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Okay, How are you

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Alright, everyone so good to see all thanks for coming to the reschedule time.

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And so today is the brown bag on Mac and Mirrors Folly.

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My name is Chuck Khanf, I'm the chair of the Department of Administration.

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Rehabilitation of post-secondary education, and then also professor in the Rehabilitation Council program.

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And I think the the talk today is probably most relevant to my work with a cognitive disability.

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Specialization. And so one of the things i'm going to share today is that, I came across the story was just totally a shock to me.

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I never heard this before. you know my background is a lot of my background is in developments of disability.

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So it was again quite, quite surprised, for quite shocking that this this actually had happened in our history.

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I want to say a little bit about the brownback series and we we've had brown bags going back to 2,008.

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And typically, these are like research presentations, presentations. sometimes where we have completed research, sometimes the research is more at a like a formative or planning stage.

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But we've never really done a book review So this is kind of taking the broadbacks, maybe into a different direction.

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And I think, yeah, this is something where we can. I think, explore the the you know the meaning of this book.

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Look at what is what are the implications. for our field, and I think there's many, and so perhaps like some creature Brown bags may include, you know, more book reviews.

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So I have some former students in my class here here today, and I actually some of this is going to maybe feel like some of what we do in our classes.

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So you know, in my classes I have a class discussing exercise where students are responsible for the We have a pair of students.

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Either Paris students or one student kind of depending on how many students we have in the class.

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But their job is to basically look at the readings for the day.

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And then basically kind of do like what i'm doing now kind of take a through the readings talk about their perceptions or impressions of the readings.

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What do they take from the reading and What did they like about the reading?

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What didn't they like about the reading and what do they disagree about the reading, and really, I think you know, have a very kind of informed perspective, kind of a nuance and honest perspective of the readings again for you know and

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not just the summary of the readings, but really kind of going deeper than that, ensuring that with the class.

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The other thing we do in the cognitive disabilities certificate program is that we have a class that is, more like a like a techniques building class.

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It used to be R 7, 4, 4. We now have changed that to our 6, 12.

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But basically the idea of the class is that you have to.

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Yeah, one of the things you have to do is you have to pick a first person narrative about cognitive disabilities.

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So either written from the perspective or by a person with a cognitive disability, or from from a family member.

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Yeah, and not from an academic. So we're really trying to get kind of this first person lived experience and then and then students have to write a book review and submit it to a journal, and we've had a lot of these book

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reviews that have been published over the years, and I think you know, for students like the first there's a fair amount of anxiety.

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But actually doing this, and we let's say actually get into the exercise, write the book review, and then get the feedback back to their students about sorry that back to the the journals about what they took from these books it could be a pretty

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interesting empowering, you know, type of experience. So this is kind of like that, in a sense.

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And and then just for some housekeeping things.

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If you do want Crc credit for this we do have one unit that's available, and not a whole whole lot.

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But you know every little bit helps. So this in the chat, just you know.

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Let me know if you do want to have crc units for this, and then i'll send you the form that goes with that, so you can obtain the units again.

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I really want to thank you for being here sharing your time today. And I think this might be an interesting discussion.

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And basically, what my plan is. I'm gonna read different parts of this book kind of take take you know, an analysis of different aspects of a many read different passages of it. And I want to keep this you know interactive.

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So if you want to just jump in and give a question or a thought, feel free to do so, you can also send messages in the chat.

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However, you'd like to communicate and and I I I think like with books like this, i'm always interested to see how other people may connect to this book, and in what you may take from it, as well so I've always had

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along sandy interest in the Vietnam War. Read a number of different biographies, historical analyses of the Vietnam War, and and then I I also, you know, in my terms of my professional clinical training a lot of it, has been in the area of

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2 development the disabilities my master's program had a specialization in development, the disabilities I work clinically as a service coordinator For For many years i've done direct care work with people with development

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disabilities. so I when I came across this story I was really surprise. I I really couldn't believe that this this had happened, and I was surprised, You know, given that I've done these I mean that hasn't have a training.

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If have background and development disabilities. and i've also had this interest in the Vienna more of right biographies of Linda Johnson, Richard Nixon, Robert Backomera.

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And this has never been mentioned. So it was. It was quite a surprise, you know, to me. So I think when I came across this board I thought, this is something, I think, like our field rehabilitation Council needs Nobot I think in General You

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know It's important to have more historical accounts of of the experiences of people with disabilities.

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You know a lot of the the things that we see in the field are off from the perspective of professionals academics, and and definitely, there's there's value to that.

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But I think there's other parts of our history that we really don't fully know.

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We really don't fully acknowledge and this is you know part of this.

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This idea of really kind, of furthering our understanding, our awareness of different things happening in our history.

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So I came across this book from a Youtube video and So I'm: assuming, like the the way these algorithms are written for, for Youtube they must figure out somehow that this connection of the Vietnam war and disabilities somehow

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this. this story came up to my awareness, those Youtube video by the author, Hamilton Gregory.

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And so I started started watching this and I again. I I can't really believe this is true.

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And I found it was very, just very interesting, surprising.

