



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE VICE CHIEF OF STAFF
201 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0201

JAN 21 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Motorcycle Mentorship Program – Ride Smart, Ride Safe, Team Up!

1. Motorcycle riding continues to gain popularity with our Soldiers. Increased ridership also increases the chances of accidents. The Army lost 40 Soldiers to motorcycle accidents in FY10, and we will exceed that number in FY11 if we do not address the root causes of reckless behavior and poor risk management. Current trends indicate riders are operating beyond their abilities and accepting too much personal risk. To address this problem, commanders must foster proactive mentorship programs providing riders the opportunity to work together, maximize their skills, reduce accidents, and have fun.
2. Ride Smart: We train, teach, and coach riding skills, but addressing the current problems will require us to increase mentorship as riders gain experience. In FY12, the Army plans to implement a “Progressive Motorcycle Program” focused on lifelong learning opportunities for riders that will require the Experienced and Military Sportbike Rider Course in addition to the Basic Course. Soldiers will be required to attend Refresher Training if they have not ridden in the past 180 days to confirm they still have good riding skills and behavior.
3. Ride Safe: The Motorcycle Mentorship Program is the capstone in a rider’s lifelong learning process. Through this mentoring program, we can better train Soldiers to operate safely, mitigate risk, pass on experience, and correct mistakes before they result in fatal consequences. Leaders must actively engage Soldiers who own or consider purchasing a motorcycle to ensure completion of all course requirements and to encourage them to join local mentorship programs.
4. Team Up: Soldiers require and deserve mentoring throughout their careers. We need experienced motorcyclists to mentor novice riders and help develop their riding skills and knowledge. The website: <https://safety.army.mil/mmp> contains information to implement or enhance a strong mentoring program. The end state of the program is to build an informal Army-wide network of motorcycle associations fostering relationships between riders and creating a supportive environment of the “Band of Brothers and Sisters” that keeps Soldiers safe in today’s Army.

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5. “Ride Smart, Ride Safe, and Team Up” to over-watch those riders who are not ready for more advanced challenges, while reigning in those who may be riding outside their capabilities.



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