



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTER, USA MEDICAL DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY  
4430 MISSOURI AVENUE  
FORT LEONARD WOOD, MISSOURI 65473-9095

MCXP-PSC-OP

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Contact Lenses in the Military

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to acknowledge limitations of contact lens wear in the military.
2. Per DA PAM 40-506 dated 15 July 2009. Chapter 5-4,h. Ch. 6-2.a(2) Contact lenses are not considered protective devices and must be covered by primary protectors meeting ANSI Z87.1 standards. Contact lenses generally should not be worn under respirators or in areas of potential hazard from chemical splash or fumes. Contact lenses will not be worn during basic training, field exercises, gas chamber exercises, deployments, combat or any atmosphere that is not hygienic or contrary to corneal tissue health. The only exception to this prohibition is where the Office of The Surgeon General has approved an exception to meet mission requirements or a waiver has been granted through the combatant commander's surgeon's office. Personnel who wear contact lenses for medical reasons are not permitted to be in a prohibited environment (basic training, field exercises, gas chamber exercises, deployments or combat) with or without the contact lenses. Individuals participating in research studies with protocols, duties, or evaluation programs approved by the Office of The Surgeon General are exempt from these restrictions. Theater Commanders have the authority to prohibit wear of contact lenses in the theater, an action implemented in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.
3. Per AR 670-1 dated 26 Jan 2021, Chapter 3-10, b, Restrictions on contact lenses. Tinted or colored contact lenses are not authorized for wear with the uniform. The only exception is for opaque lenses that are prescribed medically for eye injuries. Clear lenses that have designs on them that change the contour of the iris are not authorized for wear with the uniform. Contact lenses may be restricted by the commander for safety or mission requirements.
4. In summary. I understand the above limitations and understand that failure to follow above regulations is punishable under Article 92 of the UCMJ for failure to follow a regulation and for intentional or negligent act.

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RANK

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PRINTED NAME

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