

SOP FOR WASHINGTON STATE PATRIOT GUARD RIDERS RIDE CAPTAINS

Introduction:

This Standard Operating Procedure is written primarily to address casualty missions (KIA's), and Veteran services, but is easily adapted to other types of missions such as welcome home's, farewell's etc.

Terminology:

There are several terms, which we make every attempt to avoid using in mission notifications, mission thread updates, or in emails to the general membership.

We prefer to use the term **Coach** as opposed to **Hearse**.

We do not use the words **body** or **remains**, instead **referring to the casualty by name**; i.e. "**Sgt. Brown** will/ is now scheduled to arrive at the airport at 12:00 noon tomorrow."

Protestors, WBC, UG's etc. should never be mentioned by anyone in any mission thread or statewide email. (Not all states have this policy) Families read our mission threads, and, we would never want any family to find out about the possibility of a protest by reading our site. Please let your members know to email the ride/district/state captain if they have a concern, rather than posting in the mission thread, and assure them that we will deal with the possibility in the ride briefing if appropriate.

Posting Pending Missions:

If you have notification of a mission that is not yet listed as pending (i.e.- Newspaper Article), email that information to the State-, or Assistant State Captain and they will request through National that it be added to the Pending List.

- No one shall post or send info to National for **pending** missions except for the State or Asst. State Captains.
- Along with posting the information on the "Pending" list, The SC or ASC will notify the appropriate District Captain, and he/she will appoint the R/C for the mission
- Information collected from contact with the family, included in a Mission Plan, will be forwarded to mods@patriotguard.org for updating of information for the mission, by the District and/or R/C.

- Ride Captains for a Mission can request that a mission be moved from Pending to Confirmed, or to add updated information to the mission announcement at the top of the mission thread by emailing mods@patriotguard.org . and cc'ing leadership.
- At the bottom of the request, please copy and paste the mission thread.

Format for this request is as follows:

- Subject Line of email: Current title of the mission threads EXACTLY AS LISTED ON THE SITE. (This insures that the mods can find the correct mission easily – it is usually best to cut and paste.)

-

Text of the request:

- Mods: (NOT “Mystical Mods” – they do not like that title)
- At the request of Wa State Captain “BikerVet”, please (Move to confirmed) or (update the mission as follows) and include all pertinent information in the update.
- Your Name
- Dist. Captain / Ride Captain
- At the bottom of the request, please copy and paste the mission thread.

STATEWIDE NOTIFICATION:

- Subject line to read; PGRofWA(followed by mission name same as mission thread)
- Send to notify@pgrfwa.org (and cc the SC, your ASC, and your DC), with the following:
- Please post this mission on the statewide distribution list.
- Thank you for your help
- Name
- Ride Captain / Dist. Capt.
- Follow with your Mission Plan
- Then copy and paste the mission thread (this is “notify’s” signal that it is approved)
- And again your name and title.
- Include email contact and phone
- If the request is short notice (24 hrs or less) the Notification team must be notified by phone as a follow-up to the email request.

Updating A Confirmed Mission:

- Subject line for statewide updates needs to read;
- (ex) PGRofWA: UPDATE: SGT BROWN, etc. (as listed in original)
- Statewide updates need to be sent only to notify@pgrfwa.org , cc State, Asst State, and District Captains if being done by an R/C.
- At the bottom of the request, please copy and paste the mission thread

PLAQUE ORDERING:

Please refer to the current “Plaque Ordering” Procedure, and the “Current Plaque Policy”, (Appendix One and Two) both attached at the end of this document.

