



INFORMATION-RELATED CAPABILITIES: SIGNATURE MANAGEMENT

Last Updated: 28 April 2016

Signature management (SM) is a process used to profile day-to-day observable activities and operational trends at wings/installations and at each of their resident or associate units. SM incorporates the analytical methods of [OPSEC](#) creating synergies and resource efficiencies for the wing/installation OPSEC program. These result in identifying details that can be used in efforts to defend or exploit operational advantages at a given military installation and inherent to a unit's operational mission.

When an air component commander's military deception (MILDEC) plan requires Air Force wings and installations to present specified observable activities, the air component commander's MILDEC planner determines the actions required by the supporting unit(s) and communicates those requirements to the wing or installation Signature Management Officer (SMO) or NCO (SMNCO).

Wing and installations do not directly plan or execute MILDEC on their own, but are tasked by the operational MILDEC planner or OPSEC planner to accomplish S M tasks that directly support the operational MILDEC plan. The SMO defines the local operating environment and captures process points that present key signatures, observables, indicators, and profiles with critical information value. This process, known as the base profiling process, is the deliberate effort to identify functional areas and the observables, signatures, and indicators they produce and how they contribute to the overall signature of day-to-day activities and operational trends. Ultimately, this provides the correct presentation of forces when tasked to support the operational MILDEC plan.