

CHAPTER 17

NOISE PREVENTION ASHORE

17-1 Scope

This chapter identifies requirements and responsibilities for reducing environmental noise from Navy shore operations. Navy policy is to comply with the Noise Control Act, and Federal, State, and local noise control regulations the same as any private person, as required by EO 12088. The requirements apply within the United States, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Shipboard noise abatement is addressed in Chapter 19. Navy noise abatement policy for activities in foreign countries is provided in Chapter 18.

17-1.1 References. Relevant references are:

- a. DoD Directive 4165.57 of 8 November 1977, Air Installations Compatible Use Zones; (NOTAL)
- b. OPNAVINST 5100.23D, Navy Occupational Safety and Health (NAVOSH) Program Manual; (NOTAL)
- c. OPNAVINST 11010.36A, Air Installations Compatible Use Zones (AICUZ) Program (NOTAL).

17-2 Legislation

17-2.1 The Noise Control Act. The Noise Control Act provides that Federal performance standards shall be incorporated into the design of certain new vehicles, railroad equipment, and products to reduce noise emissions. Retrofit modifications are not prescribed for existing noise sources. Military aircraft, combat equipment, and weapon systems are exempt from new product design standards. State and local laws may prescribe maximum noise levels across property lines. Boundary noise limits are

attainable by a variety of structural and natural noise path barriers and by source design modifications.

17-3 Terms and Definitions

17-3.1 Air Installations Compatible Use Zones (AICUZ). The AICUZ program is designed to work with local communities on controlling the land uses around military installations. Its objectives are to assess the environmental impact of aircraft operations with regard to generated noise and accident potential produced by proposed actions and both on and off-base noise sources, comply with Federal regulations, ensure the installation's mission is compatible with local land uses, and minimize environmental noise impacts through engineering, operational controls, siting, and architecture.

17-3.2 Environmental Noise. The intensity, duration, and character of sounds from all sources.

17-3.3 Low-Noise-Emission Product. Any product that emits noise at a Sound Pressure Level less than at least one-half the levels specified in noise emission standard under regulations applicable to that type of product under the Noise Control Act, Section 6, at the time of procurement.

17-4 Requirements

17-4.1 Air Installations Compatible Use Zone. The AICUZ was established by reference (c) to identify and address incompatible development in areas that are adjacent to air installation and subject to rated levels of aircraft noise and/or accident potential.

17-5 Navy Policy

17-5.1 General. Noise control and abatement shall provide:

- a. Maintenance of an active program to protect both on and off base personnel from hazardous noise levels in coordination with other Federal agencies.
- b. Procurement, whenever feasible, of low-noise-emission products.
- c. Soundproofing, whenever feasible, of Navy owned/operated schools and hospitals affected by noisy military operations.
- d. Locating of noise-sensitive housing and other developments away from major noise sources.
- e. Cooperation with and support of neighborhood self help programs to identify and address local noise problems.

17-5.2 Workplace Noise. Workplace noise shall not be considered environmental noise unless it crosses the facility boundary with sufficient intensity to become regulated by local environmental noise requirements. Workplace noise abatement is required by reference (b).

17-5.3 Aviation Noise Suppression

17-5.3.1 The Navy shall consider ameliorating options such as remote siting, sound suppression equipment, and sound barriers, when developing new aircraft related systems, such as engine test stands.

17-5.3.2 The Navy shall include suitably quiet associated ground support equipment (e.g. starters, hush houses) in procurement (Aircraft Procurement, Navy (APN) funds) of new jet or other aircraft systems.

17-5.4 Restricting Noisy Operations. To the maximum extent practicable, Navy shore activities shall limit the use of power tools, machinery, construction equipment, or other noisy devices to normal working hours.

17-5.5 Training

a. Navy personnel engaged in processes that result in environmental noise at shore activities shall receive training on noise pollution reduction.

b. Engineering Field Division (EFD) environmental engineers and environmental planners shall receive training on noise pollution prevention programs.

17-6 Responsibilities

17-6.1 NAVFACENGCOM shall, if requested, act as technical consultant to major claimants and activities regarding noise abatement, suppression, and development of compliance strategies.

17-6.2 Major claimants and subordinate commands shall:

a. Initiate procurement procedures that ensure products and equipment not designed for combat use meet Federal noise standards.

b. Promote research to define and study noise pollution problems unique to the Navy and coordinate such research with other DoD components and with EPA.

c. Ensure that ground equipment associated with procurement of new and/or follow-on jet aircraft contain necessary noise suppressors.

17-6.3 Commanding officers of shore activities shall:

a. Comply with the policies in this manual.

b. Comply with applicable substantive and procedural Federal, State and local control and abatement laws and regulations.

c. Cooperate with Federal, State, and local noise pollution regulatory officials.

d. Implement procedures for limiting on-base noisy operations and for reducing property line noise levels as required by local law or regulation.

e. Periodically verify and record that environmental noise levels are within local community requirements, and if not, what corrective actions have been taken or planned to achieve compliance.