Primary Responsibilities:

Mission Ride Captain:

After receiving contact information from the District Captain, or mission approval if you were the originator of the mission request:

- Ensure that the Mission has been posted on National as a Pending Mission per procedure above.
- Establish contact with the family through the CAO, or other contact, explain the PGR, what we do and why we do it, and ask if they would like to extend an invitation for us to attend or assist in the services for their family member (This will not apply if the invitation came through you as a friend or acquaintance of the family). After receiving the invitation, determine through the contact what portions of the service they would like us to participate in. (i.e.- Airport to Funeral Home Honor Guard, Flag Line at Memorial/Funeral Service, Honor Guard to Cemetery, Flag Line at graveside, etc.)
- Immediately upon receiving the information that we have an invitation, prepare the following and forward to your District Captain, and cc: the State and Assistant State Captain, for approval:
 - a. an email to Mods to get the mission moved from Pending to Confirmed. (approval not necessary)
 - b. Order for the Plaque for the family (if a KIA, or if time allows for veterans), (refer to “Current Plaque Policy” for details) Note: If ordering from National, the mission must be listed on the “Confirmed Mission” list on the National Website prior to order.
 - c. a request for a statewide email alerting members to the confirmed mission.
 - d. If the fallen has small children, consider stuffed animals as gifts to present to them from the PGR. (This is a service we currently have available through a volunteer, and is subject to change)

- At some point during the days prior to the mission, you will need to discuss the plaque presentation with the family contact. This can be done during the Service or Privately either before or after the service. Again the primary goal is for us not to intrude, and to adapt to whatever is most desirable for the family.
- Prepare a ride plan, keeping in mind that the Staging location should be as close to the Mission site as practical, to minimize traffic interference. Scout/Pre-Ride the area as close to the date of the Mission as possible, to identify any construction, traffic hazards, or other issues that could cause a problem getting from Staging to the Mission site. There may need to be a “Multi-Phase” ride plan, depending on the complexity of our participation.
- Post any details of our participation to the mission thread that were not included in the original Mission notification, by having National update the initial post with the current information. If there are some dates/times unknown (i.e. airport Honor Guard) indicate that we will be doing (indicate task) and details will be added when available. Update as necessary when new information is received, however, to minimize the number of updates, attempt to get all pertinent information initially so as to avoid confusion. Be certain that you do not violate Operational Security rules on any posting to either National or Statewide. We do not list military unit designations below Battalion level, or specific street addresses, Church names, Funeral Home names, or any other specific information on these postings. This information is reserved for the Mission Briefings. If you have questions regarding OpSec, feel free to contact State Leadership.
- Statewide emails may be sent through National to OR, ID and MT, as needed. Approval must be requested and received from the State Captain prior to requesting. (see National SOP for Multi-State Missions (Appendix Three), attached to this document.
- Using the “Pre-Mission Briefing” template (attached, Appendix Four), customize that document to match the parameters of your mission in preparation for the mission briefing. Make sure to leave sufficient time in the Ride Plan for the briefing, travel to the Mission Site, Etc. Depending on the size of the turnout, and the weather conditions, up to ½ hour can be needed for the briefing and gearing/mounting up.

DAY OF MISSION:

- Arrive at Staging Point early; you may be surprised how early people begin to arrive.
- Designate a couple of members to circulate the Ride Waiver sheets. You may not have time to do this yourself.
- At the designated time, present the Ride/Safety Briefing as prepared above.

Secondary Ride Captains:

Based upon the Main ride plan;

- Plan to arrive at the staging area in time to provide any organizational assistance requested by the mission ride captain.

DURING THE MISSION (Primary Ride Captain):

