



8 July 2003



Motorcycle Carnage Continues

- *Chicago Bulls Star Breaks Leg in Motorcycle Accident* ◀
- *UCLA Tight End Injured in Motorcycle Accident* ◀
- *Another USAREUR Soldier Severely Injured in Off-Duty Motorcycle Accident* ◀

1. Crashes like these have enduring consequences. When a member of the USAREUR team is injured or killed in such a crash, it has a far-reaching and dramatic effect on the rest of the team. As “team captains,” commanders and leaders at all levels—from generals to corporals—must influence the behavior of their subordinate team members. The leadership we bring to our team is as important off-duty and it is on-duty.

2. We must ensure that motorcyclists understand the importance of safe, responsible riding. If you have subordinates who ride, look them right in the eye and ask them if they know the rules. If they do not, refer them to BELL SENDS #5 and make sure they comply with it.

3. BELL SENDS #5 provides the rules for safe motorcycle operation. It also provides information about motorcycle crashes. Here are a few more statistics from a USC study for the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration:

- One quarter of all motorcycle crashes were single-vehicle crashes that involved the motorcycle colliding with the roadway or a fixed object.
- Two thirds of those single-vehicle crashes were caused by the motorcyclist over-braking or running wide on a curve at **high speed**, which resulted in sliding out and falling.
- The typical motorcycle crash sequence allows less than 2 seconds for the motorcyclist to react and avoid the accident.
- Lack of attention to detail is a common factor in motorcycle crashes.

4. Give this message the widest possible distribution by forwarding it electronically and posting it on unit bulletin boards. "No Loss of Life" is our goal and unsafe motorcycle operation is statistically our biggest vehicle killer and maimer.

B. B. BELL
General, USA
Commanding

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