NMCSD Sailors to Deploy in Support of PP18
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SAN DIEGO (NNS) -- Naval Medical Center San Diego will experience a reduction in capacity from late February through August in support of an upcoming international maritime operation.

More than 500 Naval Medical Center San Diego (NMCSD) Sailors began their five month deployment today, aboard hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) in support of Pacific Partnership 2018 (PP18).

“Pacific Partnership 2018 will provide our staff with opportunities to develop critical skills in new environments,” said NMCSD commanding officer Capt. Joel A. Roos. “This unique experience enhances the ability to learn new procedures and techniques that they can bring back to our hospital with them.”

NMCSD will adjust hours of operations for some of the clinics and pharmacies to accommodate the PP18 mission. The main pharmacy will now close at 7 p.m. The Marine Corps Exchange (MCX) and Navy Exchange (NEX) pharmacies will also now close at 5:30 p.m. in order to maximize the use of our staff and minimize the impact to patients. According to Roos, shortage in staff will not change the quality of care NMCSD patients will receive.

“There’s a balancing point,” said Roos. “Ideally you would maintain all of your services and availability, but to be truthful we will probably see longer wait times in certain departments. But, our primary duty as Sailors is to deploy and
support operations such as PP18. Our commitment to providing top-notch quality care will remain as we adjust to the staff shortage.”

Patients with questions can contact NMCSD Patient Relations Department, (619) 532-6418, the Health Benefits Office, (619) 532-8328, or Health Net Services, (844) 866-9378.

Created in response to the 2004 tsunami that devastated parts of Southeast Asia, Pacific Partnership continues to maintain engagements with regional partners in the Pacific Theater to provide humanitarian assistance and readiness for disaster response.

The mission has evolved over the years from primarily a direct care mission to an operation focused on enhancing partnerships through host nation subject matter expert and civil-military exchanges. Pacific Partnership also capitalizes on multilateral cooperation and partnerships between government and non-government organizations to increase capabilities in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR) and preparedness for natural and man-made disasters.

“This is our mission,” said Roos. “A Sailors’ job is to deploy in support of operational commanders and national objectives. In this case, Pacific Partnerships goal is to build bridges and strengthen ties with our colleagues all across Asia. It’s a learning process as well.”