ORDERED TO LAUGH

ESSENTIALLY INDIAN
Humour in Uniform

SUDHIR MUDGAL

Foreword by
Air Marshall S K Sareen, PVSM, AVSM, VM (G)
Former Chief of the Air Staff, Indian Air Force

The Indian armed forces have a great sense of humour,
as awe-inspiring as its fighting prowess – remarkably incisive and direct (like the famed Bofors), succinct and biting, but for reasons unknown (and perhaps ‘classified’), they prefer to shoot with their weapons, rather than with their writing instruments.

The Author

Sudhir Mudgal is the pseudonym of a serving officer of the Indian Army. He is an alumni of IIT, Delhi and CFTRI, Mysore and has represented the country at the U.N. Conferences on various ethical issues relating to Science and Technology. He has a highly developed sense of humour, a creative bent of mind, and an enviable record of creativity in advertising, painting and cartooning. Many of his paintings have found a ready market in the corporate world and at the DRDO Bhawan in New Delhi. His ambition is to produce and direct a series of films capturing the lighter side of life of the men, and their families, serving in uniform.

ORDERED TO LAUGH

ESSENTIALLY INDIAN
Humour in Uniform

SUDHIR MUDGAL

Foreword by
Air Marshall S K Sareen, PVSM, AVSM, VM (G)
Former Chief of the Air Staff, Indian Air Force

Orient Publishing
DELHI | MUMBAI | HYDERABAD

Dedicated to

All soldiers and their families who keep smiling inspite of hardships of military life.

ISBN : 978-81-222-0525-1
eBook ISBN : 978-81-222-0576-3

Ordered to Laugh: Essentially Indian — Humour in Indian Uniform

Subject: Humour / Jokes

© Orient Publishing

1st Published 2014

Published by
Orient Publishing
5A/8 Ansari Road, New Delhi-110 002
www.orientpublishing.com

Cover Design by Vision Studio
Illustrations by Sudhir Mudgal and Vision Studio

CONTENTS

FROM THE EDITOR
FOREWORD
BEGINNING

FROM THE EDITOR

There are no known exceptions, Indian armed forces and its allied services, branches and organisations included, to the old and well known dictum — laughter is the best medicine. Be it high blood pressure, diabetes, strokes, heart disease, or any other stress-related condition, laughter and a healthy sense of humour is *the* treatment. I say that on due recommendations of the Medical Corps.

Believe you me if I tell you that compiling and putting together a book on ‘authentic’ and ‘uniformed’ jokes, anecdotes and comic situations is like fighting a battle at Siachen. Like the preparation for a battle atop Siachen, this book too is a result of years of meticulous effort — at times frustrating, and at other times most satisfying. I hope the end result would bring a smile to every reader’s face. Undoubtedly, members of the armed forces have a great sense of humour, as awe-inspiring as its fighting prowess — remarkably incisive and direct (like the famed Bofors), succinct and biting. Rarely is it satirical, dry or sardonic. The ‘humour’ in the armed forces is good-natured fun, makes fun and may seem disrespectful, but it never is. It may seem abusive, but it is never offensive. We are all men of honour.

Though plentiful, but for reasons unknown (and perhaps ‘classified’) the men in uniform fight shy of penning down the lighter side of life. I can only assume that they prefer to shoot with their weapons, rather than with their writing instruments. Nevertheless, I must thank my fellow men in uniform, their children, ladies and all others who have contributed to this book or kept

me going in this venture with their encouragement. I was often told that I was in the process of creating history. (May I therefore assume that I am a pioneer of sorts).

I would also like to share the apprehension some of my friends had. Would my fellow soldiers, my brothers-in-arms, take it amiss if good-natured fun was poked at their regiments? I hope and pray not. Lest some do not like it, to all of them I say that I do not intend to offend or be insolent; do not therefore gun me down for my attempts to lighten the stressed life we lead. My sincere request is, if it tickles you, smile rather than criticise (laughter is good for your health too).

Though all sincere efforts have been made to keep anecdotes and jokes as authentic and original as possible, yet the possibility of some repetition cannot be ruled out. Some of the anecdotes have been picked up from journals, magazines, or other sources along with contributor's name. Since there was no way to contact them, I thank them now and also request to send more for next volume.

There is no authentic Indian military joke book till date; *Ordered to Laugh* is my dream. My publishers and I would like to bring out the next volume of this series in which we would like to include contributions from our uniformed brothers and sisters from across the borders. Let the battle for a superior sense of humour begin. Sound the bugle!

It is my earnest hope that readers would appreciate this effort and would 'volunteer' to contribute to the future volumes of this series. Therefore, I request all soldiers, ladies and children to contribute for the next volume on sudhirjmudgal@gmail.com.

February, 2014 Sudhir Mudgal

FOREWORD

A human being goes through various stages in life. More often than not, there are stresses and strains which a person has to cope with. Invariably the time to relax and recoup is limited. To my mind the greatest destressing comes when a person smiles or laughs watching a funny situation or hearing a funny anecdote.

Just as ‘spices’ are to bland food, laughter can be said to be a ‘tonic’ to overcome stress. Research has shown that the health benefits of laughter are far-ranging. While more studies need to be done, studies so far have shown that laughter can help relieve pain, bring greater happiness, and even increase immunity. Positive psychology names the propensity for laughter and sense of humour as one of the 24 main signature strengths one can possess, and therefore laughter yoga clubs are springing up across the country. Unfortunately, however, many people don’t get enough laugher in their lives. Most public speakers no matter how serious their subject is, make a special effort to narrate an incident at the beginning of their talk to evolve laughter. This itself helps the speaker to get greater attention of the audience to the subject matter of his talk. A good social evening is one where people are relaxed and a few among the gathering can narrate interesting anecdotes and jokes.

I have heard people telling me that they are addicted to certain games — particularly golf. Well my own experience is that these people are looking forward to few hours of their association with the ‘foursome’ to hear a few

interesting anecdotes and jokes to have a hearty laugh.

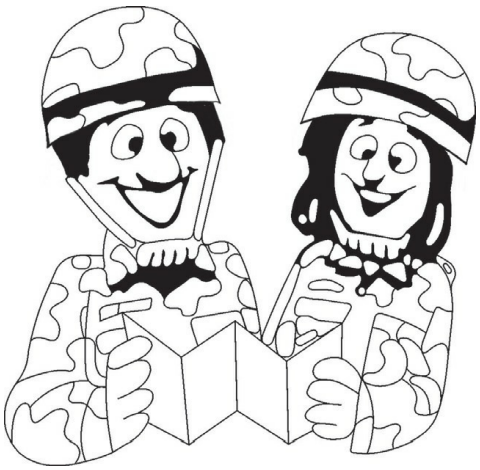
It is recognised worldwide that ‘laughter’ is one of the many essential pre-requisites for a healthy human body to release certain hormones. Its a proven fact that laughter reduces the level of stress hormones like cortisol, epinephrine (adrenaline), dopamine and growth hormone. It also increases the level of health-enhancing hormones like endorphins, and neurotransmitters. Laughter increases the number of antibody-producing cells and enhances their effectiveness. All this means a stronger immune system, as well as fewer physical effects of stress. This book is providing all this while you read this at home or office.

In every country and every language, a multi-million industry exists to find ways and means to make people laugh. India too has its multi-pronged ways of entertaining people. We in services too do not lag behind at the bar in the evenings. People have jokes to tell, some originals, some on their bosses and some on the foolishness of certain orders. These days, of course, our politicians are best and easy targets.

It surely has come as a pleasant surprise that one of us has put together numerous jokes on service personnel itself. It is said that a person who can laugh on oneself is a gifted individual and a person who cannot laugh/smile is cursed.

Lastly my congratulations to the editor and his team for the book and wish them great success.

Air Chief Marshall S K Sareen
PVSM, AVSM, VM(G)
Former Chief of the Air Staff,
Indian Air Force



People with a good sense of humour have a better sense of life.

CANTONMENT RULES

Orders for all new soldiers in the cantonment:

Whenever you see anything moving in front of you — Salute it!

Whenever you see anything still, but likely to move — Salute it!

Whenever you see anything still, not likely to move — Paint it!

SJS

WHAT MAKES YOU SWEAT…

During my training days, Instructor Javed would always refer to the ship's engine as air conditioner. Being a technical student I was confused by his calling it an air conditioner and asked for clarification.

'Though you are right young man,' he replied, 'but the fact is that it is an air conditioner. The moment it stops, you start sweating.'

Lt Sandeep Singh

THE PRIDE OF ARMOURED CORPS

A proud Armoured Corps JCO, Sub Sher Singh had his first child. When he came back from leave Adjut Capt Rajat Sharma asked him what he had

named his child.

‘Sir, I have named him Captain Singh.’

Next year Subedar’s wife delivered another child.

‘Saab what have you named your second child?’ asked Capt Sharma.

‘Major Singh,’ replied Sub Singh.

Things were becoming interesting and everybody now waited for the coming years…

The next child was named Karnel Singh.

Coming year Subedar told everyone that he will come back with news of his last son Gernail Singh.

As expected Sub Singh went on leave and everyone waited for him to get back.

Sub Singh came back with a long face and low morale.

Everybody thought things had gone wrong. ‘JCO *saab*, all ok? Did you have a child? How is your wife etc?’ enquired Capt Sharma while others gathered around.

‘Don’t worry, Sir. Everything is okay except that it was a girl child.’

Everyone was relieved.

‘Oh! so that’s the thing! Anyway what have you named her?’ asked Capt Sharma.

Very proudly, with his chest out and a sparkle in his eyes, replied Sub Sher Singh, ‘Armurd Kaur’.

Mohini

TEA BREAK

As a young Lieutenant, I went to Jat Regiment to meet my friend. It was morning tea break and as typical of Jats, they were all sitting on their haunches and smoking *bidi.* Continuing to sit in the same posture, they greeted me as I walked past them, *‘Saabji Ram Ram!’* I did not like it and kept on walking without replying.

Then came the mature voice of their JCO, *‘Saabji naraj ho gai key? Tea*

break mein bhi khada karogey kai?' ('Sir, are you annoyed? Do you want us to stand even in tea break?')

Unable to control my laugh I replied '*Ram, Ram*, enjoy the break.'

SJS

FEARSOME GURKHAS

It is said that Pakistani army is most scared of the Gurkha Regiment. It is believed that after killing the enemy, Gurkha soldiers love to chop the head off from the body by their favourite khurki.

Scared of losing a battle with the Gurkhas Pakistani soldiers prefer to abandon their post and run away with their heads intact rather than without it.

They have a belief that if their head is chopped on death they will be reborn without one.

SJS

FLYING INSTRUCTOR

A photographer for *Outlook* magazine was assigned to shoot pictures of a major fire close to Air Force station, Bikaner. Thick clouds of black smoke were preventing him from taking good shots. With no option but to take aerial shots he frantically called his home office to seek permission to hire a plane.

'An Air Force plane will be waiting for you at the airstrip!' he was assured by his editor. He rushed to the Air Force station, and sure enough, a plane was warming up near the runway. He jumped in with his equipment and yelled, 'Let's go! Let's go!'

Flt Lt Rajdeep, the young pilot, swung the plane into the wind and soon they were airborne. 'Fly over the north side of the fire,' said the photographer, 'and make three or four low level passes.'

'Why?' asked the pilot.

'Because I'm going to take pictures! I'm a photographer, and

photographers take pictures!' said the photographer with great exasperation.

After a long pause Flt Lt Rajdeep said, 'You mean you're not my flying instructor?'

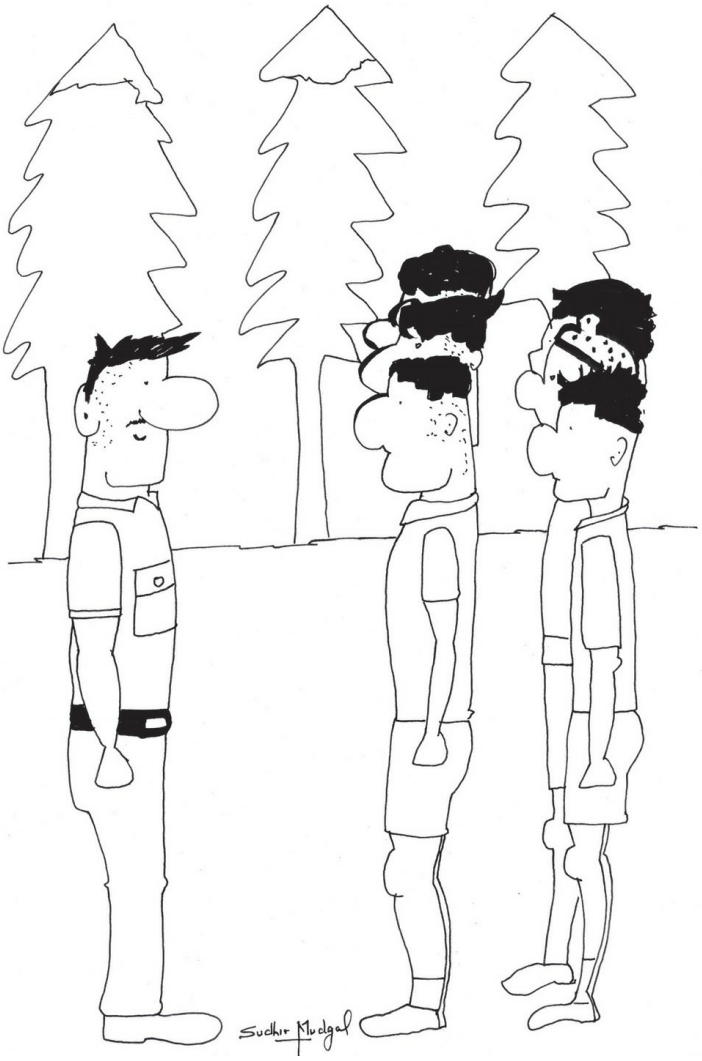
FSM

FIRE POWER

Question: What is Infantry most scared of during a war?

Answer: Their own artillery fire!

Capt Rajesh Sawant



‘I am extremely happy to announce holiday for tomorrow. So, tomorrow we all work in civil dress.‘

TELL ME THE JOKE

In a bar an airman leans over to the guy next to him and says, ‘Want to hear a National Security Guard (NSG) joke?’

The person replies, ‘Well, before you tell me the joke, you should know something. I’m 6 feet tall and weigh a 100 kg, and I’m an NSG commando. The guy sitting next to me is 6 feet 2 inches tall, weighs 125 kg, and he also is an NSG commando. The big fellow sitting next to him too is an NSG commando. He is 6 feet 5 inches tall, and weighs 150 kg. Now, you still want to tell that joke?’

The airman shaking his head says, ‘No, no. I don’t want to have to explain it three times.’

Siddharth M

INFANTRY WORK

While home on leave, one day I took my son to school. There his second-standard teacher asked me what I did in the services. I told her that I was in the Infantry.

‘I think it’s just wonderful for any man in the military to work with infants,’ came her response.

Capt A M Reddy

SENTRY DUTY

On an official tour I approached the entry gate to the Unit run canteen.

The sentry, a seasoned infantry soldier, stopped me promptly and inspite of my full uniform, asked for my identity card. Impressed that he had not spared even the director, I took out my identity card and gave it to him for scrutiny.

As he checked the card taking time to read every detail on both sides of the card, at least five civilians went past him, unquestioned. This infuriated me but I allowed him to continue examining my card which he returned after full five minutes. He then saluted and gestured me to go. By now I was livid as more civilians had gone past without being checked by the sentry.

‘Why have you not checked any of the civilians who went by while you were busy with my card?’ I said in a raised voice to convey my annoyance.

‘They are civilians, Sir,’ replied the sentry in a diffident tone, ‘how do you expect them to have an identity card?’

VA

DRUNKARD CO

A 1971 war veteran and addicted to liquor, Lt Col Sirohi, was given command of a Supply Depot. Word about his love for liquor quickly spread in the Depot.

Gen V K Sharma, GOC of the area, made an intentional visit to the Unit one morning. He was welcomed at the gate by Lt Col Sirohi himself, 'Good morning, Sir,' he said greeting and shaking hands with the GOC. There was alcohol in the Lt Col's breath but Gen Sharma kept quiet. Lt Col Sirohi took him around the Unit and replied to all his questions correctly and nicely. Finally, to drive home the intended message, GOC went with Sirohi to his office, and asked, 'Are you drunk?'

'No, Sir, I have only taken a few drinks!'

'OK!… But why do you drink early in the morning?'

'Because I like it and I don't like tea, Sir.'

'Sirohi, tell me if I am drunk in day time can I run my Area?' asked the GOC.

'No, Sir ! You can't. But since my Unit is very small, I can manage to run it with few drinks,' replied the Lt Col.

GOC presuming that Sirohi is beginning to understand, further asked: 'Yes Sirohi, I can't. And will you like it, if you find your GOC drunk during duty hours?'

'Like…? …Sir, I will love it!' remarked Lt Col.

SJS

THE GUARDS

A Guard officer got into an argument with other Regiment officers over his statement, 'We never look down on our men…'

Officers from other regiments found it to be sarcastic and an offensive statement till somebody allowed him to complete his statement '…I mean since they are all six feet and above, we have to look up to talk to them.'

SJS

NDA DAYS

While getting to know the new class at NDA, the teacher asked one of the cadets, ‘Where were you born?’

‘In Mettupalayam, Sir,’ promptly replied Cadet Sridhar.

Being a North Indian the teacher could not follow the reply. ‘Spell it, Cadet,’ he instructed.

Sridhar thought for a moment and then replied, ‘I think I replied wrongly, Sir. I was born in Ooty.’

JPS

ARMY TRADITION

It so happened that I was transferred within the Command five times — thrice due to movements of my Unit and once each as a result of changes in the Area and Sub Area under which I served.

On my Dining-out party, GOC Gen Shah came to me and said, ‘Sudhir, I know you have had a real bad time! So many postings in just two years … Anyway now that you are going, please let me know if I can do anything for you?’

I was looking for just this opportunity. ‘Sir, if possible, I don’t want another memento!’ I said politely, referring to the Army practice of giving heavy mementoes on transfers.

