



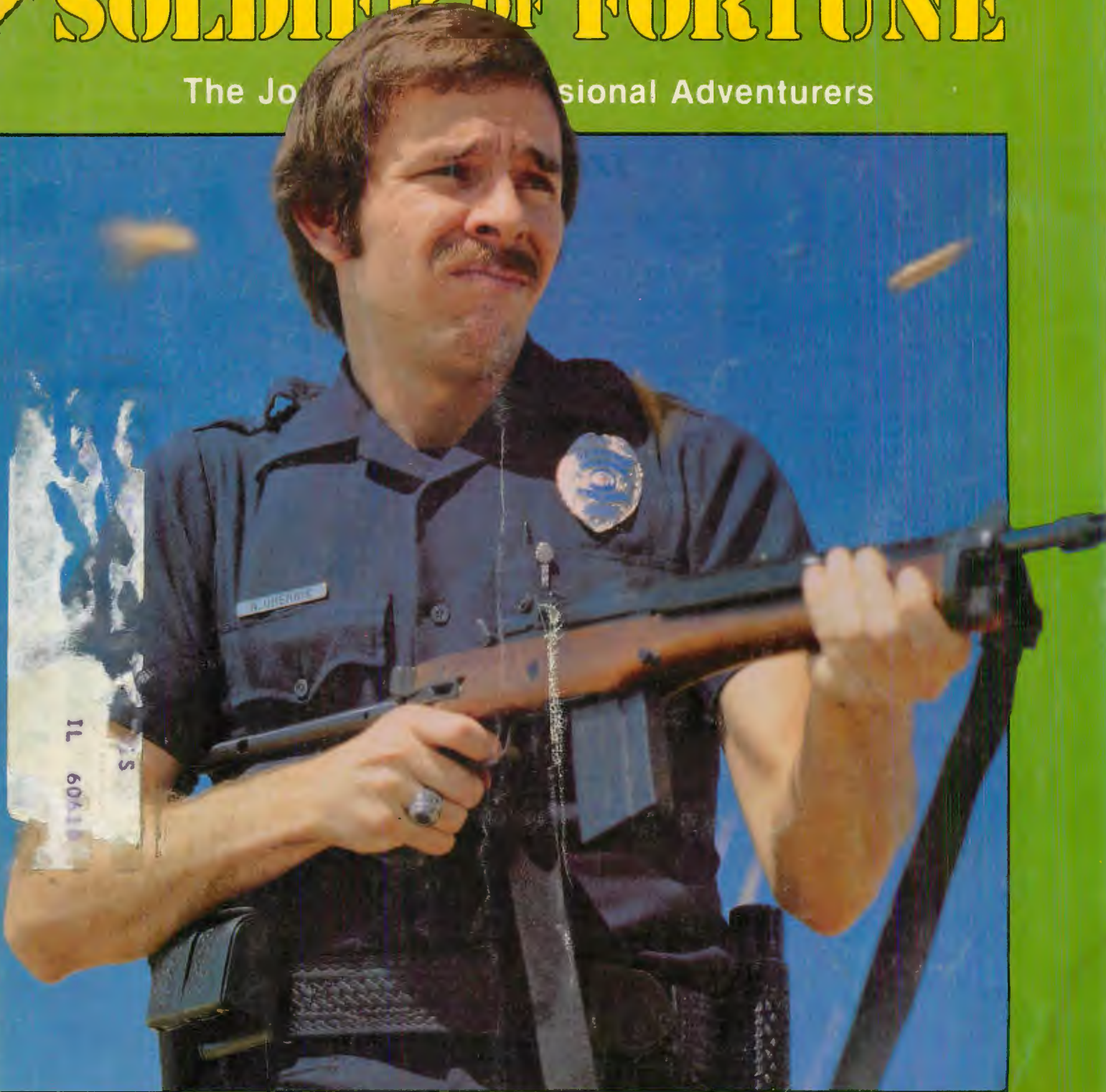
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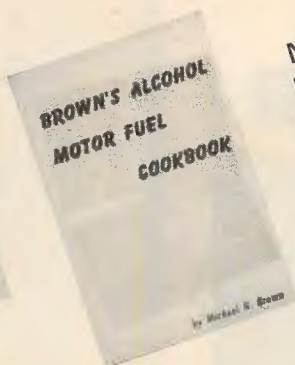


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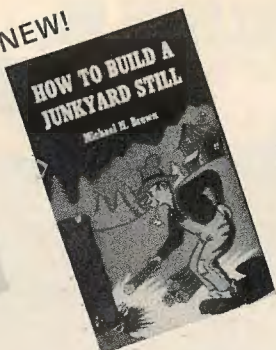
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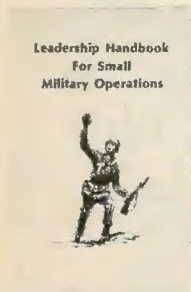
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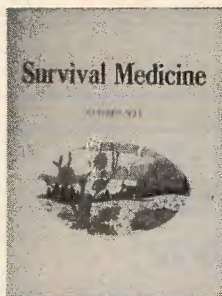


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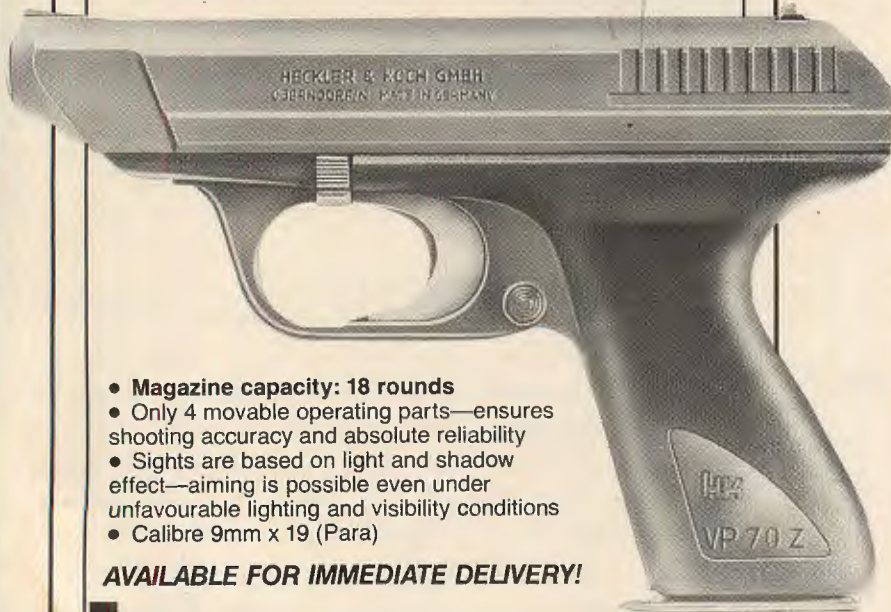
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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

COVER: Nick Uhemik, a policeman in Colorado and frequent contributor to Soldier of Fortune, fires Ruger AC-556K on range in Boulder, Colo. H.C. Davids' extensive examination of the AC-556K and the AC-556 (the long-barrel version) starts on page 46. Photo: H.C. Davids.

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by Bob Poos



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COOPER EXPANDS COLUMN HORIZONS ...

Jeff Cooper will no longer co-author *Combat Pistolcraft* in SOF — but don't panic. He's still going to be one of our columnists — only with wider fields of interest.

Cooper, as most readers probably know, is a nationally recognized authority on all types of firearms — and several other subjects besides.

Jeff has long felt that a single subject, namely combat handgunning, limited his scope, and Publisher Bob Brown agrees with him.

So, hereafter, Jeff will be authoring a column entitled "Sharpshooting With Chairman Jeff" and, knowing Jeff, we suspect it will not be limited to the subject of guns and shooting.

Ken Hackathorn will continue to write *Combat Pistolcraft* and all letters or inquiries should be directed to him, care of SOF, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306.

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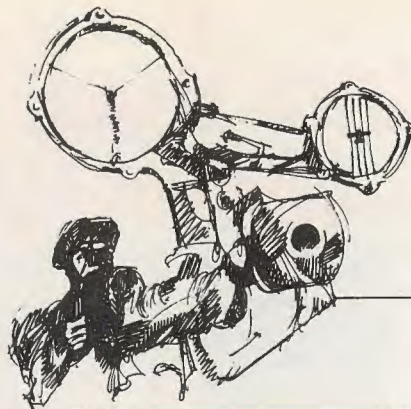
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TO:



FLAK

WWII FIRE STICKS ...

Sirs:

I read Galen L. Geer's interesting account of his foray into Afghanistan (SOF, September '80). My interest was piqued by his description of the Soviet "Fire Sticks." As I grew up in Norway during the Nazi occupation, being 8 years old in 1945 when liberation came, I remember on numerous occasions playing with the same kind of "fire stick" liberated from German bunkers and positions. Geer's description fits exactly the sticks that we had.

With one foot pressing down on one end of a lighted fire stick, the stick would, after a few moments, start zipping around on the ground and become a small hazard — obviously to our great delight.

It would be interesting to know if the Soviets are using the same stuff the Nazis used 35 years ago.

Sincerely,
Leonhard Hoie
Shiprock, New Mexico

CONGRATS AND A QUESTION ...

Congratulations to Geer and on SOF's scoop in obtaining AKS-74 rounds. One question, however: Why were no photographs of Soviet equipment destroyed by the Mujahideen included in "Assignment Afghanistan" (SOF, September '80)?

The reason I bring up this point is that, here in Washington, one of the prevailing arguments against supplying weapons to the rebels is that the Afghans would be ineffective against the Soviets even if so supplied. Thus, so the argument goes, we are saving lives by not providing the anti-tank and anti-air weapons the rebels so desperately need. Apparently, some of our Washington super-liberals think that Russians being killed by American-supplied weapons is somehow worse than Afghans being fire-bombed by MiG-21s.

Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Name Withheld
Washington, D.C.

Obviously, you wrote before receiving our October and November issues in

which Galen L. Geer's Afghanistan report, Parts 2 and 3, gave further information on and photographs of Soviet weapons and rebel tactics. — The Eds.

FILMS AND FIREARMS ...

Sirs:

I think N.E. MacDougald's interview with John Milius was exceptional (SOF, September '80). I've enjoyed Milius' films and am anticipating the release of his next one, *Conan*.

I also had to smile at Bev Beverly's letter (FLAK, SOF, September '80). How familiar it sounded! My husband encouraged me to learn to shoot. I'll never forget my first attempt (it was an attempt!). After I pulled the trigger, the 12 gauge landed four feet behind me! I'm still trying — and doing better, I may add.

Sincerely,
Patti Sears
El Dorado, Kansas

MAY WE REMEMBER ...

Sirs:

For every man who wears the Green Beret and struts, who has the pride that lives off the deeds of men before him, this is to let you know that one of these men has died. Sgt. Major Donald B. Leavitt died 28 June 1980 in Savanna, Ga.

Think of what you've done to make the beret proud and then never forget what men like Don Leavitt and Bob Lunday have given you.

Leavitt is survived by his wife, Nancy, and four sons, Pat, Willie, Baker and Mitchell.

Not only have I lost a best friend, we have all lost a friend.

Sincerely,
Tom Wilkinson
Montgomery, Alabama

WHAT'S IN A NAME ...?

Sirs:

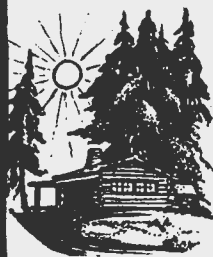
In regard to "Worker's Paradise in Trouble" (SOF, August '80), I've just one nitpicking complaint to make: Papa's name was Ernest Miller Hemingway.

Thank you,
Robert Jordan
We stand corrected.—The Eds.

Continued on page 24

Wilderness Survival

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BLEAK FUTURE. America is already in

hot water, but the future looks much, much worse—runaway inflation, price controls, black markets, and eventually "a MAJOR depression that will make the 1930s look like a Sunday School picnic." After reading Mr. Schneider's book, you will also know:

- * Why a dictator could rise to power in America (resulting in gun confiscation)
- * Why the world is bracing for WAR
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Hans Schneider adds this chilling warning: "Any one of these events could spell disaster to unprepared Americans, physically and financially."

SURVIVAL RETREATS. In his book, Hans has outlined what he has done . . . and what you can do to prepare for—even profit from—these times. Hans, his lovely wife, and their five children live in unspoiled wilderness next to a spring-fed stream, teeming with trout. They produce most of their own food and enjoy a wonderful family life. Is this your dream? By following his helpful advice, you too can wisely select the *right* place to live and set it up for survival.

His 288-page book also covers:

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 - 5 different ways to produce your own electricity without gasoline!
- ...and MUCH more.

You will also read about alternate lifestyles, weaponry, and defense tactics; turning a yacht into a "survival retreat"; 6 simple, inexpensive ways to preserve your own food (one using just a needle and string! page 47); and what is even more important for your physical survival than merely storing food (see pages 214 and 248-249)!

... And that's just the beginning. Mr. Schneider's book is literally a "goldmine" of valuable "how-to" information. But don't take our word for it, read what others are saying:

* "Timely . . . a good prescription for those of us who no longer expect any help from the failing institutions of this world and recognize that we must work out our own salvation

—physical, mental and spiritual."—John R. Andrews, M.D., Ellijay, GA.

* "His book is exceptional not only because it is timely and practical, but because it is based on actual personal experience—it is not a lot of idealistic theorizing or useless philosophy." R. A. Johnson, Survival Editor for *Inflation Survival Letter*.

You can order *Timely and Profitable Help for Troubled Americans* (288 pages) for just \$9.95 postpaid—certainly one of the best investments you will ever make. And his advice can profit you no matter where you live or what the economic conditions may be!

GLOBAL SURVIVAL

Mr. Schneider is also the author of another book. His latest, *Flying to be Free* (256 pages), is his personal never-before-told story of his boyhood passion for flying in his communist-occupied homeland, the years he spent on dangerous aviation missions through war-torn Europe and the near-fatal accounts of his travels under survival conditions in almost 100 countries. It is beautifully illustrated with over 110 photos/drawings and a full-color cover. In a special chapter, Hans even tells you how you can save substantially on trips abroad using the same methods he did!

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IT HAPPENED TO ME

by Marv Wolf as told to M.L. Jones

Marv Wolf, today a free-lance writer and photographer located near Los Angeles, and a regular contributor to

SOF, was a Spec. 4 in the First Air Cav's information office when the following incident occurred. As he tells it:

I was deadheading back from a forward CP to the 1st Air Cav Division's base camp at An Khe one day in 1966 when the pilot of our UH-1D spotted three black-pajamaed figures running full tilt along a rice-paddy dike below. One of them carried a rifle.

We dipped down to a few hundred feet for a closer look, and the armed VC dropped to one knee and popped off at us. He missed, but the crack was audible to everyone inside. We went back to zap him.

The problem was we had only about a half-hour's fuel, no ammo for the M60s and only a couple of magazines for the lone M16 aboard. We decided to give it a try anyway. At 50 feet the doorgunner emptied first one magazine and then the other at the fleeing figures, all three of whom could be seen clearly, wearing rucksacks — though only the leader was armed with a rifle. It wasn't easy hitting three specks running for their lives along the twisting dikes, and the doorgunner missed.

That left a dozen rounds in a couple of aviator's .38s. We went down for another try, the co-pilot at the stick while the pilot blazed away out his open window. He didn't even come close.

There was no ammo left. Our pilot put the Huey into a steep climbing circle and we rose to about 1,000 feet and looked around for help. Ten miles away a couple of Delta-model gunships circled. Our pilot got them on the horn and told them about our little problem.

"Get down close and drop some smoke, and we'll handle it," they told us. So we went back down, down, down, and rocketing along at 100 knots 20 feet off the paddies — after all, one of those dudes had a rifle and had proved he wasn't that bad a shot — we went after them. They had tightened up their formation, and they slowed to a dogtrot as we closed. The doorgunner hung on to the door frame with his left hand and drew way back, clutching a purple smoke grenade in his right. As we swooshed by he threw the smoke as hard as he could at the middle VC.

As we made our turn and started to grab some altitude, I looked back and saw that the VC had quit running and that one of them was down — the one with the rifle. We turned back and the two still standing took off. About that time the first gunship came into sight, tracers flying at the fleeing VC. They headed for a little stand of trees about a half mile away, but they never made it.

While the two gunships circled overhead, we set down near the first Charlie. The doorgunner and I jumped out and ran over to him. He was crumpled up on the low dike, his rifle under him, dead as a doornail. Near his body lay the smoke cannister, still emitting a wisp of purple smoke. His face was one massive bruise where a pound-and-a-half of smoke grenade moving at better than 110 mph had hit him.

I stepped into the paddy and unslung my Nikonos to take a shot of the VC, the gunner with the one-in-a-million throwing arm, the smoke grenade and the chopper. I released the shutter lock and framed the scene. I squeezed the release. Nothing happened. I tried to advance the film. It wouldn't move. I glanced down at the film counter. It said 37. I was out of film.

We threw the body in the paddy, the rifle in the chopper with the VC's rucksack and headed home to An Khe.



If you have a combat or adventure story for "It Happened to Me" or "I Was There," triple-space type it and send it to SOF, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306. Attn: M.L. Jones. All stories should be 500 words or less. Upon publication, SOF will become owner of all publication rights. Submitted articles are subject to editing and revision, although their content and theme will not be changed. Photos are also helpful. Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope so we can notify you of acceptance or return of your story. Article payment is \$50, upon publication. All entrants will receive an SOF patch.



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TAPPAN ON SURVIVAL

by Mel Tappan

“Make preparations in advance . . . You never have trouble if you are prepared for it.”

—Theodore Roosevelt

WE are about to witness the profound disruption of this country and, possibly, the entire civilized world. Barring some *deus ex machina* miracle, there is no longer any practical way to prevent it and, unless you are willing to believe or to determine for yourself that what I am telling you here is the truth, you will very probably become a victim of this holocaust without ever having the opportunity to strike a blow on behalf of your country or yourself.

It doesn't take genius to realize that something is wrong. You are paying \$7,000 for a \$3,000 car, \$75,000 for a \$20,000 crackerbox tract house, \$300 for a no-frills service auto pistol and almost \$20 for a box of .45 cartridges with which to load it. Major cities and public corporations are being kept from bankruptcy by your tax dollars, whether you like it or not, and most of our leading international banks are insolvent by every standard except the name because of improvident long-term loans to Third World countries, backed by fractional short-term deposits of Arab and other foreign funds subject to sudden withdrawal.

“We will bury you.”

—Nikita Khrushchev

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mel Tappan is a professional survival consultant, free-lance writer and the author of *Survival Guns* (Janus Press, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 578, Rogue River, OR 97537). Prior to his present career, Tappan taught at Stanford University, served as an investment counselor and board member of several corporations, founded a bank and a life insurance company and was president of a national mutual fund. Beginning with this issue, “Tappan on Survival” will be a regular monthly feature in SOF.

Militarily, our nation has become so weak that when Soviet combat troops are found stationed in Cuba, only 90 miles from our shores, and their presence is officially declared “unacceptable,” we then merely accept the situation without action or even further comment. Our stern response to blatant Soviet adventurism in Afghanistan is to withhold our Olympic team from international competition. We have rejected the technological advances that might have brought us parity with our adversaries, such as the neutron bomb and the B-1 bomber, and we have made no effort even to keep our conventional weapons current or at strength. We are completely without practical defenses against nuclear attack, although an effective ABM system is well within our competence, because our leaders fear that even such a clearly passive posture may be perceived as “provocative” by Moscow.

To round out the picture, you may want to recall that the Federal Government is presently spending more of your money on public education than ever before, yet increasing numbers of high school graduates are functionally illiterate. There are more government social programs paying more benefits to more people than at any time in history, yet the recipients' demands are escalating and so is the level of violence with which these demands are underlined. Crime, especially violent crime, is setting new records and we are just beginning to see terrorism expand in this country as it has in Europe.

However unsatisfactory our present national status may be — and it is considerably worse than this brief recital may indicate — it is obviously tolerable. Most Americans have enough food on their tables, the telephones work, there are no riots in the streets — except occasionally — over 90 percent of the work force is employed and there is still a measure of individual freedom here that surpasses that of any other nation on earth. The nature of our malaise, however, is not static and our condition is on the verge of becoming critical.

Either by sinister design or incredible stupidity, the fools and scoundrels we

Continued on page 22

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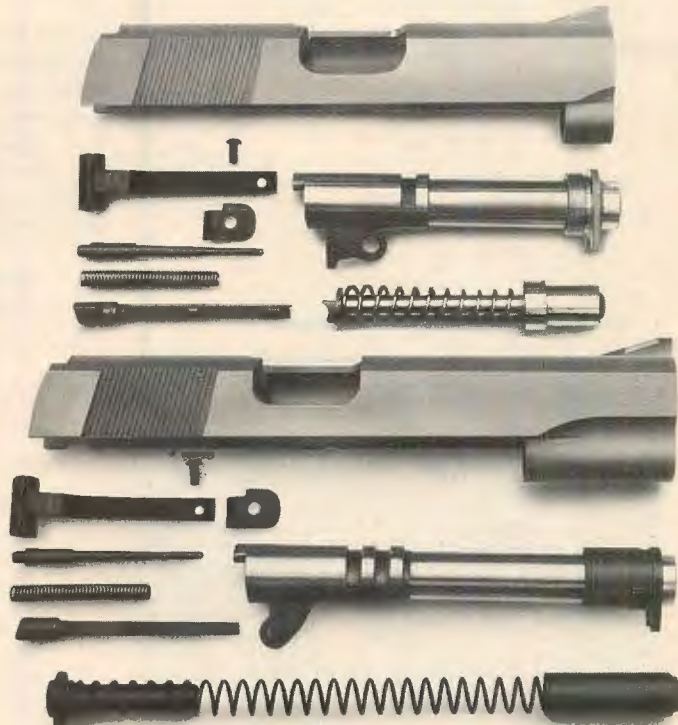
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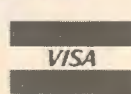
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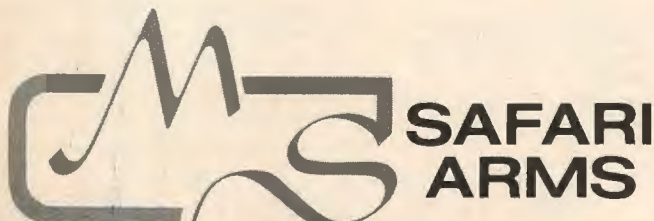
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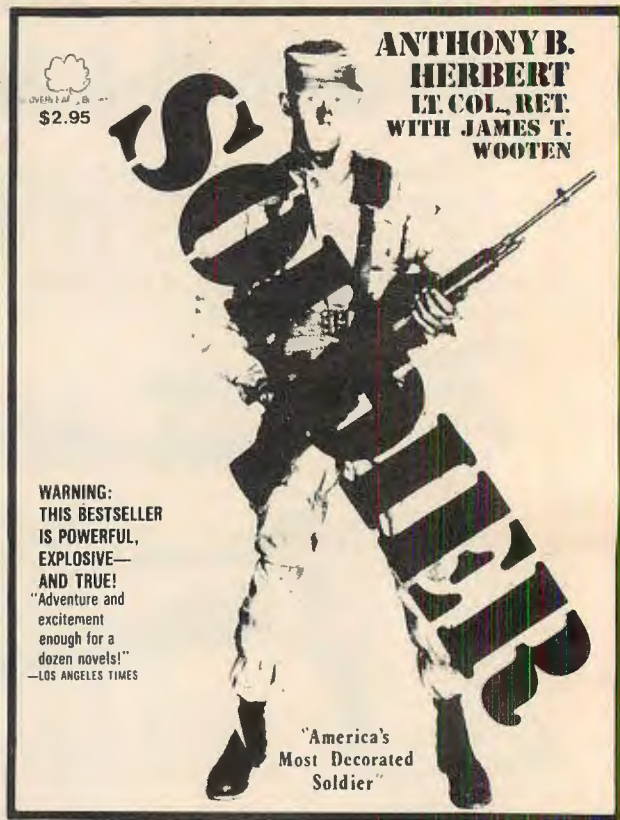
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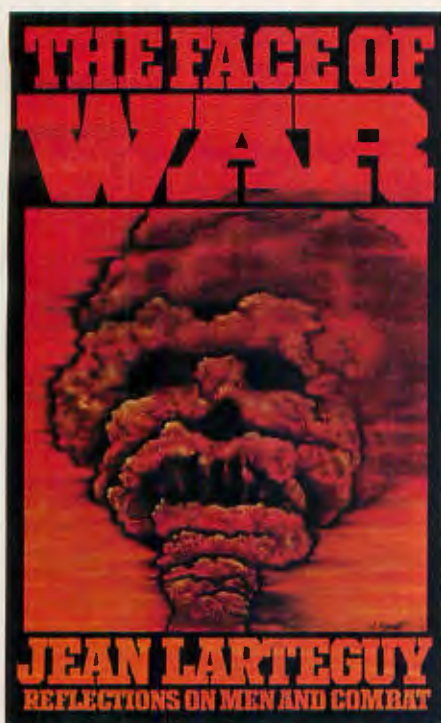
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IN REVIEW



THE FACE OF WAR: REFLECTIONS ON MEN AND COMBAT. By Jean Larteguy. Translated from the French by Beth de Bilio. New York: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc. 1979. 350 pp., \$13.95. Review by William M. Brooks.

SINCE 1952 Jean Larteguy has earned a reputation both in the United States and France for his authority as a warfare journalist.

He is the author of several works of fiction based on his own experience dealing with French military life. Most notable, *The Centurions*, a novel about the Algerian war, was made into a highly successful motion picture.

The Face of War is a colloquy which he has written in order "to settle accounts with war."

Born in 1920 of poor peasant stock in Upper Lozere, France, Larteguy first discovered war in a locked room full of souvenirs from 1914-1918.

During WWII he was captured by the Germans, and later released. He fled to Spain and then to North Africa, where he joined the Free French Commandos. He fought with distinction in Italy, in the Vosges at Belfort and in Germany. He

later served as a lieutenant in Korea and Indochina, where he remained as a correspondent for some 25 years. For the last 30 years, Jean Larteguy has covered the wars in Indochina, Algeria, Vietnam, the Middle East and Africa.

The Face of War presents war as he has experienced it: through the tales of his father from the battlefield and from his own observations. The book contains dramatic and humorous accounts, poignant memories and, best of all, Larteguy's own reflections.

For example, on WWII: "the dispute between de Lattre and Leclerc was not the only one of its kind at a higher level; Montgomery and Patton hated each other And in September the allies missed their opportunity to end their war with Germany when Montgomery persuaded Eisenhower to cut Patton's supply of gas because, in Montgomery's eyes, Patton was going too fast and gathering too many laurels for himself to suit Monty."

Because 500,000 allied soldiers and many millions of civilians died after September, 1944, Larteguy adds:

"That these generals, belonging to the same army, were able to uselessly massacre thousands of young soldiers merely to reap for themselves a scrap of victory was intolerable."

On Korea: "The Americans weren't prepared for that hard mountain warfare. They'd have preferred to run about in jeeps. But they learned. They fought well in fact, out of pure patriotism, out of loyalty. (It would take Vietnam for that spirit to die.) And they left fifty-four thousand men on the mountains of Korea. All to return everything to the status quo ante."

He declares that although the dictionary defines a mercenary as a soldier who serves a foreign government for money, a person motivated solely by a desire for monetary or material gain, his experience has given him a different definition.

"The mercenaries I've met and whose life I've sometimes shared, fight, between the ages of 20 and 30, to remake the world. Then, until they reach 40, they fight for their dreams and that image of themselves they've invented. Then, if they're not already dead, they resign themselves to living as the rest of the

world lives — but badly, because they never receive retirement payments — and they die in their beds of congestion or cirrhosis. Money never interests them and they worry very little about the opinions of their contemporaries. In this way they are different from other men."

