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Civil Engineer

**USE AND CONTROL OF OFF-ROAD
VEHICLES (ORVS)**

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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This instruction implements AFD 32-70, *Environmental Quality*, and establishes procedures and responsibilities for controlling ORVs; prescribes operating conditions for ORVs on Eielson AFB lands and recreation areas; ensures natural/cultural resources are protected; establishes a safety and accident prevention program; and minimizes conflicts of use. This instruction applies to all military units and personnel assigned or attached to Eielson AFB, civilian employees, dependents of military or civilian personnel, and to all other individuals while on Eielson AFB lands or recreation areas.

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS

This document is substantially revised and must be completely reviewed.

1. Responsibilities:

- 1.1. **Base Civil Engineer.** Prescribes operating conditions for ORVs which protect natural/cultural resources and minimize use conflicts. Maintains ORV hands-on training site.
- 1.2. **Natural/Cultural Resources.** Maintains appropriate signs and barricades to delineate and protect trails and special use areas, monitors the effects of ORV use, and modifies this instruction to ensure adequate control.
- 1.3. **Security Forces.** Provides enforcement of the policies contained in this instruction through patrols and handles violations according to applicable military directives. Registers all privately owned ORVs that are not registered as street vehicles under a separate local system. Takes action in accordance with complaints submitted under paragraph **1.5.** of this instruction.
- 1.4. **Wing Safety.** Implements an ORV safety and accident prevention program. Monitors a safety education program for two-wheeled vehicles, lightweight ATVs, and snowmobiles and will include,

as part of the program, the policies of this instruction. Issues AF Form 483, **Certificate of Competency**, to those successfully completing the courses.

1.5. **ORV Operators.** All persons operating vehicles are subject to the requirements of this instruction. Anyone observing infractions or unsafe behavior will report the observed actions to Security Forces Law Enforcement (Bldg 2222).

2. Registration:

2.1. **State.** All privately-owned snow vehicles will be registered with any state prior to operation on base. If issued a state registration decal, it will be displayed on the snow vehicle as outlined by state law. State registration will be current. If a snow vehicle is parked next to quarters, dwellings, barracks, etc., it is assumed that it is in operating condition, and must therefore be registered with any state. Snow vehicles are lightweight ATVs and snowmobiles.

2.2. Base:

2.2.1. All privately owned ORVs not registered as street vehicles will be registered with the Security Forces under a separate local system prior to operation on base. If an ORV is parked next to quarters, dwellings, dormitories, etc., it is assumed that it is in operating condition, and must therefore be registered with the Security Forces.

2.2.2. To register an ORV, the owner must present proof of ownership (all ORVs), current registration from any state (lightweight ATVs and snowmobiles), and an Air Force-issued certificate of competency (lightweight ATVs and snowmobiles) to Pass and Registration.

2.2.3. Registration forms (EAFB Form 8, **Off Road Registration**) available at Pass and Registration, will be completed in two copies. Pass and Registration will record the state registration number for lightweight ATVs and snowmobiles on the base registration form. One copy will be maintained at Pass and Registration. The operator of the ORV must carry the second on his person or the ORV while operating the vehicle. Pass and Registration will give the ORV owner a decal that must be affixed to the ORV above or below the state registration decal or as directed by Pass and Registration. When the ORV has two state decals, the base decal will be placed next to the state decal on the right hand side of the ORV.

2.2.4. ORVs must be registered within 3 days after purchase/completion of local safety course.

3. Operator License and Age Requirements. Valid state operator's license, learner's permit, or special operator's permit, base Certificate of Competency, Safety Education Course, and minimum age requirements for the operation of privately owned ORVs on Eielson AFB are outlined in [Attachment 2](#). The state operator license or permit and base certificate of competency as required by [Attachment 2](#), will be carried on the person of anyone operating an ORV on base.

4. Safety Education Program:

4.1. The following Air Force safety education courses are prerequisites for registration and operation of off-road vehicles on base:

4.1.1. Appropriate snowmobile course.

4.1.2. Appropriate ATV course.

4.2. Wing Safety will give the appropriate ORV handout to everyone attending the courses listed above. Natural/Cultural Resources will prepare and supply the handouts to Wing Safety.

