



Media Ground Rules

These Ground Rules are specific to the *2021 Global SOF Symposium - U.S.* and the JSOU Forum “Exploring SOF Identity”, 15-17 March, Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay, Tampa, FL. These events are open to accredited and registered journalists. Failure to adhere to the prescribed ground rules can be grounds for dismissal from the event.

- All media, including print, broadcast, radio and social media, must register before attending the symposium. Please contact Ms. Ranae Grehl at rgrehl@gsof.org to request attendance.
- Media members attending in-person must wear credentials at all times and identify themselves before speaking with any guest.
- **The JSOU Forum “Exploring SOF Identity” on 15-16 March is conducted under Chatham House Rule.**
- **The Symposium “Professional Development Day” sessions on 16 March are NOT open to the media.**
- **The Symposium sessions on March 17 are open to the media except those listed below; these sessions are under Chatham House Rule.**
 - Chinese View of Competition with the United States
 - Senior Leader Conversation
- **Photography, filming, or live streaming are NOT permitted in any session.**
- Media are invited to social events but are prohibited from conducting interviews at these locations. Photography and filming are prohibited anytime alcohol is served.
- Requests for interviews with any USSOCOM personnel should be directed to the USSOCOM Public Affairs Office, points of contact: Mr. Ken McGraw (813) 826-4600 or COL Kara Soules (813) 826-0336. Other interview requests may be directed to Ms. Chelsea Hamashin at chamashin@gsof.org.
- Journalists cannot freely approach Forum or Symposium speakers, but they may approach Symposium attendees and GSF staff as appropriate. All speakers, guests, and GSF staff have the right to refuse any discussion with media. Some guest speakers, due to their subject matter or security concerns, may request a closed session. GSF may also independently record and interview with the interviewee’s approval.
- Hallways, meeting rooms and common areas not in use by other Symposium attendees and sponsors may be used by media to conduct interviews.
- Social sharing from an open session or in a common area is authorized using the **#GSOFS**.
- GSF does not have the ability to provide transcripts but will ask the speaker to provide them upon request. Speakers are under no obligation to provide transcripts, notes or any written material to GSF or any journalist.

Contact Information:

- **USSOCOM Public Affairs Office:** Mr. Ken McGraw (813) 826-4600 and COL Kara Soules (813) 826-0336
- **Chelsea Hamashin, GSF Director of Marketing:** chamashin@gsof.org, (813) 486-7684

Please note that the conduct of the JSOU Forum does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense (DOD), U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) or any Federal organization. Neither Joint Special Operations University, USSOCOM or DOD exercise any editorial control of the contents contained herein.

Definition of Terms

On the Record

Information may be quoted directly and attributed to the official by name and title.

On Background

The official's remarks may be quoted directly or paraphrased and are attributed to a "Subject matter expert" or a "GSF Official," as mutually determined by the official and the media member.

On Deep Background

The source cannot be quoted or identified in any manner, not even as "an unnamed source." The information is usually couched in such phrases as "it is understood that" or "it has been learned." The information may be used to help present the story or to gain a better understanding of the subject, but the knowledge is that of the reporter, not the source.

Off the Record

Nothing of what the journalist is told may be used in the story. The information is meant only for the education of the reporter.

Chatham House Rules

When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.