The Leading Edge

What do Chaplain Service members need to know about INFOSEC and OPSEC?

INFOSEC AND OPSEC are the secure handling of classified material and having an awareness of one's surroundings. For example, good INFOSEC would be properly storing or transporting sensitive material. Good OPSEC would include not disclosing names, number and location or next of kin when using the unsecured telephone lines or the NIPRnet. It also means being aware of who is in the vicinity when speaking on a STU or the STE. Be careful not to inadvertently send classified information over non-secure lines in the name of pastoral care.

It is imperative that you know the INFOSEC/OPSEC policies at your location. Know how to handle the different levels of classified material. Know the security requirements for the STU. Know the security requirements for using the SIPRnet. For example, you cannot insert a normal disk while on the SIPRnet, because it becomes classified. Know the security procedures for printed material and how to store material that is classified as "secret".

Make it a point to enlist the expertise of your security forces and communication personnel to assist you in your security awareness prior to deployment. Chaplains and Chaplain Assistants need to practice INFOSEC and OPSEC at all times, but particularly in the deployed setting.