On Vietnam: "The Americans did worse than we [the French]. The greatest error they made, in my opinion, was to send conscripts to Vietnam. The draftee asked himself what he was doing there so far from home. It was difficult in the extreme to make the little G.I. understand what his role was supposed to be, to inculcate in him, in all his insularity, the notion of his international responsibilities, to explain to him that the containment of communism in the world must be accomplished precisely on that peninsula, to him who frankly hadn't the least interest in strategy.

"The Americans had their helicopters, their B-52s, their napalm, and their delayed-action bombs. Against them the communists used one weapon better: drugs."

However, the translator made a few mistakes. For example, P.C. is translated on page 198 as *Poste de Commandement*, or command post, when it is actually *Parti Communiste*. In more than one instance, D.B. is translated as *Demi-Brigade* when it should have been *Division Blindée*, Armored Division.

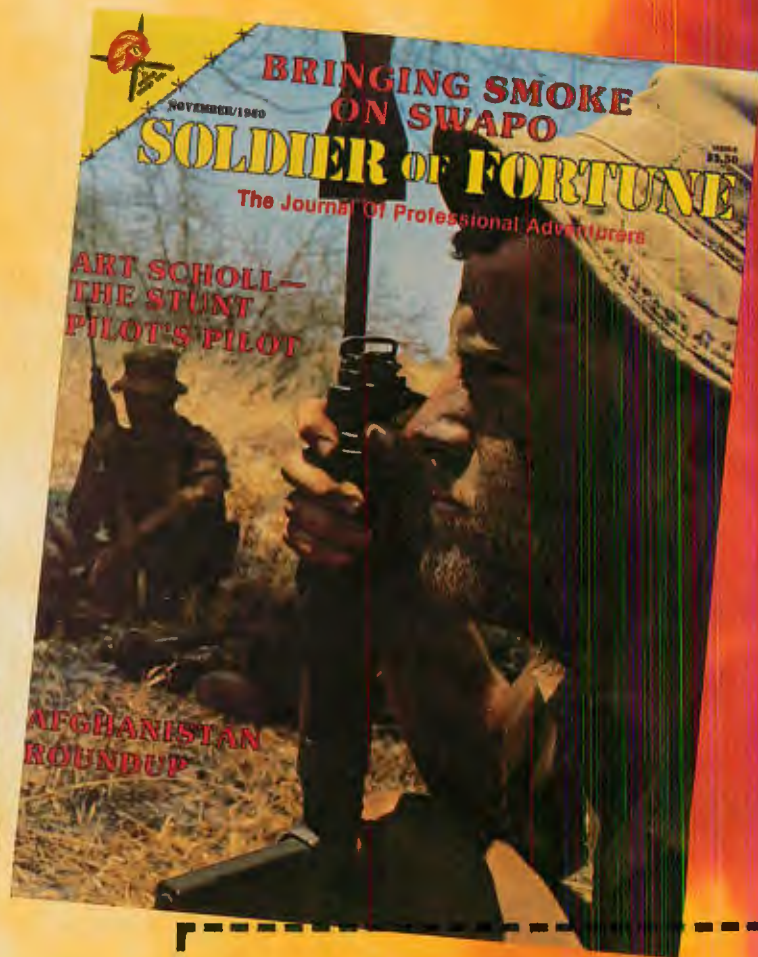
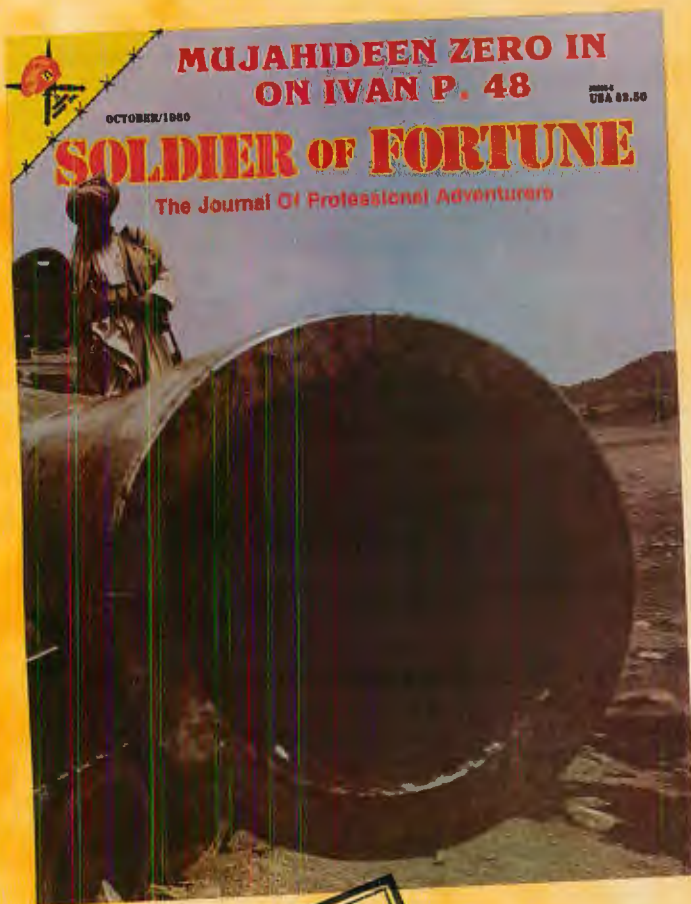
The Face of War is exciting, captivating reading. It is also a persuasive condemnation of war. I recommend it wholeheartedly.

William M. Brooks, whose service in the French Foreign Legion was chronicled in SOF (July-November '78), needs no introduction to SOF readers. We have a poster giving Jean Larteguy's comparison of parade vs. real soldiers on our office wall. Real soldiers are "composed entirely of young enthusiasts in camouflage uniforms, who would not be put on display but from whom impossible efforts would be demanded and to whom all sorts of tricks would be taught. That's the army in which I should like to fight." The poster may be ordered from Phoenix Associates, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306.

Continued on page 80

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
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Ken Hackathorn

This month Ken Hackathorn analyzes the 9mm-.45 military sidearm controversy and gives his reasons for sticking with his .45 Colt.

RECENT controversial service-pistol tests by the U.S. military have resulted in the decision to use a 9x19mm auto pistol. Although few of those present at the JSSAP (Joint Service Small Arms Program) are willing to comment on the final choice of the pistol recommended for the U.S. services, it is known that complete drawings and prints of the Beretta M92S have been delivered to Picatinny Arsenal Small Arms Lab for conversion from metric to English dimensions.

Those observers commenting on the JSSAP tests all agree about the Beretta's reliability and accuracy. Although a large, bulky pistol, it was favored by most who tested it. My guess is that the Beretta will become a popular pistol on this side of the Atlantic. As to whether or not it will be made in Italy or the U.S., I believe the first delivery of the pistol might come from the Italian plant.

But given the nature of politics in the arms business and U.S. military, one can count on the pistol's ultimately being made here under license by one of the big U.S. handgun companies — it would be a business opportunity that would be hard to pass up.

I am constantly questioned about my reaction to JSSAP's conclusion that the 9x19mm is equal to, or possibly better than, the .45 auto in combat effectiveness. I have talked with Jack Robbins (JSSAP staff) at length about the project. He is very serious about his work. I know from experience, however, that when asked to prove a point in a study or test, one can often prove whatever he pleases.

I mean no disrespect to Robbins or others of the JSSAP staff. They were asked to search out the 9x19mm pistol that best met their specifications. I am sure they did just that.

When asked if I plan to give up my "ole .45 auto" and get a new "Nine," I reply that my .45 Colt is going to be around a while longer. Guns and cartridges are like

fashions in clothing. Some people change for the sake of change. I prefer to stick with what I am used to.

I am told time and time again that the 9x19mm is the most popular military pistol cartridge in the world, and thus must be the best. Some people contend that socialism is the most popular form of politics, but not many of us will agree that it's the best.

When told by experts that the 9x19mm's higher velocity is the key to its better combat effectiveness, I still wonder how a 9x19mm, 125-grain bullet driven at 1,200 fps (feet per second) can be such a fine combat round, when the .30 carbine with a 110-grain bullet at 1,900 fps was such a poor stopper? If one asks a Korea vet, or a G.I. who served in the early days of 'Nam when the ARVN troops used the .30 carbine, he will give you a good idea of what light bullets at those velocities *don't* do. Like the M16, the .30 carbine is a light weapon to carry on patrol, but if one gets into a fight, he wants a real rifle. Remember, many men who served in uniform carried weapons, but only a few ever used them to stay alive.

Jack Robbins and I would both agree that the key to sidearm combat use is bullet placement. Regardless of 9x19mm or .45 ACP, the round must be placed properly to do any good. Unfortunately, one's ability to do this suffers under stress. The key is good firearms training, in which the 'U.S. military is weak. Its pistol practice and training are almost nonexistent.

The choice of the slide-mounted safety on the new series pistol is a case in point. The military wants a pistol the grunts can use safely with little or no training. Even though U.S. police agencies use revolvers predominantly because they are considered the safest sidearm, the rate of accidental shootings and ADs (accidental discharges) is extremely high.

If a new 9x19mm sidearm is chosen by the U.S. military, I hope soldiers on distant battlefields don't die because some moronic bureaucrat chose a sidearm and training system that don't do the job.



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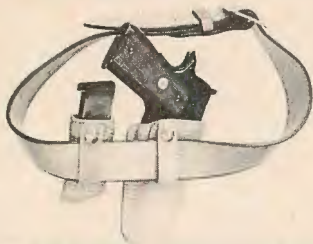
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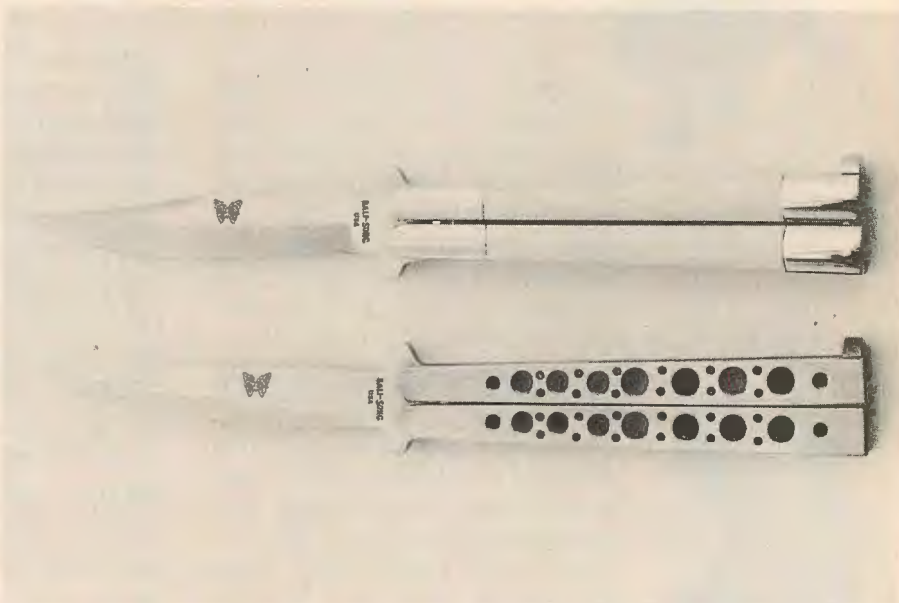
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STEELE ON KNIVES

by David Steele



David Steele does not often devote an entire column, let alone two, to the evaluation of just one knife, but he believes the Bali-Song is worth a complete analysis. Last month Steele described the Filipino knife from its 1940's origin in the barrio shops of the Batangas and listed its uses in Filipino forms of martial arts.

Production of this well-designed knife left much to be desired in quality control until Lester DeAsis of Bali-Song, Inc., began manufacturing it. For more information on the knife contact Bali-Song, Inc., Dept. SOF, 3039 Roswell St., Los Angeles, CA 90065 (phone: 213-258-7021).

I first came across the Bali-Song when I needed some knives for a movie. Pat Johnson, stunt coordinator for Solar-Weintraub productions, called me regarding a script change in the upcoming martial-arts epic, *Battle Creek Brawl*. In the original script, the bad guy uses a pair of brass knuckles with a blade sticking out of each end. This was changed, for dramatic and martial-arts reasons, to a pair of Bali-Songs. However, Johnson was now stuck with the problem of finding a pair of these knives and an instructor who could teach the actor, Ron Max, how to use them in the shortest possible time. First, I got in touch with Lester DeAsis of Bali-Song, Inc., asking him to make up a pair of brass-handled Bali-Songs with black-micarta inserts and no edge on the blades. Next, I called Dan Inosanto in Torrance, Calif., to see if he was available to teach Max. I brought all the parties and equipment together in December 1979, just in time for them to start filming in January.

Above: Standard Bali-Song has hollow-ground blade and brass handle with ivory-micarta inserts. Below: Skeletonized stainless-steel handle and Wee Hawk blade.

Ron Max, star of *Battle Creek Brawl*, uses Bali-Song in this scene from film.



Inosanto has since ordered a pair of the knives for his own use in demonstrations, as have several of his senior students.

I have tried out several variations of the Bali-Song and found them all exceptional.

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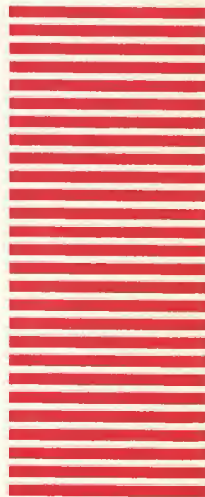
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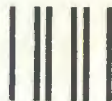
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Inosanto taught me four or five opening styles some time back, and I have found the Bali-Song butterfly works better with them than any of the Philippine-made knives I've come across. Two of the opening styles do not involve touching the blade to the hand, making them the preferred methods for the double-edge.

I used an unsharpened canvas-micarta-handled knife for the initial studio demonstration. I have since rammed this knife into various immovable wooden objects without breaking the point or my hand slipping onto the blade. The handles on the Bali-Song are directly in line with the blade, giving a powerful, straight stroke. The integral guard prevents slipping onto the blade, no matter how powerful the thrust or what the blade runs into. The average rocker-locked knife does not give that kind of strength or security; the blade may even fold up at the juncture of tang and backstrap.

I tried the stainless-handle version and found it to be lighter, but just as strong as the brass. I also found that the linen-micarta inserts provide almost as firm a surface as the canvas micarta. I tried the skeletonized version and found it to be very strong, but its squared edges can pinch the hand on opening (DeAsis tells me production models will be more rounded). Finally, I tried the Wee Hawk blade in a stainless handle. It should come as no surprise that I liked it, since the Wee Hawk has always been one of my favorite boot-knife designs.

Any knife can be destroyed with deliberate abuse. However, users will be gratified to know that the Bali-Song is one of the easiest folders to repair. Blades can be replaced, pins tightened and inserts repaired or replaced in a matter of minutes.

I have carried the Bali-Song for several months on a daily basis and found it as convenient, effective and dramatic a knife as I have ever used. Quite a few people have asked me to demonstrate — a butterfly in each hand. Most want to buy one as soon as they have seen the demonstration.

To sum up, the Bali-Song has a 4-inch blade of 3/16-inch stock with a Rockwell rating of C59. The handle inserts go by titles like Rosewood, Snakeskin, Brown Western Weave, Black and Ivory (all are micarta). The sheath is form-fit, with a retaining strap in black or brown. Both the blade and the sheath are marked with the butterfly logo. Retail price at the time of writing (for the basic model) is \$125 — it may be more at time of publication. The price may seem high, but most custom-made folders cost more, without providing the strength or versatility of this design. Write or call Bali-Song, (213) 258-7021, for current price and availability.



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SURVIVAL

Continued from page 12

have elected to represent us in government have debauched our currency, crippled our economy and driven us to bankruptcy. As if that weren't enough, they have created a vast army of bureaucrats — unelected and virtually untouchable — to implement their will: a faceless horde that can create rules with the force of law simply by recording them in the Federal Register. It is through this means that government has reached into almost every phase of our private and professional lives to interfere in ways that elected officials would never dare to do directly, and it is through this means that the vigorous free market which built this country has become so fettered that it will not be able to save us from the impact of more than 40 years of unwise government social engineering and economic meddling.

"I've reached a point where I don't think we have much more time. For this might be the last Republican Convention, and in two weeks, the last Democratic Convention — there are forces working against our country."

—Barry Goldwater at the 1980 Republican Convention

Do I mean to imply by these observations that the economic, military and social symptoms outlined earlier all arise from the same malady and that its primary cause is government economic interference? Most emphatically yes, I do.

Since 14 November 1979, we have been under a state of national emergency declared by the President pursuant to the International Emergency Powers Act of 1977. Almost no one seems aware of that fact or of the awesome implications which it carries. By the provisions of this act and its companion legislation entitled Executive Order 11490, the Oval Office is granted sweeping dictatorial powers which virtually suspend all Constitutional safeguards, allow the disbanding of Congress, the freezing of all bank accounts and personal assets, the collection and rationing of all vital commodities, including food, the suspension of passports, full control of the media and private means of communication, including amateur and C.B. radios, the banning of all travel, public assembly or protest — merely by the stroke of a pen and subject to the approval of no other authority except Congressional review at intervals of six months. (Note Well: On 14 May 1980, Congress reviewed and approved the extension of the state of emergency with all attendant powers.)

The ostensible purpose for invoking all of this enormous power was to enable the







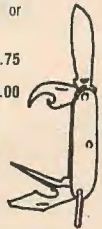
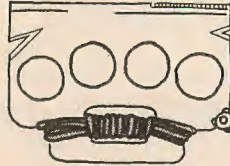


President to freeze Iranian assets held by U.S. banks in the wake of the terrorist takeover of our embassy in Tehran. I find that curious in view of the fact that at least four other legal avenues — all less cumbersome — were already available to accomplish that simple expedient. A brief order to the Attorney General would have served, for example, and yet the President chose to declare a state of national emergency and to invoke specifically the full range of draconian domestic powers available to him only under those circumstances.

If a chill has not yet begun to ascend your spine, I suggest that you confirm this information for yourself by requesting copies of the legislation from your congressman. The full text is far more ominous than space permits me to indicate here.

"...I urge the sportsmen of the world to unite in peace before a holocaust descends."

—Lord Killanin at the closing ceremonies of the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow

Now, this action on the part of the President might look more like personal bravado than serious preparation to deal with the massive civil unrest following from a monetary collapse if it were an

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isolated incident. It is not. While you are ordering documents from your congressman, ask for a copy of Public Law 96-221. The only mention I have seen of this legislation in the public press indicates that it was designed as a boon to savers, allowing them to receive more interest on their accounts through the gradual elimination of Regulation "Q" restrictions.

In fact, it does a number of far more significant things as well. It frees billions of dollars for lending by the banks that would otherwise have been held as reserves, further fueling inflation, and for the first time it allows the Federal Reserve to print unlimited quantities of Federal Reserve notes (paper money) and to store them for immediate distribution. It increases deposit insurance from \$40,000 to \$100,000 (reducing the reserves backing up that insurance to about \$1.11 for every \$100 in deposits), and it empowers the Comptroller of the Currency to proclaim "bank holidays" on a local basis.

A pending bill, S.2305, would require intaglio printing (engraving) on only one side of the dollar bill, allowing at least a 30-percent increase in the production of \$5s, \$10s, \$20s and \$100s. Also pending is H.R. 5961, which is being sold to the public by the press as a "drug trafficking" bill, yet it never mentions drugs or drug trafficking. What it does do is to authorize, for the first time in our history, warrantless searches of persons, vehicles and

mail leaving the country. It would make cash and monetary instruments equivalent to contraband and it would set up an informer program encouraging citizens to spy on other citizens for rewards of up to \$250,000. It would do nothing to control drug trafficking.

To grasp the full impact of what these laws collectively portend, you must have a clear understanding of the nature of inflation and how it works. It is not, as the government and press would have you believe, rising prices. And it is not caused by big business, labor unions or OPEC. Inflation is simply an increase in the supply of money without a commensurate increase in the wealth that backs it. Only governments and, to a lesser degree, lending institutions can create it and only they can stop it.

To be sure, prices rise against an inflated currency, but only because the value of that currency is declining through dilution. If you owned an ounce of gold and issued 10 pieces of paper currency against it, each piece would obviously be worth only half as much if you later issued 10 more against the same ounce of gold. Once your butcher or tailor understood that you issued 10 more pieces of paper money against that same ounce of gold every week, his prices to you would increase accordingly until, finally, your paper would have so little value that he would not accept it at all.

An ounce of gold will still buy about the same number of barrels of oil from the OPEC nations as it would when the price of crude was pegged at \$2.30 per barrel, but it now takes \$35 in paper currency to purchase one barrel. The same relationship holds true domestically as well. Around the turn of the century a \$20 gold piece would get you a Colt Single Action or the best ready-made suit on the rack. It still will, but \$20 in greenbacks will hardly buy the tie or box of cartridges that used to be thrown in with either transaction.

A look in your wallet will show you why. Notice that all of your bills read "Federal Reserve Note" not "United States Note" or "Silver Certificate" as they once did. Our present currency is backed by nothing and convertible into nothing else, much less "lawful money" as defined by the Constitution. It only has value so long as, and to the degree that, someone is willing to accept it. Were it not for the fact that many other Western nations use the dollar as their reserve currency and have, therefore, a stake in keeping alive the illusion that it has some worth, the U.S. dollar would long since have been allowed to collapse into utter oblivion.

Continued on page 27

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24 SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

FLAK

Continued from page 8

ALL VOLUNTEER JOKE ...

Sirs:

In response to Frank Reed's editorial, "This is The Army?" (SOF, August '80), I wholeheartedly agree with him, as I have had unfortunate first-hand experience with today's volunteer "joke." As an honorably discharged Marine NCO (corporal) — two of three promotions being meritorious — a member of the Marine Corps Experimental Motorcycle Courier Program, with two years of college and having been offered a shot at the enlisted commissioning program (which I turned down), I feel more than qualified to comment on this subject.

The volunteer service is a mass charade. As operations and training NCO for Headquarters Battalion, I came into contact with most of the troops in the battalion at one time or another. Marines, both black and white, were so illiterate they could barely write their names, let alone read a training manual on survival or the M16A1. IQ levels in today's volunteer service are disgusting. The brass wonders why they have people dying on palm-tree exercises in the desert, not realizing that the average grunt doesn't know heat stroke from a back stroke!

The BBA (Big Brass Asses) wonder why they have such a low retention rate with the more intelligent portion of the enlisted ranks. It's because former Marines like myself are *not* willing to risk getting their asses shot off because a poorly educated, poorly trained and poorly equipped nerd cannot hack it. The only thing that can save the armed forces in the U.S. is better men, much better equipment and realistic, lengthy training.

Respectfully,

J.D. Jones

St. Joseph, Michigan

We couldn't agree more. See Bob Poos' analysis, "In Defense of the Draft," in our November issue.—The Eds.

YOUTHFUL PRAISE ...

Sirs:

I'd like to tell you what a *neat* magazine you have. Keep it up. I am 13½ years old and collect U.S. Army items — from cans of foot powder to combat boots and dog-tags. My brother is in the Army and sends me things. The kids at my school call me GI Joe because I wear Army uniforms and combat boots.

I read your magazine all the time, each issue at least five times. When I am 16, I'm going to make a revolutionary force and join the Army!

Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Joe Mosher

Akron, Ohio

And you keep up the good work too, Joe. It's good to know you're aboard.—The Eds.

RAPID-FIRE WEEKEND ...

Sirs:

After I spotted a notice in Combat Pistolcraft (SOF, July '80) offering a submachine-gun study put on by Class III dealer John Wetzel and his associates, the only thing to do was to sign up and travel to southern Ohio on the weekend of 18-20 July. We were given more familiarity with and exposure to a variety of SMGs (some equipped with silencers) than a cop or most soldiers see in a career of being around weapons.

Ken Hackathorn handled the bulk of the shooting sessions and had us all hitting well and operating the guns safely from the beginning. John Miller gave us the benefit of his knowledge and expertise as an armorer in several discussions of the history and development of submachine guns as used worldwide and of their functioning and malfunctioning.

All three men — during the few chances they had to shoot — demonstrated the speed and power of these weapons by knocking the center out of the *targets* from all shooting positions.

On Sunday we put what we had learned to the test in the "Death Valley" combat course set up by Wetzel and his friends from the Southern Ohio Combat Pistol League. This timed shoot consisted of 14 tricky silhouettes — two sprang from behind trees — stashed in a creek bottom, followed by a slippery scramble up a bank to finish off a sentry target after first downing the weapon. (One contestant solved this problem by bashing it with a tire iron.)

I, for one, felt that we all received much more than our money's worth, and I met a terrific bunch of people besides. The only regret I have is that I don't live in a machine-gun state and can't get in on this kind of fun very often.

Sincerely yours,

Roland McKinney

Burlingame, California

STAR WARS: LOOK OUT! ...

Sirs:

Re: "Bulletin Board" and "Laser Gun to Be Tested" (SOF, August '80). You state that the laser gun will be "firing a beam of light traveling at the speed of sound." Bullets travel in that speed range but not beams of light. Unless our country is also working on a new form of physics as well as a new weapon, that beam will travel at around 186,000 *miles per second*.

Many of us who work with guns don't realize what this speed difference means. Such a weapon would throw ballistics into the dump. No aiming ahead, below, above or allowing for windage: point and fire; that's where the beam hits. To the human senses the beam travels from here to there instantaneously. *Star Wars*, look out!

Sincerely,

Duncan Long

Wamego, Kansas



DECEMBER/80

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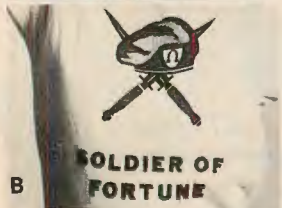
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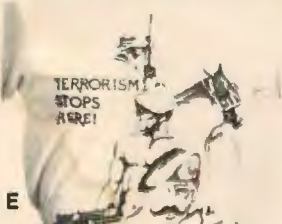


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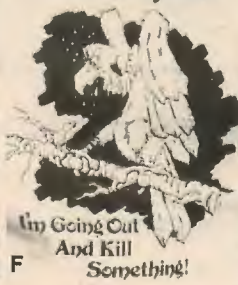


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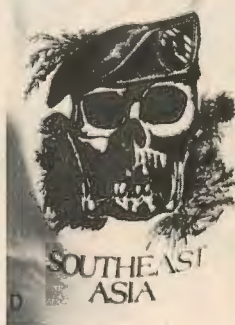
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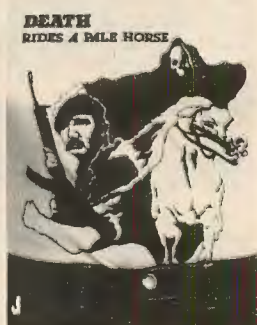
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SURVIVAL

Continued from page 23

“Food is the foundation on which civilizations are built and hunger is one of the most basic motivations of man. Take away food and all else will crumble.”

**—General Lewis W. Walt,
The Eleventh Hour**

The time is soon coming, however, when we will hyperinflate to such a degree that no one can bail out the dollar. Inflation is almost as old as government itself, but nowhere has the potential for hyperinflation existed that could equal the present situation of the U.S. Government. The Romans under Diocletian inflated by clipping coins and adulterating precious metals with base and the Empire fell. Germany hyperinflated after World War I and accepted Adolf Hitler as an alternative to continuing chaos. (At the height of the Weimar inflation currency was being produced so rapidly that only one side of the bills was printed. Remind you of anything you've read recently?)

At the library or from the U.S. Government Printing Office, get a copy of the “Statement of Liabilities and Other Financial Commitments of the U.S. Government” published by the Treasury Department. On the first page you will see the national debt represented at \$650 billion dollars plus — bad enough, since that represents more money than there is — but as you page through the document you will quickly see that this gargantuan sum is only our funded debt: the amount represented by notes and bonds that we are paying interest on.