5. Liability Insurance Requirements. There are no insurance requirements for ORVs, however, personnel are encouraged to carry personal and property liability insurance for their own protection and peace of mind.

6. Mandatory ORV Equipment. All ORVs operating on Eielson AFB will have the following:

6.1. Working brakes.

6.2. Complete factory installed exhaust system, or equivalent, in good working order and in constant operation, and no vehicle may have a muffler cutout, bypass, burned-out muffler, or similar device. ORVs will not produce unusual or excessive noise or pollutants.

6.3. If operated at dusk, dawn, or nighttime hours, will be equipped with working headlights and taillights, and the lights will be turned on.

7. Safety Requirements:

7.1. The following are applicable to all ORVs:

7.1.1. The manufacturer's designed seating capacity will not be exceeded.

7.1.2. No passenger conveyance such as sleds, trailers, carts, inner tubes, toboggans, and so on, will be towed unless it is attached to an ORV by a solid, rigid tow bar.

7.1.3. All racing and competition events are prohibited on base except as authorized by the Support Group Commander. Requests to have races or competition events will be submitted to the Support Group Commander through Natural/Cultural Resources and Wing Safety.

7.2. Protective helmets meeting minimum DOT, Snell, or ANSI requirements will be worn by all operators and passengers of two-wheeled vehicles, ATVs, and snowmobiles on Eielson AFB. Helmets are also required for persons occupying any sled, trailer, cart, or similar object which is being towed by a two-wheeled vehicle, ATV, or snowmobile.

7.3. Eye protection (face shield or goggles) made of shatter-resistant, transparent material is mandatory for operators and passengers on two-wheeled vehicles, ATVs, and snowmobiles.

7.4. Snowmobiles, ATVs, motorcycles, and motor scooters will be driven on Eielson AFB with headlights and taillights on at all times.

7.5. Full-finger gloves, long-sleeved shirt or jacket, long pants, and over-the-ankle boots are mandatory for two-wheeled vehicle and lightweight ATV operators.

8. Rules Governing Operation:

8.1. No one will operate an ORV on Eielson AFB lands:

8.1.1. In a reckless or negligent manner, under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or in such a manner as to damage or destroy government or private property.

8.1.2. Exceeding established speed limits (posted speed limits or those established by this instruction).

8.1.3. In a manner to cause any rutting of the earth or its protective cover, crushing or compressing vegetation, breaking or dislodging trees or shrubs, or altering the surface in any way which inhibits growth or causes erosion. ORV use is restricted to existing trails, rights-of-way, grass meadows, brush fields, or open areas.

8.1.4. To chase, disturb, or in any manner cause disruption of normal wildlife activities.

8.2. Persons under 16 years of age must be under the direct supervision of their parent or legal guardian, when operating a motorcycle, trail bike, snowmobile, or ATV on Eielson AFB. Persons under 14 years of age must be under the direct supervision of their parent or legal guardian, when operating a motor scooter on Eielson AFB. Direct supervision is riding the same ORV if the seating capacity is not exceeded or another ORV in close proximity to the person requiring direct supervision.

8.3. Non-street legal ORVs will be trailered/towed through the main gate. Street legal ORVs may be driven through the main gate.

8.4. ORVs not meeting the requirements for on-street operation will not be operated on any paved or gravel roads or parking areas maintained by the Base Civil Engineer including Quarry Road, Ski Lodge Road, Cargain Road, Industrial Drive, Arctic Avenue including the roadway from Arctic Avenue to the base service station, Manchu Trail, the roads to the Sewage Lagoon, Transmitter Road to Engineer Hill Munitions Storage Area, and the roads west of the Richardson Highway. The following exceptions apply:

8.4.1. During snowmobile season, snowmobiles and lightweight/mediumweight ATVs may be operated on Manchu Trail east of the French Creek bridge, Quarry Road from the Arctic Survival Command Post to the base boundary, and the roads west of the Richardson Highway, but must obey the posted speed limits and operate on the extreme right-hand side of the road. Snowmobiles and lightweight/mediumweight ATVs can cross French Creek using the bridges on Quarry Road and Manchu Trail, Moose Creek using the bridge on Transmitter Road, and Garrison Slough using the bridge on Transmitter Road and the road shoulder of the culvert crossing on Arctic Avenue. When on these bridges or culvert crossing, operate snowmobiles and lightweight/mediumweight ATVs at the minimum throttle setting necessary to maintain forward motion (approximately 5 mph).

