

U.S. NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
Transcript of National Archives History Office
Oral History Interview
Subject: Jason Glover
Interviewer: Erik Moshe
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MR. ERIK MOSHE: Where were you living at the time that you enlisted?

MR. JASON GLOVER: I was living in Forest Park, Georgia, just south of Atlanta.

MR. MOSHE: Why did you decide to join?

MR. GLOVER: My father had been a sergeant major in the Army, and was a Vietnam veteran, so from an early age, I knew that I would also go into the military. My dad was actually an Army veteran, and I was looking at what service that I was going to join myself, and you might think that I would have tended to join the Army, since he had been in the Army, but a story he told me actually sent me towards the Marines. He told me that when he enlisted, he had wanted to join the Marines, and he had a buddy program, he was signing up for the Marines with a friend of his, and that friend backed out, and when his friend backed out, my dad backed out also. He was too nervous to go into the Marines without his friend, and so he decided to go into the Army instead, and so for me, part of choosing the Marines was probably to honor his original desire to be a Marine.

MR. MOSHE: Do you remember your first days in the service?

MR. GLOVER: Oh, yes. My three months at Paris Island are certainly burned into my brain, I think pretty much every minute of those three months is right there, I can recall from memory very quickly, because it was all so very intense, and it was probably the most defining period of my life, though, in terms of the things that it taught me, and the characteristics that it gave me.

MR. MOSHE: What did it feel like when you were going through that?

MR. GLOVER: It was hard. It was very difficult. I had been kind of the nerdy or geeky high school kid. I was a little bit chubby. I wasn't your stereotypical jock that was joining the Marines to be the macho Marine guy. For me, it was a challenge. It was something outside of my comfort zone, and so boot camp was very hard. Physically, it was difficult, and mentally, it was taxing, but I persevered, and it was very rewarding at the end of those three months.

MR. MOSHE: Do you remember your instructors?

MR. GLOVER: Oh, yes. Our senior drill instructor was Staff Sergeant James, and we had some other drill instructors, Staff Sergeant Green, Sergeant Williams, Sergeant Osborne, and Sergeant Kerry, and it's very much, I've learned in retrospect, that you don't—Marine boot camp is, for all of the chaos that it appears to be if you're a recruit, it's actually a very organized dance of sorts, and every drill instructor has a different role that they play on the team, and the things that they're doing that seem insane are actually very deliberate, and they're designed to evoke certain actions and emotions from the recruits, and so in retrospect, it makes a lot of sense. But when you're there and you're doing it, those guys seem like they hate you and they're your worst enemy, but they're not, they're trying to break you down and then build you back up and make you a Marine.

About two-thirds of the way through boot camp, I had a final inspection for the platoon, and with the final inspection, the commanding officer was coming around, and was going to inspect us personally, and when he got in front of me, I brought my M16 up and did my inspection arms, and he looked at the weapon, and then I put it down, and then he asked me some questions. And I remember him asking me something along the lines of, how did I view myself as a recruit? And it was a really interesting question, because it was such an odd, sort of self-reflective question, and most of the questions are about Marine Corps history, or the weapon, or some tactical knowledge. But this was a very self-reflective question about what I thought of myself as a recruit, and I had always considered myself, up until that point, that was about two months or so into boot camp, I had considered myself to be at best an average recruit, maybe even a bit below average.

Again, I wasn't super physically fit or super gung-ho or macho, and so I said to the battalion commander, I said, hey, "this recruit feels like he's a pretty ordinary recruit, average on his rifle marksmanship or his PT," and I kind of gave the answer to indicate that I just looked at myself as average. And my senior drill instructor was standing there next to the commanding officer during this inspection, and he spoke up at that time. He didn't have to speak up, but he spoke up at that time, and he said something to the effect of, Recruit Glover is actually an above-average recruit, and he gave some reasons for me being an above-average recruit, in that I was someone who followed orders, who didn't question authority, who helped my fellow recruits when they had difficulty with tasks. And I don't remember everything he said, but I do remember him speaking up when he didn't have to, and saying that I was above average, and that was a real confidence boost, because of course, you look at your drill instructor as a father figure of sorts, and you're looking for his approval, and to receive his approval in that circumstance really boosted my confidence, and I don't know that it made me feel like a Marine, but it made me feel like, for the first time in boot camp that I could really handle my time in the Marine Corps, that I wasn't just an average guy, that I could do more, and I think that helped me going forward.

