



Media Ground Rules

These Ground Rules are specific to the *2019 Modern Warfare Symposium*, 21-22 November, Iron Mike Conference Center, and are not intended for blanket use at all Global SOF Foundation (GSF) functions.

The *2019 Modern Warfare Symposium* is open to accredited and registered journalists. Failure to adhere to the prescribed ground rules can be grounds for dismissal from the Symposium.

- All media, including print, broadcast, radio and social media, must register with GSF before attending the symposium. Please contact Ms. Catlyn Smith at csmith@gsf.org to request attendance.
- Media must wear credentials at all times and identify themselves before speaking with any Symposium guest.
- **All sessions are open to the media except those listed below; these sessions are under Chatham House Rule.**
 - Multi-Domain Battle Panel
 - Senior Leader Conversation: CF-SOF Operational Synergy
 - Countering Hybrid Threats and Tactics in the 21st Century Panel
 - Indigenous Approach in the 21st Century
- **Photography, filming, or live streaming are NOT permitted in any session.**
- LTC Loren Bymer, Director of Public Affairs for USASOC, will facilitate requests for interviews with U.S. Army speakers. Other interview requests may be directed to Ms. Chelsea Hamashin.
- Journalists cannot freely approach 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.
- The GSF staff will do its best to provide a separate office to media upon request for one-on-one interviews.
- Media are invited to social events but are prohibited from conducting interviews at these locations. Photography and filming are prohibited anytime alcohol is served.
- Social sharing from an open session or in a common area is authorized using the **#ModernARSOF**.
- 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:

- LTC Loren Bymer, Public Affairs Director, USASOC: loren.bymer@socom.mil, (910) 432-3383
- Chelsea Hamashin, GSF Director of Marketing: chamashin@gsf.org, (813) 486-7684

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.