



17 June 2003



## SAFETY ALERT - Motorcycle Fatalities

1. In my last Safety Alert, I sadly noted the loss of 19 USAREUR team members this year as the result of fatal off-duty accidents and suicides. One of those fatalities was a soldier killed in a motorcycle accident. This past weekend, just a little over a month after that fatality, we lost another USAREUR soldier in an off-duty motorcycle accident. This is an ominous beginning for our motorcycle-riding season – leaders must step in and take this in hand!
2. Both of these fatal accidents fit the profile for the most common types of motorcycle accidents: Collision With Another Vehicle, Failure to Negotiate a Corner, and Head-On Collision. The death rate for motorcyclists is more than 16 times the death rate for occupants of other types of vehicles.
3. Leaders must become personally involved in preventing these fatalities. Commanders will appoint someone to review motorcycle-survival skills with all motorcyclists in their command before the long Fourth of July holiday weekend. Motorcyclists must also do their part. First, they must wear helmets and protective clothing. Second, they need to follow the six essential motorcycle survival skills. Commanders and leaders can direct their motorcycle riders to the following website:  
  
[http://www.per.hqusareur.army.mil/services/safety/newsafety/motorcycle/\\_private/motorcycle\\_survival\\_skills.htm](http://www.per.hqusareur.army.mil/services/safety/newsafety/motorcycle/_private/motorcycle_survival_skills.htm)
4. USAREUR is also strengthening its motorcycle-safety program through more stringent licensing requirements. The Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) is training motorcycle-safety instructors this week. Motorcyclists must attend an MSF course given by a trained instructor. These MSF courses will be added to the current requirements of safety instruction and performance testing for all motorcycle drivers who are licensed to drive.
5. Ensure that this safety alert is given the widest possible distribution by forwarding it electronically and posting it on unit bulletin boards. Comply with its requirements. "No Loss of Life" is our goal.

B. B. BELL  
General, USA  
Commanding

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