



Conference: May 8-11
Exhibits: May 9-11

TAMPA, FL
2023

SOF Week 2023 Media Ground Rules

These Ground Rules are specific to **2023 SOF Week** taking place in Tampa, FL from 8 - 11 MAY. This event is open to all accredited and registered journalists. Failure to adhere to the prescribed ground rules may result in dismissal from the event.

Registration:

- All media, including print, broadcast, radio, photojournalists, and videographers must register prior to attending the symposium. **Media can register at <https://www.sofweek.org/attend/registration>.**
- Media will 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.
- Event organizers can refuse to issue a media pass for any individual. Advertising, marketing, business development, business operations, and public relations personnel may not register as media.

Onsite Badging:

- Badges may be picked up onsite at the registration area at the Mezzanine Level of the Tampa Convention Center.
- Once badged, USSOCOM requests all registered media proceed to the Media Room to pick up a press packet. The Media Room is in the Tampa Convention Center, Floor 1, Room 102.

Ground Rules:

- **Media Access by Session:**
 - SOF Week conference keynotes and panel sessions are “On the Record”
 - The following sessions are closed to the media:
 - Monday’s “SOF For Life Transition Seminar”
 - Monday’s “New Evaluation Factors for SOCOM Contracts–Cyber Security, Supply Chain Risk Management and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion”
 - Monday’s “Small Business Senior Industry Executive Forum”
 - Tuesday’s “Large Business Senior Industry Executives Forum”
 - Wednesday’s “USSOCOM Awards Ceremony and Dinner”
 - The following sessions’ formats do not lend themselves to media coverage. Contact POCs below with any questions.
 - Monday’s “Communications with Industry”
 - Monday’s “RFP Sections L&M”
- All media should refrain from reporting on social events.
- All speakers, guests, and staff have the right to decline media interview or discussion requests.
- Media must wear credentials at all times and identify themselves as a journalist before speaking with symposium guests or speakers about an interview.
- Photography and filming are prohibited outside of open sessions and exhibits. Live streaming is not authorized.
- Coordinate interview requests and interview rooms with Media Center personnel.

- Social sharing from an open session or in a common area is authorized. We encourage press to use [#sofweek2023](#) when posting social media.
- Neither the Global SOF Foundation nor the USSOCOM Communication Office have the ability to provide transcripts. Speakers are under no obligation to provide transcripts, notes, slides or any written material to any journalist.

Contact Information: Global SOF- Ms. Chelsea Hamashin, Vice President of Marketing and Events:
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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.