- During the mission you will need to be available to deal with contingencies, Law Enforcement, CAO, Family, the media, etc. Ride captains should not plan on holding flags, as they need to be able to react as needed. (Other than providing a break to a line member).
- Let the CAO and Funeral Director know, in advance, what your plan is (lining up the flags, Plaque presentation, Honor Guard to the interment site, etc).
- Coordinate with the Funeral Director as to where you will park the bikes.
- See if we have access to a restroom, water etc.
- Answer any questions he/she (Funeral director / CAO) has.
- Introduce yourself to the escort service (if there is one), or any LEO that will be providing escort service.
- Present Plaque, and any other items to the family at the appropriate time. (Preferably at the close of the service, unless specifically asked to do otherwise).
- Pick a couple of R/C's for perimeter watch if necessary (for UG's)
- Set up the Flag line to where family and friends will be protected from any U/G's during the service if they make a presence.
- Ensure that all service flags are at the head of the flag line with the Branch of service we are honoring first, and then place them in order after that (Army, Marine, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, POW/MIA). Keep all American flags level, and above all, don't dip them. Service, POW/MIA and PGR flags will be dipped during "Present Arms".
- If the graveside service is going to be at a location different than where the service is being held, have your flag line move out quietly with no excessive rapping of pipes.
- Above all, be sure that the family members and guest are shielded at all times by the flag line, or procession Honor Guard.

- Make sure that the departure from the service to the gravesite occurs in a planned and orderly manner.
- Finally, anything else that comes to mind that seems important
- Remember, flexibility, patience, tolerance and respect.

AFTER MISSION:

- Make sure that the departure from the service location occurs in a planned, **quiet**, and orderly manner.
- Do not break down the flags until you have reached the support vehicle.
- Prior to dismissal, hold a debrief of the mission, allowing members to have the chance to voice their comments or questions, if they have any.
- After completion of the mission, prepare and post a Mission report (attached, Appendix Five) to your District Captain.

COMMUNICATION WITH NATIONAL

Any communication with National, for other than Mission-related notifications, must have gone through your chain of command first. If you are not satisfied with the resolution of the issue at each step in the chain, you may request that it go to the next level. This allows us to resolve minor issues at the appropriate levels, without overwhelming leadership with possibly minor issues.

Inactive District Captains:

- District Captains inactive for more than 60 days with no contact with the State or Asst. State Captain will be considered as having resigned.
- The decision to remove them from this position will be made by the State Captain, and submitted to the BoD for pro forma approval, at which time their District and Ride Captain privileges will be revoked, and the inactive District Captain will be returned to “Member in Good Standing” status.
- A new District Captain will be appointed by the State Captain.

Inactive Ride Captains:

- Ride Captains inactive for more than 90 Days with no contact with their District Captain, the State Captain or their Assistant State Captain, will be considered as having resigned. Also, any Ride Captain who does not RC at least one mission every six months without good cause will be considered as having resigned.
- The decision to revoke their Ride Captain status will be made by the State Captain, and submitted to the BoD for pro forma approval, at which time the inactive Ride Captain will be returned to “Member in Good Standing” status.

Application for Washington State PGR Ride Captain:

To Volunteer, you must have:

- a current Washington State Driver's license with Motorcycle Endorsement.
- Proof of insurance due to missions on military establishments.
- If the State Captain approves your nomination, you will begin a minimum 90-day probation period and be placed in a “Ride Captain in Training” status.
- You will be required to complete all phases of the Ride Captain Training Program (form attached, Appendix Six) during probation.
- Your District Captain, Assistant State Captain, the State Captain, and other Ride Captains will evaluate your performance during this probationary period.
- After the completion of the 90-day probation period, a recommendation to make your Ride Captain status permanent will be initiated, at your Dist. Captain's request, by being sent to your ASC, and finally to the State Captain, whose approval will complete the process.
- Upon the final approval you will be required, within six (6) months, to attend and successfully complete an Experienced or Intermediate Rider /Motorcycle Safety Course, unless one was completed within the last two years prior to your final approval as an R/C. This is necessary so that you may conduct missions on military installations.
- Once accepted, you are expected to serve for a minimum of one year.

Exceptions from six-month requirement for ERC/IRC:

- Support vehicle R/C's who do not ride a motorcycle or trike.

(continued)

- R/C's living in Eastern Washington, whose 6-month period would fall during the winter months. In this case, the six-months would begin when road conditions permit safe riding.