8.4.2. Lightweight ATVs and trail bikes can operate on the following access routes to get to use areas behind base. Operators using the lightweight ATV and trail bike access routes to get to use areas behind housing will possess a valid driver's, motorcycle, or motor scooter operator's license from any state and a base certificate of competency. Operators not possessing a valid driver's, motorcycle, or motor scooter operator's license from any state can operate on the lightweight ATV and trail bike access routes only if they possess a base certificate of competency and are under the direct supervision of their parent or legal guardian, who possesses a valid state driver's license and a base certificate of competency as required for the access routes. The main access routes for base housing occupants are Industrial Drive, Broadway Avenue, Kodiak Street, North Street, Polaris Street, Glacier Boulevard, Moose Lake Drive, Midnight Sun Drive, French Creek Drive, and Arctic Avenue to access Manchu Trail and Transmitter Road to get to use areas behind base. Individuals not living on these main access routes must proceed by the most direct route to/from these main access routes using the roadway on which they live. Housing occupants cannot operate west of Arctic Avenue. Dorm residents in Buildings 2260-2266 will use the east loop road behind the dorms and proceed through the CE shop parking area between Buildings 2350 and 2351, turn left

and proceed to the parking area entrance off Central Avenue, use Central Avenue to Manchu Trail, and use Manchu Trail, Arctic Avenue, and Transmitter Road to get to use areas behind base. Dorm residents in Buildings 2202-2208 will use Wabash Avenue to the BX Service Station, cross Central Avenue to Manchu Trail, and use Manchu Trail, Arctic Avenue, and Transmitter Road to get to the use areas behind base. Operation on Transmitter Road between Arctic Avenue and Central Avenue is prohibited. Use of these access routes is limited to that operation necessary to get to use areas. Lightweight ATVs and trail bikes will be driven on the extreme right-hand side of these streets. The speed limit when operating on these streets is 15 mph. Lightweight ATVs and trail bikes can cross French Creek using the bridges on Quarry Road and Manchu Trail, Moose Creek using the bridge on Transmitter Road, and Garrison Slough using the bridge on Transmitter Road and the road shoulder of the culvert crossing on Arctic Avenue. When on these bridges or culvert crossing operate lightweight ATVs and trail bikes at the minimum throttle setting necessary to maintain forward motion (approximately 5 mph).

8.5. Snowmobiles, trail bikes, and ATVs must be operated at least 6 feet off CE-maintained roads and parking lots, except those roads authorized as areas of operation.

8.6. ORV use is prohibited in any area where training is being conducted and where children are playing.

8.7. Privately owned snowmobiles, trail bikes, and ATVs will not be driven to and from duty sections or places of employment.

8.8. Firearms or other hunting instruments can be carried on any ORV since the state of Alaska does not prohibit this practice. ORV operators will comply with 354 FWI 32-7001, *Conservation and Management of Natural Resources*, concerning the discharge and use of firearms on Eielson AFB. Firearms will be visible (in plain sight) and unloaded when being carried on an ORV to and from authorized hunting areas. Firearms will not be left unattended or unsecured.

8.9. Crossing streams with ORVs where no bridge, culverts, or designated ford exists is prohibited, except when the ground and stream are frozen and covered with snow.

8.10. Four-wheeled and two-wheeled ORV use is restricted to maintained roads during break-up until the terrain assumes a dry condition. The Support Group Commander will determine when break-up is over, and when it is permissible for four-wheeled and two-wheeled ORVs to operate on areas other than maintained roads.

8.11. Snowmobile use is prohibited unless there is adequate snow cover to protect the underlying terrain from damage. The Support Group Commander will determine the beginning and end of the snowmobile season. Snowmobile operation is prohibited except during the designated snowmobile season.

