SDD Participates in Leading Health Information Technology Conference

Defense Health Agency (DHA) Solution Delivery Division (SDD) team members converged with other health care experts at the 2019 Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HiMSS19) conference in Orlando, FL on Feb. 11-15. The global conference and exhibition encourages colleagues from diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise to connect and discuss advances in health information technology at networking events and countless other collaborative opportunities.

“HiMSS provides a unique environment that allows SDD attendees to network with thousands of health care champions from around the world to discuss innovative solutions that will assist with our shared mission of transforming health care through information technology,” said SDD Chief COL Richard Wilson.

Featured in the HiMSS19 Interoperability Showcase, SDD team members partnered with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Interagency Program Office, and the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center, to present a prosthesis ordering case study using the Defense Medical Logistics Standard Support (DMLSS)/LogiCole information technology application. The team demonstrated a proof of concept solution that would allow the VA to process customized patient orders containing Personal Health Information/Personally Identifiable Information using the Department of Defense’s DMLSS application, which features a comprehensive range of medical materiel, equipment, war reserve materiel and facilities management capabilities.
The Cover Story provided a snapshot of our Solution Delivery Division (SDD) participation at HiMSS19. The conference and exhibition connects health information technology professionals from around the world to discuss innovative solutions to advance health care. We look forward to the event each year and the opportunities it provides for us to showcase our capabilities. Keep reading to learn more about the latest SDD news.

In our Program Management Office (PMO) Spotlight, you can read about our Electronic Health Record Core PMO’s recent AHLTA deployment that supports improved patient safety and user experience. Next, in the Product Spotlight you will learn how the integration of the Shelf Life Extension Program into our medical logistics applications saves money by helping the Federal Drug Administration test the efficacy of drugs. Lastly you can explore details of an exciting new project that partners SDD teams with scientists at Johns Hopkins University to explore solutions that will improve infectious disease outbreak detection.

These articles are just a few highlights of the great work our teams have produced in the past quarter. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about SDD and the work we do each day. We are dedicated to our mission to support and advance military health care and honored to serve our 9.5 million Department of Defense beneficiaries.

This issue will be my last opportunity to present The BEAT to our stakeholders. I want to publicly thank our SDD team, our partners in the Services and our vendor community who have continued to come together to advance health care in the Military Health System (MHS). My retirement from Active Duty will be bittersweet, as I have had such an amazing experience with so many dedicated and motivated people over the last 25 years. I am comforted by the fact that I am transitioning SDD leadership over to COL Francisco Dominici. COL Dominici is an Army nurse informaticist with the skills, drive and passion to continue to advance the MHS. He, along with our Chief Operating Officer/Program Executive Officer, Chris Harrington, will undoubtedly make a tremendous leadership team.

Until we meet again.

COL Rich Wilson

Visit SDD News subscriber page to register for topics of interest.
COL Francisco Dominicci was recently selected to replace COL Rich Wilson as Solution Delivery Division (SDD) chief in April.

“I’m looking forward to working with everyone at SDD,” said COL Dominicci, whose selection was announced in the January Deputy Assistant Director Information Operations (DAD IO, J-6) Monthly Message. “Your reputation for exceeding stakeholder expectations is well known across the Defense Health Agency. It’s an honor to lead such a distinguished team of professionals.”

COL Wilson is scheduled to retire from the Army this summer after more than 25 years’ service, the final three years as SDD chief.

The incoming SDD chief is a board-certified medical informaticist whose 22-year Army career includes various healthcare information technology positions, including a recent tour as Chief Nursing Information Officer at the U.S. Army Medical Department and Program Manager for the Military Health System Virtual Health Program. He also served as Operations and Innovation chief for the Army Office of the Surgeon General/Office of Chief Medical Information Officer; Chief Information Officer for the Colorado Springs Military Health System; and Chief Medical Information Officer and Chief of the Healthcare Informatics Division at Evans Army Community Hospital in Colorado, among other military positions. The colonel is an associate professor for Colorado Technical University and an adjunct professor for Uniformed Services University.

COL Dominicci earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from the University of Puerto Rico in 1996. He also earned a Master of Arts in Management and Leadership from Webster University in 2009 and a Master of Science in Healthcare Informatics in 2012 from the University of Colorado, where he graduated in the top one percent of the graduate school. He is a Certified Professional in Health Information Management, a member of the Acquisition Corps and holds Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (DAWIA) program management certifications.

SDD Offers Final Virtual JLV Training Session

The Solution Delivery Division will conduct their final scheduled Joint Legacy Viewer (JLV) virtual training courses in March. JLV training assists military hospitals and clinics improve the efficiency of health care provided to Department of Defense beneficiaries. The final training session will be hosted on Joint Knowledge Online, Mar. 21 from 1300-1500 CST.

Future virtual training is by request only. For more information, click here.

Click here to go to milSuite to learn more about the 2018 BOMA winners.

The 2018 BOMA program consisted of nine categories with winners receiving the most votes by milSuite users. The milSuite portal is a collection of online applications focused on improving secured collaboration within the Department of Defense.
The Solution Delivery Division Electronic Health Record Core (EHR Core) Program Management Office released AHLTA 3.3.9 recently. EHR Core made the upgrade to improve both patient care safety and the provider user experience while deployment of the military’s next-generation EHR, MHS GENESIS, is underway.

