



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
Marine Corps Base
Camp Lejeune, North Carolina 28542-5001

BO 6260.4A
O&PMD/pmw
18 Jul 1985

BASE ORDER 6260.4A

From: Commanding General
To: Distribution List

Subj: Hearing Conservation Program; administration of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5100.23B
(b) NAVMEDCOMINST 6260.5

Encl: (1) Hearing Conservation Program

1. Purpose. To provide guidance for the Hearing Conservation Program as required by references (a) and (b) and outlined in the enclosure, for all military and civilian personnel of Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station, New River.

2. Cancellation. BO 6260.4.

3. Background. Noise generated by Marine Corps industrial, aviation, and other necessary operations can reach extremely high levels, and more sources of noise are continually being generated and identified as health hazards.

a. Intense noise levels are one of the most significant occupational hazards. Hearing loss may result from intermittent or continuous exposure to excessive noise created by aircraft and industrial activity in addition to the more familiar blast and impulse noises created by gunfire, rockets, and artillery.

b. Hearing loss continues to be a source of concern within the Camp Lejeune complex. This Order establishes exposure limits for potentially hazardous sound levels greater than 84 dBA (continuous or intermittent) and 140 dBA peak sound pressure (impulse and impact) along with other requirements which further the Marine Corps goal of preventing noise induced hearing loss.

4. Information. The Hearing Conservation Program will include the following:

a. Identification of potentially hazardous noise areas and sources.

b. Identification of personnel exposed to potentially hazardous noise levels.

c. Elimination or reduction of noise levels through the use of engineering methods.

d. Periodic audiometric testing of personnel exposed to potentially hazardous noise to evaluate the effectiveness of the hearing conservation program.

e. Providing appropriate hearing protection equipment and ensuring the proper use of such equipment by personnel engaged in noise hazard occupations or areas designated to be noise hazardous.

f. Education of personnel regarding potentially hazardous noise and prevention of noise induced hearing loss.

5. Action

a. Area Commanders and Commanding Officers will:

(1) Notify the Head, Occupational and Preventive Medicine Department (O&PMD), Naval Hospital, Camp Lejeune, NC in the event of changes to previously identified noise hazardous areas, e.g., unit relocation of equipment, major equipment changes or additions in writing, to request a noise level survey within 30 days. Areas found to be noise hazardous must be labeled according to reference (a).

(2) Provide funding for procuring and maintaining an adequate stock of approved hearing protective devices (HPDs). Occupational and Preventive Medicine Department personnel will specify appropriate hearing protection devices for use in identified noise hazardous areas according to references (a) and (b).

(3) In addition to wearing appropriate HPDs in identified noise hazardous areas, require that all personnel exposed to gunfire, impulse and blast noise wear personal hearing protective devices during the entire length of exposure.

(4) Require personnel assigned to noise hazardous areas or operating noise hazardous equipment use personal hearing protection devices that have been properly fitted and issued.

(5) Require that records be maintained of sound level surveys, that noise hazardous areas be identified, that audiometric testing be accomplished, and that personal hearing protective devices be issued in accordance with references (a) and (b).

(6) Ensure that all supervisors, both military and civilian, know potential noise hazardous areas and equipment and ensure that appropriate personal hearing protective devices are used by exposed personnel.

(7) Ensure that personnel referred to the Hearing Conservation Center report with their health record. Each record will contain the appropriate DD2215/2216 forms which will include all patient demographic information, noise exposure history and information regarding hearing protective devices.

(8) Ensure that procedures are established for routine cleaning and inspection of HPD's.

b. Commanding Officer, Naval Hospital. In addition to sound level surveys and technical assistance, as stated previously in paragraph 5a(1), will provide the following:

(1) Identify noise hazardous areas as part of the Comprehensive Industrial Hygiene Survey.

(2) Maintain an audiometric testing facility at the Hearing Conservation Center. This facility will be used exclusively for audiometric testing in conjunction with the Hearing Conservation Program.

