

ENLISTED

"PARADE DUTY"

Written by

Mike Royce

Directed by

Phil Traill

#1AWV03

SHOOTING DRAFT (White) 08.22.13

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CAST LIST

Pete Hill Geoff Stults
Derrick Hill Chris Lowell
Randy Hill Parker Young
Sgt. Jill Perez Angelique Cabral
Sgt. Major Cody Keith David
Corporal Chubowski Mel Rodriguez
Private Dobkiss Kyle Davis
Private Gumble Mort Burke
Private Park Tania Gunadi
Private Robinson Michelle Buteau
Dylan Shifflet McCabe Gregg *

Denny Shifflet
Kenny Shifflet Tucker Albrizzi *

Mr. Shifflet Clint Culp *

Svelte Chubowski Joe Guarneri *

Tony Grubby
Jr. Miss Seacord

SETS

INTERIORS

Fort McGee
Pete's Room
Motor Pool
Cody's Office
Chow Hall

The Claymore
"Shifflet BBQ" Restaurant

EXTERIORS

Fort McGee
Battalion Area
Motor Pool

"Shifflet BBQ" Restaurant
Street
Convertible

ACT ONE

1

INT. BARRACKS - PETE'S ROOM - MORNING - DAY 1

1

PETE is sleeping peacefully. A CLOCK on an end table says 5:29 AM. RANDY'S head slowly moves into frame by the alarm clock. It strikes 5:30 AM, then Randy, mimicking the sound of an alarm beep:

RANDY
(growing soft to loud)
Pete. Pete. Pete. Pete. Pete!

Pete, eyes closed, groggily searches for a snooze button and hits Randy's face.

RANDY (CONT'D)
Ow. Pete!

PETE
Randy?! What are you doing?

RANDY
Custom wake up call, brother.

DERRICK enters, rubbing his tired eyes.

DERRICK
Randy, why'd you set my alarm? I like to sleep 'til six-thirty.

RANDY
Formation's at oh six hundred.

DERRICK
I like to sleep 'til six thirty.

RANDY
Guys, the reason we're all awake and super excited right now is so we can have thirty minutes of brother time before work, now let's make it count. Favorite family memories, go. I call Aunt Loraine choking on a hot dog and Grandpa's farty Christmas.

DERRICK
Back to bed.

PETE
Yep.

RANDY

No! I won't back down on this.
Brother time is important. If we
don't have it now, when will we have
it?

PETE/DERRICK

All day. / I will literally see you
all day.

RANDY

That's different 'cause during
formation Pete's our sergeant. But
in the barracks, he's our brother.
You're our brother and our
sergeant. Brother Sergeant! Wait,
Sergeant Brother! Wait.

DERRICK

He's overheating.

RANDY

The time for words is over, dog pile!

Randy tackles Derrick onto Pete.

DERRICK/PETE

Get off me! / How are you already
so sweaty?

CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

2

EXT. FORT MCGEE - BATTALION AREA - MORNING - DAY 1

2

Pete holds his Leader's Book as he addresses his PLATOON,
including Derrick and Randy. All stand at attention.

PETE

At ease.

RANDY

(softer, to the others)
At ease.

PETE

You don't need to repeat my
commands, Private.

RANDY

Oh I know. It's just a backup
thing, in case someone didn't hear.

DERRICK

We're four inches away from him.

RANDY

But how far away is your mind?

DERRICK

Sorry, Sgt. Hill. Tell us, how will our valor be tested today? Mowing a lawn? Moving a couch?

PETE

Actually smart ass, what if I told you... we will be assembling a weapon to take on an aerial threat?

DERRICK

I would not believe you.

PETE

Nor should you, because we're building a scarecrow to keep sea gulls out of the dumpsters. How is this my job now? Can't we just close the lids?

GUMBLE

Not gonna work, those gulls are big, they stole my sandwich.

PARK

I heard they stole a baby.

DOBKISS

I heard they raised it as one of their own.

CHUBOWSKI

Taught it the ways of the gull. Culture, customs, art.

PETE

That is all garbage.

ROBINSON

Oh now you get to decide whose culture is valid?

Pete rolls his eyes frustrated as he sees JILL approaching, her troops finishing crisp-looking pushups in the b.g.

JILL

Sgt. Hill! Sgt. Major Cody wants us in his office A-SAP.

*

PETE

Okay, drop and give me twenty,
guys.

