

The general outline below contains helpful hints on effectively communicating in online games. While some of the content is mine, much of the "General Tips for Beginners" and "Strategic Communication" sections are taken from a post by "KWHY" in the Tom Clancy's Ghost Recon 2 Forums.

The information is provided in the spirit of improving everyone's online experience.

General tips for Beginners:

XXX If your using your TV speakers for voice comms then turn your TV down. That annoying echo is caused by (I'm taking a guess here) when folks have their TV turned up too loud and the sound from their TV is re-transmitted back over their microphone. So lets say I say something and you have your TV speakers set to transmit voices but its turned up really high. Whatever I say comes out your TV speakers and goes back into your mic and then I we all get to re-hear it again...lovely.

XXX Mute your MIC button when your on the phone or talking to your mom or girlfriend or whatever.

I'm sure you don't like it when your mom or dad are nagging you...well guess what we don't like it either. No one wants to her your mom telling you to take out the trash let alone some whiny little baby in the background.

XXX lower your mic to point over your mouth and not your noise. No one wants to hear your imitation of Darth Vader.

XXX Although a little late now but remember to pick a gamertag that people can say. If your gamertag is impossible to say then more than likely your going to get less help than someone with an easy name.

Just keep that in mind. My gamertag is fairly easy but I still hear peeps all the time going "K-W-H-Y" like a radio station versus "kay-why"...not much you can do about that though. I can't believe it took me over an hour to find that name since everything else I wanted was used up.

So at the start of game look over your teammates names and make sure you can say their name and if you can't well then shoot them, er I mean ask them how to pronounce it and get that out of the way before you sound like stuttering john in the heat of battle..

"uhh g-g-g-g gr8 grate4ul gratefourul er grateful goon...GRATEFUL GOON WATCH OUT N"...too late.

XXX Get used to using your compass to report locations or help players in bad situations.

"EAST Stairs taking fire"

"KWHY WEST of you 50 m"

"Enemy spotted B2 heading NORTH"

[Just in case you are a little rusty, North is the top of your map and the "N" on your radar.]

N
W+E
S

XXX Trash talking is ok but try not to bash your own teammates all the time.

Cut back on the your an idiot or how'd you miss that shot or my team sucks. Nothing worse than playing with a team of guys where someone is just being negative all the time. If your teams doing something wrong or you feel like they suck then try and get them working together. More often than not in my experience it usually comes down to the team that is communicating the best that usually wins versus the team with just a few l33t guys that run and gun for a 5 kill count etc.

Also remember some people like me play in first person mode so what you may be seeing is not always what I'm seeing and vice versa. So those "How did you not see him" aren't always called for not to mention not very productive.

If your teams morale is low cause everyone is just bitching and moaning then more than likely your going to get your [hind quarter] handed to you all the time.

Throwing in a "good shot or nice try man" can help players recover and actually help them perform better in game versus the "dude you suck" or "my grandma could play this game better than you" etc. isn't going to help.

Sure there are times when you just need to boot someone cause they have no idea what in the [world] they are doing but I bet in most cases a little bit of good morale support can help a player play better in the long run.

Strategic Communication

XXX Always call out your kills. If you shoot and kill someone then let your teammates know. It also helps if you can give location as well.

A simple.

"1 down B1"

"I got redf33t B2"

"F3 got KWHY"

Also calling out the number of players left is also helpful in that your helping to prevent other teammates from having to refer to the stat board themselves. Remember that one split second where your checking the stat board could be the one split second an enemy lines you up in their sites or turns the corner and BAM your dead.

XXX Call out enemy locations when possible. Always refer to your map and try and get an idea what areas your scanning at all times. This is very helpful when enemy passes by in that area or opens up on you...you can then call out for help or give a general idea where the enemy might be so other teammates can help out.

I usually just like calling out the coordinates when I see an enemy like...

"B2"

"2 guys F6"

[Calling out coordinates can be tricky though, many players cannot see the grid numbers clearly, landmarks and compass directions relative to their position is generally the most helpful.]

XXX Report or Check in. If everyone is being quiet for a long time...Ask what's up, get the ball rolling. Make sure everything is ok etc.

"report in"

"B2 Clear no enemies north"

Let people know what your actions are. If your planning on going over the bridge then tell everyone or if your heading back to their spawn then say so.

XXX Let people know when your watching their back or if you see someone advancing on their position or if your following them.

It will be nice if this game eventually gets some sort of voice icon added but until then remember if your playing with a random group of people then not everyone knows who you are by your voice so you might need to report who you are etc. sometimes as well.

"I'm following you Timmy. I'm KWHY"

[I know it is]...sort of long but it'll keep him from saying "WHOS THAT?" then I have to respond "its KWHY [you tard]."

Later on Timmy will probably remember my voice cause I'll probably accidentally put a few rounds in the back of his head so when he hears me say "I'm following you" again he'll chime in and say "NO! stay away KWHY!"

XXX On siege games call out if your attacking or defending. Why? Cause your team might need that info handy when choosing the right gun come later to find out they grabbed a sniper rifle but are on offense.

I've never tried viewing the map while selecting a weapon so maybe its as easy as that, but I think you have to wait till you've already selected a gun so I always hear a lot of..

"dang it I grabbed a sniper rifle by mistake" when we are on offense etc.

so a simple

"we are defending or we are attacking" might not help YOU if you've already grabbed a gun but it will help the rest of your teammates selection. Remember it can't always be about YOU YOU YOU...this is a team game so get use to it.

Examples of Strategic Communication

State the obvious when you get a chance. For example, if I get behind the enemy or know I am relatively safe I will check the board and map, trying to provide my team members with useful communication.

"Two targets left. We have 3. I am just north of the base. Just Mike usually plays as a sniper, I don't know the other guy. Looks like we are vulnerable from the west if he managed to get around us."

"that fire is coming from your south somewhere Reed."

"There is no way they got across the road north, I can see the whole way to the edge of the map"

"I am throwing a grenade, wish me luck."

"That was a friendly grenade, no kill."

"That explosion was near me, he has to be just over this hill somewhere to get it that far."

"Red, is that you under the tower? Looks like the guy that got Futile will probably come at you from your west. Can you see him?"

"It is just you and I left Dodge, there are 8 of them. Good luck."

Game just starts...immediate contact from close spawns, "North! North! North!"

"I am open to fire from across the river Rogue, I can cover the north from here. You got my back?"

"They just got Del at the bridge by the monument."

"You there? Hello? Anybody? Help.....?"

"Watch out Tack, we have a friendly just to your north around that building."

"I am wounded and near the base. If he gets a bead on me we lose. Can someone get back here?"

Enjoy and happy gaming.

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