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CHARTER and BY-LAWS

OF THE

GREEN KNIGHTS

Chapter 47

CHARTER

ARTICLE I

Name and Authority

The name of this organization shall be the *Green Knights, Chapter 47* and hereafter referred to as the *(GK47)*. They shall have the authority to operate on *Fort Sam Houston, Texas* only with the consent of the installation commander. Operation depends on compliance with the requirements and conditions of this charter, U.S. Army instructions, installation instructions, state laws and associated by-laws and all applicable directives and policies.

ARTICLE II

Purpose, Goals, and Objectives

PURPOSE: To establish and maintain a spirit of comradeship and esprit de corps that will enhance the prestige of all motorcycle riders, encourage on-going rider education and skills development, and reduce the potential of motorcycle mishaps. Set an example for all personnel according to the standards, traditions, and customs of the U.S. Army. To operate and conduct itself in a manner that provides equal opportunity and treatment for all motorcyclists.

GOALS:

1. The *GK47* will seek to improve morale, promote rider awareness and skills improvement. The *GK47* will seek to enhance the installation and local community relationship through community service efforts and events by unifying and combining the unique and individual talents of the *GK47* members.
2. Each member is encouraged to actively participate, to support the objectives of the *GK47* by setting a positive example, and to promote the safety and welfare of all members.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Provide each member with the collective knowledge, experience, and influence of the *GK47* positively affecting motorcycling on and off the installation.
2. Improve rider skills through mentorship for new riders and continuing education for all riders.
3. Establish an effective means of communication with all members to exchange ideas and keep attuned to changes in attitudes and behaviors of installation riders.
4. Promote the positive status of all Fort Sam Houston motorcycle riders.
5. Promote and support safety recognition and motorcycle education programs for motorcycle riders.
6. Introduce new riders to the *GK47* and familiarize them with the goals and objectives of the *GK47*.
7. Promote social gatherings upon Fort Sam Houston as well as with local community leaders.
8. Plan for and promote the use of designated driver and other effective DUI prevention programs with all *GK47* sponsored, organized or attended events where alcoholic beverages will be consumed.
9. Provide a forum wherein any policy, program, or problem of interest to the members in general, along with unit leadership in particular, may be discussed freely.
10. Assist in maintaining a high state of group moral and esprit de corps, while encouraging the highest standards of safety, bearing, and behavior.
11. Improve the morale and welfare of the *GK47* members and their family members.
12. Invite guest speakers to talk about topics of interest to the members, with emphasis on safety, rider skills, community, and family enhancement.
13. Provide support, as necessary, to authorized/legal motorcycle clubs or social organizations.

ARTICLE III

Qualification of Members and Fees

SECTION A: Membership in the *GK47* shall be strictly voluntary and without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or handicap. Membership will not be granted to any

prospect or member of a known or previously unknown outlaw motorcycle club. Active members must have a motorcycle endorsement on their license and maintain insurance as required by law. All active duty military members and civilian employees (as required by DoD and service instructions) will have a Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) RiderCourseSM completion card. All members will wear personal protective equipment (PPE) recommended by the MSF and Fort Sam Houston Policy Letters "Motorcycle Vehicle Operator Agreement" and "Safety Policy." All active duty members will register with their respective company commanders in accordance with the "Motorcycle Vehicle Operator Agreement. All members must be aware that they are jointly and severally liable for the obligations of the GK47. Membership shall consist of five categories as defined below:

1. **Active Member**: An Active member can be any individual in the following categories: military (Active Duty, retired, or family member), federal employee, DoD civilian, contractor working within DoD, working on Fort Sam Houston, and is currently an owner/operator of a motorcycle at the time of their election to membership in the GK47. To remain active fees must be paid to date. An active member is authorized to vote upon and discuss all matters in which the member has interests.
2. **Associate Member**: Any individual who rides as a passenger with an active member and pays fees. An associate member is authorized to vote upon and discuss all matters in which the member has interests. No active member can sponsor more than two associate members.

In the event that the Associate Member wants to apply for Active Membership, he/she must complete the following:

- a. Meet the requirements of an Active Member.
- b. Ride with the Associates sponsor/Mentor for a period of 6 months.

