



Chapter 23-7

Sergeant at Arms Briefing

Presented By:

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Mission

Our mission is to support and defend those who have defended our country and our freedoms. *Our focus* is to help veteran care facilities provide a warm meal, clothing, shelter, and guidance, or simply to say, "Thank You." and "Welcome Home."

What We Are

We are an Association of Combat Veterans from all branches of the United States Armed Forces who ride motorcycles as a hobby. Our membership is comprised of Full Members (verified combat service), Auxiliary Members (spouses of Full Members) and Support Members (non-combat military service and are dedicated to helping veterans). Many members continue to serve in our Armed Forces, with several serving in combat areas now.



What We Do

- 1) Support Veteran Organizations.
- 2) Create and maintain camaraderie among Combat Veterans from all U.S. Branches of Service and its allies.
- 3) Raise awareness for the plight of POWs, MIAs and their families.
- 4) Conduct Association functions and activities in a manner befitting the members of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association and as well as the association's Auxiliary Members.
- 5) Promote interest in various forms of motorcycle activity associated with Veterans.
- 6) Encourage a better understanding of motorcycle riders as a constructive sport among members of the public, press, and law enforcement agencies.



THIS IS SOME OF WHAT WE DO!

We support various military charities annually to include Heroes Night Out, Healing with Horses Ranch, Operation Exfil, Combat Vets Boxing, assistance entities and organizations. Plus we are active in our community and help when we can.

You cannot do everything, every time, but you will be asked to participate. We say do what you can when you can. But you gotta do something!





And of Course we ride, eat and have fun.....
But always remember we are not a Motorcycle Club we are an Association of Combat Veterans



***“Vets
Helping
Vets”***





We ARE NOT a Motorcycle Club or Motorcycle Gang.

We DO NOT prospect, nor actively recruit.

We DO NOT claim territory.

I reiterate by saying,

We ARE NOT, nor do we claim to be a motorcycle club.



Chain of Command

Chapter

Commander	Charles “Jabba” Hoffman	co@cvma237.org
Executive Officer	Jose “Patron” Gonzalez	xo@cvma237.org
Sergeant at Arms	Nick “KickStand” Mullin	saa@cvma237.org
Secretary	Payton “Slayer” Ransom	secretary@cvma237.org
Treasurer	Marcellus “Sweeny Todd” Floyd	treasurer@cvma237.org



History



-In 1999, the Combat Vets Motorcycle Club was introduced to the internet. In early 2001 it was found out that CVMC was an internet scam taking money from Combat Veterans.

-In early 2001 45 members decided to form a Combat Veterans Association.

-The beginning of the CVMA® appeared as a nonprofit Association approximately May 2001.

-The 2 main things that brought them together were motorcycle riding & being Veterans from Combat zones.

-The original 45 members adopted a patch to wear, indicating that they are the original founding members of the CVMA®.





History (cont.)

--In **May 2001**, the CVMA® adopted the **CVMA/VFW** patch, many meetings, conversations, and letters over this period with the VFW National BOD sounded positive but with no results of developing a permanent relationship.



--In **December 2002**, the CVMA® membership voted to move on towards an Association. Opening the CVMA® up to all Combat Veterans who rode motorcycles. 15 December 2002, it was voted that the CVMA® would wear a combination of the CVMA® background and the old skull logo as a one-piece patch.

-Requirements for being a new Full Member were; Combat Veteran and rode a motorcycle (500cc or larger) as a hobby.

This patch is worn by full members only.



In Public View

-Policy regarding attendance of political events.

Our members are free to support the candidates of their choosing. However, they are not free to do so while displaying the intellectual property of the Association, to include soft colors, hats, or any displayed or other worn insignia in which CVMA® is suggested as an organization to show support of.



CVMA® back patch



The emblem/logo used by the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association® is the sole property of the CVMA®. The CVMA® patch and logo cannot be reproduced without license from the National Board Of Directors.

The emblem of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association® is in the shape of a skull consisting of the following colors:

Red, representing the blood that has been shed on the battlefield.

Military Gold, representing all branches of service of the United States military.

Black, representing the heavy hearts possessed for those who gave their lives and for those considered Missing in Action or Prisoners of war.

Skull and ace of spade, representing death that war leaves in its wake.