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He? He talked about this from his first person perspective as a veteran who served in the Vietnam War, and he came across this program called Project 100,000, which is going to be the focus of this book and he he has

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since passed away. but by biography. Yeah, after he finishes his service in Vietnam he went out to a career as an Associated press reporter, and one of the things they talk about in the book jacket on the outside

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is, they describe him as he is a former associate. press writer and the author of best selling college textbook Public see. Speaking for college and Career, The Vietnam veteran.

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He's been a longtime advocate for the needs of veterans with physical, emotional, and intellectual disabilities.

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So So as you go through this book and he talks about project 100,000, it's clear that this is had like a significant impact on his life, and how he tries to kind of make sense of that experience and I think he doesn't

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use the word traumatic in the book, but you get the sense that this was a traumatic experience.

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Farm him for him, and what he observed. This is the other way.

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I came across this book. This is like a month after I had seen this Youtube video. I listen to a podcast from a guy named Jocko Wilnick, who is a former navy seal and he's.

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Actually done with quite a bit of work on leadership. So I see one of our guest days, Karen Sax, a previous chair of arm administration, rehabilitation, and post-second education.

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So I I have now taken over this role, and you know, during this time I wanted to revot leadership and just things.

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I think were important to consider in taking on this this major leadership role at Scsu.

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So in came across this guy's work jacolynick. And you know he has like, if you see pictures of him or videos of him as persona is that he's like this kind of brutish type of person But

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actually like when you listen to him he's a very thoughtful intelligent, interesting person. and he did a podcast on this book.

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And I thought, well, maybe I should read this book because now, i've listened to this Youtube video and i'm watched this, podcast and it's become all the more interesting to me So the first thing I wanted to talk about before

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we get into the book, and actually Gregory in the book.

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And this is we can see this as well. I gotta take off the wrapping with. This is your inner library loans.

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So just 1Â s here wrapped before it. So this is what the book looks like.

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The customer is following, and the full title is the use of Low Iq troops in the Vietnam War.

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Now and then, plus the induction of unfit man.

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Criminals and misfits. Now, as I go through the this talk today, you may feel insulted by some of the terms, and I definitely had that reaction.

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I think some of it is the fact, and gregory actually acknowledges in the in the book.

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He says he's not i'm not a psychologist i'm not a professional in in the area of disability.

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And he acknowledges where he lacks like professional training to, you know, to make sort of judgments or inferences about project 100,000.

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He really talks about the fact that he presents, us as a lay person who's looking at this issue, and he also is very clear about his use of terms to describe disability.

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And so some of the terms He's gonna use he uses the terms that that he had heard during this time in the 19 sixtys when he certainly Vietnam and he says he really makes the point basically that he needs to be

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authentic in terms of how he's describing these terms So I want to read this to you again.

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I want to just kind of preface. this by saying some of the terms are going to say are terms I would never use.

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I would never advocate for. but I think for the purposes of having I think, kind of a clear discussion of this textbook.

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Really get a feel for what he he was trying to get across I think it's important to say this so this is on the author's notes.

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He says, i'm aware that words like lauren retarded fat, so ador, if are considered insensitive and offensive in society today, but I use them because they are wildly used in the 1,900 sixtys

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it would mar the historical accuracy of my report if I replace them with words that are kinder likewise sometimes quote individuals with descriptions are harsh and unsympathetic.

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But I have included them to document how men who were different, reviewed and treated in those days.

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And then you also makes the point that the terms that are the names in the band identifying references for anybody talks about the book were changed to maintain their the anonymity and privacy.

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So we get to this idea of project 100,000. What exactly is this?

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And I think we wanna say, back to the time that this program was was a place was from October first, 1966 to December, the 30 first 1,970.

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One so cross over 2 administrations, Linda Johnson, Richard Nixon, and during this time or part of this period there was a draft.

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There was huge future opposition to the draft. Many a large protest, including my Alma Mater University of Wisconsin.

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Madison had major protests in the 1,900 sixtys around the Vietnam war, and a lot of that was really, I think, initiated by the draft, and there was a lot of pressure on the Johnson

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administration. when this program was initiated, and on Robert Macdamer, who is the the Department of Defense Secretary, to increase the number of personal military personnel to serve in Vietnam.

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And and so people were trying to avoid the draft.

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You know these major protests, and then at some point the draft actually ended.

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So there's this ongoing pressure to to to to You know populate military services in a very unpopular war.

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You know one that I think by the end of the Vietnam conflict, you know both.

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Most people have had felt that this was really not a legitimate exercise, and not worth, I think, from a veterans point of view or military service.

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Members point of view, really questioning. Why am I kind of risking my life for this?

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Why, why am I a certain in this this war? So there was a as context, you know.

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There was this ongoing pressure to to to add to military service.

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So 1919, 66. Robert Makimer came up with this plan for project.

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100,000, and sir, and this person backward on Robert Macdonald.

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He was a serve a war, too. He got his Nba for Harvard.

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He got his he's probably probably most well known prior to being Department of Defense Secretary as being the president of Ford Motor Company for a number of years, and he really talked about kind of a belief in rationality and

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logic and kind of almost like a type of humorous like, where a belief that you, through science or through rationality, anything could be solved.

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And so he created this program called Project 100,000 kind of from that that mental point of view and want to read from from the book where Gregory describes this program

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Okay, So talks about Johnson and mcnamara tried to make their action appear to be better.

