

5 THINGS TO KNOW

ABOUT THE SHARP PROGRAM RESTRUCTURE



SHARP
SEXUAL HARASSMENT/ASSAULT
RESPONSE AND PREVENTION

The Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program restructured in 2023 based on recommendations from the 90-Day Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military. The restructure ensures an independent reporting process victims can trust and allows SHARP personnel to provide professional, high-quality, victim-focused support and advocacy. The restructure was directed by Congress, in the 2022 National Defense Authorization Act, and by the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Here are five things you need to know about the SHARP program restructure.

1

Response to Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Is Now an Installation-Level Function.

SHARP program professionals are now aligned under an installation SHARP Program Office and not the unit chain of command. Sexual Assault Response Coordinators and Victim Advocates are still embedded, where feasible, with brigades to provide an on-the-ground presence, but they work for the installation SHARP Program Office.

2

SHARP Personnel Report to Supervisors Outside the Chain of Command.

The installation-based SHARP model ensures an independent supervisory structure for SHARP personnel. SARCs and VAs report to the installation Lead SARC, not unit commanders. The Lead SARC reports directly to a higher level SHARP Program Manager, ensuring an independent process with professional and technical oversight.

3

SHARP Personnel Are Primarily Full-Time Civilians.

SHARP personnel, including SARCs and Victim Advocates, now consist primarily of full-time, knowledgeable, civilian professionals experienced in supporting victims. Almost all collateral-duty military SARC or VA positions will be eliminated-except for collateral-duty positions needed for short term commitment of forces to remote locations that do not have established sexual assault resources.

4

No Wrong Door Policy Expands Support Network for Victims.

This policy ensures that anyone seeking SHARP services is personally connected to any SARC or VA for support including other service branches or civilian service providers. SHARP professionals will also provide direct handoffs to other agencies, such as the Family Advocacy Program, behavioral health, medical, or legal services, ensuring communication with responsible staff and follow-up to meet all needs.

5

Army Civilians Can Now File a Restricted Report.

Army Civilians can now report sexual assault to their SARC or VA using the Restricted Reporting option. By filing a Restricted Report, Army Civilians can obtain victim support and advocacy services from the military without notification to law enforcement or their immediate chain of command.

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