MC Protocol 101

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 to wear the club's colors (patch).
- 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 Protocol 101

Club Colors

- The public does not draw a distinction between different an MC and a RC (*Riding Club), Independent rider, and 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 negative repercussions comes down on all motorcycle riders within that area or community.
- EVERYONE needs to be aware that no matter whether they are in an MC and RC or an Independent rider, their actions reflect on all in the motorcycle community.
- Each organization or riders' group within our community is currently tending to police themselves to avoid such incidents and minimize the impact affects, though many 1%'s may find laws and rules trivial and beneath them.



MC Protocol 101

- Club nor Association members will not discuss any official business whether it's about membership numbers, Sanctioned or unsanctioned events goings on, or any member's personal information with anyone outside of the group.
- They understand that they are a group member 24/7, regardless if they are wearing their colors. Everything they say or do in public can affect the club or group.
- 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 group (be it MC, Association, or other).
- Wearing your 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 community can help them, but for ways that they can be of help to their community of brothers and sisters.



MC Protocol 101

- Remember that every group, club, or association member 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.
- Protocol and Respect are the rule when dealing with a MC, Rider Group, or other Association 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 you are 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. i.e.;

****CVMA® 23-7, Joe “PFCIC” Snuffee**

****Chapter 23-7 of the CVMA®, Sgt at Arms, Joe PFCIC Snuffee**

(Preferred to use your name - not your nickname. Nicknames may come after introductions.)



MC Protocol 101

- 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 as, "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 a leadership position or as a member of a MC, while not totally unheard of, is very rare. Most MC's 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 woman 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 Protocol 101

- **Most MC's do not care to deal with the National officers. They would prefer to deal with local representatives.**
- Do NOT name drop: 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). MC's consider that major disrespect towards their Club/Group.
- **Always watch where you are when speaking about them, never say anything about them in public because you never know which person could be one of them, or a "support member".** 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.



MC Protocol 101

- **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.
- **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.**



MC Protocol 101

- ** "SHOW THEM RESPECT." That's A #1 with them! (and worth repeating).
- **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.
- **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 Protocol 101

- BLCP concerning “Colors” terms used to describe vests was approved by the membership at national meeting (2023). We do refer to vests with backpatches as “colors.” The patch is leased and will be turned into the CSAA upon removal or departure from the Association.
- **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 Association. If anything were to turn sour, then the whole Association 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.**



MC Protocol 101

- 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. While we may just be an Association, it's only respectful to honor the house rules. 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.
- ****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 life partner and the MC he's in.



MC Protocol 101

- 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.**
- Have absolutely no doubt that MC's are serious and many have been known to physically educate a person who shows disrespect
- **DO NOT touch or sit on a MC member's bike and never expect an invitation to do so.**
It has happened!!!



MC Protocol 101

- **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. i.e.. 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 officers are present, make sure to let your officers know as soon as you can.
- 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.
- **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 aggressively educate the un-informed.



MC Protocol 101

- "We are an Association & not a MC. We have no intention of ever trying to become a MC".
- The **CVMA**® Patch is **leased**. (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.



MC Protocol 101

-When on the road, whether in a group or riding alone, if you come up on a MC, it is best not to pass them. However, if you must, there is a proper protocol that you must follow that shows the proper respect.

- Ride up to the MC's tail gunner, (DO NOT ride into their formation!), and request to ride up to their Road Captain by signaling with two fingers going back and forth. If the tail gunner indicates approval, then ride to the front of their pack and repeats the same gestures to their RC. If he also approves, then you are clear to ride on at a reasonable speed. DO NOT BLOW BY the MC!
- If you do not get approval, fall back and keep a respectful distance.
- This protocol should be used for any MC or riders association. Respect is respect.



MC Protocol 101

- Do NOT offer forum links or web sites, It's better to 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 chain of organization refer them to one of the Chapter Officers.
- Finally, you are all encouraged to **Google “Motorcycle Protocol 101”** or to go onto combatvet.org to get even more information.