3. **New Rider Member**: Any new member who has less than 1 year of street riding experience upon applying for active membership or is intending to purchase a motorcycle in conjunction with joining the GK47. A Mentor must be selected from the general club membership to observe and advise the new rider for a period of six months. The Mentor is selected by an agreed upon decision of the President, Vice President, and Secretary. At the conclusion of the six month period, with mentor concurrence, the individual is granted active member status. If the Mentor feels the member has not lived up to the principles or rules of the club, the President may elect to extend New Rider Member status for an additional period not to exceed 6 months (total 1 year). At the conclusion of the second 6 month period, a majority vote at a membership meeting is necessary for the individual to remain a member of the club if he or she was not granted Active Member status.

New Rider Members will not be authorized to wear the 12" club colors until they are granted Active Member status. They will, however, wear the 3" colors on the front of their motorcycle garments.

4. **Honorary Member:** May be extended to any adult person with a simple majority vote of the active members present at any membership meeting, except as mentioned below. Such membership shall be restricted to individuals who have taken positive actions that support the GK47's principles, purposes, and objectives. Said members are not authorized to vote and will not be obligated to pay fees.

5. **Inactive Member:** Any individual mentioned above, whose fees are 90 days delinquent. An inactive member is not authorized to vote nor make any motions. However, an inactive member may present information that may be critical to the GK47 during debates if approved by the President. Individuals will be issued a 30-day delinquency notice prior to being placed on the inactive member roster.

SECTION B: Active participation and support of projects, activities, and functions of the GK47 are encouraged and are the responsibility of every member.

SECTION C: Membership may be denied or withdrawn from active, honorary, or inactive members under the conditions prescribed by the officers of the GK47 in accordance with Article III, sections A and D, of this charter and Article I of the by-laws (See Road Captains). Membership may terminate at the written request of the member.

SECTION D: Any member convicted of a DUI will be suspended from active membership status in the GK47, becoming an inactive member, and shall forfeit all fees paid to date. Suspension of active membership will be based upon actual loss of installation privileges as deemed appropriate by command authorities, based on legal authority.

FEEES

Fees will be collected and maintained by the Club Treasurer to cover basic administrative expenses which will include, but are not limited to: club website, administrative materials, meeting charges, etc. Distribution of excess funds in the club account will be made only for the benefit of the club or its general membership at the end of each calendar year.

1. Active, Associate, and New Rider Members: \$15/ Quarter.
4. Honorary Member: No fee.

SECTION E: All members and prospects will wear colors, shirt or jacket that denotes GK47 membership to all GK47 meetings and events. Colors will be worn when riding your motorcycle to GK47 meeting and events. Colors will not be worn by non-GK47 members. All members are required to participate in a minimum of one CLUB RIDE quarterly. CLUB RIDES will be scheduled monthly by the Road Captain and advertised accordingly.

BY-LAWS

The following By-Laws are set forth for the normal operation and administration of the *GK47* and will be directed on, and a guide for, the *GK47* officers and members.

ARTICLE I Officers, Their Duties, and Elections

SECTION A: (Elected Officers) The following *GK47* officers will be elected in accordance with the charter of the *GK47*, to serve a period of one year (*1 DEC-30 NOV*). The position of President must be held by an Active Duty member or DoD civilian employee to maintain continuity with the installation's leadership and assure direct association with the installation's workforce. There are no restrictions for other elected officers.

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer
5. Road Captain (1)
6. Road Lieutenants (2)

The *GK47* officers' election, removal, powers, and responsibilities shall be governed according to the rules contained in "The New Robert's Rules of Order" except when it is inconsistent with this charter and associated by-laws.

SECTION B: (Duties of Officers)

PRESIDENT

The duties are as follow:

1. Manage the *Green Knights, Chapter 47* according to its Charter, By-laws, and "The New Robert's Rules of Order."
2. Preside at all membership and special meetings.
3. Set dates for membership, special, and executive committee meetings.
4. Appoint committee members on a voluntary basis, except Nominating Committee.
5. Appoint members to fill elected officer positions if there are three months or less remaining on present term when the elected officer is unable to complete the current term. A special meeting will be scheduled for a temporary election for the vacant position when more than three months are remaining on their term.
6. Appoint points of contact (POCs).
7. Act as *GK47* spokesperson.
8. Chair Executive Committee.
9. Authorize expenditures, not to exceed \$100 per purchase, between scheduled meetings of the membership, with concurrence of the Vice President and Secretary.
10. Establish Special committees and appoint committee chairpersons as required.
11. Distribute a tentative agenda for the next membership meeting.

