

CHAPTER 04

17 IN THIS VOLUME

Walking the Plan.

WALK-THROUGH LEAD

Feet on the ground is the whole point. Surprises show up at walking pace.

The walk-through is the dress rehearsal: every coordinator physically visits each venue the day before the service, stands where they will stand, walks the route they will walk, and corrects the inevitable gaps between plan and reality.

No plan survives first contact with a real church parking lot, a real cemetery slope, or a real motorcade left-turn against traffic. This checklist is the circuit the walk-through team runs — staging area, funeral venue, motorcade route, interment site — so that on the day of the service, no one is seeing the ground for the first time.

PRACTICAL GUIDANCE – FROM AGENCIES WHO HAVE DONE THIS

- 01 **Walk it. Do not drive it, do not imagine it, do not PowerPoint it.** Feet on the ground is the whole point. Surprises show up at walking pace.
- 02 **Bring the people who will be at the post.** The post officer needs to see the post. Supervisors can stand back and take notes.
- 03 **Time the motorcade.** Drive the full route with a stopwatch at ceremonial speed. Arrival time on the day is a guess until you have driven it yourself.
- 04 **Photograph every post.** A single photo of each intersection, doorway, and seating section, shared in the team folder, is worth more than a page of written instructions.
- 05 **Assume something will fail.** The bugle, the livestream, the microphone, the air conditioner, the weather. Name each failure aloud and decide the response now.
- 06 **Log every change the same day.** Corrections from the walk-through must make it into the master plan before anyone sleeps. If it is not in the shared folder tonight, it will not happen tomorrow.

MODERN CONSIDERATIONS • 2026

- **Digital route package.** Turn-by-turn shared via secure link to attending agencies; backup PDF for those without compatible mapping.
- **Live traffic-app alerts.** Submitted to Waze, Google Maps, Apple Maps before the day.
- **Wi-Fi capacity.** Tested at every venue with all expected devices (press, livestream, QR programs).
- **Drone airspace.** FAA TFR if warranted; news drones coordinated; agency drone launch location identified.
- **Accessibility.** Wheelchair seating, ADA paths, ASL interpreter position, hearing-loop check at every venue.

TURN THE PAGE FOR THE CHECKLIST →

CHECKLIST 04 • HONORING THE FALLEN

Walk-through Lead checklist.

A working one-page reference. Begin at first assignment; complete through service close.

STOP 1 — STAGING AREA

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Parking plan and vehicle assignments. | ☐ Personnel assignments with radio IDs. |
| ☐ Family vehicle parking plan. | ☐ Refreshment plan. |
| ☐ Caravan route confirmed on the ground. | ☐ Radio channel and encrypted group set. |
| ☐ Bathroom and rest-break plan for officers. | |

STOP 2 — CHURCH / VENUE

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Command post setup. | ☐ Refreshments and portable-toilet locations. |
| ☐ Parking plan (marked / overflow / reserved / media). | ☐ Seating chart by section walked. |
| ☐ Family room confirmed with seating, water, tissues. | ☐ AV / livestream camera positions tested. |
| ☐ Wi-Fi capacity tested with full load. | ☐ Accessibility (ADA, ASL, hearing loop) verified. |
| ☐ Order of service walked with clergy. | ☐ Exit plan and motorcade-start plan walked. |

STOP 3 — MOTORCADE & CEMETERY

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Route driven end-to-end at ceremonial speed with stopwatch. | ☐ Every intersection assignment confirmed. |
| ☐ Special circumstances (rail, school, freeway) noted. | ☐ Cemetery entrance and parking walked. |
| ☐ Family seating and formation grounds walked. | ☐ Press boundary marked. |
| ☐ Weather and ground-condition contingencies noted. | |