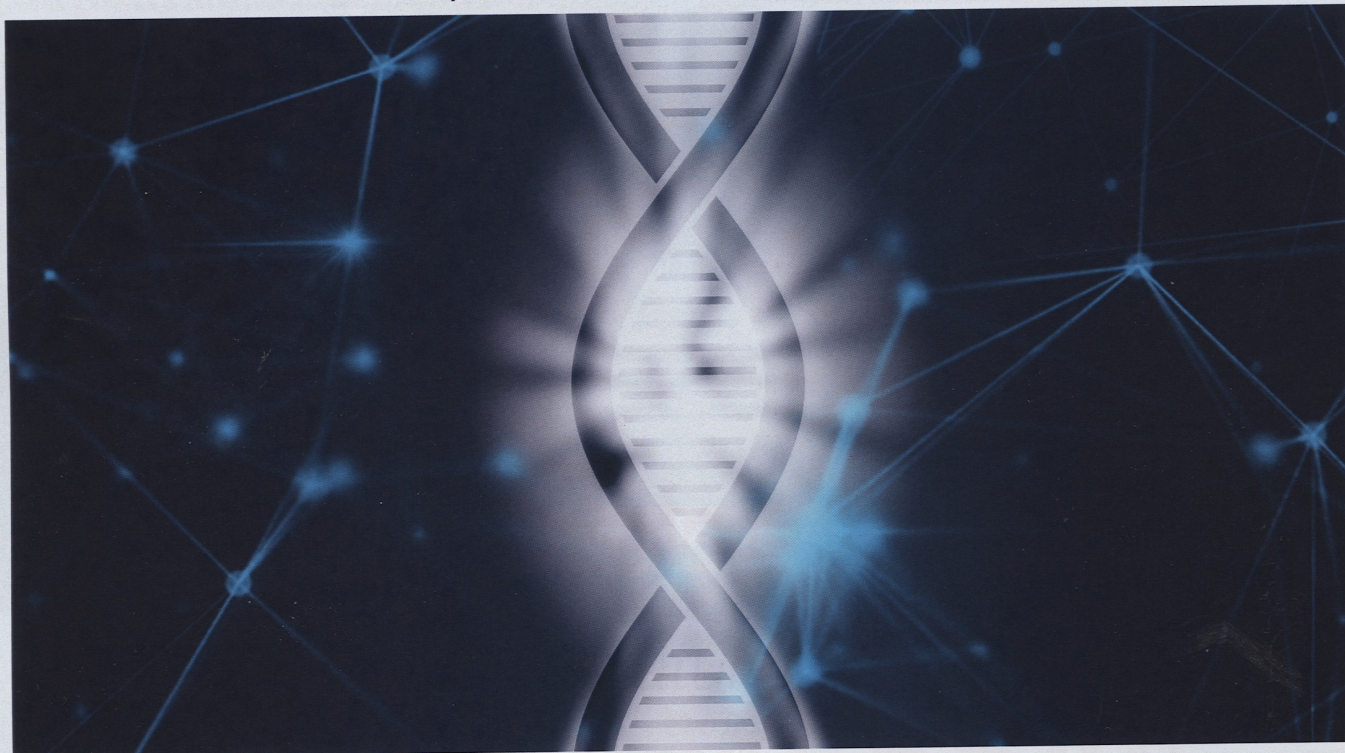


## Family Feature

By DONNA BOYLE SCHWARTZ

# HEALTH CARE MEETS TECHNOLOGY

New MHS GENESIS expected to transform care for the military community



A quiet revolution is underway in how military troops, families and veterans receive health care services. A pioneering technological innovation called MHS GENESIS is expected to fundamentally alter and enhance the way more than 9.5 million Department of Defense (DoD) beneficiaries interact with approximately 205,000 Military Health System staff globally.

The new MHS GENESIS electronic health care record (HCR) is designed to provide a standardized, advanced electronic health record to all patients under the DoD umbrella. "MHS GENESIS has been called many things," explains U.S. Air Force Col. Thomas Cantilina, the deputy MHS EHR Functional Champion. "Most people are accustomed to referring to it as merely the newest electronic health record for the Military Health System (MHS). But it's so much more than that. We like to refer to MHS GENESIS as a system of health care delivery. It's an enterprise solution that will standardize clinical and business practices, and provide for a patient-centric system focusing on quality, safety and patient outcomes that put

readiness first. Most importantly, MHS GENESIS enhances the patient experience of care and increases efficiencies and improves patient safety.

"MHS GENESIS integrates inpatient and outpatient best-of-suite solutions that connect medical and dental information across the continuum of care, from point of injury to the military treatment facility," Cantilina continues. "This includes garrison, operational and en route care, increasing efficiencies for beneficiaries and health care professionals."

Launched in February 2017, MHS GENESIS is being implemented in "waves" at all military hospitals and clinics in the United States, and is expected to be in place globally by the end of 2023, according to Cantilina. The ground-breaking system is the first of its kind utilizing commercial off-the-shelf technology, which allows the system to be readily updated and improved as medical technology evolves. MHS GENESIS replaces select DoD legacy health care systems, including, but not limited to, the Armed Forces Health Longitudinal Technology Application, or AHLTA; the Composite Health Care System (CHCS); CliniComp's

ESSENTRIS, and components of the Theater Medical Information Program-Joint (TMIP-J) portfolio.

The new system is designed to overcome many of the ongoing health care challenges faced by military troops and their families. "Obviously, military families face numerous challenges during the course of their service, not the least of which is its transient nature," Cantilina points out. "Military families move frequently. And that means they receive their medical care in different facilities, from different physicians, and in different locations throughout their careers. Maintaining records of care—prescriptions, notes, physician recommendations, etc.—can be extremely tricky and frustrating, as many of the legacy record systems are not compatible with one another. MHS GENESIS provides a single, standardized, and integrated electronic health record that will be uniform everywhere a patient travels, throughout their career and beyond.

"There's an old adage, 'Wherever you go, there you are,'" Cantilina adds. "With MHS GENESIS, wherever you go, there your health record will be." 