

 DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION
AND RESPONSE

Engaging Men in the Prevention of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response

Facilitated by: Pat McGann and Joseph Vess,
Men Can Stop Rape

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Introduction

- DoD
- Men Can Stop Rape
- Webinar series

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Who's in the Room?

- Imagine you are a group of young Soldiers, Sailors, Marines or Airmen who have been told to attend a briefing on sexual assault prevention.
- What is going through your head?

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Who's in the Room?

- Why do your commanders think you should take part in a training about sexual assault prevention?
- What are some of the stereotypes about members of the US military relating to sexual assault?

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Who's in the Room?

- **Still in role, what are some of the stereotypes and assumptions that you as Service members might have about SARCs or about a sexual assault prevention presentation?**

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Traditional Sexual Assault Prevention

- **What has sexual assault prevention historically looked like on military installations and beyond?**
- **Who are the messages targeted toward?**
- **What are the messages being sent?**

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Traditional Sexual Assault Prevention

- **Stay in groups, don't go out alone**
- **Don't drink too much**
- **Don't wear anything provocative**
- **Carry mace or pepper spray**
- **Don't go back to his place**
- **Check the back seat for an assailant before getting in your car.**
- **Keep your doors locked at all times**
- **and on and on and on...**

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So what is Prevention?

- **Primary Prevention and Risk Reduction**
- **Prevention work in the US Military**
- **Engaging both men AND women in prevention**



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What do these words mean to a Service members?

- My Strength is for Defending
- Preventing Sexual Assault is Part of my Duty

MY STRENGTH IS FOR DEFENDING.

ASK HER WHEN SHE'S SOBER.

ASK HER WHEN SHE'S SOBER.

PREVENTING SEXUAL ASSAULT IS PART OF MY DUTY.

myduty.mil

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Why is Sexual Assault a military issue?

- Undermines Core Values and Creeds
- Degrades Mission Readiness and Combat Effectiveness
- Subverts Strategic Goodwill
- Raises Financial and Time Costs

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Why is Sexual Assault a military issue?

- **Sexual Assault Undermines Core Values and Creeds**

- Integrity First
- Service Before Self
- Excellence in All We Do

Warrior Ethos
I will always place the mission first
I will never accept defeat
I will never quit
I will never leave a fallen comrade

Airman's Creed
I am an Airman.
I am a Warrior.
I have answered my Nation's call.
I am an American Airman.
My mission is to Fly, Fight, and Win.
I am faithful to a Proud Heritage,
A Tradition of Honor,
And a Legacy of Valor.
I am an American Airman.
Guardian of Freedom and Justice,
My Nation's Sword and Shield,
Its Sentry and Avenger,
I defend my Country with my Life.
I am an American Airman.
Wingman, Leader, Warrior.
I will never falter,
And I will not fail.

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Why is Sexual Assault a military issue?

- **Rape Degrades Mission Readiness and Combat Effectiveness**

Question: How does rape and sexual assault degrade mission readiness and combat effectiveness?

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Why is Sexual Assault a military issue?

- **Sexual Assault Subverts Strategic Goodwill**

Los Angeles Times | Opinion

Editorials Op-Ed Letters Columnists Blowback Dust-Up

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Opinion

Rapists in the ranks
Sexual assaults are frequent, and frequently ignored, in the armed services.

» Sunday Opinion
» Write to Us

By Jane Harman
March 31, 2008

Archive:

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Why is Sexual Assault a military issue?

- **Sexual Assault Raises Financial and Time Costs**
- Double duty
- **\$98.5 million: Cost of separating service members from units due to sexual assaults (reported) from 2003-2007.**
- **\$7,176,107: Estimated minimum cost of the 181 courts-martial for sexual assault in the US military in 2007.**

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Definition of the Dominant Story of Traditional Masculinity

A dominant story as it relates to manhood is a narrative representing the values and messages associated with a shared understanding of what it means to be a man as defined by traditional masculinity.

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"REAL MEN" and the dominant story

- Smart
- Rich
- No self control
- Brags
- Physically strong
- Takes care of his own
- Married
- Wise
- Above the law
- Self-made
- Shows no emotions
- Surrounded by women
- Demands respect
- Influential
- Invulnerable
- Charitable
- Has power over others

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Examples of Dominant Stories from *Maxim Magazine* Cover Headlines



<p>Sex Express! How to spot the girl with the condom in her purse</p> <p>Two Billion Women... time to get busy!</p> <p>Three Extra Inches Please! Can surgery turn your toothpick into a baseball bat?</p> <p>Any Woman Anytime 8 pick-up tricks than never fail (we bar-tested 'em)</p>	<p>Mind Control Made Easy! 22 ways to make people do whatever you want</p> <p>Filthy Stinking Rich Cash so quick it's like stealing!</p> <p>Mexican Gladiators Border town brawlers fight for cash and glory</p> <p>Take Down a Terrorist! The tools and skills you need to take control now!</p>
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Appreciating the Positive Counter stories that Already Exist through the "Strongest Man You Know" Exercise

- Who is the Strongest Man you know or knew?
- What are the attributes that made him a Strong Man?
- How did he show strength through his interactions with other people?

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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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Two Kinds of Counter stories

- The unintentional counter story: Joe as a college student
- The intentional counter story: Dan at Western State College



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The Strength Approach to the Counter story

...STRENGTH as leading by example, on and off duty



Moving beyond just physical strength to include...

...STRENGTH as saying the right thing at the right time



...STRENGTH as a commitment to others and your team



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**A Counter story for SARCs and Victim Advocates:
You Already Have Skills to Engage Men**
Advocates can engage men by...

- Believing them
- Listening to them
- Mediating for them
- Exploring choices with them
- Inform and educating them
- Empathizing with them
- Empowering them
- Leading them

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Developing Allies

- Commanders
- Victim Advocates
- Senior NCOs
- Chaplains
- Investigators
- Medical Personnel
- Equal Opportunity Officers (EO)
- Family Readiness Groups (FRGs)
- Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS)
- Drug and Alcohol Program

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Building Allies

- Respecting Boundaries
 - Work with your Family Advocacy Program Manager (FAPM)
 - Public Affairs Office (PAO)
 - Servicing Legal Office

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Consistent Message for All Groups

- Approaches may vary based on group dynamics (e.g. age, rank)
- Underlying message always consistent



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Session 1 Conclusion

- Questions?
- Other comments?
- Part 2 of the webinar will be on Tuesday, June 16, 2009 from 1-2:30pm

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