

Training... **HOW MANY CHECK RIDES REQUIRED?**

ME AND MY BUDDIES ARE WONDERING WHY WE ALL HAVE TO GET CHECK RIDES!

CHECK RIDES AREN'T REALLY ABOUT YOU GUYS. THEY'RE FOR THE **DRIVERS!**

FIRST-LINE SUPERVISORS MUST CONDUCT ANNUAL CHECK RIDES FOR EACH DRIVER IN ACTIVE ARMY UNITS, AND EVERY 2 YEARS IN RESERVES OR NATIONAL GUARD UNITS.

Dear Half-Mast,

It says in AR 600-55, *The Army Driver and Operator Standardization Program (Selection, Training, Testing, and Licensing)*, that supervisors must conduct annual check rides on unit drivers/operators. I'm responsible for our drivers' training. Some drivers are licensed on multiple equipment and vehicles. Is there a requirement to give them a check ride on each piece of equipment or vehicle, or just one? Please clarify.

Mr. W.C.

Dear Mr. W.C.,

Glad to clear things up. The reason for the annual check ride is to assess a driver's skills, not equipment capability. So there's **no requirement** for supervisors to test drivers on every piece of equipment or vehicle.

However, the **option** to test on more than one piece of equipment or vehicle exists if the supervisor or examiner thinks it's necessary to evaluate overall driver or operator proficiency.

As AR 600-55 explains, "The purpose of the road test is to evaluate the driver's ability to drive safely in most on-the-road situations. It serves as the basis for issuing an operator's permit and provides instructional reinforcement and counseling. Driving weaknesses that surface as a result of the test should be called to the attention of the examinee so that specific steps can be taken to eliminate these weaknesses."

By the way, Appendix G, Driver's Performance Test, has some great info on the right way to set up road tests and assess driving skills.

Note: Look for an updated version of AR 600-55 this year.

Half-Mast