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OPSEC and the Holidays

★ In Government and Industry, OPSEC is the process used to identify and protect sensitive information from our adversaries or competitors. We can also apply the same methodology to protecting our family and homes over the upcoming holiday season.

★ With the hustle and bustle of the holiday season sometimes we forget about common sense security and safety practices. The next few slides are some ideas and reminders that can help keep your holidays secure, safe and enjoyable.
Using OPSEC and being “street smart” go hand-in-hand. With OPSEC you identify key information that adversaries might use against you, then take the measures needed to safeguard that information. When shopping here’s some key “information” you might want to protect:
OPSEC and Shopping

🌟 Your credit card and ATM PIN numbers - Be wary of “shoulder surfers” as you take cash from ATMs or pay for items at a store. Don’t allow anyone to see your pin number. Make sure you put receipts in a safe place.

🌟 Carrying large amount of cash - If you must carry a large amount of cash, keep separate amounts of cash in different locations. Put some in your wallet, some in a different pocket, etc. Never, ever “flash” a large amount of cash in public.
OPSEC and Shopping

🌟 Securing those gifts - If you buy so many presents that you have to make a trip to the car, make sure you place the items “out-of-sight” in your trunk or hidden in the back area of your SUV. Thieves often watch the activity and check cars in mall parking areas to see what they can get. You might even want to relocate the car to another area in the parking lot after loading the car.
Cell Phones

★ One of your most important security tools.
★ It only helps if it’s charged and with you!
★ Record and keep numbers for:
  – Insurance company
  – Roadside emergency services
  – House sitter, family members and co-workers
  – ICE (In Case of Emergency) is an acronym cell phone users can enter into their cell’s directory to identify a primary contact, such as next of kin for EMS or police to use in an emergency situation. Read more on ICE at: http://www.icecontactusa.com/
  – If traveling, hotel and rental car numbers
Vehicle Security and Safety

- Don't leave valuable items, gifts, or other items thieves may want, visible to people walking by your car. Store your valuables in the trunk of your car -- locked.

- Never, ever leave your keys in your car (the motor running or not) while you quickly run into a store or to do some errand. Be sure to close the windows and lock your car, even if you are only stopping for a few minutes.

- Car thieves are very fast -- it only takes a moment for them to steal your car. Don't think auto theft can't happen to you; it can.
Vehicle Security and Safety

✨ Holiday Parking Lot Scams - Here are two examples of parking lot scams that are very common at this time of year:

- The "parking lot peddler" or "white van" scam involves people driving white vans parked in neighborhood malls displaying signs advertising very expensive, high quality equipment, jewelry, artwork and furniture for discount prices. The sales people promise all products come with a “100% Satisfaction Guarantee.” However, it’s them that will be satisfied with your cash and long gone by the time you realize the merchandise is either defective, counterfeit or very low quality.
Another very different parking lot scam involves a driver that helps you back out of a parking space by waving you out, and then runs into your car himself or works with a partner who collides with you. In this way, they set you up for robbery or use the accident as a way of obtaining your personal information for later use.
Vehicle Security and Safety

- Holiday Bad Weather Driving - Be especially careful during any winter weather. Plan ahead so you don't have to rush, which increases the risk for accidents. If you have car problems or are in a car accident and need a tow, verify the tow truck that arrives is the one your insurance company or auto club sent and not a scam artist who just happened to drive by and see you as his next target of opportunity.
Child Security and Safety
Tips for Your Youngsters

джер If you are in a public place and get separated from your parents, don't walk around looking for them. Quickly go to the nearest checkout counter, store clerk or security officer and tell them you need help finding your parents.

杰 You should not get into a car or go anywhere with any person unless your parents have told you it is okay.

杰 No one should be asking you for directions, to look for a “lost puppy,” or telling you your mother or father is in trouble and they will take you to them.
Child Security and Safety
Tips for Your Youngsters

🌟 If someone tries to take you somewhere, quickly get away from them and yell or scream, “This person is trying to take me away” or “This person is not my father or mother.”

🌟 Use the “buddy system” and never go places alone.

🌟 Always ask your parents' permission to leave the yard, play area or to go into someone's home.

🌟 Never hitchhike or try to get a ride home with anyone unless your parents have told you it is okay.

🌟 If your child has a cell phone, make sure emergency numbers are listed, it’s charged and with them.
OPSEC at Home

🌟 The holidays can be a very inviting time for thieves. Things often get so hectic around the holiday’s that we sometimes completely forget about basic security.

🌟 Remember to keep these tips in mind:

– Quickly unload holiday purchases from your car.
– Be alert to public works crews and other personnel requesting access to the residence. Verify their identity before allowing entry to your home.
– Write down the license plate number of suspicious vehicles and note the description of occupants.
OPSEC at Home

– When socializing at parties over the holiday’s don’t talk “shop” around those who don’t have a “need to know,” and be wary of attempts to elicit information, even from friends and family.

– If you use a home security system or employ a security patrol company, the holiday season is a good time to reacquaint yourself and your family with pertinent procedures and telephone numbers.

