OPSEC Glossary

Term/Acronym	Definition
Adversary	An individual, group, organization, or government that must be denied critical information
Countermeasures	Employing devices and/or techniques that has as its objective the impairment of the operational effectiveness of an adversary's activities. Countermeasures may include anything that effectively negates or mitigates an adversary's ability to exploit vulnerabilities.
Critical Information	Unclassified or controlled unclassified information (C U I) about DOD activities, intentions, capabilities, or limitations, that DOD has determined is valuable to an.
Indicator	Anything that draws attention to critical information or gives an adversary a clue about what's going on.
Operations Security (OPSEC)	An analytic process used to deny an adversary information, generally unclassified, concerning intentions and capabilities by identifying planning processes or operations. Operations Security does not replace other security disciplines; it supplements them. The OPSEC process includes the following: identify critical information, identify the threat, assess vulnerabilities, analyze the risk, develop and apply countermeasures, periodic assessment of effectiveness
Operations Security Countermeasures	Methods and means to gain and maintain essential secrecy about critical information.
Periodic Assessment	The continuous oversight and evaluation of effectiveness of DOD programs/components using the OPSEC Cycle.
Risk	A measure of the potential degree to which protected information is subject to loss through an adversary's exploitation.
Risk Analysis	A method by which individual vulnerabilities are compared to perceived or actual security threat scenarios to determine the likelihood of compromise to critical information.
Risk Assessment	A process of evaluating the risks to information based on susceptibility to intelligence collection and the anticipated severity of loss.
Threat	An adversary that has the capability and intent to take any actions detrimental to the success of DoD activities or operations.
Vulnerability	A weakness an adversary can exploit to get critical information. Anything that might make critical information available to an adversary.