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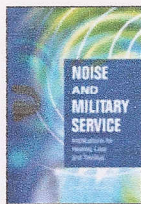




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Noise and Military Service: Implications for Hearing Loss and Tinnitus (2006)
Medical Follow-Up Agency (MFUA)

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3 Noise and Noise-Induced Hearing Loss in the Military

The focus of this chapter is on noise and noise-induced hearing loss in the U.S. military. The committee was asked to identify sources of potentially damaging noise in the military setting and to review and assess available evidence on hearing loss incurred by members of the armed services as a result of noise exposure during military service since World War II. Concern about noise exposure and hearing loss among military personnel has been evident throughout this period (e.g., Glorig, 1952; Carmichael, 1955; CHABA, 1968; Yarrington, 1968; Walden et al., 1971; Yankaskas and Shaw, 1999).

The first part of the chapter briefly reviews the services' policies and programs to collect data on noise levels generated by equipment used by military personnel and the noise doses received by military personnel working in certain settings. Examples of the kinds of data collected through these efforts are provided. The remainder of the chapter focuses on the committee's assessment of data on hearing

World War II.

NOISE IN THE MILITARY ENVIRONMENT

The sources of noise in the military are as varied as the activities carried out by the members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. Obvious sources of potentially hazardous noise are weapons systems and jet engines, but vehicles, other aircraft, watercraft, communication systems, and industrial-type activities also serve as sources of potentially damaging noise.

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