**“Glen’s Parallax Perspectives”** is a series of TV programs offering fresh ways for people to see issues such as foreign policy, social and economic justice, governmental functioning, the environment, and so forth. We provide voices and viewpoints that are rarely heard in mainstream media.

**Mainstream media, politicians, and culture see the world in conventional ways. Therefore, in order to solve problems, we need to see things in fresh ways.** Glen Anderson created this TV series to help people see things differently so we can solve problems at all levels from the local to the global.

This series title refers to “***parallax***,” which is the view you get by looking from a different perspective. For example, put one finger in front of your nose and another finger farther away. Close one eye. Then open that eye and close the other. Your fingers will seem to move. This is called a “parallax” view. **This TV series invites you to look at issues from fresh perspectives.**

Each program airs three times a week (currently every Monday at 1:30 pm, every Wednesday at 5:00 pm, and every Thursday at 9:00 pm) for the entire month on Thurston Community Television (TCTV), channel 22 for cable TV subscribers in Thurston County, Washington. TCTV is part of Thurston County Media. You can see their schedule at [**www.tcmedia.org**](http://www.tcmedia.org)

**You can also watch the program summarized below through your computer** at [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org). All episodes of “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” are posted on this blog’s “TV Programs” part and also in one or more of the categories listed in the right side of the blog home page. Also, see information about various issues at the category headings at [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org).

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**🡪 I saved this document in Word format with live links.** If this document does not load or print properly for you, please e-mail me at **glenanderson@integra.net** and I’ll promptly send you the links you request.

**🡪 Please invite other people to watch this video and/or read this thorough summary through these parts of my blog,** [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)**: “TV Programs” and “Military Service” and “Parallax Examples.”**

**“**Some People in the Military Refuse Orders**”**

Glen’s Parallax Perspectives TV Series

September 2022

Glen Anderson (360) 491-9093 **glenanderson@integra.net**

**Glen introduced our topic and our guests:**

This month’s interview on “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” shares first-hand experiences, insights, and information about people in the military who refuse to fight wars.

The experience of being in the military – especially while the U.S. is fighting a war – gives fresh insights to a great many people about the war they are being ordered to fight – and also about the larger reality of war overall.

Many people refuse to fight. Some become well known for their resistance, while others are not known to the public.

Two guests will help us explore this topic. **Jeff Paterson** and **Stephanie Atkinson** joined the military when they were young. When the older George H.W. Bush was conducting the U.S.’s first war against Iraq, they knew it was wrong, so they refused orders, suffered retaliation by the military, and finally got out.

In this interview, Jeff and Stephanie share their experiences and tell us about their current efforts to help other people who are in the military resist war.

Glen welcomed Jeff and Stephanie and began the interview.

He invited each guest to summarize what they experienced first-hand. Then after we have heard from each guest briefly, we would go back so each guest could tell us more.

**Jeff**’s first-hand experience: **BRIEF SUMMARY:**

Jeff said he joined the Marines when he was 18. He said he wanted “to go around the world and kill bad people.” He told the Marine Corps that any job would be OK with him – wherever they most needed him – and he wanted a lifelong career in the Marines. He spent four years on Okinawa and in the Philippines. He realized that “we were not killing bad people after all.” He said that “actually a lot of good people were being hurt too.”

He said he “fell out of live with the mission,” and he realized that he “was no longer a Marine.” He decided he would simply complete the time remaining in his enlistment and then move on.

But a few days before his discharge date arrived, Iraq invaded Kuwait. His job in the artillery was a very rare specialty – a certification for battlefield tactical nuclear warheads. He said this special skill made him a very high-priority person to be sent to that region.

His commander told him that he might be lucky enough to assemble a nuclear warhead, so – in the commander’s wording – he could “nuke all the ragheads.” This made him recognize that he needed to get out. He figured he could handle going to jail better than being “part of a nuclear holocaust that I did not believe in.”

**Stephanie**’s first-hand experience: **BRIEF SUMMARY:**

Stephanie said her experience was very similar to Jeff’s. She joined Army Reserve at age 17 during her senior year in high school. She wanted to get out of a small town where she did not see a future for herself. She wanted to see the world and get educated. She said she was naïve.

She said that during her six years in the Army Reserve, she discovered that she was not a very good soldier. What she observed during this experience convinced her that she and the Army were not a good match. She was going to “stick it out for as long as I could.” Like Jeff, she was very close to the end of her enlistment. During her final reserve summer camp, the Army said Iraq had invaded Kuwait, so she was told to keep her skills sharp.

Her Army job was in an administrative unit rather than a combat role. Her job dealt with processing the mail. She refused to do even that.

**Jeff**’s first-hand experience: **MORE INFORMATION:**

Glen invited Jeff to tell us more about his first-hand experience, how his experience evolved, and so forth.

Jeff said his evolution began as soon as he arrived at boot camp. He found that people were yelling at him for no good reason. Then when he finished boot camp and became “a real Marine” and arrived at his first duty location, he thought they would treat him better, but the abuse continued.

Then when he arrived in Korea, he found that an important matter was how much to pay for local prostitutes. The chaplain told the new Marines “what happens in Korea stays in Korea,” instead of messing up relationships with wives and sweethearts back home.

He said when he arrived in the Philippines, he saw local people trying to get the scrap metal from artillery shells while the Marines were still firing them in the artillery zone. He said the poverty was that desperate.

He said his evolution continued in the late 1980s when his friends returned from Honduras and El Salvador, where they had been training the “Contras” [the anti-Nicaragua terrorist units created by the CIA] to fight the “communists” there. His friends told him about the torture that was occurring in the embassies there.

His evolution toward resisting orders continued when he was trained how to assemble artillery with nuclear weapons that would be fired at human beings. This finally convinced him that he was not a Marine and could not perform that job, but there was no easy way out because his enlistment contract still had time left in it. He did not know how to get out, so he decided to just “stick it out.” He discovered that he did not like guns anymore. People thought he was weird and called him a hippie.

He worked and lived with some men for 3 ½ years, so when he finally refused orders, some people hated him, but they did respect him, even if they did not fully understand his decision. These friendships and this respect did protect him from physical retaliation and violence that some other military resisters did not have.

***Jeff provided this additional information before we conducted the interview and from another source:***

His resistance occurred during the older George HW Bush’s first war against Iraq. His four years of working with artillery ended with his orders to install small (“tactical”) nuclear weapons on artillery. A few years afterward, the Marines removed those nukes from artillery.

He was interviewed in an article (“Gulf War Resister Jeff Paterson: Up Against the War Machine”), which was published at this link -- [**https://revcom.us/a/v22/1080-89/1087/jeff\_paterson.htm**](https://revcom.us/a/v22/1080-89/1087/jeff_paterson.htm) -- and began with these three paragraphs:

On August 7, 1990, 22-year-old Marine Cpl. Jeff Paterson refused to board a military plane in Hawaii heading to Saudi Arabia. He was the first active-duty military resister in the U.S.-led attack on Iraq. The photo of Jeff Paterson sitting on the airstrip, bravely defying orders to go fight in the Gulf War, made TV and newspapers around the world. On the 10th anniversary of the beginning of the U.S. bombing of Iraq, the *RW* asked Jeff Paterson to recount his story for readers of the *RW*.

**RW:** January 2001 is the 10th anniversary of the start of the U.S. war in the Persian Gulf.Many long-time readers of the RW remember the stand you took in 1990, as the first GI to refuse orders to fight in the war.But newer readers may not have heard about this.Could you run down what happened to you?