(3) Provide initial Hearing Conservation indoctrination to personnel reporting for duty at Camp Lejeune.

(4) Provide reference/baseline audiometric testing at the Hearing Conservation Center.

(5) Maintain a Mobile Hearing Conservation Audiometric Trailer (MOHCAT) for conducting monitoring audiometric testing.

(6) Provide appropriate referral service for personnel included in the Hearing Conservation Program and others as required for definitive diagnosis and/or treatment as per reference (b).

(7) Upon request, provide education and instruction on the effects of hazardous noise, proper wearing, and maintenance of hearing protection devices, and on the overall Hearing Conservation Program.

c. Base Safety Officer/Station Ground Safety Manager. Monitor areas of responsibility to ensure compliance with the appropriate elements of the Hearing Conservation Program.

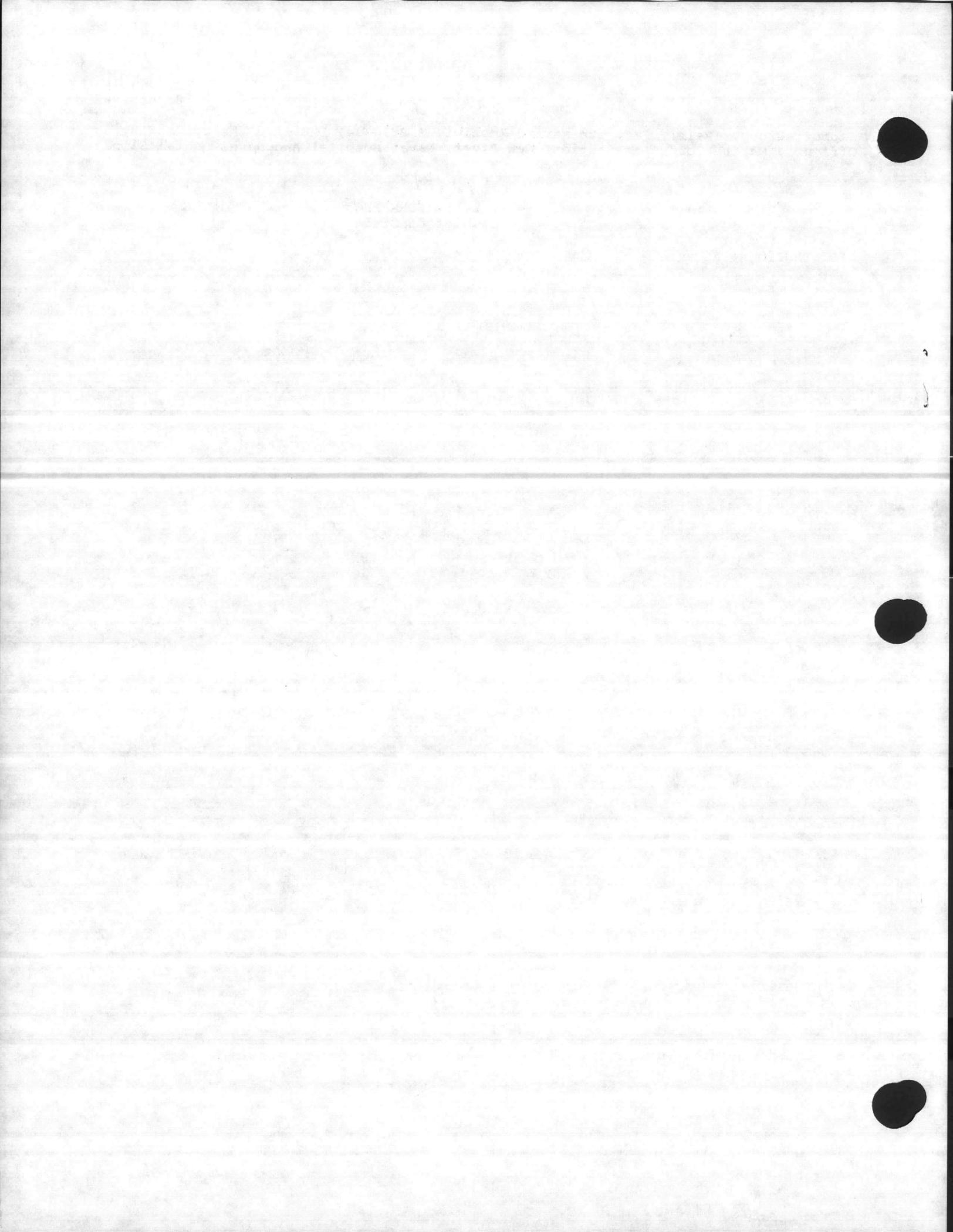
6. Concurrence. This Order has been coordinated and concurred in by the Commanding Generals, II Marine Amphibious Force, 2d Marine Division, FMF, 2d Force Service

