

"MEGAN LEAVEY" is based on the true-life story of a young marine corporal (Kate Mara) whose social activities are nil. A loner, she passes a marine enlistment station and decides to leave everything behind, including her nagging mother (Edie Falco). Megan, beautifully portrayed by Ms. Mara, is assigned to clean up the K9 cages as punishment for an ill-advised infraction. Rex, a beautiful German Shepherd, is a bit aggressive as she comes close to his cage as he lets her know that she's not welcomed.

Megan, in turn, lets Rex know that she is not backing down. He admires that in a lady and they become war buddies. She is taught to handle the big guy, something all women intuitively know, and they are ready to face the life and death challenge of fighting in Iraq.

Rex is taught to search out explosives. Megan is aware of her dog's dedication to his fellow combatants and is careful not to be careless especially when danger is eminent.

The two brave soldiers, Megan and Rex, completed more than 100 missions during their tenure before an IED blast badly injures them. While Megan recuperates in a hospital, Rex is ordered back to combat duty. For all intents and purposes the future of these war heroes has seemingly been sealed.

Directed by Gabriela Cowperthwaite, "Megan Leavey" wisely keeps the fighting scenes and blood and gore to a minimum. The screenplay by Pamela Gray and Annie Mumolo & Tim Lovestedt, wanders a bit here and there but the heart and humor of the film, is very evident. "Megan Leavey" which also stars Edie Falco, Ramón Rodríguez, Bradley Whitford and Common, is worth seeing especially if your patriotic fervor is at a low ebb.

3 Bagels out of 4