



International Security Assistance Force
Afghanistan



Media Embed Application Packet

Attachments:

- Media Embed Request Form
- Media Registration Form
- ISAF Media Ground Rules
- ISAF Indemnification Agreement and Liability Waiver, Media Organization
- ISAF Indemnification Agreement and Liability Waiver, Media Representative
- Media Packing Checklist

Thank you for your interest in covering ISAF operations.

The ISAF Joint Command (IJC) Public Affairs Office (PAO) is the starting point for all media who are inquiring about the media embed process or seeking special accommodation with ISAF units. The IJC PAO has established the Media Embed Team (MET) to facilitate your request.

ISAF recommends that media coming to Afghanistan obtain ISAF media credentials. The process for credentialing is detailed at <http://www.isaf.nato.int/media-visit-information.html>. ISAF credentials are required for embedding with ISAF units. All media must make appointments with the local PAO before arriving at any ISAF military installation.

The IJC PAO places great importance on ensuring that embed experiences meet the journalists' requirements. To that end, we require as much information as possible in order to ensure your embed is successful. The media embed request (MER) form is designed to capture information we need to properly match your reporting needs to the individual ISAF units' capacity to support your visit. Completed MERs should be returned to the IJC MET or appropriate Regional Command (RC) MET.

Upon receipt of completed application forms, the MET coordinates embed requests in accordance with IJC media embed and embark standard operating procedures and the relevant units within the ISAF RCs best suited your interest. The unit commanders will decide if your request can be accommodated during the requested time frame based on a variety of factors. After the required coordination is completed, you will receive an email of approval or denial. If approved, you will receive specific instructions and an Invitational Travel Order (ITO). Please read this document thoroughly. **You are not authorized to embed with ISAF until you receive approval and an ITO. Media are cautioned against investing in travel arrangements before receiving approval.**

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All visiting journalists must possess their own helmet and body armor. Any journalist arriving without this equipment will not be permitted to travel on ISAF air or ground transportation. Journalists are strongly advised to gain experience and training for operating in harsh and hostile environments and are expected to come equipped and clothed appropriately. You will be required to carry all of your own equipment, and a recommended packing list is included in this packet. Please note – Some countries, (i.e. United Arab Emirates) have restrictions on travelling with military equipment, and you should plan your travel and/or shipping arrangements accordingly. ISAF will not receive, hold or ship this equipment on your behalf.

Biometric processing is required for all media coming onto base. If media are not in the system this can be a lengthy process; plan plenty of time accordingly to register for biometrics if needed upon arrival.

ISAF does not provide insurance. All visiting journalists must show proof that they have valid health insurance (preferably with war zone coverage) and sign a liability and indemnity waiver in order to gain access to ISAF installations or operations.

Media are also responsible for obtaining their own passports and visas, which are required for entry into Afghanistan.

Please contact the IJC Public Affairs Office regarding any questions or concerns with media embedding at ijc.embeds@afghan.swa.army.mil.

Respectfully,

//SIGNED//

Media Embed NCOIC
ISAF Joint Command
Public Affairs Office



International Security Assistance Force Afghanistan



MEDIA REGISTRATION FORM¹

Last Name: Nom de famille:		Badge Number: ²			
First Name: Prénom:		Passport No: Numero passport:			
Profession: Profession:		Nationality: Nationalite:			
Agency Details (in full):					
Business Address/ Adresse d'Agence:					
Street & Number: Rue et No:		Postal Code: Code Postal:			
City:		Country:			
Phone:		Fax:			
Mobile:		E-mail:			
Mark your type of media activity: Mettez une croix dans vos activités medias:		Television Télévision <input type="checkbox"/>	Print Imprimé <input type="checkbox"/>	Radio <input type="checkbox"/>	Internet <input type="checkbox"/>
Date(s) of your visit: Date(s) de votre visite:					
Remarks: Remarques:					
<p><i>The data obtained with this registration is only for NATO and Partnership for Peace (PFP) Public Information purposes.</i></p> <p><i>Les données obtenues par ce questionnaire sont uniquement pour le but des Relations Publiques du PFP et de l'OTAN.</i></p>					

¹ Please provide as much detail as possible.

