



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND MARYLAND 21005-5001

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

24 AUG 2009

IMNE-APG-DIC

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) Command Policy on Curfew for and Supervision of Children

1. The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the supervision of children and youth, newborn through age 18, to ensure they are provided a safe and healthy environment throughout the APG community.

2. Applicability: This policy letter applies to all Military and Civilian personnel and their Family members while they are on the installation.

3. References:

- a. AR 608-18, 1 Sep 95, Army Family Advocacy Program, 30 May 2006
- b. Annotated Code of Maryland, Family Law §5-801, 1999
- c. AR 608-75, Exceptional Family Member Program, 22 November 2006

4. Guidelines for Supervision of Children.

a. Parents are ultimately responsible for the behavior, safety and supervision of their children, including adolescents.

b. Exceptional Children. For children defined as having special needs, as per AR 608-75, their disabilities are primary factors in determining the need for supervision; their ages are a secondary factor.

c. Children ages 4 years and younger – Children in this age group require constant, direct supervision at all times. These children must be in direct visual contact; this includes, but is not limited to, playing in a fenced-in backyard with parental supervision through patio doors, or enrollment in an APG childcare program. The person providing supervision must be able to respond to any emergency or threatening situation. Periodic checks should be made on sleeping children. Children in this group should not be left alone at any time.

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d. Children ages 5 through 10 years – Children in this group require supervision on a regular basis, during out-of-school hours, during a parental duty day.

***The person providing supervision must be constantly available, on the premises, and must check frequently to ensure that the child remains in the designated safe area. If a child in this age group is not responsible or mature enough to remain within these guidelines, then the child must be supervised in the manner prescribed for younger children.**

e. Children ages 11 through 12 – These children may be left alone for short periods of time not to exceed two hours. The person responsible for a child in this group must be aware of the child's location and activities. If children of this age group are left alone, there must be an emergency plan; they should have a person available for them to call and they should know that person's telephone number. If a child in this age group is not responsible or mature enough to remain within these guidelines, then the child must be supervised in the manner for one of the younger age groups.

f. Children ages 13 through 17 – These children may be left alone for longer periods. They must have an emergency plan. At a minimum, they should have a person available for them to call and they should know that person's telephone number. Children ages 13-15 may not be left alone overnight. Children ages 16-17 may be left alone overnight, but may not supervise/baby-sit younger children overnight unless they have attended and completed the American Red Cross Baby-Sitting Safety Course. If a child in this age group is not responsible or mature enough to remain within these guidelines, then the child must be supervised in the manner for one of the younger age groups.

g. Supervision of children by other children (please see enclosed chart) – No child under 13 is allowed to supervise/baby-sit younger children. Children aged 13-15 may be responsible for younger children for reasonable periods of time (up to 8 hours), but not overnight. There must be an emergency plan in place, and older children must be developmentally capable and mature enough to care for younger children. Baby-sitters (13-17 years) on the Installation must be certified through the American Red Cross Baby-Sitting Safety course which is offered by Army Community Service (ACS)/Child, Youth and School Services (CYSS). The CYSS Central Registration office will maintain a list of qualified baby-sitters. Baby-sitters should not watch more than four children at a time and only two may be under the age of two.

h. Supervision of Children in Motor Vehicles - Children under the age of 8 years will not be left in an unattended vehicle for any amount of time unless they are under the supervision of a reliable person at least 13 years old. Additionally, Maryland Vehicle Law requires that a motor

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vehicle may not be left unattended by the driver or person in charge of the vehicle until the engine is stopped, the ignition locked, the key removed, and the brake effectively set. Individuals who violate this policy may be subject to criminal prosecution under Maryland Family Law and/or Maryland Vehicle Law.

i. Curfew. Children under 15 years of age will be inside their own or someone else's quarters between 2100 and 0600, and children 15-17 years of age will be inside their own or someone else's quarters between 2300 and 0530 unless they are under the supervision of a parent, guardian, or a responsible adult 21 years of age or older. Exceptions also include returning home from a community or school organized function; community facility; returning from a Youth Service program; while performing official employment; or, responding to a bona fide emergency.

j. Parents and guardians must consider carefully the amount of responsibility their children can successfully assume before leaving them unsupervised or charging them with the supervision of other children. Even children in the same age group have varying abilities. Therefore, children are capable of handling different degrees of responsibility.

k. Failure to comply with the policies set forth in this letter can result in referral to the Family Advocacy Case Review Committee, Child Protective Services and/or the appropriate Juvenile Court Services.

l. A finding of child neglect and/or abuse, as defined in AR 608-18, may be appropriate when a child, regardless of age, is left unattended under circumstances involving potential or actual harm to the child's physical health or safety, or serious emotional harm due to abandonment or lack of care. Anyone leaving a child under the age of eight unattended without a reliable person at least 13 years old may be subject to criminal prosecution under Maryland Law.

m. Child neglect that results in a lack of appropriate supervision is considered improper conduct that can result in termination of the privilege of occupying Government or leased quarters, as well as other administrative or disciplinary measures deemed appropriate by command.

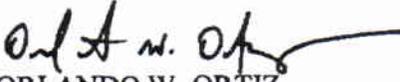
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n. Commanders will ensure dissemination of this policy memorandum to newly assigned Families and expectant parents.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Encl
Chart, Supervision of Children


ORLANDO W. ORTIZ
Colonel, MI
Deputy Installation Commander

DISTRIBUTION:
D2

SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN

AGE OF CHILD	LEFT WITHOUT SITTER IN QUARTERS	LEFT ALONE OVERNIGHT	PLAY OUTSIDE UNATTENDED	CHILD SIT SIBLINGS/ OTHERS
Newborn through Age 4	NO	NO	NO	NO
Age 5 through 10	NO	NO	YES: with Immediate access (Visual) sight or hearing distance) to adult supervision	NO
Age 11 through 12	YES: with ready access to an emergency plan; limit to 2 hours	NO	YES: with access to adult supervision	NO
Age 13 through 15	YES: with access to an emergency plan	NO	YES	NOTE: Must be 13 (*see below)
Age 16 through 18	YES	YES: Sponsor in local area and access to adult supervision	YES	YES (*see below)

* ACS/CYSS American Red Cross Baby-Sitting Safety Training – 410-278-4372/7479

WHAT YOUR BABY-SITTER SHOULD KNOW

- Names of the parents and children
- Complete home address
- Complete home phone number
- Parents' cell/office/pager numbers, etc.
- Children's allergies
- How to exit in case of fire

WHO TO CALL IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

- Back-up point of contact and phone number
- Poison Control Center: 1-800-222-1222
- APG Police/Fire Dept/EMS: 9-1-1
- Aberdeen Area: 410-306-2222
- Edgewood Area: 410-436-2222

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