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Navy medical team visits GRMC

Jamie Ward | The Guam Daily Post 8 hrs ago



VISIT: Guam Regional Medical City, pictured Monday in Dededo, recently hosted a visit by a Navy Medical Corps team from San Diego, Calif. The private hospital has seen about 9,000 service members, their families and veterans since it opened in 2015. David Castro/The Guam Daily Post



Leading Navy Medical Corps personnel from San Diego, California, recently were on island to welcome the U.S. Naval Hospital Guam's new commanding officer, Capt. Maria Young.

They also visited Guam Regional Medical City, since more service members and their dependents might need the private hospital's services as the military presence on Guam grows.

"Having a collaborative relationship with local health care providers ensures that our beneficiaries have access to a broader range of medical care and services," Rear Adm. Paul D. Pearigen



Michael Cruz

said in a released statement.

Pearigen serves as the commander of Navy Medicine West, and is the chief of the Navy Medical Corps.

'World-class medical services'

Dr. Michael Cruz, GRMC's president and chief operating officer, said the hospital's relationship with the Navy is a special one.

"GRMC's world-class medical services provide the U.S. military on Guam with an alternative to sending service members and their dependents off island for specialized medical care," Cruz said in a released statement. "The relationship is expected to grow as the military buildup on Guam is primarily taking place within a few miles of GRMC."

According to GRMC, which has 136 beds, the hospital has had more than 100,000 patient visits since opening in July 2015.

Approximately 9,000 of those visits were from service members and veterans, and their dependents.

When construction of the six-building Latte Medical Plaza is completed on the property adjacent to GRMC, it will be part of the largest medical campus in the Western Pacific.

Comprehensive care

GRMC can provide cardiac care, advanced stroke care and comprehensive cancer care, and can treat other diseases and diabetes.

In the past, patients were often referred off island for stroke care, complicated cardiac procedures, pulmonary services, neurology care and orthopedic surgery. Today, GRMC provides these services locally, Cruz said.

"Another area of interest is our hyperbaric wound care department," Cruz said.

Later this year, GRMC will provide cardiothoracic surgery, he added.

Navy Medicine's Western Pacific health care system provides medical care to nearly 700,000 beneficiaries across 10 naval hospitals, two dental battalions and 51 branch clinics located throughout the West Coast of the U.S., Asia and the Pacific.