

**CHARTER and BY-LAWS
OF THE
DARK HORSE MOTORCYCLE RIDERS CLUB**



CHARTER

ARTICLE I

Name and Authority

The name of this organization shall be the ***DARK HORSE RIDERS MOTORCYCLE CLUB*** and hereafter referred to as the ***DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB***. They shall have the authority to operate on Fort Rucker with the consent of the US Army Aviation Warfighting Center and Fort Rucker. Operation depends on compliance with the requirements and conditions of this charter, U.S. Army instructions, installation instructions, local, state, and federal laws and associated by-laws and all applicable directives and policies.

ARTICLE II

Purpose, Goals, and Objectives

PURPOSE: To establish and maintain a private organization with a spirit of comradeship and esprit de corps that will enhance the safety and prestige of all motorcycle riders and encourage on-going rider education and skills development through a deliberate and active mentorship program that complies with the spirit and intent of the Chief of Staff of the Army's guidance, and with the program goals and objectives of the Combat Readiness Center's Motorcycle Mentorship Program as a Private Organization. To also set an example for all personnel that the Dark Horse

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RIDERS Club operates according to the standards, traditions, and customs of the U.S. Army. To operate and conduct itself in a manner that provides equal opportunity and treatment for all motorcyclists. The club seeks to provide supplemental training to new riders with limited experience operating a motorcycle, and for new riders who have limited experience overall.

GOALS:

1. The **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB** will seek to improve morale, promote rider awareness and skills improvement. The **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB** will seek to enhance the installation and local community relationship through community service efforts and events by unifying and combining the unique and individual talents of the **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB** members.
2. Each member is encouraged to actively participate, to support the objectives of the **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB** by setting a positive example, and to promote the safety and welfare of all members.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Provide each member with the collective knowledge, experience, and influence of the **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB** positively affecting motorcycling on and off the installation.
2. Improve rider skills through mentorship for new riders and continuing education for all riders. There are no limits to type of motorcycle or engine size.
3. Establish an effective means of communication with all members to exchange ideas and keep attuned to changes in attitudes and behaviors of installation riders.
4. Promote the positive image of motorcycle riders in the U.S. Army.
5. Promote and support safety recognition programs.
6. Introduce new riders to the **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB** and familiarize those riders with the goals and objectives of the **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB**.
7. Promote social gatherings upon the installation as well as with local community leaders to foster effective relations and to improve safe motorcycle operations.

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8. Plan for and promote the use of designated driver and other effective DUI prevention programs with all **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB** sponsored, organized or attended events where alcoholic beverages will be consumed.
9. Provide a forum wherein any policy, program, or problem of interest to the members in general, along with unit leadership in particular, may be discussed freely.
10. Assist in maintaining a high state of group moral and esprit de corps, while encouraging the highest standards of safety, bearing, and behavior.
11. Improve the morale and welfare of the **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB** members and their family members.
12. Invite guest speakers to talk about topics of interest to the members, with emphasis on safety, rider skills, community, and family enhancement.

ARTICLE III

Qualification of Members and Fees

SECTION A: The **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB** is a private organization. Membership is encouraged for motorcycle riders assigned to the 1st Aviation Brigade. Prospective members from outside the 1st Aviation Brigade are welcome to apply for membership and attend all general membership meetings and events, and will have voting rights on all topics; however, the elected Executive Committee members are restricted to members assigned to the 1st Aviation Brigade. Membership in the **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB** is without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or handicap. Members must have a motorcycle endorsement on their state issued driver's license and maintain insurance as required by law. All active duty military members and civilian employees (as required by DoD and service instructions) will have a Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) RiderCourseSM completion card. All members must be aware that they are jointly and severely liable for the obligations of the **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB**. Membership shall consist of five categories as defined below:

1. **Active Member:** Any individual who is federal employee, civilian or military, working on Fort Rucker. An active member is authorized to vote upon and discuss all matters in which the member has interests.
2. **Associate Member:** Any individual who rides as a passenger with an active member and must be sponsored by an active member. An associate member is authorized to attend all functions and meetings, but is not authorized to vote upon matters in the club or hold elected positions within the club. No active member can sponsor more than two associate members. No associate member can be someone eligible to become an Active Member.

