



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION
AND RESPONSE**

Engaging Men in the Prevention of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response: Part 2

Facilitated by: Joseph Vess,
Men Can Stop Rape



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Introduction

- **DoD**
- **Men Can Stop Rape**
- **Webinar series**



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Bystander Intervention

- **What is it?**
- **Why do we want to have more intervening bystanders?**



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What is Bystander Intervention?

- Actions taken by individuals or a group not directly involved to prevent, disrupt or end an act of violence.
- Examples could include:
 - Someone intervening to prevent an act of sexual assault or domestic violence;
 - Someone challenging a sexist joke, catcall, or other form of harassment;
 - An individual speaking up in support of a person being marginalized by another group or individual.
- Can be someone speaking up against violence committed against themselves, or against others.



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Individual Action as the Counterstory

First a question: Line X is most similar in length to which line, A, B, or C?

X _____

A _____

B _____

C _____



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Action in Relation to Social Conformity and Social Norms

- **S.E. Asch Study**
 - Perceived social norms shape behavior
 - Large majority of test cases went with social norm of group, rather than what they individually believed



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Action and Visible Allies

- **Asch re-ran the study**
 - **With one visible ally in the room, the large majority of test cases went with what they individually believed**
 - **Need for individual men to express what they truly believe, to be the allies for other men to find strength to speak what they know is true**



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What does your gut tell you?

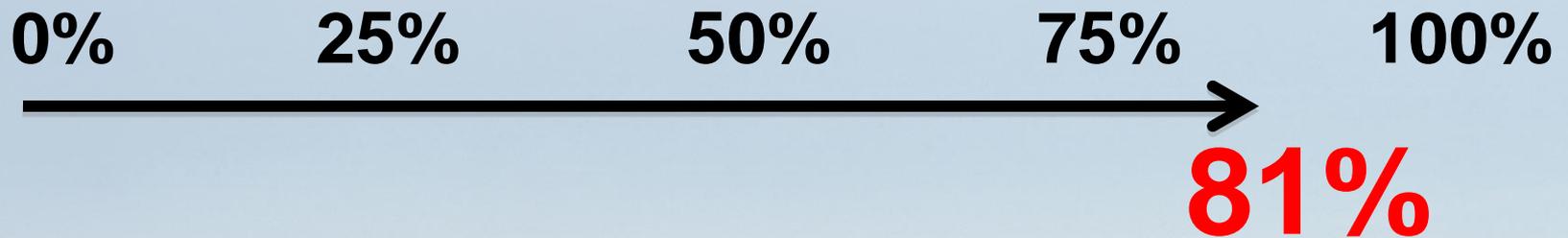
___% of college men “report some level of discomfort when men use terms like ‘bitch’ and ‘slut’ to refer to women.”

What do you think the percentage is? Write it down.



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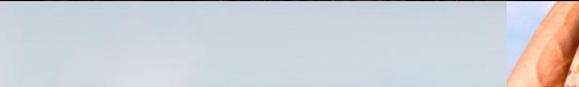


*Berkowitz, 2003



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Appreciating the Positive Counter stories that Already Exist through the “Strongest Man You Know” Exercise



Strong men are...

- Considerate
- Caring
- Good fathers
- Able to Take care of us
- Good listeners
- Empathetic
- Able to Provide for us
- Able to Overcome hardship
- Generous
- Able to change
- Able to admit mistakes
- Able to stand up for what they believe



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Using the Counter story to Overcome Barriers and Challenge the Dominant Stories

A counter story is a narrative that resists
The values and expectations of
masculinity's dominant stories and
therefore represents a moral shift.

--Adapted from Hilde Nelson's *Damaged Identities,
Narrative Repair*



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The Counter story

The intentional counter story: Dan at Western State College





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Teaching Bystander Intervention

Role Playing to Develop Skills

- In a meeting, two male Sailors regularly interrupt a woman who is speaking, or snicker and have side conversations. The senior officer leading the meeting appears not to notice.
- You are out with two fellow Soldiers. One of them begins to talk about how he is planning a date with a woman he knows, and wants to go someplace where the drinks are cheap and plentiful so she'll want to go back to his place afterwards.
- Walking across base, you notice a higher ranking marine and a woman talking in front of some barracks. He grabs her arm and she keeps pulling away, so he begins to grab her more forcefully.



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Teaching Bystander Intervention

Role Playing to Develop Skills

What would you do?

