

L.I.N.K.S. Foundations



Safe and Sound All Around

Module 07



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Module Objectives

Military spouses have knowledge of and access to things that the average civilian does not. From knowing deployment schedules and Service Members' locations to the freedom to move about the base and relationships with other military members and their families, all of us need to be aware of what should not be shared.

The goal of this module is to educate spouses regarding the role that they play in maintaining the safety of our bases, our forces, and our families. In an ever increasingly connected world, we want everyone to be knowledgeable and capable of maintaining their social network, both online and in person, while taking all the proper precautions. This is a brief introduction to Operations Security (OPSEC) and Personal Identifiable Information (PII) and it does not replace an official training.



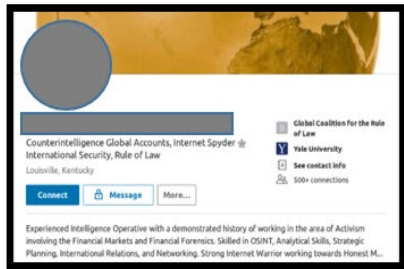
Module Objectives

At the end of the module, you will be prepared to:

- Define Operations Security (OPSEC) and Personal Identifiable Information (PII) as well as identify sensitive information related to you and your spouse's career.
- name three online safeguards.
- name three home safeguards.

OPSEC Warm-Up

Directions: Review the below posts. Record anything concerning, or potentially dangerous.



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I THINK MY HUBZ WILL BE HOME TOMORROW FROM AFGHAN LAND. WHOOP WHOOP!!! I HAVE TO GO TO SOME HOMECOMING THING WHEN THEY COME BACK. I AM SURE IT WILL BE BORING AND SOMEONE WILL ANNOY MY NERVES. SMH

#ARMY #AFGHANISTAN #HUSBAND #HOMECOMING #ANNOYED

==



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OPSEC

Operations Security (OPSEC) involves keeping potential adversaries from discovering our critical information by protecting Marine Corps operations that are planned, in progress or are completed. Critical information includes specific facts about military intentions, capabilities, operations, or activities, such as flight schedules, troop and ship movements, temporary duty locations, pictures, and installation activities.

There are some things that you do on a daily basis that are everyday examples of how you utilize OPSEC:

You take precautions against someone using your credit card.

You install an alarm system, ensure all of the doors are locked or leave lights on at night or while away to ensure your home and family are safe.

When ordering online, you order from trusted sites or use a third-party payment depository.

When awaiting packages, you leave special instructions for porch drop-off or pick up from a designated location, such as the post office.

You take precautions to keep someone from stealing your car.

You put your number on a “do not call list” to ensure your personal information is protected from robocallers trying to trick you into giving up such important information.



Piecing it Together

OPSEC is more than the sharing obvious information. It is the piecing together of small things that can paint a bigger picture. Consider what information people can gather about you through social media platforms just by searching your name, or from observing what we share about ourselves in person.

Have you ever Googled yourself? If so, what did you find?

Identifying where your personal information is being shared across the internet is important to maintaining strong operations security (OPSEC). Understanding how readily available your personal information is on the world-wide web and how it can be tracked by interested parties will help you to be more diligent in the information you are sharing.

How does seemingly everyday information leave breadcrumbs to learning about you?



Think about the following questions, and record your responses. Note anything you learn from the presentation.

- Where can someone locate your name?
- Where can someone locate your birthday?
- Where could someone find your travel plans?
- How can someone locate where you live, your hometown and current location?
- Family information? Military affiliation?

Piecing It Together: In Person

Family Information

A sticker on your car can give away a lot of information.

- Things like “Honor Roll” or kids’ sports teams can give away information about your children.
- A stick figure family lets people know about the makeup of your family, and in some cases names of not only the people but the pets.
- There are stick figures of military members, or even some that say things like “Half My Heart is in Iraq.” These let strangers know that your spouse could be, or is currently, gone.

