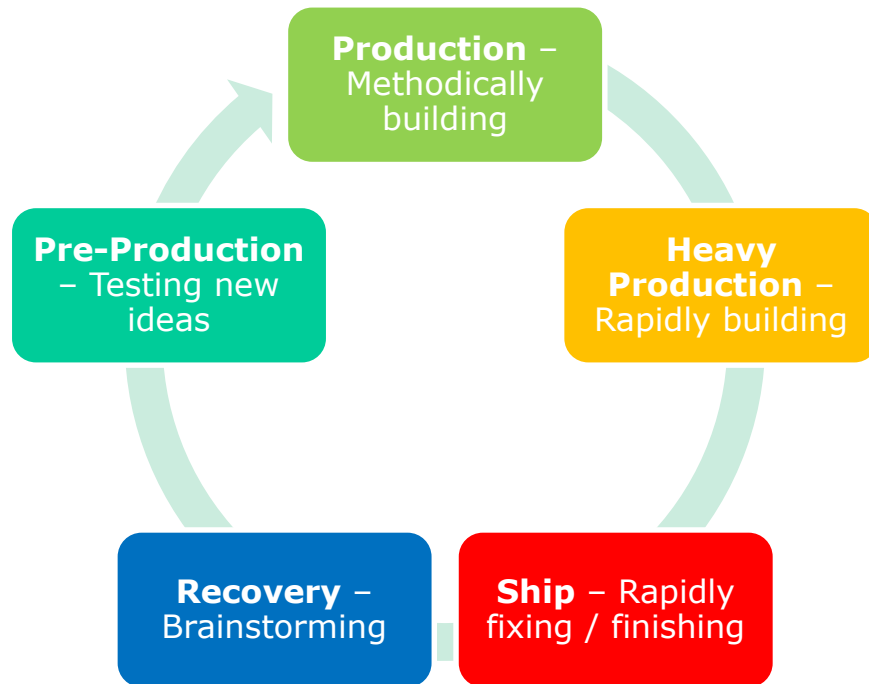


# What to do while you're waiting

**Kristofor Mellroth**

Senior Audio Director, Microsoft Studios

# Why is there “downtime?”



# Why field record?



## IP Creation

- Own-able sound



## Unique sound

- Not reliant on stretching library content
- No overused samples



## Team building

- Good for morale
- Good for PR

# What makes a good library?

Game-friendly variations

Multiple microphone perspectives

Clean and unprocessed

High sample / bit rate

Agreeable licensing

# Getting Started



# Brainstorm

## Project needs

- Read the “script”
- Extrapolate out into the future

## Library needs

- What can't you buy but still need?

## Skill set

- What do I/we need to get better at?

# Prioritize

High

- must have to ship

Medium

- targeted quality improvements

Low

- nice to fill out our library

# Preliminary Research



What do we want to capture?

- Amplitude
- Detail
- Tonality



What equipment is required?

- Own VS rent



# In-Depth Research



## Wikipedia

- Has enough info to be dangerous
- Get to the science



## Talk to the experts

- People outside our industry use the phone
- Social networks – leverage the crowd

# Planning the session

## Location

- Acoustics
- Unique source

## Equipment

- Recording tools
- Sound generation tools

## Time

- Travel
- Recording time

## Personnel

- Recordists
- Experts/Sources

# Budgeting

## Details

- Lodging \*Gas \*Food \*Transportation  
\*Batteries \*Provisions \*Experts...\*\*\*

