

This is a reprint of VA Fast Letter 10-35. It is used by the ARNG Medical Waiver Section to determine appropriate MOS's for applicants with hearing loss. An applicant diagnosed with hearing loss must avoid MOS's with exposure to hazardous noise. See MOS chart below.

September 2, 2010

Director (00/21)
All VA Regional Offices

In Reply Refer To: 211B
Fast Letter 10-35

SUBJECT: Modifying the Development Process in Claims for Hearing Loss and/or Tinnitus

Purpose

This letter introduces the Duty MOS Noise Exposure Listing, a rating job aid for determinations regarding service connection of hearing loss and/or tinnitus. The Duty MOS Noise Exposure Listing is a compilation of Department of Defense-verified lists of military occupational specialties (MOSs) and the corresponding probability of hazardous noise exposure. Use of a single listing of duty position and probability of exposure to hazardous noise will help to standardize processing of these claims.

Background

Each branch of the Armed Services has reviewed and endorsed lists of military occupational specialties and the corresponding probability of hazardous noise exposure related to an individual's occupational specialty. The Duty MOS Noise Exposure Listing is available at *(The link on the actual memorandum does not work, see below for the listing, this is for US Army Only)*.

Direct service connection may not be granted without medical evidence of a current disability; medical or, in certain circumstances, lay evidence of in-service incurrence or aggravation of a disease or injury; and medical evidence of a nexus between the claimed in-service disease or injury and the present disease or injury. See *Caluza v. Brown*, 7 Vet. App. 498, 506 (1995) *aff'd*, 78 F.3d 604 (Fed. Cir. 1996).

A Veteran is competent to report symptoms of hearing loss and/or tinnitus as a disability because symptoms of hearing loss and tinnitus are capable of lay observation. See *Charles v. Principi*, 16 Vet. App. 370 (2002); *Espiritu v. Derwinski*, 2 Vet. App. 492 (1992). Consequently, a Veteran's testimony regarding hearing loss and/or tinnitus is sufficient to serve as evidence that the disability(ies) currently exists.

Instructions

Effective immediately, when a claim for hearing loss and/or tinnitus is received, the decision maker must review the claim for:

- Sufficient evidence of a current disability (including lay evidence); and
- Evidence of hearing loss and/or tinnitus in service; or records documenting an event, injury, disease, or symptoms of a disease potentially related to an audiological disability.

If there is no documented evidence of an in-service illness, injury, or event with which the claimed conditions could be associated, the Duty MOS Noise Exposure Listing will be considered. Based on the Veteran's records, each duty MOS, Air Force Specialty Code, rating, or duty assignment documented will be reviewed for a determination as to the probability of exposure to hazardous noise on the Duty MOS Noise Exposure Listing. If the duty position is shown to have a "**Highly Probable**" or "**Moderate**" probability of exposure to hazardous noise, exposure to such noise will be conceded for purposes of establishing the in-service event.

In such cases, where there is sufficient evidence of a current disability and the in-service exposure to hazardous noise is conceded based on the Duty MOS Noise Exposure Listing, we would be obligated to request a VA examination and opinion to determine if there is a medical nexus. The level of probability of exposure conceded, such as "Highly Probable" or "Moderate," should be included in the information provided to the examiner in the body of the examination request.

Additionally, in other cases where an examination and opinion request are otherwise warranted, the probable level of exposure to hazardous noise associated with the Veteran's documented duty position will be provided in the examination request remarks.

Finally, the Duty MOS Noise Exposure Listing is not an exclusive means of establishing a Veteran's in-service noise exposure. Claims for service connection of hearing loss must be evaluated in light of all evidence of record in each case, including treatment records and examination results.

Questions section deleted.

/S/

Thomas J. Murphy

Director

Compensation and Pension Service

ARMY ENLISTED MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALITIES

All entries were approved by the Service Department.

MOS / JOB TITLE / Hazardous Noise Exposure - Highly Probable (HP), Moderate (M), Low (L)

