Job Aid: Special Access Program (SAP) Types and Categories

Special Access Program (SAP)

"A program established for a specific class of classified information that imposes safeguarding and access requirements that exceed those normally required for information at the same classification level" (DoDD 5205.07)

SAP Types

Type:	Acknowledged	Unacknowledged	
Description:	• Existence is acknowledged, affirmed, or made known to others (that is, it may be openly recognized or publically acknowledged) • Purpose is identified	• Enhanced security measures ensure that the existence of the program is not acknowledged, affirmed, or made known to any person not authorized for such information (that is, it is not openly recognized or publically acknowledged) • Purpose is not identified • Reported annually to applicable congressional committees	**Waived**
			• Type of unacknowledged SAP in which access is extremely limited in accordance with the statutory authority of 10 U.S.C. Section 119 • Reporting and access controls are more restrictive • Reporting requirements are waived by Secretary of Defense
Program Details:	• Classified as specified in the applicable security classification guide	• Classified as specified in the applicable security classification guide	• Classified as specified in the applicable security classification guide
Program Funding:	• Generally unclassified	• Unacknowledged, classified, or not directly linked to the program	• Unacknowledged, classified, or not directly linked to the program

SAP Categories

Category:	Acquisition	Intelligence	Operations and Support
Description:	• SAP established to protect sensitive research, development, testing and evaluation, modification, and procurement activities • May involve the purchase or development of weapons systems or other military technology • Most common category of SAP, making up 75-80% of all SAPs	• SAP established primarily to protect the planning and execution of especially sensitive intelligence or counterintelligence operations or collection activities	• SAP established to protect the planning for, execution of, and support to especially sensitive military operations
SAP Central Office (SAPCO):	• Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics [USD(AT&L)]	• Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence [USD(I)]	• Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy [USD(P)]