**JP:** Ten years ago the U.S. launched a protracted bombing campaign against Iraq, but for me the war began four months before that.In the days following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait a small number of troops were already being prepared for deployment and I was part of that deployment force of Marines.At that point I had been in the Marine Corps for almost four years of my four-year enlistment.I only had a couple of weeks left, and I was looking forward to getting out in a couple of weeks and signing up for community college and getting on with my life.

**Stephanie**’s first-hand experience: **MORE INFORMATION:**

Stephanie said she came from a home that sometimes was volatile, so she had experience being yelled at. The adaptive skills she had developed at home did not work at basic training because the people with power kept yelling at her anyway.

She did not like basic training, so she tried to “fail out of basic training,” but she said they “recycled” her by making her go through the training again. She lamented that basic training “broke” her and made her into a different person. Basic training was designed to change many things about a person so they will obediently accept violence and become a “lean, mean fighting machine.”

She was in the reserves, so after basic training she went home and tried to decompress, but decompressing from that is hard. She started college and tried to focus on being a college student. Being an army reservist was a pesky nuisance that she had to do for periodic weekends. She was hoping that she could minimize the army reserve obligation, but that was not really possible.

Every year a different experience compelled her participation: Honduras, Panama, and so forth. She said there seemed to be an invasion somewhere every year around Christmastime. She said when the end of her six years was approaching, she just wanted to be done with all of that.

She saw the news about Jeff and wondered what he was doing and why. She said his resistance helped her decide to resist her order to activate.

Glen said Jeff did get a lot of publicity. He said he remembers seeing a lot of publicity – articles and photos – about Jeff’s very public resistance on the military airstrip, where he sat down on the runway and refused to get on the plane. Stephanie said she saw the news and photos about Jeff in a college newspaper in the rural Midwest. She paid attention and recognized that people really can refuse orders.

She mentioned Jeff’s statement about sexual activities in Korea. She said women and men in the same military unit would go out to bars and socialize – and she said the military culture in other countries lead to awareness of “the ugly American” in those countries. She did not want to be part of that.

Glen said it seems that Jeff and Stephanie each experienced internal moral changes that led them to conclude, “This is not me any longer. I’m different from this. I need to exercise my conscience.” This led each of them to refuse orders. Then each of them did suffer the military’s serious retaliation against them.

***Stephanie told Glen some additional information before we conducted our interview:***

Her enlistment contract was for 6 years in reserves. Her unit went to Korea. She went to Japan for another activity. Her army job was an administrative clerk rather than a combat role, but even so, she knew she was mismatched for the army and became a bad soldier. “This is not me.”

Her separation date would have been in 1990. When Iraq invaded Kuwait, she was scheduled for her final 2-week training. The older President George HW Bush ordered that people scheduled to be released would be forced to stay in the military even past their scheduled discharge dates.

She needed to make serious decisions. Reading a newspaper article about Jeff Paterson’s resistance gave her the courage to decide to take responsibility for her decision to resist and not go as ordered. She was very publicly AWOL – and the first woman to refuse to go to the first Gulf War. She was interviewed in the news media. She spent time in jail for violating military law. This was happening from August to November of 1990.

**Jeff shared more information about his resistance:**

Jeff said that he was a child during the Vietnam war, but he later became vaguely aware of military resistance to that war. He said that he was only 21 or 22 when he refused to fight and thought this current war in Iraq needed its own protest movement. He figured he might as well be someone who could start that. He thought he would likely go to jail, but that would be better than going to Iraq and using nuclear weapons – and living with those for the rest of his life.

He said he held a press conference, and this made the military even angrier at him. He said the military wanted to drag him out to the airport and have the media film him while he was marched onto the airplane. Instead, he sat down on the runway and refused to move.

He said some other people followed his example, and the military did drag them onto airplanes, because they did not want Jeff’s example to catch on and become a movement.

He faced five years in prison. Instead, the military decided to kick him out.

**How widespread has been U.S. military resistance from past to present?**

Glen said that ordinary people who pay attention to the news hear about only a very few individual resisters in the military. Actually, he said, resistance has been widespread. During the Vietnam war it was very much more widespread and was much more common than news media reported. Really, resistance in the military has continued up to the present day too.

Glen said that when he posts this TV video to his blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org), he will also post links to some additional information about this, including information about resistance during the Vietnam war.

***We did not have time to share this information:***

Jeff and Stephanie were not just two “bad apples.” There actually were many resisters – and an actual movement that the military did not want to admit was underway.

During the 1990-1991 Persian Gulf War that Stephanie and Jeff resisted, many other troops said, “Hell No! We Won’t Go!” The worldwide pacifist organization War Resisters International posted this article: [**https://wri-irg.org/en/story/2014/gulf-hell-no-we-wont-go**](https://wri-irg.org/en/story/2014/gulf-hell-no-we-wont-go)

Recently, a new film titled “The Boys Who Said NO!” highlights how the principled nonviolent resistance of a few early on sparked greater opposition to the Vietnam war and ultimately helped end a disastrous conflict. Bullfrog Films, the film’s educational distributor, is promoting **“The Boys Who Said NO!”** to colleges, schools, and public libraries. The film is available to purchase or rent on DVD for institutional use or to stream in classrooms. If you are connected with an educational institution or library, [**see and share the Bullfrog website for purchase information**](https://boyswhosaidno.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4333b89ed1d302413e11ab7a0&id=7b9f3e2e39&e=e43ce41a40).  Activist groups can request discounts. The film will be available for personal use later this year.

Veterans for Peace is a nationwide organization (in which both Stephanie and Jeff are members). VFP includes veterans from all recent and current wars. VFP’s “Vietnam Full Disclosure Campaign began in 2019. See information here: [**https://www.vietnamfulldisclosure.org/call-to-action-sir-no-sir-renewing-50-years-of-resistance-in-and-out-of-uniform/**](https://www.vietnamfulldisclosure.org/call-to-action-sir-no-sir-renewing-50-years-of-resistance-in-and-out-of-uniform/) This website says:

“We in Veterans For Peace are declaring 2019 as the year we will acknowledge and honor the courage, the sacrifice, and the moral strength of those GIs who resisted their government’s call to go to war. We want to tell their stories, to give them a forum to share their lives with us. Not just as a history lesson, but as a primer for young women and men in uniform today who are listening to their own moral consciences and are looking for guidance.”

“Sir! No Sir!” is David Zeiger’s powerful 2005 documentary film about military men and women who forced the U.S. government to end the Vietnam war. See this [**List of Resources**](https://vietnamfulldisclosure.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e6a59325863c80e4d1a977ac3&id=797f175690&e=422c8236ac)

During the Vietnam war, many draft resisters and military resisters moved to Canada or Sweden. Those nations welcomed them. A number of years ago three bronze sculptures were erected in Canada, Sweden and the U.S. to express appreciation for these courageous war resisters. Efforts were organized by Our Way Home and other people. (Glen Anderson helped a little.) See information here: [**www.owhrinstitute.com**](http://www.owhrinstitute.com)

**How widespread has been the resistance in OTHER NATIONS’ militaries?**

Glen said he became active in the peace movement in the 1960s and has paid attention to other nations’ wars – and the resistance within other nations’ militaries. He said a lot of resistance occurred in a number of countries, including South Africa during the Apartheid era. He said he remembers meeting a South African draft resister who was among several resisters in prison there who sang loudly so they could be heard throughout the cell block.

Also, many people in Israel’s military have been resisting their draft and resisting military service in the occupied Palestinian lands in past years and still today.

He said now many Russian troops are refusing to fight in Ukraine – and while the U.S. government and media praise Russian resisters, they still but demonize American resisters.