Here are some of our Local Motorcycle Clubs and Groups

Bandidos MC	Companeros MC	Escondidos MC
American Steel MC	Amigos MC	BACA: Austin
BACA: Highland Lakes	BACA: Sam Bass	BoozeFighters MC
Chanekes MC	Chupacabras MC	Combat Vets Motorcycle Association®
Five Star Riders MC	Frontline MC	Grim Guardian MC
Guardian MC	Gypsy: Capital City	Gypsy: Leander
Gypsy: Round Rock	Honor Bound	Humpin People MC
Karibenos MC	Latin Steel MC	Least of Saints MC

Dominant
Local
Groups



Here are some more of our Local Motorcycle Clubs and Groups

Leathernecks MC

Maldicientes MC

Marines MC

Mi Raza MC

Misplaced Souls MC

New Life Riders MC

Old Filthy MC

Outtaline Ryderz MC

Preytorians MC

Redrum MC

Renatus: Capital City

Renatus: Hill Country

Renatus: State

Shenanigans MC

Sick Life: South Austin

Todo Moto MC

Tribe of Juda MC

Try Ryderz MC

True Few MC

War Disciples MC

Wolverines



“What patches can I wear”

Whether worn on front left, right or rear of vest no other patches should be placed above the US Flag

Whether worn on left or right of vest, stars should be to the inside/heart/chin.



Conflict bars from the CVMA® store are worn below the backpatch and are OK.



If attended, the State Meeting patch is approved for wear.



Items from the CVMA® store and other approved local made patches are OK.



When in doubt always ask a Chapter SAA before removing or adding patches.



NO top or bottom rockers around CVMA® Patch.

All % signs are in violation, whether they are diamonds, circles, tabs, or squares, and for front or back.



No patches with the word Texas
nor patches that have the outline of Texas
Or even the flag of Texas
Are allowed to be on the back of a vest
within the Association





NO rib or side rockers.



These type (Cube/turned cubes) military unit patches are OK front on back.



Alternatives type patches for 5ID and 1 MAR Div to show unit pride can be worn only on the Front



NO 5th ID or 1st Marine diamond-style design patches are Not allowed to be worn on either front or back.



Some patches with the Texas flag are still in question.

Texas outlines are a NO on **the back** your vest. Front is good



Texas flags that say Texas NOT to be Worn on the Back of the Vest.

Front is Good



Standard Texas flags are only allowed in the Front of the vest.



This type patch is OK

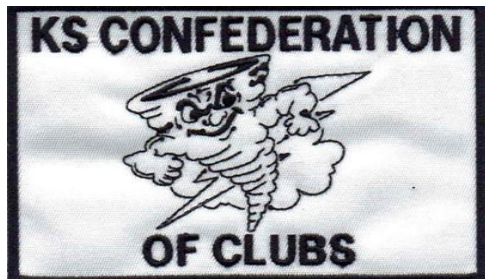


"Combat Vets Forever Forever Combats Vets"



Examples of various Confederation Of Clubs and Independents (COCI) patches.
(Not all states have organized COCIs)

Under the Texas COCI is area United Clubs that focus on their unique areas.





Inappropriate

These are inappropriate patches front or back. These really do not represent what the CVMA® is all about.
(Think of yourself at a Veterans funeral or other veterans' event)





Patch Etiquette

- Do not wear your CVMA® vest while driving or riding in a POV. Wait until you arrive at your location and then once outside of the vehicle put on your CVMA® vest (*as long as you are wearing the proper gear; long pants and over the ankle footwear).
- Take care of your vest; if sitting in a chair do not place on the back of the chair you are not seated in. If it falls, then quickly pick it up.
- Do not leave your vest on your bike while you are more than arms distance; i.e. going inside to eat, shop, or meander.
- You do not want a MC picking up your vest. MCs consider a vest on the floor, wearing a patch while in an auto, or laid outside on your bike unattended as **disrespect**, and as an organization we do not want or need this negative attention.
- If there is an accident and a member is injured and must be transported to the hospital (or anywhere away from the ride) secure the member's vest. Do not let it go with him/her. It becomes association property at that point. It will be returned to the member at the appropriate time. If the paramedics want to cut the vest, make every attempt to convince them to cut up the sides or in such a way as the patch is not damaged.



Patch Etiquette

NEVER, EVER do this!!!

