



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

AFZX-CG

JAN 23 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: JRTC and Fort Polk Policy 21 – Vehicle Safety

1. References:

- a. Army Regulation (AR) 600-55, The Army Driver and Operator Standardization Program (Selection, Training, Testing, and Licensing), dated 1 May 2017.
- b. AR 385-10, The Army Safety Program, dated 24 February 2017.
- c. Army Techniques Publication (ATP) 4-01.45, Multi-Service Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures for Tactical Convoy Operations, dated 1 February 2017.

2. Purpose: To establish a requirement for a Vehicle Commander in tactical vehicles operated by Soldiers assigned or attached to the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) and Fort Polk.

3. Applicability: This policy applies to all Soldiers assigned, attached, and stationed at JRTC and Fort Polk.

4. 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.

5. Policy: All tactical vehicles and convoys operated by a Soldier assigned, attached, training, or stationed at Fort Polk will have a Vehicle Commander in the rank of Sergeant/E5 or above, identified by the tactical vehicle occupants prior to vehicle operation, in accordance with enclosure 1, Convoy Operations Diagram. At a minimum, the Vehicle Commander's responsibilities include the following:

- a. Dismount and act as a ground guide anytime the vehicle is in reverse or moving through a cantonment area, or motor pool. Ground guides will utilize a red lens flashlight while ground guiding during periods of limited visibility. For ground guide safety purposes, the ground guide will position him/herself at the 11 o'clock position (from the driver) and be 10 meters from the vehicle.

AFZX-CG

SUBJECT: JRTC and Fort Polk Policy 21 – Vehicle Safety

- b. Ensure the vehicle wheels are chocked; drip pan is emplaced properly; and the parking brake is set anytime the vehicle is parked.
- c. Ensure obstructions are cleared in the immediate area (front and rear) of a vehicle when parking or starting a parked vehicle.
- d. Ensure all occupants of the tactical vehicle properly use their seat belts and wear authorized helmets while the vehicle is in motion.
- e. Ensure additional protective items, to include authorized eye-pro and gloves, are worn by all passengers while the vehicle is in operation, as required.
- 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). Operators will adjust speeds accordingly, regardless of vehicle type, to mitigate unsafe conditions such as weather, dust, and loose gravel.

(1) The installation speed limits for tactical vehicles, except for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles, are 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 night vision goggle (NVG) operations is 15 MPH on all roads.

(2) The speed limits for MRAP vehicles are 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.

6. Unit Commander Responsibilities:

- a. Commanders at all levels will ensure Soldiers within their commands are familiar with and comply with this policy.
- b. After consideration of the mission and personnel availability for Vehicle Commanders in the grade of SGT/E5, exceptions to this policy may be approved by battalion commanders (cannot not be delegated to lower ranking leaders). A copy of the authorization will be maintained in the tactical vehicle log book.
- c. Battalion commanders, Operations Group Task Force Seniors, or higher may approve driver-only operation of a tactical vehicle within the cantonment area or by Observer/Coach/Trainer (OC/T) personnel in a field environment provided the driver is a Noncommissioned or a commissioned officer. Battalion commanders and above are

AFZX-CG

SUBJECT: JRTC and Fort Polk Policy 21 – Vehicle Safety

authorized to approve driver-only operation of a tactical vehicle by Soldiers in the rank SGT/E5 in the cantonment area only.

(1) At no time will MRAP vehicles be authorized to be operated in driver-only operations.

(2) MRAP vehicles will always be operated with a driver and Vehicle Commander at a minimum.

d. Battalion commanders will ensure that Noncommissioned Officer Vehicle Commanders are integrated at critical locations throughout a convoy; the front and rear vehicles must have a SGT/E5 Vehicle Commander. For those convoys greater than five vehicles, see the Convoy Operations Diagram on page 4 of this policy.

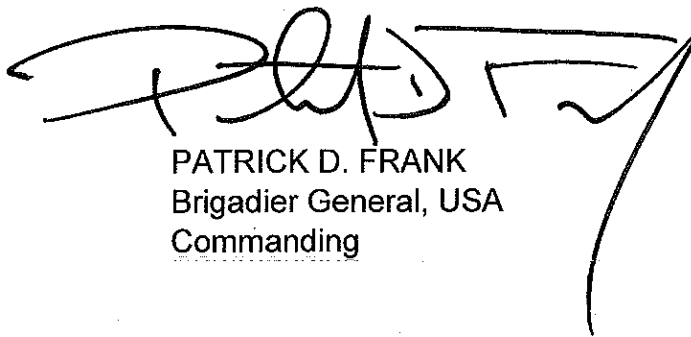
7. Leadership at all levels must remain vigilant to protect and ensure the safety and well-being of our Soldiers.

8. Punitive Policy: This policy is punitive. Soldiers who violate this policy may receive adverse administrative action, non-judicial punishment, or prosecution for violation of Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Violations of this policy may also result in assessment of financial liability against Soldiers for negligence and damage to government property if an accident occurs due to negligence.

9. Proponent: The point of contact for this policy is the Command Safety Office at (337) 531-7527.

10. This policy will remain in effect until superseded or rescinded.

Encl
Convoy Operations Diagram



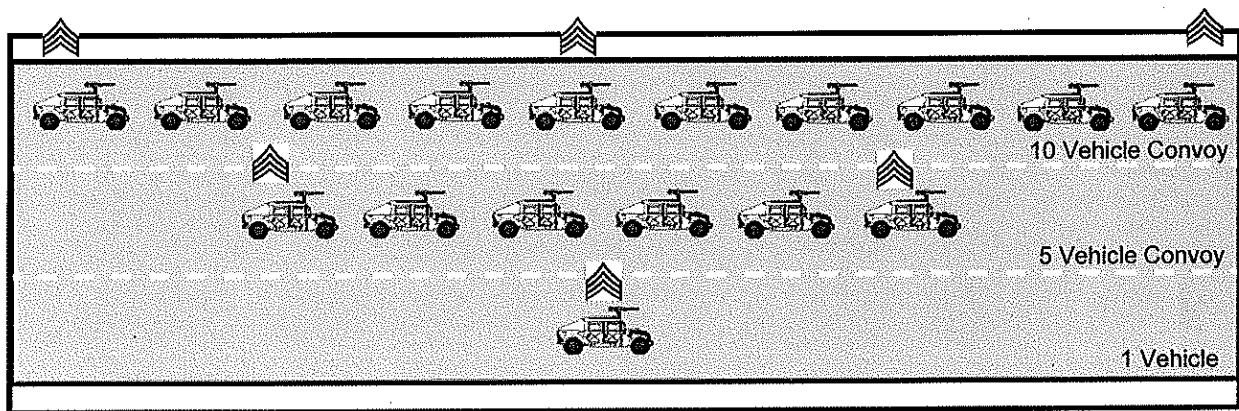
PATRICK D. FRANK
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

Distribution:
A+

Convoy Operations Diagram

Legend:

☒ = E5 or above as Vehicle Commander



Convoy Operations:

- (1) The diagram above depicts a 10 vehicle, 6 vehicle, and 1 vehicle convoy and the appropriate placement of NCOs.
- (2) More NCOs may be used for Vehicle Commanders; however, the diagram above depicts the minimum requirement.
- (3) Convoys larger than 10 vehicles will use the appropriate leader to vehicle ratio to meet the requirement. As a general rule, ensure a SGT/E5 or above is in the lead and rear vehicles, and in every 4th or 5th vehicle in between.

Enclosure