

Liberty Press Weekly

Dec. 5, 2011, Vol. 3, No. 49

512th Airlift Wing, Dover Air Force Base, Del.

Bystander Intervention Training begins at Dover

Senior Airman Tanisha Brown
512th AW Public Affairs

The 512th Airlift Wing held its first Bystander Intervention Training Dec. 3 here.

BIT is the most recent training added to the current Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program, which was implemented here two years ago.

"The SAPR program was created to help service members understand what sexual assault is and how it happens; the bystander training takes it a step further and shows service members how a third party can prevent the assault from even occurring," said Lt. Col. Gary Noble, 512th Aerospace Medicine Squadron director of operations.

According to Air Force officials, the goal of BIT is to empower Airmen to effectively prevent sexual assault against their fellow wingmen.

"As service members, we want to protect each other out in the field if they're in danger, and this is no different," said Maj. Liza Orlando, 512th AMDS Medical Service Corp supervisor and BIT instructor. "We should be protecting our wingmen no matter what the degree."

BIT is a requirement that must be completed by June 2012 by all Air Force active-duty personnel, Reserve and Guard members, as well as civilians who supervise Air Force personnel.

The 90-minute training, which is broken down into three modules -- males, females and the wing's senior leadership, is limited to 25-30 participants per class.

"The modules are separated, so people can feel comfortable," said Noble. "The smaller classes encourage participation and ultimately make for better interaction."

Orlando agrees the small classes are beneficial for Airmen.

"Male and female genders think differently and will speak out more freely," she said. "The separation gives them that opportunity."

Senior Master Sgt. Denise Hubbell, a 512th AMDS nurse, the services superintendent and a victim advocate, knows firsthand about the likelihood of an assault.

"I worked in a male-dominated field, and I was a victim of an assault," said Hubbell. "But, I came from an era when there wasn't a sexual assault response coordinator. I didn't have a way to get my voice out, I had no outlet."

Hubbell, who is also a BIT instructor, recognizes the need for the training.

"We wouldn't be teaching these classes if there wasn't a need," she said. "We have to get the word out across the board, because sexual assault is on the rise."

For more information on sexual assault prevention or training, Noble can be reached at (302) 677-4658.

For response or reporting procedures, or to become a victim advocate, please contact Ann McMillan, the base SAPR coordinator at (302) 677-3680.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Andria J. Allmond

Ready, Set, MOPP

Maj. Bill Mills, 512th Airlift Wing Exercise Evaluation Team member, inspects the mission oriented protective posture of Tech. Sgt. Kevin Hooper, 512th Operations Group, inside a hangar on Dover Air Force Base, Del., Dec. 3. Members of the Liberty Wing will join their active-duty counterparts in an Operational Readiness Inspection slated for Dec. 7-14 in Gulfport, Miss., where they will prove their ability to survive and operate in austere conditions.

Operation Homefront provides free toys to military families

Staff Sgt. Jessica Cendana
512th AW Public Affairs

As part of Operation Homefront, hundreds of Dover Air Force Base Areservists received free toys and stocking stuffers for their children Dec. 3-4 at the base theater.

Reserve members with the 512th Airmen & Family Readiness Office and Key Spouse volunteers collaborated with Operation Homefront to make this possible. The nonprofit organization focuses on providing support to American military personnel and their families and teams-up each year with a national dollar-store chain to provide military families with toys, ranging from popular cartoon characters, dolls and action figures to puzzles, games and more.

"Having this resource provided during this time of the year relieves a bit of stress for military families," said Master Sgt. Laura Coseglia, 512th A&FR director.

The December Unit Training Assembly commander's call provided the perfect forum to make the toys available to 512th Airlift Wing reservists.

To read the full article, please visit <http://www.512aw.afrc.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123282308>.