



US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

BLAST INJURY RESEARCH PROGRAM COORDINATING OFFICE

Protective Equipment

The Army Hearing Program (AHP), USAPHC: Updating Noise Standards

The AHP/USAPHC supported and engaged in a number of activities aimed at mitigating injury risk associated with impulse noise. The AHP undertook activities addressing MILSTD 1474D, the Military design standard and Army damage risk medical criterion for impulse noise, which is outdated and restricts Army acceptance of more powerful weaponry due to overly conservative impulse noise exposure limits. In one effort, the AHP participated in the DoD Working Group charged with updating MILSTD 1474D. The AHP also proposed a new, innovative, interim impulse noise damage risk medical criterion with the aim of developing a better medical risk assessment tool. The AHP developed and proposed a technique using Artificial Test Fixtures (manikins with built-in noise sensors) fitted with Army-approved hearing protection to measure actual exposure levels to weapon noise. The AHP collaborated with the medical research community to focus research efforts on developing both short- and long-term tools for applying this new methodology.