

## You are Crucial to our Success

As an Army family member, you are a member of a very important team, one who is key to our success and one we could not do without. You may not know it, but you also play a crucial role in protecting your loved ones just by what you know of the Army's day-to-day operations. You can protect your loved ones by practicing good operations security, better known as OPSEC.

## What is OPSEC?

OPSEC is keeping potential adversaries from discovering our critical information. As the name suggests, OPSEC protects our operations - planned, in progress and completed. Success depends on secrecy and surprise, so the military can accomplish the mission quicker and with less risk. Enemies of freedom want our information and they're not just after the military member to get it. They want you, the family member.

## What can you do?

Many countries and organizations are extremely interested in finding out about American interests. It's possible, and not unprecedented, for spouses and family mem-

bers of U.S. military personnel to be targeted for intelligence collection, even here in the United States.

## What can you do to make sure this doesn't happen?

### *Be Alert*

Foreign governments and organizations use spies to collect useful information. There are many ways a spy may try to befriend someone and get sensitive information. It's very important to conceal and protect critical information such as flight schedules, TDY locations and base activities. Something as simple as discussing over the phone where your spouse is going TDY or deploying to can be very useful to a potential adversary.

### *Protecting Critical Information*

Although it may not be secret, critical information must be protected to ensure an adversary doesn't gain an unfair advantage. It deals with specific facts about our intentions, capabilities, operations or activities. If an adversary knew this detailed information, our mission accomplishment could be jeopardized and lives could be lost.

Being a military family member, you may know bits of information. Do not discuss this information outside your immediate family and never discuss it over the telephone.

### *Examples*

- Detailed information about the mission or readiness of assigned units
- Details concerning locations and times of unit deployments
- Personnel transactions that occur in large numbers, such as, pay information, powers of attorney, and wills
- References to trends in unit morale or personnel problems
- Details concerning security procedures or upcoming or ongoing deployments



## *Puzzle Pieces*

These bits of information may seem insignificant to you. However, to a trained adversary, they are small pieces of a puzzle that may highlight what we're doing. Remember, the element of surprise is vital to the accomplishment of our goals and personnel protection.

Where and how you discuss this information is just as important as with whom you discuss it. An adversary's agent tasked with collecting information visits the same places you do, including the grocery store, the club and recreational areas and even your church.

Determined individuals can easily collect data from cordless and cellular phones and even baby monitors using inexpensive receivers available at local electronics stores.

If anyone, especially a foreign national, approaches you and persistently seeks information, notify your military sponsor immediately. Your sponsor will notify the Division of Readiness, Education, Training and Security (DRETS) or the Army's Criminal Investigation Division (CID).

## **Emergency Numbers**

Police: \_\_\_\_\_

DRETS: 254-286-7210

CID: 254-287-3612

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Photo Credit: Master Sgt. Dave Melancon, 2nd Inf. Div. PAO  
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1 January 2002*



## **OPERATIONS SECURITY**

# **OPSEC**

*A Guide For The Family*

