EDUCATION

Army Sharp Study Guide

Published: November 20, 2026 | Index ID: #-

Introduction to the Army SHARP Program and Study Guide

The United States Army places a high priority on creating a safe, professional, and dignified environment for every soldier. At the core of this commitment is the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program, commonly known as SHARP. For soldiers preparing for annual training, promotion boards, or simply looking to deepen their understanding of this critical initiative, an **Army Sharp Study Guide** is an indispensable resource. This guide is not merely a collection of facts; it is a roadmap to understanding the Army's zero-tolerance policy and the proactive measures every service member must take to eliminate sexual harassment and sexual assault from the ranks.

The SHARP program is built on a foundation of respect, intervention, and accountability. Whether you are a junior enlisted soldier, a non-commissioned officer, or a commanding officer, mastering the material in a comprehensive **Army Sharp Study Guide** is essential for both professional development and unit readiness. This article serves as a detailed, standalone study resource designed to help you internalize the key concepts, reporting procedures, and prevention strategies that define the SHARP program. By engaging with this material, you are taking a tangible step toward fostering a climate of trust and safety within your unit.

Understanding the SHARP Program: Mission and Vision

To effectively use any **Army Sharp Study Guide**, one must first understand the program's overarching purpose. The SHARP program is not a passive set of rules; it is an active, integrated system designed to eliminate sexual harassment and sexual assault from the Army by creating a climate that respects the dignity of every individual.

The Core Mission of SHARP

The mission of the Army SHARP program is to prevent sexual harassment and sexual assault before they occur. When prevention fails, the mission shifts to ensuring that victims receive the highest quality support, that offenders are held accountable, and that the chain of command is fully engaged in fostering a positive command climate. This dual focus on prevention and response is what makes the program unique. A reliable **Army Sharp Study Guide** will always emphasize this two-pronged approach: proactive deterrence and reactive care.

The Vision: A Culture of Trust

The ultimate vision of the SHARP program is an Army culture free of sexual harassment and sexual assault. This vision is achieved through a dedicated partnership with every soldier. When you study a SHARP guide, you are learning how to contribute to an environment where soldiers treat each other with respect and dignity, where victims feel safe coming forward, and where bystanders are empowered to intervene. This is the gold standard of Army professionalism, and it is the standard every study guide aims to help you meet.

Why an Army Sharp Study Guide is Essential

Annual SHARP training is mandatory for all soldiers, but simply attending a briefing is often not enough to retain the complex details of the program. A dedicated **Army Sharp Study Guide** provides a structured way to review and internalize critical information. Here is why using a study guide is so effective:

- Consolidates Information: The guide brings together policies from Army Regulation 600-20, Department of Defense directives, and other official sources into a single, digestible document.
- Prepares for Boards: SHARP knowledge is frequently tested during promotion boards and professional development courses. Knowing the specifics of the program demonstrates leadership potential.
- Clarifies Procedures: The difference between Restricted and Unrestricted Reporting can be confusing. A good guide breaks down these options in clear, simple terms.
- Reinforces Leadership: Understanding SHARP is a direct reflection of leadership. It shows that you take the welfare of your fellow soldiers seriously.

Key Definitions Every Soldier Must Know

Before diving into procedures, any competent **Army Sharp Study Guide**will begin with definitions. These are the building blocks of the program and are essential for accurate understanding.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is a form of gender discrimination that involves unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. This behavior can occur between individuals of the same or opposite gender. It is important to remember that submission to such conduct is made a condition of a person's career (quid pro quo), or the conduct creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment (hostile environment).

Sexual Assault

Sexual assault is a crime. It includes a range of intentional sexual contacts characterized by use of force, physical threat, or abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. This includes rape, non-consensual sodomy, indecent assault, and attempts to commit these acts. Consent must be given freely and willingly; silence or lack of resistance does not constitute consent.

Consent

Consent is a freely given agreement to the conduct at issue by a competent person. An expression of lack of consent through words or conduct means there is no consent. Consent cannot be given when a person is asleep, unconscious, incapacitated by drugs or alcohol, or otherwise unaware that the act is happening. Mastering the definition of consent is a critical component of any **Army Sharp Study Guide**.

Reporting Options: Restricted vs. Unrestricted

One of the most critical sections of any **Army Sharp Study Guide**is the explanation of reporting options. The Army offers two primary paths for victims of sexual assault, each with distinct implications for privacy and command involvement.

