

**Wisconsin Veterans Museum  
Research Center**

Transcript of an  
Oral History Interview with  
**JOSEPH G. HATHEWAY**  
Team Leader, Army, Vietnam  
2016

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2073

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Hatheway, Joseph G. Oral History Interview, 2016.  
Approximate length: 2 hours, 45 minutes  
*Contact WVM Research Center for access to original recording.*

**Abstract:**

In this interview, Joseph (Jay) G. Hatheway, a native of Los Angeles, California discusses service in the Marine Corps from 1971-1978 as well as his childhood, his discharge from the military for being gay, and his life after service.

Hatheway briefly talks about his early life growing up in Hollywood, Los Angeles and his family's connections to the military. Hatheway discusses moving to Iran when he was ten - his father got a job as a chief petroleum engineer - and his time at a boarding school in Rome, Italy. He moved back to Santa Barbara in his senior year of high school before going to Claremont College on an ROTC scholarship. Hatheway describes going to Infantry Officers basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia and then taking a position at Special Forces Headquarters in Germany, which required him to train in Italian, jump school and Special Forces training. He mentions the different types of missions he went on across Europe and the Middle East. Hatheway talks about his acknowledgement that he was gay at this time and describes the incident which led to him being court martialed for violation of the sodomy code of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, the process of being court martialed, and working with the American Civil Liberties Union to fight the charges. Hatheway was dishonorably discharged for being gay in 1978 after which he began a master's program in Monterrey, California and got involved with the gay rights movement in San Francisco. He talks generally about his activism against the military's position toward gays in the military, and applying to, and succeeding in, getting his discharge upgraded to honorable in 2015. Hatheway mentions the impact of his experience with the military on his understanding of power and institutions, something that he had used in his role as a professor at Edgewood College in Madison, Wisconsin.

He discusses the development of his sexual identity and the reaction of enlisted soldiers versus other officers to the court case. He describes meeting and spending time with ex-Schutzstaffel (SS) officers off-post in Bad Tolz, which became the basis of research for his masters dissertation. Hatheway discusses his work as an intelligence officer - amending war plans, classifying documents, and working during the Cold War. He describes the different ways his court martial had been viewed by faculty, staff, and particularly the positive ways he has been received by student veterans. Hatheway reflects on the impact that the case has had on his life and the different media and institutions that he has told his story to.

Lastly he talks about the difference between current and previous generations of veteran's attitudes toward gays in the military, changes in the way that the US in general has viewed homosexuality.

**Archivist's Note:**

Transcriptions are a reflection of the original oral history recording. Due to human and machine fallibility transcripts often contain small errors. Transcripts may not have been transcribed from the original recording medium. It is strongly suggested that researchers engage with the oral history recording as well as the transcript, if possible.

Interviewed by Helen Gibb, 2016.

Transcribed by Audio Transcription Center, 2017.

Reviewed by Neil Bartlett, 2018.

## Interview Transcript:

- Gibb: Today is Wednesday, March 16, 2016. This is an interview with Jay Hatheway who served with the US Army from 1971 to 1978. This interview is being conducted at Jay's home in Stoughton, Wisconsin. The interviewer is Helen Gibb and the interview is being recorded for the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Oral History Program. So Jay, should we start with where and when you were born?
- Hatheway: Well, I was born in Los Angeles, California, and I was born August 20, 1949. A post-World War II baby boomer.
- Gibb: Jay, I'm just going to stop you.
- Gibb: Okay. So where and when you were born.
- Hatheway: Okay. I was born August 20, 1949 in Los Angeles, California.
- Gibb: Parents and siblings?
- Hatheway: Well, I had one brother who was born in Ventura in maybe 1946. My mother and father are deceased now. My father is a long-time Californian; born in California in 1914. My mother was born in New York about 1923 I think. And they met during World War II; my father was the Army Air Corp Captain, a meteorologist. My grandmother, my mother's mother, was the head of the USO in Los Angeles. And as a young boy growing up, I had the benefit of meeting some very interesting people; Fess Parker was one, Louis Armstrong was another. All these people, my grandmother got to entertain; Harry Belafonte—I think it's Harry Belafonte—to entertain at the USO in Los Angeles at the Ambassador Hotel. And that was her contribution to the war effort. So I sort of grew up in Hollywood actually, which is specifically where I was born, in Hollywood. And I spent my early years up until I was around ten-years-old in Hollywood, sort of hanging out, going to school, being a little boy. [laughs] It was sort of fun.
- Gibb: Sounds like it was an amazing time.
- Hatheway: Yeah, it was okay. It was a long time ago though; I don't remember too much of it.
- Gibb: And so there was a military influence with your father and that sort of thing, or knowledge of it around you?
- Hatheway: Yeah, my dad came out of World War II as a captain, and he was I guess in the reserves. It was the Army Air Corp and it became the Air Force after the 1947 reorganization. I think he was in the reserves in about 1951 to '52, as my parents told me, he was going to go back on active duty to be sent to Korea for the Korean War, but he was married with children and so he was able to essentially resign from the Army, or from the Air Force rather. But there wasn't much of a military—well, I wasn't aware, I'll put it that way, of a military background. I have learned over the years that my family is a very, very, very old American family, and it dates to around 1636; Hatheway, that last name. And it seems like every generation of Hatheway was involved in one war or another from the

early Pequot Wars through King Phillip's War—these were all seventeenth-century Native American British Wars—through the eighteenth-century conflicts, the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, the war against the Native Americans on the plains in the period after the Civil War, World War I and World War II. I didn't know any of that stuff until my father had passed away; I was an adult and I got into genealogy, but that was something that came really, really much later. My life in Los Angeles is pretty much what I remember, was what any kid at that age belonged to; boy's club and my brother, we'd do whatever we do.

But we left LA in 1959; I was a young boy, I was ten. My father was a well-known geologist in the Los Angeles region. He had worked for a guy named John Paul Getty who founded Getty Oil Company, and he was a chief petroleum engineer, and through him he got to know various and sundry petroleum engineers. And my father was essentially the man you went to, to find oil in LA. He developed a number of things, one of which is a slant well, a slant rig—I'm not sure what the term is. But you put a rig over here at point A, and your oil may be a quarter-of-a-mile away, and you have to go under houses and buildings to get it, so you have a slant well that goes. So he developed that in the late 1940s, early 1950s. And the point of all this is that by 1959, he was approached by Richfield Atlantic Oil Company; I think at the time it was just called Richfield Oil Company, I can't remember. And he was offered a job as a chief petroleum engineer in Iran, Persia.

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So, he said yes. So, in the late summer of 1959 with bags in tow, my brother and I, and my mother, took off from Los Angeles, California and traveled by airplane. That was an interesting experience of course; I'd never been on one before at that point. First went to London to visit my cousins for the first time and all my aunts and uncles, and that was "Aw!" And I don't remember exactly when date-wise, but it was sometime in August I think, maybe early September of '59 that eventually we landed in Iran, in Abadan at the top of the Persian Gulf at the oil refinery. And then we took a company plane from Abadan to the remote oil camp of Masjed Soleyman which is then where we made our home for the next several years. And Masjed Soleyman, we know this now since they teach a course on it, but I know now that Masjed Soleyman was established in 1908, and it was established because that is when oil was first discovered in the Middle East. And it was discovered by a person named William Knox D'Arcy, who had a concession in Southern Iran, and the oil business started. And the British who were helping to ultimately fund this project then bought what would be the oil company that had been initially established. And the company that had been established was the Anglo-Persian Oil Company; and when the British bought into it, the name became British Petroleum. So BP was established effectively, and the admiralty of which of course, Winston Churchill was the first lord and all that stuff, by 1914, the British switched from coal to oil for the navy. And the oil for their boats came from Masjed Soleyman. So the British presence in that neck of the woods was enhanced with the discovery of oil. The British had been there since the eighteenth century. Anyway, they had used that region as protection and depth for their colony of India, and all Afghanistan, and Iran, and all the way down the east coast of Africa all had British fueling stations for the navy. But now with oil, now they had two issues; one was, of course, India, the other one was, of

course, protecting of their oil.

So here I am now at ten-years-old into this. And I knew it was a very different place because it was really isolated, although the houses we lived in were built by the British. The one we lived in was built in 1916, and other houses came along as the years progressed. During World War I and World War II, the British occupied it and they used local people as well to protect the oil services. And when we came into it, we came into it in 1959 because Iran was repairing itself at this point. In 1953, the government of Iran was overthrown by the Americans and the British because the Iranians had nationalized the oil. So here we are! And Iran then, by 1959, was repairing the damage that had occurred as a consequence of this overthrow of the government of Iran and it was okay in terms of the American and the British relationship with the local population. But almost from the beginning of when we got there in '59, '60, it turned out that the Iranian clerics led by a guy name Khomeini was agitating, and that would result in his being expelled by 1963 and all sorts of riots taking place. And we had to leave the country; my brother and I had to leave because it wasn't safe. When we were in Iran doing whatever kids do in Iran; we had servants, our house walls were three-foot thick, it goes on and on. I'll show you a picture.

There was no school actually, so I went to school in a one-room schoolhouse that had, fundamentally it had the third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades in one room, and there was like one person in each grade. And I was the only person in the fifth, sixth, and seventh grades; only one person. And my dad said we can't put up with that any longer, and my brother as well. So my folks located an American boarding school in Rome, Italy which was Catholic, and it was Notre Dame International High School, and it was developed specifically to attract boarders from Iran, from Lebanon—mostly Americans but from Iran, from Iraq, from Kuwait, from Saudi Arabia, from Jordan, from Syria, from North Africa.

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And so my brother first entered in 1962; I entered in '63. And I went there for four years; eighth grade, ninth grade, tenth, and eleventh grade, and my roommates were Americans from Aramco, Arabia. They were Americans taplined and pipelined and from Lebanon, Lebanese roommates. My best friend was a Tunisian guy whose grandfather was President Habib Bourguiba, the president of Tunisia. I spent very many months with him in Tunis in 1966 and we got to travel all over Europe on train. We got to do all sorts of fun stuff and go to this, that, and the other. I loved the experience; it was wonderful. And every Christmas, we'd fly home to Iran. So we'd fly in August from Iran to Rome. Then at Christmas, you'd fly home. And then at summer, we'd fly back to Iran. And then every two years, the oil company would sponsor a three-month leave; they wanted you to leave the country every twenty-four months for three months, and what we would do then is we would travel. We would travel South Africa, around the world: Japan, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, all over the place. And we did that a couple of times. And every year, they wanted us to leave for four weeks. So there was lots and lots of traveling involved; all over the place, constantly going. And we didn't really go back to the states necessarily. We did that every two years to visit my grandparents, my mothers' family.

But as a young kid then, growing up in Iran, we got to travel through the country; got to see the Persian Gulf, I got to travel to Rome, got to see all through Europe and North Africa, got to go all through Asia. And all this was by the time I was sixteen. And it got me to a point where the world was—I mean, I was informed. At sixteen, I knew more about the world than I'm discovering many people know all of their lives. But it's because I lived there; that's what I did. The high school experience then in Rome was four years and that in and of itself could fill a whole book of experiences that we had there; traveling, going to the Vatican. The Pope would come out to the high school, just John XXIII, "How you doing?" He liked our school, so he'd come out. We would go to the Vatican; we'd crawl through the Vatican, we'd go to the Vatican Acropolis. We'd go across the entire country of Italy consistently for four years. Then we'd go up north to Germany, or to Spain, France, by train—you name it, we'd go there—Greece, all as kids. And I learned to speak Italian, which would come in handy later. So this is moving along.

And then in 1967, my father suffered a heart attack and apparently, he had had a series of small angina; he wasn't really aware of, so the oil company fired him outright. They gave him basically a year of severance pay, but they said get out of Iran. So we came back to the states then in late 1966 I guess it was. And rather than returning to LA from where we had started, we moved up the coast to Santa Barbara. And my parents had been going to Santa Barbara and my father had been going there since 1914; he was born in LA in 1914 and he was very familiar. He wanted to go there and settle, so he did. And I went to a Catholic parochial school my senior year. It was sort of difficult because I left all my friends for years back in Rome, and I went to this new place, and I didn't like it; I didn't like the kids. I really hated it. But my dad got sick and died in '68 and that left, of course, my brother, my mother, and I. But before he died, he came to me and said that he couldn't afford college because all of his money was going to his medical bills. So he gave me a little application really, an address for an application; no internet, you have to write away to get snail mail.

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And it turned out that it was an application for a four-year Army ROTC scholarship. And would I consider going into the Army as a four-year Army scholarship student and if I did, the school that would be accepting me because the scholarships were associated in those days with specific colleges, and the college that was doing this was Claremont Men's College, now currently Claremont McKenna. And I said, "Okay, I'll give it a go." I didn't know much about it. So I applied, and to make a short story shorter, I won a scholarship. And it was absolutely 100 percent; they paid for my room and board, they paid for my tuition, they gave me a monthly allowance, they paid for my travel, they paid for my books, they paid for my record collection, they paid for everything. So I had—my parents had absolutely nothing to pay for. Then my father died and then I was covered for the school as far as that goes.