² Office use only



International Security Assistance Force
Afghanistan



MEDIA EMBED REQUEST FORM

1. The ISAF Joint Command (IJC) Public Affairs Media Embed Team is the focal point for all media visit or embed inquiries.
2. Application process. The IJC PAO places great importance on ensuring that visits meet journalists' requirements. Therefore, we require as much information as possible from journalists in order to facilitate a successful visit. The media embed request form on the following page is designed to capture information we need to properly match your coverage needs to the units' capacity to support your visit. Completed request forms should be returned to the IJC Media Embed Office using the e-mail address on the bottom of this form.
3. Upon receipt of completed application forms, the Media Embed Office coordinates requests in accordance with the IJC media visit / embed policy and based on the requested units' ability to accommodate during the requested time frame. The Media Embed Office will make arrangements with the relevant units within the ISAF regional commands to best suit your request and interest. After the required coordination is completed you will receive a notice of approval with any final instructions. **YOUR VISIT / EMBED DOES NOT EXIST UNTIL YOU RECEIVE NOTICE OF APPROVAL.**
4. ISAF & GIROA Accreditation. We recommend that all media become accredited through the process outlined on this website: <http://www.isaf.nato.int/media-visit-information.html>. Please take note the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan also requires media to register with them at <http://www.mfa.gov.af/media.asp>.
5. Equipment and insurance. **ALL VISITING JOURNALISTS MUST POSSESS THEIR OWN HELMET AND BODY ARMOR.** Any journalist arriving without this equipment will not be permitted to travel on ISAF transportation in Afghanistan. Please note that some countries restrict possession military equipment (i.e. body armor), so check the policies of each government for the countries on your itinerary. Journalists are strongly advised to gain experience and training for operating in harsh and hostile environments and are expected to come equipped and clothed appropriately.
6. All visiting journalists must ensure that they have adequate personal, travel and equipment insurance. It is recommended that these policies include coverage during acts of war, evacuation, repatriation and long term care. ISAF does not provide insurance.
7. Please contact the IJC Media Embed Office regarding any questions or concerns and return the below form to ijc.embeds@afghan.swa.army.mil.

Respectfully,

//SIGNED//

Media Embed Office, NCOIC
ISAF Joint Command PAO



International Security Assistance Force Afghanistan



ISAF Media Ground Rules

For the safety and security of ISAF Forces and embedded media, media will adhere to the below established ground rules. These ground rules will be agreed to in advance and signed by media prior to embedding. Violation of the ground rules may result in the immediate termination of the embed, revocation of ISAF media credentials, and removal from the area of operations. These ground rules recognize the right of the media to cover military operations and are in no way intended to prevent release of derogatory, embarrassing, negative or uncomplimentary information. ISAF does restrict the release of certain categories of information which could provide mission details useful to the enemy, putting military and civilian lives at stake.

Violations of any of the following rules may result in termination of accommodated status:

1. Unless supported through national programs, accommodated media are responsible for obtaining their own passports and visas and entrance into the Area of Operations (AOR). We recommend arriving in Afghanistan via civilian air in order to obtain proper passport stamps upon arrival. Departure from Afghanistan will be delayed without entry stamps. Media are strongly encouraged to be properly immunized before embedding with units as per the Center for Disease Control recommendations for the region or country;
2. Accommodated media must wear their media credentials in a clearly visible location at all times.
3. Accommodated media will not enter any restricted areas without a military escort.
4. Accommodated media are responsible for procuring / using personal protective gear, to include as a minimum military-grade helmet and body armour. Clothing and equipment will be subdued in color and appearance, but non-military in appearance (i.e. camouflage).
5. Accommodated media are responsible for their own personal and professional gear, including protective cases for professional equipment, batteries, cables, converters, personal protective equipment, etc. Each media representative is responsible for carrying his own gear.
6. When accepting accommodation from units under NATO command, media will comply with the respective national military codes of conduct (e.g. bans on alcohol, taking of war trophies, etc.).
7. All interviews with service members will be on the record. Security of information will be the responsibility of the service member being interviewed; however the military member must be informed by the accommodated media when he/she is in an interview situation. The service member will always have the right to decline an interview, Interviews with service personnel are authorized upon completion of missions; however, release of information must conform to these media ground rules.
8. Media will be expected to follow instructions regarding activities and movements.

