



Guam Memorial Hospital Authority

Aturidåt Espetåt Mimuriåt Guåhan

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Press Release

(For Immediate Release)

GMHA Increases Security Measures at the Hospital

(October 19, 2022; Tamuning, Guam) Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA) has invested in improved safety and security measures at the hospital. New bulletproof security doors and security posts have been installed and renovated at the Emergency Department (ED) to protect patients and staff from aggressive or threatening individuals attempting to enter. GMHA's Security Force is training around the clock to ensure their skills are at the highest level of preparedness for any situation.

Improvements to security in the Emergency Department (ED) have included changes to where emergency patients enter the ED, including those arriving by ambulance. Everyone is now required to enter the ED via the main entrance where the lobby and triage are located. The entrance on the left-hand side is exclusively for ambulances transporting patients with life-threatening injuries or illnesses. The security guard stationed at the trauma entrance will only open these doors for ambulances transporting patients in life-threatening conditions.

The new bulletproofing renovation at this entrance is called the Sally Port. The inner Sally Port doors can be locked down allowing individuals to exit the Emergency Room but not enter. The Sally Port is further protected by a hardened bulletproof wall to protect the security guard. Anyone attempting to enter the ER must walk through the first set of glass doors before approaching the Sally Port doors. The Sally Port enables the security guard time to trigger the automatic lock on the Sally Port doors. Once activated, the Sally Port engages a 2,000 lbs. automatic lock.

Both areas where GMHA security guards are stationed in the ED have been reinforced with bullet-proof walls. In the unlikely event that a potentially violent individual enters the main ED entrance, they will be face-to-face with one or more of GMHA's security guards. GMHA security guards participate in extensive and ongoing training to handle a variety of situations.

GMHA's security team regularly participates in Officer Survival Training, Level I, through the Department of Corrections (DOC). The team trains with Captain Joey Pocaigue, who is currently conducting a cycle of training with DOC guards. GMHA's security team is scheduled to begin the next training session with the DOC in December 2022.

In addition to training with DOC, security staff at GMHA are trained in the tactical deployment of handcuffs and participate in Mechanical Expandable Bravo (MEB) training in the use of a baton. GMHA security is also trained in knife defense, hand-to-hand combat, and basic Jiu-Jitsu. The security team must re-certify their Oleoresin Capsicum Aerosol training in the use of pepper spray every two years. The security team also trains regularly at the hospital to ensure their skills are top-level at all times.

The security and safety of GMHA patients, their families, visitors, and our staff is of the utmost importance. GMHA wants the community to know they are protected by a highly trained security team when they or loved



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ones are brought to GMHA's Emergency room or other areas of the hospital. In addition to the increased security measures at the ED, security is always on duty at the main entrance of GMHA.

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