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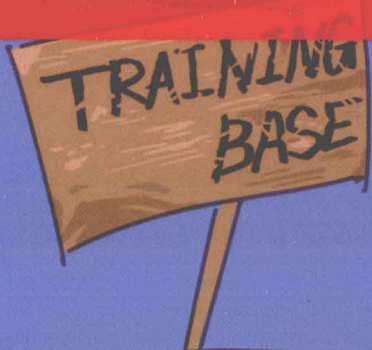
读《读者文摘》

学英文·军中幽默

Humor in Uniform

《读者文摘》编辑部 编 | 付满 译

译林出版社



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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

读《读者文摘》学英文. 军中幽默: 英汉对照 / 《读者文摘》编辑部编;
付满译. —南京: 译林出版社, 2013. 2
(双语译林)

ISBN 978-7-5447-3154-6

I. ①读… II. ①读… ②付… III. ①英语-汉语-对照读物
②笑话-作品集-世界 IV. ①H319.4: I

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字 (2012) 第173099号

Humor in Uniform

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著作权合同登记号 图字: 10-2011-75号

书 名 读《读者文摘》学英文: 军中幽默

编 者 《读者文摘》编辑部

译 者 付满

责任编辑 韩洁琦

原文出版 The Reader's Digest Association, Inc.

出版发行 凤凰出版传媒股份有限公司

译林出版社

出版社地址 南京市湖南路1号A楼, 邮编: 210009

电子邮箱 yilin@yilin.com

出版社网址 <http://www.yilin.com>

经 销 凤凰出版传媒股份有限公司

印 刷 南通印刷总厂有限公司

开 本 880毫米×1230毫米 1/32

印 张 12.625

版 次 2013年2月第1版 2013年2月第1次印刷

书 号 ISBN 978-7-5447-3154-6

定 价 28.00元

译林版图书若有印装错误可向出版社调换

(电话: 025-83658316)

如果没有几代美国军人愿意承担最艰巨最危险的重任为国效力，我们享有的自由和繁荣就不会存在。我们也知道，我们的军人在脱下军装时，他们能为这个国家做的贡献并没有结束。

——巴拉克·奥巴马

Contents

Introduction / 2

1 Basic Training / 4

A Word to the Wise | Meeting Expectations

2 At the Front / 32

Morale Building | Pride of the Corps

3 Beating the System / 52

A Matter of Wits If not Wisps

4 All in the Family / 66

From the Peanut Gallery | Parental Pride | Family Matters | Service
Adjustments | Love 'em As They Are

5 Oops! / 100

It's Inevitable! | And So It Goes

6 The Home Front / 124

Can You Cope? | We Do Our Best | It's Really Okay | Homecoming |
Supportive Spouses?



引言 / 3

1 入伍训练 / 5

一点即通 | 不负众望

2 身在前线 / 33

士气很重要 | 陆战队员的自豪

3 上有政策，下有对策 / 53

拼的就是脑力

4 我们是一家 / 67

童言稚语 | 父母的骄傲 | 纯属家事 | 任务变动 | 爱他们就接受他们

5 哎呀！ / 101

该来的总会来！ | 事情是这样的……

6 大后方 / 125

你能应付吗？ | 我们尽力表现 | 真的没事 | 回家啦 | 贤内助？

7 Last Laugh / 172

The Art of Communication | Rocks and Other Difficulties | Respectfully
Submitted | Getting Real

8 On the Job / 208

From the Mess | In Flight

9 One Up / 236

The Right Stuff | Military "Maneuvers"

10 Military Wisdom / 258

Just a Little Red Tape | Reading the Signals

11 Go Figure / 276

Think Again | Don't Ask | Getting By

12 Thinking Fast / 302

So They Say | You Can't Win 'em All

13 Huh? / 334

Another Language? | Come Again? | Some Reassurance

14 Hey, Medic! / 356

Stating the Obvious | Use What You Know

15 Rank and File / 376

Pulling Rank | A Rose Is a Rose

7 最后一笑 / 173

交流的艺术 | 石头和其他的难题 | 恭然从命 | 现实点儿

8 工作着呢 / 209

来自餐厅 | 飞行中

9 略胜一筹 / 237

歪打正着 | 军事“行动”