I had already collected four such mementoes.

SJS

EVER WILLING

Academy officials apologized to Cadet Murada for an error that assigned him to a women cadets’ dormitory.

Cadet Murada was however more than willing to live with the error. ‘I am here to learn discipline. I am willing to live wherever the Academy wishes,’ he stated.

SJS

MOBILE PARADE

In the early hours of the morning, during an army exercise, Capt Rane of 1 MLI noticed that some men sitting behind the bushes were shifting positions frequently. He immediately called for his Subedar Major to find out about the people he had spotted.

The Subedar Major informed that the men he had seen were their own boys doing Mobile Parade.

The Captain understood that they are his men but couldn't understand Mobile Parade. The Subedar Major smilingly replied, 'Sir, actually our boys are answering to the call of the nature but the land here is very rocky, hard and difficult to dig, so they are not getting enough depth for the activity. So we have code named it "Mobile Parade".'

Nb Sub (Retd.) P L Ranade

NUMBER ONE

Cadet Praveen was lost during a solo cross-country flight. Attempting to locate the aircraft on the radar, ATC asked, 'What was your last known position?'

'Number one for take-off,' replied Praveen promptly.

SJS

GOD'S LARGESSE

When God distributed intellect, Army was in the battlefield.

SJS

A DOG'S LIFE

Lt Amte went for a young officer's course where an upcoming Major of his Unit was posted as an Instructor. When he visited the Instructor's house, he was surprised to find the pet pup being called 'Lieutenant'.

On enquiring about the pup's rather peculiar name, the Instructor said, 'Oh it is because of his habits. He has no responsibilities, shows no productive qualities, creates nuisance by jumping all around the house and yet gets pampered. But don't you mind.'

Lt Amte understood the message.

Some months later Lt Amte became Capt Amte and was sent for Junior command course. There he found that the officer who was Instructor at the young officers' course was again his Instructor. At the Instructor's house he saw that the pup had grown up and was now called 'Captain'. He asked the reason for name change.

'You know it's his habits again. Now he gives a very serious and responsible look and takes his training very seriously. He also keeps looking at neighbour's bitch,' replied the Instructor.

Thus far so good!

Capt Amte was promoted and he became Maj Amte and again happened to land up at his Instructor's house. Now the dog was called 'Major'.

Amte voiced his displeasure. 'This is not fair, Sir. Major is a field rank and all…' The Instructor heard him out, and then smilingly justified the name change, 'Come on, it is not to offend anyone. It's just his habits, you know. His training is over, but he still doesn't do any work on his own. He will do only what he has been told to do. He sometimes even doubts my orders. So I call him "Major".'

Next time Col Amte met the Instructor he found the dog being called 'Colonel'. The Instructor explained patiently, 'See I wanted to name him "Lt Col" but the dog never liked that name. He kind of revolted, you know. I had to name him "Colonel". He now wags his tails to all the outsiders, welcomes everyone coming to the house, and barks at us. Habits you know.'

Amte smiled and left.

Some years later when Amte met his Instructor he found the dog being addressed as 'Brigadier'. He was keen to know about the dog's changed habits.

‘Now he has developed some very funny traits. He hides the food given to him, goes out and eats at neighbours’ homes and tries to be pally with them. Then he comes back and eats the hidden food as well.’

As expected, the dog was finally named ‘General’. This time Amte went to meet his old Instructor specially to know about the dog.

‘Oh Amte, habits die hard, you know,’ explained the Instructor with a hint of exasperation. ‘You know he has learnt a new art now. He goes out and makes all the dogs of the colony fight with each other, comes back and relaxes at home.’

SJS

QUICK PROMOTION

Capt Gautam of the Guard Regiment had an accident and sustained an injury in his head. He had to be operated upon. During the final stages of the operation the surgeon along with his head nurse was called away for another emergency.

A new nurse came along and seeing a brain lying on a side table, thought that it had been removed and was required to be preserved. She took it away and put it in a phenolphthalein for preservation. When the doctor came back, he was so preoccupied that he quickly closed the skull of the captain and sent him to the post-operative ward. Soon the doctor got posted out and Capt Gautam was also discharged.

After 20 years the doctor was posted back to the same hospital as a senior surgeon. On an inspection round of the hospital, he found a human brain in a phenolphthalein solution jar with no details. He asked his staff to find the details from records and was shocked to find that the dates matched with his tenure. Suddenly he remembered the incident, realized his mistake and fear ran through his spine.

Somehow he managed to find the details and the current posting of his erstwhile patient and called him up. Very apologetically and with hesitation he said ‘My dear friend, if you remember I operated on you for a head injury 20 years ago, and I forgot to put the brain back in your skull. I can understand what you must have gone through all these years but if you give me one chance and come back I will fit your brain back.’

From the other side came a rather pleased voice. ‘So you were that great doctor. I was actually searching for you to thank you. Its all because of you that I have become a General. And now I definitely don’t need it back.’

Meenakshi Batra

How can you think of discharge when we have still not decided about your disease?

SAAB KA HUKUM

During a routine patrol, our boys (jawans) found two dead mountain goats. I was Coy 2IC (second to company commander).

On my orders the boys picked up the goat carcasses for preserving and decorating the mess. I instructed them to send the skins and heads of goats to our base in the chest boxes (approx. 2’x2’) in which we received our tea ration. After some time, I found that the horns of the goats were too big for the tea chests, still the boys were forcing the damn thing in.

I called JCO Sub Ratan Singh and asked if it was possible at all to fit horns into the tea chests.

Sub Ratan Singh being an obedient JCO said, ‘Sir, don’t worry, it will definitely fit. You relax.’

I went back to my FRP (temporary accommodation in high altitude area). About half an hour later I was astonished to see them still struggling with the goats. I called Ratan Singh and said, *‘Saab* why are you wasting time. What makes you feel that it will go inside?’

Sub Ratan Singh replied, *‘Saab* Coy 2IC *ka hukum hai. Hukum se jayega.’* (Since these are my Coy 2IC’s order goats have to go in.)

SJS

GENERAL TO HIS ADC

Today I played golf without a ball yet the officers around kept on praising my hits.

Tip of The Day

The best way to play golf is without a ball. Same enjoyment, same appreciation, no loss.

Maj S C Joshi

CRASH LANDING

Wg Cdr Jasdeep and co-pilot Sqn Ldr Rajesh were both drunk when they crash-landed in an Army Unit area. Commanding Officer Col Chandan decided to put both of them in Quarter Guard (jail).

After an hour or so, the Pilot asked, ‘What is our location, Raj?’

‘Jail, Sir!’ replied his co-pilot.

‘Idiot, I don’t want details, just tell me the name of the city!’

Krutanjali

CHANGE OF NAME

Lt Col Rajesh Desai was posted as GSO-1 (OPS) (General Staff Officer –1) in Artillery brigade. Such officers are referred to as G-1. The officer alongwith his wife moved to the new posting and his mother, unfamiliar with the army terms, also joined him. One Sunday, a military runner came to their house and asked 'Is G-1 *saab* staying here?'

'No,' replied the lady.

Runner went off but came back again and said, 'I have the address and I have been told that G-1 *saab* is staying here.'

'I stay here and there is no one by this name here,' answered the mother.

While the runner was going back, her son came out and recognising the runner, called him back and signed the papers he had brought.

Mother was quite puzzled. She went inside and asked her daughter-in-law, 'I had kept a nice name for my son — Rajesh. What was the need to change it to Jeevan?'

Janaki Desai

PARADOX

Overheard in an IL-76 carrying a platoon of NSG commandos.

> 'It doesn't make sense. You're flying at 900 kmph, 30,000 feet in the air, and the pilot tells you to feel free and roam around the plane.
>
> But when you're on the ground, taxiing to the gate at 5 kmph, he tells you to remain seated for personal safety.'

SJS

PAINT JOB

Sep Murugan of the Engineer Regiment was given the job of painting a white line down the middle of the 6 km long track leading to the HQ (headquarters).

In the first hour he painted half a kilometre, in the next one hour he painted a quarter of kilometre and in the third hour less than 100 metre.

The infuriated foreman asked him the reason for painting less with each passing hour.

To this Murugan replied, ‘It is not possible to do it any faster. Each hour I keep getting farther away from the paint can.’

JPS

QUARTER GUARD DRILL

As Duty Officer, I went for ‘Quarter Guard’ inspection. As per drill, the sentry on duty, Sep Baljit Singh shouted, ‘Stop! who is there?’ In accordance with the drill, he was expecting me to say ‘A friend’ and then ask me for the password.

To judge his reaction, I said ‘Enemy.’

Sep Baljit Singh again asked the same question and I gave him the same answer.

Puzzled, Sep Baljit Singh looked at his Guard commander. Taking control of the situation, his commander, Hav Rajinder Singh, shouted *‘Saab*, we don’t know the drill for “Enemy”, so either you become friend or leave this place.’

Lt Col VS Dhela, SM

ESCAPE

At a Rajput Regimental programme the chief guest, Gen Puri, was giving a long dull speech.

In an attempt to impress the lady sitting next to him Capt Rathore started commenting: ‘What a boring man…! That’s funny… blah, blah…’

After some time, the not too impressed lady asked Rathore, ‘Do you know who I am?’

‘No, ma’am,’ replied Capt Rathore.

‘I happen to be Mrs Puri, General’s wife!’

After a pause, Rathore asked the lady, ‘Ma’am do you know who I am?’

‘No!’

Capt Rathore looked up to the sky, and said ‘Thank God!’ and quickly fled the scene.

PARA TROOPERS

Officers Karmarkar and Banerjee newly posted to the Para Regiment were taking Para jumping training. Banerjee was scared and full of doubts. Throughout the training he pestered Karmarkar with questions. Finally they completed their training and the day of their first jump arrived.

‘When you jump from the aircraft, count 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 and your parachute will open,’ instructed Sub Bhairon Singh, the Instructor.

‘What if it doesn’t open?’ asked Banerjee in an apprehensive tone.

‘It will,’ reassured his friend Karmarkar.

‘For such eventualities there is cord next to the parachute, you pull that to open the parachute,’ said the Instructor.

‘What, if it still doesn’t open.’

Instructor was irritated and said, ‘If it still does not open, then you should reach for the flap of para bag and open, it will open. And no more questions gentlemen, please jump when I shout jump. Once you reach ground, you will find a jeep at Ground Zero. Get into that and all of you come back to the camp.’

Banerjee was not convinced. He kept telling Karmarkar that they should not jump. Finally as luck would have it when both of them jumped, Banerjee’s fears came true. Their parachutes did not open.

‘See, I told you parachutes won’t open,’ shouted Banerjee.

‘Try the para cord,’ shouted back Karmarkar.

Banerjee’s parachute still did not open.

Karmarkar shouted again, ‘Let’s try opening the flap.’ Even that did not work.

Now it was Banerjee’s time to shout, ‘I told you many times nothing would work, and now I am sure we won’t even find the jeep waiting at Ground Zero.’

Lt Mandeep Singh

MOVIE EFFECT

During a weekend, my six-year-old son Samihan watched some Hindi war movies with me and was obviously impressed with the gallant conduct of the young officers and soldiers. Soon afterwards, he started playing soldier with a rigged-up helmet, boots, rifle and backpack. At one point he marched up to me and declared solemnly, ‘Mamma, I am going off to fight the war. If I don’t return, I want you to get married to someone else.’

Meghna Kulkarni

BAFFLED!

Gen Madan Gopal was writing new year cards to his friends when his runner

reminded him that it was lunch time. General told the runner to pack his cards so that he could complete the work at home. The runner meticulously inserted each card in an envelope without realizing that General would now have to open each envelope to see which card had been written and for whom.

The General was furious when he saw what had been done. He summoned the runner and said 'You… Now how will I know which card is blank and which one is already written?'

After the General left for home, his baffled runner went to a friend and asked, 'Is it possible that a person who has himself written on cards can not find out whether he has written something or not?'

SJS

AMC

Full form of AMC — Army Medical Corps.:

Lovingly it is called Army of Mukherjees and Chatterjees

Wg Cdr (Dr) Retd Narendra Sharma

ARMY INTELLIGENCE CORPS

During my training I was sent out to look for an Army intelligence officer in the civilian area. They were supposed to be in disguise and deceptive in appearance. I was unable to locate the officer and did the next best thing. I spotted one of the sepoys and asked him where I could meet Maj Rajkumar?

Replied the sepoy, 'Easy Madam, he is the person wearing big Army boots!'

Maj Archana Subbalakshmi

TARGET PRACTICE

Naga soldiers are very good and accurate shooters. While preparing for inter-battalion competition, I saw a soldier who was unable to hit his target. Other

jawans were having fun and cracking jokes at his expense.

After his last attempt to hit the target, which he dutifully missed, he went up to his Havildar Major. ‘It is too much, I am going to shoot myself,’ he said.

By now the cheesed Havildar Major, replied ‘Yes, but be sure to carry some extra rounds!’

Nb Sub Jaswant Singh

ACCIDENT VICTIM

An enthusiastic young Army Service Corps (ASC) officer took his Transport platoon to visit places of interest in the town where the platoon was posted. At a museum they came across an Egyptian mummy.

One of the drivers pointed out, ‘Sir, with so many bandages, it surely looks like an MT (Mechanical Transport) accident case!’

The MT Havildar, who was very observant, not to be outdone quipped in: ‘Yes, Sir! It surely is an MT accident case. The vehicle’s number is also written underneath BC-1556.’

JPS

THREE IS A CROWD

A newly married officer was given a one room *basha* (temporary shed) next to the Officers’ Mess as there was no house vacant in the cantonment.

One evening as he returned home from work his wife told him, ‘I have great news for you. Pretty soon we’re going to be three in this house instead of two.’

The elated officer hugged her. There was a big smile on his face and a twinkle in his eyes. His happiness was however short-lived.

‘I’m so glad that you feel this way. Tomorrow morning my mother is coming over to stay with us for a month,’ added his wife.

JPS

Over all these years, you have really mastered the art of blaming others.

BRIGADIER'S FAVOURITE

After passing out from the Academy I was travelling to join my new Unit. In the train on the opposite berth was an over enthusiastic Brigadier of the Kumaon regiment who was giving long lectures about Army life. He would ask questions but not be satisfied with my answers. His standard response to whatever I said was 'It's not officer like.'

'Son, what game do you play?'

'Badminton.'

'Oh no! that's ladies game. What other games do you play?'

'Sir, Volleyball.'

'Come on that is not a man's game, and certainly not for officers. That's only for clerks.'

I was feeling depressed by his remarks and sat quietly. Later he became friendly and told me that his favourite game was ‘Bridge.’

SJS

OF DIAMONDS AND CARS

Capt Vinod to Capt Manoj, ‘Why did you buy your wife a huge diamond ring for her birthday? I thought she wanted a car?’

‘What you say is correct, but then where in the world would I have been able to find a fake car?’ replied Capt Manoj.

JPS

SIKH LI

Before leaving their station for a new location the SikhLi unit was to surrender their jeep. But there was a problem. The jeep had two tyres missing.

They went to Army workshop for help. The OC Maj Ranjan Shukla and the staff expressed their inability to provide any spare tyres for the jeep. The SikhLi jawans requested the OC to give them one hour to find the remaining two tyres. After a couple of hours surprisingly the missing tyres had been found and the jeep was successfully deposited.

After office hours, when Maj Ranjan Shukla, Officer Commanding of the workshop was leaving for home, he was shocked to see his jeep standing only on two wheels.

Capt V K Reddy

CALL SIGN 123

The tower was having some difficulty in getting a student pilot to converse in the required pattern. The conversation finally came down to this:

Tower: Call sign 123, do you read the tower?

123: Yes sir, 675.

Tower: 123, say Again.

123: I think it is 675.

Tower: 123, what do you mean by 675?

123: I mean I think I read ‘Elevation 675 feet’ on the tower as I taxied for takeoff, but I am too far away to read it now.

Tower: 123, you are cleared to land. Please give a call to the tower *on the telephone* after you have switched off.

MM

THE CONFUSED COLONEL

During a helipad duty, some ASC officers were assigned to welcome the officers arriving at the base while another group was to see-off the officers departing. As officers got off the aircraft they shook hands and introduced themselves.

A senior officer got down from aircraft and shaking hands with a youngster said ‘Hi! I am Honda.’

‘I am Java,’ replied the young officer who welcomed him.

Since Honda and Java are popular motorcycle brands, the senior officer was offended and called the base station CO on phone.

‘Hi I am Honda,’ he introduced himself.

CO replied, ‘Hi I am Bajaj, what can I do for you?’

Confused, Col Honda conveyed the entire incident to the CO and was amused to know that all three names Honda, Java and Bajaj were actual.

Krutanjali

WORKLOADED

Work load of an Indian Army Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO):

A JCO sleeps for 8 hours and works for 8 hours.

Where is the Problem?

They are the same 8 hours.

Saumya Chatterjee

IAF-ARMY RACE

The Indian Army and Indian Air Force decided to have a canoe race on the Ganga. Both teams practised hard and long to reach their peak performance before the race.

On the big day, the Army won by a mile.

The Air Force team was discouraged and depressed. The officers of the Air Force decided that the reason for the crushing defeat had to be found. A 'Metrics Team,' made up of senior officers was formed to investigate and recommend appropriate action. Their conclusion was that the Army had 8 soldiers rowing and 1 officer steering, while the Air Force had 1 airman rowing and 8 officers and an NCO steering.

Determined to correct the situation, senior officers of the Air Force team hired a consulting company and paid them incredible amount of money. After six weeks of intense deliberations the consultants advised Air Force brass that too many people were steering the boat and not enough people were rowing.

To prevent losing to the Army again next year, the Air Force Chief made historic and sweeping changes — the rowing team's organizational structure was totally realigned to 4 steering officers, 3 area steering superintendents and 1 NCO to act as assistant superintendent steering. The Air Force also implemented a new performance system that would give the single airman rowing the boat greater incentive to work harder. It was called the 'Rowing Team Quality Air Force Program,' and incorporated meetings, dinners, and a three-day pass for the rower. 'We must empower and enrich the rower.'

