



COMMITTED TO A CURE

65 Yamhill St Suite 200
Portland, Oregon 97204
www.ata.org • 800-634-8978

What you should know about our military, veterans and tinnitus

- ☞ Tinnitus, often defined as “ringing in the ears” can be a debilitating condition ruthlessly reducing quality of life for those chronically affected
- ☞ Tinnitus is the **number one service-connected disability** from the Global War on Terror
- ☞ Tinnitus is most often the result of extreme noise exposure from either a single impulse noise or the accumulation of noise exposure with the second leading cause being head and neck injury
- ☞ IED’s (Improvised Explosive Devices) detonate at decibel levels of **140dBA+** which is loud enough to immediately leave soldiers with a painful - and constant - reminder of their service
- ☞ In 2006 the VA reported that nearly **400,000** veterans were on the rolls for service - connected tinnitus disability
- ☞ That translates into **\$539 million** annually for compensation as of 2006
- ☞ From 2000-2006 the rate of tinnitus disability awards increased at an average rate of **18%** per year
- ☞ That rate is likely to continue or worsen over the next five years, which would raise tinnitus disability payments by the VA to over **\$1.1 billion** by 2011.
- ☞ The number of veterans on the rolls would increase to **818,811** for tinnitus alone
- ☞ Walter Reed Army Medical Center recently conducted a study of soldiers coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan The study concluded that of all those exposed to IED’s **49%** reported tinnitus
- ☞ Between all public and private funding available for tinnitus research in the United States there is only approximately **\$3 million** available
- ☞ It costs **\$4.3 million** to create an M Abrams Tank, **\$5.9 million** to engineer a M Helicopter and **\$18.8 million** to make an F 16 Fighter Jet
- ☞ The Army is the only branch of the military that requires ear plugs as part of the uniform

Examples of Sound Levels Associated with Military Equipment used in 2005

IOM Study on Noise in the Military: Implications for Tinnitus and Hearing Loss (2005)

Type of Equipment	Sound Level Location	dBA
Apache Helicopter	Pilot/Copilot	104/101
9mm Pistol	Shooter	157
5.56mm automatic weapon fired from HMMWV	Gunner	160
Grenade	At 50ft	164
105mm towed howitzer	Gunner	183

The American Tinnitus Association exists to cure tinnitus through the development of resources that advance tinnitus research