

Defence of the Nation.

Every nation of peace loving, civil, people deserves the right to defend that way of life. At present we devote billions to building bigger armies for ourselves and our friends. When it comes to carnage we are proficient.

You look at the shock and awe of something like Operation Desert Storm and witness devastation and destruction on an epic scale. Why? And to what end? Nothing good came of this war.

We need to pull back from this military adventurism, pull back from a never ending arms race. We desperately need to stop this industrial supply of weapons and ammunition to the world. This is the one and only base cause of every human catastrophe on the planet.

While war wages, countries and civil societies are torn apart, not by mobs rioting in the streets with hand tools and sticks but armed and trained armies of mainly young men equipped with weapons of mass destruction.

The best defence that I can see for the preservation of the lives of my family, friends and myself now and forever more is to demilitarise the world's economy - stop the flow of weapons and ammunition, stop arming armies. Finally, base all foreign aid in conflict and war zones on the exchange of weapons and ammunition for cash or goods.

Bullets for Bread – so no child ever has to experience the trauma of war.

Saying that I also recognise that there's some sort of ballistic attraction to the gun that many boys feel (I'm not a woman and there were none on the firing range..) Something that is so very appealing to a part of the brain that was once the core of hunting skills. Every time a young boy throws his ball he hones the innate skills associated with his body. The bullet is hypersonic throwing of the ball. To fire a weapon is an exciting and arousing thing, not necessarily in a sexual way but sadly I'm sure there are those who do. It's easy to see how getting involved in a war could be quite addictive. Like gaming, only gaming has no real consequence, there's no empathy for the dead, you celebrate, move on and kill some more.

But fire a standard issue round from an infantry man's rifle into a carcass, or a water melon and see what happens, the little hole up front, and very little left behind. Picture this: Every time you fire your weapon in a battle you're just as likely to be hit as you hit someone else. And that's death or disability, physical and emotional. That's the risk you understand because that's empathy.

By all means learn how to use a weapon, become proficient in its use so, if push comes to shove, you can defend yourself and family.

Best Defence.

Democracy – If we lived in a fully evolved democracy where we all could participate in the decision making for our public services. If we maintained a just and open legal system, kept our corporations and institutions honest through a transparent and accountable media. If we normalised the economy away from the perpetually growing GDP and refocussed on prosperity and opportunity for all.

If we did all these things I think we'd be the worst country in the world to invade. The thought of that idea straying into the population of some tightly controlled political kleptocracy might prove a mighty deterrent. I'd also fight to my last breath defending a life that was like that.