

Theresa Scott is a native of Michigan, now North Carolina based photographer. After graduating high school, she served in the United States Marine Corps for five years, where she worked as an aircraft electrical technician on the AV-8B Harrier jet while stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in North Carolina. Scott served on the USS Iwo Jima with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit in 2003 to support Operation Enduring Freedom; the unit also provided humanitarian aid in Liberia in response to the Second Liberian Civil War. After leaving the Marine Corps, she joined the Raleigh Police Department and served as an officer for six years in the Southeast District.

Scott is currently a visiting visual arts instructor in the School of Visual, Performing, and Communication Arts at Barton College. She obtained her Associate in Fine Arts from Johnston Community College, a Bachelor of Fine Arts with concentrations in graphic design and photography at Barton College in Wilson, NC, and received her Master of Fine Arts in Experimental and Documentary Arts from Duke University.

Drawing from her life experiences, Scott uses photography and traditional animation to highlight the struggles that individuals may face in a wide array of areas. *The Road Through "Don't Ask, Don't Tell": A LGBTQIA+ Veterans History Project* is a documentary series that includes photography and recorded interviews that offer insight into the lives of LGBTQIA+ service members that served before and during the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

It is estimated that 114,000 service members were discharged for homosexual conduct or sexual orientation between 1940 and 2011. This number is not inclusive as there is no data for service members discharged before this period which fell under the previous regulations that began in 1916 when sodomy became a punishable offense in the military. It is estimated that more than 13,500 service members were under the "don't ask, don't tell" policy. In February 2005 the Government Accountability Office found that the cost of discharging and replacing service members because of their sexual orientation totaled almost \$190.5 million during the policy's first ten years. The Palm Center found that the Government Accountability Office reports were inaccurate due to the lack of accounting for the experience of the personnel that had been discharged; this raised the cost to \$364 million. These numbers do not include what it is now costing to upgrade discharges under these policies. Many service members who had their contracts terminated for their sexual orientation received less than honorable discharges. This has led to service members being denied benefits. It is time to tell our stories to let others know of the sacrifices and struggles we endured and still endure.