



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

IN REPLY REFER TO
BUMEDINST 6470.21B
BUMED-N3
13 Feb 2023

BUMED INSTRUCTION 6470.21B

From: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

Subj: APPOINTMENT, FUNCTIONS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE RADIATION EFFECTS ADVISORY BOARD

Ref: (a) NAVMED P-5055
(b) BUMEDINST 6470.23A
(c) 5 CFR 339

1. Purpose. To establish policy and guidance for the appointments, functions, and responsibilities of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) Radiation Effects Advisory Board (REAB). This instruction is a complete revision and should be reviewed in its entirety. The changes in subparagraphs 1a through 1c have been implemented.

- a. Removed reference (d) SECNAV M-5210.1.
- b. Updated scope and applicability paragraph.
- c. Made changes to improve readability, update background information, and updated titles.

2. Cancellation. BUMEDINST 6470.21A.

3. Scope and Applicability. This instruction applies to all budget submitting office (BSO) 18 commands, units, personnel, and operational activities having medical personnel under the authority, direction, and control of Chief, BUMED. To render decisions with respect to applicable guidance, per references (a) through (c).

4. Background

a. Accurately assessing and communicating the impact of radiation on humans requires extensive scientific and medical knowledge of both ionizing and non-ionizing radiation. Statements inconsistent with scientific literature, existing facts, or documented information concerning radiation have occurred, fostering unwarranted public and employee concern and apprehension. Statements that are inconsistent with best science as applied to the facts of any particular dosage or exposure could potentially negatively impact enlistment or reenlistment in

the nuclear service or other specialty areas of the Navy. Radiation specialists are required to advise on the potential biomedical effects of radiation, radiation dosimetry, and treatment for radiation injury.

b. Radiation protection standards depend on biomedical and physical considerations and the understanding that some degree of risk exists at any level of exposure. Historically, no demonstrable disease has been attributed to individuals exposed within the Navy's occupationally prescribed levels. These standards must receive periodic review by knowledgeable experts to ensure adherence to current biomedical and scientific research.

5. Roles and Responsibilities. The REAB was established as an authority by Chief, BUMED to render determinations relative to the effects of radiation. The board may be consulted in an official capacity for reference opinions relevant to the Department of the Navy (DON).

a. The board is comprised of the listed Fleet Medical Readiness (BUMED-N35) staff positions in subparagraphs 5a(1) through 5a(4):

(1) Undersea Medicine and Radiation Health Division Lead - Chairperson.

(2) Radiation Health Lead - Executive Secretary.

(3) Non-ionizing Radiation Lead.

(4) Deputy Lead, Undersea Medicine.

b. The chairperson may designate a board member as chairperson by proxy who may oversee and manage the REAB process. The designated chairperson by proxy will obtain by-direction signing authority for REAB decisions. This designee must be appointed and documented in writing. Members cannot otherwise be assigned by proxy or by virtue of serving in an acting capacity for an incumbent.

c. Two members of the board, provided one is Undersea Medicine and Radiation Health or their designee, may constitute a quorum and complete official business related to alleged injury claims, protection standards, or emergency responses. Any decision rendered by the board must be based on at least a majority view of two members, thus the third member must participate (i.e., vote) in board action(s) when the first two members disagree.

d. Other knowledgeable Navy Medical Department experts may, on a case-by-case basis, be directed by the Chief, BUMED to assist the board. Additionally, the REAB has the authority to request consultative review by experts outside of the Navy Medical Department.

6. Policy

a. Director, Operations (BUMED-N3) ensures the REAB provides determinations and consultation to field activities' medical departments concerning ionizing and non-ionizing radiation exposure, to personnel in the areas of:

(1) Evaluating the relationship between alleged or actual radiation exposure and the individual's disease.

(2) Determining physical qualification standards for occupational radiation exposure.

(3) Determining if an individual meets the standards for exposure to ionizing and non-ionizing radiation.

(4) Determining potential biomedical effects, dosimetry, and methods of treatment for radiation injury.

b. Commanders, commanding officers, and officers in charge must ensure:

(1) Physicians conducting radiation medical examinations per references (a) through (c) and this instruction are sensitive to the implications, legal complications, and liabilities for the government in making overt statements correlating the examinee's medical condition and exposure to radiation. In particular, statements about "cause and effect" relations are reserved for, and functions of, the REAB.

(2) Medical records and exposure information for personnel who are being medically disqualified from assignment to work involving occupational exposure to ionizing or non-ionizing radiation exposure are forwarded to the REAB for review.

(3) Medical records and exposure information on personnel who allege their medical condition was caused by exposure to ionizing or non-ionizing radiation are forwarded to the REAB for review.

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 located on the DON 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 DON Directorate for Administration, Logistics, and Operations, Directives and Records Management Division program office.

8. Review and Effective Date. Per OPNAVINST 5215.17A, BUMED-N3 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.



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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/>