

#### **TECHNICAL INFORMATION PAPER NO. 51-075-0517**

## **POINTS OF INTEREST**

Since the activation of the MEDPROS Hearing Readiness Classification (HRC) 4B and HRC 4C logic on or about 18 February 2017, the potential for reference test discrepancies between the Defense Occupational and Environmental Health Readiness System-Hearing Conservation Data Repository (DOEHRS-HC DR) and the DOEHRS-HC desktop application became more apparent. Because of the potential for a discrepancy between the systems, it is possible for the DOEHRS-HC DR to identify a significant threshold shift (STS) when the DOEHRS-HC desktop application does not based upon recordkeeping practices (i.e., if the incorrect baseline test is being used by DOEHRS-HC). MEDPROS will recognize a Soldier as HRC 4B or HRC 4C, if the authoritative system, the DOEHRS-HC DR, identifies an STS.

## Two Primary Reasons for the Reference Test Discrepancies.

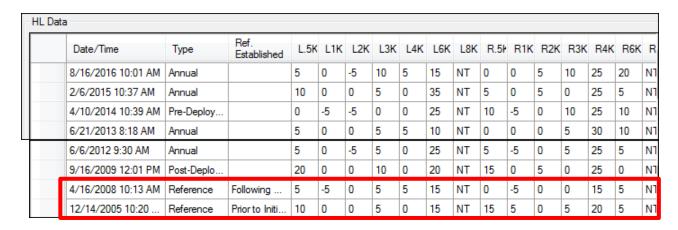
1. The DOEHRS-HC DR may contain hearing tests from the legacy hearing test system, HEARS. However, due to the differences in the data structure between DOEHRS-HC tests and HEARS tests, the HEARS tests cannot be inquired into DOEHRS-HC. If the legacy reference test thresholds were not manually entered into the DOEHRS-HC desktop application or the HEARS data was not converted into DOEHRS-HC prior to the completion of a Service member's first hearing test in DOEHRS-HC, the first test created in DOEHRS-HC was another reference test. Both DOEHRS-HC and the DOEHRS-HC DR are designed to use the oldest Reason 1, "Prior to" or Reason 2, "Following Exposure" reference test on record, unless there is a more current Reason 3, "Re-Established" or Reason 4, "Change in Service Component" reference.

A comparison of the same individual's DOEHRS-HC and DOEHRS-HC DR hearing test history follows:

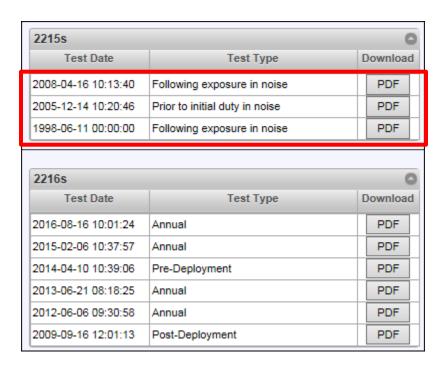
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**Source:** Desktop DOEHRS-HC Audiometry Summary Function – shows multiple Reference tests: 4/16/2008 Reference—Following exposure in noise and 12/14/2005 Reference—Prior to initial duty in noise. Based on the established reference test rules, the 12/14/2005 reference test is used by DOEHRS-HC.



**Source: DOEHRS-HC DR Audiogram Report function** – shows multiple Reference tests: 4/16/2008 Reference—Following exposure in noise, 12/14/2005 Reference—Prior to initial duty in noise, and 06/11/1998 Reference—Following exposure in noise. Based on the established reference test rules, the 06/11/1998 reference test is used by the DOEHRS-HC DR to identify an STS. That is also the test MEDPROS uses as the reference test.