The next year Army won by 2 miles.

Humiliated, the Air Force leadership gave a letter of reprimand to the rower for poor performance, initiated a Rs 2 lakh program for development of a new joint-service canoe, blamed the loss on a design defect in the paddles and issued leather rowing jackets to the beleaguered steering officers in the hopes they would stay on for the next year's race.

JPS

KUMAON REGIMENT

At an Army get-together, Commanding Officer of Kumaon Regiment, Col Pant, was seen surrounded by his officers and their wives. Col Pant would say something and everybody around him would laugh.

Capt Chehal of the Jat regiment watched this from a distance. Unable to curb his curiosity, he spotted a Kumaon officer and asked the secret behind Col Pant's popularity.

'Col Pant is very fond of cracking jokes but unfortunately he repeats most of them,' said the Kumaon officer. 'So not only have we to laugh everytime, we have to listen to the same jokes again and again. We therefore requested him to number all his jokes serially and just tell us the number. We then recollect the joke and laugh.'

Maj M K Dahiya

GENERAL'S BIRTHDAY

At his home in Hyderabad a highly decorated General was celebrating his eighty second birthday. After he had posed for photographs, a photographer walked up, felicitated the General, and said, 'Sir, I hope to take your picture on your hundredth birthday.'

General regarded the well-wisher with a scorching glare, and then with a touch of a smile, replied, 'I see no reason why you shouldn't young man,' he rumbled, 'you look hale and hearty enough!'

Col L S Reddy

FINE PARKING

JCO Bhup Singh was promoted to the rank of a lieutenant and posted to a new unit. To be seen as one amongst the officer crowd, he impulsively purchased a car.

One evening he went to the town in his new car and after going through a series of ‘No Parking’ signs parked the car at a place which seemed safe.

A few days later, a complaint from the traffic police was received by the station HQ. Lt Bhup Singh was asked to appear before the local judge for wrong parking and our lieutenant was baffled by the court summoners.

I went along with him to the court, and what transpired there cleared all my doubts.

‘Do you have anything to say in your defence?’ asked the Judge.

‘I parked my car at a place which clearly said, *Fine For Parking Here.* If it was fine, why am I being called here?’ he asked the Judge.

The Judge smiled and left him with a warning and of course explaining the meaning.

Col VP Deshpande

A SMART BRIGADIER

Brig A K Khajuria, an Infantry Brigadier, got a chance to command an Artillery brigade. He was full of apprehension about commanding the officers and the troops of Artillery.

However, surprisingly, during GOCs meeting everyone noticed that his initial apprehension had disappeared and within one week, Brig Khajuria knew everything about the Brigade, down to the troops level.

'How did you manage to do this? You must have been visiting each Unit and talking to the soldiers,' remarked Col Dubey.

'No,' replied Brig Khajuria with a smile, 'I got all this information sitting in my office.'

'You mean to say that these gunners tell you everything about their Unit,' asked Col Dubey incredulously.

'No, they don't talk much about their Unit but they do tell everything about the neighbouring Unit,' was Brig Khajuria's calm reply.

SJS

ADDRESSED WITH LOVE

Based on years of cumulative experience, the Indian army today has three distinct methods of recruiting officers:

Through OTA (Training 9 months) – *'Jhatka'* entry

Through IMA (Training 18 months) – *'Dhakka'* entry

Through NDA (Training 48 months) – *'Latka'* entry

SJS

BIHAR REGIMENT

A fresh 'Bihar' officer Lt Varun Yadav was given the task of looking after the ladies at an Army get-together and to ensure that there was proper service of food for the ladies.

Escorting a bearer carrying a tray of *tandoori* chicken to a lady he offered, 'Madam would you like to have some cock? It is hot and tasty?'

Everyone within the earshot was embarrassed.

Col Mishra removed him from meals duty and told him to look after drinks. This time Lt Yadav went to a senior lady and offered to get her a drink. The lady informed that she has already taken two drinks. In his enthusiasm and chaste Hindi he said, *'Kya madam, do drink se to cunt bhi geela nahi hota.'* (Come on Madam, with two drinks even the throat, *kanth* in Hindi, is not wet).

Col Mishra was furious and sent him out of the mess and assigned him to see the guests off as and when they left the mess.

Lt Yadav went to first lady and said, 'It was nice having you in the party.'

Col Mishra's last order for Lt Yadav was that he would not be seen in or around at any mess party.

Name withheld

PREVENTIVE TACTICS

Nk Ram Singh, 'Why are you cutting the sides of the capsules before taking them?'

Nk Abdul, 'To avoid the side effects.'

SJS

THE PERFECTIONIST JAWAN

Sep Bhupinder was known for his cribbing ways. His Company Havildar Major (CHM), Company Quarter Master Havildar (CQMH), and the Platoon Commander were all fed up with his attitude. He would find fault in everything and also try to convince other soldiers about the fault.

Finally the matter went to the Company Commander, Maj Brar. Presuming that Sep Bhupinder must be good and therefore able to find faults, he summoned him to his office, made him sit and spoke to him.

Sep Bhupinder did not say a word. Sensing his discomfort Maj Brar told

his runner: ‘Get some nice cold water for Bhupinder.’

Bhupinder quickly gulped the water.

‘So, you enjoyed the water! How was it?’ asked Maj Brar.

‘Chunga si par marha jaya geela si! (It was alright but slightly wet),’ was Bhupinder’s reply.

Hav GS Kala

‘MH’

Instructors at our combat college were required to indicate their whereabouts during free periods against their names on a blackboard. One day our new commandant dropped by and was horrified to see ‘MH’ — the abbreviation normally used for Military Hospital — written against several names. ‘Are they all sick?’ he asked. An officer explained that it stood for ‘My Home’ here.

Lt Gen (Retd.) Satish Talwar

If General likes your presentation I will take credit and you get leave.

DOCTOR'S ORDERS

While recuperating at an Army hospital, one day Sep Thapa ordered four *samosas.* He broke the *samosas* open and ate the stuffing of potato inside and left the outer covering.

The attendant who was watching Thapa enjoy his snack asked, 'If you wanted to eat only the potato *masala* inside, you could have ordered for that. It would have been much cheaper.'

Thapa replied, *'Nahi. Khana to mujhey samosa hi tha par Doctor ne bahar ka khaney ko mana kia hai. To mainey bahar ka portion nikal diya.'* ('No. I wanted to eat *samosas* but doctor has advised me not to eat outside

food. So I removed the outside item').

Nb Sub R K P Pillai

OF GENERALS AND VETERANS

An old Army veteran was asked why he had never married. 'Well, I'd rather go through life wanting something I didn't have, than having something I didn't want.'

Maj Gen (Retd.) R K Singh

FLYING EXPERIENCES

Sqn Ldr Mandeep called up the Surveillance Unit (SU) and said he was unsure of his position but he had a town in sight. Since the SU did not have him on radar, the controller told him to descend and look for the town's water tank, see what was written on the side, climb back up and tell him.

Sure enough in about 3 minutes Sqn Ldr Mandeep called back and said, 'Radar, I found the water tower.'

The controller, looking rather pleased, asked, 'And what was written on the side of the tower?'

'It said 10,000 litres,' replied Mandeep.

Wg Cdr Narendra Sharma

A MATTER OF *IZZAT*

During Army exercise, temporary loos are constructed for soldiers. Once passing through the Rajput area Gen Budhwar found that the cloth around latrines was put in such a way that the face of the sitting person was hidden and everything else was visible.

General found that very amusing. He stopped his vehicle and called for

Subedar Major. Subedar Major, a rajput himself gave the explanation, ‘Sir the cloth issued for latrines was not enough, and as you know that *izzat* (pride) is more important than anything else. So we decided to hide the faces rather than…’

Col P S Pandita

PANDITJI

One man who is genuinely and greatly respected by all ranks in an Infantry Battalion is the religious teacher, fondly referred to as Panditji. While the jawans listen to his sermons in rapt attention, there are officers who would rather not pay heed to the words, thinking they already know what he has to say. Invariably, Panditji is requested to deliver the briefest of sermons. Such request is invariably made by young officers, but our Panditji rarely paid heed and took his own time once he got on with the sermon.

During one religious function at our Unit, Panditji was requested by young Lt Rajyawardhan, ostensibly on behalf of the Commanding Officer, to be brief. Panditji did not like a young officer telling him that.

That day Panditji actually delivered a sermon that is now recorded in the Battalion history as the briefest and yet one of the most pertinent to organisational behaviour.

‘Lord Rama was preparing to attack Ravana’s Lanka. Before mounting the attack he sent Vibhishna as the envoy to explore the possibility of a peaceful settlement to the confrontation. As Vibhishna put across Lord Rama’s proposal, Ravana called for his ministers and military chiefs to discuss Rama’s message.

“We have a mighty Army and we have conquered the world,” said Ravana, “Rama is therefore scared of us and is asking for a truce. Should we not annihilate him and his army of a few monkeys and put an end to the threat once for all?” he wanted to know.

‘The ministers and Generals immediately understood their King’s desire to fight rather than settle the issue peacefully. All of them went overboard by agreeing with Ravana rather than offering sane advice of compromise with the mighty Rama or mentioning the consequences of war.

‘Hearing them agree with the King, Vibhishana told his brother, “These ministers and Generals who are blindly seconding your desire and saying yes to fighting the supreme power are not your well wishers, they are infact your enemies and will have you killed in war.” ’

Panditji paused, making sure he had full attention of all ranks, and then delivered his message, ‘All yes-men are enemies of the Commanding Officer.’

VA

NICK NAME

My friend’s son after returning from IMA would often refer to one of his friends as ‘gunner’. We often wondered about that nick name. Later he explained that his friend had managed to lose his gun twice during an exercise and from that time the nick-name of Gunner had stuck to him.

M K Pathak

AMC

A young officer was admitted in my ward. Looking at his case-sheet I told him, ‘Sir, would you please occupy bed no 2. You will be given plasma shortly.’

‘That’s great, I was really sick of that old TV in our mess,’ he replied.

Maj Sujatha D.

CHARMING A LADY

James Vimal Abraham, our dance Instructor at NDA, taught us dance steps with same dedication as our Drill Instructor taught us drill. ‘One, Two… Right…’ and he made sure that cadets who loved dancing mastered it to charm any lady.

We believed that we had perfected the art of making a lady come closer once she started dancing with us inspite of the typical unpleasant odour we Cadet officers invariably had.

My first posting was to Cochin where I was invited to attend a party. With many pretty damsels present, it was ‘the opportunity’ for me to show my talent. I spotted the fairest of them all, and confident about my masterly manoeuvres, proposed a dance. She obliged and I started with my ‘tricky twirls of Abraham’. The lady was suitably impressed and after sometime sensuously whispered in my ears, ‘Are you from NDA?’

My chest bulged and like a soldier who had won a battle, I replied, ‘Yes, my dear!’

As we danced, an old soldier’s song which Gen Thimmaya used to sing, kept playing in my mind.

‘There’s something about this military chest that

seems to suit the ladies best'.

As dance progressed, my chest kept swelling with pride with every new dance move.

Finally, my inflated male ego wanted the lady's compliment. So I asked, 'How did you make out that I was from NDA?'

She smiled and said, 'Oh! actually you all dance the same!'

AJB

MESS PARTY

A circular arrived in our Unit asking for data on how many ladies and gentlemen would be attending the forthcoming May Queen Ball at the officers' institute in Nasirabad, Rajasthan. It also required officers to state veg or non-veg against their names.

A young captain then, I noticed that the circular had already been seen by my firebrand boss, the Commanding Officer (CO) and assuming that it would not reach him again, I wrote 'Cannibal' cheekily against my name.

To my shock and surprise, the circular came back to me soon afterwards with a query marked in red ink next to my name. It said: 'State — MALE or FEMALE?'

Col (Retd.) N.R. Mukund

A GENERAL'S GAME

During exercise time, Gen V K Sharma visited the Grenadiers location and called troops for interaction and situation test. He told Company Commander Maj Razdan to create some situation and demonstrate the reaction of his boys. Razdan created a situation in which top commanders were becoming a casualty, one after another. Maj Razdan called his favourite sergeant who had worked closely with senior officers and said, 'Havildar Rakesh, such a situation has come that you have to takeover as General of our Division. What will be your first order?'

Perplexed Hav Rakesh tried his best to think like a General and after a pause said, ‘I would want a nice Golf course to be made in this area.’

Not surprisingly the Unit was sent for extra one month exercise in deserts.

Capt (Hony) Balwinder Waraich

FRIENDS, NOT FOES

Being posted at the border Commanding Officer 4 Punjab, Col Purohit, issued orders that only those soldiers would go on leave who capture some enemy item.

Next day, Sep Balwinder Singh came with a Pakistan army Light Machine Gun (LMG). As promised Balwinder was sanctioned a two month leave.

Later, during a routine check, Balwinder’s company was found short of one LMG. Balwinder was immediately recalled. On enquiring he explained, ‘My Paki friend also wanted to go on leave and their CO had issued similar orders. So we both exchanged our LMGs, and proceeded on leave.’

SJS

MILITARY ETIQUETTE

While we were on a long sail in Indian Ocean, I was briefing my department on a less-than-thrilling subject: military etiquette. I suppose I was overly enthusiastic, because when I checked my watch, I was amazed at how late it was. I had actually taken a very long time.

While I was looking at my watch, one seaman said, ‘Sir, if your watch has stopped, there’s a calendar behind you.’

Capt S V Krishnamurthy

PARA TRAINING

I joined PARAs and a Havildar was training us. Despite his low opinion of lieutenants, Havildar kept a respectful tone as he taught us how to bail out of a plane in an emergency.

‘Sirs, to open the hatch,’ he began, ‘turn this lever to the right, then pull that handle.’

‘What if we don’t follow that sequence?’ Second Lieutenant Dahiya asked.

‘Then, sir,’ said the Havildar patiently, ‘you hit the hatch handle with a crash axe.’

‘That’ll open the hatch?’

‘No sir. But it will keep your mind occupied until you crash.’

Col Rajeev Chibber

CHAK DE

SikhLi Regiment moved out and handed over the location to a Supply Depot (Supply Depots are infamous for bribery in army food supply). Painted boldly on the entrance of officer’s mess was a typical Punjabi exhortation *‘Chak De’*.

Somehow the Supply Depot did not bother to change that. After some time Gen Sawhney came to visit the Supply Depot and asked the relevance of *‘Chak De’* in a Supply Depot.

Before CO of the Supply Depot could explain, staff officer accompanying the General quipped: ‘Sir, I think they mean cheque *de*, and not cash.’

Col Ravindran

FATHER KNOWS BEST

I’d been secretly dating an Army guy for several months, and it was time to break the news to my very protective father, a scientist in DRDO. My mother thought he’d take it better if she explained to him that my boyfriend was a

soldier who had just returned from a border posting.

This pleased Dad immensely.

‘A soldier? Good!’ he said. ‘That means he can take orders.’

Shubhangi Kochchar

LETTER OF MERIT

My brother, an Army doctor, was part of the UN peacekeeping mission in the Congo. At the end of the one-year term, his Congolese commander awarded him a letter of merit that ended with ‘…and he worked hardly to restore normalcy to the region.’

R.K. Pawa

Hi Ms Nair, can I meet Boss?

Sir, Col Sanjay wants to meet you.

He must have come for some decision. Tell him I am busy!

What am I busy in??? Atleast I didn‘t have to take any decision.

RETALIATORY FIRE

Madras replaced a Sikh Unit on India-Pakistan border. In the handing-cum-taking-over briefing, Commanding Officer Col Kumaraswamy was informed that the border was quiet.

However, on the first night itself there was continuous firing from across the border. Surprised by the firing, the CO of Madras called up CO of Sikh the next morning, and told him about the incident and asked for probable cause.

After some thought CO Sikh said, ‘Since we had a lot of ammunition and were moving to peace location, our boys thought its best to poof it on the Pakis before leaving the location. It must be retaliatory fire, you heard. Take it easy,’ he added.

Maj V K P Rao

INTERMITTENT FIRING

Retd. Col Walsch and his wife went to a sexologist to discuss their marital problem.

‘Doc, whenever I get intimate with my wife the first round is very comfortable. My performance is good and I enjoy the love-making. But second time I start panting and sweating … and don’t really enjoy it,’ he explained to the doctor.

The doctor was quite impressed by the Colonel's candid confession. 'Colonel, I think for your age you are doing a wonderful job. So just take it easy!'

At that point Mrs Walsch interjected, 'Doctor let me clarify. His first time means somewhere in November-December and second time is somewhere in May-June.'

Rosy Samuel (a veteran's wife)

ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

Q: Why has EME not been given the task of handling Air Force?
A: Because they will make MIG's fly on a Shaktiman engine.

* * *

Q: Why do EME workshops prefer to accept three vehicles of the same unit together?
A: So that after cannibalization, they can make at least one road worthy.

* * *

Q: What is EME's biggest fear?
A: Phasing out of Shaktiman. (They love the vehicle.)

* * *

Q: What is common between the Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (EME) and the Army Medical Corps (AMC)?
A: Anything coming out of their hands would have lost its original parts!

SJS

AN EXERCISING PROPOSAL

After a year's experience in the branch, my boss got this written on notice board: Officers of this headquarter require no additional physical fitness

programme. They get enough exercise by…

- Jumping to conclusions.
- Flying off the handle.
- Running down to the boss.
- Dodging responsibilities.
- Lobbying the ball in other's court.
- Firing gun from other's shoulders.
- Dancing to the tune of boss.
- Skipping work.
- Batting eyelids.
- Knifing in the back of friends and colleagues.

Janaki Desai

SMS

There is much concern these days about poor spellings of the SMS generation. Here is an example.

Cadet Sumit Tyagi forgot his jeans at home. He sends an SMS home: 'Mom, pl snd my genes.'

She replies: 'Dear Son, I gav u whatevr I cud long back. Ther'z nothin I can do about it now.'

Mohini

DOBARA MAT POOCHNA

Maratha LI wear their lanyard around the neck, whereas the rest of the Army wears it around their shoulder. It is rumoured that during British times, due to their poor performance in one of the operations, the MLI were told to tie lanyard around their neck as an act of suicide.

