



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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

23 Jun 14

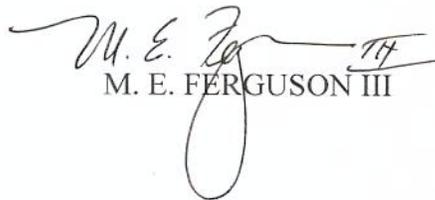
MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (RESEARCH,
DEVELOPMENT AND ACQUISITION)

SUBJECT: Reduction of Hazardous Noise Levels in Engineering and Acquisition Efforts

The Department of the Navy is committed to reducing the life-long effects of hazardous noise on our Sailors, Marines, and civilian personnel. As a result, I have directed OPNAV (N093) to serve as the authoritative standard bearer across the enterprise and have approved the attached executive level Plan of Actions and Milestones (POA&M) to combat hearing loss and to implement noise abatement measures. Critical to the success of the POA&M is addressing hazardous noise from a balanced systems engineering approach within our engineering and acquisition processes. This is best achieved by reducing noise at the source, followed by using personal protective equipment, changing operational procedures (developing autonomous operations), and medical intervention.

Science and technology activities should continue to develop innovative concepts addressing hazardous noise for both new and legacy systems/operations in a cost sensitive manner. Should promising concepts be developed, we should work to incorporate them into new and legacy Programs of Record. For new acquisition systems, the evaluation of hazardous noise levels should be a key systems attribute to conduct safety analysis during all phases of the acquisition process. In this regard, I would like to explore options to include the Office of the Navy Surgeon General in the risk acceptance process.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts on improving our hearing conservation efforts. My point of contact on this matter is RADM Forrest Faison, 703-681-5201, Forrest.Faison@med.navy.mil.


M. E. FERGUSON III

Attachment:
As stated

Copy to:
BUMED



VCNO Navy Noise Reduction Project POA&M Dashboard

Deliverables Progress (02MAY2014) *Denotes a change in target date

POAM Deliverable Progress

#	Project and Advocate	Status	Target Date	Comment
1.0	Audiology Billet for BUMED M4 and Establish Charter for Navy and Marine Corps Flag Level Steering Board (N093)	Complete	DEC13	Charter signed on 30DEC13
2.0	Establish Hearing Readiness Measures of Effectiveness/(INSURV, IG, M4, N1, NMCPHC, NSC)	Complete	APR14*	
2.1	Establish standardized program & population baseline metrics	Complete	APR14*	SG endorsed MOEs forwarded to NESB; tasker closed
3.0	Establish Auditory Fitness for Duty Standards (M3, M4, N1)	Ongoing	SEP16*	DELAYED
3.1	Define evidence based actionable "trigger"	Complete	APR14	
3.2	Define relevant assessment tools	On hold	SEP14*	Pending completion of 3.1
3.3	Establish evidence-based disposition recommendations	On hold	TBD	Considering interim course correction: Exploring changing fundamental model from a safety perspective to a prevention perspective using previously identified trigger out of NEMNUS.
4.0	Set Accession and Waiver Standards (M3, M4, N1/NRC, NMCPHC)	Complete	MAY14*	
4.1	Impact analysis on recruiting goals	Complete	NOV12	
4.2	NRC/MCRC policy update	Complete	MAY14*	Policy signed by SG
5.0	Hearing Injury Reporting (M3, M4, NSC)	Ongoing	JUL14*	ONTRACK
5.1	Elevate hearing readiness visibility (Example systems: IMR, ESAMS, MRRS, BOL)	Ongoing	JUL14*	Beta complete. Official POA&M deliverable scheduled for late April. Formal collaboration between BUMED and NAVSARFGEN SMES
6.0	Prioritize Research and Development Gaps (ASN RDA, CHENG, M2, MCWL, MCCDC, ONR, PEQ/SYSCOM)*	Ongoing	TBD	DELAYED
6.1	Establish hazardous noise standard and noise control standard	On hold	TBD	TBD
6.2	HPD communication impact analysis	Ongoing	AUG14*	Ongoing research at NSRML & WRNMMC
6.3	Establish 24/7 exposure guidelines	Ongoing	JUL15	2-year study onboard the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72)
7.0	Identify Acquisition Performance Goals (CD&I/P&R, M2, M4, N8)*	Ongoing	TBD	DELAYED
7.1	Develop mil standard 1474 on noise control	Ongoing	AUG14*	No updates available
8.0	Expand Current Inspection Processes to Incorporate Hearing Readiness MOE's (INSURV, IG, CMD Oversight)	On hold	TBD	DELAYED