



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
2000 NAVY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO  
OPNAVINST 6470.2B  
N4

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OPNAV INSTRUCTION 6470.2B

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION PROTECTION PROGRAM

Ref: (a) DOD Instruction 6055.8, Occupational Radiation Protection Program, of 31 Mar 89, Administrative Re-issuance Incorporating Change 1, 6 May 96 (NOTAL)  
(b) Presidential Executive Order 12344 of 1 Feb 82, codified by Public Law 98-525 of 19 Oct 84

1. Purpose. To formalize a uniform occupational radiation protection program for the Department of the Navy (DON), as required by reference (a). This instruction has been administratively revised and should be reviewed in its entirety.

2. Cancellation. OPNAV Instruction 6470.2A.

3. Scope. The provisions of this instruction apply during peacetime to all DON personnel who are occupationally exposed to ionizing radiation. Personnel who undergo diagnostic or therapeutic radiological procedures in medical or dental facilities are excluded.

4. Background. The Secretary of the Navy assigned Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) responsibility to establish and manage the Navy Occupational Radiation Protection Program in coordination with the Commandant of the Marine Corps for those matters which affect the Marine Corps.

5. Discussion. An occupational radiation protection program is the sum of all the methods, plans, and procedures used to control personnel exposure to ionizing radiation. The purpose of this program is to provide the means to preserve and maintain the health of personnel while they accomplish necessary and meaningful work in or around areas containing radioactive material or ionizing radiation fields. Radiation protection within the DON is achieved by complying with the requirements of the Radiation Health Program under the cognizance of Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) and the requirements of those Echelon 2 Commanders responsible for radiological control programs. Each of these Commanders publishes requirements and

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exercises oversight authority within the scope of his/her individual programs.

6. Policy. It is DON policy to reduce occupational exposures to radiation associated with Navy and Marine Corps operations to a level as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA).

7. Responsibilities. Occupational exposure occurs in four separate and distinct areas: medical-dental, naval nuclear propulsion, naval nuclear weapons, and a variety of industrial applications.

a. Medical/Dental/Research. Occupational exposure may be received by medical and dental personnel operating X-ray machines and working with radiopharmaceuticals or other radiation sources. Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, is responsible for the management of the Medical Department Radiological Controls Program for these individuals. Additionally, BUMED is responsible for approving and issuing requirements for the Radiation Health Programs applicable to all Navy and Marine Corps radiation protection programs.

b. Naval Nuclear Propulsion. Occupational exposure may be received by personnel who operate and maintain naval nuclear propulsion plants. By reference (b), the Director of Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program (CNO (N00N)) is responsible for:

(1) Control of radiation and radioactivity associated with naval nuclear propulsion activities.

(2) Enforcing standards and regulations for these areas as they affect the environment and safety and health of workers, operators, and the general public.

c. Naval Nuclear Weapons. Occupational radiation exposure may be received by personnel who stow, handle, and maintain naval nuclear weapons. Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command (COMNAVSEASYS COM) is responsible for management of the Naval Nuclear Weapons Radiological Controls Program.

d. Operational/Industrial/Research. Occupational exposure may be received by Department of the Navy personnel involved with operational, industrial and research applications of radioactive sources and radiation producing machines. The Radiological Affairs Support Program (RASP) has been established to oversee

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these areas. COMNAVSEASYSOM is responsible for the management of the RASP.

8. Action. Commanders responsible for radiation protection shall follow the requirements of references (a), (b), and applicable radiation protection guidance for federal agencies.



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