



2025 - A YEAR IN REVIEW

2025 was a year of significant progress for Navy Medicine, marked by organizational advancements, enhanced operational readiness, and strengthened global partnerships.



JANUARY
The new high-speed medical ship **USNS Portsmouth (EMS 3)** was named in honor of Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Virginia.



FEBRUARY
Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command Okinawa co-hosted a Joint Nursing Symposium. The event addressed critical communication and knowledge gaps between Navy, Marine, and Air Force medical personnel to **ensure a unified and sustainable medical capability on resource-limited islands like Okinawa.**

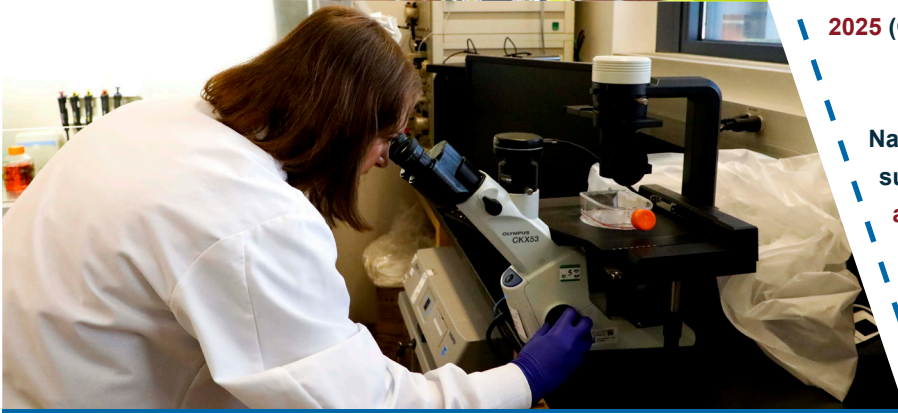
MARCH
The Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory (NSMRL) rolled out the **updated Submarine Environment Fit Test (SUBFIT)** to enhance the assessment process for duty on submarines. // The USS Lenah Sutcliffe Higbee (DDG 123) unveiled a **new battle flag representing the "Sacred Twenty"**—the first official nurses in the U.S. Navy. // Navy Medicine deployed the **Operational Medicine Care Delivery Platform** to provide clinical decision support and command awareness across the entire continuum of care, especially in austere environments.



APRIL
Navy Medicine established two new Navy Enlisted Classifications (NEC)—**Emergency Medical Technician (L50A) and Paramedic (L50B)**. This formalized a dedicated, nationally certified paramedic pipeline, ensuring specialized expertise for En Route Care System (ERCS) platforms. // Navy physician Lt. Cmdr. **Jonny Kim** boarded the **International Space Station (ISS)**, embarking on an eight-month mission.

MAY
Capt. **Matthew Tadlock**, the Navy trauma specialty leader, was presented with the **Hero of Military Medicine Award** by the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine.

JUNE
Pacific Partnership 2025 (Indo-Pacific) and Continuing Promise 2025 (Caribbean, Central, and South America) commenced.



JULY
Naval Medical Research Command (NMRC) researchers submitted a **provisional patent application for a novel antimicrobial, non-antibiotic solution to wound care**, demonstrating Navy Medicine's commitment to cutting-edge research and protecting service members.



NAVY MEDICINE *FAST FACTS*



AUGUST

Navy hospital corpsmen, and nurses attended the **Joint En Route Care Course (JECC)** at **Fort Rucker, Alabama**. This premier training program has been essential for practicing resuscitation and stabilization of casualties mid-flight—a critical skill for dispersed maritime and field operations.

SEPTEMBER

NMRC launched a **first-in-human Phase 1 clinical trial of an LTB-SA7 vaccine targeting Staphylococcus aureus bacteria**. // NMRC researchers described ongoing work on brain injury risks from blast exposure, including studies to better understand how blast overpressure (BOP) affects service-member neurocognitive health and readiness.

OCTOBER

Navy Medicine welcomed four new reserve officers into the flag mess. On October 1, **Frank Brajovec** (Dental Corps), **Anthony LaCourse** (Medical Service Corps), **Kim Sandberg** (Nurse Corps), and **Michael Thornton** (Medical Corps) were promoted to rear admiral (lower half). Of note, LaCourse now holds the distinction as the **first Navy physician assistant flag officer** // Navy medical personnel served as ambassadors for the **U.S. Navy's 250th Anniversary (Navy250)** events in Philadelphia and nationwide.

NOVEMBER

NMRC submitted a **provisional patent for a novel nanoparticle-based vaccine intended to prevent malaria** and potentially other liver-stage pathogens.

DECEMBER

Navy Medicine in coordination with U.S. Fleet Forces Command (USFFC) and Naval Surface Force Atlantic (SURFLANT) **launched the pilot phase of the Joint Operational Medicine Information System (JOMIS) fielding plan onboard the USS Carney (DDG 64)**. The Carney was the first naval platform to utilize the Operational Medicine Care Delivery Platform (OPMED-CDP) for direct patient care. // **Clinical care pathways for the top five musculoskeletal (MSK) conditions were developed** and implemented with a pilot program launched at San Diego and Camp Pendleton to evaluate the reduction of excessive Limited Duty (LIMDU) days.



CONTINUING PROMISE '25 (CP25) // JUNE-AUGUST 2025

During CP25, USNS Comfort's medical team **provided care to 12,610+ patients** across six countries (Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago). Aboard the ship, surgeons **performed 240+ surgeries**, including cataract removals, hernia repairs, cleft lip surgeries, and a variety of other plastic and general surgeries. At shore-based medical sites, the team **encountered 1,900+ dental patients**, filled **17,160+ prescriptions**, and distributed **7,420+ pairs of glasses and sunglasses**. Furthermore, the biomedical crew **restored more than \$2,235,000 worth of medical equipment**, including sterilizers, defibrillators, microscopes, X-ray, and anesthesia units.



PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP '25 (PP25) // JUNE-DECEMBER 2025

PP25 medical personnel, working alongside partner and host-nation medical teams, **conducted 1,040+ medical, public health, and veterinary engagements** across eight Pacific nations (Philippines, Fiji, Tonga, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Vanuatu). Together, they **delivered care to 19,810+ patients**, trained **3,520+ host-nation clinicians**, and **restored or repaired more than \$2.6 million worth of critical biomedical equipment**, strengthening local health systems and building long-term capacity. PP25 dental teams **performed 7,100+ procedures**, the **optometry team conducted 5,820+ exams and distributed 8,170+ pairs of prescription glasses along with more than 14,400 protective lenses**. In addition to clinical care, the PP25 team also delivered integrated behavioral health support, including provider-to-provider exchanges, community mental health education, and culturally informed counseling embedded within clinical and public health engagements.

