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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No. 049-11
January 19, 2011

Interactive Simulation Launched to Provide Information on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

The Department of Defense (DoD) announced today the launch of an interactive simulation designed to help those dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

The National Center for Telehealth and Technology (T2) developed the 'Virtual PTSD Experience' to help combat veterans and their families and friends to anonymously enter a virtual world and learn about PTSD causes, symptoms and resources.

"We believe this is the first time DoD has used interactive simulations with the Web to help our military community with PTSD in the privacy of their homes," said Dr. George Peach Taylor Jr., principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

The Virtual PTSD Experience was designed to be used in the privacy of homes. Visitors are anonymous, which reduces the perceived stigma of asking for help with PTSD.

"We created an environment that lets people learn by doing, rather than reading text and watching videos on two-dimensional websites," said Kevin Holloway, the psychologist who led T2's virtual world development. "They can learn something new each time they visit."

The T2 Virtual PTSD Experience can be visited at <http://www.t2health.org/vwproj/>.

Located at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., T2 is a component of the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury. For more information about the T2 Virtual PTSD Experience, media may contact Joe Jimenez at joseph.jimenez@amedd.army.mil or at 253-318-1177.