So I went to Claremont McKenna College, and my dad died the first year I was there. That was sort of difficult, you might imagine. And I eventually majored in political philosophy and French. And I had some really interesting experiences; friends of mine,

some very, very—well, now they're probably not all that well-known—but one was the heir to the Otis Elevator fortune. The other one was heir to Campbell's Soup, and the other was heir to Seagrams Liquor, Canadian. And all these kids were there and they were extremely wealthy. I've since learned that it was one of the wealthiest colleges in the United States; a thousand people, only men. And they have hundreds of millions of dollars in endowment, and some of my neighbors went on to form a place called KKR — Kravis Kohlberg Roberts; it's the largest hedge fund out on Wall Street on the planet. Oh God. And I didn't have any money, so I didn't fit in; I just didn't come from that level of wealth. It really was the playground where the one-tenth of one-percent sent their children to. And it opened my eyes because I was invited to go to some of these huge estates in Old Hollywood. For example, one of my friends whose name was Erich von Stroheim, and we're in class one day and the English teacher asks, "Erich, are you related to Erich von Stroheim; that's your name." And the kid goes, "Yeah, he's my grandfather." And I'm going, "Oh." The English teacher almost had a cardiac arrest because Erich von Stroheim in his day was the most famous Hollywood producer alive during the golden age of Hollywood. And a lot of children of those people were going, third generation now.

So I was ROTC. And I went through the four years during the war in Vietnam which was sort of interesting. And then I was commissioned at the end of my career; I had four years. I graduated and the same day I graduated, I was commissioned the Second Lieutenant of the United States Army. So my college experiences had come to an end and I was not unhappy for that; I was looking forward to getting out. Claremont and I did not get along; we still don't. I was very happy to see it go and I was now looking forward to a new experience. I knew nothing about the Army except my parents always talked up their great USO days in World War II, and dancing at the Ambassador Hotel, and Copacabana. I'm thinking, "Well, it can't be that bad if they go to parties." They had all these photos from the '40s, and on, and on. Oh God, the McGuire sisters; it goes on, and on, and on. Well, of course it wouldn't quite be that way, I discovered.

So when I graduated then, I had orders to get my stuff together and eventually I would be going to Fort Benning, Georgia to the Infantry Officers Basic Course, IOBC. And the Infantry Officer's Basic Course at Fort Benning was three months long and that's where they teach you more about infantry tactics, how to become a real officer, it goes on and on—this would have been '71—and all that sort of good stuff that you need, and how to salute properly, and how to be a real officer. And when you're there, then you're given an assignment. In other words, you're commissioned; I was assigned infantry then I went to Infantry Officer's. And when you're there, they give you what your ultimate post will be, where your ultimate job will be.

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So sometime into this admittedly really boring three-month experience, I got my orders and I was to be a garrison platoon leader at Fort Meade, Maryland. And this would have been in '71, and we were all afraid we'd be sent to Vietnam. But as it turned out indeed—Richard Nixon was president—Richard Nixon had ordered a stand down; no more troops were going to Vietnam. So even had I wanted to, and I wasn't keen on the idea to be honest with you, I couldn't do it. Troops were not going to be sent; that was just the way it was. So that was off the table. I said, "Okay, so I guess I'll be a garrison



platoon leader,” and I didn’t know what that meant. So I went to the personnel people at Fort Benning and I said, “What does a garrison platoon leader do?” And he said, “You’re like a mother hen to a platoon of men, and you have an office somewhere, and your job is chasing them, making sure they do all the right stuff.” I said, “Well, how long will I be there?” And he said, “I don’t know. Your commitment is four years; maybe you’ll be there all four years.” My commitment for ROTC scholarship was each year scholarship, one year active duty, so four years total.

So I said, “Well, that seems boring. Got anything that’s fun?” And he said, “Well, as a matter of fact we have a position which is in Germany”—my ears go up because I’d been in Germany—“and it requires you to go to an Italian language school in Monterey, California for six months”—double ears perk up—“and it requires you to go to jump school to become a parachutist at extra pay”—all my ears are flapping now—“and it requires you to go to Special Forces school in Fort Bragg, North Carolina.” And I thought, “Well, how hard can that be? That sounds like fun.” “And then when you’re done, you’ll be shipped overseas to go to the headquarters, and the headquarters is in a little Bavarian town called Bad Tölz. There’s a small post there and that is the home of Special Forces Europe. Once you’re in Special Forces Europe as a trained lieutenant, you will then be assigned to a Special Forces team. Now where that team takes you to all depends upon the team’s mission. But the team and the Special Forces unit in Germany is operational from Norway to South Africa, from the Bedarra Islands all the way to Pakistan, including Russia.” “Oh. And what do I do?” He says, “Well, you do whatever the Army says you’re going to do and you also do work for the National Security Council.” Ooh, I like it!

So I sign on the dotted line and then a long process of vetting took place for clearances. I would get a top-secret clearance and all that sort of stuff. Then I was duly processed and I was sent off to Language School in Monterey, which was fun since I’m from California; I knew Monterey. And I did really well; I was the top graduate. The reason I was is because I knew Italian from Rome. It wasn’t like I was like, “Oh what a different language! Who knew?” Besides, Italian is fun. I got to go to all these wine vineyards in northern California on the weekends, and the school would take us, this military school. Great! So I did that.

Then I went to Fort Bragg and I was driving, so I drove back across the country to Fort Bragg, North Carolina. And that was an interesting place. It was very military at the time; segregation, the ’70s with a lot of segregation going on. Half the town was white, half the town was black, and they don’t cross. Coming from LA, I wasn’t quite used to the really negative aspect of it. But there I was in the military. And I went to jump school, that was three weeks, and learning how to jump out of an airplane, it was fun; I wasn’t scared at all. It was quite nice. I got extra money, \$110 a month for jumping out of airplanes. The school went by fast. It was tiresome because you’re busy from about five in the morning to about seven at night. But it was worth it; again, only three weeks. From there, I went to—at Fort Bragg as well.

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No, I’m sorry; I think the jump school was at Fort Benning—I take that back—and Fort

Bragg was the home of Special Forces, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. And there I had a four-month Special Forces training, and it was special operations, and it was all sorts of stuff; you learn teams, you learn how to train, you learn this, that, and the other. The Special Forces officer was to have been trained in a foreign language and trained in special operations, weapons, and tactics in training, how to train, would be a parachutist, would know—they really wanted college graduates; they wanted people who had degrees in poli-sci, international relations, and that sort of stuff. So I had the background. It was very physical. It was a lot of physicality; a lot of running, and organizing, playing war games in the field, in the lab. It was hard work; it was one of the hardest things I've ever done. But I was twenty-one or two, and what the hell; I was all in one piece. The only issue I faced which was difficult was glasses because you go into water, you get wet, things fall off. I jumped out of a plane once and ended up straddling a river, a tiny one; my glasses went flying and I couldn't see. That's the sort of stuff you want to watch out for because if you can't see, what are you going to do?

Then I graduated and I had a bad experience; I was beaten up there by a bunch of people who thought I was a Californian. They don't like California, so they jumped me one day, a bunch of officers. I realized this was when the war in Vietnam was winding down. So a lot of these crazy officers from Nam were being flown back to Fort Bragg and they didn't really want them to go out in public because they were shell-shocked; they were damaged. They go to the officer's club and they rip the place apart, and they'd fight anybody that looked different. And I was caught in that melee. But I got through it in one piece.

Then I was assigned to my Special Forces unit which was the 10<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Airborne Europe. Yeah, 10<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Airborne Europe. I got there and then I was immediately assigned as an executive officer of an operational A team; it consists of twelve men, two officers, and ten enlisted, and each of the enlisted had a specialty from demolitions, to medicine, to bomb-making, whatever. And each team had a specialty. Now I've actually forgotten what the military occupational specialty of each person was, but they all complemented each other. There were five specialties on the team and there were two people per specialty. And junior NCO, non-commissioned officer, and a senior non-commissioned officer, an E5 and an E7, were together. And then each team had its own team specialty. And I was on three teams while I was there and each team had a unique specialty. One team that I was on had desert warfare, and its area of operations was Israel, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, Egypt; I suppose all of them were North Africa actually.

Another team I was on had mountain ice-climbing and this area of operations was the Alps, Norway, Finland if it could, Russia; I couldn't go there, but that was the northern climes. The other team I was on—what was its specialty? I can't even remember. But one other team's, for example, specialty was blowing up bridges, and they used what are called SADAM devices; strategic atomic demolition munitions. They would have these little portable atomic bombs they'd carry in a backpack and if the Russians were to come across, they would place these bombs in bridges and blow them up. I worked with British SAS and pilots, and I worked with a lot of Brits actually; we always were training back and forth. So the first couple years I was there, that's what I did. I was on my team and we traveled all over the place, and because I had been in Iran as a child,

and they knew that, I was asked to go on a classified mission to Iran.

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It was three months and the mission was to scout through the oil district—wow imagine that—of Iran to see if we could get information about potential saboteurs who would be working with the revolutionary Khomeini. And this was in the early '70s, I'll call it '73. And, "Oh really?" So we took a classified flight in a C130 airplane—no chairs, you sit on the ground—and we jumped at two in the morning out of this airplane into this Persian desert which is just wild desert. And we walked on foot or we grabbed anything we could. We bribed people to transport us around. We didn't wear much by uniforms; we didn't want to be too conspicuous. "Really?" I always thought that was funny; "Really?"

And we spent a long time on the ground just listening, going to villages, talking with people, getting a sense of what the—technically we were supposed to say that we were being trained by the Shah's imperial guards because we had a couple of them with us. But the mission was — this was for the National Security Council. The mission was, "let us know what you can tell;" we were spies basically, acting as being trained in the desert by these Persians. And the Iranians that were with us came from northern Iran and they hated southern Iranians; different tribes, different languages, different customs. And they would always trash them, "Ah, these guys are pigs! These guys are trash." You're going to do really well making buddies with these tribal people if you keep that one up. But it was; it was sort of interesting.

And then we come back and eventually, I wanted off the team because I was gone all the time. I wanted to stop and the idea was I'd still like to get a master's degree, and to do that, I had to be on post and not travel. When I was on a team, you were gone literally ten months a year somewhere, doing something. Well, I talked to a few people and poked my nose. And eventually, I got to the post commander and said I want to be the intelligence officer for the unit, and the intelligence officer that was there was leaving. And they said, "Okay, I think you've got the capacity to do it." Another investigation; it's actually higher than a top-secret category. It's called top-secret specialist, SPECAT. I don't know what it is anymore, but it's called top-secret special category and there were only two of us that had it, me and the post commander.

What it meant was that I had open season to see anything that was classified, top-secret or above. Above meant typically one-time pieces of information that related to espionage, or sabotage, or as it turned out, our unit did assassinations so I did assassinations, and that was made illegal when President Ford—no, before Ford. Whoever it was before Ford. Who was president? Yeah, it had to have been Ford because Nixon resigned in '74—so Ford made that illegal and we were audited by the Army to make sure we did not do anymore selected assassinations. But we also were in cahoots with the CIA; we worked hand-in-glove with the Central Intelligence Agency. So I thought what a great job to have. In the end, I wanted to get a PhD in international relations doing this sort of stuff. My office was this huge vault with all the war plans for special operations in Europe; the whole kit and caboodle right at my—and I was all of twenty-four or twenty-three; it was great, I loved it! I just loved it.

So then I got the job and it was actually sort of tedious in a way because I had to come up with war plans, I had do country studies, I had to get the team prepared. I had to go and get people set up to do exercises that were classified, like entering illegally countries they were not supposed to be in, and some stuff, I was cut out completely when the agency wanted to kill people; they would not allow us. All of a sudden, my boss would disappear or somebody else would disappear. I found this out actually after I left the service; they were engaged in selected assassinations. So the story goes that they would always miss their targets, so—right, rig a bomb and blow the place up, I don't know.

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So there I was and I began to get really discouraged with my experience because, in my opinion, the unit was deeply flawed. It had a lot of people who had been in Vietnam, who had been damaged in Vietnam. They'd come back, and before they went to the states, they came to my post; these were all Special Forces guys who'd been way up in the boonies in Nam. They were drunks, alcoholics, drug addicts, violent people, very nasty, and they let it be known with certainty who they didn't tolerate; they didn't tolerate black people, and they didn't tolerate Jews, and they didn't tolerate queers. God forbid you were a black, Jewish, faggot, they'd kill you.

And they were really, really nasty about black soldiers and Jewish people. We had no Jews and no blacks allowed on campus and the post commander kept talking about, "Aren't we great? We're all great Americans." And I began to question him and he began to tell me to go to hell. And I would begin to get lectures from him that I wasn't a good soldier; that if I was really a good soldier, I would let things go. And I would say, "If we're supposed to be defending America, how come you hate Jews and blacks?" And one of my roommates was a black officer from West Point who they threw out for no reason except he was black.

