

A large, stylized logo for '23-7'. The numbers '23-7' are rendered in a bold, white, serif font with a slight shadow, set against a black, teardrop-shaped background. This black shape is outlined in white and is itself set against a larger, irregular shape that is filled with a vibrant, abstract pattern of red and yellow colors, resembling a stylized flame or a map of a region. The entire logo is set against a dark, almost black background.

23-7

Chapter 23-7

Chapter Sergeant at Arms (CSAA) Briefing

Presented by: Bill “Viking” Zito, CSAA





Mission

We are an Association of Combat Veterans from all branches of the United States Armed Forces who ride motorcycles as a hobby. As a registered 501(c)(19) veterans' charity, our mission is to support and protect those who have defended our country and our freedoms. Our focus is to provide assistance and help to individual veterans, veteran care facilities, other veteran organizations and registered charities. We sponsor and participate in many veteran-related motorcycle (and other) charity events each year, and as a non-profit organization, donate to various veteran causes.

Who We Are

Our membership is comprised of Full Members (those with verified combat service), Supporter Members (those who have non-combat military service and have a strong dedication to helping veterans), and Auxiliary Members (Spouses of both Full and Support members). We have members from all 50 states and numerous countries abroad, including combat areas.



What We Strive to do

- Support organizations that support veterans
- Create and foster comradery among all combat veterans from all military branches
- Raise awareness for the plight of Prisoners of War and for those Missing in Action and their families
- Promote brotherhood and sisterhood through social events which are inclusive of Full Members, Support Members and Auxiliary members of the CVMA.
- Promote interest in various motorcycle related activities involving veterans
- Foster a positive image of motorcycle riders throughout our community and the media



What We Are Not

We ARE NOT a Motorcycle Club (MC),

CVMA® is an Association and therefore do SOME things differently than MCs and remain neutral to MC politics. We are respectful to all MCs and therefore typically have no issues with the MC community.

As an Association, we DO NOT:

- Recruit
- Have “Hang Arounds”
- Prospect members
- Claim Territory
- Identify as a Support Club to any 1% or 13% MC



Chapter Executive Board and Admin leadership Position

Position CEB	Name	Phone	Email
Chapter Commander (CC)	Julius "Caesar" Horvath	512-496-9186	caesarcvma@cvma237.org
Chapter Executive Officer (CXO)	Nathan "Snatch" Rautsch	240-877-4755	xo@cvma237.org
Chapter Sgt at Arms (CSAA)	Bill "Viking" Zito	202-203-9277	SAA@cvma237.org
Chapter Secretary (CSEC)	Charles "Jabba" Hoffman	253-970-8270	secretary@cvma237.org
Chapter Treasurer (CTREAS)	Norman "Stoplight"	419-377-1833	treasurer@cvma237.org
Chapter Public Relations Officer (CPRO)	Bruce "Hawk" Kingsley	512-779-0173	pro@cvma237.org
Admin Positions	Name	Phone	Email
Chapter Road Captain (CRC)	Andrew "Smoke" Francis	512-709-0126	src@cvma237.org
Chapter Web Master	Charlie "Groot" Hermes	512-797-3865	webmaster@cvma237.org
Chapter Auxiliary Liaison	Amber "Guardrail" Kingsley	512-736-5330	amberdkingsley@gmail.com



History



- In 1999, the Combat Vets Motorcycle Club was introduced on the Internet. Unfortunately, the in 2001, the organization was exposed as one that was fraudulent and steeling money from Combat Veterans.
- As a result, in 2001 45 Combat Veterans decided to establish the Combat Veterans Association.
- The CVMA® was formally established in May 2001 as a non-profit Association.
- The two main things that brought the original 45 members together was the love of riding motorcycles and the commonality of having served in combat
- They created a patch that designated them as the “Original 45.”





History



- In May 2001, the Association, adopted a patch with the VFW patch integrated within it. While there were many forms of correspondence with the VFW National Board of Directors, no clear or enduring relationship was reached.
- In December 2002, the Association decided to move ahead with establishing the Association independently of the VFW and opened the Association to all combat veterans who rode a motorcycle. On December 15, 2002, the Association decided to integrate the CVMA® background with the old skully and this established the back patch we wear today.
- Requirements were very simple, be a combat veteran and ride a motorcycle of 500 cc or more.



