



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

BUMEDINST 6410.9B  
BUMED-N10  
4 May 2026

BUMED INSTRUCTION 6410.9B

From: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

Subj: MEDICAL MONITORING OF FLIGHT PERSONNEL IN LOCATIONS WHERE  
AEROSPACE MEDICAL CLINICIANS ARE NOT AVAILABLE

Ref: (a) NAVMED P-117  
(b) OPNAVINST 3710.7V

1. Purpose. To provide guidelines for the medical monitoring and issuance of flight grounding and clearance notices for aviation personnel assigned to sea or shore-based activities where flight surgeons, aviation medical examiners, or aerospace medicine physician assistants—collectively referred to as aerospace medical clinicians (AMC)—are not available on a regular basis. This is a complete revision, and it should be read in its entirety.
2. Scope and Applicability. The provisions of this instruction apply only to ships and stations having medical personnel and aviation personnel in those remote areas where the services of an AMC are not available on a regular basis.
3. Cancellation. BUMEDINST 6410.9A.
4. Background. Under modern Navy and Marine Corps operational concepts, aviation activities are deploying to remote shore bases and to ships that do not have flight surgeons. In these instances, routine medical care may be performed by primary care physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, or independent duty corpsmen (IDC). The adverse effects of many self-prescribed “over the counter” type medications, as well as many drugs dispensed by prescription, have been long recognized as detrimental to flight safety. Aircraft accidents caused by such medication have been documented. Other complications unique to flying are inherent in many disease entities and treatment regimens. It is necessary to ensure that all flight personnel are physically qualified while engaged in flight operations. A commanding officer of a squadron, or officer in charge of an activity, may relieve from flying duty an individual deemed physically unfit for such duty upon the recommendation of a medical department representative (not restricted to an AMC) per references (a), Manual of the Medical Department, chapter 15 and (b). The commander, commanding officer, or officer in charge may authorize resumption of flying duty on the recommendation of an AMC.

5. Policy

a. All medical department personnel are authorized to provide grounding recommendations to a commanding officer or officer in charge via issuance of a DD Form 2992 Medical Recommendation for Flying or Special Operational Duty.

b. Only an AMC has the authority to independently recommend, via issuance of a DD Form 2992, that a temporarily grounded individual on flight status be returned to duty involving flying or actual control of aircraft.

c. The authority to issue a DD Form 2992 may be given to an IDC, physician assistant, or non-aviation trained medical officer when flight personnel are stationed in remote or isolated locations where an AMC is not available. Adhere to the procedures outlined in subparagraph 6a.

6. Procedure

a. Aircrew must be thoroughly evaluated by the medical clinician to ensure they have fully recovered from the condition that resulted in the temporary grounding, and no longer require continued therapy, medical or otherwise. The medical clinician must then issue a DD Form 2992, digitally or physically co-signed by an AMC, after consultation via e-mail, verbal communication, or message. The consultation and co-signature must be obtained from an AMC prior to issuing an aeromedical clearance. The medical clinician must document the following information in the aircrew member's outpatient medical record: "Consultation with physician or aeromedical physician assistant [AMC's name], [telephone number and e-mail address (if available)] of [AMC's command], occurred on [date] and return to flying status was approved." The medical clinician will enter their information and the co-signing AMC's information in section 14 of the DD Form 2992. Under no circumstances will an aircrew member be issued a DD Form 2992 without co-signature by an AMC and documentation of the consultation within the medical record.

b. Requests for waiver of the annual aviation physical examination or physiological training for flight personnel falling within the scope of this instruction will be handled per reference (b).

7. Action. The Naval Aerospace Medicine Institute is directed to incorporate the intent of this instruction into the curriculum for AMCs and aerospace medicine technicians, (and their refresher training) prior to reporting to units with an aviation capability.


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 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).

9. Review and Effective Date. Per OPNAVINST 5215.17A, Director, Clinical Operations, Policy, and Standards (BUMED-N10) will review this instruction annually around the anniversary of its issuance date to ensure applicability, currency, and consistency with Federal, Department of War, 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. Form. DD Form 2992 Medical Recommendation for Flying or Special Operational Duty is available at: <https://www.med.navy.mil/Navy-Medicine-Operational-Training-Command/Naval-Aerospace-Medical-Institute/Aeromedical-Reference-and-Waiver-Guide/> under the forms tab. Local reproduction is authorized.

  
R. FREEDMAN  
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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/>