



Patriot Guard of Montana	SOP #	100	
	Title	Honors Mission Protocol	
	Implementation Date		
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Adapted by/Initials:	Jenny Kober, Member	Approval Date/Initials	

## **Honors Mission Protocol - Standard Operating Procedure**

### **1. Purpose**

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To ensure proper protocol before/during all honor missions.

### **2. Scope**

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All Montana Patriot Guard Members.

### **3. Procedure**

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#### **WHAT:**

The Patriot Guard Riders attend funerals (upon request) of Fallen Service Members and First Responders to show the bereaved respect and honor for the sacrifice and pain they are enduring due to the loss of a loved one.

#### **WHO:**

All Members and guests that join in support of a Honor Mission are requested to follow this protocol while providing Honors to our Fallen Heroes and their Families.

Please do not be offended if you are observed not following these protocols and are corrected on the spot. All Members are there to show Respect and Honor.

#### **HOW:**


Prior to all Missions, the Mission Ride Captain shall have coordinated with the site manager (usually a Funeral Director; family member; or Law Enforcement Official) to plan a Mission Strategy to ensure the Mission is completed without any confusion. This shall include, but is not limited to, planning entrance and exit strategies according to geography and the number of Members in attendance.

Mission Ride Captains shall arrive at the service site 60 minutes prior to the start of said service to ensure that all is in order before Member arrival. If he/she is unable to be at the site at this time, he/she shall designate a Mission Assistant Ride Captain to stand-in until he/she arrives.

Members shall arrive at the service site a minimum of 45 minutes prior to the start of said service. The Mission Ride Captain will brief all Members in attendance of the Mission Strategy. All flags shall be assembled and ready at least 15 minutes prior to service.

At the direction of the Mission Ride Captain, Members will take up a position to form a direct flag line and/or procession/escort.

***Members will hold flags in their right hand, along the side of the body, in the VERTICAL position, at all times. (Revised 03/03/2019)***

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Once in position, Members holding flags shall space out and will be adjusted as directed by the Mission Ride Captain. As always, geography and the available number of Members will shape each Mission independently.

There will be no smoking, talking or joking while holding flags. If a Member needs a break or leave for any reason, quietly inform another Member and respectfully take leave.

At the conclusion of the service, all flag bearers/Members shall quietly proceed to an area designated by the Mission Ride Captain all while keeping flags in the VERTICAL position.

Flags may be rolled or folded only at the conclusion of a Mission and only at the site designated by the Mission Ride Captain. At that time, Members will be directed to the next phase of the Mission or if concluded, all in attendance will take a moment to debrief and address any questions, comments, and concerns.

**Remember always: Flexibility, Patience, Tolerance, Respect and Silence**

#### ***4. Other Resources***

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Ride Captain Guidelines – Updated 10-04-10.

Flag Code - Title 4 of the United States Code – 4 U.S.C §7 (Position and Manner of Display) and 4 U.S.C §8 (Respect for Flag)