



## **FOREWORD BY THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE DIRECTOR OF NEWS**

This document has been produced in consultation with editors and press and broadcasting organisations as a general guide to the procedures that the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence (MOD) will adopt in working with the media throughout the full spectrum of military operations.

It covers the practical arrangements for enabling correspondents<sup>1</sup> to report on operations, including the MOD's plans for representative numbers of correspondents to accompany British Forces. It also addresses the policy and principles that will facilitate and may limit the activities of journalists during operations.

In short, the document sets out what editors can expect from the MOD and what the MOD seeks from the media. It is the result of continuing dialogue between the MOD and media organisations and representatives which began after the Falklands Conflict, was reviewed in the wake of the 1991 Gulf War and now takes account of lessons learned from subsequent operations.

The document remains a statement of intent and should be read in conjunction with specific advice that will be discussed with the media and issued by the MOD as part of the planning and preparation for each assignment.

**JAMES CLARK**

The following media organisations have participated in this revision of the MOD Green Book:

- The Newspaper Publishers Association
- The Newspaper Society
- National Union of Journalists
- The British Broadcasting Corporation
- ITN
- Sky News
- The Scottish Daily Newspaper Society
- The International News Safety Institute
- The Independent Defence Media Association
- The London News Security Group

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<sup>1</sup> In the context of this document, the term correspondent includes reporters, producers, photographers, cameramen, technicians and media support staff (e.g. drivers, logisticians, translators and security).

The MOD is also grateful to Michael Meyer (British Red Cross), who provided comments for and on behalf of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the British Red Cross.

MOD Director News welcomes comments on the MOD Green Book from all media organisations and will seek to address their comments in future revisions.

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# **MOD WORKING ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE MEDIA FOR USE THROUGHOUT THE FULL SPECTRUM OF MILITARY OPERATIONS**

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. In an armed conflict and during military operations involving UK Forces, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) aims to provide the media with a range of facilities to enable reporting on operational and tactical military and defence-related activity. In addition, the Department will seek to understand editors' and correspondents' requirements and provide an accurate, objective and timely information service.

2. Prior to and during each assignment, editors and correspondents will be briefed as required at various levels and locations so that a regular and frank flow of information is maintained, with the aims of ensuring that the overall situation and the operational response is understood and that the British public and international audiences can be properly and fully kept abreast of developments and events.

3. At the outset of an operation, the MOD will provide briefings ranging from those by ministers to officials and military officers as well as visits to units and other facilities as appropriate to each assignment. These will be arranged to demonstrate ongoing preparations to mobilise and deploy and, later, to give up-to-date information about progress of operations and the political situation. These facilities will always be tempered by the likely speed of deployment and the media's overall focus.

4. In the theatre of operations, a media service will be established at the UK, Allied or coalition headquarters. Dependant on the geographical spread of the deployment and the specific command structure in place, further facilities will be provided to enable balanced access for as many correspondents as possible to represent the media as a whole with UK units and formations.

5. The MOD and the Armed Forces will strive to give as many facilities and as much information as possible, subject to operational and security constraints. Where it is necessary to impose security checks, the MOD will seek the co-operation of editors in achieving a system which is fair and even handed and which is applied only in the interests of national or operational security, to safeguard UK, Allied or coalition operations or lives.

6. The MOD recognises that correspondents are free to look for information in the area of operations and to communicate it back to the public. However, it is important to understand that this implies no specific obligation on the part of UK forces to protect individuals or installations over and above

the rights of all civilians working in conflict zones set out in the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols<sup>2</sup>.

## **INITIAL MEETINGS WITH EDITORS AND MEDIA ORGANISATIONS IN TIMES OF CRISIS**

7. As a crisis evolves and/or when military action is anticipated, the MOD's Director of News, will have discussions with editors and media organisations. The dialogue will continue, as necessary, as events develop.

8. Discussions will be in line with provisions outlined in this document and will cover practical and policy issues of mutual concern. These are likely to include:

- The number and nature of facilities for the media
- The safety of correspondents
- The MOD's security requirements
- Restrictions (if any) on numbers and allocation of places for correspondents
- Pooling arrangements
- Accreditation
- Relations with the UK's coalition partners/Allies, where applicable
- Communications and emission control
- General advice for editors and correspondents to assist their own preparations

## **SAFETY ADVICE**

9. The MOD recognises and understands the concerns of correspondents working in operational areas and other hostile environments regarding their own safety and protection. Correspondents who gain access to operational