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Actually It's here to supply the extra troops that were urgently needed.

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President Johnson was faced with a tough choice. He could have revoked student deferments and forced thousands of college boys into the army, or could have used the 1 million men in the National Guard or reserves, but either action would have

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angered the vote power for middle class. So he turned and said to the working class and the poor.

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Here, however, he also found trouble, and rounding up enough Eligible men were plenty of men on the right age in the poor neighborhoods, when many of them had flunked the military's.

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Interest Exam. Armed Forces Qualification Tests. Johnson and Defense.

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Secretary Mcnamara desperately needed them power, so they lower the standards for passing the Afgh. T.

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Suddenly thousands of low aptitude men once declared unacceptable because it low 8 F Qt.

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Scores are now subject to the draft. and So he took talks about what this plan basically was. He they created this program called Project 100,000, and the members of Project 100,000 were described as new standards of men.

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He's disadvantaged to use many from urban slums or real poverty areas, but be molded into productive soldiers by being a scientist.

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Special training companies which would be set up at each basic training center to teach reading and arithmetic.

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Though the men may have failed, these subjects in school they wouldn't fail them not because the military was the world's greatest educator of skilled manpower, it knew how to motivate men.

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It possessed an oppressive array of pedagogical gadgetary.

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Mcdonald's considered one of the most brilliant men in America believe that he could raise the intelligence of low ability.

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Men. So these are videotapes and closed circuit Tv lessons. Low aptitude.

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Student, he said, can use videotapes as an aid to his formal instruction.

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And then bye, because a proficient as proficient as a high aptitude student.

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This last statement prompted hoots of derision for many educators and psychologists who knew limitations of audio visual instruction.

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So then they they go on to to Basically, you know, further, describe this program.

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But when I read this, and I talked about this in the book review, and I forgot to mention that this whole, my this taught today is based on a book review I wrote in Rebootician Council Bolton, and so one of the things

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that I commented on. the book was basically it first of all it didn't appear that anybody I had actually gone through this kind of training, even if they had.

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That's not gonna raise somebody's iq level to the point where they would no longer be considered to have an intellectual disability.

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And it essentially was just kind of a cynical attempt to just to to populate the military services without really much regard for the lives of these individuals.

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It was just a way to kind of fit the the rosters in the military.

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And so I I think Hamilton makes us this point throughout the book, and I mentioned the podcast.

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Of Jacquel Wilson, the former Navy Seal, and he really talks with a lot of contempt for Macdamara and Johnson.

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And this program, and you know he is somebody who has direct combat experience in Iraq.

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It just really felt that it was something where there was really not regard for the well-being of these individuals, and really a lack of respect for these individuals.

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So I think one of the questions to think about and it wasn't entirely really.

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Talked about are known in reading the book and perhaps You'd have to really speculate on this.

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The question would be, Did Macmara truly believe that he could raise the Iq levels of these individuals by having them sip before Tv and watching audio visual materials?

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Or did he just use it as a cover just for an easier way to get people into military service and meet the quote.

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As that he was pressured to to try to meet. Yeah.

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I I suspect It's probably the latter but but it's not not entirely known, and I want to go back to the point about the Huber city had basically in kind of making military decisions in general just a belief that through

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logic and rationality. He was smarter than everyone else, and would have the intelligence to basically solve any kind of problem, including Clinton.

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This issue. The other thing I think that's interesting for context is that Robert Macdamer was was very close personal friends with John F.

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Kennedy, who had a an adult sister with an intellectual disability.

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And so I I suspect that you know. through that relationship he he may be became become more aware and more societized to the issues you know, faced by by individuals with intellectual disabilities, and their families, and you know knowing that

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it would seem like, Why would he advance a program like this? So there's some remaining questions like this, but nonetheless, it it was something where it was based on false premises, really a lack of understanding of intellectual

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disability and and it really created, you know, some really really awful, you know, consequences for the individuals who served, you know, from Project 100,000.

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So I mentioned this Frick, this passage that talks about the A.

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Of Qt. and one of the things that Gregory provides in the back is, he gives examples of the kind of questions that were part of this.

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This this test. It was much like this is for the students here on this call today.

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From rehabilitation council program. if you've taken the assessment class, you know.

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We talk about the different forms of Iq testing and we talk about the fact that Iq testing is often split into fluid, and I've had crystallized forms of intelligence. testing.

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So the this test, this armed forces qualification tests really was more about crystallized forms of intelligence, like knowledge and vocabulary, knowledge of information things you would acquire of knowledge over your your the port. you know the the entirety of your life and

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also some simple, you know math problems as well. So as one example of this, one of the questions from this test was that a boy buys the sandwich for 20 cents.

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Note for 10 cents and pi for 15 cents. How much does he pay for for that?

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All. another question. Awkward muscle most nearly means ignorant, dangerous, clumsy, and vulgar.

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Now, when you take this test there 5 levels of performance, and before before project 100,000.

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If you were in levels one through 3 you would be considered to be qualified for military service.

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If you're a category, 4 and 5 you would be be considered to have not not high enough aptitude to actually to serve the military, so that the range of this is category one is not Q.

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Of 124, and above, and Category 5 is an Iq.

