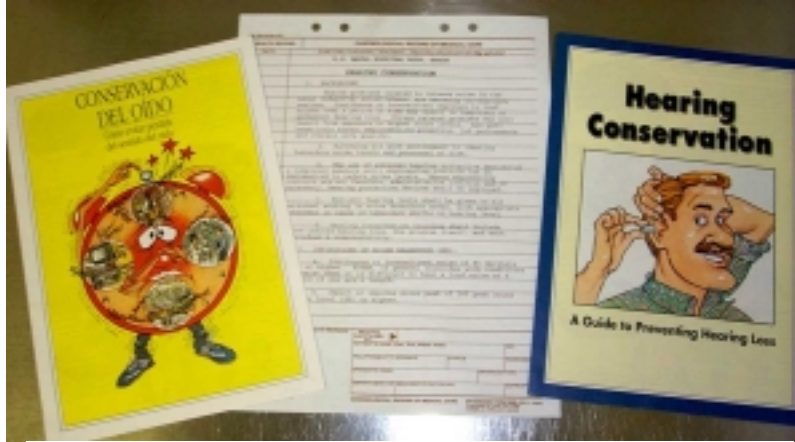


NAVAL HOSPITAL, ROTA LINKS HEARING CONSERVATION TRAINING AND AUDIOMETRIC TESTING

Navy employees who work in noise-hazardous environments are enrolled in the Navy's Hearing Conservation Program (HCP). Employees in the HCP wear hearing protection when working in noise-hazardous areas and receive audiometric testing at least annually. Audiometric testing checks a person's hearing acuity to assess for possible hearing loss. The test determines whether further preventive action is necessary to remove an employee from overexposure to noise before any significant hearing loss occurs. HCP participants also receive initial and annual "refresher," or re-training, on the use, care, and limitations of hearing protection.



[Naval Hospital Rota's HCP Training Guide in Spanish and English](#)

U.S. Naval Hospital, Rota Spain has implemented a program that provides workers in the station's HCP with their required hearing conservation refresher training when their hearing acuity is tested instead of scheduling the two events separately. The base Safety Office and the Naval Hospital's Industrial Hygiene, Audiology, and Occupational Medicine departments collaborated to develop a concise, comprehensive, easily understood, training guide for employees in the HCP. The training guide meets the Navy Occupational Safety and Health Program requirement for annual retraining to update workers on the HCP.

The new training guides and commercially available hearing conservation information are given to HCP employees to read while waiting for their annual audiometric tests. At the time results of annual audiometric testing are reviewed with each worker, an Occupational Health Nurse (OHN) also answers each worker's questions about the HCP refresher training. Employees and supervisors consider this discussion to be superior to merely watching HCP training videos. At the end of the question and answer session with an OHN, each HCP participant signs a form verifying that the HCP review was understood.



[OHN answers employee's question on HCP refresher training](#)

The HCP refresher training guide is printed on an official *SF-600* form that is entered into the patient's medical record, along with current hearing test results. This helps document that Navy workers in the HCP have received individual refresher training on hearing conservation. Including this training data in the medical records has also simplified

Occupational Safety & Health HCP program oversight audits. The Rota system eliminates the need for Medical Surveillance Program reviewers to search through another set of records at the station's Safety Office to find individual HCP refresher training dates. An additional benefit of consolidating HCP refresher training with audiometric testing at the hospital is that the new system frees the safety staff to concentrate on other mishap prevention responsibilities, increasing their productivity and decreasing workplace hazards.

Linking HCP refresher training and annual audiometric testing has eliminated the need for the approximately 600 workers in Naval Station, Rota's HCP to stand-down (stop) production for retraining. Consolidating HCP refresher training with medical surveillance audiograms has resulted in an annual production loss cost-avoidance of approximately \$9000 [based on \$15/hour military/civilian labor costs and an estimated workshop disruption time of one hour to conduct separate HCP refresher courses for 600 HCP participants]. This resourceful process improvement effort could have far-reaching implications if adopted at other Navy facilities.

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Visit Naval Hospital Rota's Industrial Hygiene Webpage:

<http://192.101.124.40/Industrial/Default.htm>



Audiometric testing of employee