Major Charles Rob Soltes, Jr. O.D. was the first ever Armed Forces Optometrist killed in action.

Major Soltes was serving as a public health officer with the 426th Civil Affairs Battalion, U.S. Army Reserves, in Mosul, Iraq. His unit had recently deployed from Upland, California with the critical mission of assessing and restoring infrastructure to improve the lives of the ordinary Iraqi citizen. On October 13, 2004, he was in a convoy returning from a meeting with Iraqi health officials when a vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Device rammed his humvee, resulting in his death. MAJ Soltes, 36, had only been in Mosul a few weeks when he was killed in the line of duty.

“Major Soltes was a distinguished optometrist and military officer. By naming this new facility after him, we are ensuring that his spirit lives on.”