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3. **New Rider Member:** Any new member who has less than 6 months riding experience in Alabama or less than 1 year riding experience total. The **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB** will appoint a mentor from the general membership to observe and advise the new rider for a period of six months. The mentor is selected by an agreed upon decision of the Director, Assistant Director, and Secretary. After completion of the six month period, with mentor concurrence, the individual becomes an active member. If the mentor feels the members has not lived up to the principles or rules of the club a majority vote at a membership meeting is necessary for the individual to remain a member of the club. New Rider Members have full voting privileges.
4. **Honorary Member:** May be extended to any adult person with a simple majority vote of the active members present at any membership meeting, except as mentioned below. Such membership shall be restricted to individuals who have taken positive actions that support the **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB's** principles, purposes, and objectives. Said members are not authorized to vote.
5. **Inactive Member:** Any active or new rider member that does not attend mandatory training or meetings without prior coordination with the club director. An inactive member is not authorized to vote nor make any motions. However, an inactive member may present information that may be critical to the **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB** during meetings if approved by the Director. Inactive members will be reported to the individual's chain of command, so that leaders may have visibility on at risk riders operating motorcycles on Fort Rucker.

SECTION B: Active participation and support of projects, activities, and functions of the **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB** are encouraged and are the responsibility of every member.

SECTION C: Membership may be denied or withdrawn from active, honorary, or inactive members under the conditions prescribed by the officers of the **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB** in accordance with Article III, sections A and D, of this charter and Article I of the by-laws (See Road Captains). Individuals that are denied membership or members who withdraw from the club will be reported to their chain-of-command, so that leaders may have visibility on at risk riders operating motorcycles on Fort Rucker.

SECTION D: Any member convicted of a DUI will be suspended from active membership status in the **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB**, becoming an inactive member. Suspension of active membership will be based upon actual loss of installation privileges as deemed appropriate by command authorities, based on legal authority.

BY-LAWS

The following By-Laws are set forth for the normal operation and administration of the ***DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB*** and will be directed on, and a guide for, the ***DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB*** officers and members.

ARTICLE I Officers, Their Duties, and Elections

SECTION A: (Appointed Officers) In order to initiate the ***DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB***, the first Director is self-appointed as a founding member in a provisional role until the first general election can take place IAW SECTION E below, subsequent to this initiating action, the Director appoints two volunteer provisional members to the Executive Committee; the Assistant Director and the provisional Training Officer. All three members founding the organization will serve in a provisional role until a general election is completed in order to establish the club.

SECTION B: (Elected Officers) The following ***DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB*** officers will be elected in accordance with the charter of the ***DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB***, to serve a period of one year beginning in February following the annual election of officers. Elected officers must be active members.

1. Director
2. Assistant Director
3. Secretary
4. Training Officer
5. Event Planning / Coordinator
6. Treasurer
7. Public Affairs Officer
8. Club Safety Officer

SECTION C: (Duties of Officers)

DIRECTOR. The duties are as follow:

1. Manage the ***DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB*** according to its Charter, By-laws, and "The New Robert's Rules of Order."
2. Preside at all membership and special meetings.
3. Set dates for membership, special, and executive committee meetings.
4. Appoint committee members on a voluntary basis, except Nominating Committee.