(to Randy)

Count 'em, Pvt. Hill.

DERRICK

Way too excited in three, two--

Randy drops and immediately barks orders.

RANDY

Twenty pushups! Back straight! Abs
tight! Elbows unflared so as to
more seriously engage the core--

DERRICK

Just count, dumbass.

RANDY

One! Two!

Pete's platoon does their pushups as Jill and Pete walk off.

PETE

How'd you get all the good
soldiers?

JILL

It's not the soldiers, it's the
leader. You know, I was watching
you hold formation.

PETE

Oh yeah? How'd I look? From this
side I usually get "battle strong."
But by the time they get over here
(re: other side of face)
they're wondering how I'd look in a
tux. Hint: fantastic.

JILL

You have jam on your chin.
(as he wipes it)
Listen, I know it's not
Afghanistan, but you may want to
consider an approach that works for
me called "giving a crap."

PETE

Are you giving me leadership
advice?

(MORE)

PETE (CONT'D)

I have leadership medals,
leadership plaques, there was a
pack of wild dogs in Kabul that
only answered to me. Wow I'd hate
to be you right now with the shame
you must be feeling.

They look back to see Derrick checking his phone and
everybody except Randy collapsed after about three pushups.

RANDY

Derrick, stop texting! Chubowski,
wake up!

CHUBOWSKI

I'm not sleeping, I'm in organ
failure.

JILL

(to Pete)

If this is what shame feels like,
I'm good.

3

INT. CODY'S OFFICE - A MOMENT LATER - DAY 1

3

Pete and Jill stand at ease as CODY talks.

CODY

We have one of our most important
missions this Saturday: The Seacord
Town Parade.

JILL

(giddily)

Oh my god is it already time for
the parade?!

Pete turns to her in disbelief.

PETE

Seriously?

CODY

It's exciting, Sgt. Hill! Mostly
for me. General Murray has
requested I personally represent
him at the front of the parade.

Cody has turned his gaze to GENERAL MURRAY'S PHOTO atop a
CHART of the base hierarchy. Actually, everybody else has a
photo but the General is in SILHOUETTE.

PETE

Where's General Murray's picture?

CODY

I took it down. Too distracting.
General Murray's steely gaze will
make any soldier wilt.

PETE

Did you mean that to sound
intimidating because it came off
kinda romantic.

CODY

Shut up. Now, parades are a
crucial Rear D activity. When our
families see a well-trained platoon
march by, it reminds 'em of their
soldiers overseas and it fills them
with pride.

PETE

Wow, we get to do that?

CODY

Jill does. You sweep up.

PETE

What??

CODY

Your unit's on cleanup detail.
Sweeping up trash, shoveling
excrement and whatnot. Did I
mention there's horses?

JILL

That's where most of the excrement
comes from.

PETE

Most of it? Why can't my platoon
march and hers shovel excrement and
whatnot?

CODY

(laughing)

Your platoon march? What a joke.

JILL

Good one, Sgt. Major.

PETE

He didn't actually make a joke.
Stop sucking up.

CODY
Don't listen to him, you suck up
all you want.

JILL
It's my honor, Sgt. Major.

PETE
Come on.

CODY
Anyway, I've got bigger problems
than both of you.
(imitating dramatic sting)
Dun-dun-dunnnnnh!

Cody throws down three photos: school portraits of THREE
ANGELIC REDHEADED TEENS. *

PETE
Your ragtag glee club is going to
Nationals?

CODY
No! These are the Shifflet
brothers.

JILL
Parents own a barbeque restaurant
on Route 301.

CODY
These hickory-smoked hellions
ruined last year's parade. Threw
firecrackers to scare the horses.
They egged poor Junior Miss
Seacord. Her mama made that dress!

JILL
Black-hearted monsters with nothin'
to lose.

PETE
They look adorable.

CODY
(gravely)
Then you're already dead.

Pete gathers his troops.

PETE

Everybody, stop what you're doing
and circle up.

DERRICK

Wasn't doing anything, but okay.

PETE

We have got a big problem. For this
parade that's coming up, Cody's got
us doing friggin' cleanup detail.

To his surprise, everybody CHEERS and HIGH-FIVES.

PETE (CONT'D)

Wait, why is that good news?

DERRICK

Why would it be bad news?

PETE

You go first.