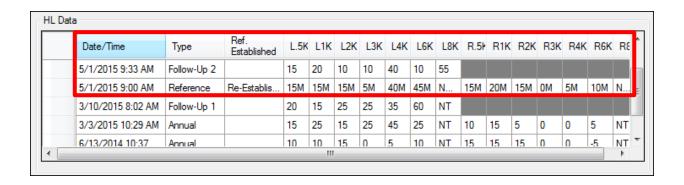


2. Manual data entry can also create discrepancies between the DOEHRS-HC desktop application and the DOEHRS-HC DR. Before data is manually entered into

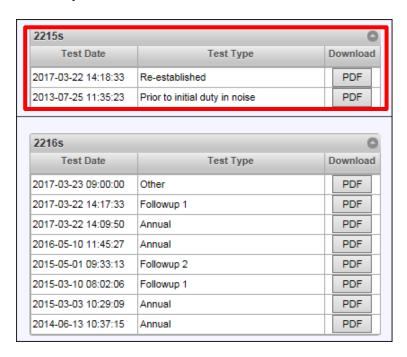
DOEHRS-HC, the Audiometry Summary in DOEHRS-HC and the Audiogram Report in the DOEHRS-HC DR must be reviewed. The Date and Time Stamp associated with the DD Form 2215 (*Reference Audiogram*, 2000) and DD Form 2216 (*Hearing Conservation Data*, 2000) can affect whether or not the records are processed or rejected from the DOEHRS-HC DR. The Time Stamp of an automated Re-Established Reference test is **always** one minute after the Time Stamp of the Follow-up 2 (F/U 2) test.

An example of a Date and Time Stamp discrepancy is below:

**Source: DOEHRS-HC Audiometry Summary function** – shows a manually entered 5/1/2015 Reference—Re-Established **BEFORE** the F/U 2 hearing test was completed. The Time Stamp of the manually entered Re-Established Reference test dated 5/1/2015 is 9:00 AM. The Time Stamp of the F/U 2 hearing test is 9:33 AM on 5/1/2015. This denotes that the F/U 2 test occurred after the Re-Established Reference test, which is not possible according to established recordkeeping practices. The DOEHRS-HC DR recognized this conflict and rejected the 5/1/2015 Re-Established Reference with the 9:00 AM Time Stamp from the processed data.



**Source: DOEHRS-HC DR Audiogram Report function** – does not contain the manually entered 5/1/2015 Reference – Re-Established test



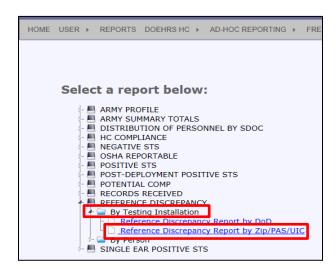
# How to Identify and Address Reference Test and MEDPROS HRC Issues.

- 1. The DOEHRS-HC DR Reference Discrepancy report is a tool that can be used to identify people whose hearing test records may need to be reviewed and administratively corrected, when appropriate, to ensure that both the DOEHRS-HC desktop application and the DOEHRS-HC DR use the same reference. A shortcoming of this report is that the service duty occupation code (SDOC) description does not contain the numeric code for the SDOC, which may make it difficult at times to distinguish between Service members and Civilians. Additionally, this report counts each ear as a separate record. Therefore, if a person had multiple hearing tests in a selected date range, they may appear on this report several times.
- 2. To generate a Reference Discrepancy Report, log into your DOEHRS-HC DR account: <a href="https://doehrswww.apgea.army.mil/doehrsdr">https://doehrswww.apgea.army.mil/doehrsdr</a>

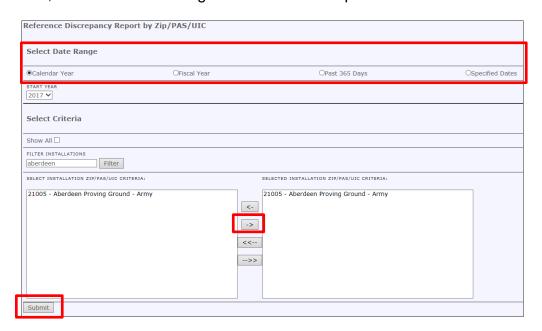
## Select REPORTS->REFERENCE DISCREPANCY

