



THE MONTHLY SALUTE

Volume 1, Issue 1 February 2012

STAFF NOTES

On behalf of the U.S. Military Gamers Council, the Welcoming and Events Crew, and the Newsletter staff, welcome to the first issue of the official USMG newsletter, Monthly Salute. Each month, we'll bring you news and updates regarding community news, gaming events, trivia, veterans updates, interviews, and more.

The staff of the newsletter would like to solicit your input as the newsletter progresses.

If there are features you would like to suggest be added, changed, deleted, or if you would simply like please send your feedback/compliments/complaints to the newsletter staff via e-mail at usmgpress@gmail.com. Be sure to include your USMG screen name so we can properly credit you for any changes.

And now ladies and gentlemen, let's kick off our very first newsletter!

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A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED IN 2011!

USMG saw a record growth in membership in 2011. Thanks to the release of several major gaming titles, including Modern Warfare 3, Battlefield 3, Star Wars: The Old Republic, and the change of DC Universe Online to a free-to-play format, more and more mature gamers sought out --and found-- a home in the USMG community. The number of new members who joined in the last quarter of the year was on par with the influx that USMG saw when an article about our clan was published in a 2010 edition of OXM-Xbox Magazine.

2012 should continue to see growth as word continues to spread about our ever-growing group, and anticipated gaming titles begin to arrive.

We hope to have “by name” lists in the future.

TIME TO RECOGNIZE!

A big “THANK YOU” from all of the USMG staff and webmaster for the generous donations and subscriptions to help keep USMilitaryGamers.com up and running. Thanks to your donations, not only will the website continue to be up and running, but we will now be able to provide prizes for our Members of the Month and Member of the Year in 2012. As of press time we are currently at \$160.

We are well on our way to meet our year goal of \$600.

Additionally, thanks to all of those who purchased a premium subscription. Please consider a renewal if your subscription will be expiring in 2012.

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LET'S SALUTE THIS MEMBER...

A big slap on the back and 20 push-ups in honor of the first-ever USMG Member of the Year, Pakman3000. He was selected as the first ever MOTY by his peers based on his accomplishments through the year, and in particular his noted actions during the month of December 2011.

For those who are not aware, Pakman is also the founder of U.S. Military Gamers. There has been tremendous growth since the early days of USMG, and Pakman played a big hand in it through his recruiting efforts through COD Elite.

LET'S ALSO SALUTE...

A big “attaboy” to SteelHavok for being voted by his peers as the January 2012 Member of the Month. Havok (for short) joined USMG in July 2012, and has been one of the most active members since becoming a member.

Havok was appointed to the “green team” (Events and Welcoming Crew), and has done a sensational job in helping to get new applicants verified to become full members of the community.

Congratulations to both gentlemen.

In the meantime, all USMG members are encouraged to nominate someone they believe is worthy of consideration for February Member of the Month.

Watch for nominations to open in the Captains Cabin.

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UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Fantasy NASCAR - The 2012 NASCAR season will be kicking off in February at Daytona. This year, USMG will host the first ever USMG Fantasy NASCAR Fund-raiser. There will be a small entry fee of only \$5. At the end of the season, a portion of the money in the pool will be divided up between the top three finishers, with the remainder going to the USMG fund (for website hosting and maintenance, Member of the Month/Year prizes, etc.). The top finisher will receive 40% of the pot, the second place finisher will get 20%, and the third place winner will get 10%.

This is a great way to not only have fun in some friendly competition with fellow USMG members, but also to help keep our beloved community up and running. This game promises not to be just a “pick ‘em and see where they finish” format, but rather will require some strategy since all of the drivers can only be used nine times each throughout the season..

For more information, check the “Sports” thread under the Scuttlebutt forum. You can also send a private message to River_Rat_459 to enter or get more information.

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Texas Hold 'em Tournament

Do you know when to hold 'em, and know when to fold 'em?

We're looking for members who are interested in participating in a online Texas Hold 'em tournament fundraiser.