10 大头兵有大智慧 / 259

有那么点儿繁文缛节 | 理解信号

11 猜猜看 / 277

再想想 | 别问啦 | 过关了

12 灵机一动 / 303

有此说法 | 谁也不能事事赢

13 哈? / 335

另一种语言? | 再来一遍? | 放心了

14 嘿，医生! / 357

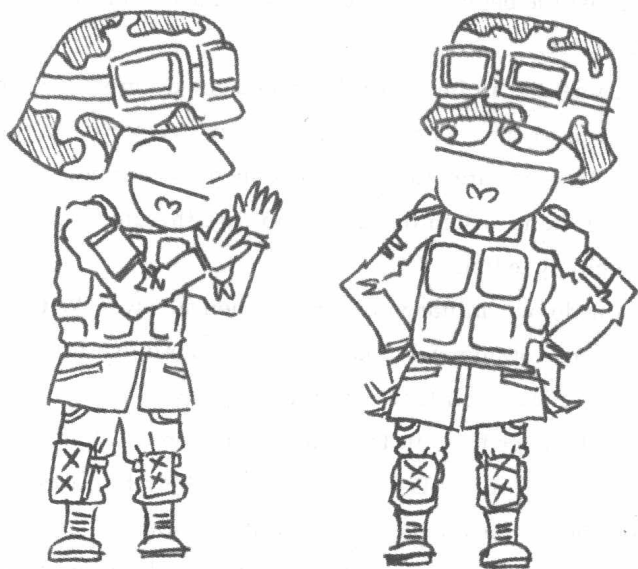
显而易见 | 利用你在行的

15 小兵一个 / 377

官大一级 | 本来如此

Humor in Uniform

军中幽默



★ Introduction

Life in the military is no picnic. The U.S. services—Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, and National Guard—all require strict discipline in a rigid hierarchy. The training is diabolically tough, and that's just the beginning. The pay isn't much, and living conditions can be primitive.

Assignments can be harsh. Baghdad, for example, routinely hits 120°F on summer days. Parts of Afghanistan are snowed in for most of the winter. Missions are often not only dangerous but potentially lethal. On the other hand, when duties are not life-threatening, they can be mind-numbingly tedious.

So, how do our military men and women survive? We think a well-developed sense of humor is a key to their equanimity. It lets these put-upon heroes relieve their tensions with laughter.

All of the anecdotes in this book were sent to *Reader's Digest* by men and women of the U.S. military and their families. There are more than 500 separate stories of contemporary life in uniform—with its contradictions, its foibles, and its ridiculous mixups and misunderstandings. We applaud these all-too-human people who are able to laugh at themselves while still bravely defending our country.

— THE EDITORS

★ 引言

在军营生活可不是件轻松的事。美国军队（陆军、海军、海军陆战队、空军、海岸警卫队，以及国民警卫队）都有森严等级制度下的严格纪律。魔鬼似的训练很残酷，但这仅仅是开始。美国军人的收入不高，生活条件可以用艰苦来形容。

军人被派往的地区有时很艰苦。拿巴格达来说，夏天的温度往往高达华氏120度。阿富汗部分地区在冬天的大多数时候则会被冰雪覆盖。危险的任务是家常便饭，有时甚至是致命的。另一些情况下，有些军人的职责并不危及生命，可他们的生活却又是极乏味的。

那么，我们的军人们又是怎么生存下来的呢？我们认为高度的幽默感是他们保持平静的关键因素。正是因为有了幽默感，这些做出了牺牲的英雄们才能以欢笑减轻他们的压力。

本书所有的小故事都是由美国军人及其家庭提供给《读者文摘》的。总共有超过五百则独立的当代军营生活小故事。这些故事可能自相矛盾，可能有这样那样的瑕疵，也有可能存在着荒谬的混淆及误解。但在这里让我们为这些人性化的有血有肉的军人们，为他们能够在自我嘲笑的同时英勇保卫祖国而喝彩吧。

——编者



Basic Training

- ★ A Word to the Wise
- ★ Meeting Expectations



入伍训练

★ 一点即通

★ 不负众望

With his squad at attention, my father's drill sergeant began inspecting their rifles. Grabbing one soldier's M-1, he peered down the barrel only to be stared back at by a spider. "Two demerits," yelled the sergeant. "Why two?" asked the private. "One for keeping an unclean weapon," said the sergeant. "And one for keeping an unauthorized pet."

