



WEASEL NOTAM – 35FW-16-24
Misawa AB Automobile Drifting Policy



PURPOSE: Prevent injuries and fatal mishaps that result from automobile drifting which prejudice the maintenance or good order and discipline, degrade mission capability and which bring discredit upon Airmen thereby negatively impacting the vital U.S. and Japanese relationship.

APPLICABILITY: This NOTAM applies to all Air Force personnel assigned or attached to the 35th Fighter Wing at Misawa Air Base to include personnel in TDY status.

COMMANDER'S INTENT: The Air Force regards its members as its most important asset and requires each of us to take responsible care to prevent injury and loss of life. Certain activities such as automobile drifting involve an unusually high risk of serious injury, loss of life and property damage to both American service members and our Japanese host. After a thorough study and careful consideration, I am adding drifting to the list of High Risk Activities for Misawa.

BACKGROUND: Misawa AB has experienced several serious injuries and two fatalities in the last two years as the result of Airmen operating automobiles at high speeds, racing or engaging in automobile trick and or stunt driving. These mishaps have resulted in the loss of Airmen's lives, devastated families and loved ones, degraded mission capability and damaged our vital relationship with our host nation. Tragically, every one of these mishaps was preventable.


IMPLEMENTATION: The guidelines set forth establishes procedures for authorizing the sport of drifting at Misawa AB. Drifting is defined as a driving technique where the driver intentionally over-steers a vehicle, causing loss of traction in the rear or all tires while maintaining control from entry to exit of a corner.

- a. Automobile drifting is only authorized with the approval of the respective squadron commander and only on privately owned race course.
- b. Individuals who wish to participate in the sport of drifting must complete all requirements of the PACAF High Risk Activities Program. Additionally, a helmet, certified to meet current Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 218, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Standard 22.05, British Standard 6658 or Snell Standard M2005 shall be worn and properly fastened under the chin.
- c. The AF Form 4391, High Risk Activities Worksheet, will be used to document the preconditions agreed upon during the Commander's interview. Commander's approval is considered a complete and signed AF Form 4391, High Risk Activities Worksheet.

PUNITIVE ORDER: Racing, stunt driving or drifting outside of approved race tracks is prohibited and in some circumstances constitutes reckless driving which is punitive under Article 92 and 111 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

AUTHORITY: IAW AFI 91-202, The US Air Force Mishap Prevention Program, AFI 31-218(1P), Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision, AFMAN 31-116 Air Force Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision, Misawa AB Instruction 31-116, Misawa Air Base Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision and the PACAF High Risk Activities Program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This NOTAM is effective immediately and shall remain in effect indefinitely, pending further assessment of the risk presented by this activity. Questions concerning this NOTAM should be directed to 35th Fighter Wing Safety at 226-3463.



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Commander, 35th Fighter Wing