DERRICK

Parades suck. Parades mean
marching, which means marching
practice all day in the stupid
Florida sun. It's way better to be
on doody duty.

Randy LAUGHS.

PETE

It has a nickname?

DERRICK

Yes it does and it makes Randy
laugh every time, doody duty.

RANDY

(laughs, then serious)
Pete, I am trying so hard to stop.

DERRICK

So even though it is humiliating,
doody duty...

(Randy laughs)

Really means a day off! Just gotta
show up at the parade for an hour
or two.

PETE

(in disbelief)
To shovel poo!

DOBKISS

You get to keep what you find.

PETE

It's poo.

PARK

(reminding)

And whatnot.

GUMBLE

It's how I found a lot of my
furniture.

CHUBOWSKI

This detail is rich in treasure!

PETE

This is insane! We're soldiers,
not garbage men! Wouldn't you
rather do something that inspires
people?

BEAT. Everybody looks at each other, then:

DERRICK/GUMBLE/CHUBOWSKI/ROBINSON/PARK
/DOBKISS

Nah/Not really/No thank you/Day off
please/I'm good/You get to keep
what you find.

RANDY

Pete, I know it might seem weird,
but I swear you're gonna love this.
Last year, Tanisha and I came up
with a whole routine.

ROBINSON

It's a dance piece, boo. Routines
are for circus clowns. Five, six,
seven, eight...

Robinson and Randy demonstrate some coordinated moves with
their brooms that make Pete cringe.

RANDY

Everybody was laughing so hard.

PETE

Yeah, at you.

ROBINSON

Hey if they're not laughing at you,
they're laughing with you.

PETE

That doesn't mean anything at all.

DERRICK

Randy, you left out the best part:
we get to wear special uniforms.

Pete turns to find Derrick holding up an orange reflective vest that reads "Fort McGee Cleanup Crew" and then in bigger letters: "IT'S OUR DOODY". Randy sees this and LAUGHS.

RANDY

Damn, I can't even read it!

Off Pete's reaction, in hell we...

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

5 EXT. FORT MCGEE - BATTALION AREA - LATER - DAY 1 5

Jill, shouting cadences, drills her platoon in preparation for the parade. They look crisp, clean, like real soldiers. Reveal Pete watching them from a distance, envious.

JILL
(to soldiers, in cadence)
Turn to the left hold up your hand.
Everyone wave to the jealous man.

Jill's platoon waves to Pete.

PETE
Shut up, stupid perfect platoon.

CODY (O.S.)
They look nice, don't they?

Startled, Pete turns to find Cody right behind him.

PETE
Ah! Where did you come from?

CODY
Best part about having only one
foot, you only hear half of me
coming. Now follow me.

6 EXT. "SHIFFLET BBQ" RESTAURANT - DAY - DAY 1 6

Cody, Jill and Pete stand outside this family establishment.

PETE
You taking us out to lunch,
Sergeant Major?

*
*

CODY
I'm having a sit-down with the
Shifflets -- on their turf. You
two are here for backup.

PETE
They're children.

CODY
I'm sorry, what's that magic land you
live in where children aren't dicks?
This parade's gotta go off without a
hitch, so we're gonna go in there and
do some good ol' fashioned Rear D
community outreach.

JILL
He makes your job twice as hard,
Sergeant Major.

PETE
Oh shut up.

7

INT. "SHIFFLET BBO" RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS - DAY 1

7

They enter and see the three harmless-looking YOUTHS from Cody's photos at a table, doing homework. Cody nods grimly.

CODY
There they are: Kenny, Denny, and
Dylan. Let me just go over my
talking points.

PETE
I've dealt with Afghan war lords, I
think I got this, Sgt. Major.

*

Pete cockily walks over, turns a chair around, and sits down.

PETE (CONT'D)
Sup. I'm Sergeant Hill.

The Shifflets pick up their phones and click pictures of him.

PETE (CONT'D)
Stop, what, stop that...
(they don't)
Anyway, my intel says you plan to
disrupt the parade this year. I'm
here to stop you.

DYLAN SHIFFLET
How ya gonna do that if you're a
kitty cat?

Dylan holds up his phone, he's turned Pete into a kitty cat.

PETE
Okay, very funny. Great app.

KENNY SHIFFLET
Hey who's Junior Miss Seacord this
year?

*

DYLAN SHIFFLET
Cuz we spent the last month filling
water balloons with not water.