Even if you have nothing to do, never ask Maratha guy the reason for wearing the lanyard around their neck. He will either charge at you feeling

offended, or tell you such long stories that you will think of the advertisement *‘Dobara mat poochna’*.

Name withheld

QUESTION OF THE YEAR

Why are following words printed together boldly on liquor bottles supplied to the armed forces?

Consumption of liquor is injurious to health.

‘For sale to Defence Personnel only.’

Janaki Desai

HOME RULES

Capt Rahul Kumar was justifiably proud of the aircraft carrier he commanded. On his routine round of the ship one day, he chanced upon a sailor reading a magazine with his feet up on the small table in front of him.

‘Sailor! Do you put your feet up on the furniture at home?’ demanded the Captain.

‘No, sir, but it is not the same thing, is it?’ replied the sailor.

‘What do you mean, “not the same”?’ asked the Captain.

‘Well, we don’t land airplanes on the roof at home either!’ said the sailor.

JPS

CHILD’S AMBITION

When I got command of Dogra Regiment, my 11 year old daughter impressed said: ‘Daddy, I think I want to join the Army.’

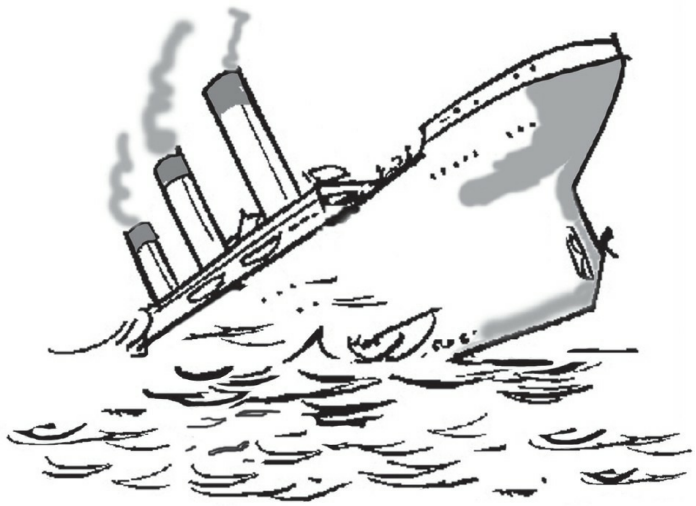
‘Baby,’ I answered, ‘I think the Air Force would be a better option for you.’

‘But I don’t want to be a pilot.’

‘You don’t have to be a pilot,’ I told her. ‘There are other jobs in the Air Force.’

Her answer: ‘I don’t want to be a flight attendant either.’

Col B K Singh



WHY CAPTAINS GO DOWN WITH THEIR SHIP!

Nk Gokhale, an Army soldier was on exercise with the Navy. During one of the unfamiliar manoeuvres he lost his rifle.

‘Have you lost your rifle, soldier?’ asked the Captain.

‘Yes, sir. In the retreat while jumping into a boat the weapon fell in the water.’

‘Well, son that was government property and you will have to pay for it out of your salary.’

‘What?’ exclaimed Gokhale incredulously. ‘Do you mean we have got to pay for any equipment we lose!’

‘Of course,’ said the Captain. ‘It is your responsibility after all.’

‘And if I had lost a tank, I would have to pay for the tank!’

‘You would,’ confirmed the Captain.

‘My God,’ muttered the helpless soldier, ‘Now I understand the naval tradition of captains going down with their ships.’

ON THE DELHI-DEHRADUN HIGHWAY

A bridge on the Delhi-Dehradun highway had been blocked by the jawans of Gurkha Regiment. There was a strong presence of soldiers on the either side of the bridge. Movement of all civilian vehicles across the bridge had been stopped, creating a pile-up of traffic on both sides.

With patience running out and tempers rising, a group of civilians told the sentries to let them cross the bridge.

'Sorry you can't go. The bridge has been blown off by the enemy,' was Sepoy Thapa's curt response.

People looked around and found the bridge intact and in good shape. They said they could not see anything wrong with the bridge and there was no enemy around.

'I don't know, I know only what I have been told. Ask my Platoon Commander if you want more information,' came the sentry's curt response.

Confused, the crowd went to JCO Sub Gurung who was commanding the Platoon and requested that they be allowed to go across the bridge.

In a stiff tone Sub Gurung replied, 'My Company Commander told me that the enemy has blown off the bridge and no vehicle can now cross it. I believe him and am carrying out his orders.'

By now the crowd was getting agitated. They went in search of the Company Commander. Company Commander Maj Sidhu sat reclining on his chair with eyes closed in his tent.

All attempts to politely wake him were futile. So the crowd shouted: 'Major *saab*, we are held up on the road for last 6 hours, please do something or we shall complain.'

Maj Sidhu opened one eye and whispered, 'Don't talk to me, I have been told by my Commanding Officer that I died when the bridge was blown off by the enemy.'

B P Sharma, Addl SP (Retd.)

COVERING FIRE

After a successful army operation, two Infantry Company commanders gave full credit to the Artillery support.

The Artillery Battery commander was however taken aback by the fulsome praise: ‘Inspite of your request, due to a technical snag, I could not provide you covering fire,’ he confessed.

‘Oh, we know that, but we were not discussing about you. We are thanking the Paki artillery who dropped the shells exactly where we wanted the covering fire,’ replied the Infantry commander.

(Covering fire is the fire support provided by artillery to Infantry before they enter the enemy area. It is aimed at enemy.)

Capt Rajesh Sawant

MOMOS

In an officers’ mess party Sub Rampal was enjoying Tibetan food. He was continuously getting up and sitting while eating. I went to him and asked him the reason for doing that.

Sub Rampal explained, ‘I like this item very much and I want to eat it a lot. By the shape that it has, I think first time I get up it goes to my stomach and next time I get up it rolls down to my bums and space is made for the next ones.’

Nb Sub Abdul Qadir

GODAAN

While applying for urgent leave Sep Jaswant told me that his wife had run away with his neighbour. He therefore wanted to go back home immediately.

I was very sympathetic and consoled him, ‘I can understand your emotions, but don’t get violent. Don’t harm your neighbour or your wife. Try and settle things peacefully, blah, blah …’ I said.

Jaswant kept listening calmly, showing no emotion.

‘So what have you decided?’ I asked again.

‘*Saab* don’t worry, I am only going to get back the cow that I had gifted to my wife, and if she doesn’t give that back then I will be violent!’

Lt Col (Retd.) Rajveer Singh

THE CAPTAIN’S WIFE

My friend, Capt Vikram Sabharwal quit the Army in favour of civilian life. I met Vikram and his wife after a long time. The former captain had gone bald and had a large tummy.

‘Are you happy after leaving the Army?’ I enquired.

Before Capt Vikram could say anything, his gracious wife smiled and said: ‘I don’t know about him but I am very happy. People still call me Captain’s wife and I feel very young!’

Lt Col V K Purohit

SAAVDHAN…!

During one of the morning PT parades, Commanding Officer, Naga Regiment Col J M Pant was in a jovial mood. He told his officers to accompany him for a walk.

‘I will take you to a new route which you would not have seen,’ he said.

While enjoying the new route, the officers saw some Naga soldiers squatting on the roadside attending to nature’s call.

The Adjutant tried to cover-up by saying: ‘Errrr… looks like night duty boys, Sir. They must not have got time.’

Ignoring the Naga jawans, the CO started walking away with long strides, when one of the havildars in sitting posture shouted: *‘Saavdhan beth’* (Sit in attention, way to salute in sitting position) and all the boys straightened their hands in same pose with their pants down.

Col Pant really didn’t know whether to laugh or cry, but the rest of his officers burst into laughter.

VSD

HONOURABLE MAN

On a train to North East India the ticket collector asked Nk Maninder for his ticket. He searched his pockets and unable to find the ticket pulled out his identity card.

‘Never mind,’ reassured the ticket collector, ‘I will take your word that you bought your ticket.’

‘That is very kind of you,’ replied Maninder, ‘but if I don’t find it, I will not know where to get off.’

SJS

PILOTS’ HELL

An IL-76 pilot died at the controls of his plane and went to pilots’ hell. There he found a fierce looking Yamraj and three doors. Yamraj was busy escorting other pilots to various ‘hell rooms.’

‘I’ll be right back — don’t go away,’ he told the new arrival, and vanished.

Sneaking over to the first door, our pilot peeped in and saw a cockpit where a condemned pilot was running and re-running pre-flight checks forever. He slammed that door and looked into the second door. Inside the alarms rang continuously and red lights flashed urgently on the instrument panel while a pilot was trying his best to avoid one emergency after another.

Unable to imagine a worse fate, our pilot cautiously opened the third door. He was amazed to see a pilot getting ready for a flight while crew chiefs diligently put the final touches on a perfectly-maintained aircraft, even bringing him coffee and saluting him sharply as they presented the forms for his approval.

He quickly returned to his place seconds before Yamraj reappeared. ‘Okay,’ said the devil, ‘which door will it be, number 1 or number 2?’

‘Um, I want door number 3,’ answered Pilot.

‘Sorry,’ said Yamraj. ‘You can’t have door number 3. That’s crew chief ’s hell.’

MM

OK done, if you loose bet, you will dig four holes under my supervision. If you win you will dig four holes on your own.

MANAGEMENT GURU

To equip him with skills for civilian life, Nb Sub Ranade, an Infantry man, was sent to a management institute before retirement.

In their first class, I asked the participants to talk about management models they had learnt and practised in their professional life. By turn each of

us talked about our particular management model. Then Nb Sub Ranade was invited to speak. Being a defence officer's daughter I was specially interested in what he had to say.

He came up with a totally unique and different management model which he called as 'RBM'. He further claimed that entire Army operated on this model. We were very impressed and keen to hear him.

'The model is very simple, effective and economical,' he said. The class sat up. He was talking exactly what global management gurus preach.

'Buy one photo of Prabhu Sri Ram from Unit canteen for Rs 5, one *aggarbatti* for Rs 4 and one match stick for Rs 0.5,' he continued. 'The total investment is less than ten rupees, Rs 9.50 only.'

'Every morning you light *aggarbatti*, pray to Lord Ram that everything goes well. Then take orders from the Company Commander and execute them in the name of Shri Ram. That is the way I have spent 35 years of my life and I call it "Ram Bharosey Model".' With those final words he summed up and looked at us with a broad smile.

The whole class burst into laughter at his honest approach.

Manisha Paul

THE RAJPUT PRIDE

There was a time when Rajput Regiment had not produced any General for the Indian Army. During one of the Battalion visits, barely suppressing his grin a General from Kumaon Regiment asked the Commanding Officer, 'Colonel, I suppose Rajputs are very brave men but why is it that Rajputs have not been able to produce even a single General?'

Replied the CO Col R B Sishodia with his chest out, 'Sir, because traditionally Rajputs produce strong Commanding Officers and not boneless Generals!'

SJS

HARDSHIP AT HIGH ATTITUDE

A Unit had been posted at a high altitude location. Capt Sinha, newly married, called up his 2IC Lt Col R K Singh from base and asked whether he could come to the high altitude area with his wife.

Since other officers and soldiers were sitting around 2IC, he said, ‘You may young man! But let me tell you because of snow and strong cold winds we are not even able to erect a tent pole here.’

‘Understood Sir! I am coming alone,’ replied Capt Sinha.

SJS

LOW AND SLOW

Our first day at the School for Naval Aviation was spent in introductions between the staff and students.

The best introduction came from the Rotor Wing Instructor:

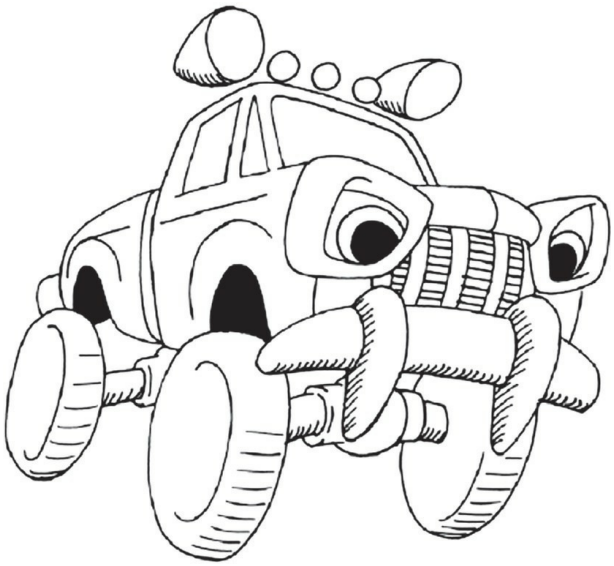
‘Gentlemen, I am Com Thomas. I belong to this very city of Cochin (now Kochi). Being the only child of my parents, my entire family was against my joining Aviation. I don’t blame them, for they had seen my reckless mobike riding, with half a dozen fractures under my belt! But I knew exactly how to capitalise the single child weakness of my folks. Finally they gave in to my burning desire of flying.

‘On the day of my departure for training, having said goodbye to all, last in line was my grandmother. She was visibly emotional as she said, “Darling, I’m all for your flying; infact I was the one who advocated your case facing huge opposition. But I have a small request, when you fly, for godsake, fly low and slow.”

‘I knew I had to respect my granny’s words, so I joined the helicopters!’

PS: From that time onwards during any discussion on helo-tactics, as long as we remembered that helicopters flew low and slow, our calculations involving their deployment never went wrong.

RC



MECHANISED TRANSPORT RULES

I happened to attend an MT class being taken by Sub Raturi. He said, ‘Boys, today I will explain the rules for driving personal vehicles in Army area.’

Rule 1 ‘When you see a Gypsy, allow it to pass and salute!’

Rule 2 ‘When you see a Black Car, give side and salute!’

Rule 3 ‘When you see an Ambulance, slow your car, give full side and allow it to pass!’

Rule 4 ‘When you see Shaktiman…,’ he paused and said, ‘Get your vehicle off the road and stop. Don’t move till Shaktiman has passed.’

Lt Rajesh Mehta

MEALS OF CHOICE

After my commissioning, when I went home, my mom would make sure to cook delicious meals of my choice everyday. After 15 days, while leaving home, I said to her, ‘Mom, I am really going to miss this food.’

‘Me too, my son,’ commented my father.

SJS

DIRTY MAGAZINES

My husband was the Company Commander. He called home one evening to say he would be late, ‘Dirty magazines were discovered in the platoon quarters,’ he said, ‘and the whole squad is being disciplined.’

I was amazed and argued that soldiers should not be penalized for something so trivial. My husband interrupted, ‘Dear, when I said “dirty magazines” I meant that the clips of their rifles were dirty.’

Mohini Sharma

ONE BEAUTIFUL GIRL

In OTA, one night two cadets managed to get a call girl to their room. Both picked up fight on the issue that who will enjoy with her first. While they were quarrelling, duty officer Capt Fernandes came and found her. Immediately, he called for ‘Duty vehicle’ and ‘Guards’ and told them to drop the girl back to her place.

Unfortunately, the guard was of SikhLi. While the vehicle was moving, SikhLi boys tried to take advantage of the girl but ASC driver and his companions could sense it. They stopped the vehicle, got out, and went to the back of the vehicle. All of them picked up fight as to who would have the first go. Before they could resolve, military police came and they decided to take her and drop her. Enroute they also got a funny idea and decided to enjoy with her but before they could, civil police came and reported the matter to Army authorities.

In the morning, when going for morning Drill, we saw 2 Cadets, 3 SikhLi boys, 2 ASC boys and 2 CMP boys outside Commandant’s office.

After enquiring Cadet Pillai remarked, ‘Wow! so many people standing because of one girl. Girl must have been very beautiful. But who finally enjoyed with her?’

Runner of Commandant replied, ‘None of them! But in the morning Commandant was saying that he is surely going to enjoy with all these jokers.’

Maj RP Shrivastav

BENGAL REGIMENT

There is a story about Bengal Regiment which goes somewhat like this:

The British were specially fond of Bengal and all things Bengali, and therefore decided to raise a Bengal Regiment.

Capt Samuel took charge and in the initial months of training, took the troops for firing-on-the-move. After initial firing of 100 m, Capt Samuel instructed Sub Das to shift-forward the targets by 100 m and directed that troops too should move 100 m forward.

As ordered, targets were moved ahead by 100 m but to the Captain's surprise, troops continued to fire from their previous location. He was upset. He called for Sub Das and asked the reason for such gross indiscipline.

Sub Das explained, 'Sir, as instructed, I ordered the troops to move 100 m forward. Since troops had some doubts, we had a 15 minutes discussion on that.' He continued, 'Sep Chatterjee informed me that since there is adjustment of 100m and 200m on the rifles, we don't necessarily have to move 100m ahead. Rather we can adjust our rifle sight to 200m and continue to fire from our present location. All of us thought that he is right and there was no need to move ahead. And, I also feel the same sir.'

Capt Samuel recommended the disbandment of the newly raised Bengal Regiment.

V R Biswas (Sc 'F')

UP ALL NIGHT

An IL-76 under the command of Wg Cdr Arun Sharma was flying over the Brahmaputra when he came over the intercom: 'We've lost an engine. No cause for alarm because we can fly safely on three. We will, however, be two hours late reaching our destination,' he told his passengers, the paratroopers of the 3 Para Commando battalion.

About an hour later Wg Cdr Sharma came over the intercom again, 'We've lost another engine. There is no cause for alarm because we can fly safely on two. We will, however, be four hours late reaching our destination,' he announced confidently.

About an hour later Sharma came over the intercom for the third time: ‘We’ve lost another engine. No cause for alarm because we can fly safely on one. We will, however, be eight hours late reaching our destination,’ he reassured.

One annoyed paratrooper turned to the one seated next to him and said: ‘If that fourth engine quits, we’ll be up here all night!’

MM

DRILL COMPETITION

During our Drill competition in Indian Military Academy, my platoon was last in line to eat, and our impatient drill instructor Subedar Ram Kumar was in such a hurry that he ran up to each of us, shouting, ‘Don’t waste time tasting… just swallow!’

