

# Staff Sergeant-Technical Sergeant Professional Development Guide (PDG) Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

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# Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

# How to Use This Guide

**This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:**

## 1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

**Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.**

## 2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

**Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.**

## 3. Learn from the Explanations

**After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.**

## 4. Track Your Progress

**Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.**

## 5. Simulate the Real Exam

**Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.**

## 6. Repeat and Review

**Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.**

**There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!**

## **Questions**

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- 1. What was a notable characteristic of the farewell that marked the end of combat operations in Afghanistan?**
  - A. It was celebrated with a large military parade**
  - B. It was marked by a significant reduction in troop numbers**
  - C. It included a final statement from military leadership**
  - D. It ended with a reunion of veterans**
- 2. What type of missile complexes did the Soviet Union and Cubans begin constructing in Cuba in 1963?**
  - A. Long-range ballistic missile complexes**
  - B. Short-range nuclear missile complexes**
  - C. Intermediate- and medium-range ballistic missile complexes**
  - D. Conventional missile launch sites**
- 3. What was considered a required component for the success of land, sea, and air operations during WWII?**
  - A. Tank superiority**
  - B. Logistical support**
  - C. Air superiority**
  - D. Naval supremacy**
- 4. How many gravely wounded Americans did SrA Jason D. Cunningham save during military operations, for which he was posthumously awarded the Air Force Cross?**
  - A. 5**
  - B. 7**
  - C. 10**
  - D. 12**
- 5. True or False: Doctrine ties specific weapon systems to specific tasks or effects.**
  - A. True**
  - B. False**
  - C. Partially true**
  - D. It varies by operation**

**6. What is one of the goals in expanding peace-time components within the Air Force?**

- A. To prepare for potential future conflicts**
- B. To reduce military spending**
- C. To enhance civilian military partnerships**
- D. To maintain a smaller military presence**

**7. How did the Korean War initiate in 1950?**

- A. With negotiations between North and South Korea**
- B. With a surprise invasion of South Korea by North Korea**
- C. With US troops being deployed to Korea**
- D. With a UN resolution**

**8. What treaty, signed on 26 May 1972, limited the US and USSR to two Anti-Ballistic Missile sites each?**

- A. The Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty**
- B. The Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty**
- C. The Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty**
- D. The Non-Proliferation Treaty**

**9. Who is recognized for their expertise in air logistics and mobility in the Air Force?**

- A. General Curtis E. LeMay**
- B. General Carl A. "Tooey" Spaatz**
- C. Lieutenant General William H. Tunner**
- D. Major General Claire L. Chennault**

**10. What medal did SMSgt Ramon Colon-Lopez receive for his actions in Afghanistan on 11 March 2004?**

- A. The Silver Star**
- B. The Bronze Star**
- C. The Medal of Honor**
- D. The Combat Action Medal**

## **Answers**

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1. B
2. C
3. C
4. C
5. B
6. A
7. B
8. C
9. C
10. D

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## **Explanations**

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1. What was a notable characteristic of the farewell that marked the end of combat operations in Afghanistan?
  - A. It was celebrated with a large military parade
  - B. It was marked by a significant reduction in troop numbers**
  - C. It included a final statement from military leadership
  - D. It ended with a reunion of veterans

The notable characteristic of the farewell that marked the end of combat operations in Afghanistan was a significant reduction in troop numbers. As the decision to conclude combat operations was made, a systematic drawdown of forces took place. This withdrawal was a strategic move by the U.S. and allied forces, reflecting both military and political objectives. While there were certainly statements from military leadership and various commemorative events, the most prominent and defining feature was the actual decrease in the presence of combat troops on the ground. This reduction signified the transition from active combat missions to a more advisory role, intertwining with diplomatic efforts and the evolving security dynamics in Afghanistan. Therefore, understanding this reduction helps highlight the overarching strategy and the efforts toward establishing a new phase of U.S. engagement in the region.

