



Chapter 6

Supervision of Drivers

Need for Supervision

To maintain driver efficiency, training and testing must not stop with the issuing of SF 46. Supervisors must continuously train and test drivers, because without supervision, good driving habits and maintenance may deteriorate.

How to Supervise Drivers

Supervision is a principal duty of every officer and noncommissioned officer in the Army. A supervisor must know how to drive the vehicle and be able to recognize vehicle abuse. A checklist such as the preventive maintenance checks and services (PMCS) tables in the operator's manual is a useful reference.

Checklists in Supervision

A checklist is a practical way to discover driver faults and vehicle abuse. Spot-check drivers before, during, and after a march or exercise, and while the vehicles are warming up, observe for correct procedures. Question the drivers on correct engine rpm, length of warmup, normal readings of instruments, operator/crew maintenance, and the driver's during-operation inspection. Make a note of any deficiencies found so that additional instruction can be given.

During a march or exercise; ride with the column in a light vehicle to observe speeds, proper interval, and smoothness of operation.

On returning to the vehicle park, check the stopping and after operations procedures and correct any deficiencies. As soon as possible, give individual attention to drivers found operating their vehicles improperly.

Periodic Testing of Drivers

Drivers occasionally form bad habits not apparent from observation. For this reason, give periodic driver tests (written and practical). When required, review with drivers vehicle abuse and driver faults that observation shows most prevalent in the organization.

Every three years when the driver's license expires, or more often if warranted, make sure he is retested. Give each driver additional training as needed. After retraining, give the test again to anyone who failed it. If the driver still fails to pass, revoke his SF 46. This retesting and retraining procedure is essential in maintaining driver efficiency and must be just as thorough as those used to train and test new drivers.

Incentive Program

Every organization should provide incentives for drivers to improve themselves and their driving ability.

Competitive maintenance inspections, obstacle driving "rodeos," and vehicle maneuvers give drivers a chance to prove their abilities and give the commander a chance to evaluate driver training.

Expert driver permits should be awarded to all drivers who qualify for them. To emphasize their importance, present them at a ceremony or formation.

The motor vehicle operator badge is authorized for qualified drivers in accordance with the provisions of AR 672-5-1. It is authorized for track vehicle drivers with 12 months or 8,000 miles of operation who have no accidents or violations on their record. It also may be awarded to a driver instructor or examiner who has held the position for one year. AR 672-5-1 illustrates the driver's badge to be awarded and the appendages to be attached to the badge. A lieutenant colonel or higher may award this badge.

Use training extension courses (TEC) lessons to help drivers who want to improve their driving skills. They are available for most track combat vehicles and relate to a variety of driving situations. Lesson tapes and assistance in their use can be obtained at post or battalion learning centers.