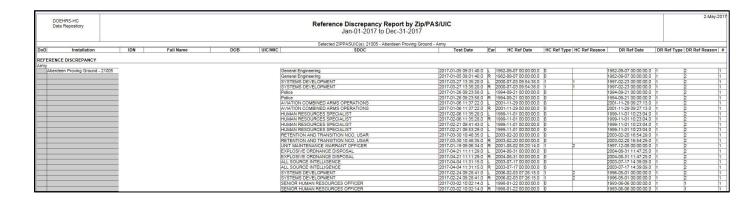


Select By Testing Installation->Reference Test Discrepancy Report by ZIP/PAS/UIC



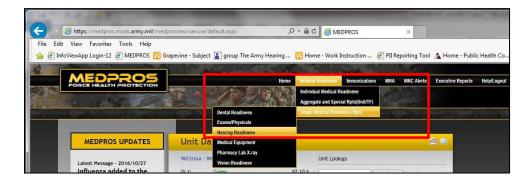
Next, select the Date Range and Installation Zip/PAS/UIC Criteria. Click Submit.



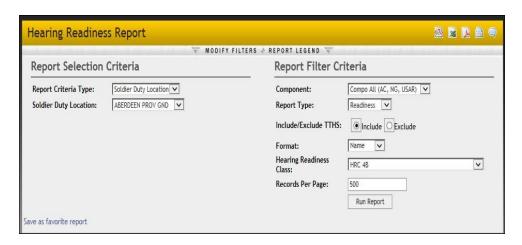


3. The DOEHRS-HC DR Reference Discrepancy report should be used in conjunction with the MEDPROS Hearing Readiness Report and a DOEHRS-HC Positive STS report. The MEDPROS Hearing Readiness Report can be generated under Medical Readiness->Single Medical Readiness Rpts->Hearing Readiness using various filters.

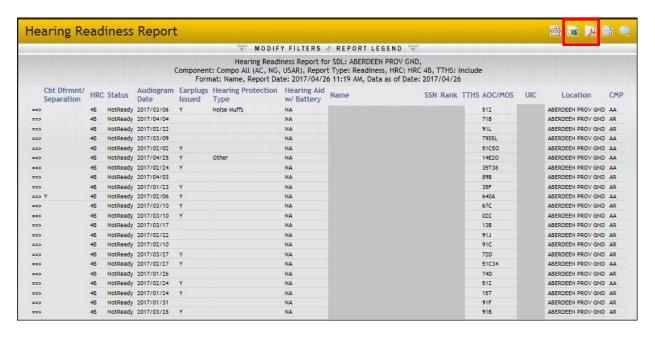
https://medpros.mods.army.mil/MEDPROSNew/



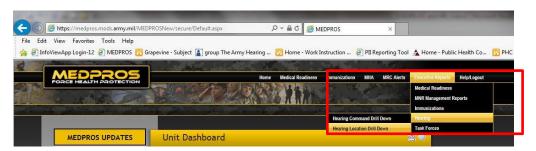
The report below was generated for HRC 4B Soldiers at Aberdeen Proving Ground.



4. The Hearing Readiness Report can be exported into Excel<sup>®</sup> or as a PDF. Exporting data into Excel allows for data sorting and filtering. [Note: Personally identifiable information (PII) is masked.]

