

YOU ARE VITAL TO OUR SUCCESS...

As a family member supporting your Marine/Sailor and military, you play a vital role in our success and the safety of your loved-one. Without your support, we couldn't do our jobs. You can protect our service members by safe-guarding the information you know about them and their mission. The protection of this information is known as Operations Security or OPSEC.



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 overseas! 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 to 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 deployment schedules, TAD/TDY locations and installation activities, just to name a few. Simple phone conversation, blogs or emails concerning where you spouse is going TAD/TDY or deployment can be very useful to our adversaries.

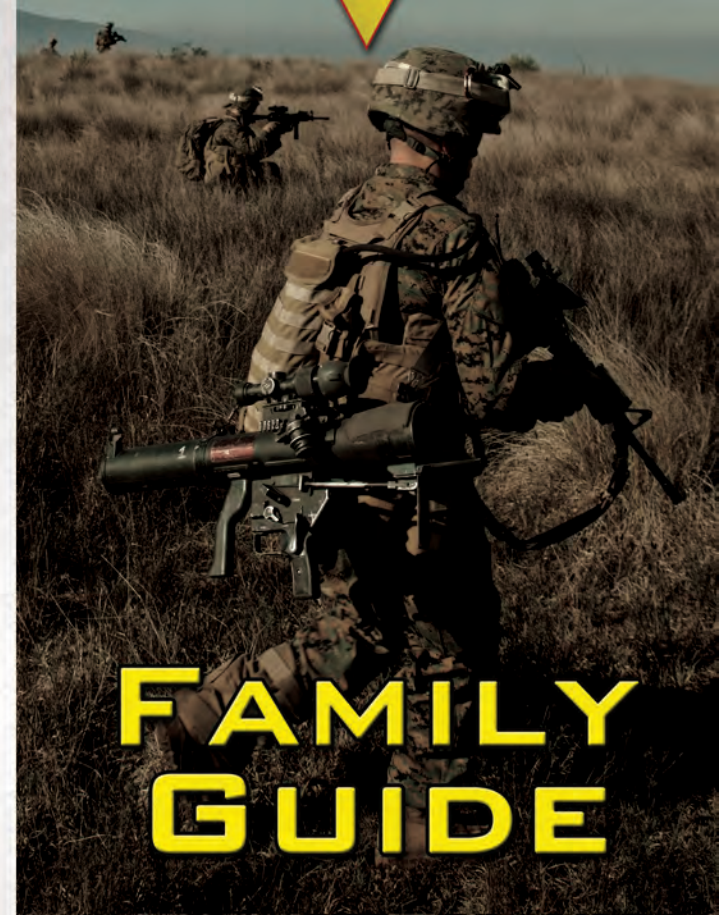
We need you to be on guard here at home. Think OPSEC!



OPERATIONS SECURITY

(OPSEC)

"WHILE THEY ARE ON GUARD IN FAR AWAY LANDS..."



FAMILY GUIDE

PROTECTING CRITICAL INFORMATION

WHAT IS OPSEC?

OPSEC is keeping potential adversaries from discovering our critical information to include operations whether planned, in progress or completed. Success depends on secrecy and surprise to ensure mission accomplishment with less risk. Enemies of freedom want our information, and the service member is not always the target. You, the family member, may be a target to gain information. Every one of us plays a critical role in denying our adversaries potentially useful information. When in doubt, don't share your information. Nobody wants to assist the enemy. We cannot afford to let our guard down, whether on or off duty. Your diligence in OPSEC is key in ensuring our operational effectiveness and our collective safety.

AWARENESS IS ESSENTIAL

Just taking the time to read this guide will provide a greater level of awareness regarding security concerns. The information provided in this guide is not intended to provoke paranoia or suspicion, but to create an alertness. If a stranger shows persistent or excessive interest in the affairs of your family members, military or not, notify the authorities. Help Keep our Marines safe!

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 we don't allow the adversary any advantage.

By being a member of the military family, you will always know elements of critical information. Do not discuss them outside of your immediate family, especially over the telephone, email, personal websites, geo tagging, or blogs.

Examples of critical information:

- Detailed information about mission of assigned units.
- Details concerning locations and times of unit deployments.
- Personnel transactions that occur in large numbers (e.g. pay information, power of attorney, wills, deployment information).
- References to trend in unit morale or personnel problems.
- Details concerning security procedures.

**OPSEC IS A
FAMILY AFFAIR
PLEASE DISCUSS OPSEC
WITH YOUR FAMILY.**

PUZZLE PIECES

Enemies are trolling for bits and pieces of information that may seem too small to matter, yet when compiled together, they provide a picture of the mission. Remember, the elements of security and surprise are vital to the accomplishment of the mission and our collective safety.

Where and how you discuss this information is just as important as with whom you discuss it. Agents tasked with collecting information frequently visit some of the same stores, clubs, recreational areas, websites or places of worship as you do.

Determined individuals can easily collect data from personal web pages. With inexpensive receivers available from electronic stores, they can also collect from cordless phones, cellphones and even baby monitors.

OPSEC will deny the enemy access to unclassified critical information and reduce the threat from our adversaries on our Installations, Marines/Sailors, and our way of life. Let's make OPSEC a part of our everyday life.