8.12. Completely steel tired or tracked ORVs will not be operated on base.

9. Closed Areas. The following areas are closed to all ORV use:

9.1. Airfield.

9.2. Firing range and impact area.

9.3. Asbestos landfill, soil remediation area, and fire training area.

9.4. Quarry Road and Engineer Hill Munitions Storage Areas.

- 9.5. EOD Controlled Area.
- 9.6. Ski Slope and sledding hill next to ski lodge.
- 9.7. POL Tank Farms.
- 9.8. Sewage Lagoon and Treatment Area.
- 9.9. Parcours and Eielson AFB Self-Guided Nature Trail.
- 9.10. Arctic Survival Training Area and Command Post.
- 9.11. The cross-country ski area near the Ski Lodge bounded by the ski slope, Quarry Road, east and south boundaries of Eielson AFB, and including the 160 acres in the Yukon Maneuver Area permitted to Eielson by the Army for ski trails.
- 9.12. When there is snow cover on the ground, ORV operation is prohibited in the cross-country ski area between French Creek, the Youth Center, and cooling ponds.
- 9.13. Area bounded by Central Avenue, Transmitter Road, Garrison Slough, north base boundary, and Old Richardson Highway is closed to all-terrain vehicle, two-wheeled vehicle, and snowmobile use. This area includes the main gate and Alaska railroad tracks north of Transmitter Road. The ORV hands-on training site within this area is exempt for training classes only.
- 9.14. Archery practice and field ranges.
- 9.15. Trap/skeet range.
- 9.16. When snowmobile season is closed, ORV operation is prohibited on the dike surrounding the Moose Lake and French Creek subdivisions of 801 housing, in the Mullins Pits, Bear Lake, and Scout Lake Wildlife Management Areas, the grassed areas of Cathers Lake Borrow Pit, and on paved bike trails.
- 9.17. The forested buffer zone around Manchu Ponds.
- 9.18. School grounds to include the high school football field and track.
- 9.19. The public transportation route of potential explosion sites.
- 9.20. When there is no snow cover on the ground, the Chena River Campground is closed to all unnecessary use. ORVs may be used only for access to and from campsites.
- 9.21. Det 460 AFTAC, Remote Operating Facility (ROF). Beaver Creek Road, which goes through the Det 460 ROF, can be used for access to non-closed areas on either side of the ROF. Anyone using Beaver Creek Road as an access route is restricted to the road.
- 9.22. "C" Battery off Johnson Road in the Yukon Maneuver Area.
- 9.23. Birch Lake Recreation Area.
- 9.24. In the base cantonment area, ORVs will not be operated or parked on grass areas, sidewalks, lawn areas, and athletic fields. Exception: During snowmobile season, snowmobiles, and light/medium-weight ATVs can be operated or parked on these areas as outlined in the following paragraphs.
- 9.25. Areas posted with signs.

10. Designated Use Areas. ORVs will be operated only in or on the following designated areas or trails (maps are available at Natural Resources, building 2160):

10.1. Four-Wheeled ORVs:

10.1.1. The use of four-wheeled ORVs is prohibited on Eielson AFB except on maintained roads and gravel accesses to lakes when snow cover is absent.

10.1.2. The use of four-wheeled ORVs is prohibited on Eielson AFB except on winter maintained roads (plowed roads) when there is snow cover on the ground.

10.2. Two-Wheeled ORVs:

10.2.1. The use of motorcycles and motor scooters is prohibited on Eielson AFB except on maintained roads and in designated use areas (areas not listed in paragraph 9.).

10.2.2. The use of trail bikes is prohibited on Eielson AFB except in designated use areas (areas not listed in paragraph 9.) and on designated access routes (paragraph 8.4.2.).

10.2.3. When there is snow cover on the ground, two-wheeled ORV use is not recommended.

10.3. All-Terrain Vehicles:

10.3.1. The use of privately owned heavyweight ATVs on Eielson AFB is prohibited without written permission from Natural/Cultural Resources. All requests to operate privately owned heavyweight ATVs on base will be made to Natural/Cultural Resources in writing. All persons granted the privilege of operating a heavyweight ATV on base will carry with them the Natural/Cultural Resources letter of approval.

