Resources for Veterans with Hearing Loss

KCDHH

Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
632 Versailles Rd.
Frankfort, KY 40601
502-573-2604 (V/T)
800-372-2907 (V/T)
502-573-3594 (fax)
KCDHH@kcdhh.ky.gov
www.kcdhh.ky.gov

General Information

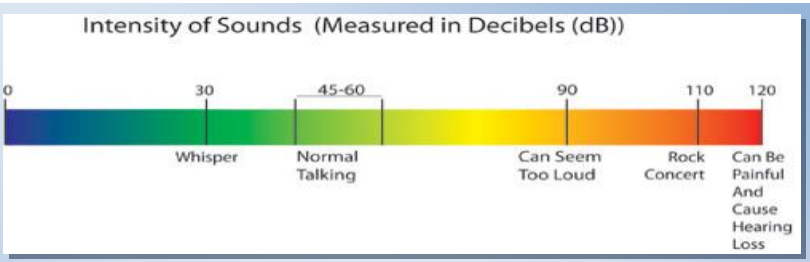
Tinnitus and hearing loss are the #1 and #2 War Wounds.

According to the U.S. Department of Defense Hearing Center of Excellence (HCE), the numbers for those injured in the global war on terror effort are more than **350,000 service members with tinnitus** (ringing in the ears) and **over 250,000 with hearing loss.**

In the past decade, 840,000 service members have been diagnosed with tinnitus, and just over 700,000 have hearing loss, the HCE says. Combined, the number of cases of tinnitus, hearing loss, and other auditory disorders over the last decade tops **1 million.**

Sustained exposure to engine noise in a convoy can be just as damaging to hearing as exposure resulting from an improvised explosive device (IED).

(http://hearing.health.mil/HearingLoss101/StatsandFigures.aspx)



Normal conversation is considered to be "safe" at a sound level of 60 decibels.

-On flight decks, noise levels are around 130 decibels.

-Helicopter noise is around 100 decibels.

-A soldier near an M60 machine gun is exposed to 150 decibels

-Within 50 feet of an exploding grenade, 160 decibels.

Support Groups

Veterans Crisis Line: Support for Deaf/Hard of Hearing

Online Chat, Text Message, Phone call, and TTY service

www.veteranscrisisline.net/GetHelp/Accessibility.aspx

Professional, caring VA responders through:
online chat, text message (838255), and TTY service 1-800-799-4889

Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA)

The Nation's Voice for People with Hearing Loss

www.hearingloss.org/content/veterans

membership@hearingloss.org
(301) 657-2248

Association of Late-Deafened Adults (ALDA)

The Association of Late-Deafened Adults is about communication and acceptance of every deafened individual.

www.alda.org/hearing-loss/

info@alda.org
(815) 332-1515

Assistive Technology and Financial Assistance

Today, there is a multitude of assistive devices available to help give individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing gain more independence. These devices are designed to help in all areas of life, such as amplified phones, doorbells and telephone ringers, baby cry signalers, visual and vibrating alarm clocks, smoke detectors, etc.

Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

If you are a veteran with hearing loss you may be eligible for compensation.

Please contact your local KDVA Field Benefits Representative or call **502-595-4447** for more information.

www.veterans.ky.gov

KCDHH Telecommunication Access Program

(KY Residents)

The Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) provides residents of Kentucky, who are deaf/hard of hearing or speech impaired with landline or wireless equipment to make communication on the telephone more accessible.

www.kcdhh.org/ifyky/

"Disability Solutions Through Technology"

Kentucky Assistive Technology Service Network

The KATS Network mission is to make assistive technology obtainable. They also oversee the Statewide Hearing Aid Assistance and Reuse Program (SHARP).

www.katsnet.org

Assistive Technology and Financial Assistance

U.S Department of Veterans Affairs

Rehabilitation and Prosthetic Services: Hearing Aids

http://www.prosthetics.va.gov/psas/Hearing_Aids.asp

Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program

Wounded Service Member Support

Assistive listening devices (ALD's) are available for service members who have sustained hearing loss and damage, including tinnitus, hearing loss in one ear, and variable degrees of hearing loss.

www.cap.mil/Programs/WSM.aspx

Heroes with Hearing Loss Program

Hamilton CapTel makes it possible to listen and read word-for-word captions of everything said to you on the phone.

www.hamiltoncaptel.com/veterans/

Williams Sound: RALD Program

Williams Sound has proudly teamed with the Military Audiology Association (MAA) to offer the Retiree Assistive Listening Device (RALD) program to both retired and active-duty U.S. military service members and their families.

www.williamssound.com/rald

Resources

American Tinnitus Association

ATA is a global leader in the effort to find a cure for tinnitus. We bring together patients, researchers, healthcare professionals, industry partners and lawmakers to develop tinnitus management tools and fund vital tinnitus research.

www.ata.org

Department of Defense: Hearing Center of Excellence

The Hearing Center of Excellence fosters and promotes the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, rehabilitation and research of hearing loss and auditory injury.

www.hearing.health.mil/

America's VetDogs® – The Veteran's K-9 Corps®

A 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that serves the needs of veterans with disabilities from all eras who have honorably served our country.

www.vetdogs.org/Content.aspx?id=2453

What KCDHH Can Do For You

Federal and state laws are in place to protect individuals with disabilities from discrimination. These laws were designed to give equal access and opportunities to all persons with disabilities, including individuals with hearing loss.

For an individual with a hearing loss, equal access typically means effective communication. Effective communication usually requires some form of accommodation and due to the diverse needs of deaf and hard of hearing individuals, the specific accommodation will depend on the individual.

What this all means is that you have the right to effective communication when it comes to employment, education, housing, government as well as public and private services.

KCDHH as an information, referral and advocacy agency can help educate you and others about your rights, how to ensure effective communication and advocate on your behalf when your needs are not being met.

KCDHH also produces the biennial Kentucky DeaFestival and the following materials: Directory of Services, Communicator newsletter, and brochures on topics of interest to deaf and hard of hearing persons and their families. KCDHH maintains a library of books, periodicals, DVDs and CDs which are available for research and general information. The KCDHH Telecommunications Access Program (TAP), provides devices such as amplified phones, wireless devices and CapTels to eligible deaf and hard of hearing Kentuckians.

Please visit our website or contact us for additional information. www.kcdhh.ky.gov

THANK YOU

for your service to our country!

Please know that you are not alone and we are happy to help in any way we can!

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An agency of the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet

Printed with State Funds