“You are standing in front of the commissary on the base where you are deployed, talking with a woman who works in your shop. Three fellow Airmen step outside and, after a minute, start talking loudly about the woman’s body, and one starts to whistle at her.”



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Teaching Bystander Intervention

Role Playing to Develop Skills

- **Pick realistic scenarios. Ask your VAs and other base allies for examples of situations they have seen.**
- **By acting out, you give them a chance to say directly what they would use. Not “I would tell him to knock it off,” but “Sir, I believe she would like you to leave her alone.”**
- **Debrief and explore scenarios. Talk through other ways to intervene, possible positive and negative reactions.**
- **Use scenarios to develop a list of skills that can be used in different scenarios.**



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Teaching Bystander Intervention

Costs and Consequences

- **Ask about the personal costs of intervening. Why would they intervene in a certain situation, but not in another one? What is the motivation? What result are they hoping for?**
- **What are the consequences for the other individuals if there is no intervention? If there is an intervention? Who “benefits” from an intervention?**



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Teaching Bystander Intervention

Use Narratives

- **Stories from your life and from the lives of your VAs and other base allies can be used to teach intervention strategies.**
- **Construct a narrative with different stopping points, and ask training participants what they would do at each point in the story. For instance, if a situation escalates from a man trying to get a woman to drink more to her being led upstairs, drunk, how could they have intervened early instead of later?**



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My Strength is for Defending

MY STRENGTH IS FOR DEFENDING.

So when that guy tried to cross the line with my friend,
I GOT HER OUT OF THERE.

PREVENTING SEXUAL ASSAULT IS PART OF MY DUTY.

Your Victim Advocate (VA):
1-800-123-4567 (24/7)

myduty.mil **READINESS = RESPECT**

MY STRENGTH IS FOR DEFENDING.

So when I saw she was drunk, I told my wingman:
ASK HER WHEN SHE'S SOBER.

PREVENTING SEXUAL ASSAULT IS PART OF MY DUTY.

Your Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC):
1-800-123-4567 (24/7)

myduty.mil **READINESS = RESPECT**

MY STRENGTH IS FOR DEFENDING.

So when that guy tried to cross the line with my shipmate,
I GOT HER OUT OF THERE.

PREVENTING SEXUAL ASSAULT IS PART OF MY DUTY.

Your Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC):
1-800-123-4567 (24/7)

myduty.mil **READINESS = RESPECT**

MY STRENGTH IS FOR DEFENDING.

So when I saw she was drunk, I told my battle buddy:
ASK HER WHEN SHE'S SOBER.

PREVENTING SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT IS MY DUTY.

www.preventsexualassault.army.mil
Military OneSource: 1-800-342-3644

I AM STRONG

Loyalty Duty Respect Selfless Service Honor Integrity Personal Courage

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What is the goal of the posters?

- How do you want Service members to respond to the poster's message in the short term? In the long term?

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 myduty.mil 

The poster features a close-up portrait of a young Black man with a serious expression, wearing a yellow t-shirt. The background is a bright blue sky with light clouds. The text is overlaid on the image in various colors and fonts, including a red banner at the top and a blue banner at the bottom.



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Engaging Senior Leadership





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Engaging Senior Leadership

- **Speak to their priorities; why does having bystander intervention training improve the base, the community, and the lives of the individuals there.**
- **Speak to their values; how is bystander intervention training consistent with the values that they are seeking to instill in the men and women on base.**
- **Re-emphasize the importance of them leading by example in bystander interventions.**



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Engaging Non-Commissioned Officers





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Engaging Non-Commissioned Officers

- Engage their experience and their position. They have been in the same place as the service members under their command, and can connect with them more easily.
- NCOs are often the first to become aware of incidents and the aftermath, and often recognize very clearly the importance of preventive measures.
- It makes their jobs easier; fewer incidents means fewer fires they are called to put out.



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Engaging Enlisted Service Members





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Engaging Enlisted Service Members

- Usually the newest service members, so they may be at a formative point. The earlier these messages can be conveyed, the better.
- Because they aren't officers, more likely to see or be on the receiving end of harmful behaviors, and thus very likely to appreciate the personal impact.
- Can have a very strong impact through peer education by reinforcing positive behaviors and challenging negative ones by wingmen/battle buddies/etc.



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Session 2 Conclusion

- Questions?
- Other comments?
- Thanks you!

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