
3M EARPLUGS LAWSUITS TIMELINE



2008

Global manufacturing giant 3M acquires Aero Technologies and continues making and supplying the 3M Combat Arms earplugs to the U.S. Military.

2015

The U.S. Military terminates its contract with 3M for the supply of Combat Arms earplugs in response to numerous complaints about the ineffectiveness of the earplugs.

2016

Qui Tam (whistleblower) lawsuit is filed against 3M under the False Claims Act. The suit alleges that 3M knew that its Combat Arms earplugs were defective and failed to disclose this to the U.S. Military.

2018

U.S. Department of Justice announces that 3M has agreed to pay \$9.1 million to the U.S. Military to settle the False Claims Act whistleblower lawsuit.

JAN 2019

First personal injury lawsuits get filed against 3M by military service members claiming that they suffered hearing damage as a result of wearing the defective Combat Arms earplugs during their time in the military.

MAR 2019

The hundreds of individual earplug lawsuits filed against 3M in federal courts across the country are consolidated into a new "class action MDL" in the Northern District of Florida.

JULY 2020

Judge in the Combat Arms MDL rejects effort by 3M to assert tort immunity defense as government contractor.

OCT 2020

the first round of "bellwether" test trials in the 3M Combat Arms earplugs class action have been scheduled for April 2021. The results of these jury trials will likely determine the terms of global settlement and how much compensation individual plaintiffs will eventually get.

APRIL 2021

On April 5, 2021, the first group of "bellwether trials" is set to begin. The group includes 25 earplug cases that were carefully selected by the court. The outcomes of these initial jury trials will determine what happens in this litigation moving forward.