

# The Pulse - Online Edition



THE OFFICIAL ONLINE PUBLICATION OF THE 807TH MDSC  
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*The Pulse Online Edition is a bi-monthly publication for the Soldiers, Families, civilians and medical professionals of the 807th MDSC. The November 2011 edition is a special, double edition.*

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## 352 CSH shows mettle in mass casualty event

*by Maj. Matt Lawrence*

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO, Afghanistan** — On Dec. 5, Soldiers of the 352nd Combat Support Hospital reacted to a mass casualty event that injured 13 Afghan policemen here.

The Afghan police were injured by an explosion of rocket propelled grenades at their base, and were transported to the 352nd's hospital by U.S. medical evacuation helicopters within minutes.

FOB Salerno's hospital quickly turned their attention to the seriously wounded patients.

"The normal operations [of the hospital] are completely stopped and all manpower, lab, blood bank, and x-ray resources are shunted to the MASCAL," said Col. Melvyn Harris,

Chief of Emergency Medicine for 2nd Brigade, San Pablo, Calif.

Of the 13 policemen injured by the blasts, eight needed surgery. All 13 survived, and most were being transferred to Afghan hospitals within hours of their arrival at the 352nd's hospital. It was the training the hospital had done before that made this event run relatively smoothly.

"Understanding of triage by the lead provider is critical. Moving only those who need life or limb saving surgery first was essential in this case," said Harris.

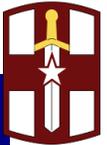
This is a significant event for a hospital, and one that they train for many times.

"Mass casualty response is a concerted effort of the entire hospital, and all medical resources located on the FOB," said Harris.

*See MASCAL on page 7*



*Soldiers of the 352nd Combat Support Hospital hustle about and perform emergency surgery at Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan, on Afghan policemen injured in an explosion on Dec. 5. (photo by Col. Melvyn Harris, 352nd CSH)*



## Dental Sustainment Training Center opens in California

Story and photos by Maj. Matt Lawrence

FORT HUNTER LIGGETT, Calif. — In the past year, the 807th MDSC has spent a lot of time and resources training its medics. But what about other Soldiers who don't get to practice their skills often?

The Dental Sustainment Training Center (DSTC) at Fort Hunter Liggett started operations in November to ensure that dental assistants have a place to train and refresh their medical skills.

As with medics, dental assistants do not often work in the dental field in their civilian jobs. The pay for dental assistants is relatively low in the civilian market, and many Soldiers find other ways to make a living. This presents a challenge to the Army Reserve in a job where technology moves fast.

"Knowing the dental field, it's like a lot of fields, it's constantly changing — new products, new instruments, the technology, the computer technology... our x-ray systems... and if you're not doing it, you lose it," said 1st Sgt. Craig Williams of the 185th Dental Company, Garden Grove, Calif.

Dental technicians have no Army requirement for them to sustain their proficiency, and technicians may see their equipment once a year, depending on how often their companies set up their field equipment. Or, some of them may attend humanitarian missions, but there are not enough opportunities for everyone.

"It's not necessary if we have missions where we're taking our dental equipment with us, and we're doing it [training] anyway," said Williams. "This is important when you're not attending missions and



*Sgt. Alex Wu, an instructor at the Dental Sustainment Training Center, reviews the function of different dental instruments with Spc. Martin Rojas and Pfc. Carol Ann Calef of the 965th Dental Company. The DSTC was established at Fort Hunter Liggett to sustain the technical proficiency of dental technicians in the Army Reserve. (photo by Maj. Matt Lawrence, 807th MDSC Public Affairs)*

not getting that dental training."

"If I can do something like this every so often, hopefully we can remember it a lot better when it's needed," said Pfc. Carol Ann Calef of the 965th Dental Company in Seagoville, Texas.

The DSTC is capable of handling five patients at a time. The equipment is state of the art, and up to 10 Soldiers can train a once. On this day in early

December, there are four in training.

The sergeants who developed the training program administer the classes for the first week, and the dentist monitors the hands-on portion of the training as Soldiers from Fort Hunter Liggett, and even the students themselves, cycle through for an exam or cleaning.