One of my roommates as well, his father was a former SS Colonel who hated Jews—I have a story about that as well—and this is the same time that I really began to acknowledge that I was gay. I'd thought about it earlier, I hadn't acted on it, but now out of college, it's like, "Oh my God!" The post I was stationed at, Special Forces headquarters, was captured by the Americans in 1945. It's in Bavaria. It's south of Munich, right at the base of the German Alps. The post was constructed beginning about '36-ish, '37 and it became the SS Officer's Academy. And it was Heinrich Himmler, the head of the SS, it was his baby. And he had a house not too far from it. The whole region had been the headquarters, therefore, of the SS Officer Corp and the specific post was captured by George Patton who was the leading tank commander in World War II. And when he captured it, the post was home to over a thousand ex-POWs from the concentration camp Dachau. It had also been a concentration camp in the basement of the post where jail cells where the Dachau prisoners lived after 1937, and their job was to keep the place up and running.

So when I came there, I began to learn about it like, "Oh my God." And in the course of my stay there, I got to meet any number of former SS who lived right there; they didn't

go away, they didn't go away. Now Special Forces was—and somehow I think it was a little bit influenced by this legacy of the SS, they were influenced by, of course, the Cold War, and they were influenced by these men recovering from their bad experiences in Vietnam. And I walked into something that I was ill-prepared to deal with, over and above my job as an A-team leader, executive officer, and intelligence. So that being said, I decided it was time that I literally submit my papers to leave the Army. It was almost—well, four years; I had my school when I got there. And I wanted to go to UCLA; everybody knew that. So everybody was on board; I got the commander and all these people to write letters to the Army saying Hatheway wants to leave. He's going to—make it so. So everyone agreed! Pentagon said fine, because if you leave in August, you can do your school in Los Angeles and I'm prepared. So that was the high point in what was becoming a really bad situation in terms of my attitude.

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So I was in line at the post office on the post a few days before my airplane took off for Los Angeles. This would be have been early August of 1975 at this point. I had cleared post, I had given up my clearance, all the worldly goods I had, I shipped them home. I had an automobile; I shipped that home. And I was just hanging around, waiting to leave. And this guy in line said—I knew he was a rigger who fixed parachutes. And he had a room in the post itself. “Come on up. Have a scotch.” It turned out he was gay. And he put the make on me; the moment he did that, his roommate walked in who was not gay. And the roommate then, in panic, went down to the post commander; he was the adjutant and told his story. The next morning, I was ordered before the post commander's office—I was going to leave in two days, mind you—and I was read the riot act, I was read Miranda rights, and charged with sodomy. The trial was on, and I said, “You're kidding me.” “Well, John Hatheway, you can sign here and by signing here, you will automatically—because you're an officer, you can do this—you will be automatically discharged under dishonorable conditions.”

I said, “Wait a minute. I put in all this time, all these years. I was your intelligence officer, I was your team guy, I flew all over the joint, and all of the sudden, you're telling me that's not worth anything for something I didn't even do?” “Well, obviously you did, John Hatheway. You obviously—” I didn't sign it, and that's when things got really nasty because then I challenged the entire structure of the institute. They really thought I was going to sign the paper and just leave under conditions less than honorable. And I said, “I can't do that. I earned my discharge goddammit, I want my discharge.” And he said, “Fine! We're going to court. Get a lawyer. I accuse you of violation of Article 125, Uniform Code of Military Justice, of sodomy. We're going to court, and remember doing this is going to have bad publicity for your mother. What will your friends say?” And then, “You don't care about that. You care about your own ass. You don't want this involved in the newspapers in Germany.” I was scared to death and didn't know what to do. I didn't really have any close friends except one; he was very good, he was captain, he was married. And I told him what happened and he—so the trial would begin in August, the lengthy process; the hearings may just go to [inaudible], all these different processes involved. And I got really depressed. I really began to realize I'd bit off way more than I could chew. I got assaulted, I got beat up, I got thrown against walls, I was under house arrest. And it was like, “Oh, go talk to the

faggot officer; what a queer,” and all this sort of stuff. I couldn’t go anywhere. I was given a non-job to sit in the office with the telephone and the people walked by this makeshift office yelling “goddamned faggot” and all this sort of stuff. And eventually, one of my former teammates, a medic, got me in contact with a doctor who gave me tranquilizers because I just wasn’t eating, I wasn’t sleeping. And he gave me a prescription for tranquilizers that, no exaggeration, I got so sedated, I was drooling. I can’t even think.

And I just said, “That’s it, this is garbage. I’m not going to put up with this crap anymore.” And then I found out that my military attorney didn’t want to defend me. He said, “If I defend you, they’ll think that I am a homosexual too, and I’ll be thrown out. So I can’t defend you; I’m assigned to you, but I can’t really defend you. So I’m going to tell you what you do. I’m going to get you into contact with somebody who will.” And the somebody who will, and the somebody who will, Chris Coates, was a civilian in Germany working for the ACLU. And he was there with his wife, and they were working to defend GIs—he’d never had an officer before—against the arbitrary abuse of GIs by senior officers. Now some of the abuse was horrible; physical, sexual, otherwise, and there was an awful lot of illegal spying going on. It was just—God Almighty.

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He took the case and it turned around. I said, “We’re going to work on this.” I found a support; he and his wife and his friends. We found support, for me a mechanism, and I stayed with them, I stayed with their friends. I met other GIs who were having issues unrelated to mine. And we linked up with David Addlestone, another guy with ACLU in the states. So we have ACLU in America and this branch in Germany, and the chief was David Addlestone. He was defending a guy named Len Matlovich who was gay Air Force tech sergeant. And we developed a dual strategy at this point that Len Matlovich would challenge the military regulations banning gays, and I would challenge the uniform code of military justice for “behavior.” So the ACLU then had two perfect situations; one banning the status of being gay and the other banning behavior gay, the legal code and the regulations.

And so now we have sort of this process going on, and now the military *really* got angry; they bugged my telephone, they followed my lawyer. We had to meet in a secret in a place where we had to hide; this is like “Spy vs. Spy” in *Mad Magazine*. It just went on, and on, and on. They gave the person who I allegedly was involved in, immunity from prosecution so that he could testify against me, and he lied his way through it; the military didn’t care. They said you can’t lie now. So he testified the stuff I—you know, is an overt lie. They brought people from Europe who had been thrown out of the service earlier for selling heroin because I sold it too. I mean, they were just throwing bombs at me left and right. The ACLU told me that I would be quite surprised at what the military will do to get you if they have to.

And the court-martial unfolded. They thought I was crazy so they put me in a psychiatric chair and they checked my brain waves. And the way they did that, rather than putting patches, exactly fifty needles each one attached to a wire, to a central device, and each individual needle was put into my head all around. This is a great story;

this is one a lot of people like. He had this little cloth and he'd wipe them away. Fifty all around. It was like Frankenstein; turn on the machine. "Oh, you're not nuts!" Yank, yank, yank, yank, yank, yank. So after that I was shocked; I was almost in a stupor. He wrote his report saying I'm normal, and that was filed.

And when we went to get it, we discovered that—love the ACLU. Lo and behold, someone had broken into the psychiatry's office and stole the file, and added paragraphs to it saying that I was basically nuts. And we told the judge that and he goes, "Well, I guess I can't use the report then, can I?" And at this point, it just got bizarre; the whole thing just turned strange. The judge in the courtroom, Judge [inaudible], sitting with his legal pad. The legal pad sheet blew off the judge's desk onto the floor. In big black bold letters, "Homo." It just fluttered on the floor. Mistrial. "Oh, come on. Get over it. He's just a homo."

And so the ACLU was racking up all of it. It just went on and on. Nothing about it seemed normal. They shot at us for some reason; somebody took pot shot at us at his office. I was beat up by some crazy officers; nothing bad, just enough to scare me. And to make that trial long and sweet, it ended, and I was convicted. And I guess the ACLU knew this from the beginning. What they were doing was trying to build a case for constitutional challenge to get rid of the ban. And that was explained to me; it wasn't like I'm shocked. I mean, I was the guinea pig; I knew it and I did it. It was rough; all of these things. There's a lot more and I'm not selling my book, but the book covers all of this stuff because I can't remember all of it. I'm glad I wrote it because I can't remember now all the stuff that took place. And then when it came to sentencing, the prosecution, the captain said, "All we want is to make sure Hatheway's gone. That will be an easy closing argument for a sentencing." The government got out there and argued for fifteen years of prison. They lied all the way through it.

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At this point, the jury, in a court-martial for an officer of the jury, are composed of officers who are on the staff of the commanding officer of Europe. The preferring officers—the way it works in the military is that if charges are brought against an officer, charges are brought technically by the commanding officer of Europe, so it's the four-star general. And he gets all this information and he can decide to charge or not; there's an investigation—Article 32, and that's when the investigators go to see if there's enough information to prefer charges. An Article 32 was conducted and when it went to the general, the general said, "There's enough information to prefer charges." So we prefer charges, then we have to get this jury. Well, the jury, according to the uniform code of military justice, the jury is composed of his staff. I always thought that was funny; the man that prefers charges, I have to stand in front of a jury of members from his own staff. How does that work? But that's how it was. So there they are and I think there are only eight jurors too, I think. So they deliberate and their deliberation was in fact, just simply separation from the service.

At this point, there was press from the *New York Times*, there was press from *Der Spiegel*, there was press from the *Army Times*, there was press from every damn newspaper; *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. I mean, it was all over Europe; it was on the radio, on

television. We got this guy—ACLU had this guy whose name is Max; he's since passed away. Max is a character. Max was more like a thing as opposed to a person; he was big, brash, loud, and wrote outrageous stories for any number of newspapers. He lived in this castle outside of Stuttgart that he rented, and each floor was a different room. And the room where he and his girlfriend lived was a huge round room, I think with a bed in it. And he walked around the house with his children, and his girlfriend, and me, and ACLU without a stitch of clothing on, and he weighed about nine hundred pounds. Max. [laughs] And he'd write his articles in the buff. "Really, Max?" "Shut up, I'm writing." Okay, I'll let it go. Well, Max did his job; he knew people everywhere. I still have the newspapers and stories; all these articles would come up. And of course, every one that came up, Special Forces command would get angrier. And I was feeling pretty good about it; I lost, you know. I didn't want to go to jail, but I was like, "Screw you people. You really deserve this one. You really screwed up." So, I was out of the service. I was unceremoniously kicked out, and the judge said, "Dismissed." And I have never been that angry before.

So the officers from my unit who did testify against me, they were actually in the section where guests can sit. I went up and I just slammed them; not physically, but I'm just screaming at them. And they're all senior officers. I used every four-letter word I could possibly think of and a few extras I made up. I said they should be ashamed of themselves as Americans, they should be ashamed of themselves as soldiers, they should be ashamed. The post commander was there and I called him every four-letter word too; "You should be stripped of your rank." And I grabbed my rank, and I threw them on the floor in front of them, and I stomped on them with my boots and said, "Stick that up your ass." And he's going, "You pick them up." And I said, "Me? I'm not in the Army anymore! You pick the crap up if you want it." I mean, that's how I was. And my attorney said, "Let him go; he'll be fine." And everybody who was associated in a negative way, I just chewed out. And one of the executive officers of the post who I really disliked was starting to chew me out, and I looked at him, and I just gave him the finger as hard as I could; right in his face. Then I spat in his face and I walked away. I said, "Fine. Court-martial me, you moron." It felt good!

So I eventually did leave a few days later; got on an airplane and I left, and they came to Monterey, well, Fort Ord. And Fort Ord is where I was supposed to be essentially associated with until it'd gone through the appeals process.

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So the court-martial process then is one in which is automatic appeals to the court of military review, and that can take a couple of years, actually. And the ACLU was still a part of it; they weren't going to let it go. So while I was in this process which would be ongoing, I got deeply involved in Monterey, California in their gay organizations and, by extension, San Francisco. Harvey Milk—I began to do work with Harvey Milk; a little bit of work, not a lot, but just some. This is all this—Harvey Milk would go on to become a supervisor in San Francisco, assassinated by Dan White. Dianne Feinstein became the mayor. I was getting involved in all this stuff. And by the time I got to Monterey and San Francisco, the court-martial preceded me; it was in the papers in San Francisco, in Los Angeles, in Santa Barbara to my mother's absolute embarrassment.



“Eh, don’t worry about it.” “Shut up.”

So I also enrolled in a small college in Monterey called the Monterey Institute of International Studies, because I still wanted to go to school; I liked that stuff. And I enrolled, and it’s a school that trains simultaneous translation for the United Nations. It is now affiliated with Middlebury College out of Connecticut, but then it was not. And it was a graduate school deeply immersed in international studies, and foreign languages, and the like. So I ended up working toward a master’s degree in international studies in German; the whole program was in German because I knew German from Germany now. I was sent to German language school when I was in Germany, and that took me to Oberammergau where I spent several months learning the language. So I had French in college, so I knew three languages now. I was really beginning to enjoy myself a lot.

At the same time, I was getting deeply involved in the gay rights movement that was unfolding in ’76, ’77, ’78. Again my court-martial sort of preceded me and articles came out in the local papers, and there were some consequences that were interesting from my perspective. One was that the college wanted to deny me graduation because of the trial, and I was fired from a job I had had. And in both instances, the reason given was deceptive; they were just prejudiced against gays. The library job where I was working, they said I didn’t do what I was hired to do. I was hired to be an intake clerk at the library, and they kept showing me that I was a typist. I said, “But I wasn’t a typist; you had me take in books at the front desk. No typing.” “Well, you should be typing. You’re fired.” And I had some witness to that and they said, “Don’t fight it.” The college wanted to deny me my graduation and the student body president was outraged. So he got the graduating class together and forced the issue before the board of regents. And to make a long story short, I was given my graduation; I was the top graduate of that class. And the speaker was Frank Church of the Senate Intelligence Committee way back in the day; he investigated American abuses under President Nixon.