***We did not have time to share this information:***

Resistance has been occurring in other nations’ militaries too. This article provides information about soldiers in a variety of countries refusing orders to use violence:[**https://wagingnonviolence.org/links/when-soldiers-refuse-orders-to-use-force/**](https://wagingnonviolence.org/links/when-soldiers-refuse-orders-to-use-force/)

On July 2, 2022, Courage to Resist supported this statement by Veterans for Peace about the war in Ukraine: [**https://couragetoresist.org/statement-on-ukraine/**](https://couragetoresist.org/statement-on-ukraine/)

A broad alliance calls for protection/asylum for deserters and conscientious objectors from Russia, Belarus and Ukraine: [**https://couragetoresist.org/resisters-russia-belarus-ukraine/**](https://couragetoresist.org/resisters-russia-belarus-ukraine/)

Israeli military resisters are bold and need support. See this information from the Refuser Solidarity Network: [**https://mailchi.mp/refuser/refusers-solidarity-15037209?e=6c362056c8**](https://mailchi.mp/refuser/refusers-solidarity-15037209?e=6c362056c8)

An Israeli military resister wrote this:

“Not many people around the world know this, but there are many Israelis who oppose the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and who are trying to receive an exemption from military service so they would not participate in these war crimes. Because it is so hard to receive an exemption based on conscientious objection and there is a risk of incarceration, many resort to indirect ways of receiving an exemption on psychological or physical grounds.”

“My journey was a bit different. I was asked to report to reserve duty and I refused. I was sentenced to a military trial in which I received a jail sentence of 14 days. Before entering prison, I wrote a strong, critical, political letter to the army. It stated the reasons why I am not willing to serve an occupying army and why I am not willing to support the militarization of Israeli society, after which I served the sentence I was given. A couple of weeks ago, I finally received my exemption from reserve duty. I am glad I stood my ground and received my exemption from service solely by stating my objection to the occupation.”

**Ehren Watada:**

Before Glen asked Stephanie to share her “counter-recruitment” efforts to help people make better informed decisions before joining the military, he asked Jeff about a few important cases of resistance by people within the U.S. military

Jeff – as a prominent resister himself and in his role at Courage to Resist – supported the decision of First Lieutenant Ehren Watada to refuse to deploy to Iraq in June 2006. Jeff summarized Lt. Watada’s act of resistance and the consequences of his decision.

Jeff said that when Courage to Resist (the organization Jeff directs) was relatively new, Lt. Watada reached out to the new organization in 2006 and said he felt compelled to refuse to fight in the Iraq war that had started in 2003, because the war was illegal, unjust and immoral.

Jeff said he helped Lt. Watada at his trial – and about 34 other trials of military resisters. He said Courage to Resist has raised millions of dollars to help military resisters deal with the consequences of their conscientious acts of resisting the military. He said Watada was a great success story who never served a day in prison. His courageous case became very well known, especially in his local region in Western Washington State. Glen said he participated in some of the regional support activities here.

***We did not have time to share information from two sources (Wikipedia and the ACLU):***

**Wikipedia reported:**

**Ehren Keoni Watada** (born 1978) is a former [first lieutenant](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Lieutenant#United_States) of the [United States Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Army), best known as the first [commissioned officer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commissioned_officer) in the US armed forces to refuse to deploy to [Iraq](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ehren_Watada#cite_note-SeattlePI060620-1) In June 2006, Watada refused to deploy for his unit's assigned rotation to [Operation Iraqi Freedom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq_War),[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ehren_Watada#cite_note-Vid1-2)[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ehren_Watada#cite_note-3) saying he believed the war to be illegal and that, under the doctrine of [command responsibility](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Command_responsibility), it would make him party to [war crimes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_crimes). At the time, he was assigned to duty with the 5th Battalion, [20th Infantry Regiment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/20th_Infantry_Regiment_%28United_States%29), part of the 3rd Brigade, [2nd Infantry Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2nd_Infantry_Division_%28United_States%29), as a [fire support officer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forward_observer). He was brought before a court-martial in 2007 which ended in a mistrial; the Army subsequently discharged him under "[Other-Than-Honorable-Conditions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Other_than_honorable_discharge)" (OTH) in 2009.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ehren_Watada#cite_note-The_Associated_Press-4) An OTH discharge is the least favorable type of administrative discharge from the Army, and is reserved for a "pattern of behavior that constitutes a significant departure from the conduct expected of Soldiers of the Army.”

**On August 22, 2006, the American Civil Liberties Union (**[**www.aclu.org**](http://www.aclu.org)**) issued this statement supporting Ehren Watada’s right to free speech opposing the Iraq war:**

*See next page*

**Brief Filed for Soldier Facing Court Martial for Opposition to Iraq War**

TACOMA, WA -- In a military justice case that has drawn wide attention, the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington is backing the free speech rights of a soldier facing court martial for refusing to serve in the war in Iraq. The ACLU today submitted a friend-of-the-court brief contending that Lt. Ehren Watada should not be punished for his public statements expressing legal and moral objections to the war in Iraq.

The military is holding a hearing on August 17 to determine whether to go forward with court martial proceedings against Watada. The ACLU takes no position on his challenge to the lawfulness of the orders to report for duty in Iraq.

“Soldiers should not be court-martialed for explaining their views on important political issues when doing so does not adversely affect military functioning. Lt. Watada was exercising his free speech rights as a citizen in a democratic society,” said Kathleen Taylor, Executive Director of the ACLU of Washington.

**Chelsea Manning:**

Glen said the probably more people have heard about a U.S. soldier who was born Bradley Manning and later transitioned to become Chelsea Manning. In 2009 Manning was assigned to an Army unit in Iraq as an intelligence analyst, and Manning had access to classified databases. Manning “blew the whistle” on U.S. war crimes in Iraq by reporting classified information to WikiLeaks, which published the material in 2010 and 2011. Manning was court-martialed and imprisoned.

Jeff said that Chelsea Manning’s act of conscientious resistance was historic. Manning provided to the public some important information about illegitimate U.S. actions in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo – and also some State Department messages about Arab Spring.

Jeff has spent 7 years supporting Chelsea Manning, including being present for several months for Manning’s trial at Fort Meade, near Washington DC. He said they were very disappointed when she was sentenced to 35 years in prison (although this was somewhat less than the life sentenced that had been threatened). He said the real victory came through the huge effort of public education and advocacy that lasted seven years and finally convinced President Obama to commute her sentence, so now Chelsea is living her life, traveling and speaking to audience – not only about this but also about transgender rights, animal rights, and cybersecurity.

Glen added that – again here, as with Watada – Manning’s experience shows the importance of having public support when people in the military refuse orders and resist by taking bold conscientious stands for peace. This shows that even those of us who are not in the military can help out in a variety of ways. He said he had Manning’s bumper sticker on his car for a great number of years.

**Wikipedia reported this:**

**Chelsea Elizabeth Manning** (born **Bradley Edward Manning**; December 17, 1987) is an American activist and [whistleblower](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whistleblower). She is a former [United States Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Army) soldier who was convicted by [court-martial](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Court-martial) in July 2013 of violations of the [Espionage Act](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Espionage_Act_of_1917) and other offenses, after disclosing to [WikiLeaks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WikiLeaks) nearly 750,000 classified, or unclassified but sensitive, military and diplomatic documents. She was imprisoned from 2010 until 2017 when her sentence was [commuted](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commutation_%28law%29). A [trans woman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trans_woman), Manning stated in 2013 that she had a female [gender identity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gender_identity) since childhood and wanted to be known as Chelsea Manning. She also expressed a desire to begin [hormone replacement therapy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hormone_replacement_therapy_%28male-to-female%29).

