

## What Can You Do?

There are many countries and organizations that would like to harm Americans and degrade our influence in the world. It's possible, and not unprecedented, for spouses and family members of U.S. military personnel to be targeted for intelligence collection. This is true in the United States and especially true overseas! What can you do?

### Be Alert

Foreign governments and organizations collect significant amounts of useful information by using spies. A foreign agent may use a variety of approaches to befriend someone and get sensitive information. This sensitive information can be critical to the success of a terrorist or spy, and consequently deadly to Americans.

### Be Careful

There may be times when your spouse cannot talk about the specifics of his or her job. It's very important to conceal and protect certain information such as flight schedules, temporary duty (TDY) locations, and installation activities, for example. Something as simple as a phone discussion about where your spouse is deploying, or going TDY, can be very useful to our enemies.



### Thank You

Thank you for taking the time to read this guide. Our goal is to provide you with a greater understanding of

the Air Force's security concerns. The information in this guide is not intended to frighten you or make you suspicious that everyone you meet is a secret agent or terrorist. But stay alert – if a stranger shows excessive interest in the affairs of your family members, military or not, notify the authorities.



### You Are A Vital Player In Our Success!

As a family member of our military community, you are a vital player in our success, and we couldn't do our job without your support. You may not know it, but you also play a crucial role in ensuring your loved one's safety. You can protect your family and friends by protecting what you know of the military's day-to-day operations. That's OPSEC.



# OPSEC

## OPERATIONS SECURITY



# A Guide For Family and Friends

Presented by

62<sup>nd</sup> Airlift Wing

OPSEC Program Manager



## What Is OPSEC?

Operations Security, or OPSEC, is keeping potential adversaries from discovering our critical information. As the name suggests, it protects our operations – planned, in progress, and those completed. Success depends on secrecy and surprise, so the military can accomplish the mission faster and with less risk. Our adversaries want our information, and they don't concentrate on only airmen to get it. They want you, the family member.

### Protecting Critical Information

Even though information may not be secret, it can be what we call "critical information." Critical information deals with specific facts about military intentions, capabilities, operations or activities. If an adversary knew this detailed information, our mission accomplishment and personnel safety could be jeopardized. It must be protected to ensure an adversary doesn't gain a significant advantage. By being a member of the military family, you will often know some bits of critical information. Do not discuss them outside of your immediate family and especially not over the telephone, email, website, chat room or web log (Blog).

### Examples of Critical Information

- Detailed information about the mission of assigned units.
- Details on locations and times of unit deployments.
- Personnel transactions that occur in large numbers (Example: pay information, powers of attorney, wills, deployment information).
- References to trends in unit morale or personnel problems.
- Details concerning security procedures.

## Puzzle Pieces

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

- Where and how you discuss this information is just as important as with whom you discuss it. Adversary agents tasked with collecting information frequently visit some of the same stores, clubs, recreational areas, or places of worship as you do.
- Determined individuals can easily collect data from cordless and cellular phones, and even baby monitors, using inexpensive receivers available from local electronics stores.
- If anyone, especially a foreign national, persistently seeks information, notify your military sponsor immediately. He or she will notify the unit OPSEC Coordinator and AFOSI.



***"With approximately 75% of Airmen postured to deploy and over 100,000 personnel assigned or deployed in 64 countries around the world, we must maintain OPSEC readiness. Don't discuss critical information over unsecured means or in public places, don't post mission related information on the web, teach your family about OPSEC and know your OPSEC officer."***

***"Understanding and using OPSEC will protect our personnel and enhance our ability to conduct operations, safely and effectively."***

**General T. Michael Moseley  
Former USAF Chief of Staff**



### OPSEC IS A FAMILY AFFAIR.

***All Family Members Are Part Of The Air Force's OPSEC Team. They Need To Protect Information To Ensure The Safety Of All Our Airmen, Civilians, And Air Force Families.***

**DISCUSS OPSEC WITH YOUR FAMILY**