“Share the Road”

May is designated Motorcycle Awareness Month by the National Safety Council calling to the dangers and vulnerabilities motorcyclist face on the road.

Motorcyclists are much more vulnerable to crashes than other drivers. In recent years the mileage death rate for motorcyclist has been 37 times greater than for passenger car occupants. Motorcycle safety is of increasing concern – fatalities involving drivers and motorcyclist increased 131 percent between 1998 and 2008, according to the National Safety Council.

Automobile drivers play a part in this tragedy. Most four-wheel v. two-wheel crashes occur when a driver fails to see a motorcyclist and turns left in front of the motorcycle. California weather allows year round motorcycle operation and as the summer months approach, the number of motorcyclist on the road will increase. It is important for both motorist and motorcyclist to be aware of each other. To better defend themselves, motorcyclist should follow the rules of the road and wear proper personal protective equipment. The following tips will help drivers and motorcyclists stay safe on the roads this may and all year long.

1. Passenger car drivers must allow greater following distances behind a motorcycle.
2. Drivers must show extra caution in intersections.
3. Drivers should never try to share a lane with a motorcycle. Always give a motorcycle the full lane width.
4. Motorcyclist should avoid riding in poor weather conditions.
5. Motorcyclist should position their motorcyclist to avoid a driver’s blind spot.
6. Motorcyclist must use turn signals for every turn or lane change.

**\*\*\*Many crashes occur because motorcycles are hidden in a vehicles blind spot. \*\*\***

**Motorcycle Awareness Resources**

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: <http://www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/Motorcycles>

Naval safety Center: <http://safetycenter.navy.mil/>

Motorcycle Safety Foundation: http://online2.msf-usa.org/msf/Default.aspx

#### Training

Operating a motorcycle has inherent risk for both new and experienced riders. The Base Safety Center Traffic Safety program provided free training to active duty members to provide minimum skills necessary to ride safely and renew (lifelong learning) training for experienced motorcycle operators. Training is key to minimizing the risk of a mishap.

Motorcyclist must register their motorcycles with PMO and signup for training through their battalion Training NCO. The Motorcycle Training Center offers a Basic Rider Course (BRC) and an Advance Rider Course (ARC) for all riders and skill levels. MCO 5100.19F provides detailed guidance pertaining to personal protective equipment requirements (PPE), Initial Training, Follow-on Training, and Refresher Training.

For more training information, contact the Motorcycle Training Center at (760) 725-2897.

**Did you know?**

* Alcohol affects those skills essential to riding a motorcycle—balance and coordination. So it plays a particularly big role in motorcycle fatalities.
* Forty-two percent of the 1,997 motorcycle riders who died in single-vehicle crashes in 2011 had BAC levels of .08 or higher.
* Far too many people still don’t understand that alcohol, drugs and motorcycle riding don’t mix. Impaired riding is no accident—nor is it a victimless crime.
* Many motorcyclists believe they only hurt themselves if they are in a crash, but the pain, suffering, and financial costs often extend to family members, friends, employers, insurance companies, and others.
* Riding a motorcycle while impaired is not worth the risk of losing your life, killing an innocent person, ruining your bike or going to jail.
* The consequences of impaired riding are serious and real. The trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for riding while impaired can be significant and can ruin your life.
* Violators often face jail time, the loss of their driver’s license, higher insurance rates, and dozens of other unanticipated expenses from attorney fees, other fines and court costs, towing and repairs, lost time at work, and numerous other consequences.