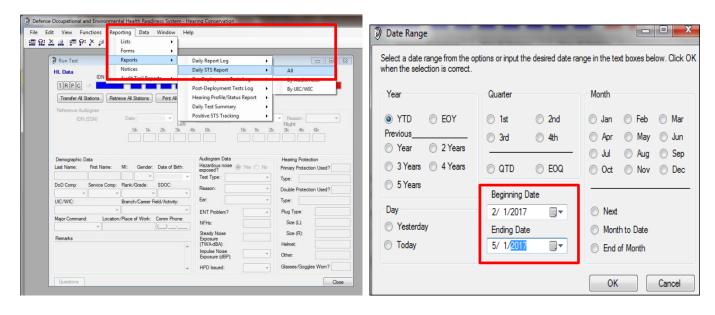


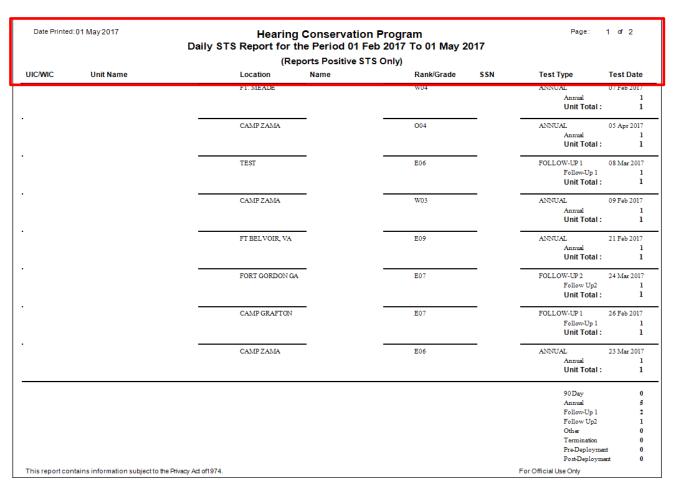
5. Hearing Readiness Reports can also be reviewed at a higher level through the MEDPROS Executive Reports function via the Hearing Command Drill Down or Hearing Location Drill Down filter. These reports aggregate Hearing Readiness data by Command or by Location and have additional drill down capabilities.



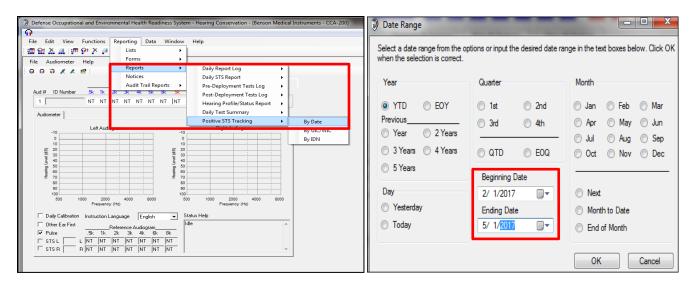
6. Either the DOEHRS-HC Daily STS Report or DOEHRS-HC Positive STS Tracking report will list the Soldiers the DOEHRS-HC desktop application identified with an STS. All personnel identified by DOEHRS-HC as having an STS must return for follow-up hearing tests. A date range filter of 90-days back from the current date is recommended to capture Soldiers within the 90-day follow-up window.

