

## Defence Off Road Safety Awareness

By Flight Sergeant Brad Kirkels

'The Defence Motorcycle Safety Campaign, launched by the Previous Government in August 2006, has provided \$2 million over three years to improve rider safety.

Defence recognises and accepts the widespread use of motorcycles for both pleasure and transport, but notes research that motorcycle riders and pillioners are at a greater risk of death and serious injury than road users'. The Campaign seeks to reduce the number of deaths and injuries of Defence employees from motorcycle accidents.

The Defence Motorcycle Safety – Ride Smart Campaign aims to:

- reduce motorcycle fatalities and injuries;
- improve rider skills;
- increase awareness of the risks inherent in riding activities;
- reduce risk-taking behaviour by riders; and
- increase protection of Defence's training investment.



The aims of the Ride Smart Campaign are met by focusing on key safety areas such as:

- Safe Braking;
- Safe Cornering;
- Effective Clutch / Throttle Control;
- Balance;
- Line selection; and
- Bike maintenance & Set up.

Skills, drills and fundamentals of motorcycle riding from Motocross, Enduro and Trials are utilised by the course providers to give a broader spectrum of knowledge to off-road riding.

Defence Off Road Coordinator for the Ride Smart Campaign, RAAF Base Tindal Base Safety Adviser, Flight Sergeant Brad Kirkels is seeking expressions of interest from ARMY, RAAF, NAVY personnel (including reservists) and Defence Public Servants based in the Darwin area to attend a course in the near future.

More information on the courses can be found at the links below or from the point of contact.

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Or visit the project websites at either;

DRN <http://ohsc.defence.gov.au/Programs/MotorcycleSafety/default.htm> or

Internet [www.defence.gov.au/dpe/ohsc/programs/motorcyclesafety](http://www.defence.gov.au/dpe/ohsc/programs/motorcyclesafety)