

Subject: MAM 04-001-013, Correct Fit and Wear Standards for the Advanced Combat Helmet (ACH).

The following Maintenance Advisory Message has been released to the field.

:UNCLAS

SUBJECT: MAINTENANCE ADVISORY MESSAGE (MAM), CONTROL NO. MAM 04-001-013, CORRECT WEAR STANDARDS AND FITTING PROCEDURES FOR THE ADVANCED COMBAT HELMET (ACH).

1. DISTRIBUTION: THIS IS A "MAINTENANCE ADVISORY MESSAGE".

REQUEST MACOM COMMANDERS RETRANSMIT THIS MESSAGE TO ALL SUBORDINATE COMMANDS/ACTIVITIES AND ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THIS MESSAGE WITHIN 5 WORKING DAYS TO THE PM-CLOTHING AND INDIVIDUAL EQUIPMENT (PM-CIE) POCS PER PARAGRAPH 5A AND 5B BELOW.

2. ISSUE:

A. FEEDBACK FROM OIF/OEF INDICATES SOLDIERS MAY NOT BE PROPERLY WEARING THE ACH. THIS MESSAGE IS PROVIDED TO REMIND COMMANDERS OF THE CORRECT FIT AND WEAR STANDARDS OF THE HELMET AND TO PROVIDE INSTRUCTIONS FOR CORRECTIVE ACTIONS ON IMPROPERLY WORN HELMETS.

B. THE ACH PROVIDES THE USER GREATER SITUATIONAL AWARENESS, COMFORT AND FIT THAN THE STANDARD PASGT (KEVLAR) HELMET. IT IS ALSO COMPATIBLE WITH THE INTERCEPTOR BODY ARMOR (IBA), OFFERING THE SOLDIER IMPROVED TARGET ACQUISITION IN ALL RIFLE AND CARBINE FIRING POSITIONS, ESPECIALLY THE PRONE POSITION. HOWEVER, IN CASES WHERE THE ACH IS IMPROPERLY FITTED AND WORN TOO HIGH ON THE HEAD, THE SOLDIER MAY BE EXPOSED TO INCREASED RISK FROM FRAGMENTATION. IMPROPER WEAR MAY BE CAUSED BY MISUNDERSTANDING THE WEAR STANDARDS, POOR PAD PLACEMENT INSIDE THE HELMET, IMPROPER FIT, THE INCORRECT CROWN PAD INSIDE THE HELMET, OR A COMBINATION OF THE ABOVE.

3. USER ACTIONS:

A. COMMANDERS SHOULD REVIEW THE PROPER FIT PROCEDURES AND WEAR STANDARDS AS OUTLINED IN THE TECHNICAL MANUAL ISSUED WITH EACH HELMET, TM 10-8470-204-10, AND INSPECT THEIR SOLDIERS FOR PROPER WEAR AND FIT. SIZING AND FITTING AS OUTLINED IN THE TM MUST BE FOLLOWED TO INCLUDE MEASURING THE SOLDIER'S HEAD WITH A CALIPERS OR MEASURING TAPE TO ESTABLISH THE CORRECT SHELL SIZE. THE TM CAN BE DOWNLOADED AS A PDF FILE FROM <https://www.logsa.army.mil/etms/data/A/080445.pdf>. A VIDEO OF THE PROPER FITTING PROCEDURES, AND THE TM PDF FILE, WILL BE AVAILABLE ON AKO AND ON THE PEO-SOLDIER WEBSITE, <https://peosoldier.army.mil>, STARTING NOVEMBER 1, 2004.

B. SOLDIERS SHOULD BE ADVISED THAT THE CORRECT SIZE OF THE ACH MIGHT NOT BE THE SAME SIZE AS THEIR PREVIOUSLY ISSUED PASGT HELMET. GENERALLY, THE ACH SHOULD FIT SO THAT THE FRONT RIM IS JUST ABOVE THE EYEBROWS AND THAT THE EDGE OF THE RIM IS JUST IN VIEW OF THE WEARER WHEN HE LOOKS UPWARD BY ONLY MOVING HIS EYES. THE WEARER SHOULD FEEL THE CROWN PAD TOUCH THE TOP OF HIS HEAD. FIT CAN BE ADJUSTED BY ADJUSTING THE PAD POSITIONS INSIDE THE HELMET, TIGHTENING THE RETENTION STRAPS, REPLACING THE LARGER SIZE 8 CROWN PAD (THE PAD IN THE TOP OF THE HELMET) WITH THE THINNER SIZE 6 CROWN PAD, EXCHANGING THE ENTIRE NUMBER 8 PAD SET FOR THE THINNER NUMBER 6 PAD SET, OR EXCHANGING THE HELMET SHELL FOR A LARGER SIZE.