There was a possibility of actually excelling, and I had not considered that before. I had assumed that I was just going to skate through, and I was concerned about if the Marine Corps was going to be like boot camp in any way, you know, was I going to be able to do anything besides just skate through, do the mediocre level of work, and make it. And then I realized, when he said that, something in my realized that there was potential there for more, there was potential for leadership or excellence, and that was very helpful. I'm very thankful that he spoke up that day, when he didn't have to.

MR. MOSHE: Where did you go once you graduated from boot camp?

MR. GLOVER: I went to my military occupational specialty training, which was the School of Infantry at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and that was because I was slated to become an infantry machine gunner, and that was about a month and a half, two months, I can't completely recall, but I remember it was cold, and we were out in the woods a lot. We were shooting a lot of machine guns, we were patrolling, we were hanging out and eating in the rain, and I remember it was a lot of fun, it was a completely new world to me, but yes, I had to spend a couple of months there in that sort of military occupational specialty, like your job training. When I signed up for the Marines, I picked the infantry broadly as a job specialty. I did very well in the ASVAB [Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test], and could have done just about anything in the Marines, but I kind of knew that if I was going to do it, I wanted to go all the way, so I went for the infantry, and then when I got to the School of Infantry, they ask you what your particular specialty within the infantry that you would like to do is, and there are a lot of different ones. Working with mortars, or with TOW missiles on top of Humvees and demolitions, but I decided machine gunner, because I think as a little kid—the movies that are out there that you watch, *Rambo* or whatnot, and the guys get the machine gun and the belt of ammunition, it's blasting away, and it just seemed cool, really, that's really all that went into it, so I

went machine gunner.

The thing that surprised me, or was—I had maybe not expected about being a machine gunner was that when we would go on forced marches or humps, that's basically a very long, very fast-paced walk with all of your gear, the machine gunners, who are on a 50-caliber machine gun, or a Mark 19 machine gun, you're toting these machine guns. They break down into several pieces, but ultimately, you and your team are toting these things around, and the receivers for these weapons can weigh between 60 and 75 pounds, and that's on top of all the other gear that you're wearing, and so it was heavy, it was heavy, and miserable at times, but it was also a lot of fun.

MR. MOSHE: Can you tell me about a couple of your most memorable experiences?

MR. GLOVER: One of the reasons I wanted to do this interview is because when I left the School of Infantry and got assigned to my first unit, I actually was not assigned to a Fleet Marine Force Infantry unit. I actually volunteered for and was chosen to go to the Marine Honor Guard in the Presidential Honor Guard up in Washington, DC, which is at Marine Barracks 8th & I [Streets]. It's in the southeast quadrant of the city, and it's famous for the Silent Drill Team. Some people have seen the Marine Silent Drill Team, but there are actually six different platoons of Honor Guard Marines there, and only one of those platoons is the Silent Drill Team. The rest of the platoons do less fancy stuff. They do very important things. They do a lot of funerals at Arlington National Cemetery. We did a lot of Presidential and diplomatic receptions at the White House, at the Pentagon, State Department, things like that, and we do parades for the public during the summer also. So I was stationed there at Marine Barracks, Washington, DC., after the School of Infantry, and one of the first things that I got to do, which was pretty interesting, was the second inauguration of Bill Clinton, and that's a really massive undertaking, if anyone has ever been to an inauguration parade. It's a lot of people, and we actually marched in a formation that was nine by nine, so it was nine people in the front and nine people deep behind him. It was a huge formation of Marines that were marching in that parade. That was really interesting.

Probably the most interesting thing about my time at the Presidential Honor Guard, and this directly relates to the National Archives, actually, is that in July of 1997, on July 4, 1997, the Archives, A1, downtown, or just off the National Mall, was opening their doors, like I believe they do every July 4th, for the public to come in, and they have presentations. And they have—most importantly, I think for the public's sake, is the ability for folks to come in and go through the Rotunda and see the original Declaration and Constitution and whatnot, and on July 4th, they do a special—they do, like, a special viewing with members of the Armed Services Honor Guards there. So what it was, was a volunteer situation, and I volunteered on that July 4th to go and be a part of this joint Honor Guard there in the Rotunda, and it was a 14-hour day.

