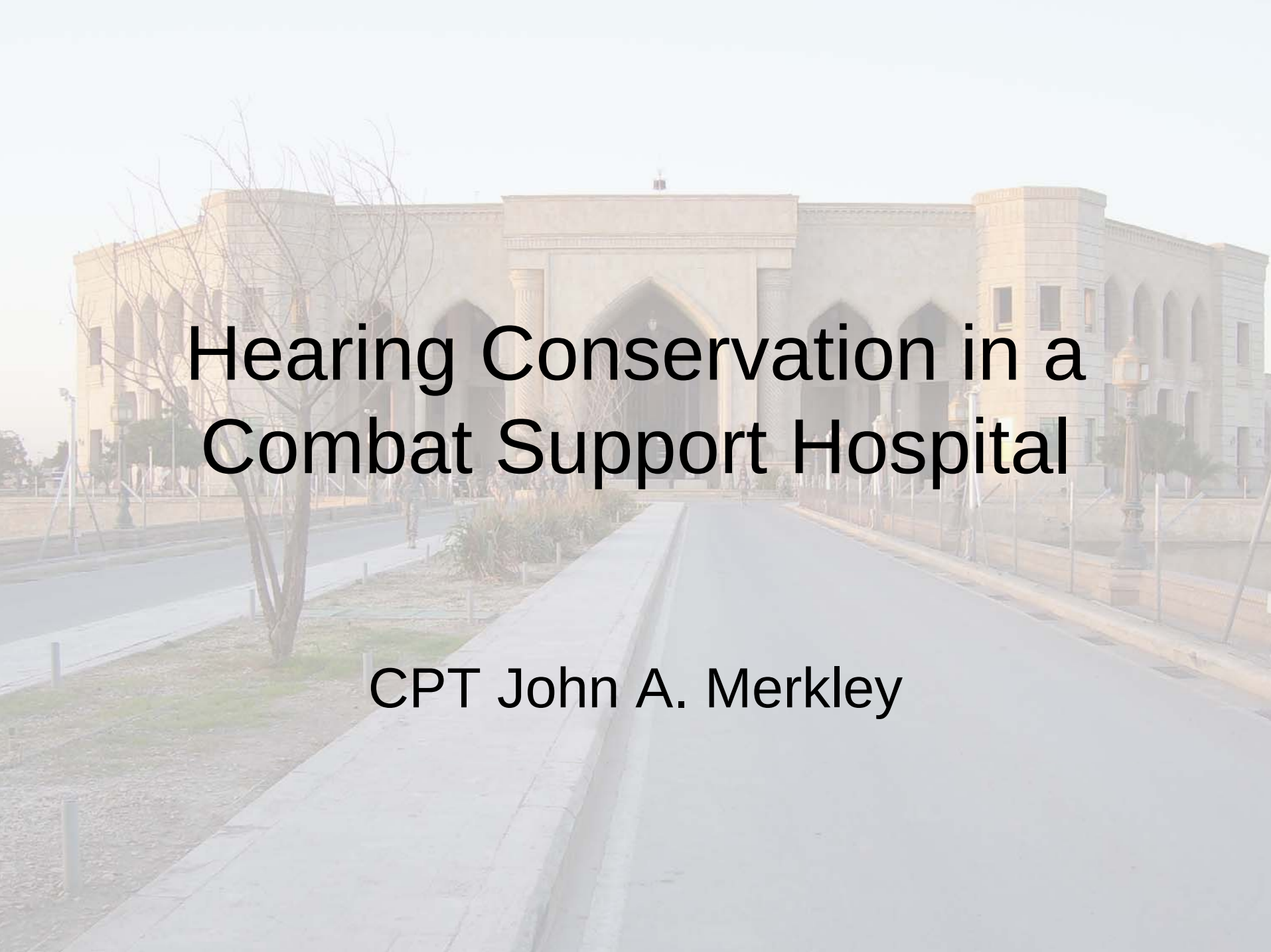




Hearing Conservation in a Combat Support Hospital

CPT John A. Merkley

Outline

- Train-up
- Deployment
 - Common noise hazards
 - Noise abatement strategies
 - Personal hearing protection
- Post-Deployment
- Challenges
- Lessons Learned
- Summary
- Questions
- Conclusion



The Train-up

- Roughly 80% PROFIS
- 30 days
- Sporadic training schedule
- Lots of hurry-up and wait
- Significant down-time leads to complacency
- Lots of education, but where is HC?
- Definite need for HC education pre-deployment

Deployment



Deployment (Cont.)



