

CASE STUDY

“1LT Sharp and the SECRET Papers”

You recently have been assigned as the communications and electronics staff officer of the 99th Infantry Battalion. You are replacing 1LT Sharp who has been selected for promotion to captain and who will be departing for the officer advanced course in two weeks.

You are impressed with the welcome you received and 1LT Sharp has done everything imaginable to ensure you're getting off to a good start. Your soldiers appear to be well trained, and your section sergeant, SSG Day, seems to know just about everything. You know you have big shoes to fill when 1LT Sharp leaves because everyone seems to like and respect him. You've heard people say that he knows more about infantry operations than most infantry lieutenants.

1LT Sharp has cleaned out his desk and tells you to make yourself at home. Later this afternoon he will be presented an award for his service to the 99th. His farewell party is this evening at the officers club.

As you are setting up your things in your new desk, you discover some papers wedged between the wall and the side of the desk. You pull them out and discover that they are pages from a communication security book and marked “SECRET.” You attach a cover sheet to them and go into the security vault to talk to SSG Day.

SSG Day checks the inventory and destruction certificates and discovers that 1LT Sharp certified that the book these pages came from was destroyed two weeks ago. Both you and SSG Day search the vault and the outer office for any other pages but you don't find any. SSG Day turns to you and says,

“Sir, I don't know about you, but the way I see this is that our section area is locked every evening. The civilian cleaning team doesn't even clean our area. Only our people ever come in here. From the look of these pages they've been behind that desk for some time. These pages are from an alternate communications security book and were never used. They were scheduled for destruction two weeks ago, and as far as I'm concerned 1LT Sharp destroyed them two weeks ago.”