The Shifflets laugh. Back on Cody, seething next to Jill.

CODY

You leave that little angel alone.

Back on Pete, getting nowhere as they show him more pictures.

PETE

Very funny, you put a penis on my nose... and on my head... that's just a picture of a penis.

Jill turns a chair around and sits down.

JILL

Hey boys, I'm Jill.

The three turn their attention to her. A beat.

DENNY SHIFFLET

You're hot.

JILL

Yeah, I am. And you know what else is hot? That new barbeque place across town, Grubby's.

The Shifflets are instantly enraged.

DYLAN/DENNY/KENNY

Grubby's sucks! / I hate Grubby's!
/ You're so hot.

*

JILL

I don't know, Grubby's been taking a lot of business from you. They've got those new fried pickles...

DYLAN/DENNY/KENNY

That doesn't count! / Pickles are a side! / Can I touch your hair?

*

JILL

This year instead of wrecking the parade, maybe you use it to remind people that Shifflet's has the best barbeque in town. I'm thinking a big float with "Shifflet" painted on the side.

(beat as they take it in)
Or we could offer it to Grubby's.

They look back at their DAD behind the counter.

MR. SHIFFLET

What are you dummies waiting for?
Go make a float.

The boys scramble outside as Cody approaches.

CODY

Now that's community outreach! Rear
D's not a competition, but Sgt.
Perez wins again. Stick to doody
duty, Sgt. Kitty Cat.

8

INT. THE CLAYMORE - THAT NIGHT - NIGHT 1

8

Fuming, Pete finds his troops watching Dobkiss belt out a
terrible karaoke "Turkey In The Straw." Pete yanks out the
plug. *

PETE

We gotta talk.

DOBKISS

I was spittin' rhymes, dog.

CHUBOWSKI

(he's been crying)
Let him finish.

DERRICK

Come on, we're off the clock, Pete.

PETE

We're not doing cleanup detail.

The platoon AD-LIB REACTS, dismayed.

RANDY

Why, what did we do wrong?

PETE

Nothing! But I did not come back
from Afghanistan to walk behind a
horse with a broom.

CHUBOWSKI

I recommend a shovel, Sergeant. A
broom just moves it around.

PETE

Come on, guys! Did you really join
the Army to pick up garbage?

RANDY

No! Derrick and I joined because we wanted to be like you.

DERRICK

That is not why I joined.

RANDY

It is though, subconsciously.

DERRICK

Nope.

RANDY

Subtextually.

DERRICK

You don't know what either of those words mean.

RANDY

They mean you love Pete.

PETE

Derrick had to join. He got kicked out of three different colleges.

DERRICK

Uh, three different colleges in less than a year.

(high-fives Robinson)

ROBINSON

Says it like you didn't do anything.

Pete starts to rally the platoon.

PETE

My point is, all of you aspired to something better. I joined the Army to serve my country. Does that make me a hero? History will decide, but I'll tell you one thing: history is leaning yes. But I'm not the only hero here...

Randy edges into frame behind Pete, solemnly waving a FLAG.

PETE (CONT'D)

...I'm in a roomful of heroes--
(quickly to Randy)
I really don't need that, buddy.

Randy edges back out of frame.

PETE (CONT'D)
This is about your pride.

DERRICK
No this is about your pride, Peter.

The platoon MURMURS meaningfully like Derrick scored a point.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
We're all happy in Rear D. We like
it.
(more murmurs)
But you think it's beneath you.
(even more murmurs)

PETE
Stop murmuring!

DERRICK
Continue murmuring!

Derrick elbows Pete aside and begins his own rallying speech.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
We like it here. We don't "aspire"
to "something better." The United
States Army is giving us a day off,
and if the price of that is a
couple hours of doody duty...
(points at Randy, who
laughs)
Then I for one am ready to pay up.

Derrick salutes grandly. The platoon AD-LIBS CHEERS.
Dobkiss plugs in the karaoke machine and begins singing.

DOBKISS
Turkey in the straw, turkey in the hay--

Pete unplugs it again. The platoon AD-LIBS DISAPPOINTMENT.

PETE
Randy, remember when we were kids and
you were all excited about playing
the trumpet? Why'd you stop?

RANDY
(matter-of-fact)
Derrick explained how much practice
it'd be before I was good, and how
the trumpet sounds like robot farts.

PETE

Isn't that what just happened here?

