



R & R

Rough & Ready



APRIL 2011

ON TAP

Gunfire Detection System



A Soldier shows how the Individual Gunshot Detector is worn.

Photo: PEO Soldier

A new war fighting technology will soon be making its way to Afghanistan.

US Army forces will be getting [gunshot detection systems](#), which can tell where a shot was fired from. Approximately 13,000 gunshot detection systems will be given to individual foot-soldiers in late March '11, according to the US Army.

The system, called Individual Gunshot Detector (IGD), has four small acoustic sensors and a small display screen attached to the soldier's body armor that shows the distance and direction of incoming bullets. The sensors are each about the size of a deck of cards and can detect the supersonic sound waves generated by enemy gunfire. It alerts the soldier of the shot's direction in less than one second."

Brigadier General Peter Fuller, program executive officer soldier, said in a statement. "When you get fired on, instead of trying to figure everything out, you will have technology to assist you in knowing what happened and where the shot was coming from.

"The next thing we want to do is try to integrate this capability with other capabilities; for example, we have Land Warrior deployed in Afghanistan and we're going to have Nett Warrior coming into the force. How about, if you get shot at, not only do I know where that came from, but others know where it came from because I can network that capability."

AT EASE!

... and ready for more humor?

Our website, to which this newsletter is connected, is far enough along for you to enjoy the humor and blog. It's evolving, so expect to see some more changes. See it at www.tumblingwiththetroops.com

ON THE HOMEFRONT

Famous APRIL FOOL'S DAY Pranks

1957 The BBC airs video of families harvesting "spaghetti trees." When hundreds of viewers call asking how to grow their own, the BBC tells them to put a noodle in a can of sauce.

1976 A BBC astronomer reports that at 9:47 a.m., Pluto and Jupiter will align, creating a gravitational effect on Earth that will cause people who jump at that moment to float.

1996 Taco Bell takes out full-page ads in several newspapers, stating that it has purchased the Liberty Bell "to help the national debt" and renamed it the Taco Bell.

1997 Readers notice something funny about their comics when characters pop up in the wrong strips (Garfield appears in Blondie, Nancy dresses as Garth Vader in Fox Trot).

1998 Burger King announces a Left-Handed Whopper—with condiments rotated 180 degrees to "result in fewer condiment spills for left-handed hamburger lovers.

2000 Google asks users to project a mental image of what they're looking for, then click an icon. The response: "Brainwaves received in analog. Please rethink in digital."

Springtime means BASEBALL in the U.S.

Think you know baseball... see if you can figure out this puzzle: What's the score?

Answer on page 2.



ON DEPLOYMENT

Letters from a 6th Grade Class to a fellow-student's dad

The wife of a deployed Base Commander in the Mid East shared the following letter with us. It answers a lot of questions many of us have about life during deployment. (Their son is the student in this same class.) Here are some excerpts from the letter (the full letter can be seen on the website www.TumblingWithTheTroops.com).

To Mr. C's 6th Grade Class:

I see you wrote around the Thanksgiving time frame; today is Christmas Day, another work day here. I am post commander at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. You can Google it and see what it looks like.

I take care of all the soldiers, sailors and marines passing thru. Some times there are over 10,000 visitors and sometimes only 2500. My soldiers take care of getting enough water and food for everyone as well as making sure the bathrooms are clean and the electric power stays on. We run a small hospital with our own helicopters. And loan out cars and phones for them to use. This place is indeed in the desert; herds of camels roam around... the 1 hump kind are what live here. They, however, come in three colors – white, brown, and black.

Everyone seemed to ask a question or two about this adventure; so let's see about the questions...

Clair asked what we eat and about the weather: It is winter here - the high is about 80°; soon it will be just about the hottest place on earth (135 during the day). There are two big dining halls. They serve 4 meals a day – breakfast from 5 am, then lunch and dinner, plus a midnight meal. Remember some soldiers work at night – it's a 24 hour a day operation. The food is about like at home – very good; but, more like eating it at a school cafeteria.

Jonathan P asks if the Army is mean and do they yell at us all the time: I am afraid you've been watching too much TV. We treat everyone with dignity – our fellow soldiers, allies, and the contractors from all over.

Cont'd on page 2

Softball in Heaven?



Two 90-year-old women, Bertha and Betty, had been friends all of their lives.

When it was clear that Bertha was dying, Betty visited her every day.

One day Betty said, 'Bertha, we both loved playing softball all our lives, and we

played all through high school. Please do me one favor: When you get to heaven, somehow you must let me know if there's women's softball there.'

Bertha looked up at Betty from her death-bed and said, 'Betty, you've been my best friend for many years. If it's at all possible, I'll do this favor for you.'

Shortly after that, Bertha passed on.

