

Brody Hansel

Mr. Rutherford

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The U.S. Military Fighting for Peace

The official mission of the United States military is “to provide the military forces needed to deter war and ensure the security of the United States” (US Department of Defense). The greatest defender of peace is the United States Military. When a member of the United States military is sworn into service they are required to make an oath to defend our Constitution. The purpose of the Constitution is to protect all citizens of the United States and allow them to live in a peaceful society.

The two most devastating foreign attacks on United States soil were on December 7, 1941, and more recently on September 11, 2001. These two attacks represent times when the strength of United States defense did not adequately scare off the enemy.

In the words of George Washington, “to be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace.” The idea of peace through strength is the only viable option for a country such as the United States where we are not only the defense for our own citizens, but the defense for democracy around the globe. A perfect example of this is the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). This mutual defense agreement relies on the United States to be its primary protector.

The United States Department of Defense is the highest ranked military in the world. They achieve this through the intelligence of our officers and our innovative technology as well as the collective preparation of the whole department. Secretary of defense Elihu Root said “The

military's mission is to preserve peace through intelligent and etiquette preparation to prevent aggression, not to promote war." This is followed by the simplest form of using the least force possible in defense by a single soldier, all the way up to the United States strict following of war laws. This stemming from the simplest idea that an American soldier will never be the first one to shoot.

One might argue that the U.S. military keeps imposing force instead of diplomacy. What that argument fails to understand is we live in a society where many cultures don't believe in this idea as an option. In that case, our country's only ability is peace through preparation and strength.

Each member of the U.S. military commits to training every day and ultimately putting their life on the line to the largest amount of defense, when necessary. Yet these individuals do not do it for the desire for war. They do it to defend the Constitution by creating freedom and peace for the people of the United States.