

## Statement

I served from 2001-2005 as a 19D Cavalry Scout in the US Army. I did two deployments Kosovo ('02-'03) and Iraq ('04-'05). When I got out of the military, I was angry and needed to understand my experience, so I did two things, I joined Iraq Veterans Against the War and I went back to school. I studied political science to understand the process of why we go to war and sociology to understand the human impacts of war. I became more involved in a number of different social justice issues and activism and started to realize some of the mass inequities across our country, which pushed me to get a Master's degree in Ethnic Studies, as many of these inequities were not just class based but also tied to race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality. I then went on to the University of Hawaii to get a PhD in political science tying all of this together as I looked at veterans who were doing social justice activist work.

It is with all of this history and knowledge in mind that I come into VFP as I saw much of the conversation that happened at our recent convention. I recognize many of the shortcomings we hold as an organization and hope we can work to overcome many of these issues as we work to address some of the tendencies that are holding us back from truly being an organization that promotes peace. I do not believe we can claim to be "peace makers" unless we work to address our history—as a society and in some cases as an organization—of colonization, patriarchy, racism, homophobia, and transphobia. We must transform ourselves before we can truly transform the world. I am willing to talk with anyone about these issues and work to find transformative solutions that will help us grow as an organization.

## VFP Board Candidate Questionnaire

1) Please briefly describe why you would like to be on the VFP board and what you believe you'll bring to the organization as a board member.

As mentioned above I come with a history of veteran activism, as well as training when it comes to transformative activism. I hope that I can help the organization grow because I fully believe in the mission of VFOP and want to try and make the world a better and more peaceful place.

2) What do you do, or did you do if retired, for a living?

I am a professor. I am currently in between jobs at the moment, but I am currently working on a project for the University of Dayton around transnational justice between the US and Vietnam.

3) Have you served on any non-profit boards before?

I am currently on the board of directors for About Face: Veterans Against War. I am up for re-election over there, so I may still be on that board pending the election that will happen mid-September

4) If so, what board committee(s) were you on?

See #3

5) Has your work or non-profit board experience included any responsibilities in any of these areas?

Human resource/personnel

Legal

Development/fundraising (including grassroots and groups with paid staff)

Accounting and/or financial management

To a certain extent I was very involved in human resource/personnel as we had to deal with a number of different personnel issues.

6) When was your military service?

I was in the US Army from 2001-2005

7) Where do you live?

Colorado, kind of... As I said earlier, I am in-between jobs so this may change.

8) Do you belong to any racial or ethnic minority?

No

9) Please describe some of the tasks/projects/responsibilities you've undertaken for VFP.

I was one of the founding members of the Fort Collins chapter. We did a number of poetry events. I have also marched with them at a number of different parades and protests. I am currently on the VFP trip to Vietnam.