A little quick arithmetic will indicate that this interest burden alone will soon consume the entire income of the Government from taxes and fees. Just keeping the doors open without budgetary increases requires another one billion a day. And where is that excess to come from? Where all government deficit spending always has: *they* will simply print some more money and inflate the money supply. The real shock remains in wait until you total up all of the admitted liabilities — things like Government pension plans, loan guarantees, FHA, veterans' benefits, bank insurance commitments, Social Security and the like. The total is more than \$6 trillion, and two CPAs I have consulted believe that this figure is *grossly understated*.

Suffice it to say that we owe more than 20 times the money supply and several times our total wealth, both public and private. And we haven't even started bail-

Continued on page 87

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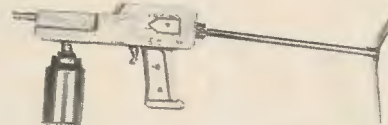
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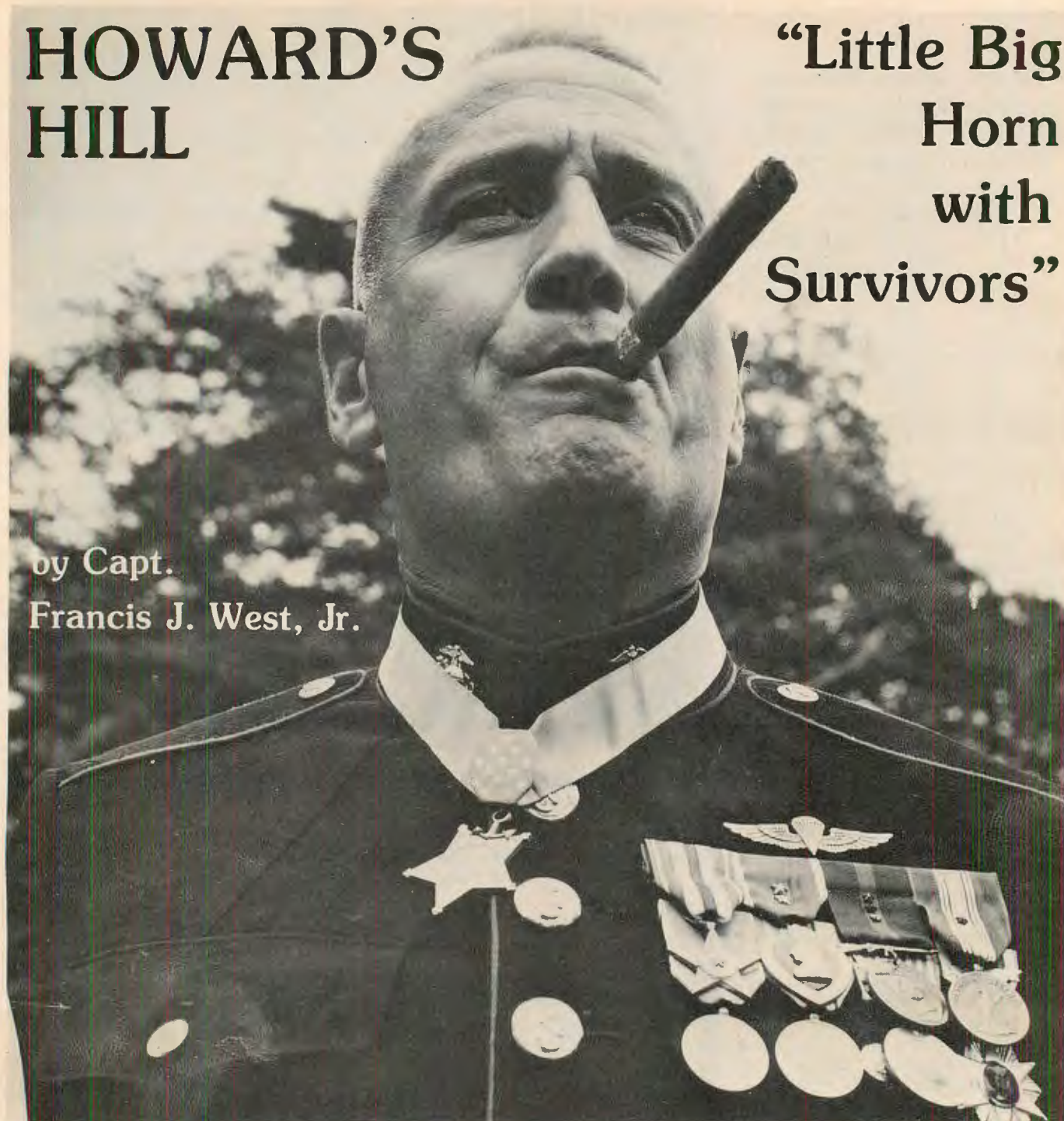
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HOWARD'S HILL

“Little Big
Horn
with
Survivors”

by Capt.
Francis J. West, Jr.



Medal Of Honor Winner Gunnery Sgt. James Earl Howard. Photo: Wide World

The Marine Corps has a tested tradition: it will never leave alone on the field of combat one of its fighting men. It will go to fantastic lengths and *commit to battle* scores of men to aid and protect a few. This is the story of a few such Marines, of the battle they fought and the help they received from all the services, not just the Marine Corps.

Some 20 miles inland, to the west of the Marine base at Chu Lai, ran a range of steep mountains and twisting valleys. In that bandit's lair, the Viet Cong (VC) and North Vietnamese Army (NVA) could

train and plan for attacks against the heavily populated seacoast hamlets, massing only when it was time to attack. In early June of 1966, the intelligence reports reaching III Marine Amphibious Force headquarters indicated that a mixed force of VC and NVA was gathering by the thousands in those mountains. But the enemy leaders were not packing their troops into a few large, vulnerable assembly points; they were keeping their units widely dispersed, moving mainly in squads and platoons.

To frustrate that scheme and keep the

enemy off balance, the Marines launched Operation Kansas, an imaginative concept in strategy. Rather than sending full infantry battalions to beat the bushes in search of small enemy bands, Lt. Gen. Lewis W. Walt detailed the reconnaissance battalion of the 1st Marine Division to scout the mountains. The RECON Marines would move in small teams of eight to 20 men. If they located a large enemy concentration, Marine infantry would be flown in. If, as was expected, they saw only numerous small groups of VC and NVA, they were to smash them by

calling in air and artillery strikes.

Lt. Col. Arthur J. Sullivan had set high training standards for his battalion. Every man had received individual schooling in forward-observer techniques and RECON patrol procedures. He was confident his men could perform the mission successfully, despite the obvious hazards. "The Vietnam war," he said, "has given the small-unit leader — the corporal, the sergeant, the lieutenant — a chance to be independent. The senior officers just can't be there looking over their shoulders. You have to have confidence in your junior officers and NCOs."

One such NCO was Staff Sgt. Jimmie Earl Howard, acting commander of the 1st Platoon, Charlie Company, 1st RECON Battalion. A tall, well-built man in his mid-30s, Howard had been a star football player and later a coach at San Diego Recruit Depot. Leadership came naturally to him. In Korea he had been wounded three times and awarded the Silver Star for bravery. In Vietnam he would receive a fourth Purple Heart and the Medal of Honor.

The Insertion On Hill 488

As dusk fell on the evening of 13 June 1966, helicopters settled on the slope of Hill 488, 25 miles west of Chu Lai. Howard and his 17 men jumped out and climbed the steep incline to the top. The hill, called Nui Vu, rose to nearly 1,500 feet and dominated the terrain for miles.

Three narrow strips of level ground ran along the top for several hundred yards before falling abruptly away. Seen from the air, they roughly resembled the three blades of an airplane propeller. Howard chose the blade which pointed north for his command post and placed observation teams on the other two blades. It was an ideal vantage point.

The enemy knew it also. Their foxholes dotted the ground, each with a small shelter scooped out two feet under the surface. Howard permitted his men use of these one-man caves during the day to avoid the hot sun and enemy detection. There was no other cover or concealment to be found. There were no trees, only knee-high grass and scrub growth.

In the surrounding valleys and villages, there were many enemy. For the next two days, Howard was constantly calling for fire missions, as members of the platoon saw small enemy groups almost every hour. Not all the requests for air and artillery strikes were honored. Sullivan was concerned lest the platoon's position, so salient and bare, be spotted by a suspicious enemy. Most of the firing at targets located by the platoon was done only when there was an observation plane circling in the vicinity to decoy the enemy. After two days, Sullivan and his executive officer, Maj. Allan Harris, became alarmed at the risk involved in leaving the pla-

toon stationary any longer. But the observation post was ideal; Howard had encountered no difficulty and, in any case, thought he had a secure escape route along a ridge to the east. So it was decided to leave the platoon on Nui Vu for one more day.

The NVA Move On Hill 488

However, the enemy were well aware of the platoon's presence. (Sullivan has a theory that the enemy, long harassed, disrupted and punished by RECON units in territory they claimed to control absolutely, had determined to eliminate one such unit, hoping thereby to demoralize the others.) The NVA made their preparations well and did not tip their hand. On 15 June they moved a fresh, well-equipped, highly trained battalion to the base of Nui Vu. In late afternoon hundreds of the enemy started to climb up the three blades, hoping to annihilate the 18 Marines in a surprise attack.

But Army Special Forces frustrated that plan. Sgt. Donald Reed and Spec. 5 Hardey Drande were leading a platoon of Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) on patrol near Nui Vu that same afternoon. They saw elements of the NVA battalion moving toward the hill and radioed the news back to their base camp at Hoi An, several miles to the south. Howard's radio was purposely set on the same frequency, so he was alerted at the same time.

Language You Don't Learn In School

Reed and Drande wanted to hit the enemy from the rear and disrupt them, but had to abandon the idea when they suddenly found themselves a very unpopular minority of two on the subject. Describing the reactions of the SF NCOs, Howard could not resist chuckling. "The language those sergeants used over the radio," he said, "when they realized they couldn't attack the PAVNs (Marine term for soldiers of the People's Army of North Vietnam), well, they sure didn't learn it at communications school." Even though the SFs were not able to provide the ground support they wished to, their warning alerted Howard and enabled him to develop a precise defensive plan before the attack was launched.

Howard gathered his team leaders, briefed them, selected an assembly point, and instructed them to stay on full alert and to withdraw to the main position at the first sign of an approaching enemy. The corporals and lance corporals crept back to their teams and briefed them in the growing dusk. The Marines settled down to watch and wait.

Lance Cpl. Ricardo Binns placed his observation team on the slope 40 meters forward of Howard's position. At 2200,

while the four Marines were lying in a shallow depression discussing in whispers their sergeant's solemn warnings, Binns quite casually propped himself up on his elbows and placed his rifle butt in his shoulder. Without saying a word, he pointed the barrel at a bush and fired. The bush pitched backward and fell thrashing 12 feet away.

The other Marines jumped; each threw a grenade, grabbed his rifle and scrambled up the hill. Grenades burst and automatic weapons pounded away behind them. The battle of Nui Vu was on. The other outposts withdrew to the main position. The rocks on the knoll provided some protection for the defenders, and Howard placed his two radios behind a large boulder. He set up a tight circular perimeter, not over 20 meters in diameter.

The North Vietnamese too were setting up. They made no audible noises while climbing. There was no talking, no clumsy movement. When Binns killed one of their scouts, they were less than 50 meters from the top.

The NVAs Open With Grenades

The Marines were surrounded. From all sides the enemy threw grenades. Some bounced off the rocks; some rolled back down the slope; some did not explode — but some landed right on Marines and exploded. Billie Don Holmes recalled: "They were within 20 feet of us. Suddenly there were grenades all over. Then people started hollering. It seemed everyone got hit at the same time." As Holmes crawled forward to help, a grenade exploded between him and the wounded man, and then Holmes lost consciousness.

The battle was going well for the NVA. Four 12.7mm machine guns were firing in support of the assault units, their heavy explosive projectiles arcing in from the four points of the compass. Red tracer rounds from light machine guns streaked toward the Marine position, pointing the direction for reinforcements gathering in the valley. 60mm mortar shells smashed down and added rock splinters to the metal shrapnel whining through the air.

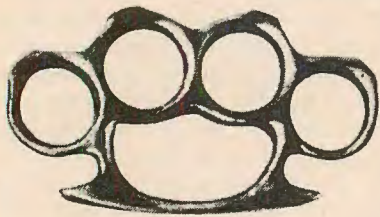
The NVA followed up the grenade shower with a full, well-coordinated assault, directed and controlled by shrill whistles and the clacking of bamboo sticks. From different directions, they rushed the position at the same time, firing automatic weapons, throwing grenades and screaming.

Howard wasn't sure how his troops would react. They were young and the situation looked hopeless. They were shocked and confused by the ferocity of the attack and the screams of their own wounded.

They reacted savagely. The first lines of enemy skirmishers were cut down seconds after they stood up and exposed themselves. The assault failed to gain momen-

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tum anyplace, and the NVA in the rearward ranks had more sense than to copy the mistakes of the dead. Having failed in their swift charge, they went to earth and probed the perimeter, seeking a weak spot through which they could drive. To do this, small bands of enemy tried to crawl close to a Marine, then overwhelm him with a burst of fire and several grenades.

But the Marines too used grenades, and the American hand grenade contains twice the blast and shrapnel effect of the Chinese Communist stick grenade. The Marines could also throw farther and more accurately than the enemy. The Marines listened for a movement, gauged the direction and distance, pulled the pin and threw. High-pitched howls and excited jabberings mingled with the blasts. The NVA pulled back to regroup.

**"You've gotta get us
out of here."**

Howard took the PRC-25 radio from radioman Cpl. Robert Lewis Martinez and, during a lull, contacted Capt. Geraghty and Lt. Col. Sullivan. With his escape route cut off and his force facing overwhelming odds, Howard kept his message simple: "You've gotta get us out of here. There are too many of them for my people."

Sullivan tried. Near midnight he called the Direct Air Support Center of the 1st Marine Division and asked for flare ships, helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft to be dispatched immediately to Nui Vu.

But somehow, the response was delayed and, shortly after midnight, the enemy forces gathered and rushed forward in strength. The Marines threw the last of their grenades and fired their rifles semiautomatically, relying on accuracy to suppress volume. It did and the enemy fell back, but by that time every Marine had been wounded.

The living took the ammunition of the dead and lay under a moonless sky, wondering about the next assault. Howard doubted they could repel a massed charge by a determined enemy. From combat experience, he knew that the enemy, having been badly mauled twice, would listen for sounds which would indicate his force was shattered or demoralized before surging forward again. Already up the slopes were floating the high, singsong taunts Marines had heard at other places in other wars. Voices screeched: "Marines — you die tonight!" and "Marines, you die in an hour."

**Laughing For
Their Lives**

Members of the platoon wanted to return the compliments. "Sure," said Howard, "go ahead and yell anything you want." So the Marines started shouting back down the slopes all the curses and invectives they could remember from their

collective repertoire. The NVA screamed back, giving Howard the opportunity to deliver a master stroke in psychological oneupmanship.

"All right," he shouted. "Ready? Now!"

All the Marines laughed and laughed and laughed at the enemy.

The North Vietnamese did not mount a third major attack, and at 0100 an Air Force flare ship, with the poetic call sign of "Smoky Gold," came on station overhead. Howard talked to the pilot through his radio and the plane dropped its first flare.

The mountainside was lit up and the Marines looked down the slopes. Lance Cpl. Ralph Globber Victor started, then muttered: "Oh my god, look at them." The others weren't sure it wasn't a prayer as NVA reinforcements filled the valley. PFC Joseph Kosoglow, a 20-year-old, described it vividly: "There were so many, it was just like an ant hill ripped apart. They were all over the place."

They shouldn't have been. Circling above the mountain were attack jets and armed helicopters. With growing frustration, they had talked to Howard but could not dive to the attack without light. Now they had light.

They swarmed in. The jets first concentrated on the valley floor and the approaches to Nui Vu, loosing rockets which hissed down and blanketed large areas. Then those fast, dangerous helicopters — the Hueys — scoured the slopes. At altitudes as low as 20 feet, they skimmed the brush, firing their machine guns in long, sweeping bursts. The Hueys pulled off to spot for the jets and again the planes dipped, releasing bombs and napalm. Then the Hueys scurried back to pick off stragglers, survey the damage and direct another run.

Two Hueys stayed over Howard's position all night; when one helicopter had to return to home base and refuel, another would be sent out. The Huey pilots, Capt. John M. Shields and Capt. James M. Perryman, Jr., performed dual roles — they were the Tactical Air Controllers' Airborne (TACAs) who directed the bomb runs of the jets, and they themselves strafed the enemy. The NVA tried unsuccessfully to shoot the helicopters down, but did hit two out of the four Hueys alternating on station.

**Hueys Strafe Within
25 Meters**

By the light of the flares, the jet pilots could see the hill and distinguish prominent terrain features but could not spot Howard's perimeter. To mark specific targets for the jets, the TACAs directed "Smoky" to drop flares right on the ground as signal lights and then called the jets down to pulverize the spot. Howard identified his position by flicking a red filtered flashlight on and off and, guiding

on that mark, the Huey pilots strafed within 25 meters of them.

On the perimeter itself the fight still continued. In the shifting light of the flares, the pilots were afraid of hitting the Marines and had to leave some space unexposed to fire in front of them. Into this space the NVA crawled.

For the Marines it was a war of hide and seek. Having run out of grenades, they had to rely on cunning and marksmanship to beat the attackers. Howard passed the word to fire only at an identified target — and then only one shot at a time. The enemy fired automatic weapons; Marines replied with single shots. The enemy hurled grenades; Marines threw back rocks.

The Old Rock Trick

It was a good tactic. A Marine would hear a noise and toss a rock in that general direction. The North Vietnamese would think it was a grenade falling and dive for another position. The Marine would roll or low crawl to a spot from which he could sight in on the position, and wait. In a few seconds, the North Vietnamese would raise his head to see why the grenade had not exploded. The Marine would fire one round. The range was generally less than 30 feet.

The accuracy of this fire saved the life of Holmes, the corpsman. When he regained consciousness after a grenade had knocked him out, he saw a NVA dragging away the dead Marine beside him. Then another enemy grasped him by the cartridge belt and tugged.

Lance Cpl. Victor was lying on his stomach behind a rock. He had been hit twice by grenades since the first flare had gone off and could scarcely move. He saw an enemy soldier bending over a fallen Marine. Victor sighted in and fired. The man fell backward. He saw a second enemy tugging at another Marine's body. He sighted in again and fired.

Shot between the eyes, the North Vietnamese slumped dead across Holmes' chest, who pushed the body away and crawled back to the Marine lines. His left arm was lanced with shrapnel, his face was swollen and his head was ringing from concussion. For the rest of the night, he crawled from position to position, bandaging and encouraging the wounded, and, between times, firing at the enemy.

Occasionally the flares would flicker out and the planes would have to break off contact to avoid crashing. In those instances, artillery under the control of the Special Forces and manned by Vietnamese gun crews would fill the gap and punish any enemy force gathering at the base of the hill.

"Stiff Balls" Howard radioed to the Special Forces camp at Hoi An, three miles south, "If you can keep Charley from sending another company up here, I'll keep these guys out of my position."

"Roger, Carnival Time," Capt. Louis Maris, of the Special Forces, replied, using Howard's own peculiar call sign. Both sides kept their parts of the bargain and the South Vietnamese crews who manned the 105mm howitzers threw in concentration after concentration of accurate artillery.

"Howard was talking on the radio and he was cool," Capt. John Blair, the Special Forces commanding officer, recalled afterwards. "He stayed calm all the way through that night. But," he chuckled, "he never did get our call sign right!"

In the periods of darkness, each Marine fought alone. How some of them died no one knows. Hours later the relieving force found one Marine lying propped up against a rock. In front of him lay a dead enemy soldier. The muzzles of their weapons were touching each others' chests. Two Marine entrenching tools were recovered near a group of mangled North Vietnamese; both shovels were covered with blood. One Marine was crumpled beneath a dead enemy. Beside him lay another Vietnamese. The Marine was bandaged around the chest and head. His hand still clasped the hilt of a knife buried in the back of the soldier on top of him.

At 0300, a flight of H34 helicopters whirled over Nui Vu and came in to extract the platoon. So intense was the fire they met that they were unable to land and Howard was told he would have to fight on until dawn. Shortly thereafter, a ricochet struck Howard in the back. His voice over the radio faltered and died out. Those listening — the Special Forces personnel, the pilots, the high-ranking officers of the 1st Marine Division at Chu Lai — all thought the end had come.

Then Howard's voice came back strong. Fearing the drowsing effect morphine can have, he refused to let Holmes administer it. Unable to use his legs, he pulled himself from hole to hole encouraging his men and directing fire. Wherever he went, Howard dragged their lifeline — the radio.

Binns, the man whose shot had triggered the battle, was doing likewise. Despite severe wounds, he crawled around the perimeter, urging his men to conserve their ammunition, gathering enemy weapons and grenades for the Marines' use and giving assistance wherever needed.

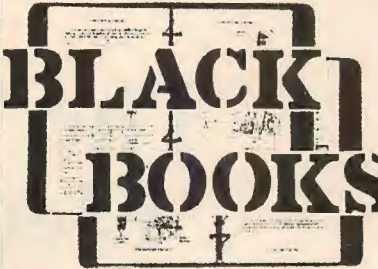
Reveille Goes At 0600

None of the Marines kept track of the time. "I'll tell you this," said Howard, "you know that movie, *The Longest Day*? Well, compared to our night on the hill, *The Longest Day* was just a twinkle in the eye." But the longest night did pass and dawn came. Howard heralded its arrival. At 0525 he shouted, "O.K., you people, reveille goes in 35 minutes." At exactly

Continued on page 43

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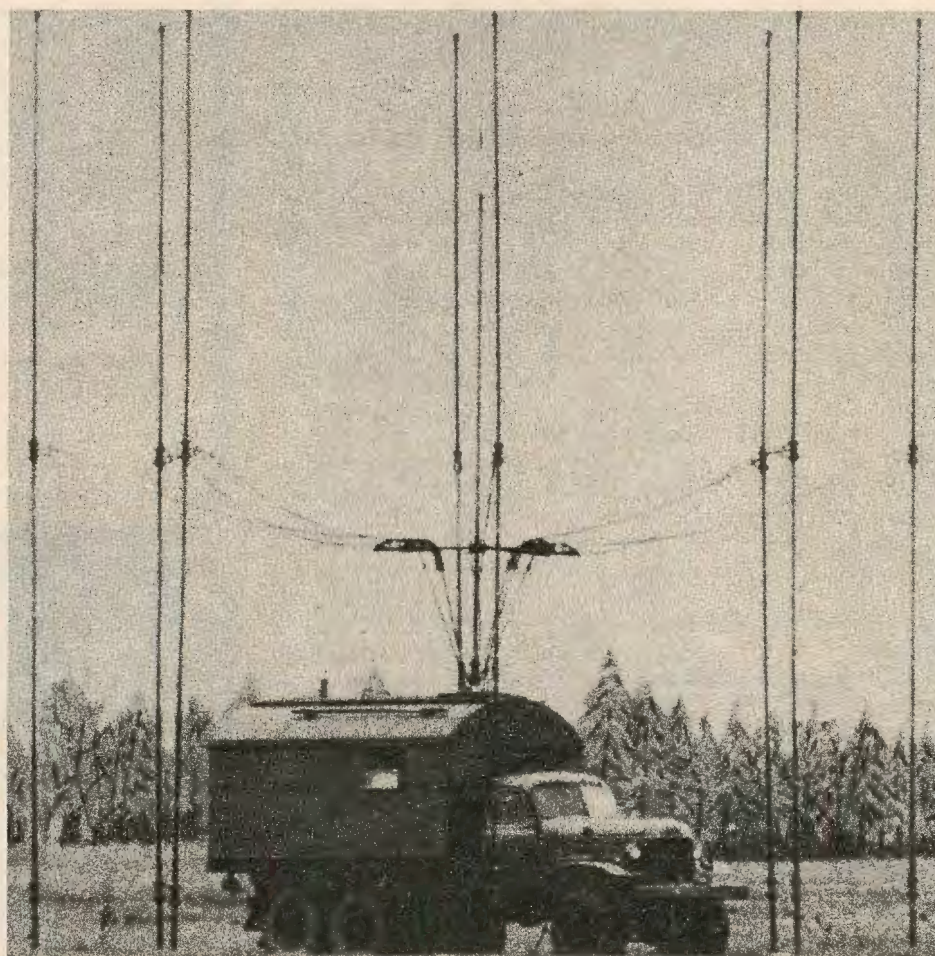
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The Threat of Soviet Electronic Combat



SR-53-V HF radio-intercept and direction-finding station (NATO codename "System A"). Other stations use Adcock, loop, whip or dish-type antennas. Photo: V.M. Martinova

THE modern battlefield is an electronic battlefield. The increasing importance of electronics — for communication, target acquisition and weapons guidance — has radically altered the face of ground combat today, and promises even more startling innovations for the future. Victory in any future conflict will probably go to the side that can control the electromagnetic spectrum.

The Soviet army intends to gain just this sort of control. The effectiveness of Soviet electronic-warfare equipment and tactics was demonstrated in the 1973 Middle East war, when they contributed significantly to early Arab successes.

Electronic warfare uses radio waves instead of bullets. It lacks the drama and appeal of combat arms and their weapons

by David C. Isby

and has been considered for much too long to be the exclusive domain of specialists. It is difficult to understand, but when many of those who do not understand it are senior officers or defense decision-makers — as has been too often the case in the West — this ignorance becomes unaffordable.

The Nature Of The Threat

Radioelectronic combat is a Soviet concept, different in both theory and practice from U.S. Army-style electronic warfare. Radioelectronic combat is an integral part of the Soviet army's high-speed, combined-arms, offensive capability. It

includes locating enemy electronic equipment — radios and radars being prime targets. Locating and identifying these targets provides *signal intelligence* (SIGINT) data and makes *communications interception* possible which, in turn, makes *spoofing* possible — the passing of misleading information to the enemy. *Jamming* and *chaff* are used to reduce the effectiveness of radars and radios that the Soviets have located but cannot destroy.

The Soviets support their radioelectronic-combat efforts with *radio silence* and extensive use of *electronic deception*, using radios to suggest the presence of units where there are none, aided by the use of radar-reflecting material to mislead enemy radars.

Soviet radioelectronic equipment lacks

the technical sophistication of the latest Western hardware, but it is rugged, simple and easy to maintain. Most of the specialized equipment is truck-mounted for mobility and still relies on extensive use of vacuum tubes, although modern transistorized equipment is appearing.

Soviet radioelectronic equipment is built to the same specifications as all Soviet weapons: robust, soldier-proof, cheap and available.

The RDF Threat

Radio Direction Finding (RDF) is the heart of the Soviet electronic threat. Well-developed and properly placed networks of truck-mounted RDF stations and mobile SIGINT shops can locate, analyze and identify enemy radios and radars, providing up-to-date intelligence on enemy positions, strength and intentions. More importantly, they provide acquisition of information that allows Soviet artillery, air, commando or ground forces to destroy or jam enemy radios or radars.

Once set up, a Soviet RDF network is highly effective. Anyone who transmits a radio message for longer than 25 to 30 seconds is likely to receive a very unpleasant surprise soon afterward. Given European terrain, a 10-station Soviet RDF network has a 99-percent probability of locating a standard U.S. Army AN/VRC-12 radio 10 kilometers away, and can pinpoint its location to within a circular-error probability of 500 to 750 meters. Even if a radio is operating at low power, intercept probability would be 75 percent. Long range cannot always confound RDF — a truck-mounted network can detect radios 40 kilometers away, and specialized An-12 Cub aircraft can locate radios at twice that distance.