The training also involves three days of fieldwork, setting up the tents and equipment a complete dental company uses and becoming familiar with all of its operation. This knowledge can be critical on many humanitarian missions, where the demand for the dental services far outstrips the time available for the supply.

"When we go to those [overseas] missions, the dentist is already running, because they do it every day. They have to slow way down to let the assistant catch up with them," said Staff Sgt. Denise Hays, Chief Instructor at the DSTC.

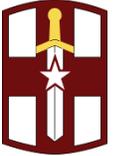
The primary benefit that the DSTC offers its students is the ability to put their hands on patients and actually do their jobs.

"I don't know that book study would ever make up for 'hands on' every once in a while," said Calef.

Getting their hands on patients also makes training more fulfilling.

"This is 110 percent better than most of our training environments, because we don't get the hands on and get to work with patients," said Spc. Armando Zapata from the 965th.

The center will focus on units that are in their deployment year of the AR-FORGEN cycle. There are plans in the works for online refresher training that units could employ each year without having to come to Fort Hunter Liggett.



## Building Afghanistan through agriculture

by Maj. Matt Lawrence

GHAZNI PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Veterinary assistance is helping create positive relationships in Jaghatu District, a part of Afghanistan that was not accessible before.

Capt. Ashleigh Fann, a veterinarian deployed with the 994th Veterinary Detachment from Round Rock, Texas, is making the job of our Civil Affairs Soldiers possible.

The program is directed by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA), and managed by the provincial veterinarian for Ghazni Province, and hopes to create a better life for farmers and a more stable operating environment.

“This project will result in better animal health by helping ensure that animals are vaccinated, people are

educated in basic animal health and hygiene, and training more artificial insemination specialists for increased reproduction rates,” said Fann.

Fann and the U.S. military are careful not to overstep their bounds.

“We are not doing VETCAPs [veterinary assistance missions] as we’ve learned that all this does is take business away from local veterinarians and encourage a culture of dependency,” she said.

What she has been able to do is to improve the capacity, capabilities, and credibility of the veterinary leaders in Ghazni Province. Once the Afghans get the sense that their local officials are capable of helping farmers through their successes, output will increase, and the local Afghan government will become more stable and

sustainable. These little victories can spell success in the long run.

Not every area can use Fann’s assistance, however. If the most basic issues of security and water are not dealt with first, there is no sense in sending in a veterinarian. One recent location had this and many other issues.

“Through a discussion with local leaders, I was able to discern that they had far too many problems to address before they were ready for veterinary input,” said Fann. “They don’t even have a local counterpart for me to work with. Since everything we do is in the background, we need an Afghan face to take the lead.”

Fann and the 994th are scheduled to return to the United States early this year.



Capt. Ashleigh Fann of the 994th Veterinary Detachment talks with the veterinarian for the Jaghatu District to evaluate his experience and education level. This was the first time in nearly two years that American troops visited this district. (Army Reserve photo)



## Former boxer fights to save lives in Afghanistan



*Army Spc. Andy Sivilything, of San Antonio, holds practice pads while Army Spc. Anthony Villa, of San Antonio, practices combinations on Dec. 9. Both soldiers are health care specialists and licensed practical nurses with the 681st Forward Surgical Team.*

By Pfc. Zackary Root, 3rd BCT, 1st Armored Division Public Affairs  
FORWARD OPERATING BASE  
SHANK, Afghanistan— The operation center is quiet. No patients and no doctors are in sight as U.S. Army Spc. Anthony Villa, of San Antonio, Texas, a healthcare specialist and licensed practical nurse for the 628th Forward Surgical Team, methodically wraps his hands.

The warm smile and friendly demeanor slowly fades away, replaced with an intensity and focus of a trained fighter. Once his hands are wrapped properly he puts his gloves on and begins slamming the practice pads held by his fellow nurse throwing combinations in rapid succession.

His lithe movements have fluidity about them, a violent dance filled with jabs, hooks and uppercuts. He continues a to unleash a flurry of punches designed to injure an opponent while surrounded by medical equipment in a place designed to save lives.

“With boxing, I saw a fight and I was like let me see if I can do it, and I loved it. I like the skill, I like the art form of it, but at the same time I love to help people,” said Villa.

Villa grew up in Pontiac, Mich., where at a young age he began training to

box with his uncle, and his cousin, who was a professional boxer, on a boxing team called Pontiac Azteca.