I did 30 minutes on, one hour off, 30 minutes on, one hour off, and what our job was, was one member from each Service branch, we would march into the Rotunda and take up various posts around the Rotunda. Two of those posts were sort of by the entrance to the Rotunda, the fence gates, you might call them, for people who have been there, and then there was the commander of that particular detail in the center of the rotunda, and then there were two more posts on either side of the—I believe it's the Constitution in the middle, and there's like, a little—if anyone who has ever been to the Rotunda, seen the Constitution, just to either side of the Constitution, there's a little recess in the wall next to a pillar, and so there are two positions on either side of the Constitution in these recess areas where a couple of members of the Honor Guard would line up, and I was chosen to be at the first of those two positions. In terms of as the public approached the Constitution, I would be on their left, and then directly past me would be the Constitution on the left, so I was standing right next to the Constitution, and it was a really interesting experience, because it was the most I've ever been tested at the Honor Guard, and I spent four years at Honor Guard,

almost my entire time in the Marine Corps was at Honor Guard. It was the most I had ever been tested, because much like a Buckingham Palace guard that you see on TV, the public were literally filing within 1' 18" of me, and they were coming to see the Constitution, and I had to maintain military bearing at the position of attention for 30 minutes. Eyes straight ahead, not moving, etc., and there was a lot of people coming by who wanted to try to get me to break that military bearing, and were doing all sorts of crazy things to get me to do that, and I don't think at the time, I understood the importance of what I was standing next to, and certainly at the time, I had no idea what the National Archives really was.

It was just another ceremonial job that we were doing, much like we would go to Arlington or the White House, but then, that was in '97. But then less than a decade later, in 2005, I started a career with NARA as a student, and when I started my career with NARA as a student, I remember it being one of the first things that I realized, as I learned that one of the primary public missions of the Archives is there at AI, and it's to have the original documents on display for the public to come see, and it brought back that memory of me standing there that day, and it was just really interesting to think how I had spent that time in the Marines right there in the Rotunda, with no expectation that I would ever work for the National Archives. Then a decade later or a little less, there I was, working for the agency, and I've since been in the Rotunda as an Archives employee, and I've stood there and looked at that spot where I was standing that day with some nostalgia and déjà vu, and it was just a really sort of interesting story I thought that tied together my time in the Marines and my time here with NARA.

MR. MOSHE: Which one was the most emotional place for you to go?

MR. GLOVER: Definitely Arlington National Cemetery. I mean, nothing can really compare with Arlington, and I do remember the first funeral that I did, we would often be dropped off at the Fort Myer chapel, which is right next to Arlington, and has been featured in many movies that feature Arlington. During the funeral, our platoon would stand out front of the chapel and provide sort of a backdrop to the body-bearer or casket-bearer, pallbearers, who are also Marines, but are a distinct group within the Honor Guard of very strong guys. We would provide sort of the backdrop as the platoon, but we would stand during the funeral, we would stand out front of the chapel, and of course, you have to stand motionless, maintain military bearing, and then the casket would be brought out and placed onto the wagon. It would be carried into Arlington, and we would march behind the casket, much like people have seen on the JFK funeral footage or the Ronald Reagan funeral footage, and it's a pretty long march. It's about two miles from that chapel to the newer section of Arlington where people are being buried now.

Arlington is very big, of course, and I remember my first funeral, marching through the gate from the chapel area out to the cemetery, and about a two-mile march, and that takes a little while when you're doing a horse-drawn carriage. The platoon is marching and whatnot, and I remember just being completely, like you said, overcome with emotion, to the point that I was—had tears welling up in my eyes as I marched, and just the enormity of the place, and all of the white headstones that just—row after row, line after line, dot that landscape, and it was very powerful.

Sometimes, when we got to the grave side, we would be in a position to see family members as the body-bearers folded the flag and presented the flag to the family members. We had to be careful not to let your emotions take over during that time, because we had to maintain the military bearing, but it was certainly sometimes a challenge to keep it together, and that really didn't diminish over my four years there. I mean, I certainly experienced it my first time out. You might think that you would grow used to it, or it would be something that eventually, you would not be affected by as much, but truthfully, it was much like a rollercoaster. Some days, you might go into Arlington to do a funeral, and you might be fine, and then the next day, you might go into Arlington to do a funeral, and something triggers you, you can't—it was a very

emotional experience, and it certainly was a very emotional experience to be in Arlington.

Whenever we were doing our drill movements, like present arms, with our rifles, we wanted to do it in the most excellent way possible, to all be together on cadence, to present the best that we could for the family, because we knew that ultimately, there was the family of this fallen Service member, sitting there and watching us, and we were representing his wife and his career, and the thing that he had devoted, he or she had devoted their life to, so it was a definite motivator.

