DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, MARYLAND 21005-5001

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF
AMSSB-DIC (385)

14 MAY 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Safety in Troop Formations

1. References:

a. Memorandum, USAGAPG, STEAP-DIC, 17 May 99, SAB.

b. APGR 385-4, The APG Safety and Occupational Health Program, 1 Oct 00.

2. Under the provisions of the above references, I want to remind all units of the safety requirements governing troop formations during physical training (PT). As a means to protect troops in formations, the following policy will be in effect for running routes in the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas of Aberdeen Proving Ground.

a. All units will be expected to use the routes designated in paragraphs 3 and 4. Unit commanders will be responsible for ensuring road guards are in place as required, and the designated reflective gear and flashlights are utilized.

b. All troop movements will be to the far right side of the roadway, no more than three abreast, no more than one leader on the left of the formation, and occupy no more than one traffic lane. During hours of darkness or reduced visibility, all troop movements will have road guards with flashlights and reflective vests. Troops in formations will wear reflective belts and have them strapped diagonally across their upper bodies or around their waist. In either case, the belts will be positioned to offer the most visibility and not allowed to become obstructed.

c. Units will enforce tight discipline on troop formations (PT or otherwise), including positive straggler control, to reduce unnecessary exposure to vehicular traffic. Units will not break down for PT runs to circumvent the requirement for road guards, reflective vests, or other requirements of this policy. Units crossing any of the four lane roads on the Installation will cross at the traffic lights. Formation or unit leaders are subject to citation by the APG police for violating this policy, applicable law, or regulation.

d. Whenever vehicles encounter troop formations, the speed limit from the FRONT will be 10 miles per hour (MPH) or less. Vehicles approaching a formation from the REAR will not pass the troop movement while it is in the LANE of TRAFFIC. However, passing formations that are COMPLETELY on the shoulder of the road, i.e., not one

troop or leader stepping into the traffic lane, will be permitted at 10 MPH or less. Formations are defined as two or more troops with a leader. These speed limits and the proper passing of formations will be enforced by the APG police.

e. Motorists will not jeopardize the safety of troop formations. If the potential exists where the vehicle operator is in doubt about safely passing a formation, the vehicle will stop and await directions from the person in charge of the formation.

3. The following specific requirements apply to the AA of APG.

a. Between 0500 and 0645 traffic will be restricted in the following locations:

(1) Boothby Hill Avenue (from Combat Drive to Aberdeen Boulevard).

(2) Susquehanna Avenue (from Frankford Street to Boothby Hill Avenue).

(3) Raritan Avenue down into the 5000 and 5200 blocks (along Jayhawk Road and down Havre de Grace Street).

(4) No unit formations (PT or otherwise) will be allowed on Aberdeen Boulevard or Maryland Boulevard.

b. Road guards will be placed at the entrance to the above roads prohibiting all traffic except emergency vehicles. Access to work sites normally obtained via these roads will be accomplished through other access roads and crossroads. Exceptions to accessing nearby work sites will be on a case-by-case basis as determined by road guards and provided no other accessible route to a designated work site is practicable and no troops will be encountered in the process. Traffic intersecting these main roads will also be controlled (but not prohibited) by road guards.

4. The following specific requirements apply to the EA of APG. There will be no restricted traffic routes in the EA; however, PT routes will be run from 0500 to 0630 using one of three alternative routes. The starting point for all three routes in the EA will be at the 143rd BN area, i.e., bldg E4223.

(a) The first alternative route is north on Wise Road to bldg E1675 at Scully Road and return on Wise Road.

(b) The second alternative route is east on Austin Road to the intersection of Otto Road and south on Otto Road and north onto Ricketts Point Road. The turn around point will be at the parking lot at South Kings Creek Road, and return to the intersection of Wise and Austin Roads.

(c) The third alternative route is east on Austin Road to the intersection of Otto Road. Then go south on Otto Road to Ricketts Point Road, south on Ricketts Point Road until 57th Street, east on 57th Street to Beach Point Road, east on Beach Point Road, turn around just prior to the water treatment facility and remain on Beach Point Road back to Ricketts Point Road and return to Austin Road.

5. Units in either the AA or EA that cannot use, for practical purposes, the designated routes will have any alternate route approved. As a minimum, alternate routes cannot be on heavily traveled roads for more than very short periods, i.e., for crossover purposes.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

MARDI U. MARK
Colonel, OD
Deputy Installation Commander

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