



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
31ST FIGHTER WING (USAFE)

5 March 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS AND MOTORCYCLE RIDERS

FROM: 31 FW/CC

SUBJECT: Motorcycle Safety and Training Policy Letter

1. All Aviano Air Base Commanders, Unit Motorcycle Coordinators (UMCs) and all assigned personnel owning/operating motorcycles requiring an Allied Forces in Italy (AFI) license with motorcycle endorsement will comply with the following requirements concerning motorcycle ownership and operations:

Motorcycle riders will not operate a motorcycle, except when conducting training IAW this policy, on or near Aviano Air Base or in Europe until they hold a permanent AFI license with motorcycle endorsement. In some cases, this may require the addition of a motorcycle endorsement on a rider's stateside license before receiving an AFI endorsement.

a) **Experienced motorcycle riders** are defined as those who have completed a Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) training course within the last 3 years and hold a current stateside license with a motorcycle endorsement. Before receiving a motorcycle endorsement on their AFI license, experienced riders must complete the 31 FW Experienced Riders Course (ERC) and a minimum of one mentorship ride. The mentorship ride will be tailored to expose the rider to road or riding conditions with which they are least familiar.

NOTE: As a guideline, riders that meet the experienced rider criteria but have not operated a motorcycle for the last 9 months should be considered a new rider and complete training in paragraph 1b) below (Commanders may recommend ERC in lieu of BRC but cannot waive the two mentorship ride requirement). Commanders will make this determination during their initial screening as described in paragraph 1e) of this policy letter.

b) **New motorcycle riders** are defined as those who do not meet the experienced rider definition above. New motorcycle riders will successfully complete the 31 FW Motorcycle Beginning Riders Course (BRC) and a minimum of two mentorship rides on two different routes to expose the rider to road conditions they are most likely to encounter on various European roadways. The first mentorship ride must be less complex than the second.

c) **Mentorship rides** will be completed with a qualified mentor on the motorcycle they plan to operate/license at Aviano. If the rider's motorcycle is not available for training, they may use a motorcycle with similar design, handling characteristics, and an equivalent engine size to the motorcycle they plan to operate. Mentorship rides will not exceed a 1:1 ratio of mentor- to-rider

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and will only be conducted on approved routes. All mentorship rides will include a pre-ride brief to review the route and discuss hazards and techniques to reduce riding hazards. All mentorship rides will be followed by a post-ride debrief which focuses on strengths, weaknesses, and instruction to improve the rider's overall skills.

d) **While participating in training**, riders will be issued a temporary (expires in 30 days) AFI license with motorcycle endorsement and restrictions. This license will only be used to ride with a mentor on mentor rides as part of training IAW this policy letter. If riders are using their own motorcycle during training, Pass and Registration will issue a cover plate with temporary (expires in 30 days) registration. Experienced riders participating in 3 year ERC recertification may self-transport their motorcycle to and from the ERC. New riders, and riders attending ERC for initial AFI motorcycle endorsement, will facilitate transportation of their motorcycle to the training area by one of two methods—truck/trailer the bike to the training area, or have a currently qualified AFI rider deliver the motorcycle to the training area. Personnel transporting motorcycles for new riders must be licensed for type and engine size of the motorcycle they are transporting.

e) **Commanders will conduct an initial screening session with all motorcycle operators before they are allowed to enter training.** Commanders should contact SFS to review the individual's driving record before the screening session. Commanders will ensure potential motorcycle operators possess the correct frame of mind to safely operate a motorcycle in the local area. If the Commander deems the person safe, he will sign a letter authorizing the person to schedule training, to obtain a license, and/or to procure a motorcycle.

f) **Riders may sign up for motorcycle courses and apply for their temporary license and registration only with a letter of approval (31 FW Motorcycle training form obtained from their UMC) signed by their Commander.** Riders will submit all training requests through their UMC. UMCs will complete course registration through 31 FW/SEG, Bldg 1399 (632-7476/8526).

g) **Riders may apply for their permanent license and registration only after they complete the training in para 1a) or 1b) above.** Riders must present their completed training certification to Pass and Registration to obtain their permanent registration. BRC training certification will stipulate the type and engine size of the motorcycle that the individual is authorized to operate. ERC training certification will show "open class" unless the member completes the course on a motorcycle 500cc or less, in which case actual engine size will be documented. Type and engine size limitations will be listed on the individual's AFI license. Limited Riders (any rider with a restriction on his/her training certification) may not operate any motorcycle of a different type or with an engine larger than the motorcycle they completed the training on. Commanders, 1st Sgts, supervisors, UMCs, and 31 SFS will periodically spot check rider licenses to ensure compliance.

