



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

BUMEDINST 5450.248
BUMED-N1
4 Aug 2025

BUMED INSTRUCTION 5450.248

From: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

Subj: MISSION, FUNCTIONS, AND TASKS OF UNITED STATES NAVAL MEDICAL
RESEARCH UNIT SOUTH

Ref: (a) BUMEDINST 5450.174B
(b) CNO ltr 5711 Ser 098F/4U344210 of 6 Jan 84 (NOTAL)

Encl: (1) Functions and Tasks of United States Naval Medical Research Unit South

1. Purpose. To define the mission, functions, and tasks of U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit South (U.S. NAMRU SOUTH) as prescribed by mission defined in references (a) and (b) and enclosure (1).
2. Cancellation. NAVMEDRSCHCENINST 5450.8.
3. Mission. To enhance the bio-security of the United States and the Region by detecting diseases of military and public health significance throughout the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility. This action is accomplished through the use of epidemiologic research studies and strengthening of partner nations' disease surveillance activities along with the development and testing of new strategies and products, including diagnostics, medicines, vaccines, and vector control measures, to mitigate bio-security threats.
4. Command Hierarchy. U.S. NAMRU SOUTH is a shore activity in an active status under a commanding officer.

a. Command

Commanding Officer
U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit South
3230 Lima Place
Washington, District of Columbia 20521-3230

(SNDL: FH8) (UIC: 44852)
(PLA: US NAMRU SOUTH)
(Activity Code: 4188-400)

b. Echelon

- (1) Echelon 1: Chief of Naval Operations
- (2) Echelon 2: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
- (3) Echelon 3: Commander, Navy Medical Forces Pacific
- (4) Echelon 4: Commander, Naval Medical Research Command
- (5) Echelon 5: Commanding Officer, U.S. NAMRU SOUTH

c. Immediate Superior in Command of: Not applicable.

d. Area Coordination. None.

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: \$2.21 million

(b) Civilian Personnel: \$720,000

(c) Locally Employed Staff: \$6.8 million

5. Supporting relationships. None.

6. Obligations to external entities

a. Overseas or Host Nation Agreements. U.S. NAMRU SOUTH was established in Lima, Peru under reference (b) which was enacted in 1983 between the governments of the United States of America and the Republic of Peru.

b. Inter-Service Support Agreements. U.S. NAMRU SOUTH operates under Chief of Mission authority of the United States of America Embassy, Peru, and benefits from an International Cooperative Administrative Support Services agreement between U.S. NAMRU SOUTH and the United States of America Embassy, Peru.

7. Action. U.S. NAMRU SOUTH will execute the assigned mission, functions, and tasks. U.S. NAMRU SOUTH 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 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, Department of Defense, 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
UNITED STATES NAVAL MEDICAL RESEARCH UNIT SOUTH

1. Functions. Provides basic and applied research expertise in infectious disease research to directly support naval and joint military requirements and operational needs. Develop and maintain scientific knowledge and expertise in anticipation of future operational requirements.

a. Infectious Diseases Research. Conducts research in collaboration with joint, interagency, and international partners to minimize or eliminate the impact of infectious disease threats of military relevance through improved diagnostics, the prevention of infection, and the enhanced treatment of clinical disease.

(1) Conducts research for the development of novel or improved diagnostics, prophylaxis, or therapeutics to prevent and treat bacterial-associated disease or infection, such as bacterial diarrhea.

(2) Conducts research on insect vectors of malaria, leishmaniasis, dengue, and other arthropod-borne diseases to evaluate and develop products and control strategies.

(3) Conducts research for the development of novel or improved diagnostics, prophylaxis, or therapeutics to prevent and treat parasitic diseases such as malaria, leishmaniasis, and Chagas disease.

(4) Conducts research for the development of novel or improved diagnostics, prophylaxis, or therapeutics to prevent and treat high-priority viral pathogens, such as dengue, influenza, chikungunya, zika, and severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).

b. Infectious Diseases Surveillance. Conducts vector and clinical based surveillance in collaboration with joint, interagency, and international partners to improve force health protection and public health preparedness through the detection and characterization of endemic and emerging infectious diseases.

(1) Monitors antimicrobial resistance patterns and incidence rates of bacterial diarrhea, healthcare-associated infections, wound infections, sexually transmitted infections of bacterial origin, and bacterial causes of febrile diseases.

(2) Characterizes arthropod vector behaviors, distribution, and insecticide resistance to inform control strategies for diseases of military relevance.

(3) Conducts surveillance for parasitic diseases and identifies resistance patterns to existing antiparasitic therapeutics.

BUMEDINST 5450.248
4 Aug 2025

(4) Performs surveillance for acute febrile and respiratory illness to identify early signs of emerging viral diseases and to determine the epidemiology and ecology of viral pathogens of concern.

2. Tasks. Not applicable.