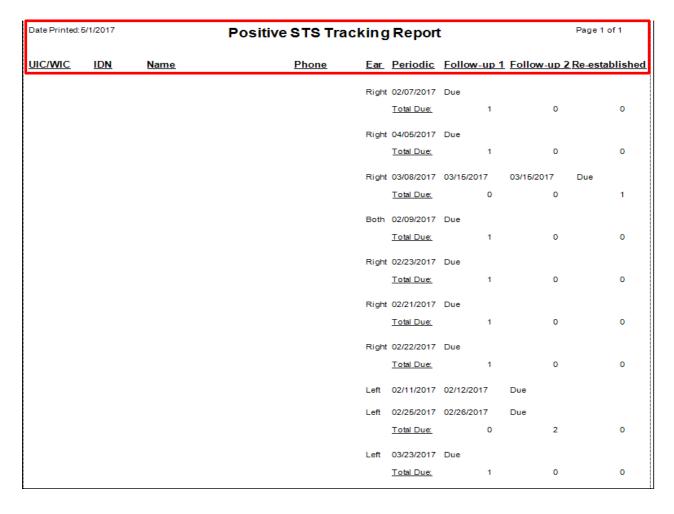
# a. Daily STS Report (PII is masked)-



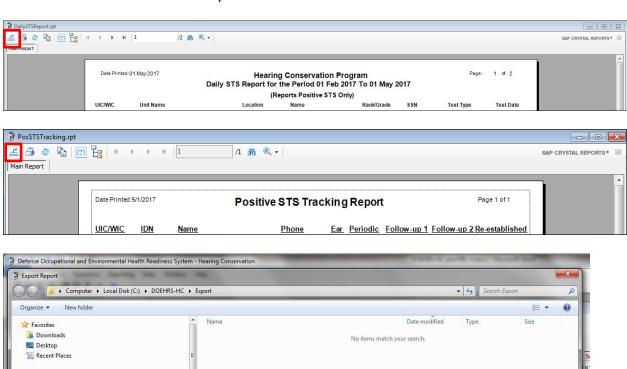


# b. Positive STS Tracking Report (PII is masked)—





c. Both DOEHRS-HC reports can be exported into multiple document formats. Excel is the recommended format to compare a DOEHRS-HC report to a DOEHRS-HC DR report.



#### **HRC 4B Actions**

File name: DailySTSReport\_02012017\_05012017\_xls

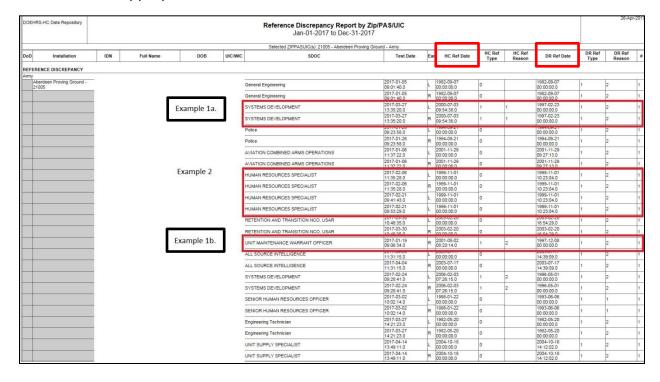
Save as type: Microsoft Excel (97-2003) (".xls)

PDF (".pdf)
Cystal Reports (".rpt)
Rich Text Format (RTF) (".rtf)

Documents
Music
Pictures
Videos

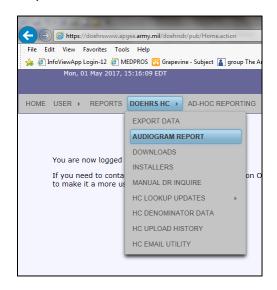
- 1. If Soldiers appear on the **Hearing Readiness Report** and on a **DOEHRS-HC STS Report** using a date range filter of 90-days back from the current date, they are HRC 4B and **must** return no later than 90-days from the date of the periodic evaluation to complete follow-up testing.
- 2. If Soldiers appear on the **Hearing Readiness Report** and the DOEHRS-HC DR **Reference Discrepancy Report**, additional evaluation is needed. Priority should be given to records with a **different** "HC Ref Date" and "DR Ref Date." See examples 1a. (HC Ref Date is 07/03/2000; DR Ref Date is 02/23/1997) and 1b. (HC Ref Date is 08/02/2001; DR Ref Date is 12/08/1997). The final records review will need to be

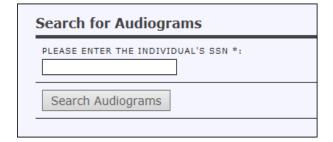
completed by the Hearing Program Manager (HPM) or Professional Supervisor to determine the appropriate course of action.



