

THE MONTHLY SALUTE

June 3, 2012
Volume 1, Issue 5



A US Military Gamers Publication

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Meet the Battlefield Friends

By River_Rat_459 & Ironhide400



If ever there was a parody video series that so accurately nailed down the unintentional (well...usually unintentional) comedy of one of the most popular shooters around, the *Battlefield Friends* series from the Hank & Jed Movie Pictures team certainly excels at the task.

The *Battlefield Friends* (BFF for short) videos featured the four classes from the game as individual characters, forced to survive as only they can in the Battlefield 3 (BF3) world while attempting to survive with the mother of all noobs in their ranks. Everything from the character design to their interactions with the goings-on around them reflects the “real” BF3 world as gamers would experience it, with the addition of some seriously funny dialogue and other nuances found only in BF3.

Recently, we had the opportunity to speak via teleconference with the team behind USMG’s favorite series. Joining us were Brent Triplett (creator/animator/voice of the noob), Tony Schnur (voice of the sniper), Jon Etheridge

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Meet the Battlefield Friends	1
Battlefield Premium and More DLC on June 4	3
April Member of the Month	3
May Member of the Month	4
Screenshot	5
Birthdays and Welcomes	5
Welcome to the World Announcement	5

(voice of the engineer), and Nate Panning (voice of the medic/assault specialist).

We started off the interview by asking what the inspiration was behind making the series. Triplett replied, “Definitely learning to fly the helicopter in the middle of gameplay. There I was playing the game one night, and I jump right into the helicopter. I’m crashing all over the place and I think to myself, ‘This is definitely a good skit.’ So yeah...the material kind of writes itself.” Triplett went on to tell us that his helicopter misadventures led to the first BFF episode titled “First Flight”. From there, an entire series was born.

We talked about one of their latest episodes (at the time of the interview) called “Join the Battle”, which features an all too familiar problem for anyone who has ever played BF3. “As soon as you jump in a server, you lose. I mean, really? Come on,” stated Etheridge.

The team also discussed what was then an upcoming episode (and since released) titled “Administrator”. This was a take on the issue of server administrators who make their own rules...even if they just make them up as they go along. Apparently the guys are no strangers to

Please see *Battlefield Friends* on page 2

Battlefield Friends

Continued from Page 1

the associated headaches. “We’ve been banned from many servers,” laughed Schnur.

Further into our interview, we brought up the topic of BF3 versus Modern Warfare 3 (MW3). Said Panning, “If you like an inferior game, that’s (MW3) your bag. I prefer the strategy and the big, open maps. I just prefer having vehicles available. MW3 seems more like a ‘plug-and-play’ game. I will say there is a better experience in the MW3 (single player) campaign. It really felt like BF3 tried too hard to be MW3 in the campaign.”

We raised the question on how long it takes to create an episode of BFF. “One night a week, we’re writing and then recording voices,” stated Triplett. “After that, it takes me the rest of the week to animate. So from start to finish, each episode takes about a week to do.”

The Hank & Jed arsenal is not just limited to BFF. There are other characters they have created which are all unique and comical, such as Cornbread Samurai, and Andy Biscuits. Additionally, they have created some epically hilarious short films including *Super Sam*, *Warped Galaxy*, *World Interrupted*, and *Wrong Number*. However, the H&J team states that they have put the most blood, sweat, and tears into the series *Doraleous and Associates*, which appeared on The Escapist Magazine website (<http://www.escapistmagazine.com/videos/view/doraleous-and-associates>). According to Schnur, “That’s our pride and joy.”

Our final question was a rather simple one: Where did the name “Hank and Jed” come from? According to Triplett, “Hank and Jed were two characters from a short film we created years ago. They were redneck Jedi. The film was called “Return of the Rednecks.”



The Hank and Jed team have more comedy up their collective sleeves, all of which can be seen on their official YouTube channel.

The editorial staff of The Monthly Salute would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Mr. Triplett, Mr. Schnur, Mr. Etheridge, and Mr. Panning for their time and allowing River_Rat and Ironhide to conduct our first-ever official interview.

We also want to send out a special USMG salute to Mr. Panning, who is himself a Marine veteran. Semper Fi!

We want to encourage our readers and members to visit the following sites and support the Hank & Jed movement:

www.youtube.com/user/hankandjed

www.escapistmagazine.com/videos/view/doraleous-and-associates

www.facebook.com/battlefieldfriends

www.facebook.com/hankandjed

www.facebook.com/DoraleousAndAssociates

www.hankandjedmoviepictures.com

Get Ready for Battlefield Premium and More BF3 DLC

New Premium Service to Offer Extensive Stat Tracking and Other Exclusives Starting This Month

Dice and Electronic Arts have announced that a brand new service will be launched on June 4 to further enrich the already epic Battlefield 3 experience.

Battlefield Premium will be a full-feature service which offers players many exclusives, such as unique in game weapons (the ACB-90 knife is mentioned), special character and weapons camouflages, premium dog tags, and exclusive assignments.

There are also several other unique goodies as well. Among them are priority queuing into game servers, new decals for platoon emblems, storage of up to five of your favorite battle reports, and access to strategy guides and videos. But that's not all. Players will also get access to members-only events and exclusive double XP weekends.

