Department of Defense Directive

SUBJECT  Armed Forces Epidemiological Board

I. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Secretary of Defense by the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, there is hereby reconstituted within the Department of Defense the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board (hereinafter referred to as "The Board"). The Board shall function as a joint agency of the three Military Departments under the management control of the Secretary of the Army, subject to the authority, direction and control of the Secretary of Defense. The purpose of this Board is to provide the Military Departments with scientific and research assistance and advice on matters pertaining to problems in preventive medicine.

II. ORGANIZATION

A. The Board shall be composed of nine members, selected from civil life on the basis of their national standing in fields allied to the functions of the Board. Members of the Board shall be selected and appointed on a consultant basis by the Secretary of the Army, as management agent, based on nominations made by the three Surgeons General of the Military Departments. Each member shall be appointed for a period of four years. The members of the Board shall elect a President from among themselves who will serve in this capacity for a period of two years unless extended by re-election.

B. The Board may establish such commissions as it deems necessary from time to time to assist in the performance of its functions. Members of commissions shall be selected and appointed on a consultant basis by the Secretary of the Army, as management agent, based on nominations of the Board. Such members shall serve during the life of the commission or for two years, whichever is the shorter period. The Board shall designate one of the members of each commission to serve as its director.

C. The Board shall be assisted by an Executive Secretary and such qualified military and civilian personnel as may be required in the administration of the activities of the Board. The Executive
Secretary shall be a medical corps officer of the Army, Navy or Air Force, selected on the basis of high professional qualifications and demonstrated medical administrative ability in fields allied to the functions of the Board. The Executive Secretary shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Army, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Defense, based on nominations received from the Army, Navy and Air Force. Normally, such appointment shall be for a period of four years and shall be made on a rotating basis in the order of Army, Navy and Air Force, provided that the Military Department next in line has an individual who meets the qualifications of the position and is acceptable to the nominating and approving authorities. The Executive Secretary shall be responsible to the Secretary of the Army, as management agent, on administrative matters and to the Board on professional matters.

III. FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Under established Department of Defense policies, the Board shall:

1. Serve as a consultant body to the Military Departments on technical aspects of the prevention and control of disease and injury.

2. Through research, field investigation and active working participation with members of the medical services of the Military Departments, study communicable diseases and other preventive medicine problems, and based upon findings furnish the Military Departments with specialized scientific advice and recommendations.

B. The commissions shall assist the Board in the performance of its functions by undertaking studies, field and laboratory investigations, and making recommendations to the Board on such specific technical problems as are assigned.

C. In the investigation of preventive medicine problems of the Armed Forces, the Board shall take into consideration research conducted by other governmental and non-governmental agencies on similar problems, the propriety of methods of research recommended to be employed by the military medical services, and the pertinent practices employed by the Military Departments in the preventive medicine program.

D. It shall be the responsibility of the Board to make certain that the standards of ethics and scientific safeguards are maintained in the performance of these functions, particularly with respect to programs involving medical research and that such is consistent with the highest standards of military and civilian medicine, and further that unnecessary duplication of effort be avoided.

IV. ADMINISTRATION

A. The Secretary of the Army, as management agent, shall be
responsible for the determination and provision, within the limits of resources available to the Department of the Army for such purposes of adequate administrative support required for the operation of the Board and its commissions. The term "administrative support," as used in this directive, is defined to include budgeting, funding, fiscal control, manpower control and utilization, personnel administration, security administration, space, facilities, supplies, and other administrative services. The Secretary of the Army, as management agent, may redelegate his authority in connection with these responsibilities within the command structure of the Department of the Army.

B. The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) shall arrange with the three Military Departments for the financing of the Board and its activities.

C. The Board shall meet as frequently as is necessary with the provision that a minimum of one formal meeting be held annually. At each annual meeting the Board will review and discuss any existing problems and requirements referred to it by the Military Departments which are related to its functions, evaluate the past year's work and activities of the Board and its commissions in each particular field and plan for future work. The President will report the findings of the Board to the three Military Departments.

D. The Executive Secretary shall supervise the administrative staff of the Board, provide such other assistance and services as the Board and its commissions may require and perform such other pertinent duties as may be specified from time to time by the Secretary of the Army, as management agent, and by the Board.

V. RELATIONSHIPS

A. The President, the Board, its commissions, and the Executive Secretary are authorized to communicate directly with other agencies of the Department of Defense and the Military Departments and appropriate sub-divisions thereof, concerning any matter within its jurisdiction and in which there exists a mutual interest or responsibility.

B. The Board and its commissions shall coordinate their efforts with all agencies within and outside the Department of Defense which have a mutual interest or responsibility with respect to any of its programs.
This directive supersedes that portion of Secretary of Defense memorandum, dated 21 February 1949, Subject: "Standardization of Preventive Medicine Practices and Procedures within the Armed Forces," which pertains to the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board and the letter from the Surgeon General of the Army to the Secretary of the Army, dated 29 November 1949, which established the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board.

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