

## July is Health Innovation Month

Throughout the Air Force, health innovation and research are being used to find new solutions to improve health care for our Airmen. The Air Force Medical Service (AFMS) ensures complete medical readiness for all members of the Air Force by staying on the leading edge of health research, innovation, technology, training, and operations.

Air Force medical research has made major contributions to how we evacuate and care for Airmen who receive visible and invisible wounds, transporting them home from anywhere in the world, and treating them throughout the continuum of care.

Air Force teams across the country are diligently working to improve medical capabilities, ranging from studying brain injuries, to performing in-flight surgical operations. New threats and adversaries are emerging around the world. What works well today may not work for future conflicts. To prepare for these anticipated challenges, we must continually seek new technologies and new methods for delivering tomorrow's lifesaving medical care (Holstein, 2017).

## Medical Innovation through Partnerships with the Air Force

### Wright-Patterson Air Force Base

- The Center for the Sustainment of Trauma and Readiness Skills (C-STARS) is a joint partnership between the University of Cincinnati Medical Center and the Air Force, with the mission to provide hands-on, realistic training for military medical personnel in trauma and critical care

### Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland (59<sup>th</sup> Medical Wing)

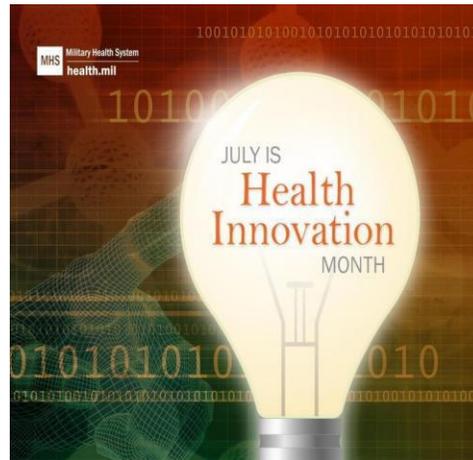
- The Air Force and Texas A&M have partnered together to establish the Air Force's 59th Medical Wing as a clinical training site for medical students

### Eglin Air Force Base (96<sup>th</sup> Medical Group)

- The Air Force is standing up the first Invisible Wounds Clinic at Eglin Air Force Base to provide support and care for Airmen and regional service members with TBI and PTSD

As AFMS continues to refine research focus areas, the practice of leveraging extensive collaboration and partnerships with other military services, academic institutions, and private and public sectors will remain a priority. Establishing and maintaining effective relationships with industry partners across key areas of the medical technology field is a crucial part of ensuring the AFMS has access to newer, better, and more capable medical systems. To drive innovation, the Air Force must continue to explore new research avenues to adequately prepare for future conflict.

Source: Holstein, P. (2017). Health research and innovation prepare Air Force Medicine for future conflicts. Retrieved from <http://www.jbsa.mil/News/News/Article/1261506/health-research-and-innovation-prepare-air-force-medicine-for-future-conflict/>



### Advancing Air Force Medical Care Through Innovation:

#### Squadron Innovation

**Fund:** Championed by Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. David L. Goldfein, this initiative is designed to reduce resource barriers preventing ingenuity and serve as seed money for squadron-level innovation initiatives. Air Force squadrons receive funding to be used for Airmen-led innovations that increase readiness, reduce cost, return time back to Airmen, and enhance lethality of the Air Force.

#### Total Exposure Health:

A team of medical professionals and bioenvironmental engineers developed a strategy that looks at ways to prevent disease and injury from occurring by addressing how individuals respond to different exposures in their environment (e.g., the workplace).

#### Battlefield Assisted Trauma Distributed Observation Kit (BATDOK):

This new technology provides awareness of the health status of multiple patients in a battlefield environment. The software can run on a smartphone or other mobile devices, and draws patient information from a wide variety of commercially available, U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved sensors.