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9. Media representatives, support staff, producers or personal protection teams will not carry weapons while accommodated.
10. Products will be datelined according to local ground rules that will be provided to accommodated media.
11. Visible light sources and infra-red devices, including flash or television lights, will not be used when operating with troops at night unless specifically approved in advance by the on-scene Commander. Likewise, media will follow tactical movement and noise discipline while covering operations.
12. Temporary embargoes may be imposed to protect operational security. Embargoes will be lifted as soon as the operational security issue has passed.
13. Communications equipment (such as cell phones) will not be specifically prohibited. However, unit commanders may impose temporary restrictions on electronic transmissions for operational security reasons and as the threat assessment or security situation dictates.
14. Media are expected to be self sufficient with respect to filing product. On occasion, media may be allowed to file stories via military communications systems subject to national regulations and the limitations of available systems. Media may not be allowed to connect privately-owned computers or USB thumb drives to military networks and should have the capability to burn to CD/DVD. It should be noted that bandwidth limitations may restrict the ability to file video and large files.
15. If, in the opinion of the unit commander, a media representative is unable to physically, psychologically, mentally, or emotionally withstand the conditions required to operate with the forward deployed forces, the commander or his/her representative may limit the representative's participation to ensure both the reporter's and the unit's safety. Disputes should be raised through PAO channels. The PAO community will work as the honest broker but the ultimate decision to accommodate media is held by the commander.
16. NATO forces will provide emergency medical treatment to any media who have been injured while accommodated with a NATO formation or unit in accordance with NATO or national regulations within available capabilities.
17. If a media representative is injured or killed in the course of military operations, NATO will notify the media representative's agency in accordance with instructions provided on the embed application. It is important that media representatives clearly communicate your desires for these contingencies. The agency will be responsible for further notification of next of kin. Repatriation of media who have been killed or injured is the responsibility of the media outlet employing the journalist. Media outlets employing freelance journalists must pay particular attention to this responsibility.
18. The following will not be visually recorded without the expressed approval of the local Chief Public Affairs Officer (CPAO) and the local commander:
 - (a) Restricted military areas, facilities or installations, such as Operations Centers and field detention sites and unit capture facilities.
 - (b) Images of maps, navigation devices, communications equipment or Counter Improvised Explosive Device/Electronic Warfare equipment. Care should be taken

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in tactical vehicles to ensure these categories of sensitive equipment are not documented.

- (c) Classified systems, classified equipment or demonstrations of their capabilities.
- (d) Any flight line in the theatre of operations and military aircraft operating on or near it. Media will adhere to the ground rules for ramp ceremonies as briefed prior to each ceremony.

