WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

Mobile Learning Environment (MoLE)
Proof of Concept (PoC)
Training Exercise for Research Coordinators Proceedings

Location:
The Oakley Court Hotel
Water Oakley, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 5UR
United Kingdom

Principle Investigator:
Mrs. Gay Wisbey, Tribal
1. Introduction

On 13 March 2012, the Oakley Court Hotel, Windsor hosted a Mobile Learning Environment (MoLE) management meeting followed on 14-15 March 2012 by a two day Training Exercise for Research Coordinators, for the Commander, Naval Forces Europe (CNE)/Commander, Naval Forces Africa (CNA)/Commander, SIXTH Fleet (C6F) Deputy Training and Readiness Directorate. The purpose of the management meeting and the workshop was to ensure that the international participants from the 24 nations that are a part of the OSD AT&L CWP Project were fully trained and prepared for the Proof of Concept that was due to start 30 days after the workshop.

The Mobile Learning Environment (MoLE) management meeting was attended by a representative from Commander, Naval Forces Europe (CNE)/Commander, Naval Forces Africa CNA)/Commander, SIXTH Fleet (C6F) Deputy Training and Readiness Directorate; U.S. Joint forces Command (JFCOM), Joint Knowledge Development and Deployment Capability (JKDDC); U.S. Army Medical Research and Material Command, Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Centre (TATRC); U.S. Air Force European Office of Aerospace Research & Development (EOARD);Defense Readiness Medical Training Institute (DMRTI);Office of Naval Research Global (ONRG) London/Q&P Ltd; Tribal Ltd.

The two day MoLE Training Exercise for Research Coordinators was attended by academia, government and non-government delegates from Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Chile, France, Germany, Georgia, Jordan, Mexico, Norway, Peru, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Singapore, South Africa, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States.

The main focus of the training was to introduce all partners to the PoC, and prepare them for their own roles as national co-coordinators for the Proof of Concept trials. This involved background briefings; installation of the app onto their phones; reviews of the evaluation process; workshops exploring how they planned to run their local trials, and sharing all briefing notes.

2. Presentations / Training / Discussions

Day 1: March 13, 2012

The MoLE Management Team held a pre-MoLE PoC Meeting on March 13, 2012 to ensure an alignment of the three working groups and finalize presentations.

The management team stepped through the different sections of the day, reviewing presentations and adapting them as refined.
The Content and technical teams reported back on the current state of the Global MedAid app, and did a final demonstration to the management team.

The team reviewed the main briefing presentations that would be made available to all trial sites.

It was agreed to restructure the following days presentations, to showcase the app, and the instructions sooner, and to shorten some of the later presentations to allow more reflection on the PoC process.

Day 2: March 14, 2012

a. Jacob Hodges (Q&P Ltd) welcomed all the delegates to the Oakley Court Hotel and provided administrative announcements regarding minor schedule changes, room allocations for lunch time review meetings and health and safety announcements. Each participant received an information folder containing the agenda, notepad, pen, delegate listing and support materials to help partners manage their own local trials.

b. Herbert (Duke) Boutwell, (CNE-CNA-C6F) opened with a brief introduction. New members were asked to be introduced by their country teams. Duke then gave a project update briefing entitled ‘Mobile Learning Environment (MoLE) Coalition Warfare Program (CWP)’. 

This grant relates to Department of the Navy Grant #N62909-11-1-1131 and # N62909-12-1-1023 issued by the Office of Naval Research Global (ONRG), OSD AT&L (CWP Office), European Office of Aerospace Research & Development (EAFRD), OSD ADL Initiative (ADL Co-Lab) and U.S. Army Medical Research and Material Command, Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Centre (TATRC).
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This covered the general state of the project, and an overview of goals and objectives and desired end state, the Year 2 timeline, research efforts, identifying medical content, technology and transition stages, testing and evaluation stages.

Duke made a particular reference to the fact that this project was NOT seeking to replace existing training, but rather to supplement it by reaching new learners, in new ways. And thanked all delegates for their part in helping their own nations take part.

c. Jim Fike and Geoff Stead (Tribal) presented an overview of the MoLE App. This was presented using the same resources that were provided to the national coordinators, so that they could repeat this with their own PoC volunteers. This used the attached ppt (‘Global MedAid User Walkthrough’) to step through the installation, app usage, and evaluation process.

During the presentation, they switched between the slideshow, and the real app to show it in action. This included all aspects of the content in the app, including the MSO app, menu, mission tools, checklists and assessment. The Learning element of the App includes combating trafficking in persons, medical procedures, NGO activities and fitness. The Library element of the App demonstrates the NGO guide and guide to non-governmental organizations for the military. U.S.AID (United States Agency for International Development) includes Standards, Geneva Convention, The Sphere Handbook, The Humanitarian Code of Conduct, Network, NGO yellow pages, Mission Packs. The Settings section covered about and sync. Accessing the Evaluation layer demonstrates evaluation and research reports. A live demonstration of the Proof of Concept Content App was given on screen so that participants could get an overview of what each section contained.