I testified before his committee; I didn’t mention this. One of the things that I was able to do, I was asked to testify before the Senate Select Intelligence Committee about American intelligence abuses in Europe, based upon my experience as a top-secret patrol officer intelligence officer. And I did, and I testified about select assassinations and stuff. Very interesting. And then coincidentally, the same chair of that committee—and he’s a heavy hitter, Frank Church was one of the heavies at the time—was also a speaker at our graduation. And so was Leon Panetta; Leon Panetta became Secretary of Defense under Clinton. Leon Panetta was a congressman in California where I was, and I went to him initially about my court-martial and he said he couldn’t do anything about it because after all, I was gay. “You’re a homosexual.” He was a Democrat. So I left him alone. Eventually under Clinton, he would become the director of the CIA. He would become Clinton’s—what do you call it—the staff guy who runs Clinton’s staff, and he became the Secretary of Defense. He lives back in Monterey now. I knew him as a congressman and he wouldn’t help.

[01:00:10]

So there I am in Monterey, and eventually, the school backed down and it was more of a sham because I was the top graduate, by substantially. I was one of these GIs who, you

know, I learned my lesson and I had a perfect 4.0. It was like oh my God, all these accolades and stuff. And while all this was ongoing, one of my teachers said, “You’ve been teaching some of these courses for me because I’ve been sick and I like the way you do it. Have you ever thought about becoming a professor?” And I said, “No.” He says, “Well, do.”

So that led to me contacting University of Wisconsin-Madison, and in particular, contacted a man called George Mosse. I don’t know if you know George Mosse or not. George Mosse’s the father of German studies in North America basically; he’s German, Jew, and gay. His grandfather had the largest newspaper chain in Germany when the Nazis came to power. One of the papers the family owned started was a *Berliner Tageblatt*. And when the Nazis came to power, being Jewish, they lost everything. And he was sent out of the country; eventually everybody else left. And when the Wall collapsed, he went back to get his family estate, and it was huge.

When he died, he gave \$10 million to UW-Madison to open up the Mosse Center which is in the Humanities building. Mosse brought me out to UW-Madison where I would study under him the Holocaust, I would study the SS; I would study Nazi Germany under another guy named Bob Kale. And all this was taking place—these letters back and forth, these applications—as all this other stuff was going on at the same time. So I was sort of letting the negative aspects go, but at the same time, I hadn’t let the issue of gays in the military slide. I was still—went up to San Francisco and talked to people associated with Harvey Milk and others, “What do we do?” And it was sort of a low priority back in the day. There were a few of us, one or two—mostly me at this point and Len Matlovich who was out there for a little while—so we hobnobbed and the ACLU was still working on it. The war in Vietnam had just ended and people didn’t want to talk about the military. You know, they don’t like blacks, they had more rights. Why are you doing this? You know, let it go. Be happy that military—you don’t want it anyway. And I kept saying, “I don’t disagree with you, but they screwed me over! I want justice!”

So I graduate eventually, drive out to Madison, link up with the Department of History here to begin my studies in PhD under George Mosse and Bob Kale. And I really can’t understate the importance of these two people. And within their fields, George Mosse, when he died for example, half of the page obit in *New York Times*; this guy was the master of it. And he had two generations of students beginning in the 1950s. He almost literally single-handedly created German history studies in North America beginning in Nebraska. I felt very privileged to call him my friend because when I began teaching, he would come down to Edgewood and give classes for me. I wanted my kids to see this guy, look at him. And so he really, really, really inspired me to know my trade.

While I was here, because in part of him, I didn’t drop the issue about gays, and as it turned out, one of the people going to school at the same time was Tammy Baldwin. She’s younger than I am, but she was going to law school and I became active in giving speeches and talks around here and there about things related to gays, gays in the military. And Baldwin was also—at the time I didn’t know where she wanted to go with this stuff—but we would share the stage an awful lot. We would go back and forth doing this, that, and the other. And we became sort of like speech buddies, I suppose. I mean,

she had her own circle of friends not mine, but we also came together very frequently to talk about gay-related things, this, that, and the other. And then of course, HIV would hit the gay community here. And all of this concluded with me forming my own organization called Among Friends. And it was rural outreach to gays and lesbians, and it dealt with the issue of HIV, HIV education. And that got me recognition from the State Journal [inaudible], so that sort of raised my profile which then, when I went to Edgewood, I was hired in part because of the work I'd done with rural gays and this organization called Among Friends which I established.

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In the meantime, the ACLU is still moving forward with this stuff. Now they had come to the end of the process of appeals in the early '80s. Eventually, the Supreme Court would not hear us; they remanded everything back to the government. Things stayed where they were, but that didn't end it; that just made us shift to another venue. By this time, more people had been discharged from the service because of being gay, and some of them were here in the states; Miriam Ben-Shalom and a few others. And we would get together periodically and we would discuss these issues; what, how, why, what. And we then got other allies as well, and there was this organization called Service—I don't know any more what it stands for, but it's an organization that was established coming out of my court-martial and others to assist gay service-people because, by now, gay people, for reasons which are related to the end of the Cold War and politics, being thrown out left and right. The truth is the military didn't care, but there were those who did care apparently.

So this organization now, a few of us began to pop up to sort of pick up where we could. I mean, others then became—and this reached a critical mass of these organizations popping up in Washington DC, the ACLU was—same people, David Addlestone and others—and then some groups in Los Angeles. So Reagan was partly responsible for the increase in discharges for being gay when he was commander in chief. And by the way, I was not unhappy to see Nancy go. Sorry, you weren't very nice to me. You had a good life. Now leave.

And so when Clinton then decided to run for the presidency, we all threw our support behind him. And he when he became president then, he wanted to do an executive order to end the ban, but the Pentagon, and other conservative people got outraged by that. Now I had gone to a conference in Minneapolis in 1990, and I went there because I was asked to speak about the military ban. And while I was up there, I was interviewed by a guy named Randy Shilts who wrote *The Band Played On* about HIV, and he wrote the book *Conduct Unbecoming*. Are you familiar with that? I'll show it to you a little bit later. It's a big study about gays in the military. And that further—there was a lot of people involved, but mine was one of the stories that was further, I guess you could say, promulgated around. A little bit earlier, another person came and stayed here, and part of her book was about my trial as well. And lots of stories about, in fact as an aside, a filmmaker from New York is coming out next month to film me at work about this whole thing we're doing right now. It's sort of cool, in a way. So my cases are getting just a lot of publicity.

And then in 2002 or '3 I guess, Clinton was getting hammered for wanting to end the ban. And so I was asked to submit testimony in support of ending the ban; congressional testimony. That was submitted to Ike Skelton's committee. And by now I've been flown out to Washington D.C., I was flown out to New York City, to all this sort of stuff. I was flown, paid to go up to Minnesota; drove my own car. I was sort of on this circuit, if you will; minor but—you know, there may be half a dozen of us sort of right there at the beginning, really at the beginning, and I have some small claim to fame. It was the first challenge to the constitutionality of this particular article of the UCNJ. So I mean, in terms of how that goes, it was "snap" right there. And then people, when we needed additional people which is what the ACLU did because it's hard to get more people, to get a large body of stuff. So then in '93, of course we lost the battle completely so "don't ask, don't tell."

[01:10:00]

And then I was getting involved at Edgewood College. I took less of an active role in any of this stuff; I was just sort of like, "Ah, I can't do this forever." It was bizarre. But I still kept my fingers in the pot by writing letters and contacting politicians. And then out of the blue, sort of, I get an invitation from Hofstra Law School, graduate school of law; be our honored guest. And the long and the short is they flew me out from Madison, Wisconsin, gave me a limousine, put me up in a hotel in downtown New York City, and drove me out to Hofstra on Long Island for three days, and all I did was talk with two other people. It was these big speeches; we came on C-SPAN. Oh my goodness, it was sort of interesting though. And it was on the tenth anniversary of "don't ask, don't tell." And it was really a presentation to a lot of lawyers, and legal types, and stuff. Here we are, we're the ones that got involved; Margarethe Cammermeyer and a few others. And what do we do now?

Here we are; it's sort of like dead in the water. Well, not really dead in the water. It became a political issue as it'd been brewing that became a test for all; literally every damn Democrat running for any office in the country, be it presidents, or Congress, or Senate. And that here in this state of course, Tammy Baldwin was one of the first people to come to my help with the book that I wrote. The military said it lost the court-martial transcripts; we don't have them. And I called her up and said, "Get 'em." And she was able to find out the Army was lying in that one and if they weren't lying, they weren't going to give them to me. We eventually got them.

So politicians were now—in the period after 1990, we just got politicians involved; that was the only way. And people who were much more savvy at that like Baldwin and others; David Clarenbach who used to be a gay politician here. They all got involved. And they ran with that ball in a way that I couldn't, and I just didn't have the effort or energy to. And the story was one of continuous pressure on candidates for public office and candidates. And then, it's 2008 now. 2003 was the conference; more public pressure. 2008; Barry is going to run, Hillary's going to run. And it didn't look good because back then, just eight years ago, neither of them wanted to deal with the subject. And no surprise, people like Obama, they like Hillary, but they weren't—this is an issue that for mainstream politicians to touch was the kiss of death; just the kiss of death. So the issue of gays in the service became wrapped up in the larger push for greater inclusion, and

this became a generational thing now. After 2000—pretty soon it became more inclusion, more diversity, more of this, this. Let's go for it. And strategically, it was a really good thing because it meant that gays were building sort of the coalitions they needed to push the agenda forward with the legal exceptions. And the long and short is that then eventually in 2011, the ban was completely lifted. And then Baldwin came to my office and gave me this big plaque and red-lined edition and all this sort of stuff, and a letter from Obama.

So the struggle was a forty-year struggle and, in the end, we were successful. In fact back in 1976, Max, the big fat journalist said, "You'll be legal in forty years." He was exactly right. And I was thinking, "Forty years? I'll be dead in forty years! Who needs a forty-year struggle?" And so what I did then, once it became legal and Baldwin called me up and said, "I have a gift for you." It's called a red-lined edition of the legislation which Congress votes on it, as she explained it to me. And it's a copy, but just sort of a fancy copy. It's a huge frame; it's all big, and heavy, and clunky. And she brought it to the office and there was photography, you know how politicians are. We spent about an hour-and-a-half revisiting old times. She told me she was going to run for the Senate and all this sort of stuff. This was before she was senator. So then that's that. And end of story, I guess. So in 2014—she came by in 2012—and I have the plaque with the big picture frame and stuff at work, and so I just sort of put it aside.

[01:15:02]

Then I was at my favorite watering hole here having some wine with some friends of mine. When we were waiting she goes, "Well, you should get your discharge upgrade." I said, "But it was a court-martial; it wasn't administrative discharge. In other words, I was accused of a crime, and you don't get huge crimes updated unless you get—" she said, "Oh. Hmm." But I began to think about it in some way. So I called up Mark Pocan, our representative here, and I talked with their people, Mark McGinnis in particular. They said, "Well, it's possible. The Pentagon is sort of refiguring all of this stuff, and a lot of congressmen and senators now are thinking about ways to get all these discharges looked at from the court-martials to administrative discharges." "Oh, this is really interesting."

So, what's to lose? I went online and I went to the Pentagon Discharge Review Board website. And there you have a form that's called Form 2014 or something. Download it and what it is, is a form requesting the review board to review your discharge and upgrade it. And you fill out the form according to the boxes on it; give the rationale, type some stuff up, and mail it in. And I looked at it and said, "Oh, for Christ's sake." There's one little page and they ask stupid questions. I was court-martialed; they're not going to do it. So I sat down and I got—this is sort of terrible of me—I just got a pen and I scribbled. I didn't do it nice at all; I scribbled. And some of the stuff was probably not very legible. And I stuck it in an envelope and said nothing gained, nothing lost, and mailed it. Then about a year later, I got a response. And the response was, "The Discharge Review Board has looked over your request. The review board has denied your request, but take a look at the memorandum that follows." Well, there's no memorandum. There was just that cover letter denying and a returned copy of the request that I'd sent. So I think, "Okay, what's the point of this?" So I set it aside and

about a month later, I said, “What is this memorandum anyway?” So I actually called and got a hold of somebody and said, “Where’s the memorandum?” And some young lady said, “Oh, you didn’t get the memorandum?” I said, “No.” “Oh! I just brought it up right now on the computer; I’ll send it to you.” A few days later I got the memorandum which was essentially from the Secretary of the Army overruling the discharge review board, and ordering that my discharge be upgraded to an honorable discharge. And that in awhile, I’d be getting the actual beautiful scroll thing; honorable discharge, and all the paperwork, and DD Form—they’re all in the safety deposit vault right now—and all that stuff. So eventually it was probably a year ago, March or maybe in April of 2015, all the stuff comes in the mail with an upgraded DD Form 214 which is the discharge paper stating honorable discharge. The date was May 1978. It came with the scroll, the all-fancy parchment paper with all this stuff on it; honorable discharge. I thought, “Oh, that’s pretty good.” It made no practical difference to me, honestly. As a practical matter, it would have made a difference forty years ago but now, nothing; absolutely zero. But it was just sort of nice to get that thing taken care of. But there it was.

