

CLASSIFIED

Military Issued Comedy:



MOLLIE GROSS

Military Wife/Comedienne

When the silent ranks aren't so silent

Mollie's Website

molliegross.com

Follow Mollie

[twitter](#)

[molliegross](#)

Join Mollie on Facebook

[facebook](#)

Search: [molliegrosscomedy](#)

Find Mollie's Videos

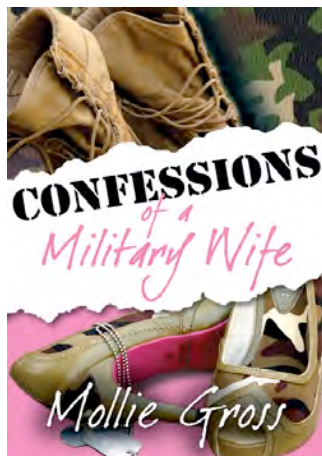
[YouTube](#)

Search: [Mollie Gross](#)

MOLLIE GROSS

MILITARY WIFE HUMORIST, SPEAKER, COMEDienne AND
AUTHOR OF *CONFESSIONS OF A MILITARY WIFE*

- “*Confessions of a Military Wife*” is officially recognized on The First Lady of the Marine Corps Recommended Reading List
- Over 275, 5 star reviews for her book , “*Confessions of a Military Wife*” on Amazon.com
- “*Confessions of a Military Wife*” is the number one selling book in digital format published by Savas Beatie, over 20,000 e-book and hardcovers sold
- Over 330,000+ views on YouTube for stand up, sketch comedy, and *Ask Mollie* video blogs
- Tours: Spouse Buzz Live, Live Laugh Learn and Military Wife Comedy
- “Ask Mollie” Advice Column as seen in Military Spouse Magazine, USMC Life and YouTube
- Over 7,000 followers on Facebook, YouTube and Twitter
- Loyal Fan Base Worldwide





File # BIO

RECRUIT PERSONNEL DETAILS

DECLASSIFIED

Date Recruited: January 19, 2002

Position: Comedienne

Station: Touring all branches

Name: Mollie Gross Age: 32

Spouse: Marine. Currently not deployed.

Likes: Having all the closet space because her husband wears the same uniform to work every day

Dislikes: Deployments, and being conjugally deprived for your freedom

MOLLIE GROSS, MILITARY WIFE

When Comedian Mollie Gross takes the stage you know one thing for sure, she doesn't take orders, she gives them. A proud member of the **Silent Ranks**, this diminutive blonde dynamo has been talking about being a military wife since her husband's first deployment in 2008 and has been performing to spectacular reviews.

To entice Mollie to marry him, her husband made all sorts of promises: like he would never get on her nerves because he'd always be gone, and she could have all the babies she wanted because it would be free. Tempted but not convinced, the clincher was when he explained BAH, and separation pay. She said, "Free money! I'm in!"

Life on base took some getting used to for the Southern Belle. She was not the "perfect military wife" at first. And at times it seemed like she and her husband were speaking a different language. She asks other military wives, "Was it just me or were all of you concerned when your husband called to say he would be home late because he and his men were going on a five mile hump?"

After four years living on base, two wartime deployments, serving as a Key Volunteer twice, and standing in as a birthing coach, ("I drew the line at the cutting the cord part ...") she has picked up a few things about military wives and their needs. She has also learned a thing or two about the returning troops adjusting from time spent in Iraq. When her husband first came home, she figured out it was a bad idea to come out of the shower with a towel on her head.

Her fan base spans the globe -- from Miramar, to Fort Jackson, to Okinawa. Cute and funny, Mollie delights military and civilian audiences alike and leaves them crying with laughter. For military wives in all branches, watching her perform means finally having a voice that speaks directly to them. And they let her know through emails and online social networking messages. *"First time I've laughed since deployment."* *"We military girls need someone like you to keep us laughing through hard times."* *"You are one funny lady---and you GET us."*

In addition to performing at top comedy clubs and military bases, Mollie Gross also encourages and inspires audiences with her Motivational Speaking. Mollie has been seen in several films, musical theater, and is an improv sketch player and a monthly contributor to Military Spouse Magazine. In 2010 she joined Spouse Buzz sponsored by USAA and Military.com. Her book, *"Confessions of a Military Wife"* has received rave reviews from Military wives, troops, and civilians. By mixing comical stories with hard hitting advice, *"Confessions.."* has a loyal following.