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Of 70, 71, and below. So with Project 100,000 now is possible for individuals who are categories, 4 and 5, to serve in the military.

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And I think think about you know what's your thinking what what's your perhaps putting this person subject to from project 100,000.

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If they're going to be in a in the military, not along the military, which can be dangerous about in terms of training exercises.

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And and just kind of you know, managed in the day to day kind of work of being a military service member.

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But then you're asking somebody to go into a combat environment, which is obviously extremely dangerous. And you want to have as much mental capacity to be able to to or swan, you know safely and that type of environment so he basically

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was putting members of Project 100,000 in danger, and also the the Fellow Service members of this project.

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Of those the service members. So again, you know as a as I first started hearing about this again.

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I'll go back to this kind of theme of just shock you can't believe they would allow this and it's.

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You know, I think one of the reactions I had also was just like disappointment, you know, just deployment in my government.

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Like How could they allow this on the other hand? You know when we look at the history of disability?

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It's a history of marginalization of abuse of many, you know, forms of maltreatment, especially in the area of intellectual disability. There's a long setting history of things like you know people putting individuals in mass

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institutions like Willa, Brickett and Penhurst, in the 1,900 sixtys, and 1,900 seventys.

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It just all sorts of abuse and maltreatment that happened in those kind of settings.

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So maybe in that context, maybe maybe it shouldn't really be that surprising when we look at how people were recruited to this program.

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This is a voluntary program, and we're drafted into project 100,000.

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They were recruited into Project 100,000. I want to talk a little bit from the book as far as like.

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What were they told? How would they actually

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So they say Here Gregory points out that project. 100,000 men were an average 20 years old.

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Half came from the south, and 41% were minorities.

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So 40, 46% were drafty, as while they actually saw it correct myself.

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There somewhere, drop, use 46% or draft use while the remaining 54% were volunteers.

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However, as I pointed out earlier, the term volunteer is misleading.

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Military recruiters would get the names of low scoring men who are now acceptable to the armed forces and visit them to steer them.

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Toward 3 year hitches. The recruiters would tell them that if they waited for the draft they would serve only 2 years, but also almost certainly end up in an infantry platoon of Vienna.

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But if they sign up for 3 years they would be assigned to a non-continent Job.

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This, however, was a big catch. The military did not have to honor any oral promise made by the fire Recruiter Recruiter might promise.

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A man like a helicopter maintenance. But after basic training, when it was time to go to a specialized school, the military could decide that his test scores were not high enough to qualify for helicopter maintenance or in

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some cases you could be sent to helicopter maintenance school.

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But if you flunk the training he was subject to transfer to infantry now is a 3 year project.

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100,000 volunteers ended up in infantry. Because of this catch, which many critics can announce.

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This fragile behavior on the part of the military. So we already have this kind of

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The system where you're getting you're kind of tricking individuals into into making this commitment like part of this this kind of illegitimacy of this program, I think you know I mentioned earlier that my my impression of this book was that

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Gregory was trying to come to terms with what this experience meant to him, and the on the back of the of the book, and I read that the short description that says that he has been a lifelong advocate for this population for

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the individuals who serve in a project 100,000 there's passages in the book where he talks about visiting the families of fellow service members from a project 100,000 that it had died.

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You know, he wanted to honor their memory and to kind of share his experiences with with them.

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And then, during his military service, he, he was often identified by by sergeants and non-commissioned officers as somebody that would would look out for members of Project 100,000.

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Gregory himself was kind of an unusual member in military service, and they'd be a non-mera.

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He had a college degree, he decided to to volunteer for service as an enlisted person, and he really felt like he had a moral responsibility to serve in Vietnam.

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So he was. He was approaching Vietnam service with very, you know, very clear intentions.

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I think you get the sense that he he has, or had a very hot kind of high moral like compass to approach approach.

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You know his military service. and you see this extended throughout the book.

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Carl. Yes, I I can hold my Oh, man or if you'd like me to raise it. now you had mentioned we could interact

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I served as an infantry officer.

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In the seventies following the vietnam war and it's. it's interesting, And and hearing your comments or your you know what you've said about this I I was a platoon later.

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And if you don't know what an infantry potentulator is, if you watched for a scump I was Lieutenant Dan.

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That was my job yelling at people. Sit down, shut up, you know.

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But no; but I let a combat unit small entry yet. and what's interesting about about what what you're reporting on is that though my soldiers weren't part of this project that tendency to enlist lower iq students

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of color, and Those who came from low income backgrounds was prevalent.

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At that time a person would be, in fact, a number of my platoon members.

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I interviewed every one of them virtually most of them we're told. you need to enlist in the infantry, or you're gonna go to jail virtually.

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None of them had high school diplomats or geds, and

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A large number of them were illiterate they couldn't read. And so the we called those videos you were mentioning tech tapes allow their instruction with video instruction.

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Our maintenance manuals were comic books that they would learn how to fix jeeps by looking at pictures as opposed to having to read a text.

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And and and I I think as you would suggested even though we weren't, you know, in active combat at the time.

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The armed forces were so needy for enlisted soldiers that this was just a ploy to get people in the service to fill the lower enlisted range which had a lot to to say about you know our disregard

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for those individuals as you mentioned. you you know many of them.

