DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON RHEINLAND-PFALZ
UNIT 23152
APO AE 09054-3152

IMRP-ZA 25 June 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR All Members of the United States Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz (USAG RP) Community

SUBJECT: USAG RP Command Policy Letter # 5, Supervision of Children

1. References:

a. Army Regulation 608-18, Army Family Advocacy Program, 30 October 2007.

b. KMC Child Supervision Policy Matrix.

2. Applicability: This policy applies to all Service Members, Department of Defense Civilians, retirees, contractors, and their Family Members residing in the United States Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz (USAG RP) footprint.

3. Purpose: To prescribe policy to ensure proper supervision of minor children within the USAG Rheinland-Pfalz.

4. Definitions:

a. Child: Any person who has not reached his or her 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 a child 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 (CDC), School Age Center (SAC), Youth Services (YS) or Supplemental Program and Services (SPS). An adult guardian may also be an authorized caregiver consistent with the provisions of AR 608-10.

5. General: As Commander, I am responsible for the health, safety and welfare of everyone living within the USAG RP footprint. I am especially concerned about the well being of our children and the obligation of parents toward them. Children who are left without responsible supervision are susceptible to harm and at-risk behaviors that all too often produce tragic results and compromise valuable Army resources. Parents/caregivers are responsible for ensuring their children are properly supervised and safeguarded. Military Police and Social Work Services are required to investigate reports of unsupervised children.

6. Policy:

a. The Kaiserslautern Military Community (KMC) Child Supervision Policy Matrix provides standards for the supervision of children within the USAG RP (see enclosure). Parents are ultimately responsible for the welfare and actions of their children and failure to exercise those parental responsibilities may constitute child neglect. Parents must use good judgment and consider the physical, emotional, and psychological maturity of their child when determining the level of supervision required. Parents are responsible for assessing the individual capabilities of their children. Children with a history of ADHD, ADD, developmental delay, behavior problems, impulsivity, psychiatric problems or other impairments should not be given the degree of self-management/responsibility indicated in this policy. In these circumstances, parents/caregivers may elect to impose greater supervisory safeguards but are not afforded the discretion to implement lesser forms of supervision than those outlined in the Child Supervision Policy Matrix.

b. Children under the age of five will not be left unattended in the yard or on the playground. A child is considered to be appropriately supervised when in the presence of, or under the protection of (within sight or hearing), an authorized caregiver.

c. Childcare providers must be at least 12 years-old to baby-sit and may not care for children over an extended period of time (defined as more than 10 hours per week) in their own home or provide overnight care. Teenage babysitters are encouraged to complete a Red Cross Babysitting class and Infant/Child CPR before caring for other children.

d. Children less than 14 years of age may not be left alone overnight in quarters. Children who are between the ages of 14 and 15 may be left overnight for a period not to exceed 24 hours. Parents must designate a responsible adult to periodically observe the child(ren). A medical power of attorney is recommended to facilitate any required medical care. Children between the ages of 16 and 18 may be left overnight in quarters for a period not to exceed 72 hours. Parents who leave their children alone will notify their first sergeant or commander of their designated responsible adult by providing the name and phone number. Parents will brief their dependent teenagers of actions to take in case of fire, loss of utilities, prowlers, and military or medical emergencies. Additionally, parents will remind dependent teenagers of noise restrictions. Under no circumstances, regardless of age, will children be left alone who cannot take appropriate emergency measures or who have a history of significant misconduct.

7. The point of contact for this policy is the USAG RP, Army Community Service, Family Advocacy Program Manager at DSN: 493-4331 or CIV: 0631-3406-4331.

Encl

G. SHAWN WELLS, JR.
COL, SC
Commanding

Appendix I--KMC Child Supervision Policy Matrix

This matrix provides standards for the supervision of children within the KMC. Parents are ultimately responsible for the welfare and actions of their children, and failure to exercise those parental responsibilities may constitute child neglect. Parents must use good judgement and consider the physical, emotional and psychological maturity of their child when determining the level of supervision required. Children with a history of ADHD, ADD, Developmental Delay, behavior problems, impulsivity, psychiatric problems or other impairments should not be given the degree of self-management/responsibility indicated in this policy.

PARENTS ARE ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFETY AND SUPERVISION OF THEIR CHILDREN

Age of Child	Unattended[1] in yard or playground?	Walk unattended[1] to school or bus?	Left unattended[1] in quarters?	Baby-sit others?
Under 5	No	No	No (Will NOT be left unattended in a parked car - per KMC Traffic Code, 15 Dec 96, para 8.1.24)	No
Age 5 and 6	Yes Less than 1 hour during daylight in play areas with immediate access to adult supervision	Kindergarten: No First Grade: Yes If accompanied by an older sibling Not across busy streets or more than 1 mile	No (Will NOT be left unattended in a parked car - per KMC Traffic Code, 15 Dec 96, para 8.1.24)	No
Age 7-9	Yes During daylight hours with access to adult	Yes Not across busy streets or more than 1 mile	No (Will NOT be left unattended in a parked car - per KMC Traffic Code, 15 Dec 96, para 8.1.24)	No
Age 10-11	Yes With access to an adult	Yes	Yes[2] Up to 3 hours with access to an adult	No
Age 12-13	Yes	Yes	Yes[2] Not overnight	Yes Not overnight
Age 14-15	Yes	Yes	Yes[2] Not to exceed 24 hours	Yes Not overnight
Age 16 and older	Yes	Yes	Yes Not to exceed 3 consecutive days Must have periodic checks by an adult	Yes Not to exceed 24 hours

A child is considered to be "attended" when in the presence of or under the protection of (within sight or hearing), an appropriate caregiver. Completion of Red Cross Baby-sitting class and Infant/Child CPR is strongly recommended for every teen before caring for other children

[2] When left unattended in quarters, children must have access to an adult – parent's phone number, neighbor, etc. Parents must designate a responsible adult to periodically check in on the children. If left overnight, a medical power of attorney is strongly recommended.