12. Appoint officers to the following non-elected positions as he/she sees fit.
 - a. **SAFETY OFFICER**
 - (1) Provides Motorcycle Safety Foundation Information to members.
 - a. A minimum of one block of instruction will be provided at each regularly scheduled membership meeting.
 - b. Topics for discussion will take into consideration time of year and associated driving conditions.
 - c. Additional "special emphasis" training can be added on an ad hoc basis at the discretion of the Club President.
 - (2) Educates members about the Safe Driver Skills program.
 - (3) Assists the Road Captain in planning routes for Club-sanctioned rides.
 - a. The Safety Officer(s) will assist in route planning by providing a Risk Assessment using the Army's Composite Risk Management Program outline.
 - b. Any areas identified which pose a higher risk factor will be accompanied potential mitigation factors.
 - (4) Assists the Road Captain in educating members about group riding techniques.
 - a. Prior to every group-sanctioned ride, the Road Captain will ensure a safety brief is given either by the Safety Officer, if present, or by the Road Captain himself.
 - b. Safety Briefs will be used to remind both existing and new members of accepted driving techniques as well as hand and arm signals utilized by the club.
 - (5) Assists in the collection of signed release forms.
 - (6). Identifies and presents new safety products in the marketplace which can potentially reduce risk to member riders.
 - (7) Responsible for the upkeep and distribution of Club First Aid Kits and ensuring a minimum of one kit is available on all Club-sanctioned rides.
 - b. **MENTORS(S)**
 - (1) Will observe and assist New Rider Members
 - (2) A mentor is defined as "a trusted counselor or guide." Mentoring, therefore, is a relationship in which a person with greater experience and wisdom guides another person"
 - (3) The mentor will use available training and promotional resources to encourage safe responsible riding techniques and skills.
 - c. **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS** (Administers discipline and is responsible for recovery of *GK47* property).
 - d. **HISTORIAN** (Maintains documentation of *GK47* history).

e. **PHOTOGRAPHER** (Photographs **GK47** events and members participating in/at events).

VICE PRESIDENT

The duties are as follows:

1. Assume duties of the President in his/her absence.
2. Appoints Nominating Committee members.
3. Serve as member of Executive Committee.

SECRETARY

The duties are as follows:

1. Record the minutes of membership meetings and take attendance.
2. Distribution of minutes within 21 calendar days (via e-mail if capability exists).
3. Receive approval of previous month minutes at next regular scheduled meeting.
4. Maintain a completed file of **GK47** correspondence.
5. Issue annual election ballots.
6. Chair Social Committee.
7. Serve as member of the Executive Committee.
8. Provide other administrative support required by the **GK47**.
9. Attest to the authentication of documents and any other actions by the President in the name of the **GK47**.
10. Maintain a **GK47** e-mail folder (if capability exists).
11. Maintain membership roster and make available to the **GK47**.

TREASURER

The duties are as follows:

1. Collect and receipt for membership fees.
2. Issue and accept membership applications/resignations.
3. Maintain **GK47** checking account(s).
4. Read monthly financial report at each membership meeting.
5. Provide financial report to the **GK47** (via e-mail if capability exists).
6. Serve as member of the Executive Committee.

ROAD CAPTAIN

The duties are as follows:

1. Lead the **GK47** in formation riding or parades. The Road Captain will give riding instructions to all riders prior to the start of a ride.

2. Enforce all rules of group riding.
3. The Road Captain shall have the unchallenged right to terminate a member's participation in a given ride or event for the *GK47* safety or image. Upon request of the Road Captain, the President may suspend the member pending the lodging of an official complaint. All members have the right to appeal before the members and will abide by the decision of the members--majority rules.

4. The Road Captain will always ride point and set the pace. One Road Lieutenant will always ride drag to assure the safety of the *GK47* from behind and assist members with mechanical problems.

ROAD LIEUTENANTS

1. The Road Lt. will be responsible for leading the group on any prescheduled rides in the absence of the Road Captain.
2. The Road Lt. will assist the Road Captain in updating the Ride Calendar.
3. In the absence of the Road Captain, the Road Lt. will assume the duties of the Road Captain during club meetings.

SECTION C:

MEMBER DUTIES AND LAWS

1. Members will above all, uphold the basic club principles of honor, truth, respect, support, loyalty and commitment.
2. When representing the club on and off the installation, all members will conduct themselves with the highest regard of the club principles. The club must not be tarnished by unrestrained behavior, disrespect of fellow citizens, or acts that generally reflect poorly on the clubs image and reputation.
3. Members will not endanger the Club or any member by an illegal act or acts. If a member is arrested for illegal activities they are automatically suspended from club activities and if found guilty of the offense(s) they are dismissed from the club.
4. Each member serves as a safety officer. Each member is responsible to identify and correct any condition that threatens the welfare of club members or the general public. Any willful act of unsafe riding witnessed by a fellow club member(s) could result in denial of membership. Members may plead their case at the next meeting.
5. Activities will be conducted to encourage participation by all club members and no laws will be enacted which favor or separate members by the type of motorcycle they ride.