“I worked out with my uncle, and I would spar with my cousin. It worked out pretty good because I got free training,” said Villa.

Villa had dreams of turning pro, but soon realized that he just didn’t have the time with school and work to dedicate to the sport.

“I was pretty close, but I couldn’t dedicate the time opposed to going to school,” said Villa.

Villa moved to San Antonio, Texas in 2006, with a new goal of becoming a firefighter. Talking with a friend and former firefighter, Villa decided the best course of action was to get his emergency medical training, before attending the fire academy.

Villa eventually became a firefighter, but before long, with budget cutbacks, the program was cut.

He then got a job using his EMT skills working closely with Brooke Army Medical Center, often seeing hurt soldiers returning from War.

“It sucked because you got some guys that would be glad to be home, some guys that were in bad shape and some guys that were pissed off because they couldn’t be

back there with their unit,” he said. “It was a crappy feeling not being able to relate to them. There was nothing I could say.”

Villa quickly decided to join the service to help soldiers like the ones he saw in his civilian job. Wanting to use his medical training, Villa asked the recruiter to sign him up as a combat medic. At the time, the only medic job available was health care specialist licensed practical nurse. Villa was less than enthused.

“I was like no way,” Villa said. “I make fun of nurses.”

With limited options, Villa decided to join anyways and quickly finished his initial training and proceeded on to nursing school.

“I went to nursing school and the first two months I hated every minute of it.

Once we started getting more hands on, I started liking it more and more,” Villa said.

Once he finished nursing school, Villa joined up with his reserve unit in San Antonio. The unit was on the brink of deployment, and had him working full-time training, just in case someone dropped out, and they needed him to fill a slot.

The training paid off, because a couple months later his unit informed him that he was deploying.

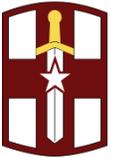
Fast forward to present day and Villa is three months deep into a year deployment. According to Villa, he has finally begun to understand the frustration and feelings of the injured soldiers he had worked with in his civilian job.

“After experiencing the IDF attacks and seeing some of the mass casualties that have come in, I understand why some of those guys were pissed off and why they just wanted to get back to their unit,” he said.

Looking to the future, Villa holds on to his love of boxing and has plans to pursue it in the future.

“When everything is said and done,” said Villa. “I want my own amateur boxing team and my own little gym.”

Villa continues to train as often as he can, despite a strenuous job where he is on call 24-hours a day seven days a week. Keeping that fighting spirit, Villa now fights to save lives in Afghanistan instead of fighting opponents in the ring.



## From the G3—Training requirements for overseas missions



And while several of these classes are short, the SERE 100 training will take a day to complete. Be sure to block off several hours for that instruction.

The required classes are:

*ISOPREP*

*SERE 100*

*Human Trafficking*

*Human Rights*

*Anti-Terrorism Level 1*

*TARP (Threat Awareness Reporting Program)*

The ISOPREP must be completed within 90 days prior to the ODT mission.

Most classes are valid for one year, with the exception of SERE 100, which is valid for two years.

ODT missions are great training and they make a difference in the world by

It's January, and the season is fast approaching where the 807th MDSC will send hundreds of our Soldiers on Overseas Deployment Training (ODT) missions.

There are still several vacancies in numerous missions in both Central America and Africa. Vacancies exist for many jobs, including medics, mechanics, PBUSE operators, physicians, chaplains, and legal specialists. Not all ODT missions are medical in nature, so don't assume you do not qualify because you are not a medic.

All Soldiers attending ODT missions must be MOS qualified. In addition, any medic wanting to attend an ODT mission must first complete their 68W Sustainment training. Without it, they cannot go.

### Official Passport

All Soldiers traveling overseas with the 807th MDSC require a government passport. Only Soldiers on the rosters for ODT missions will be permitted to apply for an official passport.

If a Soldier has a civilian passport, they must attach that passport to their application. They

will not be able to travel outside the country while that application is in process. Passports take four to six weeks to get approved, so be sure to apply well ahead of your mission date.

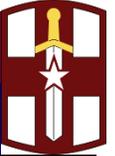
### SOUTHCOM Training

There are several training requirements for Soldiers attending ODT.

helping people who are not as fortunate as we are. They are great retention missions for Soldiers who joined the Army Reserve to do something bigger than themselves.

