

Student Guide

Short: Special Access Program (SAP) Types and Categories

Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify and distinguish between the two types of Special Access Programs (SAPs)• Identify and distinguish between the three categories of Special Access Programs (SAPs)
Estimated completion time	10 minutes

Welcome Briefing

When you first start a new job, do you ever feel like everything around you is a blur?

It might sound something like this.

Welcome to the Security Program office. We're glad to have you joining us for your orientation today. Before you get started, we wanted to take a moment to brief you on some of the types of programs that you may be working on in your new job here.

You should already be familiar with the concept of a Special Access Program, otherwise known as a SAP. But let's review the definition just to be sure.

A SAP is a classified wa-waa-wa-wa-waa. SAPs safeguard national security by protecting wa-waa-wa-waa, wa-waa-wa-waa, and wa-waa-wa-waa. These are the general categories of SAPs, but there are also three distinct types of SAPs that you may find yourself working on. You might be assigned to wa-waa-wa-wa-waa, you could be assigned to wa-waa-wa-waa, or you could be assigned to wa-waa-wa-wa-waa.

Depending on what kind of SAP you work on, your program will fall under the purview of one of several wa-waa-wa-wa-waa wa-waa-wa-waa offices.

You may not be completely familiar with some of the terms you heard in this briefing, therefore, you may have found some parts difficult to understand. On the following page is a job aid that you can use to complete the activities that follow. Think of this job aid as a decoder that will help you to decipher these unfamiliar terms and develop a greater understanding of the types and categories of Special Access Programs.

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:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existence is acknowledged, affirmed, or made known to others (that is, it may be openly recognized or publically acknowledged) Purpose is identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>Waived</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classified as specified in the applicable security classification guide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classified as specified in the applicable security classification guide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classified as specified in the applicable security classification guide
Program Funding:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally unclassified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unacknowledged, classified, or not directly linked to the program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unacknowledged, classified, or not directly linked to the program

SAP Categories

Category:	Acquisition	Intelligence	Operations and Support
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAP established primarily to protect the planning and execution of especially sensitive intelligence or counterintelligence operations or collection activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAP established to protect the planning for, execution of, and support to especially sensitive military operations
SAP Central Office (SAPCO):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics [USD(AT&L)] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence [USD(I)] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy [USD(P)]

Activity

Take a few minutes to practice identifying the types and categories of Special Access Programs. Read the description of each SAP and identify what type of SAP was described and what category or SAP central office it falls under.

1. Program Echo IV

Program Echo IV is an openly recognized DoD program developing a new technology to be used in various weapons systems. Although its purpose is known outside of the DoD, and its funding is unclassified, the details of the program are classified within the SAP.

What type and category of SAP is Program Echo IV?

Type	Category
<input type="radio"/> <i>Acknowledged</i>	<input type="radio"/> <i>Acquisition</i>
<input type="radio"/> <i>Unacknowledged</i>	<input type="radio"/> <i>Intelligence</i>
<input type="radio"/> <i>Waived</i>	<input type="radio"/> <i>Operations and support</i>

2. Program Foxtrot

Program Foxtrot was formed to develop logistical training exercises for military ground personnel positioned in enemy combat zones. The details of this program are classified within the SAP, but because of the highly sensitive nature of these training plans, the existence of the program and its funding source are both classified as well. This SAP is known only to those who work on it and those who receive SAP reports from the Secretary of Defense.

What type of SAP is Program Foxtrot?

Type	SAPCO
<input type="radio"/> <i>Acknowledged</i>	<input type="radio"/> <i>USD(AT&L) - Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics</i>
<input type="radio"/> <i>Unacknowledged</i>	<input type="radio"/> <i>USD(I) - Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence</i>
<input type="radio"/> <i>Waived</i>	<input type="radio"/> <i>USD(P) - Under Secretary of Defense for Policy</i>

3. Program Tango

Program Tango is in the process of developing a new technology that could be incorporated into many aspects of military combat planning and logistics. There have been public hearings regarding the purpose of this SAP, and the program's funding is unclassified but the details of the program are classified within the SAP.

What type of SAP is Program Tango? Which SAPCO oversees its operations?