19. The following information is not releasable:

- (a) Specific information on troop strength and capabilities, equipment or critical supplies (e.g. artillery, radars, trucks, water, etc.).
- (b) Specific number of aircraft in units below wing level, or identification of specific mission aircraft points of origin; stating "land or carrier based" as a point of origin is acceptable. Number and type of aircraft may be described in very general terms such as "large flight", "small flight", "many", "few", "fighters", "fixed wing", etc.
- (c) Units in the Area of Operation, unless specifically authorised by the unit PAO at the Task Force, Regional Command, or IJC level in which the embed is taking place.
- (d) Information regarding future, current, postponed or cancelled operations – unless otherwise indicated by the local CPAO.
- (e) During an operation, specific information on friendly force troop movements, tactical deployments, and dispositions that would jeopardise operational security or lives. Information on on-going engagements will not be released unless authorised by the on-scene commander.
- (f) Imagery that would show level of security at military installations or encampments, especially aerial and satellite imagery which would reveal the name or specific location of military units or installations.
- (g) Names of military installations or specific geographic locations of military units in the area of operations, unless specifically released by the ISAF or authorized by IJC Public Affairs. News and imagery products that identify or include identifiable features of these locations are not authorized for release.
- (h) Details of the rules of engagement or escalation of force measures or information regarding force protection measures to include, but not limited to, those at military installations or encampments, except those that are visible or readily apparent.
- (i) Information on intelligence collection activities including targets, methods of attack and results.
- (j) Extra precaution in reporting will be required at the start of an operation to maximize operational surprise. Therefore, live broadcasts from airfields by accommodated media members are prohibited until authorised by the unit commander.

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k) Information on missing personnel or sensitive equipment or downed aircraft while search and rescue and recovery operations are being planned and executed unless expressly authorised by PA staff.

(l) Information on the effectiveness of enemy electronic warfare.

(m) Information on friendly forces electronic warfare equipment or procedures or friendly forces counter-IED activities which would result in a tactical advantage to the enemy.

(n) Information on effectiveness of enemy camouflage, deception, targeting, direct and indirect fire, intelligence collection or security measures.

(o) Visual media of detainees showing any detail above the shoulders (from the front), their nametag or any other feature that could readily identify the individual. All imagery of detainees or any transport of detainees will respect the detainee's rights, and protect the detainee from public curiosity in accordance with Article 13 of the Third Geneva Convention.

(p) Accommodated media will not interview or directly interact with detainees.

(q) Accommodated media will not interview, photograph, film or report on Special Operations Forces or personnel and operations they conduct or participate in, without prior approval of a NATO Special Operations Forces Command representative and COMISAF.

(r) Any other information that may be restricted from time to time by COMISAF due to operational requirements.

20. The following categories of information are releasable:

(a) Non-sensitive, unclassified information regarding air and ground operations, past and present.

(b) Size of friendly force participating in an action or operation may be disclosed using general terms such as "multi-unit". Specific force or unit identification may be released when authorised by COMISAF or his designate.

(c) Date, time or location of completed military missions and actions as well as mission results.

(d) Types of ordnance expended in general terms (i.e. missile, hellfire).

(e) Number of aerial combat or reconnaissance missions or sorties flown in the AOR.

(f) Type of forces involved (e.g. air defence, infantry, armour) except for Special Operations forces and those of participating nations.

(g) Confirmed figures of enemy personnel detained or captured.

(h) Information and location of military targets and objectives previously under attack.

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(i) Date, time or location of previous conventional military mission and actions, as well as mission results is releasable only if described in general terms.

(j) Names and hometowns of ISAF military units.

(k) Service members' names and hometowns with the individual's consent.

(l) Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan-approved media coverage of detainee release AFTER detainee has been released or transferred to GIRoA.

(m) Approximate friendly casualty figures by service. Embedded media may, within OPSEC limits, confirm unit casualties they have witnessed.

21. Unless otherwise advised by the host unit PAO or commander, the following procedures and policies apply to coverage of wounded, injured, and ill personnel.

(a) Accommodated media will honor the national policies for release of names and identity of soldiers killed and wounded; national policies differ and are beyond the scope of this document. Media who witness the deaths and injuries of coalition service members will not disclose – through video, photos, written or verbal description – the identities of the individuals until the nation has made appropriate notification to the next of kin. Service members will not prohibit news media representatives from viewing or filming casualties. Casualty photographs showing a recognizable face, nametag, or other identifying feature or item will not be used, except as indicated in (1) – (5) below. Media should contact the PAO for release advice.

