

TRI-SERVICE VISION CONSERVATION AND READINESS PROGRAM

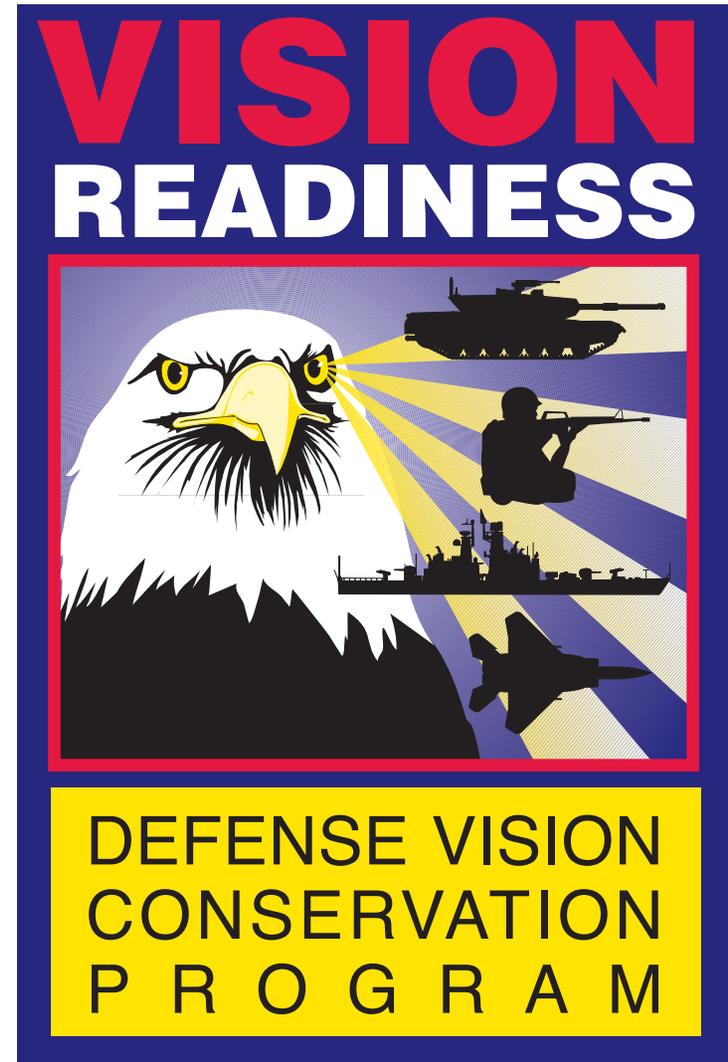


OUR HISTORY

- 1940's** Dr. Joseph Tiffin, an industrial psychologist, and his research team evaluated four million workers to establish job vision standards for six major occupational categories.
- 1946** Army Industrial Hygiene Laboratory (AIHL), located at Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland, initiated occupational vision programs at various depots and arsenals.
- 1950's** Occupational Vision Program was directed toward 90,000 federal civilian employees at 19 Army installations.
- 1960** Environmental health activities added to the occupational health mission of AIHL created the US Army Environmental Hygiene Agency (AEHA).
- 1971** Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHAct) became law and mandated the employer provide a safe and healthful workplace. This resulted in military provision of eye protection for all employees working in eye-hazardous areas.
- 1991** Army Vision Conservation Program developed.
- 1993** Defense Vision Conservation Program developed.
- 1994** AEHA reengineered into the US Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine.
- 1996** Tri-service Vision Conservation Office established.
- 1997** Tri-service Vision Conservation and Readiness Program established.

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Please visit our web site at:
<http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/dcpm/vcp/vcp.htm>



VISION READY IS MISSION READY!

 **USACHPPM** U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine
Readiness thru Health
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21010-5403

VISION READINESS



DEFENSE VISION
CONSERVATION
PROGRAM

MISSION

To optimize vision readiness of Department of Defense health care beneficiaries.

VISION

To be the center of excellence for vision conservation and readiness support to the Department of Defense.

PERSONNEL

- Alan Blatterman, O. D., MA, FAAO, *Program Manager*
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
- Rob Drescher, O.D., MS, FAAO, *CHPPM Europe Consultant*
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
- Don McDuffie, O.D., MBA, *Deputy Defense Vision Information System Manager*
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
- Bob Buckingham, O.D., FAAO, *Defense Vision Information System Manager*
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Air Force
- Ken Whitwell, O.D., MBA, *Education and Training Manager*
Lieutenant, U.S. Navy
- James Stout, O.D., *Civilian Consultant*

systems and provide additional automation support to incorporate electronic patient records, automatic data collection and entry, on-line expert referencing, and fully automated ordering and fabrication processes to eliminate redundant manual data entry and retrieval. DVIS will be supported by a comprehensive automated information system (AIS) framework tailored to the needs of personnel that provide VOE services.

When fully developed, DVIS will facilitate:

- Improved VOE readiness
- Decreased incidence and cost of eye injuries
- More meaningful indicators of vision readiness and vision care
- Improved efficiency and reduced cost of comprehensive vision services
- Improved access to quality vision care
- Improved access to subject matter experts and reference sources

Example of how DVIS will support vision readiness: During Operations Desert Shield/Storm, many deploying personnel did not have the visual acuity needed for their jobs or were missing required optical devices. DVIS will help identify personnel with vision readiness deficiencies and track corrective measures to ensure timely resolution of these deficiencies.

