

Ex-Navy doctor to lead hospital
By Linda Lou
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POWAY - A vacant senior-level position at Pomerado Hospital will be filled next month by a doctor with extensive experience in military health care, officials said.

Dr. David Tam, 45, has been hired as the hospital's chief administrative officer. He will join the hospital March 17, one day after retiring from the Navy. He will earn \$220,000 annually.

Tam has been a pediatric neurologist and a health care executive in the Navy for 24 years. He formerly served as the deputy commander, chief operating officer and strategy officer at the Naval Medical Center in San Diego.

He will step down as chief operating officer for the Western region of TRICARE, the military's health-insurance program for nearly 3 million people in 21 states.

Tam said that in the military, jobs are reassigned every few years. He said he looks forward to holding a health care executive position for the long term so can see changes through.

The Palomar Pomerado Health district, which operates Pomerado Hospital, is building a hospital in Escondido and expanding facilities at Pomerado in Poway. It also plans to renovate Palomar Medical Center in downtown Escondido.

The Pomerado position became open last year when Jim Flinn resigned in March to pursue a master's degree and other job opportunities.

Palomar Pomerado administrator Steve Gold, who has been serving as Pomerado's interim chief administrative officer, will oversee the district's skilled nursing facilities.

Tam was born in Japan and raised there until he was 11. At that time, he immigrated to the Los Angeles area, went on to study at the University of California Irvine and graduated from the military's medical school, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

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