

Speaker 1 ([00:10](#)):

[inaudible] hello and welcome to the higher enlightenment podcast brought to you by higher yields cannabis consulting. My name is Adam I'm part of the higher yields creative team. And I'll be your host for today. Today, we are honored to speak with our panel of veterans that are involved in the cannabis industry. We'll be discussing cannabis in relation to veterans and the military so long with the show. But let's start by having you guys introduce yourselves, Jesse Larson. Could you tell us a little bit about yourself and what you do and where are you from?

Speaker 2 ([00:45](#)):

My name's Jesse Larson. I'm project manager for higher yields consulting. Uh, I moved to Denver, Colorado in 2015 after getting out of the military in 2014. Uh, I did one tour in Iraq with fourth brigade, first armored second squad in 13th cavalry regiment out of Fort Bliss. Um, yeah, I got my degree after moving up here in business administration with an emphasis in international business. And I've been working in the cannabis industry for the last year, year and a couple of months and been in venture.

Speaker 3 ([01:19](#)):

Thank you. Um, how about you, Matt? Uh, my name is Matt O'Neil and I am an account manager with an hemp specialist here at a higher yields. And, um, I did a few years in college and then I saw a poster for the coast guard, and I said, this looks pretty cool. So I went in, uh, joined the coast guard and got sent down to Clearwater, Florida, and I got into, um, aviation electronics school. And then I became, uh, a T and we flew and fixed on, uh, the HH 60 J Hawk helicopter. And, uh, so I did, I was in Clearwater, was bumping around to North Carolina where the school was, and then eventually landed up in Cape Cod, um, working at air station, Cape Cod and fixing and flying on helicopters, going on flight missions and, and, uh, supporting rescue missions and operations.

Speaker 3 ([02:20](#)):

And it was really cool. And, uh, I did two and a half years active and then I segwayed into the reserve unit. And then after that, I actually, uh, headed out to Montana that helped with some cultivation for medicinal purposes. And I kinda got in the business that way, did that for about a year and came back to Massachusetts and just kind of been working in the construction and real estate game. And about three months ago, I joined a higher yields and, uh, just getting back to that passion of hemp and cannabis that I have, so kind of came full circle. And, uh,

Speaker 4 ([03:01](#)):

Well, thank you. How about you, Joshua

Speaker 5 ([03:04](#)):

I'm Josh [inaudible] founder and CEO of veterans for cannabis, also president of veterans for collaboration, a five Oh one C three nonprofit that focuses on teaching veterans and civilians both how to utilize food as medicine it's really to focus on teaching the veteran community to use plants as a form of therapy to grow food, grow medicine. A big part of that on the nonprofit side is hemp. Uh, as everybody knows, the 2018 farm bill legalized hemp as a commodity now, and then founding veterans for cannabis, uh, and being the CEO of there, we've been advocating for medical cannabis access since 2014. We've, uh, we've gotten into the hemp industry. We have a couple of farms in Georgia. We have a farm in Wisconsin where we grow our own hemp and we try to be as vertically integrated as we can in

that process, we produce a product and sell that product to basically, and other veterans who need access to a legal product.

Speaker 5 ([04:01](#)):

If they're in a state, that's not in a state with a medical cannabis program or a recreational cannabis program. So they have to use a CBD based product. And then we help veterans get access to medical cannabis in States that have medical cannabis. I'm an air force veteran, uh, served two tours overseas, did combat in 2003 with operational Rocky freedom. Um, Jesse an hour in Iraq in different years, um, different decades, that's crazy. Uh, and still in the same theater, uh, and you know, much like when Jesse and Jesse both said the passion is there for the cannabis industry specifically. And when we talk about cannabis, I talked about, uh, specifically as cannabis is cannabis is cannabis, whether it's hemp or medical cannabis, it's the same plant. We're just talking about a level of THC is the difference. So we use it interchangeably and really, uh, my initial focus was to use medical cannabis to help me reduce my opioid dependency. I was able to reduce my opioid dependency by 80% by using medical cannabis in 2010 and 11 up in Vermont. And that's when I became so passionate and then became an advocate to fight for medical cannabis access to make sure that Everence had the tool, the choice, the choice is all we want just to use cannabis as a treatment option at the VA. That's really what we fought for and that's who I am.

