

In game stores

“Halo 4”

Master Chief back for more



By Senior Airman Kate Vaughn



Over the last decade, one video game has continuously raised the bar for all others.

From its emotionally charged story line, to its unparalleled graphics and online experience, the Halo video game series continues to blow video gamers expectations out of the water.

The latest installment in the series, Halo 4, is no exception.

The game starts out by introducing us to Dr. Catherine Halsey, the master mind behind the Spartan II Program and a familiar character to anyone who has read the novels.

Your mission in Halo 4 revolves around two objectives. The first is to get your trusty sidekick, Cortana, to Dr. Halsey, as this is her only chance of surviving her descent into rampancy, which is essentially AI death. The second is the race to get Cortana back to Earth. In typical Halo fashion, it isn't long before some new enemy prevents you from an easy passage.

Along the way, new characters, such as the Forerunner Prometheans are introduced, adding new challenges for the player as the character Master Chief. The Prometheans have different units that work together to make your game play more challenging. Choose your targets wisely or you will find yourself wasting ammo and no closer to eliminating the enemy.

The twists and turns throughout the game are as exciting and intense as ever, and if you've read the Halo novels, you'll notice that the game, for the most part, closely follows the same storyline.

Graphics in a video game can make or break the player's experience, and once again, Halo's graphics definitely make the game.

“Characters look like live-action actors, and their movements and emotions have a realistic, almost film-like quality. This technique has been used in other games, but Halo 4 raises the bar for others to emulate,” according to CNN reporter Larry Frum.

Most gamers know one of the main attractions in a game is the quality of the online experience. The updated online play for Halo 4 is leaps and bounds ahead of its predecessor.

Added and improved customizations enhance not only appearance, but with weapons and armor, make playing online more challenging and more rewarding.

Additional game modes include “Flood” and “Regicide.” These new game modes add a spin to your regular multiplayer experience.

Halo 4 also includes a type of mini game series called “Spartan Ops.” Spartan Ops lets you take your customized Spartan into battle to complete weekly missions that can either be done with friends or in matchmaking.

Finding special points or terminals throughout the game will unlock a special series of mini videos that tell the Halo story more in depth.

Time and time again, Halo delivers in every way possible. Setting the bar for the industry, it continues to dominate its competition.

The only way this game is going to be outdone is with the release of its successor, Halo 5, which is expected to debut in fall 2013.