10.3.2. The use of privately owned mediumweight ATVs is prohibited on Eielson AFB except on designated access routes (paragraph 8.4.1.) and in designated use areas (areas not listed in paragraph 9.). During snowmobile season, these ATVs can be parked on the frozen, snow-covered lawns and use the snowmobile trails across the lawns to get to the use areas. Operators will follow the procedures in paragraph 10.4.

10.3.3. The use of privately owned lightweight ATVs is prohibited on Eielson AFB except on designated access routes (paragraphs 8.4.1. and 8.4.2.) and in designated use areas (areas not listed in paragraph 9.). Lightweight ATVs can operate on the base streets listed in paragraph 8.4. to get to the use areas behind housing. During snowmobile season lightweight ATVs may use the snowmobile trails across the frozen, snow-covered lawns to get to the use areas. Operators will follow procedures in paragraph 10.4.

10.4. Snowmobiles:

10.4.1. The use of snowmobiles is prohibited on Eielson AFB except on designated access routes (paragraph 8.4.1.), in designated use areas (areas not listed in paragraph 9.), and as outlined in paragraphs 10.4.2. and 10.4.3.

10.4.2. Operation in the Base Cantonment Area:

10.4.2.1. Operation in the base cantonment area is limited to that operation necessary to reach designated use areas. The base cantonment area is not a designated use area; it is a transit area to be used only for access to designated use areas.

10.4.2.2. Operation on streets or parking areas will be limited to that operation necessary to

effect a crossing perpendicular to traffic flow. Snowmobiles will yield the right-of-way to vehicles and pedestrians at all times.

10.4.2.3. In the cantonment area, snowmobiles will be operated at the minimum throttle setting necessary to maintain forward motion (approximately 5 mph). Operators will take the most direct route to designated use areas and where possible, maintain a minimum of 100 feet separation from any buildings. When 100 feet separation is not possible, a route that is halfway between buildings will be used.

10.4.3. Snowmobilers meeting all the requirements for on-base operation can enter/exit Eielson AFB using A Battery Road.

11. Public Access. The privilege of ORV use on Eielson AFB will be granted to the general public subject to requirements for safety, security of government property, accomplishment of the military mission, and all restrictions and rules stated in this instruction.

12. Lightweight ATV and Snowmobile Parking and Storage. Lightweight ATVs are considered year-round vehicles and may be kept in the base family housing and dormitory area year round. During the summer months, lightweight ATVs may be parked in owner-assigned driveways/parking spaces and garages (but not so that it alone occupies the area), patios, and adjacent to dormitories as directed by the dorm manager. They will not be parked on seeded areas or in any other space within vehicle parking lots not previously mentioned. When the official base snowmobile season has been opened, snowmobiles and lightweight ATVs may also be parked on frozen, snow covered lawns adjacent to assigned quarters. Snowmobiles are not considered year-round vehicles and will be stored in either assigned garages, or the Recreational Vehicle Storage Lot during the summer months. All lightweight ATVs and snowmobiles parked in owner assigned driveways/parking spaces, patios, adjacent to dormitories, and on frozen, snow-covered lawns adjacent to quarters shall be currently registered with any state and the Security Forces.

13. Exceptions:

13.1. To accomplish official duties, government-owned and leased ATVs and snowmobiles may be operated in closed areas and on closed roads. Operation is restricted to that necessary to get the job done. When time allows, permission shall be obtained from the proper closed, off-limits, or controlled area custodian. The operator is liable for any damage to natural/cultural resources and must comply with the base ORV safety prevention program.

13.2. Government-owned ATVs and snowmobiles that are not marked with an Air Force vehicle registration number will be marked as follows:

13.2.1. Either USAF or the name of the organization will be stenciled or attached, using a metal plate, to both sides of the cowling of a snowmobile, or to both sides of the gas tank or, that portion of the machine below the handlebars on a lightweight ATV.

13.2.2. The lettering must be at least 1 3/4 inches in height and contrast with the color of the vehicle.

13.3. Requests to operate privately owned ORVs in closed areas will be made to Natural/Cultural Resources in writing. The request will contain the reason for the requested entry, length of requested entry, type, color, and year of ORV to be used for entry, and license and registration number of ORV.