Speaker 4 ([05:20](#)):

Okay. Thank you. And thank you all for your service. So let's get started with the questions. Here's an interesting one, and anybody can take it. Why choose cannabis over alcohol or opioids as a veteran

Speaker 5 ([05:35](#)):

I'm un-muted. So I guess I'll start with that. This is Joshua. Um, you know, it's, it's easy for me. Uh, I come from a personal standpoint with everything that I do for my cannabis use, and I know there are some people in the industry that don't necessarily use canvas every day, but I was a raging alcoholic for decades, and I was a functioning alcoholic as well. Uh, I, I grew up, my grandfather produced moonshine. Uh, that's how he made his living. My dad tells the story that they grew 40 acres of corn, and he didn't have an Erick corn until he was 19 years old. And they always wonder where it went well, they were making liquor with it. So I grew up drinking alcohol at a young age and didn't realize what I was doing in my body all those years. And I been sober from alcohol since 2014, so six years now.

Speaker 5 ([06:24](#)):

And it's been a life changer for me, just in my ability to communicate and articulate my personal information and helped me better myself as an individual. So for me, the choice is easy because it's a healthy treatment option and allows me to manage my issues with my post-traumatic stress, my chronic pain in a more succinct manner, and can help me get better and heal my body where the alcohol just breaks me down and makes me feel bad. It makes me feel good for a moment, but man, hang overs and what they used to be. They're hail now.

Speaker 2 ([07:00](#)):

Yeah. Yeah. And I can, I can piggyback off that a little bit. The, when, when I got back from Iraq, I, I, I drank quite a bit and, and it was to the point where friends and family would start to, to, to make, make comments. And, but in Southern Arizona, in Texas, there, there is no other outlet. Pretty much a lot of that time can be spent at the gym. Um, working, uh, until work starts giving you drinks. And then you're

sitting there drinking at work all day. Um, after moving up here to, to, to Colorado, I was actually quite hesitant to try it. Um, I, I remember the stigma being told in high school. What about people smoking weed? And you're going to be, [inaudible] not gonna be able to do anything, you'd be unproductive and stuff. But, um, I found like I get better sleep.

Speaker 2 ([07:51](#)):

I I'm nicer to people and it, and it has more of a longer lasting effect than, than alcohol ever did or, or even the opioids. Uh, just, I mean, mood enhancers. I can, I can smoke a little bit in the, in the evening and just be happy until I go to sleep. And it's, it's, it's quite the nice change too. And then to speak to a Joshua saying that had the hangovers were not 21 anymore. Like, I, I can't drink all night and then go run five miles. It just ain't gonna happen. Um, and it's a lot easier on the body and you do feel so much better, so much better as opposed to alcohol or even prescriptions.

Speaker 3 ([08:35](#)):

Yeah. I'll just add it's Matt. I'll just add that for me. It's always been cannabis over drinking or prescription pills. Um, and for me it's been the opposite of a gateway drug. So CA during cannabis has kept me off of like, I don't drink as much. I don't, I never took pills. I had friends in high school. I had friends, um, like these guys in the military that drinking a lot, taking a lot of pills and I just cannabis helps me stay away from those things. My biggest drinking time was in the military has these guys can probably test it's a very work, hard play hard environment. There was a lot of drinking. I mean, we had myself included and had some, some early nights that you walk into the station, you're kind of like still buzzing. And, uh, there there's so many stories like that in the military. So my experience, I just saw that it's cannabis is the way safer option. And when you prohibit cannabis, you allow more pills, more alcohol, more drugs to get into the community. So,