(b) Media will not be prohibited from covering casualties provided the following conditions are met:

(1) Names, video, identifiable written/oral descriptions or identifiable photographs of wounded service members will not be released without the service member's prior written consent. If the service member dies of his wounds, next-of-kin reporting rules then apply.

(2) Media visits to medical facilities are authorized and will be conducted in accordance with applicable national regulations, standard operating procedures, operations orders and instructions by attending physicians. If approved, service or medical facility personnel must escort media at all times.

(3) Patient welfare, privacy, and next of kin/family considerations are the governing concerns about news media coverage of wounded, injured, and ill personnel in medical treatment facilities or other casualty collection and treatment locations.

(4) Permission to interview or photograph a patient will be granted only with the consent of the attending physician or facility commander and with the patient's expressed, informed consent, witnessed by the escort. "Informed consent" means the patient understands his or her picture and/or comments are being collected for news media purposes and they may appear in news media reports.

(5) Accommodated media will not report the identity of personnel who kill or injure opposing forces without the prior approval of COMISAF.



International Security Assistance Force
Afghanistan



Media Accommodating and Ground Rules Agreement

I, (print) _____, confirm that the following information is accurate:

- a. "I am not aware of any existing physical or health conditions which would adversely affect my participating in strenuous activities." _____ (Initial)
- b. "I have read the media ground rules provided to me by International Security Assistance Force Afghanistan (ISAF) Public Affairs staff and agree, with my signature, to abide by them. I also understand that any violation of these ground rules is cause for the revocation of my accommodated media status with ISAF." _____ (Initial)
- c. "I understand that should my accommodated media status be revoked by the command hosting my embed, final resolution of my embed status will be made by the ISAF Joint Command Chief Public Affairs Officer." _____ (Initial)

Signature

Date

IRIS Scan Conducted

Time

Date

Signature - ISAF Witness, Name, Rank

Date



**International Security Assistance Force
Afghanistan**



**ISAF Indemnification Agreement and Liability Waiver, Media
Organization**

_____ (MEDIA ORGANIZATION NAME), in consideration of being permitted to have organizational media representatives become registered as accommodated media with International Security Assistance Force Afghanistan (ISAF) from on or about _____ to on or about _____, 20__, at _____ and the surrounding area.

2. Acknowledge and agree that covering combat and other military operations is inherently hazardous and may result in death, personal injury, whether physical or otherwise, or in damage to organizational property, and wishing in any event to have organizational personnel participate in covering combat and other military operations, voluntarily consent to participate and assume any risks that may be associated with said participation. _____ (MEDIA ORGANIZATION NAME) agrees to notify the next of kin of our representative being credentialed or embedded by ISAF. ISAF will return the deceased or injured representative (after first aid) to the nearest commercial transportation facility, but _____ (MEDIA ORGANIZATION NAME) will be financially responsible for repatriating the remains of or evacuating the injured representatives back to their home of record.

3. Acknowledge, agree and declare that _____ (MEDIA ORGANIZATION NAME) has been advised of the nature of covering combat and other military operations and has been advised of the procedures and safety measures in effect and that their representatives will agree to abide by them.

4. Acknowledge, agree and declare that _____ (MEDIA ORGANIZATION NAME) has been advised that ISAF, in pursuing the successful accomplishment of its mission, cannot guarantee their representative's safety or the safety of our organization's equipment.