—KATHLEEN SHEEHY

If he wasn't already aware of the dangers inherent in military life, things became pretty clear for my son with one look at his Marine boot camp itinerary. On one of the first days, Bayonet Techniques was scheduled for the morning. Following that: Beginning First Aid.

—TOMMY SISSON

"All you idiots, fall out!" shouted the sergeant at the soldiers standing in formation. As the rest of the squad dispersed, one soldier remained at attention. The sergeant stalked over and raised a single eyebrow. The private grinned.

"Sure was a lot of them, huh, sir?"

—MATTHEW HAWORTH

Basic training for new Army recruits includes small arms instruction. One enlistee goes out to practice on the rifle range, where he fires 99 shots, missing the target every time. "You are the worst rifleman I've ever seen!" says his drill instructor. "What were you in civilian life?" "I repaired telephones," replies the recruit, "and I don't know why I can't hit the target. Let me see ..." He gives his rifle the once-over, checks it again, and finally a third time. Then he places his hand in front of the muzzle, pulls the trigger—and blows off the tip of his finger. "Well, that answers that," says the phone guy, in obvious pain. "The bullets are

我父亲所在的班列好队，由训练教官一一检查他们的步枪。当教官抓过一支步枪，眯着眼从枪管往里看时，发现里面有只蜘蛛正瞪着他呢！“记过两次！”教官咆哮道。“为什么是两次？”那位列兵不解地问。“一次是因为武器没有保持整洁，另一次是因为未经允许饲养宠物！”教官答道。

——凯瑟琳·希伊

即使我儿子事先不了解从军生涯中的种种危险，但只要他看一眼他在海军陆战队的新兵训练安排就非常清楚了。在开头几天的训练中，有一个上午被用来练习拼刺刀；而随后的课程就是——急救训练！

——汤米·西森

军士对着列队的士兵吼道：“白痴们，解散！”队伍中的其他人都散开后，军士发现一位士兵依然保持立正的姿势。他踱到这位士兵的身边，不解地蹙起眉。这位列兵咧嘴笑道：“还真有不少白痴呢，是吧，长官？”

——马修·霍沃思

新入伍的陆军士兵的基础训练中包括学习轻武器的使用。一位新兵在靶场练习，打了99发子弹却无一命中！教官对他说：“你算是我见过的最糟糕的步枪射手了！你入伍前是做什么的？”“我是修电话机的。”这位新兵答道，“我不知道为什么我打不中。让我看看……”他把步枪颠来倒去地检查了几遍。然后他把一只手放在枪口前端，扣动了扳机——子弹削到了他的指尖。这位修电话的家伙忍着痛，说道：“好，这就说明了问题所在：子弹从这

"Today, gentlemen, I have some good news and some bad news," said our platoon sergeant during our morning lineup. "First, the good news. Private Tomkins will be setting the pace on our run." The platoon began to hoot and holler, since the overweight Tomkins was the slowest guy in the group. "Now the bad news. Private Tomkins will be driving a truck."

—RICK STOVER

早晨列队的时候，排副对我们说：“先生们，今天我有好消息，也有坏消息。先说好消息：今天跑步训练的领跑者是列兵汤姆金斯。”队伍于是开始兴奋起来，因为体重超重的汤姆金斯是全排跑得最慢的家伙！但接着排副说道：“现在说坏消息：列兵汤姆金斯将驾驶一辆卡车领跑！”

——里克·斯托弗

