mHIC Telehealth 2.0 Project is Awarded

Earlier this summer, TATRC’s Mobile Health Innovation Center (mHIC) lab was awarded a multi-year grant for a project entitled, Telehealth 2.0. This is a collaboration between TATRC’s mHIC lab, T2 and the Behavioral Health Clinic at Fort Hood, Texas. “The Telehealth 2.0 project is one that is generating a lot of excitement at TATRC, as we explore ways to reach patients for real time telehealth outside of the fixed facility business model” stated Ms. Jeanette Little, mHIC Lab Manager.

This effort will be a demonstration of how behavioral health providers can provide seamless continuity of care to existing active duty service members, even if they are relocated on a temporary basis, such as an extended TDY, at a significant distance away from Fort Hood. Providers will use desktop VTC software in their offices to make connections to their patients, but the patients will connect with their assigned providers by using teleconferencing features on their personal, mobile device. To accomplish the goals of this project, the next generation of Secure Internet Protocol (SIP) based VTC technologies will be used, which are not yet deployed across the Defense Health Agency (DHA). However, the DHA Health IT office has offered their support to this pilot effort, and is working closely with the TATRC mHIC team to establish the SIP based VTC technology infrastructure behind .mil firewalls to ensure that the connections made in this research project mirror the future practices within the DHA. TATRC will then work closely with our research projects to evaluate the reliability, quality and technical considerations of the ability to reach patients outside of fixed facilities with connected health solutions.