

RETALIATION AND REVICTIMIZATION | Basic

IMPORTANT! This video may trigger an emotional response in some viewers who may have experienced a sexual assault or know someone who has. Before playing this video, say the following:

- In this video, sexual assault survivors share their stories—circumstances, impacts, and response experiences vary.
- These individuals give us insight into several issues that survivors of sexual assault face.
- If at any point you need to step out of the room, please do so.

NOTE: Sample answers are provided below each question. Listen for these responses. These are not all encompassing; they are ideas to generate discussion. If participants offer these answers, make sure the class knows they are accurate. If attendees are not participating, you can share the sample answers.

PRE-VIDEO QUESTION:

1. In what ways do you think victims of sexual assault might encounter poor treatment (such as ostracism, retaliation, reprisal) from others?

- Listen for:**
- They may be accused of being somehow responsible for the crime.
 - They may be blamed for getting the perpetrator in trouble.
 - As “punishment” they may be shunned, given extra work or menial tasks, bear the brunt of gossip, etc.
 - People may ask intrusive, embarrassing, or personal questions.

POST-VIDEO QUESTIONS:

1. We just heard from several sexual assault survivors. What examples of revictimization did they share?

- Listen for:**
- FC2 Convis was blamed by peers and she was given meaningless tasks.
 - Cpl Scarboro was accused of causing her sexual assault by acting like a “typical female.”
 - ITC Chastine and MA3 Claar felt isolated and shunned by peers.

2. In your personal experience, does the “rumor mill” exist in your rank or peer group? Why or why not?

Listen for: (Responses will vary. Let Sailors/Marines discuss their perception of gossip in their workplaces.)

3. When it comes to an incident of sexual assault, how can rumors be particularly harmful?

- Listen for:**
- The victim not only has to deal with the trauma of the crime, but with mistreatment from others.
 - Rumors and gossip can quickly spiral out of control; opinions can incorrectly be portrayed as facts.
 - Rumors can fuel resentment and cause people to take sides; they can cause a loss of unit cohesion.
 - Rumors and gossip can potentially interfere with the investigation.
 - They are a distraction and a detriment to mission readiness.

4. We talk about bystander intervention to *prevent* sexual assault, but how does the concept apply after a victim comes forward to report and/or seek help?

- Listen for:**
- Use one of the intervention techniques when we notice that a victim is being treated poorly.
 - Intervene on behalf of a Sailor/Marine who isn’t acting like himself or herself by asking, “Are you okay?”

5. Using the “direct,” “distract,” “indirect,” and “protocol/delegate” techniques, how can you use bystander intervention to prevent/stop retaliation and revictimization?

- Listen for:**
- Direct: “Mind your own business, show some respect.”
 - Distract: “Instead of gossiping, can you help me with this?”
 - Indirect: “Your friend has been spreading rumors; leadership is picking up on it.”
 - Protocol/Delegate: “Sir/Ma’am, there’s been gossip going around that I think you should know about.”

RETALIATION AND REVICTIMIZATION | Advanced

IMPORTANT! This video may trigger an emotional response in some viewers who may have experienced a sexual assault or know someone who has. Before playing this video, say the following:

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- These individuals give us insight into several issues that survivors of sexual assault face.
- If at any point you need to step out of the room, please do so.

NOTE: Sample answers are provided below each question. Listen for these responses. These are not all encompassing; they are ideas to generate discussion. If participants offer these answers, make sure the class knows they are accurate. If attendees are not participating, you can share the sample answers.

PRE-VIDEO QUESTIONS:

1. Unfortunately, sexual assault victims are sometimes revictimized by the treatment they receive after they come forward to report or seek help. In what ways do you think victims of sexual assault might encounter poor treatment (such as ostracism, retaliation, reprisal) from peers?

- Listen for:**
- They may be accused of being somehow responsible for the crime.
 - They may be blamed for getting the perpetrator in trouble.
 - They may be shunned or they might bear the brunt of gossip.

2. From their leaders?

- Any of the above, plus...**
- They may be given extra work or menial tasks.
 - Leaders may ask intrusive/embarrassing/personal questions to find out what happened.
 - They may be prevented from attending appointments.

POST-VIDEO QUESTIONS:

1. We just heard from several sexual assault survivors about the poor treatment that they received from peers as well as from leaders. What was most eye-opening for you? Why?

Listen for: [Responses will vary.]

2. While reports of sexual assault are supposed to be confidential (even unrestricted reports are supposed to be on a need-to-know level), gossip and rumors still get out. Why?

- Listen for:**
- Sometimes the victim or the alleged offender will confide in others.
 - Sometimes there were witnesses to actions leading up to the sexual assault.
 - Sometimes the victim or alleged offender will proactively speak up to share his or her side of the story.

3. Revictimization and mistreatment like rumors, retaliation, and ostracism often happen when we are out of earshot. How, then, do we monitor and prevent this?

- Listen for:**
- Encourage Sailors/Marines to intervene when they witness retaliation, reprisal, mistreatment, or ostracism—or, to reach out and ask peers who appear to be struggling if they're doing okay.
 - Regularly walk the deckplates and workspaces to get a sense of the climate and morale.
 - Communicate with your Sailors/Marines; take an interest and ask them how things are going (however, don't be overly intrusive and pry for specific details or information about an alleged sexual assault).
 - Request anonymous feedback and suggestions via comment boxes.