DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON
FORT IRWIN, CA 92310-5021

DEC 7 2011

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

IMNT-ZA

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: United States Army Garrison, Fort Irwin and the National Training Center Policy #15, Child Supervision.

1. PURPOSE: These guidelines define the Fort Irwin and the National Training Center Policy governing the supervision of children 17 years old and younger. To prescribe the policy for the adequate and appropriate supervision of minor children within the Fort Irwin military community. This policy is directed toward and applies to all military personnel and their Family members at Fort Irwin and to civilian personnel who may reside on post or perform official childcare duties on post.

2. APPLICABILITY: This policy applies to all National Training Center and Fort Irwin Soldiers, civilians and Family members living on the installation and/or using installation facilities.

3. REFERENCE:

a. Army Regulation 608-10, Child Development Services, 15 July 1997

b. Army Regulation 608-18, The Army Family Advocacy Program, 30 October 2077

c. Army Regulation 608-75, Exceptional Family Member Program, 30 May 2006

d. Army Regulation 210-50, Housing Management, 3 October 2005

4. POLICY: Parents will be held accountable for their decisions regarding child supervision. Parents should be aware of their children's whereabouts and activities. Parents are encouraged to continually evaluate their child's level of maturity and determine the degree of supervision that best meets the needs of their child. Violations of this policy may subject personnel to administrative action, civil liability and may result in an investigation by FAP and/or an assessment by Social Work Services (SWS). Failure to comply with the guidelines set forth in this policy can result in referral to the Case Review Committee (CRC) and/or the Juvenile Review Board.

a. At all times, sponsors are ultimately responsible for the safety, well-being and actions of their children. Sponsors are responsible for ensuring Family members comply with the provisions of this policy.

b. In all cases, interpretation of this policy should be made in favor of the child's safety.

c. No child will be left unattended under circumstances involving potential or actual risk to the child's health and safety.

d. Chronological age will take precedence over child's grade in school.

e. Individuals should refer to the Age Matrix for minimum standards for use in making decisions involving safety and proper supervision of children.

f. A "parent designee" is a responsible adult that the parents trust or a responsible youth at least 12 years old who has completed the Child, Youth, and School Services (CYSS) Babysitter Course IAW AR 608-10. This individual must be capable of being in a supervisory role and can provide adequately for a child's welfare and safety in all circumstances deemed appropriate.

(1) Children 0-3 years old require close supervision and will be under direct visual contact. The parent designee must be able to respond to any emergency or threatening situation.

(2) Children 4-6 years old require direct supervision.

(3) Children 7-9 years old require direct supervision with two exceptions: 1) during travel to and from school and 2) while playing in a designated safe area-during which time the parent or designee must check on the children at lease every 15 minutes.

(4) Children 10-11 years old may be left at home or at a designated safe area under monitored care for up to 90 minutes. If children are left alone under monitored care, parents must provide the children an emergency safety plan in advance and ensure that the children know and can follow through with the plan. Child must have completed the CYSS Home Alone Course (Ages 10-17). Otherwise, parents or the parent designees must remain sufficiently close to be able to physically respond to children within two or three minutes.

(5) Children 12-14 years old may be left unattended for up to four hours during the day and early evening hours. Parents may not leave children at home alone overnight. If left unattended, parents must provide children an emergency safety plan in advance and ensure that the children know and can follow through with the plan. Child must have completed the CYSS Home Alone Course (ages 10-17) or the Teen Babysitter Course (ages 12-17) to babysit for siblings (starting at age 12) or to care for the children's of other families (starting at age 13).

(6) Children 15-17 years old may be left unattended during the day and early evening hours. Occasionally-not more than once week-children may be left home alone overnight. If left home alone, parents must provide that children with an emergency safety plan in advance and ensure that the children know and can follow through with the plan. Children 16-17 years old are allowed to babysit their siblings or other children alone overnight-not more than once a week. Child must have completed the CYSS Home Alone Course (ages 10-17) or the Teen Babysitter Course (ages 12-17)

g. Children who meet the criteria for the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP), as defined in AR 608-75, Exceptional Family Member Program, 30 May 2006, require special supervision. These guidelines are to be modified in accordance with their special needs.

h. Children who are in the care of a certified Family Child Care (FCC) provider, who has entered into a contract with the children's parents for such care, will be supervised by FCC provider in accordance with guidelines set forth in AR 608-10, Child Development Services, 15 July 197; AR 608-18 the Army Family Advocacy Program, 30 October 2007 and local procedures.

i. All children must have the supervising adult's work and home phone numbers, necessary emergency phone numbers and the sponsor must be within the local area. Children who are not in direct supervision should know at a minimum, what to do in case of emergency, i.e., injury, assault, parents not returning as expected, etc. Note: Local area is defines as an area or location that is no more than an hour away by car.

