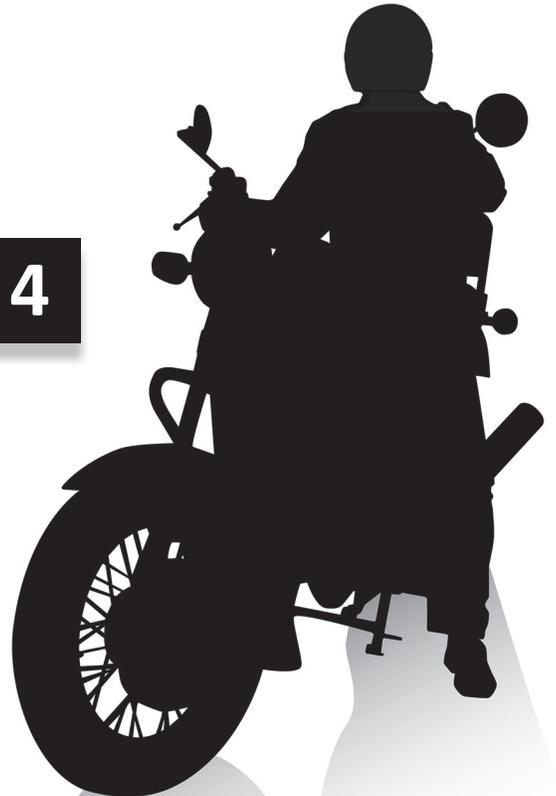




## Motorcycle Mentorship Module 4

### Local/State/ Host Nation Laws





**Warning:** Incorrect or inaccurate information could lead to tragic results on the road. If a question arises that is not covered in the guide and you don't know the answer from your own experience and training, simply state, "That is a great question, I'll get back to you with the answer."

**Your Service Safety Center will help with these types of questions should they arise. Their numbers are as follows:**

US Army Driving Directorate: **334.255.3039**

USMC Safety Division: **703.604.4459**

US Navy Shore Safety: **757.444.3520 x7165**

US Air Force Safety Center: **505.846.0728**

USCG Safety Division: **202.475.5206**



## Preface

**About:** The Defense Safety Oversight Council (DSOC) Motorcycle Mentorship Modules are a set of thirty six (36) facilitation modules designed for the purpose of increasing rider knowledge on various aspects of riding and providing additional capability for self-policing within peer groups. The modules are intended as a mechanism to further decrease motorcycle related mishaps and fatalities within Department of Defense (DoD) by encouraging riders to talk, live, and think about the topic.

**Using the Module:** The module content enclosed is intended as a facilitation guide to assist you with discussing the topic. However, it is still critical to use your skills and talent to engage participants and develop “buy-in” on this subject from your group. To maximize this, motivate and moderate your participants, control the accuracy of participant feedback, and be mindful of their time.

Page	Section
2	<b>Facilitation Guide</b> – A brief overview on conducting a facilitated discussion of a topic
3	<b>Module Overview</b> – This section provides the facilitator a synopsis of the topic, learning objectives, and the suggested environment, props, and handouts for conducting the module
4	<b>Module Discussion Introduction</b> – This section provides guidance to the facilitator in opening up the discussion and getting participants talking about the topic and their relevant experiences
4	<b>Discussion Areas</b> – This section provides various discussion topics, sample facilitation questions, and factual information for the facilitator to lead the discussion
8	<b>Wrap-Up</b> – This section provides guidance to the facilitator on wrapping up the topic discussion
9	<b>Feedback Form</b> – A feedback form to be given to all participants for their feedback on the module discussion
10	<b>Resources</b> – Additional resources and definitions to assist the facilitator in preparing for and conducting the topic facilitation
N/A	<b>Handouts</b> (if applicable) – Figures, pictures, diagrams, etc. to assist the facilitator to better demonstrate a topic idea

## Facilitation Guide for DSOC Mentorship Modules

It is recommended that this Mentorship Module be conducted in a facilitation style. Using the information provided in this Mentorship Module, you, as the facilitator, will lead a discussion on the subject. *You should not be conducting a lecture!* The facilitator's role is to help with how the discussion is proceeding. Participants will have much more "buy in" and connectivity with the information if they have input. One of your roles as the facilitator is to control the accuracy of the input and control the time. From the Mentorship Module, generate questions which will lead to group discussion. The more you let the group participate, the more success you will have.

### Competencies of a Facilitator:

- Prepare prior to the event
- Make sure everyone gets a chance to participate and help members to express themselves
- Ask rather than tell
- Honor the group, display respect for the members, and acknowledge participant contributions
- Ask for others' opinions
- Listen without interrupting
- Demonstrate professionalism and integrity

The key characteristic distinguishing facilitation from other types of leadership, like scripted training, is that the outcomes are never predetermined in a facilitative setting. Although the background information provided with this Module remains the same, the result will depend on the participants, the knowledge and experience they bring, and the information that they feel they need to take away. The group uses the activities provided by the facilitator to unlock expertise, ensure thorough discussion, stay focused and reach decisions that are better than those any individual could come up with alone.

