



THE HONORABLE MARK T. ESPER

Secretary of Defense

OPSEC Video Script
(269 words / 2 min)

Hello, I'm Secretary of Defense, Mark Esper. Today, I'd like to emphasize the importance of operations security, or OPSEC, which is vital to our national security.

All Department of Defense personnel are responsible for practicing OPSEC, from initial planning through execution. Good OPSEC helps prevent the unauthorized disclosure of sensitive information, both classified and unclassified, which would be damaging to the Department. This includes pre-decisional policy proposals, operational details, and meeting minutes.

Unauthorized disclosures endanger our missions and personnel, erode trust, and jeopardize our military advantage. They must stop. Whether the result of poor security practices, negligent cyber hygiene, or a deliberate decision to violate policy, the consequences of unauthorized disclosures range from adverse administrative actions to potential criminal charges.

Don't let this be you. Learn the rules and follow best security practices. Expect the same from others, and report any concerns to your chain of command or an inspector general.

As we implement the National Defense Strategy, we know that China and Russia seek any information advantage they can find. We must therefore dramatically improve our OPSEC and build a culture in DoD that protects sensitive and critical information. I am now directing a department-wide campaign to reinforce the importance of that effort.

This requires all of our unit commanders and department heads to conduct mandatory OPSEC and Controlled Unclassified Information training. We will also increase our ability to investigate unauthorized disclosures of classified and controlled, unclassified information. Meanwhile, I urge all Department personnel to retrain and improve their OPSEC practices.

Thank you for your service to our nation, and for your commitment to keeping our information secure.