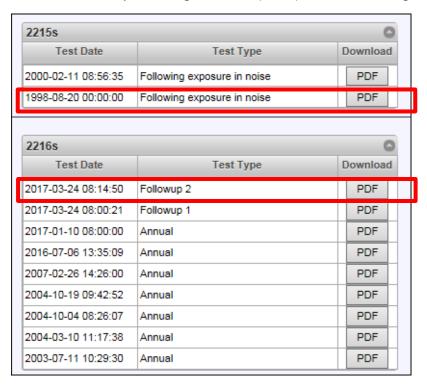
## Data Review—HRC 4B

1. HPM, Professional Supervisor, or Hearing Technician: Review the audiograms using the AUDIOGRAM REPORT in the DOEHRS-HC DR. Hearing technicians can complete this review at the discretion of the HPM or Professional Supervisor.





2. Technician: Review the demographic data (Name, Date of Birth, and so forth) recorded on the DD 2215 that the DOEHRS-HC DR is using as the baseline, and ensure the data matches the demographic data associated with the most current DOEHRS-HC DR periodic or follow-up test. If the demographic data does **not** match, contact the Army Hearing Division (AHD) for additional guidance.



3. HPM or Professional Supervisor: Review the hearing tests, and determine if a DD 2215 other than the oldest DD 2215 should be used as the Soldier's baseline. If a records review shows that a more current DD 2215 was entered incorrectly as a Reason 1 or 2 reference instead of a Reason 3, Re-Established Reference, the more current DD 2215 needs to be updated to a Reason 3, Re-Established Reference.

### Courses of Action—HRC 4B

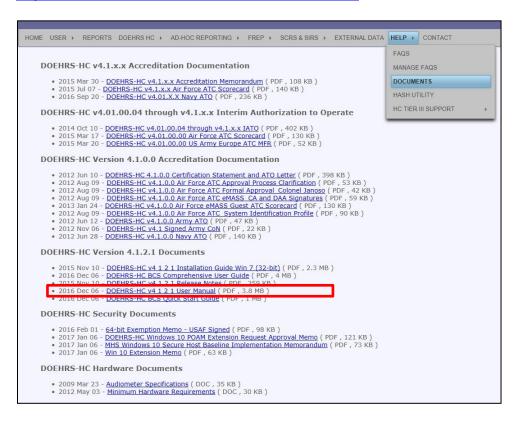
HRC 4B Course of Action 1: If the hearing test review indicates that the oldest DOEHRS-HC DR reference test thresholds are the appropriate baseline thresholds, HPMs or Professional Supervisors must notify the AHD regarding the decision to use the DOEHRS-HC DR reference thresholds. The AHD will make the updates and notify the HPMs or Professional Supervisors after the updates are complete. The AHD will manually enter the oldest DOEHRS-HC DR reference test thresholds and test date into the DOEHRS-HC desktop application, update the current test(s), and export the records to the DOEHRS-HC DR. After the updates are complete, the updated hearing tests can be inquired into local DOEHRS-HC systems and the appropriate follow-up tests can be completed. The AHD will need the Soldier's name and social security number (SSN) provided to the AHD by phone, encrypted email, or by using the U.S.

Army Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center (AMRDEC) SAFE [Safe Access File Exchange] site: <a href="https://safe.amrdec.army.mil/safe/">https://safe.amrdec.army.mil/safe/</a>.

HRC 4B Course of Action 2: If the hearing test review indicates that a more current reference test is the appropriate reference test, the HPM should edit the existing DOEHRS-HC hearing test to a Reason 3, Re-Established Reference test, update the current test(s) by highlighting the current test and selecting Edit and then Save, and then perform follow-up tests, if required. All records must be exported to the DOEHRS-HC DR.

