



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY  
7700 ARLINGTON BOULEVARD  
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22042

IN REPLY REFER TO  
BUMEDINST 6470.21A  
BUMED-M3B3  
16 Jul 2012

BUMED INSTRUCTION 6470.21A

From: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

Subj: APPOINTMENT, FUNCTIONS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF BUREAU OF  
MEDICINE AND SURGERY RADIATION EFFECTS ADVISORY BOARD (REAB)

Ref: (a) NAVMED P-5055, Radiation Health Protection Manual  
(b) BUMEDINST 6470.23  
(c) 5 CFR 339, Medical Qualification Determinations  
(d) SECNAV Manual 5210.1 of Jan 2012

1. Purpose. To appoint and publish the functions and responsibilities of the Radiation Effects Advisory Board (REAB). To render decisions with respect to applicable guidance found in references (a) through (c).

2. Cancellation. BUMEDINST 6470.21.

3. Scope. Applies to Ships and Stations having medical personnel.

4. Background

a. The subject of radiation effects require extensive scientific and medical knowledge on the effects of ionizing and non-ionizing radiation. Statements not consistent with the scientific literature, existing facts, or documented information concerning radiation have occurred, fostering unwarranted public and employee concern and apprehension.

b. Radiation protection criteria depend on biomedical and physical considerations and value judgments based on the concept some degree of risk may exist at any level of exposure. Experience with Navy's radiation protection standards shows no demonstrable disease to individuals exposed within the prescribed levels; yet it is imperative that the standards receive periodic review by knowledgeable experts to ensure they are based on the current biomedical and scientific information.

c. Recent world events have shown the need for identification of radiation specialists to advise on potential biomedical effects, dosimetry, and methods of treatment of radiation injury.

5. Establishment. The REAB was established to render determinations relative to the effects of radiation as an authority established by the Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED). The Board may be consulted in an official capacity for reference opinions relevant to the Department of the Navy.

a. The Board is comprised of the following BUMED-M3B3 staff:

- (1) Head, Undersea Medicine and Radiation Health Division - Chairperson.
- (2) Head, Radiation Health Branch - Executive Secretary.
- (3) Head, Non-ionizing Radiation Section.
- (4) Deputy Head, Undersea Medicine.

b. The Chairperson may designate a Board member as Chairperson by proxy who may oversee and manage the REAB process. The designated Chairperson by proxy will obtain by-direction signing authority for REAB decisions. This designee must be appointed and documented in writing. Members cannot otherwise be assigned by proxy or by virtue of serving in an acting capacity for an incumbent.

c. Two members of the Board, provided one is Head, Undersea Medicine and Radiation Health or his or her designee, may constitute a quorum and complete official business related to alleged injury claims, protection standards, or emergency response. Any decision rendered by the Board must be based on at least a majority view of two members, thus the third member must participate (i.e., vote) in Board action(s) when the first two members disagree.

d. Other knowledgeable naval Medical Department experts may, on a case-by-case basis, be directed by the Chief, BUMED to assist the Board. Additionally, the REAB has the authority to request consultative review by experts outside of the naval Medical Department.

## 6. Action

a. Deputy Chief, Medical Operations (BUMED-M3) ensures that the REAB provides determinations and consultation to medical departments of field activities in matters concerning ionizing and non-ionizing radiation exposure, references (a) and (b), to personnel in the areas of:

- (1) Evaluating the relationship between alleged or actual radiation exposure and the individual's disease.
- (2) Determining physical qualification standards for occupational radiation exposure.
- (3) Determining if an individual meets the standards for exposure to ionizing and non-ionizing radiation.
- (4) Determining potential biomedical effects, dosimetry, and methods of treatment of radiation injury.

16 Jul 2012

b. Commanders, Commanding Officers, and Officers in Charge must ensure that:

(1) Physicians conducting examinations under references (a) through (c) and this instruction, are sensitive to the implications, legal complications, and liabilities for the Government of overt statements correlating the examinee's medical condition and exposure to radiation. In particular, statements about cause and effect relations are reserved for, and functions of, the REAB.

(2) Medical records and exposure information on personnel who are being medically disqualified from assignment to work involving occupational exposure to ionizing radiation or non-ionizing radiation exposure are forwarded to the REAB for review.

(3) Medical records and exposure information on the personnel who allege or claim their medical condition was caused by exposure to ionizing or non-ionizing radiation are forwarded to the REAB for review.

7. Records Management. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of media and format, shall be managed per reference (d).



M. L. NATHAN

Distribution is electronic only via the Navy Medicine Web Site at:

<http://www.med.navy.mil/directives/Pages/default.aspx>