

Increasing A Bystander Intervention Climate

Introduction

In order to assist someone (or a group of individuals) out of any situation may be difficult. It can take:

- Knowledge of a problem
- Empathy towards victim(s)
- Confidence within yourself
- Support from others around you

Introduction

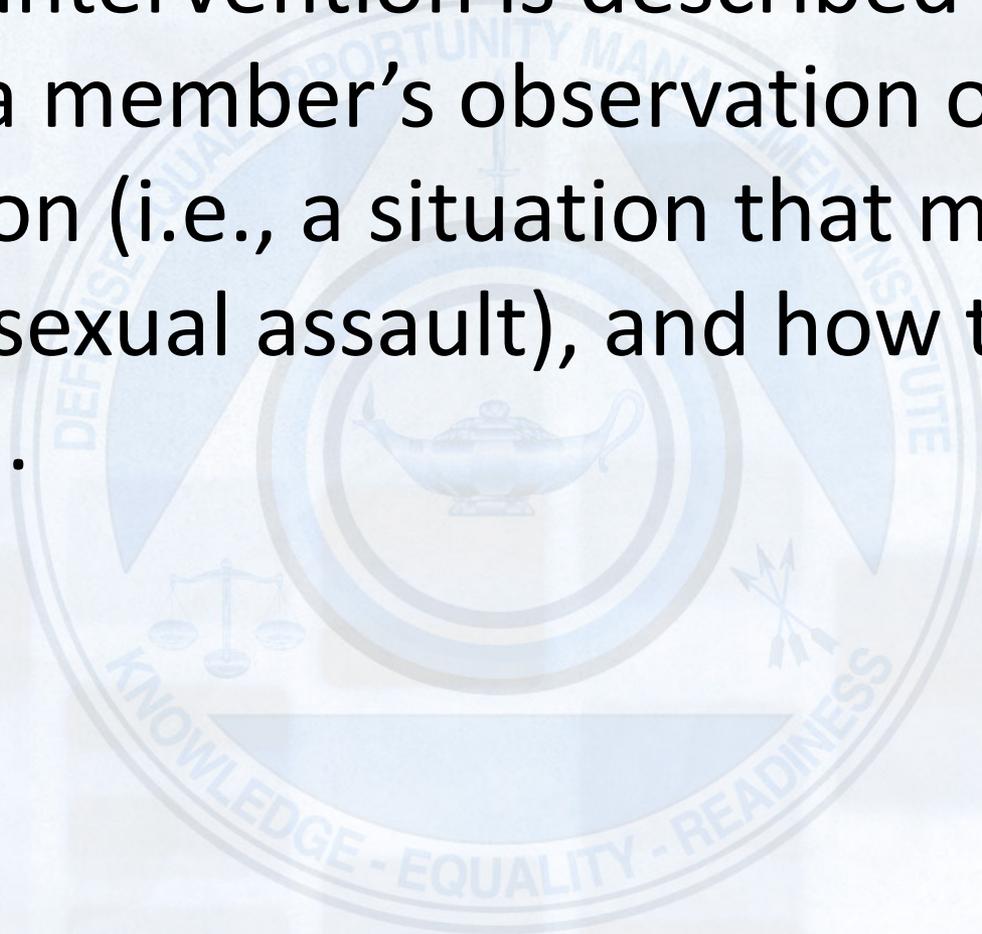
Bystander (behavior) interventions aim to reduce violence by encouraging individuals to intervene in a safe and effective manner when they hear or see circumstances that could lead to violence.

Overview

- Explain Bystander Intervention
- Identify your Organizations Bystander Intervention abilities after a high risk situation
- Recognize the Negative Effects of an Inexistent Bystander Intervention Climate
- Know the Strategies to Increase an Organizations Bystander Intervention Climate

Bystander Intervention

Bystander intervention is described on the DEOCS as a member's observation of a high-risk situation (i.e., a situation that may precede a sexual assault), and how they intervened.

