



**2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team
Information Bureau
Camp Bundela, India**



**NEWS MEDIA GROUND RULES
Ground Rules Agreement and Waiver of Liability**

The following ground rules have been developed to protect members of the Armed Services from the release of information that could potentially threaten their security or safety during exercises. These ground rules recognize the inherent constitutional right of the media to cover combat operations and are in no way intended to prevent release of embarrassing, negative, or derogatory information.

During an operation, specific information on friendly force troop movements, tactical deployments, and dispositions that would jeopardize operational security or lives will not be reported. This would include unit designations, names of operations, and size of friendly forces involved, until released by the OASD/PA.

Acceptance of these ground rules is an agreement between you and the granting commands. You agree to follow the ground rules and the command will provide support, access to service members, information, and other privileges. Violation of ground rules may result in the revocation of your credentials.

These ground rules apply to media reporting with 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

(1) All interviews with Service Members will be on the record unless otherwise stated by the designated PAO. Interviews with pilots and aircrew members are authorized upon completion of missions; however, release of information must conform to media ground rules.

Initials _____

(2) An escort may be required because of safety, security, and mission requirements as determined by the host commander. Media will remain with military escorts and follow instructions regarding their activities at all times, until released.

Initials _____

(3) Media must be physically fit and able to carry their own equipment/gear. If, in the opinion of the commander, a media representative is unable to withstand the rigorous conditions required to operate with the forward deployed forces, he/she will be medically evacuated out of the area.

Initials _____

(4) Possession of weapons while embedding or reporting is not authorized.

Initials _____

(5) Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages while embedded or reporting is not authorized. Initials

(6) Print or broadcast stories may be datelined by specific geographical description such as Camp Bundela, India; Babina, India; Agra, India, etc. No specific locations will be used when filing stories.

Initials _____

(7) Filming of security badges or security checkpoints is not authorized.

Initials _____

(8) Media pool products will be made available to all accredited media personnel (U.S. and others) on an equitable, no-fee basis. Media pool coordinators and bureau chiefs will be responsible for distributing media pool products.

Initials _____

(9) Names and photographs of service members injured or killed during the conduct of these exercises will not be released unless the individual consents and the next of kin (NOK) have been notified.

Initials _____

(10) In respect for family members, names or photographs clearly identifying individuals injured or killed will not be released. Names of individuals injured or killed will never be released by the Department of Defense until after the next of kin have been notified.

Initials _____

(11) Light discipline restrictions will be followed. No visible light source (including flash or television lights or flash cameras) will be used when operating with forces at night unless specifically approved by the on-scene commander.

Initials _____

(12) Because their publication or broadcast could jeopardize operations and endanger lives, the following categories of information are not releasable:

a. For U.S. or allied units, specific quantitative information on troop strength, aircraft, weapons systems, on-hand equipment, or supplies (e.g., artillery, tanks, radars, missiles, trucks, water, etc.) including amounts of ammunition or fuel moved or on-hand in support of combat units. (Unit size may be described as "company-size," "multi-battalion," "multi-division," "naval task force," and "carrier battle group." Number or amount of equipment and supplies may be described in general terms such as "large," "small," or "many.")

b. Any information that reveals details of future plans, operations, or strikes, including postponed or cancelled operations.

c. Information, photography or imagery that would reveal the specific location of military forces, or show the level of security at military installations or encampments should not be revealed. Exception: Locations may be described as follows:

1. Stories written with military units deployed in country will be datelined with that country's name.

2. Unless a host-nation has publicly acknowledged that it is not a participant or has otherwise not authorized the release of its identity, stories written in a specific country supporting the US will state that the report is coming from the geographic region.

3. Information on intelligence collection activities, including targets, methods, and results.

d. During an operation, specific information on friendly force troop movements, tactical deployments, and dispositions that would jeopardize operational security or lives will not be disclosed. This includes unit designations, names of operations, and size of friendly forces involved until such information is released by the appropriate commander.

e. Identification of mission aircraft points of origin, other than "land" or "carrier based." (Number and type of aircraft may be described in very general terms such as "large flight," "many," "few," "fighters," "fixed wing," etc.)

f. Information on intelligence collection activities including targets, methods, and results.

g. Information on the effectiveness of enemy camouflage, cover, deception, targeting, direct and indirect fire, intelligence collection, or security measures.

h. Information on missing/downed aircraft or missing ships while search and rescue operations are planned or underway.

i. Information on special operations units, unique operations methodology, or tactics.

j. Specific operating methods and tactics (e.g., air angles of attack and speeds, naval tactical or evasive maneuvers, etc.) General terms such as "low" or "fast" may be used.

k. Information on effectiveness of enemy electronic warfare.

l. Information on operational or support vulnerabilities that could be used against U.S. forces, such as details of major battle damage or major personnel losses of specific U.S. or coalition units, until that information no longer provides tactical advantage to the enemy and is, therefore, released by the appropriate commander. Damage and casualties may be described as "light," "moderate," or "heavy."

m. No photographs or other visual media showing an enemy prisoner of war or civilian internee's recognizable face, nametag or other identifying feature or item may be taken.

n. Additional guidelines may be necessary to protect tactical security.

Initials _____

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

I _____, am a _____ employed by _____, have read the aforementioned media ground rules. By my signature below, I agree to abide by these ground rules and understand that any violation of these ground rules is cause for the revocation of my media accreditation and expulsion from the Area of Operations.

SIGNATURE DATE

WITNESS SIGNATURE DATE

Hold Harmless/Release From Liability Statement

1. I recognize that covering combat and other military exercise carries with it certain inherent risks to life, limb, and equipment.
2. I recognize that the military forces participating in Exercise Cobra Gold 09 cannot guarantee my personal safety or the safety of my equipment.
3. I hereby release all participants of Exercise Yudh Abhyas 09 and their respective governments from any liability and hold them harmless for any injuries I may suffer or any equipment that may be damaged as a result of my covering exercise or any other military operations.
4. I understand that my agreement to this statement is a condition of being credentialed to cover any Exercise Cobra Gold 09 activities which involve military personnel or operations, and are directly related to the exercise.

Signature

Date