Speaker 5 ([09:42](#)):

Yeah. And Adam, you know, one of the things I want to say in this whole process is I don't think Jesse and Matt and I are trying to say, don't use alcohol it's that use it, but use it responsibly. My issue with alcohol personally, was I drank to get drunk, if not drink, to just enjoy the drink and have one beer or one alcoholic beverage, I drank to get to the bottom and find that spot. And when I got there, I didn't stop so enjoy, but enjoy responsibly. And that's the same exact thing we would say with cannabis as well. And that's what we advocate for. We want people to be healthy and safe and, um, and I believe that you can do both, uh, if you want to. And so choose to

Speaker 3 ([10:25](#)):

Everything in moderation. Okay. Who in the industry do you think is making the strides to make a difference in the cannabis veteran community? I think Josh might want to take this one.

Speaker 5 ([10:38](#)):

Yes, absolutely. So, uh, there's a lot of people in the, in the veteran community specifically that are making huge strides, um, and our cannabis industry, uh, I think about, you know, us first and foremost, obviously veterans for cannabis, um, and, and what we do from an education first and foremost advocacy, we teach veterans how to advocate at the local state federal level, uh, and then trying to actually produce and make a product funding is the issue on it. But when you look at some of the other veterans organizations that are out there, there's a lot of great veterans, service organizations, veterans cannabis, project S veterans, lots, and all of them are our brothers and sisters in this process. But the

issue is that we are also fragmented that we can't come together to have one big, large collective voice. We're just little chirps around the country, all spread out where nobody's really making a dent because we can't get together and come together.

Speaker 5 ([11:32](#)):

And that's because they're all focused on the, day-to-day getting the bill paid right now, making sure that we can stay solvent. We don't have the operating expenses, and we don't have the a hundred millions of dollars that are coming in from a venture capital standpoint into our community, which is frustrating in its own, right? Because you would think these venture capitalists would want to help veterans and help us get off the ground. But in fact, what they want to do is come in, use our backs to drive up their profit margin and then sell us out. And we don't get anything out of that except for cash. They basically will take over the company. And that's not something that we're in our community. The veteran community wants to build. We want to build something that's sustainable. Something that's can be generationally changing for our community.

Speaker 5 ([12:17](#)):

And I think Adam you'll see that most of the veterans that serve, they come from a lot of veterans. It's the same families that continue serving and protecting this country because we can't get out of that. The only thing we can do to get ahead is to join the military and find another option to generate income and revenue. So there's a lot of great veteran companies that are out there they're advocating, but we've got to come together as a collective group, start getting the industry advocacy money, that lobbying money that they're paying lobbyists right now in DC to put some of that money into us in the veteran community, for us to lobby for ourselves. We're not asking for a handout, we're asking for a hand up. That's what we want. Okay. Anybody else?

Speaker 2 ([13:01](#)):

I mean, this was the time I was going to plug veterans for canvas. So I mean just, well, you know, it's, it's, it's true though. You know, we, we, we, we constantly look for our tribe again and, and there's, and there's a book out there by Sebastian younger called tribe. And it talks about, uh, soldiers leaving the war and why they end up going back. And, and a lot of it is, is finding that community again. And one of the things that I've noticed with the cannabis community is that it still is in a lot of aspects, close knit. You know, we we're, we're talking about the same thing. Most of the, most of the time we know the same people we use the same vendors. It's, it's, it's a community that we can get ourselves back involved in and be passionate about when we don't, we didn't have that anymore.

Speaker 2 ([13:45](#)):

And that being one of the biggest issues with guys leaving guys and gals, leaving the military is, is not having that community in that backup anymore. And not having that feeling of security. I, I know my entire former troop would want to get into the cannabis industry. They would love it. They, they would love to run a grow. Now if we had that type of availability and the work ethic and the mindset of, of veterans, and even, even guys just on, on reserves or, you know, wanting to fill in it's that dedication that like that teamwork mentality that carries a lot of things forward. And it's so useful in this, in this industry that I it's, it's, it's almost, it's almost maddening that, you know, getting, trying to get people together just to talk for a few minutes, because they are so concerned with that day to day. Cause we haven't had that breathing room to, to really get our feet under us and expand out the way we need to.