Despite her varied talents, her focus is to bring her comedy directly to the wives who need entertainment the most, the ones left behind; the **Silent Ranks**. Says one of her fans *"(her) killer wit, natural charisma, and comedic glow let us laugh when we need it most."*

Mollie Gross is a Military Wife Humorist. She is also the wife of an USMC Iraq War Veteran, author, professional standup comedienne, and motivational speaker. To see her tour schedule, buy a copy of her comedy audio CD, book: *Confessions of a Military Wife*, to read more ASK MOLLIE's or inquire about booking; please visit www.molliegross.com. For a daily dose of comedy, join her friends on Facebook: www.facebook.com/molliegrosscomedy

Name: Mollie Gross

COMMENTS FROM MILITARY WIVES

Here is what the wives are saying!

"Thank you for being so freaking hilarious!!! You sure know how to make a wife of a deployed soldier laugh."



"Because of you we are trying to find the lighter side of deployments and months upon months without our Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Coasties, Reservist, and Airmen."

"Mollie, you are more than a comedian, you lift the morale of many military wives throughout the world...."

"Mollie Gross was hysterical. With all the stress of being a military wife it was nice to laugh about it. What a great night!"



"Just got back home from seeing Mollie Gross and I have not laughed that hard in months!"

"To have you understand what it is like to go through what we go through makes it so much better, can't wait to see you again, thanks a million"



"I am about half way through our deployment, and needed a good laugh, which you so delivered!"

Name: Mollie Gross

COMMENTS FROM THE TROOPS

"Being married to a Marine is an accomplishment in and of itself (just ask my wife) but to do so and keep your sense of humor in a world that's not all too understanding is quite a feat."

"My husband just watched you on youtube and he had tears running down his face, he loved (it)!"

"You're a fighter, standing up for all the men and women that serve in uniform and are in Harm's Way and on the home front, you remind us all of the many sacrifices of the faithful military spouse."



*The Troops Love
her comedy too!*



"You brought me more than a few belly laughs- a perfect antidote to a frustrating day"

Name: Mollie Gross

COMMENTS ABOUT HER MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKING

"Her speech allowed me to see that we military spouses can still fulfill our dreams and still support our active duty spouse."

"Mollie had the ability to bring life, lift spirits and find common ground with spouses that attended from all Armed Service Branches. She navigated spouses from laughter to tears and back again, with her uncanny ability to weave humor into a thoughtful message that skillfully encouraged military spouses, to not only develop an 'attitude of gratitude', but also, to live their dreams! The spouses walked away inspired!" –OSMF (Tara Clark & Alyson Schumacher, Founders)



"Mollie may be known as a humorist/stand up comedian, but she is so much more than that. At the (speaking event), I walked away feeling like a different person." –Abby Smith

"She was inspiring! I was encouraged to weed out the negative ... in my life and to be more positive and proactive in my personal happiness." –Navy Wife, SD

"She was so real. I felt like an instant friend to all in the room. I laughed, I cried. Awesome!"



"She was great, funny, and captivating...really made me think about what I could do to change my attitude."

"Mollie is amazing! I can't wait to push myself to learn some new things and to really grow as a person while my husband is gone! I laughed and cried and came away feeling like I'd had a chat with my new BFF." –Becky Hull

Name: Mollie Gross

IN THE PRESS



Camo comedy

Mollie Gross, aka Jane Wayne, has turned her time as a clueless military wife into a stand-up routine

By Stephanie K. Parry / TODAY'S LOCAL NEWS

Comedian Mollie Gross remembers what kind of military wife she was when her husband was in the Marines.

"I was the worst — absolutely did not know what I was doing," Gross said.

She said someone gave her a copy of the book "Rose and Thorns," which gives nonmilitary members of a relationship a better understanding of military life. She needed that book, she said.

Gross now uses her experiences as a military wife to create her comedy routine. She jokes about how she wasn't the typical military wife and the struggles of adjusting to the lifestyle.

Now, Gross is beginning a tour of military bases around the country to share her comedy routine. "The Military



Mollie Gross uses her experiences as a military wife to create a stand-up comedy routine. She is bringing her act to Camp Pendleton Wednesday as part of her tour of military bases. Photos courtesy of Jane Wayne Comedy

Gross A10 >



Wife." Gross is starting her tour at Camp Pendleton on Wednesday at the Enlisted Wives Club and Officers' Wives' Club.

Gross met her future husband, Jon, while he was stationed at Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia. When he received orders for Camp Pendleton, the two eloped and moved to Southern California.

They lived at Camp Pendleton for four years and experienced two war-time deployments with the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment. Three years ago her husband got out of the Marines and they moved to Los Angeles so Gross could pursue her career as a comedian.

"When it came time to re-up, he said, 'You gave me four years, so I'm going to give you four years (to try comedy).' So we moved to L.A.," Gross said.