The accuracy of Soviet RDF ground stations and aircraft allows them to strike directly and swiftly at whoever is transmitting. RDF-network command posts are usually co-located with artillery units, especially those equipped with the BM-21 122mm multiple-rocket launcher. A single volley by a battalion of these effective area-fire weapons can put out 720 high-explosive or poison-gas-filled rockets that can more than cover the area containing the RDF-located radio or radar — and within as little as 120 to 180 seconds after enemy transmission begins.

The effectiveness of the Soviet RDF/artillery combination was dramatically shown in the 1973 Middle East war. Egyptian RDF-network command posts were co-located with accurate, long-range, 130mm M-46 field-gun units. Aided by RDF target acquisition, these guns fired effective counterbattery missions, forcing the outnumbered Israeli artillery units to shift position constantly, disrupting their fire. Israeli tank counterattacks were detected by their radio traffic and drew heavy fire, as did Israeli headquarters,



130mm M-46 Soviet-built field guns are hauled through Red Square. Egyptian army guns of this type were used in conjunction with RDF in 1973 war with Israel. Photo: V.M. Martinova

with its many radios. Maj. Gen. "Albert" Mandler, an armored-division commander, was killed by artillery fire in this way.

Soviet special-forces and airborne units operating behind enemy lines use a small man-portable RDF set with a loop antenna, similar to that used by U.S. special forces. They can also be mounted in BRDM scout cars, used by motorized long-range reconnaissance patrols. These forces use RDF to locate high-priority targets for destruction either by the force itself or by long-range Soviet weapons. Soviet writings point out that U.S. nuclear-weapons sites and headquarters, though well camouflaged, can still be detected by their radio transmissions. Similar RDF equipment was reportedly used by the North Vietnamese to locate U.S. "LURPS" (long-range reconnaissance patrols) by their radio transmissions.

The SIGINT Threat

Signal Intelligence (SIGINT) has won battles, perhaps even wars. From the Battle of Tannenberg in 1914 to the Battle of Midway in 1942, the side that could intercept enemy radio messages had a great

advantage, especially if the messages could be deciphered.

Any nation successful in breaking an enemy code will have a decisive edge in any future war. But even if a code is not broken, SIGINT is still valuable.

For example, detection of a high concentration of tank radios, even if the messages cannot be understood, could point out the location of an armored-unit headquarters. Brief flashes from helicopter radios may signify radio checks preceding an airmobile assault. A call sign used for too long or used improperly may give away unit identification, as well as the type of radio or radar being used.

Spoofing — enemy transmission on one of your communications nets — can create havoc and confusion. In WWII, the British used specially trained, German-speaking fighter controllers to vector *Luftwaffe* night fighters against each other. To prevent any recurrence, the U.S. Army has developed a thorough system of radio authentication, but evidence from field maneuvers has shown that these procedures are frequently ignored.

Continued on page 88

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

"Soviet radioelectronic combat is a series of complementary threats having the potential in future conflicts to do critical damage even before the first shot is fired," declares David C. Isby. "The quality of an army's electronic-warfare equipment and tactics has become as important as the quality of its tanks and armored tactics. The 1973 Middle East war pointed the way for the future."

Isby, a New York attorney specializing in international affairs, is also a specialist on Soviet military strength. He is now in England proofing the galleys of his book, *Jane's Weapons and Tactics of the Soviet Army*, to be published later this year. This text will be the first to deal with the capabilities and characteristics of Soviet-built weapons systems, Russian tactics and organization.

In addition, Isby was an editor of *Strategy and Tactics* magazine for nine years.

Isby's knowledge of Soviet military tactics has been put to good use in "Airwave Warfare" and "Ivan's Elite" (SOF, October '80).

—M.L. Jones



IBS GOES TO MARS

New Raft Makes A Splash

by Ronald C. Thomas

MARS (Military Amphibious Reconnaissance System) being tested in waters around Panama City, Fla., at Naval Coastal Systems Center where raft system was developed. Photos: U.S. Navy



THE night was clear and cold as six men in nightsuits, their faces and hands blackened, pushed the inflatable boat into the water. Wordlessly, each took up a paddle as they moved upstream...."

Such descriptions will soon appear only in historical novels, as the old IBS (Inflatable Boat, Small) is being phased out and replaced by the MARS (Military Amphibious Reconnaissance System).

Designed and built by engineers and technicians at the Naval Coastal Systems Center, the MARS will replace the IBS in the inventories of the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Army where the old inflatable boat has been a stock item since 1952.

Undetected Transportation

The objective of the MARS, fulfilled by the technos at the Panama City, Fla. Naval Center, is to transport Marine Corps reconnaissance and Army Special Forces swimmers from distant points at sea to shore, undetected, to serve as primary vehicle for the mission and to return them to the ship or rendezvous point.

Work on the IBS replacement was begun five years ago. It was then that the Army and Marine Corps refined and revised their requirements for the new vehicle. It was two years later that the team at the Naval Coastal Systems Center (NCSC) entered and won a competition for designing a replacement boat to meet the joint service specifications.

Bill McCrory, mechanical engineer in the Advanced Development Division of the Diving and Salvage Department at NCSC, masterminded the pooling of engineering and technical talent that produced the innovative MARS — available for fleet procurement in March 1981.

Effortless Inflation

After three MARS prototypes, the final version incorporates a number of the best features of its predecessors:

- A special inflatable boat, made of neoprene-coated nylon or Kevlar,[®] that deflates effortlessly into a small package less than 22 inches in diameter and 52 inches long;

- A modified 35-horsepower engine that is submersible for extended periods and can be brought to the surface and purged of water. With a couple of pulls on the cord, the lightweight engine roars to life, propelling the MARS boat at speeds of up to 30 miles per hour. The engine incorporates a special dewatering valve and noise blanket;

- A fuel system containing one six-gallon and one 18-gallon collapsible fuel tank;

- An ancillary equipment bag with a large foot pump, seven paddles, a tow bridle, a field repair kit, a keelson and an engine noise-damping jacket.

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One of the key features leading to the success of this design is the keelson. Constructed of three-inch-diameter aluminum pipe, it traverses the boat from bow to transom. There is a cord in the center that can be pulled to collapse the keelson like a whip antenna for easy storage.

Collapsible Keelson

The collapsible design of the keelson does not weaken the boat, however. In fact, it contributes to the craft's impressive performance.

Because of the rear-section support design, the keelson absorbs engine thrust. Thus, the boat can maintain speed even if pressure in some of the boat compartments is lost.

"The keelson lets us meet the two main criteria for the boat," said engineer McCrory, "that it be in a small package and achieve speeds through the water of 20 knots."

To test the capabilities of the MARS craft, it was entered in the first offshore inflatable-boat race, recently held in Miami.

Although entered as a non-competitor (for test purposes only), the MARS boats acquitted themselves well. The two test craft entered maintained an average speed of 18 knots over a 43-mile race course in choppy open seas between three and eight feet.

One boat sustained engine failure because severe pounding damaged a carburetor fuel connection. McCrory added that some entries failed to finish at all because of mechanical failure.

"MARS is highly competitive with similar systems equipped with engines

having at least twice as much horsepower," he said, commenting on race results.

RAM Testing

A success on all fronts, the MARS has been sent out for operational and developmental testing. Testing centers include the Army Special Forces base at Fort Bragg and Marine Corps facilities at Camps Lejeune and Pendleton. In addition, two craft will remain at NCSC for development tests. At NCSC, the MARS will be put through its paces via endurance tests of up to 1,000 miles in the Gulf of Mexico and inland waterways to provide RAM (reliability, availability and maintainability) data, according to McCrory.

The remainder of McCrory's team consists of Test Director Bill Quigley, mechanical engineering technician Joe Ramirez and maintenance and field tester ENC (DV) John Cook.

Sponsors of the new system are as enthusiastic as the design team.

"MARS gives us the motorized capacity that we require today," said Maj. Wes Fox of the Marine Corps Development and Education Command, Quantico, Va. He added that today's standoff requirements make the IBS obsolete, while "with MARS, we have a unique standoff capacity."

With the IBS contract expired and the target date for availability of MARS March 1981, there is the problem of interim supply. Fox stated that the renewal of the IBS contract is unlikely.

"Let's get MARS out now."

"A high-ranking Marine Corps officer has said that he would like to get MARS out to the user now, so we're working on methods of doing exactly that," said Maj. Fox.

Some of those users may be allies of the United States, as a number of friendly nations have already forwarded requests for the MARS components as soon as they are ready.

Fox pointed out that further efforts will continue to refine the system. He envisions a new material, woven especially for MARS, that will be twice as light and just as strong as the material now in use. Further, he would like the engine to be completely silent without any loss of power.

"These two possible areas of improvement take time and cost money, and neither was available for the model now going into developmental testing," Fox added.

MARS may be just what the recon team ordered.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

As a working journalist, Ron Thomas has held various positions, including reporter, editorial columnist, editor-in-chief and media specialist. His work has appeared in practically every newspaper and periodical within a 50-mile radius of his home in Panama City, Fla.

Besides being a journalist, he has played tournament tennis, worked with a private investigative agency and become active in politics. Thomas' political involvement has led to leadership positions in the local Republican Party. In addition, Thomas is on the national advisory boards of the American Security Council and the Coalition for Peace Through Strength and is a member of the National Space Institute.

When not hammering away on a typewriter, Thomas enjoys "fast money, fast cars and fast women in any convenient order."



and Photos by Al J. Venter



ABOVE: South African Eland armored cars with 90mm cannon and .30-caliber Browning machine guns shown here in desert cammo — of the type reported from Algiers to have been captured by Polisario Front. Pretoria denies report. **LEFT:** French paras and Foreign Legion elements are known to have been involved in stiffening morale and capability of Moroccan army. Group shown here preceded arrival of Moroccan troops during last Shaba invasion in Zaire by Cuban-backed rebels from Angola. Men are carrying French-made MAT 49 SMGs.

BEING a merc isn't all that bad. Especially if the Russians are supporting two different wars in North Africa: in Western Sahara and in Chad.

Soviet money — along with Cuban and Libyan contributions — is involved in supplying, training and bolstering rebel troops, known as the Polisario Front, for a major conflict in Western Sahara against Morocco. Until recently, the Front appeared to be having everything its own way, but, lately, several Western nations (yes, including the United States!) have been helping to turn the tide.

Latest news from this remote and arid region, as vast as all of the midwestern U.S., is that fighting has escalated over the past year to a sophisticated level which involves missiles, the use of foreign troops, jet aircraft and three- or four-day onslaughts which often leave hundreds dead or wounded.

One reason for the conflict is that the Western Sahara is believed to hold several of the world's richest phosphate deposits. Russia has always farmed the seas off this coast and obviously intends to keep fishing there.

In a bid to keep the war going its way, Moscow has recently started recruiting mercs from several black and Arab nations: Libya, Algeria, South Yemen, Nigeria, Mali, Guinea, Upper Volta and Chad, among others. The troops are officered — in part — by Cubans, East Germans, Russians and Vietnamese, as well as those seconded from armies of the aforementioned nations. Many of these foreigners have been killed or captured in action. The PLO (Palestinian Liberation Organization) is also known to have been training Polisario demolition and sabotage experts.

Taking the brunt of hostilities during this time has been Morocco, one of the most outspokenly pro-West nations in Africa. Morocco was the only African nation to aid President Mobutu Sese Seko when Zaire was invaded by Cuban-backed rebels who entered copper-rich Shaba Province from Angola *twice* during the past three years.

There is also a historical reason for the conflict in Western Sahara. When Generalissimo Franco died in the mid-'70s, a ruffraff band of desert rebels, armed mostly with blunderbusses and little else, demanded immediate independence for its territory. Madrid, terrified of being censured at the United Nations, complied with alacrity.

As a result, when Spain pulled out, Morocco and Mauretania immediately annexed this huge country between them, calling the move "part of our historical prerogative."

This brought a great outcry from the communist world. Algeria demanded that Morocco vacate the region immediately so that elections could be held, even though there haven't been free elections in Algeria since the French abdicated power almost 20 years ago.

But Morocco stood firm in the face of this growing subversion across the desert. Her convoys were attacked and her strong points harassed. The same went for Mauretania further south.

Gradually the war escalated. Aided by the East, the Polisario built up a formidable striking force. Some of the raids launched by this organization — headquartered in Algiers and enjoying full diplomatic status in Moscow during the past year — involved 500 vehicles at a time, every one of them carrying a heavy machine gun.

By last year Mauretania had had enough. This desert state, which survives on French monetary and American grain handouts, pulled out of the war. The Polisario Front was banging at the gates of the Mauretania capital Nouakchott and threatening to topple the government. At about this time, the former Mauretania president was ousted in a coup d'etat. His successor sued for peace with the Front.

That left Morocco literally "holding the fort," but with little moral or material aid from the West, whose interests she was protecting. At the time, former U.S. United Nations Secretary Andy Young was making distinctly pro-Polisario remarks. So were other members of the Carter administration.

Matters came to a head in mid-1979 when several major Moroccan strong-points inside Western Sahara were overrun. Hundreds of Moroccans were killed in their forts and trenches. It seemed only a matter of time before King Hassan of Morocco would capitulate; the large number of casualties was having an adverse effect on already difficult domestic policies.

Meanwhile, the rest of Africa (particularly some of the more moderate states like Tunisia, Egypt, Senegal, Ghana, Zaire and Kenya) was becoming alarmed at this show of unbridled guerrilla aggression which by now was receiving overt Iron Curtain support. These states argued

that if the Polisario Front was successful in deploying what was being termed "the first real International Brigade (communist) since the Spanish Civil War of the '30s," then the same could happen elsewhere on the continent. They pointed to the conflicts between Ghana and Togo, Chad and Libya and Kenya and Tanzania as examples of future crisis points of this nature.

King Hassan turned in desperation to France and the United States, and — surprise! — they both reacted positively.

Though much of what was promised and supplied is wrapped in a shroud of secrecy, the change was almost immediate. Overnight, training in the Moroccan army was rephased, tightened and toughened up. French paras were suddenly seen in the streets of Casablanca and other centers during their off-hours. Radio Algiers reported spotting American fighter jets on training maneuvers over the southern desert which divides these two nations. Even Israel was said to be involved.

The Moroccan army went on the defensive, and some curious claims began to

evolve. In one of the last Polisario successes last December, the Front captured a number of South African armored cars, complete with instruction plates in the cab in Afrikaans. Their crews claimed that they were taught by South African specialists who had been "blooded" against the Cubans in Angola. Naturally, Pretoria denied the charge.

Since then, the Moroccans have been more successful. In a succession of airstrikes which appeared (according to Algiers sources) to be impervious to Russian missiles, they have routed every large motorized column that has approached the Western Sahara. Israeli contacts indicate that the Moroccan fighter aircraft are now fitted with the most sophisticated ECM gear in the West.

Meanwhile, the campaign had deteriorated into a propaganda-slinging match. The meeting of the heads of state of the Organization of African Unity in Sierra Leone in June was divided into two ideological camps: The West-leaning nations on the continent supporting the Moroccans and the radical states supporting the Polisario Front, which continues

to make astonishing military claims each week.

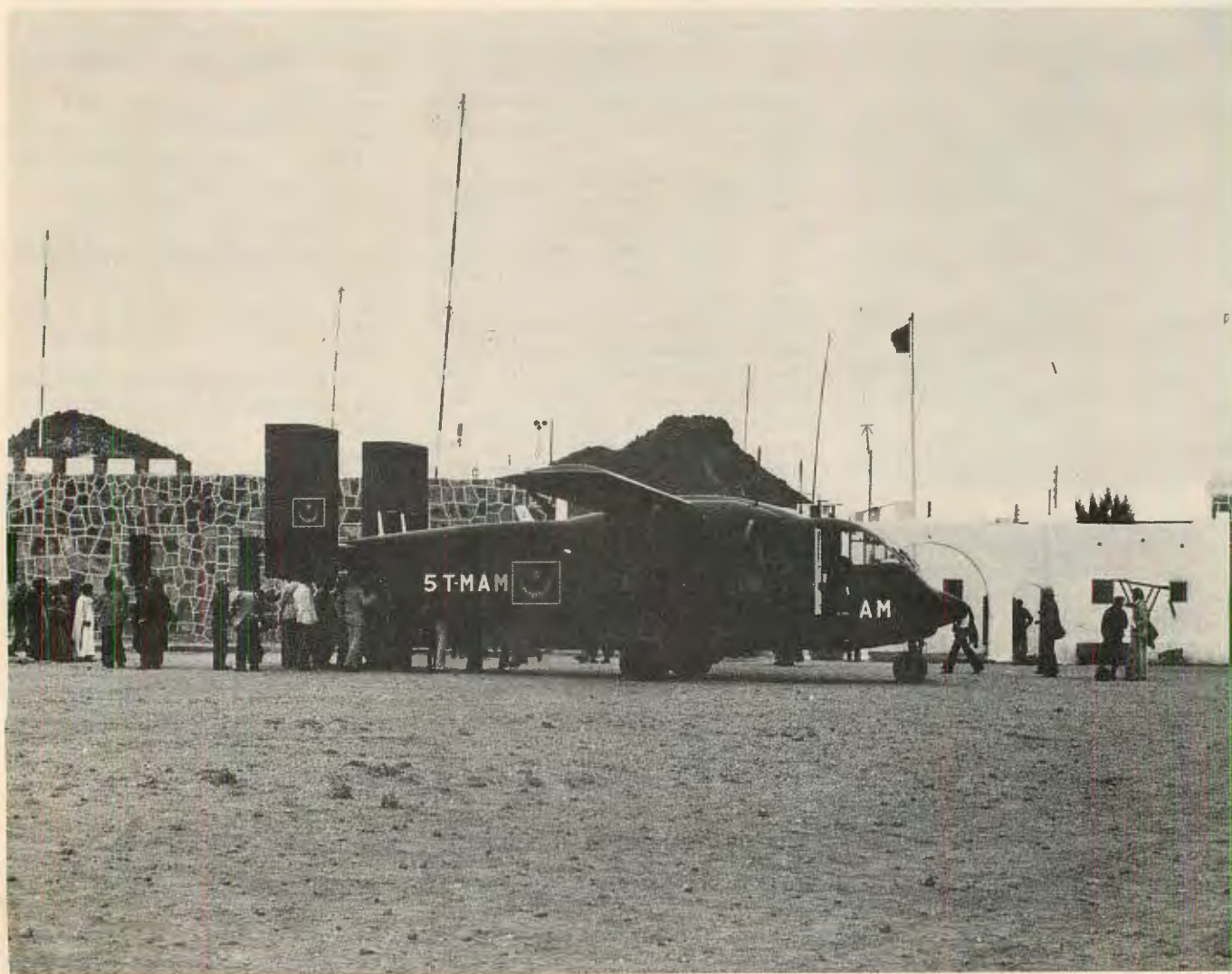
The most recent incident involved several Cuban ships off the Western Sahara coast in early July — one of them a tanker. Unidentified jet aircraft strafed and rocketed the fleet which was believed to have been keeping the coast area under surveillance. Israeli sources maintain that the jets were French, acting in collusion with King Hassan's forces. Havana screamed derision.

Information from Rabat indicates that there may be openings for American mercs with good battle experience. While no Moroccan Embassy will admit to hiring mercs, things might ease up a little now that the Polisario is using foreign troops within its own ranks.

The outcome of that little experiment should be interesting — non-communist mercs against those from the left-leaning world. I give two-to-one odds *against* the latter.



Moroccan transport aircraft (Short Skyvan 3M manufactured in Belfast, Northern Ireland) arrives at Western Sahara fort.



Al Mar Will Handle

ANGUS ARBUCKLE'S NO-NONSENSE KNIVES



Knifsmith at work: Arbuckle grinds blade in his workshop. Photo: Al J. Venter

by N.E. MacDougald

My goal is to make a perfect knife, no matter what kind. I want a prosperous business and the best way I know to do that is to strive for the ultimate in craftsmanship.

—Angus Ronald Arbuckle, Johannesburg, March 1980

AND Arbuckle means it. Walking through his home and workshop in the beautiful Jo-burg suburb of Greenside, I was impressed by the variety of designs and the attention to detail in his knives. Because he was in the process of moving, knives dominated table tops, chairs and other unlikely places.

Arbuckle is a no-nonsense sort of man. He shakes your hand like he means it and looks you straight in the eye. This direct approach is reflected in his design and execution. He could easily make fancy, more expensive knives, but he has chosen a more utilitarian route. Not that his weapons are homely — they aren't. One

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look at the photos will show they compete with or surpass anything in their price range.

An example of how Arbuckle increases a knife's function but not its cost is his use of lightening holes in the tang. Rather than tapering the tang by grinding, a time-consuming and therefore expensive process, he chooses to drill holes in the tang, leaving the thickness uniform. Thus, most of his knives balance perfectly without being inordinately expensive.

Arbuckle's background more than qualifies him for his vocation. Born and raised in Johannesburg, he joined the South African Navy in 1944 at age 20.

Three months later he was discharged because he held an essential engineering position. He was chief designer at Gardner-Denver (South Africa) for 14 years. He began making knives as a hobby in the mid-1970s, and went into the knife-making business more than a year ago.

During these last three years, Arbuckle has become expert at selecting and heat-treating steels. About 90 percent of the steel he uses is SAE 01. This high-carbon (.95 percent) steel also contains manganese and tungsten, plus traces of chrome, vanadium and nickel. Although 01 is not particularly corrosion-resistant, Arbuckle's matte-black phosphate-base

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enamel coating makes the steel impervious to weather and also cuts glare. Satin and mirror finishes are also available.

Heat treating begins with a "standard" quench from 820 degrees centigrade into ambient temperature oil, yielding a Rockwell hardness of 66 on the C scale. Since this exceeds usable hardness, the blades are retempered to between 57C and 61C.

Handles can be ordered in just about anything the customer wants. Arbuckle's favorite is Permalite, a brown wood-based phenolic resin. He also uses black paper-based Micarta and white cloth-based Micarta and native woods such as tamboutie, red or black ivory wood, kameeldoring, emboya, cherry, wild olive and imbuia. Color-contrasting liners are used unless ordered otherwise. Custom-made sheaths are available for all Arbuckle knives.

I asked who influenced Arbuckle in his designs and he replied that compatriot Piet Grey and America's Bob Loveless impressed him greatly.

When questioned about the future of ARA Knives, Arbuckle beamed, "The interest shown in my knives is encouraging. I see steady growth over the next few years. Currently, ARA produces 100 knives per month."

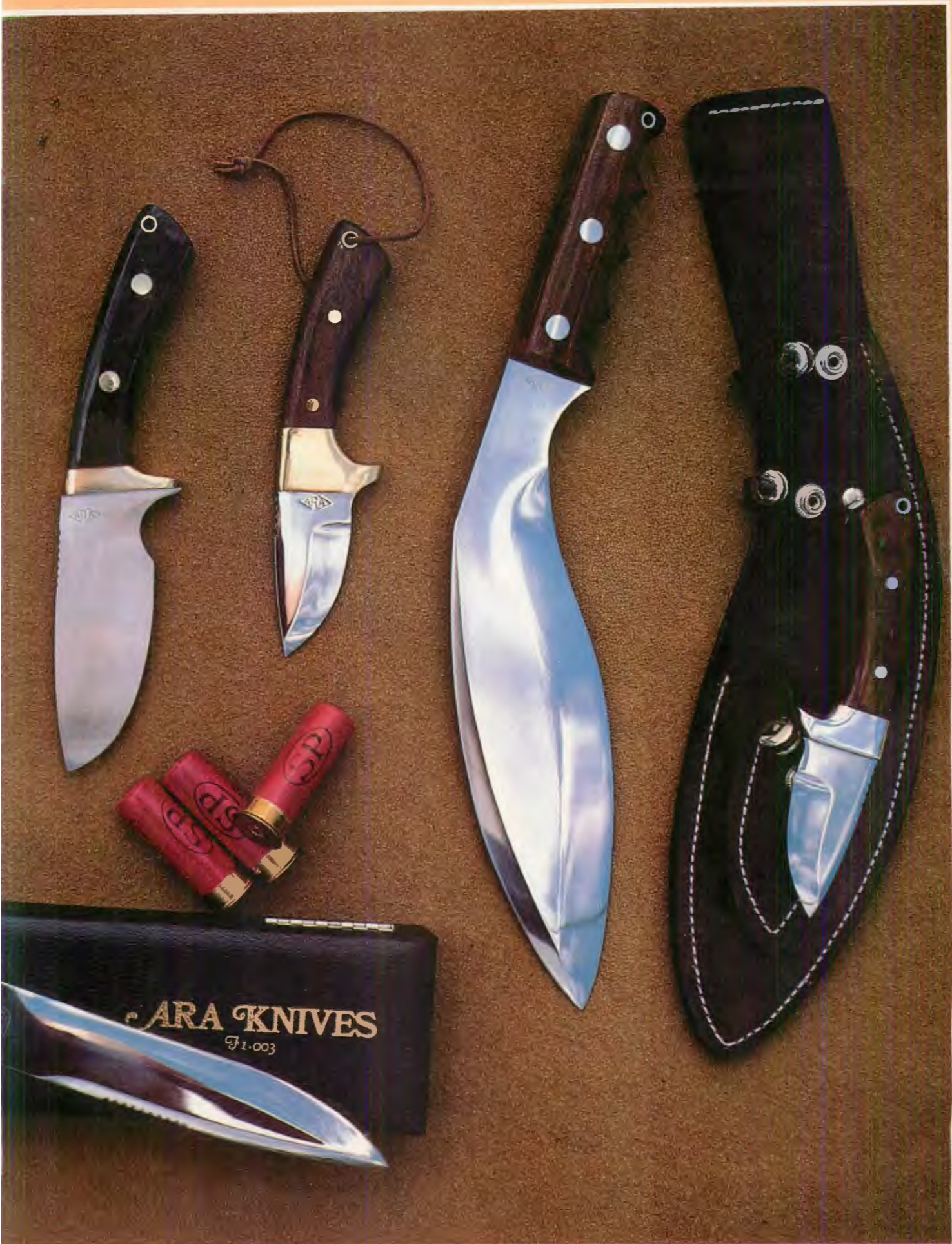
Arbuckle's exclusive U.S. distributor is Al Mar Knives, long known for quality material, design and service. Interested dealers or consumers may write them at Dept. SOF, 5861 SW Benfield Ct., Lake Oswego, OR 97034. Delivery time unknown at this time.

Editor's Note: Arbuckle produces knives by appointment for the South African Army — and formerly for the Rhodesian Army (now Zimbabwe).



