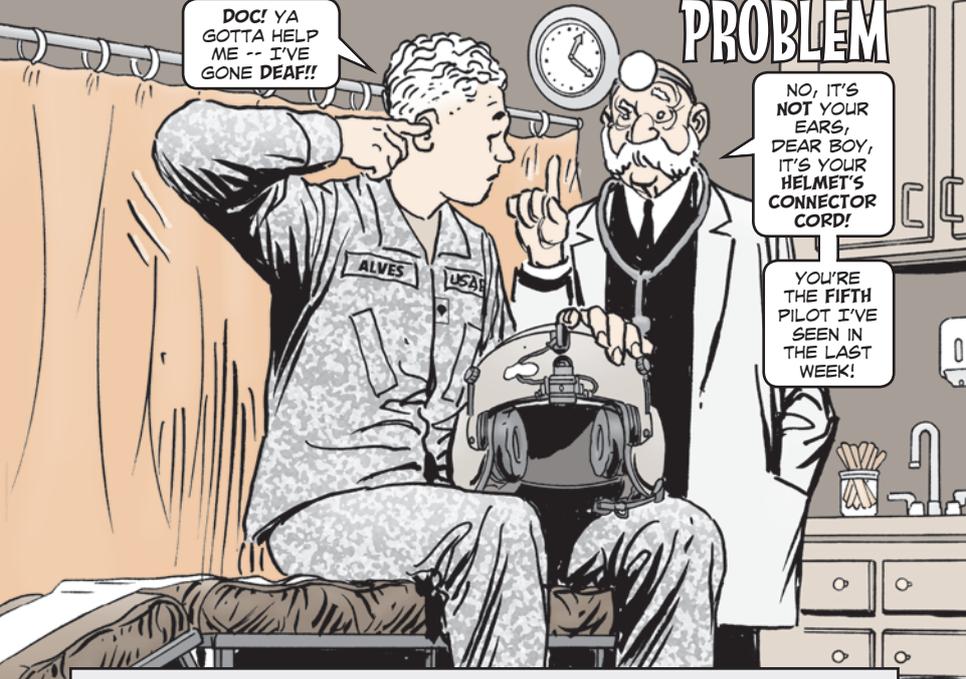


REVISIT COMMUNICATION CORD PROBLEM



Dear Sergeant Blade,

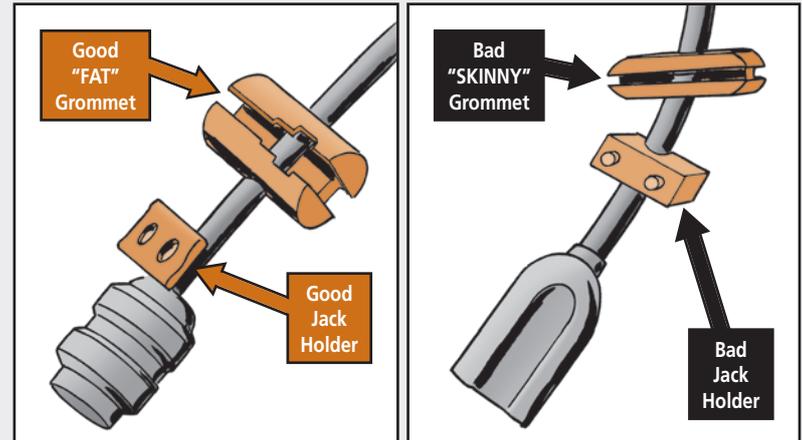
The information we gave you on Page 37 of PS 700 (Mar) was not quite correct concerning the communication earplugs (CEPs) and ordering the right integrated communication cords for the aircrew integrated helmet system (AIHS). The article didn't identify a new and separate problem that appeared with aftermarket communication cords.

So the question is, "what's the deal with the cords?" The information we gave you in the article dates back to 2007 and applies to the initial lot of communications cords provided by Gentex that had the CEP wiring branch integrated into the helmet's communication cord. Unfortunately, this first lot of cords had a manufacturer defect and some of them found their way into the supply system. There was no effective way to recall these cords, so Gentex offered a voluntary one-for-one replacement for any defective cords.

That being the case, there is a chance some units might still run across one of the 2007 cords, but by now they should have been flushed from the supply system.

Since then, there have been no product quality deficiency reports (PQDR) submitted against Gentex (CAGE 97427) for this cord.

We forgot to tell you that there was a new problem with the communication cord that developed after the first lot. In 2008, DLA stopped purchasing the communication cords directly from Gentex and began to purchase cords directly from several aftermarket manufacturers whose CAGE codes are: 38LK9, 305Q5, and 7Z016. Units started submitting PQDRs against the aftermarket manufacturers in May of 2010. The problems with these aftermarket communications cords involve problems with loose and sloppy over-braiding, cold solder joints, and the failure to use parts called out on the drawing that can be seen in the picture below.



DLA was able to freeze internal stocks of these aftermarket communications cords so no more bad ones would hit the field. Future procurement will be from Gentex.

If your readers have any bad cords marked with cage code 38LK9, 305Q5, and 7Z016 in their ALSE shop, they should not send them back to Gentex. To get credit for any bad cords, they must submit a PQDR like it says in AR 702-7-1, *Reporting of Product Quality Deficiencies Within the U.S. Army*.

To order the correct electrical branched cord assembly for their helmets, they should use NSN 5995-01-519-9234 (P/N 1680-ALSE-410-1).

If a unit has problems with their helmet communication cord signal not reaching the CEP, they should follow the diagnostic procedures in the Air Warrior IETM, TM 1-1680-377-13&P.

Jim Hauser
PM Air Warrior

THANKS FOR BOTH THE HEADS UP AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION, MR. HAUSER. SUPPLY SYSTEM PROBLEMS AND MANUFACTURER PROBLEMS ARE NOT NEW.

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