



MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

May is motorcycle safety awareness month. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Naval Safety Center want to take this time to remind everyone that with warmer weather on the way more motorcycles will be on the roads.

All drivers are asked to please share the road and look twice for motorcycles. Because of their smaller size compared to other vehicles they are often difficult to distinguish in traffic and appear to be farther away than they actually are. This misperception has led to more than a few cars moving over on or merging into motorcycles' lane of traffic causing mishaps.

So far in FY-16 to date (03 May 2016) the Navy has experienced 6 motorcycle deaths. This is up from 5 deaths incurred during the same time frame in FY-15. The Marine Corps has experienced 4 motorcycle deaths through this same time period, which is down by 50% (8) from the same period in FY-15.

Most mishaps occur with rides under the age of 27. The under age 25 group is usually riding sport bikes and wearing all protective gear, but they are riding above their abilities and pushing their machines' capabilities.

Commands need to ensure military riders take the mandated motorcycle safety training, and that commands have an established motorcycle mentorship program in place.

Commander, Navy Installations has a contractor to assist in this training effort. Each major installation has rider coaches available to provide training. There is no need to postpone training with the number of rider coaches now available. Contact your Motorcycle

Safety Representatives (MSRs) or local installation safety office to obtain information on available courses.

Command MSRs need to be more involved in rider mentoring and the riding process.

Motorcycle riders cannot be supervised at all times but command leadership involvement can exercise prudent measures to ensure their personnel know and comply with all motorcycle safety requirements.

Command MSRs need to share the information from the NAVSAFECEN weekly Rider Down reports to increase awareness of motorcycle mishaps on a weekly basis, and visit the web links below for additional information where you will find posters, infographics, talking points, tips and other motorcycle safety information.

<http://www.nhtsa.gov/safety/motorcycles>

<http://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/sharetheroad>

<http://exchange.aaa.com/safety/motorcycle-safety/#.vyjkrwvf3xg>

Remember that there is no such thing as a fender-bender for a motorcycle rider. They are completely exposed. Together we can reduce needless mishaps and safely share the road.

For comments or questions please contact the Naval Safety Center Traffic and Recreation, Off-Duty Safety Division at 757-444-3520 Ext. 7842.