



Message from the Commanding General United States Army Training and Doctrine Command

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY

On 12 March, a Soldier operating a motorcycle died as a result of injuries he received when he ran into an 18-wheeler that had turned in front of him. The Soldier apparently misjudged his distance and abruptly applied the brakes, which caused him to be thrown from the motorcycle and fatally injured when he hit the pavement. This Soldier was not assigned to TRADOC, but the circumstances that led to this tragedy could easily have occurred in TRADOC.

The Soldier received a safety briefing and a privately owned vehicle safety inspection by his section Sergeant before the weekend. Although his vehicle (a sedan), driver's license, and insurance were in order, the chain of command was unaware that the Soldier had purchased the motorcycle on 1 March 2007. There was nothing to indicate that the Soldier owned a motorcycle; his driver's license did not contain a motorcycle endorsement; the motorcycle was not registered on the installation; and the Soldier had not attended mandatory motorcycle safety training.

I want you to ask these questions in your units and organizations; who owns, plans to own, operates, or plans to operate a motorcycle? Identify our riders and potential riders and ask that they complete the TRADOC Motorcycle Operator Agreement specified in the April 2006 TRADOC Safety Plan. We want our Soldiers that ride motorcycles to understand their responsibilities for safe motorcycle operation. Use your Public Affairs Office (PAO), local media, and command information to disseminate the information.

Last year, April was the deadliest month for motorcycle accidents across the Army. I do not want to repeat that trend. Stay involved and do not relent!

Victory Starts Here!

LEADERSHIP--FORCE PROTECTION--SAFETY




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