

**For Immediate Release
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Wounded Warriors to Receive Segways

Charity Helps Restore Mobility for Injured Veterans Segs4Vets Makes First West Coast Presentation

San Diego, Ca. September 27, 2008 – Segs4Vets will present Segways, personal mobility devices, to 14 soldiers and one Coast Guard specialist who lost legs or sustained severe neurological injuries during combat in Iraq at its first West Coast presentation in San Diego today.

The first of three autumn presentations will take place in San Diego at Embarcadero Marina Park North at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, September 27. Eight of the 15 wounded warriors are from California. Thirteen lost one or both legs and two suffered severe neurological injuries which make it difficult to walk. The Segway dramatically improves personal mobility without the need of a wheelchair.

These recipients are among approximately 110 severely injured soldiers, Marines, airmen, Coast Guard and National Guardsmen who will receive gifts of Segways this fall from Segs4Vets, a project of Disability Rights Advocates for Technology (DRAFT), an all volunteer organization certified as one of America's best charities.

The 15 San Diego recipients will receive final training in the use of the Segway by Segs4Vets volunteers at an all day session Friday, September 26, at the ballroom of Hotel Solamar, 435 6th Avenue, San Diego. DRAFT established a Segs4Vets training and assessment program at the Naval Medical Center San Diego in November 2007. Many of the recipients received initial training and assessment from the Center's physical therapy staff.

The second awards ceremony is scheduled for the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas, to coincide with the Veterans Day celebration on November 10 and the final 2008 ceremony will take place on Tuesday Dec. 9 at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, Va. The ceremonies are near the major military medical centers which treat and rehabilitate most of the wounded warriors. The fall presentations will bring the total number of Segways donated to wounded veterans to 268 in just over two years.

All recipients suffered injuries while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Most lost one or both legs to amputation and some suffer from soft tissue and neurological damage which severely limits the ability to walk. A disproportionate number were victims of IED blasts, the signature weapon of this war. More than 30,000 men and women in uniform have been wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan since the beginning of hostilities and

hundreds of the injured have lost limbs to amputation. The autumn recipients were drawn from an applicant pool of more than 300.

“Segs4Vets is thrilled to be making our first presentation in San Diego to build on our relationship with the Naval Medical Center San Diego and help our wounded warriors become more independent,” said Jerry Kerr, a founder of Segs4Vets. “This is our way of saying thank you for your service and expressing gratitude for their sacrifice.”

“Many of us who are disabled are alive today because of the sacrifices made by disabled American veterans from World War II, Korea and Vietnam,” said Kerr who like other members of DRAFT is a Segway user. Kerr became a quadriplegic after a diving accident ten years ago. “These veterans changed the world for people with disabilities. Disabled vets are responsible not only for advances in rehabilitation technology and medicine, but also for transforming the perceptions of society towards those with disabilities.”

Segways allow these military service members to perform everyday activities beyond the physical limitations of a wheelchair. The device not only frees them from wheelchairs but keeps them standing on their new prosthetic legs for longer periods of time, allows them to preserve their energy, and dramatically increases mobility and independence. Former recipients use Segways to travel between college classes, go to work, and accompany their families to shopping malls, amusement parks and other outings. It has helped some stay on active duty.

The Segway is not FDA approved as a medical device but it is finding a growing following among individuals with physical disabilities caused by spinal cord injuries, MS and Parkinson’s disease. The Segway is not covered by military medical insurance, however, the Veterans Administration is launching a pilot program on Segway use for older veterans this year in response to the popularity of the device among the Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans.

Segs4Vets, created in late 2005, is run entirely by volunteers as part of Disability Rights Advocates for Technology (DRAFT), a 501c3 created by Kerr; Leonard Timm, who lost his legs in a boating accident as a teenager; and Fred Kaplan, a Los Angeles CPA who has a family member with MS. General Ralph “Ed” Eberhart USAF (Ret), former Commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command, helped create the Segs project to recognize the sacrifice of all of disabled veterans from all conflicts and honor the unique contributions of disabled American veterans to people with disabilities in the United States.

DRAFT is the first and only organization to ever receive a blanket waiver from the U.S. military allowing a gift in excess to \$1,000 to severely injured active duty military force members serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. DRAFT represents people with disabilities who refuse to be defined by their disability and whose passionate enthusiasm for participation in life’s activities is supported by Universal Design and new and emerging technologies. DRAFT has been certified as one of the best charities in America by the Independent Charities Seal of Excellence, an honor accorded fewer than 2,000 of the more than one million public charities in the United States.

For more information including a list of veterans who will receive Segways or to schedule an interview, reporters may visit www.Segs4Vets.org or call Chris Black (see above contact information) or Jerry Kerr at (314) 603-4672. Note to Television Stations: the training session on Friday is the best visual. Chris Black will be using her mobile phone on Friday and Saturday.