Be aware of what your environment tells people about you!

Are you a military family?

We are always proud of being a Marine Corps family, but sometimes discretion is beneficial. Making note that your service member is gone with lawn signs, yellow ribbons, t-shirts or bumper stickers, can draw negative attention. Additionally putting up welcome home signs days in advance, or count downs to their return online or up in a general area can reveal troop movements to unwanted eyes. Remember, if you can piece together the information, so can others and they may not have the best intentions. This is especially true as part of the Marine Corps community. We each have a responsibility to protect information that could be used to harm not just Marines, but their families.

Online Safety

Online security is an important component to ensuring OPSEC. Identifying potential online threats can keep you, your Marine and family safe. Your privacy settings could be allowing your data to be tracked and or used without your permission.

Directions: Use the boxes located within the graphic organizer to take notes provided by the facilitator regarding each of these potential OPSEC infiltration points.



Online Safety: Social Media Tips

In the age of YouTube, Snapchat, and Instagram, it is important for all global citizens to be diligent in their online presence and practice good OPSEC. Identifying ways to practice safe exploration and communication while using social media can keep you and your personal information protected.



(From left to right: Facebook, Tinder, Twitter; Instagram, Snapchat, LinkedIn, YouTube, Tumbler)

Online Friends

It is not unheard of to have adversaries try to connect or “friend” family members online to gain information about them, their Marine, and possibly the Marine Corps. Look at your friend settings and see how people can find you. If you receive a request and are unsure, err on the side of caution. It has become easier and easier to make profiles and accounts look real.

Cloned Accounts

Cloning an account is when a person makes a social media account using another person’s profile photo and name (a clone), and then attempts to friend request all of their friends. A way to avoid falling for a clone is reaching out to your friend via another form of communication, in person or over the phone, and confirming they sent you a request. To avoid being cloned yourself, and for the privacy and safety of your friends, have your friends list be hidden from strangers if possible. This makes you an unlikely target of this type of issue.

Social Media Groups

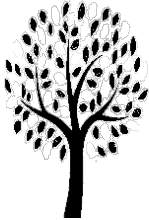
Be mindful of what type of information you share on these pages, even, if not especially, on military based ones. If you ever see suspicious behavior on a social media page (asking people for their address, prying for deployment dates, etc.) feel free to alert the pages administrators about your concerns.

Loose Tweets Sink Fleets

If you remember only one thing about online safety it’s ‘if you aren’t sure, then don’t share, post, tweet, chat, etc.’ You may have heard the stories of a Marine’s homecoming getting delayed because someone posted something that was not within OPSEC. None of us want to be the cause of that.

Safe at Home

Ensuring your family's safety at home can be accomplished with these simple tips:



Know Your Surroundings

Check crime reports and know what is happening in your area. Knowing what is and isn't supposed to be around you is also key. The car that has been parked at the end of the block has always been there, no concerns. The truck that drives by same time every day and belongs to no one on the street, concern. It is important to be aware of what is around you.



Stay Aware of Housing Maintenance and Security

It is important to monitor the areas in and around your home. Regularly check your smoke and carbon monoxide monitors to ensure that they are working properly. Check all lights, windows and locks. Practicing regular fire/safety drills is a great way to help your family stay safe. Having a checklist or plan can also be a great way to aide your family in remembering to monitor their space.



Protect Yourself

Take some time to learn self-defense and learn other crime prevention tactics. Build your confidence with skills and knowledge.

'Loose Lips Sink Ships' is still relevant!

Just as with online, don't overshare about your home, your Marine's comings and goings, and or anything else that could make you and your family vulnerable. It's understood you have a friend or two you can share information with, but don't overshare. Even when talking with friends, people can eavesdrop in person and over technology. Determined individuals can easily collect data from cordless and cell phones, Alexa, and even baby monitors using readily available and inexpensive receivers.

Be aware of strangers.

