



# **SEMPER SAFE**



## ***“Motorcycle Safety Awareness”***

As the weather improves and spring has arrived, more and more motorcyclists are hitting the roads. With that in mind, drivers of all vehicles, whether you're driving a SUV, passenger car or truck, must be extra attentive. Make sure you “Share the Road”. Motorcycle riders are reminded to follow the rules of the road and wear your PPE. **ALL** vehicle operators are reminded to never drive or ride while distracted. Increasing safe riding behavior and cooperating with all motorists and motorcyclists, we can reduce the number of fatalities and injuries on and off base. Apply the following rules of the road:

- **Expect to see motorcycles at any time, and search aggressively for them.**
- **Don't be fooled by a flashing turn signal on a motorcycle. Some motorcycle signals may not be self-canceling and riders sometimes forget to turn them off. Wait and ensure the motorcycle is going to turn before you proceed.**
- **A motorcycle has the same rights and privileges as any other vehicle on the roadway.**
- **Allow the motorcyclist a full lane width. Although it may seem there is enough room in the traffic lane for an automobile to pass a motorcycle, remember the motorcycle needs the room to maneuver safely.**
- **Motorcycles are small and may be difficult to see. A motorcycle has a much smaller profile than a vehicle, which can make it more difficult to judge the speed and distance of an approaching motorcycle. We must watch for them.**
- **Always signal your intentions before changing lanes or merging with traffic. This allows the motorcyclist to anticipate traffic flow and find a safe lane position.**
- **Remember that a motorcyclist can be hidden in a vehicle's blind spot or missed in a quick look due to its smaller size. Always make a visual check for motorcycles by checking mirrors and blind spots before entering or leaving a lane of traffic and at intersections.**
- **Although road conditions can be minor annoyances to motorists, they can pose major hazards to motorcyclists. Motorcycle riders may change speed or adjust position within a lane suddenly to reaction to road and traffic conditions such as potholes, gravel, wet or slippery surfaces, pavement seams, railroad crossings, and grooved pavement.**
- **When a motorcycle is in motion, don't think of it as a motorcycle, think of it as a full size automobile.**

**As Marines, Sailors and Civil Servants we live by our core values. So think before you jeopardize the safety of yourself, your fellow Marines, Sailors, civilian employees or family members, and remember SEMPER SAFE**



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In accordance with Marine Corps Order 5100.19F, Operators of government or privately owned motorcycles, motor scooters, or ATVs must successfully complete a rider or operator course prior to operation on any Department of Defense installation. The training must also be completed by all active-duty military operating motorcycles whether on or off base.

The safety course must include the MSF or Specialty Vehicle Institute of America approved curriculum taught by MSF or SVIA certified or licensed instructors. The locations for the training are Camp Lejeune, New River Air Station, and Camp Johnson. One of the benefits about this required training is that it's all free to active duty members. All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTVs), and dirt bike training is also available free to DoD civilians who operate these vehicles in the performance of the duties.

You can register for any of our motorcycle training, contact your unit safety officer or go to [www.navymotorcyclerider.com](http://www.navymotorcyclerider.com). If you have any questions or need assistance enrolling in a motorcycle class, you may also stop by Building 58 Room 132.

Per MCO 5100.19F, MARADMIN 364/09, and MSG 071442Z May 09, the following minimum PPE is **mandatory** for all Marines and military members assigned to Marine Corps command while riding a motorcycle (operator or passenger) **on or off base** and all civilians riding a motorcycle on base:

- Snell/DOT-approved helmet
- Eye protection is goggles or full face helmets that are American National Safety Institute (ANSI) approved and shatter resistant
- Long-sleeved shirt or jacket
- Long trousers
- Full-fingered riding gloves
- Sturdy, above the foot ankle shoe or boot that provides support and traction while riding

Temporary one day motorcycle base passes are available at the Visitor Center. In order to acquire one, a person would need proof of enrollment in the Basic Rider's Course, a motorcycle endorsement on their driver's license or a motorcycle permit, along with valid insurance and registration documentation.

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### **Future Motorcycle Events:**

On Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 1000, MCIEAST-MCB Camp Lejeune has partnered with Coastal Carolina Coalition for Substance Abuse Prevention to combat underage drinking and alcohol related deaths and serious injuries. The ride will take place around the city of Jacksonville to raise awareness of the dangers of alcohol abuse and reinforce that the responsible use of alcohol can be part of many enjoyable, safe experiences if used in moderations. All unit motorcycle mentorship programs are encouraged to participate.

On Friday May 3<sup>rd</sup>, there will be the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Joint Marine Corps and North Carolina Department of Transportation Motorcycle Safety Month Kick-off event, The Heroes' Ride for Motorcycle Safety. The ride is a Commanding General MCIEAST-MCB Camp Lejeune sponsored event coordinated with North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program, Ft Bragg Safety Department, Seymour Johnson AFB and local law enforcement. The ride will consist of approximately 1000 motorcycle riders from Camp Lejeune, MCAS New River, MCAS Cherry Point, Ft Bragg, and Seymour Johnson. The riders will stage at the Main Exchange aboard Camp Lejeune at 0830 and depart to MCALF Bogue Field at 0915, escorted by local law enforcement. At MCALF Bogue Field there will be a Motorcycle Safety Fair which will include displays of personal protective equipment, guest speakers, food vendors, and the rock band, 16 Second Stare. Anyone authorized to ride a motorcycle aboard a DoD Installation may to participate in the group ride. Active duty, civilian employees, retirees, and dependants are invited to MCALF Bogue Field for the event.

For more information, please contact Ron Farris at (910) 451-2071 or email him at [ronald.m.farris@usmc.mil](mailto:ronald.m.farris@usmc.mil).

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