

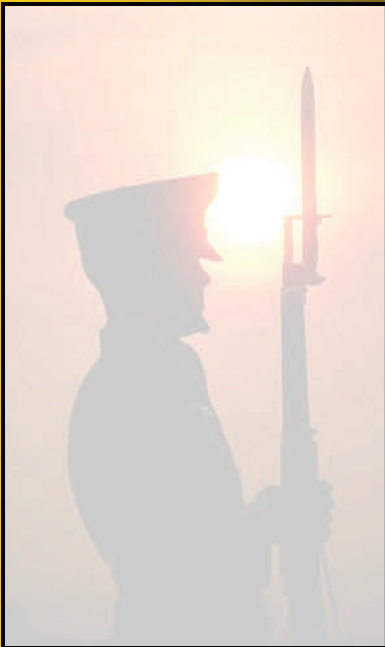
## What Can You Do?

Family members may be targeted by an adversary as a source of critical information. The most important thing you can do is be aware of and understand possible threats. Do not communicate critical information over the phone, Internet, email, or in public places. These provide open sources for spies to gather critical information. A spy may also use a variety of approaches to befriend someone for the single purpose of gathering critical information.

As a SOCOM family member you know we live in a dangerous world and there are people and organizations who want to harm Americans and prevent mission success.

Thank you for the sacrifices you make to support and keep your family and country safe from harm. Please be aware of potential threats, make observations about suspicious behavior and report it to your family member's chain of command or Military Police. If you

have any questions regarding OPSEC, please do not hesitate to contact our office. We are here to support you while you support your service member. Living an OPSEC Way of Life is understanding and being aware of possible threats while protecting our critical information.



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# USSOCOM



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An

**OPSEC**

**Family**

**Guide**

## Your Role in Their Safety

You are an important link in the success of our mission. As a family member, you have a vital role in the personal safety of all our SOCOM members. You can help protect them by securing the information you know. The seemingly insignificant information about your SOCOM member's daily activities serve as pieces to our adversaries' puzzle.

## What Does a Spy Look Like to You?

Does the image of James Bond, Jason Bourne, or even Austin Powers pop into your head. That would be the popular consensus from Hollywood. In the real world, spies resemble the people around us. The Baltimore Sun reported on a 67 year old restaurant owner spying for the Saddam Hussein Regime since 1989. Saubhe Jassim Al-Dellemy was a respected and trusted member of the community, and used his restaurant to gather information about Fort Meade and the National Security Agency. Where do **you** eat? Do you know who is listening?

## Why is OPSEC Important to You?

Operations Security (OPSEC) is a process that identifies critical information and protects it from our adversaries. As a SOCOM family member you have access to critical information. The adversary is targeting U.S. Military members and their families by gathering information to exploit missions and our way of life.

Information about the daily operations of a unit is fairly easy for our adversaries to gather (we often give it up voluntarily) and contains the valuable information our adversary seeks. What information does your spouse share with you about their job or their daily activities and with whom do you share it? Our adversaries are opportunistic and focus on easy targets.

## Protecting Critical Information

Critical information is the information about your family and military activities, intentions, and capabilities an adversary seeks. If critical information is revealed to an adversary, it may prevent or reduce mission accomplishment, cause injuries, loss of resources, and even loss of life.

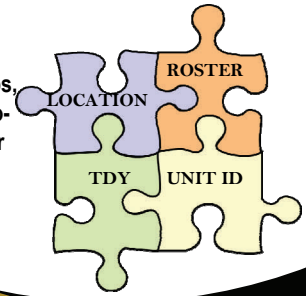
Would you announce your Social Security Number in a public location or to unfamiliar people? If a criminal heard you and was able to find out your name they would have the necessary critical information about you to steal your identity. You should practice the same restraint when it comes to information about your SOCOM member and their unit. It is difficult to recognize an adversary, so it is important to treat critical information with care.

## The Intelligence Puzzle

Intelligence gathering is similar to putting together a puzzle. Our adversary looks for small bits of information: puzzle pieces. One piece may not give our adversary an idea of the picture; however, if they obtain enough key pieces they may solve it without completing the entire puzzle.

The types of pieces that create a picture include: personal information, deployment dates and locations, supply information, mobilization status, temporary duty assignments, communication capabilities and limitations, unit manning rosters, unit call signs, operational readiness status, etc...

Compromising our information jeopardizes our mission, jobs, lives, and our technological edge over our adversary.



The date of a loved one's deployment may not give an adversary a clear picture, but if they find out where their unit is going, and later find out the unit size, the adversary is capable of putting together a picture of friendly objectives. They may be able to exploit and cause undue harm to the United States and our allies.