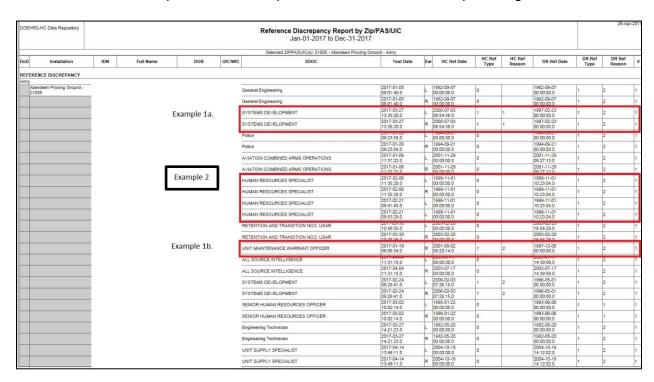
If a record that requires an update was inquired into a specific DOEHRS-HC desktop computer, the test cannot be edited. In this case, please contact the AHD and the AHD will update the record. The Soldier's name, SSN, and the date of the test requiring the update will need to be provided. This information can be provided to the AHD by phone, encrypted email, or by using the AMRDEC SAFE site: <a href="https://safe.amrdec.army.mil/safe/">https://safe.amrdec.army.mil/safe/</a>.

\*For assistance with the DOEHRS-HC Audiogram Edit function, please review section 4.9 of the "User Manual for DOEHRS-HC Release v4.1.2.1." The user manual is available in the DOEHRS-HC DR under HELP->DOCUMENTS and on MilBook at: <a href="https://www.milsuite.mil/book/docs/DOC-370142">https://www.milsuite.mil/book/docs/DOC-370142</a> or <a href="https://www.milsuite.mil/book/docs/DOC-370143">https://www.milsuite.mil/book/docs/DOC-370143</a>.



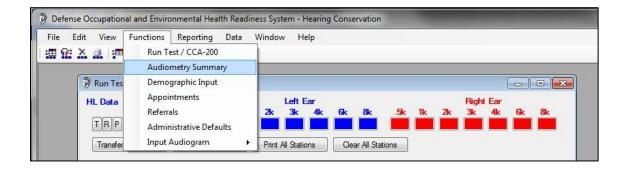
1. HPM or Professional Supervisor: Review the DOEHRS-HC DR Reference Discrepancy Report, and identify records with the **same** "HC Ref Date" and "DR Ref Date." See example 2 below. The Reference Discrepancy report identifies records with the same Date Stamp, but with a different Time Stamp as a "discrepancy." This does not mean there is an actual discrepancy between the reference test thresholds being used for STS comparisons by the DOEHRS-HC DR and DOEHRS-HC desktop application. This occurs most frequently when a "Type 0" baseline was manually entered into the DOEHRS-HC application. The time stamp associated with "Type 0" baselines is 00:00:00.0. Course of Actions 1 or 2 may also apply to these tests, but a third Course of Action may be appropriate.

HRC 4B Course of Action 3: No administrative update is required if both the DOEHRS-HC desktop application and the DOEHRS-HC DR are using the **same** reference test thresholds and test date. These individuals will be identified on a DOEHRS-HC STS report and are required to return for follow-up testing.



### Data Review—HRC 4C

1. HPM, Professional Supervisor, or Hearing Technician: Review the HRC 4C MEDPROS Hearing Readiness Report, inquire the Soldiers' records into the DOEHRS-HC desktop application, and compare the audiograms in DOEHRS-HC using the Audiometry Summary function to the audiograms in the DOEHRS-HC DR using the Audiogram Report function. Hearing technicians can complete this review at the discretion of the HPM or Professional Supervisor.



## Courses of Action—HRC 4C

HRC 4C Course of Action 1: If a records review indicates that both the DOEHRS-HC desktop application and the DOEHRS-HC DR are using the same reference test thresholds and test date, the hearing technician must complete a periodic test and any subsequent, required follow-up testing. The records must be exported to the DOEHRS-HC DR.

HRC 4C Course of Action 2: If a records review indicates that the DOEHRS-HC desktop application and the DOEHRS-HC DR are using different reference tests, the HPM or Professional Supervisor must evaluate the record and decide if a more current reference in the DOEHRS-HC desktop application is the appropriate DD 2215 to use. If the decision is made to use a more current reference, edit the more current DOEHRS-HC DD 2215 to a Reason 3, Re-Established Reference test, update the current periodic test(s) by highlighting the current test and selecting Edit and then Save, and export the records to the DOEHRS-HC DR.

