



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

BUMEDINST 6210.5A  
BUMED-N2  
21 May 2026

## BUMED INSTRUCTION 6210.5A

From: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

Subj: SECURITY STANDARDS AND PROCESSES FOR SAFEGUARDING BIOLOGICAL  
SELECT AGENTS AND TOXINS

Ref: (a) DoD Manual 6055.18, Safety Standards for Microbiological and Biomedical  
Laboratories, 11 August 2020  
(b) Public Law 107-188  
(c) 42 CFR 73  
(d) OPNAVINST 5530.16B  
(e) DoD Instruction 5210.88 of 26 May 2020  
(f) BUMEDINST 6210.6

### 1. Purpose

a. To implement the standards for securing and safeguarding biological select agents and toxins (BSAT), in the custody or possession of the Department of the Navy medical commands, medical installations, medical detachments, medical laboratories, and naval personnel per references (a) through (f). These standards include access control, physical security measures, and requirements for the Biological Personnel Reliability Program.

b. Permits BSAT to be used for bona fide research and other peaceful purposes within Navy Medicine activities. Ensures the security of BSAT in Navy Medicine custody from attack, theft, wrongful use, and inappropriate transfer to unauthorized personnel, organizations, locations, or laboratories. This instruction is a complete revision and should be reviewed in its entirety.

### 2. Cancellation. BUMEDINST 6210.5

3. Scope and Applicability. Apply to all Navy Medicine commands, detachments, laboratories, and personnel attached to same.

a. Navy Medicine components having possession of BSAT for execution of medical research, including commands, detachments, medical laboratories, naval medical field activities, and all other organizational medical entities in the Navy that furnish, have custody, or have possession of BSAT.

b. Government contractors and consultants (including foreign nationals) requiring access to BSAT reposit at naval medical components must be assigned controls and adherence to the requirements of this instruction through appropriate contract clauses, per reference (a).

c. Overseas facilities that may possess or use BSAT but are not subject to the select agent regulations, per references (b) and (c). These facilities will comply with the requirements of the select agent regulations to the maximum extent possible, per reference (d), in addition to adhering to local regulations, if applicable. If a discrepancy exists between the select agent regulations and local regulations, the more restrictive of the two will be followed.

d. Cooperative research and development agreements, material transfer agreements, small business innovative research agreements, and memoranda of agreement with other research partners and government agencies that involve furnished Navy Medicine BSAT for a naval or Department of War (DOW) effort.

e. This instruction does not apply to:

(1) Infectious agents and toxins not included as BSAT in the definition of the select agent regulations of the DOW. However, the facility commander or director is accountable for establishing appropriate safeguards for such non-BSAT material, per reference (a).

(2) Navy clinical or diagnostic laboratories.

(3) Laboratory response network laboratories with exempt amounts of BSAT registered with the Federal Select Agent Program.

(4) Non-Navy and non-DOW Federal Government entities that receive transfers of DOW BSAT, unless specified in an interagency agreement.

(5) Non-Federal Government entities that receive transfers of DOW BSAT at non-government facilities unless specified in appropriate contract clauses.

4. Background. The intentional misuse of biological agents poses a significant threat to national security. Recognizing that readily available biological materials—including those used in medical diagnostics, research, or previously controlled diseases—could be weaponized, the U.S. Government has designated specific agents as "Select Agents." These agents are subject to stringent regulations governing their acquisition, transport, storage, access, use, security, and disposal. This document outlines Navy Medicine's responsibilities for complying with these regulations.

5. Policy. This instruction implements and sustains policy established, per reference (d).

6. Responsibilities. Under authority of reference (d):

a. The Surgeon General of the Navy, who also performs the duties of Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED), through the subordinate commanders and commands must:

(1) Establish and maintain procedures and a coordination plan for effective responses to accidents or incidents involving BSAT.

(2) Ensure that responsible and alternate responsible officials are designated to fulfill requirements, per references (a) through (f).

(3) Ensure compliance with this instruction to include planning and programming fiscal and personnel resources necessary to implement the policy.

(4) Notify the Assistant Secretary of War for Nuclear Deterrence, Chemical, and Biological Defense Policy and Programs before the registration of any new DOW biosafety level facility.

(5) Ensure BSAT and related facilities are registered per Federal, state, and local regulations, including U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service guidelines. Because of delegated executive agency in many areas of the U.S. Government biosafety policy and oversight as per reference (d), the regulations issued by one or more of these departments and agencies may require separate registration by naval facilities and programs.

(6) Provide budget and scheduling to allow a Navy representative from Fleet Programs (BUMED-N10F), Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Medical Defense (BUMED-N53), or Director, Medical Information and Research and Development (BUMED-N2) to perform required on-site visits and reviews of performance and adherence to the requirements of this instruction and its authorities.

(7) Coordinate public releases of information regarding BSAT per reference (e).

(8) Designate a BSAT Biological Personnel Reliability Program Competent Medical Authority Community Manager, per reference (f).

b. Navy Medicine Commanding Officers and Officers in Charge must:

(1) Inform the Surgeon General of the Navy\Chief, BUMED of intent to establish a BSAT program, and secure permission to proceed.

(2) Ensure the responsibilities of commanders and directors of BSAT facilities outlined in reference (d) are carried out.

(3) Immediately inform BUMED-N2 and the BSAT Biological Personnel Reliability Program Competent Medical Authority Community Manager if security measures are breached.

(4) Develop and maintain a secure inventory database system to manage BSAT used in certified activities at Navy and Navy contractor biosafety level facilities. This system must track all BSAT registered with, and materials withdrawn from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Agriculture, or Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and must comply with the requirements of reference (c). This information will be provided to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense programs through the Surgeon General of the Navy\Chief, BUMED, upon request.

7. 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 found on 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 Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV) Records Management Program (DNS-16).

8. Review and Effective Date. Per OPNAVINST 5215.17A, BUMED-N2 will review this instruction annually around the anniversary of its issuance date to ensure applicability, currency, and consistency with Federal, DOW, 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.

9. Information Management Control. Reports required in paragraph 6 of this instruction are exempt from reports control per Secretary of the Navy manual 5214.1 of December 2005, part IV, subparagraph 7k.



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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, <https://www.med.navy.mil/Directives/>