

Good morning,

I am Col Derek Rogers assigned to the 190th Air Refueling Wing at Forbes Field here in Topeka. With me, is Senior Master Sergeant Dena Swisher, our Wing's chief of safety and Subject Matter Expert on the Motorcycle Safety Foundation Course which is taught by the Department of Defense. Although I am a National Guardsman here in Topeka, I have been requested by the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, to represent all military members serving in Kansas from all branches whether they are Active Duty, Guard, or Reserve as a proponent of house bill 2459. I would also like to take a moment on behalf of all military members serving in Kansas to express our gratitude to the Kansas legislature for considering this cost neutral, quality of life provision for our Department of Defense members. I have been asked to testify about the quality of motorcycle safety training which is already required by Department of Defense. This training meets or exceeds that which is required by the State of Kansas for DMV licensing.

In accordance with Department of Defense instruction 6055.04, all military personnel who ride a motorcycle are required to have the DoD approved training or an appropriate Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) course regardless of if they plan on riding on or off an installation (Active Duty, Guard is just on an installation). A Department of Defense approved course must be completed whether you plan on riding a motorcycle on a military installation or if you already have a motorcycle endorsement on your license.

The State of Kansas DMV doesn't teach someone how to ride a motorcycle it only tests an individual's ability to ride. The skill sets I have riding dirt bikes will get me past the DMV test but isn't the same skills that I will need on the road. The Motorcycle Foundation Safety Course gives the new riders practical riding training by performing 17 different exercises in a safe controlled environment.

In Kansas, the DMV only requires an individual to pass a 25 question written test, a riding skills test, and an eye test to earn the Motorcycle "M" on their driver's license. This can all be accomplished at the DMV in about an hour's time and doesn't require any formal instruction. A note of interest is that the Kansas Motorcycle Operator Handbook is written by the Motorcycle Foundation and

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contains nearly identical information as the Motorcycle Safety Foundation handbook that we give the students in the Basic Riders Course.

The State of Kansas currently recognizes the 20 hour Motorcycle Safety Foundation Basic Riders Course, which is the same course taught by Department of Defense but not given credit by the Kansas DMV. The Motorcycle Safety Foundation Course requires an individual to pass a 50 question written test, and a hands-on riding skills test that is over and above what the State requires.

There are currently 17 States that currently accept the Department of Defense Motor Safety Foundation Basic Riders Course certificate for credit at the DMV for motorcycle licensure. We would like to see Kansas change their statute to do the same and become the 18th State to award credit at the DMV.

The 17 states that currently recognize the Department of Defense Motorcycle Safety Foundations Basic Riders Course for licensing are: Delaware, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Passing the Department of Defense Motorcycle Course is not guaranteed. At the 190th Air Refueling Wing, we have been teaching the course since 2002 and we have a 98.5% pass rate for the Basic Riders Course. Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada has a 95% pass rate.

According to the 2010 Governors Highway Safety Foundation's Motorcycle Fatalities by State report, Kansas Motorcycle fatalities decreased in 2010 from the year before. Possible reasons cited by the report for the decrease was that nationally, riders trained had increased by 21%. While I do not have statistics to show that Department of Defense Motorcycle Safety Foundation trained riders have lower fatality accidents than non-trained, I believe this is the case. Besides the Basic Riders Course, Department of Defense personnel that ride motorcycles should accomplish refresher training every 5 years, after getting a new motorcycle, or after relocating to a major geographic location. This 8 hour training

is known as the Motorcycle Safety Foundations Experienced Riders Course and is above and beyond Kansas DMV requirements.

Again, thank you to the Kansas Legislature for considering HB 2459 to change the statute allowing the Department of Defense Motorcycle Safety Foundation Course as certification for DMV requirements to add "M" to the Kansas Drivers License.

Please contact me if you would like further information or have questions.

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