

Preparing for Mission.

Check with family contact or representative and gather as much information on the fallen as possible. IE: Name of fallen, Branch of Service, Rank, Age, Major battles. Explain who you are, and briefly what the PGR mission is - not all are familiar with what we do.

Discuss address and location of service, times, location of internment, if escort is wanted by family along with flag line.

Contact the family, point of contact for the family, and the military Casualty Assistance Officer.

Marines: Casualty Assistance Calls Officer (CACO)

* Casualty Assistance Section (MRPC), Quantico, VA: 1-800-847-1597

Air Force: Family Liaison Officer (FLO)

* Casualty Services Branch, Randolph Air Force Base: 1-800-433-0048

Navy: * Casualty Assistance Calls Officer (CACO)

Navy * Casualty Assistance Division: 1-800-368-3202

Coast Guard: * Casualty Assistance Calls Officer (CACO)

Contact funeral director (and Law Enforcement Officers – if necessary).

Discuss the route and timing of the funeral procession from the funeral home, church, and cemetery. This is important so that timing of the Patriot Guard Riders can be synchronized with arrival timing at each location. (i.e. as the procession leaves the funeral home or the church, is a direct route being taken to the cemetery or is a specific route being taken).

Perform a recon mission to scout the church and cemetery before funeral date. Pay attention to details such as busy routes where you may need road guards, if gravel may be along route that bikes may have to travel.

Maintain ongoing contact with the family, POC, CAO, LEO, and funeral directors.

Choose appropriate staging area(s).

Plan staging to be at least 30 minutes or more prior to beginning of service.

Work with LEO to choose a safe procession route.

If requested, arrange and provide escort from airport to funeral home or area of reception.

If requested, arrange and provide escort from funeral home or church to cemetery or point of arrival to area of reception.

Arrange for flag line participation for funeral home, church, and/or cemetery

Plan for line-up at the funeral site prior to start of the funeral service.

Maintain flag line until family leaves service/internment area.