Speaker 5 ([14:46](#)):

Okay. Um, what are the other benefits or downfalls of choosing to work in the industry as

Speaker 3 ([14:52](#)):

A veteran,

Speaker 5 ([14:53](#)):

Matt, I'll tell you what, um, why don't you, why don't you jump in on that to start with? And I think I'll kind of piggyback off of that, but I think about you because you are the newest one, you have a lot of experience with during the newest one in the industry. Right. So can, can you give us your feedback and thoughts on that?

Speaker 3 ([15:10](#)):

Yeah. Um, certainly the cannabis businesses kind of like the wild West, there's a lot of excitement and it's very new. And I think if you're a military member, that's perfect for it because you're used to accepting any challenges, like learning on the fly, adapting quickly as Jesse and our whole team knows that. I see so many things change all the time and it's very new. It's a very new business for everybody. And I just feel like military people have that training where, and you guys know you go to all this bootcamp and training and you can, you feel like you can do anything you put your mind to, um, going through that training. So I just look at veteran guys and we have one team like Jesse, um, you know, I just know that is never gonna, you know, let us down and he's always gonna do, you know, 110%. So I think it's just perfectly aligned with the cannabis business a hundred percent.

Speaker 5 ([16:07](#)):

Yeah. You know, and the thing I love the positivity, there's a lot of positives to it, but I'm one of those I want to, I want to give them the, the negatives, right. So I have a very informed decision. So a big negative to this industry is that there is zero funding for our community. And when I say our community, I mean the veteran communities specifically, we would just got the 18 farm bill done. So the banks are supposedly opening up to loans and things like that. Although the liquidity is not happening, they've not started loaning out to veterans that don't have a business plan or I'm sorry, they'll have a business plan. They just don't have any capital put towards, right. There's no, uh, th the, the grants and loans that we typically get from the SBA from the veterans administration are not available in this cannabis industry.

Speaker 5 ([16:54](#)):

So it's terrifying when they shoot out and think I'm gonna get in this cannabis industry and I'm going to be successful, then they get into it and they learn hell, I've got nothing to stand up on. I've got nothing to prop me up if, if things go bad. So that's a huge, huge negative. But then the positive is when we get in this kind of setting, we get our brothers and sisters together. The sky is the limit because the teamwork, the comradery that comes from that, the organizational ability to function is maximized tenfold versus a normal organization. So a lot of great benefit, some negatives, but more positives than negatives.

Speaker 2 ([17:33](#)):

And likewise it's, um, there, there there's always risks because with any type of new and up and coming industry, it is, but that the, I have to agree with Josh that the biggest thing is, is the lack of funding and the lack of support in the cannabis industry for veterans. So, yeah, other than that, it's pretty fun.

Speaker 4 ([17:55](#)):

So I guess that ties into, um, where would you like to see the cannabis industry go is a veteran.

Speaker 2 ([18:02](#)):

I'll take, I'll start that one. You know, I would really like to see a, almost like a Sturgis for veterans and cannabis. Everybody gets together, everybody almost like an MJ biz con. We, we have something again that we can all come around together with. And, and I know for a lot of bets and I mean, it doesn't even have to be like a national scale, but I mean, having little communities of guys and gals that both share this history and this passion being able to put them together and then see what they can create and have them have them grow, grow on, on their own as well. That's, that's something just being, just having the ability for more people to come in and be connected is, is what I would really like to see. I'd like to see more directions.