CVMA Back Patch and Colors

The Combat Vets Association back patch is only worn by Full Members.

The colors represented have the following meanings:

- **Red** – Represents the blood we have shed on the battlefield
- **Military Gold** – Representing all the U.S. Military branches of service
- **Black** – Representing heavy hearts for those that have lost their lives, are classified as MIA or POW.
- **The Skull and Ace of Spade** – represent the death that war leaves in its wake.

- **Note: The emblem/logo used by the Combat Veterans Association is the sole intellectual property of the CVMA®. The CVMA® logo cannot be reproduced with out written permission from the National Board of Directors.**





MC Protocols

Respect

- An MC demands respect for one reason. To recognize the deep level of personal commitment and self discipline that a man must demonstrate and sustain in order to wear the Club's colors (Patches).
- Realize that a Club's "Colors" are closely guarded, and the membership process is long and difficult. This respect is born out of recognition of dedication and accomplishment.
- The MC strives for respect. This is true as it pertains to those outside of the motorcycle community. This part of society is larger, and therefore represents a larger market for fundraising activities that the MC might undertake.
- Cultivating a relationship with this part of society is important and to be perceived by them as "Biker Scum" is not advantageous to many Clubs. They will therefore, in many cases, conduct themselves as upstanding citizens... "Good neighbors" so to speak.



MC Protocols

- The public does not draw a distinction between different club colors. In many cases, they can't tell the difference. If one club causes a problem, the offending club's identity is either confused or ignored and the heat comes down on all clubs and motorcycle riders.
- The public does not make any distinctions between a MC and a RC (*Riding Club); therefore, EVERYONE needs to be aware that no matter whether they are in an MC, RC or, an Independent rider, their actions reflect on all in the motorcycle community.
- The MC clubs tend to police themselves to avoid such incidents.
- Club members will not discuss any Club business whether it's about membership numbers, Club goings on, or any member's personal information with anyone outside of the Club. And you should never ask about their club business.
- They understand that they are a MC member 24/7, regardless if they are wearing their colors. Everything they say or do in public can affect the Club.
- They also understand that if they get out of line, that they are subject to be counseled for their own good and for that of the Club.



MC Protocols

- Wearing Club colors is more than getting together for good times. It also means getting together for the other times too. It's committing themselves to a lifestyle in which they do not look for how their brothers can help them, but for ways that they can be of help to their brothers.
- MC members are people too. They have jobs, families, normal everyday problems, and concerns just like anyone else. Just like with any group, you will find both good and bad people.
- Protocol and Respect are the key to good relations when dealing with a MC member.
- If you are FORMALLY introduced to a MC member, make sure the person doing the introduction knows you are a member of the CVMA. If also a Chapter officer, what position you hold. Under no circumstances do you interrupt to correct a mistake while that person is introducing you or while they are talking.
 - Wait till the introduction is done & politely introduce yourself correctly, sunglasses removed and gloves off if wearing them.
For example:
“Bill Zito, Combat Vets, Austin TX, Chapter 23-7, Sgt-at-Arms (Use your real name; not your nickname. Nicknames may come later.).”



MC Protocols

- Greet the MC member as you would meet anyone else and wait until the offer is made to shake hands. DO NOT be offended or make a big deal if they do not offer to shake your hand. Many times, they want to get to know about you and your Association a little better before they will offer to shake your hand.
- **Never lie.** You can politely refuse to answer a question by saying something like, "That seems like association business, or I should refer that to one of my Chapter officers to ensure that you get the correct information." Be prepared to answer questions about what your Association is about.
- Women in leadership positions or as a member of a 1% or 13% MC, while not totally impossible, is very rare. Most MCs would also rather deal with a man if there is business to conduct. Most realize what our Association is about & will for the most part accept a woman as an officer, and a woman officer will most likely be allowed to attend any meeting. Whether or not they will deal directly with a female officer or not depends on the individual MC. There is no set rule for this, and they will let you know if it's ok with them or not.



