



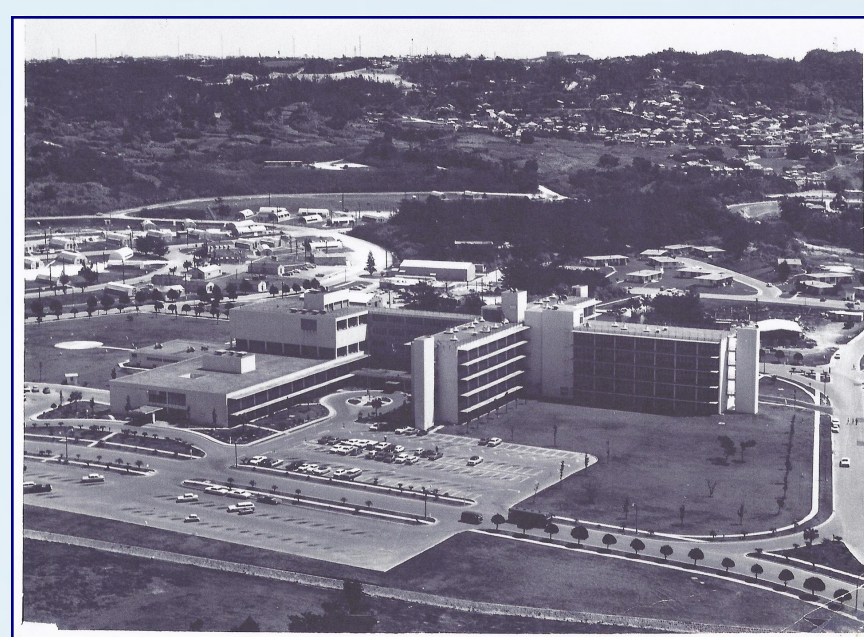
U. S. NAVAL HOSPITAL OKINAWA HISTORICAL TIMELINE



1945: Allied forces invade the Ryukyu Islands on April 1, conducting amphibious landings on the main island of Okinawa at Motobu, Yomitan, Onna, and Katsuren. After the conclusion of the Battle of Okinawa on June 21, the United States assumed administrative control of the Ryukyu Islands.



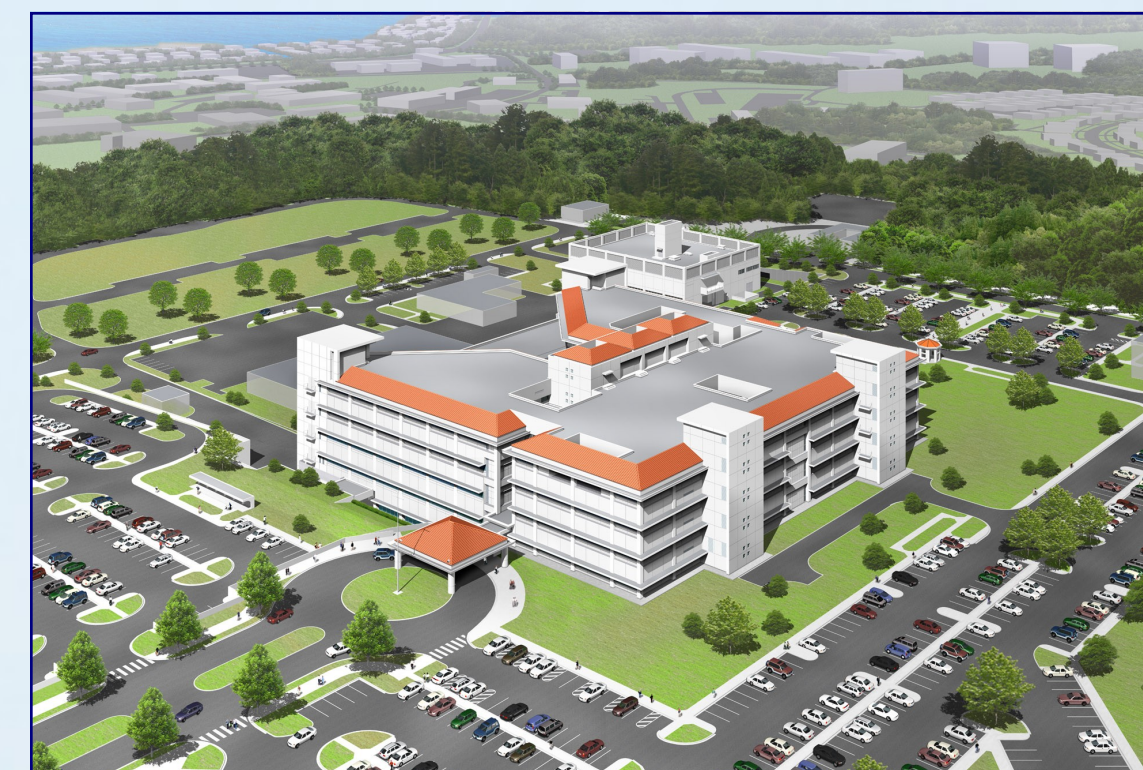
1954: Construction begins on a new hospital located at Camp Kuwae in Chatan to replace the Quonset hut facility at Camp Mercy in Ginowan City.