This seems obvious, but in the military community people come and go all the time. A person that is a stranger one day, the next week could be a good friend because friendships are made fast in the military world. Always be aware of those you do not know well.

Routines

When you can, have some variety in your routine. Change up your way to work. If lights are on timers, mix up when they go off. Keep it a challenge for outsiders to guess your schedule.

Keep these habits up when your Marine is away. Try to maintain your life as if they were there. Drastic changes in routine and your home could be a sign of troop movements to outsiders. When Marines leave, many families want to tie yellow ribbons around trees in their yard. Remember, that is a sign telling the world you and/ or your family are alone.

Family Passwords

Just as an online password protects your information on the internet, one idea to help protect your children is a family or pickup password. This is a word you and your child both know. So if anyone ever tries to pick up your child from school, the park, etc., they must have the password. Keep it distinct and special, something that your child will easily remember. This is just one idea on how to help protect children.

Consider taking *Ready Set Prepare* to learn more ways to protect your family from natural and manmade hazards!

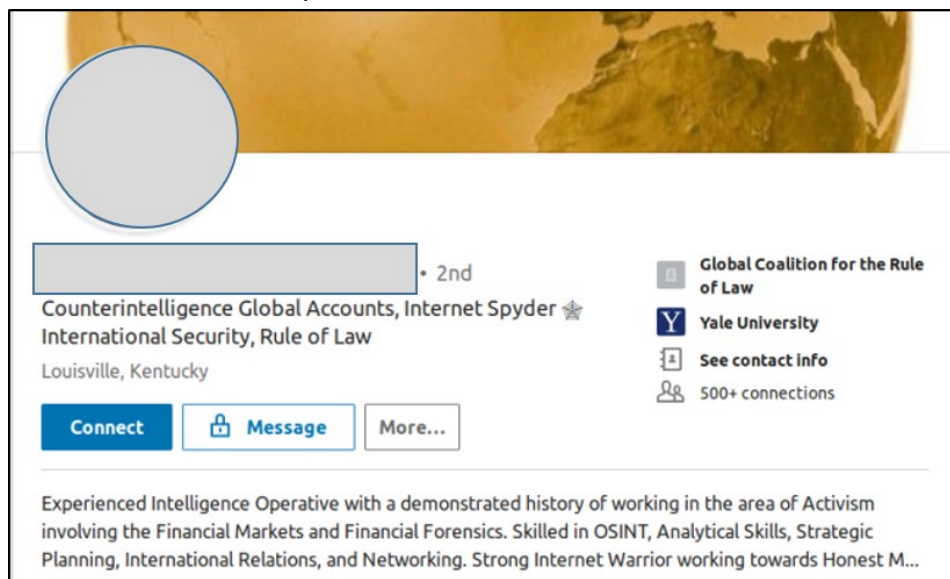
It's a Family Effort!

Everyone should be aware of OPSEC and PII, including children, age appropriately of course, and extended family. Moms, Dads, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and some cousins you met at a BBQ once seven years ago are all very proud of the Marine in the family and may unknowingly overshare. There is someone like this in nearly every family. People outside of the Marine Corps community do not always understand what they are saying and that they could be oversharing information. As a part of the Marine Corps community it is our job to help remind them that not all information needs to be or should be shared. Teach them OPSEC. Additionally, have an understanding with your Marine on who will know what and when. You both know your families and the best way to communicate with each of them to keep everyone safe.

Can You Fix It? Activity

Directions: Reword each of the below online statuses, social media profile, and home safety scenarios to make them OPSEC appropriate and secure.

1. My Marine leaves soon for Iraq, and the kids and I are going to be so sad. Luckily we are going to go to my mom's house right after he leaves.
2. I got the job at Dell! I am so excited to start work on Monday!
3. Bob is out in the field for the next three weeks in 29 Palms with the entire 1st MLG. He is going to be really busy and hot. What am I going to do for those three weeks?
4. She comes home in the next 24 hours from Norway!!!! They have lots of stops to make like Maine, Texas, and finally back to Cali!
5. My girlfriend is a Marine 2651 and just got orders to Fort Meade. Does anyone know anything about the MOS or location?
6. Reword the information in this profile to follow OPSEC.



