

## CASE STUDY FOR THE

# Automated Behavioral Health Clinic (ABHC)



## New Program Helps Improve Soldier Wellness

### About the ABHC Program

Active duty soldiers, particularly those experiencing combat are at increased risk of mental health difficulties, particularly PTSD, depression, mood and adjustment disorders, and anxiety. To address these needs, soldiers returning to their home stations after deployment are participating in the Army's ABHC program as well as the Soldier Evaluation for Life Fitness (SELF) program. These programs incorporate behavioral health as a routine component of the health readiness process for all soldiers.

Soldiers begin by first taking computer-based self assessments. On-site clinicians immediately view the results of the assessments, allowing them to tailor their consultations to meet a soldier's particular needs. Soldiers are then evaluated for individual health risks that may range from behavioral health issues, such as depression and anxiety, as well as physical health issues such as traumatic brain injury. Since every Soldier receives a medical consultation on-site, no one is stigmatized if he or she is being seen by a behavioral healthcare provider. Through early detection, military behavioral healthcare providers can provide more prompt and effective therapies for a Soldier's well-being.

### Talus360 and the ABHC

The staff of Talus360 has been the architecture, development, maintenance, and support team for the ABHC since its inception. Our programmers have touched every piece of code in the application and are experts in all the technologies employed in the ABHC. The Talus 360 technical team has developed and delivered each and every version of the ABHC in active use.

Our key technical staff have been through each stage of the ABHC's development, and have worked within each ABHC funding vehicle up to this point.

Original development work was done by directly contracting through the Madigan ABHTO office. In 2006/2007, the team was subcontracted through a primary contractor and/or hired as GS employees. In 2008/2009, the technical team partnered with DJW and Associates (a project management company) to bid and win a 3-year (1 year plus 2 option years) development contract. Our team received the highest marks during our first-year contract review.

In late 2008 the team analyzed, planned, budgeted and were awarded the 2nd option year of the 2008/2009 contract as well as doing the analysis, planning,

and budgeting for a set of requested contract-mods consisting of nearly twice the scope of year 2. Year 2 development was in progress and the "mods" were in the process of approval when the development contract was cancelled due to a lack of internal Defense Business Transformation (DBT) certification.

In 2010, the technical team officially formed under a new company, Talus360, and were awarded a sustainment and maintenance contract for the ABHC. Talus360 is currently executing that contract while the ABHC Proponency Office pursues DBT certification and the goes through the Defense Information Assurance Certification and Accreditation Process (DIACAP).

After certification, we expect ABHC development to restart in earnest and Talus360 is firmly committed to continue to pursue a significant role in that ongoing development effort.

### Contact

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