**Assessment Purpose**

Determine susceptibility to adversary exploitation.

Assessments examine an operation, activity, or organization to determine whether adequate protection from an adversary's intelligence exploitation exists. In other words, the assessment helps to identify how and where an organization’s critical information is vulnerable to adversarial exploitation.

OPSEC assessments are different from security evaluations or inspections in that an assessment attempts to reproduce an adversary’s view of the operation or activity being assessed. Independently, a security inspection seeks to determine if an organization is in compliance with the appropriate security directives and regulations. Essentially, OPSEC assessments seek to determine how effective an organization is protecting operational information.

Although OPSEC Assessment findings are not provided to the assessed unit’s higher headquarters, unless directed, Commanders or OPSEC assessment teams may forward generic lessons-learned to senior officials on a non-attribution basis. Lessons-learned from assessments should be shared with command personnel in order to enhance the command’s OPSEC posture and mission effectiveness. Further, leaders and decision makers can be provided effective measures or procedures needed to adequately protect against adversary exploitation. Findings should be labeled and handled at appropriate classification levels (possibly classified) depending on vulnerability results. See your Information Security Manager for guidance.

OPSEC Assessment bottom line: OPSEC is emphasized, security is improved, threat awareness raised and mission success rate increased.