



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY ARMOR CENTER AND FORT KNOX
FORT KNOX KENTUCKY 40121-5000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

ATZK-S (385)

27 May 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR

Commanders, All Units Reporting Directly to This Headquarters
Commanders, Fort Knox Partners in Excellence
Directors and Chiefs, Staff Offices/Departments, This Headquarters

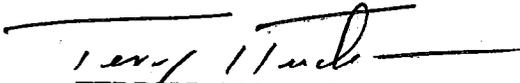
SUBJECT: Thunderbolt Six Policy Memo No. 40-13 – Civilian Visitors Operating Military Equipment

1. Reference HQDA message, 071540Z Mar 01, subject: Civilian Visitors Operating Military Equipment.
2. Above reference from Department of the Army (DA) places a moratorium on civilian visitors operating military vessels, aircraft, vehicles, and crew-served weapon systems when such operation could cause, or reasonably be perceived as causing, an increased safety risk. This moratorium is effective regardless of how closely civilian visitors are supervised.
3. In addition to the DA moratorium, civilian visitors to Fort Knox are precluded from the following:
 - a. Driving military track or wheel vehicles and operating mechanical or ground support equipment such as winches, turrets, and ammunition doors.
 - b. Setting up, throwing or firing military demolitions, pyrotechnics, grenades, rockets, and lasers.
 - c. Negotiating or using the Confidence/Obstacle Course, Teamwork Development Course, Zussman Mounted Urban Combat Training Facility, or the rappel tower.
4. Civilian operation of other types of equipment, including small arms, must be done safely, under the direct supervision of Department of Defense civilian or military personnel and in accordance with prescribed policies and regulations; military commanders/directors at the O-5 level can approve these events. Approval must be in writing and based upon a thorough risk assessment and detailed written description of activities to be conducted.

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5. In instances where established policies or regulations do not cover the situation, approval authority is with the first General Officer in the chain of command. Requests for approval will be submitted through the Armor Branch Safety Office for review.
6. Civilian contractors and DOD civilians who must operate military equipment as part of their duties are not considered civilian visitors for the purpose of this memorandum and therefore are not affected by this policy. Contracting Officer Representatives and supervisors of civilian contractors will enforce compliance with this directive.
7. This moratorium is not intended to restrict civilian visitors from observing Army training, demonstrations, static displays, and like activities. The intent is to ensure civilian visitors are protected from the hazards associated with high-risk operations.
8. All units and organizations will review and ensure compliance with regulations and policies concerning civilian visitor use of military vehicles, equipment and facilities.



TERRY L. TUCKER
Major General, USA
Commanding

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