

Navy Surgeon General Discusses Opportunities for Military Medical Partnerships with Vietnam

From Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Public Affairs

HANOI, Vietnam (NNS) -- The Navy and Marine Corps top medical officer discussed potential opportunities for enhanced bilateral military medical partnerships with officials of the government of Vietnam May 28 during his visit to the country as part of Pacific Partnership 2010.

Pacific Partnership is an annual U.S. Pacific Fleet-sponsored training and readiness mission that works by, with and through host and partner nations, non-governmental organizations and other U.S. government agencies to execute a variety of humanitarian and civic assistance activities throughout the Pacific Fleet area of responsibility.

Navy Surgeon General Vice Adm. Adam M. Robinson Jr. met with Lt. Gen. Chu Tien Cuong, director of the Vietnam Military Medical Department and Nguyen Quoc Trieu, Vietnam's Minister of Health while visiting Hanoi. During his meetings with the high-ranking Vietnamese health officials, Robinson discussed the value of establishing global partnerships to meet common challenges.

"The United States and Vietnam continue to build an increasingly close relationship in bilateral and regional security issues and we look forward to looking for further opportunities to collaborate in the future in areas of public health research, medical education and other areas," said Robinson.

"Expanding our partnerships in these areas would be of great benefit to our nations and the entire Pacific area."

The United States and Vietnam continue to participate in high-level diplomatic exchanges, taking place both in Vietnam and in the United States -- the most recent of which was Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung's April visit to the United States to take part in President Obama's Nuclear Security Summit.

"These continued meetings and our growing military-to-military relationships will go a long way to bolstering our already strong relationship with the people of Vietnam," said U.S. Ambassador Michael Michalak. "Our relationship continues to grow across the board, based on friendship, mutual respect, and cooperation on a wide range of issues and in the long-term interests of both countries."

Robinson's meetings with the leading health officials in Vietnam were productive and several potential areas of military medical collaboration were discussed.

"Medicine is a common language that bridges barriers," said Robinson. "In this uncertain world, the United States and other nations continue to forge greater bonds of trust and cooperation with people and countries around the world to contribute to the common good. We look forward to our further discussions with Vietnam on areas where our medical teams can work together."

For more news from Navy Medicine, visit www.navy.mil/local/mednews/.