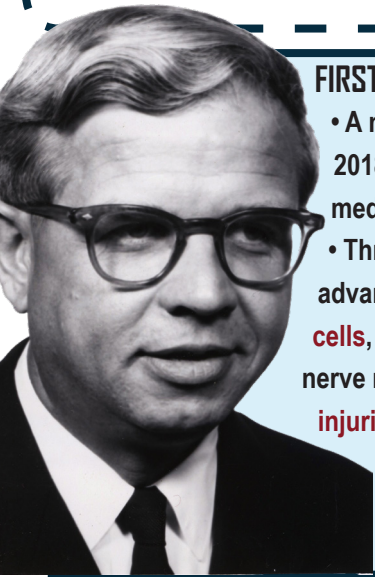
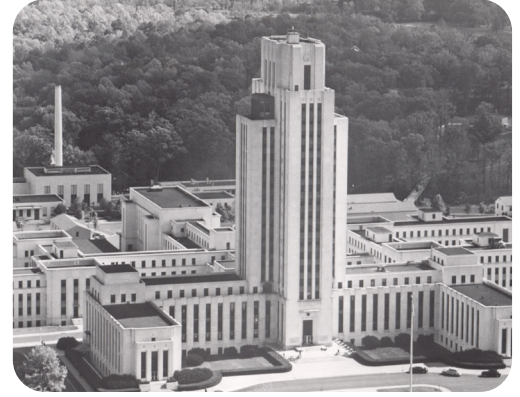




SYNOPSIS

## NAVAL MEDICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMAND THE NAVY'S ORIGINAL RESEARCH HUB, 1974-1998

- On **Oct. 1, 2026**, the Naval Medical Research Command (NMRC) in Silver Spring, Maryland was redesignated to the **Navy Medical Research and Development Command (NMRDC)** and elevated to an echelon III command.
- This milestone harkens back to an earlier era when naval medical research activities and programs were reorganized under the **original NMRDC**, also an echelon III command reporting to the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED).
- Established on **July 1, 1974**, and located at what was then the National Naval Medical Center (NNMC) Bethesda, Maryland, NMRDC managed Navy Medicine's research, development, test and evaluation programs until **1998**.



### FIRST COMMANDING OFFICER OF NMRDC

- A native of Iowa City, Iowa, Capt. Charles Brodine (1925-2018) served 24 years in the Navy as a physician and medical researcher.
- Throughout his career, Brodine played vital roles in advancing techniques for long term **preservation of blood cells**, developing a **remote diagnosis system** (ship-to-shore), nerve regeneration and repair, as well as **treating radiation injuries**.
- He served as NMRDC's **first commanding officer** as well as the special assistant to the Surgeon General for R&D from **1974 to 1977**.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Capt. Brodine was bestowed the **Robert Dexter Conrad Award** for scientific achievement in **1977**. The award, given annually since 1957, was named after the architect of the U.S. Navy's basic research program and the first director of the **Office of Naval Research** (1946). Other notable Navy



medical recipients of this award include Dr. **Howard Karsner** (1961), Capt. **Ashton Graybiel** (1965), Dr. **Harry Hoogstraal** (1971), Capt. **Carl June** (1996), and Capt. **Stephen Hoffman** (1998).

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

At its peak, NMRDC oversaw **11** research laboratories across the globe. Over the years several of these subordinate commands were renamed and / or consolidated into other commands. Listed below are some of these changes.



**Naval Dental Research Institute (NDRI)**  
Great Lakes, Illinois

Established as the Naval Dental Research Unit (NDRU) in 1947; redesignated NDRI in 1967 and the Naval Institute for Dental and Biomedical Research (NIDBR) in 2002. Consolidated with Directed Energy Bioeffects and Combat Casualty Research programs into NAMRU-San Antonio on May 6, 2009.



**Naval Medical Research Institute (NMRI)**  
Bethesda, Maryland

Established on Oct. 27, 1942. Disestablished on Sept. 30, 1998. Reformed as the Naval Medical Research Center (later Command) on Oct. 1, 1998. Relocated to Forest Glen, Maryland in 1999.



**NMRI Toxicology Detachment (NMRI-TD)**  
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

Established in January 1959 in Bethesda. Relocated to Wright-Patterson in 1976 and made an NMRI detachment. Became Naval Health Research Center (NHRC) detachment in 1998. Renamed the Environmental Health Effects Laboratory (EHLE) and organized under NMRC in 2004; became part of NAMRU-Dayton on Oct. 6, 2010.



**Naval Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory (NAMRL)**  
Pensacola, Florida

Originally part of the Naval School of Aviation Medicine (NSAM) and later the Naval Aerospace Medicine Institute (NAMI); became an independent command in 1974. Consolidated into NAMRU-Dayton on Oct. 6, 2010.

# NAVY MEDICINE *FAST FACTS*



## R&D MILESTONES



### 1930s -- Early Advocates

In the 1930s, Rear Adm. Harold Wellington Smith (commanding officer of the Naval Medical School) and Lt. Cmdr. (later Capt.) Albert Behnke advocated for structural organization for Navy medical research and the establishment of a "base laboratory."

### 1941 -- The "X" Division

Rear Adm. Smith establishes the BUMED Research Division (initially known as the "X" Division). He serves as retired-retained through WWII overseeing Navy Medicine R&D growth.

### 1942 -- NMRI Established

Naval Medical Research Institute (NMRI) is established in Bethesda, Maryland on Oct. 27, 1942.

### 1944 -- First Use of NAMRU Name

Naval Laboratory Research No. 1 at the University of California at Berkeley is redesignated the Naval Medical Research Unit No. 1 (NAMRU-1) on Jan. 17, 1944.

### 1959 -- Neuropsychiatric Research Unit

The Naval Medical Neuropsychiatric Research Unit (NMNPRU) is established in San Diego, California.

### 1974 -- Major R&D Reorganization

The BUMED Research Division becomes the Naval Medical Research and Development Command (NMRDC). NAMRU-1 (Berkeley) and NAMRU-4 (Great Lakes) are disestablished. NMNPRU is redesignated the Naval Health Research Center (NHRC). NAMRL becomes independent command.

### 1998 -- Bifurcated Command

After NMRDC was disestablished on Jan. 7, 1998, Navy medical R&D is organized under the Naval Medical Research Institute (NMRI) (responsible for biomedical labs) and the Naval Health Research Center (NHRC) (responsible for operational medical labs).

### 1998 -- NMRC Established

NMRI disestablished and reformed as the Naval Medical Research Center (NMRC).

### 2009-2010 -- Consolidation of Labs

NAMRU-San Antonio is activated on May 6, 2009. The command is comprised of the former Naval Institute for Dental and Biomedical Research (NIDBR), NMRC's Combat Casualty Care Research, and the NHRC Detachment Brooks City-Base. On Oct. 6, 2010, NAMRU-Dayton was stood up and was comprised of the Naval Environmental Health Effects Laboratory (EHEL) and NAMRL.

### 2023 -- NAMRUs Renamed

NAMRUs are renamed. NAMRU-2 becomes NAMRU-INDO PACIFIC, NAMRU-3 becomes NAMRU-EURAFCENT, NAMRU-6 becomes NAMRU SOUTH.

### 2026 -- New NMRDC

NMRC becomes NMRDC, an echelon III command under BUMED. All echelon V subordinate laboratories are elevated to echelon IV commands.