Assigned in 2009 to an Army unit in Iraq as an [intelligence analyst](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intelligence_analysis), Manning had access to classified databases. In early 2010, she leaked [classified information](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classified_information_in_the_United_States) to WikiLeaks and confided this to [Adrian Lamo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adrian_Lamo), an online acquaintance. Lamo indirectly informed the Army's [Criminal Investigation Command](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Army_Criminal_Investigation_Command), and Manning was arrested in May that same year. The material included videos of the [July 12, 2007, Baghdad airstrike](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/July_12%2C_2007%2C_Baghdad_airstrike) and the 2009 [Granai airstrike](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Granai_airstrike) in Afghanistan; 251,287 [U.S. diplomatic cables](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_diplomatic_cables_leak); and 482,832 Army reports that came to be known as the "[Iraq War Logs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq_War_documents_leak)" and "[Afghan War Diary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghan_War_documents_leak)". The material was published by WikiLeaks and its media partners [between April 2010 and April 2011](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_material_published_by_WikiLeaks#2010).

Manning was charged with 22 offenses, including [aiding the enemy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uniform_Code_of_Military_Justice#Punitive_articles), which was the most serious charge and could have resulted in a [death sentence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capital_punishment). She was held at the [Marine Corps Brig, Quantico](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marine_Corps_Brig%2C_Quantico) in Virginia, from July 2010 to April 2011, under Prevention of Injury status—which entailed [*de facto*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/De_facto) solitary confinement and other restrictions that caused domestic and international concern—before being transferred to the [Joint Regional Correctional Facility](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midwest_Joint_Regional_Correctional_Facility) at [Fort Leavenworth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Leavenworth), Kansas, where she could interact with other detainees. She pleaded guilty in February 2013 to 10 of the charges. The [trial on the remaining charges](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_v._Manning) began on June 3, 2013, and on July 30, she was convicted of 17 of the original charges and amended versions of four others, but was acquitted of aiding the enemy. She was sentenced to 35 years at the maximum-security [U.S. Disciplinary Barracks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Disciplinary_Barracks) at Fort Leavenworth. On January 17, 2017, President [Barack Obama commuted](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_people_granted_executive_clemency_by_Barack_Obama) Manning's sentence to nearly seven years of confinement dating from her arrest in May 2010. After release, Manning earned a living through speaking engagements.

**Camilo Mejia, Daniel Hale, and other resisters:**

Glen said that many years ago he heard Camilo Mejia speak publicly in Olympia about his experience refusing to continue as a soldier in 2004 during the Iraq war. Although Mejia filed to be released as a Conscientious Objector, he was charged with desertion and sentenced to one year in prison. While he was in a military prison, Amnesty International recognized him as a prisoner of conscience. While Camilo Mejia was in prison, he wrote:

“I was a coward, not for leaving the war, but for having been a part of it in the first place. I failed to fulfill my moral duty as a human being, and instead I chose to fulfill my duty as a soldier…. I am confined to a prison, but I feel, today more than ever, connected to all humanity. Behind these bars I sit a free man because I listened to a higher power, the voice of my conscience.”

Glen said Camilo Mejia was a great speaker, and the audience that Glen was in was very much impressed with Mejia’s powerful message.

Glen said not enough people know about Daniel Hale, a “whistleblower” who is in prison now in 2022 because he told the truth about the U.S. drone wars and terrorist watchlists. Daniel Hale has already spent one year behind bars. With a 45-month sentence, he has almost three years left to serve. People are urging President Biden to commute Daniel Hale’s sentence. You can click this link to urge Congress to urge Biden to commute Hale’s sentence: [**https://oneclickpolitics.global.ssl.fastly.net/messages/edit?promo\_id=16979**](https://oneclickpolitics.global.ssl.fastly.net/messages/edit?promo_id=16979)

***We did not have time to discuss more about Hale:***

The military documents released by Daniel Hale revealed concrete evidence supporting the high rate of civilian casualties inflicted by the US drone program. At times 90% of drone strikes hit unintended targets or innocent bystanders. His truth-telling also exposed the guidelines for the US terror watch list, although this information was unclassified, it was kept from the public. This release enabled individuals to successfully challenge their placement on the notorious No Fly List so their names could be removed. Daniel deserves to be free.

The only person who can commute Daniel Hale’s sentence and release him sooner is the President. People are urging Congress to urge President Biden to commute Daniel Hale’s sentence. You can click this link: [**Write to your member of Congress telling them to call on President Biden to commute Daniel's sentence!**](https://www.codepink.org/r?u=CYr2P2_0WnT_72KxuXFZlzMGXhHlEjofTvHNCadA1gKGWM2Ul2LIqzzfvXL7evvMCWTEewGCDNiVbwy1Jr4hKzWzBIpXjTrWTd574qJcu6A&e=c70f7dd118066ec9d2aaeea3a89007b3&utm_source=codepink&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=daniel_hale_ocp&n=4)

**Existentialist philosophers say the world is absurd, but we must make choices anyway:**

Glen said that resisters such as Stephanie and Jeff and the others we have been discussing have made courageous decisions – based on conscience – and have suffered serious consequences.

He said he often thinks about the Existentialist philosophers of the 1950s and 1960s who said we live in a world that is badly messed up and grossly dysfunctional. Many existentialist philosophers said the world is **absurd**. There are **no** good choices. But we must decide anyway – and live with the consequences.

He said that throughout our lifetimes we face difficult decisions – including deciding what to do about big, hard, scary issues such as nuclear weapons and the climate crisis. He urged people to act upon their best values – act upon their consciences – and choose ethical options, even at some personal risk.

He said his February 2022 TV program was about people who have “blown the whistle” upon gross injustices in various sectors of our society by publicly exposing the injustices. He titled that episode of his TV series, **“Whistleblowers Serve the Public. Let’s Protect Them.”** People can watch that interview video about whistleblowers and/or read a thorough summary of what we said during the interview by visiting Glen’s blog: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/whistleblowers-serve-the-public-lets-protect-them**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/whistleblowers-serve-the-public-lets-protect-them)

Glen said he wants our society to provide compassionate support for people who are struggling with difficult decisions. He wants people to experience the powerful experiences of positive transformation. This is a good example of human growth.

People can, for example, support whistleblowers and resisters who make difficult conscientious decisions.

**Everyone can resist abusive militarism by urging Congress to sharply cut the military budget:**

We did not have time for Glen to say that people who are NOT in the military can resist war by urging Congress to sharply cut the military budget.

U.S. military spending is horribly excessive. Apart from the Social Security trust fund, which is funded separately from the regular federal budget, Congress keeps spending about half of the discretionary budget on wars: past, present and future. He has posted information to the “Military Spending” part of his blog at this link: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/category/military-spending**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/category/military-spending)

When people ask Congress to end poverty or provide health care or clean up the environment, Congress keeps saying we can’t afford to do that. But Congress keeps wasting money on reckless and corrupt spending for military weapons and illegal wars.

Even apart from the budgetary trade-off decisions, military spending distorts and hurts how **the economy** functions **as** an economy. Starting in the mid-1970s, Glen has researched this extensively and found that economists were proving this as early as the 1950s. Glen also worked with other people to organize grassroots efforts to de-militarize the economy of Washington State. Anyone wanting to know about this can contact him at **glenanderson@integra.net** or (360) 491-9093.

Also, ordinary people who are NOT in the military can resist war by refusing to pay their “war taxes” to the IRS. The War Tax Resistance movement has been organized for several decades. Different people’s different financial circumstances might allow or restrict opportunities to refuse to pay war taxes. For information contact the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee, [**www.nwtrcc.org**](http://www.nwtrcc.org)

**The military seriously hurts the climate:**

Stephanie explained how the military hurts the climate. The U.S. military pollutes the climate more than any other entity in the world. She said she recently returned from an event in Washington DC that helped people work on the connection between militarism and the climate crisis. She and some other people were arrested for blocking a street in a symbolic protest because we have passed a tipping point and cannot wait any longer before taking strong actions to deal with the climate crisis.