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<sup>2</sup> The four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their two Additional Protocols of 1977 *only* apply to situations of armed conflicts, including military occupation. They are intended to alleviate the effects of armed conflict by protecting those not, or no longer, taking a direct part in hostilities and by regulating the means and methods of warfare. Journalists are considered civilians and thus must not be the object of attack unless and for such time as they take a direct part in hostilities (Article 79, Additional Protocol I). If captured they must be treated humanely. More detailed rules are contained in the Fourth Geneva Convention (dealing with "protected persons") and the Additional Protocols, where applicable (dealing with persons in the hands of a party to the conflict). Special rules apply to war correspondents when in enemy hands, see Art. 13(4), First Geneva Convention, Art. 13(4), Second Geneva Convention and Art. 4A(4), Third Geneva Convention. For further information on the Geneva Conventions, the Additional Protocols and the protection of journalists, you may contact the International Committee of the Red Cross (general enquiries: [webmaster.gva@icrc.org](mailto:webmaster.gva@icrc.org); press and media: [press.gva@icrc.org](mailto:press.gva@icrc.org)) or the British Red Cross ([information@redcross.org.uk](mailto:information@redcross.org.uk)).

areas, other than under the auspices of MOD or Media Operations (Ops) staffs, do so at their own risk. The MOD and Media Ops staffs can neither be held responsible for their safety nor guarantee to provide assistance.

10. It is also important to understand that UK Forces on operations will never deliberately target either individual correspondents or civil media facilities. However, media representatives also need to recognise that operations, and particularly those involving war-fighting, create extremely hazardous environments in which lethal force may be employed. In the often challenging situations that this engenders, mistakes resulting from mis-identification, weapons systems failure or mal-location, may result.

11. Media representatives at all levels need to understand the challenges the military faces in working in often confused and fluid environments, and accept that blanket protection of media personnel will not be possible. Accordingly, correspondents who expect to work in these types of environment should be trained in risk evaluation and the fundamentals of working alongside the military. Too often, correspondents' lives are placed in danger through their own lack of understanding or knowledge. The responsibility rests with the individual and/or the individual's employer to ensure that they are appropriately prepared and trained for the assignment.

## **SECURITY**

12. The MOD Director News will maintain a dialogue with editors on the issue of security and security checks. If required, written guidance will be issued on security matters. This document sets out the principles governing the activities and conduct of correspondents attached to UK Forces. In addition, if required, a 24-hour advisory service will be maintained via the Duty Defence Press Officer, which editors may consult if in any doubt about security issues.

## **MEDIA OPERATIONS STAFF**

13. Specialist Media Ops staff<sup>3</sup> will be dispatched to the theatre of operations with the first troop deployments to assist with the provision of media facilities and the dissemination of information at UK, and Allied/coalition headquarters, and with units in the field. Their role is to support the military Commander in the execution of his mission. The Media Ops staff will endeavour to ensure that correspondents are provided with sufficient information, access and facilities to enable the media to develop a coherent understanding of the key issues involved and to pursue storylines as required.

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<sup>3</sup> The term "Media Ops officer" covers both serving officer and MOD civilian staff engaged on Media Ops duties.

## OPERATIONAL MEDIA ASSIGNMENTS

14. **Accredited Correspondents.** All correspondents on operational media assignments with UK Forces will require accreditation. During an armed conflict involving UK Forces (sometimes referred to as a high intensity operation) every accredited correspondent accompanying any element of the operational force will be designated as a **War Correspondent** (see under **WAR CORRESPONDENTS**).

15. **Types of Assignment.** The types of assignments that may be offered to accredited correspondents are as follows:

- Embed Assignments: Correspondents who are attached to specific units/sub-units.
- Centralised Assignments: Correspondents who are assigned to Press Information Centres/Media Ops teams at centralised/formation level locations.
- Individual Assignments: Correspondents who are working independently but participate in individual MOD/Media Ops staff arranged facilities.

16. **Media Facilities.** A range of media facilities may be offered by MOD/Media Ops staff. These may be one or a combination of the following:

- Press Conferences
- Interviews
- Briefings
- Visits
- Unit/sub-unit attachments

## MEDIA ACCREDITATION

17. All correspondents on assignments arranged under the auspices of the MOD Green Book will be required to obtain media accreditation with the military authorities to gain recognition as bona fide correspondents.

18. On operations involving UK Forces only, accreditation can be obtained by application either to the Media Ops team within the MOD Directorate of News or to the Media Ops staff in theatre. On Coalition/Allied operations, the accreditation of media representatives may be carried out either through national or Coalition/Allied channels. Alternatively, host nations may insist on registering all media at national centres.

## SELECTION OF ACCREDITED CORRESPONDENTS

19. The MOD will accredit all correspondents before accepting them to accompany a British unit on any operation. This will be necessary to protect operational security in view of the high degree of operational access that it is planned to give.

20. Accreditation will be at the discretion of the MOD, which will reserve the right to decide on numbers and to withhold or withdraw accreditation. However, the MOD will not employ accreditation to influence the choice of individuals. The reasons for any limitations on numbers will be the subject of discussion and explanation.