DERRICK

What?

RANDY

No wait, Pete's right. I aspired to something better and you crushed my dream. You crushed my dream, Derrick.

DERRICK

How was it your dream? You took trumpet for three weeks.

RANDY

The best three weeks of my life!

DERRICK

Just calm down.

Randy has pulled a bugle from the wall (one of the many military decorations in the bar) and is PLAYING it badly.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Great stuff. Any more repressed memories or can we get back to drinking?

RANDY

Actually real quick, am I imagining it or did you guys used to dress me up as a girl and call me "Brandy?"

PETE/DERRICK

Oh we totally did that. / You are not imagining it.

DOBKISS

Actually... Derrick does have a knack for helping you see the folly in your dreams.

9

INT. CHOW HALL - FLASHBACK A - DAY X

9

In quick pops we see each platoon member talking to Derrick.

DERRICK

So, first day at Fort McGee, huh?
How do you like it?

DOBKISS

I love the Army, dog! If I wasn't here I'd be in jail with my brothers and dad and grandma.

DERRICK

Good call. In jail you'd have to wake up super early, always wear the same clothes, and do everything some idiot tells you. At least here you don't have to see your grandma.

Dobkiss now looks troubled.

10 INT. CHOW HALL - FLASHBACK B - DAY X 10

ROBINSON

I joined 'cause I want to see the world.

DERRICK

And they sent you here, to
(French accent)
Fort McGee! You must try the Duck
a l'Orange.

Robinson now looks troubled.

11 INT. CHOW HALL - FLASHBACK C - DAY X 11

PARK

I wouldn't even be here if my husband hadn't been so supportive.

DERRICK

Wow, he's supportive of you being far away from him. Marriage, right?

Park now looks troubled.

12 INT. CHOW HALL - FLASHBACK D - DAY X 12

GUMBLE

I'm gonna learn weapons systems!

DERRICK

No you're not!

Gumble now looks troubled.

13 INT. CHOW HALL - FLASHBACK E - DAY X 13

Derrick is eating a big plate of fries.

DERRICK

Why'd you join up, Chubowski?

Reveal a SVELTE SOLDIER with a "Chubowski" name tag sitting across from Derrick.

SVELTE CHUBOWSKI

I'm just here to lose those last ten pounds.

DERRICK

Good luck with that.
(pushing plate across)
Chili cheese fries?

14

INT. THE CLAYMORE - BACK TO PRESENT - NIGHT 1

14

Chubowski glares at Derrick.

CHUBOWSKI

You are the author of my obesity.

DERRICK

I'm sorry. Nachos?

CHUBOWSKI

I suppose.

Chubowski munches as the platoon GRUMBLES about Derrick.

PETE

Derrick's been crushing all of your dreams.

Randy PLAYS a few terrible notes on the bugle.

PETE (CONT'D)

And most of it was unjustified.
So I say to you, let's reclaim our dreams. Let's march in that parade, like real soldiers, not janitors. It's not gonna be easy. We're gonna have to practice our nuts off but when it gets tough...

Randy edges back with the flag. Pete waves him in.

PETE (CONT'D)

Yeah, get in here! When it gets tough, think of the people. The Rear D families as you march past. The little boy waving. The veteran brushing away a tear as he offers--

(MORE)

PETE (CONT'D)
(demonstrating)
The Slo-Mo Salute.

PARK
(dreamily)
The Slo-Mo Salute.

GUMBLE
Some say it's just a myth.

PETE
It's no myth, Gumble, that I
promise you! Now who's with me?

The platoon bursts into CHEERS.

PETE (CONT'D)
Let's gooooooooooooooooooooo!

Everybody runs out, psyched. Derrick and Pete watch, then:

DERRICK
Yep, they're already out of breath.

PETE
Chubowski ran right into traffic.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

15 INT. MOTOR POOL - AFTERNOON - DAY 2

15

In a MONTAGE, Pete drills everybody mercilessly in some rifle and marching maneuvers. Pete calls out the "We Love to Do It" cadence.

PETE

We are Alpha Company!

PLATOON

We are Alpha Company!

PETE

We love to do it.

PLATOON

We love to do it.

PETE

Your left, your left, your other
left, your other left, your--

(breaking)

Seriously guys, come on. Make an L
with your hand if it helps.

PLATOON

Make an L with your hand if it
helps!

PETE

No!

