



## Media Ground Rules

These Ground Rules are specific to the 2023 *Special Air Warfare Symposium* taking place at The Island Hotel and the Destin-Fort Walton Beach Conference Center in Ft. Walton Beach, FL. This event is open to all accredited and registered journalists. Failure to adhere to the prescribed ground rules may result in dismissal from the Symposium.

### Registration:

- All media, including print, broadcast, radio and social media must register prior to attending the symposium. **Registration can be accomplished [via the Registration Portal](#).**
- You may be asked to provide proof of employment as a member of the media to gain access to event sessions and the exhibit hall. Media credentials such as press passes, business cards, letters of verification and other identification must be provided when pre-registering, registering onsite or when picking up a pre-registered media/press badge. The above also applies for photojournalists/videographers.
- Event organizers can refuse to issue media credentials for any individual. Advertising, marketing, business development, publishers, business operations, and public relations personnel may not register as media.

### Ground Rules:

- **Media Access by Session:**
  - Feb 28 - Sessions closed to media
  - Mar 1 - All Sessions are Chatham House Rules with the exception of the following that are “on the record”
    - i. Dr. Stefanie Tompkins, Director - DARPA (via VTC)
    - ii. Lieutenant General Kirk Smith, Deputy Commander - U.S. Africa Command
    - iii. Mr. Jay Dryer, Director of the Strategic Capabilities Office (SCO) - U.S. Department of Defense
  - Mar 2 - All Sessions are Chatham House Rules with the exception of the following that are “on the record”
    - i. Brigadier General Philip J. Ryan, Commander - U.S. Army Special Operations Aviation Command
    - ii. Views from Ukraine with Colonel Oleksandr Kyrychok and Colonel Ihor Sadovenko
    - iii. SOF Slams
  - Gov Only Breakfast - Session closed to media
- Journalists cannot freely approach Symposium speakers without prior notification to POCs listed below, but they may approach Symposium attendees and staff as appropriate.
- All speakers, guests, and Global SOF staff have the right to refuse any discussion with the media.
- Media must wear credentials at all times and identify themselves before speaking with any symposium guest.
- Photography and filming are prohibited unless specific permission is granted. Live streaming is not authorized.
- The Global SOF staff will do its best to provide a separate space to media upon request for one-on-one interviews.
- Social sharing from an open session or in a common area is authorized using the **#SAWS2023**

- Global SOF 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 any journalist.

**Contact Information:** Global SOF- Ms. Chelsea Hamashin, Vice President of Marketing and Events: [chamashin@sof.org](mailto:chamashin@sof.org), (813) 486-7684

**Contact Information:** AFSOC Public Affairs – Lt Col Becky Heyse, Director: (850) 461-5659

## **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 "Global SOF 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 Rule

Journalists 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.