At the beginning of each Mentorship Event, discuss why the participants are there and what they will receive as a result of participating. Adults have limited time and they want to know "What's in it for me?" A facilitator should make training fun. Encourage humor and laughter in your Mentorship Event.

### Principles of Adult Learning:

- Adult Learners want material that is relevant to them. "What's in it for me?" "What will I get out of this that will make a difference to me?"
- Adult Learners come to training events with varying amounts of experience. They like to share their experiences. If you have minimal or no motorcycle experience, you can still draw from your group.
- Even if you have motorcycle experience, you should draw from your group because people tend to remember what "they" said longer than what you said. Information that they "own" is more valuable to them.
- Facilitators are not always subject matter experts; nor do they need to be. Facilitators may draw on the existing knowledge of the participants and the information provided in these

## Section I: Module Overview

**Time Frame:** One 30-60 minute facilitator-led discussion

**Level of Prior Knowledge:** None, but facilitator will need to research the specific local, state, and/or host nation laws applicable to the location they are conducting the module.

**Synopsis:** This module is a discussion focusing on the various local, State, and/or host nation laws affecting motorcyclists. The objective is that the participants will have an understanding of basic legal issues in their area for military riders or will understand where they can obtain the information to ensure compliance with any legal requirements.

### Learning Objectives:

- Introduction to local, state, and host nation law.
- Understand applicability of laws to riders
- Recollection of facts.
- Participant comprehends presented facts and knowledge—participant may offer alternative perspectives, contribute or supplement accurate statements regarding terms, facts, sequential events, and may share experiential knowledge.

### Suggested Environment/Props/Handouts:

Copies of applicable local laws or legal guidebooks for the area the module is being conducted in.

## Section II: Module Discussion

**Introduction:** Facilitate discussion: What are vehicle and vehicle operation laws?

**Definition:** Vehicle and vehicle operation laws include the statutes, regulations, and administrative rules that vehicle owners and operators must follow to operate a vehicle. These laws range from ownership of the vehicle, vehicle equipment and accessories, licensing to utilize the vehicle, and rules of the road when operating a vehicle.

Open discussions with participant-focused activities and introductions. Activities should encourage participant interaction and develop camaraderie and peer-relatedness. Ask for and encourage participants to share their experiences related to the module topic.

### Sample questions may include:

- What is the relevance of vehicle and traffic laws to you as a motorcyclist?
- What things do motorcyclists do that cause them issues with the law?
- How can you avoid getting into legal trouble in relation to operating a motorcycle?
- Who is responsible for knowing the laws?

### Suggested Discussion Areas:

#### Discussion Area 1: Purpose and Consequence of Vehicle Laws

**Facilitation Questions** — What is the purpose behind vehicle and vehicle operation laws? What are some consequences if you fail to abide by the laws?

1. Vehicle and vehicle operation laws are developed by countries, states, localities, and military installations for a multitude of goals including: safety, air quality, noise abatement, and other quality of life issues. Law and rule makers utilize legal mechanisms in order to achieve compliance of goals. These laws vary greatly by location as local cultures often dictate the type of legal system and how laws are utilized for enforcement.
2. Some consequences of failing to abide by various laws:

- Fines or more severe penalties including possible jail time e.g.:
  - ➔ In Virginia, speeding in excess of 80mph is an automatic reckless driving citation and can carry jail time of up to one year
  - ➔ In Florida performing a wheelie on a public roadway carries fines exceeding \$1000 with the 3<sup>rd</sup> offense being classified as a felony
- Loss of driving and/or riding privileges
- Vehicle impoundment

## Discussion Area 2: Obtaining Information About Relevant Laws

*Facilitation Question* — Where can you obtain copies of relevant state and local laws? What are some common variations you see in laws between states and localities?

Copies of relevant laws are generally readily available through the requisite Department of Transportation (or similar organization) and Department of Motor Vehicles (or similar organization). Localities will often post unique traffic laws upon entering the locale to inform outsiders (e.g. no honking or right turn on red in a particular area); however it's best to research traffic laws prior to visiting a locale if possible.

Since laws vary tremendously by state and locality it's important to become familiar with the area you are living and travelling in. Some common differences in laws between states and localities motorcyclists should be aware of include:

- Safety equipment requirements
- Lane sharing
- Legal bike modifications
- Emissions standards
- Licensing and permit requirements
- Safety inspections
- Handle bar height
- Turn signals

Remember ignorance of the law is not excusable; if you receive a citation and will not hold up in court.

### Discussion Area 3: Host Nation Laws (if applicable)

*Facilitation Questions* — What are some host nation laws that you have in your location that are different than in the United States? Where can you find information regarding the specifics of such laws?