MC Protocols

- Most MC's do not care to deal with the National level officers. Instead, most would prefer to deal with local representatives.
- If you know a MC member, don't throw the Member's name, nickname and MC's name around like you're a great buddy of theirs (even if you are). MCs consider that major disrespect towards their Club.
- Always watch where you are when speaking about MCs, never say anything about them in public because you never know which person could be one of them, or a support them. MC members do not always wear their colors. By the time the story gets back to the Dominant club in our area, it will have been changed many times over and could be blown up way out of proportion.
- Anything said about them between MC members is MC business ONLY. If comments, even those said in a joking manner were to get out, problems could start. Discussion outside the privacy of our chapter can start rumors which could cause a lot of problems for not only this chapter but also for other chapters in and out of the state.



MC Protocols

- If for some reason you have to say something while in public about a MC, take the person you're talking to aside, alone, and say **ONLY** what you need to say to get your meaning across.
- Watch where you wear your patch, it's just common sense to stay in numbers when wearing your patch. If you are unsure of the areas or places normally frequented by MC's, ask your Chapter Officers. If you are planning a trip and are concerned, talk to a Chapter officer and ask if they can find something out by contacting the officers in the areas you will be in. You can also check the national website for “no fly zones” which essentially means no colors are to be worn in that area.
- If you already know a MC member don't just walk up to him and interrupt when they are with MC members. Wait till he acknowledges you first and **NEVER** touch them or put your arm around them like a buddy. Don't put your hand out to shake theirs. Wait for them to extend their hand first. If for some reason you're not acknowledged at all, then just keep walking. And if you are shaking hands with a group of them, never cut across the group to shake other hands, walk around each of them to the outside of the circle.
- If you need to talk to an officer of a MC, the proper way is to go through their Sgt-at-Arms or one of the MC members.



MC Protocols

- If you feel that you do want or need to go to an event (alone), then preferably go without wearing any patches identifying that you're in the CVMA.
- Remember, if you're wearing your CVMA patch, you are considered by everyone to be a representative of this Chapter. If anything were to turn sour, then the whole Chapter would wind up with problems down the road.
- If someone from a MC requests that you remove your vest, don't argue. The best reply is, "No Problem" and take it off. Then let a Chapter Officer know what MC it was so they can deal with any potential problems. They normally only ask once.
- If an establishment has a sign indicating "No Colors", the vest should be removed out of respect for the other MC's and the policy of the establishment. MC's that honor the "house rules" will be deeply offended that you didn't. Also remember, many establishments choose to have this policy and it applies to all organizations that use any kind of patch.



MC Protocols

- **Do not** wear your Patch into any MC's clubhouse unless you have asked if it's ok to do so or have been invited for a "sit down" with the officers of the MC or been invited as a CVMA Member.
- In regard to women who are with a MC, but not in the club: "Old Lady" is not a negative or derogatory term, it's just a slang term commonly used. "Property Of" patches are their way of showing support for their man and the MC he's in. Do Not engage in conversations with woman wearing "property of" patches or are referred to as "old lady." These women are in a relationship with an MC member and likely a spouse. Doing so, could lead to obvious problems with the MC member or organization.
- A MC member may not, and many times will not, acknowledge your wife or girlfriend, especially upon a first meeting.
- A prospect can usually be identified by the back patch they are wearing. There are many ways MC's identify prospects. You want to treat a prospect the same way you would treat a MC member - with respect and courtesy. MC's will take offense to any outsider using the "Prospect" term. Calling someone "Prospect" if you are not a member of that MC is considered disrespectful.
 - DO NOT touch or sit on a MC member's bike and never expect an invitation to do so.
 - **It has happened!!!**



MC Protocols

- Be aware of the behavior and attitude of other CVMA members who are with you, especially if anyone has been drinking. If necessary, take action to avoid problems before they happen. For example, if someone appears to be getting too angry, loud, and possibly disrespectful; take them aside or go somewhere else until things settle down. If an incident should occur despite your efforts and no Chapter Officers are present, make sure to let the Chapter Officers know as soon as possible
- Be aware that problems created in one part of the country by a CVMA member or issues with the chapter in one area have the potential to affect CVMA members in other areas and states also
- Do not call a MC member Brother or Bro. Their Brothers are fellow MC members and those that have earned that term.
- Don't ever touch any part of another MC member's colors, which includes the vest or jacket it's sewn on. That is considered a **SERIOUS** sign of disrespect, which could cause them to act aggressively towards you.