From left: Plain Blade Centurion; Throwing Knife, 9-inch; Black Micarta Drop-Point Skinner; Black Micarta Drop-Point Skinner with Dolphin Handle; Rooi Doring Boom Wood-Handled Dolphin Skinner; Plain Blade Gurkha Combat Permalite Slabs; Gurkha Kangaroo (placement not leather) Sheath with Dolphin Skinner; Ivory Slab F.1. Fighter with Presentation Case. Photo: N.E. MacDougald







ARA KNIVES PRICE LIST*

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

| TYPE OF KNIFE | STANDARD SATIN FINISH (Plain Blade) permal and black slabs | BLACK BLADE | WHITE MICARTA and Tombootle, imbuia and cherry wood slabs† | BRASS BUTT CAPS | SAW TOOTH | FLASH HARD-CHROME PLATE | MIRROR POLISH | WOODEN SLABS INCLUDING BUTT CAPS STD. ISSUE | HALF FINGER GUARD (Brass) |
|---------------------------------|--|-------------|--|-----------------|-----------|-------------------------|---------------|---|---------------------------|
| Black Widow | \$ 73.18 | \$10.05 | \$10.05 | \$10.05 | \$12.29 | \$14.52 | \$10.05 | \$10.05 | N/A |
| Boot 4" (Vampire) | \$ 73.18 | \$10.05 | \$10.05 | \$10.05 | \$12.29 | \$14.52 | \$10.05 | \$10.05 | N/A |
| Boot 5" | \$ 73.18 | \$10.05 | \$10.05 | \$10.05 | \$12.29 | \$14.52 | \$10.05 | \$10.05 | N/A |
| Boot 6" (Recce) | \$ 80.44 | \$10.05 | \$10.05 | \$10.05 | \$12.29 | \$14.52 | \$10.05 | \$10.05 | N/A |
| Brandenburger | \$102.78 | \$10.05 | \$10.05 | \$10.05 | \$12.29 | \$14.52 | 10.05 | \$10.05 | N/A |
| Combat Commander | \$ 91.61 | \$10.05 | \$10.05 | \$10.05 | \$12.29 | \$14.52 | \$10.05 | \$10.05 | N/A |
| Crusader | \$ 71.50 | \$10.05 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Dolphin | \$ 78.20 | N/A | \$10.05 | \$10.05 | N/A | \$14.52 | Std. | Std. | N/A |
| F1 Fighter | \$122.89 | \$10.05 | \$10.05 | \$10.05 | \$12.29 | \$14.52 | \$10.05 | \$10.05 | Std. |
| Gurkha | \$196.63 | \$12.29 | \$12.29 | \$10.05 | N/A | \$14.52 | \$44.69 | \$10.05 | N/A |
| Hunter (Skinner) 00A,B,C Series | \$102.78 | N/A | \$10.05 | Std. | N/A | \$14.52 | \$10.05 | N/A | \$12.29 |
| Kalahari Fighter | \$ 91.61 | 8.94 | \$10.05 | \$10.05 | \$12.29 | \$14.52 | \$10.05 | N/A | N/A |
| Mk. 1 Survival | \$ 49.16 | Std. | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Mk. 11 Survival | \$ 64.80 | Std. | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Recce 6" (Boot) | \$ 80.44 | \$10.05 | \$10.05 | \$10.05 | \$12.29 | \$14.52 | \$10.05 | \$10.05 | N/A |
| Skinner (Hunter) | \$102.78 | N/A | \$10.05 | Std. | N/A | \$14.52 | \$10.05 | N/A | \$12.29 |
| Kalahari Fighter | \$ 91.61 | \$ 8.94 | \$10.05 | \$10.05 | \$12.29 | \$14.52 | \$10.05 | N/A | N/A |
| Mk. 1 Survival | \$ 49.16 | Std. | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Mk. 2 Survival | \$ 64.80 | Std. | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Throwing 9" | \$ 16.76 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Throwing 12" | \$ 35.75 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Vampire (Boot 4") | \$ 73.18 | \$10.05 | \$10.05 | \$10.05 | \$12.29 | \$14.52 | \$10.05 | \$10.05 | N/A |

* Prices subject to change
† Wild olive handles cost \$21.00.

Arbuckle fighting-knife quartet. From left: boot knife, combat Brandenburger, standard combat blade and one of Arbuckle's home-designed fighting Gurkha knives. Photo: Al J. Venter

SHEATH PRICE LIST

| Model | Price |
|------------------------|---------|
| Black Widow | \$14.11 |
| Boot 4" (Vampire) | \$14.11 |
| Boot 5" | \$14.11 |
| Boot 6" (Recce) | \$17.27 |
| Brandenburger | \$27.04 |
| Combat Commander | \$27.04 |
| Crusader | \$15.08 |
| Dolphin | \$15.08 |
| F1 Fighter | \$27.04 |
| Gurkha | \$31.92 |
| Hunter (Skinner) | \$18.43 |
| Kalahari Fighter | \$27.04 |
| Mk.1 and Mk.2 Survival | \$27.04 |

Throwing Knives (Sheaths are not supplied with these knives).





HILL

Continued from page 31

0600, his voice pealed out, "Reveille, reveille." It was the start of another day and the perimeter had held.

On all sides of their position, the Marines saw enemy bodies and equipment. The North Vietnamese would normally have raked the battlefield clean, but so deadly was the Marine fire that they left unclaimed many of those who fell close to the perimeter.

The firing had slacked off. Although badly mauled themselves, the enemy still had the Marines ringed in and did not intend to leave. Nor did haste make them foolhardy. They knew what the jets and the Hueys and the artillery and the Marine sharpshooting would do to them on the bare slopes in daylight. They slipped into holes and waited, intending to attack with more troops the next night.

Bursts of fire from light machine guns chipped the rocks above the Marines' heads. Firing uphill from concealed foxholes, the enemy could cut down any Marine who raised up and silhouetted himself against the skyline. Two of the 12.7mm machine guns were still firing sporadically.

There came a lull in the firing. A Huey buzzed low over the hillcrest, while another gunship hovered to one side, ready to pounce if the enemy took the bait. No one fired. The pilot, Maj. William J. Goodsell, decided to mark the position for a medical evacuation. His Huey fluttered slowly down and hovered. Howard thought the maneuver too risky and said so. But Goodsell ran the risk and came in anyway. He dropped a smoke grenade. Still no fire. He waved to the relieved Howard and skimmed north over the forward slope, only 10 feet above the ground.

The noise of machine guns drowned out the sound of the helicopter's engines. Tracers flew toward the Huey from all directions. The helicopter rocked and veered sharply to the right and zigzagged down the mountain. The copilot, 1st Lt. Stephen Butler, grabbed the stick and brought the crippled helicopter under control, crash landing in a rice paddy several miles to the east. The pilots were picked up by their wingman. But Maj. Goodsell, who had commanded Squadron VMO-6 for less than one week, died of gunshot wounds before he reached the hospital.

The medical pickup helicopter did not hesitate; it came in. Frantically, Howard waved it off. He was not going to see another one shot down. The pilots were dauntless but not invulnerable. The pilot

saw Howard's signal and turned off, bullets clanging off the armor plating of the undercarriage. Howard would wait for the infantry.

In anger, the jets and the Hueys attacked the enemy positions anew. Flying lower and lower, they crisscrossed the slopes, searching for the machine-gun emplacements, offering themselves as targets, daring the enemy to shoot.

The enemy did. Another Huey was hit and crashed, its crew chief killed. The 12.7mm guns exposed their position and were silenced. Still the North Vietnamese held their ground. Perhaps the assault company, with all its automatic weapons and fresh young troops, had been ordered to wipe out the Marines at any cost; perhaps the commanding officer had been killed and his subordinates were following dead orders; perhaps the enemy thought victory still possible.

Carnival Time

But then the Marine infantry came in. They had flown out at dawn, but so intense was the enemy fire around Nui Vu that the helicopters had to circle for 45 minutes while jets and artillery blasted a secure landing zone. During that time 1st Lt. Richard E. Moser, a H34 helicopter pilot, monitored Howard's frequency and later reported: "It was like something you'd read in a novel. His call sign was Carnival Time, and he kept talking about these North Vietnamese down in holes in front of him. He'd say, 'You've gotta get this guy in the crater because he's hurting my boys.' He was really impressive. His whole concern was for his men."

Helicopters finally dropped Charlie Company of the 5th Marines on the southern slope of the mountain. The relief company climbed fast, ignoring sniper fire and wiping out small pockets of resistance. With the very first round they fired, the Marine 60mm-mortar team knocked out the enemy mortar. Sgt. Frank Riojas, the weapons-platoon commander, cut down a sniper at 500 yards with a tracer round from his M14. Marine machine-gun sections were detached from the main body and sent up the steep flanks of the hill to support the company's movement. The North Vietnamese were the hunted now, as Marines scrambled around and up the slope, attempting to pinch off the enemy before they could flee.

The main column climbed straight upward. While yet a quarter of a mile away, the point man saw recon's position on the plateau. The boulder serving as Howard's command post was the most prominent terrain feature on the peak. The platoon hurried forward. They had to step over enemy bodies to enter the perimeter. Howard's men had eight rounds of ammunition left.

"Get down," were Howard's first words of welcome. "There are snipers

right in front of us." Another recon man shouted: "Hey, you got any cigarettes?" A cry went up along the line — not expressions of joy, but requests for cigarettes.

It was not that Howard's Marines were not glad to see other infantrymen; it was just that they had expected them. Staff Sgt. Richard Sullivan, who was with the first platoon to reach the recon Marines, said later: "One man told me he never expected to see the sun rise. But once it did, he knew we'd be coming."

The fight was not over. Before noon, in the hot daylight, despite artillery and air firing in support, four more Marines would die.

The Lieutenant Takes Orders

At Howard's urging, 2nd Lt. Ronald Meyer quickly deployed his platoon along the crest. Meyer had graduated from the Naval Academy the previous June and intended to make the Marine Corps his career. He had spent a month with his bride before leaving for Vietnam. In the field he wore no shiny bars, and officers and men alike called him "Stump" because of his short, muscular physique.

Howard assumed he was a corporal or a sergeant and was shouting orders to him. Respecting Howard's knowledge and performance, Meyer obeyed. He never did mention his rank. So Staff Sgt. Howard, waving off offers of aid, proceeded to direct the tactical maneuvers of the relieving company, determined to wipe out the small enemy band dug in not 20 meters downslope.

Meyer hollered for members of his platoon to pass him grenades. He would then lob them downslope toward the snipers' holes. By peering around the base of the boulder, Howard was able to direct Meyer's throws. "A little more to the right on the next one, buddy. About five yards farther. That's right. No, a little too strong." The grenades had little effect and the snipers kept firing. Meyer shouted he wanted air on the target. The word was passed back for the air liaison officer to come forward. The platoon waited.

Lance Cpl. Terry Redic wanted to fire his rifle grenade at the snipers. A tested sharpshooter, he had several kills to his credit. In small fire fights he often disdained to duck, preferring to suppress hostile fire by his own rapid, accurate shooting. Meyer's way seemed too slow. He raised up, knelt on one knee and sighted downslope looking for a target. He never found one. The enemy shot first and killed him instantly.

Meyer swore vehemently. "Let's get that ****. You coming with me, Sotello?" "Yes, Stump." Lance Cpl. David Sotello turned to get his rifle and some other men. Meyer didn't wait. He started forward with a grenade in each hand. "Keep your head down, buddy, they can shoot," yelled Howard.

Meyer crawled for several yards, then

threw a grenade at a hole. It blasted an enemy soldier. He turned, looking up-slope. A sniper shot him in the back. Sotello heard the shot as he started to crawl down.

So did Hospitalman 3d Class John Markillie, the platoon corpsman. He crawled toward the fallen lieutenant. "For God's sake, keep your head down!" yelled Howard. Markillie reached his lieutenant. He sat up to examine the wound. A sniper shot him in the chest.

Another corpsman, Holloday, and a squad leader, Cpl. Melville, crawled forward. They could not feel Meyer's pulse. Markillie was still breathing. Ignoring the sniper fire, they began dragging and pushing his body up the hill.

Melville was hit in the head. He rolled over. His helmet bounced off. He shook his head and continued to crawl. The round had gone in one side of the helmet and ripped out the other, just nicking the corporal above his left ear. Melville and Holloday dragged Markillie into the perimeter.

"He's getting shot at."

From Chu Lai, the battalion commander called his company commander, 1st Lt. Marshall "Buck" Darling. "Is the landing zone secure, Buck?" "Well, ... not spectacularly." Back at the base two noncommissioned officers were listening. "I wonder what he meant by that?" asked the junior sergeant. "What the hell to you think it means, stupid?" replied the older sergeant. "He's getting shot at."

Ignoring his own words, Corpsman Billie Holmes was busy supervising the corpsmen from Charlie Company as they ministered to the wounded. With the fire fight still going on to the front, helicopter evacuation was not possible from within the perimeter. The wounded had to be taken rearward to the south slope. Holmes roamed back and forth, making sure that all his buddies were accounted for and taken out.

The pilots had seen easier landing sites. "For the medical evacs," Moser said, "a pilot had to come in perpendicular to the ridge, then cock his bird around before he sat down. We could get both main mounts down — first — the tail — well — sometimes we got it down. We were still taking fire."

Holmes reported that there was still one Marine, whom he had seen die, missing. **Only after** repeated assurances that they would not leave without the body were the infantry able to convince him and Howard that it was time they left too. They helped the Navy corpsman and the Marine sergeant to a waiting helicopter. Howard's job was done.

Another had yet to be finished. There was a dead Marine to be found somewhere on the field of battle. But before a search could be conducted, the last of the



The Marine recon force that took part in the Battle of Howard's Hill became one of the most decorated units for its size in U.S. military history.

The decorations awarded were a Medal of Honor, two Navy Crosses — the nation's second highest military decoration — and 15 Silver Stars, the third highest. All 18 men involved were wounded and won Purple Hearts.

Staff Sgt. Howard won the MOH. Navy Crosses went to Lance Cpl. R.C. Blinn and HM3 B.C. Holmes.

Receiving posthumous Silver Stars were: Lance Cpl. J.T. Adams, Pvt. I. Carlisi, Pfc. T.D. Glawe, Pfc. J.O. McKinney, Lance Cpl. A.N. Mascarenas and Cpl. J.V. Thompson.

Survivors who won Silver Stars were: HM1 R.J. Fitzpatrick, Pfc. C.W. Hosley, Lance Cpl. R.F. Hildreth, Pfc. J.S. Kosoglow, Cpl. R.L. Martinez, Lance Cpl. D.K. Mulvihill, Lance Cpl. W.C. Norman, Pfc. T.G. Powles and Lance Cpl. R.G. Victor.

—SOF Staff

enemy force had to be destroyed.

First Lt. Phil Freed flopped down beside Melville. Freed was the forward air controller attached to Charlie Company that day. He had run the last quarter mile uphill when he heard Meyer needed air. With the rounds cracking near his head, he needed no briefing. He contacted two F8 Crusader jets circling overhead. "This is Cottage 14. Bring it on down on a dry run. This has to be real tight. Charley is dug in right on our lines." At the controls of the jets were 1st Lts. Richard W. Deilke and Edward H. Menzer.

"There were an awful lot of planes in the air," Menzer said. "We didn't think we'd be used so we called DASC (Direct

Air Support Center) and asked for another mission. We got diverted to the FAC (Forward Air Controller), Cottage 14. He told us he had a machine-gun nest right in front of him."

As they talked back and forth, Menzer thought he recognized Freed's voice. Later he learned he had indeed; Freed had flown jets with him in another squadron a year earlier.

Freed was lying in a pile of rocks on the military crest of the northern finger of the hill. Since he himself had flown the F8 Crusader, Freed could talk to the pilots in a language they understood. Still, he was not certain they could help. He didn't know whether they could come that close



and avoid hitting the Marine infantrymen. On their first run, he deliberately called the jets in wide so he could judge the technical skills and precision of the pilots. Rock steady.

He called for them to attack in earnest. When they heard the target was 20 meters from the FAC, it was the pilots' turn to be worried. "As long as you're flying parallel to the people it's O.K.," Menzer said. "Because it's a good shooting bird. But even so, I was leery at first to fire with troops that near."

Unknown to them, the two pilots were about to fly one of the closest direct air-support missions in the history of fixed-wing aviation. They approached from the
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northeast with the sun behind them, and cut across the ridgeline parallel to the friendly lines. They strafed without room for error. The gunsight reflector plate in an F8 Crusader jet looks like a bull's eye with the rings marked in successive 10mm increments. When the pilots aligned their sights from 3,000 feet away, the target lay within the 10mm ring and the Marine position at the edge of the ring. The slightest variance of the controls would rake the Marine infantrymen with fire. In that fashion, each pilot made four strafing passes, skimming 10 to 20 feet above the ridge. Freed feared they would both crash, so close did their wings dip to the crest of the hill. The impact of the cannon

shells showered the infantrymen with dirt. They swore they could tell the color of the pilot's eyes. In eight attacks, the jet pilots fired 350 20mm explosive shells into an area 60 meters long and 10 to 20 meters wide. The hillside was gouged and torn, as if a bulldozer had churned back and forth across it.

Freed cautiously lifted his head. A round cracked close by. One enemy had survived. Somebody shouted that the shot came from the position of the sniper who had killed Meyer. The lieutenant's body lay several yards downslope.

The F8 Crusaders had ample fuel left. Menzer called to say they could make
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RUGER'S MINI-14 IS NO MATTEL TOY

Weapons Specialist Says It's a Well-built Bargain

Article and Photos by H.C. Davids

TEN years ago, when the name of Sturm-Ruger became synonymous with high-quality single-action rimfire and centerfire revolvers, and .22 LR semiautomatic rifles and pistols, the company also designed and produced a magazine-fed .223 Remington semiautomatic rifle known as the Ruger Mini-14. This rifle has undergone several face lifts since its inception.

The standard civilian-legal version sells for approximately half the cost of a Colt AR-15. For this reason alone, it has become extremely popular with civilian, military and law-enforcement personnel worldwide.

A second version of the Ruger Mini-14 looks like the civilian model but has a rear-set front sight and bird-cage flash suppressor. This model, although civilian-legal in most states, is available only to law-enforcement agents and agencies — Ruger company policy, not a new BATF ruling. A third model, identical to the civilian one but fabricated entirely of high-quality stainless steel, is practically impervious to adverse weather, yet is reasonably priced.

Full-Auto Mini

The AC-556 rifle is the same as the law-enforcement model — with the notable addition of an automatic firing selector. It can fire in semiautomatic, three-shot-burst and fully automatic modes, each of which is governed by a fire selector positioned at the right-rear of the receiver. This popular model may be found throughout the Middle East, Central and South America, and Europe. Many U.S. law-enforcement agencies have selected it for SWAT teams and other specialized units. It is now being manufactured in stainless steel, making it practical worldwide.

Ruger Mini-14 and Mini-14 stainless-steel rifles are gas-operated and box-magazine-fed with semiautomatic-fire capability. Ruger AC-556 and AC-556K rifles are equipped with a selector control for semiautomatic, three-shot bursts and

have full-automatic firing capabilities. The Mini-14 rifles resemble U.S. M1 Garand and M14 military rifles but are specifically designed for the diminutive .223 Remington commercial caliber or the 5.56mm U.S. military cartridges.

The breech and firing mechanisms are manufactured from hardened chrome-molybdenum steel and have music-wire coil springs to insure reliability.

The gas system is a fixed-piston, self-cleaning design, venting out unburned powder particles automatically. The firing pin is retracted mechanically during the first part of the firing cycle as the bolt unlocks. The rifle fires from the closed-bolt position, and can only be fired when the bolt is locked.

The Mini-14 weighs 7.3 pounds unloaded and 7.8 pounds with a loaded 20-round magazine. Overall length is 38.75 inches with an 18.5-inch barrel with a six-groove, right-hand-twist barrel of one turn in 10 inches. The AC-556 and AC-556K selective-fire models' cyclic rate is approximately 700 rounds per minute. Velocity from the full-length barrel is about 3,300 feet per second, and approximately 2,700 feet per second from the 13-inch AC-556K barrel. The abbreviated version is 33.5 inches long with the stock extended, and 24 inches long when folded.

The safety mechanism is located just forward of the trigger guard and looks like the M1 Garand and M14 safeties. It is easily manipulated by both right- and left-handed shooters. The hammer and sear are blocked when the safety is on and can be manipulated only to the safe position when the rifle is cocked. Be careful anyway — malfunctions can occur with anything mechanical.

All Mini-14 rifle bolts remain open after the last shot has been fired — a nice feature for the civilian and mandatory for the man in combat. The bolt is held to the rear by drawing it rearward and depressing the bolt-lock plunger, or the rocker arm assembly on older models. The bolt can be closed by depressing the magazine follower, while retracting the bolt handle and then releasing it.

Magazine Management

Ruger produces 5-, 20- and 30-round magazines. Most commercially sold Mini-14s come with a 5-shot magazine, since it is believed that no bleeding-heart liberal could possibly take offense if the piece is capable of firing only a few shots. Ruger's high-standard 20- and 30-round magazines are manufactured to specifications and have no quality-control problems, in my opinion.

The same cannot be said of other producers' magazines made for this piece. Quality fluctuates not only from one manufacturer to another, but from one batch to another. Ninety percent of the time, when someone's Mini-14 isn't performing well, off-brand mags have been jammed into the piece. Some non-Ruger magazines do perform adequately, but all mags should be fully tested before one considers using them on anything meaner than jackrabbits.

The 20- and 30-round magazines are usually reserved for law-enforcement and military rifles. Loading the magazine is simple. The cartridges are pressed down and rotated on the magazine lips. The bullet tips should clear the front edge of the magazine, and the base of the cartridge should touch its rear.

When emptying the magazine, most people push, pull and strip the cartridges out the front. This permanently scars the brass and occasionally bends the magazine lips. Damage in this area is probably the most common cause of malfunctions in magazine-fed rifles.

The proper way to unload magazines is to depress the center section of the second cartridge, removing tension on the first one. With the magazine pointed down, the top cartridge simply falls out, unscarred and unmarred, with no damage to the magazine lips. Simple and effective.

Inserting the magazine is easy with a little practice. Once the hole in the front of the magazine slips over the magazine pin and the magazine is pulled upward and toward the rear, the magazine lock at the rear of the magazine well will engage.

Nick Uhernik (left) holds AC-556 while SOF Executive Editor Bob Poos holds AC-556K. AC-556K is adapted for aircraft and helicopter operations, patrol vehicles, dignitary protection and other applications where compactness and short overall length are required.



To fire the rifle, insert a loaded magazine into the magazine well, pull the slide handle to the rear and release it. Do not ride the bolt home. If the rifle is not to be fired immediately, engage the safety. With the safety "off," the standard Mini-14 will fire semiautomatically until the magazine is empty or the safety engaged.

Rockin' 'n' Rollin'

The AC-556 and AC-556K have a "gear shift" or selector at the right-rear of the receiver. This selector has three positions. In the vertical position, the weapon fires semiautomatically. In the second, or middle, position, it fires in a three-shot-burst mode if the trigger is held to the rear for the full cycle. Note that on the first trigger pull in the three-shot mode, one can fire either one, two or three shots. If he holds the trigger to the rear, the weapon will then fire standard three-shot bursts.

The last, or most horizontal, position enables the shooter to fire the weapon in the fully automatic mode until he releases the trigger or the magazine runs dry. Firing a sustained, heavy volume of ammunition, especially on full auto, may cause cook-offs. The heat generated in any .223 rifle is intense and a potential danger. I have fired as many as seven 30-round magazines on full auto as fast as possible without problems, but even a dozen rounds cause the piece to become scorching hot. Be careful to avoid burns.

Author Evaluation

In 1976, I fired the AC-556K, an abbreviated version of the AC-556. Sporting a 13-inch barrel and a tubular folding stock, this piece has been in demand since its first showing. There are few real uses for an abbreviated military or police rifle, since most legitimate functions can be achieved just as well, if not better, with a full-sized weapon. Certain specialized units, however — including protective-service teams, tactical squads, stake-out teams and military units — need a short, concealable rifle that has a high rate of firepower with a round of greater power, penetration and range than found in a comparable 9mm weapon. The Ruger Mini-14 AC-556K fulfills these requirements.

Its folding tubular metal stock pivots in an arc to the right of the forearm and locks in place. This is one of the strongest stocks of its type when extended for use, and out of the way when not deployed — workable, strong and pretty much "cop-proof" even under stress. It is equipped with a pistol grip positioned behind the trigger to aid in weapon control, and with the stock extended, the rifle can be fired easily with one hand.

The AC-556K assigned to me has digested more than 10,000 rounds of an assortment of full-jacket, hollowpoint and softpoint cartridges, most of which





Brent Christensen test fires AC-556K with stock extended.

were fired in either the three-shot-burst or full-automatic mode. Maximum range of the 55-grain bullet is approximately 3,000 yards, and its effective range closer to 300 yards. Personnel who have fired the weapon extensively are impressed not only with its firepower, but also with its handling characteristics. Although not as small as an Israeli Uzi, it can be easily tucked away under the front seat of a principal or follow vehicle, and it is concealable under any kind of overcoat, ready for immediate use.

A tall man (6 foot 2 or over) can place the muzzle in his right-front coat pocket and hold the pistol grip in his armpit — as I found when experimenting with the weapon. Carried in this manner, it is possible for a tall man to enter contested areas with a powerful, accurate weapon that will give him enough firepower from its 20-round magazine to get out of trouble — not just into it. It may also be concealed under an overcoat or suitcoat.

Controllability

If fired with folded stock, controllability may become a real problem, particularly in the three-shot-burst and full-auto modes of fire. One should usually not fire the weapon in full- or semiauto mode without the stock extended, except in extreme conditions. Remember, never fire on full auto when semiautomatic fire is adequate. Semiautomatic fire not only saves ammunition but helps the shooter aim at specific, intended targets, rather than attempting to intimidate opponents by sound alone.

When a right-handed shooter fires this weapon on full auto with extended stock, it tends to climb high and to the right (high and to the left for the southpaw). Few shooters realize that as the weapon recoils it pushes to the rear, and the body rotates with the recoil — hence the right or left movement while on full auto. When the stock is folded, this movement becomes greatly exaggerated.

While working with the AC-556K, I experimented with several firing techniques with the stock folded in an attempt to counteract the above movement and found that the sling can be used effectively to counter it. Loop the sling over the back of the gripping hand and around the opposite elbow. This triangulated sling counteracts most unwanted movement. One's left hand should be used as a pivot and not move at all. The right hand should be twisted slightly to the right, to move the muzzle low to the left and counter the "high-right" pattern of firing in either three-shot-burst or full-automatic mode. One range session will show how easy this is to do.

Sighting In

Some people object that the Mini-14's front sight is not protected by "wings." A

close examination of the piece shows such accoutrements are unnecessary, largely due to the flash suppressor, the forearm and the fiberglass handguard which protect the sight. It takes real effort to impact the front sight alone, because its mass and construction protect it.

The rear sight is barely adequate — typical of all Mini-14s. The peep-sight blade is usually loose and sloppy, but can easily be tightened or replaced. It is well protected from impact, making it nearly impossible to alter the sight setting accidentally. In fact, it is hard to do when one tries.

Accessories

One modification that improves any Mini-14 is to replace the rear-sight blade with a nylon-hooded aperture rear sight manufactured by Feather Enterprises, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box F, Niwot, CO 80544. This replacement is much easier to use because, rather than being a flat piece of metal, it is concave, nonreflective and seems to fit the Ruger rear-sight assembly more snugly than the issue sight.

This worthwhile modification should improve mechanical accuracy and provide more accurate sight alignment. I believe it should be installed on all Ruger Mini-14s. Let me describe a simple experiment I performed: Using the standard rear sight, I shot five-shot groups of around four inches at 100 yards with one of my military-styled Minis. Then I installed the Feather Enterprises replacement — and with no other changes or adjustments my groups shrank to an average of 2¾ inches.

7.62 vs. 5.56

I cannot cover the 7.62 vs 5.56mm controversy in depth here, and I certainly do not believe that the 5.56mm cartridge is the answer to all military, police and civilian needs, but it may well fulfill more requirements than it is now given credit for.

Critics of the M16 and 5.56mm complain bitterly of the bullet's instability when encountering minor obstacles such as blades of grass or twigs. This instability also may be used to an advantage, as the new Soviet cartridge and rifle now in battle in Afghanistan seem to show (see Galen L. Geer's Afghanistan articles, SOF, September, October, November '80). The rifle fires a 5.45mm bullet weighing approximately 53 grains. Longer and more pointed than our 5.56mm cartridge, it has a somewhat reduced velocity. Interestingly enough, the Afghan rebels stand in awe of this cartridge-rifle combination because minor wounds become devastating, due to the deflecting or keyholing of the bullet, which strikes its target on an off-axis angle. The side-slapping bullet may well be the "perfection of a problem" when it is fired from the Soviet AK-74 rifle.



LEFT: Ruger lineup (top to bottom): stainless-steel Mini-14, AC-556, AC-556 with blued-steel folding stock and AC-556K. **BOTTOM:** Brent Christensen examines receiver of AC-556K and prepares to push release button permitting folding stock to close.

