

ARE YOU ACCOUNTABLE?

Accountability not only supports a solid safety program, but also begins the process of changing the behaviors that lead to motorcycle-related mishaps.

Serving in the military can be both challenging and rewarding. From the commandant to the newest recruit, each member is challenged with becoming proficient at their craft. Each member is given varying levels of responsibility, and with each level of responsibility comes an increased amount of accountability.

We often relate accountability to careers and family decisions, but what about off-duty recreational activities? There are consequences for failing to act responsibly on or off duty – and this includes riding motorcycles.

YOUR DECISIONS AFFECT OTHERS!

Riding is a risky activity that continues as the top killer of Marines. Policies are created to support – not deter riding and should be viewed as a mechanism to help keep riders safe. Policies that include training, the use of personal protective equipment and motorcycle mentoring programs contribute positively to a safer riding experience. Riders must know and abide by these policies.

RIDE SAFE

Making good decisions increases your chances of making it home to those who care about you the most. First and foremost, riders must start by holding themselves accountable, not just to policy but also to your family, your unit and yourself.

Self-induced reality checks are often the first step to changing destructive behaviors and habits.

Take a look in the mirror and ask, “What are the consequences for disregarding policy? What will happen to my family if I do not come home? What example am I setting for other riders?”

While accountability starts with the individual, Marines cannot forget their responsibilities as leaders. Serving in the military is a 24-hour responsibility. It is never easy to step in and stop a member for disregarding policy or breaking laws like racing or performing stunts on a public highway. With that said, it is never easy to attend the funeral of a friend or member you could have helped. While there is a rank structure, any member can intervene when necessary, and your action may save a life.

If you would like additional information on improving your motorcycle safety program, contact your installation safety office.