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You know, ended up you know, on the on the raw end of military discipline and military.

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You know imprisonment and and things like that due to

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You know infractions of violating the you know military code of justice and and other kinds of activities.

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So I mean it's much more difficult now to enlist and and the standards are much higher.

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But what you were describing, pursued. for quite some time after the Vietnam War.

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Yeah, thank you for sharing that carl and you know one of the things I'm going to talk about later is that in the later stage is a project 100,000.

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The the it was. It was sort of like what you're saying it was not really technically part of project 100,000. but it kind of a general general approach, for you are kind of letting anybody at this point You know in the individuals with criminal records

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people that were considered to be emotionally unstable.

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People that would never would have gone in into the military then.

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And and I think now think that, as you said, the standards are much higher.

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So it just became kind of like a like a general approach to induction of military service members, which is, you know, very, very unfortunate.

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The the book. The first 80 pages of the book has a lot of focus on kind of telling.

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The first stories of people that Gregory had come up come across, and that had really made an impact on him.

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And one of the key people he talks about is a guy named Johnny Gupton.

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Again. This is a pseudonym and he talks about just different ways.

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That that Gupton really was challenged by just basic military exercise and activities and training.

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And you know. And again, Gregory really express concern for his well-being.

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What would happen when you know, when Gupton, we get into combat, what would you be able to to be safe?

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What do you endanger? You know the the lives of his fellow service members? and he provides a number of examples to really show like kind of just struggles with basic activities. I want to read one example of this and this talks about

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Gupton's challenges in knowing left left versus right and doing marching drills.

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So Gregory states. We were issued M. 14 rifles, but no, no ammunition yet, and we focus on what the army called close order drill, including Hannah maneuver and how to march and Step with the rest

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of the platoon, and how to handle and carry out right rifles correctly.

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At first Gupton had trouble distinguishing left or right, which prevented him from marching in step, left, right, and knowing which way to turn for commands like left face and ride, face, march, so search and boon tied in

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all black shoelace runguptions right risk to help him.

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Remember which side of his body was the right side, and he placed a rubber band on the left wrist to denote the left side of the body.

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The shoelace, and the rubber band helped. The Gupton was a bit slow and responding.

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For example, he learned how to execute left face and a right face, but he was a fraction of a second behind everyone else.

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And then Gregory goes on to give other examples like this.

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So. at times some of the members of Project 100,000 were relied to or manipulated or made fun of by their fellow service.

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Members I want to go to. another example of this

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So keep. Gregory talks about an example where somebody was able to get out of basic training because the individual was was able to demonstrate that they were significantly injured.

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And so the they they let this person get out of a basic training.

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So one of the members of Project 100,000 observed this. and this is how he responded.

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When a kid came time for a lunch break. Tucker and Tucker is one of the members of project.

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100,000 did something that surprised everyone. After a morning of limping and whaling.

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The moment we were dismissed he forgot all about his bad back and raised to the mess.

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All try to be first in line. The sergeants laughed or shook their heads in disbelief.

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During lunch some of the searches came by tucker's table and asked with fame solicitude.

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His back was still hurting, because Tucker was pretending that his back was hurting so he could go home. After lunch.

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We were Zoom, our physical training, and Tucker resumed his back pain and trade, until a company clerk came and sworted him to the office of the company.

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Commander, Captain Brown. About 30Â min later Tucker returned to the Pt.

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Field, and he was a change man, no more limping and wailing now.

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He was enthusiastic, and eager during a water break. I asked him what had happened.

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I'm going home, he said. gleefully what yes, sir.

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The captain told me, If I work hard and pass that dad bit blame test, let me go home.

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Who's enthusiasm. lasts an hour so longer as we progress through a practice Pt. test.

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Unfortunately he has woefully slown and up, and it became obvious that he would never pass.

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He lost his enthusiasm, were turning to his angry, aggrieved demeanor.

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By the way, Captain Bryant did not lie, found out that he promised Tucker that if he passed the Pg test he could go home on a weekend pass that was a qualifier that tucker failed to grasp

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but it didn't matter enthusiastic or not he can never pass the test.

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The one thing the captain achieved was to cause Tucker to forget about his bat back.

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There are no more charades. And then another example of kind of you know.

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Disrespect, not, you know, making fun of, and so on, because the some of the members of a project, 100,000 were considered to be easy targets for that kind of harassment.

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One example of this

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So he talks about a man named Simpson, a member of Project 100,000.

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I learned that Simpson had been the butt of a terrible practical joke in the basic training company so terrible that he was forced to leave the company after only 3 weeks.

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The story was told to me about 2 of Simpsons friends from the hazel platoon.

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They had worried about him and visited him on one Sunday, as they were leaving at, pulled them aside and asked them what had happened.

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You seen that one afternoon system was summoned by its real searches to the garbage cans behind the mess hall.

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The whole company was witnessing the scene. One of the sergeants told Simpson that there was a pussycat line behind the garbage cans, and his assignment was to go behind the cans and catch her ever

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eager to please the little fellow, doodly went after the cat.

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The cat turned out to be a skunk which bid him and sprayed him.

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He spent the next 2 weeks in the hospital getting doses of vaccine injected into the muscles of his abnorman a painful exercise which was necessary to head off the possibility of rabies.