WASHINGTON STATE DISTRICTS

Western Washington Assistant State Captain:

(This position is currently vacant, and responsibilities revert to SC)

Everything West of Snoqualmie Pass, from Canadian border to Oregon border

NORTH WESTERN DISTRICT:

Mark "Cheekymark" Telford

Everything West of Snoqualmie Pass, from Canadian border to King County/Pierce County Line

PENINSULA DISTRICT:

Robert "Spellcheck" Jennings

Everything North of Grays Harbor County, Mason County, and West of the Narrows Bridge, including the Island Counties

WEST CENTRAL DISTRICT:

Kris "Daylight" Langley

Everything within Gray's Harbor, Mason, Thurston, and Pierce Counties.

SOUTH WESTERN DISTRICT:

Gary Everett

Everything West of Snoqualmie Pass, from Pierce county Line to Oregon Border

ASSISTANT STATE CAPTAIN, EAST:

Dave "50WT" Kastel

Everything East of Snoqualmie Pass from Canadian border to Oregon border

(continued)

**NORTH EASTERN DISTRICT:
Larry “Commo” Griffith**

Everything East from Snoqualmie Pass to the Idaho State Line, and from the Canadian border to I-90 as far east as Vantage, then continuing East, everything North of SR 26 to Colfax, then everything North and East of US 195 to SR 270, and everything North of SR 270 to the Idaho State Line.

**SOUTH EASTERN DISTRICT:
Neil “Stretch” Miller**

Everything East from Snoqualmie Pass to the Idaho State Line, and from the southern boundary of the Northeast District South to the Oregon State Line.

All Ride Captains shall be under their District Captain mentioned above, and under their Assistant State Captain, and the State Captain, and shall serve at the discretion of the State Captain.

END OF RIDE CAPTAIN SOP

SEE ATTACHED APPENDICES

APPENDIX ONE

PLAQUE ORDERING PROCESS FROM NATIONAL

National PGR Plaque Policy

June 23, 2010

Discussion: This is not a revision to the policy. It is a simple re-write to attempt to clarify some items that we have had questions on

Guidelines:

1. Plaques will only be approved/ ordered for confirmed missions.
2. Patriot Guard Riders (National) will pay for one (1) plaque. The ONLY blanket exception is if the parents are separated or divorced, we will pay for two plaques if that information is provided at the time of the order.
3. Plaques must be ordered no later than 2 weeks after the Mission date.
4. Overnight or second day shipping costs must be paid by the State, person ordering, or appropriate in-state contact.
5. Additional plaques not covered by National must be paid by the State, person ordering, or appropriate in-state contact.
6. Plaques must be ordered via the process listed below. I understand there are occasional circumstances not under our control (website outages, etc...) that may require us to do what is required to get orders placed. These exceptions are just that, exceptions and not the rule.
7. When ordering, let plaques know if you want expedited shipping or additional plaques, and a contact number will be sent to you for purposes of providing payment for same.
8. We (the Treasurer and Plaque Representative) are tasked with maintaining accountability of funds and orders. In order to do this we must require the following process, "To Order:"

(continued)

National Plaque Ordering - continued

To Order:

1. Mission must be posted in the “Confirmed Missions” folder. Including a link to the Mission thread with the plaque order is very helpful and appreciated.
2. Verify the spelling of the name, and the rank if at all possible. The suggested method is to use the DOD announcement and/or the assigned CAO. If possible, find out if there will be a posthumous promotion and include this information with the order.
3. Send your request to Plaques@patriotguard.org . In the subject line state “Plaque Request (Soldiers Name).” If the PGR mail server is down, please send the request to: daperrygirl@gmail.com.
4. In the body of the email, include the following:
 - a. Soldiers Name
 - b. Branch of Service
 - c. Rank
 - d. Name and address of where to ship to. WE CANNOT SHIP TO PO BOXES.
 - e. If the plaque is for a Veteran, First Responder, or PGR Member, please let us know as we can include that on the plaque. If they are a Veteran, please let us know if they served in a Wartime Theater. If a First Responder, please include the pertinent information (IE: King County Sherriff, Orange County Firefighter, etc...)