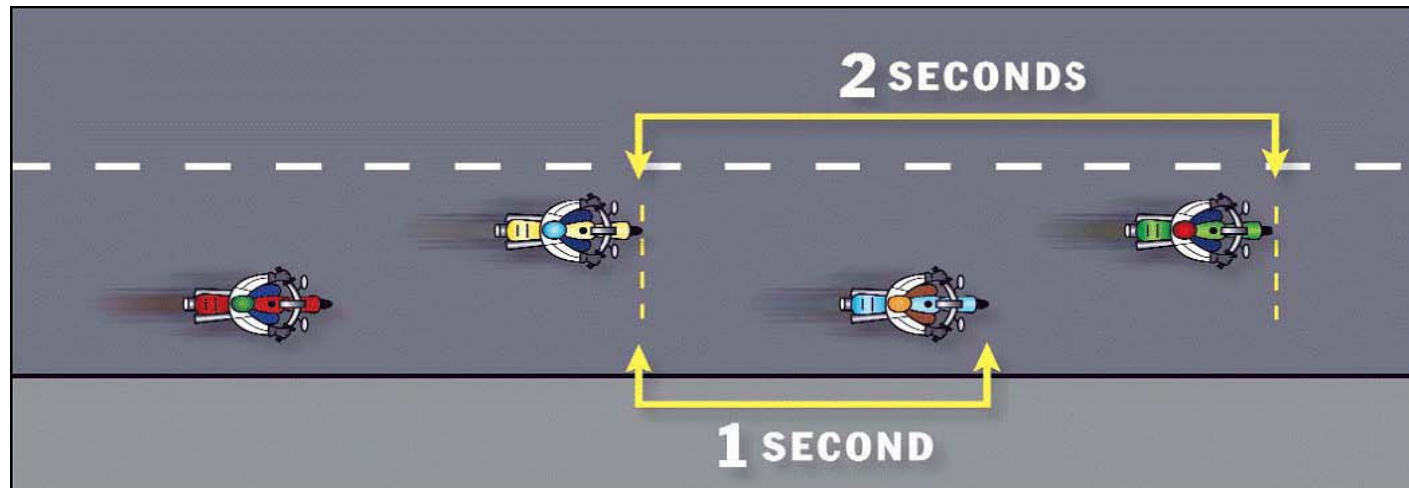




Brief Overview of Group Riding

RIDING FORMATION

Unless specifically briefed otherwise, the ride formation is staggered. All formations are dependent on ride conditions and will be controlled by hand and arm signals sent back by the Road Captain.





Brief Overview of Group Riding

Order of March (Chapter)

Road Captain rides in the front left Position

Commander rides in the front right position.

XO rides in the 3rd position.

Sergeant At Arms will be in the 4th position.

Secretary.

Treasurer.

Public Relations Officer.

Quartermaster.

Chaplain.

Webmaster.

*Any National, State, or other CEB members are front loaded to the order of march (if so desire).

*The rest of the formation will be Full Members, Auxiliary Members, and then Support Members. Any new members or "guests" (Non-member) riders will ride behind the chapter riders but in front of the Tail Gunner.

**Lead motorcycle will remain visible from the rear when possible, especially for larger groups.



Brief Overview of Group Riding

UNIFORM

All CVMA® members should display their backpatch on group rides although it is not mandatory, it is the responsibility and liability of all Active-Duty Members to meet their required branch of service and installation requirements for PPE while riding motorcycles. It is not permissible in the local areas to ride while wearing shorts/kilts/dresses and improper footwear and is a decision based on chapter location. They should reach out to the CEB of the chapter they intend to visit to see the proper wear of items.

ROAD GUARDS

Riders will avoid physically blocking intersections unless previously coordinated with law enforcement.

At stop sign intersections or during ride launches, the RC may request a rider to serve as a traffic observer to flag fellow riders through an intersection safely.

Chapter 23-7 Does not lane split nor lane filter on group rides.

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO BLOCK CARS OR PREVENT CARS FROM ENTERING THE FORMATION, THEY ARE CALLED CAGES FOR A REASON.

If a car is insistent or threatening safety, roll off the throttle.



Brief Overview of Group Riding

COMMON SENSE

- Fuel: Always begin a ride with adequate fuel.
- Ride your own bike: Irrespective of formation concerns, a rider should always ride their own bike first.
- Difficulty or disagreement: If you are having difficulty riding with another rider, you should first attempt to move away from them in the formation prior to the start of the ride. If riding near this individual creates an urgent safety risk for you or the formation notify a Road Captain immediately. If there is no immediate safety concern then at the next stop, with oversight of either a Road Captain or Sergeant at Arms, discuss your concern with the individual to ensure safety for the group.