To find an ODT mission that may require your specialty, inquire through your unit administrator or battalion S3.





## 807th MDSC Soldier competes for Miss California

By Maj. Matt Lawrence

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. — Sgt. Denise Berry of the 114th Minimal Care Detachment in Fresno, Calif., became the first Iraq war veteran to compete for the crown of Miss California.

Berry, who deployed to Iraq in 2004, was one of over 200 competitors who met in Palm Springs over Jan. 6-8.

Berry did not win or place, but was enticed to compete because of what the title would allow her to do.

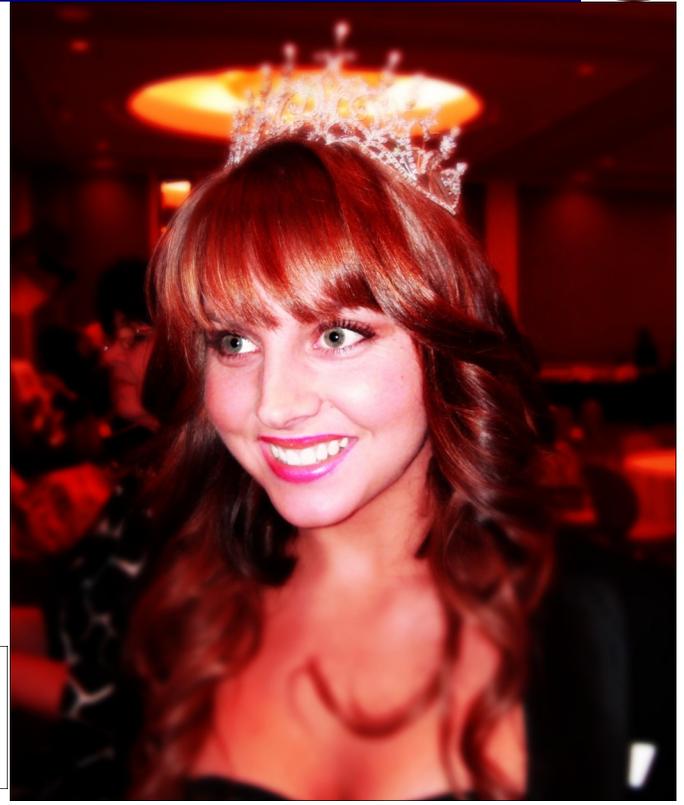
“The year that you’re Miss California, you get to do a lot of humanitarian work,” said Berry. “You speak in schools and get to make people believe that it’s possible to do much more with their lives.”

The toughest part of the competition was the funding. Berry received sponsors that supplied her evening gown and funds for the competition, including the \$2,000 entry fee.

Berry does a lot for the community. She hosts a radio show on women’s empowerment, and has created a veteran’s center at her community college.

She hopes to graduate college soon with a degree in international business.

*Sgt. Denise Berry became the first Iraq War veteran to compete for the title of Miss California, as the competition worked to differentiate itself from other pageants by focusing on accomplishments and not just appearance. (photo courtesy of Sgt. Berry)*



## Command Chaplain bids farewell after 42 years of service



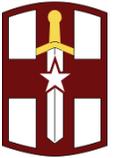
Fellow Soldiers of the 807th MDSC,

This will be my sign off message as the 807th Command Chaplain as I will soon reach my mandatory retirement date. It has been a tremendous honor to serve as the first Command Chaplain of the 807th MDSC as it stood up and matured into a strong and capable medical force. As a command Unit Ministry Team (UMT), our purpose has been to provide the best possible support for our down trace UMT’s, Soldiers and family members in our 26 state foot print. Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Brady and Master Sgt. Ferguson are two impressive individuals who carry the flag with proficiency and will make this a smooth transition for the new incoming command chaplain, Chaplain (Col.) Bonnie Koppel. Chaplain Koppel will be leaving the 63rdRSC as their Command Chaplain and will assume duties with the 807th sometime in February.

