

HEAR AROUND EUROPE

DECEMBER 2022

ARMY HEARING PROGRAM EUROPE

Volume II, Issue II

Bavaria AHP Manager

CPT Lauren Herzog
Lauren.d.herzog.mil@health.mil
314-590-9988

LRMC AHP Manager

CPT Victoria Martin
victoria.m.martin26.mil@health.mil
314-590-6901

PHCE-AHP

Hearing Program Manager—Europe
LTC M. Joel Jennings
marvin.j.jennings.mil@health.mil
314-590-9937

NCOIC
SGT David Poppick
David.r.poppick.mil@health.mil
DSN: 314.590.9951

ORG Box
usarmy.landstuhl.medcom-ph-
e.mbx.pm-army-hearing-
program@health.mil

Have an idea for our next issue or want to be featured in the technician spotlight? Email all submissions to CPT Lauren Herzog (contact info above)

How to Improve Follow-Up for Significant Threshold Shifts

The Army's FY23 Objectives for hearing include: "Achieve 75% follow-up compliance for audiometry for Soldier and Civilian workforce." This is 5% higher than the objective for FY22.

There are several ways to improve follow-up compliance rates at your installation. Scheduling appointments for follow-up testing is a great way to hold Soldiers and DA Civilians accountable to return. IAW DA PAM 40-501, when an STS occurs, hearing technicians are required to "ensure the individual signs the DD Form 2216," "immediately schedule a follow-up hearing test and provide documentation to the individual's supervisor," and "notify the individual's supervisor" if they do not return for follow-up.

If the patient is a DA Civilian enrolled in the Army Hearing Program, you



Image Source: https://www.army.mil/article/235184/hearing_loss_prevention_focus_of_better_hearing_and_speech_month

must also notify the PHCE Occupational Health Nurse, Mr. Cummins (matthew.r.cummins4.civ@health.mil). In addition to the normal steps you take when an STS occurs, the occupational health nurse will ensure the Civilian returns for follow-up testing.

Reach out to your local hearing program manager regarding questions about the STS follow-up process.

A New Study Shows 1 Billion Young People at Risk for Hearing Loss



Adobe Stock Image from CNN

A recent study published by BMJ Global Health finds that 0.67 to 1.35 billion people ages 12-34 practice unsafe listening practices worldwide, as reported by CNN.

Unsafe listening practices reported include: the use of headphones and attendance of concerts, bars, and other entertainment venues.

These unsafe listening practices can all lead to

permanent sensorineural hearing loss.

For noise exposed military personnel, it is important to remember hearing loss can occur both on and off duty. Hearing protection should be used outside of work when individuals are exposed to hazardous noise such as power tools, concerts, and even sporting events.

Many wireless headphones can also track how loud individuals are playing their music. Levels should not exceed 85 decibels over 40 hours a week.

Article: <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/11/15/health/hearing-loss-headphones-study-wellness/index.html>

The Army Hearing Program in Europe

is excited to welcome CPT Victoria Martin!



CPT Victoria Martin is the new Chief of the Army Hearing Program for Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. She is joining us from Brooke Army Medical Center, TX. She enjoys hiking, obstacle course racing, concerts (with hearing protection) and traveling. She is passionate about everything Hearing Conservation!

Hometown: Ocala, Florida

Favorite Sound: All kinds of music (partial to early 2000s punk rock)

Hearing Technician Spotlight

The Army Hearing Program in Europe would like to highlight:

Ms. Yolanda Davis



Ms. Davis is the lead technician at Stuttgart Army Health Clinic and has been instrumental in improving the STS follow-up compliance rates and decreasing hearing injury rates over the last year. She has also assisted in training several new technicians. Great job!

Hometown: Baltimore, Maryland

Favorite Sound: Babies/Children laughing

Boothless Audiometry: Increasing our Capabilities

New, portable audiometry equipment is capable of testing hearing far forward onto the battlefield. The technology is also highly beneficial for units in remote areas without hearing booths.

Both the Wireless Automated Hearing Test System (WAHTS) and KUDUwave can perform automated hearing tests without the use of a hearing booth. Tests must still be completed by DOD trained hearing technicians and manually entered into DOEHS-HC.

Recently, Bavaria AHP Manager, CPT Herzog, and Hohenfels hearing technician, SPC Abdelwahab, provided hearing

tests to 20 Soldiers in Garmisch, Germany using boothless technology.

If you have any questions regarding these systems, please reach out to your local hearing program manager.



Pictured: Hearing testing using the WAHTS

All About Termination Audiograms

Termination hearing tests must occur at least 6 weeks prior to, and within 6 months of departure from, Government service. This allows sufficient time for required follow-up testing if an STS occurs.

A Soldier or DA Civilian's last hearing test can be used as their termination audiogram as long as it was within 6 months before departure from Government Service.

Only your hearing program manager can edit a periodic audiogram to a termination audiogram. Send them an encrypted email with the individual's information (including SSN) so the test can be edited in DOEHS-HC. That way, you save time by not repeating the audiogram.

Reference: DA PAM 40-501