And then in the letter, the memorandum, the Army explained why they overruled the discharge review board – plunk, plunk, plunk, plunk, plunk, plunk. One of the things was that what Hatheway was accused of wasn’t even a crime; how could this happen? And other all sorts of reasons. And I said this is going to be interesting. So I spent some time and I discovered that the original attorneys are still alive; David Addlestone of the ACLU here in the states who was in charge of the whole process and Chris Coates who was my trial attorney in Germany who worked for David Addlestone.

[01:20:05]

Sure enough they’re still alive. Addlestone’s probably pushing eighty and Chris is mid-seventies now, I guess. I was able to talk to them on the telephone. And the first reaction of David Addlestone was almost to a quote, “Shit. We spent all that time, and money, and legal maneuvering to do this, and you just filled out a damn piece of paper!” [laughter] “I want to see that!” And David Addlestone was still working with the ACLU; his primary job is to literally work to get GIs who’ve been trashed because of being gay their discharges. He’s really very adamant that this was a real miscarriage of justice. And Chris Coates who lives in North Carolina, no South Carolina, is also doing work like that. He’s actually worked for the state. He is still an attorney. But the good upside to all of this is that Addlestone told me that the justification for upgrading my discharge was the first they actually received on paper with real justification since the end of the ban against gays. And it could be used to help as many as sixty thousand GIs change their discharges. And I said, “You can have this. You’re going to get it; the logic is there. If they’re going to use the rationale for you, they have to use it for everybody else. And you were court-martialed which was even worse. No we need this, we need this.” So the memorandum was about five pages, I guess. It was detailed enough. And so I sent that to him, and our last communication was probably about six weeks ago because I sent him a copy of the letter from Barack Obama. So that pretty much ends the whole thing except for the issue of disability with the Veterans Administration that we talked about much earlier. But that whole issue is related, but it’s sort of tangential to the whole story of the court-martial and the process we went through. If the military, the VA does come through with disability, that’s good. If they don’t, I never had it; I never thought I could

get it. It's just to see where this could go to. I'm getting too old to worry about this stuff anymore.

But, that's the whole picture. So I think it's important to—if anybody ever listens to this—it was the turning point in my life. It's the most important event in my entire life, and it set me on a direction that—actually, I'm glad; it made me a better person. That sounds strange. But the ACLU said before this process really began, that now you'll begin to see what naked, raw power could do. It's not a question of being right or wrong, innocent or guilty; it's a matter of how much power can be brought against you. And I didn't know what they meant when they said that. After the process, now I understand. It made me angry; really, really angry.

And it made me understand, as maybe nothing else could, the nature of power. And that is what set my path for studying, because of my experience in Germany, the Nazis, the Holocaust, the abuses of power. And my dissertation was on the ideology of National Socialism. One of my books is on the school; what they were taught there. And I had been skeptical, to this day, on power. I don't know if you're familiar with Michel Foucault or not. Michel Foucault has been very influential in my understanding, and I suppose in some sense, I'm sort of a Marxist in the sense that I think Marx is very correct when he talked about the human psychology of the bourgeois class creates a reality that they have to maintain their power through the establishment of mechanisms like institutions to keep the power. And that's correct; I mean, that's not necessarily because it was Marxist, but in my mind, it's one of his most astute insights of the human condition. And for forty years—well I've been teaching now for thirty—for all of these years that both insights have guided me with my own research, and with my students, and with my teaching, and you'd be surprised how kids, “Oh my God. Really?”

[01:25:02]

It's very important, and it allowed me I think to really find something that could really inspire me. The anger then, I just didn't want to use it and then turn into a mish-mash. I didn't know if I wanted to do something, but I wanted to know a little bit more about what all this was about, so academics was the only place to go. And I have discovered, as you probably have too, that people in power don't like being corrected, and I love doing it; I love it. Being a tenured faculty is great; I can approach the powerful administration because they're wrong. And the nature of imperial power, that is the United States, for example. It doesn't take much imagination to know why 9/11 happened; that's not complicated to me.

When I mention the overthrow of the government in Iran in 1953 and other things, and the United States—I mean, when I grew up in Iran—this is how I began to put things together really, really quickly. When the United States and the Brits overthrew the government of Mossadegh in 1953, they were able to have the Shah who left the country and came back. The Shah installed a prime minister that was to Britain's liking, who then turned around and gave the oil back to the oil companies. In order to prevent another type of Mossadegh nationalist from coming to power, the Shah then was essentially forced to develop an internal security agency called SAVAK (Organization of Intelligence and National Security). And SAVAK is like the Royal Iranian intelligence

services. And they became—they're deadly; they would torture, they would take away and disappear. Nasty, but they did the bidding of the Shahs. SAVAK was trained by the Central Intelligence Agency, and to make it even more interesting, it was trained by a Norman Schwarzkopf, Sr. Norman Schwarzkopf, Jr. was the general in charge of the first Iraq War in 1991. It was his father who trained SAVAK.

And his father was—I don't think he was the head of police in New York—but he was in charge of the investigations of the disappearance of—oh God, a little baby—the man flew for the United States—Lindbergh. The Lindbergh case. Are you familiar with the Lindbergh case? Charles Lindbergh was this pilot who flew the first trans-Atlantic aircraft in the 1920s. His baby was kidnapped and disappeared. It was a huge story in the day because Lindbergh was this national hero. Norman Schwarzkopf, Sr. was in charge of the investigation. He was now in charge of putting together this secret service for the Shah which was used to terrorize and kill, murder and disappear opponents of the regime, that regime was kept in power because of the United States. That inspired one of the people who was displaced because of it was Ruhollah Khomeini who would become the leader of the Iranian Revolution of the '70s. Now it was his turn with this power to turn around and throw the Shah out. And he did, and he established the Islamic Republic in 1979. The United States has been involved in the overthrow of Middle Eastern governments since Syria in 1940, the first real attempt in '49. In Iraq, it helped establish the Ba'ath party; the Central Intelligence Agency looking for a counter-communist. It facilitated the rise of Saddam Hussein, our own created monster. Our first alliance in the Middle East was with Abdulaziz, the first king of Saudi Arabia. And he and Roosevelt met on the USS *Quincy* in the Red Sea in 1945, when Roosevelt was coming back from a visit after a conference, the Yalta Conference to end World War II. He went down to visit Abdulaziz, and there he said, "We'll protect you forever. Will you give us your oil?" And Saudi Arabia did not have a nice government. That could go on, and on, and on.

And then the issue of power—I'm sort of going off on this—but the issue of power—after the court-martial—I see how all these things sort of come together for the use of and abuse of power. And when you send in an institution like the Army against you, they're nasty people; they'll do nasty things. But because they need recruits—that was their one weakness. I always thought that was interesting.

[01:30:04]

George Bush and Nixon, I guess—after the war in Vietnam, we went to volunteer services actually. And the problem ultimately with that was that they didn't have enough recruits, so you'd have to bribe people. One of the reasons George Bush began to use National Guard is because when you have soldiers going off to war and they're your next-door neighbor's son or daughter, you're not going to protest because you've known them since kindergarten. But if they're professional Army that is drafted, you don't know them, you can protest them. It is very sly. But they had problems because they couldn't get anybody to join, so the military, so that was the crack, and that's what allowed a lot of the major—I mean, I [inaudible] African-American. The first integrated war was the war in Vietnam. In spite of the fact that attributed greatly to the services in '47, when I was in the service, there were race riots in my post all over the place;



black soldiers were hated by white soldiers. And yet, we need this, so there was this immense pressure to change this. It's ultimately what happened with gays as well. And for the fact that there'd always been gays in the service; when you talk to the GI, they don't care. So those were the lessons learned. Now in my dotage—I've actually applied some of these things to Edgewood. I mean, one of the reasons I was hired was exactly the story I told you. Some of the Sisters thought, "This is great. We can use this." And some kids—I can't use that story all the time because it's not relevant to what I teach half the time. But, as a matter of fact the first full story of what I just told you, I just told five weeks ago; it was sort of interesting. Or whenever it was, maybe it was two weeks, three weeks ago. "Oh really? Yeah!" So that is a nutshell. It's a long, big nutshell. But there.

Gibb: Okay. All right. I'm going to try and—there's a bunch of threads in there I want to pull out. I'm just trying to decide which one.

Hatheway: Yeah, I know. I probably should have stopped.

Gibb: No, no, no. No. You were not—there's no point in stopping you. It was worth all of that.

Hatheway: I glossed over some stuff and maybe spent too much on others.

Gibb: So on that, is there anything that you glossed over that you want to go back to?

Hatheway: Not necessarily. I mean, if it pops up over time, maybe.

Gibb: All right. So maybe actually I want to take you back. So you said you hadn't really figured out that you were gay in college.

Hatheway: I knew something was going on maybe, but I dated too and I had a girlfriend. But I had a fond sense of attraction to men, too. And back in the day, these are the things you didn't talk about; we're talking '60s. And the only thing I knew about gays was very negative, extremely negative. And I lived in a dormitory and an all-male dormitory. In an all-male dormitory, there's a lot of testosterone going around, and it's all directed towards women and their body parts. And you don't talk—you just don't do that. So I kept it to myself. It was just too uncool. You would have been thrown out of college actually. People use moral turpitude for these sorts of things. The discrimination against gays was profound. If people knew you were gay or thought you were, you'd be out of the school in a heartbeat. And I was in the ROTC. I couldn't—

Gibb: Well, that's what I was wondering. You were obviously aware of the military being—did you have an awareness of quite how that might impact you if anybody had found out?

Hatheway: If they figured I was gay, I'd be thrown out, I'd lose my scholarship. And that was always a given. Well, I'm not going to say I'm gay because you signed the contract saying if you're homosexual, they'll throw you out. Maybe throw you in jail since you signed a contract saying you weren't. You lied, so that's—well, that's silly. Then the other part of it was at the time, well I don't really want to be this way anyway because there's no advantage in being mixed up. I'm going to jail all my life and this sort of

stuff? So that was the background; it was in the background. And I mean, it had been in the background. I was vaguely, now that I look back, I could probably see aspects when I was sixteen or seventeen, maybe fifteen, but really passing in a way that in college it was more-so especially living in an all-male dorm, even though I had a girlfriend and nothing serious.

[01:35:09]

And by the time I was in the service, it was full-blown. Yep, that must be the way I am. And that was the problem because it was dangerous. Well, that's what happened; you get court-martialed, you get thrown in jail, you get booted, maybe get shot. Who knows what's going to happen to you. It was a real legal issue and there's no support, so you've got to keep it quiet, as quiet as you can, even though when it became known about the trial, I had a lot of support from the regular troops. I didn't lose any friends.

Gibb: So the difference between that and the officers—

Hatheway: Yeah.

Gibb: Okay.

Hatheway: Yeah, the troops were completely supportive. They really didn't care. You know, I'd served with some of these guys. They just simply didn't care at all. And this was, admittedly this was forty years ago, forty-one years ago. Then it was literally a non-starter. So there's this real cleavage between officer and enlisted person, and the younger the enlisted person and the lower the rank, literally—So E1, two, three, four, five, and six, zero. NCOs, C78, E9, maybe a little more serious; especially E9s, those are top NCOs. Bad deal. Amongst the officer corps, those who were my age, it was not an issue except for getting caught. For those who were say a major and above, it was moral turpitude; this is anti-United States. Are you some sort of a commie? But I could tell back in '74 that the issue itself wasn't going to—it would be resolved in favor of gays eventually; it was pretty clear even then. Well, Stonewall took place in 1969; I don't know if you're familiar with Stonewall or not.

Gibb: Well, I was going to ask you about at the same time, there was a movement going on. How did that—

Hatheway: Yeah, there was. That started back in 1969 and by 1976, the writing was on the wall; even though it was rough writing, the writing was on the wall. Enough already! Just stop it with this stuff. One of the motivating factors as a profound anti-gay was political manipulation; this is one of the topics that I teach, this quest for gay identity. One of the motivating factors behind this profoundly anti-gay sensibility was the Cold War. Now gay people weren't particularly well-appreciated in the 1920s. None existed before 1880; none. People didn't know what to think. So having said that, gay identity is relatively new unless a psychological reason; of course there were gay people, but the emotion of a distinct identity is a political decision that was made on purpose to allow gay people to lead normal lives. And in the United States and in Great Britain in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, what we now call gay people lived quiet lives of

desperation. They lived isolated in strange areas, or if they were upper-class, they just kept it to themselves, otherwise there was a scandal. But by the 1920s after World War I in Britain, and Germany, and the United States, and France, gay people were everywhere. My grandmother had gay friends in the '20s in New York. And this wasn't much of an issue. All the Freudian stuff aside, gay people had a relative degree of freedom and especially in communities that were sort of fringy, anyway — art communities, and theatre, and stuff. The real problems came after World War II with the rise of the Cold War, and America became very politicized with our own Joe McCarthy from the state of Wisconsin. Are you familiar with Joe McCarthy?

