

NOISE EXPOSURE AMONG VETERANS

Noise-induced hearing loss is a serious disease burden in the military (Yong & Wang, 2015).



Noise Exposure – Noise remains a large public health problem with an estimated 1.3 billion people being affected by hearing loss (US BDC, 2010). Veterans may be exposed to harmful noise during their military service in combat, training, and general job duties. Much of the noise experienced by military personnel exceeds that of maximum protection achievable with double hearing protection (Yong & Wang, 2015). Noise sources include gunfire, explosives, rockets, heavy weapons, jets and aircraft, and machinery.



Health Problems Related To Noise Exposure – High-intensity noise and vibration can cause or contribute to hearing loss and tinnitus (ringing in the ears). Noise induced hearing loss and tinnitus remain the second most prevalent service-connected disabilities (Yong & Wang, 2015). The prevalence of hearing loss and tinnitus in military population are greater than in the general public. Almost every soldier, sailor, airman or marine will be exposed to hazardous noise levels at some point in their career (Yong & Wang, 2015).



Take Action for Your Health Concerns – If you are concerned about health problems associated with noise exposure during your military service, talk to your health care provider or contact your local [VA Environmental Health Coordinator](#) to help you get more information from a health care provider. Veterans may file a claim for disability compensation for health problems they believe are related to noise exposure during military service. VA decides these claims on a case-by-case basis. [File a claim online.](#)

To Learn More About Benefits and Eligibility Visit: <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/health-concerns.asp>



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*“Never was so much owed by so many to
so few.”*

– Winston Churchill