U.S. ARMY GARRISON, BAMBERG

COMMANDER'S POLICY

POLICY NUMBER: 05-22	**DATE:** 19 November 2007
SUBJECT: Supervision of Children in the Bamberg Military Community	
PROPONENT: Family Advocacy (469-8397/7777)	

PURPOSE: Establish local policy regarding supervision of children in the U.S. Army Garrison (USAG), Bamberg area.

SCOPE: Applies to personnel, civilian or military, assigned, attached or otherwise present in the USAG, Bamberg area of control. Area of control refers to those areas the Department of the Army has a right to maintain order and discipline over, such as military housing and government rental housing (GRHP), as well as all military installations in the Bamberg area. Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, as well as adverse administrative action to include, but not limited to, loss of logistical support, advance return of dependents and loss of command sponsorship.

REFERENCES:

a. AR 608-18, Family Advocacy Program and AR 608-10, Child Development Services.

b. Memorandum, IMA, MWD-A, 15 May 2006, subject: Child-Supervision Guidance.

DEFINITIONS:

a. Child(ren): Any person who has not reached their 18th birthday.

b. Adult Guardian: A person, 18 years of age or older, who has been appointed, either by law or by permission of the parent, to take care of the child or adolescent in the parent's absence.

c. Authorized Caregiver: A sponsor, parent, certified Family Child Care (FCC) provider, adolescent babysitter (12 years of age or older), Child Development Center, School Age Services Program, Supplemental Services Program or Youth Services Program. An adult guardian may also be an authorized caregiver consistent with the provisions of AR 608-10.

d. Direct Supervision: Someone has line of sight and sound supervision and responsibility for the child (for example, parent, guardian, care provider, friend). Short absences (not to exceed ten minutes) are acceptable, provided that the appropriate measures are taken to reduce health and safety risks to the child during that absence. Examples of appropriate supervision include: leaving a 2 year old in a playpen while the parent goes to a basement laundry room, using an electronic baby monitor to listen to a child in another room. Paragraph 1 of this policy letter also provides specific guidelines for appropriate supervision.

e. Monitored Supervision: An adult is aware of a child's location and activities. An emergency contact is available at all times.

f: Monitored self-care: Parents have assessed their childs ability and allowed the child to monitor him or herself. The child has emergency contact available.

Applicability: This policy applies 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to all members of the Bamberg Military Community (USAG, Bamberg) who are parents, legal guardians, or authorized caregivers of children who -

a. Live with them in a military housing area or in a home in the local community.

b. Have not yet graduated from high school.

POLICY:

1. The USAG, Bamberg Commander is responsible for promoting the health, safety and welfare of all who live within the USAG, Bamberg's jurisdiction. Children who are left without responsible supervision are susceptible to harm, which all too often produces tragic results. Parents are responsible for ensuring their children are properly supervised and safeguarded. Military Police and Social Work Service (SWS) are required to investigate incidents which violate this policy letter on behalf of the Commander. The Department of the Army, through the Family Advocacy Program, aims to prevent incidents of child abuse and to protect those who are victims of abuse. Child neglect is a category of child abuse. Parents and guardians are guilty of neglect if they fail to adequately provide for the basic needs of their children, such as food, shelter, medical and dental care, education, supervision and safety. To ensure that neglect does not occur all parents/guardians must adhere to the following standards:

a. **Children**, regardless of age, will not be left unattended in circumstances involving potential or actual risk to their health and/or safety.

b. **Children below kindergarten age** require close supervision and therefore must be in direct contact with a caregiver at all times.

c. **Children from kindergarten to 5th grade** wish to explore their environment. As a result they must also be protected from the consequences of their natural curiosity. Supervision may not require constant direct contact, however it will require the caregiver to be in the immediate vicinity of the child and in visible or hearing range at all times. Note: kindergarteners may not walk to school or other supervised activities alone. 1st to 5th graders may walk to school alone but may not supervise kindergarteners walking to school or supervised activities.

d. **Children in grades 6-7** should be allowed to explore their environment in order to build up their self-reliance, however they need to be supervised using direct and indirect methods. Indirect supervision means that the parent should know their children's whereabouts and should check their welfare frequently. Children at this grade level can be left alone for up to 6 hours, not overnight, with ready access to an adult. Children in grade 6 may baby-sit siblings for up to 3 hrs with ready access to an adult. Children in grade 7 may baby-sit siblings and others for up to 6 hrs, not overnight, with ready access to an adult. The Red Cross or CYS Babysitting Course is strongly recommended. Children at this grade level can be left alone in an automobile for up to 15 minutes, but the keys must be removed and the hand brake applied.

e. **Children in grades 8-10** in most cases should be mature enough to start exercising self-supervision. Children in these grades may be left alone, but not overnight. These children can baby-sit siblings for up to 12 hours, with ready access to an adult. They may baby-sit other children but they are strongly recommended to attend the Red Cross Babysitting Course. Children in this grade can be left alone in an automobile for up to 15 minutes, but the keys must be removed and handbrake applied.

f. **Children in grades 11-12** may be left alone overnight but a responsible adult must check on them at least twice during the day. Children in the 12th grade may be left alone for no more than 3 consecutive days. Parents are responsible for ensuring that the children know where at least one parent is, and have access to telephone numbers of responsible adults in the event of an emergency. It is strongly recommended that caregivers plan for any emergency to include risks to medical and personal safety.

g. Overnight babysitting by children in grades 11-12 shall not be on a regular and continuous basis. The Red Cross or CYS Babysitting Course is strongly recommended for **all children** who provide childcare.

h. Parents and guardians who leave children grades 6 and above unattended should provide the child with a key, emergency phone numbers (police, fire department, and dispensary), a phone number where parents can be reached, the expected time of return, and the name and phone number of an adult who can be reached immediately in the event of an emergency. The designated adult must be aware of his/her responsibility. Parents/guardians should notify the designated adult by phone or in person before departure.

i. Children under the age of 16 shall be inside their own or someone else's quarters (with parental consent) between 2400 and 0500 Friday through Saturday, and between 2200 and 0500 Sunday through Thursday. During periods when school is not in session, curfew will be 2400 to 0500 daily.

j. Curfew for children ages 16-17 will be from 2400-0500 daily.

k. Exceptions to curfew hours will be granted for children returning home immediately after sanctioned functions, such as school dances, athletic events and Youth Services activities.

