



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
7700 ARLINGTON BOULEVARD
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Canc: Feb 2023
IN REPLY REFER TO
BUMEDNOTE 5700
BUMED-M09B7
23 Feb 2022

BUMED NOTICE 5700

From: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

Subj: SENSITIVE TOPICS

Ref: (a) BUMEDINST 5721.3E
(b) 5 U.S.C. §3109
(c) SECNAVINST 3070.2A

Encl: (1) Sensitive Topics List

1. Purpose. To establish guidelines for the Navy Medicine enterprise regarding authored works on sensitive topics that require awareness from the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) Office of Communications (BUMED-M09B7). Authored works will be vetted via the respective echelons 3, 4, and 5 public affairs officers, as described in reference (a). All sensitive topics must be sent to higher echelons, including BUMED, for awareness before publication.

Clearance to publish is only required as stated in enclosure (1). This list is meant to provide guidance on topics that potentially could receive media attention or publicity, but should not be deemed all-inclusive. There may be additional topics that garner Congressional and media interest. Commanders, commanding officers, executive officers, chiefs of staff, public affairs officers, and publication managers must use discretion and best judgement when clearing for release at their local levels and determine what topic not included in this notice should be sent for awareness at a higher level. Per reference (a), all commands will be required to report on all authored works that have been reviewed and cleared at local levels.

2. Scope and Applicability. This notice applies to Navy Medical Department personnel defined as active duty and Reserve Component officers and enlisted Service members, civilian personnel, contractors, Intergovernmental Personnel Act appointees, and experts and consultants employed, per reference (b). Questions about the review process and whether an authored work requires higher review and approval can be directed to usn.ncr.bumedfchva.mbx.pao-review@mail.mil.

3. Policy. Authored work that relates to or involves any of the topics in enclosure (1) requires compliance with references (a) and (c), and must be reviewed, at a minimum, by the originating command prior to publication or presentation. Topics are not limited to those listed in enclosure (1) or references (a) and (c).

4. Records Management

a. Records created as a result of this notice, regardless of format or media, must be maintained and dispositioned per the records disposition schedules located on the Department of

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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 notice 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.


G. D. SHAFFER
Acting

Releasability and distribution:

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

SENSITIVE TOPICS LIST

1. Category 1: Must be Cleared at the Echelon 2 Level (BUMED)
 - a. Critiques or evaluations of current BUMED policy and mission
 - b. Issues related to the President of the United States, Congress, executive agencies, Federal courts, and any enacted or potential legislation
2. Category 2: Must be Cleared at Minimum at the Echelon 3 Level (Commanders, Naval Medical Forces Atlantic, Naval Medical Forces Pacific, or Naval Medical Forces Support Command) and shared with BUMED for awareness
 - a. Animal Model in Research (as it relates to live tissue training)
 - b. Detainee Care
 - c. Feres Doctrine
 - d. Foreign or host nation joint military exercises and standards of care in foreign treatment facilities
 - e. Global Health Engagement (as relates to medical civic action programs, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief missions)
 - f. Harmful environmental exposures (including water quality and contamination) related to military work locations, deployments, and base housing (specifically impacting active duty populations and their families)
 - g. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues
 - h. Refugees (military treatment of...)
3. Category 3: Clearance can be Granted at Echelons 3, 4, and 5 Levels
 - a. Abortion
 - b. Addiction (including substance, gambling, pornography)
 - c. Animal Model in Research, Use of (excludes rodents, rabbits (lagomorpha), ferrets). Not including live tissue training
 - d. Burn pits and environmental health issues from war and contingency operations
 - e. Chemical warfare

- f. Coronavirus Disease 2019
- g. Disability Evaluation System
- h. Domestic violence
- i. E-cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, and vaping
- j. Emerging mosquito-borne illness and vaccines
- k. Hazing
- l. Human immunodeficiency virus or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (excludes pre-clinical vaccine development unless it is tested on animals not previously excluded on this list)
- m. Lasers (includes studies to mitigate the effects of lasers); excludes the use of lasers in medical treatment
- n. Medical recruiting and retention
- o. Mental health (including post-traumatic stress disorder, suicide, and substance misuse or abuse)
- p. Military Health System (MHS) GENESIS and issues relating to changes to the electronic health record
- q. Overseas contingency operations
- r. Physiological episodes
- s. Radiation exposure and mediation
- t. Research conducted with the Department of Veterans Affairs
- u. Sexual assault and harassment
- v. Suicide
- w. Traumatic brain injury (excludes pre-clinical work that looks at traumatic brain injury in either tissue culture or small animal (rats) models and not non-human primates or humans)
- x. Women in service or women in combat (as it relates to gender integration, gender-related physical fitness standards, reproductive health of active duty and Reserve Component women)