



Communication Tool Kit

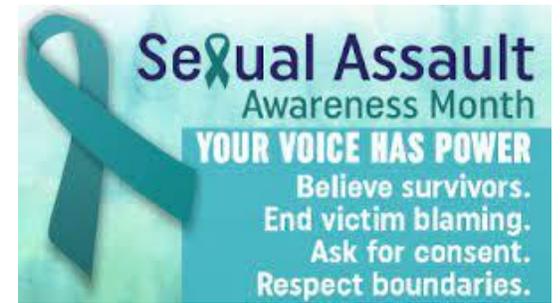
PHYSICAL, MENTAL, SPIRITUAL, SOCIAL, FINANCIAL

QUARTER 3 (April-June)



Q3 (Sexual Assault of an SM)

“Step Forward, Prevent. Report. Advocate.”



Vignette: A SM under your leadership seems very distant and is not as engaging with others as they normally do. You pull them aside and ask them if “everything is OK?” After awhile-they reveal that they were at a party last weekend and an acquaintance of theirs sexually assaulted them. What do you do next?

- A) Tell them how sorry you are that they experienced this and that you won’t tell anyone about it.
- B) Tell her them how sorry you are that they experienced this-but that they will get over it.
- C) Tell them you are sorry for what they experienced, thank them for confiding in you, and ask them if they would like to speak to the SAPR office to discuss the reporting options.
- D) Explain to them that you are not sure what they should do, but that you are there to help them as needed.

BEST answer. C. Thank the SM for the willingness to confide and trusting you with the information. Encourage them to speak with a SARC/VA. If they are hesitant, remind them that speaking with SARC/VA is confidential and offer to accompany them if they would like additional support.

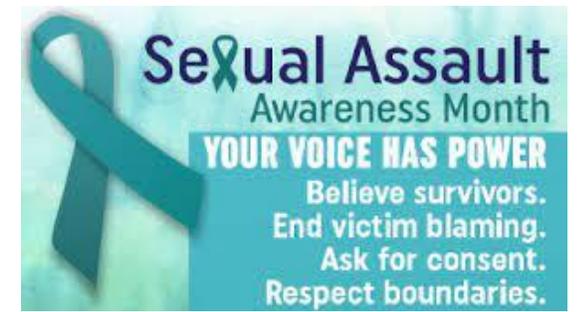
Discussion Q&A:

- What are some pros and cons of each of the potential responses listed above?
- Why do you think it might be important to also tell your CoC of the assault?
- The SM asks that you not “tell anyone” about the assault-how do you handle this situation?

Resources: Unit Victim Advocate, SARC, DPH, Chaplain. WING 24/7 Sexual Assault Response Line 608. 469.2627

Q3 (Sexual Assault of an SM)

“Step Forward, Prevent. Report. Advocate.”



Takeaways:

- Assure the SM that you are glad that they confided in you and that you are there to support them.
- Respect the SM's wanting to not want to discuss the assault with others but encourage them that by speaking with a VA or SARC they can assist the SM in reporting options, legal matters and even medical exams as needed.
- Medical examinations can occur between 5-7 days after the assault, so it is important to involve SAPR team ASAP!
- This scenario is all too common and happens more often than people may realize. The SAPR program along with DPH's are there to support and advocate for the SM.
- Vet Centers are also excellent resources and will provide (free) individual counseling for any SM who has experienced a sexual assault.
- Unit CoC should be notified immediately if there are any safety concerns that need to be addressed and allow for the commander to provide additional support to the SM.
- So long as the SM has not already gone to law enforcement, upon the notifying the Commander of the sexual assault affords the SM the opportunity to choose whether they want to file a restricted or unrestricted report.

Follow-Up Resources:

- Unit Victim Advocate
- SARC
- WING 24/7 Sexual Assault Response Line 608.469.2627
- DPH/Chaplain
- Vet Centers
- Primary Care Physician

Feedback From the Field:

We know your time is valuable and we want to thank you for setting aside some time to talk over these topics. Your feedback is highly encouraged and welcomed. We would love to hear your thoughts and ideas as to how well these discussions were implemented as well as how well they were received. For feedback, suggestions or even any success stories that you would like to share, a survey can be completed at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SMSD2021>