2. What type of missile complexes did the Soviet Union and Cubans begin constructing in Cuba in 1963?
  - A. Long-range ballistic missile complexes
  - B. Short-range nuclear missile complexes
  - C. Intermediate- and medium-range ballistic missile complexes**
  - D. Conventional missile launch sites

The correct choice is identifying that the Soviet Union and Cuba began constructing intermediate- and medium-range ballistic missile complexes in Cuba in 1963. This development was a crucial point in the Cold War, as it significantly escalated tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union. Intermediate- and medium-range ballistic missiles (IRBMs and MRBMs) were capable of carrying nuclear warheads and had ranges that could target a large portion of the United States from Cuban territory. This strategic positioning was intended to strengthen the Soviet Union's deterrent capabilities in the Western Hemisphere and to counteract U.S. influence in the region. The placement of these missile complexes was a response to U.S. missile installations in Turkey and Italy, which were capable of striking the Soviet Union. The action of placing missiles in Cuba was considered an aggressive move and ultimately led to the Cuban Missile Crisis, a 13-day confrontation that brought the two superpowers close to nuclear conflict. Understanding the specific terms "intermediate" and "medium-range" is essential, as they indicate the range capabilities of the missiles involved, which were a significant part of the nuclear strategies employed during the Cold War.

**3. What was considered a required component for the success of land, sea, and air operations during WWII?**

- A. Tank superiority**
- B. Logistical support**
- C. Air superiority**
- D. Naval supremacy**

Air superiority was considered a required component for the success of land, sea, and air operations during World War II due to its crucial role in enabling military forces to conduct operations effectively. Control of the skies allowed for the protection of ground troops and naval fleets, as well as facilitating the movement of supplies and reinforcements. Air superiority provided a significant advantage by limiting the enemy's ability to launch attacks and disrupting their supply lines. The ability to maintain air dominance also allowed for strategic bombing campaigns that targeted key enemy infrastructure, morale, and resources. This capability was essential not only for direct support of ground and naval operations but also for ensuring that operations could be executed with reduced risk and increased effectiveness. Command of the air was pivotal in turning the tide in various battles, showcasing its importance throughout the conflict.

**4. How many gravely wounded Americans did SrA Jason D. Cunningham save during military operations, for which he was posthumously awarded the Air Force Cross?**

- A. 5**
- B. 7**
- C. 10**
- D. 12**

SrA Jason D. Cunningham, during his heroic actions in combat, is credited with saving a total of 10 gravely wounded Americans. This extraordinary act occurred during a rescue operation in Afghanistan in 2002, where he demonstrated exceptional bravery and selflessness while providing medical assistance under enemy fire. His actions not only showcased his medical training but also his commitment to his comrades, ultimately leading to his posthumous recognition with the Air Force Cross for his valor and sacrifice. The number 10 reflects the magnitude of his impact during that critical mission, highlighting the significant risk he took to save lives.

**5. True or False: Doctrine ties specific weapon systems to specific tasks or effects.**

- A. True**
- B. False**
- C. Partially true**
- D. It varies by operation**

The statement that "doctrine ties specific weapon systems to specific tasks or effects" is false. Doctrine serves as a foundational guideline that outlines how military forces are organized, trained, and employed. It is more about the principles and overarching strategies for military operations rather than a direct correlation between specific weapon systems and specific tasks or effects. Doctrine provides commanders with the framework to adapt and apply various capabilities in a flexible manner according to the mission at hand, rather than strictly linking weapon systems to predetermined tasks. This flexibility is essential in real-world operations where circumstances can change rapidly. The statement might be misunderstood because while weapon systems are indeed used to achieve certain effects, the doctrine itself does not categorize them as directly tied. It allows for a broader interpretation and application of various systems, allowing for a range of operational tactics and techniques based on the situation and assessment of needs rather than a strict connection.

**6. What is one of the goals in expanding peace-time components within the Air Force?**

- A. To prepare for potential future conflicts**
- B. To reduce military spending**
- C. To enhance civilian military partnerships**
- D. To maintain a smaller military presence**

One of the primary goals of expanding peace-time components within the Air Force is to prepare for potential future conflicts. By enhancing its capabilities and readiness during peacetime, the Air Force can ensure that it remains agile and well-prepared for any emerging threats or challenges that may arise. This approach allows for the development and maintenance of skills, training, and resources that will be critical in responding effectively to conflicts should they occur. The expansion of peace-time components focuses not only on immediate readiness but also on the broader strategy of deterrence and ensuring national security. A strong, well-prepared military presence during peacetime can help prevent conflicts from escalating while simultaneously improving the overall effectiveness of operations when necessary. Therefore, this goal aligns with the larger strategic framework of military preparedness and national defense.

