

Comic Books Draw Veteran Interest

Some wounded veterans use artistic skills to conquer old demons and help others, and a partnership in Virginia is providing them the means.

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Drawing has been a part of Mike Rodriguez's life since childhood, but a wound that ended his military career also put his illustrator tendencies on hold.

Rodriguez, who served in Iraq from June to November 2004, with Bravo Co., 1st Bn., 8th Marines, as a rifleman, was wounded on Thanksgiving Day 2004 in Fallujah, Iraq. He was shot, losing nerve feeling and fine-motor skills on his right side. His shoulder was dislocated, he said, and he nearly lost his right leg to compartment syndrome (pressure buildup in muscles), among other shrapnel injuries.

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