Just for fun, take a little journey with me. In 1970, I had a lottery draft

number that encouraged me to enlist. I went to Fort Dix, N.J. for basic training and Aberdeen Proving Ground for my advanced individual training. What a tremendous experience for an 18 year old to have. I was hooked on army service and was a Retention NCO with 14 years of service when I completed my graduate work and took my commission as an Army Chaplain. What a rewarding career I have had to be in the Chaplain Corps and experience a variety of units, missions, with army changes and growth, three different uniforms and three wars. Thank you so much for your service to our country and our communities and for giving my grandchildren a heritage where they may enjoy a good life as citizens of our grand America. Thank you for this opportunity to serve you and to be a part of something greater than self. I believe God will continue to shower you with blessings as you continue to provide selfless service. Yes indeed, for God and country!

**-Chaplain Bryce Holbrook**



## Inspector General—Who can use us?

In order to answer this question, you have to understand what the Inspector General (IG) does. Odds are in your favor of being right if you were to say that most do not completely know, or only have a vague, general idea. There persists a negative view of anything IG which is why we that serve as IGs do not generally have friends except for the Staff Judge Advocate and Chaplain. And for you *Meet the Parents* fans, they are in our “circle of trust.”

Joking aside, the IGs mission per AR 20-1 is “to inquire into, and periodically report on, the discipline, efficiency, economy, morale, training and readiness of the Army.” IGs work only for the commander or directing authority; in the 807th’s case, this means the Commanding General. IGs are confidential advisors and fact-finders to the commander. Some actually may know (or interested to know) that the position of Army IG was created by George Washington to improve the training, drills, discipline and organization of the Continental Army. IGs still perform that role by executing its four primary functions of assistance, inspections, investigations, and the equally important task of teaching and training. We actually are here to help.

ANYONE! That’s the answer to the question. Requests for assistance can be filed by commanders, Soldiers, retirees, former Soldiers, DA civilians, MILTECs, family members, and the list can go on as long as you have a category in which to identify someone. Requests for assistance can come in many forms to include allegations of wrongdoing, issues, just plain ‘I need someone impartial to speak to’, or as simple as what regulation covers a particular area. Anyone (sense a theme here), has the right to see the IG.

Many Soldiers get concerned that by going to the IG, their chain of command can take disciplinary or adverse action against them for filling a complaint, seeking assistance, or cooperating with the IG. This couldn’t be further from the truth. They

are prohibited by 10 USC 1034. In addition to this, AR 600-20, paragraph 5-12(b) states “Soldiers will be free from reprisal for making or preparing a protected communication.”

Given this information though, consider whether your chain of command can address your concerns in a more prompt manner before visiting the IG; however, you are not required to present your concerns to your chain of command before contacting the IG. This does not mean, however, that you can be absent from your duties if you wish to visit the IG during duty hours. Obtain permission as you would in any other case you would miss duty. One hint here though, IGs are not in your chain of command, and IGs don’t insert themselves into it.

In conclusion, the next time you have an issue you cannot resolve, use your chain of command. They cannot ‘fix’ something if they don’t know about it. If you feel uncomfortable with this, or your chain of command cannot resolve the issue, pick up the phone or come by and see us. Here’s how:

**Location 1:** SADAFCRC, Bldg 105, Fort Douglas, UT 84113

**Name:** LTC Jeffrey C. Knight (Command IG)

**Phone:** 1-866-527-4187/O: (801)656-3680 /C: (801)518-2539

**Name:** MAJ Tili Tyrell, Jr. (Detailed IG)

**Phone:** 1-866-527-4187/O: (801)656-3682 /C: (801)793-7048

**Name:** SFC Danilo Egudin (Assistant IG)

**Phone:** 1-866-527-4187/O: (801)656-3684 /C: (801)793-7035

**Location 2:** 107 W. Simonds Road, Seagoville, TX 75159

**Name:** MAJ Christopher B. Ward (Detailed IG)

**Phone:** O: (972) 287-0938 /C: (214) 490-6538

**Email (All):** MDSC807IG\_Inbox@US.ARMY.MIL

## MASCAL

*Continued from page 1*

Events such as this place stress on hospitals, not only because of the mass number of personnel required when the mass casualty event happens, but also for the next few days, as the hospital has to contend with the shortages of blood and medical products consumed in a short period of time. It can take several days for a hospital to resume normal operations.

As for 13 Afghan policemen, they appreciate that the 352nd took the time to prepare.

