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United States Army Europe and Africa
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Army in Europe
Regulation 608-18-1*

Headquarters
United States Army Installation Management Command
Europe
Sembach, Germany

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Personal Affairs

Army in Europe Child and Youth Supervision

*This regulation supersedes AE Regulation 608-18-1, 5 July 2018.

For the Director:

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Summary. This regulation prescribes required levels of child and youth supervision for U.S. military and civilian personnel assigned to any element of the Army in Europe.

Summary of change. This revision—

- Updates organizational names, office symbols, telephone numbers, and other administrative information throughout.
- Changes supervision guidelines from school grade to age.
- Adds parent and caregiver responsibilities.
- Delegates authority to approve exceptions to this regulation to garrison commanders.
- Makes administrative changes (throughout).

Applicability. This regulation applies to Soldiers, Department of the Army Civilian employees, and Family members throughout the Army in Europe.

Records Management. Records created as a result of processes prescribed by this regulation must be identified, maintained, and disposed of according to AR 25-400-2. Record titles and descriptions are available in the Army Records Information Management System at <https://www.arims.army.mil>.

Supplementation. Organizations will not supplement this regulation without approval of the Army Community Service (ACS) Branch, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff (IMEU-MWR-A), G9, IMCOM-Europe.

Suggested Improvements. The proponent of this regulation is the ACS Branch, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff (IMEU-MWR-A), G9, IMCOM- Europe (mil 544-9263). Users may suggest improvements to this regulation by completing a DA Form 2028 and sending it by email to usarmy.sembach.id-europe.mbx.imcom-e-g9-admin@mail.mil.

Distribution. This regulation is available only electronically and is posted in the Army in Europe Library and Publishing System at <https://www.aepubs.eur.army.mil/>.

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1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this regulation is to provide—

- a. A standard method for promoting child and youth safety through the implementation of supervision guidelines on Army in Europe installations and in off-installation housing.
- b. Guidance for safeguarding children and youth from the time of birth through the age of 17.

2. REFERENCES

a. Publications.

- (1) AR 25-400-2, The Army Records Information Management System (ARIMS).
- (2) AR 608-18, The Army Family Advocacy Program.
- (3) National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328), section 575.

b. Form. DA Form 2028, Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms.

3. EXPLANATION OF ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMS

ACS	Army Community Service
AE	Army in Europe
AR	Army regulation
CYS	Child and Youth Services
DA	Department of the Army
ETP	exception to policy
FAP	Family Advocacy Program
GC	garrison commander
hrs	hours
IMCOM-Europe	United States Army Installation Management Command Europe
mil	military
MP	military police

4. DEFINITION OF INADEQUATE SUPERVISION

A type of child neglect characterized by the absence or inattention of the parent, guardian foster parent, or other caregiver that results in injury or serious threat of injury to the child, in the child being unable to care for himself or herself, or in injury or serious threat of injury to another person because the child's behavior was not properly monitored.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

a. Army in Europe Leaders. Military and civilian leaders throughout the Army in Europe will enforce the policy in this regulation by ensuring that all assigned Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians apply the child-supervision guidance in [table 1](#).

b. Exceptions to Policy (ETPs). The IMCOM–Europe Director delegates approval authority to garrison commanders (GCs) for exceptions to policies in this regulation. In reviewing circumstances for ETP decisions, GCs will consult with their, or the IMCOM Europe, Family Advocacy Program (FAP) Manager.

c. Parents and Adult Caregivers. Inadequate child supervision is subject to evaluation through the incident status determination and case review processes prescribed in AR 608-18. All parents and designated adult caregivers—

(1) Are responsible for the supervision, safety, and well-being of children in their care.

(2) Must exercise reasonable judgment based on a particular child's needs. [Table 1](#) provides guidelines for making these decisions. Important variables to consider are—

(a) The maturity of the child and age-appropriate responsibilities given to the child.

(b) Any physically or emotionally disabling conditions the child may have.

(c). The child's knowledge of and ability to apply emergency procedures.

