


Image Cover Sheet

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TITLE
LAND FORCE PERSONNEL REQUIRING CORRECTIVE VISION

System Number:
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Notes:

DSIS Use only:
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TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

(OHE 96/03)

3753-1/C-1

29 Jul 96

LAND FORCE PERSONNEL REQUIRING CORRECTIVE VISION

References: A. CTS Ocular Protection PRM Held at DSSPM 0900 Hrs 13 Jun 96
B. DCIEM 3753-3/C1 dated Jun 96
C. DPIS Report P960601 (Fax) dated 25 Jun 96

INTRODUCTION

1. The Clothe the Soldier Project has been established in order to address specific deficiencies with various items of clothing and equipment. One of the items being acquired under the Clothe the Soldier Project is ballistic ocular protection. The aim is to issue non-corrective ballistic protective spectacles to manoeuvre force personnel.
2. The new ballistic protective spectacles are just intended for personnel who do not require corrective lenses (i.e. wear glasses). As a result significant numbers of personnel who require corrective vision will not receive new ocular protection but rather they will have to make do with Wind, Sand, Dust goggles. At the latest Project Review Meeting (Reference A) it was additionally recommended that the estimated costs to fit polycarbonate lenses into corrective eyewear for the land force be determined.
3. In order to estimate the capital and O&M costs for issuing ballistic ocular protection to the entire land force the exact numbers of personnel requiring corrective vision must be determined.

AIM

4. The aim of this investigation was to determine exact numbers of land force personnel requiring corrective vision.

METHOD

5. DPIS was contacted and tasked (Reference B) to determine the number and percentage of land force personnel who have a vision category greater than one i.e., V2, V3, V4 and V5. Specifically DPIS was tasked to:
 - a. determine and forward the numbers and percentage of personnel who have a vision category > 1 for the entire land element; and
 - b. determine and forward the numbers and percentage of personnel who have a vision category > 1 for just the combat arms.

RESULTS

6. Approximately 42 % of the 28,109 regular force personnel wearing a land environment uniform wear / require corrective vision. Additionally, approximately 36% of the 11,984 Combat Arms personnel require / wear corrective vision. The specific breakdown by vision category is tabled below.

Status	Effective Strength	Vis = 2	V2 %	Vis = 3	V3 %	Vis = 4	V4 %	Vis = 5	V5 %
CBT Arms ¹	11,984	2170	18.11	2063	17.21	67	0.56	15	0.13
Non CBT Arms	16,125	3008	18.65	3601	22.33	873	5.41	76	0.47
Total ²	28,109	5178	18.42	5664	20.15	940	3.34	91	0.32

Table 1. Table of effective strength land environment personnel by medical vision category

Note 1. Combat Arms personnel for the purpose of this investigation included officer MOCs 21, 22, 23, 24 and non-commissioned member trades 011, 021, 022, 031, and 041.

Note 2. For regular force personnel (land environment) as of end May 96.

DISCUSSION

7. The large percentage of both combat and non-combat arms personnel requiring corrective vision is quite significant. Disregarding personnel with a vision category of V4 and V5 (Note the minimum vision category for infantry 031 is V3) will still result in significant numbers of personnel requiring corrective vision.

8. The present plan for the Clothe the Soldier Project to issue just non-corrective ballistic ocular protection to the manoeuvre force should be closely examined. Purchasing ballistic protective eyewear for just personnel who do not require corrective vision will leave 35 -42% of our personnel unprotected or inadequately protected.

9. A number of options exist to provide ballistic ocular protection to personnel requiring corrective vision. Some of these include:

- a. issuing personnel with wind, sand, dust goggles which have ballistic protection. Note, many corrective spectacle designs presently issued to CF personnel are not compatible with the wind, sand, dust goggles;
- b. acquiring a new system of ballistic protective goggles which are designed to incorporate corrective vision inserts;

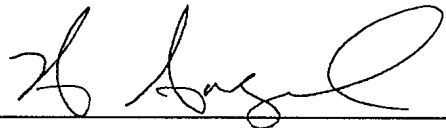
- c. ensuring that corrective spectacle designs issued to CF Land Force personnel are compatible with wind, sand, dust goggles; and
- d. adjusting the scale of issue for corrective eyewear to ensure that corrective lenses for manoeuvre force personnel are made with polycarbonate material.

CONCLUSION / RECOMMENDATIONS

10. The scope of the Cloth the Soldier Project vis-à-vis ballistic ocular protection should be examined. Potentially significant numbers of personnel requiring corrective vision may not receive adequate ballistic ocular protection. Staff of the CTS Project should meet with representatives of the Chief of Health Services (CHS) to examine the impact of CTS efforts on the CHS' programs

11. The suitability of various options for providing ballistic ocular protection for personnel requiring corrective vision must be determined. Additionally, the capital and O&M costs for the various options must also be determined.

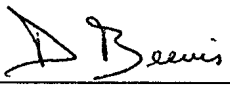
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