21. The MOD will decide on the numbers of correspondents that can be accepted on any facility, having regard to all the operational and practical factors in each case. The MOD will also decide the composition of groups. If possible, representatives of the UK national and regional press, news agencies, broadcasters, and international media (in no particular order), will be included in every facility (using the table at **ANNEX D** as a guideline), with the aim of ensuring fair and balanced media representation.

22. Having announced the numbers and composition of a facility, the MOD believes that the choice of which titles and individual correspondents should represent the media as a whole should be left to editors and media organisations. In the case of the press, the Newspaper Society, the Newspaper Publishers' Association and Scottish Daily Newspaper Society, in consultation with editors, will be invited<sup>4</sup> to select which newspapers will be allocated places on each facility. In the case of the broadcast media and agencies, where there are no corresponding associations, individual managements will be asked to reach mutual agreements. Editors of all titles selected will be expected to nominate individual correspondents. The MOD does not intend to be involved in this selection process unless news organisations are unable to reach agreement.

23. Details of accreditation formalities are contained in the **Correspondent Accreditation Form** at Annex B.

24. When selecting correspondents for facilities in the front line, editors should have regard to their physical stamina and ability to endure difficult and dangerous environments, since commanders will have the right to refuse access to a unit if, by reason of unfitness or temperament, an individual is thought likely to jeopardise operations, or the safety of personnel.

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<sup>4</sup> Not all of these organisations will be approached on every occasion.



25. If accreditation is refused, the MOD will inform the individual's editor, explaining the reasons for refusal. This also applies in cases where accreditation is withdrawn or where an individual is removed from an embed assignment. None of these occurrences will necessarily prejudice other nominations from the individual's organisation.

## WAR CORRESPONDENTS

26. Correspondents accompanying UK Forces during an armed conflict will need to be accredited to the armed forces if they are to attain the special status provided for them by Art. 4A(4) of the Third Geneva Convention. This will mean as an accredited 'War Correspondent' they will be required to carry an identity card (mentioned later in the Green Book) as a means of proof of such authorisation (see ICRC Commentary to the Third Geneva Convention (1960), p. 65.). War Correspondents will also be provided with distinguishing media insignia while working with units in the field. They will not be permitted to carry arms.

27. Prior to deployment, War Correspondents will be placed at a number of days or hours of notice to move. The period of notice will alter as the situation develops. When placed on notice to move, War Correspondents will be expected to prepare themselves so that they are ready in all respects. In addition to the actions in **Preparations by War Correspondents Placed at Notice to Move** at Annex C the MOD will offer further advice and assistance as appropriate.

28. Whilst the MOD recognises there is an undeniable interest on the part of the public in the progress of an armed conflict involving UK Forces, and that war correspondents should be free to communicate this, there may be exceptional circumstances when it is necessary to place limits on this freedom. It should though be understood that War Correspondents will not be 'controlled' by an MOD 'Minder'. This has often proved to be a source of friction in the past and has proved to be of little benefit to either the media or the military. However, they may still be required to submit their material for security checking and to undertake not to publish or divulge any operationally sensitive information gained as a member of a unit, without the specific permission of commanders (see under **CONTROL OF INFORMATION**). In addition they will have to agree not to cover events from the opposing side at any later stage, without the prior agreement of the MOD.

29. Each correspondent's status as a War Correspondent will be protected by the issue by the MOD of internationally-recognised identity cards (Form 108). This accords correspondents a specific status under the terms of the Third Geneva Convention and gives them (officer status) prisoner of war

protection should they be captured<sup>5</sup>. In other words the War Correspondent must be treated as a prisoner of war when captured, while at the same time keeping the status of civilian when accompanying British Forces on one essential condition, they must carry on them the authorisation issued by UK military authorities.

## **EMBED ASSIGNMENTS**

30. The purpose of embedding correspondents with units and formation headquarters' is to enable the media to gain a deeper understanding of the operation in which they are involved, particularly through largely unfettered access to personnel and commanders. They will be afforded all possible briefings and other facilities, including the opportunity to accompany British troops during war-fighting operations. Their individual requirements will be met wherever possible. In return, they will be subject to some military orders and training, both for their own safety and that of the unit.

31. Once assigned to a particular unit or formation, it will not normally be possible for embedded correspondents to move between units. However, in some circumstances, editors may apply for their representatives to be re-assigned or replaced and, if it is practically possible, the MOD will make every effort to meet this request.

32. Subject to conditions at the time, the MOD will aim to embed War Correspondents with UK combat units as a multi-discipline group of about five to seven accredited correspondents assigned to an individual combat unit; in ships at sea, with naval battlegroups; or at air bases.

33. Embedded correspondents will live and work alongside the troops, sharing their food, accommodation and basic domestic chores. Within operational constraints, embedded correspondents will be given as many front line facilities as possible.