Dobkiss makes an L with his hand, puts it right in front of his face and follows it around.

-- Randy drops his rifle, Pete gives him 10 pushups.

-- Then in quick succession, Park, Dobkiss, Gumble and Robinson drop their rifles. Also 10 pushups.

-- Park and Randy drop their rifles at the same time. Next we're close on Randy doing pushups, widen to reveal Park is on his back.

-- They practice tossing rifles to each other. There are mid-air collisions and general misfires.

-- We see Pete addressing his line of soldiers, being ultra-fussy about saluting.

PETE (CONT'D)

Like this, dammit!

GUMBLE
(exactly like Pete)
I'm doing what you're doing.

PETE
This is what you look like.
(imitates insane salute)

GUMBLE
Come on.

Pete notices Randy practicing an ultra slow salute.

PETE
No! You can't practice the Slo-Mo
Salute, it's just gotta happen!

16 INT. MOTOR POOL - NIGHT - NIGHT 2 16

It's all coming together. Sorta. Park's rifle clatters to the ground for the millionth time. She kicks it, frustrated.

RANDY
Get it together, Cindy!

PARK
You're not my father!

DERRICK
Pete give it up. We're never gonna
get it, the parade is tomorrow.

PETE
All that means is we've got all
night, dream crusher.

The platoon CHEERS. Randy spins his rifle in celebration. It gets away from him and Pete has to dodge it.

PETE (CONT'D)
Dammit, Randy!

The platoon forms up again. Pete begins his cadence and they all start the long night of practice as we...

DISSOLVE TO:

17 INT. CODY'S OFFICE - MORNING - DAY 3 17

Cody is with Jill. Pete bursts in, wild-eyed and unkempt.

CODY
Son, you're supposed to pick up
doody, not look like it.

Lots of laughter. Reveal the Shifflet brothers are also there. Everybody laughs and mocks Pete.

JILL
Nice burn, Sergeant Major.

KENNY/DENNY/DYLAN
Sergeant Kitty needs a bath. /
Hilarious. / Meow.

CODY
Heh heh, these rascals came over to
show me pictures of their float.
(shows Pete on a phone)
Oops, that's you using a litter
box. Here it is.
(as he shows it)
Congratulations Sgt. Perez. You
saved the parade.

JILL
(to Pete)
Awww.

PETE
(to Cody)
Sgt. Major, come with me. We've
been practicing all night.

*
*

KENNY SHIFFLET
Practicing what, being a butt?

PETE
You shut your mouth, Kenny
Shifflet!

18 INT. MOTOR POOL - MORNING - DAY 3

18

Pete leads Cody and Jill back to find the platoon waiting.

PETE
Atten-shun!

The platoon snaps to perfect attention. Cody is intrigued.
As Pete calls the cadence, they begin their routine.

PETE (CONT'D)
We are Alpha Company!

PLATOON
We are Alpha Company!

PETE
We love to do it.

PLATOON

We love to do it.

The routine is Swiss-watch exact. Cody is impressed.

PETE/PLATOON

Your left, your left, your left
right left.

Randy takes a step in the wrong direction, overcorrects. It throws Dobkiss off and he drops his rifle. Instead of trying to get back on track, he drops and does 10 pushups.

PETE

That's just in practice!

Then it all really falls apart. The troops scramble to get back and do "which way ya goin'" dances. Pete keeps calling cadence, but it's a mess.

CODY

You dragged me out of my office to see this?

PETE

They've been up all night.

Chubowski starts to kneel on the ground.

CHUBOWSKI

Fatigue has wrapped her icy fingers
around my bones.

PETE

He got hit by a car.

CHUBOWSKI

And a scooter.

Randy starts PLAYING the trumpet as a final flourish.

JILL

Wow.

PETE

Randy, no. Cut. Stop.

CODY

Sgt. Hill, you just make sure your
troops know that the brushy part of
the broom goes down.

Cody walks away. Jill follows. Pete, weakly:

PETE

But the broom just moves it around.

The troops, their hopes dashed, approach Pete.

PARK

You made me believe in myself, Sgt.
Hill. How could you?

They all file past, dejected. Derrick turns to Pete.

DERRICK

Looks like we got ourselves a new
dream crusher.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

19 EXT. MOTOR POOL - LATER - DAY 3

19

The troops put on their vests and load brooms, shovels and cans into a trailer. Pete tries to make the best of things as he puts on his vest.

