

THE MONTHLY SALUTE

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<http://usmilitarygamers.com> press@usmilitarygamers.com

Don't Underestimate USMG Gamer Girls!

It goes without saying that the bulk of USMG's populace is composed of guys. Guys who have served, or who are currently serving in the U.S. military (well, most of them anyway). And it would be remiss to not note that the word is USMG is "gaming". So, what about the rest of the community? That very small club of USMG girl gamers? In this issue, we will find out just that, as we interview members xAresx029, Bull3tBait, and MD Femme Fatale through a Q&A session.

Q: Do you feel the gaming industry is coming around to being more inclusive of female gaming fans in terms of acknowledging the market for girl gamers, or do they still have a ways to go?

Bull3t: I think they have come around. I love the games with the options to play as a female character like ME, Borderlands, Fable, Fallout and Dead Island. I think they will have come closer to being inclusive when they give a female option in the COD series, or other military FPS type games. Let's face it, these games are not real life regardless of how hard they try to make them appear to be so what would it hurt? I'm sure guys would rather watch my six if it was a shapely female one, than the flat male bottoms they give the guys (yes I've looked).

Ares: I honestly feel they have a ways to go; they don't seem to realize that more and more female gamers are coming out. Because the main playable characters of video games end up becoming strong and unstoppable men, females tend to turn more towards something they feel they can relate to. For example, RPG's with high character customization attracts more females than shooters would. I believe that if the industry included more playable female characters with the same strengths as their counterparts, it would help more females become

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comfortable with other genres of video games.

Femme: Honestly, I still think they have a ways to go. It's a male dominated hobby and I think they are stuck in that mindset. Some people still act shocked about females gaming. Come on... its 2012, females game and it's time to accept that and welcome it. I spend a lot of money on video games and I'm really tired of people always assuming that I am buying the games for someone else and not myself. I've had people talk to me condescendingly about games and it just pisses me off. I'm not clueless but some people still treat you like you are. Another thing that irks me is the games that are marketed for females are puzzle games or dance games, seriously?

Q: What are your thoughts on how the gaming industry approaches female lead characters?

Ares: Well, with ones that actually do have female lead characters, it's either customize the looks, or it's a set character with an unbelievable size of boobs, scantily clad clothing, or extremely tight and form fitting, and she'll end up kicking serious ass in a leotard. The way I see it, it's a male gamer's wet dream on screen; when I believe that if they do allow customization that it would attract more females to play. The gaming industry tends

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...though they are attempting to put their "dream girl" to life. It gets old after a while.

Femme: Are you talking about the way the female characters look? Well I don't think that their gigantic boobs are big enough, and I think their skirts could be a little shorter. Their boobs should be so big that they topple over so they have to drag themselves across the floor! Lol Honestly, I was a little offended when I first started gaming, but now I could care less. I actually make fun of how ridiculous some of the characters look. Now, if I could only have a chance to create a male character for a video game!

Bull3t: I think they are doing a fairly good job of it. I can only go by a few games I've played that have female leads, and they are portrayed as strong, not as some butch badass. They are clearly feminine. My favorite to play is the Siren in Borderlands. She's sexy and powerful. My girl in KoA is also smokin'. I liked playing the female Shepard. I hated the way my girl looked in Fable II (I thought she had turned into a guy at one point). I love that hot but deadly aspect it appeals to the "what I want to be when I grow up" part of me.

Q: When playing with other gamers online when the majority is male, do you encounter a lot of harassment or do you find acceptance based on your gaming ability?

Femme: In the beginning I encountered a lot of harassment and a lot of guys who wanted to be your "friend" because you were a girl. When guys would give me crap, I would give it right back to them. I don't get harassed anymore and that might be because I can get aggressive back! I have noticed with some of my guy friends, that if I really suck at a game, they just bear with me and play with me anyway.

Bull3t: Sometimes. It depends. I did in MW2 so I learned to mute my mic in lobbies. It's just easier to avoid confrontation that way. I actually had one guy calling me a dike and then send me a friend invite. All I could say is "are you f'n kidding me?" as I deny them. I did get into a cool convo with another who took it to mean I liked him and was interested to get to know him better. I had to remove him from my friend list. I did have one match were my whole team quit out and it was 5 versus me. I was on fire and managed to tie the game. In the lobby I was all psyched up and told them good game and they all left the lobby. All I could think was what a bunch of sore losers.