11B INFANTRYMAN – HP

11C INDIRECT FIRE INFANTRYMAN – HP

11Z INFANTRY SENIOR SERGEANT – HP

12B COMBAT ENGINEER – HP

12C BRIDGE CREWMEMBER – M

12D DIVER – L

12G QUARRYING SPECIALIST (RC) – M

12H CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING SUPERVISOR – HP

12K PLUMBER – M

12M FIREFIGHTER – HP

12N HORIZONTAL CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER – HP

12P PRIME POWER PRODUCTION SPECIALIST – HP

12Q POWER LINE DISTRIBUTION SPECIALIST (RC) – HP

12R INTERIOR ELECTRICIAN – L

12T TECHNICAL ENGINEER – M

12V CONCRETE AND ASPHALT EQUIPMENT OPERATOR – HP

12W CARPENTRY AND MASONRY SPECIALIST – HP

12X GENERAL ENGINEERING SUPERVISOR- L

12Y GEOSPATIAL ENGINEER – M

12Z COMBAT ENGINEERING SENIOR SERGEANT – HP

13B CANNON CREWMEMBER – HP

13C TACTICAL AUTOMATED FIRE CONTROL SYSTEMS SPECIALIST – HP

13D FIELD ARTILLERY AUTOMATED TACTICAL DATA SYSTEM SPECIALIST – HP

13E CANNON FIRE DIRECTION SPECIALIST – HP

13F FIRE SUPPORT SPECIALIST – HP

13M MULTIPLE LAUNCH ROCKET SYSTEM (MLRS)/HIGH MOBILITY ARTILLERY ROCKET SYSTEM (HIMARS) CREWMEMBER- HP

13P MULTIPLE LAUNCH ROCKET SYSTEM (MLRS) OPERATIONAL FIRE DIRECTION SPECIALIST - HP

13R FIELD ARTILLERY FIREFINDER RADAR OPERATOR - HP

13S FIELD ARTILLERY SURVEYOR (conversion to 13T 1 Oct 10) – M

13T FIELD ARTILLERY SURVEYOR/METEOROLOGICAL CREWMEMBER – M

13W FIELD ARTILLERY METEOROLOGICAL CREWMEMBER (conversion to 13T 1 Oct 10) – M

13Z FIELD ARTILLERY SENIOR SERGEANT – HP

14E PATRIOT FIRE CONTROL ENHANCED OPERATOR/MAINTAINER - HP
14J AIR DEFENSE COMMAND, CONTROL, COMMUNICATIONS, COMPUTERS, AND INTELLIGENCE TACTICAL OPERATIONS CENTER ENHANCED OPERATOR/MAINTAINER – HP
14M MAN PORTABLE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM CREWMEMBER (RC) – HP
14S AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE (AMD) CREWMEMBER – HP
14T PATRIOT LAUNCHING STATION ENHANCED OPERATOR/MAINTAINER – HP
14Z AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY SENIOR SERGEANT – HP

15B AIRCRAFT POWERPLANT REPAIRER – HP
15D AIRCRAFT POWERTRAIN REPAIRER – HP
15F AIRCRAFT ELECTRICIAN – HP
15G AIRCRAFT STRUCTURAL REPAIRER – HP
15H AIRCRAFT PNEUDRAULICS REPAIRER – HP
15J OH-58D/ARH ARMAMENT/ELECTRICAL/AVIONICS SYSTEMS REPAIRER – HP
15K AIRCRAFT COMPONENTS REPAIR SUPERVISOR – HP
15M UH-1 HELICOPTER REPAIRER (RC) – HP
15N AVIONICS MECHANIC – HP
15P AVIATION OPERATIONS SPECIALIST – HP
15Q AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL OPERATOR – HP
15R AH-64 ATACK HELICOPTER REPAIRER – HP
15S OH-58D/ARH HELICOPTER REPAIRER – HP
15T UH-60 HELICOPTER REPAIRER – HP
15U CH-47 HELICOPTER REPAIRER – HP
15V OBSERVATION/SCOUT HELICOPTER REPAIRER (RC) – HP
15W UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE OPERATOR – M
15X AH-64A ARMAMENT/ELECTRICAL/AVIONICS SYSTEMS REPAIRER – HP
15Y AH-64D ARMAMENT/ELECTRICAL/AVIONICS SYSTEMS REPAIRER – HP
15Z AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SENIOR SERGEANT – HP

18B SPECIAL FORCES WEAPONS SERGEANT – HP
18C SPECIAL FORCES ENGINEER SERGEANT – HP
18D SPECIAL FORCES MEDICAL SERGEANT – HP
18E SPECIAL FORCES COMMUNICATIONS SERGEANT – HP
18F SPECIAL FORCES ASSISTANT OPERATIONS & INTELLIGENCE SERGEANT – HP
18Z SPECIAL FORCES SENIOR SERGEANT – HP

