

For the love of gossip

Dish the dirt, chew the fat, spread the news, spill the beans, wag your tongue...whatever you choose to call it, its gossip. Most of us in the Army associate the word gossip with something bad or scandalous that has happened. Why shouldn't we? It usually is. As a culture we are informational and sensational creatures. Take a look at popular magazines like *People*, *Star*, or *US*. Peek into the world of television on shows from Dr. Phil to Jerry Springer. Gossip creates drama and people love drama!

Gossip is hot, there is no denying it. The juicier it is the faster it spreads and especially in the military community it can really hurt. You might be gossiping about something completely untrue. You might not be thinking about who is on the other end. I once heard of a soldier who called home to give information about one of their unit members who had been injured. The gossip chain unfortunately helped this information make it back to the injured soldier's family before Rear detachment even knew or had a chance to let the family know.

Who's to say it's all bad though? Gossip can be evil, mean and twisted, but we all know if you want information to get to someone fast, tell one of your girlfriends. What if we could use this power for good? Take for instance all the wonderful "juicy" resources out there that we could share. If we all took the time to spread that gossip we'd have empowered spouses everywhere.

So this week I challenge you to balance your gossip. I can't make you promise not to chat with your girlfriends, but let's keep it to how hot Matthew McConaughey looks without his shirt. (Is it suddenly hot in here?) Let's find something positive to spread. Think before you speak and make it your mission to spread some sunshine down the chain this week! Good luck!