If a record that requires an update was inquired into the DOEHRS-HC desktop application, the test cannot be edited. In this case, please contact the AHD, and the AHD will update the record. The AHD will notify the HPM or Professional Supervisor after the updates are complete. After the updates are complete, the updated hearing tests can be inquired into local DOEHRS-HC systems. The AHD will need the Soldier's name, SSN, and the date of the test requiring the update. This information can be provided to the AHD by phone, encrypted email, or by using the AMRDEC SAFE site: <a href="https://safe.amrdec.army.mil/safe/">https://safe.amrdec.army.mil/safe/</a>.

HRC 4C Course of Action 3: If a records review indicates that the DOEHRS-HC desktop application and the DOEHRS-HC DR are using different reference test thresholds and the reference thresholds from the oldest DOEHRS-HC DR reference test are the appropriate baseline thresholds, HPMs or Professional Supervisors must notify the AHD regarding the decision to use the DOEHRS-HC DR reference thresholds. The AHD will make the updates and notify the HPMs or Professional Supervisors after the updates are complete. The AHD will manually enter the oldest DOEHRS-HC DR reference test thresholds and test date into the DOEHRS-HC desktop application, update the current periodic test(s), and export the records to the DOEHRS-HC DR. After the updates are complete, the updated hearing tests can be inquired into local

DOEHRS-HC systems and the appropriate periodic test can be completed. The AHD will need the Soldier's name and SSN. This information can be provided to the AHD by phone, encrypted email, or by using the AMRDEC SAFE site: <a href="https://safe.amrdec.army.mil/safe/">https://safe.amrdec.army.mil/safe/</a>.

## **REFERENCE**

HEARING CLASSIFICATION	INFORMATION SUMMARY
Hearing Readiness Class 1	Soldier's unaided hearing is within H-1 standards for both ears (IAW AR 40-501). Annual audiogram (DD Form 2216 or DD Form 2215) within 12 months.
Hearing Readiness Class 2	Soldier has DD Form 2215 or 2216 within 12 months. Soldier's unaided hearing is within H-2 or H-3 standards (IAW AR 40-501). H-2 and H-3 Soldiers must have a documented permanent hearing profile entered in e-Profile (DA Form 3349) and MEDPROS Web Data Entry (MWDE). H-2 Soldiers must have a complete audiological evaluation on record. H-3 Soldiers must have a complete audiological evaluation and Speech Recognition In Noise Test (SPRINT) on record. H-3 Soldiers must have completed a MAR2. If required, Soldier has prescribed hearing aid(s) and 6 month supply of batteries on hand.
Hearing Readiness Class 3	<ul> <li>Soldier has DD Form 2215 or 2216 within 12 months and unaided hearing is within H-2 or H-3 standards.</li> <li>HRC 3A – Complete audiological evaluation has not been completed</li> <li>HRC 3B – e-Profile (DA Form 3349) and MWDE not complete</li> <li>HRC 3C – MAR2 not complete</li> <li>HRC 3D – Does not meet standards with hearing aid</li> <li>HRC 3E – Soldier meets HRC 2 standards, but does not have required hearing aid(s) and 6 month supply of batteries on hand</li> </ul>
Hearing Readiness Class 4	Soldier has not received a DOEHRS-HC audiogram within 12 months, or received DOEHRS-HC audiogram but requires a follow-up test.  HRC 4A – Soldier's most recent audiogram is more than 12 months old  HRC 4B – Audiogram within 12 months, however, STS identified and follow-up hearing test is required  HRC 4C – Soldier demonstrated a STS and did not complete follow-up testing within 90 days of the periodic hearing test

Source: http://www.milsuite.mil/book/docs/DOC-352599