Type	SAPCO
<input type="radio"/> <i>Acknowledged</i>	<input type="radio"/> <i>USD(AT&L) - Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics</i>
<input type="radio"/> <i>Unacknowledged</i>	<input type="radio"/> <i>USD(I) - Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence</i>
<input type="radio"/> <i>Waived</i>	<input type="radio"/> <i>USD(P) - Under Secretary of Defense for Policy</i>

4. Program Zulu 13

Years ago, Program Zulu 13 was a tightly protected program that maintained evacuation plans and emergency safe-house facilities for the highest ranking senior Pentagon officials. The program ended following a media leak, but while it was active, it was subject to the strictest possible access controls, and for years, you never heard anyone speak of it. Due to the highly sensitive nature of the program, Zulu 13 was kept under extremely tight wraps. It was subject to the most restrictive reporting requirements, and it was funded through numerous false programs that existed solely to funnel money to Zulu 13. Nobody outside of the program knew of its existence.

What type and category of SAP was Program Zulu 13?

Type	Category
<input type="radio"/> <i>Acknowledged</i>	<input type="radio"/> <i>Acquisition</i>
<input type="radio"/> <i>Unacknowledged</i>	<input type="radio"/> <i>Intelligence</i>
<input type="radio"/> <i>Waived</i>	<input type="radio"/> <i>Operations and support</i>

5. Program Romeo

Program Romeo exists to gather military intelligence on suspected foreign threats. Like with all SAPs, the details of the program are classified within the SAP. But in this case, the program is subject to enhanced security measures and is not openly recognized, and the funding is not associated with the program. Furthermore, outside of the program, this SAP is known only to the defense and intelligence committees who receive SAP reports from the Secretary of Defense.

What type and category of SAP is Program Romeo?

Type	Category
<input type="radio"/> <i>Acknowledged</i>	<input type="radio"/> <i>Acquisition</i>
<input type="radio"/> <i>Unacknowledged</i>	<input type="radio"/> <i>Intelligence</i>
<input type="radio"/> <i>Waived</i>	<input type="radio"/> <i>Operations and support</i>

Answer Key

1. Program Echo IV

What type and category of SAP is Program Echo IV?

Type	Category
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Acknowledged	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Acquisition
<input type="radio"/> <i>Unacknowledged</i>	<input type="radio"/> <i>Intelligence</i>
<input type="radio"/> <i>Waived</i>	<input type="radio"/> <i>Operations and support</i>

2. Program Foxtrot

What type of SAP is Program Foxtrot?

Type	SAPCO
<input type="radio"/> <i>Acknowledged</i>	<input type="radio"/> <i>USD(AT&L) -Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics</i>
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Unacknowledged	<input type="radio"/> <i>USD(I) - Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence</i>
<input type="radio"/> <i>Waived</i>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> USD(P) - Under Secretary of Defense for Policy

3. Program Tango

What type of SAP is Program Tango? Which SAPCO oversees its operations?

Type	SAPCO
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Acknowledged	<input checked="" type="radio"/> USD(AT&L) -Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics
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What type and category of SAP was Program Zulu 13?

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<input type="radio"/> <i>Unacknowledged</i>	<input type="radio"/> <i>Intelligence</i>
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Waived	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Operations and support

5. Program Romeo

What type and category of SAP is Program Romeo?

Type	SAPCO
<input type="radio"/> <i>Acknowledged</i>	<input type="radio"/> <i>USD(AT&L) -Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics</i>
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<input type="radio"/> <i>Waived</i>	<input type="radio"/> <i>USD(P) - Under Secretary of Defense for Policy</i>

Conclusion

Now that you've had an opportunity to practice identifying the types and categories of SAPs, let's see if you are better equipped to fully understand your Welcome briefing.

Welcome to the Security Program office. We're glad to have you joining us for your orientation today. Before you get started, we wanted to take a moment to brief you on some of the types of programs that you may be working on in your new job here.

You should already be familiar with the concept of a Special Access Program, otherwise known as a SAP. But let's review the definition just to be sure.

A SAP is a classified program with special safeguarding and access requirements. SAPs safeguard national security by protecting technological breakthroughs and acquisitions, intelligence on U.S. force capabilities, and sensitive operational plans.

These are the general categories of SAPs, but there are also three distinct types of SAPs that you may find yourself working on. You might be assigned to an acknowledged SAP, you could be assigned to an unacknowledged SAP, or you could be assigned to a waived SAP.

Depending on what kind of SAP you work on, your program will fall under the purview of one of several Office of the Secretary of Defense-level SAP central offices.

Congratulations! You have completed the SAP Types and Categories Short. You should now have the knowledge that you need to understand the types and categories of SAPs that you may encounter in your new job.