



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
VICE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
2000 NAVY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON DC 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5100  
Ser N09/10U103001  
5 Jan 10

MEMORANDUM FOR SURGEON GENERAL OF THE NAVY

Subj: NAVY NOISE REDUCTION

1. On 30 November, I hosted a Navy Noise Reduction discussion which highlighted the need for increased oversight and rigor in the Navy's overall hearing conservation and noise reduction efforts.
2. The Surgeon General is designated as the Navy's Executive Agent for hearing conservation. The Bureau of Surgery and Medicine is designated as the lead organization to provide oversight of noise-related issues across the Navy.
3. To support adequate assessment of the current hearing conservation program, Surgeon General will:
  - a. Develop a comprehensive hearing protection roadmap and provide oversight of its implementation.
  - b. Establish Hearing Readiness Measure of Effectiveness for use in medical databases, such as the Medical Readiness Reporting System (MRRS).
  - c. Implement a Holistic Hearing Monitoring and Exposure Reduction Program, to include the following:
    - (1) This program should be able to remove individuals demonstrating progressive hearing loss from high noise environments.
    - (2) Additionally, it should recommend the exclusion of recruits with waivers for hearing loss from high noise environments.
  - d. Elevate Hearing Conservation Program to a level similar to Navy's Radiation Health, Dental Readiness and Safety Programs.
  - e. Institute shore/shipboard noise inspection programs.

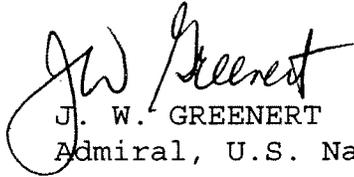
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f. Expand the distribution of improved hearing protection across the Total Force.

g. In consultation with Naval Air Systems Command, initiate a long term research program to obtain the needed understanding of the physics of jet noise.

h. Expand and diversify Navy medical research into physiological effects of noise.

4. Within 60 days of this memorandum, submit and report to me via the Director, Navy Staff your plan to achieve these objectives and improve overall awareness of the Navy hearing conservation program. Identify in this plan, those areas requiring a supporting role in this endeavor and the responsible command. Also, prepare a presentation of this plan to be given at a forum designated by the Director, Navy Staff.

  
J. W. GREENERT  
Admiral, U.S. Navy

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