Maj R Gautam

RUSSIAN ARMED FORCES

1. A new game of air traffic controllers — Air fight.
2. What is it — green, bald and jumping?
   A soldier at a disco.
3. Sir! Private Ivanov jumped without his parachute!
   O, my God! Again?
4. When officers speak about women, they are sober, when they speak about their duties, they sound drunk.
5. One Private trying to crack joke in a disco — ‘Our company Sergeant-Major was very funny: he says something and everybody falls down!’
   The blonde sitting next: ‘What does he say?’
   Private: ‘Company! Lie down!’

VT

OLD HABITS NEVER DIE

A retiring sergeant comes back to his home village. Early next morning the villagers hear the sound of the churchbell ringing. They gather near the church and ask him what has happened. He counts all present and announces, ‘My father and I will go for fishing, the others are dismissed.’

VT

‘Is there anyway I can convince you that organisation cannot be blamed for all your mistakes.‘

A MATTER OF PREFERENCE

A para officer went to a prostitute.

‘Whats your profession?’ she asked.

‘I am in the army,’ replied the officer proudly.

The woman looked at him intently before saying, ‘Sometime ago an armyman came to me. He examined me from all sides, turned me upside down, rolled me from side-to-side and then poof… only a minute. Army guys waste lot of time. You please go away.’

‘Come on! he must have been an army clerk. I am a Para officer and I land straight on the target,’ winked the officer.

Maj S K Singh

TIT FOR TAT

‘When will you ever learn to cook as well as my mother?’ asked a newly married lieutenant to his wife, who was a Brigadier’s daughter.

‘As soon as you make as much money as my father,’ replied the wife.

JPS

THE LAST WISH

An Indian POW (Prisoner of War) in Pakistan was ordered to be hanged to death.

As is customary, the captors asked him his last wish before he was hanged. After some thought the prisoner requested that he be allowed to spend a night with a woman. The Pakistanis smiled. His wish for good time before he went to the gallows was granted. They arranged for a sexy looking 18-year-old for him.

The Indian soldier shook his head and instead asked for an older woman. The Pakistanis appreciated his mature taste, and post-haste ordered for a woman in her late 20’s. A graceful woman arrived at the prison but the prisoner declined the choice of the woman again.

A woman in her 30’s was summoned, followed by another in her 40’s,

but the prisoner kept on turning the women down. This went on, and finally the authorities got a matronly looking 60-year-old. The POW nodded. The Pakistanis were puzzled but shrugged at the seemingly strange fixation of their prisoner.

The Indian soldier spent the night with the woman and was seen satisfied in the morning. His captors were confused and inquisitive. While leading him to the execution site, Sergeant-Major Abdul asked the Indian soldier man-to-man to explain the mystery of the ‘60-year-old woman’.

The Indian soldier smiled and replied, ‘Oh nothing! I wanted to win the bet. Before getting into the war, I had a bet with my platoon that I will f… the Paki’s mother, and I have won the bet!’

SJS

ON A UN MISSION

During a UN mission, three soldiers — one each from India, Pakistan and Japan — were caught eve-teasing a Muslim girl. The local chieftain pronounced 20 whiplashes as punishment for each soldier, but since they were on a UN peace mission to protect his people, he also offered to grant them one wish each.

The Pakistani soldier, having seen whiplashes administered in his country, requested that he be whipped with a pillow tied to his back. After ten lashes the pillow was in tatters and the Pakistani suffered remaining lashes on his bare back.

The Japanese, who was next in the turn, made a quick calculation and said, ‘Please tie two pillows on my back’. His whipping too was hard and strong. Both pillows gave way after 15 lashes. The remaining five landed on his naked back.

It was the turn of Indian jawan. ‘Since we have done wrong and brought dishonour to our host country, my wish is to get not twenty, but 40 whiplashes instead.’

The Chieftain was shocked, surprised and impressed. ‘That’s spoken like a true soldier, young man. I will grant you one more wish.’

Indian seemed well prepared for this, ‘In that case, my second wish is

that you tie this Paki on my back instead of the pillows.'

SJS

DUMB, DUMBER, DUMBEST…

Gurkha and SikhLi soldiers were discussing IQ level of their officers to prove that the so-called light infantry 'problem' was the officers and not them. They were sure that only dumb officers were selected and sent to them. To prove their point they narrated the following incident.

> 'Last Sunday, my company commander gave me Rs 100 to buy a colour TV for him. Just look at his stupidity. Before giving such an order didn't he realize that it was a Sunday and all shops would be closed, yet I was sent to the market to buy a colour TV for him,' grumbled a Gurkha jawan.
>
> 'This is nothing. Yesterday my Adjutant called me to his office and told me to go to the Officers' Mess to find if Adjutant was sitting there. I went all the way to Officers' Mess and found out that he was not there! Now, tell me, Adjutant has a phone with him, couldn't he telephone the mess to find that out?' said the Sikh soldier, mouthing some choice curses.

SJS

ID PROOF

At my husband's posting in Chabua Air Base, everyone who drove through the gates was required to hold an official ID card up to the windshield for inspection by the guards, who never seemed to be particularly vigilant.

Just to see what they could get away with, my husband's squadron started flashing different forms of ID, such as a driver's licence.

The winner: Flt Lt Kapil Dave who breezed past waving a piece of toast.

S A Khursheed

AIR FORCE HALF TRUTHS

- I have no interest in flying for the civil airlines.
- We will be on time, maybe even early.
- Pardon me, ma'am, I seem to have lost my jet keys.
- I fixed it right the first time, it must have failed for other reasons.
- I'm a member of the mile high club.
- I only need glasses for reading.
- The weather is going to be alright; it's clearing to VFR.
- Don't worry about the weight and balance — it'll fly.
- If we get a little lower I think we'll see the lights.
- We shipped the part yesterday.
- I'd love to have a woman co-pilot.
- All you have to do is follow the T.O.
- This plane outperforms the T.O. by 20 per cent.
- The Air Force doesn't work as hard as the other services.
- Oh sure, no problem, I've got over 2000 hours in that aircraft.
- I have 5000 hours total time, 3200 are actual instrument.
- No need to look that up, I've got it all memorized.
- Sure I can fly it — it has wings, doesn't it?
- Your plane will be ready by 2 o'clock.
- We fly every day — we don't need recurrent training.
- It just came out of annual — how could anything be wrong?
- I thought YOU took care of that.
- I've got the field in sight.
- I've got the traffic in sight.
- Of course, I know where we are.
- I was SURE the gear was down.

FSM

In today‘s medical class, I came to know that we also have 7 metre long intestine, in addition to stomach.

OBEYING THE ORDERS

The IMA Adjutant, Lt Col Bhargava, called a newly posted Madras JCO Sub Ramachandran, an old timer, to his office thrice but he did not turn up.

Fuming, the Adjutant went to the JCO lines and yelled, ‘*Saab* why did you not come to my office inspite of my repeated orders.’

‘Sir, I tried to reach your office but there is a particular board which does not permit me to come to your office,’ said Sub Ramachandran.

Thinking it to be an excuse, the Adjutant asked, ‘And what is that board?’

‘The board says AGE BAR. I think it clearly means that old people are not permitted to cross this point, maybe for health reasons.’

‘Show me the damn board,’ said Lt Col Bhargava in suppressed anger.

Sub Ramachandran lead him to a drill squad board fixed just before the

start of the steep elevation leading upto Adjutants' office. The board, in Roman Hindi said, 'AGE BAR' which meant 'move ahead' *(Agey Barh).*

Lt Col Israr Mohammed

WHY IS A SHIP CALLED SHE?

A ship is called a SHE because…

- There is always a great deal of bustle around her.
- There is usually a gang of men around her.
- She has a waist and she sways.
- It takes a lot of paint to keep her good looking.
- She shows her topsides and hides her bottom.
- She can be all decked up.
- It takes an experienced man to handle her correctly.
- Without a man at the helm, she is absolutely uncontrollable.
- Older she gets, more maintenance she requires.
- When coming into a port, she always heads for the buoys.
- And the main reason… It's not the initial expense that breaks you, it's the upkeep!!!

JPS

DIVINE SOLDIER

An army saying:

An illiterate jat is equivalent to a 'literate soldier'
and if he is literate, then he is equivalent to 'GOD.'

SJS

MISSING CAP

When Ajay, my brother-in-law, was a Lieutenant Colonel in Gurkha Regiment and posted in Gangtok, he returned home one night after dinner and realized he'd forgotten his cap in the Army mess, about three kilometres away. He summoned his orderly.

'Hey, I left my cap in the mess. Just walk down and see if it's there atop the cupboard.' The orderly saluted Ajay and left, only to return much later.

'Yes sir, it is there.'

'Give it then.'

'You did not tell me to bring it sir,' orderly replied.

Sharat Sharma

COW

When my brother-in-law was promoted to colonel, my sister said she'd now have to get used to her friends calling her a C-O-W.

'Why?' I asked her.

'I'm the Commanding Officer's Wife.'

Petula DeSouza

GRENADIERS

Young officers in Grenadiers Regiment were frequently late for the morning PT parade. This annoyed the Second-in-Command Lt Col Aftab Alam a great deal. He decided that he would engage them in a way that they would break up late from the morning PT.

This went on for few days but then a young officer had an argument with Lt Col Alam.

Asked Lt Col Alam, ‘Its very important to be punctual to your timings. Why do you think you should be allowed to go back from PT on time?’

‘So that we are at least punctual in breaking off from PT,’ replied the young officer.

Capt R K Mudgal

OPERATION CHICKEN

A trip down (oops ‘up’) the decision making chain.

Reports in media and subsequent intelligence inputs about the bird flu had made the Navy wary of the possibility of a biological attack through

chickens. As a part of the defences being planned, it was suggested that the Navy explore means to set up its own hatcheries.

Here is the full progress report of ‘OP-CHICKEN’ that was launched.

A zealous Joint Director of Fiscal Planning wrote to the newly appointed Officer-in-Charge (Hatcheries) asking how the profits were intended to be utilized. The OIC replied that it was not possible to work out estimates at ‘this stage’. He also recommended, perhaps in a lighter vein, that we, ‘Desist from “counting our chickens before they hatch.” ’

The file arrived on the table of Director of Fiscal Planning who being oblivious that the OIC was not a part of the ‘need-to-know’ coterie and was not aware of the true purpose of OP-CHICKEN, found his remarks out of tandem with the seriousness of the situation. He sombrely inscribed that ‘The present exercise is intended at getting an estimate and it is not in the least our aim to carry out a count of chickens — hatched or un-hatched’.

He further referred the matter for ‘opinion’ to the Director of Implementation (DOI). The DOI being also responsible for checking the fine print of contracts etc could not help observe that the statement ‘ “… chickens before they hatch” may be construed to mean that the chickens, rather than the eggs were expected to hatch. He thus, very thoughtfully, recommended that we may seek to specify that the word “they” referred to “the eggs”.’

The Principal Director of Equilibrium, who is expected to address matters so as to balance paper propriety and ground realities, brought classical poise to the whole issue by agreeing that though ‘chickens do not in themselves hatch’, the meaning of a proverb, ‘any proverb’, must be taken as ‘*exists through a time tested precedence’*.

The Assistant Principal Staff Officer (APSO) of Flag rank, having duly noted that ‘precedent exists’, recommended approval, and thus the matter, having been put through ‘due process’ was approved by the PSO who further directed his Staff Officer to ‘issue necessary instructions’.

The ever obedient Staff Officer thus wrote to all concerned, ‘Approval of the competent authority is hereby accorded to count chickens before they hatch.’

Present Situation. Some of the OP-CHICKEN plans appear to have leaked out to media, and though it is assumed to be only ‘bits and pieces’. A request has nonetheless been received under RTI asking for the file notings about

‘procurement of chickens by the Navy’.

This application was put on another file (with previous file attached) and referred ‘up’ to the Ministry who have directed that ‘as per rules, matters of national security are not to be divulged’. We are presently formulating a suitable reply to media and a file, security classified ‘Eyes Only’ has accordingly been floated.

SA

GENERAL’S ORDERS

Two friends met after a long time. One, who was a good student at school was a scientist, the other, who did badly at school, was an army general.

Asked the scientist, ‘You didn’t do well at school. How do you perform your complex duties of an army general?’

‘It is very simple! I just say “This must be done by tomorrow”!’ replied the General.

VT

NEUTRAL TERRITORY

An officer asks a soldier: ‘How do you explain “neutrality”?’

‘When my friend, you, and I are in one bed and have only one blanket between us. You are at the left, my friend is on the right side and I am in the middle. You pull the blanket to your side, my friend pulls the blanket to his side, I keep silent. I am “neutrality”.’

VT

THREE IS A COMPANY

Three soldiers, a Russian, an American and a French, were shipwrecked and reached an uninhabited island. They went fishing for food and caught a gold fish.

The gold fish made an offer, ‘If you let me go I will grant you two wishes each.’ After some discussion, the marooned soldiers agreed.

The French armyman said, ‘I want a bottle of Champagne and want to go home.’ Poof! He vanished.

It was the American’s turn. ‘I wish I could go home with a bottle of whisky.’ A whisky bottle appeared in his hands and then he too vanished.

Russian thought for a few moments and said, ‘A party at this island with a box of vodka and these soldiers back!’ Both the French and American were back.

VT

A CLOSE SHAVE

A sergeant asked: ‘Have you shaved today, soldier?’

‘Yes, sir!’

‘Next time stand closer to the razor,’ said the sergeant.

VT

TOP GUNS

Q. The difference between the Boy Scouts and the Indian Air Force?
A. The Boy Scouts have adult supervision. The Indian Air Force has Fighter pilots!

Q. What is the difference between a Fighter pilot and a jet engine?
A. A jet engine stops whining after it lands.

Q. How do you know if there is a Fighter pilot at your party?
A. He’ll tell you.

Q. What’s the difference between God and Fighter pilots?
A. God doesn’t think he’s a Fighter pilot…

Q. What is the ideal cockpit crew?
A. A pilot and a dog. The pilot is there to feed the dog, and the dog is there to bite the pilot in case he tries to touch anything.

Q. What do Fighter pilots use for birth control?
A. Their personality.

Q. What's the difference between Indian pilots and Pakistani pilots?
A. Indian pilots break ground and fly into the wind… and our friends from across the border do the opposite — they break wind and fly into the ground.

Janaki Desai

And we were just unnecessarily wondering how will we spot a fighter pilot in the party!

AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE

Here are some actual maintenance complaints submitted by pilots and the replies from the maintenance crews.

Problem: Left inside main tyre almost needs replacement.
Solution: Almost replaced left inside main tyre.

Problem: Test flight OK, except autoland very rough.
Solution: Autoland not installed on this aircraft.

Problem: The autopilot doesn't work.
Solution: It does now.

Problem: Something loose in cockpit.
Solution: Something tightened in cockpit.

Problem: Evidence of hydraulic leak on right main landing gear.
Solution: Evidence removed.

Problem: DME volume unbelievably loud.
Solution: Volume set to more believable level.

Problem: Dead bugs on windshield.
Solution: Live bugs on order.

Problem: Autopilot in altitude hold mode produces a 200 fpm descent.
Solution: Cannot reproduce problem on ground.

Problem: IFF inoperative.
Solution: IFF inoperative on OFF mode.

Problem: Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick.
Solution: That's what they're there for.

Problem: Number three engine missing.
Solution: Engine found on right wing after brief search.

Problem: The problem logged by the pilot.
Solution: The solution and action taken by the engineers.

Problem: No. 2 propeller seeping prop fluid.
Solution: No. 2 propeller seepage normal. It is the no. 1, 3 and 4 propellers which lack normal seepage.

Problem: Suspected crack in windscreen.
Solution: Suspect you're right.

Problem: Aircraft handles funny.
Solution: Aircraft warned to straighten up, fly right, and be serious.

Problem: Target radar hums.
Solution: Reprogrammed target radar with words.

Problem: Mouse in cockpit.
Solution: Cat installed.

ONE BRAVE SOLDIER

As Company Commander, I was taking report of the company after a marathon run. To check the physical fitness of the boys, I made them stand in a line and said, ‘I know all you boys are tough and strong. You can run on and on… So we will go for another 5 km run. Those who cannot run take two steps forward and show your faces to me. Strong boys will stay firm at their places!’

To my surprise, one after another, the boys started taking two steps out except one. I was impressed with this boy. ‘Never mind,’ I said ‘even if none of you can run, at least I have one brave soldier with me. Come, my friend, shake hands with me.’

‘Sorry sir, I can’t walk upto you to shake hands. If I could walk even a single step, I would have joined my colleagues,’ came the reply.

Maj Rupam Seth

SUGGESTIONS WELCOME

A SikhLi Unit was performing well in an operational area till cases of rape started getting reported, one after another.

In spite of his best efforts the Commanding Officer was not able to control such incidents. In one of the Court of Inquiries the CO seemed irritated, ‘How can I control it. I can guide them, counsel them, punish them, but I can’t be having their damn thing deposited with me…’

Brig N S Narula

COCKTAIL PARTY

CO directed Adjutant Lt Manoj Kumar to publish a Battalion order for a cocktail party in the officers’ mess.

The order was erroneously published as ‘On the occasion of Raising day there will be Cockfail Party in the officers mess. All officers to attend along with lady wives.’

CO pointed out the mistakes of ‘Cocktail’, and ‘their lady wives’. He told Adjutant Lt Manoj to issue revised order immediately.

Adjutant used his smartness and published another Battalion order which read:

‘Ref our Battalion order published yesterday for the Raising day party — in Cockfail, for ‘F’ read ‘T’ but the cock stands and officers are requested to come along with their wives only.’

SJS

TRUE OR FALSE

Base commander to the CAS (Chief of Air Staff): We’re glad you’re here.

CAS to the Base commander: We’re only here to help.

THIS IS FROM THE RAJ DAYS

Col William Johnson was very fond of Hindi and Rajasthani songs. We made him learn a lot of Rajasthani songs, one of which became his favourite and he would sing it on all occasions.

In his farewell party all troops requested Col Johnson to sing his favourite Rajasthani song. He said, ‘My beloved troops, I would have loved to sing my favourite song but yesterday somebody has given me English translation of the song.’ (It was one of the most vulgar Rajasthani song.)

