



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
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BUMEDNOTE 3090
BUMED-N3
22 Mar 2024

BUMED NOTICE 3090

From: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

Subj: COMMAND OPERATION CENTER AND BATTLE WATCH

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5450.215F
(b) NTTP 3-32.1

1. Purpose. To provide guidance on roles, responsibilities, and basic procedures for the establishment of a command center with associated watch positions within the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) headquarters (HQ).
2. Scope and Applicability. This notice applies to the BUMED HQ staff.
3. Background. Current operations require U.S. naval forces to respond rapidly to a wide range of operational requirements. Per reference (a), BUMED provides expeditionary medical forces across the competition continuum in support of the National Defense Strategy. BUMED's maritime operations center (MOC) must support Chief, BUMED's ability to plan, direct, monitor, communicate, and coordinate in a variety of situations from daily routine operations to crisis/contingency response. To support these essential tasks, BUMED requires the ability to maintain a command operations center (COC) with varying levels of watch capability, up to and including full-time 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week function.
4. Concept of Operations
 - a. The COC serves as the central hub of command and control. It plays a key role in ensuring coordinated and effective actions across BUMED and its subordinate activities. By consolidating functions within a centralized facility, the COC enhances BUMED's ability to maintain a comprehensive view of ongoing missions and reporting requirements, promoting timely and informed decision-making in an evolving operational landscape.
 - b. At the core of the COC is the battle watch captain (BWC) who serves as the lead watch stander and helps execute Chief, BUMED's guidance and intent. The BWC supports current and future operations, ensuring prompt communication within the chain of command and an environment of heightened situational awareness. Through continuous monitoring and reporting, the BWC assures that situational developments are accurately captured and disseminated, facilitating a shared common operating picture among leaders and stakeholders.

c. The BUMED COC, located in the Director, Operations, Plans, and Policy (BUMED-N3N5) vault, has three conditions of readiness to support simple to complex operations: Steady State (Condition III), Elevated (Condition II), and Crisis Response (Condition I). During Steady State, the COC will not be activated. When directed by the Director, Maritime Operations (BUMED-N04), BUMED-N3N5 will activate the COC primarily staffed organically from the BUMED-N3N5 and led by the BWC and the assistant BWC (ABWC). When required, the BWC will activate pre-designated augmentation personnel from across BUMED N-Codes and special assistants to sustain operations and battle rhythm requirements. See reference (b) for details.

5. Terms of Reference

a. Command Operations Center (COC). Centralized facility within the MOC where command and control functions are exercised. The COC includes a watch floor and is responsible for supporting Chief, BUMED situational awareness and communicating operational-level direction.

b. BWC. The senior watchstander in the COC.

c. ABWC. Deputy to the BWC; supporting the oversight of the watch team.

6. Responsibilities

a. BUMED-N04. Oversees overall implementation and operations of the COC to ensure alignment with BUMED objectives.

b. Director, Maritime Headquarters (BUMED-N03). Supports in overall implementation and directs watch augmentation from subordinate BUMED N-Codes, facilitating adequate staffing levels for COC sustained operations.

c. Director, Headquarters Operations (BUMED-N01B). Directs and supervises the senior watch officer (SWO), ensuring that the SWO effectively performs their duties and acts as a link between the BWC/ABWC and the broader command structure. Directs watch augmentation from subordinate staff, facilitating adequate staffing levels for COC sustained operations.

d. BUMED Liaison Officer to Defense Health Agency (BUMED-N02LNO). Coordinates with MOC-D and BUMED-N3N5 on watch requirements and integrates the DHA Joint Operations Center's watch capabilities and requirements with the BUMED COC for maximum effectiveness. Help develop procedures for effective information sharing between BUMED and DHA watch-related activities.

e. Director, Manpower and Personnel (BUMED-N1). Coordinates with MOC-D and BUMED-N3N5 for watchstanders and functional watch support personnel related requirements.

f. Director, Reserve Policy and Integration (BUMED-N1R). Coordinates with MOC-D and BUMED-N3N5 to develop reserve personnel COC watchstander support options.

g. BUMED-N3N5. Directly oversees COC implementation and battle watch performance to ensure alignment with BUMED objectives. Coordinates with the BUMED N-Code Directors to identify watch standers and define additional functional watch-support requirements beyond BWC and AWBC. Approves the battle watch functions and appointments. Assigns tasks to MOC-D.

(1) Deputy Director, Operations (BUMED-N3B). Serves as MOC-D. Ensures proper function of COC and execution of the battle watch. Ensures BWC and ABWC meet the necessary qualifications and are aptly trained and equipped to support decision-making processes. Coordinates with BUMED N-Code directors to identify watch standers and define additional functional watch-support requirements. Approves all COC watch-bills and watch standers training plans.

(2) Director, Current Operations (BUMED-N33). Serves as BUMED Senior BWC and Deputy MOC-D. Trains and coordinates BWC and ABWC personnel qualifications. Supports MOC-D in the implementation, operations, and execution of COC functions.

(3) BWC. Senior watchstander in the COC, leading the watch team and primary MOC-D representative for watch floor operations. Coordinates situational information flow to BUMED leadership. Responsible for updating daily flag-level information products and responding to requests for information. The BWC continuously monitors and reports relevant developments to attain, maintain, and share situational awareness.

(4) ABWC. Deputy to the BWC, supporting the oversight of the watch team. Acting as a deputy to the BWC, the ABWC aids in coordinating the flow of situational information to the COC and may assume responsibility for updating certain flag-level information products in the BWC's absence or by direction. The ABWC helps the BWC monitor and report relevant developments to ensure situational awareness.

h. Director, Logistics, Supply, and Support (BUMED-N4). Coordinates with MOC-D and BUMED-N3N5 for watchstanders and functional watch-support personnel related requirements. Provides direct support to the COC on emergency management (EM) functions and indications and warnings of events that would shift MOC conditions. Provides the COC with EM watch standers upon request.

i. Director, Communications and Information Systems (BUMED-N6). Provides unclassified communications support to the COC and watch standers. Coordinates classified network support for COC functionality. In conjunction with MOC-D and BUMED-N3N5, defines and coordinates COC communications systems requirements. Supports COC with watchstanders.

j. Director, Resource Management (BUMED-N8). Provides guidance and oversight for funding issues related to COC implementation. Coordinates with MOC-D and BUMED-N3N5 for watchstanders and functional watch support personnel related requirements.

k. SWO. Acts as the primary liaison officer between MOC director (MOC-D) and COC for command duty officer related activities and support. Coordinates with BWC and MOC-D to ensure proper task assignment and flow of information. Help develop COC and BWC/ABWC watchbills.

7. Action. BUMED-N3N5 will oversee implementation of this notice and recommend changes and revisions via BUMED-N04 when required.

8. 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 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.



D. K. VIA

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/>