34. The host unit will be responsible for assisting embedded correspondents with the dispatch of material, subject to the prevailing controls on emission, and for arranging security checking.

## **FACILITIES IN THE UK**

35. The MOD Director News will hold detailed discussions with editors and media organisations to ensure adequate practical provision for outside broadcast units, briefing and interview facilities and, wherever possible, to

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<sup>5</sup> Art. 4A(4)

meet individual requirements. A programme of regular press conferences, briefings and facilities will be organised and individual briefing and interview requirements met where possible.

## BRIEFINGS

36. In the UK and in theatre the MOD will provide briefings in various forms, depending upon the scale of the operation:

- High level meetings with editors or senior editorial staff to resolve operational and facility difficulties and as an aid to understanding strategic thinking and the background to events
- A 24-hour media enquiry service provided by the MOD Press Office
- A 24-hour high-level MOD advisory service for editors
- Open Press conferences by ministers, senior officers and/or officials
- Background briefings for defence correspondents. (These will be limited to recognised specialist defence correspondents, although the MOD may accept nominated deputies at these briefings, provided that they have relevant experience and can maintain continuity. This will be to ensure that the value and content of background briefings are not degraded).

37. MOD and military spokesmen will offer these briefings at various levels under one of the following terms. The conditions of any briefing will be stated in advance:

- **Attributable:** The information is for use and can be quoted in full. It will be either "directly attributable" (where the spokesman can be identified by name), or "indirectly attributable" (where the person providing the information cannot be identified by name but can normally be described as "an MOD official ", "a UK military spokesman", etc).
- **Unattributable:** The information may be used but may not be attributed to a named source, either an individual or the organisation involved. Hence, for example, "military sources", or "Whitehall sources", but not "Ministry of Defence sources", or "4th Armoured Division sources".
- **Background:** the information is given to aid greater understanding. It will be stated at the time whether it may be used but, if used, may not be attributed in any way, except as though from a journalist's own knowledge.

- **Not for Use:** The information may not be published and is given only to aid greater understanding. The term "off the record", is sometimes misinterpreted, misunderstood and misused. It will not be employed.

## POOLING

38. Pooling arrangements will apply whenever demand exceeds capacity on a facility. In such cases, the MOD will endeavour to provide as many places as possible, so that the media as a whole will be represented. By making a wide range and number of facilities available and by adopting the pooling system, both in the UK and in theatre, it is intended that editors will be represented fairly and will gain a complete overall picture of events from a variety of sources.

39. News organisations, editors and correspondents will have to agree among themselves about matters of style and presentation, resolve any differences about selection and representation and establish mutually acceptable working practices for pools and distribution of material. Editors whose representatives accept a pooled facility will be asked to make their own arrangements for making material available to the rest of the media.

40. If pooling occurs it will mean that all written material and photographs and unabridged copies of broadcast tapes and film produced by all correspondents resulting from the facility will have to be made available to all media outlets on request.

41. The MOD does not wish to interfere in matters of working practices or representation and selection, except in cases of unresolved differences among the media, when it may be forced to make the decisions in the greater public interest.

42. Wherever possible, pooling arrangements will be made at news organisation/editor level but, at times, facility opportunities may arise in theatre at short notice. In these circumstances, the MOD would hope that arrangements with the media could be made locally by the Media Ops staff through a "pool co-ordinator" appointed by the media corps in theatre.

## **CONTROL OF INFORMATION**

### **RESTRICTIONS ON REPORTING**

43. Correspondents must accept that, in the conditions under which they will be operating, the appropriate operational commander has the right to restrict what operational information can be reported and when. Correspondents will be advised on current restrictions (which will differ from operation to operation) by the nominated Media Ops officer, acting on behalf of the senior commander. Subjects that correspondents may not be allowed to include in copy, or radio or television reports without specific approval may include at least some of the following:

- a. Composition of the force and the locations of ships, units and aircraft (see separate subsection on aircrew interviews).
- b. Details of military movements.
- c. Operational orders.
- d. Plans or intentions.
- e. Casualties (see separate sub section below).
- f. Organisations.
- g. Place names.
- h. Tactics, details of defensive positions, camouflage methods, weapon capabilities or deployments.
- i. Names or numbers of ships, units or aircraft.
- j. Names of individual servicemen.
- k. Prisoners of War (see separate section).

### **CONTROL OF THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION**

44. In the interest of the security of the force and of the individual, correspondents must accept that, on certain occasions, they may be required to submit all written material, voice items intended for radio or television, films or video recordings produced for television, associated scripts or voice accompaniments, and still photographs for security checking clearance before transmission. Details of how this will be applied and actioned will be given by the nominated Media Ops officer. Applicants and their sponsors acknowledge this by signing the accreditation form at Annex B.