Beyond the things individuals can do, we must sharply reduce the systemic causes of the climate crisis, including sharply reduce militarism, which is crucially important.

Glen thanked Stephanie for making the point that throughout the whole world, the entity that causes the very most climate pollution is the U.S. military. He added that a few decades ago when the Kyoto Protocols were being negotiated in Kyoto, Japan, the U.S. government bullied the other nations into PROHIBITING THE MEASUREMENT the amount of greenhouse gas pollution caused by militaries operating outside of their own national borders. So – by this corrupt definition – all of the U.S.’s horrible energy-intensive wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, and everywhere else caused ZERO climate pollution. He said the system is rigged and we must stop that deception.

**The military brutalizes recruits, trains them to kill, but does not de-program them upon release:**

Glen said that both Jeff and Stephanie have told us about going through boot camp and being trained for their military jobs. They know first-hand how the military brutalizes new recruits and trains them to kill. He said he is concerned that the military does not **de-**program people away from violence when they are being released from military service so they can re-enter mainstream society peacefully without that traumatizing and violent baggage. The military’s failure to do this seems to be injecting a toxic element into our society.

Jeff shared some information and insights about this. He said that anybody who has been in the military knows that the transition back into the civilian world is hard for the vast majority of those people. He said each person must deal with a major reset of their identity, who they are, and their personality, and the norm of screaming and yelling orders.

Also, he said, the promises of job training never materialized in ways useful for civilian jobs, which are significantly different from military jobs, so the military training is not what people need for civilian jobs.

He mentioned the point we had made a moment before – about training people to kill. He said when he was trained to be a Marine, the Marine Corps took pride in training people to kill. He said some of history’s worst mass murderers had been Marines.

We did not have time for Glen to mention the 1995 terrorist bombing of Oklahoma City’s federal building as an example of violence committed by a military veteran who had been trained to kill – but was never de-programmed. Timothy McVeigh worked with another man to use a powerful explosive to destroy the federal building in Oklahoma City. They killed at least 168 innocent people and injured more than 680 others. This was the biggest domestic terrorist crime in U.S. history. Both men were anti-government extremists with white supremacist, right-wing terrorist sympathies.

See more information about that at these links:

* [**https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/oklahoma-city-bombing**](https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/oklahoma-city-bombing)
* [**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oklahoma\_City\_bombing**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oklahoma_City_bombing)
* [**https://www.famous-trials.com/oklacity/730-home**](https://www.famous-trials.com/oklacity/730-home)
* [**https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/8683816/**](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/8683816/)

**PTSD and “moral injury”:**

Glen said that every war traumatizes members of the military. Decades ago, this was called “shell shock.” During the Vietnam era this term changed to “Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder” – PTSD. Now people also recognize what is called “Moral Injury” for having committed acts of violence and that seriously upset a person’s conscience and moral identity to such an extent that it becomes debilitating.

Jeff shared some information and insights about this. He said that actually “moral injury” has existed for thousands of years before this term came into use. He said thousands of years ago people went off to wars, did very bad things, and felt bad for the rest of their lives about what they had done.

He said that nowadays “when today’s military works as it was planned, it is remote.” People shoot their weapons but generally do not see the results. He said that in his case it was artillery and rocket-assisted artillery.

Jeff said that increasingly the U.S. is using unmanned drones. Daniel Hale, whom Glen had mentioned a moment ago is a perfect example of someone who suffered moral injury while personally staying safe in a nice air-conditioned office in the U.S. while killing people on the other side of the world. Daniel Hale could simply log off from his computer and go home to a nice, normal life. But he still developed post-traumatic stress disorder and moral injury. He was never in the locations anyone was targeting, and he was never in any physical danger. But he was still traumatized by seeing on his computer screen the people whom he had caused to die. *See Page 7 for more information about Daniel Hale*.

***See more information is at these links:***

* [**https://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/treat/cooccurring/moral\_injury.asp**](https://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/treat/cooccurring/moral_injury.asp)
* [**https://moralinjuryproject.syr.edu/about-moral-injury/**](https://moralinjuryproject.syr.edu/about-moral-injury/)
* [**https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366(21)00113-9/fulltext**](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366%2821%2900113-9/fulltext)
* [**https://www.dav.org/veterans/resources/moral-injury/**](https://www.dav.org/veterans/resources/moral-injury/)

**Counter-recruitment:**

Besides Stephanie’s work with Jeff at Courage to Resist, she also helps Veterans for Peace protect people from getting fooled into joining the military. She explained her “counter-recruitment” efforts.

She began by saying if someone had “counter-recruited” her, she might not have joined the military. She said her “counter-recruitment” activities are her “way to make reparations.” She wants to deny our government the ability to make war. We need to take away the war-making resources, such as money and human beings. She said she talks with young people in high schools and many other places. She provides information that the recruiters do not tell them.

She said a week before our TV interview, she met with a young person who would very soon be entering the Marine Corps, and she encouraged that person to remember the GI Rights Hotline number, 877-447-4487, which helps people understand and protect their rights.

Glen said his car has had a bumper sticker with the GI Rights Hotline phone number for a number of years. He said that anyone who is in the military and is having difficulty protecting their rights can phone 877-447-4487 and talk with someone who has experience and knowledge about how the process works, so they can help the person who is currently in the military and needs help.

***See these counter-recruitment resources:***

* Veterans for Peace has a nationwide Truth in Recruiting Campaign: [**https://www.veteransforpeace.org/our-work/truth-in-recruiting/truth-recruiting-vfp-chapters-and-members**](https://www.veteransforpeace.org/our-work/truth-in-recruiting/truth-recruiting-vfp-chapters-and-members)
* VFP’s Seattle chapter has its own local campaign based on national VFP’s campaign: [**https://www.vfp92.org/campaigns/seattle-schools/**](https://www.vfp92.org/campaigns/seattle-schools/)
* This link is to the school board policy Seattle’s VFP chapter got passed city wide for access to public high schools: [**https://www.seattleschools.org/about/school-board/policies/4200-school-visitations-and-maintaining-safe-and-orderly-environments/**](https://www.seattleschools.org/about/school-board/policies/4200-school-visitations-and-maintaining-safe-and-orderly-environments/)

**What women should know before enlisting:**

Glen asked Stephanie what else – besides the usual counter-recruitment information she provides – women should know before they enlist in the military.

Stephanie said women in the military experience a significantly higher rate of sexual assault and trauma. She discourages women from enlisting. The U.S. government does not guarantee them equal human rights under the law as human beings, so they can’t determine their physical autonomy. They should not let the government further dominate them. She said women have many better employment opportunities elsewhere instead of the military. Recruiters are having a hard time competing for employees, just like other employers are. She discourages everyone from enlisting.

Glen added that sexism and contempt for females are endemic within the military, including training and the entire military culture. He said that he has read about cases in Okinawa, where the U.S. military deploys many troops. U.S. troops commit extremely high numbers of rapes of young Okinawan women and girls. He said the military gives them no punishment at all or merely a slap on the wrist because the military’s attitude is, “Boys will be boys.” The military thinks rape is an OK way for the troops to “blow off steam” from the stress of being in the military, so it’s OK if Americans rape Okinawan women as a result. He said he has seen quotations from the military’s judicial cases that are unwittingly harsh and cruel. He said it’s scandalous.

Stephanie said this flows from American culture in general, so when you take the subculture of the military, which is highly masculine and toxic, this exacerbates the problem.

Glen said the military mission and activities are all based on domination – even when not killing – so when men and women are part of the culture, the domination culture continues into men dominating and abusing women.