He added, ‘With all these ladies around I will take no chance and would sing a nice Spanish song for you.’

After he left for UK, on our request Maj Andrew George explained the meaning of the song which Col Johnson had sung for us. It was more vulgar than the Rajasthani song.

A smart trick?

Hony Capt (Retd.) Sube Singh Rathore

GENERAL’S DAUGHTER

A General’s daughter, who was noted for her sharp tongue, once got annoyed with her young Lieutenant friend. ‘Harry,’ she said sharply, ‘if you were my

husband I'd put poison in your coffee.'

'Shivani,' replied Lt Harimohan, 'if I were your husband I'd drink that coffee.'

JPS

COMMANDOS AT WORK

This happened while I was doing the Commando course at Mhow. One day while traversing the ridges of the Choral jungles at night Capt Raghu suddenly disappeared from my sight. Before I could do anything, I realized he had fallen in a deep gorge.

'Raghu are you OK?' I yelled.

To my happiness and surprise he replied 'Yeah.'

I yelled again in that darkness, 'Did you break anything.'

Raghu promptly replied, 'No, there's nothing down here that I could break.'

JPS

BIG DEAL

When I was stationed at an air force base, we had a sergeant who made sure everyone knew who was boss.

'You don't have any stripe on your arm, and I have three.' He yelled in the face of one airman. 'That makes you nothing! So when I bark I expect you to move. Because I'm in charge!'

'Big deal,' said the unimpressed airman. 'A sergeant in charge of nothing.'

Corporal Suresh Kumar

FOR GOOD LOOKING AND ELIGIBLE YOUNG LADIES

‘The men that women marry,
And why they marry them,
will always be,
A marvel and a mystery to the world.’

W. H. Longfellow

Young ladies, looking for a suitable life partner must read on, and find why an Army Officer makes an ideal spouse.

An Army Officer is an epitome of love, affection, loyalty, obedience, charm, smartness and team spirit; what more can you look for in a good husband? All these qualities are deeply ingrained in his blood, thanks to being bullied for years as a cadet. Sure, you might find these qualities in civilians too, but, honestly, never have so few been endowed with so much. He is really your ‘cup of tea’ — a rare and exclusive blend.

And see how you can get the best out of him.

1. Make full use of pretended helplessness in all domestic affairs and see how well he responds. He will shoulder all responsibilities without a grudge. His unit life and the strenuous training years have taught him loyalty and how to-be-a-good member of the team.

2. His extra drills have instilled in him a ready obedience to any ‘word of command’ (in a layman’s terms it means — shouting).

Remember to shout at him for anything that you want to have done and it will be instantaneously obeyed. If he shouts back, shout louder. Break his will initially in this manner, and prove to him as to who is BOH (BOSS of the HOUSE). But remember not to use any criminal force against him because it is against the Army Act 1950.

3. An important dimension in the relationship is to periodically accord recognition for the good work done by the ‘beast of burden’. He is used to a promotion system. Since he is already a substantive ‘husband’, you can always promote him to the acting rank of ‘lover’ and watch the astonishing results.

4. If you dislike cooking — have no fears — bread and eggs are very handy, and you always have the luxury of meals in the Mess! Otherwise with a few endearings, coax him to the club, and you would have managed a day off from the kitchen.

He also has his commando training of ‘living off the land’. With little endearments and flattery, encourage him to speak more about his camp life and soon he will pick up. Listen to his idle boast of having made the best tea in the platoon and you would have bagged a faithful server of bed tea.

5. I am sure you would dread the domination of ‘mother-out-laws’, am I right? Well, in his case your freedom from this disdainful creature is ensured, since your husband will always be away from his hometown. If he is posted to a field area you can conveniently live in separate family accommodation, miles away from her domain of terror.

6. If you find that you have forgotten the keys inside the house or have lost them, in no time will he come to your rescue by climbing into the house on pipes and trees, for he would have been tested often in rope climbing, monkey crawl, nine feet ditch jump etc. But a word of caution, don’t let a she monkey watch him do that!

7. Owing to his queer ways and undue stress on discipline at home, if he turns out to be a little bit of a nuisance you can always hand him his tennis or squash racket or his golf set and talk about your neighbour having won a cup recently.

8. If he is creating nuisance, you can always pray for a field posting for him (that’s in case you don’t have your daddy or an uncle at Army headquarters). A year or two of separation will do you no harm, though it will certainly cure him of his idiosyncrasies.

9. Whilst arranging the house forget all your cumbersome, latest trends in interior decoration that you might have picked up. Ask him to bring out his good old ‘line bedding’ and dutifully put everything in straight lines. He appreciates only straight lines, be it in drill or unit kit lay out. Isn’t this very simple?

I tell you, he has definitely an edge over his civilian counterparts in his ability to make a very good baby sitter (when the time is ripe). Right since his commissioning days he has been a good ‘Uncle’ to all the neighbourhood children and is adept in the art of dealing with them in his inimitable ‘Santa Claus’ fashion.

10. If your parents have a certain dislike towards the double ‘virtues’ of drinking and smoking, tell them about Robert Louis Stevenson’s advice, ‘Lastly, (and this perhaps is a golden rule) no woman should marry a

teetotaler or a man who does not smoke' and 'Never trust a man who doesn't drink'. As a happy consequence you too can have an occasional 'tote'.

11. You will certainly find him the best dressed man in town, though you are in for a rude shock if you check his bank balance; it will be running precariously on post-dated cheques. Do not be disheartened just because he is bankrupt. Thermistocles, the great Athenian General, on being asked whether he would choose to marry his daughter to an indigent man of merit or to a worthless man of estate, replied that he would prefer a man without an estate. So advise your father to be Thermistocles.

Well then, young lady, I am sure you must be fully convinced by now that only an Army Officer makes good spouse for you. Where else will you find such an affectionate, smart, docile, willing worker who will willingly obey all your commands faithfully and to perfection? Your life will certainly be a bed of roses with such a 'multipurpose' husband.

VA

FAMILIES DAY

Navy has a wonderful tradition. It allows families and friends of officers and sailors to sail on ships one day in a year, for about five to six hours. The day is popularly known as the Families Day at Sea.

On one such occasion my Captain's grandmother, eighty something, was the guest of honour. She proudly occupied her grandson's chair on the bridge and, being the navigator of the ship, I naturally became her 'liaison officer'.

The Fleet sailed on a bright Sunday morning with perfect visibility. The old lady was impressively alert for her age and keen to understand the goings-on, even as the ship enthralled the spectators with manoeuvres, carrier deck take offs and landings, gunfire and a search and rescue mission conducted by helicopters and so on.

There was a barrage of questions from the old lady and so to say I was giving a running commentary. Late afternoon, on returning to the harbour, the Captain announced, 'Pilot, let's prepare to drop hook.'

The old lady never lost any time, turned to the Captain and asked, 'Son, are we going to start fishing now?'

RC

INTELLIGENCE CORPS

Intelligence Corps was selecting soldiers with aptitude for detective work. Three boys from the Sikh Regiment came to try their luck.

A situation was created for them in which a side profile photograph was shown to them and they had to remember the person's face so that he could be identified later.

A side profile photo was shown to each one of them.

Sep Balwant was the first to take the test. He was asked as to how he would recognize the person in a crowd.

Sep Balwant: 'Very simple, I will find him. He has only one eye.'

Sep Balwant was rejected. Then followed Sep Rajinder. He was asked the same question.

'No problem, he can be identified by his ear. He has only one ear,' was his reply.

Surely enough, he too was rejected.

Third candidate was L/Nk Kuldeep Singh, the wisest of them all. He was shown the same photograph. He took his time and then said, 'The man in photograph wears contact lenses.'

Everybody was surprised by his answer. No one had thought of this. The man in photograph was called up to find whether he wore contact lenses. The interviewers were shocked to find that it was true!

L/Nk Kuldeep was selected.

Later on, the interviewer asked informally, 'Kuldeep you are genius! How could you find such a minute detail about a man just from his photo?'

'See, a person who has only one eye and one ear cannot wear glasses, so he must be using contact lenses,' came the reply.

Sub VVK Babu

And when I met the most irritating man I married him. You know why?

Because I knew that no other woman would ever come in his life.

FRESH CATCH

Along with the invitation for an Admiral's party, came the attraction of the evening, 'You would do good to prepare your palates to savour the fresh fish caught by the Admiral the same afternoon.' Now that was some confidence as far as Admiral's angling skills went.

We didn't know there would be many distinguished guests, not the page 3 types one sees these days, but people of substance and standing. We felt honoured.

The setting was amazing — mild sea breeze, moon rising over the hills,

pouring it's molten silver on the harbour waters and the naval brass band in attendance — one couldn't have asked for a more splendid ambience.

Like perfect hosts the Admiral and his lady went around greeting all guests. In addition to asking each one of us our drink, Admiral made sure that everyone was informed that Admiral had managed to catch the fish as late as 5 pm.

'And look at that wonderful catch. It is not only fresh, it is almost alive!' On hearing the announcement, the band struck up and two majestically attired waiters came marching from different directions bearing two different fishes — one of the fish, not even found in the local waters.

And soon followed the lady, losing no time to whisper in our ears, 'There was no fish till five in the evening, so I panicked and bought fish from the market!'

RC

NAVAL JARGON DEMYSTIFIED

This happened in one of the seamanship theory classes where trainees were being given an introduction to the berthing hawsers and fenders.

Since it was a relatively new subject for the trainees and there was no fenders available for demonstration, the instructor was having a tough time trying to explain the use of a fender and what it looked like. After a gruelling 45 minutes of explanation, the instructor asked, 'Any doubts?'

Sensing the frustration of the instructor, one of the trainees — intelligent breed that they are — asked enthusiastically, 'Sir, can you explain the use of a fender with the simplest of example?'

Not to be outdone, the instructor replied, 'Do you own a scooter at home?'

'Yes Sir,' came the reply.

'Consider your Mummy and Papa going on a scooter, and you are seated in between both of them. You are now doing the job akin to that of a fender!'

The class was left with no further doubts on the subject.

Lt Manoj Sharma

COLONEL'S PASTIME

Colonel! When you were young, what hobbies did you have?

— Hunting and women!

— What did you hunt?

— Women! … Sir.

SJS

PROMOTIONS AT DRDO

Ganesh Prasad was appearing for his promotion interview. Sitting in front of the interview panel he looked decidedly nervous and anxious. The Chairman of the panel decided to put him at ease with a simple question.

'Prasad, you claim that you have done electrical cabling work. Have you come across a process called soldering?'

'Yes Sir, I have done it for many projects,' replied Prasad.

'Can you tell me one main difference between soldering and brazing.'

Prasad was delighted. He remembered his friend's advice to answer confidently.

'Sir, there is no great difference. Both are metal joining processes, and the difference comes depending on who does it. If a mechanical engineer does the joining process it is called brazing. If the same thing is done by an electrical engineer it is called soldering.'

Needless to say he was promoted.

SJS

DRDO EXPERTISE

After conducting field user trials of newly developed tank, Col R K Singh reported, 'Though the tank is good, it still needs lots of improvement!'

Pat came the reply from the DRDO scientist Banerjee, 'Yes Sir, that's why we are here, otherwise Government would retire us.'

Maj Sanjay Singh

ARMY HIERARCHY

A Lieutenant knows nothing but can do everything.

A Captain has to organize everything.

A Major has to know where it is being done.

A Lt Colonel has to be able to report where it is being done.

A Colonel has to be able to find without assistance where he has to append his signature.

A Brigadier has to be able to append his signature where he is shown.

A General knows everything but can do nothing.

SJS

WARTIME HONOURS

After their very impressive performance in the 1971 Bay of Bengal operations, ships of the Western Fleet stopped at Cochin enroute to their home port of Bombay. At a reception in their honour, everyone was excited at the chance of hearing about their heroics and the war experience.

The young heroes told their tales with relish, reeling off the numbers of MVCs, VrC's, NMs and Mentions in Despatches that had been awarded.

'And what did you get?' I eagerly asked one of the officers who was a little silent.

'Oh Ma'am,' he said, without the least tinge of regret, 'some of us were only mentioned in patches.'

Jasmine Johnson (a Naval wife)

DEAD GRANNY

A newly posted young soldier in our unit in Siliguri was granted emergency leave after he reported the death of his grandmother. Soon afterwards, another soldier, who had served with the young man in a previous posting, revealed that he had obtained leave on the same pretext earlier too. 'How is this possible?' the 'bereaved' soldier was asked.

'But…,' he replied, 'my granny had died but revived on seeing me.'

Col (Retd.) Arvind D. Bhave

WHOSE FAULT?

Captain Amit, flying in a hot air balloon, realized that he was lost. He reduced the altitude and spotted a man down below. He lowered the balloon further and shouted, 'Excuse me, can you tell me where I am?'

The man below said: 'Yes, you're in a hot air balloon, hovering 30 feet above this field.'

'You must be an NCO,' said Capt Amit.

'I am,' replied the man, 'but how did you know?'

'Well,' said the balloonist, 'everything you have told me is technically

correct, but it's of no use.'

The man below replied, 'You must be an officer.'

'I am,' replied the balloonist. 'How do you know?'

'Well,' said the man, 'you don't know where you are, or where you're going, but you expect me to be able to help. You're in the same position as you were before we met, but now it's my fault.'

SJS

TRUE LIES

A retired General joined his friend's organisation. One evening he told his civilian friend, 'My troops considered me GOD, you know.'

His friend was curious and asked him, 'How do you know?'

'Today when I went to the organisation where some ex-Army guys are working, I overheard many of them say, "Oh God! he is here." '

JPS

SECRET AGENT

Once a Jat Battalion organized inter-company quiz programme 'QUEEZ-QUEEZ' to improve the IQ of the boys.

Nb Sub Rola Singh of A-company put a medium-sized bag in front of B-company and asked two questions. 'Tell me what is in this bag,' and 'how many of it? If you answer both the questions correctly, I will give you all ten eggs from the bag!'

A member of the B-company got up and said, 'Since the questions are very difficult, we need some hint.'

Nb Sub Singh, 'The item in the bag is white on the outside, very smooth, oval in shape and something you can eat.'

Taking the hint Sep Dahiya from B-company raised his hand and said *'Mooly'* (radish).

Nb Sub Singh, 'Wrong answer.'

Surprised to find that their answer was wrong B-company asked for another hint.

Nb Sub Rola Singh came to their help. ‘Since it’s a difficult question, I will give you another hint. It is yellow from inside.’

After some serious discussion within ‘B’ company, Sep Dahiya again got up and said, ‘A-company is trying to mislead us. The correct answer is radish but to confuse us they have put carrot inside the radish.’

Sub Maj Ramphal Singh

PUNJAB REGIMENT

A speeding 3-ton vehicle was caught by the CO of military police. He let loose a volley of abuse to the two boys driving, ‘You bloody fools, don’t you know how to drive. You will kill someone on the road.’

It became a big issue for the Punjab Regiment that their boys had been publicly abused.

The matter went to General Officer Commanding (GOC). He called the boys to explain the matter to him. The boys complained of being publicly abused in English: ‘*Saab ne bloody boliya* (the Officer called us bloody).’ They further complained that CO Corps of Military Police (CMP) thought that they would not understand what it meant, but they knew English and also knew that it meant ‘bastard’.

General knew his boys well and started abusing them in Hindi and Punjabi for creating such a big fuss on a small thing *‘Twadi ma…, behen…’*

On hearing familiar abuses, the boys said, *‘Hun changa ai’* (Now its okay). We wish CO military police had explained the things like this to us.’

Col M L Sharma

‘*SAAB*, WHAT TO DO?’

This happened on the western front during the Indo-Pak war of 1971.

Pakistani’s were throwing kerosene bombs (bottles filled with kerosene

with flicks on fire) at our location. Our Sikh boys would get out of the trenches, catch the bottles, and with a deliberate pause, throw the kerosene bombs back at the Pakis. Though daring and brave, a number of boys were getting injured in the process.

As Company Commander I asked my senior JCO, Sub Daler Singh, '*Saab*, what are these boys upto? Tell them not to catch any more kerosene bottles!'

Sub Daler Singh seemed perplexed at my instruction. Finally he said, '*Saab*, what to do? In between the kerosene bottle bombs, the Pakis are also throwing Rum bottles, and boys are unable to resist…'

Lt Col (Retd.) R S Virk

Congrats youngman. Though you came here for your problem, but your blood group matched with general‘s, and you will be posted here.

SMART SUBEDAR MAJOR

A Jat Battalion had two non-jat companies — one of Garhwal and one from Bengal. The Subedar Major was a jat from Haryana, and in his opinion, the men from Bengal and Garhwal, had little or no soldier like attributes when matched against the jats. Without exception, he would let out a barrage of invectives against them, and the poor commanding officer was always ill at ease whenever Subedar Major was with the troops of other communities.

No wonder Subedar Major thought that it was a dream come true when a visiting Army Commander asked him, ‘SM *Saab*, how are the men in the Paltan?’

Without batting an eyelid he said, ‘While all is well, Sahib, the unit composition is most absurd!! The Bengalis are no-good soldiers. All they want is an unrestricted supply of fish and rice but ask them to work and they act as if dead!!’

As the Subedar Major indulged in his diatribe, his Commanding Officer, tried to warn him with stern looks, but to no avail. The Army Commander, however, exhibited no visible emotion and quietly turned to leave. As he walked a little distance, the Commanding Officer hissed to the Subedar Major, ‘What have you done *Saab?* Don’t you know the Army Commander is a Bengali?’

As the impact of his Commanding Officer’s statement dawned on him, the Subedar Major, without being overawed, reacted quickly. After smartly saluting the Army Commander, he said, ‘But *saab*, there is something more I need to tell you.’

Visibly irritated by now, the Army Commander snapped, ‘What is it?’

Prompt came the reply, from the Subedar Major, ‘Undoubtedly, the Bengalis may not be good soldiers but they make outstanding Generals.’

VA

OF BALDIES & BOTTOMS

Lt Col Jacob had two habits. He was fond of his drink and after downing a couple of Patialas he loved narrating stories of his youth. He also kept Adjutant Major Naik by his side.