Gibb: This is the—

Hatheway: —senator from Appleton.

Gibb: Anticommunist.

Hatheway: Yeah. And he's famous for McCarthyism.

Gibb: Yeah, sure.

Hatheway: What would happen is that he and other senators would reject gay people primarily on the grounds that, well we know they're perverts; that's what psychologists tell us, these are perverts. And more to the point is that we're fighting really crafty people called the Russians.

[01:40:06]

Now what are they going to think if the American public and this Armed Forces are full of limp-wristed faggots, and that's sort of a—now, we can't have an Army like that because that would invite some sort of attack on us; limp-wristed; how can they defend? They're not strong enough. And this became part of the national dialogue that many of the elites perpetuated on. It wasn't true; they used it to justify a lot of their own power base. They used it to justify a lot of the build-up in the military to present on the backs of gay people, to present an American Armed Forces that was strong, and masculine, and hard like a missile. But it never was completely bought, and even as this story and narrative was being developed, it was being challenged at the very same time. The first challenging aspects came in the early '50s because by now, gay people had also been described as perverted and all this sort of bizarre psychological stuff that came out of the faulty reading of Freud and other people who just lost their minds on it.

And it also had a Christian bias too; let's say Christian, Jewish, Muslim bias because in traditional Christian theology, natural law had been described by St. Thomas Aquinas in the thirteenth century and derived from Aristotle. And natural law was looked at as, in the Christian era, the era of the Book, as divinely ordained right behaviors. And the idea that that was simply a creation of the human mind was foreign; the idea that natural law exists in any meaningful way from divine inspiration is malarkey. But, they built a whole church on it; they built Islam, they built Judaism, and they built Christianity on these human constructs and those were then interpreted to be divine law. Well, if that's

true then anything that deviates from this norm, this standard is, by definition, unnatural. And what informed the dialogue is what I call, I guess you'd call maybe common sense realism or common sense essentialism, that you know what things are through your common sense; you know what a hand does, you know what an ear does, you know what a toe does, you know what a chair does.

How do you know that? Well, in the farming community, you know what pigs look like, you know what body parts do, and obviously that's what their essence is. Except, of course, people don't fit that common sense essentialist approach toward behavior, because we have something called a mind that can make you do different things. But in agricultural societies, you have a what-you-see-is-what-you-get kind of approach to common sense. And essentialism; so a pen's a pen, a chair's a chair, and don't tell me something different. And so everyone knows a boy thought that you were a girl and that's the way the world goes around, right? Lip service is given to the notion of freedom and free will; that's lip service. If you don't, well according to this, then you're perverted. And Freud and others gave us a psychological configuration talking about disturbance in the psyche, and a perversion of the natural order of things. And then you throw in the politics of it during the period of America's expansion, and then you have a toxic mix that gay people come out as...today for example, if you go to—I subscribe to what's called *Right Wing Watch*—there are people calling for the execution of gay people—shooting them, hanging them—and they're very bold about it. And these people supporting, by the way people like Cruz, and they're very blunt because they're all unnatural, they're beating America down; this is the work of the devil, this is the work of Satan. And blacks don't get off too easy either. It's easy for religions to discriminate, but it's sort of a reflection of an older model, and the idea that, in essence, people are the creation of their environment and of—I suppose you would say people create their own personas in many ways out of the world around them and their own internal desires; there's no pre-ordained outcome and that disturbs a lot of people.

[01:45:22]

I don't know if you're familiar with Darwinism, but Darwinism discusses natural selection. Well, that says there's no goal to what we now call evolution as a function of relationship to one's environment. And that means there's no long-term goal; that means everything, therefore, is relatively random. "Oh my God, you know where's that's leading to." And nothing is more obvious than gay peoples, I suppose you could say, in that regard. So I don't know where this was leading to. I have to see something. Can I?

Gibb: So yeah, if you want to just go back to Germany and talk about the relationships that you built with the SS officers and that experience.

Hatheway: Well, it was an interesting one. I didn't know anything about really World War II; I didn't know anything much really about that stuff. I'd heard about it from my father a little bit, my grandparents, and I knew that Germans were bad. I knew a little bit about Hitler, I knew about Auschwitz. Not much because, quite honestly back in '74 or so or '75, not much was known about it. It seems strange to say, but it was a subject that was not talked about a whole lot, except there was a Holocaust. So when I got to be in a position to meet SS, I initially met them because they were hired by the military, the

United States military; they worked for us. And it was almost coincidental or by chance is a better way of putting it, that one of the people I met whose name was Tiefenthaler[?]?—I forget his first name, Herr Tiefenthaler—he worked for us and he went on to explain a little bit about the post. He went on to explain a little bit about his admiration for Hitler and his concern that the reports about Hitler’s being evil were exaggerated. And he told me he’d been a member of the SS so I thought this is sort of interesting; where’s this leading to? And he then became my entree, in a way, to SS people who lived in the area. And it turned out that in the community where I lived, there was a bar there that was an SS bar. Now keep in mind, say, 1974. A lot of these guys were born in, let’s call it 1925—call it 1920. So they were in their fifties at that point; they were youngish, and alive, and vibrant. And I, upon occasion, would go down to this SS bar pretty much by myself after he’d introduced me. And I got to sit around tables and drink beer and schnapps, and these guys would begin to sort of open up and tell me stories.

When I was in German language school, my German language teacher was a member of the Wehrmacht during World War II and he would share Wehrmacht stories on the Russian front. And then I got to meet incidentally the burgermaster[?]?], the mayor of the town and there were archives there he introduced me to that had a lot of the quiet SS history about Tölz, this little community and at the post where I was stationed. And then eventually people began to bring pictures to me of the post during World War II, of the city during World War II; it was illegal to have this stuff, but they kept it. And I got a blueprint of the post during the Nazi time. So, I just got to meet and talk with SS people about what they did and I was really interested. And I didn’t—I’m sort of surprised I didn’t do this, but I didn’t condemn them on purpose. I wanted to hear what they said; I wanted to learn what they did. And if you shut people up, then you’re never going to know. And I said, “Okay, just tell me.” And they’d say, “What do you think? What do you think?”

[01:50:00]

And I’d say, “Well, you know, not my cup of tea.” But I made a point of not telling them, condemning them to hell. I’m glad I didn’t do that; it was a conscious decision on my part to get to know the psyche of what these guys were thinking. Why did you do what you did, and tell me what you did. The alternative is they would just shut up and never talk about it, and I would not be welcome in that bar, and I never would have learned. One of the people who I mentioned was Richard Schulze-Kossens, who was Hitler’s adjutant. He sent me all these pictures, and these letters, and stuff, tons of stuff about—and he was unapologetic about his role. Okay, I think his role was wrong, but I got these great insights that I actually share with my students now, and I do it in a way that—anybody can know that something happened; to know why something happened, that’s the trick. And that’s what I was interested in; why that occurred. And that’s, of course, one thing I like about history is, actually it’s an old German process. The Germans invented modern historiography in the 1850s, and their contribution was this contextualization and stuff; put yourself in their shoes, become them. And I tell my students—for example, I’m giving a Nazi course this semester—and I tell my students to become little Nazis; become one. See the world through their eyes. I’m not saying you’re going to like it. I’m saying if you want to know why something was done—why

study history if you don't want to know why something happened? To my students, that's, "Well, where'd that come from?" Anybody can go to an encyclopedia and read in 1492, Columbus. Come on.

So the SS experience allowed me to—I mean, this is when I first encountered it. It became more formalized, but this historicist approach seemed the most obvious way to get to know, "Why would these guys do that. Why would you do that?" And I would ask them, "Why would you do that?" And that opens up answers more to the point. "Well, because that's we were taught to do; this is what we were led to believe. We were under the impression that our leaders wouldn't lie to us. We were under the impression that there were certain actions taking place called [German]." And they'd still believe that world Jewry was in charge of the press and banks when I was talking with them. One guy was very angry who couldn't get his history of World War II published because "the goddamned Jews control all the printing houses." And I said, "No, they don't. You ever think you're a bad writer?" He goes, "No, it's the goddamned Jews." Whatever. So that is what I wanted to get out of my encounters with the SS and it was very effective; I got a lot. And as a consequence, they set me on a path to learn a lot academically. When I came here, I studied under the chief, Bob Koehl, who's written a definitive study of the SS between 1925 and 1940 when the SS was getting established. So that's what that was all about if that makes any sense.

And the post itself, of course, was where they were trained; these cadets were trained there. They were called Junker, and that word means knight. The whole post was patterned after the Teutonic knights. I chuckle a little bit; people have said that they're patterned after the Catholic Church. No, they're not. Well, maybe to the extent that Teutonic knights were Catholic warriors. But Teutonic knights settled up in what is today Poland in the thirteenth century after coming back from the Crusades, and built a castle and stuff. And the institution in the '30s where they were learning military tactics and strategy was almost an exact replica of the Teutonic castle that existed up in Poland that was built seven hundred years earlier. That's interesting to me to see that relationship. So the Junkers were the students, the cadets, and it was referred to as a Junkerschule; a cadet school. Junkerschule Tölz is what it was referred to. Junkerschule Bad Tölz. It's been semi-torn down now. I got a contact from *Der Spiegel*; they contacted me by telephone and they were trying to have a campaign to stop the Bavarian government from tearing it down.

[01:55:00]

I said, "Well." He said yeah, it was really interesting structure, but there were just enough people who didn't want to have it. They didn't completely destroy it; they modified it almost out of existence. And it's pretty Teutonic looking. They didn't want to have a Teutonic structure in their backyard, I guess. [laughs]

Gibb: So just to follow up on that; so that was an active decision to just sit back and—

Hatheway: Yeah.

Gibb: And do you think there was a particular reason why you—was it just you being military

as well?

Hatheway: Oh, it was because we had a liaison officer at our post between the post Americans and the Germans, Hans [German name], and he came from a long standing Tölzer family. And he sort of allowed me to understand that this was a vacation spot for retired people like that. And also during the war, it was a spot where people would come because “bad” means bath; there was a bath there. And because I’d met this other fellow who was the SS guy, what I understood was that not many Americans wanted to know about that stuff, but they were quite impressed by Special Forces. And as one guy said, “We’re SS. You’re SF. SS, SF.” And I think that was what it was; it was this military sort of sensibility, and the fact that I wasn’t sitting there slinging arrows at them. It wasn’t something that happened overnight; I mean, this took three years—well, maybe two-and-a-half. So it took about three years, two-and-a-half years to get them to open up, but it was a good thing. It was one of the better things. And of course, you tell students today that you were drinking with SS and they go, “Oh, wow!” I’ll show you a picture of it in a second. You have to see these people. But that’s why; it was sort of a buddy-to-buddy thing.

Gibb: Yeah, there must have been trust involved.

Hatheway: I got a gift; they gave me a gift. I have it here; it’s a snuff machine. They refer to it as the first snuff machine in the world; [repeating with German accent]. It was my going away present from a former SS; I don’t remember what his rank was. He made it for me and I still have it, right over here. It’s sort of cool. But it provided a lot of background for my academic work, some insight into the process that these guys went through in terms of what they learned and what they were doing. There were some interesting things that I learned about the institute and about the SS in general, and you wouldn’t be surprised to know that for many of them, the ideology wasn’t necessarily the reason they joined the SS. It was because they thought the SS was a sharp organization. They wanted to be part of something bigger than themselves and be part of something that was respected by the German public. And during the ’30s, the SS was very respected; a highly respectable organization to many Germans. It was up and coming; you know snappy uniforms and people, “Ooh, look at him!” [laughs] It was a good thing, yeah. That’s that.

Gibb: That’s very interesting. So yeah, just maybe say more about your day-to-day life on base and you were saying you were out for the first few years, abroad for a lot of it. Maybe you could expand on that a bit more; what you were doing, if you can, honestly.

Hatheway: Yeah, that’s kind of maybe—I’m having a hard time remembering actually.

Gibb: Okay. Or the security clearance—

Hatheway: Well, there were two general phases of my life on the post. One phase was the phase of traveling; off-post exercises, joint exercises with Italians. One exercise, for example, was in Sardinia in a place called Capo Teulada, and it was a joint NATO exercise. It was huge; all these different forces and I actually was a translator.

[02:00:04]

And I got to see naval air Army marine, just all sorts of stuff across the island and stuff. And that lasted for a couple of months. Then for some reason, I don't really remember or maybe I never knew, the Americans had captured a Soviet missile that was being dismembered there as well—so that was sort of cool—and that lasted a couple of months. We would do ski training in Italy; we would do ski training. Austria was neutral; we couldn't go to Austria. But we would train with the French, alpine training; we did a lot of alpine training in the Pyrenees for example, and that was up mountains, down mountains, up mountains, down mountains. A lot of this was rock climbing up and down, the rock climbing in the Italian Alps; rock, rock, rock, rock, rock. Cross-country skiing. Those were the general, and boy I was on a team for two years, so that's pretty much—In Spain, cross-country stuff. We had cross-country training, we had ice climbing, mountain climbing. The one in Iran was interesting because it was three months of desert training and spying; that was different. But it was always teams, always working with a host nation, and always doing cross-training for the most part. The Middle East stuff with Iranians was they were trying to teach us, but that was just a cover at this point. You know, I can't—it's about as fine as I can take it anymore.

