



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 8TH ARMY
UNIT #15236
APO AP 96205-5236

EACG

26 SEP. 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR All 8th Army Soldiers

SUBJECT: 8th Army Command Policy Letter #9 - Living Standards for Soldiers in Barracks

1. Reference. Army Regulation 600-20, Army Command Policy, 18 April 2008 (incorporating Rapid Action Revision, 27 April 2010).
2. Purpose. To provide guidance and establish a policy for living standards for Soldiers residing in the barracks within 8th Army.
3. Background. Soldiers deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, and should live in a clean, healthy, and safe environment. This environment should provide privacy and comfort, as well as a predictable living standard, regardless of installation assignment. As we assign Soldiers to barracks rooms and areas, the chain of command has an inherent responsibility to ensure proper living standards and conditions are maintained. The chain of command determines the amount of time needed to discharge its responsibilities in this area. This policy reinforces the importance of our Noncommissioned Officers (NCO) leadership in the daily care of subordinates, as well as the responsibility of all leaders to know, clearly define, and reinforce living standards for Soldiers in the barracks. Noncommissioned Officers remain responsible for their Soldiers' welfare to include their billets.
4. Discussion. This policy requires maximum effort by the chain of command and every Soldier. Leaders at all levels are responsible for the Soldiers entrusted to them. Commanders remain responsible for the health, welfare, and security of Soldiers. This policy increases individual responsibility and recognizes that the majority of our Soldiers are mature, responsible, and accountable for their actions. Company commanders or unit first sergeants will personally brief newly assigned personnel on the barrack visitation policy and provide them with a written copy. Commanders will post the barrack visitation policy on unit and barracks bulletin boards.
 - a. Barrack rooms. Soldiers are no longer required to maintain rooms in a standard configuration. Rooms may be arranged to allow Soldiers more freedom of expression. Although uniformity standards have been eliminated, emphasis on cleanliness, safety, and proper accountability remains paramount.
 - (1) This freedom allows for microwaves in accordance with installation and fire safety regulations, telephones (as available), civilian blankets, shower curtains, bedcovers, and other amenities normally found in private homes.
 - (2) Soldiers may use clear adhesive tape or adhesive putty to hang posters on walls. Duct tape, olive drab green "100mph" tape and other similar products will not be used on any walls because they cause paint to peel or leave residual glue when removed. Wall hanging boards and tacks will be used when available.

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(3) Unit Repair and Utility (R&U) NCOs may use troop self-help stores to implement a proactive approach to safe, alternative methods of hanging pictures.

(4) In order to ensure good order and discipline, the following will not be displayed in barracks:

(a) Images (including, but not limited to, pictures and posters) of male and female genitals or naked pubic regions of the body;

(b) Symbols of extremist organizations and activities, i.e., organizations and activities that advocate racial, gender, or ethnic hatred or intolerance; advocate, create, or engage in illegal discrimination based on race, color, gender, religion, or national origin, or advocate the use of or use force or violence or unlawful means to deprive individuals of their rights under the United States Constitution or the laws of the United States, or any State, by unlawful means (see Army Regulation 600-20, paragraph 4-12.a);

(c) Images (including, but not limited to, pictures and posters) indicating the support of a country, organization or individual advocating the overthrow of the U.S. or Republic of Korea (ROK) Governments will not be displayed.

(5) The flag of the United States of America, a U.S. state, or the national flag of a Soldier's country or origin may be displayed.

(6) Where installation self-help stores can support it, barracks rooms may be painted in conservative, pastel colors that are in good taste. Barracks rooms must be repainted to the original color upon departure of the room's occupants.

b. Inspections. This policy letter does not limit in any way the authority to conduct inspections and inventories pursuant to Military Rule of Evidence 313. Commanders retain the authority to conduct legal searches, and health and welfare inspections. Soldiers do not have to be present during legal searches or health and welfare inspections. Enforcing standards, caring for Soldiers, and identifying shortfalls in the function of appliances and plumbing, safety, or living standards are among the most important responsibilities for commanders and NCOs. Daily room checks are not required but commanders will use their discretion in balancing the maintenance of standards while treating Soldiers with respect and allowing privacy.

c. Visitation. With limited restrictions, Soldiers residing in barracks may have visitors. When more than one Soldier resides in a room, they must jointly agree to visitations prior to the visit. The rights of privacy take precedence over visitation and all Soldiers in the barracks must be afforded private time during each day when no visitors are present. For purpose of this command policy letter only, "non-duty days" are defined as Saturday, Sunday and holidays, including training holidays. Brigade-level commander may alter the hours of visitation as necessary to accommodate shift workers and those who routinely work irregular hours or on weekends. The following restrictions apply:

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(1) Hours of visitation:

- (a) Duty days before duty days: 1700 to 2400.
- (b) Duty days before non-duty days: 1700 to 0200.
- (c) Non-duty days before non-duty days: 1000 to 0200.
- (d) Non-duty days before duty days: 1000 to 2400.

(2) Any non-military visitor under the age of 18 and not a member of the Soldier's immediate family (e.g., brother, sister, or spouse) must be accompanied by a legal parent or guardian.

(3) Soldiers are responsible for their visitors' actions in the barracks. Visitors will sign-in/out at the Change of Quarters (CQ) desk. Additionally, Soldiers are responsible for ensuring guests to the barracks are properly signed on and off the installation being visited, as necessary.

(4) Dual military couples, authorized by a COL level commander, are allowed to live in the same room in a barracks designated for such co-habitation. Otherwise, co-habitation is strictly prohibited.

d. The use of CQs to safeguard barracks and residents is mandatory. At all times, the chain of command is responsible for the safety, security, and environment in which their Soldiers live. Commanders will establish procedures by which billets are checked during non-duty hours. Brigade-level commanders will determine the appropriate mix and number of CQs used based on the number and type of barracks utilized and mission requirements. Traditionally, NCOs have taken the lead in knowing how their Soldiers are living. No policy will change that historical tie between the NCO and those in his/her charge. NCOs are responsible for their Soldiers' well-being in the billets. Personnel on CQ duty will not watch television nor listen to radios. Personnel on CQ duty will stay alert, make their required checks, and follow their instructions.

e. A floor and/or wing sergeant will be in charge of each floor. These NCOs will reside in the barracks. In those cases where a unit does not have enough NCOs assigned, a senior specialist can be utilized as floor or wing sergeants. The emphasis is on promoting responsible leadership at the lowest level.

f. Soldiers will fully employ the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) Council as a way to effectively communicate the needs of barracks residents to the commander.

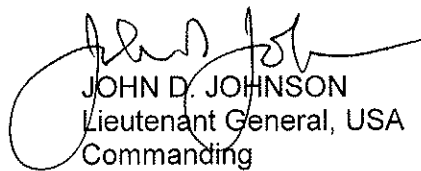
g. Quiet Hours. Brigade-level commanders will establish quiet hours based on mission requirements. Units with shift-workers will implement policies to accommodate the needs of all personnel residing in the barracks.

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h. Pets. No pets, including caged animals, are allowed in the barracks. Reasons for this restriction include consideration for roommates, disposition and care upon deployment, and humane care for pets, among others. The only exception to this policy is for units that have mascots (dogs). It is the unit chain of command's responsibility to ensure that these animals are housed and cared for properly.

5. Proponent. The 8th Army Assistant Chief of Staff G1 is the proponent of this policy. The proponent can be contacted at commercial 011-822-7914-3496 or DSN 315-724-4589.



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Commanding