Common Noise Hazards

- Aircraft – EMT Helipad
- Indirect Fire
- Suction
- Generators
- Recreational Activities (music, small arms)
- Faulty Air Conditioner Units

Noise Abatement Strategies

- Barriers (sandbags, t-walls, etc.)
- Sound enclosures
- Distance



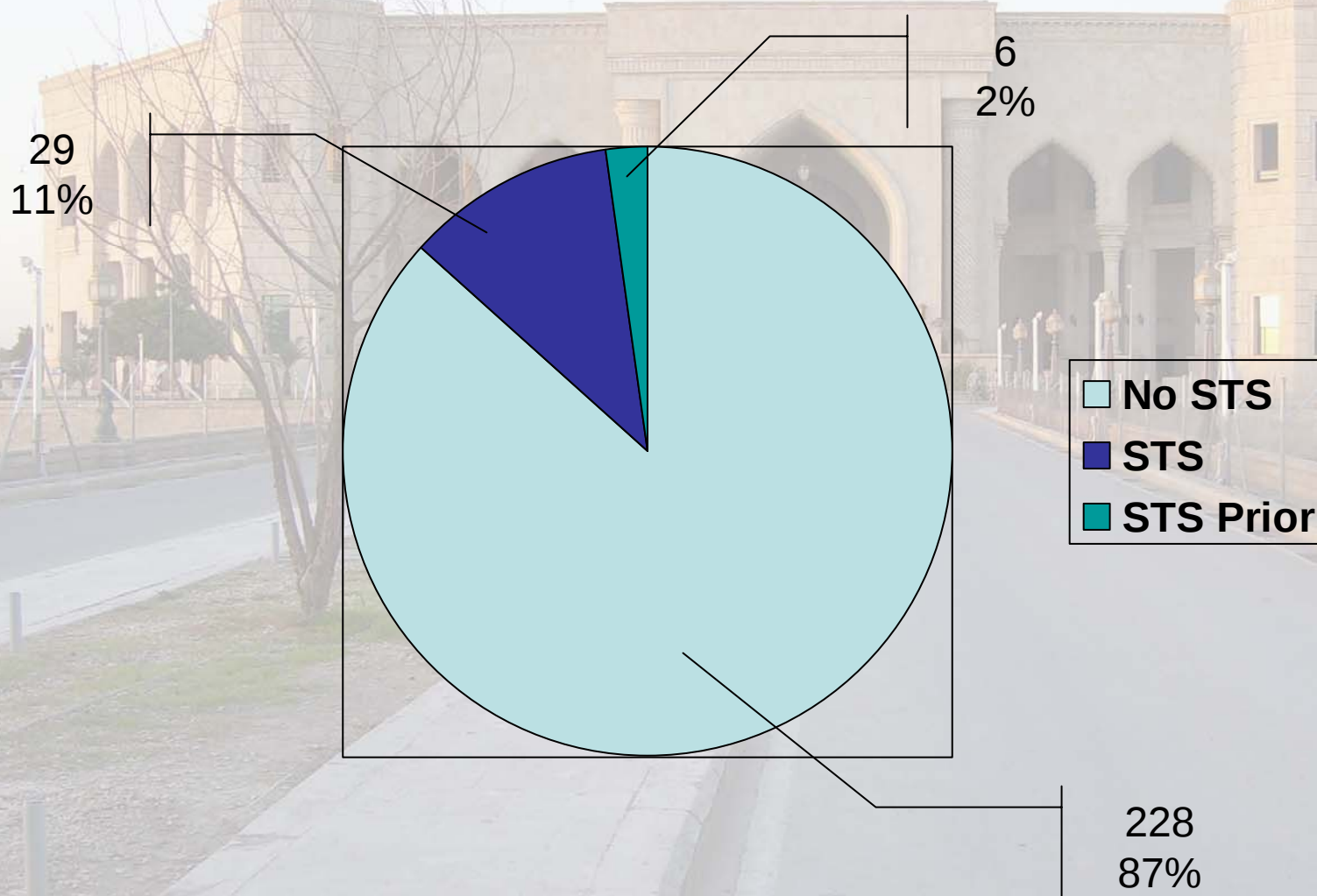
Personal Hearing Protection

- Combat Arms Hearing Protection
- Triple Flange
- Quad Flange
- Single Flange
- Custom