5. Waive all claims of any nature or kind, including, but not limited to claims for personal injury or damage to property, against NATO, Allied Command Operations, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, ISAF, the governments and military departments of Troop Contributing Nations supporting the ISAF mission, and the military personnel and civilian employees of said organizations, to include civilian contractors employed in support of the ISAF mission, in any manner arising out of, based upon, occasioned by, attributable to or connected with my participation in covering combat and other military operations while being an accommodated media:

- a. Agree that _____ (MEDIA ORGANIZATION NAME) will not commence or maintain against any person, any action or proceeding which will give rise to a claim against NATO, Allied Command Operations, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, ISAF, governments and military departments of Troop Contributing Nations supporting the ISAF mission, and the military personnel and civilian employees of said organizations, to include civilian contractors employed in support of the ISAF mission for contribution or indemnity;

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Liability Waiver, Page 2 of 2 _____ (media *organization's* representative's initials)

- b. Acknowledge, agree and declare that _____
(MEDIA ORGANIZATION NAME) signing this agreement is a condition to being registered to cover ISAF's operations and receiving assistance for that coverage; and

- c. Acknowledge having read this liability waiver in its entirety and, understanding that this waiver is intended to be broad and all inclusive so as to preclude any claims, _____ (MEDIA ORGANIZATION NAME) voluntarily indicate our acceptance of this document by my signature.

DATED at _____ this ____ day of _____, 20____.

(Print Name)
(Organization Address)
(Telephone)
(Mobile phone)
(Email)

Signature of Media Organization Supervisor

Date



**International Security Assistance Force
Afghanistan**



**ISAF Indemnification Agreement and Liability Waiver, Media
Representative**

1. I, _____ (PRINT NAME), on behalf of myself, my heirs, my executors and administrators, in consideration of being permitted to become registered as a credentialed media member with International Security Assistance Force Afghanistan (ISAF) , from (today's date) _____ in Afghanistan:

2. Acknowledge and agree that covering combat and other military operations is inherently hazardous and may result in death, personal injury, whether physical or otherwise, or damage to property, and wishing in any event to participate in covering combat and other military operations, voluntarily consent to participate and assume any risks that may be associated with said participation. My next-of-kin's contact information has been provided to my organization to use in the event of a medical emergency or death.

3. Acknowledge, agree and declare that I have been advised of the nature of covering combat and other military operations, that I have been advised of the procedures and safety measures in effect and that I agree to abide by them.

4. Acknowledge, agree and declare that I have been advised that ISAF, in pursuing the successful accomplishment of its mission, cannot guarantee my personal safety or the safety of my equipment.

5. Acknowledge that I have current medical insurance, and I have been advised that ISAF recommends that my policy should include coverage for, at minimum, acts of war; evacuation; repatriation of remains and long-term care.

6. I will return the ISAF Media Badge at the end of my special accommodated status, or when requested by an ISAF representative.

7. Waive all claims of any nature or kind, including, but not limited to claims for personal injury or damage to property, against NATO, Allied Command Operations, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, ISAF, the governments and military departments of Troop Contributing Nations supporting the ISAF mission, and the military personnel and civilian employees of said organizations, to include civilian contractors employed in support of the ISAF mission, in any manner arising out of, based upon, occasioned by, attributable to or connected with my participation in covering combat and other military operations while being an accommodated media:

- a. Agree that I will not commence or maintain against any person, any action or proceeding which will give rise to a claim against NATO, Allied Command Operations, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, ISAF, governments and military departments of Troop Contributing Nations supporting the ISAF mission, and the military personnel and civilian employees of said organizations, to include civilian contractors employed in support of the ISAF mission for contribution or indemnity;

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Liability Waiver, Page 2 of 2 _____ (media representative's initials)

- b. Acknowledge, agree and declare that my signing this agreement is a condition to being registered to cover ISAF's operations and receiving assistance for that coverage; and
- c. Acknowledge having read this liability waiver in its entirety and, understanding that this waiver is intended to be broad and all inclusive so as to preclude any claims, I voluntarily indicate my acceptance of this document by my signature.

DATED at (Insert your installation), this ____ day of _____, 20 ____.

