DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT CENTER AND SCHOOL
AND FORT SAM HOUSTON
2250 STANLEY ROAD
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TX 78234-6100

IMSW-SMH-SO

12 JUN 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR All AMEDDC&S and Fort Sam Houston (FSH) Personnel

SUBJECT: Motorcycle Vehicle Operator Agreement

1. References.

a. Department of Defense Instruction 6055.4, Traffic Safety Program

b. Army Regulation 190-5, Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision

c. Army Regulation 385-55, Prevention of Motor Vehicle Accidents

2. Purpose. To ensure all motorcyclist understand the requirements of operating a motorcycle on FSH and Camp Bullis. Soldiers operating motorcycles will be required to sign a Motorcycle Operator Requirements and Individual Responsibilities Agreement, see enclosed. Per reference 1.b, motorcycles include all powered two and three wheeled vehicles, including mopeds and motorbikes.

3. Background. Traffic accidents are a leading cause of death and disability in the United States and in the Army. Motorcycle crashes claim the lives of over 2,000 riders each year. Motorcyclists are 16 times more likely than passenger car occupants to die in a traffic accident and about four times as likely to be injured. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, twenty percent of car crashes result in injury or death compared to an astounding eighty percent of motorcycle crashes.

4. Despite the best prevention efforts, motorcycle crashes do occur. During an accident, the most important factor in reducing injury is personal protection for the operator. Education, reflective equipment, gloves, clothing, proper footwear, eye protection, and helmets provide this personal protection. Helmets are by far the motorcycle rider's most important safety equipment because they protect against injuries to the head and brain. A helmet only works if a rider wears it. Department of Defense Instruction 6055.4, requires use of a helmet even in those states where helmets are not required by state traffic law. The helmet must be certified to meet Department of Transportation (DOT) standards and must be properly fastened under the chin. Novelty helmets and other helmets may not meet DOT standards. To fully understand the all requirements, operators should read DODI 6055.4, Chapter E.3.2 and AR 385-55, Chapter 3 and Appendix B.

5. Rider education in accident prevention develops critical skills for safe operation of motorcycles. DOD requires completion of a Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) approved course prior to motorcycle operation on or off Army installations.

6. Responsibilities.

a. Commanders and Leaders.

(1) Establish a Commander's Policy to institute the motorcycle operator individual agreement. Take appropriate action(s) when non-compliance with the agreement is detected or reported, as required in AR 385-55.

(2) During new personnel orientation, inform Soldiers of the motorcycle operator requirements, responsibilities and the agreement.

(3) Have motorcycle operators read the statement of motorcycle operator requirements and responsibilities and sign the agreement.

(4) During Privately Owned Vehicle (POV) inspection, verify motorcycle operator's license, MSF card and appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

(5) Investigate all motorcycle accidents/incidents to identify cause factors and compliance with agreement.

(6) Conduct spot checks to verify operators have required training, license and PPE.

b. Individuals. Sign and comply with the "Motorcycle Operator Requirements and Individual Responsibilities Agreement." This includes:

(1) Complete required training.

(2) Purchase and use appropriate PPE in accordance with the agreement.

7. Support.

a. Director of Emergency Services.

(1) Enforce motorcycle safety training and protective equipment requirements in local traffic regulation in accordance with AR 190-5 and DODI 6055.4.

(2) Verify appropriate motorcycle safety training and ensure Soldier signs the Motorcycle Operator Requirements and Individual Responsibilities Agreement prior to issuing installation motor vehicle registration.

(3) Conduct spot checks to verify operators have required training, license and PPE. Inform commander and leader of results.

b. Safety Office.

(1) Publicize motorcycle safety requirements.

(2) Coordinate motorcycle training for Soldiers and schedule Soldiers to attend training upon request. Per DODI 6055.4, required training will be provided at no cost to military and DOD civilian personnel. Personnel shall not be charged leave to attend training. This training will meet the requirements of Motorcycle Safety Foundation or Specialty Vehicle Institute of America.

8. The POC for this policy is the Installation Safety Office, 221-3866.

2 Encl

RUSSELL J. CZERW
Major General, DC
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:
A

Statement of Motorcycle Operator Requirements and Individual Responsibilities

Fifteen percent of Privately Owned Vehicles (POV) accidents in the Army are motorcycle accidents. If you operate a privately owned motorcycle (either street or off-road versions) on or off Department of Defense (DOD) installations, you must be appropriately licensed to operate it. Before operation of any motorcycle, you shall successfully complete an approved rider or operator safety course. The safety course must be a Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF), or MSF-based State-approved course. You are responsible to contact the Installation Safety Office and schedule training. Once you have completed training you will be authorized to register your motorcycle on FSH. It is mandatory that all persons operating or riding as a passenger on a motorcycle use appropriate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). PPE requirements are as follows.

1. A helmet certified to meet Department of Transportation (DOT) standards. Helmet must be properly fastened under the chin. DOD requires use of a helmet even in those states where helmets are not required by state traffic law..

2. Impact or shatter resistant goggles or full-face shield properly attached to the helmet. A windshield or eyeglasses alone are not proper eye protection.

3. Sturdy Footwear is mandatory. Leather boots or over-the-ankle shoes whenever and wherever they operate or ride a motorcycle or moped.

4. Long sleeved shirt or jacket, long trousers, and full-fingered gloves or mittens designed for use on a motorcycle.

5. A brightly colored outer upper garment during the day and a reflective upper garment or vest during the night is required. Outer upper garment shall be clearly visible and not covered.

6. When operated on any DOD installation, in both on and off-road modes, all Government or privately owned motorcycles, mopeds, motor scooters, and ATV's (when equipped) must have headlights turned on at all times, except where prohibited by military mission, the SOFAs or local laws.

7. Motorcycles, except Government owned off-road motorcycles on tactical missions or training, shall be equipped with rear view mirrors mounted on the handlebar or fairing.

Reference: Department of Defense Instruction (DODI) 6055.4 - Traffic Safety Program

_____

Signature and date

Motorcycle Operator Requirements and Individual Responsibilities Agreement

I,_____ have read and understand the requirement of safe motorcycling operations. I acknowledge the Army requirement for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), licensing requirements and Motorcycle Safety Foundation training requirements as outlined in the Motorcycle Operator Individual Requirements and Responsibilities Agreement. I understand that if I am injured while riding a motorcycle in violation of this policy, I may be found Not-in-Line of Duty Due to Own Misconduct. Such a finding by an investigating officer can result in my loss of benefits, to include my right to free medical care, my right to disability pay, or separation pay, or medical retirement from the service if my injuries make me no longer eligible for military service. I could also face forfeiture of many of my veteran's rights such as education benefits. In addition to the Army requirement for PPE, I acknowledge that my commander has given me a direct order to NEVER operate a motorcycle without the PPE. My failure to comply with his/her order is punishable under Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

_____

Signature and date