C. ALL HELMETS, TO INCLUDE M8, L8, AND XL8 HELMETS, SHOULD BE FITTED WITH THE THINNER SIZE 6 CROWN PAD IN THE TOP OF THE HELMET. THE THINNER CROWN PAD WILL HELP LOWER THE HELMET ON THE SOLDIER'S HEAD.

D. SOLDIERS MAY ALSO FIND THAT THE HELMET FEELS LIKE IT FITS MORE LOOSELY AFTER A PERIOD OF WEAR. THIS MAY BE A RESULT OF PAD COMPRESSION ASSOCIATED WITH TEMPERATURE CHANGE, JAW MUSCLE TENSION, OR HARDWARE AND RETENTION STRAPS SLIPPING. THE STRAPS AND HARDWARE SHOULD BE ADJUSTED IAW THE TM AND THE ELASTIC BAND SHOULD BE USED OR THE LOOSE ENDS OF THE STRAPS TAPED IN PLACE TO PREVENT FURTHER SLIP. IF ANY OF THE COMPONENTS ARE BROKEN OR WORN OUT, THEY MAY BE REPLACED WITH THE ITEMS AND NSNS LISTED PARAGRAPH 3E BELOW.

E. UNITS MAY REQUISITION COMPONENTS OF THE ACH, INCLUDING REPLACEMENT PAD SETS AND INDIVIDUAL SIZE 6 CROWN PADS, BY CONTACTING DEFENSE SUPPLY

CENTER PHILADELPHIA (S9T)([HTTP://CT.DSCP.DLA.MIL/](http://CT.DSCP.DLA.MIL/)) FOR REQUISITION. CALIPERS AND MEASURING TAPES SHOULD BE ORDERED THROUGH THE STANDARD FEDLOG PROCEDURES. SELECTED NOMENCLATURES AND NSNS FOLLOW: A COMPLETE LISTING OF THE NSNS CAN BE FOUND IN WORK PACKAGE 22 OF THE TM (SEE PARAGRAPH 3A).

ITEM	NSN
PAD SET, SUSPENSION, SIZE 6	8470-01-476-5643
PAD SET, SUSPENSION, SIZE 8	8470-01-476-5648
PAD, HELMET, ADVANCED (SIZE 6 CROWN PAD)	8470-01-506-6626
STRAP, CHIN, RETENTION (M/L)	8470-01-476-2605
MOUNTING SCREW SET	8470-01-476-5631
CALIPER	5210-01-434-9493
MEASURING TAPE	8315-00-782-3520
HELMET PARTS KIT*	8470-01-506-6721

\*THE HELMET PARTS KIT INCLUDES VARIOUS PADS AND RETENTION SYSTEMS TO SUPPORT PARTS REPLACEMENTS FOR MULTIPLE HELMETS.

F. DEPLOYED UNITS MAY COORDINATE TO EXCHANGE IMPROPERLY SIZED ACHS FOR THE CORRECT HELMET, TO INCLUDE EXTRA LARGE ACH HELMETS, BY CONTACTING THE PEO SOLDIER RAPID FIELDING INITIATIVE (RFI) TEAM IN KUWAIT BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1, 2004.

4. SUPPLY STATUS: ACH COMPONENTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR REQUISITION AS PER PARAGRAPHS 3E AND 3F.

5. POCS:

A. PM-CLOTHING AND INDIVIDUAL EQUIPMENT (PM-CIE) APM FOR HELMETS: MR. GEORGE SCHULTHEISS, DSN 256-5444, COMM: (508) 233-5444, E-MAIL: GEORGE.SCHULTHEISS@US.ARMY.MIL.

B. PM-CLOTHING AND INDIVIDUAL EQUIPMENT (PM-CIE) ENGINEER: MR. SCOTT BENNET, DSN 256-5432, COMM: (508) 233-5432, E-MAIL: SCOTT.BENNET@US.ARMY.MIL.

C. PEO SOLDIER RFI TEAM (KUWAIT OPERATIONS): LTC BROWN, DSN 94-318-438-5964.