



# Stumbling *through* Stouffville

with Bruce Stapley

## Blown Away By Military Warnings

Checking your e-mails each morning can be a little like a bachelor rummaging through his underwear drawer for a clean pair of matching socks.

Let's face it; most messages from cyberspace are of dubious value. First there are those annoying chain requests assuring your imminent doom if you don't send the attached sappy feel good poem to 1,000 people within five and a half minutes.

Then there are all those unsolicited sales pitches from companies who bought your e-mail address from that outfit which promised to keep it a secret. And always, there is the fear of opening some innocently titled e-mail only to find you've fallen prey to the latest devastating virus.

But there are those rare occasions when an acquaintance sends you something that causes you to snort your morning coffee out your nose, such is the high level of humour contained therein. I got one of those recently. Simply entitled "Useful Military Warnings", it listed some more noteworthy examples of that famous oxymoron, "Military Intelligence".

Here they are:

"Aim towards the Enemy." -- Instruction printed on U.S. rocket launcher

"When the pin is pulled, Mr. Grenade is not our friend." -- U.S. Army

"Cluster bombing from B-52s is very, very accurate. The bombs are guaranteed to always hit the ground." -- U.S.A.F. ammo troop

"If the enemy is in range, so are you." -- Infantry Journal

"A slipping gear could let your M203 grenade launcher fire when you least expect it. That would make you quite unpopular in what's left of your unit." -- U.S. Army magazine of preventive maintenance

"It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed." -- U.S. Air Force manual

"Try to look unimportant; they may be low on ammo." -- Infantry Journal

"Tracers work both ways." -- U.S. Army ordnance

"Five-second fuses only last three seconds." -- Infantry Journal

"Bravery is being the only one who knows you're afraid." -- Col. David Hackworth

"If your attack is going too well, you're probably walking into an ambush." -- Infantry Journal

"No combat-ready unit has ever passed inspection." -- Joe Gay

"Any ship can be a minesweeper ... once." -- Anonymous

"Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do." -- Unknown army recruit

"Don't draw fire; it irritates the people around you." -- Your buddies

And finally:  
"If you see a bomb technician running, try to keep up with him." -- U. S. ammo troop

And we wonder why our neighbours to the south are having so much trouble winning the peace in Iraq!

Anyway, keep those e-mail cards and letters coming in.



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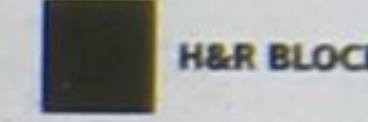
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