

## ARCTIC THUNDER OPEN HOUSE MEDIA GROUND RULES

(Current as of July 2016)

The following ground rules apply to media covering operations at **Arctic Thunder Open House (ATOH), Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER), Alaska and any other unit on the installation.** These ground rules recognize the inherent right of the media to cover ATOH operations and are in no way intended to prevent release of embarrassing, negative or derogatory information. These ground rules also acknowledge the inherent risk that some media will be exposed to classified information in good trust that classified and sensitive information will not be released.

*Note: News Media Representatives (NMR) may be required to sign/follow other base/location-specific ground rules.*

By signing these ground rules, you agree to adhere to them and, in-turn, the command will provide support, access to service members, information and other privileges. **Violation of the ground rules may result in the revocation of your credentials, removal from ATOH and denied support of future requests.**

- 1) Comply with all ground rules, policies, and procedures as outlined by the JBER host-unit public affairs office, 673d Air Base Wing Public Affairs (673 ABW/PA). Unless stated otherwise, all interviews with service members will be **on the record**.
- 2) Because of JBER requirements, print or broadcast stories will be datelined **ARCTIC THUNDER OPEN HOUSE, JOINT-BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON**, or by generic terms (such as "ATOH," "JBER," "Arctic Thunder")
- 3) NMR must be credentialed through 673 ABW/PA or escorted by delegated ATOH Staff representative at all times.
- 4) NMR will not be permitted to collect imagery/video in areas marked "No photography" or equivalent signage — stock photography of the marked areas may be available upon request with 673 ABW/PA.
- 5) NMR must carry all their personal and professional gear and may not carry weapons.
- 6) The following categories of information are **not releasable** since their publication or broadcast could jeopardize operations and endanger lives:
  - a) For military units, **specific numbers** on troop strength, aircraft, weapons systems, or supplies (e.g. bombs, radars, missiles, etc.) including amounts of ammunition or fuel supporting combat units. (Number and type of aircraft may be described in very general terms such as "large flight," "many," "few," "fighters," "fixed wing," etc.)
  - b) Information that reveals details of future plans, operations, or strikes, including postponed or cancelled operations.
  - c) Classified information. If unsure, please ask. Public Affairs asks the opportunity to review work prior to release for no other reason than to identify unintentional disclosure. If you choose not to have Public Affairs review and classified is disclosed, you run the risk of **revocation of your credentials, removal from the ATOH and no support of future JBER requests.**
  - d) Information, photography or imagery that would reveal the specific location of military forces, or show the level of security at those locations.
  - e) Details of **rules of engagement**.
  - f) Information on **intelligence collection activities** including targets, methods, results, analysis and further reporting of that analysis until released by the appropriate JBER installation commander.
  - g) Identification of mission aircraft points of origin.
  - h) Information on effectiveness of enemy camouflage, electronic warfare, cover, deception, targeting, direct and indirect fire, intelligence collection, or security measures.
  - i) Information on missing or downed aircraft while search and rescue operations are planned or underway.
  - j) Information on special operations units, unique operations methodology or tactics.
  - k) Specific operating methods and tactics, e.g., air angles of attack, and speeds; naval tactical or evasive maneuvers, etc. Use general terms such as "low" or "fast."

- l) Information on operational or support vulnerabilities that could be used against JBER forces, such as details of major damage or major personnel losses of specific JBER units, until released by the appropriate JBER installation commander.
- m) **Coordination is required with JBER mission partners prior to release of any JBER installation information,** specifically regarding their forces, deployment, location, operations, or weapon systems. Approval by the JBER installation commander or delegated representative is required.
- n) Additional guidelines may be necessary to protect ATOH on JBER security.

**STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING**

"I, (Name) \_\_\_\_\_, representing (Organization) \_\_\_\_\_, agree to abide by the JBER & 673 ABW Media Ground Rules and understand that violation of these ground rules is cause for the revocation of my media accreditation and expulsion from the JBER installation."

**I agree to the condition to abide by the policy of security review at the source if given access to locations where sensitive material is presented during the collection of information for reporting. An NMR who is provided access by a JBER commander to sensitive and classified information during the process of news gathering shall be informed in advance of the restrictions on the use or disclosure of such information to which he or she is granted access.**

**In those cases where a commander or delegated authority has authorized classified access, the NMR will permit the command to review his or her written and visual materials prior to filing to ensure no sensitive information is inadvertently released. During this review, the reviewing military member(s) has no right to make subjective editorial edits; however, he or she does have the right to identify clearly sensitive and/or classified information and required that it be deleted. Disagreements shall be referred to the next level of command and editors for resolution.**

I understand that failure to comply may prevent me or my organization from receiving access to events/ facilities in the future.

**Agreement of Reimbursement**

I agree to reimburse JBER and/or 673 ABW (host unit) for any items it may provide me while I am on the installation.

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Printed Name	Signature	Date
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**To Be Completed By 673 ABW/PA and/or ATOH Media Escort**

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673 ABW/PA Signature	Date
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Printed Name & Rank

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ATOH Escort Signature	Date
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Printed Name, Rank & Organization

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