



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 4th INFANTRY DIVISION AND FORT CARSON
BLDG 1435, WETZEL AVE.
FORT CARSON, CO 80913

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

AFYB-CG

25 October 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Command Emphasis Letter – Fort Carson Hearing Program

1. References:

- a. AR 40-5, Preventive Medicine, 25 MAY 2007
- b. DA PAM 40-501, Hearing Conservation Program, 10 DEC 1998
- c. Special Text 4-02.501: Army Hearing Program, 1 FEB 2008

2. Purpose: This correspondence supports the overall goal of force health protection of ALL Soldiers, Family Members, and Civilians living and working at Fort Carson through emphasis on hearing conservation program requirements.

3. Applicability: This correspondence is applicable to all Fort Carson personnel and tenant units living and working at Fort Carson and within its area of responsibility.

4. Policy:

a. It is imperative that commanders emphasize the Army Hearing Program at Fort Carson. Leaders and supervisors must assess the noise hazard potential in their area, to include all field and range training missions (including Military Operations Urban Terrain exercises) with live or blank fire, tactical vehicle use (motor pools and convoys), and extended use of generators, taking prompt action to prevent hearing loss due to noise.

b. Noise is the most prevalent health hazard at Fort Carson. Continuous exposure to intense noise (i.e., weapons firing, combat vehicles, and aircraft) will cause permanent hearing loss. Effective communication relies heavily on normal hearing abilities, especially on today's high technology battlefield. Soldiers with hearing loss place themselves and other members of their unit at greater risk during military operations.

c. Noise-induced hearing loss is almost always preventable. Soldiers who train with appropriate hearing protection and prevention strategies will seamlessly transition to the combat environment.

5. Procedures:

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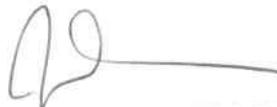
a. All Leaders and supervisors will enforce the mandatory use of properly fitted hearing protective devices to include earplugs, noise muffs, and helmets with built-in protection. All personnel working in or entering designated hazardous noise areas shall always carry hearing protection. It is recommended that Soldiers wear the earplugs and earplug carrying case as part of the army combat uniform (ACU), either on the Soldier's front right belt loop of the ACU trousers or on the Soldier's top right row of loops on the Outer Tactical Vest or Improved Outer Tactical Vest.

b. Commanders must also ensure that all military and civilian personnel who are routinely exposed to hazardous noise environments receive required hearing tests and attend an annual health education class related to hearing conservation. A unit-level hearing program officer must be designated on orders.

c. All leaders must set the example within their units and workplaces.

6. Proponent: The proponent for this Command Emphasis Letter is the Fort Carson Hearing Program Manager (HPM) at telephone 526-6976.

Steadfast and Loyal! Hooah!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JA', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

JOSEPH ANDERSON
Major General, USA
Commanding

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