



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

Canc: Apr 2027

BUMEDNOTE 6420

BUMED-N10

22 Apr 2026

BUMED NOTICE 6420

From: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

Subj: UNDERSEA MEDICAL EXAMINER

Ref: (a) NAVMED P-117
(b) NAVMED P-5055
(c) BUMEDINST 6010.30
(d) OPNAVINST 5450.215G

1. Purpose. To establish policies and procedures for utilization of the Undersea Medical Examiner (UME), which is delineated in reference (a), chapter 15, article 15-102 (Diving Duty), article 15-103 (Nuclear Field Duty), article 15-104 (Occupational Exposure to Ionizing Radiation), article 15-105 (Naval Special Warfare Special Operations Duty), and article 15-106 (Submarine Duty) and reference (b), chapter 2, article 2-5. This update defines the role of the UMEs and the applicable special duty examinations and waiver submissions they are authorized to perform.
2. Scope and Applicability. This notice applies when a UME is completing special duty examinations, applying the medical standards, submitting waiver packages on individuals applying for special duty, for Service members undergoing periodic special duty physicals, and return to duty assessments. Specifically, UMEs may perform examinations and make duty determinations with the same scope of an Undersea Medical Officer (UMO), with the exception of returning individuals to duty following a diving-related injury, such as an air gas embolism or decompression sickness.
3. Background. A UMO is defined as a physician employed by the Department of War who previously served as a UMO or a medical officer who has successfully completed the entire UMO course conducted by the Naval Undersea Medical Institute, which includes the diving medical officer course conducted at the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center. A UME is defined as a medical officer who has completed the UME course conducted at Naval Undersea Medical Institute, or a physician employed by the Department of War who previously served as a UME. UMOs and UMEs must currently hold privileges through an appropriate Privileging Authority and have administrative authorities granted by Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) to conduct or co-sign a special duty examination.
 - a. Special duty physical exams discussed in reference (a), chapter 15, article 15-102, article 15-103, article 104, article 15-105, and article 15-106 may be signed by a UMO or UME.

b. Use of the term “UMO” in reference (a), chapter 15, article 15-102, article 15-103, article 15-105 and article 15-106 is intended to include both UMOs and UMEs, with the following exception in reference (a), chapter 15, article 15-102 and article 15-105: a UME cannot clear a diver or special operator to return to duty after a diving related injury; this clearance must be completed by a UMO.

c. Use of the term “UMO” in reference (b), chapter 2, article 2-5, subparagraph 1(c) is intended to include both UMOs and UMEs with the following exception: UMEs completing Radiation Medical Examinations must identify their qualification using the “RHI” designation, indicating satisfactory completion of the Naval Undersea Medical Institute’s Radiation Health Indoctrination (RHI) course.

d. Waiver packages may be submitted by a UMO or UME. Waiver packages must include all documents and signatures as outlined in the applicable reference (a), chapter 15, article 15-102, article 15-103, article 15-105, or article 15-106 pertaining to duty type.

e. The outcome from the Navy Bureau of Personnel final adjudication of the waiver must be documented by the UMO or UME on the DD Form 2808 Report of Medical Examination in block 87 of the special duty physical.

f. Privileges are granted by the Privileging Authority, and refer to specific, authorized permissions granted to a healthcare provider to perform certain clinical activities and procedures within that medical facility.

g. Per reference (d), BUMED is responsible for Navy administrative functions, performance evaluation tracking, completion and compliance with Navy requirements for uniformed and civilian personnel whose primary duties are in operational and installation-specific medical functions for Budget Submitting Office 18 activities, and is to ensure the healthcare system runs smoothly, efficiently, and in compliance with all relevant laws and regulations

4. Action

a. Operational commands, Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Commands and Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Units must support maintenance of clinical privileging for UMEs following reference (c) to allow them to perform special duty physicals and return to special duty assessments as described within this notice. BUMED will retain administrative authority over medical officers to grant, remove, or reinstate administrative authorities to UMOs and UMEs and make duty determinations.

b. UMEs must be given access to the electronic medical waiver system (currently Webwave II) for submission of special duty medical waiver packages.

5. 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 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 notice 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).

6. Forms and Information Management Control

a. Forms. DD Form 2808 Report of Medical Examination is available at: https://www.esd.whs.mil/Directives/forms/dd2500_2999/DD2808/

b. Information Management Control. Reports required in paragraphs 3 and 4 of this instruction are exempt from reports control per Secretary of the Navy manual 5214.1 of December 2005, part IV, subparagraph 7k.


R. FREEDMAN
Acting

Releasability and distribution:

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