

Resource Document

Spring 2014

Army Building on a Successful Motorcycle Safety Program

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Narrative:

Soldiers enjoy riding motorcycles. Their skill levels on the road range from basic to advanced on both street and sports bikes.

All Soldiers are required to successfully complete safety training based on Motorcycle Safety Foundation courses. They are directed at the various skill levels.

The number of Soldiers killed in motorcycle accidents fell last year and Army officials point to the mandatory safety training as one reason for the decline.

Upgrades to the training programs are underway to address findings from millions of dollars of research conducted since 2010.

Key Messages:

- Soldiers ride motorcycles, and most of them do so safely.
- The number of Soldiers who died in accidents in fiscal 2013 dropped from the previous year: 47 to 40, a 15 percent decline.
- The safety training courses Soldier-motorcyclists are required to complete have been credited with helping curb the number of fatalities.

Talking points:

- Enhanced behavior training is being added to the basic motorcycle course.
- Called the Basic Rider Course 2014 Update, it 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 a motorcycle safety training investment north of \$6 million per year, the accident/fatality reports show Army-wide efforts in basic, advanced and sport bike rider training have reduced the totals.
- Army safety officials report that fatalities fell 15 percent between fiscal 2012 and 2013, from 47 to 40.
- A total of 13,170 individuals went through the basic motorcycle course in fiscal 2013, and the year ended with 40 fatalities, representing a 99.70 percent success rate.

Topics/tools:

- Reducing the number of Army motorcycle fatalities is an on-going task requiring leadership support of safety training programs and rider awareness of the hazards they face on the road.

- Leadership support of motorcycle training programs at all levels of the food chain is important to the success of the program.
- A Soldier lost in a motorcycle accident represents a loss to his unit the same as a combat casualty.

References:

For additional motorcycle safety information, visit:

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

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

Statistics:

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