



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1400 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1400

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

June 21, 2010

Ms. Carol Rosenberg
The Miami Herald
One Herald Plaza
Miami, Florida 33132

Dear Ms Rosenberg:

This is in response to your letter of June 15 requesting reinstatement and permission to attend future Military Commission proceedings following your violation of the ground rules on May 5-6, 2010.

I have given considerable thought to your request and appreciate the fact you recognize there are valid reasons to protect the identities of certain individuals to include interrogators. It was unfortunate the Department was forced to take such action, but it is imperative we have a framework that facilitates the maximum possible transparency in the conduct of military commissions consistent with appropriate security and privacy measures. The media ground rules were developed with that explicit purpose in mind.

In light of your commitment to abide by all of the provisions of the ground rules and your recognition of why the Department took such action, I have determined not to impose a permanent ban on your attendance at military commission proceedings. I know there will be many who believe the Department should impose a severe sanction, however your letter conveys to me a commitment to adhere to both the letter and the spirit in which these ground rules were developed and agreed upon. Therefore, you may once again apply through the normal process for access to military commissions that convene after August 5, 2010.

In the future if there is any question regarding the ground rules or their application, the appropriate course of action is to address it directly with Public Affairs officials on the ground. They are there to assist you with any interpretation and will work directly with appropriate authorities to address any issues. They are charged with the responsibility to address any questions or make any ruling with regards to the specifics of the ground rules.

Sincerely,

Bryan G. Whitman
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
of Defense for Public Affairs

