

How Do You Spell Relief? Sri Mulyati



Sri Mulyati, (left) helping the victims of the Yogyakarta earthquake when it was most needed.

Our own nurse Sri was recently commended by the U.S. Military for her outstanding performance in providing critical medical services to support relief efforts at the U.S. military field hospital following the May 27, 2005 earthquake in Yogyakarta and Central Java.

The powerful earthquake that struck Yogyakarta and Central Java on May 27, 2006 killed over 5,000 people, injured tens of thousands and displaced over a million. Total losses from the earthquake, including over 300,000 homes damaged, are estimated at \$3.1 billion.

Within hours of the quake, U.S. Embassy staff members arrived on the scene to begin directing emergency relief assistance efforts. Finding all local emergency medical services overrun trying to deal with the magnitude of injured, it was clear that complementary medical support was needed. Nurse Sri volunteered to join the U.S. Embassy's response team and was imbedded with the U.S. Marine Corps Fleet 3rd Surgical Company, deployed

to assist and establish a field hospital in Bantul, near the most impacted area.

Sri worked tirelessly side by side with the doctors and nurses at the field hospital for over two weeks treating more than 3,400 patients at the field hospital and in support of mobile medical teams scouring the countryside for injured people.

Sri's calm and cool amid the chaos of an over taxed triage unit dealing with traumatic injuries provided a stabilizing presence for the medical staff. Her kind smile provided needed assurance for Indonesians, many local farmers who had never even been to a hospital let alone being treated by foreign doctors. She bridged the language and cultural barrier and the gap between U.S. and Indonesian pharmacology, ensuring western and local drug names and dosages were compatible. She also provided essential input for administrative and logistical operations of the hospital, coordinating with local government officials to ensure that urgent local medical

needs were met. Sri's dedication, teamwork, and tireless energy saved lives and ensured the maximum impact of the U.S. Marine hospital's in this great time of need. Her work was singled out by the both the U.S. Ambassador Lynn Pascoe and General Payton, the hospital base commander during the closing ceremony at the end of the deployment. The hospital base Group Surgeon, Captain Lane summed up Sri's contribution, "I don't know what we could have done here without her".

Sarah Smith
JIS School Nurse

