



JTF-GTMO Media Ground Rules Guantanamo Bay NAS, Cuba as of October 2007

Ground Rules are established to ensure protected information such as classified information, intelligence collections capabilities, and sources and methods are not compromised and to protect the security of commission participants by preserving anonymity.

Failure to comply with these ground rules or the instructions of the Public Affairs escort could result in permanent expulsion and may result in the removal of the parent news organization from further participation in the commissions coverage assignment process. Disclosure of classified information may subject the News Media Representative (NMR) to criminal prosecution.

By signing this document, you are agreeing to abide by the following conditions:

1. Not to manipulate images to be anything other than as they were taken. **Panning, cropping, blurring, or any other forms of photo editing as well as video editing ARE NOT ALLOWED.**
2. Not to publish, release, discuss or share information identified by JTF-Guantanamo personnel as being protected. **Protected information includes prohibited items listed in these ground rules as well as information or images determined protected by the Security Review Staff and Public Affairs Office.** All Imagery taken must be digital!
3. NMRs who desire to photograph or videotape detainees as described below must submit in writing a request to the Joint Task Force Commander, Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay. In that request, please include the context in which the photographs or videotape will be used and the basis for your request. All requests must be submitted and approved prior to the NMR's scheduled visit.

Department of Defense policies prohibit the filming/recording of detainees. Our mission is to ensure the detainee is protected under this policy.

4. If approved, NMRs *may* be permitted to tape or photograph from angles that do not identify detainees by facial or distinguishing features. If approved, NMRs *may* take images of detainees where the face or distinguishing features are not visible in the frame, such as tight photos/images/pictures of hands, tight shots of feet when a detainee is being moved, photos/images/pictures from above, and photos/images/pictures of the back of the head.

5. NMRs may take shots such as those that have already been released by DoD, to include photos/images/pictures of empty facilities, images of detainees or groups in and about the detention facilities and detainees engaged in outdoor recreation or prayer, as long as identifying features are not visible.

6. Unless otherwise advised, video recording equipment and cameras will be allowed in the commissions courtroom when court is not in session or the courtroom is not actively designated a secure facility for the presentation of classified information.

7. Interviews with JTF-GTMO senior commanders, support staff, detention camp personnel, and public affairs staff personnel are permitted after approval of the JTF-GTMO Commander.

8. The following media activities are prohibited and may be subject to embargo:

a. No front facial shots of detainees may be taken at any time, even with the intent of distorting or hiding facial images during production and broadcast. Front facial shots at distances are prohibited. **Photos of other features considered distinguishing that could lead to the identity of a detainee may be prohibited by the Public Affairs Officer on scene and embargoed if discovered during the security review.**

b. No audio, video recordings, photographs or other electronic images, or drawings, sketches or likenesses may be rendered of any detainee when that image or recording may reveal that detainee's identity or nationality. Identities and nationalities of any detainee will not be disclosed unless previously released by OASD (PA).

c. NMRs may not discuss or reveal where the detention, commissions or headquarters facilities are located on the Naval Base. No maps or sketches of the base or any facilities will be produced or released at any time. Images or descriptions of security measures will not be recorded, discussed or released at any time.

d. JTF personnel must approve the release of their names or images prior to media release.

e. Commanders and staff members may not discuss security measures, interrogation methods, or the specific intelligence gained from interrogations. JTF-GTMO members may discuss their role in the operations of JTF-GTMO as already released by OSD, but will not speculate as to future operations at Guantanamo.

f. Direct or indirect contact, communication, interviews, photography, videography or other interaction with Cuban or Haitian migrant personnel on Naval Base Guantanamo Bay is expressly prohibited.

g. All news media representatives are required to abstain from photography of radar domes and antenna arrays situated throughout Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, as well as: **coastlines from Windmill Beach to Cuba including shots of the coastline from**

inside camps, security checkpoints, any Intrusion Detection System, the air terminal, or any military aircraft.

h. Selected detainee movements may be observed, but NEVER filmed, taped, or recorded. Reporting of detainees in transit, including ground and air movement between detention facilities, or movement between detention facilities, courtroom facilities and transportation (bus, ferry, aircraft, etc.) is not permitted. Audio/video, sketching or camera coverage of detainee interrogations is not permitted.

i. The names and nationalities of detainees are not releasable unless approved by OSD (Office of the Secretary of Defense).