Stephanie said some individual women can be just as cruel as men. She said the photos from the Abu Ghraib prison showed females also committing abuse. Stephanie said that as a woman she needs to ask why anyone would work in that environment.

***See this information about Abu Ghraib:***

* [**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abu\_Ghraib\_prison**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abu_Ghraib_prison)
* [**https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2004/05/10/torture-at-abu-ghraib**](https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2004/05/10/torture-at-abu-ghraib)
* [**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lynndie\_England**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lynndie_England)

**Conscientious Objection is possible for people already in the military – and also for people facing the draft:**

Glen said that a great many people who refuse to fight are applying their consciences – their best values – and their religious or moral principles – so they cannot participate in war. Our nation’s military – and our military draft – each have their own procedures for claiming Conscientious Objector status. He said whether you are facing the draft or are already in the military, you have a legal right to stay out or get out of the military if you are a Conscientious Objector. Procedures do exist. He said he has helped people do this.

Glen said that in 1972 his draft board recognized him as a Conscientious Objector. He met the ethical and legal requirements. He said that while his case was pending, he wrestled with the decision of what to do if the draft board did not recognize that he actually was a Conscientious Objector. His draft lottery number (5 out of 366 days in his birth year) had already been called earlier that year, so if his draft board refused his claim, his choices were to go to federal prison or go to Canada. He was tilting toward federal prison because this would allow him an opportunity to state his conscientious position publicly and make it a part of the government’s official judicial record.

Registering for the draft was no longer required after 1975, but in 1980 – while the Soviet Union was occupying Afghanistan and Ronald Reagan was running for president with a militaristic platform – President Carter wanted to show how tough he was in his campaign to be re-elected, so in 1980 Carter started requiring 18-year-olds to register for the draft again. That requirement still persists now.

Glen said that in 1980 he and other local people created the Thurston County Draft Counseling Center, learned the laws and regulations, and helped young people protect their rights. Glen has trained a number of people in the laws and regulations and how to perform ethical and effective counseling about draft-related matters. The organization still exists. Contact Glen at (360) 491-9093 **glenanderson@integra.net**

He said people wanting more information about Conscientious Objection could contact him or contact the Center on Conscience and War [**www.centeronconscience.org**](http://www.centeronconscience.org). They have done excellent work since 1940.

See links to many more organizations near the end of the document you are reading now.

**Courage to Resist –** [**www.couragetoresist.org**](http://www.couragetoresist.org) **– helps many people:**

Now Glen invited Jeff and Stephanie to tell our TV viewers about the organization both of them work for – Courage to Resist. Their website is [**www.couragetoresist.org**](http://www.couragetoresist.org).

Glen said he likes the organization’s Mission Statement, which is posted on their website, so he read it now:

**Mission Statement:** Courage to Resist supports the troops who refuse to fight, or who face consequences for acting on conscience, in opposition to illegal wars, occupations, the policies of empire abroad and martial law at home. Our People Power strategy weakens the pillars that perpetuate these causes of immense violence. By supporting military resistance, counter-recruitment, and draft resistance, we intend to cut off the supply of troops for war, while pledging resistance to the policies of hate, repression, and the militarization of policing domestically. We are autonomous from and independent of any political organization or party. (Revised September 6, 2018)

Jeff is the director of Courage to Resist. He told us more about the organization’s support for military objectors since 2007. He said Courage to Resist is an organization that helps people get out of the military based on the individuals’ own consciences – not limited to how the military defines conscience. He said the U.S. military and other nations’ militaries may define conscience differently, but what is important is how the individual knows and feels that they should get out of the military.

Courage to Resist talks with each individual, discusses the options, and helps them. Sometimes Courage to Resist refers people to other organizations (such as the Center on Conscience and War or the GI Rights Hotline) that would be better able to help them. The organization helps people get out of the military and invites them to join Veterans for Peace.

Jeff likes the organization’s Mission Statement and said an important part of their work is to help people based on where each individual is coming from. The organization does not try to make people comply with any dogma or the organization’s outlook on the world. The organization respects where each individual is coming from. They meet each person where they are at and help them there.

Some people discover that they are Conscientious Objectors, but other people are not, so the organization helps them explore other options. Jeff said many people have not given much thought to that possibility. Actually, he said, most people in the world do have consciences that oppose war. Many wars are going on all around the world, and the vast majority of people choose not to fight in them.

Glen said Courage to Resist’s website includes links to a great many podcasts. People can click on the website’s “Resources” link: [**https://couragetoresist.org/category/podcasts/**](https://couragetoresist.org/category/podcasts/)

Stephanie also works for Courage to Resist, so Glen invited her to tell us more about the organization. She reinforced Jeff’s point that they help people who decide – for whatever reason – that the military is not right for them.

She said the getting the military to agree with someone that they are actually a Conscientious Objector is somewhat of a privileged thing. It requires a lot of resources and patience throughout the long process. She said that a day before this interview she met a woman who had spent 14 months on the C.O. process. Not everybody has that much time to spend on this. Also, not everybody can write out the thorough, articulate statements that are required by the process in order to meet the criteria for the military to recognize that they are a C.O. Those statements are scrutinized by the military, including higher-ranking officers, a chaplain, and so forth, to determine whether the person’s feelings are genuine and meet the criteria. She said the process is rather arbitrary.

She said sometimes the person must make an immediate decision about whether to get onto a plane and go to war or to refuse and go to jail.

She said she does not put a value judgment about someone’s decision to leave the military.

Glen said he appreciates how both Jeff and Stephanie have said they start with where the person is at now – and their willingness to work with whatever the person’s thoughts and feelings are now – and their refusal to participate in the war machine.

***More information about Courage to Resist:***

Courage to Resist has helped military objectors since 2007. Jeff has attended dozens of military trials. They have effectively helped military resisters navigate the system and sometimes gotten lighter sentences. The organization also opposes the military draft.

Stephanie’s role for Courage to Resist focuses on office-related work.

**You can contact Courage to Resist at:**

484 Lake Park Ave #41

Oakland, California 94610-2730

(510) 488-3559

[**www.couragetoresist.org**](http://www.couragetoresist.org)

facebook.com/couragetoresist

**Veterans for Peace is a powerful, effective advocate for peace:**

Glen said both Stephanie and Jeff are active members of Veterans for Peace, [**www.veteransforpeace.org**](http://www.veteransforpeace.org). Veterans for Peace is nationwide and has local chapters, including in Olympia, Washington, where Glen lives. He said he has enjoyed working with VFP members on a variety of peace-related issues and activities. Dennis Mills, who is the technical volunteer for Glen’s TV program, is a very active member of Veterans for Peace.

Jeff serves on Veterans for Peace’s national board, and Stephanie also volunteers to help VFP with their counter-recruitment work. A veteran’s voice of first-hand experience can help young people decide not to sign up for the military.

**“Gamers for Peace”**

When we were preparing for this interview, Stephanie told Glen that the military does a lot of recruiting online and uses online games to reach young people. She explained why a different activity – “Gamers for Peace” – is important.

Stephanie said, “Resistance is alive and well.” This is true even when it does not get a lot of publicity.

She said “Gamers for Peace” is a digital initiative of Veterans for Peace. Veterans and allies get together online and play games together. They also enjoy discussions and plan actions.

Kids as young as 13 are playing online games. Parents often do not monitor their kids’ online activities. She said the military has created e-sports teams and advertise heavily in online spaces where kids are present. The military does a lot of recruiting in this way through unrestricted access to kids. She also said now that warfare is moving into digital spaces with drones and the disconnect that we discussed a few minutes ago, the recruiters are looking for kids who are sharp and enjoy playing digital games. She said the military has entrenched itself into this culture and has been planting its recruitment seeds into kids who are far younger than 18. Nowadays, she said, a lot of recruiting is occurring in electronic spaces.

