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Ask Motorcycle Safety ... about training tools

**Directorate of Communication and Public Affairs
U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center**

Each week during Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center will release a question-and-answer feature article with experts from the USACRC Driving Directorate. The directorate collects and analyzes Army accident data, formulates policy and develops tools to aid in preventing and reducing off-duty driving accidents in private motor vehicles.

This week's discussion, the last of the month, is with Robert Myrick Jr., the Driving Directorate's private motor vehicle and recreational vehicle safety program coordinator. Myrick is a retired Army NCO and certified Motorcycle Safety Foundation RiderCoach with more than 20 years of experience in vehicle safety in Germany. He has over 30 years of riding experience on all types of motorcycles and has worked with and attended advanced PMV-2 and PMV-4 training at the Allgemeiner Deutscher Automobil-Club.

What do leaders need to know about their Soldier riders?

First, leaders must identify all riders in their units and ensure they have completed required training. Identifying riders allows leaders to effectively engage them and discuss the hazards they might encounter when riding a motorcycle.

How can the USACRC's tools help leaders meet their riders' safety needs?

The USACRC website contains an [Information for Leaders](#) page specifically for leaders who do not ride. The page contains tools that provide basic motorcycle knowledge through the Motorcycle 101 — Basics for Non-Riding Leaders presentation and also what to look for in potential mentors through the Leader's Guide for Selecting a Motorcycle Mentor presentation.

What value do these tools give leaders and Soldiers?

The Motorcycle 101 presentation provides basic information on identifying types of motorcycles, some modifications riders may make to their bikes, and motorcycle-specific personal protective equipment. This tool, along with the Leader's Guide, provides non-riding leaders with basic knowledge of motorcycling.

The Leader's Guide pamphlet contains information on what leaders should consider when selecting motorcycle mentors in their unit. The pamphlet will assist leaders with promoting safe and responsible riding within the organization.

The Defense Safety Oversight Council's Mentorship Modules provide motorcycle safety topics for unit riders to use year-round to stay focused on motorcycle safety. The modules encompass topics from

how to set up and run a program to how to perform routine motorcycle maintenance. There are 36 modules in all, and each was developed to increase rider knowledge on riding safely, decrease mishaps and provide additional capability for self-policing within peer groups.

What is the Motorcycle Mentorship Program?

The MMP is an effective tool where Soldiers with more riding experience provide tips and information to less experienced riders, creating a safe and responsible motorcycle riding environment.

The MMP can be tailored to suit the needs of individual units. For example, a leader with 20 riders may decide to appoint two mentors to assist the primary mentor with the unit program. If a leader has only a few riders, it may be more beneficial for him or her to partner with a sister unit that has a larger riding population.

Some units have adopted the “motorcycle safety program coordinator” title instead of mentor. They feel this term better describes the duties performed by the lead motorcycle rider. Whatever you call it, a program will only be as good as the attention and support it receives.

Ride safe!