Players will also be able to reset all of their stats in multiplayer, in order to try and better their win/loss



Much like Call of Duty Elite, Battlefield Premium will offer multiple exclusives, including DLC, stats resets, and more.

and kill/death ratios.

Finally, players will also get access to all current and forthcoming DLC, including the latest add-on titled "Close Quarters", which also debuts on the same day (June 4).

The price for Battlefield Premium is listed at \$49.99.

Meet April's Member of the Month...

In April, Bull3tBait was recognized by her peers for her outstanding work in maintaining our monthly and annual polls. Bull3tBait is USMG's Member of the Month for April 2012.

We asked her a little bit about herself. She's served proudly for 21 years as an Army civilian, currently working in the Space and Terrestrial Communications Directorate. And what brought her to USMG? "I found USMG on a forum somewhere. It was either MW2 or Battlefield 2. I think MW2. At the time I only had one friend I really played with and his friends by association. He wasn't on as much so I wanted more people to game with. I decided to check out the site and felt comfortable right from the start. I applied and Silent verified me. That will be 2 years ago this July.



I love the camaraderie of the members. I never felt outcast or inadequate in games. I'll admit to being nervous when I first joined that I played like crap but nobody judged and that really pulled me in. So yea the family atmosphere, genuine caring for...

Continued on page 4

April's Member of the Month (con't.)

fellow members, and unconditional acceptance of playing ability are the things I love most about USMG."

When asked about her thoughts on being nominated by and voted for by her peers, Bull3t replied, "I was very flattered to be nominated for April. I was up against Rogue who I thought deserved it more than me. I appreciate the honor tho and will continue to do my best in keeping the

MotM/MotY going for many years to come." We here at The Monthly Salute extend a hearty congratulations to the one they also call "Popcorn" for her well-deserved award!

"Never interrupt your enemy when he is making a mistake."

— *Napoleon Bonaparte*

...And Here's May's Member of the Month

In an effort to bring you more up-to-date information, we're now going to try and feature the most current Member of the Month's profile in our future newsletters. May's member is a relative newcomer to USMG, but he's made an early impact and won the respect of his peers, and thusly earned the title of Member of the Month. Let's get to know Doccupcake.

Originally hailing from Indiana, Doc is an E-4/HM3 in the U.S. Navy. He joined the Navy back in 2007, and has since been to 21 countries while serving as a Hospital Corpsman, with a combat tour to boot.

What brings Doc to USMG? "I actually was online playing MW3 and I was playing against them (USMG), and saw the clan tag, and mine was USMC at the time, and SSG Guillermo made a comment about it, and I asked about his and really enjoyed the style of their play. So he told me the website and I checked it out and thought it looked like a place I could feel like at home."

How are things going so far? "I love the brotherhood and like minds that enable me to feel a cultured and well rounded community that understands each other and is there when in need," he said.

And what about being nominated and voted for by the members of his new community? "When I was nominated, I was really taken back by the overwhelming response and sheer appreciation. I was just being me and it's nice to feel appreciated. I am very humble in this recognition and will always be here for anyone."



Screenshot of the Month



Custom A-10 skin designed by MK-82_1_EA from the game "DCS: A-10 Warthog".

June Birthdays, Welcomes, and More

Happy Birthday this month to:

Rickety Rob
Metalhead Brett
RookieHunter
jet wrench
SteelHavok
Seaman Wilson
Spyd3r73
arMedL3PR3ChauN
wolfoftheage
thelowbardefinitions.

Welcome Aboard to our newest members:

equis – USMC – PC
stankonu – USN – Xbox / PS3
SSGMansourOmar – Army – Xbox
Guerrillaism – USAF – PC
Ghost-kill – Army – Xbox
TheDesertFox – NG – Xbox
bigding21 – USAF – Xbox

CEREAL KILLERS1 – USMC – Xbox
War_Admiral – USN – PC / PS3
Specops03SS – Civi – Xbox
brentchap – USN – PC
zaery – Civi – PC / PS3
BobbyMT912 – USN – Xbox
Filibuster21B – USAF – PC
portersj78 – USMC – Xbox
A1000YrdStare03 – USMC – Xbox
KopfeJager – USMC – PC / Xbox
AbnTrooper – Army – PC
Cerasuolo2T2 – USAF – Xbox
Razor2nd – Army – Xbox
Sev27 – USAF – Xbox
BuNcHkIn89 – USAF – Xbox
notbueller – Army – PC
jkeele3 – USAF – Xbox
crashburn10 – USN – Xbox
zeal_Austrene – Civi – PC
KrystopherJungsthoefel – USAF – PC
TheLastSpartan – USAF – PC / Xbox

And a big "Congrats and welcome to the world...."

Congrats to A-25TH-ID-VET and his family, on the arrival of their new son Cole Rylee. He was born May 20th, weighing in at 5 lbs., 11 oz. and measuring 19 inches long. EatLead92 is Cole's big brother.

Always forgive your enemies-- nothing annoys them so much. --Oscar Wilde

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