MMP

Motorcycle Mentorship Program

Newsletter

What makes our country great: Our flag and our vets.
Rolling Thunder 2007
(photo by Milo Gordon, courtesy of www.rftwcr-2007.us)

MAY MMP WORKING LUNCH: The MMP met on Wednesday, 30 May 2007, from 12:00 to 12:30, in the Command conference room at Swartworth Hall. In attendance were:

1. COL Glenwood Norris, *Commandant*
2. CW5 Charlie Wigglesworth, *Deputy Commandant*

From the Commandant

We have so much for which to be thankful in this great country. Yet, we sometimes take for granted all the conveniences of life in America: continuous electricity, potable water, and police and firemen who risk their lives daily for people they don't know. We have excellent roads and a world-class interstate highway system. We have a free press and free elections. And in spite of what critics say, we have a world-class health care system that is the envy of the world.

I could go on; indeed I could write pages about how great this country is.

But you know what really makes this country great? Our flag, our veterans, and our military families. No other country on this planet rallies around its flag like we do. And you know whom we have to thank? It goes without saying but I'll say it: Our Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard who are on duty 24/7 keeping us safe. Our DoD civilians who provide the continuity. And our military volunteers who step up when funding is limited.

And it is on this high note that I bid you farewell as Commandant of the Warrant Officer Career Center, and MMP. What we accomplished in the past three years is nothing short of miraculous. And it's no thanks to me.

It's thanks to all those brave souls who volunteered to protect the flag. Ride safely, and I'll see you on down the road.

Glenwood Norris
COL, AV
Commanding

3. CW5 Daniel Ward, *Curriculum Management*
4. Mr. Brian Fair, *DAC, Academics Branch*
5. Mr. Mike Smalley, *DAC*, *Curriculum Management*
6. CW4 Steven Dale, *Instructor, Academics Branch*
7. CW3 Ryan Weaver, *Instructor, Academics Branch*
8. CW2 Blane Hepfner, *TAC Officer, 1st WOC*
9. SGT Lakeshia Ross, *Office of the Commandant*
10. CW3 David Slyman, *TAC Officer, 1st WOC*.

The meeting opened at 12:00 with CW3 David Slyman greeting our MMP participants and welcoming our newest rider: SGT Lakeshia Ross. SGT Ross rides a spotless Suzuki Katana 600.

In April we discussed PPE from "the neck down." May is our month to focus on helmets. May is also National Motorcycle Safety Month.

COL Norris directed us to bring in our helmets so that we could discuss their respective features. We also had on hand an "expired" helmet which was made in 1997, and a bicycle helmet. We viewed a CNN report where a bicycle rider - who was wearing a bicycle helmet - was run over by a car. The bicyclist's helmet protected the bicyclist's head from being crushed! The point of this demonstration was that a bicycle helmet affords a motorcyclist better protection than the illegal, cheap novelty helmets.

We had a show-and-tell of open-face helmets, modular, full-face, and half-shell - all DOT certified, and most were also SNELL approved. These are the types of helmets Soldiers should be wearing, yet Soldiers continue to do foolish things like ride without helmets when they go to Florida.

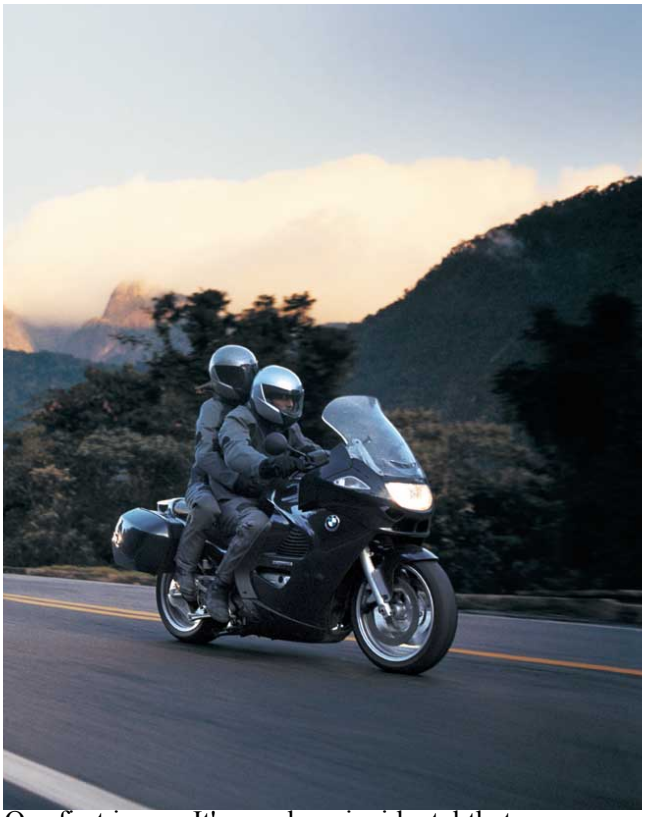
After the slideshow a discussion ensued on various safety issues regarding helmets such as : How many times can a helmet be dropped before it's no longer safe (answer: only once). And why you should never hang your helmet on a sissy bar or rearview mirror (it compresses the styrofoam). And why UV rays will weaken even the best of helmets over time (which is why the MSF recommends replacing helmets every three to five years).