NOTE: In accordance with European Community Directive 91/439, operators under the age of 21 will not (and cannot be AFI-licensed to) operate a motorcycle with more than 25Kw power (approximately 34 hp).

h) **The owner of a motorcycle can only loan his/her motorcycle** to another properly licensed service member who has a permanent AFI driver's license with motorcycle
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endorsement. The engine size on the borrower's license must be greater than or equal to the size of the loaned cycle. EXCEPTION: A motorcycle owner may loan his/her motorcycle to another member to participate in a training course for licensing purposes.

i) **Before the beginning of every riding season**, Commanders will ensure a face-to-face safety session is conducted with all assigned motorcycle operators. 31 FW Safety will ensure a pre-season motorcycle safety session is conducted NLT the end of March each year. Commanders will supplement this session with a face-to-face unit session. In addition, UMCs will conduct bi-monthly motorcycle crosstell sessions. Each session will include a motorcycle safety brief that addresses weather and unique hazards for the particular time of the year. The brief will contain crosstalk from other 31 FW riders sharing lessons learned and hazards observed. Riders should share these experiences via e-mail to 31FW.Motorcyclists@aviano.af.mil. 31 FW Safety will consolidate inputs and distribute to UMCs.

j) UMCs will provide a quarterly report to 31 FW/SEG. The quarterly report will contain the following:

1. Motorcyclists in their organization, by name and last 4 of SSN
2. Type of motorcycle, to include Make, Model, Engine Size, and Plate number
3. List of training provided by UMC during the quarter
4. Initial and recurring MSF training dates
5. Operator experience level (Beginner, Intermediate, Expert)
6. Number of years riding experience.

2. Motorcycle operators and passengers will wear correct personal protective equipment (PPE) when operating a motorcycle. IAW AFI 91-207 para 3.4.2. (Personal Protection Equipment), the following PPE is required:

a) **Head Protection.** A helmet designed to meet or exceed European Community (ECE 22.05) shall be worn and properly fastened under the chin.

b) **Eye Protection.** Goggles, wrap around glasses, or a full-face shield (properly attached to helmet) designed to meet or exceed American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Standard Z87.1 for impact and shatter resistance will be worn. A windshield does not constitute proper eye protection. Host nation equivalent is acceptable if it meets or exceeds ANSI Standard Z87.1 for impact and shatter resistance.

NOTE: Face shields that are original or host nation approved replacement components of ECE 22.05. certified helmets are acceptable.

c) **Protective Clothing.** Wear of long sleeved shirt or jacket, long trousers, and full-fingered gloves are required. Gloves should be sturdy, non-slip type to permit a firm grip on the controls. Wear of a motorcycle jacket and pants constructed of abrasion resistant materials such as leather, Kevlar®, and/or Cordura® containing impact absorbing padding are strongly encouraged.

d) **Foot Protection.** Riders will wear sturdy over the ankle footwear that affords protection for the feet and ankles (durable athletic shoes that cover the ankles may be worn). Sandals, low quarter sneakers, and similar footwear will not be used.

e) **Garment and Motorcycle Visibility.** Motorcycle riders will wear a brightly colored outer upper garment during the day and a reflective upper garment during the night. Outer upper garment shall be visible and not covered. Wearing a backpack is authorized if it has brightly colored/reflective properties.

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NOTE: When operating a motorcycle in uniform members will remove PPE and don appropriate uniform items such as shirts, jackets, and headgear before leaving the immediate vicinity of their motorcycle.

3. In summary, Aviano AB motorcycle operators will operate with a defensive driving mindset. Riders must realize that motorcycles greatly increase the chance of serious injury or death in the event of an accident. They operate a vehicle that offers little protection and little margin for error. They will obey posted speed limits and use all appropriate PPE. Members violating these guidelines will lose motorcycle privileges for a minimum 3 months. Commanders will direct individuals to not ride any motorcycle for at least 3 months and suspend motorcycle AFI endorsement utilizing the AFI suspension process IAW AVIANOABI 31-204, paragraphs 2.3. through 2.5.



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