

MIAP Protocol with Riding Clubs or Motorcycle Clubs

The Missing in America Project (MIAP) is neither a Riding club (RC) nor a Motorcycle club (MC). MIAP is a 501 (c) (3) corporation and is a non-profit business established to locate, verify and inter veterans and their dependents. Corporate By-Laws and Resolutions allow us to conduct legal funeral escorts for veterans and other veteran's activities as deemed necessary. We operate and maintain a business office with the funding of operations coming from individual donations. MIAP operations, based on calculations required for the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) organization shows that 89.06 % of all donations to MIAP are for the benefit of veterans. Administrative cost is 10.03%, the CFC accepts up to 15% administrative costs as acceptable. There is NO membership to MIAP only supporters and volunteers many of which are neither veterans nor motorcycle owners. Everyone is welcome to be either a supporter or a more active volunteer. This is a quote from the Patriot Guard Riders Mission Statement; it applies most appropriately here to all of our operations:

..."We don't care what you ride or if you ride, what your political views are, or whether you're a hawk or a dove. It is not a requirement that you be a veteran. It doesn't matter where you're from or what your income is; you don't even have to ride. The only Prerequisite is Respect. ..."

- **MIAP will only conduct a Funeral Escort Mission at the request of:**
 1. **Funeral Home or Minister who is trained in dealing with the grieving family.**
 2. **Family representative who has been appointed by the legal next of kin**
 3. **Cemetery, Government Agencies, Veterans Service Organization, Fraternal organizations, Motorcycle clubs or Riding clubs (PGR) that are conducting events/activities for the family and have personal family contacts.**

- **MIAP will conduct non- funeral escorts at request of:**
 1. **Any organization or business with the approval of two MIAP Board of Directors and coordination with the proper authorities**

- **The requesting organization determines the setup and structure of the mission. (identify close family vehicles, family staging area, times of all activities scheduled and personal details to assist in the determination of route selected and method of transportation)**
 1. **This means everything before and after the wheels turn on the escort. The MIAP Escort leader is in charge of the legal conduct of the escort from the exit of the staging area until the procession arrives at the final destination.**
 2. **MIAP is in charge of the legal/permitted escort for all safety, liability issues and coordination with all agencies, Law Enforcement, Caltrans, Buses, Homeland Security for trains etc.**
 3. **MIAP certified escort riders must be in the front and rear of every permitted mission with all MIAP safety equipment, communication and lights. This is the minimum requirement for all missions.**
 4. **On missions you may take photos and or videos on the staging and conduct of the escort only. MIAP does not authorize photos to be taken at any other time during any mission without prior approval from the requesting organization/family and the MIAP Board of Directors.**
 5. **MIAP can not release any information about the veteran, the family or requesting organization to any other group.**

- **Media requests will all be directed to the person/organization in charge of the mission. No MIAP escort rider is to brief any reporters on the conduct of any other group or their club activities. You are allowed to talk to the media and press about your personal feelings and about MIAP as long as you DO NOT say that it is corporate policy. Simply, direct them to the person in charge for policy or corporate activities.**

- **MIAP will determine at the time of permit process whether we submit a State Encroachment Permit or simply a local permit. Items considered will be date, time, distance, roads and intersections to be controlled and estimated amount of escorted vehicles. State permits for large or difficult escorts needs a five day minimum permit time for escorts over 20 vehicles and major highways. State Department of Transportation will be notified at the beginning of the escort and at the conclusion of the escort.**

- **No other organization or group can speak for or represent MIAP. We all belong to many groups. If you do an activity with another group then you represent that group and NOT MIAP. In turn if it is an MIAP event or mission then it is just that and you do not represent another group, just MIAP. There have been numerous occasions lately that representation of an MIAP sponsored event or fundraiser has been misrepresented or misinterpreted.**
- **In cases where MIAP escorts and there is no other group providing honor and respect for the family. Please be prepared to conduct an “Honor” line with a salute or hand over your heart.**
- **MIAP Certified Escort riders cannot participate in non-permitted escorts with any identification showing as MIAP. There can be no confusion that MIAP condones or is involved in any manner with processions that require blocking of traffic and unsafe staging of family and their vehicles. It is our responsibility to provide the veteran and his family with utmost courtesy and safety for his/her travel to their final resting place. Your MIAP Escort certification will be revoked for this infraction as determined by the MIAP Board of Directors.**