

EAR Customized Hearing Protection Highlights Role of Electronic Protection in Shooting Situational Awareness

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EAR Customized Hearing Protection has released guidance on why situational awareness has become a central consideration for shooters and hunters selecting hearing protection, as advances in electronic technology allow users to maintain contact with their surroundings while addressing hazardous firearm noise.

For decades, those who shoot or hunt faced a difficult trade-off. Passive protection methods, such as foam earplugs and standard muffs, reduce sound across the board. While effective at lowering loud impulse noise from firearms, these designs also muffle quieter sounds, making it harder to hear range commands, communicate with others, or notice activity nearby. In a shooting environment, awareness of surroundings is often tied directly to safety procedures, making this limitation a meaningful concern.

Electronic hearing protection approaches the problem differently. Rather than reducing all sound equally, many electronic designs can amplify quieter environmental sounds while limiting louder ones, helping users

stay aware of conversations and commands between shots. Capabilities vary by device, and the company notes that performance depends on the specific product, its settings, and how it is used.

To illustrate how these features translate into practical use, the company points to the SHOTHUNT STANDARD, a universal-fit digital shooting hearing protection system. Unlike custom-molded products, the SHOTHUNT STANDARD is designed to fit a broad range of users without individual molding. Its verified features combine situational awareness with firearm noise protection, supporting shooters and hunters who need to hear their environment while reducing exposure to damaging impulse sound. The company emphasizes that these capabilities apply to this product specifically and should not be assumed for other devices.

"The shooting community has embraced digital hearing protection because it addresses a challenge that existed for generations," said Garry Gordon, president of EAR Customized Hearing Protection. "Shooters need to communicate with others, hear range safety commands, and stay aware of what is happening around them. Electronic technology helps deliver that awareness while reducing the impulse noise that can lead to permanent hearing damage."

The company stresses that situational awareness features do not, on their own, guarantee safety. Proper fit, correct use, and attention to the specific shooting environment remain essential. No single device provides adequate protection in every setting, and electronic protection does not eliminate the risk of hearing damage. Users are encouraged to match their equipment to their activity and to follow established range safety practices.

"Selecting hearing protection is not simply about a single number or feature," Gordon added. "Fit matters, consistent use matters, and the environment matters. A product that works well at an outdoor range may not be the right choice for an indoor facility or a hunting setting. Understanding those differences helps users make informed decisions."

The guidance reflects ongoing interest from the shooting and hunting community in equipment that balances protection with awareness of surrounding activity.

EAR Inc. provides hearing protection worldwide, offering custom-fit and generic earplugs for industrial, shooting, law enforcement, and leisure use. The company focuses on solutions that help users protect their hearing across a range of professional and recreational environments.

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EAR Customized Hearing Protection

EAR Inc. provides high-quality hearing protection worldwide, offering custom-fit and generic earplugs for industrial, shooting, law enforcement, and leisure use. Trusted by professionals, EAR delivers comfort, performance, and proven hearing protection.

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