



JTF-GTMO Media Policy at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

This policy establishes procedures for civilian news media deploying to the U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) Area of Responsibility (AOR) to cover Joint Task Force Guantanamo (GTMO) operations. The receipt of this document does not guarantee media travel to the AOR. The United States Department of Defense and JTF-GTMO will do its utmost to facilitate access for media members to provide their audiences imagery and reporting from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Access to NB Guantanamo does not imply unlimited access to personnel or facilities.

General: The U.S. is treating and will continue to treat all detained enemy combatants at Guantanamo Bay humanely, and consistent with military necessity, in a manner consistent with the principles of the Third Geneva Convention of 1949.

Prior to departing:

Transportation to and from U.S. Naval Base (NAVBASE) Guantanamo Bay (GTMO), Cuba is provided on a space-available basis based on approval by GTMO Public Affairs. However, travel modes are tentative and must remain flexible due to unexpected operational missions. Media must be prepared for an extended stay at GTMO before a returning flight to the Continental United States (CONUS) is scheduled. Return military flights may not return to the original embarkation point. If necessary, once in CONUS or in a U.S. territory, media representatives may have to seek commercial arrangements at their own expense.

We recommend you pack appropriate supplies and clothing for this tropical climate. Please bring only the minimum amount of personal effects and equipment. You must provide your own personal and professional gear, including protective equipment cases, batteries, cables, satellite telephones and converters, etc.

Personnel are reminded that casual clothing is appropriate for this tour. Appropriate clothing consists of loose-fitting slacks and short/long sleeved shirts. Excluded are sleeveless shirts, tight-fitting clothing and open-toed shoes.

You are encouraged to travel with spare cash, credit cards, copies of Invitational Travel Orders (supplied) and shot records. Weapons of any type are not authorized.

You must travel with your passport. Media representatives who do not have a passport will not be able to attend the media visit.

Notify your personal physician as soon as possible to receive any necessary immunizations. (Recommended immunizations include, but are not limited to: immune serum globulin, tetanus-diphtheria, oral polio, typhoid, yellow fever and malaria pills.)

Media Operations at Guantanamo Bay:

Travel to the Joint Task Force Guantanamo is solely for the purpose of showing media representatives detainee operations at GTMO. Once at GTMO, the JTF PAO will coordinate media operations, briefings, interviews, and communications support.

International law defines media access to detainees and detainee related activities. The JTF Commander, through the JTF PAO, will make the final determination regarding media access to all JTF facilities.

NOTE: *Current Department of Defense (DoD) policy prohibits personal contact and filming/recording of the detainees **except as discussed below.***

The JTF Commander will ensure the following support to news media representatives:

- Concurrent transportation on military vehicles as required.
- Use of military dining facilities. Costs for meals may be collected as required.
- Billeting
- Medical care from military medical personnel and facilities when civilian care is not available or practical, on a reimbursable basis.
- The sponsoring news organization will be notified when correspondents require evacuation from the area because of injury or other health reasons. The responsibility for notifying next of kin of all correspondents who are determined to be seriously ill wounded, killed or missing lies with the news organization. The release of names of correspondents in such cases is the responsibility of the sponsoring news agency.
- Access to unclassified communications facilities is authorized when available.

RELEASE AUTHORITY: The Department of Defense is the sole releasing authority for all military information contained in all media (audio visual, photography, graphics, sketches, etc.) gathered or produced within the area of operations.

1. Ground Rules – 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 to criminal prosecution.

By signing this document, a NMR is agreeing to abide by the following conditions:

a. To not 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 to be protected by the security review staff.

b. The following media activities are permitted and do not require special coordination:

b.1. NMRs may be permitted to tape or photograph from angles that do not identify detainees by facial or distinguishing features. NMRs may take images of detainees where the face or distinguishing feature is not visible in the frame, such as tight shots of hands, tight shots of feet when a detainee is being moved, shots from above, and shots of the back of the head.

b.2. NMRs may take shots that have already been released by DoD, such as shots 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.

b.3. Video recording equipment 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.

b.4. Interviews with senior commanders, support staff, detention camp personnel, and public affairs staff personnel are permitted and these individuals may be identified by name and unit.

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

c.1. 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.

c.2. 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.3. 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.

c.4. JTF personnel must previously approve the release of their names or images or they may not be taken or released.

c.5. Commanders and staff members will not discuss security measures, interrogation methods, or the specific intelligence gained from interrogations. JTF 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.

c.6. Further, any 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.

c.7. All news media representatives are required to abstain from photography of radar domes and antenna arrays situated throughout Naval Base Guantanamo Bay, as well as: coastlines from Windmill Beach to Cuba, security check points, and air terminal or any military aircraft.

c.8. 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. Coverage of detainee interrogations is not permitted.

d. A security review will be conducted daily if appropriate or as a minimum prior to departure from NB Guantanamo.

d.1 NMR will be responsible for providing compatible video/audio format playback device for material review.

d.2. The security review panel will consist of the NMR, PAO, and a member of the JTF-GTMO J2 staff. 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 camera.

d.3. 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 which images 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.4. Embargoes may be imposed by the JTF-PAO when necessary to protect security.

2. Agree to Abide – Media representatives must agree to and sign the Media Ground Rules prior to being allowed access to Naval Base 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 at DSN 567-1213, commercial (305) 437-1213. Fax (305) 437-1241. Email: arellanl@hq.southcom.mil

Please sign the following, acknowledging that you have read and understand these ground rules and limitations. Each traveler must fax the final page of these ground rules to JTF-GTMO Public Affairs at 011-53-99-5426.

**Acknowledgment of
Ground Rules for
Media Visits**

to

U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, 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):

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.

(Signature) _____ (Date) _____