

Tuner's Topics



Phonetic Alphabet

by WO1 Wanda Wig Wag

"I know you think you understand what you heard me say but I don't think I meant what you understood me to say." If you're thinking this is a lot of gibberish, you're right. However, it is not uncommon for us to misunderstand what others are saying, especially on the telephone or radio.

In its infinite wisdom, the military developed a phonetic "alphabet" to eliminate errors in the information process. Basically, this phonetic system is a listing of words, with each word corresponding to its respective letter of the alphabet. The phonetic alphabet, which is listed here, is fairly simple and is an important aid for all communicators.



A - ALPHA	N - NOVEMBER
B - BRAVO	O - OSCAR
C - CHARLIE	P - PAPA
D - DELTA	Q - QUEBEC
E - ECHO	R - ROMEO
F - FOXTROT	S - SIERRA
G - GOLF	T - TANGO
H - HOTEL	U - UNIFORM
I - INDIA	V - VICTOR
J - JULIET	W - WHISKEY
K - KILO	X - X-RAY
L - LIMA	Y - YANKEE
M - MIKE	Z - ZULU

When you use this system, communicating is much easier. And when you consider how "elaborate" some of the Army's office symbols are, you can really appreciate the phonetic alphabet. Those B, D, E, T misunderstandings are clearly stated as Bravo, Delta, Echo, Tango. It's as simple as A, B, C — better make that Alpha, Bravo, Charlie.