APPENDIX TWO

CURRENT PLAQUE POLICY

Good Afternoon, Everyone,

Given our current financial state of affairs and the mounting cost of procuring plaques locally, and after much discussion, it has been decided that, until further notice, the following requirements will apply to all commemorative plaques requested and/or ordered in the course of our Missions.

1. Where time allows (typically 7 days in advance of mission date) any plaques requested will be done through National. This process results in zero cost to us in the state. There is a process to do this, and if you are not familiar with it, please contact your District Captain, ASC, or myself regarding this process.
2. ALL KIA's will receive a plaque. If lack of time to order from National is the case, the Plaque request **must** be approved by Dirt, 50wt, or myself, prior to ordering. This lets us get the payment process in motion for our local supplier. (For those concerned about picking up plaques for distant missions (over 75 miles), our local supplier can, for a very nominal fee which is added to the cost of the plaque, get it to you overnight via UPS. This additional service must be included in the initial plaque request.
3. For all veterans' missions (NOT KIA's), where time does not allow ordering from National, each plaque request will be considered on a case by case basis. We regret having to do this, but it helps us avoid one of two unacceptable situations:
 - (a) depleting our financial account below an acceptable level, or
 - (b) forcing individual members to bear the cost out of their own pockets until funds can be accrued to reimburse them.

Please know that this policy is not cast in stone, and if, at some point, we reach a financial standing whereby cost is no longer an immediate concern, we may change it. For the time being, however, we need all RC's and DC's to insure that this procedure is followed. I have also attached both the format preferred by Big John's Trophies, and also the process and details required for ordering from National. Our Thanks to all of you for your understanding, and for all that you do for the Patriot Guard Riders.

Respectfully, Jim "BikerVet" Dickson
State Captain

APPENDIX THREE

Multi-State Mission/Event SOP

The purpose of this SOP is to ensure proper communications and approvals have been made between all States in preparation for a multi-state mission prior to the PGR being committed to participate.

The following procedure must be followed when there is a request for a single PGR mission/event that involves participation from more than one State.

1. The individual that receives the request must forward the mission request to their State Captain and wait for their input and approval prior to taking any further action.
2. The initiating State Captain will forward the request to the other State Captain(s) whose State(s) are affected by this request with a copy to the Region Captain(s).
3. It will be at the discretion of each individual State Captain as to the extent of involvement from their respective State. These State Captains should communicate their intentions back to the requesting State Captain with a copy to their Region Captain.
4. Once it is determined which States will be involved in the mission the initiating State will send a mission posting request to the moderators. Multi-State missions are generally in the Memorial or HOTH category and these missions must be within our current guidelines set forth by our mission statement.
5. There will only be one mission thread regardless of the number of States involved. This will make it easy to follow the progress of the mission from one State to another until completion.
6. Individual States will be responsible for requesting their own Statewide email in regards to their participation in the Multi-State mission/event.

James "Sneakysnake" Davis

National BOD, Vice President, Ride Captains

APPENDIX FOUR

PRE – MISSION BRIEF (Start ON TIME !) GET U.S. FLAG FOR PLEDGE

You can alter everything in **RED** to fit the Mission. Then simply “Print”, and close as original.