The last item of note during our working lunch was the passing of the MMP management baton from CW3 David Slyman to CW2 Blane Hepfner. Blane is not only an eminently qualified motorcyclist to lead our MMP to the next level, but he's smart, resourceful, diligent, and thorough. The WOCC MMP will be in good hands with CW2 Hepfner.

THE MMP FROM ITS ORIGINS:

With the upcoming departure of COL Norris, and the changing of the guard at the helm of the MMP, I thought it would be fun to take a stroll down memory lane and indulge in a bit of nostalgia:

APRIL 2006



Our first issue. It's purely coincidental that our premier issue is adorned by a BMW!

MAY 2006

Our second issue prominently features a Harley. His wife is shouting into his ear to remind her why he didn't buy a Gold Wing!

JUNE 2006

Our June issue recalls Memorial Day.

JULY 2006

Independence Day: Flags, vets, and Harleys.

AUGUST 2006

This guy is sloppy! Riding techniques discussed.

SEPTEMBER 2006

Ah! Nothing like the crisp Autumn air!

OCTOBER 2006

A sight we hope we never encounter - especially if we forgot our insurance card! We discussed the various types of insurance coverage, and why liability-only coverage may be cheap in the short run, but could cost you more in the long run.

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2006

Yes, that's snow - and a great time to ride! We talked about the proper way to lay up your bike for Winter storage, but we also asked the question: "Why NOT ride in the Winter?" When roads are dry (as in this photo), Winter riding can be exhilarating. Plus, with the advent of electrically-operated and controlled Winter riding gear you'll stay warm from head to toe.

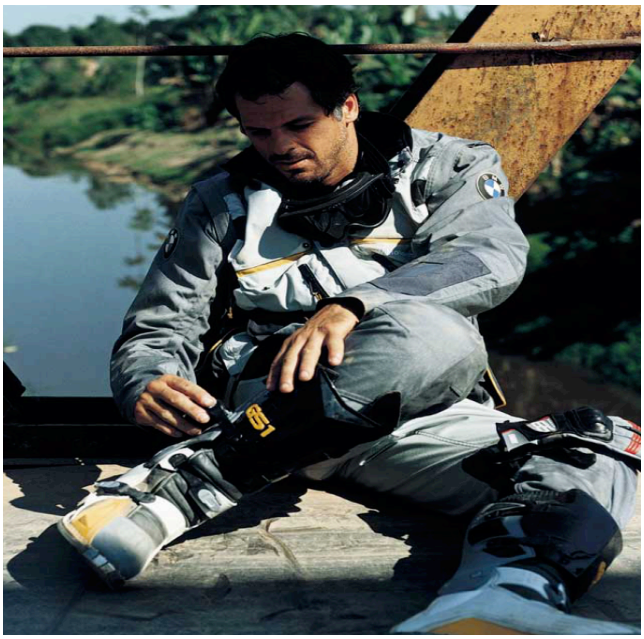
JANUARY 2007

Fortunately, this eagle-eyed officer spotted this reckless Harley rider cruising without a helmet - and gave this rebel the ticket he deserved! Our January issue reviewed our 2006 topics: PPE, helmets, DoD and Army regs plus Alabama state laws, insurance, PMCS, riding techniques, inclement weather riding, long-distance/night-riding, and Winter storage/riding.

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2007

Rider visibility: Notice the motorcyclists? If YOU can't see them, do you think a motorist can?

APRIL 2007



PPE: The skin grafts you avoid may be yours!

