

The Operations Security Professional's Association

Benefit Analysis

Description of Values-Added and Benefits to Membership

As of May 18, 2011



“OSPA: OPSEC From the Trenches”

1.0 General Information

1.1 Purpose

This document has been created in order to provide a high-level overview of the benefits provided to OSPA members.

1.2 Scope

Materials, tools and other features described within are available to all OSPA members, to include publicly available resources and those available only to the members themselves. This document shall describe such features in the context of the relationship between OSPA and its members.

1.3 OSPA Objectives

OSPA is a not-for-profit professional organization dedicated to the development of the Operations Security (OPSEC) discipline. Its purpose is to foster collaboration to advance the tradecraft of OPSEC, while simultaneously advocating the profession within the government, private and public sectors. Education, sharing of best business practices, and providing subject matter assistance are the pillars of OSPA.

1.4 Strategy

In order to achieve the overall objectives, OSPA leverages current OPSEC subject matter experts (SME's) from within the membership and industry in order to determine the universal consensus on current threats, needs and OPSEC concerns. OSPA then addresses those threats, needs and concerns by the distribution of relevant information, creation of awareness material and tools, creation of educational resources and other resources. OSPA improves the overall National OPSEC posture by focusing on the furtherance of OPSEC understanding and resources to the public-at-large and OPSEC specialists, as represented by the membership. OSPA further coordinates with DoD and Government OPSEC assets in order to ensure a unanimous view.

1.5 References

For more information, please see:

OSPA Website (<http://www.opsecprofessionals.org>)

OPSEC Academy (<http://www.opsecacademy.org>)

OSPA Blog (<http://www.whatisopsec.com> and <http://www.opsecprofessionals.org/blog>)

Anti-Terrorism "Master's Series" (<http://www.opsecprofessionals.org/jprmater.html>)

OPSEC Posters (<http://www.opsecprofessionals.org/posters.html>)

1.6 Points of Contact

OSPA President, president@opsecprofessionals.org

General information, info@opsecprofessionals.org

2.0 Free Resources

In order to further the National understanding of OPSEC, OSPA provides free resource to the public-at-large, which historically includes family members, industry security experts, law enforcement and other elements. These resources include, but are not limited to:

- OPSEC Awareness Posters (including custom posters requested by site visitors and members)
- OPSEC Job Board
- OPSEC Wiki
- OSPEC Forum (general access)
- OPSEC briefing templates
- Free OPSEC Newsletter
- OPSEC articles and research papers
- “General” access to the OPSEC Academy
- OPSEC Recognition Program (Certificates of Achievement)
- Awareness material geared towards Military Families
- OPSEC products available for purchase
- OPSEC flash game

Additionally, OSPA conducts annual research into the current state of OPSEC as a discipline. This research is summarized in annual “State of OPSEC Survey”. This document is initially made available to OSPA members, but is shortly afterwards released to the public.

3.0 Member Resources

Certain “advanced” information, resources and other tools are made available to OSPA members via the members-only section of the website. These resources are those which are considered to be suited for professional OPSEC personnel:

- Easy access (via online form or email) to SME’s on multiple OPSEC specialties
- Member file sharing (OPSEC tools, briefings, etc)
- OPSEC Forum (admin access)
- OPSEC plan creation and generation tools
- Advanced and custom OPSEC awareness and training tools
- Automated OSINT research tools
- Individual OPSEC-related email address (POP3, IMAP)
 - @opsecprofessionals.org
 - @opsecmanager.com
 - @ospamembers.org
 - @whatisopsec.com
 - @operations-security.com

- Advanced awareness and training material geared towards military families
- Member collaboration, to include chats, email and forums
- “Full” access to the OPSEC Academy
- OPSEC committees and working groups
- Direct access to the OSPA board, and full support in OPSEC program support. This includes the development of briefings and awareness material
- Licensed (by OSPA, free to members) access to the JPR & Associates Anti-Terrorism “Master’s Series”, which explores advanced concepts related to Anti-Terrorism, to include Cyber-Terrorism
- Web-based public release assessment tool
- Web-based collaboration software, with isolated portions made available for member use
- Representation of OPSEC concerns, needs and issues to National level OPSEC agencies, when required
- Hosting of sub-domain and development of organization’s OPSEC webpage, if needed (e.g. yourorganization.opsecprofessionals.org)

4.0 OSPA OPSEC Academy

Special mention is made of the OSPA OPSEC Academy. This online, CBT-based resource is designed to meet the unique educational requirements of a diverse environment. Furthermore, the academy is designed to be rapidly updated and modified in order to maintain relevancy in the face of an evolving threat.

The OPSEC Academy is composed of three general components:

- I. Free, public modules: These modules were created in order to support the basic needs of OPSEC personnel, who stress a requirement to provide baseline training to a large, diverse force. This allows any person to register and receive a training certificate in “The History of OPSEC”, “Introduction to OPSEC” and/or “OPSEC for New Hires”.
- II. Advanced modules for OPSEC professionals: These modules are made available to the advanced OPSEC practitioner in order to support their own program, maintain currency of information and gain a broader understanding of OPSEC topics. These materials are generally referred to as “Train the Trainer” sessions.
- III. Custom OPSEC Courses: These modules are created at the request of OSPA members, and are designed for use within their organization, company or unique mission. These modules are generally restricted, via password, to personnel within those elements, and are created, uploaded and maintained at no additional cost to the member or organization under the pillar of support.

For those OPSEC personnel that are currently certified through IOSS or OPS, the OPSEC Academy courses provide Continuing Education (CE) credits for certification maintenance. Completion of all courses result in a certificate issued to the student, signed by the OSPA President (digital, saved image)

5.0 Conclusion

OSPA's overall mission is to support the OPSEC professional from the perspective of those "In The Trenches". In order to achieve that mission, OSPA focuses primarily on member responsiveness and support. This may take the form of the creation of custom tools and awareness material, or the availability of OPSEC briefing material. If the need exists, OSPA will do whatever is possible to meet that need. Furthermore, OSPA remains proactive by working to determine and assist in the protection of current or emergent threats. It's OSPA's belief that the OPSEC practitioner must be afforded every opportunity to focus on the unique aspects and needs of their distinctive program, without the hindrance of "reinventing the wheel".

OSPA strives to improve the state and implementation of OPSEC Nation-wide, which is best accomplished one member at a time, one program at a time.

OSPA stands ready to support.