

SAPR Talking Point 5: Wingman and Leadership Intervention

If we all do our part as wingman, and leaders, to intervene (reactive) and set new norms (proactive), we can reduce the number of people who are impacted by sexual violence.

Recognize Warning Signs:

- ❖ **Recognize warning signs for sexual violence is the first step to intervening.**
 - Wingman might know the potential perpetrator, victim, or maybe even both. What you notice can change depending on your relationships with the people involved. It is important to remember all genders are at risk for sexual violence.
 - The warning signs we each notice can be different. What's essential is that we each take action when we see a behavior that concerns us or crosses our line.
 - See the appendix (page 21) for a list of common warning signs.

Intervening:

- ❖ **Everyone has barriers to intervening sometimes.**
 - Personal Barriers: Things such as fear of embarrassment or retaliation, fear of escalation or getting hurt, or being uncertain what to do.
 - Social Barriers: Being concerned with how Airmen in your unit, friends, or other people will react if you get involved.
 - Organizational Barriers: Concern that getting involved could have a negative impact on your career, rank, or someone else's career.
- ❖ What is important is that we each take action when we see a behavior that concerns us.
- ❖ **Pick a intervention option that is most *realistic* for you to do despite the barriers.**
 - Direct: Address the situation yourself by approaching any of the people involved.
 - Delegate: Get someone else to intervene such as a supervisor, first sergeant, friends, a bartender, chaplain, etc.
 - Distract: Create a distraction that will diffuse or interrupt the situation. You could ask someone to drive you home, ask to borrow a phone, or interrupt and start a conversation.

Creating a Healthy Climate:

- ❖ **Prevention is not limited to intervening when you notice warning signs. It includes *setting norms* that promote respect and make sexual violence less likely to happen.**
 - Three important norms that help reduce sexual violence:
 - ✓ Sexual assault will not be tolerated.
 - ✓ Everyone deserved to be treated with respect.
 - ✓ Everyone is expected to play a part in prevention.
 - Consider different contexts to communicate that sexual violence prevention efforts are important to you like social media, work life, and your personal/social life.
 - Norms are set by small decisions: What is something you can say or do today to promote a healthy climate of respect?