

More than a card game. A reason to gather.



Infantry roots. A shared table.

One Standard. One Table. One Mission.

THE STORY IN 90 SECONDS

From makeshift tables built with MRE boxes in the field to card games in barracks and reunions, partnership Spades became part of military life. Arkansas Army veteran R. B. Porter is putting a shared version of that game into writing, making it easier to teach and giving communities a reason to meet in person. His project, Grunt Spades, now has free rules, a beta scorekeeping app and two university pilots behind it. The goal is not simply to sell cards. It is to help people keep coming back to the same table.

WHAT THE EARLY PILOTS SHOW

2

UNIVERSITY PILOTS

UCA & A-State, fall 2026

17

PLAYER PARTICIPATIONS

5 at UCA + 12 at A-State

9 / 9

SURVEY RESPONDENTS

All nine said they would play again

Pilot note: The nine surveys represent 9 of 17 player participations, not all participants. These are small, early event samples.

A READY-MADE LOCAL STORY

How does a military table tradition become a community gathering? Grunt Spades offers a visual, human-scale answer: four people, one partner on each side of the table, and a veteran founder trying to preserve the rules before the memories fade. Reporters can cover the history, watch a guided table or follow the effort to establish recurring local play.

PRESS CONTACT

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Independent veteran-founded business. No military, VA or university endorsement is implied.

The veteran behind the table

WHERE IT STARTED

Porter traces the idea to the military tables he knew during his Army service. In field settings, a card game offered friendly competition and a little normalcy. But rules traveled largely by word of mouth, changed between groups and were rarely documented. Grunt Spades is his attempt to preserve that distinctive partnership format without claiming to speak for every military unit or every Spades player.

FOUNDER BIOGRAPHY | PUBLISHABLE

R. B. Porter is a U.S. Army veteran and former mechanized infantryman who founded Grunt Spades to preserve the military-rooted partnership version of Spades. He leads the Arkansas company 3rd Floor Standards, LLC, which develops game standards, teaching tools, scorekeeping technology and community-table programs. Porter is a VFW Life Member. His mission is to carry a familiar military tradition into welcoming, repeatable gatherings for veterans and civilians.

IN THE FOUNDER'S WORDS

"A familiar game gave us a place to gather and a little normalcy." — R. B. Porter, excerpt from the founder story on GruntSpades.com (accessed October 2026).

WHAT MAKES THIS DIFFERENT

One published standard. The project documents a specific version of partnership Spades so that teachers, players and event hosts can work from the same rules.

A military-rooted format. The game uses Big and Little Jokers as trumps, a defined bidding and scoring system, and no Nil bid in its core rules.

Tools that support the table. A free clean-language rules edition and a beta Field App help hosts explain, score and organize games.

A place to return. The ambition is to establish regular, locally hosted tables, not merely one-off events.

READY-TO-USE ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTIONS

SHORT / APPROX. 40 WORDS

Grunt Spades is a veteran-founded Arkansas project that preserves a military-rooted partnership version of Spades. It combines free rules, a beta scorekeeping app and guided community play to help veterans, students and neighbors gather around one shared table.

EXTENDED / APPROX. 90 WORDS

Founded by U.S. Army infantry veteran R. B. Porter, Grunt Spades documents a military-rooted partnership version of Spades with a clear set of rules and teaching materials. The Arkansas-based project includes a free civilian rulebook, a beta scorekeeping Field App and community pilots designed to make organized play easier to start. During fall 2026, it held events at the University of Central Arkansas and Arkansas State University. The longer-term aim is a network of dependable local tables led by community hosts. Physical cards, kits and paid manuals remain in development.

Two campuses. Real tables. Early feedback.

Events are community recreation pilots, not clinical studies. Attendance and participant counts are intentionally separated.

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS | SEPT. 30, 2026

What happened: Five first-time participants played at one active table with one rotation. Five additional people expressed interest but did not play.

What was collected: Three feedback forms from five players (60% return rate). All three respondents said they would play again.

What needed explaining: The absence of a Nil bid and a few minor rules questions. Interest in joining a club was not asked.

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY | OCT. 19, 2026

What happened: Thirteen people were present at the Carl R. Reng Student Union in Jonesboro: 12 first-time participants plus Porter as facilitator. Two tables were in play.

What was collected: Six feedback forms from 12 participants (50% return rate). All six rated the event excellent and said they would play again. Five found the rules very clear and one mostly clear.

What needed explaining: Two respondents mentioned scoring. One hypothetical question concerned a special rule that did not arise during play. Five expressed local-club interest and one was schedule-dependent.

What drew attention: Playing cards attracted strong informal interest. A game kit had not been explained or priced; no purchase intent was measured, and no sales were made.

HOW TO REPORT THE NUMBERS

Accurate	"Across two university pilots, all nine people who returned surveys said they would play again."
Not supported	"All players wanted to return," "the project reduces loneliness," or "the cards are selling strongly."
Important limit	Nine surveys from 17 player participations. No controlled study, impact measurement, or product-sales test.

Sources: founder event tally and after-action reviews, updated October 20, 2026. Original survey forms are not reproduced in this public kit.

Everything a newsroom needs

SUGGESTED EDITORIAL ANGLES

VETERANS / HUMAN INTEREST A former infantryman is recording a game culture he learned in uniform and inviting new players to the table.

CAMPUS / LOCAL COMMUNITY Two Arkansas pilots offered early feedback on a low-cost, face-to-face way to gather.

SMALL BUSINESS / STARTUP A veteran founder is building rules, technology and future products before making claims about sales or scale.

FOR TELEVISION AND RADIO

Visuals: a four-player table; a rules demonstration; the Field App tracking a hand; the founder explaining the tradition. Radio: record the sound of cards being dealt, conversation at a real table, and Porter explaining why he wrote the rules down.

SUGGESTED 20-SECOND BROADCAST INTRODUCTION

An Arkansas Army veteran is trying to preserve a card-game tradition from military life. R. B. Porter founded Grunt Spades to put one version of partnership Spades into writing and bring players back to a shared table. His project recently held beginner events at two Arkansas universities.

INTERVIEW STARTERS

What did a Spades table mean during military service? Why do the rules differ from regular Spades? What did new players at UCA and A-State teach you? How would a recurring local table actually work?

FAST FACTS AND FAQs

Is it a new card game? No. It documents and teaches one military-rooted partnership version of Spades; it does not claim to invent Spades or establish universal rules.

Do beginners need experience? No. The civilian edition and guided tables are designed to help newcomers learn.

Is wagering involved? No. The university pilots were free community recreation events with no wagering.

Is it just for veterans? No. The mission starts with military culture, but civilian players and community hosts are welcome.

Is this a mental-health program? No. It is community recreation. Possible social-connection research remains exploratory; no treatment or study outcome is claimed.

FILES AND VISUAL USE

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