



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20390

IN REPLY REFER TO  
BUMED:71-2:CWB:ac  
3900  
3 Aug 1972

From: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery  
To: DISTRIBUTION LIST

Subj: SECNAVINST 3900.39, Use of Volunteers as Subjects in Research,  
Development, Test & Evaluation; revision of

Encl: (1) Copy of subject revision

1. Enclosure (1) reflects a proposed revision to the directive on human volunteers as drafted within the cognizant OpNav office. While the current instruction has served very well in providing a procedure for handling human volunteer requests, it is determined that updating is required to reflect organizational changes which have occurred since 1969.

2. Each addressee is requested to review the proposed revision in relation to the current structure and to provide comment and recommendation with respect to the adequacy or inadequacy of the proposed revision in connection with local requirements. Consideration should be given to changing the content of the instruction to clarify the purpose, the definitions, the policy, and the procedures. In this respect, it should be noted that questions have most often risen in connection with determining the need for submission of a request, the handling of the informed consent procedure, and the applicability to contractors. Additionally, consideration should also be given to including a procedure whereby a committee independent of the investigator would periodically monitor or review ongoing research projects which have been approved for use of human volunteers. This would ensure that investigators are still acting within the scope of the approval.

3. It is requested that your comments and recommendations be submitted in order to ensure receipt in the Bureau (Attn: Code 71) no later than 1 September 1972.

*Lloyd F. Miller*

LLOYD F. MILLER  
By direction

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