

APPENDIX B SENIOR OCCUPANT RESPONSIBILITIES

B-1. PURPOSE

This appendix explains the responsibilities of the senior occupant in military vehicles. The senior occupant of a military vehicle may be the operator or a passenger.

B-2. RESPONSIBILITIES

a. The senior occupant will:

- (1) Be a responsible person who has exhibited mature judgment.
- (2) Ensure an assistant driver is assigned when required.
- (3) Verify drivers are licensed and qualified to operate the vehicles dispatched.
- (4) Verify drivers have had at least 8 hours' continuous rest beforehand when combined duty (non-driving and driving) periods exceed 12 hours in any 24-hour period.
- (5) Verify drivers have not consumed intoxicating beverages during the 8 hours before scheduled duty or during their normal duty shift.
- (6) Ensure drivers do not operate an Army motor vehicle (AMV) more than 4 hours under adverse conditions, or 10 hours under normal conditions, in 1 day. The battalion commander must approve, in writing, driving more than 8 hours. Time for rest breaks and meals is excluded.
- (7) Ensure drivers take 15-minute rest breaks every 2 hours. During these breaks, drivers will inspect their vehicles and check that equipment and cargo are secure. Drivers also will take 1-hour meal breaks.
- (8) Provide additional rest periods, if needed, when adverse weather, hazardous cargo, or difficult field exercises are involved.
- (9) Ensure that drivers who appear fatigued or physically, emotionally, or mentally impaired do not operate a vehicle.
- (10) Ensure vehicle occupants wear seatbelts, if installed, while the vehicle is in motion.
- (11) Ensure the authorized seating capacity of the vehicle is not exceeded.
- (12) Ensure the driver does not eat, drink, or smoke while driving.
- (13) Ensure the driver does not wear headphones or earphones while driving, except when hearing protection is required.
- (14) Assist the driver in recognizing unsafe mechanical conditions of the vehicle.
- (15) Assist the driver in backing or other difficult maneuvers when an assistant driver is not available.
- (16) Ensure the driver does not interrupt the flow of civilian traffic by making sudden halts, unauthorized U-turns, or other unauthorized driving maneuvers on the road.
- (17) Ensure the driver complies with road signs and speed limits as dictated by road conditions.
- (18) Ensure highway warning devices are properly displayed when the vehicle stops on or beside the traveled portion of the roadway.
- (19) Post personnel and warning triangles to warn approaching traffic when the vehicle is disabled or halted in a location that obstructs traffic.
- (20) Ensure the driver maintains a safe interval between vehicles.
- (21) Ensure tire chains are used when needed.

- (22) Ensure the driver's vision is not obstructed by ice, snow, dirt, personal radios, or other items in the vehicle.
- (23) Enforce antenna tiedown requirements.
- (24) Comply with convoy march discipline when vehicles are halted.
- (25) Ensure that vehicle safety items are serviceable and used as required.
- (26) Ensure that the driver complies with traffic laws and unit standing operating procedures.
- (27) Be knowledgeable and execute provisions of USAREUR Regulation 190-1, paragraph 4-7, in the event of an accident.

b. The senior occupant may replace the driver or assistant driver to execute any responsibility listed in a above. The senior occupant must be licensed to operate the vehicle if driving is deemed necessary.

B-3. LIABILITY

If the senior occupant of a military vehicle fails to provide adequate supervision, he or she may be subject to disciplinary action and monetary liability for vehicle damage.