



MARINES
THE FEW. THE PROUD.

RECRUITING HEADQUARTERS UNITS CAREER MARINE ONLINE MARINE 4 LIFE NEWS FAMILY PUB

MARADMIN 362/06

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Subject: LIGHTWEIGHT HELMET SUSPENSION SYSTEM POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

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SUBJ/LIGHTWEIGHT HELMET SUSPENSION SYSTEM POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION /GUIDANCE//
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POC/RENEE HOLMES/MAJ/PM ICE/-/TEL:DSN 378-3312/EMAIL:NA//
GENTEXT/REMARKS/1. COMMANDS ARE HEREBY AUTHORIZED THE USE OF EITHER A SLING SUSPENSION SYSTEM OR A PAD SUSPENSION SYSTEM IN THE LIGHTWEIGHT HELMET (LWH).
2. CARE MUST BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT THE PAD SUSPENSION SYSTEM DOES NOT REDUCE THE PROTECTION PROVIDED BY THE LWH BY INTERFERING WITH ITS DESIGN AND WEAR. BASED ON THE REFERENCE AND OTHER LESSONS LEARNED IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN, COMMANDERS SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING WHEN PADS ARE INSTALLED IN THE LWH:
A. HELMET FIT. THE LWH SHOULD NOT MOVE WHEN IT IS PUSHED DOWN ON TOP OF THE HEAD. WHEN THE LWH IS PROPERLY FITTED, THE CHINSTRAP SHOULD BE CENTERED ON THE CHIN. IN HOT CLIMATES COMMANDERS SHOULD INSPECT TO ENSURE PROPER PAD PLACEMENT THAT DOES NOT INTERFERE WITH AIR CIRCULATION.
B. HELMET COVERAGE. THE BOTTOM OF THE LWH SHOULD FALL BETWEEN THE BOTTOM OF THE EAR CANAL AND THE BOTTOM OF THE EAR LOBE. FOR MOST MARINES A SIZE 6 (3/4 INCH PAD) WILL PREVENT THE HELMET FROM RIDING TOO HIGH ON THE HEAD.
C. HELMET SIZE. HELMET PADS MAY RESULT IN THE WEARER REQUIRING A LARGER SIZED HELMET. THE LWH WITH PADS SHOULD BE SIZED SO IT DOES NOT BLOCK THE WEARER'S VISION. THE LWH SHOULD NOT BE SO SMALL THAT VENTILATION, COMFORT, AND SAFETY ARE COMPROMISED.
D. WEAR OF ADDITIONAL HEADGEAR. WHEN OTHER HEADGEAR IS WORN SUCH AS A COMMUNICATION HEADSET, WATCHCAP, OR NBC MASK, THE PADS MUST BE ADJUSTED TO ALLOW FOR THE ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT AND MAY NECESSITATE THE INSTALLATION OF SMALLER SIZED PADS.
E. PAD COMPRESSION. OVER TIME, THE PADS MAY PERMANENTLY COMPRESS

AFFECTING THE PROPER FIT AND SAFETY OF THE HELMET SUSPENSION SYSTEM. THEREFORE, PADS SHOULD BE INSPECTED ON A RECURRING BASIS AND REPLACED, AS NECESSARY.

F. PAD DETERIORATION AND ADHESION. PADS WILL DETERIORATE OVER TIME AND LOSE THEIR ADHESION DUE TO SAND AND OTHER SUBSTANCES INTERFERING WITH THE VELCRO TABS. VELCRO WILL DETERIORATE AND FAIL AFTER EXPOSURE TO SALT WATER IMMERSION OR PROLONGED USAGE IN HIGHER TEMPERATURES WHERE MOISTURE (SWEAT) IS PRESENT. ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD MAINTAIN A SUPPLY OF ADDITIONAL PADS ON-HAND.

3. THE LWH WILL CONTINUE TO BE FIELDDED WITH THE CURRENT SLING SUSPENSION SYSTEM. UNIT COMMANDERS ARE AUTHORIZED TO REPLACE THE SLING SYSTEM WITH A PAD SYSTEM. UNITS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR REQUISITIONING THE PAD SUSPENSION SYSTEM USING THE BELOW NATIONAL STOCK NUMBERS (NSN). NOTE THAT A SIZE 6 EQUATES TO 3/4 INCH PAD THICKNESS WHILE A SIZE 8 IS APPROXIMATELY 1 INCH IN THICKNESS. NO PAD LESS THAN A SIZE 6 (3/4 INCH) OR GREATER THAN A SIZE 8 (1 INCH) SHOULD BE WORN IN THE LWH.

NSN	SIZE	COMPONENTS
8470-01-476-5643	6	(1) CIRCULAR CROWN (2) TRAPEZOIDAL (4) OBLONG/OVAL
8470-01-476-5648	8	(1) CIRCULAR CROWN (2) TRAPEZOIDAL (4) OBLONG/OVAL

CURRENT SHORTFALLS FOR THESE ITEMS AT DLA HAVE CREATED A BACKLOG FOR ORDERS. PROGRAM MANAGER, INFANTRY COMBAT EQUIPMENT (PM ICE), MARINE CORPS SYSTEMS COMMAND (MCSC) IS DEVELOPING ALTERNATE SOURCES OF SUPPLY AND WILL PROVIDE INSTRUCTIONS VIA THE POC, AND THE PM ICE WEBSITE, LISTED BELOW IN PARAGRAPH 6.

4. IN COORDINATION WITH THE MANUFACTURER OF THE LWH, MCSC IS CURRENTLY DEVELOPING A DETAILED PLAN IOT PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR THE CORRECT AND SAFE REPLACEMENT OF THE SLING SUSPENSION SYSTEM. MCSC IS ALSO DEVELOPING THE MOST EFFICIENT METHOD OF IMPLEMENTING THIS POLICY. ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE WILL BE DISSEMINATED AS REQUIRED TO FURTHER EXPEDITE THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS.

5. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES IS THE CURRENT FOUR POINT RETENTION SYSTEM (CHIN STRAP) OF THE LWH TO BE REPLACED EXCEPT BY AN AUTHORIZED REPLACEMENT ITEM FROM THE ORIGINAL MANUFACTURER. IF A PAD SUSPENSION SYSTEM IS INSTALLED, THE EXISTING SLING SUSPENSION SYSTEM WILL BE RETAINED BY THE ORGANIZATION OR CONSOLIDATED ISSUE FACILITY (CIF).

6. ALL QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE ORDERING OF PADS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO PM ICE MAJ RENEE HOLMES AT 703.432.3312/3316 (DSN 378) OR BY E-MAIL AT RENEE.HOLMES@USMC.MIL. ADDITIONAL HELMET INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT THE PM ICE WEBSITE, AT WWW.MARCORSYS.COM.USMC.MIL/SITES/PMICE/. INCLUDED ARE AN INFORMATION PAPER ON SLING VERSUS PAD SYSTEMS, A USAARL STUDY ON BLUNT IMPACT PERFORMANCE FOR SLING AND PAD HELMET SYSTEMS, AND THE US ARMY SAFETY OF USE MESSAGE CONCERNING THE WEAR OF GROUND COMBAT HELMETS. MORE INFORMATION WILL BE POSTED AT THIS SITE AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.//