- Introduction (Self , Second and Sweeps)
- Welcome, and Thank You (Make sure they understand importance of THEIR presence.)
- FLAG PRESENTED FOR PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- **Pre-Mission Invocation IF YOU WISH. (Personal preference)**
- New Members? 1st Time Riders ? WELCOME ! (if so, see me after the mission)
- Has everyone signed the waiver? Pass it around.
- **WE ARE HERE TODAY TO HONOR (HERO’s Name, Rank, Branch(es) of Service, Periods of Service (i.e. – WWII, Vietnam, etc.) Medals and Awards (if known), and DATES and Details if KIA.**
- **MISSION OVERVIEW (Example only- Substitute Your Mission details in place of these)**
 - **Flag Line at the Church, followed by Escort to Cemetery, with second flag line there**
 - **Family presence (and military background of family if appropriate)**
 - **Quiet in and quiet out (5 MPH Max in cemeteries – remember, this is Hallowed Ground)**
 - **Respect and Honor for the Hero is Priority**
- **FLAG ETIQUETTE (Demonstrate)**
 - **US Flag vertical at all times after unfurling**
 - **Call to Attention**
 - **Present Arms (US flag vertical & Service/POW flags @ 45^o angle)**
 - **Order Arms**
 - **Wait until back at support vehicle to lower and stow flags**
 - **RESPECT AND HONOR ARE THE ORDER OF THE DAY**
- **CELL PHONES OFF PRIOR TO FLAG LINE AND THROUGHOUT CEREMONY.**

RIDE SAFETY REVIEW (Tailor for length and type of ride)

- **HOW MANY ARE NEW TO FORMATION RIDING?**
- **Newbie’s ride at rear of formation (explain why)**
- **Review Staggered Formation and distances – 2 AND 4 SECONDS *variable* (impress safety)**
- **Ride your mirrors (explain) (Appendix Four Continued on Next Page)**

- Review Hand Signals (RT, LT, Slow to Stop, Single-up, Double-up, Slow down, speed up, close up, debris/hazards on roadway, sweeps up to front (Do Not wave at other scoots)
- Lane changes fade from the rear (explain) Be patient & maintain speed
- If slowing using only compression, flash your brake lights to signal others
- Review “Cookie-crumb” technique in event that Formation gets separated
- Sweeps and support cages handle any breakdowns
- Fill open spot from the rear, same line – NOT SIDE TO SIDE
- We will have a SUPPORT vehicle (explain, introduce, and *thank support vehicle*)

ROUTE BRIEFING

- Describe routing, beginning with exiting staging area, AND INCLUDE ALL AREAS OF SAFETY CONCERN – i.e. – merge hot zones, heavy traffic areas, areas where sweeps will be in action, lanes of travel, speeds, etc.
- IF MISSION WILL INCLUDE ON-BASE TRAVEL, THOROUGHLY REVIEW REQUIREMENTS BELOW:
- **ON-BASE MOTORCYCLE REQUIREMENTS**
 - Valid Driver’s License WITH Appropriate Motorcycle Endorsement
 - Valid, current vehicle registration
 - Valid Proof of Insurance
 - Motorcycle Rider Intermediate or Experienced Course Completion Card
 - Eye Protection
 - Long-sleeve shirt or jacket
 - Full-finger gloves
 - Over the ankle footwear
 - Full Reflective Vest or Jacket (Mandatory for McChord AFB access)
 - For Riders that are “two-up”, valid Identification, protective and reflective gear is required for both you AND your passenger.
 - You MUST (both) have your ID and Pass readily accessible as there is a high likelihood of Security asking for it.

NO FIREARMS, EVEN WITH A CWP/CCP, ARE ALLOWED ONTO THE BASES !

- Review Ride Order (i.e.- Lead, Second, Sweeps, Trikes, cages, etc.)
- There will be a POST – MISSION DEBRIEF prior to dismissing after the mission.
- Quiet In and Quiet Out – Honor and Respect is our Mission.

(Appendix Four continued on Next Page)

- If the mission will end at Tahoma Nat'l Cemetery or Willamette Nat'l Cemetery, remind everyone that *This is Hallowed Ground*. No revving, slow speed (10 mph recommended) and stop engines as soon as practical. This is out of Respect for the thousands of Heroes already there, and for visiting families and friends.
- REMEMBER, SAFETY IS OUR PRIME DIRECTIVE ON THESE MISSIONS !
- Ask for any questions from members.
- Ask other RC's for any additional *relevant* comments or concerns.
- Remind everyone, "Game faces on", and Silent and Respectful in the Flag Line.
- Re-state Mount Up Time (if not imminent) .
- Remember, " SEMPER GUMBY" !