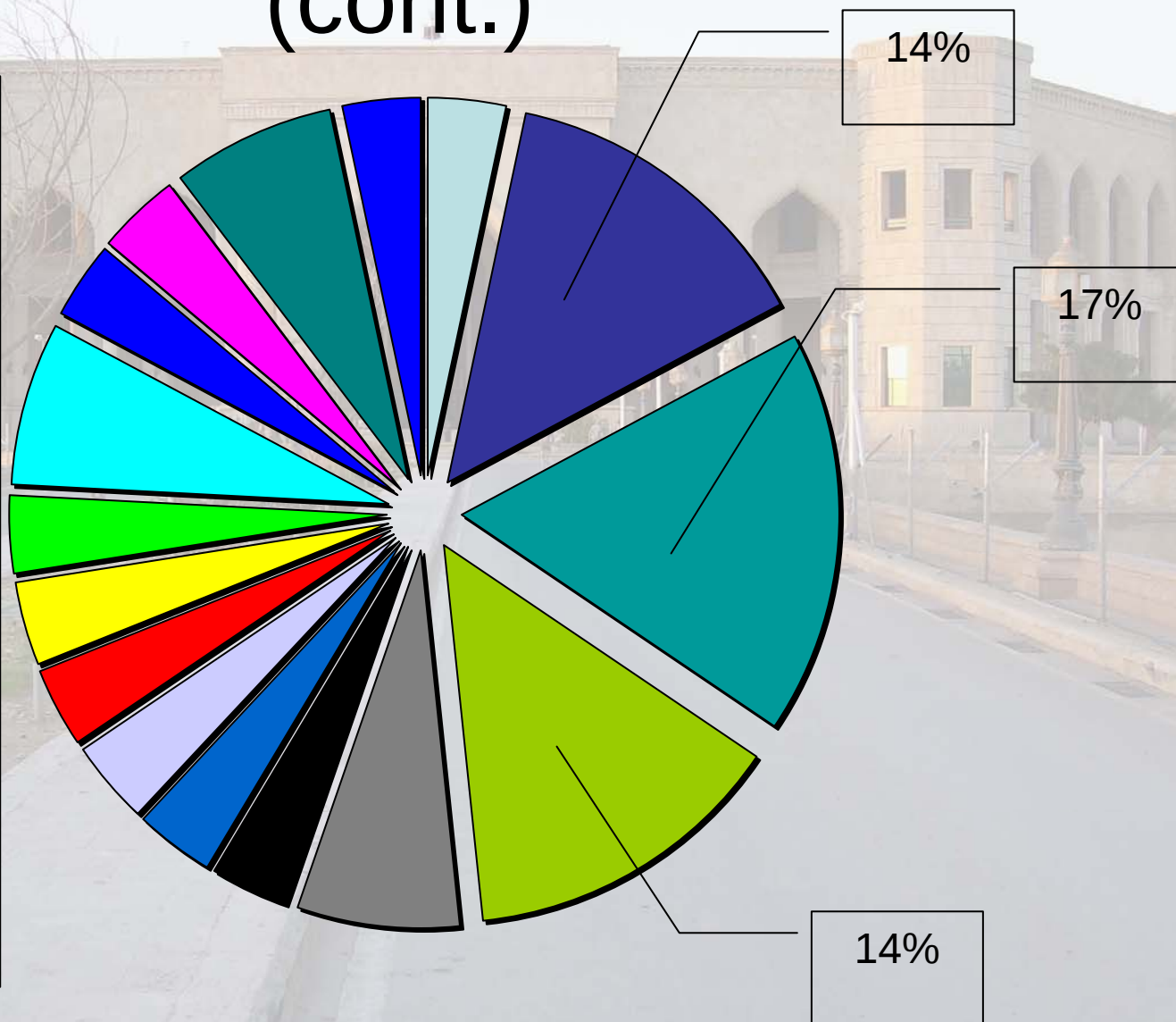
EDUCATION...EDUCATION...EDUCATION!!!

Post Deployment Test Results



2 x soldiers w/o pre-deployment audiometry 6-7yrs since last test

Post Deployment Test Results (cont.)



Challenges



Lessons Learned



Summary



Questions



Conclusion