MC Protocols

- We are an Association and have ZERO intention of ever trying to become an MC. The CVMA Patch is bought & not earned like a prospect does in an MC, you earned it by serving in combat. *It remains Association property*
- All makes and models of motorcycle [500cc or larger] are welcomed in the CVMA. We are a non-territorial Association.
- We are a neutral Association and do not wear any MC support patches.
- Women Combat Veterans are welcomed and, in many cases, are Association officers. We are a UCOA and COCI recognized Association.
- **Do NOT** offer-up forum links or web sites; refer them to a Chapter officer.
- **Do NOT** brag about how large the local or national membership is.
- **Do NOT** volunteer Association information. If they ask a question about the local chapter, answer it if you can. If they start asking questions about the number of members, or the National organization, refer them to one of the Chapter officers.



Wearing the “Cut” or Vest

"What patches can I wear?"

- Most wear a U.S. Flag on their vest. Whether worn on front left, right or rear of vest no other patches should be placed above the US Flag and will always be worn with the stars closest to the heart.
- Items from the CVMA store and other approved local made patches are OK. There is no real restriction on patches you can wear as long as they are never shaped like a diamond.
- It is poor form to wear any patch above the back patch on the back side of the vest, except the American flag.
- If wearing the Texas flag, it is always worn with star to the left from the perspective of someone looking at you. Never wear it higher than the U.S. Flag.
- Refer to the flag policy on the website for more detail.
- In general, avoid distasteful patches as they bring negative light to the organization and to you as the individual wearing them.
- Do not wear stars and bars flags, Nazi flags or swastikas of any type.
- It is ok to wear patches you have earned through riding and attending events
- It is not okay to wear rockers above or below the back patch, you can wear a side rocker that has your service on it but must be below the back patch.
- Other patches that are standard are the Road Name (once given to you by the Chapter), chapter scroll, and Chapter patch.
- **Ask the CSAA if you have any questions or are not sure about patches BEFORE you have them sewn on.**
- **Do not wear your vest while driving, take it off and fold inside out and stow it out of site.**



Respecting the “Cut” or Vest

- Never leave your vest unattended when in public
- Never take it off when in public and allow it to ever hit the ground. Be careful setting it on your bike as it can be prone to fall off and hit the ground.
- While transporting the vest in a vehicle or in a no-fly zone, fold it so that the colors are inside, and the vest is folded neatly and treated with respect then placed in a saddle bag or somewhere out of site in the vehicle.
- You can wear leather, denim or any other item as a vest, though the leather and denim are the typical types of vests.
- Vest extenders are ok to wear
- Make sure your patches, whatever you decide to put on your vest, are sewed properly and not half hanging off or with strings hanging off like repel lines.
- **Remember, if you treat your colors with respect, so will others. MCs consider it highly disrespectful to violate these protocols and may take it away from you if so. Not a position you want to be in.**



The Bottom Line

- You must thoroughly read all National and Chapter By-Laws
- You must thoroughly read all pertinent National and Chapter Policies, and Memorandums for Record
- You must thoroughly read the Chapter Group Riding Manual,
- We are a Veterans' Service Organization.
- Showing Respect costs, you nothing.
- Act like an Adult; Misconduct/Disrespect of any kind will be dealt with.
- We are all Combat Veterans too.
- Participate; you will only get out what you put in.
- Handle problems/issues at lowest level possible.
 - Remember its your *Integrity. Only you can take that away from you.*
- Be of good *Moral Character.*
- Support and watch out for each other. **VETS HELPING VET**
- You are responsible for your Auxiliary or Support member's actions and accountability if you sponsor one.
- Remain a member in **good standing.**
- Chapter Business is CHAPTER Business and will remain so.
- Chapter meetings will be conducted in a disciplined manner and according to "Robert's Rules"
- All members opinions are important and will not be marginalized.