Speaker 5 ([18:52](#)):

Yeah, I will absolutely the second bat. And what I, what I think we can do is the different stairs. I don't want to see people come together and just smoke up and get, get high. That's not what it's about. What Jesse said was coming together, putting thoughts together and making things happen. That's how we can make a change. But to me personally, the way I think about it, what I would like to see change the most and the most benefit I think we could bring to the community is we could get a veteran, a think tank fund put together where we could have our own venture capital, where we could support each other and sustain each other with micro loans or even large-scale loans to help these businesses in our veteran community get up and started and running with a good track to wrong, and also a really great mentor to lead them in the process. That would be huge. That's what I would love to see happen. And I know we can make it happen. We just have to get the veterans who have the liquidity and the wealth to be able to fund these kinds of ventures and put these,

Speaker 4 ([19:52](#)):

Yeah, you guys, you guys covered it a little bit more, more funding and also a little bit more organization coming together. Um, you know, creating that network and just, you know, talking to people throughout the country and working with them cause they're there in the veteran network. Um, so I, I definitely see that the future is bright for veterans in cannabis. So what online or in-person resources do you think are the most important as a soldier coming back from service out of the service, et cetera. And what, uh, what advice would you give, uh, veterans coming out of the service and into this field?

Speaker 5 ([20:31](#)):

No, Jesse, you want to take that one to start with?

Speaker 2 ([20:33](#)):

Yeah, I got that one. I, uh, you know, after leaving in 2014, you have to go through extensive out-processing program and that, and that program basically did not do what it was set out to. That makes sense. They spend a lot of money with a good idea and it didn't work and they keep it. And one part, uh, with the military and any type of government, um, organization is just when it's broke, it's still going to

continue to go until it's forcibly fixed or forcibly out of the, out of the quiet, out of the equation. Um, the stigma, a lot of the stigma too, knowing knowing your rules. I thought that once, once I smoked, I was gonna lose all my VA benefits. I was, you know, I was gonna get my DD two 14 redacted and I was going to have to end up going back and working for uncle Sam again, just because I, I wanted to let loose, but I mean, even doctors at the VA nowadays are getting way more, I should say progressive about it.

Speaker 2 ([21:32](#)):

But I mean, understanding about, about the options and, and letting soldiers, no soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, all of us, you know, when we're getting out there, there are options and it's not, it's not just an empty void that all of the lifers say before you get out, all those guys that are going to be in there the whole time. Cause they never, they're too afraid to get out or they want to stay in there. Some aspect. They, I remember being told that, you know, you'll never get a job. You'll never anything, you know, the army is it's, the army is the army is, uh, is your career. But you know, there, there is hope out there. And, and there is other guys who have made it and, and people who want others to make it and, and be, be part of this committee.

Speaker 5 ([22:19](#)):

Yeah. And Adam, I got a two part answer for that one. So the first part is there is zero information and anywhere that they can go from a militaristic standpoint to get information right now and that's gotta be changed. And I think Jesse, Matt and I and the veteran community can work on that to get into the taps or the transition that says whatever it's called in your service branch in an air force taps, transitional assistance program support, basically out-processing, it's that, that, uh, transition from going from active duty to your next phase in life. And we have to get first and foremost, the hemp into that process to talk about it as a business, talk about it as an industry to talk about its legality, to talk about it as a commodity. So once we, we get it normalized, like Jesse mentioned earlier, the stigma that comes along with it, we're starting to get some normalization there at the VA, but it's only at the physician level, the upper administration of the VA, the people who make the decisions for us and make the changes for us aren't even open when the dialogue about hemp or cannabis in general.

Speaker 5 ([23:24](#)):

So there's no direct place that they can go from, uh, uh, access while they're on active duty. However, there are tons of organizations like veterans for cannabis and all the other bedroom service organizations that are out there in the cannabis industry. They can reach out to volunteer with and then mentor with. Um, you've got to put the time and the effort in to learn, to be able to see the carrot that's held out there in front of you so that you can get into the industry and grow and prosper, uh, and then lots of great educational programs. And, uh, even some colleges now are putting cannabis on the curriculum. So lots of great opportunities coming. It's just slow and, and, uh, and not too methodical.