Example of how DVIS will support decreased incidence and cost of eye injuries: Studies have shown that at least 10% of war injuries are eye-related and that in peacetime 90 percent of eye injuries are preventable. These preventable eye injuries are very costly in terms of medical care, compensation, and lost productivity. DVIS will improve injury tracking and analysis to provide comprehensive data for targeted preventive measures.

guidance on recommended practices and technical information. Graduates acquire knowledge required to deliver robust and effective vision conservation and readiness services.

Force Health Protection Vision Conservation Course

Course Length: 3 Days (16 contract hours) *Continuing Education Credit Available*

Course Description: This course highlights the didactic material of the vision conservation and readiness course. This course does not contain the interactive hands-on material of the other VCRCs. It is designed to be a refresher for those who have completed the VCRC in the past and an introduction/overview for individuals not previously trained. The course provides comprehensive education on eye hazards and protection from those hazards. The course also provides guidance on recommended practices and technical information on an installation vision conservation and readiness program. In addition, information on illumination, visual display terminals, night vision goggles, and protective mask inserts are presented.

DEFENSE VISION SERVICES (DVS) FUNCTIONAL PROCESS IMPROVEMENT (FPI)

Purpose: DVS FPI will result in improvements in the management and delivery of vision, optical, and eye health (VOE) services to improve vision readiness of U.S. military forces while enhancing quality, efficiency and productivity of eye clinics and optical fabrication facilities. This effort includes investigation, analysis, and depiction of vision care; vision conservation; clinical resource management; optical device acquisition, fabrication and dispensing; and individual vision readiness.

One part of this effort is development of the Defense Vision Information System (DVIS) to integrate existing VOE migration

The Tri-Service Vision Conservation and Readiness Program

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Revise/Develop Policy, Doctrine and Standards
Conduct Studies, Research and Surveillance
Provide Education and Training
Develop Vision Information Services
Assist Local Vision Conservation Programs

POLICY, DOCTRINE & STANDARDS

- *DA PAM 40-506: Vision Conservation & Readiness*
- *DA PAM 40-173: Mustard Agent Surveillance Guide*
- *DoDI for Vision Conservation and Readiness*
- *OPNAV 5100.23E: Navy Occupational Safety and Health Manual*
- *Individual Medical Readiness Vision Standards*
- *USACHPPM TG 156: Questions and Answers: Video Display Terminals*

STUDIES

Mustard Agent Worker Surveillance Program Study

- Retrospective efficacy study of 632 records at Edgewood, MD; Tooele, UT; Dugway, UT; Johnston Atoll
- No adverse findings found
- Led to policy change to better use human resources

Bosnia Readiness Study

- Prospective cohort study of Tri-Service personnel at Ft. Benning, GA
- Assessed optical readiness during peacekeeping operations
- 35.2% of 10,093 personnel screened did not have the required optical devices
20.1% of Active Duty, 32.3% of National Guard, and 44.4% of Reserves not optically ready

Tri-Service Vision Readiness Study

- Prospective peacetime cohort study of active duty personnel from 13 installations worldwide representing air, land, and sea forces
- Assessed vision, optical, and eye health readiness of forces and indicated efficacy and resource impact of a vision readiness program
- Data analysis reveals:
17.6% of personnel did not meet their occupational visual acuity standards
45.8% did not have the required optical devices
54.3% did not have an eye examination in their health record

Army Eye Injury Study

- Retrospective study of 1,752 major eye injuries compiled by Army Safety Center, Ft. Rucker, AL from 1988-1998.
- Assessed the demographic data of persons injured, type of activity when injured, cause and severity of injury, cost of injury, and lost work days due to injury.
- Data analysis reveals:
Profile of the average Army person experiencing a major eye injury: E3-E5, 20-24 yo male, struck by an object while performing combat soldiering, participating in sports, or performing maintenance, repair, or servicing.

The total cost of eye injuries was \$16,425,816 with 10,587 lost work days.
Over two thirds of those with major eye injuries were not wearing eye protection.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING INITIATIVES

Vision Conservation and Readiness Course

Course Length: 5 Days *Continuing Education Credit Available*

Course Description: This course is designed to educate all members of an installation level vision conservation and readiness team in the duties and responsibilities of a Vision Conservation and Readiness Program Coordinator. The course provides comprehensive education on administrative and technological aspects of an installation vision conservation and readiness program including regulatory requirements, guidance on recommended practices and technical information. Installation level vision conservation and readiness team members targeted by this course include occupational health nurses, industrial hygiene, bioenvironmental engineer and safety personnel. Graduates acquire knowledge required to deliver robust and effective vision conservation and readiness services.

Vision Conservation and Readiness Course for Eyecare Professionals

Course Length: 5 Days *Continuing Education Credit Available*

Course Description: This course is designed to educate Department of Defense military and civilian eye care professionals in the duties and responsibilities of a Vision Conservation and Readiness Officer. The course provides comprehensive education on administrative and technological aspects of an installation vision conservation and readiness program including regulatory requirements,