



# May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness

May kicks off Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month and the USARJ Safety Office is joining forces with other organizations and unit motorcycle mentors to get the message out to drivers and bikers who share the road. With spring well underway, riders are hitting the highways and byways, and this serves as a reminder to all drivers to be mindful that motorcycles are sharing the road.



According to NHTSA, motorcyclists were 25 times more likely than passenger vehicle occupants to die in a crash and five times more likely to be injured based on miles traveled in 2009. In Japan 846 bikers died in 2011 and 67 of those were in Tokyo. The two highest fatalities by age group are 24 yrs and younger and 30-39yrs age group.

Motorcycle safety is a two-way street. Automobile drivers need to be vigilant to look for motorcycles, recognizing that motorcyclists have all the same rights and privileges, but, they can be harder to see, behave differently, and are far more vulnerable to road hazards and impacts. Simple things like always using your turn signal, even if you don't see another vehicle around, and scrupulously checking mirrors and blind spots before changing lanes can potentially avert disaster.

Riders need to likewise be mindful that they are indeed at risk. Following the lessons learned from a safety course will go a long way to reduce those dangers. Situational awareness is key, as is simply staying visible. Generous following distances, bright-colored clothing and DOT-compliant helmet, and an aversion to car blind spots will make a difference.

The goal of the campaign is to lower the number of crashes involving motorcycles. "It comes down to training and proficiency, being able to practice with what you're riding. Motorcycles and technology have improved over the years, but you need to be familiar.

Also, the most dangerous spot on the road for motorcyclists isn't the freeway, it is at intersections when the driver in front of a motorcyclists turn left and the motorcycle t-bones the vehicle in front. This is usually because drivers do not check to see if it clear before turning right due to unintentional blindness. Being in Japan we have more intersections and more turn then back in the United State and we have other hazards like bicycles and pedestrians to deal with.

To help riders to prepare and get ready for the upcoming riding season the USARJ Safety office has designate 2 May 2013 as Motorcycle Safety Day and we will be offering 4 different types of motorcycle training out at North Dock from 0730-1600. To sign up please email Mr. Bualoy at [kunaporn.bualoy.ln@mail.mil](mailto:kunaporn.bualoy.ln@mail.mil) or call 263-3825. POW/MIA awareness association will be serving free hamburgers and hotdogs to those individual that sign up prior to 27 April 2013.