Note

Never allow the formation to exceed your own comfort or capabilities, whether it is speed, terrain, weather, visibility, or traffic conditions. Remember, the easiest pace and smallest speed changes are near the front of the formation.



Brief Overview of Group Riding

COMMON SENSE

- Complacency versus anticipation: Avoid the "Sled Dog" mentality and complacency when in formation.
- When passing a large group of riders...check in with tailgunner to see if you can or cannot pass, if not given the ok, adjust your speed and follow. This is whether you are alone or in a group.

NOTE

- If you find yourself staring at the taillight in front of you, you are doing yourself and your fellow riders a disservice. Looking ahead allows a rider to analyze and anticipate accelerations, braking, hazards, and lane changes. Compel yourself to frequently raise your scan to the horizon, including mirror checks. The taillight ahead of you will still remain in your field of view and you will increase the safety factor for yourself and the CVMA® riders behind you.



Brief Overview of Group Riding

RESPONSIBILITIES

Individual responsibility – All riders should be aware of their surroundings and know their own limits while riding. Riders should refrain from any riding behaviors that would cause an unsafe condition for members of the group, i.e. prescription drug use, alcohol intake, riding while sick, tired or performing unsafe acts.

* **Additionally**, when riding alone or in a small group, always try to safely pull over and assist a broken-down motorcycle. If a rider is pulled over to the side of the road, the minimum is to slow down and get a thumbs up from him. Preferably you stop and provide assistance.



Brief Overview of Group Riding

RESPONSIBILITIES

Officer responsibility – It is suggested that key personnel should limit and/or refrain from any alcohol use during the ride. Road Captains are responsible for the welfare of the individuals in the group and this responsibility should not be taken lightly.

Personal accountability-- will be at the forefront of each ride. The Road Captains and CEB Members have the authority to ask a rider for his or her keys if there is concern for their safety or the group's safety.

CVMA® 23-7 is not responsible for any injury to the rider or passenger or damage to their motorcycles.



Brief Overview of Group Riding

SAFETY: (Is everyone's Responsibility)

At 50 mph you have less than ½ of the Rolling Energy that you have at 71 mph.

At 40 mph you have less than ½ of the Rolling Energy that you have at 57 mph.

Rolling energy can be dissipated by tire friction with ground or by your body's friction with the ground ... anticipate the threat and slow early.

Road rash sucks but being dead sucks more. PPE are tools to help mitigate those issues when applied correctly.

SAFETY IS THE BOTTOM LINE! THE MISSION IS UNSUCCESSFUL IF A RIDER OR BIKE IS HURT OR DAMAGED.



An excerpt From our By-Laws

Section 3.6 Conduct

All members must conduct themselves in a manner that is not an embarrassment to himself or herself, the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association®, or the United States of America.

Section 3.7 License

All full members must possess a valid resident state motorcycle license, proof of current insurance, ownership and operation of a motorcycle of 500cc or above. Per chapter bylaws a Chapter CEB member will verify these documents NLT: (place date here) annually by a Chapter Officer. Full and Support Members who do not meet these requirements, will be placed in a “member not in good standing” status by the State Representative.

***NOTE:** AUX members who choose to not conduct an annual bike inspection and provide their endorsements could be asked to not participate in group ride events for the safety of the group.



An excerpt From our By-Laws

Section 3.8 Misconduct

- a. In the event of misconduct of a member, under the by-laws of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association®, the National Board of Directors possesses the right to revoke/suspend that member's membership.
- b. Misconduct is defined as failure to abide by the by-laws of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association® and any organization that the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association® supports or by bringing dishonor upon the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association® by action, word, or deed.

Members must always remember we are not, nor do we claim to be, a motorcycle club.



The Bottom Line.

- We are a Veteran's Service Organization.
- Showing Respect costs, you nothing.
- Act like an Adult.
- Misconduct / Disrespect of any kind will be addressed and will be dealt with.
- We are all Combat Veterans.
- Participate; you will only get out what you put in.
- Handle problems / issues at lowest level possible.
- Remember your **Integrity**.
- Stay of good **Moral Character** always.
- Support and watch out for each other.
- Comply with National / State / Chapter Bylaw's.
- You are responsible for your Aux / Support member.
- Remain a member in **good standing**.
- Chapter business is CHAPTER Business and must remain so (not for public discussion).
- All members opinions are important and will not be marginalized.

VETS HELPING VETS!!!