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:

IMSE-POL-ES

OCT 27 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Command Policy Memorandum DES-03 – Use of Mobile Personal Electronic Devices (MPEDs) on the Fort Polk Military Installation

1. References:

a. Department of Defense Instruction 6055.4, DoD Traffic Safety Program, 20 July 1999.

b. Army Regulation 190-5, Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision, 22 May 2006.

c. JRTC and Fort Polk Supp. 1 to AR 190-5, Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision, 7 June 2000.

d. Louisiana Revised Statute 32:295.2, Motor Vehicles and Traffic Regulation, 2008.

e. Title 50, United States Code, Section 797, Security Regulations and Orders.

2. Purpose: Mobile personal electronic devices (MPEDs) are frequently used on the Fort Polk military installation. While these devices are convenient for the user, they also reduce the user's situational awareness while driving. In some circumstances, this use creates a potential safety hazard for the user and those interacting with the user. In light of these safety concerns, the following policy regarding the use of MPEDs on the installation is enacted.

3. Applicability: This policy is applicable to all persons operating a motorized vehicle on the installation.

4. Definitions:

a. "Mobile Personal Electronic Device (MPED)" – Any handheld or portable electronic device, including, but not limited to, cellular phones, personal data assistants, portable electronic e-mail devices, and handheld video game devices.

b. "Hands-Free Mobile Personal Electronic Device" – A MPED that has an internal feature or function or that is equipped with an attachment or addition by which the user may use the MPED without the use of either hand, whether or not either hand is necessary to activate, deactivate, or initiate a function of the MPED. Examples include mobile personal electronic devices with speakerphone capabilities or vehicles equipped with hands-free communications equipment.

5. Policy: Except as otherwise provided in this memorandum, the use of a MPED while operating a motorized vehicle in motion on Fort Polk is prohibited. Vehicle operators may

operate MPEDs only after the vehicle has been safely stopped off of the roadway and placed in park.

a. This policy does not prevent a passenger in a moving motor vehicle from using a MPED.

b. This policy does not prevent the operator of a moving motor vehicle from using a hands-free MPED.

6. Exceptions: This policy does not apply to the following:

a. Emergency responders such as the military police, DA Police, firefighters, EMTs, MEDEVAC crews, and hazardous material handlers responding to emergency situations.

b. Operators of tactical vehicles using tactical radios.

c. Operators of vehicles operating in "the box" in support of JRTC rotational activities.

d. Range control personnel operating government vehicles while using official radio systems.

7. Enforcement: This policy is punitive in nature. Personnel subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) who fail to comply with the provisions of this policy are subject to punitive and administrative action. Individuals not subject to the UCMJ who fail to comply with the provisions of this policy may be subject to adverse administrative action or prosecution in federal court. The provost marshal is responsible for enforcing this policy and, where appropriate, will notify violators in writing of the suspension of installation driving privileges.

8. Implementation Period: There will be a 30-day implementation period after the effective date of this policy during which citations will not be issued to violators of this policy. The public affairs office will use this 30-day period to inform the public of this policy.

9. This policy will remain in effect until superceded or rescinded.

JAMES C. YARBROUGH
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

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