



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

BUMEDINST 5450.247
BUMED-N1
22 Oct 2025

BUMED INSTRUCTION 5450.247

From: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

Subj: MISSION, FUNCTIONS, AND TASKS OF NAVAL HEALTH RESEARCH CENTER

Ref: (a) BUMEDINST 5450.174B

Encl: (1) Functions and Tasks of Naval Health Research Center

1. Purpose. To define the mission, functions, and tasks of Naval Health Research Center (NAVHLTHRSCHCEN) as prescribed by mission defined in reference (a) and enclosure (1).
2. Cancellation. NAVMEDRSCHCENINST 5450.2.
3. Mission. To support Fleet operational readiness through research, development, test, and evaluation on the biomedical and psychological aspect of Navy and Marine Corps personnel health and performance; and to perform such other functions or tasks as may be directed by higher authority.
4. Command Hierarchy. NAVHLTHRSCHCEN is a shore activity in an active status under a commanding officer.

a. Command

Commanding Officer
Naval Health Research Center
140 Sylvester Road
San Diego, California 92106-3521

(SNDL: FH20) (UIC: 63116)
(PLA: NAVHLTHRSCHCEN SAN DIEGO CA)
(Activity Code: 3415-700)

b. Echelon


(1) Echelon 1: Chief of Naval Operations

- (2) Echelon 2: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED)
- (3) Echelon 3: Commander, Naval Medical Forces Pacific
- (4) Echelon 4: Commander, Naval Medical Research Command
- (5) Echelon 5: Commanding Officer, NAVHLTHRSCHCEN
- c. Immediate Superior in Command: Not applicable.
- d. Area Coordination
 - (1) Commander, Navy Region Southwest
 - (2) Commanding Officer, Naval Base Point Loma
- e. Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV) Resource Sponsor
 - (1) Director, Military Personnel Plans and Policy (OPNAV N13) and Expeditionary Health Branch (OPNAV N4L4)
 - (2) Activity-level aggregation of estimated manpower cost.
 - (a) Military Personnel Navy: \$3.53 million.
 - (b) Civilian Personnel: \$7.5 million.
- 5. Supporting relationships. Memorandum of understanding between Chief, BUMED and Director, Defense Health Agency (DHA) with BUMED providing support to the DHA maintaining all aspects of information technology support to Department of Defense (DoD) Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome Prevention Program (DHAPP) until such time that DHAPP transitions to a different network to include, but not limited to, support of help desk support services, acquisition and install of hardware repair parts and software, and network infrastructure and security.
- 6. Obligations to external entities. None.
- 7. Action. NAVHLTHRSCHCEN will execute the assigned mission, functions, and tasks. NAVHLTHRSCHCEN will update this directive every 8 years.
- 8. Records Management
 - a. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of format or media, must be maintained and dispositioned per the records disposition schedules located on the Department of

the Navy (DON) Assistant for Administration, Directives and Records Management Division portal page at <https://portal.secnav.navy.mil/orgs/DUSNM/DONAA/DRM/Records-and-Information-Management/Approved%20Record%20Schedules/Forms/AllItems.aspx>.

b. For questions concerning the management of records related to this instruction or the records disposition schedules, please contact the local records manager or the OPNAV Records Management Program (DNS-16).

9. Review and Effective Date. Per OPNAVINST 5215.17A, Manpower Plans and Business Policy (BUMED-N12) will review this instruction annually around the anniversary of its issuance date to ensure applicability, currency, and consistency with Federal, DoD, Secretary of the Navy, and Navy policy and statutory authority using OPNAV 5215/40 Review of Instruction. This instruction will be in effect for 10 years, unless revised or cancelled in the interim, and will be reissued by the 10-year anniversary date if it is still required, unless it meets one of the exceptions in OPNAVINST 5215.17A, paragraph 9. Otherwise, if the instruction is no longer required, it will be processed for cancellation as soon as the need for cancellation is known following the guidance in OPNAV Manual 5215.1 of May 2016.


R. FREEDMAN
Acting

Releasability and distribution:

This instruction is cleared for public release and is available electronically only via the Navy Medicine Web site, <https://www.med.navy.mil/directives/>

FUNCTIONS AND TASKS OF NAVAL HEALTH RESEARCH CENTER

1. Functions. NAVHLTHRSCHCEN, serving as a leading research and development laboratory for the DoD, aims to enhance the health, safety, readiness, and performance of U.S. military forces. Enables and maximizes operational readiness, resilience, and recovery of the Total Force. Provides cutting-edge, basic, and applied research directly supporting naval and joint military requirements, capability gaps, and operational needs through the following core capability domains: physical, behavioral, and psychological health and wellness; injury, injury prevention, and rehabilitation; warfighter operational performance; medical modeling and decision support; longitudinal epidemiology and database management and analysis; infectious diseases surveillance and research; clinical trials; and research support services, including establishing and maintaining relationships with internal and external operational, health, and research partners, technology transfer, and maintaining a human research protection program.

a. Infectious Diseases Surveillance and Research. Conducts research to minimize or eliminate the impact of major infectious disease threats that can incapacitate operational forces through the prevention of infection or clinical disease and the treatment of combat injury infections.

(1) Conducts pre-clinical and Food and Drug Administration trials to evaluate the safety and efficacy of drugs, vaccines, and diagnostic devices and other medical technology of value to the warfighter.

(2) Operates a College of American Pathologists accredited laboratory for the diagnosis and characterization of infectious pathogens of operational concern in support of operational forces. Maintains laboratory accreditation program.