45. The purpose of security checking material is to ensure only that no information is inadvertently made public which might be of benefit to an enemy, or would endanger an operation, or the lives of British or allied Servicemen or civilians.

46. Security checking will be exercised in theatre. It will be an operational function of the UK Force Commander and will be conducted by operational officers, separate from the Media Ops function. The MOD will not impose a second tier of checking in London. Matters of taste and presentation will be for the media - although the MOD reserves the right to make its views known and make representations to editors where particular sensitivities arise.

47. The aim will be to achieve a system which is fair, enlightened and efficient and to establish a relationship with the media based on openness and co-operation, leading to understanding and the acceptance of advice as to what is and what is not genuinely, operationally sensitive.

48. Wherever possible, Media Ops staff and commanders, in London and in the theatre of operations, will attempt to explain the reasons why information cannot be given, or must be delayed. They will not attempt to deceive journalists or use them deliberately and unwittingly in furthering deception plans, although there will be, of course, occasions when operations are mounted to deceive the enemy when their true purpose will not be disclosed.

49. The MOD recognises that views on what is and what is not of security value are subjective and that individual checking officers may apply different judgements. However, it will strive to achieve a system which is fair and even-handed. In the field, Media Ops staff will represent the views of correspondents to security checking officers in cases of disagreement, and they will liaise with senior officers in theatre, and with the MOD, to ensure that decisions are made for appropriate operational reasons.

50. On the home front, editors should be aware that analysis of events and capabilities by well-informed specialists, such as academics, or retired officers and officials, could be of assistance to an enemy. They are requested, therefore, to take special care when inviting speculation from such experts.

## **EMBARGOES**

51. For the convenience of the media, there may be occasions when editors or correspondents are provided with operational information on the understanding that it will be embargoed. This will prevent information being published that would be of value to the enemy but will allow early briefing of the media when it would otherwise not be possible, thereby giving the media time to prepare material, or to plan for an event.

52. The MOD undertakes not to use an embargo unnecessarily, or for other than operational reasons. The reasons for its imposition will be

explained, wherever possible, at the time it is declared and it will be in force for the minimum amount of time necessary.

53. It should be understood that this could mean at times that a correspondent in theatre might be entrusted not to communicate information even to his or her editor until the expiry of the embargo. This will be made clear at the outset of the embargo by Theatre Media Ops staff.

54. Information supplied under embargo implies considerable trust. Breaches will, therefore, be viewed seriously and may result in loss of accreditation and withdrawal of all facilities.

## **CASUALTY REPORTING**

55. The MOD is anxious to maintain close co-operation with editors during hostile operations on the question of casualties. It recognises that casualty information is of legitimate interest to the media and the public but it faces the difficulty that reports of casualties from individual operations could be of intelligence value to an enemy.

56. However, while there may be occasions when the MOD will be forced to delay the release of casualty information for security reasons, in general it will aim to make announcements of losses and numbers of casualties as soon as possible after they are confirmed. (For practical purposes, this might be at set times).

57. Casualty numbers will be provided by the relevant category e.g. as "killed (died on active service)", "injured", or "missing". It is unlikely that the MOD will be able to give details during the course of operations about the individual circumstances surrounding all casualties.

58. It may be necessary to identify an individual group, unit, or ship which has been lost and to give details of the scale of casualties and/or survivors before next of kin have been informed - either to minimise anxiety which might be caused to families whose loved ones are not involved, or to counter enemy propaganda.

59. However, the names of casualties will not be released or confirmed until the next of kin have been told officially and have been given a reasonable further period of time to inform their wider families.

60. Once the next of kin have been informed, the names, ages, marital status, units, and home areas (not addresses) of those killed will be announced by the MOD in London as soon as practical.

61. The names of personnel who are injured will not normally be released but the MOD, in some circumstances, may be prepared to confirm information obtained from other sources.

62. Journalists may be aware of the names of individual casualties before official announcements are made. Because of the danger that it could be of value to an enemy, editors are urged not to publish such information, gained from whatever source - even if it comes directly from a next of kin - until it is released or confirmed by the MOD.

63. The question of "missing" personnel poses a particular problem in this respect. In some circumstances it may be necessary for the MOD to withhold information about missing personnel for a considerable period - e.g. if a rescue operation is planned, or there is the likelihood they will evade capture. Editors should be aware that simply reporting that an individual is missing could be of value to the enemy, if they were unaware that he was evading capture. Similarly, personal information published about a missing serviceman could assist his interrogators if he were to be taken as a prisoner of war.

64. For this reason, aircrew or other service personnel who might be captured by the enemy should not be identified with a particular operation without first seeking advice from MOD. Editors are urged not to publish any information, from whatever source, which might identify these personnel or give details of their personal backgrounds. Details of their families, home-base and home-town addresses and any other information, including photographs, which could assist an interrogator, or be exploited for propaganda purposes, should be similarly protected.

