

APPENDIX A

ORGANIZATION OF THE NAVY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CENTER

A. NAVY OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH CHAIN OF COMMAND

The Navy Environmental Health Center (NAVENVIRHLTHCEN) coordinates and provides centralized support and services to Navy medical activities ashore and afloat in the areas of occupational health (OH), preventive medicine, and environmental health. It is also charged with coordinating and reviewing all OH and preventive medicine programs under the direction and management of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. It is responsible for nine Echelon 4 commands.

The chain of command for NAVENVIRHLTHCEN is as follows:

- Echelon 1 - Chief of Naval Operations
- Echelon 2 - Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED)
- Echelon 3 - NAVENVIRHLTHCEN
- Echelon 4 - Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine
(NAVENPVNTMEDU) TWO Norfolk
NAVENPVNTMEDU FIVE San Diego
NAVENPVNTMEDU SIX Pearl Harbor
NAVENPVNTMEDU SEVEN Sigonella
Navy Disease Vector Ecology and Control
Center (NAVDISVECTECOLCONCEN) Alameda
NAVDISVECTECOLCONCEN Jacksonville
Navy Drug Screening Laboratory
(NAVDRUGLAB) Great Lakes
NAVDRUGLAB Jacksonville
NAVDRUGLAB San Diego

B. ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH (OH) PERSONNEL FROM NAVENVIRHLTHCEN DIRECTORATES AND COMMITTEES

Occupational Medicine Directorate. The directorate provides technical support to higher authority on occupational medicine issues and professional guidance to field activities on all matters related to the Navy workplace.

1. The Occupational Medicine (OM) Team is composed of physicians, nurses, and other subject matter experts knowledgeable in a variety of occupational medicine matters including, but certainly not limited to heat stress, pediatric lead screening, occupational health nursing, reproductive hazards and asbestos. They coordinate the Navy Pediatric Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. The Medical Review Office reviews opiate positive urinalysis of all active duty personnel, and provides guidance to medical and other Navy personnel on interpretation of drug positive urinalysis.

2. The Occupational Audiology Team is composed of subject matter experts who provide consultation and guidance to audiologists, physicians, occupational health nurses, hearing conservation

program managers and other health professionals. They initiate and review policy recommendations, both from the field and to higher authority, regarding medical aspects of occupational audiology.

3. The Radiation Health Team is composed of radiation health officers and health physicists who provide consultation and guidance to radiation health officers, radiation safety officers, physicians and industrial hygienists on such matters as radioactive material safety, x-ray machine performance testing, and laser and radiofrequency radiation hazards. They also research, review and draft Navy Radioactive Material Permits for issuance by CNO (N455) to Navy medical commands.

Preventive Medicine and Health Promotion Directorate. The directorate helps formulate preventive medicine and health promotion policy, and provides consultation and reference materials to headquarters and field activities. The staff writes instructions and technical manuals for the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery and reviews policy regulations written by other Navy commands. The Preventive Medicine and Health Promotion Directorate brings applied science to the field as quickly as possible using advanced computer technology and communications systems.

1. The Preventive Medicine Team assists in curbing the incidence of infectious, communicable, and vector-borne diseases aboard ships and installations, and during military operations. The team coordinates the collection and distribution of global medical information, serves as a tracking center for disease trends, and provides epidemiological, entomological and environmental health training, consultation, and on-site technical support. These resources are available to respond quickly and effectively to disease outbreaks.

2. The Health Promotion Team advances our nation's Healthy People 2000 initiatives by focusing on seven militarily important core programs: Tobacco Cessation, Nutrition Education, Hypertension Screening and Education, Stress Management, Substance Abuse and Prevention, Back Injury Prevention, and Physical Fitness. The staff helps medical treatment facilities and line commands of the Navy and Marine Corps build and maintain active health promotion programs by providing start-up and advanced instructional materials, offering training classes, and conducting program evaluations on location. For medical and dental treatment facilities, additional support is available to enhance their health protection program, clinical preventive services, and their Put Prevention into Practice (PIP) program.