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I talked to him one evening about the skunk, and he was not bitter about the incident.

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He had no idea that the sergeants played a trick on him.

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He even saw a bright side of the skunks attack.

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His clothes had to be destroyed. As a consequence, he got a brand new set of fatigues, cap, underwear, socks, and boots.

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So then, again, this first 80 pages is the book.

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Provide a lot of these examples. So you get, I think, as a reader, I really got kind of a feeling from what what the real consequence of project 100,000 was as opposed to.

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If he just kind of simply talked about this from like more of a descriptive kind of clinical statistical type of way, it wouldn't have the same.

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Impact. It certainly had an impact. and I think as a writer, you know, that was a very effective approach. To do this.

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We then get into the the actual. You know the real cons.

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The more severe consequences is what happens actually in combat because it's one thing to talk about these things in training It's another thing to talk about.

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If you have you have intellectual limitations in a combat environment, that's certainly going to put you at risk, and it's going to certainly put the risk of everyone around you So there's some evidence to to say that.

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They really did have an impact. Now, overall in Project 100,000.

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There were 354,000 members of this program, and about half actually served in combat.

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A total of 5,478 project. 100,000 members were killed in action.

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An experience of fatality raid 3 times out of other service members due to their inability to meet the basic task for survival.

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And and then part of this, and Gregory has a lot of anger about this.

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Gregory will talk about the fact that I think Karl This gets that something you're talking about, too, that he talks about.

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There. They're very, very much class and justices and you know, and some people had the ability and the financial means to to avoid military service, and and the members of project 100,000 often didn't have that capacity to to kind of

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fight back and advocate for the rights and in fact, Gregory can only find one case in which the family member a family of a member of project. 100,000 were able to advocate the to get their family member out of military service

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because they were worried for his welfare. So this is a great recess, and my research only found one case of a project 100,000.

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Macman or his family, using the tools of protests and persuasion.

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The middle class citizens knew how to use in 1969. a file in Oregon fought the army's plan to send his son, so he described as retarded with the mental age of a ten-year-old to vietnam as an infantry

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man. His mother, said He's just a little boy He be killed sure. the parents generally generated publicity in Oregon newspapers and listed the aid of a Congressman.

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Wendell Rock quiet, and Senator Mark Patfield, because of all the negative publicity of the army, canceled the use assignment to combat in Vietnam, and sentiment said to Germany to perform clerical

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tasks. but this was obviously the huge exception, and you know we go back to this idea of a 3 times as high fatality.

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Right. So Gregory points some examples of what put people in a project 100,000 and their fellow service members at risk in the combat environment.

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So one is that there was for some high degree of fear and slow reaction time.

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So I want to get read this example. we're gregory, it says, mental sloaness and extreme anxiety were among the worst enemies of project.

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100,000 men in combat. to survive in combat.

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You had to be quick to recognize the threat, and quick to respond to it.

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All, all soldiers in combat. Experience, fear, and fear causes a soldier to slow down.

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Fear can have a major impact on whether or not a soldier survives war.

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And so they they provide some examples where their men men would freeze.

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They would not be able to adequately, you know, kind of respond in the moment in that environment.

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And then he talks about the fact that there were many examples where project 100,000 put their fellow service members in harm's way.

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So that's one example. This he quotes the reckless Gregory says he he quotes the recollections of an army of fury.

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Man name Michael Jackson bought a squad on patrol.

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This real goofy dude who hadn't been a country very long didn't have m 16 safety on they were coming up a little known.

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There was real steep and muddy in the sky I'm.

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16 discharged accidentally, and shot another guy in the foot. The M.

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16 around tumbles It isn't a cling around it isn't a messy round they went in his foot. He came out of his leg, and he died of shock.

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He had something like 2 weeks to go before leaving Vietnam.

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And I think the other thing Gregory does acknowledge for some some members of project 100,000.

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It actually did result in some positive outcomes it actually did give them access to nutrition, to training to to some life outcomes, perhaps, that they wouldn't have had before.

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And he also talks about the the value. of of natural support Now he doesn't use that term like that's a term that we use in the field of disabilities.

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But he talks about the fact that there were number of there's a lot of examples actually of fellow service members advocating, looking, out, helping, supporting your members of project.

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100,000, and I guess, like you know, I talked about this kind of feeling of disappointment.

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And you know shock and like how could you know? How could the the Us.

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Government do something like this. So then, when you read the stories of people at Gregory himself, but also these other service members who who advocated, who supported it, makes you feel like some hope that you know, maybe not everyone was was in a kind of

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morally, you know, deficient like a approach to, you know, to doing doing their service.

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They really is really the opposite. I want to redo an example of this.

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This is an example of the helicopter pilot

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The shoulders put Gregory sits Steve.

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Well. tune later, was very compassion, and tried to keep Mike Mike as a member of project.

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100,000 honors, wing, protecting him from ridicule from one feeling soldiers.

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In return, Mike develop an intense loyalty to the lieutenant.

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One day is the the platoon. move through some rice patties. The men came under heavy fire from the enemy, and they ran for cover.

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As soon as they reach cover Mike looked for his lieutenant Couldn't find them, you fractically began calling the platoon leader's name.