## 7. How did the Korean War initiate in 1950?

- A. With negotiations between North and South Korea
- B. With a surprise invasion of South Korea by North Korea**
- C. With US troops being deployed to Korea
- D. With a UN resolution

The Korean War began in 1950 with a surprise invasion of South Korea by North Korean forces. This invasion marked the start of active hostilities between the two Koreas, as North Korea aimed to unify the peninsula under its communist government. The attack occurred on June 25, 1950, and was characterized by a rapid advance of North Korean troops across the 38th parallel, which had divided the two countries since the end of World War II. This incursion was a critical moment as it prompted an immediate international response, particularly from the United States and the United Nations. North Korea's aggression caught South Korea off guard, leading to significant early territorial gains for the North. The invasion and the subsequent response from international allies set the stage for a conflict that would last until 1953, ultimately solidifying the division of Korea.

## 8. What treaty, signed on 26 May 1972, limited the US and USSR to two Anti-Ballistic Missile sites each?

- A. The Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty
- B. The Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty
- C. The Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty**
- D. The Non-Proliferation Treaty

The Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, signed on 26 May 1972, specifically focused on limiting the development and deployment of anti-ballistic missile systems by the United States and the Soviet Union. This treaty was a crucial part of the strategic arms control efforts during the Cold War, as it aimed to enhance stability by restricting each superpower to only two ABM sites, which would mitigate the arms race by preventing both sides from developing extensive defensive systems that could undermine mutual deterrence. The focus on limiting anti-ballistic missile capabilities was based on the notion that effective missile defense could lead to an offensive arms buildup by either side, hence the desire to control such systems to maintain a balance. The other treaties mentioned, while relevant in the context of arms control, addressed different aspects of nuclear weapon limitations and proliferation.

**9. Who is recognized for their expertise in air logistics and mobility in the Air Force?**

- A. General Curtis E. LeMay**
- B. General Carl A. "Tooey" Spaatz**
- C. Lieutenant General William H. Tunner**
- D. Major General Claire L. Chennault**

The recognition of Lieutenant General William H. Tunner for his expertise in air logistics and mobility stems from his significant contributions to the development and implementation of effective airlift strategies within the U.S. Air Force. Tunner played a crucial role during vital operations, particularly during the Berlin Airlift, where he orchestrated a large-scale operation to supply a city under blockade, demonstrating his deep understanding of logistical operations in an air context. His leadership not only showcased his operational skills but also highlighted the importance of efficient supply chains and the movement of personnel and equipment through air transportation. This focus on logistics and mobility is a cornerstone of modern air power and reflects Tunner's enduring legacy in shaping how military logistics are perceived and managed. In contrast, while the other figures mentioned have notable achievements in military history, they are not primarily recognized for their specific focus on air logistics and mobility. General Curtis E. LeMay and General Carl A. "Tooey" Spaatz are more associated with strategic bombing campaigns and overall air force leadership rather than logistics. Major General Claire L. Chennault is known for his role in the China-Burma-India theater during World War II and for leading the Flying Tigers, rather than concentrating on air logistics. Thus, Tunner

**10. What medal did SMSgt Ramon Colon-Lopez receive for his actions in Afghanistan on 11 March 2004?**

- A. The Silver Star**
- B. The Bronze Star**
- C. The Medal of Honor**
- D. The Combat Action Medal**

SMSgt Ramon Colon-Lopez was awarded the Combat Action Medal for his courageous actions during a combat engagement in Afghanistan on 11 March 2004. This particular medal is designated for service members who have actively participated in ground or maritime combat, highlighting the bravery and valor displayed during direct engagement with the enemy. In this case, Colon-Lopez's actions on that day exemplified the spirit of this recognition, as the medal is specifically intended to honor those who face hostile fire. While the Silver Star and Bronze Star are also commendations for valorous actions, they are given for more exceptional acts of heroism and achievement in combat. The Medal of Honor represents the highest possible military award for valor, reserved for extraordinary acts of bravery, which were not part of Colon-Lopez's recognition in this instance. Thus, the Combat Action Medal accurately reflects his contributions and experiences during that operation, distinguishing it as the correct answer.

# Next Steps

**Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.**

**As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.**

**If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at [hello@examzify.com](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://ssgttsgtpdg.examzify.com>**

**We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!**

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