

“Why I Ride” by Damion Magee – Joint Base Andrews, Maryland

I swore as a teenager that I would never own or operate a motorcycle after two frightening experiences as a passenger on the same day. My uncle agreed to take me on a short ride and assured me that he would be “sensible” as he operated his motorcycle. Once we were half mile away from home, he changed his mind and began speeding to the point that I feared I would meet my demise! At the turnaround, I hopped off the bike and began walking and I instructed my uncle to ride his ride back home and I would walk. However, my uncle convinced me that he would be “sensible” going home but he quickly changed his mind again and sped home even faster! After that day, I had decided that I would not have anything to do with motorcycles.

Once I got over my fear and took my first motorcycle course, I was hooked. I love the freedom of riding without any obstruction of views! When I ride, I focus on exercising my skills to ensure a safe and enjoyable ride all the while forgetting about any stressors, I may have experienced before mounting my motorcycle. Every ride feels like a new experience which causes excitement and a renewed love for riding motorcycles. I have also grown to enjoy riding with my wife, who has her own motorcycle, as well as friends. Lastly, I’ve made slow speed practice sessions a weekly priority during the riding season.

Enjoy the Ride!!