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One of the other soldiers told Mike to stop yelling that he had seen the lieutenant go down, and he thought he was dead, like cheerfully ask where he was.

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When he pinpointed the lieutenant's position, he shed his equipment, including his rifle, and ran through heavy fire to his lieutenant, his grandmother, to his young lear's side and discover these

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badly hit both legs. Mike Didn't know whether the lieutenant was dead or alive. He manual attempt at first aid, and that occurred to him.

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He simply picked up the lieutenant as if he were a doll, and ran back to the tree line.

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Neither of them were hit during the dash of the trees, and no one could believe it, considering the intensity of nam fire.

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They said that the pattern of bullets hitting the rice paddy all along made it seem impossible that they were not hit.

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Lieutenant received hers aid, and a short helmet was evacuated by a helicopter.

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He survived. So you have examples of this, these kind of close, you know relationships that that in some cases were established, and the support, and again, from row to one service member to to another and project 100,000 So It was It was great

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to see that

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The thing that I think about this book that's interesting too, is that and I'm not really sure.

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Why this was a case and Gregory doesn't talk about this. he didn't talk about it in in the Youtube video.

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Jacquel Wilnick didn't talk about this in the podcast but this is a self-published book.

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So this is from and i'm gonna Put the book up here this from an entity called if Affinity publishing, and I never heard about it, never heard of that as a publisher.

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I actually looked it up, and it was a one of these.

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These these companies where you can sell, publish a book.

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So you know, in the book review I I talk about.

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I thought that was kind of surprising, given like the magnitude of the story, and I would think that major publishers would be interested in knowing about the story.

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But then, you know, may maybe not I mean maybe maybe maybe it wouldn't be of interest to to kind of like a mass market as would be for me, you know, given the fact that i'm in the disability, area Maybe you

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know. maybe, Gregory, you wanted greater freedom to write the book in a way that he wanted her to write.

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It, and didn't want to be constrained by a publisher. So it's hard to know.

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And and I I think, I I hopefully like with the Youtube video on the Jacqueline podcast, that more people will learn about the book.

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I would imagine that had it been published by a major publisher, maybe the story would get further known.

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And further further advertised, and further marketed but it it's just that's just all speculation.

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So I think it's a story definitely that needs to be told so final things, I'll say for this and I want to just kind of open this up to to everyone you know there's times where I kind of struggle

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with some different concepts, not on, not, you know, beyond the the just, the the lack of, you know, caring and well-being for these individuals.

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But I also just thought in in our, in my program, in cognitive disabilities.

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You know we talk about self-determination, giving people chances, having full opportunities to engage in different aspects of different.

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You know different phases of life, and you know does that mean that perhaps there's a role for military service.

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I'm not sure you know, especially when I think about the on one end, you know we see this high fatality rate.

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On the other end there were some, some individuals that did benefit from being able to serve.

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How I think you know, for talking about, you know, we and we talk about, you know, having the be able to meet the essential functions of a job.

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Could somebody with the lower level of intelligence, or even somebody with the diagnosed intellectual disability?

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Ever serve in the military without putting their fellows service members and themselves at risk.

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That's a difficult question, and you know again something where I I don't know if some of the principles we talk about how they apply to this story.

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So. again. those just those are my my thoughts in this book.

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I just want to open this up to any questions. You might have a reaction to this book.

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I just kind of have some discussion. Yeah, Yeah. I wonder, did the author touch on this?

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You know, on this issue that I think it's confounded quite a bit of of education versus training.

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Yeah, the military doesn't educate people It trains them and it does, particularly in the combat arms.

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It's rote learning by repetition you know as I tell people you don't learn how to jump out of airplanes by reading a book, you know you everything is wrote, and and yet you know people on the outside of

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the military, particularly people who are not familiar with the combat arms kind of training.

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By combat arms I mean, like infantry training, and you know what are combat related.

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Skill training is very repetitious, so on the one hand I could see how the Government Government and it might in its collective hubris. say, Well, yeah, we can take these guys and we can make them.

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Soldiers. we're just you know repeatedly showing them how to do things, and they're practicing things.

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But the issue that you really brought up That, I think, is very significant is, what are you doing?

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A situation where you have to think on your own, and you have to think quickly.

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Yeah, and particularly in the infantry there's always a leader down to the last man.

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And and I know the guys that I had who who were of you know, similar to what you're talking about.

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We're definitely a liability they they you know they had a lot of trouble with following orders following directions and and a lot of what you do in combat is decision making and it's following directions and it's

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having to work with complex information, so I wonder how much of this was driven by the ignorance of those planning this whole thing with a misunderstanding of one cognitive disabilities. But also how the military trains.

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It. it's combat soldiers and and I think on the one hand, maybe they were very optimistic about what these soldiers could do. but, on the other hand, I think they they clearly lacked an awareness of the potential difficulties did did the book kind of bring that

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out.

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Sort of, I think. I think Hamilton again.

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He's talking about this from a lay person's point of view.

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I think he basically makes the point that they will pretty much consistent with it. But with what you're saying that they didn't really understand these individuals, and they basically often looked at them with contempt for what they weren't able to

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do. And I think you know, in terms of actually like implementing this program.

