



February 2009



## Message from the Commanding General United States Army Training and Doctrine Command

### MOTORCYCLE AND ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE (ATV) ACCIDENT PREVENTION

Motorcycle fatalities continue to increase throughout our Army. Since October 2006, TRADOC lost 19 Soldiers in fatal motorcycle and ATV accidents. Fifteen of these accidents occurred during the May to September peak riding season, and all but four accidents involved leaders.

An analysis of causation factors in TRADOC motorcycle fatalities revealed 64 percent of these accidents were due to rider overconfidence and/or indiscipline. We must stop this reckless behavior. I want to ensure leaders at every level understand their individual responsibility to set the standard for performance and demand the same from their peers and the Soldiers they lead.

As we move into the peak riding season, I want commanders and commandants to review their motorcycle and ATV accident prevention efforts. Engage the chain of command and require they conduct refresher training to ensure all motorcycle and ATV operators:

- are aware of local laws, regulations, and riding hazards.
- are properly licensed and have completed the appropriate motorcycle safety training.
- have completed a TRADOC Motorcycle/ATV operator agreement IAW TRADOC Regulation 385-2, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command Safety Program.
- understand the requirements for personal protective equipment.
- are aware of the Motorcycle Mentorship Program and local events.

Engaged leadership will make the difference. Set and demand performance to standard and responsible behavior, identify "at risk" Soldiers or DOD civilians and intervene with appropriate action, and remind our Soldiers and civilian employees of the dire consequences of poor judgment in the operation of motorcycles and ATVs.

Victory Starts Here! Safety Starts Here!

**LEADERSHIP—FORCE PROTECTION—SAFETY**



*UNDERSTAND YOUR UNIQUE  
CHALLENGES AND ADDRESS THEM!*

*Martin E. Dempsey*

**MARTIN E. DEMPSEY**  
General, U.S. Army  
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DEMPSEY SENDS #3-09