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## COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS

### MEDIA ACCESS RULES FOR FULL COMMITTEE HEARINGS

ROBERT L. SIMMONS, II, STAFF DIRECTOR

**TO:** Press Photographers Gallery, House Daily Press Gallery, House Periodical Press Gallery  
**FROM:** Bob Simmons, Staff Director   
**RE:** Access Rules For HASC Full Committee Hearings  
**DATE:** December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015

As the House's largest committee, the HASC regularly hosts high-profile hearings in limited space. In accordance with House rules, the Committee facilitates public and media access to these important events, while preserving our Members ability to execute critical oversight. Recently, media activity during hearings has impeded this important function, compelling the Chairman to direct a revision to our media access rules.

Beginning next year, the following rules outlined below will be in effect. This memo will be posted to the committee website and linked to hearing notices.

- Press seating is open to credentialed Capitol Hill media only.
- No media will be permitted in the area between the witness table and the dais.
- Media not seated in areas designated for their use at the conclusion of the Ranking Member's opening statement will be directed to leave the hearing room.
- The Committee will provide 16 seats for press and 3 seats for still photographers in the hearing room. Overflow seating out of the hearing room will be provided if committee activity permits. Equipment must be stored under press seats and cannot be left in hearing room aisles.
- EXCEPTIONS:
  - Stationary TV cameras will be permitted in front of the witness table when part of a Radio & TV Gallery pool, or at the discretion of the Communications Director.
  - Cut shots will be permitted in rotation when coordinated with the Radio & TV Gallery.
  - Still Photography from areas other than designated seats will be permitted when part of a pool or rotation arrangement coordinated and staffed by the Press Photographers Gallery.