Speaker 3 ([24:07](#)):

We all remember the hemp for victory. Uh, one of the world Wars, they, uh, they insisted people start growing hemp for ropes. And, uh, in Boston here, we have like the, uh, hemp walk where you can see these old ship ropes made from hemp. So I think the military isn't against hemp or cannabis, it's, it's obviously the federal government that says, Hey this, because I just think, and you guys know that cannabis ties in so well with military style of just getting things done. And the other thing I'll add is they're building a seventy-five million dollar brand new, um, VA clinic in my city, and what's there and we're a recreational medical state. So it's kinda like we put the blinders on sometimes when it should be

like, guys let's all work together. So this VA has to be working with the medical cannabis side and just all work together. And they shouldn't, you know, not embrace CBD and THC products because of the stigma. I think they should allow access to veterans, uh, safely, because otherwise they're just going to go through the recreational route and not like the medical route through the VA. So eventually I think

Speaker 5 ([25:25](#)):

I agree a hundred percent imagine, you know, one of the, the, uh, man, I don't even know the wishes if you will. The dream that I have is that veterans are the ones that are growing the hemp to produce the CBD that becomes that pharmaceutical product from the veteran's administration. And then ultimately when we go medical with medical cannabis, we will be the ones producing the medical cannabis for the VA as well, that we're talking about actually doing things for the veteran community that could change lives from a mentality standpoint, a financial standpoint, a fiscal standpoint from conservativeness, from the VA having to reduce their costs from a pharmaceutical side. So that's a huge benefit everybody. So I think that dream leading exactly into that mat where they have to embrace it, they're spending 75 million in the Northeast part of this country. Why in the hell not have 2 million of that pointed towards cannabis? Uh, not necessarily research, but let's talk about cannabis implementation. Let's make a cannabis clinic. Let's see how beneficial this can be. It should be done. I agree with Matt a hundred percent.

Speaker 1 ([26:29](#)):

Yeah. Um, I'm just curious in your military careers, you all said that you had plenty of access to booze, how much access was there to cannabis and how much trouble could you get if you were caught with it, I'll lead

Speaker 2 ([26:44](#)):

On that one. So, uh, you, you, you pop hot for, for cannabis. You're going to be discharged and out of the military within 60 days, um, you'll get a general under honorable conditions. Usually if less you add a record, then it will be less, less, uh, generally plus than honorable conditions kind of thing. Um, but there, there it's an absolutely no zero tolerance, any tolerance and that, and that's one of the reasons that I think guys and gals have a really hard time getting out because you were conditioned to like the only thing that is that is acceptable is booze, you know? And, and so what, what else do you got you stay in that, that training mentality that, that mentality in the military, I know it took me four years to break that, that thinking that even even being a couple minutes late was not going to get my entire platoon smoked or, or, you know, I wasn't going to get in trouble just for not being there on time kind of thing.

Speaker 2 ([27:48](#)):

Um, it's definitely, well, sorry to say wait a little bit, but I mean, drug use in the military has been an issue for a very long time and especially going back, uh, prevalence in Vietnam, up through the, uh, Gulf war and then into Iraq, we would find guys who were smoking, smoking weed on, on guard shifts and stuff. And they would, they would get in a lot of trouble for it. And it's, it's, it's unfortunate, but there, there are rules that you kind of got to follow to when you're down range. Um, but yeah, yeah. You know, the, the, the building of the dependency on alcohol, I definitely believe that begins in the military too. Like it as the only outlet that you're allowed to have. Go ahead.

