

## **Navy Specimen Submissions for Steroid Testing**

Steroid testing should be considered when substantial indications exist to suspect wrongful steroid use pursuant to a probable cause, command-directed, or medical basis. Random testing or unit sweeps for steroid misuse is not authorized.

Navy commands must request authorization for steroid testing from OPNAV N173A in a signed, written request describing the basis for submission. This process can be accomplished via email if the Commanding Officer (CO) is copied on the emailed request. Approvals for steroid testing will be forwarded to the command and Navy Drug Screening Laboratory (NDSL) Great Lakes.

A signed, written request for steroid testing on command letterhead must be included with the submitted specimen(s) and copied by email to Navy Drug Detection & Deterrence (OPNAV N173A) ([usn.mid-south.chnavpersmiltn.mbx.mill-n17-ddr@us.navy.mil](mailto:usn.mid-south.chnavpersmiltn.mbx.mill-n17-ddr@us.navy.mil)). All Navy commands will forward specimens for steroid testing to NDSL Great Lakes.

Navy Drug Screening Laboratory  
ATTN: Special Handling  
2500 Rodgers Street  
Building 5501  
Great Lakes, IL 60088-2952

If package tracking numbers are generated, forward them to NDSL Great Lakes ([usn.great-lakes.navdruglabgrlil.list.ndslgl-tech-help@health.mil](mailto:usn.great-lakes.navdruglabgrlil.list.ndslgl-tech-help@health.mil)) and OPNAV N173A ([usn.mid-south.chnavpersmiltn.mbx.mill-n17-ddr@us.navy.mil](mailto:usn.mid-south.chnavpersmiltn.mbx.mill-n17-ddr@us.navy.mil)).

Specimens submitted only for steroid testing must contain a minimum of 60 milliliters of urine and must be collected using the same chain of custody (CoC), observation, and security procedures as routine drug testing specimens. However, steroid specimens must not be placed into the same shipping container with other specimens being submitted for routine drug testing to NDSL.

If routine drug testing is requested in addition to steroid testing on a single individual, two separate specimen bottle submissions are required. A minimum of 60 milliliters must be provided as a specimen for steroid testing, while a minimum of 30 milliliters, must be provided as a specimen for routine drug testing. Separate CoC documentation must be completed for each specimen collected from the individual.

The two specimen bottles and CoC documentation for the single individual may be submitted in the same shipping container, but must not be comingled with other specimen bottles submitted for testing.

NDSL Great Lakes will forward specimens to the Sports Medicine Research & Testing Laboratory (SMRTL) in Salt Lake City, Utah for steroid testing.

Testing of steroid samples takes variable and extended periods of time. Results may take 6-8 weeks under normal conditions. Upon completion of testing, commands may retrieve results via Web Based Reporting (iFTDTL & ADMITS). Detailed information on positive results is only

contained in the written report. SMRTL will send detailed steroid drug test results to NDSL Great Lakes, who will transmit them to OPNAV N173A for further transfer to the command POC via encrypted email (PKI).

Initial testing costs are covered by the DoD drug testing program. NDSL-Great Lakes does not employ staff with expertise in anabolic steroid testing and data interpretation. If a submitting unit requires information beyond the written reported results (such as a telephonic consultation with one of SMRTL's steroid experts and/or a written synopsis and interpretation of findings), please contact NDSL-Great Lakes to coordinate. DO NOT contact SMRTL directly before NDSL-Great Lakes arranges the consultation, as this may result in an unauthorized government commitment. If a submitting unit requires consultation, expert testimony at a Court Martial, Administrative Board, or Board of Inquiry proceeding, or additional support from SMRTL, the submitting unit must arrange and PAY for that service, as it is not covered under the DoD contract. If the member has a steroid positive directly connected to a valid prescription, please submit the prescription documentation to OPNAV N173A with the CO recommendation letter for reviewed of the valid prescription. NDSLs do not issue technical reviews for steroid and other performance enhancing drug (PED) positive results.

For any questions, Please reach out to OPNAV N173A at (901) 874-4398 or email [usn.mid-south.chnavpersmiltn.mbx.mill-n17-ddr@us.navy.mil](mailto:usn.mid-south.chnavpersmiltn.mbx.mill-n17-ddr@us.navy.mil). This email only supports unencrypted emails. If encryption is needed, please send via DoD SAFE.

# SAMPLE STEROID TESTING AUTHORIZATION REQUEST

[Insert Command Letterhead]

From: Commanding Officer, (insert command name)  
To: Director, Navy Drug Detection & Deterrence Branch (N173A)

Subj: REQUEST FOR STEROID TESTING AUTHORIZATION

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5350.4E

1. Per reference (a), request authorization to have steroid testing performed on the following on the following sample(s):

UIC	Batch	Specimen	Collection Date
(#####)	(XXX)	(##)	(##MMYY)

2. Testing is required to further investigate (describe reason for testing request for each sample being considered, e.g. "member's possession of steroids and steroid use paraphernalia")

3. Command POC is (enter name of POC, e-mail address and telephone number).

A. B. SEE

**SAMPLE LABORATORY REQUEST FOR STEROID TESTING**

[Insert Command Letterhead]

From: Commanding Officer, (insert name of command)  
To: Navy Drug Screening Laboratory Great Lakes

Subj: Steroid Testing for Specimen Number(s): (enter batch  
and specimen numbers)

1. Request to have steroid testing conducted on the subject named  
urine sample(s).

2. OPNAV N173A authorized on (date) by (enter name of OPNAV N173A  
staff POC, e-mail address and telephone number).

3. Command POC is (enter name of POC, e-mail address and  
telephone number).

A. B. SEE