



US MILITARY GAMERS ROARS INTO 2013 WITH SERIOUS RECOGNITION!

Following the successful launch of the first ever year-end awards for the best in gaming (a.k.a. The Bouncing Betty Awards), USMG received some recognition from notables in the gaming

industry.

After the votes were tallied and the winners announced, the publishers and developers of the respective winning titles (see below) were contacted with congratulations for their winning games. Shortly thereafter, USMG found itself mentioned several times in different outlets around the internet.

Here's a look at some of the mentions that USMG received. The first is from Randy Pitchford, president of Gearbox Software (Borderlands 2). The second is from Stone Chin, PR for Assassin's Creed III. The third is from Dameon Clarke, the voice of "Handsome Jack" from Borderlands 2.:

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Randy Pitchford



Auld Lang Stone @GreatWalofChin

19h

Pretty cool to walk into the office and read Assassin's Creed III wins @usmgamers Best Single-player Campaign of 2012.

Expand



Craig M. @crzychinook

8h

@GreatWalofChin @USMGamers We peeps at USMG think what you guys do is Awesome at Ubisoft and we thank you!!! Assassin's Creed #EPIC!

Expand



Auld Lang Stone @GreatWalofChin

7h

@crzychinook @usmgamers you are mistaken. It is I who think what YOU FOLKS do is awesome. Thank you, truly. #FreedomReigns

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Reply to @GreatWalofChin @crzychinook



Additional recognition came from the [Gearbox Software Blog](#) and 505 Games (Sniper Elite V2) [via their Twitter feed](#). US Military Gamers is truly grateful for the mentions and recognition. Going forward, we're hoping for even more interaction with the gaming industry.

In 2013, USMG plans on bringing back the Bouncing Betty awards at the end of the year. Be sure to track your favorite games throughout the year and make your nominations in December!



THE FIRST EVER "BOUNCING BETTY" WINNERS ANNOUNCED

As mentioned above, 2012 saw the USMG community nominate and vote for their favorite games of the past year. Here's a look at the winners in each category:

- **Best Single-Player Campaign - Assassin's Creed III**
- **Best Multiplayer or Co-Op - Borderlands 2**
- **Best PS3 Title - Dust 514 (Beta)**
- **Best Xbox Title - Halo 4**
- **Best PC Title - Diablo 3**
- **Best DLC/Expansion Pack - Sniper V2 Elite: Assassinate the Fuhrer**
- **Best Military-based Game - Medal of Honor: Warfighter**
- **Best Hero/Heroine - Commander Shepard (Mass Effect 3)**
- **Best Villain/Villainess - Handsome Jack (Borderlands 2)**

- Sleeper of the Year - TIE: Sniper Elite V2 & Sleeping Dogs
- Best Sports/Racing Game - Madden NFL '13
- USMG Game of the Year - Borderlands 2



THE BATTLEFIELD FRIENDS RETURN! EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW SCORES BIG!

On December 16th of 2012, everyone's favorite noob and his ever-suffering squadmates returned to internet to the delight of fans everywhere. Season 2 of *Battlefield Friends* premiered on Machinima, as the team from Hank and Jed Movie Pictures bought more Battlefield 3 hijinks to animated life.

The night before, [the cast of Battlefield Friends joined USMG Radio for an exclusive interview](#). The cast discussed everything about "BFF", including how the show came to be, development and production of the series, and additional projects, such as the series "Doraleous and Associates". The entire episode was devoted to the interview, with fans calling in with questions and direct interaction with the cast and crew. The phone lines were flooded to the point that all calls could not be taken (unfortunately). More questions rolled in through the show's chat room and [Twitter feed](#).

Perhaps most impressive...and very telling about the popularity of the BFF series...was the amount of listeners (live and archived streaming) for this particular episode. Over 2,700 listeners have heard this episode alone!

USMG Radio is planning on having more special guests in the future, so stay tuned for updates. In addition to updates at USMilitaryGamers.com and the aforementioned Twitter feed, USMG

This (and other episodes) are available for on-demand streaming from the USMG Radio page at <http://www.blogtalkradio.com/militarygamer>



A BELATED CONGRATS TO NOVEMBER'S MEMBER OF THE MONTH...

As mentioned in last month's edition long-time USMG member (and Monthly Salute features editor/columnist) Dahlia Bellona was the winner of November's Member of the Month award as voted on by her peers in USMG. Dahlia was nominated for developing and producing the USMG Radio program, thus helping to give the community a voice on the internet. The reaction to the show has been extremely positive, and the members of US Military Gamers gave her their vote for making a big contribution to the community.

