



TATRC's MHIC Team Leverages WiFi and Mobile Health in a Combat Operations Setting



The Director of TATRC, COL Dan Kral, met with the Commander of the 75th Combat Support Hospital, COL Marc Duchette at the recent WAREX exercise at AP Hill, VA during a demonstration of a wireless recall capability within a deployed hospital. Pictured also in the rear (left to right are Ms. Jeanette Little, Director of the TATRC MHIC field office, Mr. Edward Kensinger, Project Manager for the event, and Mr. Donald Choate from the MEDEVAC Proponency Directorate AMEDD C&S.)

23 January, 2015 Fort A.P. Hill, VA

Imagine arriving at a major medical center with a life threatening medical condition. Imagine now that this facility has no paging or cellular phone capability. How will the right doctor be alerted that you need treatment to save your life?

The Telemedicine & Advanced Technology Research Center's Mobile Health Innovation Team (TATRC's MHIC Team) brought together distinguished guests and visitors to Fort A.P. Hill, VA on Friday, 23 January for a technology demonstration that focused on "Addressing Documented Gaps in Internal CSH Communication & Recall with a Garrison Optimized COTS Solution Leveraging Wi-Fi & Vocera Mobile Health."

The event demonstrated how the insertion of a commercially available technology can solve an enduring gap in the ability to recall specialized clinical providers within an austere environment. The expected end result of the exercise was to show an improvement of patient outcomes by optimizing the use of the limited personnel within a deployed Combat Support Hospital utilizing the technology displayed at the demonstration.



1LT Jonathan Main, a Health Services Systems Officer (70D), assigned to the 75th Combat Support Hospital, demonstrates the proper wear of the wireless recall badge manufactured by the Vocera company, during the recent WAREX exercise at Fort AP Hill, VA.

In order to improve outcomes in the austere environment of combat operations, there is a recognized need to improve communication within a deployed hospital. TATRC, along with Cyber Center of Excellence Experimental Division (CDID-ED), Regional Training Site-Medical, Ft. Gordon (RTS-MED), and the 75th Combat Support Hospital collaboratively partnered together to demonstrate a commercial digital voice over Internet Protocol badge combined with the enabling NSA approved, wireless capabilities for the tactical environment. This technology will ensure that the appropriate personnel are available to address emerging issues both clinically and

operationally. TATRC's MHIC Lab Director, Ms. Jeanette Little said, "We are pleased to have strong partnerships with the U.S. Army Cyber Command, US Army Reserve Medical Training Site and the 75th Combat Support Hospital that affords us the opportunity to conduct evaluations like this in an operational setting."

Attendees at this technology demonstration saw the wireless network in an operational setting, which has been cleared for combat operations in theater. Attendees were also able view the voice activated, digital paging device system in use, which allows for hands free communications from throughout the geographical footprint of the hospital.

The TATRC MHIC team's hypothesis is that this capability will reduce or eliminate the need for a member of the clinical team to be taken away from providing care to retrieve another care provider on the CSH compound. Mr. Edward Kensinger, TATRC MHIC Project Manager said, "With the assistance of the Cyber Center of Excellence, Experimentation Division, we continue to seek technical solutions to answer real world medical needs." By providing a recall capability, clinical providers will be available wherever and whenever the need for their specialty is required.