

2011 - The Year of Shooting Range Noise Recognition

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(Santa Clarita, CA) All indications are pointing to 2011 to be the “**Year of Shooting Range Noise Recognition.**” We are seeing recognition of the shooting range noise problem in the authorization of new government studies; military shooting range design requirements, and pending federal regulations: the **Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA)** is positioned to propose that employers must use administrative or engineering controls rather than personal protective equipment (PPE) to reduce noise exposures that are above acceptable levels; the **U.S. Army Corp of Engineers** has issued a noise criterion for all their Special Forces ranges featuring a 1.3 second reverberation requirement (RT60); the **Comptroller General** is undertaking a study on **Department of Defense** efforts to minimize and track military service hearing loss, and hearing loss prevention efforts; more **outdoor ranges** being cited for noise violations; even ranges that were in use for over 30 years. Troy Acoustics’ patented Troy System meets and exceeds any and all existing noise reduction requirements, and standards, now, and into the future, so as to protect those who protect and serve us all from this serious and debilitating health problem.

The **Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA)** is positioned to propose that employers must use administrative or engineering controls rather than personal protective equipment (PPE) to reduce noise exposures that are above acceptable levels. As is the case in shooting ranges, personal protective equipment, such as ear plugs and ear muffs, would be used only as **supplements** to administrative or engineering controls. Their press release indicated that the "Agency intends to change its noise enforcement policy to authorize issuing citations requiring the use of administrative and engineering controls when feasible".

The **U.S. Army Corp of Engineers** has issued a noise criterion for all their ranges featuring a 1.3 second reverberation requirement (RT60), or less, at all firing positions in the range, in all octave bands from 125 Hz to 8000 Hz, and a Noise Reduction Coefficient (NRC) of .85 or better throughout the range area. The Corp is stipulating that the contractor provide a written guarantee of compliance.

At the behest of Congress and part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 the **Comptroller General** is undertaking a study on **Department of Defense** efforts to minimize and track military service hearing loss, and hearing loss prevention efforts. The report is scheduled to be released the first part of 2011.

2010 also saw more outdoor ranges being cited for noise violations; even ranges that were in use for over 30 years. This is not unusual. When the ranges were built there were no homes in the area, even though the properties were zoned residential. No people, No Complaints. It only stands to reason that this will have an impact on a range eventually. We can expect more outdoor facilities, be they government, police, or private to be cited in 2011.

The new dictums and studies cannot come soon enough. Statistics show that small arms shooting range noise “Is Hazardous to Your Health.” Exposure to loud noise is linked to: hearing loss, hypertension, heart disease, anxiety, headaches, judgment impairment, sleep disturbance, and other conditions that can lead to disability claims and lawsuits. Reduction of shooting range noise will result in millions of dollars in savings on workmen’s compensation, disability and sick time benefits.

Troy Acoustics is very proud that our patented Troy System meets and exceeds any and all existing requirements, and standards, now, and into the future. Troy guarantees that a range treated with their full coverage system will have a reverberation time (RT60) of 1.25 seconds, or less and an NRC of better than 1.0. This is for both indoor and outdoor firing ranges.

2011 is truly the year that the hazards of shooting range noise is being recognized and acted on for the health hazard that it is. It is time to protect those who protect and serve us all from this serious and debilitating health problem.