



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE  
 NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU  
 111 SOUTH GEORGE MASON DRIVE  
 ARLINGTON, VA 22204-1382

NGB-AVS

2 June 2008

*LEADERS AND SOLDIERS*

MEMORANDUM FOR All Army National Guard Personnel

SUBJECT: Motorcycle Safety Message

1. I have been an avid motorcycle rider for more than four decades and I have a great passion for riding. That is why I am extremely concerned by the increasing number of Guard Soldiers we are losing this year due to motorcycle accidents. According to the Department of Transportation, more than 6 million registered motorcyclists are driving on our back roads and highways. Even though they represent only 2 percent of vehicles on the road, they are responsible for 10 percent of the crashes. This is not an innocuous statistic.
2. The ARNG has had 16 motorcycle fatalities this fiscal year to date compared with 8 at this time last year. Of the 16 fatalities, 4 occurred while Soldiers were in a duty status and 12 occurred when Soldiers were in a non-duty status. Trend analysis has indicated that the typical Guard Soldier profile for motorcycle fatalities includes a rank of E1 to E5, less than 25 years of age, operating a sport bike on the weekend in the early afternoon, no deployment history, no record of motorcycle training, and seldom wearing personal protective equipment. None involved alcohol. The causes for these fatalities have varied from excessive speed to being struck by other drivers, and while the latter may look like a freak of chance, consider it the last in a long line of causation.
3. Experienced riders and seasoned leaders must mentor younger and less experienced riders. Make it your business to know who owns a bike now and who is in the process of purchasing one. Ask yourself, "Who will be the next rider in my formation to have a motorcycle accident?" Then take the appropriate corrective action. We share this obligation for our Soldiers and their Family members.
4. The point of contact is COL Garrett P. Jensen, Chief, Aviation and Safety Division, at DSN 327-7701, 703-607-7701, or garrett.p.jensen@us.army.mil.

*[Signature]*  
 JAMES W. NUTTALL  
 Major General, GS  
 Deputy Director, Army National Guard

*We need to  
 work harder  
 AT SAVING  
 Lives!  
 Down*