Industrial Hygiene (IH) Directorate. Services provided to NEHC detachments and echelon 4 activities include the following:

1. Personnel provide information on various IH topics, and when necessary, may make a site visit to resolve the problem. Industrial Hygiene Consultative Assistance Teams (CATs) are

provided to BUMED field activities which do not have the appropriate resources to solve specific problems. The Workplace Monitor Course is a two week course provided to Navy and Marine Corps personnel who perform IH sampling.

2. The Hazardous Materials team supports medical activities with technical information and consultation pertaining to health hazard assessments. It serves as a point of contact for all areas related to hazardous materials.

Environmental Programs Directorate. The directorate provides medical consultative support to the Installation Restoration Program for the clean-up of past hazardous waste sites. OH personnel may occasionally be asked to perform a medical evaluation of hazardous waste site workers. They may call for information on databases and technical information resources maintained by the directorate on the following:

1. Biological effects of hazardous materials.
2. The Environmental Protection Agency risk assessment process to evaluate hazardous waste sites.
3. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry public health assessment process to evaluate potential health outcomes associated with hazardous waste sites.

Naval Inspector General Oversight Inspection Unit (NOIU). NOIU conducts oversight inspections of the Navy's safety, OH and environmental programs. The NOIU mission is to evaluate activity compliance with applicable federal and state laws and statutes, and Department of Defense/Department of the Navy regulations.

1. NAVOSH Oversight Inspection Unit (NAVOSH OIU) conducts the safety and OH inspections of Naval shore activities. NAVOSH OIU evaluates the OH support provided by the servicing medical treatment facility for each activity inspected. From an occupational medicine standpoint, the primary area of concern is the medical surveillance program. Inspection protocol primarily consists of reviewing selected medical records of occupationally exposed personnel to determine if required medical surveillance is being conducted. The primary source document used by the inspection team is OPNAVINST 5100.23 series. Applicable OSHA and consensus standards are applied where no NAVOSH standard currently exists.

2. Navy Environmental Inspection Team (NEIT) conducts environmental program compliance oversight inspections. The area of concern for occupational medicine personnel revolves around health risk assessments for environmental pollutants. The primary reference used for NEIT inspections is OPNAVINST series. Applicable federal standards are located mainly in 40 CFR.

Resources Management Directorate. Services provided to NEHC detachments and echelon 4 activities include the following:

1. The directorate provides financial support services for budgeting and accounting to NEHC detachments, and has responsibility for oversight of echelon 4 activities.
2. All requests for investment equipment to support OH functions in the BUMED claimancy are submitted through this directorate for technical review, consolidation and prioritization.
3. Onsite and mail-in calibration and repair services for audiometers and sound level meters are provided for the BUMED claimancy.
4. Automated Information System (AIS) security and general information technology support services are available to echelon 4 activities.

Library. The NEHC Library, telephone (804) 363-5451, is part of the Resources and Support directorate. It provides the following services to all NEHC detachments and echelon 4 personnel:

1. Books and journals: The staff mail books and photocopied journal articles to personnel upon request. Interlibrary loans can be arranged for books not available in the library.
2. Online literature searches: Library personnel can search the National Library of Medicine (NLM) automated information resources on a wide variety of topics (Information on NLM is provided in Appendix F). They can arrange a direct connection between echelon 4 activities and the NLM computer. This enables the echelon 4 staff to perform basic MEDLINE searches with a desktop PC and modem.
3. Government publications: Library personnel can research needed citations and provide copies.

Navy OH Committees. Membership in these multidisciplinary committees is not limited to NAVENVIRHLTHCEN personnel.

1. The Medical Matrix Committee. This committee was formed to develop standard examination protocols for medical surveillance programs which could be presented in a user friendly format. These programs are contained in the Medical Matrix which is published as a Navy Environmental Health Center Technical Manual. OPNAVINST 5100.23 series and OPNAVINST 5100.19 series require the Medical Matrix be used as the minimum guidelines for medical surveillance and certification examinations.

The Medical Matrix is reviewed and updated very two years by the committee. OH personnel can send comments and requests for revisions and new programs to the Navy Environmental Health Center, ATTN: Occupational Medicine Directorate.

2. Navy Reproductive Hazards Review Board. This board is responsible for periodically updating the Navy reproductive hazards list.