Ares: It's half and half. With the harassment...and some male clan members can vouch for me)...I've been called every unimaginable name in the book. Or, they harass me by hitting on me, in which I imagine they're thinking I'm 90 pounds, playing in my Victoria's Secret underwear. Otherwise, I do encounter, "Are you a little boy, or a chick?", a lot. In which they accept the fact that they've just had their arses handed to them by a female. I do work at Gamestop part time, on Fort Bragg, in which I do deal with a lot of male gamers who are surprised I do actually play. Husbands will look at their wives, stating, "I wish she would play with me!"

Q: As you know, the USMG is primarily male. How do you feel interacting with a bunch of guys like this when the majority of them have "sailor mouth"?

Bull3t: Are you kidding? You haven't heard true sailor mouth until you've heard my late grandfather. Every sentence included f#ck or c#cks%cker (*edited*). I too use a lot of "curse" words but my kids are keeping me in check, so unless I'm lost in the moment I can control myself. 'Bullshit' is my word of choice lately. Oh, and 'damn'.

Ares: Ha! I have a worse vocabulary than some of the males! I'm married to a combat arms man, as well as all of my military friends throughout my...

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...career had been combat arms, cursing to no end. I learned from the best.

Femme: HAHAHA....I LOVE it! I'm a dirty minded girl with a dirty mouth so I think fit in well with them. I'm sure I could make some of them blush with the things that come out of my mouth!

Q for Bull3t: You work in the Army's civilian sector. Do you think this gives you little bit of a "foothold" in terms of understanding the lingo and the train of thought of USMG's military members?

Bull3t: Don't forget I was born an Army Brat too. My dad was career Army and is a Vietnam Vet. I lived on Army bases for the first 17 years of my life. I think that more than anything gives me the foothold. I was going to join the Army, but I had asthma which made it impossible for me to join back then. My first job was in a PX then I went to college for a while, then an Army Contractor and then finally sworn in as an Army Civilian. See the pattern? My parents were convinced I would marry a soldier one day but well....that didn't happen. I'm very comfortable here and I understand most of the lingo but as for the train of thought? Well, okay yeah I have a good idea of that too, but I can't say that as a woman I always understand it.

Q for Ares: You are the only active female USMGer who is prior service, and now an "Army wife". This obviously gives you an edge of sorts when relating to a majority of the USMG members. Thoughts and comments?

Ares: I am grateful for the constant support of the veterans and the current SM's within the site. They've kept up the "brother/sister-hood" imprint you receive within the military, treating me as one of their own. With others that have not served, and have a link to one that has or that just enjoy the company and support us, I will always make myself

available to answer any questions or give any support for them. I feel I can relate to the stories told by current and veterans, remembering how my life in the military had been. It's why I do use my Facebook to keep in contact with them; it helps me feel connected with my other brothers/sisters that had served and currently are; and it makes me available to them when they need me. It's a lifestyle that will never go away; no matter how hard you try....you'll always have it within you. I wish the clan was bigger; allowing more military gamers out there to get the support they need from others who had (it) and currently are (receiving it), when they need it....while playing video games together on the side.

Q: What do you wish you fellow male gamers knew or would do differently, if anything?

Bull3t: I would say don't do anything different. All of you have been molded into the people you are today by the experiences you've had. Good and bad. You wouldn't be the wonderful group I know and love if you all "changed" because I wish you'd do something differently.

As for wish they knew. I wish they knew how much I appreciate their sacrifices for this country. You are all my heroes.

Ares: That I am not some hot Asian chick licking my X-Box 360 controller while playing MW3 in my underwear. Ha!

Femme: Nothing. I don't have any complaints.

Q: What games are hot on your playlist right now, and what releases are you looking forward to?

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Bull3t: Right now I'm all into MW3. I think it brainwashed me. I don't really have a playlist so much as a waiting list, lol. I'm also slowly making my way through KoA: Reckoning and I have ME3 queued but have to finish ME2 before I start that one. There is just something about the FPS that keeps calling me though. I also just downloaded the DLC for Dead Island so I'll play that through starting tonight. As for releases, I can't wait for Borderlands2 to release. I really got hooked on that one and played for hours and hours with clan members on the first version. Of course I can't wait for the rest of the MW3 DLC.

Ares: I am currently addicted to the Mass Effect series. RPG's that I can build an actual story with are my type of games. I am looking forward to the release of Assassin's Creed 3 in October! I have always been a huge fan of the series, and I can never get enough of playing through the series. I've also been waiting to hear something about Dragon Age 3, and have been watching closely for any news regarding that series.

Femme: Right now I am playing MW3. I play BF3 sometimes but I really don't like it. I still play Battlefield Bad Company 2 when I can find people playing. The games that I am looking forward to are: Ghost Recon Future Soldier, Resident Evil 6, Borderlands 2, Rainbow 6 Patriots and Bioshock Infinite.

Q: What games are you best at and why?