All attendees were then advised how to install the Proof of Concept App, called Global MedAid, onto their smartphones. Due to technical restrictions in releasing demo apps (without an app store), this was a complex process, and Tribal’s mobile technology team were available to work with individual participants who required assistance with preparing their smartphones and devices for downloading the Proof of Concept App. They remained on standby for the rest of the workshop.

During a Q&A session comments were invited on the progress that had been made to prepare appropriate content for deployed personnel in austere circumstances. The evaluation layer was also demonstrated, with the process of registering, attaining a PIN and preparing to start the evaluation clarified. The whole layer was demonstrated so that all partners understood the process, and what was expected for the evaluation trials.
d) During lunch period, the program review was held for one of the related projects.

Language (Medical Terminology) Assistance to Multinational Partners in Coalition Operations, an ONRG-awarded grant under N62909-11-1-7045 with funding provided by the Coalition Warfare Program (CWP) Office S&T Research Review was held by EOARD Representative (Dr. James Lawton), to ensure their due diligence in meeting the S&T Research Goals and the MoLE Project Goals.

e) In the afternoon, Mark Willmann (DD J7 JCW) and Geoff Stead (Tribal) presented ‘Assessing Content- Mobile Technology and Transition Working Group’ covering, reviewing access to the MoLE application, Portal and Helpdesk followed by a Q&A session.

This reviewed the technical processes, and the help desk.

f) This was followed by a session by Gary Anaya (Program 38), Geoff Stead (Tribal) and Jacob Hodges (Q&P Ltd) presenting ‘MoLE Testing & Evaluation Approach and Research Ethics’, Gary Anaya covered, proof of concept evaluation objectives, evaluation criteria, scenario development, vignette/task description, “In-app” survey embedded into task and test limitations.

Geoff Stead covered Global MedAid Application Evaluation Layer Introduction, revisited some of the themes demonstrated in the morning session.


g) The final session of the day the MoLE management team held a collaboration meeting. A concern was raised at this session that many partners did not seem as prepared for the PoC as we had been led to believe. The management team decided to run a new session the following day, specifically to allow the partners more time to reflect and discuss their own plans for the PoC.

Day 3: March 15, 2012

On the third and final day the MoLE PoC Training Exercise for Research Coordinators Workshop was divided between the Technology & Transition and the Testing & Evaluation working groups.

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a. Feedback from teams: The group was divided up in order to discuss any outstanding issues with the upcoming trials, and to allow members of the content team to understand what could be done to support users with the trial.

During this process, it was confirmed that many of the partners were not well prepared. It was proposed that Tribal should create an extra ‘introduction’ video to support partners who wanted to host an ‘intro’ event to launch the PoC in their own nations. This was in addition to the PowerPoint introductions which were already made available

b. This was followed by a presentation ‘MoLE Testing & Evaluation Overview’ (Mole T&E Briefing 15 March.pptx) by Gary Anaya (Program38), Phong Le (Program38) and Venkat Sastry (DAUK) covering, MoLE testing & evaluation overview, Proof of Concept test conduct – Gary Anaya, Application layer – Geoff Stead, Transparent digital data – Phong Le, Survey statistical data – Venkat Sastry. Data collection process, Research questions (Likert Scale), Digital data collected, Demographic data. Data analysis, Survey questionnaire – task-specific, Statistical data analysis – survey data, Data displays, Testing and evaluation recap, Time-ordered events, Reporting information, Data collection storage for future research initiatives followed by a Q&A session

c. During the lunch period another program review was conducted. What Do Learners in an m-Learning Environment Need?, a three-year ONRG-awarded grant under N62909-10-1-7121 with funding provided by ONR, ONRG, ADL co-Lab and EOARD with mobile content provided by the UK Ministry of Defense. S&T research project was reviewed by EOARD Representative (Dr. James Lawton), to ensure their due diligence in meeting the S&T Research Goals and the MoLE Project Goals

d. After lunch a further presentation ‘Year 2 Transition Strategy- Mobile Technology and Transition Working Group’ Mark Willmann (JKO) covering define transition strategy and to review the future of the MoLE application

e. The final session of the Proof of Concept Training Exercise for Research Coordinators Workshop ended with MoLE management team collaboration and Herbert ‘Duke’ Boutwell (CNE-CNA-C6F) closing the workshop for all of the International delegates.

f. The final session of the day the MoLE management team held a collaboration meeting

3. Summary/Conclusion

As a training session, the days went really well. There were considerable technical challenges (helping install the pre-release app onto people’s phones), as well as concerns that not all partners were as well prepared for the PoC as expected. Nonetheless, the training team were able to adapt the content, and structure of the workshop to take this on board.
The team ensured that the Proof of Concept will be conducted in a formal manner to permit the evaluation of a capability that will transition to the Department of Defense Services, Coalition and Partnership for Peace (PfP) Ministry of Defense (MoD), and other international partners across the globe.

The main focus was achieved: to introduce the partners to the PoC, installing the app on their phones, talking through the evaluation process, and sharing all briefing notes to support them to run their own local trials.