## Tally

- *Everything*

## Request

- Plus contingency

# Safety and Legality

## Releases

- Talent
- Liability

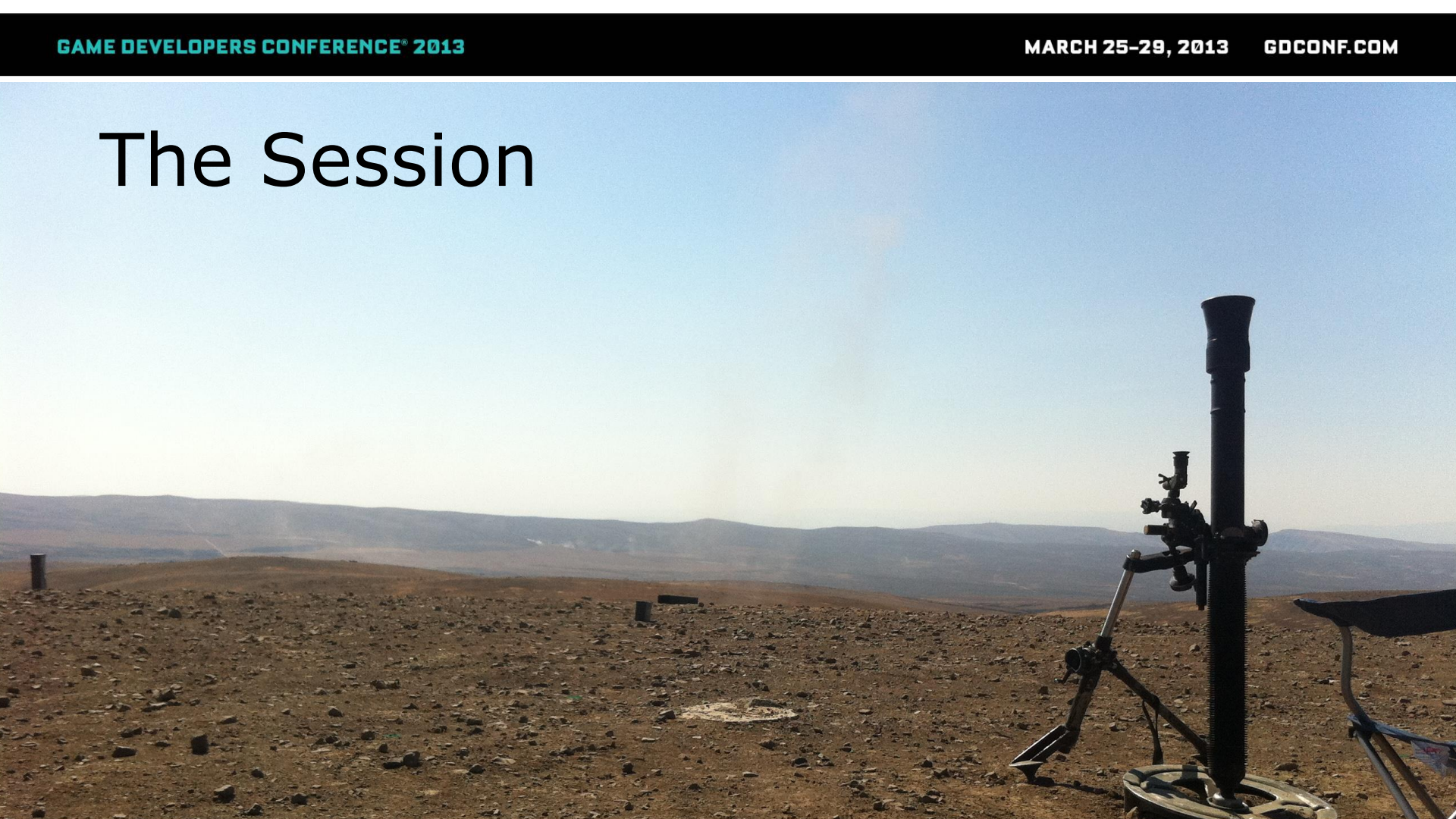
## Insurance

- Experts
- Rentals

## Safety equipment

- Eyes,  
Ears, Head

# The Session



# The Session

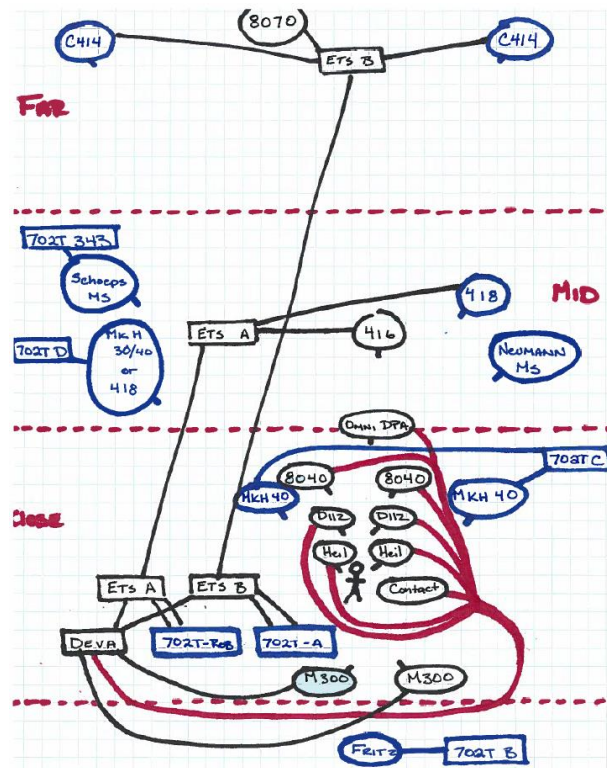
Location

Gear

People

Time

# Be organized





# Use checklists

## DEVA

- 1 - 8070 - Distant (TAIL Mic) - ETS SNAKE B
- 2 - 416 - Mid Range - ETS SNAKE A
- 3 - D112 L - Close - Big Snake
- 4 - D112 R - Close - Big snake
- 5 - HEIL L - Close - Big snake
- 6 - HEIL R - Close - Big snake
- 7 - CONTACT - Taped to Gun - Big snake
- 8 - DPA OMNI - Close/Mid Distance - Big snake
- 9 - 8040 L - Close/Mid Distance - Big Snake
- 10 - 8040 R - Close/Mid Distance - Big Snake
- 11 - M300 L - Close/Mid Behind Shooter - XLR
- 12 - M300 R - Close/Mid Behind Shooter - XLR