Another problematical, but less controversial, matter concerning ammunition comes from handloading. Some handloaders produce superior ammunition, but Mini-14 users should know that Ruger specifically disclaims responsibility for any damage or injury that occurs when firing faulty, nonstandard or remanufactured, handloaded or reloaded ammunition in any Mini-14 semiautomatic and selective-fire rifle. Carefully read the instruction manual that comes with each of these rifles. If a manual is lost or misplaced, Ruger will send a replacement free.

Since the Mini-14 has a high cyclic rate of fire, round imperfections could easily allow the shooter to wear the piece home — literally. Factory ammo is more expensive, but it should be used exclusively. Substandard ammunition simply doesn't pay.

The piece I used has digested its more-than-10,000 rounds with nary a bobble or cough. Considering that 8,000 of them were fired in either the three-shot or fully automatic mode proves to me the total reliability of this particular AC-556K with a variety of rounds. Softpoint and full-metal-jacketed rounds are excellent performers when correctly matched to the target. Full-metal-jacketed rounds should be used for higher penetration, while more frangible rounds should be reserved for soft-skinned targets. In a recent dem-



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WHAT AILS UNCLE SAM

by Jim Graves

PREPOSTEROUS policy carried out by preposterous people.

Jimmy Carter was never expected to produce a dazzling foreign policy. His one term as governor of Georgia hardly qualified him as a statesman, and since his key advisers were detentists and a bunch of inexperienced young men from Georgia with instant solutions to the world's problems, America didn't expect much.

Carter announced early in 1977 that his administration's foreign policy was to be one of "constructive global involvement" with a strong commitment to human rights, detente, cooperation among the Western industrial democracies and a new and better relationship with Third World nations.

Carter's advocacy of detente with Russia and his determination to attach American actions to the issue of human rights are keys to the devastation of world order today.

Carter and his chief foreign policy advisers — Cyrus Vance, Paul Warnke and Zbigniew Brzezinski — were advocates of detente who had convinced themselves that the policy of containing communism — the keystone of American policy in the '40s, '50s and '60s — was no longer necessary.

Containment was no longer a valid basis for a policy, according to Carter's people, since the Soviet Union had changed and the world situation had changed. They assumed that the Soviet Union had become a "status quo" power, that is, one no longer interested in expansion. They appear to have been convinced that if the U.S. made no attempt to block the spread of communism and did not openly challenge the Soviet Union by keeping a strong defense establishment, the Soviets in turn would temper their expansionist activities and cut back on military expenditures.

JUST look at what has happened while Carter snuggled up to the Soviet Union's President Brezhnev:

The Vietnamese, a Soviet client state, invaded and overran Cambodia. Today they are knocking at the borders of Thailand.

The Cubans, also Soviet clients, first employed to turn Angola into a Socialist state, have expanded their area of operations to include Ethiopia and Somalia.

A leftist government took over in Grenada in the Caribbean, and another leftist liberation front snatched Nicaragua for the Socialist camp. El

Salvador is on the verge of falling and Guatemala appears to be next on the list.

While the United States cut its military forces back to the bone and rejected or delayed the development of sorely needed weapons systems, the Soviet Union has continued to go full bore toward its goal of developing overwhelming nuclear and conventional warfare capability.

Finally, the Soviet Union, in a blatant power grab, sent 100,000 of its own troops smashing into Afghanistan, where it is today conducting a war of colonialism of unparalleled savagery.

Only after that did Carter "drastically" alter his preconceptions of Soviet intentions. In riposte, Carter forced the American team to boycott the Moscow Olympics and sent out such notable opinion swayers as Muhammad Ali to get the rest of the world to go along with the boycott.

I suspect that the Afghan "freedom fighter," shivering at his cold and lonely post on a hilltop waiting to take on a column of Russian tanks with a bolt-action rifle, would prefer that Carter supply some weapons with punch instead of rhetoric and boycotts. While Carter flapped his jaws and America missed a summer's entertainment, the Soviet Union merrily bombed, napalmed and gassed Afghan men, women and children.

Russian exile Alexander Solzhenitsyn wrote: "The West simply does not want to believe that the time for sacrifices has arrived; it is simply unprepared for sacrifices. Men who go on trading right until the first salvo is fired are incapable of sacrificing so much as their commercial profits; they have not the wit to realize that their children will never enjoy these gains."

Carter's stated objective of tailoring America's relations based on the issue of human rights has been equally disastrous. While advocacy of human rights is a hell of a fine goal, blind devotion to that issue is not identical with the pursuit of world order.

BY definition, the issue of human rights breeds confrontation, because America's interpretation of "human rights" does not necessarily apply in Brazil, in Afghanistan, in Cambodia or in Russia. Carter's attempt to define "human rights" for the rest of the world smacked of American hubris to many from the very beginning.

By tying his foreign policy to that issue, Carter created a credibility problem for himself. He was

"WHY waltz when you can rock 'n' roll?" Teases an ad for the "auto-sear" full-automatic AR-15 conversion devices. For those who do not read such ads, the auto-sear allegedly is "...today's practical approach to converting the AR-15 rifle into its selective-fire cousin — the M16." Rock 'n' roll, perhaps, but it's likely to be *Jailhouse Rock*, as the slammer is exactly where one could wind up by creating his own machine gun without authorization — in advance — from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms:

Another auto-sear ad hedges: "Further processing of these products may require BATF approval." That's something like saying, "The lady may be pregnant — but just a little bit." The truth is that failure to secure prior approval to convert an AR-15 to selective-fire capability is in fact — not "may be" — a federal felony.

A statement asserting that setting fire to a neighbor's house might place one in violation of local and state laws would be equally informative.

Whether one agrees or disagrees with the enforcement practices of BATF or constitutionality of the 1968 Gun Control Act is immaterial. The purpose of this article is not to debate issues which have been covered elsewhere. The problem we are dealing with is that a great many people do not understand the serious exposure to federal felony prosecution they face when buying an "auto-sear," and converting an otherwise legal firearm into contraband.

Legal Technicalities That Count

Most people logically assume that if the manufacturers of these neat little parts can advertise and sell them openly, they must be legal.

And they are. It's legal to manufacture, advertise and sell the auto-sear devices. It is also legal to buy and own one, or several.

Then why the concern? The ads, in one way or another, all point out that it's necessary to replace the hammer, trigger, disconnect, bolt carrier and selector to achieve selective-fire capability. While all the M16 internal parts are available from various sources, none of the auto-sear merchants offer the complete package. To understand why, it's necessary to examine the legal definition of the term "machine gun," as outlined in 27CFR Part 178.11, **Subpart B** — Definitions:

"Machine Gun: Any weapon which shoots, is designed to shoot, or can be readily restored to shoot automatically more than one shot, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger. The term shall also include the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any combination of parts designed and intended for use in converting a weapon into a machine gun, and any combination of

DANGEROUS CONVERSION

Auto-Sears and the Law

by Rick L. Fines

parts from which a machine gun can be assembled if such parts are under the control of a person [emphasis added]."

Now one understands why some auto-sear merchants offer cutesy T-shirts proclaiming that the wearer is into "Full-Auto Fun," but none of them offer to sell a sack of pieces which would complete a full-auto conversion. That would place them in the same category as if they sold complete, illegal, unregistered M16 rifles. They leave the risk to their customers.

No Rifle Needed

Legal exposure to felony prosecution comes with ownership of both an auto-sear and the other internal parts necessary to make the conversion. Note that it is not necessary to own a rifle to be guilty of possessing a machine gun as defined.

As a matter of historical note, this section of the law predates the auto-sear by several years. In times past, the military M1 carbine was a popular, inexpensive rifle. If an individual had access to a handful of M2 carbine internal parts, it was a matter of a few minutes to convert a legal, M1 semiautomatic carbine to a selective-fire M2 carbine. If the conversion was not documented, the converted weapon became instant contraband, and its owner a felon waiting to be discovered.

There was a time when people who should have had better things to do with their spare time did a brisk business in M2 "kits." As a result, the definition of "machine gun" was expanded to include assortments of conversion parts.

Let's say, for the sake of discussion, that someone owns an AR-15 and has replaced its internal parts with M16 components, but no auto-sear is present. Does he have a legal problem? Yes. With an M16 selector in place, as well as the balance of the M16 internal parts, the full-auto-fire position may be selected. The hammer will not function in proper full-auto fashion, but will follow the bolt home to battery in a "slam-fire" mode. The rifle will function erratically and unreliably. But remember the definition — all BATF must do is to show that two

shots may be fired with one pull of the trigger. Even if soft primers and 17 tries are required to get this abortion to double, its owner would have to get used to sleeping away from home for awhile, learn to like institutional food and enjoy making new acquaintances.

It might seem that I'm picking on Colt's AR-15, but such is not the intention. Some auto-sear purveyors are now getting into the act by offering conversion parts for Heckler & Koch HK91/93 semiautomatic rifles. The situation is a bit different with the H&Ks, in that the only part necessary to make the conversion operate is the piece they sell you.

Buyer Beware

Isn't that illegal? Doesn't that mean they are selling a "kit"? The answer is no. The catch is that after the part is purchased, it's necessary to do some "machine work" on the rifle to make it fire selectively. It's legal to sell the part, and to describe how to butcher the \$500 rifle to accommodate it. As soon as the butchering is accomplished, the possessor is in violation of the law. As a matter of additional interest, John Bressemer of Heckler & Koch points out that any warranty or service responsibility H&K might have assumed is out the window the minute any part not of H&K manufacture is inserted in a rifle, or if any amateur attempt at surgery is made on its innards. Give that some thought before wielding a Dremel tool and file on an HK91.

Snitches

The next logical question might relate to how "they" know someone modified a rifle. As a hypothetical example, let's assume that one of the auto-sear manufacturers has an employee with a "friend" at BATF, or more likely that the shipping clerk might be a snitch. (Do not be surprised that snitches exist. All agencies from the smallest local P.D. to the very largest use them.) If BATF comes up with a suspect, and can contrive some

reason to visit him, he may expect an authoritative rap on the door.

Another method used in recent incidents relates to the sale of torched and "unserviceable" MAC-10 submachine guns. BATF approved sale of the trashed guns, then changed its mind after the guns were sold. The agency demanded UPS shipping records from the seller, then went to the buyers and requested the guns.

One auto-sear merchant advertises that he does not ship by UPS but by mail, the inference being that there are no shipping records to examine. But even assuming that payment is by check or money order, the buyer should understand that bank records are even easier to examine than shipping records.

Stings

Stings, where a law-enforcement agency sets up a covert organization to attract or discover violations of the law by engaging in transactions with suspects, are the current rage among law-enforcement agencies. While it's hard to document an actual "sting" by BATF, it's hard to imagine why it would not use the technique.

It does not require a mental giant to deduce that most auto-sears sold are going to people who will use them — even if through honest ignorance — to put themselves on the wrong side of the legal fence. With that in mind, to presume that the BATF cannot come up with a company to sell auto-sears and a list of customers for them is to presume that the agents are stupid — which they are not.

BATF has been under considerable pressure from Congress in the recent past due to its well-documented abuses. Would it not make sense for BATF to establish an "auto-sear sting" to gather support from the press and public?

Let's take a look on the dark side and assume that an arrest is made for shooting a converted AR-15. BATF is about to bring a string of federal felony charges and the defendant has elected to "fight it." The best he can do is retain part-time counsel, for about \$100 per hour, who knows little more about firearms law than his client. He will probably charge around \$1,000 for a retainer and \$500 for each court appearance. BATF may, at no financial burden to itself, assign as many clerks, investigators and lawyers as it needs to assure a conviction. If one is very lucky, he will only lose the dollar equivalent of a new car and an expensive rifle, as well as risk his job and professional credentials. As a convicted felon, one cannot legally buy firearms again.

Who Pays?

If one wonders if there have been any convictions for auto-sear conversions, the answer is yes, a number of them.

There are a few logical reasons why someone may wish to file with BATF, pay
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the \$200 tax and proceed with a conversion legally. Inability to locate a legal M16 to buy could be one. However, remember that by the time one buys an AR-15, replaces most of the internal parts with M16 components and purchases an auto-sear, he has more money in the piece than had he bought an M16 in the first place.

Very few of us would knowingly be involved in kidnapping or bank robbery, but the innocent-sounding auto-sear ads endanger the buyer to a similar degree.

Federal grand juries, judges, prosecutors and prisons are the same for the convicted automatic-weapon owner as for a convicted federal felon of the worst sort.

Our intention is not to endorse the 1968 Gun Control Law, but to at least make certain that our readers are not sucked in by people or products that can set them up for a bust that could quite literally ruin their lives.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rick L. Fines, formerly editor of *Guns & Ammo Annual* and special projects editor of *Guns & Ammo*, is now an associate editor of Mel Tappan's *Personal Survival Letter*. His legal expertise comes from practical experience as a gun owner — he has held a California concealed-gun permit — and from research for the National Rifle Association, and he has written extensively on the subject of firearms law. He is also the proud possessor of a California destructive-device permit, one of the approximately 30 given out by that state. —M.L. Jones

GUN CONTROL

by SOF Staff

LAST month (see Congressional Charts, p. 36) we published the voting records of senators and representatives on key foreign-policy and defense issues to help our readers make choices in the November elections.

This month we address the issue of gun control. The SOF staff believes the best way to separate the good guys from the bad guys on the issue of gun control is to publish the names of the co-sponsors of the Volkmer-McClure Bill (H.R.5225/S. 1862), which would eliminate many of the worst provisions of the Gun Control Act of 1968.

SOF believes co-sponsors of the bill deserve your support. If the candidates from your area are not listed as co-sponsors on the list below, we suggest that you call their campaign headquarters and ask if they intend to co-sponsor the bill, or why they have not already done so.

Once you know where the candidates stand, then we suggest you spread the word through your gun club or, if you have the opportunity, pose the question of support for the bill when the candidate makes a public appearance.

The way for Americans to insure that their right to bear arms is protected is to elect candidates who support that principle.

Senate Co-sponsors

Sen. Frank Church, Idaho
Sen. Robert Dole, Kans.
Sen. John Durkin, N.H.
Sen. Thomas Eagleton, Mo.
Sen. Jake Garn, Utah
Sen. Barry Goldwater, Ariz.
Sen. Mike Gravel, Alaska
Sen. Ernest Hollings, S.C.
Sen. Roger Jepsen, Iowa

Sen. Paul Laxalt, Nev.
Sen. Patrick Leahy, Vt.
Sen. Warren Magnuson, Wash.
Sen. Bob Packwood, Oreg.
Sen. Richard Stone, Fla.

House Co-sponsors

Rep. Eugene Atkinson, Pa.
Rep. Donald Albosta, Mich.
Rep. John Ashbrook, Ohio
Rep. Les AuCoin, Oreg.
Rep. Robert Badham, Calif.
Rep. L.A. "Skip" Bafalis, Fla.
Rep. Donald Bailey, Pa.
Rep. Doug Barnard, Ga.
Rep. Robert Bauman, Md.
Rep. David Bowen, Miss.
Rep. James Broyhill, N.C.
Rep. Clair Burgener, Calif.
Rep. William Carney, N.Y.
Rep. Bill Chappell, Fla.
Rep. Richard Cheney, Wyo.
Rep. Don Clausen, Calif.
Rep. William Clinger, Pa.
Rep. James Collins, Tex.
Rep. Tom Corcoran, Ill.
Rep. James Courter, N.J.
Rep. Daniel Crane, Ill.
Rep. Philip Crane, Ill.
Rep. Dan Daniel, Va.
Rep. Robert Davis, Mich.
Rep. Joel Deckard, Ind.
Rep. E. de la Garza, Tex.
Rep. William Dickinson, Ala.
Rep. Robert Dornan, Calif.
Rep. John Duncan, Tenn.
Rep. Mickey Edwards, Okla.
Rep. David Emery, Maine
Rep. Glenn English, Okla.
Rep. Allen Ertel, Pa.
Rep. Billy Evans, Ga.

Continued on page 90

SHARPSHOOTING WITH CHAIRMAN JEFF

Toy Guns for Real Troops?

by Jeff Cooper



OUR era has been justifiably denigrated as "The Century of The Common Man." *Yrch!* In weaponry we might call its second half "The Age of The Machine Pistol" — equally true and equally depressing. The machine pistol (the "sub-machine gun") — so often egregiously miscalled "machine gun" by the police — is the ubiquitous small arm of the current scene, quite appropriate in a time of massive mediocrity and ineptitude.

It is my profound conviction, based upon a great deal of experience with it, that the MP is a silly weapon — clumsy, wasteful, puny for its bulk, prone to run dry at the most inconvenient moment and a source of frequently lethal overconfidence. This is currently a minority view, but that may be more of a credit than a debit. In specialized disciplines the majority view is almost automatically wrong.

Enchanting Toy

For those who can afford its extravagant appetite the MP is an enchanting toy. In firing so many rounds through a wide selection of these pieces that I am embarrassed to think about it, my range work was enormous fun. (Imagine being paid to demonstrate with taxpayers' ammunition! Something like being a skibum.) The MP makes a glamorous racket; it is hard for a novice to control but a

cinch for an adept shooter and it makes a brave show — in short, it is made to order for a "snow job."

But it hits no harder than its cartridge, which is most often the 9mm Parabellum, of dubious repute and, even when it is the .45 ACP, almost nothing is accomplished that cannot be done as well with a handgun.

There are situations in which the MP can be a serious weapon, but they are very rare. "Housecleaning" — a military euphemism for interrupting a staff conference and totalling the conferees — is better done with a MP than almost anything else. Point response to a badly planned ambush is often best handled with the squirt gun. But these are very particular sorts of actions, in no sense common enough to justify the procurement of a specialized weapon which is good for little else.

As I write this I have just returned from a consultation in one of the world's teeming hotspots. The many MPs in evidence when I appeared gradually vanished as operations got more businesslike. The word became: "For defense, the pistol. For attack, the rifle. For showing off and using up ammunition, the submachine gun."

On my return, a new client with much experience in Sir Gerald Templar's Malaya told me that his people had used

many MPs — Stens, Austens, Owens and Stirlings — and that their doctrine was: "Always semiauto, and always from the shoulder!"

I asked him why, in that case, a rifle would not have been better. He answered that it would indeed have been much better, but that MPs were available and there were not enough rifles to replace all of them.

Good Troops Use Rifles

One might argue: "But a rifle kicks! And a pistol is too hard to use well!" Just so. If we are stuck with third-rate troops, the MP may be what we want, and that is the point. It is not impossible to come by good troops, though it is certainly becoming more difficult. The U.S. "Uniform Code of Military Justice" (UCMJ) is more of an obstacle to a good military establishment than even our current "volunteer army" policy.

Until both these things are changed we are unlikely to produce good troops. It is not that we are lesser men than our fathers, but that we are, as a political entity, not serious about our future. Americans make marvelous soldiers, as the world has seen, but on a basis different from today's. We can be taught to use good weapons expertly, but probably not just now. For the present, a slob's tool may be all we can manage, but that condition is not beyond correction.

The MP, by definition, shoots a pistol cartridge, which is necessarily underpowered since handguns are too small and light to handle anything more. Handguns (usually) do their primary job — providing instantaneous disabling response to unexpected close attack — very well. However, if one is to go armed in expectation of big trouble, he wants more power than any pistol can provide. If he is ready to pack around anything as cumbersome as a MP, he certainly wants something that hits harder than a 9mm P — or a .45 ACP. This is why the Germans came up with the MP-44, which was not a machine pistol at all but what we now term a "battle carbine," as exemplified by both the Kalashnikov family and the dismal American M16.

The battle carbines are hybrids — neither rifles nor pistols — and while they are universally used by the major powers today, we may note wryly that the Afghans sell the Kalashnikovs they loot from the invaders and keep on killing them with real rifles, which are, in the right hands, much better tools for the task.

Burst vs. Accuracy

Some may feel that the big thing about the MP is its burst effect, and we will admit that a burst of eight or 10 rounds of 9mm P in the region of the wishbone will do a decisive job. But two rounds of .45 ACP similarly placed, will do it every bit

as well with less fuss. So will *one* round of .308 delivered from way beyond the range of any MP, or of any battle carbine.

I have talked to people who have used this hose-down technique with the MP and seemed rather pleased with themselves. They were somewhat crestfallen when asked why they didn't just fire twice, carefully, with a pistol.

The great majority of MPs are "slam shooters" — they fire from an open bolt and chamber with a disturbing clank that is of no help to good placement. Thus, even in the semiautomatic mode, they are difficult to use with precision. It may be true that precision usually does not matter in modern fighting (remember we are in The Century of The Common Man), but there are still cases in which it might, and it seems orchish to dismiss it altogether. (The MP-5 from Heckler & Koch fires from a closed bolt and is thus the only current MP that permits shooting-gallery finesse. It risks "cook-offs" in sustained action, but sustained action with a MP is a gloomy prospect at best.)

In a recent training operation we were conducting a version of the venerable FBI duel, with MPs. The students naturally could not draw, so it was not a "Walk 'n' Draw," but the principle was the same — starting cocked-and-locked at high port. Advancing side-by-side from 30 meters, the two duellists reached a tie, two points apiece, at around 12 meters.

For the deciding point I let them close right up to where the need for speed seemed overwhelming — and blew the whistle. Both men were using M-3s and each had reloaded after the last point, with 20 rounds available. Such a clatter you would not believe! But no hits. The man on the left went dry, dropped his grease gun, stroked his .45 and won with one center hit. Consternation!

It is easy to say that with more or better training on the MP that could not have happened. Perhaps, but why bother perfecting one's technique just for its own sake? To what end? The blow is the same.

MP Duel

This is just an echo of the early days of the Modern Technique, when I was working for another chief of state. On the final day of training, the great man dropped by in person, accompanied by two henchmen carrying MPs. We set up a demonstration to show how much his boys had learned, and he seemed impressed.

As a finale, I matched the best of the pistol class against the better of the two MP men (as selected by the President). They were placed at 15 meters and given six silhouettes apiece; the pistolero holstered in Condition One and the squirt gunner cocked-and-locked at port arms. On the whistle, the handgunner placed six nicely centered hits in about nine seconds. The MP went dry in 12, having hit one target four times, two others once (with one edger) and missing the other three.



SF sergeant fires STEN 9mm SMG on practice range.

The President thereupon asked if I could train his MP people as well as his handgunners. I said that I certainly could, but that it would take some 2,000 rounds per man instead of 400, and that the tactical effect would be about the same. "Because, Your Excellency, the two weapons strike the same blow."

Tactical efficiency aside, there is the matter of false confidence. Hand a duffer a MP and he suddenly thinks he is an assault brigade. He's got a *machine gun*, man, and look out for him! (We codgers recall Jimmy Cagney demonstrating this in *The Public Enemy*, back in 1492 — or was it 1066?) He shoots too soon, he shoots too fast and he shoots too much. And he often gets himself killed, if his antagonist is dangerous. For this reason, I much prefer that my enemies, if they have any firearms at all, have machine pistols. With a rusty old Mauser a man knows he has to hold and squeeze. With a nice new Uzi he feels that all he has to do is spray.

Spraying Skill

A man can become highly skilled with a squirt gun. In those dear dead days when I had access to warehouses full of ammunition, I used to put on some pretty fascinating shows for the front-office types. This is not to brag — anybody could do the same in the same circumstances — but only to establish that it is not personal incompetence that causes my negative view of the weapon.

There is a place for the expert squirt gunner in the special forces, and you may believe that if our leaders would unleash some of our young lions upon the creeps who find joy in brutalizing unarmed hostages, the machine pistol would probably play a useful role in the festivities. It would, however, be a very specialized role, and even then it would not actually be necessary. Even in those rare situations where the MP is indeed the best arm for the job, it is only slightly ahead of a good pistol, in good hands — and it can never be handy.

Fully automatic fire can be fearfully effective — off a tripod or a vehicular bracket. An honest-to-god *machine gun*, shooting a full-size rifle cartridge and handled by a team of experts, can win battles — not just fights. But *handheld* automatic fire is generally a drag. It is great fun, but to be taken seriously only if fun is the object of the exercise.

"Is everybody on semi?"

My son-in-law tells of his unit's policy on night-guard alarms. The phone to response center rings:

"Lootenant!"

"Yes?"

"We got a problem!"

"Is everybody on semiauto?"

"Sheese, Lootenant, the gooks are through the wire!"

"I said, 'Is everybody on semi?'"

"I dunno."

"Find out!"

"Lootenant, everybody is on semi."

"Okay. Now what's your problem?"

I think perhaps the nicest thing about fully automatic handheld weapons is the way they fascinate our BATmen. Our local sociopaths would be much more dangerous if they stuck strictly to aimed fire, but it's not for a bureaucrat to reason why, only to pry and spy. As long as he concentrates on *machine guns* (!!?) he has that much less time to harass our marksmen. Much as I like to play with automatic weapons, I am quite willing to fling them out of the sleigh if it *will do any* good. Whether it actually will or not remains to be seen.



UPWARD BOUND

Navy Medics Learn Mountain Survival



A-Team stands on Mt. Elbert's summit. Back row, left to right: Rich Thacker and Brian Sliva, USN, 1st Marine Division; Marshall Lubin, USN, SEAL Team One; John Mason, USN, SEAL Team Two. Front row: David Sweet, Robin Soper, Dennis Hogan, COBS instructors.





TOP: Mt. Elbert looms 10 miles in distance. A-Team conquered peak on second try. **ABOVE:** Day 6: Evacuation of injured corpsman on sled improvised from pack frames and snowshoes taught dangers of hostile winter environment. Two other corpsmen suffered first-stage hypothermia before reaching Camp Hale. X-rays showed injured man's ankle was sprained, not broken. **RIGHT:** At day's end, tired corpsman melts snow for water before cooking supper.

Article and Photos by Bill L. Boggs

As Assistant Director of the Operational Medicine Department, Naval Health Sciences Education Training Command, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md., it was my responsibility to evaluate the ability of the U.S. Navy Medical Department to support the U.S. Marine Corps Combat Units in cold-weather warfare.

After careful evaluation of all current training programs within all branches of the uniformed services, and after participation in a joint-readiness exercise at Fort Drum, N.Y. (Empire Glacier), it became evident that the training of U.S. Navy Corpsmen assigned to U.S. Marine Corps units was inadequate.

THE United States' latest conflict tested jungle warfare skills. Its last and most devastating encounter with the cold came in Korea — during the early part of that war. While Special Forces and SEAL teams are well trained in cold-weather operations, their training programs are not generally available to line units, nor are they scheduled so as to allow mass participation — a real problem. The solution I found was unconventional but proved successful. I contacted Rear Admiral Ben Eiseman, USNR, a Denver, Colo., physician and a member of the board of directors for the Colorado Outward Bound School. After a review of the program's capabilities, I felt we could modify its existing program to meet the needs of the Navy Medical Department and other units within the Navy and Marine Corps requiring cold-weather and high-altitude survival training.

Colorado Base Camp

The decision to use the Colorado Outward Bound School (COBS) was based on the obvious skills of the staff in operating and teaching survival in winter and high-altitude environments. The school was already in existence — we did not have to re-invent the wheel — and the location certainly provided a challenging set of obstacles.

Day One — we arrived at COBS headquarters at 0800 1 December 1978. From 0800 until 0900 we met the course instructor and COBS staff. For this course there were two instructors and one course director. At 0900, we loaded our equipment into COBS vans and headed for Leadville, Colo., the site of the COBS Mountain Center and our base camp for the course.

The facility used to house the students was less than two years old and similar to the barracks most sailors live in during basic training. The quarters are maintained by the students and all meals are prepared by them, including clean-up and dishwashing.

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Icy Lesson

It was made clear to everyone that smoking in the quarters would not be tolerated, and one individual unwilling to comply was doused with five gallons of ice water.

After lunch, equipment was issued.