PETE

These are actually pretty snazzy.

ROBINSON

(big smile)

Yeah, can't wait to wear it to the club, Sergeant.

She immediately drops her smile. Cody approaches.

CODY

Change of plans, Sgt. Hill. You can ride up front with me.

PETE

What? Why?

CODY

State senator who was supposed to do it "accidentally" smoked crack and ended up playing drums in the Chuck E. Cheese band.

(shaking his head)

Florida: what are ya gonna do? Anyway, they're looking for a hero, and you fit the bill.

Pete is torn as he feels the glare of his troops.

CODY (CONT'D)

Unless you'd rather do this?

A beat, then Pete hands his vest to Randy and heads off with Cody. The troops shake their heads, disappointed.

DERRICK

I told you guys, it's all about Pete.

RANDY

Well, maybe it should be.

DERRICK

What?

RANDY

I mean, yeah Pete's full of himself and cocky and looks amazing even right when he wakes up, but at least he tried to make us better. What did you ever do? Oh, that's right - the opposite.

Randy shoves a broom into Derrick's hand and stalks off with the rest of the platoon. Derrick calls after them:

DERRICK

Come on, we were mad at Pete. Let's stick with that.

20

INT. PETE'S ROOM - A FEW MINUTES LATER - DAY 3

20

Derrick finds Pete putting on his dress blues.

PETE

Let me save you some time. Yes, I am petty, yes I am egotistical and no I don't want to shovel poo. And I think I'm better than you guys. Does that cover it?

DERRICK

You are better than us.

PETE

Back off, Derrick! Wait, what?

DERRICK

Just shut up for a second 'cause I'm about to say something nice. And I'm gonna need a minimum of eye contact.

PETE

Okay.

Beat as they each AWKWARDLY ANGLE away from the other.

DERRICK

I know I said we like Rear D the way it is, but that doesn't mean you should stop trying to make it better. Because even though you failed spectacularly, and that was a lot of fun to watch, and validated everything I'd been saying...

PETE

I'm supposed to look away for this?

DERRICK

(regroups, then)

Look, you were over there. You put your life on the line, and you deserve to take a crackhead's seat in the front of a stupid parade, because... you're a hero, okay? Like an actual, no-one-can-take-it-away-from-you hero.

This lands on Pete. He takes it in for a beat, then angles himself into Derrick's field of vision.

PETE

Thank you, brother.

DERRICK

(chuckling)

Get out of my face.

21 EXT. STREET - AFTERNOON - DAY 3

21

The street is teeming with small town parade life. Lots of Rear D families clap and cheer for: a high school marching band, clowns in cars, stilt-walkers...

*

A giant paper-mache PIG FLOAT rolls by, sponsored by "Shifflet BBQ". Mr. and Mrs. Shifflet man a WORKING GRILL off to the side. The Shifflet brothers throw hot sauce packets to the crowd. They wave at JR. MISS SEACORD in the convertible behind them. She waves back nervously.

Meanwhile, a cocksure Jill leads her platoon as they march.

Pete's platoon is at the back, listlessly sweeping up trash. Randy eyes Jill's platoon jealously.

22 EXT. CONVERTIBLE - CONTINUOUS - DAY 3

22

In their dress blues, Cody and Pete ride and wave.

CODY

What's that slop you're doing with your hand?

PETE

I'm waving.

CODY

This is what you look like.
(imitates spastic wave)

PETE

Come on.

CODY

Be a man, wave like a princess.

Cody demonstrates a calm wave.

CODY (CONT'D)

That's how General Murray does it.
Casual yet precise.

But Pete keeps looking back at his miserable platoon.

CODY (CONT'D)

He could be waving at two hundred
people and every single one of them
thinks he's waving at them--

(noticing Pete)

I'm telling a General Murray story,
pay attention!

PETE

Sorry.

Cody looks back, sees what Pete's looking at. He sighs.

CODY

Got your troops back there, huh?

PETE

Yeah.

CODY

Look, when you were deployed, what
was the most important thing? The
glory?

PETE

No. It was the people next to me.

CODY

You think that's changed?

A beat as Pete takes this in. Then he strips off his blue
coat and climbs out of the car.

CODY (CONT'D)

I'll cover you!

Cody now waves with both hands, expertly bringing his brand
of paradesmanship to both sides of the street.