Host nation laws vary tremendously by country and need to be carefully looked into prior to presenting. Here are some examples of unique country laws to demonstrate the wide scale of differences between countries:

- **Germany:** Many parts of the Autobahn (highway) do not have a maximum speed limit. However on the Autobahn other laws are more strictly enforced than in the United States.
- **Italy:** There are no tailgating laws and lane sharing (splitting) is so common it's considered expected behavior from two wheel vehicles. Passing on the right is extraordinarily uncommon and dangerous, and you will see many vehicles without right-side mirrors.
- **Japan:** There are multiple two-wheel vehicle lane positioning laws that may contradict the safety training you received in the U.S. These laws also vary by region within Japan.
- **Korea:** Motorcycles are not permitted on expressways

[Use this opportunity to discuss specific laws and customs unique to the host nation you are stationed in]

Finding information on host nation laws can be challenging as the laws are often not available in English and even if translated may be interpreted differently based on local customs and culture. The best resources for interpreting foreign laws are going to be your installation safety office, security, and legal; however it is best to remain cautious and realize those resources may not be a perfect interpretation of the laws. Avoid relying on gossip or hearsay as a substitute for more knowledgeable resources.

## Discussion Area 4: Laws

*Facilitation Questions* — What are some common traffic laws that motorcyclists specifically need to be aware of? Can you think of any specific laws in your locality regarding motorcycle operation on the road?

Some examples:

- Carrying of a passenger
- Lane sharing (splitting)
- Red light laws where the light is not triggered
- Parking rules (e.g. multiple motorcycles sharing a parking space)

*Facilitation Questions* — What are some common restrictions on bike modifications? Can you think of any specific laws in your locality regarding bike modifications?

Some examples:

- Handlebar height
- Emissions standards for aftermarket parts
- Noise restrictions for aftermarket parts

*Facilitation Question* — What are some common motorcycle safety equipment laws which exist in many locales?

Some examples:

- Helmet law – These laws vary significantly by state, age, and licensing
- Eye protection

*Facilitation Questions* — What are common licensing and permit processes in most locales? What is the process for your location?

Various states have different processes for obtaining a permit or license, but here are some common areas that may be applicable:

- Licensing tests including written and road tests
- License waiver courses
- Graduated licensing requirements
- Permit restrictions and requirements

## **Wrap-Up:**

Wrap up the discussion by asking the participants how they would apply the knowledge they gained from the discussion. Some closing questions can include:

- How can the information discussed today help you going forward?
- What preconceptions have changed from today's discussion?
- How can you as motorcyclists help each other out?

Distribute copies of the DSOC Motorcycle Mentorship Module Evaluation form to all participants and request that they deliver or mail the completed form to the Command or Command Safety Office for processing.

Remind everyone to ride safe and see you at the next Mentorship Meeting.

# DSOC Motorcycle Mentorship Feedback Form

Presenter Name:

Date:

Topic/Title:

Unit Number:

**Please review each statement below and check the response that closely matches your experience in the Mentorship Module today:**

**1. Please rate the presenter's performance:**

Prepared    Not Prepared    Engaging    Not Engaging    Led Discussion    Lectured

Comments:

**2. I was given opportunities to participate in the module's discussion**

Never    Only Once    2-4 Times    Many Times Throughout Discussion

Comments:

**3. With regard to my personal riding experiences, this discussion was:**

Relevant    Not Relevant    Interesting    Not Interesting

Comments:

**4. This discussion topic has provided me with specific learning points that I can use to be a safer, better informed rider**

None    One Idea or Fact    2-4 Learning Points    5 or More

Comments:

**5. I would be interested in participating in other Motorcycle Mentorship Module discussion topics**

Never Again    Willing to Try Another Module    Would Like to Do Modules Regularly

Comments:

Thank you for your participation. Please make note of any other suggestions or comments below (continue on the back if needed):

Deliver or mail this completed form to the Command or Command Safety Office for processing. Please do not return this form directly to the Module Presenter.

## Resources

### Continued Reading:

Applicable State Driver/Rider Handbooks  
Applicable Installation Driving Instructions

**Definitions:** *(As defined for purposes of this module.)*

**Host Nation:** The country in which U.S. military troops are operating in. Generally the host nation's driving laws will take precedent on the road, though vehicle registration and operator licensing may be specially administered at the base.

**State:** For this module, this term is referring to U.S. States and not other countries' states or provinces

**Local:** For this module this term generally refers to a city, town, village, or county/province

**Statute:** A formal written enactment of a legislative authority that governs a state, city, or country

**Regulation:** Administrative legislation promulgated by a Government authority

**Administrative Rule:** Officially promulgated agency regulations that have the force and effect of law

**Graduated Licensing:** A method of licensing done via stages or steps which can include restrictions at the early stages (e.g. riding on highways)

**Lane Sharing:** The practice of operating a vehicle in a traffic lane such that other traffic can use the unused portion of the lane

**Lane Splitting:** A form of lane sharing done between lines of traffic





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