

Non-Ionizing Radiation Safety and Health Programs



Island of CVN showing radar emitters and CG 60 alongside with radar array visible

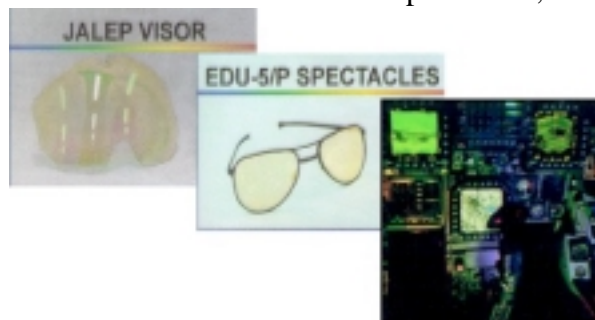
Many military weapons, guidance, and communications systems rely on electromagnetic radiation (EMR) systems, such as lasers and radio frequency (RF) radiation. Protection of airborne, land-based, and shipboard personnel from potential laser and RF injuries is crucial to mission success and to retaining a military-unique waiver from the Food and Drug Administration for these systems in combat, combat training, and in the interest of national security.



Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

Since May 1996, the Laser Safety Review Board headed by the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery has provided authoritative safety reviews and assistance for acquisition, development, and deployment of over 100 laser systems, exercises, and deployment protocols.

Laser eye protection, which includes aviation visors with threat protection, is currently being distributed to the fleet. It protects the user not only from the laser wavelengths used by U.S. forces and their allies but also from laser wavelengths used by potentially hostile nations.



Cockpit display showing different colors of light that must be seen through laser eye protection on left

The success of the Navy's Laser Safety Program is demonstrated by the absence of any accident or injury attributed to laser systems or misguided laser munitions during conflicts in Southwest Asia, Bosnia, or Kosovo, in which tens of thousands of laser systems were used.

Point of Contact: CDR Gregory M. Gorsuch,
Head, Non-Ionizing Radiation Health, Bureau
of Medicine and Surgery; (202) 762-3448
Email: GMGorsuch@us.med.navy.mil



SH-60B helicopter using a new laser range
finder designator to fire a missile