Like the aforementioned Fantasy NASCAR, this will be a fundraising event.

Planning is still in the preliminary stages.

You can find out more by visiting the forums and scrolling down to the "SpecWar Dev Gru" threads, or contact Ironhide400 via private message.

Game Night

Want to find a time and place to join up with other USMG members and rock some first-person shooter multiplayer? Feeling the need to get your Tebow on in Madden '12 against a clan buddy? Head to the "Groups" section under "Community" on the forum navigation bar to find out who's playing when, or propose your own play dates on your favorite system.

TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Robert Patrick (Terminator 2) and Alyssa Milano (Charmed) played characters in what movie based on a 80's video game of the same name? The answer is on the last page.

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SCREENSHOT OF THE MONTH



Submitted by oliver_g69

Do you have a screenshot you want to share? Please submit an original screenshot (none copied and pasted from the Internet, please) via e-mail to usmgpress@gmail.com. Be sure to include your USMG screen name so we can give proper credit.

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CRACK A SMILE (Humor of the month) **Courtesy of AJokeADay.com**

Q: How many military information officers does it take to change a light bulb?

A: At the present point in time it is against policy and the best interests of military strategy to divulge information of such a statistical nature. Next question, please.

Have a joke or humorous experience to share?

E-mail it to: usmgpress@gmail.com. Include your USMG screen name so we can give proper credit.

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VETERANS NEWS AND NOTES

A recent law change increases insurance coverage for veterans. This news update is courtesy of the Veterans Administration website:

WASHINGTON –

Some Veterans covered under the Veterans Group Life Insurance program (VGLI) now have the opportunity to increase their coverage to the current maximum coverage under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) program.

“Currently, 70 percent of the Veterans covered under VGLI are under age 60, have less than \$400,000 of coverage, and will greatly benefit from this law change,” said Allison A. Hickey, Department of Veterans Affairs under secretary for benefits. Under the Veterans' Benefits Act of 2010, enacted on Oct. 13, 2010, Veterans can increase their coverage by \$25,000 at each five-year anniversary date of their policy to the current legislated maximum SGLI coverage, presently, \$400,000. To date, approximately 21 percent of eligible Veterans have taken advantage of this opportunity, resulting in nearly \$113 million of new coverage being issued.

The VGLI program allows newly discharged Veterans to convert their SGLI coverage they had while in the service to a civilian program. Before enactment of this law, Veterans could not have more VGLI than the amount of SGLI they had at the time of separation from service. For example, those who got out of the service prior to Sept. 1, 2005, when the maximum SGLI coverage was \$250,000, were limited to \$250,000 in VGLI coverage.

Now on their first five-year anniversary, these Veterans can elect to increase their coverage to \$275,000. On their next five-year anniversary, they can increase the coverage to \$300,000, and so forth.

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The additional coverage can be issued regardless of the Veteran's health. To be eligible to purchase this additional coverage, the Veteran must:

- * Have active VGLI coverage,
- * Have less than the current legislated maximum coverage of \$400,000,
- * Request the additional coverage during the 120-day period prior to each five-year anniversary date,
- * Be less than 60 years of age on the five-year anniversary date of his or her coverage.

Eligible Veterans are notified of this opportunity a week before the start of the 120-day period prior to their anniversary date, and twice more before the actual anniversary date. For more information about VA's Insurance Program or other VA benefits, go to www.va.gov or call 1-800-827-1000. Veterans are also encouraged to visit VA's web portal eBenefits - Insurance.

LAST CALL

We hope you enjoyed the first edition of the USMG newsletter.

As mentioned earlier, we solicit your input and feedback.

You can reach us at usmgpress@gmail.com.

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TRIVIA QUESTION ANSWER:

The movie was called Double Dragon

THE MONTHLY SALUTE IS A USMG PUBLICATION

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS:

XxSilentxFartxX (Editor)

Ironhide400 (Feature editor)

River_Rat_459 (News Editor)