

Top selling sequel hits shelves hard

By Brian Baldwin
Clackamas News Online

When a game title becomes the 2007 Game of the Year for Xbox 360, beating out "Bioshock" and even "Halo 3", can the developer live up to the hype that they will produce an even better sequel?

Infinity Ward picked up their equipment and set forth to deliver. Two years have passed and now we have "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2" in our hands and they have, most certainly lived up to the expectations.

Welcome to the 75th Ranger regiment as Pvt. Joseph Allen, Pvt. James Ramirez and Sgt. Gary "Roach" Sanderson of Task Force 141 under the command of Captain MacTavish. Five years have past and despite the determined efforts of the US Marines and the Special Air Service in "Call of Duty 4," Russia has fallen to the Ultranationalists. Terrorist Vladimir Makarov is on a rampage across the world and the CIA wants to put him down for good. However, Makarov uses an undercover CIA agent to engineer a war between the United States and Russia after a massacre at a civilian airport. Using stolen codes from a downed US satellite, Russia is able to evade our early warning detection and mount an invasion that leads the Rangers to defend Washington D.C. and its surrounding neighborhoods in house-to-house combat.

The story is well told with missions spanning from a rescue mission in Afghanistan, to a manhunt in Rio de Janeiro and an infiltration of an oil rig. However, the biggest moment of outrage by other critics was the addition of an assault where your character joins with Makarov to kill unarmed civilians in security

lines, gift shops and even emergency responders at a fictional airport in Moscow. Infinity Ward placed a disclaimer before you start the campaign that there is disturbing content and gives you the option to skip the level without penalizing you.

Responding to criticism of the lack of any cooperative feature

in the first "Modern Warfare," Infinity Ward included a Special Ops mode where you can complete over 20 specific objectives in five tiers with a friend over split-screen, Xbox Live or the PlayStation Network or solo. Mission objectives range from holding off waves of enemies, racing your snowmobile in the

mountains and timed with an AC-130 Spool ship on either regular, or veteran difficulties, stars and unlock the new objectives.

But, any "Call of Duty" knows that the fun does with the campaign. Makarov is back, and has a new set of perks are now jumbled, new ones in the order by rank, and they unlock ranks as well, unlocking additional bonuses by completing challenges. In addition, new perks such as causing your kill streaks to go down by one. Another feature in this is customized kill streaks. In the first game, you only had recon, airstrikes and a gunship. Now you have different kill streaks. UAV, Predator missiles, AC support and the coveted nuke. Kill 25 people dying and you will be a trump card to instantly win a match.

Another aspect of this is that Infinity Ward built the overpopulation of and choke points. They are detailed and offer cover as well as maps to take to flank your enemy. Although there are more of contest such as the Estate map, a well advance can turn the high ground to your



Illustration by Brian Steele Clackamas Print

Tips make Christmas shopping easy and affordable

By Javierh Montero
The Clackamas Print

As Christmas approaches, we slowly begin to fall under its magical spell. We all think of happy times and of how much this joyful and happy holiday will impact our lives and our pockets. Decisions need to be made and money needs to be spent.

In an attempt to cheer you up and actually put you in a happy mood, we're telling you what some people are doing, creative ideas to save some money and some places to shop.

Taunya Stiglbauer, a CCC stu-

dent, is very creative when it comes to Christmas.

"I'm going to go to Japan... maybe I'll buy a kimono for someone. I'll also make some gifts myself and pass them around when I get back," said Stiglbauer.

But not everyone is as lucky, and we can't always afford what we want. At that point, all we can do is get creative.

"I gave my grandma a picture of me with a note telling her about all the memories we've shared, since her memory is not that great. She loved reminiscing about those events; it made her happy," commented Steve Parnell. "This year I'll give her a DVD that has some

family memories and some old songs from back in the day."

However, for those of us who aren't lucky enough to have a forgetful grandma or can't afford to give ourselves such a great travel gift for Christmas, there are always other options.

Below, we show you the top inexpensive gift ideas.

1. **Socks:** Everyone gets cold feet at some point or another.

2. **Framed child's artwork:** We all love our little artists in the house and their messy art, but we love it even more when it's framed.

3. **Photo collage:** Narcissistic world we live in.

4. **Basket containing fruit, apple cider and cheeses:** With this weather, we need extra fat.

5. **Chocolate bars tied with a ribbon:** Same as above, plus, if you're depressed, chocolate increases the levels of endorphins released in the brain, which lessens pain and decreases stress.

6. **Hand decorated photo album:** So we can use something other than Facebook to show pictures.

7. **Homemade cookies:** Cheap and easy.

8. **Board games:** Ouija boards are on the rise.

9. **Glass jar filled with candy:** If the recipient of this gift doesn't enjoy candy, then at least one of you should be able to enjoy it.

10. **Christmas books or any books under \$10:** Let's increase awareness to our youth that books rarely ever come after the movie.

11. **Special soaps and bath stuff:** So we can all lay off the cologne.

12. **Pajamas:** The one with feet for adults is really awesome and rarely worn for some reason.

13. **Candles:** For those nights when pajamas are not worn...or needed.

But if you're like some of us, making gifts out of things we could easily find in our homes is not something you're into then here are some places that should make you feel good about how much money you make.

"I go to Target 'cause they have some \$1 stuff, and I can get a couple of things there. I can also get gift cards so they can buy whatever they want...I'll get one of my best and coolest friends a 'Twilight' book," says Rachel Syphard. "For girls, Claire's, at the mall, is a great place to buy earrings and other accessories."

Some of the places where you can buy affordable gifts include:

1. **Target** - Kids' board games for about \$5 to adult books and games starting at \$10.

2. **Walmart** - Pajama pants for

men starting at \$6, and pajamas for about \$4.

3. **Dollar store** - Make that you can arrange them look nice for about a buck.

4. **Kmart** - Soaps, bath and more starting at \$1.00.

5. **Fred Meyer** - Start about a dollar.

Hopefully this Christmas make good memories, take time off and realize the importance of giving more than just a gift. Make your shopping and check it twice. Remember that a good gift doesn't have to be expensive to be good, just thoughtful; a surprise when you do something for one and their not expecting it.

A hug can go a long way and underestimate it.



Illustration by Jessica Foster Clackamas Print

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