

# Operations Security (OPSEC)

## PUBLIC SAFETY AWARENESS CARD

**OPSEC:** Five-step risk-management analytical process used by military and security professionals to protect sensitive information that adversaries could use to their advantage and your disadvantage.

### OPSEC PROCESS:

- Identify Critical Information
- Analyze Threat
- Analyze Vulnerability
- Assess Risk
- Apply Countermeasures

### ADVERSARY:

Can be any individual or group who is collecting information about you and your organization and intends to use this information to defeat your operations or plan an attack against you and your resources. This can include gangs, terrorists, extremists, organized criminals, drug traffickers and computer hackers.

### Examples of Critical Information that should be protected:

- Current and Future Operations
- Current and Future Investigations
- Usernames and Passwords
- Official Access/Identification cards
- Travel Itineraries
- Agency/Special Teams Capabilities and Limitations
- Personal Identification Information
- Entry/Exit/Check Point Security Procedures
- Budget Information
- Lessons Learned and After Action Reports (AAR)
- Critical communications via phone or radios
- Desktops, Laptops, Disks and Flash Drives

Version 1, Page 1, February 2007, August Vernon [fdtac@yahoo.com](mailto:fdtac@yahoo.com)

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## Examples of VULNERABILITIES:

- Unsecured e-mail accounts
- Use of home e-mail for official business
- No trash management plans to stop "dumpster diving"
- No shredding of sensitive documents or plans
- Information posted in agency procedures and guidelines
- Units with no radio encryption
- Extensive amounts of photos of public safety equipment and people available
- Leaving mission briefs and sensitive documents in your car
- Web Cams (Official and Unofficial)
- Websites (Official and Unofficial)
- Chat groups
- Discussing information with friends and family
- Releasing unscreened information to the media

## BENEFITS:

Can benefit Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS, Emergency Management and other agencies. The effective use of an OPSEC program will help ensure that agencies and special teams will be able to conduct their activities:

- No injuries or loss of life to response personnel
- Protect personnel's families
- Safe and secure arrest of "bad guys"
- Protection of vital information and plans
- Protection of infrastructure
- Ensuring the safety and security of a planned events

## INFORMATION:

For additional information reference OPSEC for Public Safety please visit the Interagency OPSEC Support Staff [www.iooss.gov](http://www.iooss.gov)

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