

## You are a vital player in our success!

As a family member of the Air Force 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 protecting your loved ones just by what you know of the Air Force'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, it protects our operations -- planned, in progress and those 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!

## Emergency Numbers

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

OPSEC manager:  
\_\_\_\_\_

AFOSI:  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

## Thank You!

Thank you for taking the time to read this guide. Our goal is to provide you with a greater understanding of what OPSEC is and to promote family awareness of our security concerns. The information in this guide should not make you paranoid or suspect everyone you meet of being a secret agent. But, stay alert -- if the person you are talking to shows excessive interest in the military affairs of your family member, notify the authorities.

For comments, questions, or suggestion, please contact your spouse's OPSEC program manager.



Operations Security  
**OPSEC**  
A guide for the family



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## What can you do?

There are many countries and organizations that would like to take a big bite out of American interests. It's possible and not unprecedented for spouses and family members of U.S. military personnel to be targeted for intelligence collection. Even here in America! What can you do?

### BE ALERT

Foreign governments and organizations can 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.

### BE CAREFUL

There may be times where 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, TDY locations, and base activities, just to name a few. 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

Even though this information may not be secret, it's what we call "critical information." Critical information must be protected to ensure an adversary doesn't gain a significant advantage. It deals with specific facts about our intentions, capabilities, operations or activities. If an adversary knew this detailed information, our mission accomplishment and personnel safety could be jeopardized.

By being a military family member, you may know some bits of information. Do not discuss them outside of your immediate family and especially over the telephone.

### EXAMPLES:

- Detailed information about the mission of assigned units.
- Details concerning locations and times of unit deployments.
- Personnel transactions that occur in large numbers, e.g., 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. 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 agents tasked with collecting information frequently visit some of the same stores, clubs, recreational areas or even churches 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 approaches you and persistently seeks information, notify your military sponsor immediately. He or she will notify the unit OPSEC program manager or the Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