Activity Answer Key

Directions: Reword each of the below online statuses, social media profile, and home safety scenarios to make them OPSEC appropriate and secure.

My Marine leaves soon for Iraq, and the kids and I are going to be so sad. Luckily we are going to go to my mom's house right after he leaves.

We are going to have a rough time for a bit. Luckily, we have some fun coming

I got the job at Dell! I am so excited to start work on Monday!

I got the job finally! Can't wait to start this new adventure.

Bob is out in the field for the next three weeks in 29 Palms with the entire 1st MLG. He is going to be really busy and hot. What am I going to do for those three weeks

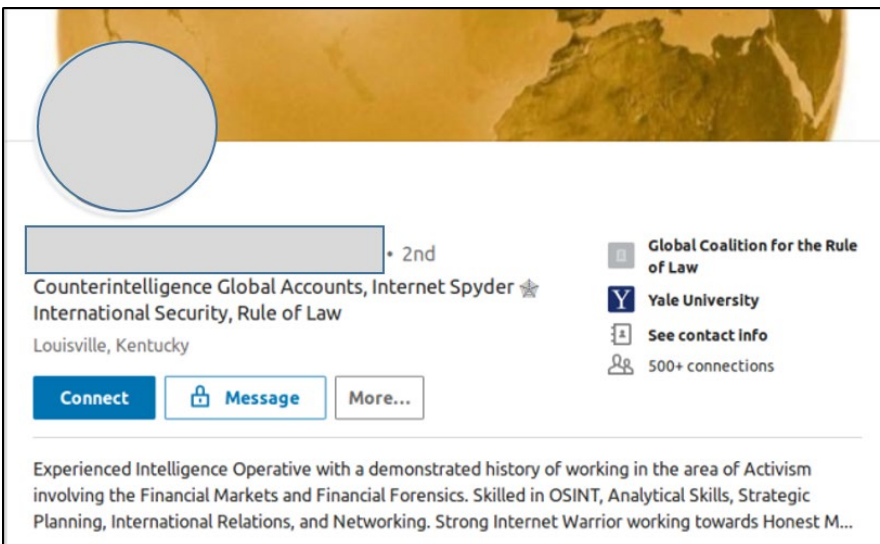
I have time on my hands, what should I do with it?

She comes home in the next 24 hours from Norway!!!! They have lots of stops to make like Maine, Texas, and finally back to Cali!

Excited to get my arms around her! She will be back soon!

My girlfriend is a Marine 2651 and just got orders to Fort Meade. Does anyone know anything about the MOS or location?

Can anyone share what a Marine 2600 does? Also what is Maryland like?



Remove location; do not list full name; give a broader summary of skills.

Glossary of Key Terms

- The Cloud** Refers to servers, their software, and databases that are accessed over the Internet.
- Geotagging** Occurs when you post or share a status or picture and the platform labels the location.
- OPSEC** **Operations Security.** The conduit by which potential adversaries are kept from discovering critical Marine Corps operations that are planned, in progress, or are completed.
- PII** **Personal Identifiable Information.** Information that can be used to distinguish or trace an individual's identity, either alone or when combined with other personal or identifying information that is linked or linkable to a specific individual.
- Robocaller** A phone call that uses a computerized auto dialer to deliver a pre-recorded message.

NOTES

Let's Connect!

Use this page to network with some of your fellow L.I.N.K.S. spouses.

Name:
Tel. No:
Email:

Name:
Tel. No:
Email:

Name:
Tel. No:
Email:

Name:
Tel. No:
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Name:
Tel. No:
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Name:
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L . I . N . K . S .

Empowering Marines, Sailors, and their families,
by providing the skills and resources necessary to navigate the military lifestyle.