When Gross' husband was deployed, she used comedy as a way to mask her depression and sadness. She would perform stand-up in San Diego but used her maiden name, never mentioned that she was a military wife and didn't use her ex-

"To view segments of Gross' performances, visit her myspace page at myspace.com/janewaynecomedy or go to molliegross.com.

periences for jokes.

"Once we got out I started (telling military jokes)," Gross said. "I didn't do it when he was in; it was too close to home."

After her husband came home from each deployment, Gross would stop performing.

She said audience reaction to the jokes varied. Sometimes the crowd was not pleased.

"Why am I entertaining these people that are drunk in the club? There are women on these bases that are so bored and lonely," Gross said.

"I love the troops, but the troops don't need me. My girls need me, my wives need me," Gross said. "I'm not needed in Afghanistan and Iraq."

Gross said she wanted to give back to the women who helped her through the hard times.

"I remember how miserable it was to go through those deployments, to be taken away from all of your friends and family and the one person you're most comfortable with, your husband, is gone," Gross said.

Her goal is to make her performances free to the wives because she knows how they struggle.

"When a Marine comes home from Iraq — I had to deal with that for two years. I had to come down from that. I had to come down from leaving the military life, deal with the depression of not being a military wife," Gross said. "Now it's time to give back."

Along with her current stand-up tour, Gross is working on a book about her experience.

Military wives in Gross' audience have asked for a CD that they can listen to in the car. She said she hopes to make one from an upcoming performance.

Gross hopes to perform again at Camp Pendleton and at the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar this spring.

Stephanie K. Parry: (760) 752-6750; stephanie.parry@tlnnews.net

Name: Mollie Gross

IN THE PRESS



ABOUT FACE:

Molly Gross gets into a set during "Hump Day Funnies" at Martini Blues in Huntington Beach.

Comedy is serious business

Name: Mollie Gross

IN THE PRESS

STARS STRIPES.

Spouse Calls:

Delivering Humor that Heals

By Terri Barnes, Special to Stars and Stripes
Stars and Stripes Scene, Sunday, October 26, 2008

Mollie Gross is serious about comedy. Her standup routine brings healing humor to military spouses, she said.

"One comment that I get the most that means the most," she said from her Los Angeles home, "is 'Thank you for making me laugh instead of making me cry.'"

A Marine wife — her husband, Jon, is now active reserve — Mollie says, "Once a Marine, always a Marine. That's how my husband and I are."

That's not all she is. "When my husband met me, I was a comedian and an actress," she said. Mollie scaled back her career to focus on her new role: military wife.

After four years and two deployments, Jon left active duty, and they moved to L.A., where Mollie pursued her dream of being a comedian. It didn't take long to realize where her heart was.

During a performance at a Hollywood club about a year ago, she said she asked herself, "What am I doing? These people are drunk, and they don't care."

"There's a bunch of women right now ... on Camp Pendleton," she recalled thinking. "I bet there's a deployment going on."

"I changed my entire direction. I redid my entire act and started contacting bases," she said. Now she performs comedy about military life for military spouses.

"I'll go anywhere," she said of her touring plans.

For installations she can't visit, her comedy CD debuts in December. Her book, based on her life and comedy, is due out next year, she said, and a television project is in the works.

Mollie said reaction to her military comedy is: "Finally ... someone is acknowledging the craziness of this lifestyle."

Some spouses need cheering up during deployment, she said. Others struggle with reunions.

"When they come back from war or deployment, they're going to be different, and you're going to be different," Mollie said. "You're going to have to rely on those vows that you took before God to get you through that."

"That's a serious message and an important message that I'm also trying to do throughout the comedy," she said. "When they come back, that's the hardest part ... I had to find out the hard way."

Deployments, acronyms, rank consciousness, even post-traumatic stress disorder, all are fodder for Mollie's act.

"Don't take your husband's word on PTSD," she tells audiences. "You need to get the facts. For instance, taking out the trash is not going to bring out flashbacks."

"Other people in the world can say 'That's horrible; that's a serious thing,' but if we don't laugh about it, if we can't, then what?" she asked.

"The way I've always coped in my life," she said, "is to take a situation and ... turn it into a really funny story."

Not everyone is amused. Mollie said some are offended by her language or subject matter.

"At Parris Island, somebody walked out," she said. "A person at Pendleton walked out. One out of two hundred isn't bad."

"I'm a Christian, but don't get me wrong; I say things in my act that are wild. No kids are allowed in my shows. It's an adult show, and we're all married."

She sets her own standards. "I know where that line is," she said, "and I don't cross it."

"I think Jesus had a really good sense of humor," said Mollie. "I think he gave me a gift and a talent. My job is to take that gift and talent to be used as an instrument for his will in my life."

"I think that nothing is more healing than laughter."