19D CAVALRY SCOUT – HP
19K M1 ARMOR CREWMAN – HP
19Z ARMOR SENIOR SERGEANT – HP

21B COMBAT ENGINEER (conversion to 12B 1 Oct 10) – HP
21C BRIDGE CREWMEMBER (conversion to 12C 1 Oct 10) – HP
21D DIVER (conversion to 12D 1 Oct 10) – M
21E CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT OPERATOR (conversion to 12N 1 Oct 10) – HP
21G QUARRYING SPECIALIST (RC) (conversion to 12G 1 Oct 10) – HP
21H CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING SUPERVISOR (conversion to 12H 1 Oct 10) – HP
21K PLUMBER (conversion to 12K 1 Oct 10) – M
21M FIREFIGHTER (conversion to 12M 1 Oct 10) – HP
21N HORIZONTAL CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER (conversion to 12N 1 Oct 10) – HP
21P PRIME POWER PRODUCTION SPECIALIST (conversion to 12P 1 Oct 10) – HP
21Q POWER LINE DISTRIBUTION SPECIALIST (RC) (conversion to 12Q 1 Oct 10) – HP
21R INTERIOR ELECTRICIAN (conversion to 12R 1 Oct 10) – L
21T TECHNICAL ENGINEER (conversion to 12T 1 Oct 10) – M
21V CONCRETE & ASPHALT EQUIPMENT OPERATOR (conversion to 12V 1 Oct 10) – HP
21W CARPENTRY & MASONRY SPECIALIST (conversion to 12W 1 Oct 10) - HP
21X GENERAL ENGINEERING SUPERVISOR (conversion to 12X 1 Oct 10) – M
21Y GEOSPATIAL ENGINEER (conversion to 12Y 1 Oct 10) – L
21Z COMBAT ENGINEERING SENIOR SERGEANT (conversion to 12Z 1 Oct 10) – HP

25B INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST – L
25C RADIO OPERATOR-MAINTAINER – M
25E ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM MANAGER – L
25F NETWORK SWITCHING SYSTEMS OPERATOR-MAINTAINER – L
25L CABLE SYSTEMS INSTALLER-MAINTAINER – M
25M MULTIMEDIA ILLUSTRATOR – L
25N NODAL NETWORK SYSTEMS OPERATOR-MAINTAINER – L
25P MICROWAVE SYSTEMS OPERATOR-MAINTAINER – L
25Q MULTICHANNEL TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS OPERATOR-MAINTAINER –M
25R VISUAL INFORMATION EQUIPMENT OPERATOR-MAINTAINER – L
25S SATELLITE COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS OPERATOR-MAINTAINER – M
25T SATELLITE/MICROWAVE SYSTEMS CHIEF – L
25U SIGNAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS SPECIALIST – L
25V COMBAT DOCUMENTATION/PRODUCTION SPECIALIST – L
25W TELECOMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS CHIEF – M
25X SENIOR SIGNAL SERGEANT – L
25Z VISUAL INFORMATION OPERATIONS CHIEF – L

27D PARALEGAL SPECIALIST – L
29E ELECTRONIC WARFARE SPECIALIST – L

31B MILITARY POLICE – M
31D CID SPECIAL AGENT – M
31E INTERNMENT/RESETTLEMENT SPECIALIST – L

35F INTELLIGENCE ANALYST – L
35G IMAGERY ANALYST – L
35H COMMON GROUND STATION (CGS) ANALYST – L
35L COUNTER INTELLIGENCE AGENT – L
35M HUMAN INTELLIGENCE COLLECTOR – M
35N SIGNALS INTELLIGENCE ANALYST – L
35P CRYPTOLOGIC LINGUIST – L
35S SIGNALS COLLECTOR/ANALYST – M
35T MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS MAINTAINER/INTEGRATOR – L
35X INTELLIGENCE SENIOR SERGEANT/CHIEF INTELLIGENCE SERGEANT – L
35Y CHIEF COUNTER INTELLIGENCE/HUMAN INTELLIGENCE SERGEANT – L
35Z SIGNALS INTELLIGENCE (ELECTRONIC WARFARE)/SENIOR SERGEANT/CHIEF – M

36B FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT TECHNICIAN – L
37F PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS SPECIALIST – L
38B CIVIL AFFAIRS SPECIALIST – L

42A HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST – L
42F HUMAN RESOURCES INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST – (Note:
No Noise Listing)
42R ARMY BANDPERSON – HP
42S SPECIAL BAND MEMBER – HP
43F HUMAN RESOURCES INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT SPEC – L
46Q PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST – L
46R PUBLIC AFFAIRS BROADCAST SPECIALIST – M
46Z CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS NCO – L

51C AQUISITION, LOGISTICS & TECHNOLOGY (AL&T) CONTRACTING NCO – L
56M CHAPLAIN ASSISTANT – L

68A BIOMEDICAL EQUIPMENT SPECIALIST – L
68D OPERATING ROOM SPECIALIST – L
68E DENTAL SPECIALIST – M
68G PATIENT ADMINISTRATION SPECIALIST – L
68H OPTICAL LABORATORY SPECIALIST – L
68J MEDICAL LOGISTICS SPECIALIST – L
68K MEDICAL LABORATORY SPECIALIST – L
68M NUTRITION CARE SPECIALIST – L
68P RADIOLOGY SPECIALIST – L
68Q PHARMACY SPECIALIST – L
68R VETERINARY FOOD INSPECTION SPECIALIST – L
68S PREVENTIVE MEDICINE SPECIALIST – L
68T ANIMAL CARE SPECIALIST – L
68V RESPIRATORY SPECIALIST – L

