



Tom Swann Hernandez served in the United States Marine Corps from 1976b-1980. He in earned four promotions in rank and became a Sergeant. He received three Meritorious Masts and received a Letter of Commendation from the U.S. Navy 6<sup>th</sup> fleet and awarded the Navy Achievement Medal.

He began his federal civil service career at the Point Mugu Naval Base. He was denied a security clearance because of his sexual orientation. With the help of the ACLU, he took the federal government to court and won although the settlement terms and conditions are confidential.

Tom is the Director of the Coachella Valley chapter of Veterans for Peace, an international organization made up of military veterans, military family members, and allies. The organization Statement of Purpose is as follows:

1. To increase public awareness of the causes and costs of war
2. To restrain our governments from intervening, overtly and covertly, in the internal affairs of other nations
3. To end the arms race and to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons
4. To seek justice for veterans and victims of war
5. To abolish war as an instrument of national policy.

The Coachella Valley chapter of Veterans for Purpose is working with MAPP to establish a program to provide free cannabis to veterans who need it to treat their ailments.