5. Definitions:

a. Direct Supervision: Line-of-sight supervision of children to maximize safety and minimize the children's inappropriate behavior. The parent or parent designee must be close enough to respond immediately to any emergency or threatening situation. Children should not be left alone at any time except while sleeping and periodic checks must be made on sleeping children.

b. Child/Children: All Family Members and guests 17 years old and younger residing on the installation and/or using post facilities.

c. Monitored Care: An arrangement in which a parent or parent designee is aware of the children's location/activities and is physically available within five minutes to the children and the children are familiar with that person and know that person's name, location and telephone number. The parent designee must be aware in advance that they are responsible for the children for the designated time period. The parent must contact the parent designee immediately upon return to notify the parent designee that they are released from responsibility.

d. Early Evening Hours: 1800-2000 hours.

e. Non-Duty Hours: When at least one parent is not working and is physically available to the children.

f. Adult: A person who is 18 years of age or older.

g. Parent: Any person having legal custody of a child as the child's natural or adoptive parent, as the child's legal guardian or as the person to whom legal custody of the child has been given by order of a court.

6. Parents are responsible for their children's safety even when in the care of a designee. Babysitters should be selected carefully ensuring that the babysitter is mature and experienced enough to adequately supervise a child. Parent(s) can find more information on babysitter qualifications, the CYSS Babysitter List or classes including; the Teen Babysitters Course (ages 12-17), the Home Alone Course (ages 10-17) and other childcare options by contacting CYSS Parent Central Services at (760) 380-2257/4695. For any other questions regarding CYSS, please contact (760) 380-3646/2268.

7. Violations of this policy should be reported to the Military Police at (760) 380-4444. Parents are responsible for ensuring compliance with the minimum standards of this policy. Violations of this policy place children at risk and my result in actions by agencies including Directorate of Emergency Services (DES); Office of the Staff Judge Advocate (OSJA); Housing through the Garrison Commander's (GC) office; the Family Advocacy Program (FAP); Department of Social Work Services (SWS); and the Department of Children and Family Services.

8. Disciplinary Actions:

a. The following adverse administrative actions may be taken against, sponsors, spouses or anyone providing childcare who is found to be in violation of this policy; issuance of a letter of warning, termination of on-post housing privileges and prohibition of entering Fort Irwin. Parents, guardians and child care providers should also be aware that the state of California can take administrative and criminal action for child neglect and endangerment as well as hold parents legally and financially liable for their children's actions in certain circumstances.

b. In addition, sponsors may be prosecuted under the Uniform Code of Military Justice UCMJ) for child endangerment if the sponsor is found to be been culpably negligent in the care of his or her child.

9. APPENDIX 1 of this policy is a matrix to be used as a quick reference guide.

10. The proponent for this policy letter is the DES at 380-1258/2591.

KURT J. PINKERTON
COL, IN
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DISTRIBUTION:
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APPENDIX 1

Age of Child	Left without Sitter in Residence	Left Alone Overnight	Play outside Unattended	Left in car Unattended	Child may care for Siblings	Child may care for other's children
Newborn through 3 years of age	No	No	No	No	No	No
4 to 6 years of age	No	No	No	No	No	No
7 to 9 years of age	No	No	Yes- with ready access to adult supervision for up to 15 minutes	No	No	No
10 to 11 years of age	Yes- with ready access to adult supervision- Limit 90 minutes Must have completed CYSS Home Alone Course.	No	Yes- with ready access to adult supervision for up to 90 minutes	No	No	No
12 to 14 years of age	Yes- with access to adult supervision- Limit 4 hours Must have completed Home Alone Course.	No	Yes-with access to adult supervision for up to 4 hours	Yes	Yes- with Completion of CYSS Babysitter course. May NOT sit overnight	Yes- at age 13 with Completion of CYSS Babysitter course. May NOT sit overnight
15 years of age	Yes	Yes-with sponsor in local area and access to adult supervision	Yes	Yes	Yes- with Completion of CYSS Babysitter course. May NOT sit overnight	Yes- with Completion of CYSS Babysitter course. May NOT sit overnight
16 to 17 years of age	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes- with Completion of CYSS Babysitter course.	Yes- with Completion of CYSS Babysitter course.

- Children that are age 13 or older and have completed the CYSS Teen Babysitter Course may be placed on the CYSS Babysitters List. The CYSS babysitters list is available to parents of CYSS registered children.