



**DA PAM 40-506, The Army Vision  
Conservation and Readiness Program:**

***“Contact lenses will not be worn during  
basic training, field exercises, gas chamber  
exercises, deployments, or combat.”***

***Field deployment = Unfriendly environment***

- Poor Hygiene– Difficult to keep hands clean
- Dust, dirt, mud
- Extended hours of continuous operations
- Contact lens overwear

***The Risks:***

- Red, painful, injured eye
- Infection, corneal ulcer,  
permanent vision loss



***The Cost:***

- Dollars, lost time,  
decreased mission readiness



U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion  
and Preventive Medicine

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