



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY
West Point, New York 10996

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

IMML-SO

JUL 03 2012

USMA POLICY MEMORANDUM NUMBER 151-08

SUBJECT: Headphone Policy

1. **PURPOSE.** To establish policy and assign responsibilities for the use of headphones while walking, running or jogging on West Point.
2. **APPLICABILITY.** This policy supersedes USMA Policy 151-08 Headphone Policy dated 1 October 2008. This policy applies to all personnel walking, jogging or running on West Point.
3. **BACKGROUND.** The Defense Department and Army prohibit the use of headphones by walkers, runners, joggers, bicyclists, motorcyclists, skaters and skateboarders on their Installation's streets and roads. The reason stems from the increasing number of pedestrian accidents involving headphone use. The use of headphones can reduce the pedestrian's situational awareness and mask street noise.
4. **POLICY.** On West Point use of headphones by pedestrians (walkers, joggers and runners) is prohibited with the following exceptions:
 - a. Pedestrians may walk, run, jog, bicycle, skate or skateboard while using headphones in areas closed to vehicle traffic, such as running tracks and practice fields.
 - b. Walkers, joggers and runners may use headphones on sidewalks. Headphone use while walking, jogging, running or bicycling in streets and roads is still prohibited. Headphone use is also prohibited on sidewalks during periods of reduced visibility (darkness, fog, rain, snow, etc.)
5. **RESPONSIBILITIES.** Commanders and supervisors are responsible for communicating this policy to their subordinates and enforcement.
6. **REFERENCES.**
 - a. Department of Defense Instruction 6055.4, DoD Traffic Safety Program, dated 2 April 2010.
 - b. Army Regulation 385-10, Army Safety Program, dated 4 October 2011.
 - c. USMA Regulation 190-5, Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision, dated 1 August 2005.

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d. USCC Standard Operating Procedures, Chapter 10, Force Protection, dated 1 June 2009.

7. **EXPIRATION.** This Policy Memorandum is in effective until superseded or rescinded.

FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles A. Stafford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

CHARLES A. STAFFORD

COL, IN

Chief of Staff