Introduction to Operations Security
Introduction

- Operations Security (OPSEC)
- An information protection mindset
- Answers the questions:
  - Who are the bad guys?
  - What do they want from me (us)?
  - How do they get it?
  - How can you help stop them?
Who are the bad guys?

- Enemies
- Competitors
- Terrorists
- Criminals
- Insiders
What do they want from us?

“Critical Information”

Information the adversary needs to prevent our success.

Information we must protect to ensure success.
Critical Information

• Our limitations
• Specific operations plans
  – Who, what, when, where, how
• Our personnel & their families
• Our security process
How do they get it?

I have no need for spies. I have *The Times*.

—Nicholas I Pavlovich
Tsar of Imperial Russia
1825 to 1855
How do they get it?

- We give it to them! ("Vulnerabilities")
  - Conversations in public areas
  - Using cell phones for business
  - Web pages
  - Email
  - Social Networking
How do they get it?

- Communications intercept
- Social Engineering
- Internet
- Elicitation
- Espionage

Illegal methods are OK with bad guys !!!
How can you help stop them?

• “Countermeasures”
  – Protected communications
  – Web page policies
  – Be alert
  – Be suspicious
  – Be aware
Countermeasures

- Consider the threat when you:
  - Use the phone
  - Answer stranger’s questions
  - Discuss work in public places
  - Engage in social networking

- Practice good security
- Shred all paper
Countermeasures

Anything that effectively negates or reduces an adversary’s ability to exploit us.

Would you mail it to this man?

If the answer is “no”, DON’T GIVE IT AWAY IN OPEN SOURCES!!!
Practice OPSEC

Think Like the Wolf

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