For a young guy, it was great because you weren't sitting around an office doing nothing. You weren't in hotels. You were out in the field so you brought your sleeping gear with you, you brought food with you, you brought your backpack with you. You'd go a few days a week or ten days really without shaving or without much of a bath or shower, so you lived off the land many times. Some cases though, you did stay in billets. In the Pyrenees, we did stay in French Army billets; they were very Spartan. And in the Alps, we stayed in Italian barracks sort of like an open boarding hostel. We all slept in beds in this big empty room, and that was—I mean, it was cold; you didn't really have any—And sometimes you just slept in the field in the forest as much as you could. It really depended upon where you went, and I still think the roughest—well, for me the roughest one was the alpine training in the Pyrenees. The sheer speed with which the French soldiers tried to take us from the base to the top and back again was awful. They had games and they wouldn't let us drink water; we had to drink wine. They gave us bota bags full of wine. I couldn't do it; I needed water. And they thought, “Oh, Americans. What's wrong with you people? You come up here, you run up the hill—” I mean, it was killer with backpacks. I mean, this is like a three-hour run up a mountain. I don't know how many thousands of feet it was, and then back down. “Drink your wine!”

On post, when I was stationed on post, I went to German language school and that was a couple of months. The bulk of my work as intelligence officer was actually in a vault that was accessed with codes I had to do, and it was a daily routine that got a little tedious. I would add changes to war plans, I was authorized to be a classifying authority, so I would classify stuff. I would classify personnel records because personnel records—

[End of Hatheway.OH2073\_file2][Beginning of Hatheway.OH2073\_file3]

—were considered classified. So I had those I dealt with. I would pass out war plans to



units for people upon request for special orders. I would compile notebooks that were country studies of where they might be going. Say if you're going to go to Morocco, then I'd compile a notebook with everything about Morocco; its economy, its people, and all that sort of stuff. And I'd get my sources wherever I could, and the military had this pipeline, but most of this was basically taken from unclassified sources. I would give briefings; two briefings stick out in my mind of interest.

One briefing was President Nixon resigned when I was intelligence officer. He resigned on the ninth of August of 1974. And because I was intelligence officer, I got a classified message that our unit was not to take any orders from anybody but I guess Gerald Ford; that we were not to take orders from anybody, including former Nixon people. That was interesting. And I had to call the Post commander. We had an emergency intelligence briefing the following morning, very early, to figure out what to do. Special Forces was always on alert; we were always on two-hour alert. And it rotated; some people on two-hour alert for a week, then you're off of it and someone else is on two-hour alert. So you've got two-hour alert, you've got twelve-hour alert, and one-week alert, I think is what it is. And then you're not on alert at all. And that would rotate constantly for the eight teams.

And we had to figure out what sort of alert we were going to put our people on in case I guess the Russians wanted to invade Germany. That was an interesting meeting with the Post Commander because he turned to me at my tender young age and said, "What are we going to do?" I thought, "Oh boy, this is great. The future of the world is in my hand. I don't know! What do you want to do?" [laughs]

The other meeting was when Nixon had resigned; his chief of staff was named Alexander Haig and the chief of staff is in the White House. And Alexander Haig was out of a job when Nixon resigned. Well, he had been a General, so he was recalled back to the generalship, and he was put in charge of NATO, so he flew over to Europe. And the first place he wanted to visit was our post. And the first place he wanted to go to was my vault. So I was in charge of taking this four-star General who had been the Chief of Staff to the President of the United States around the vault and places, and answering questions.

What was remarkable about it was that I was scared shitless basically. And when you see him on television, you have no idea how tall or short he is, and when I saw him in person, I almost started laughing. He was about three inches shorter than me; he was a tiny little guy. "What? This little midget! I'm scared of him?" Apologies to my short friends. [laughs] I was surprised how short he was; everybody thought he was like ten feet tall. And he didn't bark; all he did was just listen. So that was an interesting period. And those are two general functions I had. When you're assigned to a unit, you have small little aside jobs you do. Sometimes you have to inventory weapons, you have to inventory the supermarket. In the service, that was all done by officers. You have to inventory kitchen stuff, and that could take you eight hours on a weekend or something. And then I was, for awhile—well, during my court-martial, I didn't have a job, so I didn't really do anything. But those are my two main things.

Gibb: And you had time off-post as well?

Hatheway: Oh sure. I mean, I had the weekends off and if I wasn't on alert. During the weekends, I and my buddies would either pal around the post, go to the office club and drink, eat, or more to the point, some of the officers and I were sort of interested in German history. So we'd go to a lot of the German castles in the region. And there were a lot of them in Bavaria where King Ludwig lived. So I get to go do a circuit through Bavaria; all the castles and to Switzerland, out of uniform into Austria. Salzburg, Innsbruck, down to northern Italy, St. Bernard Pass and around over to Liechtenstein. So over the course of the years, I got very familiar with going to different locations and just playing tourist; taking a lot of photographs, seeing what they were like. I enjoyed going to Salzburg a lot; that was fairly close, about an hour's drive away.

[00:05:00]

Go to Munich and check out Munich, the sights in Munich; some of them were Hofbräuhaus which was big beer-drinking. But for the most part, I played tourist because I really liked the area; it was a lot of fun. I would practice my German to make it better. German's a complicated language; it can be. So yeah. The weekends for the most part—when you're on a team, you're away a lot so the weekends are not there because you're away. But once you're on post, it's pretty much nine to five; to be precise, about seven o'clock to four in the afternoon. Then you go home; home meaning the officer's quarters which is like from here across the river. And what do you do? You play basketball, you go to the gym, you go swimming; you know it's a small post with not a whole bunch to do.

Then you go for dinner to the officer's club. The officer's club was the main point of social interaction for all the officers. We were maybe about thirty of us total and you'd go there almost every night for dinner; I didn't really cook. It was cheap enough and you kept a running tab. At the time I used to smoke; a pack of cigarettes was ten cents. A scotch was a dollar a bottle for Johnnie Walker Red Label; five to ten cents a shot. I mean this is nothing basically; it's all subsidized. So it was really cheap. The most I ever made take-home a month, I think, was around \$800 a month, but the billet was free. I had a minimal, like \$60 a month at the officer's club. I had a car and the payments were cheap; I don't know, \$50 a month. I saved money. Back then things were cheap. It was more expensive in the economy; if you went off-post and bought stuff because of the exchange rate. It became expensive after the Mark began to fall; it became sort of expensive. So, we pretty much stayed. But then again if we traveled then off-post and we'd go downtown, and where we were—Sometimes at Bad Tölz we'd go downtown too; there were a few favorite restaurants we'd go to. It was pretty mundane; I don't think there was anything all that super special about it. But you know, when you're twenty-three, twenty-four years old, the world is still pretty new. And we'd go skiing; we did a lot of skiing in the mountains nearby. A place called Benediktenwand, a major-ski resort; that's where I learned how to ski. And I had my skis and in the wintertime, did that almost every weekend actually for about two months I suppose. That was an enjoyable task. Yeah.

And then you had leave. So I came home once during my stay. Leaves were back to the states; I could take up to three weeks and do that. I took a Christmas leave. I didn't like

doing it because it was sort of expensive; I had to pay for it. But you could fly from Munich; I think the flight was nonstop from Munich to LA I think at the time. So, it was really convenient actually, but it cost like \$1,200 or something. I had to save up for it. I wasn't particularly interested. "Mom, I'll be home soon. God, get over it." That's about it, really.

Gibb: Did you have much communication with your mom when you were over there?

Hatheway: Oh, yeah. We didn't have email so we wrote on a pretty regular basis. I'd call her every now and then, though. The military would allow you to call using the military phones; you weren't charged. But there was a limit; I forget what it was. Policy was something like you could call home twice a year or something like that; birthdays and Christmas, or whatever the case may be. One thing we had to do, all officers had to be what you call staff duty officers. They have to sit at the telephone at night, like a switchboard operator to receive incoming messages from the world. That's your job and only junior officers did it. That means you have to sit up all night long, waiting for the phone to go off. "May I help you?" Then if it's important, you contact somebody; if it's not important, you don't worry about it. And you have an NCO to help you if you have to make contact. The NCO is a runner and he, no she's, he would take a message and go find somebody at three in the morning, but that never happened. I don't even know why it was done, but I guess they didn't have answering machines back then; I don't know. [laughs]

[00:10:00]

Gibb: You said earlier that a lot of the officers had been to Vietnam. What were the backgrounds of the people you were serving with?

Hatheway: I don't really know, to be honest with you. Rough and tough, I don't know. Many of them had been NCOs who had gone to officer candidate school. They had field promotions in Vietnam, say from a sergeant to a lieutenant or a captain, and then they eventually went to officer candidate school; the promotion was made permanent. Then back to Vietnam. And the reason I don't know is because I didn't like any of them; I really didn't like any of them. One or two I enjoyed. And my roommates—I had like three roommates over the course and all of us were ROTC graduates. And we were sort of the odd people out.

The bulk of the officers who were there were careerists; they'd been in the service for many years. Very crusty, very crude, really nasty. And those of us who were younger, coming out of college in the early '70s had nothing in common with them. We didn't socialize with them, we didn't go where they went, we didn't drink with them, we didn't party with them, and the only contact we had if we had to have contact, was when we said, "Yes sir," or "No sir," or if they happened to be commanding a unit we were in, we would report to them and then do official. I had one captain who was like that; he was my boss for about six months. And it was pretty hard to disregard this guy because if he got into a snit, he could make life very difficult. But he was very damaged psychologically, and a thoroughly un-nice person; just mean, bitter, alcoholic. He divorced his wife or two wives and everything sucked; the world sucks, you suck,

you're stupid, you're ugly. Okay fine. You know, you just, whatever.

So, it was that time that the unit was just full of all of these damaged officers. The NCOs I didn't associate with except those on my team; we weren't really allowed to. And I didn't push that envelope; I didn't know them. Many of them had been to Vietnam and they seemed to be somewhat more adjusted, but there were an awful lot of NCOs who were equally as messed up too. That war took its toll on a lot of people and if you're Green Beret is—all these people were Green Berets in Vietnam. They lived in the Highlands, they took the war to the enemy in places that nobody wanted to go. By the time they were in Tölz, the idea was as explained to me by the Post Commander, they were sort of rest and recuperation for a year or two before they go back to the states. But I had a suspicion that they never adjusted. I don't know if they did. I know a couple committed suicide. As for the rest, I hate to say it but I could care less what happened to them. It's just thoroughly awful people; they were just awful. [laughs]

Gibb: So, I was going to ask you just going back into your case again. I'm just wondering, I mean, obviously there were people who were gay in the military. Did you know anyone else on post?

Hatheway: At the time?

Gibb: Yeah.

Hatheway: No. No. I had my suspicions, but no, I did not know. If there were, it was not evident; at least they weren't public to me about it. I've been told later some people who probably were, but how do you know that? It's really hard to say. Most of it was based I think just on observation from a person's behavior, but no, I never knew anybody in the service who was gay until I got back to Monterey. Then I met a number of gay service people in Monterey who were pretty blunt about it; they didn't hide it. This is what was taking place when I got out. A lot of personnel were now saying, "I'm gay; throw me out if you want to." The military didn't want to get rid of all these people. And I met them off-post. I did not meet them on-post; I met them at the gay bar in Monterey, and the gay bar was half military.

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It was fascinating. Fort Ord was there and Fort Ord was one of the largest military posts on the west coast. And about twenty miles away was Monterey from Fort Ord and there was this gay bar which I started going to; it was all military basically. I said half; it was probably all military actually, or former military because a lot of military retire in their region. And that's when I began to realize, "Oh my God." Of course, they all knew—I forgot about them—but they all eventually found out about my case, as well, so it was sort of like, "Oh this is really great!" My dentist in the military at Ford Ord, turned out he was gay too. And he saw me at this gay bar and I didn't get the connection. Then he said, "I'm your dentist!" And I said, "Oh, for crying out loud." It's a colonel. "Oh for crying out loud." [laughs] That was funny. I forgot about that. But not while I was in Germany. Even—No, I'm trying to think. No, not one person. Suspected a couple, but no.

Gibb: Well, I'm just wondering if that was the case from their end as well. Were people surprised that this was—

Hatheway: Me?

Gibb: Yeah.

Hatheway: No, I don't think so. It takes a lot to surprise my unit; anything people do. I just killed somebody; whatever. I'm gay; whatever. I just shot my wife; whatever. I didn't get the impression that anybody was particularly surprised. Nobody was shocked shocked. The only impression I got was you're a bad boy because you broke the rules. That's the overwhelming impression I had. The people who—the only people who talked to me about it were people who didn't care. And they didn't care so they weren't shocked. So, one or two people I recall now said, "Oh, so you're that way, huh? Whatever. Well, that's pretty mundane stuff." That's what I thought.