Each student received:

- 1 fiber-filled jacket.
- 1 60/40 parka for wind protection.
- 1 down bag.
- 1 fiber-fill outer bag.
- 1 GI canteen cup.
- 1 GI spoon.
- 1 pair nylon wind pants.
- 1 pack and frame.
- 1 set gaiters.
- 3 avalanche probes.
- 2 snowshoes.
- 1 ski pole.
- 2 12-ft. lengths 1-in. nylon webbing.
- 1 avalanche cord.
- 1 matchesafe and matches.
- 1 stove per tent team (Optimus 11B).
- 1 cook set per tent team.
- 1 nylon ground cloth (sole tarp).
- 1 nylon tent fly and poles.
- 1 fuel bottle.

After fitting the equipment, we had to run one to two miles, each individual setting his own pace. Each day while in base camp we were required to run and "leap the wall." The "wall" was a 13-foot vertical obstacle requiring team participation to cross. It also required a good deal of physical effort.

Clothing Layers and Body Heat

After supper, the course instructors held a panel discussion to outline the purpose of the course and answer questions. After the discussion, the staff gave a pretest to assess exactly where we were in terms of medical knowledge.

Dennis Hogan, the course director, briefly lectured on clothing fabrics and the layering principle to hold body heat. He then demonstrated equipment use; the pack was the focal point because it required adjustment for individual body build.

As the course progressed, we remembered the information concerning clothing and, as a result, we maintained proper ventilation and had few cases of overheating.

At evening's end the class was divided into two groups according to physical build and estimated physical ability. I chose the slow group since the greatest potential for trouble came with it. If there were physical injuries or morale problems, I wanted to be close by.

It was obvious that many of these people were in poor physical condition. The single factor common to all was overweight compounded by lack of stamina. As a whole, however, the class was willing

and ready. Only a few expressed apprehension about what lay ahead.

Day Two — began with a demonstration of proper snowshoe technique. After a brief familiarization, each group received a McKinley four-man tent with fly, stove and snow saw. We spent the day walking on snowshoes, selecting and preparing a campsite — packing the snow by tramping over it on snowshoes, cutting snow blocks, erecting tents — and learning to handle fuels safely. We spent some time constructing improvised shelters — igloos and snow caves, both considerably more comfortable than tents. With one candle, the interior temperature will rise to around 40 degrees, with no wind noise to interrupt sleep.

Avalanche Training

We spent the evening learning about avalanche safety, probing techniques, recognition of danger zones and rescue methods. Audio-visual aids produced by the National Forest Service showed us the impact of careless back-country travel. We were reminded of the importance of the avalanche problem to the 10th Mountain Division in Italy during WWII. The Germans used avalanche slopes to slow American efforts. All facets of avalanche safety were covered in depth — from snow characteristics and temperature variables to slope-containment factors.

Day Three — we spent the early morning in simulated avalanche rescue and search discipline. At 0900 Dr. Bruce Paton, acting dean of the Colorado School of Medicine, and Dr. Glen Kelly, head of the Division of Vascular Surgery, Denver General Hospital, gave presentations on treatment and prevention of cold injuries.

Food For A Field Trip

After a long jogging session and supper, we began to prepare for the field exercise. Our main concern was selection and packaging of food for a seven-day expedition. We had to choose between fresh and dehydrated food. The instructors briefed us on nutrition and preparation, but actual selection of food items and quantity was left to each group.

Instructors gave us a certain amount of decision-making responsibility. But even the simple chore of loading field packs was beyond some of the corpsmen and, as a result, pack adjustment and baggage placement became critical factors in preparing the group for the field.

Day Four — at noon we were dropped 20 miles northwest of Leadville, Colo., at Camp Hale. (The 10th Mountain Division trained here for service in Italy during WWII. All that remains of the former military installation are a few building foundations and rutted roadways.)

Our objective for the next seven days would be to climb a WWII jeep trail out

of Camp Hale up to Ptarmigan Pass (12,500 ft.); bivouac at the pass and climb Jock Peak (13,890 ft.); from there, traverse the ridge line of the Chalk Mountains for 12 miles to Kokomo Creek, then travel down it to the main highway for pickup. Total distance — 28 miles. Time out — seven to eight days.

Winds And Blinding Snow

As we started up the jeep road from Camp Hale and gained altitude, the weather turned hostile. Strong winds blew and temperatures dropped. A blinding snowstorm reduced visibility to 25 yards. We progressed slowly until 1630. As darkness fell, we stopped to build shelters and cook a hot meal. Due to the group's inexperience, shelters went up slowly; supper was even slower.

Everyone's patience and physical endurance wore thin during the lengthy process of site preparation and shelter building. We had to tie tent lines whether we had gloves or not — a slow process. Three hours later, shelters were up and supper was ready. The temperature dropped to minus 20 degrees with a gusting 30-knot wind. Chill sent us all to our sleeping bags. Around midnight one shelter blew down, exposing its inhabitants to the elements. They shuffled quickly into the other two shelters. We had not brought tents because of their weight, but had relied on tent flies and snow shelters.

Day Five — we fought the still-raging storm to reach the pass. On the way up, we stopped several times to identify potential avalanche hazards.

Near The Pass

Both groups moved to within one-half mile of the pass by 1600. The high temperature during the day was minus 8 degrees. By 1600 it had dropped to a low of minus 28 degrees. With 39 inches of snow on the ground, it was bitterly cold and difficult to walk.

We found a heavy stand of Ponderosa pine in which to set up camp. Although weary, we began to pack snow for the campsite and start supper. An hour later, we had a consolidated base of 18 inches from which to cut snow blocks for use as wind breaks and for complete shelter construction.

Medevac Toboggan

Day Six — overnight the storm had dropped about 10 inches of new powder. Just after we had finished breakfast, the instructor of Group Two walked into camp, requesting assistance. One of his corpsmen had twisted his ankle while breaking camp, and the senior corpsman with the group believed it was broken. It was clear the injured corpsman could not walk out — he would have to be evacu-

ated by sled. (Later, X-rays at Leadville diagnosed the injury as a severe sprain.)

We improvised a sled, using two pack frames, snowshoes and a roll-a-boggin. Climbing rope was converted into a harness. With eight men pulling and one staying in the rear to stabilize the sled downhill, the procession to Camp Hale began. The snowfall was so heavy that the trip took 6½ hours.

The two SEALs carried the injured man's pack and supplies. I took three of the strongest corpsmen and broke trail. We moved a mile ahead, dropped our packs, hiked back to the group as it moved forward and relieved those pulling the sled. Again, as the short day ended, the temperature began to plunge. The strain of pulling the sled, breaking trail and coping with the elements began to show. But we were nearing Camp Hale.

Hypothermia

One of the corpsmen, a tall slender fellow, showed the first signs of hypothermia. After a period of stumbling and falling, he began shivering violently and then collapsed. He was carried the remaining distance to Camp Hale. (I later found out that two other men had also displayed hypothermia symptoms.) One of the instructors moved quickly ahead of the main group with enough equipment to set up a warming shelter at Camp Hale — a wise decision.

Once into Hale and inside the warming tent, with stoves blazing and pots filled with boiling soups and tea, recovery was just a matter of time.

The group's mood was solemn. That day proved beyond anyone's doubt that this environment could and would kill the unprepared. That night the low was minus 30 degrees.

Day Seven — morning dawned clear and cold. By noon the injured corpsman was evacuated and taken to the Leadville Clinic. The hypothermia cases were fit enough to travel.

The strain of the evacuation took its toll, and by day's end it was evident that many were considering giving up. The instructor's strong leadership kept stragglers moving and motivated enough to complete the trip. In the cold, leaders must be ready and able to exercise their authority; units fail quickly under stress.

Back To Base Camp

At Camp Hale, we decided to return to base camp at Leadville to regroup. By 1500 we were in quarters — drying equipment and licking our wounds. Everyone went about correcting mistakes of the past few days. Packs were adjusted, unused items discarded and equipment given close scrutiny so as to maximize utility. We evaluated the evacuation procedure.

I met with the staff to determine our next course of action. The course director

decided we would go back to the field after two days' rest, but with a different objective: to climb Mt. Elbert, the highest point in Colorado (14,431 ft.) and the second highest in the country. Only Mt. Whitney is higher.

Levels of Fitness

Our class had individuals of varying physical abilities. The majority of the corpsmen were in poor physical condition, making running the course difficult. To satisfy each member and to keep the content and structure close to a format that could be adapted to a military situation, we were divided into three teams.

"A" team, the primary assault team with the fittest and most capable people, would lead the assault on the peak, taking the most difficult route. "A" team consisted of one instructor, two SEALs, two corpsmen from Camp Pendleton and me.

"B" team would follow "A" team to timberline. If "A" team encountered any problems, "B" team would take a less difficult route to the summit. Its members had less strength and endurance, but were still capable of making it.

"C" team — with no chance of a summit climb and no real desire — would stay in a Forest Service cabin some 2½ miles below timberline at Mt. Elbert's base. This team was the safety measure in case of emergency. It kept a good supply of hot soup and tea ready. During the day, while the other teams moved to the summit, its members built snow shelters and patrolled the general area. Everyone kept busy.

Avalanche Tracks

Day Eight — "A" team left base camp at 0600. By 1100 we were at the Forest Service cabin. After a lunch break we headed for timberline at 11,000 feet — the kick-off point for the peak assault. We climbed steadily upward all afternoon toward timberline. When we reached a shelf above the valley, we found our way blocked by avalanche tracks and unstable snow. Each step was set, then followed by the "whumpf" sound of snow settling 30-40 feet away, a nerve-racking experience on a 40-degree slope. The climb to this shelf was by far the most demanding task yet required of us. The snow measured 41 inches. Breaking trail for more than 10 minutes at a time was as hard a physical activity as can be imagined.

We spent the night on the shelf in relative safety. The view was magnificent.

Day Nine — after consulting maps and deciding on a more gradual approach to timberline, we descended to the base of the mountain for another try. Our low spirits, due to expended effort and the waste of the previous afternoon, lifted when we found a clear path to timberline.

By 1400 we reached it (11,500 feet). Winds picked up to 20 knots with a temperature of minus 10 degrees. We made every effort to erect a stable base camp, capable of enduring what threatened to be a severe storm. Heavy clouds began to fill the sky with a light wind-driven snow. We prepared a hot meal inside the shelter. By 1900 we were sound asleep in our bags.

Clear, Crisp Weather

Day Ten — not a cloud in view. A pure blue sky reigned. We saw no sign of the "B" team. (We discovered it had lost our trail and turned back to the Forest Service cabin to spend the night.) At 0800, in clear, crisp weather, we started for the top. As a safety precaution, we took along a pack containing one stove, food, hot-drink mix and one sleeping bag.

In summer, Mt. Elbert is a difficult-to-horrendous climb, depending on the approach. In winter there is no easy way up. Ice, snow and high winds make it treacherous. The weather is unpredictable, so you must move decisively. We climbed in Mickey-Mouse boots with poor grip. Now we were rewarded for the effort spent in our running sessions in Leadville — good preparation for overcoming the steep climb and the altitude.

Jet Stream Winds

The climb, although difficult, was uneventful, with only one moment of panic for me. Going up, we moved into the jet stream. The gusts were strong enough to push me away from the rock face to which I clung tenaciously. As the wind howled, my legs trembled and my heart raced, but we pushed steadily forward.

We reached the summit after 3½ hours. But the view from the top made it all worthwhile. The time and discomfort spent climbing were forgotten. Without a doubt, that climb is the high point in my life.

At 1200 we started down, reached timberline and broke camp. At 2130 we arrived — exhausted. My feet were in such bad shape that I could not wear shoes for two days. I hopped around in wool socks. Finally, I was able to wear my running shoes for the return trip to Denver. The problem: blisters over the entire ball of each foot and a case of "immersion foot."

Day Eleven — the COBS staff debriefed us, and we turned in equipment. That night we had a steak dinner and an awards ceremony.

Summary

The greatest problem of the course was a lack of physical fitness on the part of Navy personnel, both officer and enlisted. Of the 17 course participants, only five were capable of the peak climb.

What would have happened had this group been under fire in combat in an arctic environment? Since these corpsmen were Fleet Marine Force units, physical conditioning should have been a critical requirement in their job performance. Nevertheless, from a medical-training viewpoint, the course was a success; we met all of the pre-course objectives.

The pre-exercise lectures by Drs. Paton and Kelly were well received. Their content adequately prepared corpsmen to handle the environment. Course critiques spoke highly of both men. They are capable winter climbers and they spoke with the authority of experience.

The medical evacuation was real, creating a central purpose to which everyone committed himself. It was rewarding to see the majority of the group work closely as a team to bring the casualty down and devote so much care to the hypothermia victims. This learning experience went beyond what I had expected. I feel confident that everyone left the field with firm knowledge on which to base instruction of other FMF associates. It is conceivable that a good deal of sound training will transpire at Ft. Drum and in

Alaska during this winter-exercise cycle.

After completion of the COBS course, I spent several days at COBS Headquarters and at Denver General Hospital putting together a similar course for Navy physicians — to be conducted on skis.

Cold Weather Medicine = Prevention

The primary lesson to be learned from any cold-weather-medicine course is prevention. It took all the course participants to evacuate the casualty. If two to three had been seriously injured in the same location, a serious problem would have confronted us.

No classroom experience can teach the practical elements of survival under hostile winter conditions. The problems of dehydration, "immersion foot" and fatigue are better dealt with when all the contributory factors are experienced firsthand. Experience teaches but, more importantly, it adds credibility to the individual who must teach others.

Despite the troop's physical condition, they remained loyal to the course. All worked hard and their reactions reflect positively on the Navy. No one quit or gave up when the going got rough. All felt they benefited from the course.

Survival training must be long enough to deal with all physiological problems that might arise. It must introduce that element of stress that could crush unit effectiveness when not checked. Stress was introduced in this course by putting us in an alien, hostile environment where we confronted demanding objectives.

Climbing expeditions are in many ways analogous to small-unit military operations. This learning experience can be applied directly, practically and philosophically to FMF operations. This particular group of enlisted men handled stress very well. With cooperation a necessity, personal differences were put aside. It was evident that individual survival depended upon group survival. This cooperation was in the best tradition of the Navy. It is gratifying that the Navy remains an adventure, not just another job.

Associate Editor N.E. MacDougald instructed at Outward Bound's Mountain School, Loitokitok (at the base of Kilimanjaro), Kenya, in 1970. He supports Outward Bound's philosophy and recommends it highly.



A-Team's first attempt to climb Mt. Elbert ended at base camp on this shelf. Avalanche potential from steep slopes caused retreat.



PARTING SHOTS

How To Make One Round Count

by Ken L. Pence.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

"Thanks for the promotion," Ken L. Pence told us after receiving his June '80 copy of SOF. "I appreciate the title." Pence made his debut as an SOF author with "A Matter of Life," an article on soft body armor, in that issue.

To set the record straight, Pence is a police officer in the Metropolitan Nashville, Tenn., Police Department, a firearms and defensive-tactics instructor at Nashville's Metro Police Academy and the point man for the department's Metro Unusual Situation Team (SWAT). "I'm not a lieutenant yet," he said.

"Parting Shots" further demonstrates the author's sensible, how-to approach to police problems. We've scheduled a third article, "Poking Fun," a look at the body's weak points, for a future issue of SOF, in which Pence's third-degree black-belt rating in Tae Kwon Do and his police experience provide a brief manual of streetworthy tricks for putting an opponent down.

Pence would like to thank John Ross (head of MUST, Nashville Metro SWAT team), who was his photographer for "Parting Shots" and "A Matter of Life".
—M.L. Jones

AS an experienced combat soldier, police officer or armed citizen, you may have seen someone shot. You may have shot someone yourself. You may have shot many subjects with many weapons. In each instance, the physique, mental state and footing of the subject play a role in the effectiveness of your hits. The location of the hit, angle of the hit and type of ammunition are also important.

If you are forced to shoot a hostage-taker who has a cocked revolver against a diplomat's head, where do you shoot him? If you say, "In the head," you are either naive or you do not like the diplomat. If you ask, "Where in the head should I shoot?" you are on the right track. The average soldier or policeman shoots at a subject's center-of-mass and hopes to hit something. This article covers the instance when you might have to place one shot where it's most effective.

If you want to keep subjects from reflexively pulling the trigger of their



First choice for no-reflex kill.

weapons as they die, there are four specific points to shoot for on the human head. All of these targets offer your bullet a pathway to the vital area. The objective is to cut the medulla oblongata (the widening of the spinal cord at the base of the brain). All rifles and most handguns, except the .25 caliber, are capable of the necessary penetration. (I have seen .25s stop after only cracking a tooth.) In order of preference the targets are: 1) into the open mouth toward the center of the skull; 2) straight into the rear of the head, where the skull meets the spine; 3) one-half inch to the rear and one inch down from the ear opening; 4) below the ridge between the eyes, at a downward angle.

If you have a .25 auto, it could still produce an instant kill on point No. 2 or if you shoot under the chin from the front at a slight upward angle toward the spine. Shooting to the temple or eye socket will usually kill a subject, but a dying reflex can be transmitted to a trigger finger, causing the gun to fire.



Target areas differ when you face a one-on-one immediate confrontation and have no time to pinpoint one shot. If a subject is rushing you with a knife and you have a handgun, his momentum can carry him into you even though your gunfire has rendered him medically dead. You can't take time in this instance to reliably fire to the head. Start firing at an area right above his crotch and below the "belly button" by a couple of inches. These rounds will usually sever the motor nerves

to the lower body. When that happens the subject almost always drops to his knees and/or bends forward. The arms will generally fly forward and out from the sides of the body.

A good shot placement toward the side of the subject's body is below his armpit, level with the breast. This shot will generally give a through-both-lungs-and-heart penetration. It is even effective with junky, lead, round-nose handgun rounds.

If you have orders simply to wound the

subject, hit him in the knee. The IRA has used this technique extensively, because the victims' "gimp" makes them visible reminders. If you have a long rifle and you have time to set up a shot, you can aim to the kneecap from the front, side or rear — all work well to down a subject.

Sadly, some European police have orders to shoot a subject only from the waist down. Crippling a man for life is not my idea of restricting police powers. And any time you aim at a subject's extremities you increase the danger to the general public.

No-reflex kill with weak-caliber .25 auto.



Shoot rushing subject in pelvic girdle to cut motor nerves.



Second choice for no-reflex kill — equal to first choice.



Third choice for no-reflex kill — in this case with head turned, aim 1/2 inch more toward rear of subject's head.



Fourth choice to cut medulla below eye ridge through skull's nasal opening. Here bullet has to traverse longest distance through brain.

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One little-used method is called skip fire. Though a whole thesis could be written on skip fire, basically it means that when a bullet strikes a hard surface, it flattens somewhat and ricochets at less of an angle than it was fired. An example would be when you are firing at a subject who is behind a vehicle. You simply aim in line with the subject and shoot the asphalt on the opposite side of the subject's vehicle. Your shot will hit the asphalt, flatten and pass under the car to hit the subject in the ankles. This will knock him down and then you can always fire another round.

Even buckshot will skip fire on hard surfaces, but is no substitute for a well-aimed shot. Choose your weapon. Shot placement with a shotgun is not meant to be like a rifle. Number-one buckshot out of a 20-inch shotgun has a shot spread of one inch for every yard from the target. Twenty-five yards gives a shot spread of 25 inches. You don't want to sacrifice a hostage when shooting a hostage-taker.

Points to Remember

- 1) Cut his brain stem or motor nerves — this is effective even on mentally deranged or heavily drugged subjects (four targets).
- 2) Cut the motor nerves in the pelvic girdle and he'll go down.
- 3) Hit the knee and he'll go down.
- 4) If carrying a weak-caliber round, a good place to shoot is under the chin in line with the spine to cut the spinal cord.
- 5) If you only have a .22 caliber long-rifle round, you can put a man down if you know where to hit (good penetration).
- 6) Heavier, faster rounds cause more nerve and tissue damage and you need not be as accurate (i.e., .308 versus a .22 or .45 versus a .38). Rounds faster than 1,969 fps cause explosive wounds.
- 7) Heavier, faster rounds are more forgiving when gristle or bone get in the way, because they can punch on through to the nerve center.
- 8) If you are a marginal shot, if it is dark, or if you are under fire, then center-of-mass shooting is the answer, though it isn't the panacea for all instances.
- 9) Skip fire is an effective way to hit the lower extremities and down the subject.
- 10) Even through-and-through hits are effective if they cut the motor nerves or lungs/heart.

If you lug a .50 caliber M85 around, you could hit a subject almost anywhere and do a good job. If your commander makes you carry anything in a smaller caliber, you'd better know how and exactly where to shoot.



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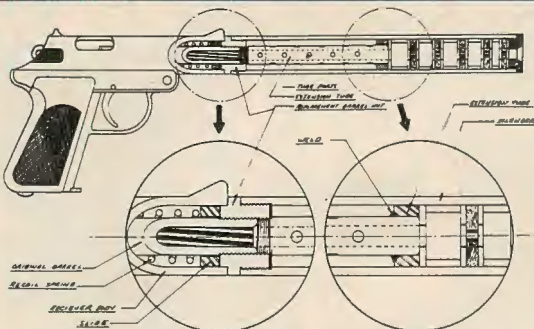
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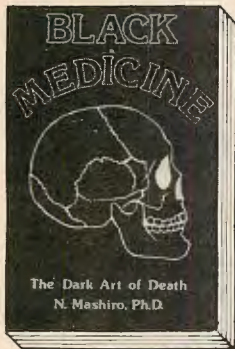
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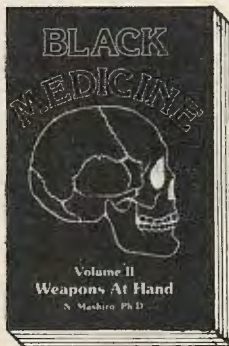
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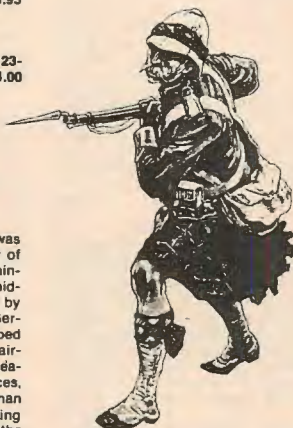
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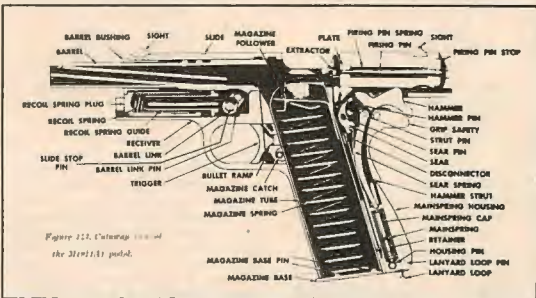
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Continued from page 6

GUNS AND YOUR VOTE ...

SOF is going to stop short of recommending a straight Republican vote in November's national elections — but just short. Why? Well, let's examine the firearms plank each party adopted at their recent conventions.

First the Republicans':

"We believe the right of citizens to keep and bear arms must be preserved. Accordingly, we oppose federal registration of firearms. Mandatory sentences for commission of armed felonies are the most effective means to deter abuse of this right. We, therefore, support congressional initiatives to remove those provisions of the Gun Control Act of 1968 that do not significantly impact on crime but serve rather to restrain the law-abiding citizen in his legitimate use of firearms." [Emphasis added.]

For the first time, a major political party is advocating not more, not the status quo, but less restrictive gun laws.

Contrast this with the Democrats', which states:

"The Democratic Party affirms the right of sportsmen to possess guns for purely hunting and target-shooting purposes. However, handguns intensify violent crime. Ways must be found to curtail the availability of these weapons. The Democratic Party supports enactment of federal legislation to strengthen the presently inadequate regulations over the manufacture, assembly and distribution of handguns and to ban Saturday Night Specials."

That makes it clear where the Democrats stand, as a party, on an issue critical to every SOFer. Before you vote for a Democrat, make damn sure you have it from him — in writing — that he disavows this plank in his party's platform which is, we think, a clear contradiction to the Second Amendment to the Constitution.

CORRECTION ...

In "Defense of the Draft," SOF November '80, p. 33, the third paragraph should say America has approximate nuclear parity with the Soviet Union — not military parity.

DEATH RAYS VS. SOLDIERS ...

Death-ray devices of laser or particle beams will soon make conventional military weapons obsolete, right?

Wrong.

Although both the U.S. and Soviet Union are working on such weapons,

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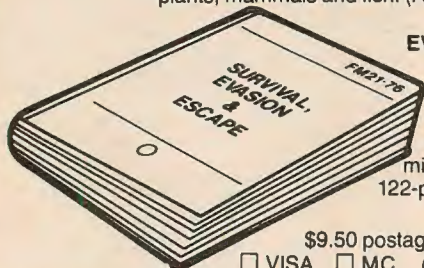
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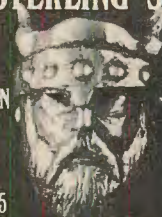
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they still have a lot of bugs to iron out of their beams.

The Star Wars-type weapons, still in the experimental stages, would project highly focused beams of light or energy over long distances to destroy a target by incinerating its communications gear, igniting fuel or detonating warheads.

Since the beams travel at the speed of light, they would be able to hit a target almost instantaneously after triggering. Thus they could destroy an approaching missile long before it arrived at its destination. U.S. pilots flying over North Vietnam would have loved this because it would have freed them from fear of SAMs.

But it's not quite time for Mr. Spock to replace Sgt. York.

For example, laser weapons must concentrate their beams on a single point of the target, so if they jitter from the vibration of their firing platforms they are rendered virtually useless.

And the potency of both kinds of weapons is seriously reduced in stormy weather because clouds and rain tend to absorb beamed energy.

So it looks like that gravel cruncher with his self-feeding, semiautomatic (or automatic) shoulder weapon will be around for a long time to come.

DIVERS GUIDE LAUNCHED ...

The Ziff-Davis Publishing Co. has released what it claims to be the first complete annual buyer's guide to the diving industry.

The 320-page manual covers sport-diving and commercial-diving manufacturers and distributors, and makers of underwater safety equipment.

The guide lists makes, model numbers and features of virtually all current types of equipment, as well as listing company addresses and contact personnel.

This volume is free to all military and paramilitary personnel involved in underwater operations or purchasing. Just send an appropriate business card or military letterhead to: Jon Blumenfeld, *Sport Diver* magazine, One Park Ave., Room 707, New York, NY 10016, or you can call (212) 725-3537.

NO GREEN BERET FOR HER ...

Relax, you present and former wearers of the Green Beanie: your macho-male image remains unchallenged, at least for the time being. The first woman to try it has flunked the field-exercise portion of the Special Forces school.

Capt. Kathleen Wilder, who failed to win her beret when 51 other members of her class graduated, complained that she had no real trouble with the course and that the

reason for her failing grade was sexual prejudice.

"The course itself was not all that difficult," she said. "The difficult part was all the stumbling blocks thrown in my path by the Special Forces school."

A spokesman for the school declined comment, saying the case might end up in court.

Some of her colleagues agreed with her and some did not.

Said one lieutenant, who declined to be identified: "She was poor on tactics. She just sat on her butt throughout most of the field problems and let someone else do her stuff for her. If there is one thing I learned, it's that I don't want to go into combat with a woman."

But a foreign officer who was in the class said he was surprised Wilder failed. "She did very well in the course, better than some of the men," he said.

NEW DESERT CAMMIES ...

As tensions continue to heat up in the Middle East, the Army has begun development of desert-warfare camouflage uniforms. Prototypes have a floppy-brimmed bush-style hat with jackets and trousers of a tan, brown and black cammi pattern. Also included is a lined, hooded parka. It gets cold in the desert at night.

The Pentagon had been fooling around with desert-gear patterns in the early 1960s but abandoned the project a few years later. There wasn't much desert in Vietnam.

