



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
WASHINGTON D.C. 20372-5100

IN REPLY REFER TO

BUMEDINST 6470.21
BUMED-21
27 Dec 90

BUMED INSTRUCTION 6470.21

From: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
To: Ships and Stations Having Medical Personnel

Subj: ESTABLISHMENT, APPOINTMENT, FUNCTIONS, AND
RESPONSIBILITIES OF BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
RADIATION EFFECTS ADVISORY BOARD

Ref: (a) NAVMED P-5055, Radiation Health Protection Manual
(b) NAVMEDCOMINST 6470.2A
(c) Federal Personnel Manual, chapter 339

1. Purpose. To establish, appoint, and publish the functions and responsibilities of the Radiation Effects Advisory Board (REAB).

2. Cancellation. NAVMEDCOMINST 6470.3.

3. Background

a. The subject of radiation effects requires extensive scientific and medical knowledge on the effects of ionizing and nonionizing radiation. Statements not consistent with the scientific literature, existing facts, or documented information concerning radiation have occurred, fostering unwarranted public and employee concern and apprehension. Thus, the purpose of the REAB is to render decisions regarding individual fitness for radiation work, with respect to applicable guidance, references (a) through (c).

b. Radiation protection criteria depend on biomedical and physical considerations and value judgments based on the concept there may be some degree of risk at any level of exposure. Experience with Navy's radiation protection standards shows no demonstrable disease of any kind to individuals exposed within the prescribed levels; yet, it is imperative that the standards receive periodic review by knowledgeable experts to ensure they are based on the current biomedical and scientific information.

c. Recent world events have shown the need for identification of radiation specialists to advise on potential biomedical effects, dosimetry, and methods of treatment of radiation injury.



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4. Establishment. The REAB is established to render determinations relative to the effects of radiation as an authority established by the Surgeon General of the Navy. Furthermore, the Board may be consulted in an official capacity for reference opinions germane to the Department of the Navy.

a. The Board is composed of:

(1) Director, Undersea Medicine and Radiation Health Division (MED-21), Chairperson.

(2) Head, Radiation Health Branch (MED-212), Executive Secretary.

(3) Head, Nonionizing Radiation Section (MED-2122).

b. Members cannot be assigned by proxy or by being in an acting capacity for an incumbent.

c. Two members of the Board, provided one is MED-21, may constitute a quorum and complete official business related to alleged injury claims, protection standards, or emergency response. 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) on Board action when the first two members disagree.

d. Other knowledgeable naval Medical Department experts may, on a case-by-case basis, be directed by the Surgeon General to assist the Board. Additionally, the REAB has the authority to request consultative review by experts outside of the naval Medical Department.

5. Action

a. Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery assures that the REAB provide determinations and consultation to medical departments of field activities in matters concerning ionizing and nonionizing radiation exposure, references (a) and (b), to personnel in the areas of:

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

(2) Determination of physical qualification standards for occupational radiation exposure.

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

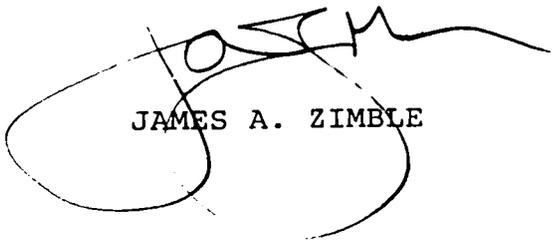
(4) Determining potential biomedical effects, dosimetry, and methods of treatment of radiation injury.

b. Commanders, commanding officers, and officers in charge must assure that:

(1) Physicians conducting examinations under the guidance of references (a) through (c) and this instruction, are sensitive to the implications, legal complications, and liabilities for the Government of 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 on personnel who are being medically disqualified from assignment to work involving occupational exposure to ionizing radiation or non-ionizing radiation exposure are forwarded to the REAB for review.

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



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