

Vision Readiness

The optimum state of vision readiness is achieved when the soldier is visually and optically ready to deploy. A soldier is visually ready when he/she possesses the level of vision required to perform his/her mission. If a soldier requires prescription lenses to meet vision requirements of his/her military occupational specialty (MOS), the soldier is considered optically ready when he/she possesses the correct number and type of prescription military eyewear.

Vision readiness is a leadership issue.

- Leaders must ensure that soldiers possess the appropriate level of vision to perform their MOS by having their soldiers participate in annual vision readiness screenings as outlined in DA PAM 40-506, The Army Vision Conservation and Readiness Program, Chapter 3, Occupational Vision, Section 3-5a : “Each installation and/or unit will have a Vision Conservation and Readiness Program that will measure the deployment readiness of military (including the USAR and ARNGUS) and deployable DA civilian personnel. Vision readiness elements require a minimum of – Vision Readiness Screening at least annually.”
- Leaders must ensure that soldiers possess the appropriate number and type of medically required prescription eyewear as outlined in AR 600-8-101, Personnel Processing (In- and Out- and Mobilization Processing) Chapter 4, Section 4-4 a. (4), Level 2-wartime movement stopper soldier readiness processing requirements: “Soldiers requiring eyeglasses who do not have two pair (one of which may be of civilian type design) and one pair protective mask lens inserts will not deploy.”
- Leaders can sustain vision readiness through eye disease and injury prevention simply by enforcing compliance with existing safety measures as outlined in Ophthalmic Services, AR 40-63, Chapter 4, Contact Lens Service: “The issue of contact lenses is specifically prohibited for use in environments where exposure to smoke, toxic chemical vapors, sand, or dust occurs.” Through simple compliance with AR 40-63, many sight threatening eye infections and injuries can be avoided in the deployed environment.