



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
1000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-1000

SECNAVINST 5420.79D
ONR 00NR
22 Dec 2005

SECNAV INSTRUCTION 5420.79D

From: Secretary of the Navy

Subj: THE NAVAL RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ref: (a) Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 5024, Naval Research
Advisory Committee
(b) SECNAVINST 5420.60H
(c) DOD Directive 5105.4

1. Purpose. To revise the functions and authority of the Naval Research Advisory Committee (NRAC). This is a complete revision and should be read in its entirety.

2. Cancellation. SECNAVINST 5420.79C.

3. Authority. Reference (a) authorized the appointment of NRAC to consult with and advise the Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV), the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), and the Chief of Naval Research (CNR) in matters pertaining to research and development as those terms are broadly interpreted. By statute the Committee consists of not more than fifteen civilians preeminent in the fields of science, research and development, one of the members being selected from the field of medicine, to be appointed by the SECNAV. Applicable federal statutes, SECNAV Instructions and Department of Defense (DoD) directives (references (a), (b), and (c)), will govern all committee management functions.

4. Mission. The Committee is the senior scientific advisory group to SECNAV, the CNO, the Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC), and the CNR. The general task of the Committee is to know problems of the Navy and Marine Corps, to keep abreast of the research and development which is being carried out in relation to the problems and to offer a judgment to the Navy and Marine Corps as to whether the efforts are adequate. The Committee, itself or through the use of Panels or Working Groups, conducts studies or investigations as directed by the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition) (ASN(RD&A)).

5. Membership. Members will be appointed by SECNAV, with concurrence by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, for a period not to exceed two years. Terms will be staggered to provide for rotation of members while maintaining adequate continuity of membership. Committee members may serve for no more than two years, unless they are reappointed by the Secretary of the Navy for additional periods of service. Such additional appointments may be made for periods up to two years. No Committee member may serve for more than six consecutive years. The Committee is augmented by two designated groups of individuals:

a. Associate Members: Associate members provide the Committee and the Department of the Navy (DON) with unfiltered, executive, military, and government expertise. They enable the Committee to quickly form study panels in response to emergent tasking. Associate members are a standing panel of up to 10 members appointed by SECNAV with the approval of the ASN(RD&A), the Assistant for Administration, Office of the Under Secretary of the Navy (AAUSN), and the concurrence of the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) for a period not to exceed two years. Associate members may serve for no more than two years, unless they are reappointed for additional periods of service. Additional appointments may be made for periods up to two years, with a maximum of six consecutive years.

b. Panel Members: Members of Panels and Working Groups are experts appointed, by SECNAV with the approval of the ASN(RD&A), AAUSN, and the concurrence of OSD, to serve for the period required for the particular study, but not to exceed one year.

6. Chair/Vice Chair. The Chair and Vice Chair of the NRAC shall be selected from the Committee membership by the ASN(RD&A) and shall serve for a two-year term. In the absence or unavailability of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall act in his or her behalf. The NRAC Chair appoints chairs of Panels and Working Groups from among the NRAC membership.

7. Executive Committee. An Executive Committee is formed for the purpose of identification and formulation of proposed NRAC efforts and such other NRAC-related matters as the ASN(RD&A) may direct. The Executive Committee will report directly to the ASN(RD&A) and will be composed of the following members:

NRAC Chair/Vice Chair
Chief of Naval Research

Commanding General, Marine Corps Systems Command
Deputy Assistant Secretaries of the Navy as designated
by the ASN(RD&A)

8. Executive Director. The CNR is hereby designated the Executive Director of NRAC, and the NRAC Designated Federal Officer (DFO). The Executive Director of NRAC under the direction of the ASN(RD&A), provides the necessary technical, financial and administrative support for the effective operation of NRAC and the Executive Committee.

9. Meetings. The Committee meets at such times as specified by and with an agenda as approved by the ASN(RD&A) and at such times as called by the Chair. A simple majority shall constitute a quorum for conducting business of the Committee. Panels and Working Groups meet at such times as specified by the particular Chair.

10. Recommendations. Reports and recommendations of NRAC shall be directed to the ASN(RD&A). Reports and recommendations of NRAC Panels and Working Groups shall be directed to the NRAC Chair.

11. Action. The CNO and the CMC shall provide to NRAC information and access to facilities as required for the prosecution of its work. The CNR shall provide accommodations and staff as directed by the ASN(RD&A) and shall facilitate the work of the Committee through contracts and other suitable means.

12. Reports. The reports required by paragraph 10 of this instruction are exempt from report control by SECNAVINST 5214.2B.

Delores M. Etter
Assistant Secretary of the Navy
Research, Development and
Acquisition

Distribution:
Electronic only, via Navy Directives Web Site
<http://neds.daps.dla.mil>