Maj Naik was bald and Col Jacob would frequently swirl his hand on Naik's bald head while narrating stories. Though Naik would keep quiet but the discomfort on his face would be visible to all.

One day when Lt Col Jacob was in a particularly good mood, we asked him the reason behind his love for Naik and more so for his bald head.

'Nothing folks! Its just that whenever I put my hand on Naik's head, it reminds me of my wife's bottom,' he explained.

SJS

LIQUOR CHECK

Lt Col S S Sirohi, 2IC of our unit was very fond of drinks. One night, totally drunk, he decided to check the number of boys who were high at that time. A 'fall in' was called and the officers started the checking process. 2IC himself joined in the checking process and caught Nb Sub Suresh Pandey smelling of liquor.

Next day everybody was surprised to know that Nb Sub Suresh Pandey was actually a religious teacher and a known teetotaller.

'How come you smelt of liquor when you don't drink at all?' an officer asked Nb Sub Pandey.

'Sir, when 2IC came close to me, he smelt strongly of whisky which I could not tolerate. So I exhaled and blew his breath back on him. He actually smelt his own breath.'

SJS

KARGIL HERO

During the Kargil war highly patriotic Sep Kuldeep, seemed to be waiting for an opportunity to die for the country. One day Hav Negi read out a letter written by Sep Kuldeep's father in front of everyone, 'Son,' it read 'you fight

for your country without any fear. Don't be afraid of death. We are here to look after your property, your wife and all your belongings.'

On hearing this, Sep Pokhryal laughingly commented: 'It seems your family doesn't love you.'

The war continued. The Regiment did very well, and so did Sep Kuldeep. But he also made sure he did not die of any foolish act of false bravery. He was awarded the bravery medal. Immediately after war Sep Kuldeep wanted to go on leave urgently.

Company Hawaldar Major (CHM) Hav Negi got his leave sanctioned. 'Well fought, young man! Let me reveal a secret to you. Your father did not write any letter to you, I wrote it! Actually I wanted you to live!' said Hav Negi, his voice choking with emotion.

Though everybody laughed, it was a very touching and a heartwarming moment.

L/Naik (Retd.) Arun Gosain

ALWAYS THE BEST

We were carrying out routine patrol duties on China border. Due to absence of clear demarcation of the border, there are some posts which are temporarily occupied by Indians and Chinese at different times. However, more often than not, the issue is resolved amicably. While we were passing by one of such posts, we found that the post was occupied by Chinese. We stopped at the location and informed our base and asked for further orders. In the meantime Nb Sub Bist said, '*Saab* this is our post. Let's fight and take it back.'

Though I appreciated his feelings I told him that we would have to wait for the orders.

Repeatedly Bist would tell me to attack the Chinese and retake the post. This led me to wonder about his keenness for fighting.

Finally we got orders to just keep 'an eye on the post' and inform the base of any further movement.

Sub Bist was really pissed.

‘Subedar *saab*, why are you so keen on fighting for the post?’ I asked.

‘Sir, for the last 15 years, I have been waiting for such an opportunity and today is the day! If we conquer the post, we will be heroes and if I die I will be a bigger hero! ..and .. you want me to miss this opportunity too,’ Sub Bist said giving a disgusted look.

Looking at his sulking face we all had a nice laugh, but none of us missed the patriotism of this great guy. No wonder Indian Army is the best in the world.

SJS

A VOLUNTEER’S FATE

Shortly after joining the army, I was standing in line with some other new recruits when the JCO stepped forward and explained the work each of us had to do. After handing over various tasks, he asked, ‘Does anyone here have experience with radio communications?’

A longtime amateur operator, I shouted, ‘I do!’

‘Good,’ he said. ‘You can dig the hole for the new telephone pole.’

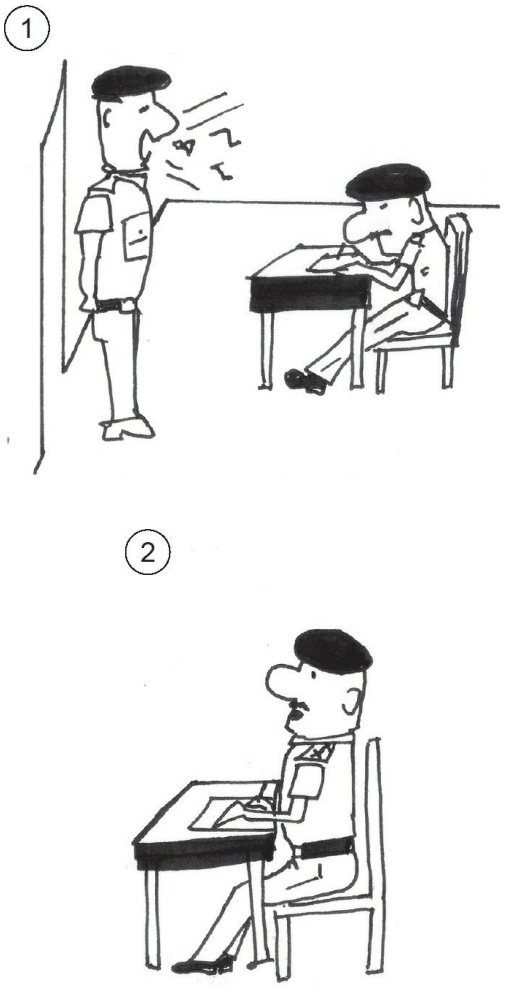
SJS

WITHOUT PRACTICE

One of the more gruesome skills my son picked up at his army commando training camp, was 12 ways to kill a man with bare hands.

This prompted his brother, much younger in age, to ask aloud, ‘How does he practise?’

SJS



What? Please come again.

SEEN IN THE ARMY MESS

A sign posted on the wall of an Army Mess hall read:

‘Don’t waste food — food will win the war!’

Beneath these words someone had scrawled: ‘That’s’ fine, but how do we get the enemy to eat here?’

SJS

COMMUNICATIONS SLACK

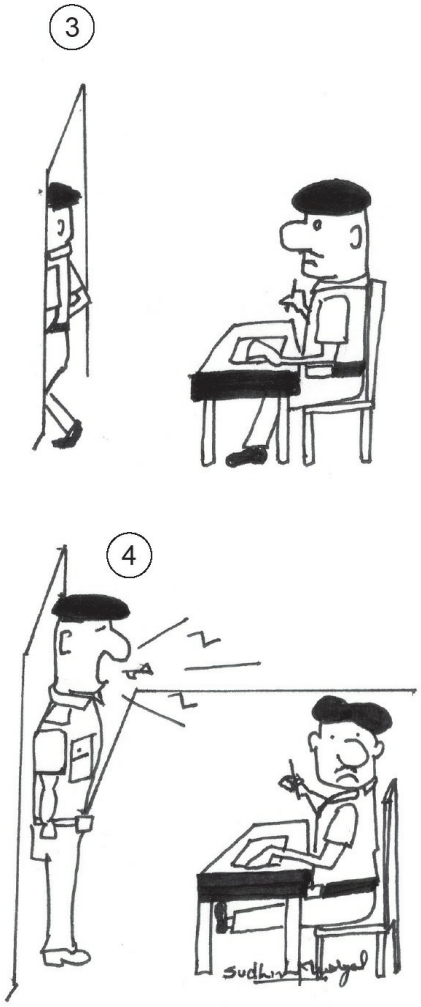
An annual survey among my junior officers indicated that lack of

communication from our superiors was a big problem. The commanding officer, however, refused to believe the results.

‘If communication is really so bad,’ he demanded of his department heads, ‘why am I only hearing about it now?’

SJS

English in Army



RULES OF THE AIR LANDING

Always try to keep the number of landings you make equal to the number of take offs you’ve made.

Every takeoff is optional. Every landing is mandatory.

A ‘good’ landing is one from which you can walk away. A ‘great’ landing is one after which they can use the plane again.

There are three simple rules for making a smooth landing. Unfortunately no one knows what they are.

You know you’ve landed with the wheels up if it takes full power to taxi to the ramp.

Air turbulence never spoiled any landing.

Flying isn’t dangerous. Crashing is what’s dangerous.

FSM

RULES OF THE AIR SAFE FLYING

Stay out of clouds. The silver lining everyone keeps talking about might be another airplane going in the opposite direction. Reliable sources also report that mountains have been known to hide out in clouds.

When in doubt, hold on to your altitude. No one has ever collided with the sky.

Never let an aircraft take you somewhere your brain didn't get to five minutes earlier.

In the ongoing battle between objects made of aluminium going hundreds of miles per hour and the ground going zero miles per hour, the ground has yet to lose.

Remember, gravity is not just a good idea. It's the law. And it's not subject to repeal.

FSM

RULES OF THE AIR EXPERIENCE

You start with a bag full of luck and an empty bag of experience. The trick is to fill the bag of experience before you empty the bag of luck.

Learn from the mistakes of others. You won't live long enough to make all of them yourself.

Good judgment comes from experience. Unfortunately, the experience usually comes from bad judgment.

It's always a good idea to keep the pointed end going forward as much as possible.

Keep looking around. There's always something you've missed.

The three most useless things to a pilot are the altitude above you, runway behind you, and a tenth of a second ago.

FSM

RULES OF THE AIR AT THE BASE

It's always better to be down here wishing you were up there, than up there wishing you were down here.

The propeller is just a big fan in front of the plane used to keep the pilot cool. When it stops, you can actually watch the pilot starts sweating.

The ONLY time you have too much fuel is when you're on fire.

If you push the stick forward, the houses get bigger. If you pull the stick back, they get smaller; that is, unless you keep pulling the stick all the way back, then the houses will keep getting bigger and bigger.

FSM

INTERNATIONAL DRDO CONFERENCE

Progress report of an International conference to be held in October.

March — Funds are sanctioned for a Preliminary Meeting of Chief

Controller (CC) with all directors which is held followed by lunch, tea, refreshments etc.

April — A brain storming session is held in one of the labs involving all directors, senior scientists etc.

Due to paucity of space, a five star hotel is booked for lunch, tea and dinners.

May — Meeting is held to brief the CC's office in Delhi. All directors, senior scientists and officers involved with planning are invited. Diaries, pens etc distributed followed by lunch, tea, etc. Hot topic discussed was 'what should be given as 'KITS' to visitors'. Staying arrangements, flower decoration, menu of meals etc were all discussed in detail.

July — A high level meeting is called by CC in Delhi inviting all directors and everyone else involved, and informing them about the progress achieved, the changes made and that directors should now prepare as per the new directives. Stationery, lunch, dinner were all catered by a five star hotel.

August — Urgent meeting called by the Co-ordinating Director calling all involved for fresh discussions. His office makes all arrangements for them.

September — A 'Final Briefing Points Meeting' is held in Delhi. All concerned officers brief the CC about the new programme, plans for reception of guests, list of guests etc. are discussed. This is followed by lavish lunches, dinners etc.

First week of October — A letter is issued by Finance saying 'Between March and September, 90 per cent of the funds were exhausted, International Conference therefore needs to be postponed to the next financial year.'

Second week of October — Conference postponed and maybe provisionally planned for the next year, subject to budgetary allocation.

Dr R K Singh

Sir these are our guidelines on 'How to Save Paper' I have already dispatched 300 sets as advance copies.

NAGA REGIMENT

Sep Aao, a Naga soldier, returned to his unit after two years of absence. I was conducting his court of inquiry. When asked for the reason for absence he gave a very straight forward answer. 'Sir I went to my village and found that a high school had come up. I decided to complete my high school studies. First year I failed. Second time before exams I realized that life in the army was better than studying. So, I decided to come back.'

SJS

ARMY INTELLIGENCE

Hav Chadha from the Intelligence platoon purchased a TV and kept it in his living room. On the second day itself he started searching the room high and low.

His wife asked him, ‘What are you frantically searching for?’

He promptly replied, ‘Hidden cameras!’

‘What makes you think there are hidden cameras?’ asked his wife.

‘How else do you think, every few minutes, the announcer on the TV saying, “You are watching the Star World channel.” How does he come to know what I am watching.’

JPS

IRAQI BROTHER

We had an Iraqi officer Capt Saleh from Iraq undergoing training with us at the Indian Military Academy (IMA). Saleh was a Gold Medallist from Iraq. Though he was a tough and strong guy but his handicap was ‘50 meter swimming’ and ‘10 mile cross-country run’. When he failed in cross-country run for the second time, GC Sapru pulled him, ‘Saleh, you are such a strong guy, why do you fail in cross-country run?’

Saleh promptly replied, ‘See my country is very small, if I run this much in my country, I will cross it and reach another country.’ We all laughed and Saleh came out of the situation.

Next week Saleh failed in ‘50 metre swimming’. Again we all caught hold of him and GC Dahiya asked: ‘Saleh, you are a Gold Medallist. How come you fail in 50 meters?’

This time Saleh was much smarter.

He said, ‘In my country, no water! No swimming!’ So soldier of Iraq not required to swim for 50 metres!

There could not have been better explanation than that!

SJS

MOBILE BAR

I was the Officer-of-the-Day on my ship when an officer friend from a neighbouring ship dropped in for a chat. Night rounds had just been piped. I told the steward, who was a new recruit, to ask the guest his drink and serve me the same.

We are not supposed to drink while on duty, not at least before the night rounds are done! So I wanted to finish my work for the day first. My friend asked me if I had some music tapes in my cabin which could be played in the Wardroom while we drank and chatted. I replied in the affirmative and recommended ghazals.

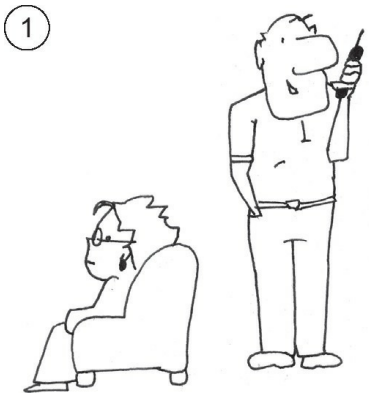
I proceeded on the rounds. About twenty minutes later I came to the same spot from where I had started my rounds. I ordered ‘pipe carry on’, took the salute and broke the rounds party.

To my utter shock, I saw the new recruit standing there with two glasses of whisky on a tray!

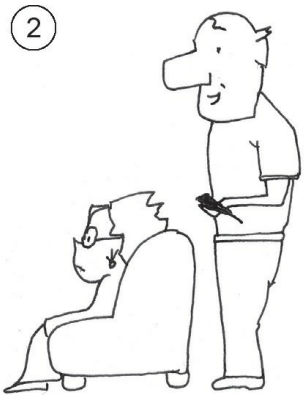
‘Why are you here with the drinks?’ I asked angrily!

The duty Petty Officer informed me, ‘Sir, I did not find your guest in the Wardroom, so I followed you with the tray throughout the round route!’

RC



Ya, Sure, I will be there!



I have been called to capital for very important meeting

READING TIME

Moscow time is 20.00 hours.

For those who don’t understand it is 8 pm.

For junior officers and praporchiks — the short hand of the clock is at the figure of eight.

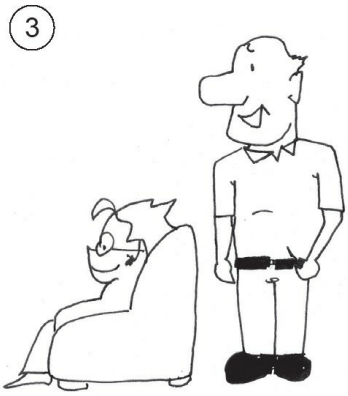
For senior officers — the figure of eight looks like a woman’s bosom.

VT

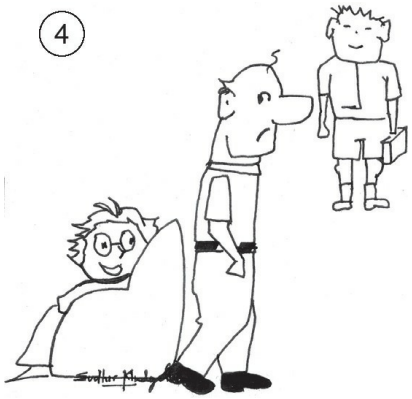
MORALE BOOSTER

To boost the morale of lady officers Admiral’s wife was invited to the ship. But she really didn’t know what to say. After a thought, she said, ‘This is my experience on ship that in the night, when rats would gorge on the dead skin of our toes — of sorts — there seems a great relief in that divine activity and I have never experienced a better pedicure than that!’

Lt Yamini



We will discuss important National strategies, important problems…



OK, I will get your golf set packed!

PARA COMMANDOS

Para commandos are famous for their low IQs.

I was taking new recruits for their first jump and could overhear them talking among themselves. This is what I overheard.

Recruit Sharma to the fellow sitting next to him, ‘Don’t worry, none of us have jumped before, and we’re all nervous.’

‘Oh I don’t mind jumping. I don’t know how to fly,’ said the other.

SJS

FAMOUS THREE WORDS

Deployed on the Rajasthan border, we had been away from our families for over a year. One evening at a Mess party everyone was in a playful mood and having fun.

Capt Gill who was having continuous hiccups telephoned his wife, ‘Darling, I am having hiccups and my friends say if I hear something scary hiccups will go away,’ he said loudly, barely managing to suppress his laughter. ‘So I thought of speaking to you. Say those three words….’ he added further.

Not only did his hiccups stop abruptly, but his face went white and he almost lost his balance.

Mrs Gill had said only three words. ‘I am pregnant.’

Lt Col Ranjan Mal

ADMIRED QUALITIES

In Army Public School, Lucknow, there is a tradition to print words reflecting the qualities admired in the armed forces at the back of the jerseys worn by the school football team. Words like Sacrifice, Honour, Duty, Courage, and Commitment are often seen where players’ names would normally go.

During a particularly competitive game, a fight broke out, prompting the commentator to announce, ‘It looks like Commitment has landed the first punch… Courage has retaliated with a vicious counter-punch… and … Honour has fallen flat on the ground… Duty is running towards the Principal’s office…’

Krutanjali Mudgal

WHAT DOES OFFICER COMMANDING DO?

