

The Rolling Barrage 2020 – Safety Briefing

Hello everyone,

My name is _____. I will be giving you the group safety briefing for this portion of the ride. I am sure many of you have probably heard these types of briefings on other rides; maybe even The Rolling Barrage last year or in a previous leg of this ride. Does not change the process, it is something we must do.

SAFETY is of primary importance to the organizers of The Rolling Barrage and Military Minds. Although each rider is responsible for his/her motorcycle, we want to assure that you have a safe and enjoyable ride.

This is the 4th year of The Rolling Barrage. Collectively we not only have to be concerned about rider safety during the ride but also at stops within the various communities we travel and stop at. We can each have our own personal views on the current situation with respect to COVID – 19 but we also have to respect that in some of the communities we stop at either for fuel, food or over-night there are specific orders with respect to wearing of masks, social distancing and so forth.

We must understand that communities and businesses are also adjusting to safety measures and it is our intention to respect those rules and adhere to them; so as not to attract negative perception or attention.

Due to area situations; we may or may not have police escort.

Police Escort – Today we have a police escort. All riders will adhere to the directions of police. If they decide to block off intersections to effect quick passage through controlled intersections, they will do so. Riders are expected to clear through the intersection within their groups. If the police escort wants us to stop at controlled intersection red lights or STOP signs. Riders will do so.

No Police Escort – Today we have no police escort. Therefore, there is no authority for us to proceed through controlled intersections or STOP signs. Riders will adhere to the rules and regulations of the road in a legal manner.

Speed Limits – The group/s will ride at posted speed limits.

Road Captain – The Road Captain will determine lane changes when lane changes are required. For most of the ride the group/s will be in the right-hand lane.

Tail Gunners/s – Tail Gunners will ride in the same lane as the group.

Safety Group – We have a number of Safety Group Vehicles. They ride at a distance from the group in the event of a rider or group of riders pulling off to the side of the road. It gives us time to pull over safely to the riders to ascertain what is wrong and assist as needed.

Rider Spacing – Riders will be in Groups of 10. Maintain enough distance between Groups that traffic can pull in between if needed.

Hand Signals – It is important to send back hand signals through the group/s to the Tail-Gunner/s.

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Before I break everyone off to speak directly with the Road Captain/s and Tail Gunners; I would like to thank every one of you for being here. This years Rolling Barrage is probably more important than most may or may not realize.

We had cancellations of some parts of the ride; due to logistical issues such as London; now replaced with Petawawa. Provinces running a portion or all their respective legs in their own bubble. Events planned had to be cancelled due to gathering limitations. The organizers however felt it was important based on provincial opening phases to continue with The Rolling Barrage in some capacity.

It is important to remember that this ride is not only for you; but also, those who faced struggles; their path took them from us; and they cannot be here. Whether it be soldiers, sailors, or airmen and women. Whether it be police officers, firefighters, EMS, Corrections and so forth. We ride to honor them, and ride to raise awareness and funds to promote programs focused on Mental Health and Well Being. If you really think about; this ride is a living, breathing, moving monument to those who are no longer with us; an opportunity to improve our own internal therapy; and as a testament to our commitment to those who struggle as I speak.

Before the ride begins, the Road Captain/s , Tail Gunners should assemble the riders into a group and review the following:

1. **Review basic hand signals:** left turn, right turn, slow down, single file, return to staggered formation, rest stop. Note: It is important to pass all hand signals back to the sweep rider.
2. **Review proper rider lane spacing** (2 second/1 second rule for stagger, left or right third of lane). Note the importance to maintain this interval to prevent other vehicles from coming into the formation. However, if another vehicle insists on coming into your lane, don't argue.
3. **Remind the group that changing lanes** should only be initiated by the Road Captain. Everyone should pass this signal back to the Tail Gunners who will secure the requested lane when it is safe to do so. Once the sweep rider is in position, the ride leader will signal the move and everyone should move to the secured lane. No one should change lanes until the rider in front starts to move.
4. **Remind group about separation at traffic signals.** No one should run through a red light. If a rider must stop for a light, he/she should blow your horn so the front group is aware that someone did not make the light. The front part of the group will slow down or pull over at the first safe opportunity and wait for the following group to catch up.
5. **If it becomes necessary for anyone to leave the ride** for any reason, notify the Road Captain or Tail Gunner of your intention. If anyone has a mechanical problem that requires stopping, the Tail Gunner will stop to assist and will remain with until help arrives from the Support Vehicle Group.
6. **Rest, fuel stops and lunch breaks,** the ride leader should discuss these based on the needs of the group/s and ride. We have routes planned so there are designated STOP's during the ride.