DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY GARRISON, ALASKA
1060 GAFFNEY ROAD #6000
FORT WAINWRIGHT, ALASKA 99703-6000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

APVR-WPC-OPS 3 November 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: FWA Garrison Policy #5 - Severe Weather Plan

1. Reference: AR 385-55, Prevention of Motor Vehicle Accidents, 12 March 1987.

2. Purpose: To establish the procedures for issuing road advisories and/or closure of Fort Wainwright, Alaska (FWA) due to severe weather.

3. Applicability: All personnel assigned to FWA and those working for the various tenant agencies, to include Fairbanks North Star Borough School District (FNSBSD). Unit commanders and agency directors retain responsibility for the duty disposition of their personnel; however, drivers of vehicles on long-term dispatch from FWA will comply with restrictions on movement as imposed by the FWA Garrison Commander.

4. Policy: Based on input from the Provost Marshal, Safety Office, the Director of Public Works (DPW), School District Superintendent, weather advisories, and regional weather forecasts, the FWA Garrison Commander will assess the situation and determine road condition classification and if any safety or other precautionary measures should be taken by units/personnel.

5. Road condition classifications (matrix enclosed):

(1) **GREEN**: UNRESTRICTED. Unrestricted vehicle dispatches are authorized. Ideal road, visibility, and temperature conditions exist. Drivers will observe normal precautions and speed limits.

(2) **AMBER**: HAZARDOUS ROAD CONDITIONS. Ideal road, temperature, and visibility conditions do not exist. Increased driving times, hazardous road conditions, and driver experience will be considered in dispatching vehicles under amber conditions. Commanders, directorate heads or primary staff will authorize dispatches under amber conditions.

(3) **RED**: MISSION ESSENTIAL. Road, temperature, and visibility conditions are equal to or worse than those noted in amber Road-Condition Status Characteristics. The dispatch record for mission essential vehicles will be marked "mission-essential." Battalion level commanders and primary staff will authorize dispatch of mission essential vehicles.

(4) **BLACK**: EMERGENCY ESSENTIAL. Only emergency-essential vehicle dispatches are authorized. Road, temperature, and visibility conditions are equal to or worse than those noted in RED Road-Condition Status Characteristics. The dispatch record for emergency vehicles (police, fire, ambulance, and emergency engineer) will be marked "emergency-essential." Chiefs of appropriate offices (Provost Marshal, fire, Medical activity, and) and Brigade level commanders and above will authorize dispatch of emergency vehicles.

6. Severe Weather Advisory Procedures: During periods of hazardous driving conditions (such as snow, ice storms, or natural disasters) arise, commanders may find it necessary to modify/curtail administrative and training operations in order to provide for the safety of soldiers and civilian employees. Based on current or projected weather conditions, the following procedures will be implemented:

a. Military Vehicles: The appropriate commander will decide whether to limit or halt operation of military vehicles under his/her command based upon upgraded road condition classification as disseminated by FWA Garrison Commander.

b. Personnel:

(1) Military: The appropriate commander will decide whether to limit or halt training and/or other activities or release soldiers under his/her command based upon upgraded road condition classification as disseminated by FWA Garrison Commander.

(2) Civilian: FWA Garrison Commander and/or agency directors will direct supervisors to exercise "liberal leave policy." Civilian employees are expected to report for work. Once road conditions are determined it is imperative that the civilian workforce personnel contact their first line supervisor for absentee procedures. However, if commuting to work is impractical/impossible; employees will contact their supervisors or other designated POC and request leave. Annual leave, compensatory leave or leave without pay will be used for this purpose. DURING DELAY OF REPORTING, EARLY RELEASE OR ACTIVITY CLOSURE SITUATIONS, NON-REQUIRED ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL CIVILIANS MAY BE EXCUSED WITHOUT LOSS OF PAY OR CHARGE TO LEAVE ONLY BY FWA GARRISON COMMANDER.

c. Facility/Activity Closure: When weather conditions become so severe as to warrant delay of personnel reporting to work, early release of personnel or closure of facilities and activities, the FWA Garrison Commander will disseminate his decision following the notification procedures outlined in Paragraph 7. Unit commanders and agency directors are responsible for their unit's essential missions and designating unit Required Essential Personnel. Facilities will continue to operate using Required Essential Personnel.

d. The School District: The School District Superintendent decides whether to close schools, delay school openings, or direct early release. Delays in school openings are standardized by time. In the event of post closure, School District personnel may be considered non-essential personnel. The School District Superintendent will ensure that changes to school schedules are coordinated with school district personnel, Ft Wainwright garrison personnel, FWA PAO, and the local radio stations.

7. Notification Procedures: Once the FWA Garrison Commander makes the decision to change the road conditions and/or close Post early/delay opening Post, notification procedures will be implemented.

a. The FWA Garrison Staff Duty will make notification of an increase in road condition status by utilizing the Installation Leader Alert Roster. All directors will be notified by a direct telephone call, which will be followed by an e-mail notification. The road condition status will be posted at all gates and on the post marquis to ensure the widest dissemination.

b. The Public Affairs Office (PAO) will request that local radio stations broadcast the information to the general public.

c. Other means to disseminate this information will be the Crisis Action Team Recall Roster, Distribution A (FWA), FWA Command Channel 5, and 353-INFO.

8. This policy supersedes Post Policy Letter 31 – Road Condition Standards, dated 17 Mar 03.

9. The POC for this memorandum is the PMO at 353-7535.

DAVID A. BROWN
LTC, FA
FWA Garrison Commander

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ROAD CONDITION STANDARDS MATRIX

ROAD CONDITION	ROAD SURFACE	SNOW	ICE	SNOW DEPTH	VISIBILITY
Green: UNRESTRICTED	Dry	(1)None (2)Blowing Powder	None	None	More than 50 meters
Amber: HAZARDOUS ROAD CONDITIONS	Wet	*Packed *Slush	*Patches *Black Ice	*Less than 4 inches	*Between 20 and 50 meters
Red: MISSION ESSENTIAL	*Flooded	*Drifting	*Sheet Ice	*> 4"	*< 20 m
Black: EMERGENCY ESSENTIAL	*Heavy Flooding	*Heavy Drifting	*Extreme Sheet Ice	*> 8"	*< 15 m
* When one or more of the road conditions marked with and asterisk are noted, the corresponding road condition status must be declared.					

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