

Gift of iPads helps in assessment of PTS and to improve memory functions

By Patricia Deal
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FORT HOOD, Texas—Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center’s American Red Cross office gifted two iPads to the hospital’s Warrior Combat Stress Reset Center June 20, as part of the Red Cross’s Military Hospital Outreach Program.

Jerry Wesch, clinical psychologist and director of the Reset Center, said he is excited to get the new tablets. He thought that the iPads would be ideal to help get necessary inspirational and educational information to the Soldiers at the center.

“Today’s young Soldiers are very computer literate and get most of their information via the computer,” he said. “If I can reach more Soldiers through the use of modern technology, then all the better.”

In addition to the inspirational and motivational material, Wesch said he plans on loading the iPads with other useful items such as tests and questionnaires used for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder assessment and some memory/concentration tools for improving cognitive function. Reset Center Soldiers will be able to checkout the iPads through the front office.

Debbie MacDonald, assistant station manager for the CRDAMC Red Cross office, said they are always happy to support the wounded warriors. The Outreach program and occasional grant funding allows them to provide popular items to wounded warriors that might not be available to them through normal channels. In addition to the iPads, MacDonald said, they gifted “stress erasers,” bio-feedback devices used to measure and track stress levels, to 200 wounded warriors this year.

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CUTLINE:

Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center's Commander Col. (Dr.) Steven Braverman (center), displays two iPads which were gifted to CRDAMC's Warrior Combat Stress Reset Center June 20 by the hospital's American Red Cross office. As part of its Military Hospital Outreach Program, Debbie MacDonald (left), assistant station manager for the CRDAMC Red Cross office, presented the iPads to Jerry Wesch, clinical psychologist and director of the Warrior Combat Stress Reset Center. (U.S. Army photo by Patricia Deal)