6. No member will ride under an impaired physical condition. Every member will always try to prevent another member from riding in an impaired condition.
7. Members will always hold the club in high regard. A member will never angrily accost, assault, or slander any other fellow club member.
8. Members will embrace and encourage an atmosphere of skill improvement, responsible riding, and riding enjoyment and discourage aggressive, competitive, and potentially self destructive riding behaviors.

SECTION D: (Elections, Voting, and Officer Removal)

ELECTIONS

Election of *GK47* officers shall be done annually during the *OCTOBER* general membership meeting. The *GK47* Vice President at the *JULY* membership meeting will appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of at least three members. The committee will deliver to the *AUGUST* regular membership meeting a “Candidate Affidavit of Eligibility and Solicitation of Office” proposal. Members seeking to serve as officers of the *GK47* will have until the *SEPTEMBER* regular membership meeting to return to the Nomination Committee a completed affidavit. The committee will submit a slate of candidates and accept nominations from the floor at the *SEPTEMBER* membership meeting. Floor nominations will not be accepted unless the candidate is present and verbally accepts, or has provided an affidavit to the Nomination Committee. Nominees must have enough retainability to complete the term for which they are being nominated. If a member of the Nominating Committee becomes a candidate, that member shall be removed from the committee and a new member shall be appointed.

VOTING

Voting for the election of officers will be by secret ballot. Voting on all other *GK47* business will be by a show of hands with the majority ruling, or as stated below. Ballots for the annual election will be provided to all members in good standing. Any member with outstanding dues may obtain a ballot prior to the election by paying their outstanding dues. For those active members unable to attend the *OCTOBER* general membership meeting, absentee ballots may be obtained from the *GK47* secretary. Members of the nominating committee will tabulate ballots. The candidate for each position with the most votes wins.

OFFICER REMOVAL

GK47 officers may be removed from office for cause with due process, as necessary, by request of the two-thirds of the active membership in the form of a signed petition.

ARTICLE II
Meetings of the *Green Knights*, Chapter 47

SECTION A: (General Membership Meeting) Shall be held once a year, in ***OCTOBER***, for the purpose of electing new officers, disseminating other business, and inviting new riders to join. To convene a general membership meeting, a quorum of one-fourth (1/4) or more of the active membership is necessary. Motions/solutions and revisions/amendments will carry a simple majority of positive votes except when the issue involves a request for complete written financial reports. In this exceptional case, a two-thirds (2/3) majority of positive votes is required.

SECTION B: (Regular Membership Meeting) Shall be held *once each month at a location TBD* and so stated in the by-laws for the purpose of conducting business that may be brought before the ***GK47***, listening to guest speakers, etc. To convene a regular membership meeting, a quorum of 20 percent or more of the active membership is necessary. Motions/resolutions and revisions/amendments will carry a simple majority of positive votes except when the issue involves a request for complete written financial reports. In this exceptional case, a two-thirds (2/3) majority of positive votes is required.

ARTICLE III

Revisions, Adoptions, Amendments, and Review

SECTION A: (Revisions/Adoptions) The adoption and or revision of this charter and associated by-laws require the approval of a majority of positive votes of the active members present at any meeting, provided a two-week oral or written notice is given the ***GK47***. Any revision to this charter and associated by-laws will not conflict with any installation or higher headquarters directives. This charter and associated by-laws will not take effect until reviewed by the first acting and or subsequent elected positions of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

SECTION B: (Amendments) This charter and associated by-laws may be amended or abolished in whole or in part by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of positive votes of the active members present at any meeting, provided a two-week oral or written notice is given to the ***GK47***. Any amendments to this charter and associated by-laws will not conflict with any installation or higher headquarters directives. This charter and associated by-laws shall be automatically amended to conform with all directives from the installation or higher headquarters without submission to the ***GK47***. All amendments will not take effect until reviewed by the first acting and/or subsequent elected positions of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

SECTION C: (Review) An appointed Parliamentarian Committee shall review this charter and associated by-laws annually to ensure completeness, applicability, and compliance with current Army directives, and policies.

ARTICLE IV
Dissolution

