



# Bystander Intervention

**TASK:** Identify ways to intervene when faced with sexual harassment or possible sexual assault.

**CONDITIONS:** Discussion – Question based

**STANDARDS:** Demonstrate at least one technique for intervention. Understand Intervene – Act – Motivate (I.A.M.) Strong is the Army's campaign to stop sexual assaults before they occur.

**REFERENCE(S):** I.A.M. Strong, US Army SHARP Program  
<http://www.preventsexualassault.army.mil/index.cfm>



# Bystander Intervention

Maintain your situational awareness

Be alert for red flags and possible precursors to sexual assault:

Someone who makes jokes about rape

Sexual harassment

Stalking

Attempting to isolate one person from others

Sits or stands too close to you

Someone who pressures you to have sex

Anyone who pressures you to drink (more) alcohol

Someone who makes jokes about making a date so drunk they pass out

Fraternization

Someone who encourages underage drinking or drug use



# Bystander Intervention

What are some methods for intervening without tackling someone at the bar or getting in trouble for disrespect if you're targeting a more senior person?

- Indirect: Say someone observing the situation is concerned about the person's conduct.
- Distraction: Utilize creative options to distract the people involved to de-escalate the situation. This may involve humor or appealing to other interests of the people involved. Try telling the person you need to talk him, call/text if you know one of them, interrupt and ask a question.
- Split: Step in and separate the two people. Voice your concerns. Let them know you're acting in their best interest.
- Consensus gathering: Get other people involved to help the person in trouble, and to gather strength in numbers. "That looks jacked up, maybe we should help her get out of here."
- Friends: Find the person's friends and get them to intervene.
- Authority: Get the bartender, bouncer, whoever's room/house the party is at, or someone in chain of command involved. "This dude is bothering one of my friends"



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Read the scenario, and make sure your role players Pat and Tracy are ready in advance:

Pat and Tracy are together at a party in someone's house on Fort Irwin. You see that Pat (a fellow Soldier from your unit) is getting noticeably uncomfortable, and you're pretty sure Tracy is the reason why. Tracy is buying Pat a lot of drinks, and Pat seems to be getting very drunk. You know that Pat doesn't really like Tracy, and you wonder why they're drinking together.

Even though Pat isn't being forced to stay at the bar, even though there are a bunch of people, I'm going to make sure Pat has the opportunity to escape an uncomfortable situation. Maybe an intervention will just make Pat's night a little better. Maybe an intervention will stop a sexual assault.

Tracy: Your intent is to get Pat drunk, take Pat home, and have sex – whether Pat wants it or not. You've been watching her for a while and this is a good opportunity. But you don't want to get caught or in trouble, especially on post, so you're not going to start a fight.

Pat: You'd really like to get out of this situation, but you don't want to anger Tracy. Tracy is an NCO and you feel it might be a problem if you're too rude. You're also a little drunk and don't have a ride.