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Support Group, (Rein), FMF, 6th Marine Amphibious Brigade, FMF, and the Commanding Officers, Marine Corps Air Station, New River, Naval Hospital and Naval Dental Clinic.


R. L. FORMANEK
Chief of Staff

DISTRIBUTION: A



HEARING CONSERVATION PROGRAM

1. Introduction

a. Program Elements. A Hearing Conservation Program is mandatory when a potential noise hazardous area has been identified. The goal is to prevent hearing loss in personnel of the Camp Lejeune complex. The Hearing Conservation Program includes the following:

(1) Sound level surveys and exposure analyses to identify noise hazardous area, sources, and personnel exposed.

(2) Reduction of noise levels through engineering practices.

(3) Audiometric testing to monitor the effectiveness of the program.

(4) Use of personal hearing protective devices where engineering and administrative controls are not feasible.

(5) Education to alert personnel regarding potentially noise hazardous areas and sources.

b. Noise Measurements and Exposure Analyses. Significant hearing loss can occur as a result of noise exposure. Working environments must be monitored to identify noise levels which are potentially hazardous and those personnel who are at risk.

c. Engineering Control Methods. Engineering reduction of noise is considered the key element in a hearing conservation program. Those environments and equipment which produce potentially hazardous noise should, wherever possible, be modified to reduce the noise hazard.

2. Noise Measurements and Exposure Analysis

a. Noise Measurements. Noise measurements and exposure analyses will be accomplished in accordance with enclosure (1) of reference (a).

b. Labeling of Noise Hazardous Areas and Equipment. Work areas and equipment (other than tactical) which produce sound pressure levels of greater than 84 dBA or 140 dBA peak pressure levels shall be appropriately labeled in accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1).

3. Audiometry

a. All military personnel will have a reference audiogram performed on entry into the Naval Service. A reference audiogram is defined as the first valid audiogram after the Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS). MEPS audiograms are not acceptable as reference audiograms in accordance with reference (a).

b. Audiometric testing will be accomplished by certified Hearing Conservation technicians, using certified test chambers and properly calibrated audiometers in strict compliance with the requirements of references (a) and (b).

4. Personal Protective Devices

a. Personal hearing protective devices shall be worn by all personnel located in noise levels of greater than 84 dBA or 140 peak sound pressure levels.

b. A combination of insert type and circumaural type hearing protective devices (double protection) shall be worn in all areas where the noise levels exceed 104 dBA.

c. All personnel exposed to weapon fire of any type shall wear hearing protective devices at all times. Only hearing protective devices available through the Navy Supply System are acceptable.

5. Education. All personnel included in the hearing conservation program shall be informed and receive instruction in the following:

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- a. The hearing conservation program and their individual responsibilities.
 - b. The proper wearing and maintenance of hearing protective devices.
 - c. The importance of hearing protection when exposed to intense sound levels on and off duty.
6. Record Keeping Requirements. All hearing tests performed shall be recorded and retained in the individuals health record in accordance with references (a) and (b).

ENCLOSURE (1)