The new uniforms are supposed to be handed out next year, first to the 82nd Airborne.

The Marines have had a desert-camouflage utility uniform for several years but it has never become part of general issue. Now it looks like it will.

TURNCOATS, TAKE NOTE ...

Former Rhodesian Army Commander Lt. Gen. Peter Walls stands accused of treason by black officials of what is now Zimbabwe.

Upon making the accusation in a special statement to Zimbabwe's parliament, Information Minister Nathan Shamuyarira added that any whites who "do not accept the new order should pack their bags now and go."

Walls stayed on after the election of former guerrilla leader Robert Mugabe as prime minister of Zimbabwe in order to aid integration of some 35,000 former guerrillas into the regular forces of Zimbabwe. He retired in July, saying the merger was going well. But since then he has angered the black government by saying he urged British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to declare the elec-

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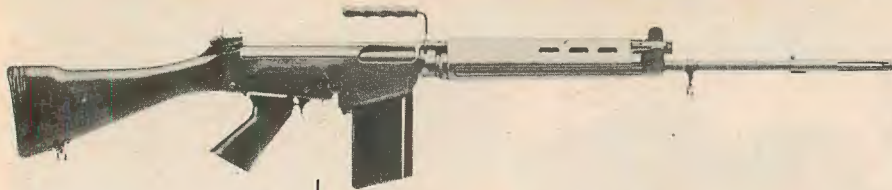
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tions null and void because of irregularities at the polls. Walls has also forecast a pessimistic future for the new nation.

Shamuyarira said Walls was implicated in a coup plot called "Operation Quartz" to seize power the day the election results were announced. Shamuyarira said Walls aborted the plan because Mugabe was "sweeping to victory at the polls."



IN REVIEW

Continued from page 15

Many readers have asked where we get the books we review. Many are forwarded to us directly from the publishers for review before publication or as soon as they are released. But many are chosen by our editors from lists they receive or see in ads. Because SOF readership is unique, we find ourselves looking in the lists of several book clubs for books we think our readers will find interesting and informative. The Military Book Club, Paladin Press, Desert Publications, Butokukai, Phoenix and the History Book Club's inventory of books comes close to the reading interests of SOF, and we are now turning more and more to the book lists of a relatively new organization: The Adventure Book Club.

Founded by men with close ties to the world of professional adventurers and those with military interests, the Adventure Book Club is making major efforts to locate and sell the types of books that appeal to the kind of people who read SOF. Although aimed primarily at the nonfiction market, the ABC will take "fiction" books based on fact — sometimes the only way to print certain stories about intelligence or clandestine operations around the world.

Only the best books from all publishers are used. ABC's high quality means some books on their lists are expensive, but they do discount as deeply as they can, resulting in overall savings for the book buyer. Since many of their books will become permanent reference works, the prices are better than reasonable.

ABC books cover mercenaries, military history, how-to-do-it in adventurous sports, martial arts and survival. Conversations with the managers of the Adventure Book Club disclosed that future selections will include some superb espionage books — Mossad histories and techniques among them. They also hope to offer *Firepower*, the controversial book about the Angola fiasco, as told by two of the mercs hired to fight for the FNLA forces.

In nonfiction and fiction, the managers of ABC strive to obtain those books which stress authenticity and usefulness. With a selection that ranges from histories to technical books to action sports, the

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able to browbeat some of America's allies into compliance on the issue, but for geopolitical reasons he found it necessary to exempt China. It is assumed that he hoped our foes and the non-aligned world would follow the West's example.

Protest, however, will still get you Siberia in Russia, death by drowning in a cesspool in Afghanistan, shot in the head in Cambodia or Vietnam, stoned to death in Iran and murdered in America. Just before Carter's brother Billy registered as an agent of the Libyan government, a Libyan opposed to the regime of Libya's Khaddafi was shot to death in Washington by alleged Libyan agents.

Which brings us to the preposterous people Carter has foisted off on America:

Andrew Young: Referred to the Cuban troops in Angola as a "steadying influence."

Cyrus Vance: Once said that Carter and Soviet President Brezhnev had "similar dreams and aspirations" about the world.

Paul Warnke: "Perhaps the principal lesson of the past decade is that military force is a singularly inept instrument of foreign policy."

Ramsey Clark: Rejected by Iran when Carter first sent him out to negotiate the hostage crisis, he came back on his own to participate in an Iranian-orchestrated conference.

Sol Linowitz and Ellsworth Bunker: Despite the fact that most Americans opposed it, they wrote the treaty that enabled Carter to give away the Panama Canal — and pay the Panamanians for taking it.

What Carter's people and Carter's policy have done has not yet destroyed America, but we are on the brink.

Our enemies wax brilliant, our friends are waning, the neutrals are nervous and the Third World nations have taken to twitting the "Sick Old Man Of The West."



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IN REVIEW

Continued from page 80

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—Dana K. Drenkowski

MINI-14

Continued from page 50

onstrator, full-metal-jacketed rounds entered the hood of a vehicle, penetrated the firewall, dashboard, front and back seats and exited from the trunk — not bad for a cartridge not specifically designed to penetrate well.

The Colt M16, AR-15 series of rifles are battle-proven, time-tested and accepted in police and security circles. Ruger has benefited from their failures and successes, as well as from those of battle-proven rifles of wars gone by. The company took many of the advanced, time-proven features of the M1 and M14 and built its rifle around the 5.56mm cartridge. They have done well.

Wichita Engineering Company (Dept. SOF, Box 11371, Wichita, KS 67211) has developed several accessories of interest to standard Mini-14 owners. It produces a flash suppressor which fits over and around the standard rifle's muzzle and front sight — a desirable feature for those who cannot purchase the military model yet want a military look for their piece. This company also produces a one-piece scope base which replaces the rear sight. It is held securely in place without drilling or tapping the receiver, is well made and works. Other scope mounts work as well — but most require drilling and tapping.

If the Ruger folding stock is unobtainable, Choate Manufacturing Company (Dept. SOF, Box 218, Bald Knob, AR 72010) will modify currently available stocks to look like the old WWII M1 carbine paratrooper stock. This stock is not as compact or rugged as Ruger's. Choate also manufactures a flash suppressor for the civilian model Mini-14 and will install the excellent little Harris bipod, which extends out of the way. All in all, a nice combination.

Law-enforcement and military Mini-14s are now equipped with a fiberglass hand-guard. It is black and cannot be burned or scorched even with sustained full-automatic fire. It also looks better. It has an aluminum shield to help dissipate heat. This unit clips easily onto the top of the

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barrel and completely encapsulates the hump on the cumbersome operating rod on the standard Mini-14. Ruger will supply them to law-enforcement agencies for a nominal charge.

If Ruger cannot fulfill one's needs, Feather Enterprises will come to the rescue with its ventilated nylon handguard. It does not have the aluminum heat deflector, but this isn't terribly important for use on semiautomatic weapons. It's a practical addition to these rifles, for about \$13.

All Mini-14s I've used have Ruger nylon handguards, but if they were unobtainable, I would be more than satisfied with the Feather Enterprises unit. The wooden handguards supplied with these weapons are adequate, unless large numbers of rounds are fired in short periods of time, or unless the weapons receive extreme abuse. Because police and military models must survive and perform under the harshest environments, they come with a more durable handguard.

Birch has replaced the walnut gun stocks on the Mini-14, and a dull-blue finish has replaced the polished blue, but the value remains where it needs to be. Rugers work well when properly maintained. They probably represent the best value in the firearms industry at around \$250, especially when one considers that foreign and U.S.-manufactured equivalents cost between \$460 and \$600. The Mini-14 should be the choice of security and law-enforcement agencies to beat inflation and maintain quality.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

H.C. Davids (a nom de guerre) is a free-lance author and a fine photographer, who also has an excellent background in police and security work. Davids has served as a state policeman in a Western state, has worked as a security consultant for corporations and private individuals and has served as a weapons and security adviser to several branches of the U.S. government.



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FEMALES CHANGE THEIR MINDS

One more indication that the All-Volunteer military concept is failing to work is an Army study that shows that female recruits are dropping out at a much higher rate than males.

The study found that the percent of women failing to finish their first enlistment is 46.7 so far this year — 13.5 percent higher than the dropout rate of male first-termers.

And, said the study, indications are that the number of women dropouts will continue to rise, while that for men will remain low.

Most Army officials were at a loss to explain the phenomenon, but Kathleen Carpenter, Pentagon equal opportunity chief, said she thinks that the main reason is the attitude of male soldiers toward their female colleagues.

HILL

Continued from page 45

dummy runs over the position if the Marines thought it would be useful. Freed asked them to try it.

The company commander, Buck Darling, watched the jets. As they passed, he noticed the firing stopped momentarily. The planes would be his cover. "I'm going to get Stump. Coming, Brown?" he asked the nearest Marine.

Lance Cpl. James Brown was not a billboard Marine. His offbeat sense of humor often conflicted with his superiors' sense of duty. His squad leader later recalled with a grimace one fire fight when the enemy caught the squad in a cross fire. The rounds were passing high over the Marines' heads. While everyone else was returning fire, Brown strolled over to a Vietnamese tombstone, propped himself against it with one finger, crossed his legs and yelled: "You couldn't hit me if I was buried here!" His squad leader almost did the job for the enemy.


Words And Deeds

While relieving the recon unit, however, Brown was all business. He emptied several rifle magazines and hurled grenade after grenade. When he ran out of grenades, he threw rocks to keep the snipers ducking. All the while he screamed and cursed, shouting every insult and blasphemy he could think of. Howard was impressed, both with Brown's actions and with his vocabulary.

He was not out of words when Darling asked him to go after Meyer's body. As they crawled over the crest, Brown tugged at his company commander's boot. "Don't sweat it, lieutenant, they can only kill us." Darling did not reply. They reached Meyer's body and tried to pull it back while crawling on their stomachs. They lacked the strength.

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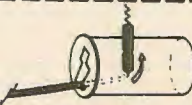
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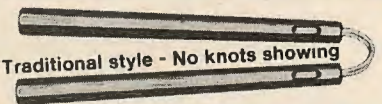


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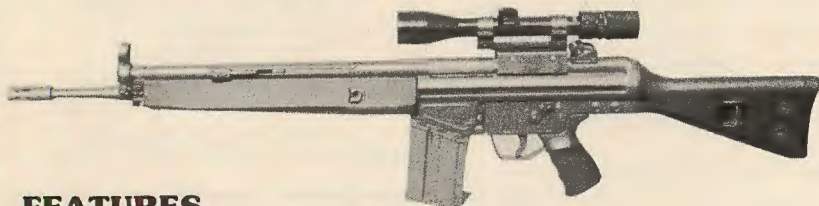
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"All right, let's carry him," said Darling. It was Brown's turn to be speechless. He knew what had happened to every Marine on the slope who had raised his head — and here was his officer suggesting they stand up! "We'll time our moves with the jets." When the jets passed low, they stumbled and scrambled forward a few yards with their burden, then flattened out as the jets pulled up. The sniper snapped shots at them after every pass. Bullets chipped the rocks around them. They had less than 30 feet to climb. It took over a dozen rushes. When they rolled over the crest they were exhausted. Now only the enemy was left on the slope.

The infantry went after him. Cpl. Samuel Roth led his eight-man squad around the left side of the slope. On the right, Sgt. Riojas set a machine gun up on the crest to cover the squad. A burst of automatic fire struck the tripod of the machine gun. A strange duel developed: the sniper would fire at the machine gun, his low position enabling him to aim in exactly on the gun; the Marines would duck until he fired, then reach up and loose a burst downhill, forcing the sniper to duck.

With the firing, the sniper could not hear the squad crashing through the brush to his right. Roth brought his men on line facing the sniper. With fixed bayonets they began walking forward. They could see no movement in the clumps of grass and torn earth.

There was a lull in the firing. The sniper heard the squad, turned and fired. Bullets whipped by the Marines. Roth's helmet spun off. He fell. The other Marines flopped to the ground. Roth was uninjured. A steel helmet had saved a second Marine's life within an hour. He was not even aware that his helmet had been shot off. "When I give the word, kneel and fire," he said. "Now!" The Marines rose and their rounds kicked up dust and clumps of earth in front of them. They missed the sniper. He had ducked into his hole. The Marines lay back down. Roth swore. "All right — put in fresh magazines and let's do it again. Now!"

Just as the Marines rose, the sniper bobbed up like a duck in a shooting gallery. A bullet knocked him backward against the side of his hole. Roth charged forward with his bayonet, the other Marines sprinting behind him. A grenade with the release pin intact rolled from the sniper's left hand as Roth jerked the blade back. The sniper slumped forward over his weapon.

The hill was quiet. It was noon. Darling declared the objective secure. In the tall grass in front of Riojas' machine gun, the infantrymen found the body of the missing Marine. The Marines paused to search 39 enemy dead for documents, picked up 18 automatic weapons (most of them Chinese), climbed on board a flight of helicopters and flew off the plateau.

The Marines lost 10 men. Charlie Company and the Huey Squadrons each lost

two. Of the 18 Marines in the reconnaissance platoon, 6 were killed; the other 12 were wounded.

If the action had centered around just one man, then it could be considered a unique incident of exceptional bravery on the part of an exceptional man. It is that. But perhaps it is something else as well. On June 14th, few would have noticed anything unique about the 1st Reconnaissance Platoon of Charlie Company. Just reading the names of its dead, one has the feeling that here are the typical and the average who, well trained and well led, rose above normal expectations to perform an exemplary feat of arms: John Adams, Ignatius Carlisi, Thomas Glawe, James McKinney, Alcadio Mascarenas, Jerrald Thompson.

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SURVIVAL

Continued from page 27

ing out the banks yet! There is no example in history of any nation coming anywhere near this level of debt without a collapse of the entire economy and repudiation or hyperinflation.

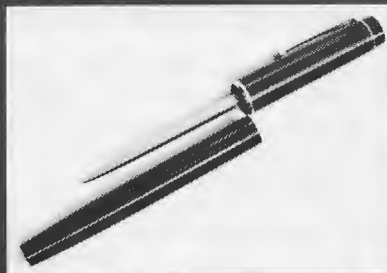
**“Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, . . .”
—W.B. Yeats**

Although it may now be too late to stop a socio-economic collapse from occurring in this country, it is not too late for aware individuals to take independent action to avoid or attenuate its impact upon themselves and those for whom they care. The key to survival preparedness is learning to become, primarily or alternatively, independent of the system. As Teddy Roosevelt observed, “You never have trouble if you are prepared for it.” Very soon now, I believe we will have the opportunity to test the wisdom of that dictum. I hope you will join me in the adventure.

(If you want to get a head start in becoming a survivalist, send me a SASE care of *Soldier of Fortune*, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306, and I will give you a basic reading list.)



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AIRWAVE

Continued from page 33

Communications links between U.S. forces and their NATO allies are another weak spot that the Soviets will doubtlessly try to exploit. For example, secure U.S. and British FM radios are not compatible, so any coded messages will have to be transmitted over standard ones. The Soviets are able not only to listen to our radios and locate them, but to use them as well. Reportedly, Soviet special-forces units, as well as specialized radioelectronic-combat units, have the equipment and trained personnel to spoof enemy radios, making the special forces even more effective.

The Jamming Threat

The Soviets will jam any radios or radars they cannot destroy. Their primary jamming technique is broad-band barrage jamming — broadcasting "noise" with

such power over any enemy frequency that no messages can get through — quite different from the surgical, narrow-band spot jamming that the U.S. Army emphasizes.

Soviet jamming tactics require large numbers of powerful jammers, positioned close to the front lines. Because of the power each jammer transmits, they are easily located by RDF, but the Soviets apparently believe that the combination of jamming and RDF-guided artillery will reduce the effectiveness of enemy artillery and limit jammer losses. Because of the superiority of Western artillery-located radars, the Soviets must rely heavily on ground-radar jammers to avoid devastating counterbattery fires.

The Soviets have a wide range of jammers, mostly mounted in trucks or trailers. There are ground-radio jammers, aircraft-radio jammers, ground-radar jammers and aircraft-radar jammers, which can jam many of the sophisticated radar-bombing and navigation systems

that U.S. aircraft depend upon for all-weather capability. Specialized Mi-4 Hound helicopters are used for airborne-communications jamming, while the Soviet air force has many high-performance electronic-warfare aircraft — including Yak-28 Brewers and MiG-23 Flogger-Cs for use against air-defense electronics.

Jamming is supplemented by the use of chaff — strips of aluminum that reflect radar echoes, creating spurious targets or, if you use enough of it, a curtain impenetrable to radar. The Soviets make extensive use of it. In the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia, transport aircraft dropped a curtain of chaff "so thick it was coming down for days" to screen Soviet operations from Western radars.

Defensive measures against enemy electronic warfare are outside what the Soviets consider radioelectronic combat, but are important nonetheless. The Soviets have minimized their vulnerability to enemy electronic warfare by making radio silence standard operating procedure as much as possible in a modern mechanized army. This allows a Soviet battalion to operate on a single radio net, while a U.S. company has four internal nets and a fifth connecting it to a battalion.

In the Soviet army, all radios below company-command level are normally set to "receive only" mode. Minimizing radio nets makes command control easier and quicker, though the Soviets retain the ability to use multiple-communications nets if the tactical situation requires it or if the main net is jammed. Soviet tactics make it possible for them to limit radio traffic; in battle, they tend to use detailed plans, worked out at a regimental or higher level, rather than radio explanations. Landlines, couriers (especially on motorcycles), flags and flares are emphasized to a much greater degree than they are in the U.S. Army.

While this adds to the Soviet army's characteristic inflexibility, it also prevents it from becoming over-dependent on radio communications and thus less likely to lose combat effectiveness in the face of enemy electronic warfare. The Soviet use of radios stresses ECCM (electronic counter-counter measures) techniques such as the use of varying signals and call signs, high-ground and directional or remote antennas to reduce exposure, and overlapping and redundant communication systems to make sure messages make it through. Soviet long-range radios can transmit in speeded-up "bursts," reducing vulnerability to enemy RDF.

Electronic deception using metallic radar reflectors is a Soviet specialty. Using spurious radio transmissions to indicate the presence of units where there were none, while the actual units moved into position under strict radio silence, contributed greatly to the element of surprise in their November 1942 and June 1944 WWII offensives. As every Soviet plan at divisional or higher levels must have a

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deception plan to go with it, these techniques seem sure to be repeated.

Communications is the cement that holds modern armies together. The Soviets believe that if they can weaken or break these bonds by radioelectronic combat, they can deprive their enemy of his vital command, control and communication functions, making him an easy victim for the Soviet armored offensive.

Currently, the Soviets believe that radioelectronic combat will reduce enemy ability to communicate — and hence to fight — by 50 percent. Meanwhile, they have taken steps to ensure that, if used against *them*, the same means will have a limited effect. The Soviets can use electronic warfare as both thrust and parry. Unfortunately, it seems that their potential opponents — including the U.S. Army — still have a way to go before they can consider themselves the Soviets' equal.



TANK FIGHT HEAVY ISSUE

The Pentagon is trying to develop a new light tank for use by units composing the newly created Rapid Deployment Force, but the Army and Marines are at odds over the proposed vehicle's configuration.

As might be expected, the Army wants a big, weighty light tank with a big gun, while the Marines want a small, maneuverable light tank with a smaller gun.

Light tanks are an increasingly urgent necessity for U.S. ground forces because of increasing turbulence in the Middle East.

The RDF would doubtless be moved to the scene of an emergency by C-5A transport aircraft, the biggest in the Air Force inventory. Trouble is they can carry only one M60-A1 tank or its successor, the XM, at a time. Both weigh in the neighborhood of 60 tons. The idea was to develop a light tank, weighing 20 tons or less, so men and armor could be moved more rapidly to a trouble spot.

But the Army wants a more heavily armored tank with a rapid-fire 90mm gun that can fight other tanks. The Marines want a more lightly armored vehicle with a 75mm gun that would be maneuverable and have a heli-lift capability.



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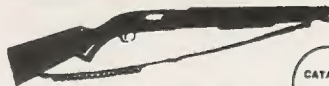
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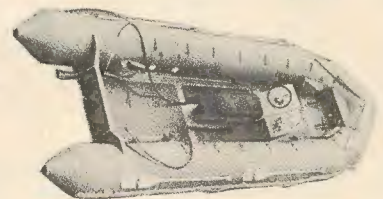
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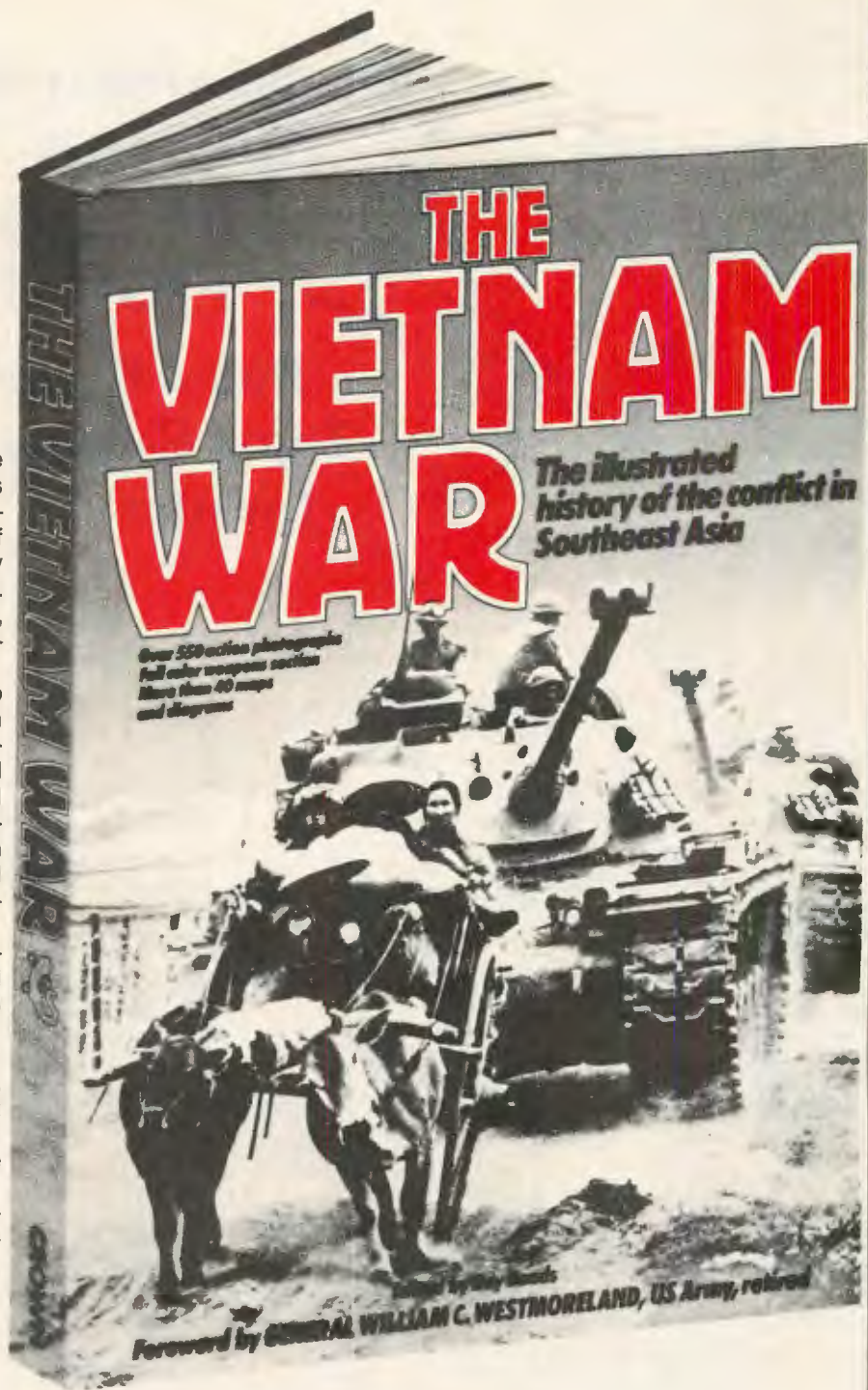
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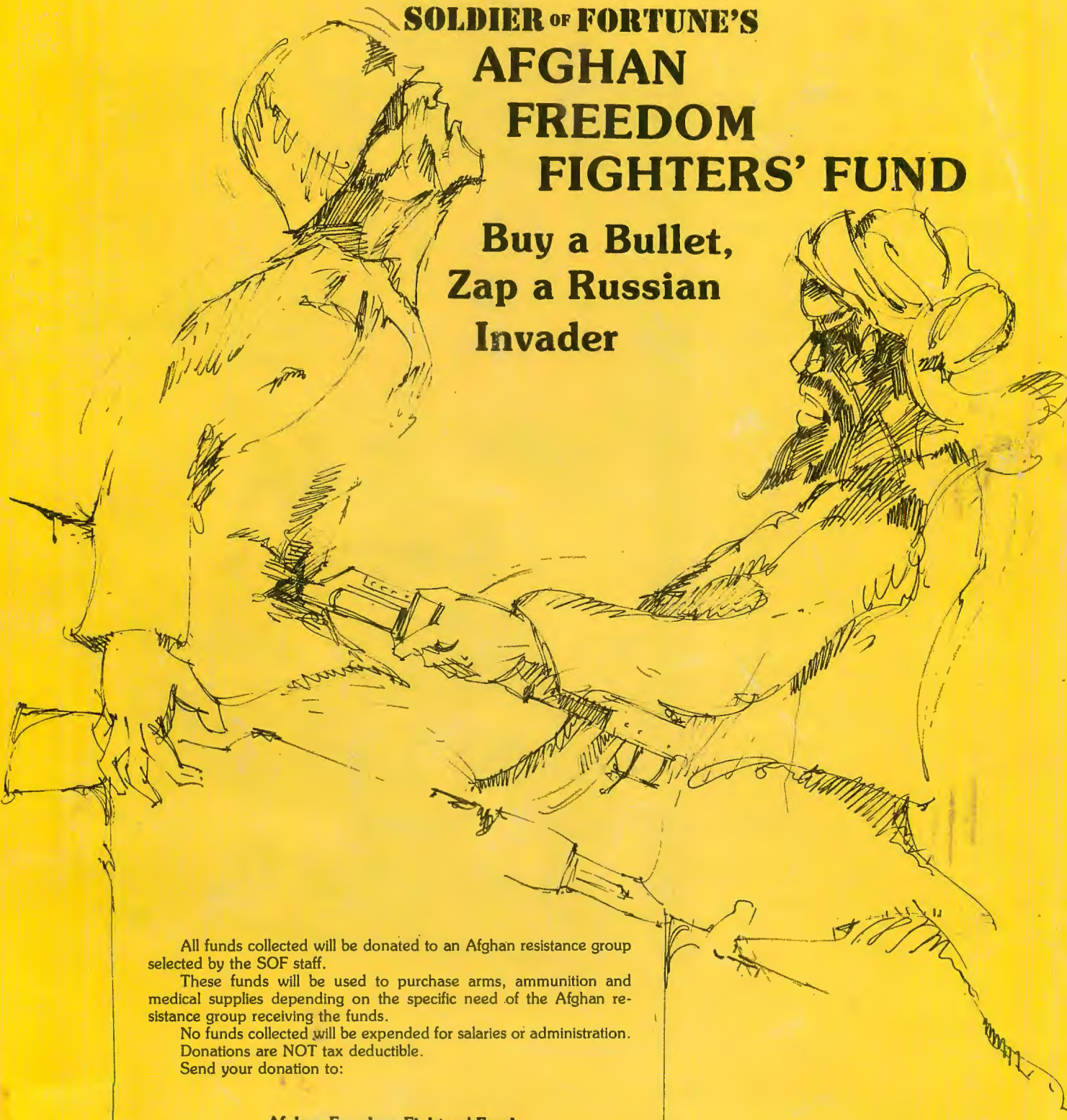
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