

Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Program (SHARP)

What is it?

The Army's Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) Program promotes a climate in which sexual assault, sexual harassment, or sexually offensive language or gestures are not tolerated, while providing sensitive care and confidential reporting for victims of sexual assault and accountability for offenders.

What has the Army done?

In line with the "I. A.M. Strong" sexual assault prevention campaign, this four-phased campaign began in September 2008 with Phase I, "Committed Army Leadership." Phase II, "Army-wide Conviction," began in April 2009 and will be followed by Phase III, "Achieve Cultural Change" and Phase IV "Sustainment, Refinement and Sharing."

"I. A.M. Strong", (where the letters I - A - M stand for Intervene - Act - Motivate) is the Army's primary prevention initiative for encouraging Soldiers to take action in support of sexual assault prevention efforts and to actively foster respectful treatment of others. The campaign encourages peer-to-peer communication and active intervention, creating a climate in which Soldiers do not tolerate any behavior that facilitates sexual assault and its precursors, sexual innuendos and sexual harassment.

SHARP is a Commander's program. Commanders and their NCO counterparts are promoting positive command climates through the "I. A.M. Strong" campaign by reinforcing Army Values and the Warrior Ethos and thereby compelling Soldiers to not tolerate behavior that may lead to sexual assault.

The goals of the program are to:

- Create a climate that minimizes sexual harassment/assault incidents which affect Army personnel, Army civilians and Family members, and if an incident should occur, ensure that victims are treated according to Army policy.
- Create a climate that encourages victims to report incidents of sexual harassment/assault without fear.
- Establish sexual harassment/assault response prevention training and awareness programs to educate Service Members and Commanders.
- Ensure sensitive and comprehensive treatment to restore the health and well-being of the victim
- Ensure leaders understand their roles and responsibilities regarding response to sexual harassment/assault victims, thoroughly investigate allegations of sexual harassment/assault, and take appropriate administrative and disciplinary action.

Why is this important to the Army?

Sexual Assault is a crime that has no place in the Army. It is contrary to Army Values and degrades mission readiness by devastating a unit's ability to work effectively as a team. Preventing sexual assault is about leadership and discipline. Soldiers deserve committed leaders who are dedicated to preventing sexual assault and harassment, as well as an environment free from sexual assault, harassment and sexual innuendo and comments.