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5. Appoint members to fill elected officer positions if there are three months or less remaining on present term when the elected officer is unable to complete the current term. A special meeting will be scheduled for a temporary election for the vacant position when more than three months are remaining on their term.
6. Appoint points of contact (POCs).
7. Act as **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB** spokesperson.
8. Chair Executive Committee.
9. Establish Special committees and appoint committee chairpersons as required.
10. Distribute a tentative agenda for the next membership meeting.
11. Appoint officers to the following non-elected positions as he/she sees fit:
 - a. **MENTOR(S)**
 - (1) Will observe and assist New Rider Members
 - (2) A mentor is defined as “a trusted counselor or guide.” Mentoring, therefore, is a relationship in which a person with greater experience and wisdom guides another person”
 - (3) The mentor will use available training and promotional resources to encourage safe responsible riding techniques and skills.
 - b. **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS** (Administers discipline and is responsible for recovery of **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB** property).
 - c. **HISTORIAN** (Maintains documentation of **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB** history).
 - d. **PHOTOGRAPHER** (Photographs **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB** events and members participating in/at events).
 - e. **ROAD CAPTAINS (“Flight Leads”)**
 - (1) Lead the **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB** in formation riding or parades. The Road Captains will give riding instructions to all riders prior to the start of a ride.
 - (2) Enforce all rules of group riding.
 - (3) Road Captains shall have the unchallenged right to terminate a member’s participation in a given ride or event for the **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB** safety or image. Upon request of a Road Captain, the Director may suspend the member pending the lodging of an official complaint. All members have the right to appeal before the

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members and will abide by the decision of the members--majority rules.

- (4) One Road Captain will always ride point and set the pace. Another Road Captain will always ride drag to assure the safety of the **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB** from behind and assist members with mechanical problems.
- (5) A club officer can also serve as a road captain at the discretion of the director.

ASSSTANT DIRECTOR. The duties are as follows:

1. Assume duties of the Director in his/her absence.
2. Appoints Nominating Committee members.
3. Serve as member of Executive Committee.
4. Serve as the operations officer for the club. The assistant director will develop club rider development programs, plan club rides, and provide a calendar of events for members.
5. Responsible for planning club social events.
6. Responsible for coordination of club business with the local community and installation agencies.
7. Serves as the alternate signatory on the club's checking account.

SECRETARY. The duties are as follows:

1. Record the minutes of membership meetings and take attendance.
2. Distribution of minutes within 15 calendar days (via e-mail if capability exists).
3. Receive approval of previous month minutes at next regular scheduled meeting.
4. Maintain a completed file of **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB** correspondence.
5. Issue annual election ballots.
6. Chair Social Committee.
7. Serve as member of the Executive Committee.
8. Provide other administrative support required by the **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB**.
9. Attest to the authentication of documents and any other actions by the Director in the name of the **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB**.
10. Maintain a **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB** e-mail folder distribution list (if capability exists).
12. Minutes of Council and General Membership meetings shall be forwarded to DMWR within fourteen days after each meeting. The approved financial statements shall be included in the minutes of the Council meeting.
13. Provide DMWR with a current listing of appointed officer's, to include addresses and phone numbers. DMWR must be notified of any change in the Clubs mailing address.

TRAINING OFFICER. The duties are as follows:

1. Maintain vehicle, MSF, and motorcycle license information, and other training records for all active club members.
2. Assists the Assistant Director in planning club rides.
3. Responsible for developing training rides for new member riders.
4. Responsible for matching new rider members with mentors (as appointed by the club director).
5. Responsible for tracking the training of new rider members and recommending to the club when new rider members should move to active member status.
6. Responsible for arranging training rides for inactive members who wish to return to full active membership.
7. Assist the members chain of command by guiding new riders through attendance at the MSF Rider Courses.
8. Serve as a member of the Executive Committee.

EVENT PLANNER / COORDINATOR. The duties are as follows:

1. Assists the Assistant Director in planning club rides.
2. Serves as the primary coordinator with Fort Rucker and community entities for all club events.
3. Explores the feasibility of all proposed club events and provides guidance to the Executive Committee on such proposals.
4. Serve as a member of the Executive Committee.

