

# Armed to the teeth: Molar Mic lets soldiers and spies be all ears

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September 17 2018, 12:01am,  
The Times

Health

United States

Defence



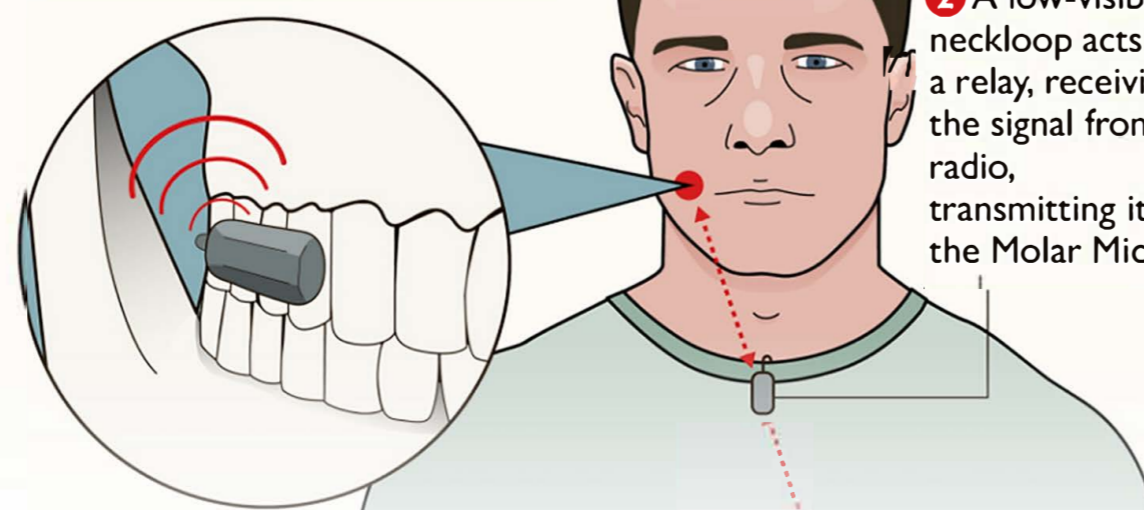
The technology has been tested by US forces in Afghanistan  
GHULAMULLAH HABIBI/EPA

A tiny device that “snap fits” to your back teeth could revolutionise hands-free communication by enabling wearers to speak and hear radioed messages without any visible headset or microphone.

The Pentagon has awarded a \$10 million contract to its makers to provide the secure and discreet communications systems which could be used by personnel to speak to each other and HQ while on dangerous missions. The Molar Mic clips to the wearer’s upper molars and incorporates a waterproof microphone and a bone-conduction speaker to transmit incoming sound through the teeth and skull to the inner ear. The incoming and outgoing audio are relayed between the device and a small radio unit concealed on the body by technology similar to Bluetooth.

## How it works

1 The Molar Mic uses cranial vibration to send sound to the ear. The user can respond by using a push-to-talk button that is concealed elsewhere.



2 A low-visibility neckloop acts as a relay, receiving the signal from a radio, transmitting it to the Molar Mic