Pete weaves through the parade, hustling back to his troops.

PETE

Hey, is this a private party or can anybody join?

RANDY

(thrown)

It's not a party at all but you can join it, I mean you're invited of course, I'm saying personally that sounds amazing...

A nearby soldier pushes a trash can on wheels and Pete grabs an extra broom and a vest out of it and starts leading them.

PETE

Platoon, form up!

Surprised, they fall into position. Beginning cadence:

PETE (CONT'D)

Rear D's the place for me!

He looks back. Now the platoon gets it.

PLATOON

Rear D's the place for me!

PETE

Support the post and families!

*

PLATOON

Support the post and families!

*

Pete starts brooming in rhythm and the platoon follows. Derrick rolls his eyes... but then joins in as it becomes a coordinated platoon-wide cleanup routine.

PETE

We don't brag and we don't boast!

PLATOON

We don't brag and we don't boast!

PETE

We're here when you need us most.

PLATOON

We're here when you need us most.

PETE

Your left, your left, your left
right sweeping crew! Your left,
your left, your left right,
shovelin' poo!

The crowd eats it up. Then the platoon executes the very routine that they never got in practice PERFECTLY! The crowd BURSTS into applause. Jill's smile fades as she sees the onlookers crane their necks to see Pete's vastly more entertaining platoon.

JILL

What are those idiots doing?

Pete and his platoon are the hit of the parade. And they experience what Pete promised: Rear D families laughing, having a great time. Little boys and girls waving in awe to their new heroes. Finally, a veteran with a tear in his eye raises his hand slowly to his forehead.

RANDY

Oh man, guys. The Slo-Mo Salute,
here it comes!

And the veteran does so. Randy and everybody else is touched, and they return the favor. Their triumph complete. Then suddenly Pete gets HIT by something that makes a dark stain on his face. Then ANOTHER.

PETE

What the hell?

Pete spots a TRIO OF ANGRY TEENAGERS in "Grubby's BBQ" hats hurling the Shifflet's sauce packets back into the parade.

TONY GRUBBY

Keep your crap sauce, Shifflets!

*

DENNY SHIFFLET

Shut up, Tony Grubby!

*

*

KENNY SHIFFLET

You're just jealous 'cause we're on
a pig float.

*

*

*

DENNY SHIFFLET

And your whole Grubby family's on
the stupid ground!

*

*

The Shifflets high five.

TONY GRUBBY

Dumb float doesn't even look like a pig!

*

DYLAN SHIFFLET

That's funny 'cause we used your mom as a model!

*

The Shifflets again high five.

TONY GRUBBY

That's it!

*

PETE

What is happening?

The Grubby teens rush the pig and begin scuffling with the Shifflets. A couple other guys in Grubby's hats join in and start rocking the pig until it TIPS OVER. It instantly BURSTS INTO FLAMES.

RANDY

Pig fire. Pig fire!

Total chaos. The crowd SCREAMS. Spooked horses. An enterprising Grubby teen grabs the bucket of barbeque sauce from the float and douses Jr. Miss Seacord in sauce.

JR. MISS SEACORD

My mama made this dress!

Clown cars scatter. Stilt-walkers collapse and lie in the street. One stilt-walker crosses frame, his stilts aflame.

Cody couldn't be more furious. He turns to Jill, who looks on in horror.

CODY

This is your fault.

DISSOLVE TO:

24

INT. CLAYMORE - NIGHT - NIGHT 3

24

Derrick, Randy and the platoon drink as they watch Park, Dobkiss and Robinson freestyle over the karaoke machine a la Rihanna and Jay-Z.

PARK

(singing)

Sweet little girl, covered in sauce. / Sweet little girl, her innocence lost.

DOBKISS

(rapping)

What? What? It's a pig fire,
y'all. / What? What? It's a pig
fire, y'all. / Pop your cork,
y'all. / Grab a fork, y'all. / Come
and get yourself a tasty plate of
pork, y'all. / It's not a parade,
it's a charade. / It was white meat
y'all. / Now it's white heat,
y'all.

ROBINSON

(singing)

It's a pig fire, y'all. / It's a
pig fire, y'all. / It's upsetting
but beau-ti-ful.

Angle on Pete and Jill at the bar drinking beer, shell-
shocked. A beat, then Pete turns to Jill:

PETE

Florida: what are ya gonna do?

END OF SHOW