

Motorcycle Mentorship Program revs up

By Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash
Editor

A mandatory meeting and optional ride for all Shaw motorcycle riders is scheduled for May 21 at 8 a.m. in the Base Theater.

Lt. Col. Lee Taylor, 20th Equipment Maintenance Squadron commander, said a discussion about formation/group riding will be a focus topic, as well as establishing goals and administrative details of the Motorcycle Mentorship Program.

This program was advised by Air Combat Command and is undergoing

a test phase of six months ending in November.

"One of the goals of the first meeting is to put together a committee of folks who have more time to dedicate to getting this project really going," said Col. Taylor.

He said he is looking for volunteers to mentor young or less-experienced riders for the organization.

"Becoming a mentor will help fellow riders by sharing experiences, passing on lessons we've learned," said Master Sgt. Jim Roach, 20th Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle operations superintendent.

He is currently a mentor for the riders in Vehicle Operations Element. He said when he heard about the formation of a motorcycle mentoring program for the base, it was an obvious move for him to help his fellow riders in the 20th Fighter Wing.

"I started riding when I was 10 years old," said Sgt. Roach.

Though he has been riding for a while, he said he knows there is always room for improvement.

"Out of all the years of experience, I have come to the realization I do not know everything," said Sgt. Roach.

"I learn every time I ride."

An opportunity to ride as a group immediately following the forum is optional to attending motorcyclists. Col. Taylor said it will be a half-hour ride, as a group, along the flightline and around the base.

In addition to meetings and group rides, Col. Taylor also has an electronic bulletin board, posting safety tips and answers to more technical questions.

"It's a good opportunity to help our young folks get off on the right foot with their riding careers, and should be a lot of fun," he said.

79th FS heads for Maple Flag Exercise

By Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash
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Members of Team Shaw are preparing for a training exercise set for Monday through May 28 at Cold Lake, Canada.

Pilots from the 79th Fighter Squadron, Hill Air Force Base, Utah, Nellis AFB, Nev., Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, and Otis Air National Guard Base, Mass., will meet up with flyers from Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, and additional countries for Maple Flag.

Lt. Col. J.D. Harris, 79th FS commander, said prior

to a 90-day deployment, his pilots must complete an exercise.

Maple Flag differs from other exercises in that it incorporates multiple nations and there is less-restricted air space, said Col. Harris.

He said during the exercise in Canada, more of the scenarios are simulated and are not as detailed as some of the exercises in the United States.

Added features of the training include a focus on targeting pods and Surface-to-Air Missile site annihilation, which suppresses and destroys targets.

The pilots are ready to go.

"We are looking forward to it," said Col. Harris.

According to 79 FS officials, upon return to Shaw, each pilot from the squadron should have flown five to seven sorties at Maple Flag.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Susan Penning

True identity

Airman 1st Class Jonathan Storey, 20th Security Forces Squadron, fingerprints Anthony Thomas, son of Mrs. Kezia and Staff Sgt. Eric Thomas, 20th SFS, at the Child Development Center Tuesday. During National Police Week, members of the 20th SFS helped children at the CDC produce child identification kits.