

Hearing Conservation & Hearing Aid Requirements for Deployment

AR 600-8-101

- Requires soldiers with hearing aids to have one back-up hearing aid with extra batteries
- Requires hearing testing as part of *demobilization* physical examination
- Requires MEB/MMRB for soldiers with H-3 hearing level or physical profile

DA PAM 40-501

- Requires baseline and annual hearing tests for all noise-exposed personnel
- Requires provision and use of approved hearing protection for all noise-exposed personnel

Current Practices

Policy and practices at most deployment sites:

- Perform pre-deployment hearing test if soldier has not been tested within past 12 months
- If soldier has H3 profile, ensure hearing testing is current and MEB/MMRB has been done
- If soldier wears hearing aid, ensure soldier has a backup aid and extra batteries
- Ensure soldier has appropriate hearing protective devices and if not, issue permanent hearing protection
- Conduct post-deployment hearing testing

Personnel

- For annual\mobilization\demobilization hearing testing: Technician with training certified by Council for Accreditation in Occupational Hearing Conservation (91W-P2's & other Preventive Medicine personnel)
- For fitting of preformed earplugs: Anyone medically trained to fit earplugs
- For diagnostic testing & profiling: Audiologist

Equipment

- For annual\mobilization\demobilization hearing testing: Defense Occupational Environmental Health Readiness System\Hearing Conservation (DOEHRS\HC)
- For diagnostic hearing testing & profiling: two-channel clinical audiometer
- Otoscopes
- Supply of all sizes of single flange and triple flange earplugs (listed in DA PAM 40-501)