The new version is Windows 10 compatible and is a 64-bit application. It includes 11 new functional features requested by providers and more than 30 software fixes from previous versions. The upgrade includes the following enhancements:

- Critical results notifications
- Unsigned encounters visibility
- A new virtual appointment type
- Modified special flags
- Expanded field for prescription directions (SIG) order entry meds
- Improved Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-5) behavioral health terminology
- Rapid entry immunizations
- A World Health Organization pediatric growth chart

PMO / BRANCH SPOTLIGHT: EHR Core PMO Releases AHLTA Enhancements

The Solution Delivery Division Joint Medical Logistics Functional Development Center (JMLFDC) successfully integrated the Defense Health Agency (DHA) Shelf Life Extension Program (SLEP) into the LogiCole and Joint Medical Asset Repository (JMAR) applications in January.

“Through SLEP, expiring drugs are tested for efficacy by the Federal Drug Administration,” stated Jennifer Tisch, JMAR Program Manager. “Items proven to be effective beyond labeled shelf life are granted extensions to their expiration dates resulting in cost savings over replacing expired items that are still usable.”

SLEP capabilities were developed and deployed in incremental releases from November 2017 to August 2018, Tisch said. Following the deployments, a five month transition plan was conducted in order to migrate SLEP data and train users. The escalated release schedule enabled JMLFDC to deliver capabilities without lapses in service to users of the critical program. Integrating SLEP into LogiCole and JMAR allows the DHA to decommission the stand-alone SLEP system.

SLEP users include 20-plus Federal Government agencies. To date, the program has saved more than $100 million by eliminating the need to replace expired drugs.

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT: Shelf Life Extension Program Successfully Integrates into LogiCole and JMAR

DID YOU KNOW?

SDD Unveils Ektropy How-To Site on LaunchPad

The Solution Delivery Division (SDD) Ektropy team unveiled a new instructional site on LaunchPad.

The LaunchPad site allows users to ask questions about Ektropy, request training, watch training videos and view business rules, according to Cheryl Anderson, Ektropy deputy program manager.

Ektropy, part of the SDD Program Support Branch, is an information technology (IT) solution used across the Deputy Assistant Director Information Operations (DAD IO) directorate to support program and portfolio management. The application provides insight into personnel, programs, cost and contracts across DAD IO. Ektropy is designed to improve management of cross-program dependencies and validate the IT manpower footprint.

Access the Ektropy instructional site here.
SDD Works with Johns Hopkins Scientists to Improve ESSENCE

Solution Delivery Division (SDD) members began working with Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory scientists in 2018 to improve the Electronic Surveillance System for Early Notification of Community-Based Epidemics (ESSENCE). Part of the SDD Clinical Support Program Management Office, ESSENCE is a tool used to detect infectious disease outbreaks like the flu.

The scientists are exploring ways to integrate health data from multiple, disparate sources and employ automated data fusion algorithms that will expedite analysis and sharply reduce the alert burden, explained Devon Matthew, ESSENCE program manager. Ultimately, the scientists aim to provide greater situational awareness to Department of Defense epidemiologists who use ESSENCE to monitor the health of military members and their dependents.

“Improving the analytic fusion capability will give ESSENCE the ability to efficiently analyze a much larger data pool, resulting in more thorough, accurate results,” Matthew said. “The capability won’t independently detect and confirm disease outbreaks, nor will it replace human decision making, but it will greatly enhance our analytic abilities.”

The scientists plan to build and train Bayesian networks (BNs) to facilitate analytic fusion. BNs are probabilistic graphical models that use Bayesian inference for probability computations. According to the scientists, the “process applies probabilistic reasoning to combine multiple stream of disease-related data in order to provide a ‘degree of belief’ regarding potential outbreaks weighted by the relevance of data features and the strength of anomalies.”

SDD Forms New HSS PMO

The Solution Delivery Division (SDD) introduced the new Health Services Support (HSS) Program Management Office (PMO) on Jan. 1. Yvonne Hobson was named acting HSS program manager.

“HSS PMO key functions include the acquisition, deployment and maintenance of the information technology solutions to improve business, readiness and force health protection,” said Hobson. “The PMO also provides a workflow capability that helps bridge the gap between business and health care.”

The new PMO was formed to group related, San Antonio, TX-based applications into a unified program office. The realignment was intended to improve project oversight and provide staff with local leadership for streamlined decision authority and acquisition oversight.

HSS systems include former Clinical Support PMO applications: Dental Common Access System (DENCAS); Navy Bureaus of Medicine Manpower Information System II (BUMIS); Surgical Scheduling System (S3); Navy Medicine Online (NMO); Veterinary Services Information Management System (VSIMS); Navy Medicine electronic Library (NMel); Aeromedical Service Information Management System (ASIMS); Patient Queuing and Notification System (PQNS); and Workload Management System for Nurses internet (WMSni). Former Care and Benefits Integrated Systems PMO applications include Veterinary Services Systems Management (VSSM) and Army Medical Operational Data Systems (MODS). The HSS PMO maintains IT systems that enhance the delivery of care to Military Health System patients and their families.