From: Officer in Charge, Naval Medical Administrative Unit, Monterey
To: Occupational Safety and Health Manager (Code 223), Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey

Subj: NOISE SURVEY RESULTS, NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL, MONTEREY, HERRMANN HALL LAUNDRY ROOM (ET-0201)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5100.23E, Chapter 18, paragraph 1803a

Enclosure (2) Industrial Hygiene Noise Survey Forms

1. A noise survey of the noise levels generated by the new air compressor located in the Laundry Room was conducted on 2 and 5 August 2002. The air compressor's function is to maintain sufficient pressure in lines running from beer kegs located in the room's Cooler to the Trident Room to allow operation of the beer taps. The measurements were conducted by Eric Thurston, Naval Medical Administrative Unit, Monterey Industrial Hygienist.

2. Findings and recommendations generated during the noise surveys are as follows:

   a. Measurements indicate that noise levels only rise above the Navy noise criterion level, outlined in reference (a), during three-second bursts of the compressor's automatic pressure relief valve.

   b. The noise level measured in front of the compressor, where Kitchen personnel would be standing if opening the adjacent corrosives storage locker or the kitchen's Cooler, is 105.9 dBA, which would require the use of double hearing protection if the noise was constant instead of the three-second bursts as discussed above.

   c. Calculations indicate that the 8-hour time-weighted average noise exposure will not require enrollment of Kitchen personnel in the NPS Hearing Conservation Program (involving medical surveillance and training) solely based on these exposures. However, because of the unpredictable operation of the automatic pressure relief valve and because of the nearness of the pump, good practice recommends the wearing of hearing protection as a preventive measure by workers who come closer to the pump than the Laundry Room washing machines.

   d. Consideration should be given to fitting the valve outlet with a muffler or hose that would reduce the noise levels generated; the pump manufacturer should be contacted as necessary for advice on how best to accomplish this. If such changes are made, please contact the Industrial Hygienist to remeasure noise levels and assess the recommendation for use of hearing protection.

   e. Because the noise is generated by Navy equipment and not by an operation that they perform, Laundry contractor personnel should be made aware of the hearing protection recommendations.
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3. A copy of the noise survey forms is provided as enclosure (1).

4. For further information or clarification on the noise survey results or recommendations, please contact Eric Thurston at COM 831-656-3466, e-mail sethurst@nps.navy.mil.

S.E. THURSTON
By direction