2. Children will advance to the next grade level on the first day of the new grade. During the summer they will be considered to be in the grade they have just completed.

3. Conversion From Age to Grade (for Home-Schooled Children)

Age	4/5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Grade	Kindergarten	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th

Age	12	13	14	15	16	17/18	
Grade	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	

4. Every Member of this community has the responsibility to report suspected child abuse or neglect to the Military Police (MP) at 0951-300-8700/770 or DSN 469-8700/7770. When children are determined to be unsupervised, the MPs will be called. The MPs and SWS will assess the incident and present it to the Family Advocacy Program Case Review Committee (CRC) when the report is deemed credible. The CRC will then address the applicable rights of alleged victims and offenders, determine whether an incident of neglect has taken place IAW AR 608-18, and recommend treatment plans to resolve the problems in these families.

5. Children develop at different rates. Some children may require more or less supervision than indicated above for children of the same age. However, parents, guardians, and authorized caregivers are required to follow the above standards, unless an exception has been approved through the USAG, Bamberg. Any other deviation from these standards will be a basis for investigation of potential child neglect.

a. When warranted, with due regard to the age, maturity of the child and the activity in question, requests for an exception to this policy will be considered for approval.

b. Parents, guardians and authorized caregivers may submit a written request for exception to the Child Supervision Policy by describing, in detail, the reasons for the request and providing written justification from at lest two of the following sources:

1. The concerned teacher/s

2. Chaplain

3. Social Work Service Case Manager

6. The enclosed USAG, Bamberg Child Supervision Matrix explains the level of adult supervision required for children in different grades.

7. POC is Family Advocacy at 0951-300-8397/ 7777 or DSN 469-8397/ 7777.

8. "Maximum Support - It Shall Be Done!"

GARY A. ROSENBERG
LTC, SF
Commanding

Enclosure

U.S. Army Garrison, Bamberg Child Supervision Matrix

Age or grade of child	May be left alone at home	May be left alone overnight	May be left outside unattended (including playing)	May be left unattended in a car	May baby-sit siblings	May baby-sit others
Newborn through age 4	No	No	No	No	No	No
Kindergarten through grade 5	No (note 1)	No	Kindergarten through grade 3: Yes, if in a playground or yard with immediate access (sight or hearing distance) to adult supervision (notes 2 & 3) Grades 4 and 5: Yes, if in a playground or yard with ready access to adult supervision. Kindergarteners may not walk to and from school or other supervised activities alone; 1st through 5th may walk to and from school and other DoD sanctioned activities alone. Parents must consider the distance to the school, school building opening time, hours of darkness, and the child's maturity level. (notes 2, 3,, & 4)	No (note 1) For up to 10 minutes (e.g. when an adult is picking up the mail or paying for gasoline) If the keys have been removed and the hand brake applied. (notes 3 & 5)	No	No
Grade 6-7	For up to 6 hours in a 24 hour period (not overnight), with ready access to adult supervision (notes 2, 3, 4, & 6)	No	Yes, for up to 6 hours with ready access to adult supervision (notes 2, 3, 4, & 6)	Yes (notes 2, 3 & 5)	Grade 6: Yes, for up to 3 hrs with ready access to an adult (notes 2, 3, 4, & 6) ---------- Grade 7: Yes, for up to 6 hrs with ready access to an adult supervision, but not overnight (notes 2, 3, 4, & 6)	Grade 6: No ---------- Grade 7: For up to 6 hrs, not overnight, with ready access to an adult (notes 2, 3, 4, & 6)
Grades 8-10	Yes, but not overnight	No	Yes (note 3)	Yes (notes 2, 3 & 5)	Yes for up to 12 hrs with ready access to an adult supervision, but not overnight (notes 2, 3, 4, & 6)	For up to 12 hrs, not overnight, with ready access to an adult (notes 2, 3, 4, & 6)
Grades 11-12	Yes	Yes for up to 48 hours, but an adult neighbor or adult friend must check on them at least every 12 hours. Minors will have telephone access to a neighbor in case of an emergency and must know where at least one parent is (note 2)	Yes (note 2)	Yes (notes 2, 3 & 5)	Yes (notes 3, 4, & 6)	Yes (notes 3, 4, & 6)

Notes:

1. Parents must make an informed choice (e.g. regarding heat, level of danger, amount of time) when carrying groceries from the car to the stairwell apartment or when doing laundry and leaving the child in the stairwell apartment.
2. Adult supervision is defined as "someone who has or assumes responsibility for the child (for example a parent, guardian, care provider, friend)
3. Parents are responsible for assessing the individual capabilities of their children. Questions to answer may include, "Can your child solve problems independently?" "Does your child think through the consequences before choosing to behave a certain way?" "How does your child occupy his- or herself when left with free time?"
4. Ready access is defined as "at a minimum, telephone access and telephone number of each person designated as adult supervision.
5. Children may have difficulty assessing dangerous weather conditions (e.g. extreme heat or cold) and taking action to protect themselves.
6. Red Cross or CYS babysitting training is strongly recommended.