65. The MOD would hope to enable the media to report the repatriation of wounded and, subject to the agreement of individuals and medical advice, would anticipate being able, on occasions, to offer facilities at reception points and hospitals for interviews with wounded personnel.

66. The MOD is anxious, however, that the families of those killed, wounded, or missing should not be subjected to undue stress. The MOD urges extreme discretion by editors in approaching next of kin, particularly before official announcements are made.

67. Editors are also requested to ensure that their staffs do not approach the welfare organisations and casualty "helpline" services which will be set up to assist the families of servicemen during times of armed conflict. Direct enquiries could seriously hamper the work of these organisations. Casualty information and information about welfare activities will be available from the



MOD Press Office. Media facilities with the welfare organisations will be arranged by the MOD Press Office and Media Ops staff in the commands.

## **AIRCREW INTERVIEWS**

68. Requests for interviews with operational aircrew and others who face the risk of being captured by the enemy may be considered subject to operational circumstances.

- a. Correspondents should avoid the following:
  - Any linkage between aircrew names and addresses (either home-base or home-town).
  - Showing aircrew in flying suits which bear names, squadron badges or flying brevets.
  - Film or photographs which reveal constituted crews. Shots of individual pilots, navigators etc are acceptable, as are shots of crews mixing together.
  - Details of operations - e.g. heights and speeds employed, sortie frequency, time on task, and so on.
  
- b. If the above guidelines are adhered to, there is no requirement to avoid showing aircrew faces; the following areas are perfectly acceptable:
  - Film and photographs of aircrew and groundcrew:
    - Briefing and debriefing (avoid crew linkage).
    - Walking to/from their aircraft.
    - Cockpit shots showing strapping in/unstrapping.
    - Refuelling and arming aircraft.
  - Film and sound interviews focussed on the stated aim of the detachment, and general information about life on the detachment.
  - Interviews may be given by the detachment commander, aircrew and groundcrew, provided that the individual from whom the interview is to be obtained agrees to the request.

## **PRISONERS OF WAR<sup>6</sup>**

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<sup>6</sup> The same measures apply to security internees held in Custody by UK Forces as an Occupying Power as provided for in Article 27 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

69. The numbers of prisoners of war and the circumstances under which they are taken is a matter of legitimate public interest - but such publicity is constrained by the terms of the Geneva Conventions. Specifically, Article 13 of the Third Geneva Convention of 1949 protects prisoners of war from insults and public curiosity. In essence, this prohibits the public transmission of images of prisoners of war either as identifiable individuals or which undermine their personal dignity.

70. The MOD and the UK Armed Forces will, therefore, attempt to provide accurate and up-to-date information and, where possible, will allow filming and photography to illustrate the scale and nature of capture. However, they will not offer any facility, or co-operate in any media activity, which contravenes the Geneva Convention. Interviews with prisoners, or close-up photography which focuses on individual prisoners will not normally be permitted. Media Ops staff will work closely with accredited correspondents to enable them to act prudently and discreetly when reporting on prisoners of war, bearing in mind the effect of publication or transmission of their work on prisoners of war or their families.

71. The names of enemy prisoners of war and enemy dead held by UK Forces will not be made public by the MOD but will be released to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in accordance with the terms of the Geneva Convention. The ICRC will normally divulge names only through official government channels or to the next of kin.

72. The names of UK military prisoners of war, or those killed, whose bodies are held by the enemy, will normally be announced by the MOD once official confirmation has been received from the ICRC. Until that time, either their names will not be released, or they will be listed as "missing."

## **ASSISTANCE WITH TRAVEL AND LIFE SUPPORT**

73. The precise travel and life support arrangements, which will apply for each assignment, will be determined by the MOD in consultation with editors and freelance correspondents in advance of each assignment. The following paragraphs provide general amplification.

74. **Visas.** Correspondents will be responsible for making their own arrangements to obtain any visas that may be required.

75. **Travel to Theatre.** The MOD will seek, wherever possible, to provide military transport to and from the theatre of operations (normally from the UK) for correspondents on embed and centralised assignments. However, editors and freelance correspondents should be prepared to make their own arrangements where viable commercial alternatives exist. In exceptional

circumstances, and on a case-by-case basis, the MOD will consider providing transport to and from the theatre of operations for those on independent assignments.

76. **Transport within Theatre.** The MOD will provide transport for correspondents on embed and centralised assignments. Correspondents on independent assignments will be expected to make their own arrangements to get to media facilities, but they may be offered transport between a package of media facilities.

