

**MESSAGE TO THE MEMBERSHIP
FROM
*DAI SEMPai BRENDAN SPEALMAN***

October 2009

To the Phoenix Karatedo Association:

OSU! I am writing to inform you all of my status. I will be going to the United States Marine Corps Officers Candidate School in Quantico, VA on October 1st. The school is 10 weeks long and, if I graduate, I will commission as a 2nd Lieutenant and start the 3-½ year active portion of my 8-year contract. It is my hope to become an Infantry Officer.

I would like everyone to know that this in no way means I am leaving the Association. This is a temporary absence from a part of my life I have every intention of resuming once I return from wherever it is the Corps takes me. Joining the Marines is just one step in a lifetime pursuit of becoming a warrior, which is a feasible journey I started through our Association. Phoenix has provided me with the opportunities to develop physically, mentally and spiritually unlike any other civilian association. I am confident the lessons I've learned through Phoenix will guide me through the training and combat I will experience through the Marines.

I will try to make future Gashuku the best I can. However, as that may not be possible, you all will just have to imagine me screaming at you to push yourselves! I would not be where I am today if Senior Yudansha hadn't done the same for me.

Hands up, train hard and have OSU!

Hombu note: Brendan Spealman is the fourth Dai Sempai in the history of the Phoenix Karate-do Association. The first sempai, traditionally a Nidan, is known for their physical skills, ability to organize and mentor, and potential.