Restricted Reporting

Restricted Reporting allows a soldier who is a victim of sexual assault to confidentially disclose the assault to specified individuals (SHARP Specialist, Victim Advocate, or healthcare personnel) without triggering an official investigation. This option is designed to give the victim time and control, allowing them to access medical care and counseling while maintaining their privacy. The chain of command is not notified, and the Army does not initiate a law enforcement investigation. This option empowers the victim to seek help on their own terms. When reviewing your **Army Sharp Study Guide**, note that Restricted Reporting is only available to Service members and their dependents who are victims of sexual assault, not to civilians on the installation.

Unrestricted Reporting

Unrestricted Reporting is the traditional reporting method that triggers an official investigation by law enforcement and notification of the chain of command. When a victim chooses Unrestricted Reporting, they are immediately connected with a Victim Advocate and given the opportunity to receive medical treatment, but the Army will also begin a formal inquiry. This option is available to all victims, including civilians. Unrestricted Reporting holds offenders accountable and is the only path that allows for command action to prevent further incidents. A thorough **Army Sharp Study Guide** will explain that choosing Unrestricted Reporting does not mean the victim loses their voice; they are still entitled to support and protection throughout the process.

Comparing the Two Paths

The choice between Restricted and Unrestricted Reporting is the victim's alone. No one, not even a commander, can force a victim to choose one option over the other. A proper **Army Sharp Study Guide** will emphasize that victims should be informed of both options so they can make an educated decision. Key differences include:

- Privacy: Restricted offers maximum privacy; Unrestricted involves command and law enforcement.
- Investigation: Restricted has no investigation; Unrestricted has a formal investigation.
- Accountability: Restricted does not lead to offender accountability; Unrestricted does.
- Who can use it: Restricted is for Service members and dependents only; Unrestricted is for everyone.

Roles and Responsibilities: Who is Who in SHARP

Understanding the roles within the SHARP program is a common topic for exam questions and board interviews. A comprehensive **Army Sharp Study Guide** will clearly delineate these responsibilities.

The SHARP Specialist

These are trained professionals assigned at the battalion level and higher. They serve as the primary advisor to the commander on SHARP matters. They are responsible for training, prevention efforts, and managing the program at their level. SHARP Specialists are also safe contacts for Restricted Reporting.

The Victim Advocate (VA)

Victim Advocates are trained volunteers or civilian employees who provide immediate support, information, and referral services to victims of sexual assault. They are the first line of support and help victims navigate the medical, legal, and counseling systems. They are also confidential contacts for Restricted Reporting.

The Commander

The commander is ultimately responsible for the unit's command climate and the implementation of the SHARP program. Commanders must ensure that all soldiers are trained, that victims are supported, and that offenders are held accountable. A strong commander fosters a climate where sexual harassment and assault are not tolerated. Your **Army Sharp Study Guide** will stress that command climate is the single most important factor in preventing sexual assault.

The First Responder

Any soldier who is the first person a victim tells is a first responder. This is a critical role. The first responder must listen, believe the victim, ensure their safety, and immediately contact the SHARP Specialist or Victim Advocate. The first responder's reaction can significantly impact the victim's willingness to seek help. First responders do not investigate the incident; their job is to connect the victim to professional care.

Prevention Strategies and Bystander Intervention

Prevention is the heart of the SHARP program, and it relies heavily on the concept of bystander intervention. Every **Army Sharp Study Guide** will cover this topic in depth.

The Three Ds of Intervention

The Army teaches a simple, memorable framework for intervening in a potentially harmful situation: the Three Ds.

- Direct: Directly address the situation. For example, you might say, "Hey, that's not okay," or "Stop, you are making them uncomfortable." This is the most straightforward approach.
- Distract: Create a distraction to defuse the situation. You might spill a drink, ask for directions, or start a conversation about something unrelated to give the potential victim a chance to leave.
- Delegate: Find someone with authority to handle the situation. This could be a supervisor, a SHARP Specialist, a Military Police officer, or even a friend of the potential victim.

Understanding and applying the Three Ds is a key learning objective in any **Army Sharp Study Guide**. Intervention is not optional; it is a duty.

Sample Study Questions for the Army Sharp Guide

To test your knowledge, an effective **Army Sharp Study Guide**should include practice questions. Here are a few typical examples you might encounter.

1. Question: What are the two types of reporting for sexual assault in the Army?
   Answer: Restricted and Unrestricted Reporting.
2. Question: Who is authorized to receive a Restricted Report?
   Answer: A SHARP Specialist, a Victim Advocate, or healthcare personnel.
3. Question: What is the primary responsibility of a first responder?
   Answer: To ensure the victim's safety and contact a SHARP Specialist or Victim Advocate immediately. They should not investigate the incident.
4. Question: What does the "D" in the Three Ds of bystander intervention stand for?
   Answer: Direct, Distract, and Delegate.

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