Here's a few words with our resident "queen of the airwaves":

Please tell us little about your background?

I enlisted in the Army in 2003 as a human resources specialist (S1 for you Army folks). Basically, I joined for two reasons: I come from a military family, most men in my large family are in the military or had been; and I wanted a change in my life. I went to Basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, and AIT in Fort Jackson. Then they threw me in Fort Stewart, GA, where I spent my whole career there or in Iraq. I started off working within the 3ID Command Group, and was transferred to 2BCT's Brigade S1 to be closer to the husband, who was the Brigade Commander's "Shadow" at the time. I deployed to Iraq in 2005-2006, then again for the infamous surge in 2007-2008. 15 months in that country sucked horribly. But, I met some of my closest friends in the Army and met my husband while deployed the first time around. I was medically retired, and I have to say, I miss the Army life terribly. But, now, I'm continuing college pursuing a major in English with Professional Communications (AKA Journalism).

What games are you into right now and what are you looking forward to?

ASSASSIN'S CREED 3!!! I am looking forward to more information on the newest Dragon Age game that's to be coming out; but, I love hearing about up-and-coming games.

What brought you to USMG?

I was actually playing Call Of Duty: Modern Warfare 2 shortly after I got back from my second deployment, and my friend Amiable Horde had referred me while he was recruiting at the time.

How do you feel about being voted for by your peers?

I'm humbled, actually; but it was an honorable gesture from Toby when it was a tie between him and I; the work with the Podcast for USMG was just an idea I had and decided, "Hey, why not have the USMG involved? That'd be neat if they had a podcast!" So yeah...I am honored that the community felt the need to even nominate me. It was a team effort with Corey, as well as rest of the Staff, the members, and of course, the listeners. Thank you so much.

I appreciate this, and all the support the USMG Community has given me. It's been so wonderful to know that I have ears that listen when I need to vent or just BS. Honestly, I don't get out much, due to the things I have going on, and all, so I do rely a lot on the whole online communication stuff when I just want someone to talk to; and the USMG has been there for me through a whole lot of stuff. Thanks you guys!



...AND HERE'S TO DECEMBER'S MEMBER OF THE MONTH.

As you may have caught in the interview above, our December Member of the Month winner, Toby2533, make a very unselfish decision to concede the November MOTM honor to Dahlia Bellona when the two wound up in a tie at the end of voting. Because of that gesture, Toby wound up being immediately nominated and winning the honors for the month of December 2012.

The Monthly Salute had the chance to catch up with Toby for a quick Q&A session:

Would you tell us about your

military and civilian background, please?

(I was) in the Marines in the 80s, were I was a 2881 field crypto repairman. Got that open contact, served with the 24th MAU did 1-1/2 years on ship via deployments. (I) Got out went to college at IUP for Respiratory Care and (did) 6 years in the reserve. (I worked in) hospitals in Pittsburgh for a while, then moved south to work at Duke Medical Center. After working at Duke for 5 years, got into Pharmaceutical Research. (I'm) currently running COPD trials in North America. (Been) doing it for too long and thinking of retiring from corporate America. Have 2 great kids, 10 and 8, and a beautiful wife.

What games are you into right now and what are you looking forward to?

FPS and war-games on the computer. Never played video games until the PlayStation original to play Madden since I'm a rabid Pittsburgh fan. Was mostly a computer war-gamer. Burned many hours with war in Russia by Gary Grisby back years ago.

What bought you to USMG?

read the Xbox mag about USMG

How do you feel about being voted for by your peers?

Hate questions like this. I really don't think I deserve it. I don't do much for the clan other post silly stuff and links to hot girls.

WELCOME ABOARD TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

The following joined the US Military Gamers family in December. Welcome aboard!

- DNTTOUCH1T
- PARACOSM
- WickedSteel5150

More members have joined since January 1st, and we'll extend a welcome to those individuals in our next issue.

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY...

- WileCoyote_2009
- SSG Guillermo
- ValorFall
- Loakii
- Ssandersjr
- River_Rat_459

Is your birthday in January but not listed here? Go under your profile settings and change it to show your birthday if you wish for others to know when it is. It will appear in the community calendar.

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE USMG FAMILY!

A hearty congratulations to the USMG members who welcomed new bundles of joy to their lives recently!

- CW4-Phan: baby girl named Ginger, born December 2, 2012.
- Sickpuppy79: baby girl, born January 8, 2013



COVER DESIGN CREDIT

- ValorFall

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