77. **Food and Accommodation.** Correspondents on embed and centralised assignments will be provided with food and accommodation by their host formation/unit. However, a charge may be raised for food and accommodation. Correspondents on independent assignments should expect to be self-sufficient and not rely on the military for support.

78. **Communications Equipment.** Correspondents will be expected to provide their own communications and transmission equipment. If absolutely necessary, assistance with communications may be given using military or MOD-controlled civil facilities. However, since the actual act of transmission could endanger an operation, or the safety of a unit under some circumstances, the use of both military and correspondents' own equipment will be at the discretion of commanders. Charges may be raised for the use of Service equipment.

79. **Medical Treatment.** Correspondents should seek medical advice from their doctor prior to travel. Correspondents on MOD-arranged assignments are entitled to receive Service medical treatment free in the operational area, but will be charged for such treatment outside the area. In an armed conflict, any sick or wounded correspondent would be entitled to medical treatment under the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols, see for example the definition of "wounded" and "sick" under Article 8(a) of Additional Protocol I, in conjunction with Art. 10, or Common Art. 3(2) to the four Geneva Conventions, and Art. 7 of Additional Protocol II.

80. **Casualties.** If an accredited correspondent is killed or injured whilst on an MOD-arranged assignment, the MOD will inform his or her employer as soon as the information is confirmed. It will be the employer's responsibility to inform the next of kin. The MOD will assist with arrangements for the repatriation of the dead or injured, however a charge may be raised. If judged appropriate, the MOD, without prejudice, will help with enquiries into the circumstances surrounding a death or injury.

81. **Dress and Equipment.** Correspondents will be expected to equip themselves with their own personal protective equipment (e.g. body armour, helmet). However, accredited correspondents may be issued with appropriate

specialist protective clothing (as well as provided with any required training in its use) and combat clothing as worn by operational troops, but in the case of war correspondents with special media shoulder titles/armbands.

**APPLICATION PROCEDURE FOR MEDIA VISITS TO OPERATIONAL THEATRES**

1. Correspondents wishing to apply for media visits with UK Armed Forces in operational theatres should:
  - a. Read the Green Book main text.
  - b. Consider preferred dates to travel.
  - c. Decide on subject matter to be covered in as much detail as possible (including issues/locations/interviewees that will facilitate the required coverage if known).
  - d. Confirm commission with associated editor.
  - e. Contact MOD D News Media Ops as indicated at paragraph 2 below with outline detail of request.
  
2. Points of contact. If you require further information please contact MOD D News Media Ops by:
  - Email: [roger.flynn953@mod.uk](mailto:roger.flynn953@mod.uk)
  - Phone: 020-7218 6200

**CORRESPONDENT ACCREDITATION FORM**

1. Full name
  2. Media role/title:
  3. Address
  4. Contact details:
    - E-mail -
    - Telephone -
    - Mobile -
    - Satellite phone -
  5. Employer's Name and Address and Telephone Number
  5. Date of Birth -
  6. Religion -
  7. Nationality
    - a. Now -
    - b. At Birth -
  8. Have your parents and/or spouse (if married) ever held other than British nationality? YES/NO
- If YES, give details:
9. Insurance
    - a. Company -
    - b. Policy Number -
  10. Passport number, date of expiry and place of issue (please confirm if you have Israeli stamps or visa)



11. Description:

- a. Height
- b. Colour of hair
- c. Colour of eyes
- d. Blood type

12. Details of any related training received (combat zone preparation/survival etc) or assignments of a similar nature previously undertaken.

I, the undersigned ..... having read the "MOD Working Arrangements with the Media for use throughout the full spectrum of Military Operations", issued by the Ministry of Defence do hereby make application to accompany the British operational forces being despatched to ..... as a Correspondent of.....

I do solemnly undertake:

- To comply with all regulations from time to time applicable to Correspondents accompanying Her Majesty's Ships and Forces.
- To comply with any rules or orders issued by the Commander through the Media Operations Officers or his representative appertaining to Correspondents.
- To comply with any orders received from superior authority and to conform to the requirements of the Naval Discipline Act, Army Act, or Air Force Act, while subject to the Naval Discipline Act, or Military or Air Force Law.
- To refrain from acting in any way prejudicial to the security, welfare, or morale of the Forces of Her Majesty or of any Allied or Co-operating power.
- To refrain from joining the forces of any other Power, without the prior approval of the Ministry of Defence, either as a Correspondent or in any other capacity during the continuance of the operations.

In the event of censorship regulations being imposed, I hereby undertake to submit for clearance all copy, photographs, tapes, film or other material, or books or articles intended for broadcast or publication, concerning the Force to which I am accredited, produced by me during the period of operations and the duration of the assignment. I further undertake not to communicate such material or information to anyone or any organisation until approved by the authorities concerned, whether or not I remain as an accredited correspondent and I will abide by the decision of the authorities concerned.