TREASURER. The duties are as follows:

1. Maintains 100% accountability of all funds raised by the club.
2. Collects dues, fees, and funds associated with club events or rides.
3. Is the primary signatory on the club's checking account.
4. Provides financial updates to the general membership meetings.
5. Provides a monthly financial statement to the Executive Committee.
6. Serve as a member of the Executive Committee.
7. The Treasurer shall have his books and records audited at the close of the year or upon change of treasurer, whichever occurs first. The audit must be conducted in accordance with AR 210-22, paragraph 3-3. A copy of such audit shall be sent to DMWR for review. One copy will be maintained in the Treasurer's file, and one in the historical file.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER. The duties are as follows:

1. Coordinates with Fort Rucker PAO, and or civilian news agencies for positive publicity covering club events at the direction of the Executive Committee.

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2. Works with the club photographer and historian as required to accomplish club goals and objectives set by the Executive Committee.
3. Works with the club photographer and historian as required to complete annual historical records.
4. In accordance with Executive Committee guidance, establishes and maintains a web page to facilitate information management within the club's membership and portray a positive image about the club.
5. Serve as a member of the Executive Committee.

CLUB SAFETY OFFICER. The duties are as follows:

1. Serves as an advisor to the Director, Deputy Director, and the Training Officer on all club events focused on all riding events or activities.
2. Works with mentors and road captains to ensure that a continuous focus on accident prevention is sustained.
3. Conducts and provides an executive summary to the Executive Committee on all motorcycle accidents involving club members and recommends remedial training or disciplinary actions on club members to the Director.
4. Works with the club historian as required in order to complete the annual historical records report.
5. Conduct liaison with the Combat Readiness Center to ensure the **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB** continues to integrate all Army Safety Policy, guidance and intent.
6. Serve as a member of the Executive Committee.

SECTION D:

MEMBER DUTIES AND LAWS

1. Members will above all, uphold the basic club principles of honor, truth, respect, support, loyalty and commitment.
2. When representing the club on and off the installation, all members will conduct themselves with the highest regard of the club principles. The club must not be tarnished by unrestrained behavior, disrespect of fellow citizens, or acts that generally reflect poorly on the clubs image and reputation.
3. Members will not endanger the Club or any member by an illegal act or acts. If a member is arrested for illegal activities they are automatically suspended from club activities and if found guilty of the offense(s) they are dismissed from the club and will lose their Fort Rucker motorcycle riding privileges.
4. Each member serves as a safety officer. Each member is responsible to identify and correct any condition that threatens the welfare of club members or the general public. Any willful act of unsafe riding witnessed by a fellow

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- club member(s) could result in denial of membership. Members may plead their case at the next meeting.
5. Activities will be conducted to encourage participation by all club members and no laws will be enacted which favor or separate members by the type of motorcycle they ride.
 6. No member will ride under an impaired physical condition. Every member will always try to prevent another member from riding in an impaired condition.
 7. Members will always hold the club in high regard. A member will never angrily accost, assault, or slander any other fellow club member.
 8. Members will embrace and encourage an atmosphere of skill improvement, responsible riding, and riding enjoyment and discourage aggressive, competitive, and potentially self destructive riding behaviors.

SECTION E: (Elections, Voting, and Officer Removal)

ELECTIONS. Election of **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB** officers shall be done annually during the month of February at a scheduled general membership meeting. The **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB** Assistant Director at the October membership meeting will appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of at least three members. The committee will deliver to the November regular membership meeting a "Candidate Affidavit of Eligibility and Solicitation of Office" proposal. Members seeking to serve as officers of the **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB** will have until December regular membership meeting to return to the Nomination Committee a completed affidavit. The committee will submit a slate of candidates and accept nominations from the floor at the January membership meeting. Floor nominations will not be accepted unless the candidate is present and verbally accepts, or has provided an affidavit to the Nomination Committee. Nominees must have enough retainability to complete the term for which they are being nominated. If a member of the Nominating Committee becomes a candidate, that member shall be removed from the committee and a new member shall be appointed by the assistant director.

