



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY GARRISON, PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY
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IMPM-ZA

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MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Command Policy Memorandum #26, Hearing Conservation Program Policy

1. References:

AR 40-501 Standards of Medical Fitness, 4 August 2011

DA PAM 40-501 Army Hearing Program, 8 January 2015

Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 6055.12 Hearing Conservation Program, 3 December 2010

Army Safety and Occupational Health Objectives for Fiscal Year 2016

2. Purpose: To establish the United States Army Garrison, Presidio of Monterey (USAG POM) policy on Hearing Conservation Program.

3. The Army's objective is to reduce the incidence rate of significant hearing threshold shifts (STS) in the DA Civilian population at risk to fewer than 4%, the Soldier population to fewer than 3%, achieve a 95% overall testing and achieve a 70% follow-up.

4. All personnel working in or visiting potentially hazardous noise areas must have and wear hearing protectors while in the presence of hazardous noise. Hearing aids will not be worn in hazardous noise environments. Hearing aids do not reduce noise or provide any hearing protection. Personal listening devices such as personal music players are not a form of hearing protection and will not be used in hazardous noise environments. Hearing protectors include earplugs, noise muffs, ear canal caps, noise-attenuating helmets, TCAPS, or a combination of these.

a. Personnel may select a hearing protector from an approved list unless contraindicated for medical and/or environmental reasons. Hearing protectors are issued at no charge to all personnel working in potentially hazardous noise areas. An earplug carrying case (National Stock Number (NSN) 6515-01-100-1674) must also be provided, at no charge, with each set of preformed earplugs. This case may also be used to carry and protect hand formed earplugs. All personnel must wear hearing protectors during training to increase the likelihood of confident use in industrial, operational, and combat environments. For detailed hearing protector studies, request technical assistance in accordance with paragraph 1-6 of DA PAM 40-501.

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b. Supervisors at all levels will ensure that hearing protection devices (earplugs or earmuffs, as required) are provided to all members of this command in accordance with DA PAM 40-501. The wearing of hearing protectors by garrison personnel and visitors shall be enforced during exposure to hazardous noise by all supervisors and leaders.

5. Where actual sound-level measurements are not available, personnel shall assume the existence of a hazardous noise level if one or more of the following exists:

a. There is difficulty in hearing spoken words in the area.

b. Personnel experience ringing in their ears after working in the area.

c. Personnel experience a temporary loss of hearing that muffles speech and other sounds after exposure to noise.

6. All personnel who are routinely exposed to hazardous noise will receive at least one medical hearing evaluation per year, and will attend a hearing conservation briefing annually. When a significant threshold shift is noted, personnel will follow up for further evaluation with an audiologist in accordance with reference.

7. Refer to DA PAM 40-501 and DODI 6055.12 for specific guidance with regards to hearing conservation and the Army Hearing Program.

8. The point of contact for this report is Mr. Joseph Alfonso, Garrison Safety Manager at 242-6332 or email at joseph.alfonso.civ@mail.mil.


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