



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
7700 ARLINGTON BOULEVARD
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IN REPLY REFER TO
BUMEDINST 6200.15B
BUMED-N3
20 Jun 2023

BUMED INSTRUCTION 6200.15B

From: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

Subj: SUSPENSION OF DIVING AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS DUTY DURING
PREGNANCY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 6000.1D
(b) NAVMED P-117
(c) SECNAV WASHINGTON DC 271542Z Feb 23 (ALNAV 017/23)
(d) OPNAVINST 3150.27D

1. Purpose. To establish procedures for the suspension of diving duty for pregnant divers and pregnant special operations personnel. This instruction is a complete revision and should be reviewed in its entirety.
2. Cancellation. BUMEDINST 6200.15A.
3. Scope and Applicability. This instruction applies to all budget submitting office 18 commands, units, personnel, and operational activities with medical personnel under the authority, direction, and control of Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED).
4. Background. Reference (a) prohibits diving by pregnant Service members. Due to the nature of special operations duty this prohibition should be extended to personnel performing these duties as well. Medical and scientific evidence demonstrates hyperbaric environments may be hazardous to a fetus, potentially resulting in developmental anomalies or fetal death. These untoward fetal events may occur despite the absence of discernible maternal effects. Factors related to the normal maternal-fetal circulation place the fetus at increased risk of injury, even if exposed to routine "low risk" dive profiles performed by the mother. Therefore, pregnant divers should not dive or be occupationally exposed to a hyperbaric environment. Special operations duty includes activities that may expose the fetus to hazards to include parachuting, high impact boat operations, and demolition activities. Reference (b), Manual of the Medical Department (MANMED), chapter 15, provides physical evaluation requirements and standards for all Service members.
5. Action
 - a. During the initial diving medical examination, and upon periodic reexamination, as required by reference (b), MANMED, chapter 15, using DD Form 2807-1 Report of Medical

History and DD Form 2808 Report of Medical Examination, divers and special operations personnel must be counseled on the potential hazards to the fetus inherent to diving and special operations duty. This counseling must be documented on DD Form 2808, block 73. The diver or special operations operator must be counseled regarding the risks to the fetus associated with diving and special operations while pregnant during each annual periodic health assessment in addition to the periodic diving and applicable special operations medical examination.

b. At the first presumptive sign of pregnancy (e.g., missed menstrual period), the diver or special operations operator must present to a qualified medical department representative. Personnel will be suspended from diving and special operations duty until pregnancy is confirmed or an alternative diagnosis is established. If pregnancy is confirmed, the diver or operator must be medically suspended from diving and special operations duty until the pregnancy ends and the Service member has been cleared by an undersea medical officer (UMO) for return to diving and special operations duty post-partum. An entry reflecting the reason for the member's suspension and suspension length must be entered into NAVMED 6150/2 Special Duty Medical Abstract, by the medical department representative suspending the duties. See references (b) through (d).

c. Diving duty and special operations duties are strenuous, requiring strength and stamina. Pregnancy induces physiologic changes, which persist for some time after the conclusion of pregnancy. Adequate reconditioning is essential before resuming these duties after pregnancy. After conclusion of a pregnancy, the diver or operator must be screened by a UMO per reference (b), MANMED, chapter 15, article 15-102 or 15-105, who must document the member's fitness to resume diving or special operations duty in NAVMED 6150/2 of the outpatient health record.

d. Assessment for return to diving or special operations duty after a pregnancy that terminates without a live birth (i.e., spontaneous or induced abortion) must be performed by a UMO after appropriate laboratory testing or obstetrics specialty evaluation to confirm resolution of pregnancy state.

6. 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 Directorate for Administration, Logistics, and Operations, 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 Department of the Navy Directorate for Administration, Logistics, and Operations, Directives and Records Management Division program office.

7. Review and Effective Date. Per OPNAVINST 5215.17A, Operations (BUMED-N3) 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 OPNAV Manual 5215.1 of May 2016.


8. Forms

a. The forms listed are available at
https://www.esd.whs.mil/Directives/forms/dd2500_2999/

(1) DD Form 2807-1, Report of Medical History

(2) DD Form 2808, Report of Medical Examination

b. NAVMED 6150/2 Special Duty Medical Abstract is available at
<https://forms.documentservices.dla.mil/nfol/NONSN00000407.PDF>.



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Releasability and distribution:

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