MR. MOSHE: Did you see combat at all?

MR. GLOVER: I did not, I was in the Marines from '96 to 2000, actually, and so I spent my entire time at the Honor Guard, which is a little bit unusual. Usually, people do two years in Honor Guard and then move out to the Fleet Marine Force, but they do retain a small number of people who have picked up NCO, non-commissioned officer, and they retain those people to teach the new crop of guys coming into the barracks. I was part of a handful of corporals that were retained to teach the new group, and so I ended up spending my entire four years there at 8th, and because I got out in 2000, because 9/11, there were really very few conflicts going on in the world. I had friends who went to Kosovo, Eastern Europe, but for the most part, it was a peaceful time.

It's a good thing, and it's also sort of disappointing in a weird way. You know, you don't want to train your whole life to play football and then sit on the bench, but on the other hand, I did have friends who stayed in the Marines, and who did go to Afghanistan shortly after 9/11, and one of my friends had his leg blown off by an IED, so there's certainly the aspect of, you want to play in the game, but nobody wants to be mangled or killed in combat, either, so it's a strange dichotomy of emotions about that.

MR. MOSHE: You stayed in the Honor Guard for a long time, so you must have had an excellent posture.

MR. GLOVER: Yes, and my back pays for it today. Yeah, it was a lot of standing, and it did a lot of damage to—I imagine it must have done a lot of damage to my lower back, because it's something I struggle with still, and I think it's probably attributed to four years of standing at attention like a backdrop of toy soldiers, so I appreciate that time, it was a great time in my life, but it had a cost associated with it physically.

MR. MOSHE: Did you have an exercise regiment you did?

MR. GLOVER: You know, you would think we might have had—and I guess nowadays, you would think that we might have some specific exercise tailored to strengthening the lower back, for example. Back then, it was still an old school mindset. I think some of that specific sort of tailored exercise is more of a contemporary mindset for us today in America, and more of a contemporary mindset in the Marine Corps today, which I found has recently put together some sort of collateral duty positions called force fitness trainers, I think. They've maybe moved more that way, but back then, it was just an old school mindset of, we run, and we do pushups, and we do crunches, we do pull ups. It was calisthenics and running, calisthenics and running, and so there wasn't really anything specific to help build up our backs at that point. Now, we did spend a lot of hours practicing the drill, and so if practicing the drill is in some way helping prepare your back, I guess that was good, but not enough stretching, for sure.

MR. MOSHE: Were you awarded any medals or citations?

MR. GLOVER: Yes, I have a handful of different things that I received, but I think the things that I'm most proud of are—I received two Navy and Marine Corps achievement medals, and I received one of those as an

E3, as a lance corporal. It's pretty unusual to receive an achievement medal as an E3. I received both of them for essentially the same thing. The Marine barracks up in Washington, DC, during the summer does a parade in-house, in our barracks, and we do it every Friday night, and we invite the public to come, and there's typically about 5,000 people that show up. We have bleachers set up on the parade field so that folks can come see that, and before the parade starts, there's a handful of Marines that have been chosen to go out and play the role of crowd educator or crowd warmer, and each of us are assigned a section of about 500 people, section of the bleachers. It's our job to spend about 20 or 30 minutes warming the crowd up, introducing ourselves, explaining what the parade is all about, explaining some of the etiquette that's expected during the parade, maybe tell them some jokes, or just interacting with the public. There's about 15 crowd warmers each parade season who are chosen to go out and do that, and every year, the best crowd warmer for the year is awarded a Navy and Marine Corps achievement medal, and for two consecutive years out of the three years that I did that job, I was selected and awarded the achievement medal for best crowd warmer.

It was definitely something I enjoyed doing. It was difficult in its own way, and it gave me appreciation for people, like stand-up comics or improv artists who have to be put on the spot and entertain folks, keep their attention, and make them happy, and so I enjoyed doing it, and getting that one achievement medal as an E3 was something I was very proud of.

It definitely helps that I can be very loud when I need to be, because there's a lot of people to talk to, and it also helped me, like you said, really develop sort of under fire, in a way, really develop my public speaking skills, and to be able to respond quickly to interesting questions or to unusual circumstances.

MR. MOSHE: Throughout your military journey, how did you stay in touch with your family?