Glen expressed appreciation for Veterans for Peace’s “Gamers for Peace” as a clever way to enter that space and provide an alternative. Stephanie said that these participants form an online community that counters militarism.

**Other organizations protecting veterans’ rights and supporting peace include
GI Rights Hotline, VVAW, IVAW (About Face), and others:**

Glen said that a number of other organizations are good at helping active-duty people and veterans speak out and organize against war – and some organizations also protect veterans’ rights. He said that when he posts our interview video to his blog – [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org) – he will also post links to other sources of information as part of the thorough summary he’ll type up of what we said during our TV interview. *You are reading that document now*.

He recommended these good resources and listed more closer to the end of this document:

* The GI Rights Hotline, 1-877-447-4487, can help people understand and protect their rights. Glen said his car has had a bumper sticker with that phone number for a number of years.
* “About Face” ([**www.aboutfaceveterans.org**](http://www.aboutfaceveterans.orgs)) is an organization of veterans who oppose wars in Iraq and elsewhere. This organization previously was “Iraq Veterans Against the War.”
* Since 1967, an organization called Vietnam Veterans Against the War ([**www.vvaw.org**](http://www.vvaw.org)) has been active and visible.
* The Center on Conscience and War ([**www.centeronconscience.org**](http://www.centeronconscience.org)) helps people in the military and also helps people facing the military draft. Glen had mentioned this organization earlier. It began in 1940, and Glen has been financially supporting it every year since 1972.

**Military draft:**

We did not have enough time during the TV interview for Glen to say much about the military draft law, but here is more information:

Glen said the current law authorizing the military draft has existed since 1940, although the draft was used at other times in U.S. history, including the Civil War and World War I. The law allows the federal government to force people – against their will – into the military. This allows the government to fight wars that are so unpopular that people do not want to enlist voluntarily.

Nobody has been drafted into the military since 1973, and the draft registration requirement ended in 1975, but in 1980 registration started again and requires young men to register for the draft when they turn 18. (*See page 10*.) A great many people do not register, but almost nobody has been prosecuted – and none at all for about the past 40 years. Relatively few people report their changes of addresses, even though federal law requires this, so the database of draft registrants is horribly out of date and essentially worthless in case the president ever decides to start actually drafting people.

Recently Congress has seriously considered forcing women register for the draft too. Both the House Armed Services Committee and the Senate Armed Service Committee passed amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act to require women to register, but that requirement did not pass either the full House or the full Senate.

Since the early 1980s the military draft agency – which is called the Selective Service System – has been totally ineffective and unnecessary. For 40 years this federal bureaucracy has accomplished nothing but wasted many millions of dollars creating and maintaining a database that is grossly out-of-date and utterly useless in case of national emergency.

Glen asked us to urge Congress to totally abolish the Selective Service System (SSS) instead of extending its oppression to women along with men. Glen invited people to contact him for more information about the legislation to abolish the SSS and stop the penalties that hurt non-registrants.

He said he is very familiar with the law and the regulations. Anyone who wants more information about the draft can contact him at (360) 491-9093 or **glenanderson@integra.net**

The time to act to abolish the draft once and for all is right now. If we do not promptly repeal the draft law, Congress is likely to expand the unjust burden of the draft that men have long endured to women.

In July 2022 Glen participated in a very informative webinar about abolishing the Selective Service System (SSS). It was recorded, so you can watch it at this link: [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eWLS\_so88wY**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eWLS_so88wY)

World Beyond War ([**www.worldbeyondwar.org**](http://www.worldbeyondwar.org)) recently publicized information about House and Senate legislation to abolish the SSS. The bill we need has been introduced in both houses. We need huge numbers of emails and phone calls and letters to the editor in support of it. [**Start by emailing your Congress Members here**](https://click.actionnetwork.org/ss/c/P8Elou2Rvc0qoMPEUZrMXcOpy_XqN4R2ZGjoK-5zZnkHx1YhIxsYmUNsLQAs27D-8PjKCUHtJh5tG3F1MN-a2S8sqScRv6Uy5-9YV0fcJtJcK8ovYDkDFL4aBSSkEvZnsuCyX7Ip43jKcnDvl2LlFDGj-yawEdGMoLJn8I2xb6ioClCc9TCn8JKQsuIdpEwhcZxbkWOuGVDNwXlrZYkUqqOVzz4Cwub9DZlbDVn1zqwj6sVayH3y8MqUTmeC60RtTplJ36y6l3E7OjAKpDMoYEmTdMb8VchWNLnKNr5Rj4jklRwUFyI6Un5hXa3_Y_Ecskxm0pQjf624ZLC658koikdI5dKppJHw4Qj-FpUK6kgDBpkldlQvcVSjpyJMp5wgQ6vvgEamD_GqhzwPWGYR6N-BABRbz3PSNMCB9HJRy6reYtiioJ7FXNtJjb7Gx0daBVZNewAtxL3Q1qumNF5D_A/3na/dxDig5UTRUq558OY7e4NAw/h0/7FQCdfbWxmkeS6k3rkEvUcN-M8MrSoZj2A7qXYoRofY)**.**

Also, [**Learn all about repealing draft registration, why the draft is not a tool for ending war, and other useful facts here**](https://click.actionnetwork.org/ss/c/P8Elou2Rvc0qoMPEUZrMXZuRoF9hgmtKkx-9yE8eapX6ZJNHfwi9AgC9IKYOSJsGodGbNQ2c11RZkcqwqNp0BkE3vGJgI_Eff2jZJA1RAvdK5QAsrFJaSHjMg2KU2FjecXZOxZ_KlxaeLc2mvxkEaZ0NYlhijL85ZX90MH4VoMbm4eqjBRGObQKkj9Zfo0FI5EjwmNnykRSx68f5dSfBf7SjjXEFd-DQFfzoHl-pi0Mk_Ju7HjlFSo5V8tarip-2dEHUnik-a0tiAjkiBQmfaUHVGhzUNMpUeDMvWch6-dtzKjqC01dcHyKmfSQ8zwNgbIO2oSPICi_Ij7yZl3T27fYSpDw4QtRoIx_sUzyUGjXbDqvAzgh2tYv-dYCr88-8/3na/dxDig5UTRUq558OY7e4NAw/h1/ZmRkpL9sJgDXoXkPf1p-GiZTQWuSCvfIPf-zjJydnYI)**.**

A Quaker-based organization, the Friends Committee on National Legislation ([**www.fcnl.org**](http://www.fcnl.org)) also urges abolishing the military draft in order to protect human rights and promote peace. See their information from 2021 here: [**https://www.fcnl.org/updates/2021-04/take-stand-peace-and-get-rid-draft**](https://www.fcnl.org/updates/2021-04/take-stand-peace-and-get-rid-draft)

**More sources of information:**

Please invite your friends to read the document you are reading now and to watch the TV interview video. Both are posted to his blog – [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org) – in the “TV Programs” category and the “Military Service” category.