## Mics Needed

- C414 L (FUR) - Mic Stand - XLR  
 C414 R (FUR) - Mic stand - XLR  
 MKH 30/40 (NIND PAC) - Mic stand - Dual XLR Cable  
 416 (Rode Blimp) - Mic stand - XLR  
 DPA OMNI ~~8~~ (FUR) - Mic stand - XLR  
 8040 L (Rode Blimp) - Mic stand - XLR  
 8040 R (Rode Blimp) - Mic stand - XLR  
 D112 L (FUR) - Mic stand - XLR  
 D112 R (FUR) - Mic stand - XLR  
 Heil L (FUR) - Mic stand - XLR  
 Heil R (FUR) - Mic stand - XLR  
 Contact Mic + Gaffer's Tape - XLR (Maybe)  
 M300 L (Rode Blimp) - Mic Stand - XLR  
 M300 R (Rode Blimp) - Mic Stand - XLR  
 AT825 (Rode Blimp) - Mic Stand - Spin to Dual XLR  
 FRITZ (FUR Head Band) - Special Mic stand - Spin to Dual XLR  
 MKH 40 L (FUR) - Mic stand - XLR  
 MICH 40 R (FUR) - Mic stand - XLR

- 8070 (Rycote) - Mic stand - XLR  
 418 (Rode Blimp) - Mic Stand - Spin to Dual XLR  
 Schoeps Ms (Rode Blimp.) - Mic Stand - Cables...



# Know assignments

## 702T-A

- 1 - CHIN LEFT - DISTANT - ETS Snake B
- 2 - CHIN RIGHT - DISTANT - ETS Snake B

## 702T-B

- 1 - FRITZ LEFT - BEHIND SHOOTER - XLR
- 2 - FRITZ RIGHT - BEHIND SHOOTER - XLR

## 702T-C

- 1 - MKN 40 LEFT - Close/Mid Distance - XLR
- 2 - MKN 40 RIGHT - Close/Mid Distance - XLR

## 702T-D

- 1 - MKN 30/40 or 410 (JAMES) - Mid Distance - XLR
- 2 -

## 702T-ROB

- 1 - 410 - Mid Distance - ETS Snake A
- 2 -

## 702T-343

- 1 - Schoops MS - Mid Distance - XLR
- 2 -

## 702T-PETE

- 1 - FRITZ - Pete's Choice
- 2 -

## 702T-PETE

- 1 - 410 - Pete's Choice
- 2 -

## SET UP

- AMANDA + Daniel + Jeff → Set up mic's on mic stands with XLR cables
- Robbie + Jacob → Set up and sync 702T's + Deva
- James + Jeff + Daniel → Place Mics in Positions
- Robbie + Jacob lay ETS and Big snake out.
- Amanda + James - Plug in Mics to ETS snake. Take Pictures of mic locations Relative to the shooter.
  - Check to ensure all mic stands are secure.
  - Label XLR cables for snakes/Deva.
- Robbie + Jeff + Jacob - Test Deva mics
- James + Amanda + Daniel Check wind Protection
- Robbie + Jacob + Jeff - Set up 702 Rigs.
- Amanda + James + Daniel help place 702T Rigs.

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Pete - Set up personal Rigs

# AMA

- Ask me anything about the following sessions

# AMA Tires skids with a Tesla





# AMA Gun Sessions



# AMA Gun Sessions





# AMA Gun Sessions



# AMA Gun Sessions





# AMA Explosions





# AMA Airplanes



# AMA Motorcycles



# AMA Horsies





# AMA Doggies



# AMA Camels?? Wtf



# AMA Bulldozers





# AMA Birds of prey



# AMA Tigers!!111





# Universal tips and tricks



# Treat time like it's precious

Prep all mics in  
zeppelins before arriving  
at location

Label Cases and  
Microphones

Give assignments  
beforehand

# Gear we can't live without

ETS InstaSnake

- Best solution for long cable runs

As many batteries as possible

- You will run out

Tools for everyone

- Multitool, pliers, tape, sharpie, etc

Headlamps/flashlights

- You will breakdown and pack out in the dark

# Document everything

Everyone: phone-  
camera

Photographer: On-set  
stills

Videographer: On-set  
videos

Central repository to  
share and store it all!

# Thanks!

## More Q&A?