



Prevention and Control of Disease: Duties of Every Sailor and Marine

Introduction

Duties of the Senior Officer Present

Whether the senior officer present is the unit's CO or not, these officers have force health protection related duties commensurate with their authority. The senior line officer present in a Navy unit shall obtain information about the medical facilities and capabilities that are available to his or her subordinates in the unit's area of operations. These officers also shall adopt such measures as are required by the situation to preserve the health of the persons under his or her authority. See [article 0923 of Navy Regulations](#) for the mandate.

Officers

The fundamental duties and responsibilities of all officers in the US Navy related to the prevention and control of disease has been established by the Secretary of the Navy. They are defined in US Navy Regulations, general orders, customs and tradition. All Navy Officers shall:

- take all necessary lawful measures to promote and safeguard the moral and physical well-being and general welfare of all officers and enlisted persons under their charge. See [article 1131 of US Navy Regulations](#).
- acquaint themselves with, obey and, so far as their authority extends, enforce laws, regulations, and legal orders that are applicable to their duties and to the duties of those they supervise. [See articles 1130 and 1132 of US Navy Regulations](#).

All Members of the Naval Service

The fundamental duties and responsibilities of all in the naval service related to the prevention and control of disease has been established by the Secretary of the Navy. They are defined in US Navy Regulations, general orders, customs and tradition. All in the naval service shall:

- report promptly to a Navy Medical Department representative the existence or suspicion of communicable disease in persons with whom they are living or otherwise come in contact. See [article 1143 of US Navy Regulations](#).
- permit such action to be taken to immunize them against disease as prescribed by competent authority. [See article 1144 of US Navy Regulations](#).



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- discharge their duties in conformance with existing laws, orders and regulations. In the absence of specific instructions, they shall act in conformance with service policies and customs. [See article 1130 of US Navy Regulations.](#)
- obey readily and strictly, and execute promptly the lawful orders of their superiors. See article [1132 of US Navy Regulations.](#)