Speaker 3 ([28:39](#)):

No, you're good. I was just going to say when I was in, um, and I think it's changed since, but when I was in, um, you had three alcohol instances, so you could, like, you can mess up with alcohol three times and you got one, I guess he said, um, you know, read incident. I even knew, like there was a captain that got kicked out when I was in for weed. So that was just to me, that's just, that's not fair. Like, like we don't like weed, like we've done like booths. It's not fair. It's not three versus one. And there was no program they sent you in. They just kicked you out, see you later pack your bags. And that really wasn't fair because some I've seen some very serious alcohol incidences and I'm like, how is this guy still around? And, you know, you'll see him a week later.

Speaker 3 ([29:25](#)):

Uh, you know, you just got a slap on the wrist. So, um, that's how it was when I was in. I know they're kind of trying to change that a little bit, but, um, yeah, now I just saw the Navy. You can't have CBD, uh, can't use CBD lotions now cause they want to do like hair follicle tests. And can't you see the, each shampoo, which is absolutely crazy to me. Um, why they're just going after that and doubling, doubling down by, because I knew about the CBD band before, but I thought they'd be loosening that. And then I just saw an article the other day about the Navy tightening it to CBD creams and lotions. I mean, they sell this hemp, you guys seen that hemp scream, the lotion, they sell it everywhere, gas stations everywhere. And you're, can't even use that, you know, when you're giving your life to the military. So it, just, to me, it just always wasn't fair. And I just saw that always. So

Speaker 5 ([30:20](#)):

Yeah, Adam, you know what my saying is, is spot on. And the issue there is you got, so I'm in a unique situation where my wife's still active duty and she's actually chief of the medical group. And we just saw a 16 year veteran, um, that had just got a promotion who Jesse, and this is probably news to your math, both, but he got an honorable discharge. The very first one that the air force has given for cannabis use. So he was forced out and he was, he was discharged. It was unearned honorable condition, which is Adam. So what Jesse was saying earlier, you get out on general. That's not a good thing. Um, you can have it upgraded later, but it's not good to get out on general. Honorable is what all of us have when you finish your sergeants, you just get an honorable discharge.

Speaker 5 ([31:07](#)):

Well, this is the very first veteran I've ever met. They got an honorable discharge because he utilized him, but he was very clear. He had had PTs and his issues in his past had been on all kinds of Pharmacopia and utilize cannabis to try to reduce that. And he was, he was honest with them, forthright. The leadership saw that and they said, you know what? We're going to kick you out, but we're going to kick you out with an honorable discharge. So that was huge. Um, but one of the big issues that Matt just touched on is CBD. We're talking about a federally legal product, grown under him, that now the military can't use, and that's a DOD wide issue. Representative Tulsi, Davern not have been working together for about a year. Now there's a piece of legislation up in Congress. That's been passed through the house that makes sure that the military cannot ban CBD use by their active duty components in the, in the garden reserve.

Speaker 5 ([32:04](#)):

If it won't get through the Senate, because we all know Mitch McConnell doesn't want to see anything done with cannabis. Um, but you know what Tulsa is, is a veteran just like us. And she knows that there's a hundred percent accuracy. You all know we can unequivocally say when that isolated compound of

CBD is the only thing that's in that I can guarantee you there's no THC and the militaries responses, you can't guarantee there's no THC in it. Even if it says CBD, well, they are categorically wrong. And we know we can, but it's educating that upper echelon that makes the decisions to help them understand how we isolate it and do that. But you can't even get through the gatekeepers to do that, to have that conversation in dialogues.

Speaker 4 ([32:48](#)):

How do you, how do you see that, um, evolving out of those attitudes? Um, what do you, what do you think the timeline is,

Speaker 5 ([32:57](#)):

Um, on who knows? But, uh, the only way we're going to get out of it is unfortunately when the older generation, uh, musters out, essentially they either retire or they pass away. Um, or until there's a new, uh, administration, if we get a new administration, I mean, you, you, uh, the vice presidential debate was just recently done and they specifically said medical, uh, or cannabis would be decriminalized. So that could change things immediately. So we're looking at, it could be two years. It could be 10 years. Uh, we hope it's somewhere in the three year range. Uh, but I really honestly believe we could get it done in 21 if people really set their monitor.