– Report any suspicious activities to the police.
OPSEC and Presents

🌟 How could giving a family member a present help burglars target you? Some signs they look for at homes:

– Keep your purchases out of sight (in a closet, etc.).
– If you display gifts under a tree, keep nearby windows closed and drapes/blinds shut at night and while no one is at home.
OPSEC and Presents

– Don’t let your holiday trash make you a target. Boxes from expensive items like jewelry or electronics (such as computer, television, and stereo boxes) left curbside for trash collection provide good indicators to potential burglars about what high value items are located in the household. Your trash may help determine which house thieves may target.

– Break down the boxes, throw them in a bag, or put them out just before trash collection time.
Holiday OPSEC Poem

“Twas the time before Christmas
and all through the ‘hoods
thieves were out prowling
and they were looking for goods!”

Uncollected newspapers, mail and flyers around,
Certain signs the occupants weren’t to be found

Grass or snow two feet high --
Sure eye candy for the thief’s crooked eye

Now their home is empty the rooms are all bare
If only they had remembered to be OPSEC Aware!
OPSEC and Travel

🌟 If traveling this holiday season, don’t forget your Travel OPSEC!

– Refrain from using military duffel bags or bags with government patches or logo’s and use concealed luggage tags
– Don’t use rank or title to reserve airline tickets and hotel rooms
– Keep a low profile in dress and demeanor
– Be cautious about giving out information regarding family travel plans to those who don’t have a “Need to Know”
– Do not post your travel plans on your Facebook, MySpace, Twitter or LinkedIn or other social networking site.
OPSEC and Travel

- Leave your home with a lived in look. Use timers for lights, TV or radio.
- Don't let mail, newspapers or flyers accumulate while you're away, tipping off criminals. Have the post office hold mail, [http://www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) or better yet, have a trusted friend or neighbor pickup your mail and newspapers.
- Be alert and report suspicious activity!
- If you upload pictures from your mobile device to your Facebook, Twitter, MySpace or other social networking device – others will know you are away from home. Instead wait until you return before you post those fun holiday pics.
Home Security While Gone

♫ Ask a trusted friend to house sit.
♫ Don't leave valuables in sight through windows.
♫ Have someone mow your lawn, rake leaves or shovel snow while you're away.
♫ Never leave an answering machine message indicating you're not at home. Instead, just say you "can't come to the phone."
♫ When vacationing, leave a car in your driveway or arrange for a neighbor to keep a car there and move it around from time-to-time.
Home Security While Gone

🌟 Alarm systems are an effective deterrent. Nine out of ten convicted burglars agree they'd avoid a house protected by an alarm system.
🌟 Security system decals and signs are also an effective deterrent.
At The Airport

♫ Stay especially alert and watch your bags and laptop computer at all times.
♫ Don't let anyone but uniformed airline personnel handle your bags. Watch out for staged mishaps, like someone bumping into you or spilling a drink. Often it's a ploy to divert your attention.
♫ Carry your purse close to your body, or your wallet in an inside front pocket. Better yet, wear a money pouch under your clothes.
At The Airport

★ Keep a separate record of the contents of checked luggage.
★ Keep anything of value in a carry-on that stays with you.
★ Avoid displaying expensive cameras, jewelry and luggage that might draw attention. Your aim should be to blend in with the crowd.
On The Road

 Become familiar with your travel route before you start. Get a map and study it.

 Keep car doors locked while you are driving. Store luggage in the trunk. Park in well-lighted areas only, close to building entrances and walkways.

 Have car keys ready when approaching your car. Check the back seat and floors before you get in.

 Make sure your rental car is in good operating condition. Learn how to operate all windows, door locks and other equipment before you leave the lot.
On The Road

🎉 Keep your maps and rental agreement concealed, not lying on the seat or the dashboard.
🎉 If you are bumped by another car, think before you get out. If you are in doubt or uncomfortable, signal the other driver to follow you to a nearby police station or a busy, well-lighted area where it's safe to get out.
At The Hotel

❖ Never leave luggage unattended.
❖ Keep hotel doors and windows locked, and use all door locks. Learn the location of fire exits, stair wells, elevators and public phones in case of emergency.
❖ Make sure your room has an indoor viewer and a dead bolt lock. Always verify who's at your door. If an unexpected visitor claims to be a hotel employee, call the front desk to make sure.
❖ Place a tape or cover the indoor viewer so you cannot be viewed through it from outside your door or so someone cannot know that you are not in your room.
❖ Keep valuables-jewelry, cash, etc. in the hotel safe. Better still; leave jewelry in a safe at home.
At The Hotel

✱ Ask hotel staff about the safety of the neighborhood and what areas to avoid, especially if you want to walk or jog nearby.

✱ Before taking a cab, ask the staff about directions and estimated costs.

✱ Don't display room keys in public or leave them on the restaurant tables, at the swimming pool or in other places where they can easily be stolen.

✱ If you lose the plastic key card to your room, insist on a new-keyed card.
Summary

Everyone wants you to have a happy holiday season.

Don’t let the hustle and bustle of the holiday season distract you from doing the things you know are right to protect your family and yourself.

By using a little common sense security and safety practices such as the tips we have presented here today, you and your family can have a safe, happy and enjoyable holiday season.

Practice good OPSEC!
OSY WISHES YOU AND YOURS A SAFE, SECURE and OPSEC sensible HOLIDAY SEASON !!