



ARMY RESILIENCE DIRECTORATE



FACTSHEET

NEW: SHARP Restructure

Based on recommendations from the Secretary of Defense Independent Review Commission, or IRC, on Sexual Assault in the Military, the Army has removed Sexual Assault Response Coordinators and Victim Advocates from the operational chain of command and is working to further professionalize the workforce. SHARP has also been directed by SecDef to phase out collateral-duty SARC and VA positions and replace them with a full-time response workforce at the installation level.

New workforce requirements were developed by sexual violence experts, using proven approaches for supporting victims. Although the military setting will have its unique challenges, the overall DoD strategy is rooted in evidence-based practices.

The OSD-directed structure provides for an installation-based response program, as depicted below:

- oThe restructure established a new professional oversight structure at the tactical and operational levels and moved the program outside the command structure, which is intended to eliminate perceived leader bias, protect victim privacy, and empower SHARP Professionals to prioritize the needs of victims. This new oversight structure mirrors other sexual assault response services such as medical, legal, and law enforcement.
- oArmy identified select commands at the ACOM/ASCC (operational) level to maintain SHARP Program Management Offices and, where authorized, increased support staff to meet program oversight responsibilities.
- oAt the tactical (installation) level, the SHARP Program established full-time, civilian Lead SARCs to serve as the focal point to direct and coordinate response activities. They support and advise the installation Senior Commander and all tenant commanders but are supervised and evaluated by a SHARP Program Manager at the operational level.
- oThe Lead SARC supervises all SHARP Professionals on the installation to ensure delivery of victim-centric care. SARCs and VAs are responsible for communicating with their supported commanders, as dictated in policy, to support commanders in meeting their responsibilities to the victim and the program.
- oSARCs and VAs are distributed at each installation, whether supporting a specific brigade or providing overarching support. In some cases, resources will not be organic to a specific unit, but will be shared across an installation to cover multiple tenant units.
- oSHARP Program Prevention Specialists support the Senior Commander and are responsible for the coordination and implementation of comprehensive primary prevention activities that address individual, interpersonal, organizational and community factors that contribute to sexual harassment and sexual assault.

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