My husband was commanding a unit in Siliguri. Our five-year-old daughter would often go to his office and find him doing file work. Later when she went for her new school interview the Principal asked her, ‘What does your father do?’

She innocently replied, ‘He signs on papers!’

Mohini Sharma

JUMPING OUT OF AN AEROPLANE

A gentleman cadet belonging to a family of hardcore para commandos did not get his Para’s wings on passing out from IMA. His father who had come specially for the passing out parade wasn’t particularly pleased.

The gentleman cadet was explaining to his dad that he could not get Para because of his poor grades and that he was low in the merit list in his block. His grandfather, who was also there was confused. ‘Wait a minute,’ he said to his grandson. ‘You’re telling me that these days you have to be intelligent to jump out of an aeroplane?’

SJS

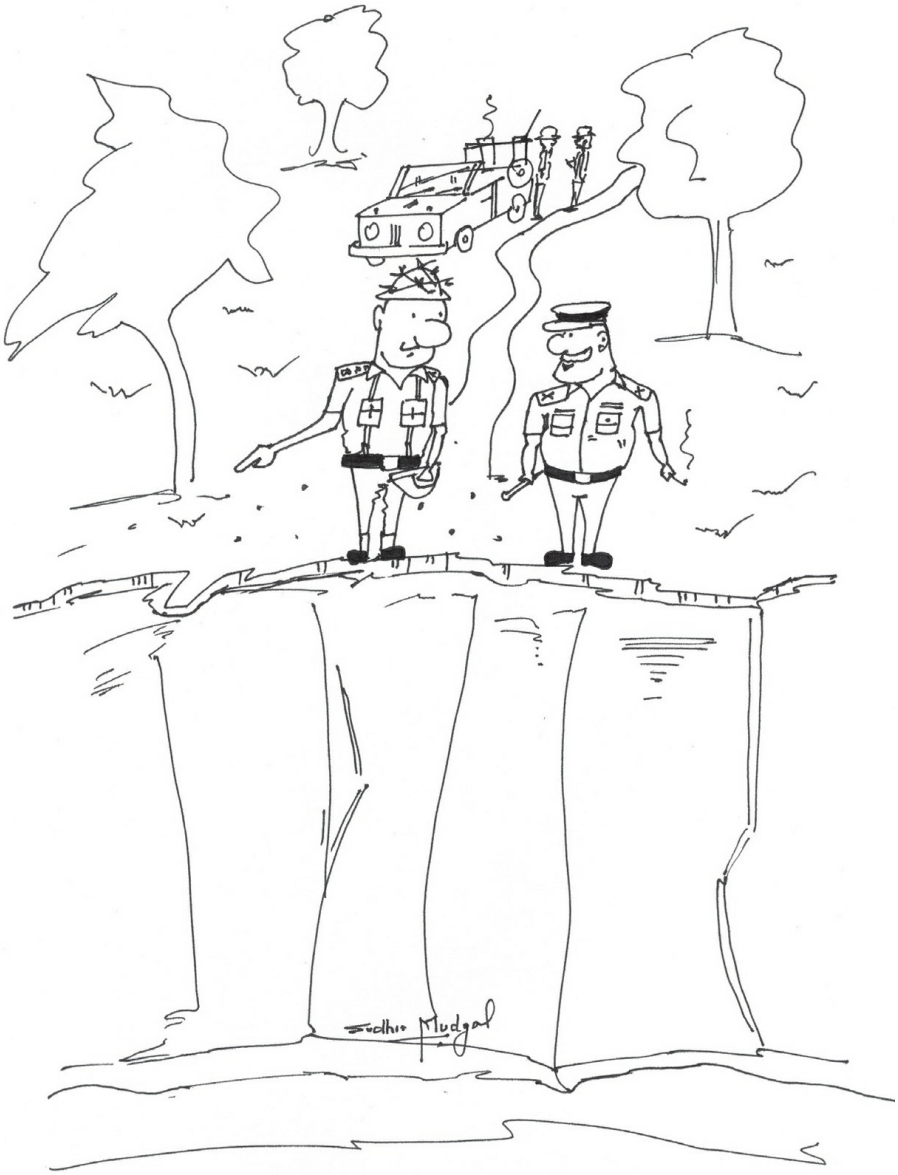
RSVP

Sep Balwinder wanted desperately to go on leave. In support of his leave application, he brought a marriage card of his cousin. I looked at the card and asked casually, ‘What does this R.S.V.P at the bottom of the card mean?’

Balwinder who was keen on proving his involvement with the forthcoming family wedding, gave a thoughtful reply, *‘Rondey sarre vyaah pichhe,’* he said, in Punjabi.

Roughly translated into English it means, ‘Everyone here is crying to get married.’

SJS



Colonel, I wish we could fight war on sand models.

FAUJI GRANPA

As children we used to visit my grandparents in Dehradun every summer vacation. My grandfather who is a retired Army man was one day narrating his experience during India-Paksitan war of 1971. Everytime his narration reached the battle zone, he would send out my mother for tea or snacks. We thought probably mom did not like recalling the war and the bloodshed it caused and was therefore sent out.

But later, Mom clarified that our grandfather had been in the Ordnance

Corps and never entered the battle zone, but he didn't want to lie in front of our mother, his daughter.

SJS

ARMY BARBER'S ADVICE

After training, new recruits, prior to their joining the assigned new unit, are given a short leave.

After joining his unit one new recruit thought that days of short hair were over. On his first day he went to barber and said 'I want to have side-hair like Amitabh.'

'Sure, I will do that, but you remember to keep your hair in your side pack,' said the barber (side pack is a soldier's bag).

SJS

SMART INSTRUCTOR

Three recruits went for a weekend out but got delayed because of overstay at a city bar. They had a test the next day and were extremely unsure of their preparation to get through the test. The three of them decided to act smart.

They told the Instructor that although they had started at the right time from the city but had been delayed due to a punctured tyre of the bus they were riding. Honesty is an essential quality that is instilled in every army personnel. The Instructor accepted their explanation and granted them two extra days to prepare for the test.

After two days, the three of them were made to sit in different rooms. The test paper given by Instructor had two compulsory questions, and one optional question.

Q1. What was the location, where your bus got a punctured tyre?

– 50 marks

Q2. Which tyre got punctured?

– 50 marks

OR

Q1. State the correct reason for getting late.

5 weekends cancelled for a wrong answer.

SJS

A SOLDIER'S DUTY

What is the soldier's main duty?

To die for his Motherland!

Wrong! The soldier's first main duty is to make our enemies die for their motherland!

ARMY WISH LIST

Every Soldier dreams of being General.

Every Lieutenant dreams of being Colonel.

Every Captain dreams of being Major.

Every Major dreams of retirement.

SJS

WITHOUT COMMENT

The conversation between a Russian and an American submarine picked up by a radio ham is reproduced below.

Commanding Officer of the American submarine, 'Capt John Smith!'

Commanding Officer of the Russian submarine, 'Capt Isfacking!'

Commanding Officer of the American submarine, 'Okay, I am waiting!'

VT

HIGH SECURITY ZONE

Sep Bhup Singh who was pushing a wheelbarrow was stopped at the army check-point and asked:

‘What are you taking out?’

‘Nothing!’

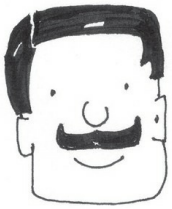
‘Okay.’

Once outside, he stopped about two hundred meters from the check-point and wondered: ‘What am I taking out? What am I taking out?’

‘The wheelbarrow, of course!’

The three brothers distinguished respectively by their moustaches — Air Force, Army and Navy

High Morale Moustache



Wing Moustache

Anchor Moustache

MUG SHOTS

When I was stationed at an Air Force Base in Pune, the technicians who took identification card photos were apparently fed up with complaints about the quality of the IDs.

Exasperated they put up a prominent sign where it could be seen by everyone coming in for a new card: ‘If you want a better picture, bring a better face!’

COMMUNICATION GAP

I was travelling by train through Germany on my way to visit my brother, who is settled there. The train conductor was very friendly, and although he spoke no English and I no German, we had a great chat using only hand signals. When he left the compartment, a woman sitting nearby asked if I spoke German. ‘Not a word,’ I confessed.

She nodded, ‘That explains why you didn’t get off when he said you were on the wrong train.’

Brig (Retd.) Manmohan Sharma

Unfortunately, yesterday after drinks you conveyed your true feelings for me. Now its my turn!

SEARCH FOR WATER

It is difficult to vouch for the veracity of this story, but it is often heard in gatherings of serving and retired Air Force and Navy Officers.

A battalion was marching in the deserts of Rajasthan.

The Major gave the Lieutenant a mug and asked him to go and fill it with drinking water.

The Lieutenant was taken aback. How could he get drinking water in the

desert? He called the jawan and ordered him to fill the mug with drinking water.

The jawan looked at his officer, saluted smartly and went away. How and where could he get drinking water? After sometime he came back and handing the mug upside down to the Lieutenant said that it was not possible to fill the mug. The top had been soldered.

Holding the mug as the jawan gave him, the Lieutenant looked at it carefully and nodded in agreement. Jawan was right.

He gave back the mug to the Major and said that the cover of the mug has been soldered up. It was impossible to fill it.

Major took the mug, examined it and said: ‘Yes, it’s true but did you fellows observe that the bottom is missing!’

SJS

CHOPPERS

Once a Fighter Pilot was asked to comment on choppers.

He said: ‘Helicopters can’t fly, they are just so ugly that the earth repels them.’

SJS

NOISE ABATEMENT

On a particularly rough day on the scopes…

ATC: Indian Twenty-Forty Nine, turn right 30 for noise abatement.

Flt Lt Ranjeet: What kind of noise abatement can you have at Flight level 330?

ATC: The sound of two airliners crashing together…

Flt Lt Ranjeet: Roger, expediting. We’re turning 30 right….

FAUJI WISDOM

You may have heard the story of the young officer who 40 years ago got a

cycle loan and purchased one from the unit canteen.

The cycle was a beauty (the way mobikes and cars are today) but did not have a carrier at the back. He sent his orderly to get one fixed. When the cycle came back with a carrier fitted, the officer noted that the stand was missing. He went to the Canteen Stores Department (CSD) authorised cycle dealer and asked him why the stand had been removed.

He was told, *Saab ji, Fauj me ek hi cheeze mil sakti hai* — career *ya* stand. *Agar* stand *loge to* career *khatam or agar* career *banana hai to* stand *kabhi mat lena.'*

Col JPS Puri

INTER SERVICES RIVALRY

As Adjutant, National Defence Academy, I was responsible for discipline of all cadets. Having spent some time on the job, I had become used to ticking off erring cadets and would not hesitate in doing so if I found any defaulter.

The National Defence Academy is a tri-services establishment and the fact that the Air Force and the Navy have a discipline culture different from the Army is well known. Notwithstanding this, I did take the Air Force and Navy men to task if I found them violating the academy discipline as per Army's way of life.

Seeing an Air Force Sergeant walking on the Trishul Marg with his head gear tucked under his shoulder straps was, therefore, an opportunity I could not have let go. I saw the NCO walking leisurely and deliberately rode past him and then turned back. As I stopped my motorcycle alongside the sergeant to upbraid him for marching without his headgear, he jumped pillion behind me and said, 'Thank you, Sir. The Air Force NCOs' Mess please.'

VA

ARTILLERY

This is what the Artillery boasts:

'We put the balls where the Queen wants and the King can't.

(Queen is Infantry and King is Armoured Corps)

Ms Nair, please shift tomorrow‘s meeting to yesterday as I have already taken decision.

WHAT SUCKS FOR FORCES?

An Army grunt sitting in a foxhole, eating MREs (Meals Ready to Eat) and wearing 30 kgs of gear after having marched 12 miles, says: ‘This sucks.’

A Navy seaman sitting on his 5’ x 2’ bunk, in a closet-sized room smelling of oil and rolling from the waves, which he shares with 6 other men, after not having seen the sky for 30 days says: ‘This really sucks.’

A Para Commando, doing push-ups in the mud during a downpour, after an 18 mile march with 40 kgs of gear, says: ‘I love the way this sucks,

Hoorah!’

The NSG commando crawling through a leech-infested swamp, eating nothing but bugs and tree bark for 6 days, sneaking around past armed terrorists, says: ‘I wish this could suck some more!’

An Air Force pilot sitting in an easy chair in an air conditioned hotel, holding a remote control, says: ‘No cable? This sucks!’

Wg Cdr (Dr) Narendra Sharma

THE BEST GENTLEMAN CADET

Our Drill Instructor Sub J P Sharma was always nagging Gentleman Cadet (GC) Rajeev Gautam. He would not only frequently give him extra duties but would also punish for trivial reasons. His favourite words were, ‘God save the Regiment to which you’d be posted!’

Finally the great day of our passing out approached and we received news of allotment of Arms. (GC’s are allotted various arms, regiments.)

To Sub Sharma’s horror, Cadet Gautam was allotted the same regiment to which he belonged. Subedar was stumped and did not know what to say. Through the day he ran around searching for GC Gautam wanting to befriend him. Finally he reached the barracks.

Searching through the cadets he finally found GC Gautam and said, ‘Sir I always knew that you will come to my Regiment so I was training you to be the best and NOW YOU ARE!’

SJS

RIDING CLASSES

While I was doing my Young Officers course in Bareilly, riding a horse was basic training for Army Service Corps. While we were riding and going for cross country, we approached a short hedge. Rather than jump over it, the horse stopped short, sending me flying through the air until I landed — splat! — in a mud pile.

Our concerned instructor rushed over. ‘S J,’ he said, leaning down, ‘who gave you the permission to dismount?’

Lt Col S J Sharma

TOP BRASS

On his rounds the Captain of the Naval Academy walked towards the metallurgy class where the instructor was explaining different alloys. The instructor was known for cracking jokes about senior officers.

‘An alloy is a combination of two or more elements, created for imparting special properties. For example,’ he said, ‘brass is a bright gold-

like alloy because of its non-corrosive and low friction applications but its not gold.'

He could not resist remarking further, 'So now you know why the navy extensively uses Brass and even calls its best people Top Brass.'

However, seeing the Captain approaching, the Instructor covered up by saying 'Actually BRASS is a wrong word… now look, where is the Bra, and where's the A_ _.'

SA

CAMOUFLAGE

I run a daily needs store in Mysore and know everyone in our locality, but when a soldier walked into our store, I couldn't place him.

'Are you from here?' I asked.

'Yes,' he answered. 'Why?'

'I haven't seen you before.'

He pointed to his uniform. 'It's the camouflage.'

P K Gowda

TOWER TIME

Chabua, Assam air base is shared with the civilian authorities. The Air Force is on one side of the field and civilian aircrafts use the other side, with the control tower in the middle. One day the tower received a call from an aircraft asking, 'What time is it?'

The tower responded, 'Who is calling?'

The pilot asked, 'What difference does it make?'

Replied the tower, 'It makes a lot of difference:

- If it is an Indian Airlines flight, it is 3 o'clock.
- If it is an Air Force flight, it is 1500 hours.
- If it is a Navy aircraft, it is 6 bells.
- If it is an Army aircraft, the big hand is on the 12 and the little hand

is on the 3.

- And if it is a Para commando aircraft, we will just say Thursday afternoon.'

Wg Cdr A S Mehta

NAME HELPS

During my time in the Navy, everyone was getting kitchen patrol, or guard duty, except me. Not wanting to get in trouble, I asked the detailing clerk who was from Rajasthan, why?

'What's your name?' he asked.

'Satyapurusha Ishwara Narayana Muthukutty.'

'That's why. I can't pronounce it, much less spell it.'

Muthukutty S I N

JAT REGIMENT

With a cigarette in his mouth Capt Bawa asked Hav Ram Singh 'Brother, do you have a lighter?'

'Sure brother! I do have one!' replied the Havildar.

'That's not the way to talk to an officer! Anyway we will try it again…'

After a pause Capt Bawa repeated his question, 'Havildar, do you have a lighter?'

Hav Ram Singh smartly kicked his heels, saluted, and loudly said, 'No sir!'

Hav R S Hooda

PUNCTURE

During his training at the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, my father's platoon was doing the 'cycling' exercise, where they had to lie on their backs

‘pedaling’ their legs in the air. At one point, Dad decided to take a break only to be spotted by the instructor.

‘Why?’ asked the instructor.

‘My cycle had a puncture,’ Dad joked.

‘Okay, let’s repair the puncture,’ said the instructor. ‘Everybody, start pumping!’ He ordered the whole platoon to do a round of push-ups.

Varsha Trehan, Pune

MAIN CONTRIBUTORS

Col JPS Suri — An EME officer with great sense of humour. You speak to him and humour flows like a river from his mouth (JPS).

Cdr Rajiv Chandoke — A naval officer who has a natural flair for narrating anecdotal aspects of life in uniform. Humour for him is the most profound side of human nature (RC).

Cdr AJB Singh — A naval officer who has natural flair for writing. Has contributed to many journals (AJB).

Col Vinod Awasthy, SM — An infantry officer who has been contributing to Defence journals since long (VA).

Lt Col Sudhir Jee Sharma — An officer who has been in cartooning and jokes from pre-army days. Has won lot of prizes in civil and Army both (SJS).

Lt Col V S Dhela — Can find humour in everything. He is a ‘Humour Guru’ (VSD).

Cdr Sunil Anand — Loves to sense and narrate humour (SA).

Editorial Board, *Flight Safety Magazine* (EB)

Lt Col Vladimir Telnov — Our brother from Russian Army (VT).

Wg Cdr Manoj Mehra — An officer with keen sense of humour. Took immense interest in air force contributions (MM).

Wg Cdr B Srikanth — An ATC officer who can make others smile any time.

Other valuable contributions by:

Wg Cdr Virendar Kumar

Wg Cdr (Dr) Narendra Sharma, UK

Col M S Dahiya

Lt Manoj Sharma

Siddharth Mudgal

Krutanjali Mudgal

Neha Ghai, a naval officer’s daughter

Jasmine Johnson, a naval officer’s wife

Mohini Sharma, an army officer’s wife

Janaki Desai