## Winter Safety

*by Brad Woods, 807th MDSC Safety Director*

Winter is here, and the command inevitably suffers accidents that injure Soldiers needlessly.

This past month, an 807th MDSC Soldier slipped and fell on ice and snow in a parking lot. The Soldier hit the ground and sustained head injuries.

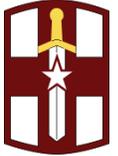
Avoiding this type of injury is not just an individual responsibility, although Soldiers should use extreme caution when traversing on ice. Units must also ensure that walkways and parking lots are properly cleared of snow and salted or sanded to provide additional traction for employees.

Units can notify their Reserve Support Command when snow removal is needed. The RSCs have also provided the necessary salt to each Reserve facility.

In the event that you cannot get a hold of the RSC, be sure to contact the Safety Director, who will assist in getting the process working.

Safety is everyone’s responsibility!





## Military Spouse Scholarships

The National Military Family Association recognizes the unique challenges today's military spouses face in pursuing additional training or education. Frequent moves make it difficult to complete programs and establish a career. We are here to help ease the financial obstacles that accompany pursuing a higher education. The mission of this scholarship program is to help prepare military spouses for meaningful employment and to better contribute to their family's financial security.

**The Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarships are awarded to spouses of all Uniformed Services members:**

- Active Duty
- National Guard and Reserve
- Retirees
- Survivors

**The scholarship funds may be used for tuition, fees, and school room and board for:**

- GED or ESL
- Vocational training
- Professional certification
- Post-secondary
- Graduate school
- In-class or on-line
- Full-time or part-time

A valid Military ID is a requirement to apply for our program. Scholarship selection is based on your completion of some survey questions which will help us advocate for education changes on your behalf, short-answer questions, and an essay question which will help us get to know you better.

**[APPLY NOW!](#)**

[Sign up for eNotices about future education opportunities](#), or visit our [Spouse Education](#) section for topics like [how to choose a school](#), [what to do when you have to transfer schools](#), and [financial assistance](#) related information. You can also read our report [Education & the Military Spouse: The Long Road to Success](#), which identifies education issues and barriers specific to military spouses.

Source: National Military Family Association  
at <http://www.militaryfamily.org>





## Five ways to save in the new year

Did you set a New Year's resolution to save money, reduce your debt, or spend less? Here are 5 suggestions to help military families save in 2012:

- 1. Buy Your Groceries at Cost**– Shop the commissary and you'll buy groceries at cost. Unlike other grocery stores, the commissary does not make a profit. The 5% surcharge you see at the bottom of your receipt goes toward building new stores and renovating older ones.
- 2. Save your Pay Raise**– Service members will see a 1.6% pay raise in 2012. Don't add this extra money to your family budget; instead mark those funds for savings or paying down your debt.
- 3. Automatic is Best** – Whether you have short-term (an upcoming move) or long-term (retirement) savings goals, automatic deduction from your pay check or an allotment is the way to go. Before your pay even hits your checking account, a portion can be set aside for your savings goals. Service members can set up or change allotments on the [myPay website](#).
- 4. Consult an Expert**– As a military family, you have access to free financial counselors at your local military installation or through Military OneSource. Whether you're interested in eliminating debt, growing your nest egg, or making plans for your tax return, Accredited Financial Counselors can help. Learn more by calling Military OneSource at 1-800-342-9647.
- 5. Use Free Tax Preparation Services**– Don't pay for a tax advisor; use one of the free services available to military families. Military OneSource Tax Program will launch the H&R Block at Home® free electronic filing tax service later this month. You can also visit your local installation tax center for free tax preparation assistance.

Source: National Military Family Web site at <http://www.militaryfamily.org>

## Command Video

Haven't seen the command's introductory video yet? It's great for showing Soldiers what the command does, or explaining to your parents and friends what you do with your weekends. Here's your options to access it:

1. Get it on YouTube—go to [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oz\\_hDN9ti0o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oz_hDN9ti0o), or search “807th MDSC” on YouTube to get to our site
2. Go to the command's Intranet—it's a link down the page. This is the internal website that you can access by VPN or at the Reserve center.
3. Ask us for a CD/DVD—call the Public Affairs Office at (801)656-3667 for a copy

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