Whilst British Forces on all operations will use all reasonable endeavours to ensure the safety of the accompanying correspondents, there is an inherent risk associated with such assignments. It is the MOD's position that no duty of care is owed by the Secretary of State to the correspondent or their property. It is the correspondents' responsibility to ensure that they obtain comprehensive insurance cover valid for their assignment, including medical and legal expenses before being allowed to accompany British Forces on active operations.

Any correspondents' choosing to travel uninsured would remain liable for the recovery of any costs arising during the period spent accompanying British Forces, such as medical provision and aeromedical evacuation.

I acknowledge that I understand that there is potential risk associated with my assignment accompanying British Forces in .....  
I have considered the need for comprehensive insurance and am aware of my personal liabilities regarding the recovery of costs arising during this assignment in the event that I choose not to obtain cover. My employer is aware of the requirement for insurance and has agreed with the provisions I have made in this respect.

Signature of Correspondent.....  
Position held.....  
Signature of Sponsor (Editor or News Editor).....  
Name..... Position Held.....  
Place..... Date.....  
Countersigned by (MOD Accrediting Officer).....  
Name..... Rank.....  
Place..... Date.....



**PREPARATIONS BY WAR CORRESPONDENTS  
PLACED AT NOTICE TO MOVE**

1. If deployed in an armed conflict involving UK Forces, correspondents may be placed at notice to move with an operational force; the standby period may be hours or days during which those on notice will be required make the necessary preparations. The period may alter as the situation develops but close liaison will be maintained by the MOD and, finally a reporting time and place will be given.

2. While on notice, a Correspondent should pay particular attention to the following:

- Check passport, Press card and Visa (when required) are in date for the expected duration of the deployment. Renew if necessary.
- Obtain passport-size photographs for accreditation documentation (three) and extra copies for possible requirement for local uses etc.
- Confirm with your doctor which vaccinations, inoculations or other medical precautions are necessary. Check valid certificates are held, or obtain.
- Keep MOD informed of contact details (telephone/email) numbers at all times.
- Check validity of insurance (Employer's responsibility).
- Assemble at least the following personal clothing and equipment to take. The list may increase, depending on how much equipment MOD may be able to issue: Washing and shaving kit, towels, underwear, additional socks, knife, fork and spoon, trainers, track suit(for sleeping), torch, backpack (lockable, for storage of civilian clothes), pair of walking boots.
- Ensure serviceability of any journalistic items, such as portable computer, communications equipment and pack for field conditions.
- If time allows, have any necessary dental work completed.
- If time allows, do personal fitness training and, in particular, accustom feet to wearing boots.
- Confirm arrangements for accreditation, briefings, personal finance and reporting instructions.

3. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Failure to carry out elementary preparations could mean that an individual would be unable to travel. For example, absence of international vaccination certificates may be a bar to embarkation.

## **Specialist Items of clothing which may be issued by MOD to Accredited War Correspondents**

4. NOTE: The Ministry of Defence or the Armed Forces will be able to provide the following equipment only to those journalists, camera operators, technicians, or editorial assistants who are accredited as War Correspondents:

- Form F Ident 108 (identity card authorising correspondent as a civilian accompanying an armed force under the terms of the Geneva Convention).
- Boots combat
- Cap combat
- Gloves combat
- 2 x Suit Combat 95
- Pullover
- Pairs socks
- Waterproof jacket
- Pair shoulder slides (“Media Correspondent”)
- Set mess tins
- Sleeping bag and liner
- Webbing waist belt
- Rucksack
- Water bottle, cup and carrier
- Respirator and case
- Nuclear/biological/chemical suit with gloves and overboots
- Flotation equipment and immersion suit (if with HM Ships)
- Anti-flash protective clothing (if with HM Ships)
- Pair ear defenders
- Set identity disks
- Theatre specific equipment

**ANNEX D**

**EXAMPLE ALLOCATION OF CORRESPONDENTS ON POOLED FACILITIES**

<b>TOTAL MEDIA PARTY SIZE</b>	<b>TV</b>	<b>RADIO</b>	<b>NATIONAL PRESS (Note 1)</b>	<b>REGIONAL PRESS</b>	<b>AGENCY</b>	<b>AGENCY STILL PHOTOGRAPHER</b>	<b>FOREIGN PRESS</b>	<b>SPECIALIST JOURNALISTS</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>2 or 3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1 or 2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		
<b>10</b>	<b>2 or 3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2 or 3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		
<b>12</b>	<b>3 or 4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2 or 3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		
<b>15</b>	<b>3-5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2-4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1 or 2</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>20</b>	<b>4-6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4 or 5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1 or 2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3 or 4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1 or 2 plus 1 non-agency</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

**NOTE(1)** For national press, a mix of places should be allocated to broadsheets and tabloids