News Release:
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TATRC NETCCN PROJECT DELIVERS MUCH NEEDED TELE-CRITICAL SUPPORT TO COVID HOT SPOTS

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In support of COVID-19 surge response, the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command's (USAMRDC) Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center (TATRC) has begun to deploy teams from its National Tele-Critical Care Network (NETCCN) project to COVID hot spots in Guam, South Dakota, Minnesota, Puerto Rico and other locations.

Based on cellular communication networks, mobile technologies and cloud computing, NETCCN teams consist of critical care clinicians and technology partners who are collaboratively developing cloud-based, low-resource, stand-alone health information management systems for the creation and coordination of flexible and extendable "virtual critical care wards." These high acuity, virtual wards bring high-quality critical care capability to nearly every bedside, be it healthcare facilities, field hospitals, or other locations that lack adequate critical care expertise and resources necessary for care of severe COVID-19 illnesses.

Within a few days of deployment, over 235 local and distance clinicians have downloaded and begun using a NETCCN platform to manage nearly 100 patients in a hospital or at home, with users conducting over 2,400 synchronous (live video) and asynchronous (messages) exchanged through the platforms.

"When we started the NETCCN project a few months ago, we challenged our performers to empower clinicians to deliver 'anywhere to anywhere' tele-critical care functionality by downloading a simple-to-use smartphone 'app.' Our NETCCN teams have done just that, as evidenced by the rapid adoption, use and integration of NETCCN platforms into the COVID fight," said TATRC Director, COL Jeremy Pamplin.

TATRC is completing a final stage of validation with its NETCCN performers before additional scaling in support of COVID surge response. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and TATRC recently established a four-year memorandum of understanding (MOA) to fund the acceleration and scale up of NETCCN. The agreement between HHS' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) and TATRC provides $45 million in initial funding for the transition of the NETCCN platform from a TATRC research and development effort to an ASPR-led operational deployment solution.

TATRC's four NETCCN clinical-technical teams include:

- Avera Health partnered with VitelNet, and DocBox
- Deloitte Consulting, LLP partnered with AWS GovCloud, Decisio Health, Elsevier, Qventus, T6 Health System, Verizon, and Zyter
- Expressions Network, LLC partnered with Mercy ACO Clinical Services, Active Innovations, and SDSE Networks
- The Geneva Foundation partnered with Omnicure, Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) Discovery Network, DocBox, MD PnP Program at Massachusetts General Hospital, and Madigan Army Medical Center (MAMC)/Telemedical Research for Operational Support (TR4OS)

About TATRC

U.S. Army's Telemedicine & Advanced Technology Research Center's (TATRC) is engaged in essential medical research focused on advanced medical technologies and is dedicated to bringing innovative telehealth solutions to the Warfighter and the Military Health System. TATRC fosters research on health informatics, telemedicine / m-Health, medical training systems and computational biology to address gaps in DoD medical research programs and military healthcare.

For more information on TATRC, please visit: https://www.tatrc.org/www/resources/covid-19.html.