



OPERATIONS SECURITY FOR FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

As a member of the military community, you are a vital player in Soldier and unit success; they couldn't do their job without your support. You may not know it, but you play a crucial role in ensuring their safety just by what you know of the military's day-to-day operations. You can protect them by protecting the critical or sensitive information that you know. In the military, this is known as Operations Security or OPSEC.

In today's society, everyone seems to have a MySpace, Facebook, or Twitter account. These accounts are great for keeping in touch with people. However, we need to be cautious when posting things about our military community. Here are some safety tips on how to keep our military and their families safe:

Critical or Sensitive Information	
Military	Home
<p>Limit what you say about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Military movements (deployment/redeployment dates, dates of field exercises, flight information etc.)... next Tuesday IS a specific date • Any issues with the unit • Anything concerning security • Equipment issues (what, no flak vests?) • Locations of units (it's OK to say they're in Iraq, but not to say that your spouses battalion is at 14th and Ramadan in Samarra) <p>Don't discuss these items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed information about missions of assigned units • Details concerning locations and times of unit deployments • Personal transactions that occur in large numbers (pay information, powers of attorney, wills and deployment information) • References to trend in unit morale • Personnel problems • Details concerning security procedures <p>Don't discuss those items in public places like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowling alleys • Commissaries • Shopping malls • Clubs or restaurants • Parties where you do not personally know everyone 	<p>Limit what you say about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine schedules (soccer practice) • Family vacation details • Work schedules • Family issues, problems <p>Limit what you post online:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine schedules • Family vacation details • Photographs of children • Photographs of home • Vacation pictures (time sensitive) <p>Don't discuss these items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passwords or codes for home alarm systems • Dates which spouse/parents may be out of town • Personally Identifying Information (dates of birth, anniversaries, SSN, phone numbers, account numbers, etc.) <p>Don't discuss those items in public places like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowling alleys • Commissaries • Shopping malls • Clubs or restaurants • Parties where you do not personally know everyone • Public transportation

Operations Security not only protects Soldiers and units, but it protects you the family member, the rest of your family and friends on the home front by denying phishers, scammers, ID thieves, criminals and others the personal or operational information they need to work their schemes. The first step of practicing good OPSEC is to know "what" to protect- the list above is a good start. Remember- "Know It. Protect It".

For more information contact your unit's OPSEC Officer or the Garrison OPSEC Program Manager at 568-4127