HONOR ROLL
WOCC MMP RIDERS - PAST AND PRESENT

The Warrant Officer Career Center's Motorcycle Mentorship Program is successful because of the talent, experience, wisdom, and maturity its riders bring to the program. Here are our fellow bikers:

★**COL Glenwood Norris**: riding for 35+ years, rides a Harley but confided to me that he really does want a BMW to match his car.

★**CW5 Charley Wigglesworth**: riding for 39+ years, stood in for Peter Fonda and Dennis Hopper in the movie *Easy Rider*.

★**CW5 Geraldine Bowers**: One of the very few female riders at Fort Rucker. Rides a Harley and a Victory. Ms. Bowers was prominently featured in a National Guard motorcycle safety campaign.

★**CW5 Daniel Ward**: Owns the original superbike, a Honda CBR 1000. Says he's been riding for over 30 years, but still doesn't look old enough to drink.

★**Mr. Brian Davis**: A retired Marine Corps officer who has been riding 37+ years, Brian is fond of all things British. Besides fish and chips, he's also fond of his Triumph.

★**Mr. Brian Fair**: A Yamaha guy. His world-famous collection of ties has been displayed in the Museum of Modern Art.

★**Ms. Phyllis Hull**: While Phyllis doesn't ride (at least not yet), her husband does. Phyllis was with us in beginning of our program, and even though she has taken another job on Post, she's with us in spirit.

★**Mr. Mike Smalley**: The Godfather of motorcycling safety, regulations, and training. He's ridden everything that's worth riding in his 40+ years in the saddle.

★**CW4 Pat Blair**: Mr. Blair also owns two bikes - both Harleys. He has been riding for 36+ years. Pat is now enjoying the good life as a retiree.

★**CW4 John Bower**: Mr. Bower is an articulate and poised officer. Thus, I never could figure our why Mr. Bower was a Kawasaki Ninja rider...until I found out he was an Apache pilot. Maybe it's the "I feel the need for speed" thing?

★**CW4 Steve Dale**: Mr. Dale is one of our newer participants who currently sports a Honda Shadow. Well-mannered and thoughtful; I can't imagine Mr. Dale ever getting a speeding ticket!

★**CW3 Rampaul Hollington**: Ah! Life as a retiree is good! Rampaul, a Suzuki rider, is also enjoying the good life in Huntsville, Alabama.

★**CW3 Bill Reed**: Bill rides this monstrous thing called a Honda Valkyrie. It weighs a much as a car laden with screaming kids and groceries. I wonder if he's ever dropped his bike?

★**CW3 Stan Turnage**: Stan owns an extremely rare Harley-Davidson. What's rare about it is that it has only 19 miles on the odometer! Ask him!

★**CW3 Ryan Weaver**: Proud owner of the loudest bike east of the Mississippi, Ryan's "Freedom Bird" was featured in our June 2006 newsletter.

★**CW3 Jason Winekoff:** Maintenance Test Pilot extraordinaire, Jason is a dirt bike / ATV rider who says riding on the street is more dangerous than being a test pilot! He has gone back to relative safety of flying helicopters.

★**CW2 (now CW3) James Hicks**: James is a Harley Fat Boy guy who left us last year for an assignment with one of those three-letter government agencies.

★**CW2 Julian Evans**: Owner of the world's fastest superbike, Julian claims he's never been over 60 on his Hyabusa. Has his eyes on a new Harley V-Rod.

★**CW2 Aaron Green**: Another dirt bike rider who preferred mud, hills, valleys, and flying through the air on his bike rather than the stability of the street.

★**CW2 Blane Hepfner**: Our new MMP guru. Says his turbocharged V-Rod isn't fast enough so he is exploring nitrous oxide injection - for his bike, that is.

★**SFC Robert Henry**: Our infinitely patient and meticulous former OPSNCO, Robert rides a Harley.

★**SGT Lakeshia Ross**: SGT "Nerves of Steel" Ross who rides with the skill and confidence of the best of them. Lakeshia rides a shiny Suzuki Katana.

★**CW3 David Slyman**: Moi? I'm just the typist who also happens to be partial to BMWs.

NOTE OF APPRECIATION:

- I'd like to thank my colleague CW4 Earnest Eakins of the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center (CRC). Mr. Eakins has been of incalculable assistance to me, and has been a big supporter of our MMP.
- Lastly, I'd like to thank BG William Forrester, Commanding General of the U.S.Army's CRC, and GEN Richard Cody, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, for endorsing and supporting our vision of a motorcycle mentorship program.

- CW3 David Slyman