1964: A south wing was constructed and opened to provide an additional 250 bed capacity. The new wing was capable of expanding to a further 75 beds, giving the hospital a total capacity of 700 beds, including expansion beds.



1982: Camp Kuwae is officially renamed Camp Lester in Honor of Hospital Apprentice Fred Faulkner Lester, a 19-year-old Navy Corpsman posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for heroism while serving with a Marine infantry unit during the Battle of Okinawa. Although the installation has carried Lester's name for over 25 years, some local residents still refer to the base as "Camp Kuwae".



1992: The U. S. Navy and U. S. Forces Japan submit a formal request seeking PACOM sponsorship of hospital replacement project on Camp Lester. The initial request was not approved.

2004: Contractors begin drafting the new hospital design.



2009: Construction on the new hospital facility officially begins in March. Along with the main building, work also commences on the Central Utility Plant, Warehouse, Public Works Building and HazMat storage building.

2012: construction on the main hospital and supporting structures, BEQ, central utility plant, public works building, and warehouse is complete. Government of Japan conducts inspections and system testing and turns facilities over to Navy Medicine West Detachment June 29. Outfitting begins.

2013: The U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa staff completes the physical move from the old hospital on Camp Lester and all services are up and running at the new facility on Camp Foster, except for satellite facilities currently under construction at the new hospital compound.

1945

1955

1965

1975

1985

1995

2005

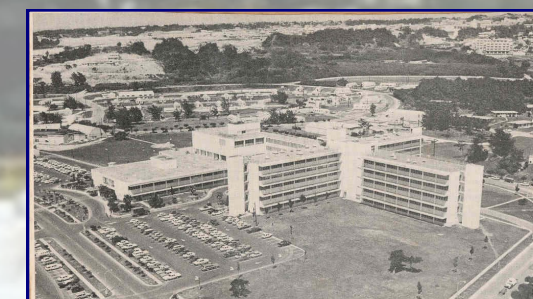
2015

1946: After World War II, military hospital facilities on Okinawa, originally individual isolated field hospitals set up during the war, were organized into a strip of Quonset huts situated in present day Ginowan City and known as Camp Mercy Hospital. The camp occupied an area located in the approximate area of the Okinawa Convention Center and Tropical Beach, extending to Highway 58.

1958: Construction is completed on the new 250-bed (expandable to 375 beds) medical facility on Camp Kuwae, and U. S. Army Hospital Ryukyu Islands is commissioned.



1967-1969: U. S. Army Hospital Ryukyu Islands operates at maximum capacity of 700 beds during the peak casualty period of the Vietnam conflict.



Okinawa Transfer
The Okinawa hospital has an operating capacity of 250 beds and a staff of 700. Besides providing a full range of medical services, the hospital is supported by some 50 physicians.
The U.S. Army Hospital Ryukyu Islands will also take over the Army's Mainland dispensary and Evacuation Clinic on Okinawa, and the Army regional medical laboratory at Sasaki-Ono, Japan.
Under the Navy, the hospital will become an independent regional medical center and regional operations. Preventive and curative medical services will be carried out by a detachment of Preventive Medicine Team (PMT) in Hawaii. The Sasaki-Ono laboratory will operate as part of Naval Regional Medical Center (NRC) in Japan, under the direction of an officer-in-charge.

1977: The hospital is turned over to the Navy. U. S. Army Hospital Ryukyu Islands is decommissioned, and the 400-bed facility is commissioned as a U. S. Naval Regional Medical Center on February 28, 1977 under the command of Capt. C. S. Lambdin.

1995: The U. S. and Japanese governments convene the Special Action Committee on Okinawa (SACO) to discuss the reduction of the U. S. footprint and thereby "reducing the burden on the people of Okinawa and thereby strengthen the Japan-US alliance."

1996: SACO Final Report released, announcing the SACO "Final Agreement". Part of the agreement between U. S. and Government of Japan calls for construction of a new Naval Hospital replacement facility at Camp Foster. According to the agreement:
• A new hospital and 11 supporting facilities will be built on Camp Foster to replace the old facility on Camp Lester
• Replacement will be "function for function, to current criteria, with no services to be added or discontinued
• New hospital will be approximately 40,000 square meters compared to old facility's 20,000 square meters.

2007: Cultural Asset Surveys begin at New Hospital construction site as part of the agreement with the Ginowan City government to approve construction of the facility. The surveys will be conducted prior to building construction to determine if there are any buried archaeological items of historical or cultural significance.

2015: Remaining supporting structures and satellite facilities are completed, outfitted, and operational. When all hospital operations are moved to Camp Foster, U. S. Naval Hospital activities aboard Camp Lester come to a halt.

