

Observer Access to PRBs

The Department of Defense is committed to providing the press and certain other observers with the greatest access practicable to the PRB process, consistent with the imperative of safeguarding classified information and protecting the safety of participants in the process. The following guidelines spell out in greater detail how the Department plans to effectuate this policy.

- Members of the press and certain other observers will be permitted to observe a closed-circuit feed of portions of the hearings in the PRS conference room on the 9th floor of the Polk Building (in Crystal City, VA).
- Staff from OSD Public Affairs will be present in the observation room to assist the observers with any issues that arise.
- Prior to the hearing, DoD will make available on the PRS web site the following information:
 - o The unclassified summary that is prepared for the detainee.
 - o Opening statements prepared by the detainee's counsel and/or personal representative.
- Classified submissions will not be made available to the public.
- Portions of the submission may be redacted or modified at the request of the detainee, his personal representative, or his private counsel, or due to classification or security concerns.
- The detainee will be seated in the hearing room at GTMO prior to the feed being turned on in the observer room. Observers will be able to see the detainee and his counsel/representative in the room at Guantanamo. The feed provided to observers will be the same feed that is provided to members of the PRB.
- The observed session will include:
 - o Reading of the unclassified summary prepared by the government.
 - o Reading of the opening statement of the personal representative and/or private counsel.
 - o Unclassified questions by the PRB members to the detainee's personal representative or counsel, and unclassified answers.
- Consistent with the procedures in habeas litigation, observers will not observe the detainee's statement. A transcript of the detainee's statement will be posted to the website as soon as practicable after the hearing. Portions of the transcript may be redacted or modified at the request of the detainee, his personal representative, or his private counsel, or due to classification or security concerns.
- The PRS reserves the right to cut off the closed-circuit transmission in the event that classified information is disclosed, or other circumstances require doing so.