MR. GLOVER: Well, that was from '96 to 2000, so it was prior to the age of social media, and it was really just at the forefront of the age of cell phones, so from that perspective, I used a lot of calling cards and payphones, to be honest. Some folks will remember those days, will go to gas stations and buy prepaid phone cards, and then I'd use a payphone, and dial whatever number was on my prepaid card, and stayed in touch with my family, generally through that method. I would usually, once a year, around the holidays, either Thanksgiving or Christmas, I would try to take a little bit of leave and fly out or drive out to see my family, but I didn't see them a lot during my enlistment, to be honest with you.

MR. MOSHE: What was the food like?

MR. GLOVER: In boot camp, you don't pay much attention to it. There are so many other things competing for your attention that eating is just a chore. It's just about getting calories at that point, so I don't think I even have any recollection of what the food tasted like in boot camp. Once I got to the School of Infantry, I remember that I probably put on five pounds, because they had a really massive chow hall with pretty good food, and I would pig out pretty considerably, because when we were training out in the woods, of course, we were eating the old meal ready to eat, which is not terribly appetizing. When we got back into the garrison situation there, in the base area, we go to the chow hall, and I would pig out, because I had been eating those meals ready to eat for days or weeks, and so the opportunity to have some real food that tasted great. They also had endless ice cream, I remember, like a soft serve machine that was probably frequented too much by me, but then once I got to the Honor Guard Barracks at 8th they had a small chow hall that was not very good, and then actually was just really dimly lit. I remember just not liking the ambiance of it being so dimly lit, to sit down and eat in there, and so the good news was that you only spent one year in the barracks, living in the barracks and eating in the barracks, and then they don't have enough room to keep you there.

After your first year, they send you out to live in town, and so I spent three years living in an apartment in Washington, DC, and primarily eating out on the town, or making my own meals in my apartment, but it wasn't bad. It was what it was. I didn't join the Marines for gourmet food, but it was survivable.

I think that one thing I did love about the Marine Corps was the massive amount of diversity that I found amongst my fellow marines. Once I got out of boot camp and was actually interacting with these guys on a social basis, we had every range of person from every geographical part of the country, and every ethnicity and every religion you can imagine. We were all put together with a single sort of common mission and a common bond, and that was a really great experience. That was even furthered by being stationed in Washington, DC, and the vast amount of diversity you have up there, and the diversity with cuisine. The food the Marine Corps itself provided, not that memorable maybe, but when I was living out on my own, and able to go to different restaurants, I was able to experience a lot of foods that I never would have experienced if I had just stayed here in the South Metro Atlantic area.

MR. MOSHE: Did you feel a lot of pressure or stress?

MR. GLOVER: No, I didn't, really, after the first probably six months or so. The first six months of Honor Guard, you have to learn the Honor Guard style of drill, which is a little bit different. You get a few of those ceremonial commitments under your belt. You do a few Arlington funerals, you do a White House, or you do a State Department, but once you get the hang of it, it's kind of repetitive, to be honest, at that point, and so it's not really taxing or difficult. The only thing is, once you do pick up corporal, then you are placed in more of a formal leadership role, and so at that point, the difficulty arises in finding ways to lead and motivate the Marines under your charge. But that wasn't really even super hard, primarily because the caliber of Marine that is generally selected to come to Honor Guard is a pretty high caliber of Marine, so the guys are already self-motivated and pretty much go-getters, and so just a little bit of direction, they can run with it. It was, in some sense, probably a much easier job in the Marine Corps than many guys, you know, who would be in a fleet infantry unit, or would have to go to combat, for example, than they would be having. I had it a little cushy, maybe.

MR. MOSHE: Was there something that you did for good luck?

MR. GLOVER: I don't know if there was anything we did for good luck. My ritual was—actually used masking tape to hold my pants up, so your dress blue pants, you can use a belt, you can use suspenders, things like that, typically. But what I found is that in Honor Guard, we're very particular about the way we look. You want the back of your trouser, the very bottom of the cuff of your trouser, you want that to rest when you're standing up, you want it to rest right where your heel, the back of your heel meets the top part of your shoe. You don't want it higher, you don't want it lower, you want it to rest right there, where the heel meets the shoe. In order for me to achieve that without it sagging or without it coming up, I found that actually using masking tape, so grabbing my pants, getting them to the right position, having a guy behind me spotting it to make sure it's where it's supposed to be, and then just masking taping—girdle onto myself with the tape, would hold the pants, and the other thing it would do was sort of provide a little bit of a back brace. We would go through masking tape pretty quickly because we'd use a lot of it to make sure it would hold, and also to provide that bit of a brace, but that was sort of me and a lot of other guys, that was our tradition, if we had one. We looked pretty funny when, at the end of the commitment, when we got back to the barracks, we were just tripping—looked like a mummy just taking off strand after strand of masking tape, creating these huge balls of masking tape at the end of the day.