Ares: I would honestly say I am currently "best at" RPG's; I write for a hobby, so story building through a game has always been something that had attracted me. RPG's have a habit of being visually beautiful games to play through, and the fact that I can build my own character and storyline through decisions attracts me. I feel as though I'm "writing" my own story through a video game.

Femme: FPS games are my favorite. I really suck at them though. I make a great bullet sponge! I really love games that you can play co-op in because I feel like it enhances your gaming experience.

Bull3t: Hmmm. What games am I best at? Well how do you really compare? Within Genres I'd say I was best at Black Ops as far as the FPS type games go. I liked the feel of the Treyarch games versus the Infinity Ward games. Why? I was less inconsistent with them than I am with MW2 and MW3. I think I have the most improvement in this area too. I didn't get my gamer tag from thinking of it myself. One of my best friends gave it to me while I played with him. It's near and dear to me because he got me back onto consoles and I'll never change it. I think anyone can be good at the RPGs because you're as good in those based on the effort you put into it.

Anything else you'd like to add?

Femme: Well, I'm pretty fun to game with. Let's game together sometime!

Bull3t: I would just add my heartfelt thanks for bringing me into the fold, treating me with respect and just try to convey how much fun it is (rage or not) to run around on the virtual battlefield, kicking ass or dragging ass, whatever the case may be with you guys. I look at this clan, and I can picture us many years down the line still a "family", maybe comparing grandkid pics one day. It just has the right feel to it.

Ares: I'm very grateful to the guys and gals at USMG, in all honesty. I feel so comfortable talking with all of them, knowing they understand what I've gone through and what I'm currently going through.

–END–



Femme



Bull3t



Ares

Congrats to February's Member of the Month



So what about that infamous picture out there? (Not this one!)

"It was taken on my birthday in 2009. Obviously I had a little too much."

In February USMG members bestowed the Member of the Month honors on photogenic redleg Oliver_g69. Based on his contributions to the community and teamwork in gameplay, Oliver's peers selected him to receive the honors. A nine-year veteran of the Army, Oliver has spent his career as a 13B (cannon crewmember). During that time, he's served four tours in support of OIF. During a phone interview, he offered up some comments about USMG, the MOTM award, and "that picture". (And we don't me the one on the left!)

When asked what interested him joining USMG, he replied, "Being with a bunch of military people interested in teamwork and camaraderie, unlike other clans that just talk a lot. It's great having a group with common interests."

As for wining MOTM, he stated, "It's pretty awesome! That's what's great about this clan. People look out for each other. It was really unexpected. I appreciated getting the gift."

Oliver joined USMG in November 2011. Congratulations on a well-deserved honor!

March Birthdays and Arrivals

Welcome the new additions to the USMG family in March:

KaNtSt0PMeh – Son (Liam) – 3/20/12
Indyred99 – Daughter (Kayla) – 3/28/12

March Happy Birthday wishes go out to:

BulletMagnet
Timmy_2_Tones
Barmat
USMCramirez
xAresx029
InkaB0DpaiN

Welcome Aboard

A hearty welcome to our new community members in March:

RogueScot – AF – Xbox
Chet The Jet – Army – Xbox
Doccupcake – Navy – Xbox
Twizted875 – USMC – Xbox
Twmiller77 – Army – Xbox
Sirjohnaton – Navy – Xbox
Luckyd21 – Army – Xbox/PS3
Bad LT Mikey – Civi – Xbox/PS3
Gully – USMC – Xbox
Amford92 – Navy – Xbox
Usafrocco – AF – Xbox
RitterMarine – USMC – Xbox
Illking51 – ? – Xbox
A4V Swick – Civi – Xbox

"I have come here to kick ass and chew bubble gum. And I'm all out of bubble gum."
– 'Rowdy'
Roddy Piper
in
They Live

Screenshot of the Month

E-mail yours to: press@usmilitarygamers.com



"Human Bullet"
courtesy of Bull3tBait

Notable Military History for the Month of April

- 4/22/2004 Marine Corporal Jason L. Dunham, mortally wounded 4/14/2004 near Husaybah, Iraq, earning the Medal of Honor.
- 4/4/2003 Army Sergeant First Class Paul Ray Smith, KIA Baghdad, Iraq, earning the Medal of Honor.
- 4/18/1942 Air Force Lieutenant Colonel James Doolittle led the first U.S. raid on Japan. Known as the famous "Doolittle Raid". James Doolittle is later awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions.

THE MONTHLY SALUTE:

Interviews by River_Rat_459 / News Stories by Ironhide400

CONTACT INFO: press@usmilitarygamers.com / www.usmilitarygamers.com

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