(d) The child's accessibility to parents or other designated and informed adults.

(3) Must be cognizant of host-nation laws when visiting or living on the economy. Host-nation child protection and supervision rules may be more stringent than those outlined within this regulation. When off-post and when host-nation rules exceed those of this regulation, parents are to follow host-nation rules. Because parents are ultimately responsible for the safety and well-being of their children, they need to be familiar with host-nation child supervision rules and the guidelines provided in this regulation. Additional information is available at the local Army Community Service FAP office.

(4) Must recognize, understand, and comply with their role in the supervision, safety, and well-being of children in their care.

d. Personnel Who Observe Inadequate Child Supervision.

(1) Anyone who observes an incident of child abuse or neglect should report the incident to the local military police (MP).

(2) For the purpose of this policy, all physicians, nurses, social workers, school personnel, Child and Youth Services (CYS) personnel, FAP personnel, psychologists, and other medical personnel are “mandated reporters.” Mandated reporters will report information about known or suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to the MP as soon as the information is received.

(3) In accordance with Public Law 114-328 ([para 2a\(3\)](#)), any individual in the chain of command of a Servicemember is required to report credible information (which may include reasonable belief) that a child in the Family or the home of a Servicemember has suffered an alleged incident of child abuse or neglect.

(4) As the regional points of contact for the FAP throughout the Army in Europe, the MP will investigate all reported incidents and forward the findings, if substantiated, to the servicing FAP clinical personnel and to the applicable GC for evaluation and disposition.

**Table 1
Army in Europe Child and Youth Supervision Guidelines**

Age of child	May be left alone at home	May be left alone overnight	May walk alone to and from home to and from adult-sponsored activities ¹	May be left outside unattended (to include playing)	May be left in a vehicle unattended	May babysit
Newborn until Age 5	No	No	No	No	No	No
Age 5 to 6	No	No	No This includes school and bus stops. ¹	No for 5 year olds; Yes for 6 year olds in playgrounds or yards with immediate access (visual or hearing distance) to the parent or caregiver.	No	No
Ages 7 to 9	No	No	Yes. May also walk to and from school and bus stops. In some locations, the school may have additional restrictions. ¹	Yes, during daylight hours in playgrounds or yards with immediate access (visual or hearing distance) to an adult.	No	No
Ages 10 to 11	Yes, with ready access (phone number) to an adult, but for no more than 3 hrs	No	Yes ¹	Yes	Yes, except in hot weather and for no more than 10 minutes, provided that the child has immediate access to an adult. The keys must be removed and the handbrake applied.	No
Ages 12 to 13	Yes, with ready access (phone number) to an adult, but no more than 6 hrs.	No	Yes ¹	Yes	Yes	Yes ² up to 3 hrs
Ages 14 to 17	Yes	Yes for ages 14 and 15, provided the child remains in the local area, has access to a parent or sponsor, and the period does not exceed 24 hrs. Yes for ages 16 and 17, provided the period does not exceed 3 consecutive days and the parent or sponsor has designated an adult point of contact who will make daily face-to-face contact.	Yes ¹	Yes	Yes	Yes ²

NOTES:

1. The U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity may adjust its child-supervision requirements for off-post bus stops if deemed necessary according to local security and safety indicators. School administrators and CYS personnel will inform parents of any local deviations from the requirements in this table.
2. Parents must be cognizant of host-nation laws when visiting or living on the economy. Host-nation child protection and supervision rules may be more stringent than those outlined within this regulation. When off-post and when host-nation rules exceed those of this regulation, parents are to follow host-nation law. Parents need to be familiar with host-nation child supervision rules and these guidelines as they are ultimately responsible for the safety and wellbeing of their children. Additional information is available at the local Army Community Service FAP office.
3. Youths who wish to babysit (siblings or others) are encouraged to complete the Red Cross Babysitters Course. The number and ages of other children present need to be considered.
4. These guidelines do not apply to high-school students who are age 18 or older; nor do they apply to married dependents under the age of 18