

RACAL ACOUSTICS

RA108 Slimgard II brochure



National Defence Canada



In-The-Ear Headsets



Lightweight Headsets



Medium/High Noise Headsets



PTT Systems



Handsets & Telephones

Personal Communication & Protection Equipment Specialists



RA108 Slimgard II

The Racal Acoustics name is synonymous with high performance communication headsets, designed, manufactured and battle-proven to be suitable for the harshest of military environments. Originally designed for the US Army VIS programme, the RA108 Slimgard II is one such solution to the communication and hearing protection needs of mechanised infantry.

Key to the RA108's success in such noisy vehicle environments is Racal Acoustics' core active noise reduction (ANR) technology, which is uniquely implemented in module form

Protection & Safety

Tracked APC's such as the M113 and Bradley AIFV present particular communication and hearing protection difficulties due to the inherent high intensity, low frequency nature of the noise produced by the drive train. Passive noise reduction is afforded by the mass and volume of the headset which is most effective at higher frequencies. ANR modules in each earshell give supplementary attenuation at lower frequencies. This combination of passive and active attenuation ensures that the requirements of the noise legislation can be met, with a typical noise reduction below 85 dB(A).

Intelligibility in High Noise

Reducing unwanted ambient noise coupled with a reduction of acoustic noise entering the intercom system itself leads to high speech intelligibility, vital for infantry commanders who need to brief their team and ensure mission success.

Mobility

The combination of a sprung neckband and overhelmet retention straps mean that the headset remains stable on the head when moving over rough terrain. This is important for uninterrupted protection and communication. The headset may then be 'donned and doffed' without removing the ballistic helmet, an essential requirement when dismounting from a vehicle under fire.

Equipment Compatibility

The close fitting nature of the original US Army PASGT helmet sets a difficult noise reduction challenge, one that the RA108 overcomes as a result of the slimline ANR modules employed. It is compatible with other PASGT-style helmets found across the world, as well as a wide variety of soldier weapons and equipment.

Greater Wearer Comfort

Changing mission profiles have mandated improvements in wearer comfort to help reduce fatigue. Recently introduced patented cushion technology has had a marked effect and is testament to Racal Acoustics seeking continual improvements.

Maintaining Situational Awareness

There are times when face-to-face communication needs to take place, for example, a vehicle commander wishing to talk to dismounted infantry who are disconnected from the intercom but still wearing their headset.

This is made possible by battery powered electronic talk-through using microphones mounted on the outside of each earshell. Protection against too much noise entering the headset is achieved by compression of the speech (plus unwanted noise) below a safe threshold, typically 85 dB(A).

System Compatibility

Racal Acoustics knowledge extends to all the major vehicle intercom systems and variants currently exist that are compatible with:

- RoVIS (AN/VIC-3),
- SOTAS M1 & M2
- MESHNET family (Bowman, Iris)
- AN/VIC-1

However, this is not an exhaustive list and new variants are being added to the portfolio all the time.

Qualifications

The RA108 has been subject to a full range of applicable MIL-810 environmental and MIL-461 EMC performance tests and is fully qualified in the US & Canada. Soldiers can be confident that their headsets can be relied upon when put to the absolute test.



an unrivalled
record of develop-
ing and supplying
high performance
communication
headsets