Media Representative's Organization:	ISAF Member – Witness' Signature:
(Print Name)	(Print Name)
(Address)	(Rank, Unit/Organisation) PAO / ISAF-IJC
(Tel)	(Tel) +93 079 951 3999, then 688-4209 or 4218
(Mobile)	(Mobile) +93 079 401 3643
(Email)	(Email) IJC.EMBEDS@afghan.swa.army.mil

Signature of Media Representative

Date



International Security Assistance Force Afghanistan



Media Packing Checklist

1. On arrival in Afghanistan, all media must ensure that they have the following:
 - Protective ballistic vest and helmet (these items are **required** - Any journalist arriving without this equipment will not be permitted to travel on ISAF transport, in Kabul or around the theatre of operation).
2. The following items are recommended for the duration of the embed:
 - Eye protection (goggles or shatter proof glasses)
 - Proper field gear for the weather conditions at the time of the embed
 - Some mountainous locations easily vary 50°F
 - Visit this sit to help with your your planning:
http://www.theweathernetwork.com/weather/intcitiesintl_en/
 - Sleeping bag
 - Field pack / Back pack
 - Do not bring suit cases or boxes that are not easily carried on the battlefield
 - All media are expected to carry their own equipment and gear
 -
 - Canteen, water bottle, or hydration system
 - A must have, even in the winter months
 - Purification is not required; most camps have bottled water, but the distant camps will have a common potable water source
 - Suitable clothing
 - Bring suitable clothes for hiking and that can have layers added or removed easily. Bring enough clothing for your embed and do not expect to have the ability to buy what you need while embedded.
 - **Military Style Clothing/Uniforms (complete or partial) are not authorized.** This is for your safety, wearing a uniform identifies you as a member of military organization, making it difficult to distinguish you as a non-combatant.
 - Waterproof boots

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- Your boots will be needed for hiking. They should be comfortable and durable for mountainous conditions.

 - Wet weather gear
 - Recommended that you bring both top and bottoms for wet weather gear

 - Cold weather gear
 - During the winter months temps will drop below freezing (Oct-April).

 - Flashlight (or headlamp) with red lens and extra batteries

 - Necessary reporting equipment

 - Personal medical and hygiene necessities including:
 - A small first aid kit
 - Insect repellent
 - Sunscreen
 - Lip Balm
 - Shower shoes/sandals and towel

 - Laundry bag

 - There are laundry facilities on some of the larger Forward Operating Bases (FOB) but you will not have laundry facilities available in some of the smaller FOBs.

 - Ear protection (ear plugs)

 - Power converter to allow use of 110V and 220V outlets as required.
3. Please take into consideration where you are going and the season of the year.
- The winter months can be extremely cold at night and moderate to extremely cold during the day. The more mountainous the colder it will probably be.
 - The spring starts off cool and wet and ends hot and moist.
 - The summer months are hot, dusty and dry during both the day and night.
 - The fall is cool and dry until the end when it starts to snow in the mountains and the temperatures quickly drop.
4. A reflective (runners) belt may be required on certain installations.
5. Know your blood type. It is recommended that media representatives wear medical tags stating your blood type, allergies and any pre-existing medical conditions that you may have.

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- It is strongly recommended that you are vaccinated for the following diseases:

Standard Vaccines: Diphtheria, Measles, Mumps, Pertussis, Polio, Rubella, Tetanus, H1N1 influenza A

Additional Vaccines: Typhoid fever, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Meningococcal Meningitis, Tetravalent, Influenza

6. Journalists are strongly advised to gain experience and training in operating in harsh and hostile environments and come suitably equipped and clothed for such situations.

7. All visiting journalists must ensure that they have adequate travel and equipment insurance, and must provide proof of health insurance. ISAF does not provide insurance. ISAF recommends that your policy should include coverage for, at a minimum: Acts of war; evacuation; repatriation of remains and long-term care.

An important note:

If, in the opinion of the unit commander, a media representative is unable to physically, psychologically, mentally, or emotionally withstand the conditions required to operate with the forward deployed forces, the commander or his/her representative may limit the media member's participation to ensure both the reporter's and the unit's safety. Disputes should be raised through PAO channels. The PAO community will work as the honest broker but the ultimate decision to accommodate media is held by the commander.