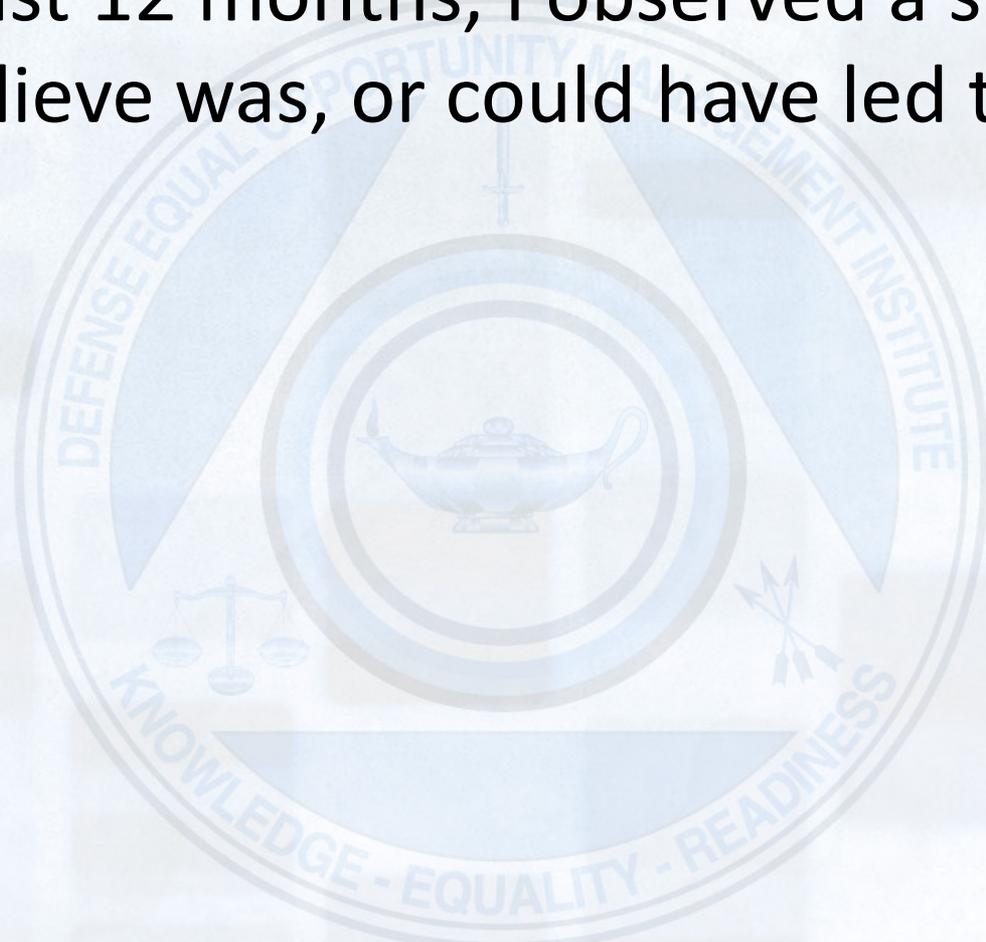


Bystander Intervention

The DEOCS asks the following two questions to identify an individual's awareness of a possible sexual assault and the actions (if any) were taken by the survey participant.

Bystander Intervention Questions

1. In the past 12 months, I observed a situation that I believe was, or could have led to, a sexual assault.
 - a. Yes
 - b. No



Bystander Intervention Questions

2. *Follow-up*: In response to this situation: (Select the one response that most closely resembles your actions)

- I stepped in and separated the people involved in the situation
- I asked the person who appeared to be at risk if they needed help
- I confronted the person who appeared to be causing the situation
- I created a distraction to cause one or more of the people to disengage from the situation
- I asked others to step in as a group and diffuse the situation
- I told someone in a position of authority about the situation
- I considered intervening in the situation, but I could not safely take any action
- I decided to not take action

Bystander Intervention Questions

Commanders can use the results from these two DEOCS questions to determine if their current training is effective or ineffective.

Furthermore, they can use these responses to help determine additional problematic behaviors, high risk locations, occurrences of sexism/sexual harassment prior to a sexual assault.

Negative Effects

When an observer of any negative behavior does not intervene, there may be short and long term consequences:

- Perception the negative behavior is wanted
- Social acceptance from others
- Reoccurring harmful behaviors
- Long-term health consequences
- Increase in violence/criminal activity
- Decreased teamwork, cohesion and/or sense of belongingness

Strategies

Knowing how and when to intervene may be difficult, and practice can make perfection.

The following are strategies to increase a Bystander intervention climate.

Strategies (cont.)

- Discuss and explain why intervening in different situations is crucial to ensuring a healthy environment
- Demonstrate how to intervene if you feel someone is in an uncomfortable situation
- Ensure **all leaders participate in all training events** (introduce guest speakers, provide closing remarks, etc.)

Strategies (cont.)

Practice can make perfection:

1. Educate yourself, your peers, and your subordinates on how and when to safely intervene during various scenarios.
2. Then practice the strategies to determine the best possible intervention.
3. When you are complete practicing, gather others, and practice together more; never practice to time, practice to become perfect.

Strategies (cont.)

For more information on Bystander intervention (including additional strategies) visit:

- www.deomi.org
- www.sapr.mil
- www.cdc.gov
- www.rain.org