

**Joint Statement  
of the  
Security Analysis and Risk Management Association  
and the  
OPSEC Professionals Society  
12 October 2009**

Building on the partnership begun at the 2009 National OPSEC Conference, the Security Analysis and Risk Management Association (SARMA) and the OPSEC Professionals Society (OPS) have entered into discussions regarding a formal affiliation of the two organizations.

To sustain its tradition of support to the OPSEC community, OPS has identified the need to affiliate with an organization that represents a broader constituency. Similarly, SARMA has identified the need to grow in membership and gain access to mature and tested approaches to the development and implementation of professional training and certification programs to fulfill one of its core missions. Together, the two organizations desire to establish a construct that is financially sound, responsive to the needs of core constituencies, and respectful of history and traditions. To that end, SARMA and OPS believe an affiliation will produce a stronger, more vibrant entity better able to serve the needs of practitioners across the security risk management spectrum.

To guide these discussions, the two organizations have agreed to a framework that envisions three phases:

- **Phase 1.** Establishment of a Joint Exploratory Committee, retention of legal counsel and full disclosure of financial status, liabilities, litigation, etc.
- **Phase 2.** Development of the terms and conditions of the affiliation, joint efforts to sponsor events and web content, and initiation of an effort to leverage existing OPSEC training to develop and implement a complimentary security risk management training and certification program.
- **Phase 3.** Ratification of the terms and conditions of the affiliation by the directors and membership of each organization.

The process is envisioned to take approximately nine months and culminate in a ratification vote by the membership at each organization's 2010 annual meeting. Importantly, should either party decide that an affiliation is not in its best interest during these discussions, provisions are included in the document that allow for termination of the talks without prejudice to either party.

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*The full text of the SARMA/OPS Framework for Affiliation can be found on the websites of each organization.*