Gibb: Interesting. And what was—you said you spoke to your mom about when the case was brought to trial. You were speaking with your mom at that time, as well? What was—

Hatheway: Yeah, she was going to testify at the court. And I said, "Oh, you don't have to do that. That just doesn't seem right." She was annoyed, but she was annoyed because a typical mother, "What are the neighbors going to say?" That was her focus. "Well mom, you tell them I'm gay. What else you going to say?" "Well, I don't know." It was hard to communicate because everything was done essentially by mail. And I said I'm fine. So she was not—Other than that one request maybe to have her to come over and testify that I was a good boy, she was not part of any of this process; I just did not want her to be part of it. I just didn't think it'd be fair to drag her. What does she got to do with it? She's nothing; she's thousands of miles away. She knows nothing about it; she doesn't even know what I do for a living except through my letters. That issue, "What are my friends going to say?" She only told that to me when I was out of the service about a year after I was out of the service. I was like, "Okay, fine. I got it. I got it." And nobody that I knew who found out about it, nobody cared. That was the interesting thing. One way or the other; nobody was shocked, nobody cared.

The only people who were bent out of shape tended to be my employers, and I found that to be odd. That's why I got fired from the one job and almost out of school. Well, what's that got to do? I was almost fired at UW too. Yeah. Yeah, that was an interesting experience. The Dean of arts and sciences wanted to dump me, then I joined a teaching assistants association and we threatened to sue the Dean. ETA is 1993, oh '83, '82. And he backed off. I said, "You damn well better back off. This has nothing to do..." "Well, well." "Shut up." "Well, I'm sorry, I'm tired of reading about your exploits in the paper." I said, "What exploits?"

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I was doing stuff with gay groups and stuff. I got pretty well-known in the day. I said, "What's that got to do with anything?" "Well, you're crossing—[inaudible]." Okay, fine.

So I had to have my academic advisor intervene and the Dean wasn't pleased at all. What are you going to do? One of my mates was—she ended up being Chancellor of UW for about three years. I forget. She hated it. She came back. We shared a huge office space, well, thirty-five years ago. When she left, she became an administrator. Then she ended up becoming Chancellor of UW for three years, then she left. She was here for three years, she didn't like it, and she left and that was about four years ago. Sort of an interesting. And now she's the president of some small college, Master or something like that; some small college back east. Yeah.

Gibb: So, this is just something that's come up time and again for you, this issue?

Hatheway: Of?

Gibb: The case has impacted on your life.

Hatheway: Well, it's certainly the gift that keeps on giving. It comes up and it comes up in the context of history now, and it comes up in the context of making changes to the betterment. I don't particularly dwell on it. My students, for example when I had this talk—well, other than my students, but there was about sixty kids there, and they were all quite surprised. Only one knew about it; I had no reason to talk about it on campus. You know when you teach a course on the Nazis, "Oh, by the way—" so they were quite surprised actually. Very surprised. Very supportive; that's not the issue. It was just quite a surprise because well they'd never heard of it before and the letter I showed you from Obama was circulated in an e-magazine at Edgewood—I showed you the president of the college—and he liked it, so he put it into his e-magazine and that goes out to all the alumni, faculty, staff, and students. And the kids are quite amazed, "Who knew? What?! What?!"

It comes up from time-to-time; my friends all know. I mean, everybody knows about it. When I first was hired at Edgewood, I told the story to a couple of nuns. Prior to formerly applying, I said, "I want to make sure everybody knows I'm not going to be fired again; I'm not going to put up with that crap. Will this be an issue?" And the sisters were adamant that, far from being an issue, that was exactly—they wanted to hear more of this story. So for them, it was a factoring by being hired as opposed to being fired. And it's remained that way ever since. Now, there are some in the administration who I find humorous who should know better, but "we can't talk about it." Really? It's been in the *Wall Street Journal*, it's been in the *New York Times*, it's been in the *Wisconsin State Journal*, it's been online. Are you stupid or what? And there's this one guy in particular who's our director of marketing. "Oh, we've got to do this, that, and the other."

And I said, "But you don't do that. You are deathly afraid someone's going to be insulted, and they shouldn't be." There was an article in *Isthmus* recently and the local paper here about the discharge. I said, "You should put this in our alum magazine because I know we happen to have gay alum who are also ex-military, and this would be a wonder—" the one place I thought it would be absolutely trash is my undergraduate school Claremont McKenna. I sent them stuff, they publish it in the magazine, and the alums—I got phone calls, and e-mails, and two letters saying, "This is great! Thank you very much!" Claremont people are strange people; very conservative. But on this

issue—and Edgewood where I'm one of the few remaining, fully ancient, tenured people, this one guy, he just—

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But, no I don't make it a subject of much conversation. As of recent because of the discharge upgrade, that's been something. So, I think after this and then after the lady with the film crew comes from New York, I think it's time to put it firmly to rest honestly.

Gibb: Be done with it.

Hatheway: Yeah. It's carried me for forty years, you know. Like I said it's the gift that sort of keeps on giving. But, I did wanted known a little bit for veterans' sake. I've been in two types of interviews like this. One was I don't know who it was with—State Historical Society maybe?—and another one with the Library of Congress. The Library of Congress was a long process; it was two days. But, I wanted them to know and I wanted it to be on file with them. I said, "I want not just me, but other GI stuff to be recorded." I think someone someday is going to come here and take a look-see and listen, and they should know some of the stuff that some Americans were put through for no reason. No reason whatsoever.

And if there is a reason, it's religious, which is fine; I don't have any objections to people's religious concerns. But in a country that prides itself in the separation of church and state, we sure have an awful lot of stuff that's churchy related that's part of the state. And this is a great leap forward. This is a great change that's long overdue, so I think it's appropriate that somewhere in the footnote that a lot of these changes the military destroyed and others be told, which is what Randy Shilts said in his book *Conduct Unbecoming* about gays in the military. That's really about it. Not so much.

Gibb: I guess just a couple more questions. I'm wondering if you spoke more recently to veterans; Iraq, Afghanistan, those who were under don't ask, don't tell and actually in the aftermath of that. I wondered if you had any conversations with that generation and what they were like.

Hatheway: I have. We have maybe about 125 veterans at Edgewood and I was brought into the decision to bring veterans to the school. The past president of Edgewood was a veteran himself, a colonel in the war in Vietnam, and he wanted to bring ROTC on campus and I said no. This is not the environment; the sisters wouldn't allow it. So he wanted to know about what if we had an ROTC unit that is working with UW's ROTC. I said, "Well, that would probably work." So, we worked on a contract and all this sort of stuff. Then he went ahead and he then developed a program to bring veterans on campus by way of financial incentives, this, that, and the other. And we have now a director of veteran's affair at Edgewood, one of my former students. And over the past three or so years, I've been funneling information about all this stuff to him. And in my classes now, the veterans, we talk about it. It's a casual conversation, as recently as just last week, as a matter of fact. One vet, for example—well, this one class I have five vets. And one of

the vets, a PTSD guy, married with children. He's one of my long-term advisees; he's going to graduate now. And he's always been curious about the policy, because he knows other gay soldiers outside of Edgewood. Actually all the vets are about the same; they all pretty much have friends who are gay. They all do actually, the more I think about it. This generation of soldiers is just an absolute bafflement to them, what this story is about, so they're sort of curious about it. But yeah, we do talk about it. Now, I haven't talked with all of them, so I don't know what all of them feel about it. And some are active duty ROTC; some are ROTC, some are reservists who come in uniform, and the rest are vets. And the ones I've talked to, maybe because they are supportive, a zero issue—I don't know if there are any who are non-supportive, but that's not my impression.

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If that were the case, they probably wouldn't be at Edgewood; they'd probably find Edgewood a little too liberal on those issues and they would, I'm pretty sure. I've had students leave because this isn't a proper Catholic college; of course it's not a proper Catholic college. [laughs] God, listen to this wind.

Gibb: I'm watching the trees.

Hatheway: Wow. Pine cones falling on the roof up here.

Gibb: So, you just said there's a bafflement about your case.

Hatheway: They're just baffled in general of why there was an ever an issue to begin with. Like, "Why is there an issue here? What does this got to do with anything?" This is all part of the—The youngest ones are in their twenties, the oldest ones are thirty, and they're all part of the same general generation of complete diversity and inclusion, so the whole issue itself to them seems to be a lot of brouhaha about nothing. It takes a lot of time. And they've never been in the military actually where it's been an issue. Even before it became legal, it was not an issue. It just wasn't an issue because already—my understanding is that for at least ten years now, it has been a non-issue. Ever since don't ask, don't tell, even longer. So that's what, thirteen years. Just get rid of it. And I think a lot of the people coming of age after that, all these people know people who are gay. So for these kids, it's just not—it's nothing. "Why was this such a big deal?"

And that's what I teach in some of my courses when I teach about the development of gay identity. I talk about when it became a big deal, and they find that interesting. I said, "Don't ever believe that the military is not political; it is highly politicized." And this was a highly politicized issue that the military essentially was forced to accept, and it was forced to accept because of the way the Senate essentially wrote the rules. And the Senate had an agenda and the military was forced to go along with it. That's just the way it was after World War II, and before. There was nothing during World War II; rules were sort of stopped because they need bodies. In World War I, it was sort of a new thing. They didn't know much about it, so all of it came essentially after 1945. Yeah, for the most part. That's my observation anyway.



Gibb: So, I don't know if there's anything else that you particularly wanted to—that you haven't talked about that you wanted to make sure that you talked about.

Hatheway: I don't think so. You know, I think we covered a lot, more than I normally ever do. No, I don't think so. Just that the times have sure changed and the attitudes have changed completely. That so much of the anti-gay attitude when I was in, was very much a factor of the Cold War. And it was inevitable that attitudes changed, I thought; I never thought that they would remain stable for that long. The anti-gay sensibility was bound to end, especially as more and more people felt comfortable, allowing others to know. And once it reached a critical level, and that was about twenty-five years ago; twenty-five, thirty years ago. That was really— that was it — and I think that the one thing I'll say and that's probably about it is that I am surprised on one level that the Armed Forces have so readily accepted gays on one level. If the logic about not wanting gays in the service during the Cold War was because the idea that limp-wristed soldiers would make poor defenders of democracy against hardened soldiers of the Soviet Union, it is also true that in many Middle Eastern countries, being gay is a capital crime, and it is seen as an insult to many people.

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Not everybody, by all means, but to many people. I would have thought my logic would have said that the United States military, because we're engaged in the Middle East, would not want to have soldiers who were gay in the service going to the Middle East because of the negative sense that American soldiers would project onto their Muslim counterparts. Now, I haven't seen that happen.

What I have seen, which is interesting is in fact the Pentagon's position, from what I can tell, is just the opposite. "Yeah, we have gay soldiers. Get over it. Welcome to America." It's a human right that we found important enough to make sure that you understand. And that's a complete switch. Now okay, it may not wash well in Downtown Abadan or somewhere in the Persian Gulf; I get it. But it's a refreshing sensibility that the Pentagon has become an institution in its own small way that oddly enough stands up for some notion of human rights. Now, the American imperial experiment has been very negative when it comes to human rights. I mean, we've done torture, we have Guantanamo and Abu Ghraib. So it's almost a contradiction in the way we do warfare, and it's almost a contradiction in the imperial aspect of American foreign policy.

So in a sense, I suppose you could say gays are being manipulated because we can use you to have a good, safer narrative. And I think that's okay. I'll take it. I tell my students don't join the Army; I'm not in favor of it anymore. I never was really, I suppose, and the reason is because I'm tired of—the United States, look at us. The whole world is our playground and somewhere along the line—well, I think we've reached that point already. We sort of have to reassess the role of America in the world and one of the places to begin that is to begin thinking about the use of the Armed Forces. We've gotten away from diplomacy.

So, I tell all my young men and women, if they're thinking about it, okay. Think about it, but understand the nature of a soldier in a country like the United States which has a

global footprint, you're talking about something that can be a force for good or a force for bad; we like to think it's a force for good. We like to think that, but from the perspective of those who have met the American soldier, that's who you have to concern yourself with. We like to tell ourselves fairy tales, but if you've been on other end of the gun and you're receiving the bullet, then you're not going to think we're that good. And I maintain, over and over again, 9/11 did not happen because they hate our way of life; that's not what happened. Now politicians can say that until they're blue in the face, but there is some very real reasons why they did what they did. I'm not saying I agree with them, but as I told you before, when it comes to why the Nazis did what they did—if you don't understand why they made the decisions they made, you're never going to know what the hell's happened. And this is, unfortunately, where American foreign policy is and the military was part of the reason why 9/11 took place, even though many Americans don't want to fess up to that aspect of their culpability. So gays may be part of this larger attempt to present America as a very welcoming, diverse, and inclusive empire. "See? You can come here too. We like Muslims, we like Jews, we like Christians, we like Catholics, we like Hindus, we like gays. We're wonderful people. Who would hurt us?" [laughter] End of statement. That's it.

Gibb: Is there anything else? I don't know. We usually ask something about reflecting back on your time in the service and is there anything you want to let people know, but I think that sort of—

Hatheway: Yeah. I'm pretty much done. I guess the point to restress is that it certainly helped focus my life; let me know the things I don't like. How does that sound? [laughter] And I was even thinking of going career. The CIA asked me to, contacted me. Yeah, that wouldn't have worked for me. Wouldn't have been a good career choice; I'd have been thrown out for other reasons. I guess there we are.

Gibb: Thank you very much. I appreciate that.

Hatheway: I guess there we are.

**[End of Hatheway.OH2073\_file3][End of interview]**