SAFETY ALERT

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER AND FORT POLK
6661 WARRIOR TRAIL, BUILDING 350
FORT POLK, LOUISIANA 71459-5339

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF:
AFZX-SA

MAR 17 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Motorcycle Incident -- Safety Alert 05-07

1. A recent incident involving a Soldier on a motorcycle occurred on Fort Polk. The Soldier was traveling east on Louisiana Avenue when an automobile failed to yield and turned left from a side street onto the roadway. The driver of the automobile did not see the Soldier. As a result, the Soldier had to quickly lay his motorcycle onto the ground to avoid a collision. The Soldier was not seriously injured.

2. **What were the driving mistakes?**

a. The Soldier was not at fault. He completed a motorcycle safety course and was wearing all the proper clothing and equipment, which included: an approved helmet, reflective belt, over the ankle boots, long sleeve shirt, pants, and gloves.

b. The automobile driver apparently drove inattentively.

3. **Lessons Learned:**

a. Drivers must always verify that the road is clear before making a turn. Motorcycles have a relatively low profile and cannot be as easily seen. Drivers of both automobiles and motorcycles should always have 360-degrees of situational awareness around their vehicles.

b. Visibility to other motorists should be a motorcyclist's first priority. Motorcyclists should always wear a reflective belt and avoid driving in the blind spots of other vehicles.

c. As demonstrated by the Soldier in this incident, proper wear of clothing and equipment greatly reduces the severity of injuries.

4. Leaders must emphasize attentive driving for all Soldiers, employees, and family members.

ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION, BRIEF TO ALL SOLDIERS, AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARDS!

MICHAEL D. BARBERO
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:
A +

SAFETY ALERT

SAFETY ALERT

SAFETY ALERT