A few nights later, Betty was awakened from a sound sleep by a blinding flash of white light and a voice calling out to her, 'Betty, Betty.'

'Who is it', asked Betty, sitting up suddenly. 'Who is it?'

'Betty -- it's me, Bertha.'

'You're not Bertha. Bertha just died.'

'I'm telling you, it's me, Bertha,' insisted the voice.

'Bertha! Where are you?'

'In heaven,' replied Bertha. 'I have some really good news and a little bad news.'

'Tell me the good news first,' said Betty.

'The good news,' Bertha said, 'is that there's women's softball in heaven. Better yet, all of our old buddies who died before me are here, too. Even better than that, we're all young again. Better still, it's always Springtime and it never rains or snows. And best of all, we can play softball all we want, and we never get tired.'

'That's fantastic,' said Betty. 'It's beyond my wildest dreams! So what's the bad news?'

'You're pitching Tuesday.'

~

Baseball is the only field of endeavor where a man can succeed three times out of ten and be considered a good performer.

~Ted Williams

~

Answer to Baseball Puzzle:

The score is 5-4, bottom of the 5th, one out and nobody on.

FROM THE MAILBAG

Letters from a 6th Grade Class

Cont'd from page 1

Haley Claire asks if it is safe here and what's my favorite day: My favorite day is Wednesday because that's Steak and Lobster Day at the dining hall. And Kuwait is very safe. My job is to see it stays that way.

Giselle Alexandria asks how we eat, sleep - my unit of 500 soldiers is a permanent party here so we get trailers and have heat and air conditioning... even television from Armed Forces Network. The visitors to the camp live in large tents and sleep on cots.

Marlene asks what the terrain is like: My last deployment was closer to the Euphrates River. This base is about 15 miles from the Arabian Gulf. IRAQ and IRAN are both very close. Kuwait is a very small country. There are no rivers or ponds, just desert as far as you can see.

Nikayla asked about water: It all comes in bottles... cases and cases, truck load after truck load.

Jeffrey asks if I miss my family: Yes, a lot. Because I am in charge I get a phone in my trailer (that's called a CHU); mine has a sink and shower so it's called a wet chu. But I get to phone home in the evening. When it's 8 at night here it's 12 noon there. We are -3 GMT which means I am 3 hours earlier than Greenwich England and you guys are +5 GMT.

Aranza stated he was running a 5K race; we have them at 6 am three days a week - it gets everyone up and moving.

Trevor asked about football and I am a Washington fan; I'm afraid they and the cowboys are battling it out for last in their division. There's always next year. I did meet the Cowboy Cheerleaders - I told them I was a Dallas fan, but had my fingers crossed.

Brenda, we have quite a few females soldiers - 32 to be exact and one is a flute player in our State Band. So you *can* be a musician in the army.

And **Andrew** [the Base Commander's son]: Well, I speak to you often, but don't want to leave you out. I don't have to go to Iraq; I go right up to the border - that's where my responsibility ends and someone else's begins. I am getting ready to take my afternoon fitness walk around the base and look everything over. We had a nice Christmas lunch and will have the same thing for dinner. Take care.

For everyone, thanks much for the letters and support. I will shred your letters so your addresses are secure.

~ LTC Clay Coatney, Camp Buehring, Kuwait



BACK ON THE FARM

Billy Bob and Cletus

Cletus is passing by Billy Bob's hay barn one day when, through a gap in the door, he sees Billy Bob doing a slow and sensual Strip-tease in front of an old green John Deere.

Buttocks clenched, he performs a slow pirouette, and gently slides off first the right strap of his overalls, followed by the left. He then hunches his shoulders forward and in a classic strip tease move, lets his overalls fall down to his hips, revealing a torn and frayed plaid shirt. Then, grabbing both sides of his shirt, he rips it apart to reveal his stained T-shirt underneath. With a final flourish, he tears the T-shirt from his body and hurls his baseball cap onto a pile of hay.



Having seen enough, Cletus rushes in and says... "What the heck are you doing, Billy Bob?"

"Jeez, Cletus, ya scared the bejeezers out of me!" says an obviously embarrassed Billy Bob. "But me'n the Ol' Lady been havin' trouble lately in the bedroom department and the Therapist suggested I 'do something sexy to a tractor'."

[Don't make me come explain this to you! Read the last line again, slowly and out loud.] 😊

Mission Statement:

Having close ties to the military most of my life, I am a big fan of the military and wish to bring them some joy and humor with a little bit of attitude. No offense is ever intended toward any particular group. I am a mother, grandmother, and mother-in-law of one of your own. Don't ask me who (I don't want him to be embarrassed by my naughtiness) and don't ask me how old I am... I'll only smile and say, "I'm somewhere between the age of consent and collapse, closer to collapse."

~ Marie Renn, Editor

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