

TALKING PAPER

ON

ANONYMOUS VERSUS NON-ANONYMOUS SCREENING

- The advantages of Anonymous Screening are:
 - To provide accurate surveillance data
 - To provide an overview of the extent of an AFB's drinking problem
 - May help to identify modifiable risk factors in your target population
 - Will be viewed by the target population as non-punitive
 - To serve an educational function
 - Is consistent with the theory of "social norming" and will provide corrective information about the actual drinking behavior of fellow airmen
 - To provided individualized, meaningful feedback to each airmen
 - May provide a teachable moment
 - To provide group feedback
- The disadvantages of anonymous screening are:
 - Commanders with Personal Reliability Programs (PRP) absolutely prefer non-anonymous screening
 - Most Commanders prefer non-anonymous screening
 - Commanders may feel that you are identifying a problem but not allowing them to do anything about it
 - The advantages of non-anonymous screening are:
 - Will provide Commanders with PRP programs another possible tool to determine an airmen's reliability
 - Will give Commanders what they want

- Will communicate the message that the Commander is interested in the drinking behavior of his airmen
- Would result in a referral to ADAPT for someone who is identified as high risk
- The disadvantages of non-anonymous screening are:
 - Will be perceived as punitive and career limiting
 - Will tend to generate inaccurate data
 - Will not be able to serve a surveillance function
 - Will probably not serve an educational function