MR. MOSHE: How did people entertain themselves?

MR. GLOVER: We were all infantry and Marines in Honor Guard, which meant prior to the recent lifting of the combat arms, that we were all males, so there was a lot of immature male frat boy type behavior. There was a lot of physical exercise, people would exercise for fun. There was, during our liberty time, a lot of carousing out on the town, drinking, so it was sometimes unsavory on the entertaining ourselves side, but I think that's to be expected often with young enlisted servicemen.

MR. MOSHE: Are there any pranks that you or others would pull?

MR. GLOVER: Sometimes, we would do this. When we lived in the barracks our first year, all the guys from my platoon lived on the same deck, on the same floor of the barracks, it was a multi-floor building. We had sort of a central hallway, and our barracks rooms were off either side of this hallway, and during the day, we would typically all leave our doors unlocked, because if we weren't out at a ceremonial commitment, we were there in the barracks, and we were resting or training or preparing our uniforms. We would all kind of leave our doors unlocked, and ultimately, leave our doors just wide open, because people would kind of wander from one room to another. You might have to borrow an iron or borrow some starch or whatever, and so sometimes, what we would do is, we would go in, and we would jack somebody's thermostat up, and maybe it was the middle of summer, and we would go over to some guy's room, and just kind of pop his door open, and if he wasn't in there, for example, pop his door open and jack his thermostat up to like, 90 degrees on heat, and then we'd shut the door and walk out. 30 minutes or an hour later, the kid would go back to his room, and it would be like a sauna in there, so we would do little stuff like that for sure.

MR. MOSHE: When did you decide to leave the service?

MR. GLOVER: It was at the end of my four years. It would have been late spring, early summer of 2000, and at that point, I had come to realize that I was on the verge of picking up sergeant and going to the Fleet Marine Force, to an Infantry battalion, and I just realized at that point that I had come to learn something, that people who reenlist, people who stay in the Marine Corps, they have to be willing to make the Marine Corps their number-one priority in life. The Marine Corps doesn't settle for less. It's not a military branch that prides itself on a work/life balance. It is a military branch that asks for total dedication and commitment, and honestly, to be a very successful career Marine, generally speaking, means that you're going to have a very hard time balancing a family life.

I had seen that firsthand with the leaders that we had in the Marines, and experiences that I've had, and I don't say that in any kind of a negative way. I believe that the Marine Corps is special, and it's special because it requires such a high level of commitment from its Marines, and particularly from its Marine leaders. With that said, I didn't want to sacrifice my future and what I was hoping to do in terms of building a family. I didn't want to sacrifice my family's priority to the Marine Corps, and so I decided at that point, it would be better for me to move on and do something else.

MR. MOSHE: Do you remember the day that your service ended?

MR. GLOVER: Yes, I do. I had a buddy that I had been at Honor Guard with, and he had gone to the Fleet Marine Force instead of staying at Honor Guard, and he had been to combat in Kosovo, and my last day that I was getting out, he was actually back in town on some leave, so we got together, and that night, or that day. I remember walking around and saying goodbyes to different people, and I remember, I guess, before I go into that night, that day, I remember in particular, going and finding my former company commander. He was a gentleman who is now a colonel in the Marine Corps, who now runs the Senate Liaison Office for the Marine Corps, that he was the epitome of Marine to me, and to pretty much everybody else who had ever

worked with him or for him. He was a really amazing guy, and I remember specifically on my last day, going, seeking him out. He had moved to a support role for a tour, and just having a little conversation with him, thanking him for his leadership and his example, and that was really powerful for me. Then I was leaving, going home to my apartment, and I was packing, I was preparing to leave the DC area. My friend, this guy from Boston, who had been a roommate of mine at the barracks years before had come back to DC on some liberty, we went out that night, and we went to a bar. My friend got jumped, and together we fought like six guys that night, and we successfully won that, and were injury-free, and made it home, and the next morning, I was loading up a truck and driving to Georgia. So maybe that was a fitting end in some way, to my time in the Marine Corps.