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It really was a top-down type of thing you know was wasn't like the the military services themselves?

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Were saying, We really want to draw these individuals in to serve with us.

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It was, you know, coming from Washington, Dc. it was coming from Robert Macdamara, and and then they just had to implement the program without really having buying or having having a role in its implementation.

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Or let's say more more conceptualization and development that's.

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That's how I saw it. sounded like they were just desperate for people.

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Yes, they. They rationalized it. However, they needed to to make it.

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Yeah, and there was so many I don't know I I this I just find this really fascinating as well.

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Can you write the name of the guy who did the podcast I was trying to look up the podcast and there's a bunch of different ones listed, and I didn't see the one with the name that that you said put it up around

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there's several podcasts there's there's one that's listed

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Whyone by Joe Jane Harold lions led by donkeys.

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I I don't know so I don't know if those are the same referred to.

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This same project. But if you can. Oh, okay, yeah. really interesting.

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And it's interesting you know when you think about all the stuff that has come out about Vietnam.

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Not really all that Long ago. when you look at all the Pentagon papers, everything you would think that the timing is is right now, you know, for for that to come out.

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So who knows? Hmm, Thanks for sharing this stuff.

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Thank you.

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Took. I was just curious and the you know time frame of the the late sixties, early seventies.

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And I was thinking back of other issues in the culture that might have influenced

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Mr. Mcnamara to come up with this idea.

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You know I I was. I was just, you know, trying to rack my brain about what other issues are in the culture around that time, and I and maybe you can clarify.

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And I know you talked about this in class I don't hold it against my memory.

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But the the timeframe of when they were deciding that the Iq tests were not relevant for the lower income students or the the African American is students kind of like I was just trying to think picture what the culture.

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was like, because I was a child when this was all happening.

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So. you know I just kind of wondered if that influenced him to make that kind of a decision.

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Well, let's just try to trick all these people in to fill the numbers, and we'll you know, quote Unquote, you know, if you will get rid of that problem that we're having to fund children in school or fun colleges for low you

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know lower academic students. you know I just kind of.

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I just wondering about that. I was wondering if you could address the culture, the culture of the time at that point in time.

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That My, you know spurred his idea a little bit more.

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What this is a term. Probably all my former students are gonna like like I Oh, no, not again.

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But in class, you know, I talked about positivism, modernism.

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So you know, positivism, that idea that you have belief in rationality and science, and you know the human behavior can be fully understood and predicted, and all that kind of stuff.

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I I think that the that kind of viewpoint was especially problem during this time, and Mcnamara was like, if there was a like, a ranking of Positivist people, he might be like number one in the country like a total

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belief in that kind of approach to problem solving Okay, you know.

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And I think it just yeah, I go back to I don't know if you really believe that he could actually implement this program, and it would.

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And it could essentially like reverse intellectual disability. or if it just was a cover, just like, as Karen was saying, just to get just to get people into the military.

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And he really really didn't believe it I mean I think It's possible he might actually believe like he could have done this because he had like kind of this absolutist belief in his abilities to to you know to figure out any kind

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of any kind of problem with mathematics and science, and so on.

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So I would say that that that really was the thinking like, you know you in terms of things like in classroom.

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We talked about Larry P. versus riles which is where you can't use an intellectual disability.

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If you can't use Iq tests to diagnose an intellectual disability for children.

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After American children in California that did come up out and to look in the 1,900 eightys.

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So that was kind of you know we're starting early question these kinds of assumptions.

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But back in this time, in 1,966.

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That this positiveest way of thinking was totally prevalent.

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Yeah, when you read about the Vietnam war, and you read about Macdamara.

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And he actually, you know, he in 1,997.

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It came out with a book called in Retrospect, where he he, I think he tried to atone for his the decisions that he made during the Vietnam War.

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He? He had this approach that he could figure out things from Washington, Dc.

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To to win the war, and you know, things like military decisions would be made in Washington, Dc.

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And not not enough at the level that the military level in Vietnam.

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And I think that's kind of that's part of the context also of this program, just that at his level from Washington he he could figure out these things and and dictate everything.

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So I I think That's part of it too Well, the other issue, too, is, there was a lot of people that were abandoning the country and going to Canada, or other places for the draft.

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You know, as you mentioned you know, some of the the families that Weren't able to advocate for their young man to to not go in, or they didn't have their resources.

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But there was there was mass accidents at that point in time of a lot of you know, military aids young men because they didn't want to be drafted.

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Which further complicates the problem as well, and also shows the biases of taking.

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You know people who, you know tricking tricking people into joining something that isn't safe for them on a whole, you know.

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Yeah, Well, that takes us to the end of our time.

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And I really appreciate you all being here today and spending some time with me on a Friday.

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And i'll send you i'll send you the actual book review as well.

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Yeah, and yeah, just read it. Let me know what you think.

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And I I encourage you to read the book. I think you you you would find it pretty pretty fascinating.

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This is like one of these books, I think I read it like in a day or 2, because I couldn't stop reading.

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It was like so so interesting, So so check it out.

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Yeah, Thank you. Chuck so much. Thank you. It really does sound like a great book.

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So it It would be interesting to read. Alright, well have a great great weekend.

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Great thanks, Jimmy Friday, everybody. Thank you.