

Pre-Deployment

Operations and Personal Security Guidelines

The success of service members' missions relies on the protection of information. Operations security, commonly called OPSEC, means being careful about what is said and done in front of others in order to keep service members safe. By following the security guidelines below, everyone can help service members complete their missions and return home safely. Remember, these guidelines apply to both service members and loved ones back home.

General

- Don't discuss rumors or pass them along
- Don't share specific information about a deployment, like dates of deployment or return, locations, mission details, training or the other service members involved
- Don't advertise that families may be home alone or service members' homes/cars will be empty
- Don't discuss personal transactions, including power of attorney
- Avoid marking cars and houses with signs, stickers or other public displays that indicate a service member is deployed

Social Media

Social media OPSEC guidelines are especially crucial for service members and loved ones to follow as well. As a rule, it's better to avoid posting anything at all related to deployment.

- Don't post any information about mission success/failure, or about casualties
- Don't post information about routes, including how service members got to their current locations
- Don't post information about where service members are stationed
- Don't post information about service members' morale
- Don't post specific dates or locations
- Don't post information about service members' jobs
- Make sure your location or geotagging is turned off
- Be very careful about posting pictures. Take a look at the background of pictures – are there any identifying landmarks? Is there any information about last names or units in the picture? If so, do not post the picture