Natural/Cultural Resources will coordinate the request with the proper off-limit or controlled area custodian. Both Natural/Cultural Resources and the off-limit or controlled area custodian will approve the request before it can be granted. Natural/Cultural Resources will forward a copy of the approved request to the Security Forces for information purposes.

14. Violations:

14.1. Violations of this instruction include, but are not limited to, violations of state and base ORV registration requirements, violations of operator license and age requirements, violations of mandatory equipment requirements, violations of safety requirements, violations of rules governing ORV operation, violations of closed areas, violations of designated use areas, violations of lightweight ATV and snowmobile parking and storage, and violations of exceptions.

14.2. Persons committing a violation will lose their ORV operating privileges on base for a minimum of 30 days on the first offense, 60 days on the second offense, 180 days on the third offense, and be permanently barred from ORV use on base for the fourth offense. Administrative assessment of traffic points under AFI 31-204, *Air Force Vehicle Traffic Supervision*, may result.

15. Form Prescribed: EAFB Form 8, Off Road Vehicle Registration.

KENNETH M. DECUIR, Colonel, USAF
Commander

Attachment 1**GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****Terms***

Four-Wheeled ORVs—Passenger cars, trucks, buses, jeeps, vans, and recreation campers, etc.

All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV)—Tracked vehicles, low-pressure, flotation-type tired vehicles, amphibious machines including airboats, and air cushion vehicles primarily designed for recreational purposes.

Lightweight ATVs—Honda, Kawasaki, Polaris, Suzuki, and Yamaha three- and four-wheelers, Honda Odyssey, and so on.

Mediumweight ATVs—Argo, Big Mac, Coot, Cushman Trackster, Eagle, Pac-Trac, Playcat, Raidtrac 718, Ranger Ferret, Sidewinder, and so on.

Heavyweight ATVs—Bombardiers, Kid, Nodwell, Raidtrac 1800, Sno Cats, Surplus Military Track Vehicles, Thiokol, Weasel, and so on.

Snowmobiles—Any vehicle propelled by mechanical power, steered by using skis, and designed to travel over ice and snow.

Two-Wheeled ORVs—Motorcycles, motor scooters, motor bikes, trail bikes, mini bikes, dirt bikes, and three-wheeled vehicles not defined as an ATV.

Motorcycles—Any two-wheeled vehicle over five-brake horsepower (151 cubic centimeters of displacement or greater) meeting the requirements for on-street operation.

Motor Scooter—Any two-wheeled motorized vehicle under five-brake horsepower (150 cubic centimeters of displacement or less) meeting the requirements for on-street operation.

Trail Bike—Any two-wheeled motorized vehicle not meeting the requirements for on-street operation.

Requirements for On-street Operation—Vehicle must have mandatory equipment required for on-street operation, vehicle must be properly registered, and operator must be properly licensed.

Attachment 2

REGISTRATION/LICENSE/SAFETY COURSE REQUIREMENT/MINIMUM AGE

Table A2.1. Registration/License/Safety-Course Requirement/Minimum Age.

		Registration		Operators License		Safety ⁶	Min Age ⁷
		State	Base ¹	State	Base ²		
Four-Wheeled ORVs			X	X			See Footnote 4
Two-Wheeled ORVs	Motorcycle		X		X	X	10
	Motor Scooter		X		X	X	10
	Trail Bike		X	X ³			10
ATVs	Lightweight ATVs	X	X	X ³	X ⁵	X	See Footnote 8
	Mediumweight ATVs		X				16
	Heavyweight ATVs		X				16
Snow-mobiles		X	X		X	X	10

1. Must be registered as a street vehicle or under a separate local system.
2. Base Certificate of Competency.
3. A valid drivers, motorcycle, or motor scooter operator's license is required only if operated on access routes outlined in paragraph [8.4.2](#).
4. Must have a valid state driver's license or instruction permit. Those with an instruction permit must be accompanied by a person at least 18 years of age, who has been licensed at least 1 year to drive the type or class of vehicle being used, and who occupies the seat next to the driver.
5. Also valid are ASI Student/Instructor Completion Cards issued prior to 2000.
6. Safety Education Course.
7. Minimum Age.
8. 16 for machines larger than 90cc, 12-15 for machines from 70-90cc, and 10-11 for machines less than 70cc.