End of Appendix Four

APPENDIX FIVE

Washington State Patriot Guard Riders

Post - Mission Report

Forward to District Captain

Date:

Name and Rank:

Branch of Service:

Mission Type (KIA, Veteran, etc.) :

Family Contact:

WSPGR Region/District:

Ride Captain:

2nd Ride Captain:

RC(s) in Training:

Support Vehicle:

Funeral Home Contact:

Cemetery Contact:

LEO Support Contact:

PGR Member Count:

After Action Report

(Include phases, deployments, traffic and weather conditions, safety, special issues, and recommendations)

Please include input from 2nd RC and RC's in Training.

Narrative:

APPENDIX SIX

Activity	Signature/Initials	Date
Complete MSF: IRC or better (Access to Military Bases) Completed within 180 days of RCIT Status		
Shadow *Senior Leadership on 2 Missions *Dist. Capt. or above (Min. 1 KIA mission)		
Group Riding: Training Exercise "Freeway" High Traffic "Freeway" Low Traffic "Local/Rural" Low Traffic		
Shadow Primary Mission R/C as 2 nd on 2 Missions		
Assist primary R/C with 2 mission plans (exercise) Welcome Home KIA		
Pre-Ride (Scout) Mission Route (1-on-1) with R/C		
Execute mission under R/C guidance		
Present plaque and/or teddy bear to family (exercise)		
Mission Summary (exercise) 1-on-1 with R/C		
Execute entire mission without R/C guidance (Final exam)		
Recommendations for Approval to SC (RC, DC, & ASC)		
State Captain's Approval		
APPROVED BY WA STATE PGR BOD – Chair Signature		

(Appendix Six continued on next page)

Basic Training for R/Cs

- Complete MSF course – preferably IRC or ERC
- ‘Shadow’ Senior State Leadership (District Captain, or above), on two missions
- Complete a minimum of three training ridesⁱ:
 - Freeway (light traffic/ off-peak – specifically: I-5, or SR 512, starting at Staging location and return)
 - Freeway (heavy traffic– example: I-5 to Hwy 18 to Auburn, starting at Staging location and return)
 - Rural back roads (where convenient)
- ‘Shadow’ Primary R/C (serve as “Second” on ride)
- Assist primary R/C with mission planning, including scouting/pre-riding the route.
- Execute three missions:
 - Training Exerciseⁱⁱ
 - KIA/Funeral
 - Welcome Home
- Present honors/gifts (coins/teddy bears) to honoree’s family
- Final exam: Execute entire mission without RC guidance

Advanced training: Road Guarding

After approval to begin advanced training by at least two experienced R/Cs

- Complete two missions (at least one long-distance ride) riding in front of procession to watch road guarding being done by others.
- Participate in at least two training rides (those being done to train the RCiT’s) as a road guard.
- Participate in at least one Rolling Honor Guard (set-up for ‘missing man’ for funeral procession): This may include an actual mission, or, a training mission

ⁱ Training rides will be conducted over multiple weekends (i.e. no more than two on any one day) to allow focus on lessons learned from ride, and to judge commitment to participate in missions. Training rides will be limited to four, or fewer, RCiT’s at a time. Each outbound ride will be led by a qualified R/C, followed by debrief/Q&A period, then return trip to be led by one of the RCiT’s with a qualified R/C riding as the “2nd”.

ⁱⁱ Training exercise mission will be based upon an already completed mission. RCiT will be given a heads-up of a [training] pending mission, and asked to prepare mission plan for one of the trainers. Trainer will evaluate mission plan, and discuss with probationary R/C any issues/concerns/suggestions/revisions.