RA108 Slimgard II ANR High-Noise Headset

RA108 Slimgard II headset delivers exceptional noise reduction with close-fitting PASGT-style ballistic helmets

We originally designed our RA108 Slimgard II headset to meet the communication and hearing-protection needs of US mechanised infantry operating in tracked vehicles, wearing close-fitting PASGT-style ballistic helmets. We subsequently developed a variant for the Canadian Iris system. RA108 units are now fielded worldwide – including Canada, Australia, Austria, and Spain – for infantry commander and passenger applications, in both tracked and wheeled APCs.

Tracked APCs such as the M113 and Bradley AIFV present significant communication and hearing-protection difficulties due to high-intensity, low-frequency noise from the drive train. The RA108 headset attenuates higher-frequency ambient noise through passive noise reduction (PNR), using the mass and volume of the headset. For lower frequencies, it relies on supplementary attenuation from Racal Acoustics’ proprietary active noise reduction (ANR) technology, uniquely implemented in low-profile modules for helmet compatibility.

Features and Benefits

• **Protection and Safety**
  Typical noise reduction below 85 dB(A) through PNR and ANR technologies.

• **Communications Intelligibility**
  High speech intelligibility for mission success by reducing unwanted ambient noise, as well as acoustic noise entering the intercom system itself.

• **Mobility**
  Headset stability on the head when moving over rough terrain, through a combination of a sprung neckband and over-helmet retention straps.

  The headset may then be "donned and doffed" without removing the ballistic helmet, essential when dismounting from a vehicle under fire.

• **Equipment Compatibility**
  Compatible with PASGT-style helmets across the world, as well as a wide variety of weapons and equipment.

  The close-fitting US Army PASGT helmet sets a difficult noise-reduction challenge, one that the RA108 headset overcomes thanks to its low-profile ANR modules.

• **Improved Comfort**
  Patented Racal Acoustics cushion technology for enhanced comfort and reduced fatigue.

  We are continually making improvements to meet the requirements of changing mission profiles and mandated improvements in wearer comfort.

• **Maintaining Situational Awareness**
  Battery-powered talk-through using microphones mounted on the outside of each earshell for face-to-face communication.

  This allows a vehicle commander to talk to dismounted infantry who are disconnected from the intercom but still wearing their headsets. Protection against too much noise entering the headset is achieved by compressing speech and unwanted noise below a safe threshold, typically 85 dB(A).
Qualification Testing

The RA108 headset has been subject to a full range of applicable MIL-STD-810 environmental and MIL-STD-461 EMC performance tests and is fully qualified in the US and Canada.

Intercom Connectivity

Versions of the RA108 headset are available for many intercom systems, including:

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

This is not an exhaustive list, and other variants are available.