Speaker 2 ([33:37](#)):

Yeah. Well, and also to piggyback off of that, the, um, the, the bridging of the generations, that, that's one thing that I've, that I have noticed that it's the, the gen X and the millennials are usually doing pretty good on this. Unfortunately, the older generation is still sticking to their guns on, on what they were taught and, and not being, I hate to say open-minded, but call it what it is, but the times are changing. And I I've been speaking with, with quite a few old, older people. They haven't seen change like this since the sixties. And so, and, and just, and then, then the, the speed in which it's happening and the availability of information has just has really changed people's minds about cannabis and a lot of aspects and, and changed how they think about it. And I mean, to Josh's point, it will take more likely the older generation kind of stepping out of the way and letting us make our own decisions again,

Speaker 4 ([34:38](#)):

How can introducing cannabis reduced the level of violent crime and sexual abuse in military culture

Speaker 5 ([34:45](#)):

With, um, alcohol use and, and military sexual trauma, sexual assault, things that happened in the military. When we talk about violence, I would venture to say without any direct, um, black and white data in front of me, but I would say 70 to 80% of violent attacks, crimes, sexual assaults, whatever it is in the military is absolutely combined with alcohol. There is no doubt in my mind because I've seen it. I also get me personally, everything bad that's ever happened to me in my entire life. I was inebriated under the influence of alcohol. And that's really unfortunate because I look at all the things I could have changed, and I'm not thinking was drastic, or I didn't kill anybody or lost in loss of life. Right. But it's just stupid things, relationships, um, the bad things I said that was never meant. So I think the reduction of violent crimes can be huge if cannabis was allowed to be used in the military, because alcohol is, is it's, uh, unfortunately it brings out the worst in people, you know, and, uh, it brings out the violence and people I've never seen anybody smoke, uh, or utilize any cannabis and become violent, uh, immediately afterwards.

Speaker 4 ([35:56](#)):

Yeah. You know, the biggest threat you become as a threat to the refrigerator, so, okay. That was very interesting. Thank you. Um, anybody have any final thoughts? Any, anything you'd like to add or plug?

Speaker 5 ([36:11](#)):

Yeah, I mean, first and foremost, thanks so much to higher yields and putting this together, uh, bringing our veteran voices to the forefront and giving us an opportunity to express our feelings and our gratitude one to you all in the industry, putting this on, but to just to the cannabis community in general, you know, thanks for embracing veterans and, uh, you know, getting behind all the push to make sure that we're taken care of from a medical standpoint to, uh, make sure that we've got the access that we need so many different dispensary's and pharmacies that offer discounts for the veteran community, uh, that give away free cannabis, want to see us, help us, uh, get better and a future. Thank you. And just to the industry for that, now I challenge the industry to get behind us with their funds, not just offer discounts, let's get behind us with the funding to help us advocate and lobby and educate that's what we gotta do next. And then help us empower ourselves to become entrepreneurs and small business owners in the cannabis industry.

Speaker 4 ([37:09](#)):

And I just wanted to extend my thank you to Josh, for jumping on here. He is very busy and was able to give us some time today to be on this podcast. And I wanted to say, thank you again for that.

Speaker 5 ([37:20](#)):

Well, thank you, Jesse. I appreciate that. Really. Yeah. Well, thanks. Thanks to you all.

Speaker 4 ([37:24](#)):

And, um, thank you very much for your service and thanks for being on our podcast. I hope things keep moving in the right direction for you. We got to make it happen together. Yes, sir.

Speaker 5 ([37:37](#)):

Well, y'all have a great afternoon and we'll talk soon.

Speaker 4 ([37:39](#)):

Likewise, talk to Josh. Thank you all for putting it on to you.

Speaker 1 ([37:43](#)):

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