

March 29, 2012

All Members & Editors of NBA

**Re: Reporting on issues relating to the defence establishment of the country**

During the last few days it has been noticed that member broadcasters are reporting on issues relating to the defence establishment of the country.

It must be appreciated that most defence related matters are highly sensitive since they impinge upon national security and relations with foreign states.

In view of such sensitivity, while reporting matters relating to the defence establishment care must be taken by the member broadcasters not to air sensitive communications or any information relating to the armed forces, their officers, the administration and ancillary matters.

In this regard attention is drawn to the following Code of Ethics and Specific Guidelines, which are to be observed while reporting on issues relating to national security:

***7. Endangering national security:***

***In the use of any terminology or maps, that represent India and Indian strategic interests, all news channels will use specific terminology and maps mandated by law and Indian government rules. (The depiction of the map of the territory of India will reflect official guidelines, as detailed in official literature). News channels will also refrain from allowing broadcasts that encourage secessionist groups and interests, or reveal information that endangers lives and national security. However, it is in the public interest to broadcast instances of breach of national security and loopholes in national security and reporting these cannot be confused with endangering national security.***

***6. National Security***

***6.1 Broadcasters should not disclose confidential information of operations involving national security.***

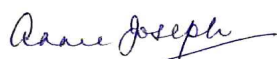
***6.2 Broadcasters should use due discretion in reporting on operational methods used by perpetrators of serious offences against the State during the occurrence of the event.***

***6.3 Live interviews with perpetrators should not be aired.***

***6.4 Reporting of events which erodes public confidence in the capacity of national institutions meant to protect them should be avoided during the occurrence of the event.***

***6.5 Broadcasters should not reveal technical details of operations, to prevent information relating to strategies and operations of security agencies becoming known to the perpetrators.***

You are accordingly advised to adhere to the above Guidelines while reporting on issues relating to the defence establishment of the country and ancillary matters.



Annie Joseph  
For & on behalf of NBSA

CC: Legal Heads of NBA