***During the TV interview (and in the pages above), Glen mentioned some good organizations, but there are many more! Listed below are links to many good sources of information about resistance within the military – and why people should not join the military – and also about abolishing the draft.***

* **Glen’s blog features categories for dozens of important issues. The blog category for “Military Service, Recruitment, Draft, Conscientious Objection” includes a few dozen posts** about the military draft, conscientious objection, resistance within the military, and related issues. See them at this link: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/category/military-service-recruitment-draft-conscientious-objection**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/category/military-service-recruitment-draft-conscientious-objection)
* **‘I Ain’t Marching Anymore’ chronicles 260 years of war resistance and conscientious objection:** [**https://www.juancole.com/2021/01/chronicles-resistance-conscientious.html**](https://www.juancole.com/2021/01/chronicles-resistance-conscientious.html)

**“Sir! No Sir!” This documentary film about GI resistance during the Vietnam war is also part of a call to action: “Renewing renew 50 Years of Resistance, In and Out of Uniform.”** [**https://www.vietnamfulldisclosure.org/call-to-action-sir-no-sir-renewing-50-years-of-resistance-in-and-out-of-uniform/**](https://www.vietnamfulldisclosure.org/call-to-action-sir-no-sir-renewing-50-years-of-resistance-in-and-out-of-uniform/)

* **“The Boys Who Said NO”** is an award-winning film about people who resisted the draft and refused to fight in Vietnam.

**A brief history of GI resistance during the Vietnam war:** [**http://www.commondreams.org/video/2014/06/09**](http://www.commondreams.org/video/2014/06/09)

**At Christmas time in 1914 – during World War I – German and British troops got out of their trenches, refused to fight, and celebrated the holiday together.** Besides refusing to fight, they also shared music, singing, chocolate, alcoholic beverages, photos from their families back home, and so forth. John McCutcheon wrote and performed a great song about this: [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJi41RWaTCs**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJi41RWaTCs) Also, I encourage you to watch this 21-minute video: [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kYwKD2dc33A&feature=youtu.be**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kYwKD2dc33A&feature=youtu.be)

* **Chris Hedges: Soldiers Speak Out Against America’s Misguided Wars** This was posted on August 6, 2022:[**https://popularresistance.org/the-chris-hedges-report-soldiers-speak-out-against-americas-misguided-wars/**](https://popularresistance.org/the-chris-hedges-report-soldiers-speak-out-against-americas-misguided-wars/)

**In 2019 when Trump tried to start an illegal war against Venezuela, Veterans for Peace urged U.S. Troops to Resist those illegal orders.** VFP issued this statement and press release: [**Read Entire Statement**](http://org.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=OMlWzzCjjnwdSappnQeLTjSkOcACmYwV)[**See Press Release**](http://org.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=%2Fq33e5kFfDo1SALpGAsvBTSkOcACmYwV)

* **When soldiers refuse orders to use violence:** [**https://wagingnonviolence.org/links/when-soldiers-refuse-orders-to-use-force/**](https://wagingnonviolence.org/links/when-soldiers-refuse-orders-to-use-force/)
* [**About Face: Veterans Against the War**](https://aboutfaceveterans.org/)
* **American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)** [**www.afsc.org**](http://www.afsc.org) Besides working for peace and conducting counter-recruitment activities, AFSC also has a Military Recruiter Abuse Hotline because military recruiters work in schools and our communities to get young people to sign up for the military. In some cases, they harass young people, make false promises, and even threaten violence. That’s why AFSC launched a hotline and online form where people can report cases of abuse. Help spread the word in your community. [**https://www.afsc.org/resource/military-recruiter-abuse-hotline?ms=EMA22WR0730&emci=b2888b79-480f-ed11-b47a-281878b82c0f&emdi=62df0b63-0310-ed11-b47a-281878b82c0f&ceid=882844**](https://www.afsc.org/resource/military-recruiter-abuse-hotline?ms=EMA22WR0730&emci=b2888b79-480f-ed11-b47a-281878b82c0f&emdi=62df0b63-0310-ed11-b47a-281878b82c0f&ceid=882844)
* **Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft** [**www.comdsd.org**](http://www.comdsd.org)
* [**Courage to Resist**](http://www.couragetoresist.org/)
* [**GI Rights Hotline**](http://girightshotline.org/en/)
* [**Iraqi Student Project**](http://www.iraqistudentproject.org/)
* [**Military Families Speak Out**](http://mfso.org/)
* [**National Priorities Project**](http://nationalpriorities.org/) conducts research and advocacy to reduce military spending and use the savings to fund useful programs that people really need
* [**Peace Poles for Schools**](https://m.facebook.com/PeacePolesForSchools/)
* **ProjectYANO.org** performs counter-recruitment and other anti-military activities
* [**Service Women's Action Network (SWAN)**](http://servicewomen.org/)
* [**Stop These Wars**](http://www.stopthesewars.org/)
* [**The National Network Opposing the Militarization of Youth (NNOMY)**](http://nnomy.org/index.php?lang=es)
* [**United National Antiwar Coalition**](http://unacpeace.org/)
* **War Resisters League (www.warresisters.org)** promotes nonviolent resistance to war, including counter-recruitment. One of their great resources is this pamphlet titled, What Every Young Woman Should Know about the Military: [**https://www.warresisters.org/store/what-every-young-woman-should-know-about-military**](https://www.warresisters.org/store/what-every-young-woman-should-know-about-military) Another great counter-recruitment pamphlet from WRL is: “It’s not just a job. It’s 8 years of your life: **http://www.warresisters.org/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=946&qid=478971**
* [**Vietnam Veterans Against the War**](http://www.vvaw.org/)
* [**www.centeronconscience.org**](http://www.centeronconscience.org)
* [**www.veteransforpeace.org**](http://www.veteransforpeace.org)
* [**https://hasbrouck.org/draft/FOIA/4-ArmyMarketingResearchGroup.pdf**](https://hasbrouck.org/draft/FOIA/4-ArmyMarketingResearchGroup.pdf)

**Glen offered this closing encouragement:**

Glen thanked **Jeff Paterson and Stephanie Atkinson** for sharing their first-hand experiences, their information, and their insights.

He also thanked the people who have been watching this interview – and Dennis Mills, the volunteer who converts this TV program for airing on Thurston Community TV and for posting to Glen’s blog. Dennis is an active member of the Olympia chapter of Veterans for Peace.

Glen said our nation needs to think more clearly about the problems wars cause – not only in perpetuating violence worldwide, but also in hurting the people who fight in the military.

During the Iraq wars, many people knew the wars were stupid, so this public opposition to the wars prevented the wars’ supporters from explicitly or publicly urging people to “support the war.” Instead, they changed the subject and urged people to “support the troops.” This was a “bait and switch” gimmick to trick people into supporting the war instead of questioning it. We do NOT “support the troops” by sending them off to war where they would be injured or killed. If we REALLY “support the troops,” we would bring them home where they would be safe.

The first Bush Administration, Clinton Administration, Pentagon, and Veterans’ Administration all tried to deny and cover up responsibility for the extensive medical problems (“Gulf War Syndrome”) caused by the 1991 Gulf War and denied veterans some health benefits they needed. The federal government did NOT “support the troops”! Just a few weeks before we taped this TV interview, Congress’s Republicans voted AGAINST providing health care for troops whose health was damaged seriously by operating “burn pits” during the Iraq war. A few days later they recognized their incredibly stupid decision, reversed their opposition, and voted to approve health care for the injured veterans.

The U.S. keeps conducting wars that violate international law and violate the United Nations Charter. We don’t “support the troops” by forcing them to commit illegal acts.

The peace movement welcomes veterans and active-duty people. During the Vietnam war, the peace rallies gave their greatest applause to veterans who spoke out against the war based on their first-hand experiences.

In 1936 the great American poet Carl Sandburg wrote a poem he titled, “The People, Yes.” His poem includes this line: ‘Sometime they’ll give a war and nobody will come.’

You can get information about a wide variety of issues related to peace, social justice and nonviolence through my blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)or by phoning me at
(360) 491-9093 or e-mailing me at **glenanderson@integra.net**

Glen ends each TV program with this invitation to help make progress:

**We're all one human family, and we all share one planet.**

**We can create a better world, but we all have to work at it.**

**The world needs whatever you can do to help!**