68W HEALTH CARE SPECIALIST – L
68X BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SPECIALIST – L
68Z CHIEF MEDICAL NCO – L

74D CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLER (CBRN) SPECIALIST – M

79R RECRUITER NCO - L
79S CAREER COUNSELOR – L
79T RECRUITING & RETENTION NCO (ARNG) – L
79V RETENTION & TRANSITION NCO, USAR – L

88H CARGO SPECIALIST – M
88K WATERCRAFT OPERATOR – M
88L WATERCRAFT ENGINEER – M
88M MOTOR TRANSPORT OPERATOR – M
88N TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR – L
88P RAILWAY EQUIPMENT REPAIRER (RC) – HP
88T RAILWAY SECTION REPAIRER (RC) – HP
88U RAILWAY OPERATIONS CREWMEMBER (RC) – HP
88Z TRANSPORTATION SENIOR SERGEANT – HP

89A AMMUNITION STOCK CONTROL & ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST – L
89B AMMUNITION SPECIALIST – L
89D EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL SPECIALIST – HP

91A M1 ABRAHMS TANK SYSTEM MAINTAINER (FORMERLY 63A) – HP
91B WHEELED VEHICLE MECHANIC (FORMERLY 63B) – HP
91C UTILITIES EQUIPMENT REPAIRER (FORMERLY 52C) – HP
91D POWER-GENERATION EQUIPMENT REPAIRER (FORMERLY 52D) – HP
91E ALLIED TRADES SPECIALIST (FORMERLY 44E) – HP
91F SMALL ARMS/ARTILLERY REPAIRER (FORMERLY 45B) – M
91G FIRE CONTROL REPAIRER (FORMERLY 45G) – HP
91H TRACK VEHICLE REPAIRER (FORMERLY 63H) – HP
91J QUARTERMASTER & CHEMICAL EQUIPMENT REPAIRER (FORMERLY 63J) – M
91K ARMAMENT REPAIRER (FORMERLY 45K) – M
91L CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT REPAIRER (FORMERLY 62B) – HP
91M BRADLEY FIGHTING VEHICLE SYSTEM MAINTAINER (FORMERLY 63M) – HP
91P ARTILLERY MECHANIC (FORMERLY 63D) – HP
91W METAL WORKER (FORMERLY 44B) – HP
91X MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR (FORMERLY 63X) – HP
91Z MECHANICAL MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR (FORMERLY 63Z) – HP

92A AUTOMATED LOGISTICAL SPECIALIST – L
92F PETROLEUM SUPPLY SPECIALIST – L
92G FOOD SERVICE SPECIALIST (FORMERLY 94B) – L
92L PETROLEUM LABORATORY SPECIALIST – L
92M MORTUARY AFFAIRS SPECIALIST – L
92R PARACHUTE RIGGER – L
92S SHOWER/LAUNDRY & CLOTHING REPAIR SPECIALIST – L
92W WATER TREATMENT SPECIALIST – M
92Y UNIT SUPPLY SPECIALIST – L
92Z SENIOR NONCOMMISSIONED LOGISTICIAN – L

94A LAND COMBAT ELECTRONIC MISSILE SYSTEM REPAIRER – M
94D AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL EQUIPMENT REPAIRER – L
94E RADIO & COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY (COMSEC) REPAIRER – M
94F COMPUTER DETECTION SYSTEMS REPAIRER – L
94H TEST, MEASUREMENT & DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT (TMDE) MAINTENANCE
SUPPORT SPECIALIST – L
94K APACHE ATTACK HELICOPTER SYSTEMS REPAIRER – HP
94L AVIONICS COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT REPAIRER – HP
94M RADAR REPAIRER – M
94P MULTIPLE LAUNCH ROCKET SYSTEM REPAIRER – M
94R AVIONICS & SURVIVABILITY EQUIPMENT REPAIRER – M
94S PATRIOT SYSTEM REPAIRER – HP
94T AVENGER SYSTEM REPAIRER – HP
94W ELECTRONIC MAINTENANCE CHIEF – HP
94X SENIOR MISSILE SYSTEMS MAINTAINER – HP
94Y INTEGRATED FAMILY OF TEST EQUIPMENT (IFTE) OPERATOR & MAINTAINER - M
94Z SENIOR ELECTRONIC MAINTENANCE CHIEF – HP