9. Additionally, all visiting photographers agree to comply with The National Press Photographers Association Code of Ethics.

a. Photojournalists and those who manage visual news productions are accountable for upholding the following standards:

1. Be accurate and comprehensive in the representation of subjects.

2. Resist being manipulated by staged photo opportunities.

3. Be complete and provide context when photographing or recording subjects. Avoid stereotyping individuals and groups. Recognize and work to avoid presenting one's own biases in the work.

4. Treat all subjects with respect and dignity. Give special consideration to vulnerable subjects and compassion to victims of crime or tragedy. Intrude on private moments of grief only when the public has an overriding and justifiable need to see.

5. While photographing subjects do not intentionally contribute to, alter, or seek to alter or influence events.

6. Editing should maintain the integrity of the photographic images' content and context. Do not manipulate images or add or alter sound in any way that can mislead viewers or misrepresent subjects.

7. Do not pay sources or subjects or reward them materially for information or participation.

8. Do not accept gifts, favors, or compensation from those who might seek to influence coverage.

9. Do not intentionally sabotage the efforts of other journalists.

b. Ideally, photojournalists should:

1. Strive to ensure that the public's business is conducted in public. Defend the rights of access for all journalists.

2. Think proactively, as a student of psychology, sociology, politics and art to develop a unique vision and presentation. Work with a voracious appetite for current events and contemporary visual media.

3. Strive for total and unrestricted access to subjects, recommend alternatives to shallow or rushed opportunities, seek a diversity of viewpoints, and work to show unpopular or unnoticed points of view.

4. Avoid political, civic and business involvements or other employment that compromise or give the appearance of compromising one's own journalistic independence.

5. Strive to be unobtrusive and humble in dealing with subjects.

6. Respect the integrity of the photographic moment.

7. Strive by example and influence to maintain the spirit and high standards expressed in this code. When confronted with situations in which the proper action is not clear, seek the counsel of those who exhibit the highest standards of the profession. Photojournalists should continuously study their craft and the ethics that guide it.

10. A security review of media will be conducted daily by an OPSEC Representative or, at a minimum, by a Public Affairs Representative, daily and prior to departure from Naval Station, Guantanamo.

a. NMR will be responsible for providing compatible video/audio format playback device for material review.

b. The security review panel will consist of the NMR, PAO, and the J2 (Intelligence). NMR will provide the panel all still and video imagery and audio made in security facilities, such as Camp Delta. NMR representatives are responsible to ensure video imagery can be played to television or played back on a computer.

c. The security review team will review images with the NMR present and provide to the NMR reasons for any embargo imposed. JTF-GTMO will identify by frame or photo number, images that are not for publication or broadcast. A written conclusion of the panel will be provided to the NMR with a copy retained at JTF-GTMO PAO.

d. Embargoes may be imposed by the JTF-PAO when necessary to protect security.

11. For further information regarding this policy, please contact the SOUTHCOM PAO, Col. William Costello, at (305) 437-1213.



JTF-GTMO Media Policy at Guantanamo Bay NAS, Cuba

Agree to Abide

Media representatives must agree to and sign the Media Ground Rules prior to being allowed access to Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Failure to follow these ground rules and instructions issued by the Joint Information Bureau will result in restricted access on GTMO, removal from the installation and revocation of press credentials. By signing this document, the NMR is agreeing to abide by these restrictions.

If additional information is required, contact the SOUTHCOM PAO, Col. William Costello, at (305) 437-1213. Fax (305) 437-1241.

Please sign the following, acknowledging that you have read and understand these ground rules and limitations. Each traveler must email this signed page of these ground rules to JTF-GTMO PAO at thomas.m.smith@jftgtmo.southcom.mil or or send by fax ATTN: MC2 Smith - 011-5-399-3650

Acceptance of Ground Rules for Media Visits to Guantanamo Bay NAS, Cuba

Name _____ Affiliation _____
Position _____ Work Phone _____
Cell Phone _____ Fax _____
Soc. Security Number _____ Date of Birth _____
Passport Number _____ Place of issuance _____
Emergency contact information (Name and phone number):

Name _____ Phone _____

I understand and will comply with the ground rules listed above. I also understand that the U.S. Government assumes no liability or responsibility for my personal safety, while on U.S. Naval Station, Guantanamo.

Signature _____ Date _____