MEMORANDUM FOR SYSTEMS COMMAND CHIEF ENGINEERS AND TECHNICAL WARRANT HOLDERS

SUBJECT: Compliance with Hearing Policies Consistent with Naval Audit Service Hazardous Noise Recommendations

(b) SECNAVINST 5000.2E of 1 September 2011
(c) MIL-STD-882E of 11 May 2012
(d) MIL-STD-1474G of 11 January 2012
(e) DoDI 6055.12 of 3 December 2010

The noise resulting from the operation of certain weapon systems has been deemed a hazard to the war fighters that operate in and around these weapon systems. Hearing impairment among Service members leads to mission and economic consequences for the Department of the Navy (DON), including lost time, decreased productivity, loss of highly-valued personnel through medical disqualification, increased military disability settlements, and increased expenses related to medical treatment.

Per reference (a), modifications were made to reference (b) to ensure that technology development and acquisition strategies align with Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health (ESOH) requirements. Per reference (b), the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition (ASN(RD&A)) is the risk acceptance authority for high ESOH risk for human exposure to hazardous noise, and other risk acceptance authorities are defined depending on severity of the risk. Proper evaluation and risk acceptance is critical to ensure that the correct visibility is given to this type of risk.

The DON will ensure compliance with ESOH requirements to mitigate identified noise hazards during the acquisition process. ASN(RD&A) is responsible for ensuring DON science and technology (S&T) projects and acquisition programs comply with DON ESOH policy. As SYSCOM CHENGs and Technical Warrant Holders, you shall verify that naval acquisition programs adhere to requirements stated in references (a-e).

Multiple groups are working in parallel to address the issues caused by hazardous noise. The Naval Safety Center is developing the Risk Management Information System (RMI), which will house existing Measure of Effectiveness data. The RMI has a full
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Operational capability date of FY 2018. The Defense Health Agency Hearing Center of Excellence has taken the lead in establishing audiometric fitness for duty standards for the Department of Defense (DoD) as a whole. The Audiometric Fitness for Duty working group, chaired by Office of Naval Research, is responsible for establishing these standards. Preventative measures for hearing loss is a significant challenge for the DON, aggressively addressing these aspects in Navy acquisition and weapon system design will ensure improvement in this area.

My point of contact at DASN(RDT&E) for this effort is Pedro Muñoz, Senior Systems Engineer. Mr. Muñoz’s contact information is (703) 614-9118, pedro.munoz@navy.mil.

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