VOTING. Voting for the election of officers will be by secret ballot. Voting on all other **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB** business will be by a show of hands with the majority ruling, or as stated below. Ballots for the annual election will be provided to all members in good standing. For those active members unable to attend the February general membership meeting, absentee ballots may be obtained from the **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB** secretary. Members of the nominating committee will tabulate ballots. The candidate for each position with the most votes wins.

OFFICER REMOVAL. **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB** elected officers may be removed from office for cause with due process, as necessary, by request of the two-

thirds of the active membership in the form of a signed petition. Appointed officers may only be removed at the discretion of the command authority from which they were appointed by submitting a signed petition of two thirds of the active membership to the appropriate command authority.

ARTICLE II

Meetings of the *DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB*

SECTION A: (General Membership Meeting) Shall be held once a year, in February, for the purpose of electing new officers, disseminating other business, and inviting new riders to join. To convene a general membership meeting, a quorum of one-fourth (1/4) or more of the active membership is necessary. Motions/solutions and revisions/amendments will carry a simple majority of positive votes except when the issue involves a request for complete written financial reports. In this exceptional case, a two-thirds (2/3) majority of positive votes is required.

SECTION B: (Regular Membership Meeting) Shall be held monthly as so stated in the by-laws for the purpose of conducting business that may be brought before the *DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB*, listening to guest speakers, etc. To convene a regular membership meeting, there is no requirement for a quorum of active membership. However, if at least 25% of the active members are not present then no motions or amendments may be initiated involving a change to the by-laws may be passed. Motions/resolutions and revisions/amendments will carry a simple majority of positive votes except when the issue involves a request for complete written financial reports. In this exceptional case, a two-thirds (2/3) majority of positive votes is required.

ARTICLE III

Revisions, Adoptions, Amendments, and Review

SECTION A: (Revisions/Adoptions) The adoption and or revision of this charter and associated by-laws require the approval of a majority of positive votes of the active members present at any meeting, provided a two-week oral or written notice is given the *DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB*. Any revision to this charter and associated by-laws will not conflict with any installation or higher headquarters directives. This charter and associated by-laws will not take effect until reviewed by the Executive Committee.

SECTION B: (Amendments) This charter and associated by-laws may be amended or abolished in whole or in part by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of positive votes of the active members present at any meeting, provided a two-week oral or written notice is given to the *DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB*. Any amendments to this charter and associated by-laws will not conflict with any installation or higher headquarters directives. This charter and associated by-laws shall be automatically amended to conform with all directives from the installation or higher headquarters without

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submission to the **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB**. All amendments will not take effect until reviewed by the Executive Committee.

SECTION C: (Review) The director will appoint a special committee each year to review and recommend changes to the **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB Charter**.

**ARTICLE IV
Dissolution**

The **DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB** may be dissolved by request of two-thirds (2/3) or more of the active membership in the form of a signed petition. Upon dissolution, all DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB properties, in excess of liabilities and expenses of dissolution, shall be donated to any military/civilian organization as decided on by a simple majority of positive votes of the active members present.

ARTICLE V

Initiation of DARK HORSE RIDERS CLUB

On the 1st of February, 2007, a meeting was held by the three founding members to initiate the Dark Horse RIDERS Club. By a concensus vote, Shawn D. Allen was elected the provisional Director of the club until such time that a general election of the Executive Committee can be accomplished. Steven Eastman was elected the provisional Assistant Director. Vernon Alcorn was elected the provisional Training Officer. These provisional elected officers will serve through the completion of the first general membership meeting and election of officers in order to facilitate the establishment of the club. The duties and responsibilities of the provisional officers shall be the same as the elected officials as described in this charter. This General Membership Election shall take place before the 28th day of February 2007 in accordance with Section E of the By-Laws. At which time the elected members of the Executive Committee shall assume the duties listed herein.

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