

CHAPTER 05

17 IN THIS VOLUME

Moving the Procession.

TRAFFIC COORDINATOR

Move thousands of people across a city, in uniform, with a grieving family at the front, without a single accident or a single missed intersection.

The Traffic Coordinator combines motor-officer tradecraft with event-management logistics: family escort from the residence, parking at the church, the motorcade itself, intersection control along the full route, and the final parking plan at the cemetery.

It is the most visible role in the response — every officer from every agency who is not doing something else is sitting in traffic, waiting for this team to wave them through.

PRACTICAL GUIDANCE – FROM AGENCIES WHO HAVE DONE THIS

- 01 **Over-staff the intersections, not the parking lots.** A missed intersection can kill a civilian or an officer. A missed parking spot is an inconvenience.
- 02 **Drive the route twice, at the speed you will drive it on the day.** Once in daylight, once in the conditions you expect. Time estimates are unreliable until you have.
- 03 **Print the post sheet. Paper does not fail.** Radios fail, phones die, apps crash. Every supervisor carries a paper roster of posts, names, radios, and relief times.
- 04 **Put your best motors at the handoffs.** Jurisdiction transitions, freeway merges, and the final turn into the cemetery are the most dangerous. Most experienced people go there.
- 05 **Rotate posts on heat and cold days.** Officers locked at an intersection for three hours in 95° sun or 20° wind are an injury waiting to happen.
- 06 **Coordinate with mapping apps.** Civilians follow their phones. If you have not published the closures, their phones will send them through the motorcade.
- 07 **Plan the post-event drive home.** A hundred out-of-town officers leaving the cemetery at once can snarl a city. Stagger the release.

MODERN CONSIDERATIONS • 2026

- **Digital route packets.** Turn-by-turn shared via secure link to all participating agencies; PDF backup.
- **Mapping-app alerts.** Closures published to Waze, Google Maps, Apple Maps, city 511.
- **Drone overflight.** FAA TFR if warranted; news drones coordinated; ground spotters for unauthorized drones.
- **GPS share on lead/sweep.** Visible to command post in real time; paper backup if radios fail.
- **Sister-agency motor radios.** Compatibility tested or cross-patched before the day.

TURN THE PAGE FOR THE CHECKLIST →

CHECKLIST 05 • HONORING THE FALLEN

Traffic Coordinator checklist.

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

PRE-DAY & BRIEFING

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| ☐ Confirm route end-to-end with all jurisdictions. | ☐ Build post-assignment sheet (name, radio ID, post, report and relief times). |
| ☐ Push digital route package to all agencies 24h out. | ☐ File alerts with PIO, Waze, Google, Apple, 511. |
| ☐ Confirm mutual-aid agreements in writing. | ☐ Verify fuel, radios, lights on every motor and unit night before. |
| ☐ Brief supervisors at command post one hour before personnel report. | |

FAMILY ESCORT & VENUE PARKING

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|---|---|
| ☐ Detail briefing time and location. | ☐ Motors and vehicles count confirmed. |
| ☐ Privacy-screen unit at the residence. | ☐ Children's car seats verified if applicable. |
| ☐ Pre-funeral parking personnel and logistics in place. | ☐ Signs, cones, barricades positioned. |
| ☐ Coach (hearse) entry, parking, and post-service loading set. | ☐ Media broadcast / satellite truck staging confirmed. |
| ☐ ADA, rideshare, EV charging, and bus parking designated. | |

MOTORCADE & CEMETERY EXIT

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| ☐ Every intersection has a confirmed post. | ☐ Relief schedule for long-hold posts. |
| ☐ Escort handoffs choreographed and walked. | ☐ Fly-over timing coordinated with lead motor. |
| ☐ Civilian-attendance estimate refreshed 24h out. | ☐ Cemetery entrance, parking, and family route walked. |
| ☐ Exit plan staggered to avoid post-event gridlock. | ☐ Post-event sweep for left-behind vehicles, cones, and barricades. |