VA Challenges

- 40% of Veteran Health Administration (VHA) 5.5 million patients live in rural or highly rural areas (2007)

- The VHA conducts more than 400,000 consultations annually via telemedicine (2007)

- Need to view a consolidated Electronic Health Record (EHR)

- Specialized care not local to the Veteran
Today’s Demonstrations

• The demonstration is an example of the VA’s continuing efforts to utilize today’s technology for the extension of medical care and expertise to the remote patient

• It will portray a role-playing illustration of a remote psychiatric consultation of a veteran diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
  – The Psychiatrist is Dr. Joseph Erdos
    • A practicing Psychiatrist and CIO for the VA Connecticut Healthcare System
    • One of VHA’s pioneers in telemedicine
  – Role-playing the patient is Mr. Michael Raffanello
    • ISO for the VA Connecticut Healthcare System and a retired Navy Master Chief
Benefit to the Veteran

- **A Complete Electronic Health Record (EHR)**
  - Assures immediate access to the total record for the remote physician or consulting specialist
  - Protection of patient privacy and information integrity
- **Extending the Point of Specialist Care to the patient’s locality**
  - Speeds the diagnosis and provision of care
  - Reduces patient suffering with earlier treatment
  - Reduces costs for patient, doctor and consulting specialist
    (out of pocket for travel/time/missed work and service delivery costs)
- **Improved Access to Critical and Specialized Services**
- **Improvements in the Care Experience**
  - Enhanced communications
  - Quicker care and follow-up
  - Faster resolutions of issues
The Technology

- **High Definition TelePresence**
  - The Cisco TelePresence System 1000
  - 1080p Native Resolution
  - The Remote Location is the Cisco TelePresence facility at Harvard University in Boston, Massachusetts

- **Broadband Telecommunications to Support TelePresence**
  - An Internet2 GigE Circuit Connecting the Harvard facility and the local, on-stage system

- **Consolidated Medical Records retrieved from a Health Information Exchange (HIE)**
  - The NHIN Connect Wounded Warrior Medical Records retrieved from the Department of Defense (DoD) and VA to the on-stage workstation for display