



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS DIVISION WEST (FIRST ARMY) AND FORT CARSON  
6101 WETZEL AVE. BLDG. 1430  
FORT CARSON, COLORADO 80913-4145

AFKA-DVW-CG

05 December 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Policy #26 – Fort Carson Army Hearing Program

1. References:

- a. AR 40-5, Preventive Medicine, 22 JUL 2005
- 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 policy establishes force health protection of all Fort Carson personnel through hearing program emphasis.

3. Applicability: This policy is applicable to all Fort Carson personnel and tenant units living and working at Fort Carson.

4. Policy:

a. It is imperative that command emphasis for the Army Hearing Program be maintained 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. Good hearing is a combat multiplier, preserving the lethality and survivability of the War Fighter. Soldiers with hearing loss place themselves and other members of their unit at greater risk during military operations. Effective communication relies heavily on normal hearing abilities, especially on today's high technology battlefield.

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:

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.

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Soldiers will 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 flack vest.

b. Commanders must also ensure that all military and civilian personnel who are routinely exposed to hazardous noise environments receive annual, pre- and post-deployment 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 are required to set the example within their units and workplaces.

6. Proponent: The proponent for this policy letter is the Fort Carson Hearing Program Manager (HPM) at telephone 526-2939.



MARK A. GRAHAM  
Major General, USA  
Commanding

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