DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER AND FORT POLK
6661 WARRIOR TRAIL BUILDING 350
FORT POLK, LOUISIANA 71459-5339

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

AFZX-SA

JUN 14 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Command Policy Memorandum SA-01 – Vehicle Commander (VC) Requirements

1. Purpose. To establish requirements for a VC in all tactical vehicles operated by Soldiers assigned or attached to Fort Polk.

2. Applicability. This Policy applies to all Soldiers assigned, attached, or stationed at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) and Fort Polk, Fort Polk, Louisiana. It does not apply to Soldiers or commands not assigned to Fort Polk or participating in training through the JRTC.

3. Background. Leaders must be cognizant of the importance of the safety of Soldiers while operating military equipment. All reasonable steps must be taken to prevent Soldier injury and damage to military equipment. This policy is intended to create additional safeguards for Soldiers, thereby maximizing manpower and equipment availability.

4. Policy. All tactical vehicles operated by a Soldier assigned, attached, or stationed at Fort Polk will have a VC in the rank of corporal or above, that will be identified by the tactical vehicle occupants prior to vehicle operation. At a minimum, the VC responsibilities include the following:

a. Dismount and act as a ground guide anytime the vehicle is in reverse.

b. Ensure the vehicle wheels are chocked and the parking brake is set any time the vehicle is parked.

c. Ensure no Soldiers are in the immediate area (front or rear) of a vehicle parked on an incline.

d. Ensure all occupants of the tactical vehicle properly use their seat belts and wear ballistic helmets while the vehicle is in motion.

e. Ensure additional protective items are worn by all passengers while the vehicle is in operation, if circumstances require.

f. Ensure the vehicle is not driven in excess of the speed limit and the driver is aware of the difference between kilometers per hour (KPH) and miles per hour (MPH).

(1) The installation speed limit for tactical vehicles, except for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles, is 35 MPH or slower if posted, 25 MPH on unimproved roads during daylight operations, and 15 MPH on all unimproved roads at night. The speed limit for vehicles under NVG operations is 15 MPH on all roads. Operators will adjust speeds accordingly to mitigate unsafe conditions such as weather, dust and loose gravel.

(2) The speed limits for MRAP vehicles is 25 MPH on improved roads, 20 MPH on unimproved roads during daylight operations, and 15 MPH on all unimproved roads at night. The speed limit for vehicles under NVG operations is 15 MPH on all roads. Operators will adjust speeds accordingly to mitigate unsafe conditions such as weather, dust and loose gravel.

5. Unit Commander Responsibilities. Commanders at all levels will ensure Soldiers within their commands know of and comply with this policy. Battalion commanders or higher may approve a VC in a rank below corporal in individual cases, after consideration of mission and personnel availability. Blanket authorization by battalion commanders or higher for personnel below the rank of corporal to act as VC is not permitted. Each exception of this policy by a battalion commander allowing a specialist or below to act as a VC must be considered and approved prior to operation of the vehicle. Additionally, battalion commanders or higher may approve of driver only operation of a tactical vehicle within the cantonment area or by trainer/mentor (T/M) personnel provided the driver is a noncommissioned or a commissioned officer. Blanket authorization of driver only operation under these circumstances must be approved by the battalion commander, OPSGRP Task Force Senior, or higher. Battalion Commanders and above are authorized to approve driver only operation of a tactical vehicle by Soldiers in the rank of specialist and below.

6. Enforceability. This policy is punitive. Soldiers who violate paragraphs 4 or 5 of this policy may receive adverse administrative action, non-judicial punishment, or prosecution for violation of Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Drivers of vehicles operated in violation of this policy will be primarily responsible for the violation. If a passenger in a vehicle is senior in grade or date of rank to the driver, then the more senior passenger will also be held responsible for the violation of this policy. Violations of this policy may also result in assessment of financial liability against Soldiers for negligence and damage to government property.

7. I expect leadership at all levels to remain vigilant to protect and ensure the safety and well-being of our Soldiers. These procedures will save lives.

CLARENCE K.K. CHINN
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION: A+