

Resource Document

2014 Spring

Leadership Involvement: Key to Motorcycle Safety

Art Powell
Directorate of Communication and Public Affairs
U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center
Fort Rucker, Ala.

Narrative:

Motorcycles are popular with many Soldiers who ride street and sports bikes at different skill levels.

Soldier-motorcyclists must successfully complete mandatory Army safety training, based on what is recommended by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation.

Army motorcycle safety training is credited with helping drive down the number of Soldiers who died in accidents last year to 40 from 47 the previous year.

Key messages:

- Army motorcycle fatalities fell by 15 percent last year over the previous year, 47 to 40.
- Leaders at all levels are encouraged to support motorcycle safety initiatives to ensure Soldiers take to the roads armed with the proper safety and riding habits.
- The Army invests millions of dollars yearly to maintain a robust safety training program that has provided good results.
- Another factor in the success of Army motorcycle safety training is leadership involvement.

Talking points:

- Leadership involvement at all levels of the chain of command for riders taking basic through advanced motorcycle safety training courses helps drive success.

- Leaders at all levels must recognize the role they play in making the safety program successful and how it helps reduce the number of motorcycle accidents and fatalities involving Soldiers.
- Army motorcycle safety training is based on programs designed by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, which are now being updated based on \$2.4 million worth of research which began in 2010.
- The Motorcycle Safety Foundation is a United States national, not-for-profit organization, founded in 1973, and 400,000 motorcyclists, military and civilian; enroll in MSF courses each year.
- The Basic Rider Course 2014 Update contains a more robust behavioral classroom component and some changes to range exercises that develop a rider's skills more quickly.
- The Motorcycle Safety Foundation update being integrated into Army motorcycle training is the product of \$2.4 million worth of research which began in 2010. The new curriculum includes approximately 40 percent more content on rider perception and finding escape paths, 30 percent more on negotiating curves and cornering and 15 percent more practice time for swerving and other crash-avoidance skills.
- With the arrival of warmer weather, motorcycles that have been parked in garages for the winter are being pulled out and made ready for the summer riding season. Besides mechanical checks, bikers also need to review their safety practices, and take refresher courses if necessary, to enjoy a safe season.

Topics/tools:

- The Basic Rider Course 2014 Update contains a more robust behavioral classroom component and some changes to range exercises that develop a rider's skills more quickly.
- Army motorcycle safety training is based on programs designed by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, which are now being updated based on \$2.4 million worth of research which began in 2010.
- The Motorcycle Safety Foundation update being integrated into Army motorcycle training is the product of \$2.4 million worth of research which began in 2010. The new curriculum includes approximately 40 percent more content on rider perception and finding escape paths, 30 percent more on negotiating curves and cornering and 15 percent more practice time for swerving and other crash-avoidance skills.

References:

For additional motorcycle safety information, visit:

<https://safety.army.mil/>

<http://www.msf-usa.org>

Statistics:

- Army motorcycle fatalities fell by 15 percent last year over the previous year, 47 to 40.