UNITED STATES ARMY

THE CHIEF OF STAFF

DEC 2 8 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Motorcycle Mentorship - Ride Smart, Ride Safe, Team Up!

1. Motorcycles can be a great form of transportation and entertainment, but they must be respected. We lost 45 of our fellow Soldiers in fiscal year 2005 and 6 Soldiers so far this fiscal year operating motorcycles. Most accidents involved unsafe vehicle operation, poor risk management, or those who operated beyond their abilities.

2. Every Soldier is critical to our mission success. We train Soldiers to operate safely by mitigating risk, passing on the benefits of our experience, and correcting mistakes. Leadership and risk management do not end with the duty day.

3. Just as we mentor and develop new Soldiers, I am asking experienced motorcyclists to mentor new riders and help them develop their riding skills and knowledge. I recommend commanders test a motorcycle mentoring concept described in the enclosed US Army Motorcycle Mentorship Program. Potentially, this Army-wide network of motorcycle clubs could foster relationships between riders and create a supportive environment of responsible motorcycle riding, while serving as a force multiplier.

4. I also envision the development of a mentoring program that will provide motorcycle operators the opportunity to work together to maximize their skills, reduce accidents, and have fun. Commanders need to look out for their motorcycle riders. Make sure your Soldiers are trained to ride smart. Actively seek out those who have or are considering purchasing bikes to make sure they take the safety courses and encourage them to join these clubs.

5. Those who ride motorcycles must operate them safely and within their abilities, practice good risk management, and always wear the proper personal protective equipment. Team up and ride together; look out for those riders who aren't ready for more advanced challenges, and mentor them as they develop their skills.

PETER J. SCHOOMAKER
General, US Army

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