

MOTORCYCLE MENTORSHIP

Mentoring is the third piece that helps form a solid safety program. If you're an experienced rider, be a mentor. The positive change starts with you.

Peers often play a significant role in an individual's decision to ride a motorcycle. Additional choices influenced by peers include the type of motorcycle, whether to take training and what personal protective equipment to wear. While it is ultimately the rider's own decision and responsibility, they cannot ignore peer influence.

Peer influence is not always a bad thing; a peer who is willing to mentor others can be one of the most influential ways to affect rider behavior.

A motorcycle mentor is an experienced rider committed to motorcycle safety and willing to share their knowledge with less experienced riders. Mentors assist in improving skills, maintaining motorcycles and sharing a common appreciation of safe motorcycle riding. When supported and encouraged by the command, mentors can influence a safe riding culture throughout the organization.

Motorcycle mentoring does not and should not be limited to off-duty activity. Mentoring can also take place on duty, and it starts by knowing who the unit riders are. A simple conversation can affect the decisions inexperienced riders make the next time they ride. Taking an active role on duty can be just as effective, and it is necessary to reduce motorcycle-related mishaps.

Operational mishaps occur, and sometimes they are fatal. Motorcycle mishaps happen far more often; they are among the leading causes of fatalities within the Marine Corps. While we cannot ban members from riding, we can provide training and mentorship. If we begin treating motorcycle riding similar to how we conduct missions, we can change this culture.

DOING NOTHING IS NOT AN OPTION!

Marine Corps missions require members to take high levels of risk to ensure mission success. Regardless of the mission, everyone shares a common goal: to make sure all members go home to their families. We train and mentor our junior personnel to ensure that happens.

The Defense Oversight Safety Council developed 36 motorcycle mentorship modules to assist in your efforts. Each module provides discussion material for different motorcycle-related topics. The modules are located on the Safety Division website at safety.marines.mil.

RIDE SAFE

If you would like additional information on how to improve you unit's motorcycle safety program, contact your installation safety office.