(3) Performs research and conducts active laboratory-based surveillance for infectious diseases that affect military personnel or their families.

(4) Provides laboratory research support services and oversight for logistics, inspections, equipment maintenance, and regulatory permits that ensures compliance with applicable command, U.S. Government, and DoD regulatory requirements.

(5) Conducts basic science research for infectious diseases for the purposes of pathogen identification, treatment development, and infectious disease diagnostics.

(6) Serves to promote scientific discovery of global emerging infectious diseases leading to improved Force and public health preparedness to provide effective risk detection, characterization, assessment, and response.

b. Operational Readiness. Conducts research to understand and enhance physical, mental, and environmental factors to maximize operational readiness, resilience, and rehabilitation.

(1) Conducts robust human performance optimization and rehabilitation research in field, simulated, and virtual or augmented reality environments.

(2) Conducts research to enhance warfighter performance, both physically and cognitively, to strengthen resilience, prevent physical and psychological injury, and in cases where injury occurs, developing novel rehabilitation treatments for return to duty.

(3) Conducts analyses, develops models, and delivers training to provide medical simulation decision support to the Joint Staff, the combatant commands, the Service Components and operational commanders, medical logisticians and planners, and field medical personnel as they seek to optimize readiness required for medical logistics, medical personnel requirements, patient movement prioritization, operational risk assessment, and wargaming.

(4) Conducts research, test, and evaluation and clinical trials related to the measurement, maintenance, restoration, enhancement, and modeling of human performance in lab and uniquely military operational environments, such as Navy and Marine Corps vessels and platforms, and hot, cold, remote, and nutritionally challenged environments.

(5) Conducts epidemiological research to investigate short- and long-term health and performance outcomes of Service members and dependents. Studies the relationship between biomarkers and performance and injury.

(6) Conducts epidemiological research to investigate short- and long-term impact of battle and disease non-battle injuries of military service and deployment, including executing and maintaining the Wounded Warrior Recovery Project longitudinal study.

(7) Conducts research, test, and evaluation related to sleep and fatigue in lab and military environments. Conducts surveillance and epidemiologic studies that address the emerging understanding of sleep and fatigue in all aspects of illness, wellness, and performance.

c. Military Population Health. Conducts long-term and targeted studies to assess and address the effects of military service on Service members and their families. Brings together multiple large databases, specimen repositories, and survey data to leverage existing DoD data sets to answer questions affecting the health and well-being of Service members and their families.

(1) Conducts epidemiological research to investigate the longitudinal health experience of military personnel and their families. Executes and maintains the Millenium Cohort Program, which includes the Millenium Cohort Study, Millennium Cohort Family Study, and Millenium Cohort Study of Adolescent Resilience.

(2) Promotes the behavioral and psychological health of military personnel and their families through scientific research, program evaluation, and rapid response surveillance assessments.

(3) Conducts laboratory, field studies, surveillance, program evaluations, and clinical trials exploring risk and protective factors for adverse health outcomes (e.g., substance abuse, sexual assault, suicidal ideation, mental health problems, misconduct, health inequities, and aggressive behavior).

(4) Executes and maintains the Birth and Infant Health Research program. Conducts regular surveillance and rigorous epidemiological research of births to military members and their spouses and ongoing research of maternal, pregnancy, and infant health outcomes (including birth defects) to understand how military service affects reproductive health.

(5) Conducts women's health studies, which include contraception and postpartum return to duty, with scientifically sound research that can address the needs of the growing number of female warfighters experiencing increased opportunities in expanding occupational roles.

(6) Conducts recruit health studies that address performance, attrition, and retention in recruit settings. Executes and maintains the Recruit Assessment Program.

(7) Conducts health systems research through surveillance and epidemiologic studies leveraging internal and external databases to understand access, quality, and cost of health care by Service members and their families.

2. Tasks

a. Clinical Laboratory Testing. Provides clinical laboratory diagnostic testing, analysis, and interpretation of rare and emerging infectious diseases as a west coast reference laboratory for the DoD. Informs DoD practice and policy on prevention, treatment, and countermeasures for military infectious disease threats.

b. Warfighter Performance. Provides laboratory testing, analysis, and interpretation on the measurement and understanding of the processes that lead to physical and mental performance degradation and optimization. Informs DON and DoD policy, the development of countermeasures to maintain or enhance performance, and the development of standards that will allow safe and effective performance of the DON and DoD personnel in air, afloat, ashore, subsurface, and extreme environmental conditions.

c. Deployment Health Research. Leads the development and evaluation of health surveillance strategies and provides policy recommendations to improve the health and well-being of U.S. military populations. Executes the Millennium Cohort Study, which is the DoD's largest prospective health study in the U.S. military. Serves as DoD's Deployment Health Research Center.

d. Institutional Review Board. Provides oversight and facilitates compliance with Privacy Act of 1974 (as amended), Health Information Portability and Accountability Act Privacy and Security Rules, Federal Information Security Modernization Act, DoD, and DON implementing

regulations in coordination with DoD, DON, DHA, and Budget Submitting Office 18 stakeholders. Coordinate DON Human Research Protection Program related command assist visits, inspections, and audits.

e. Research Support Services. Provides services that support research execution at NAVHLTHRSCHCEN and regionally including library services; research, educational, and technology transfer agreements administration; and authored works. Establishes and maintains relationships with internal and external operational, health, and research partners through avenues such as meetings, technology bridges, and working groups.