



a.larry.ross  
com.mu.ni.ca.tions

# news release

4300 Marsh Ridge Road • Suite 114 • Carrollton, TX 75010  
972.267.1111 • 972.267.3535 (fax) • www.alarryross.com

## FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Steve Yount 972-267-1111, x205

[steve@alarryross.com](mailto:steve@alarryross.com)

Dache Johnson 972-267-1111, x224

[dache@alarryross.com](mailto:dache@alarryross.com)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Battlefield Memoir Provides Christian Lessons in Leadership**

**Donovan Campbell Tells Story of His Platoon in Iraq in ‘Joker One’**

**DALLAS, Jan. 7, 2010** – Of all the books that have been written about the war in Iraq, “Joker One” offers something rare – the perspective of a Christian commanding troops on the battlefield.

From the start of Donovan Campbell’s first mission, when he kneels with his Marines in prayer, until the last sentence of acknowledgements in the book, when he thanks “God, from whom all blessings flow,” “Joker One” is the story of a biblical servant-leader who loves his troops.

Random House publishes the book, subtitled “A Marine Platoon’s Story of Courage, Leadership, and Brotherhood,” in paperback Jan. 12.

Campbell set the tone for his time in Iraq during his senior year at Princeton. Rejecting more lucrative career options, he decided to serve others as a lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps.

“I knew that I wanted to learn to lead, which, I soon discovered, simply meant serving others to an increasingly great degree,” he writes.

After one tour in Iraq, as an intelligence officer, he received command of a platoon of about 40 Marines in Ramadi, the capital of the volatile Anbar province. The platoon was known by its radio call sign, “Joker One.”

The men fought from house to house in the city of 350,000 for seven months. During that time, Campbell had to face the death of one of the Marines under his command. It provided perhaps the most poignant moment in “Joker One,” showing how Campbell came to grips with his own crisis of faith.

-- more --

## Page 2, Battlefield Memoir

“Despite the anguish, and the self-doubt, and all the questions, I wasn’t ready to give up on God just yet,” Campbell writes. “I didn’t understand the tragedy of Bolding’s death, and I still don’t and I won’t pretend to, but seeing the simple faith of my Marines made me realize that, as a leader, I had a very basic choice to make:

“One, I could throw in the towel on God – in other words, rationalize away my inability to understand and comprehend the infinite by stating that He didn’t exist; or two, I could accept the fact that this life is painful, and tragic, and messy, and that God’s designs often don’t coincide with my plans and that many times I won’t, and will never, understand why they don’t, but that none of this means that God doesn’t exist or that He isn’t ultimately good.”

“Joker One” attracted enthusiastic reviews and became a New York Times bestseller for its Spring 2009 publication in hardback. Nathaniel Fick, author of “One Bullet Away,” says Campbell “shows us that the dominant emotion in war isn’t hatred or anger or fear. It’s love. His story stands as a poignant tribute to his men – their courage, their dedication, their skill, and their love for one another, even unto death. This is a deeply moving book.”

In addition to the teaching moments pertinent to the battlefield, Campbell’s “Joker One” also provides lessons for Christians back home about putting biblical principles of servant-leadership into action in their own lives.

For more information about the book, please visit [www.alrcnewskitchen.com/jokerone](http://www.alrcnewskitchen.com/jokerone).

- 30 -

**Note to Editors: To receive a copy of “Joker One” or arrange an interview with Donovan Campbell, please contact Steve Yount of A. Larry Ross Communications at 972.267.1111 or [steve@alarryross.com](mailto:steve@alarryross.com).**