MR. MOSHE: Did you go back to school?

MR. GLOVER: Yes, I went and got a degree in political science, actually. I assumed I was going to work in the realm of politics, and began to follow politics a little bit, living up in the DC area. Politics was something that was interesting to me more and more, as I had lived up there for those four years, and so when I went to school, I decided to get a degree in political science, and thought I'd work in politics, maybe on a campaign, eventually running a campaign.

I spent some time working at the Georgia State Capitol, and that very much jaded me. I became very cynical towards politics. I think my problem was that I was more of a political idealist, or someone who was into political philosophy, more than I was a political pragmatist, and the actual process of making a sausage, so to speak, was not very appealing to me. I realized that that was not going to be my career, which led me to getting a job with the Archives, and led me to working my way up here at the Archives and making this my career for the last 13 or so years.

MR. MOSHE: Was your education supported by the GI Bill?

MR. GLOVER: Yes, the GI Bill was probably one of the best things that came out of my military service, besides the character development that I received. The GI Bill was amazing, and it was amazing in part because Georgia had a scholarship program, funded by the Georgia lottery, that allowed me to actually go to school for free. I was able to capitalize on my GI Bill and utilize it to help with additional school-related expenses, like a place to live, a vehicle, you know, extra in dues, and things like that, that the Georgia lottery scholarship didn't cover. If it had it not been for the GI Bill, this would definitely have been much harder, those years at college.

MR. MOSHE: Did you continue any of those close relationships and friendships that you had outside the military?

MR. GLOVER: I kept in touch with some guys while I was finishing up school, MySpace and then Facebook were starting up, and so I was able to reach out and find some guys, but really, there was only one person that I kept in real contact with. That was my friend from Boston who had been in the six-man brawl with me. Him and I remained close for several years, was in his wedding, took some trips to Boston with him, and we kept a pretty close friendship. Eventually, we drifted apart a little bit, I think because of him continuing to live in the DC area and me having moved down to Atlanta, and him pursuing an occupation as a police officer, and me moving into civil service, I think eventually, we drifted apart a little bit. I still maintained some contact with him and some other guys via social media these days, but not much beyond that.

MR. MOSHE: Did you join a veterans' organization?

MR. GLOVER: No, I've thought about it before, about the Marine Corps League in particular, but I'm married with three small boys of my own now, and I have enough going on with those guys these days that I haven't really had much time to think about joining something for myself.

MR. MOSHE: How did your services and experiences affect your life overall?

MR. GLOVER: That really is probably the most important aspect of my story. Growing up, as I alluded to earlier, I was sort of a geeky, nerdy kid. I didn't have much confidence in myself. I wasn't very assertive, I wasn't very physically fit, I didn't see a lot of direction for my life, but then when I went into the Marine Corps. They really do a phenomenal job of building your character, if you're willing to tough it out and adhere to their program, and they taught me some really invaluable things about confidence and leadership and punctuality and organization, and never quitting. It was that character development that I received, especially in boot camp, and then also throughout my time in Honor Guard. That character development really changed who I was, and provided me with a foundation to succeed then in college, and also to succeed here with the National Archives.

My current position is a little bit different. After I joined the Archives, I moved up from student to management intern role, and then to a supervisor, and then to the Assistant Director of a Federal Records Center here in Atlanta, and all of those roles were sort of matching with my personality and skillset. They were operational, they were leadership-oriented, but about 18 months ago, I took a position as a management analyst. It has been nice in terms of a better work life balance, teleworking, and sort of less supervisory responsibility. To be honest with you, it really doesn't suit my personality and my skillset long-term, and I'm itching to get back into the operational leadership deals. To that end, I have recently applied for and interviewed for a Director of FRC role for the Atlanta FRC, or the Riverside California FRC, and I'm just waiting to hear back to see if I'm going to be potentially selected for one of those two director positions. I'm really, really hoping I get one of them, too. I think it'll be a perfect fit for my life experiences.

MR. MOSHE: Is there anything else you would like to add, Jason, that we haven't covered yet in the interview?

MR. GLOVER: No, I just appreciate the opportunity to share some of this, especially the story about my July 4th spent guarding the Constitution. I thought that was a very serendipitous occasion for me, and just appreciate the opportunity.

MR. MOSHE: Thank you for your service and thank you for the interview.