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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE JULY 1986



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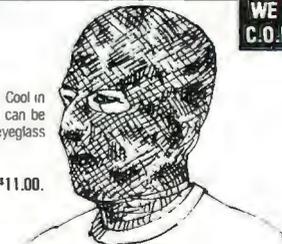
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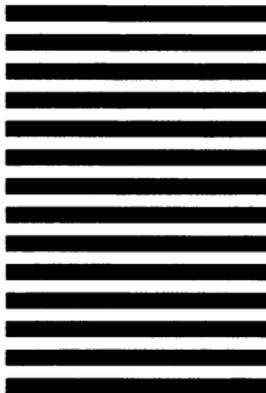
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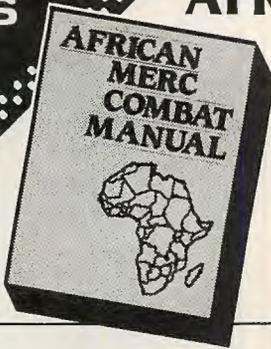
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COMMAND GUIDANCE

by Robert K. Brown

"MISSING In Action" covers a multitude of losses. It can mean lost at sea, blown to smithereens, a mass grave, shot down over enemy territory, an over-run position, collapsed bunker or deep mud. But for those of us who fought in Vietnam, and for those who said goodbye to loved ones on their way to battle, MIA means a wound that will not heal.

For the relatives of the dead and missing, the Vietnam War was different from World War I. First and foremost, the Vietnam War hurt more because it didn't settle *anything*. Second, military record keeping advanced so far during the intervening half-century that the report of the loss of a Vietnam serviceman was more often painfully precise and personal. Finally, forensic science of 1920 couldn't pretend to reach back to a turn-of-the-century battleground to resurrect or bury soldiers.

Belief in the power and objectivity of science is one root of our problems with casualty resolution. When the model in a white coat holds up a bottle of patient medicine we assume the product is somehow different and better than snake oil. Accordingly, most of us would believe it if the same white coat gave us a box of charred bones and told us they represented a specific, identifiable dead soldier.

Well, the white coat can be bought at any chemical supply house and degrees can be faked or misrepresented. And worse, there may be reasons someone might *want* you to believe that nameless bones belong to some one person.

Accurate naming of MIA remains from Vietnam is vital for the well-

being of their families and for negotiations: A confirmed body is one less hostage. Conversely, inaccurate identification provides one more excuse for the communists. That is, if our lab says that a box of rubble is the earthly remains of a missing airman, then there's little justification for keeping him alive, since his bones are no longer contended.

Now you see that identification of MIA remains is not just a matter for relatives and an issue of national honor. Accurate identification can mean life or death to a POW, and it has a direct bearing on our diplomatic posture.

What does this have to do with *Soldier of Fortune*?



I have made reclaiming our missing from Vietnam a personal crusade. In 1981 alone I spent a quarter of a million dollars of my own money trying to find American MIAs still held in communist-controlled Asia. I have continued to investigate POW/MIA affairs, and to cooperate with veterans' and families' groups.

Consequently, I heard too many stories about improbable identifications and mishandled notification of families. And I began my own investigation.

What SOF found was a pattern of inaccuracy, misrepresentation and cover-up that has compromised our capacity to accurately identify remains. It is as simple and as bad as that. Our exposé of the remains identification debacle at the U.S. Army's Central Identification Laboratory/Hawaii begins on page 32. Those responsible are named and we expect action from the government in response to our charges. We owe that to the men who didn't come back. ✕

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COVER: Ephemeral pawns in a cruel game, MIAs — and their families — have enough problems without being burdened with bureaucratic “help.” SOF’s investigative reporter, Jim Pate, traces a web of ignorance, incompetence, ambition and callousness in the U.S. government’s continuing program to downplay MIAs . . . except to resurrect them for political profit. Cover illustration by Col. Edward M. Condra III, USMC (Ret.)

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CUTTING CLASSIFIEDS...

Sirs:

I was disheartened after reading of SOF's decision to drop mercenary ads from its classified section. I considered SOF to be a supporter of worldwide democracy and freedom, no matter what means it may require, including recruitment of mercenary forces. After reading of your decision, it seems to me that SOF has given in to the same pantywaist peace activists that it has so effectively rebuked in the past.

Bob Lavelle
East Alton,
Illinois

Recently, a band of mercenaries were arrested in my hometown for trying to break a convicted felon out of jail. Local news sources said they were hired from SOF classifieds. Well, I'm still an avid reader of your magazine and I don't think it has hurt your credibility a bit and I'm glad to hear you have decided to refuse any more "man for hire" ads.

Scott Rosencrans
Anderson,
Indiana

Respect for the law has always been part of SOF's editorial policy. We have never knowingly printed any article or advertisement which could aid lawbreakers. If some criminals may take advantage of our former open policy on advertising, then we are driven to modify our policy in accordance with our editorial support for law enforcement authorities.



FLAK



RANGERS LEAD THE WAY...

Sirs:

Thanks for my second place finish in "Monumental Cowards" (SOF, March '86). I am an airborne Ranger who believes in our system and the American way of life. I am willing to fight and die to preserve it.

PFC David Rosini
Ft. Lewis, Washington

A tip of the hat and heartfelt thanks for "Monumental Cowards: The Track of the Great American Chicken." The SOF staff did, as usual, a great job of painting the draft-dodging, anti-American and cowardly individuals in a very accurate light. Moreover, I think the staff was too kind.

David L. Simon
Leonia, New Jersey

I was very surprised at SOF's coverage of the peace memorial. There were many people involved in the peace movement who thought Jane Fonda was a spoiled brat. Some people were involved in the peace movement for religious reasons or because they realized the U.S. was going at the Vietnam War in a half-assed manner (either you go in to win or you don't go at all.) There were many of us who helped with the orphanages and airlifts and are helping with Amerasian children and the POW/MIA issue. To put us in the same light as Jane Fonda and SDS isn't fair. There is no black and white to any issue.

Patricia King Yatsyla
Freeport, New York

Our editorial policy is chiefly directed at the militant radical activists whose objectives seem all too clearly to be the defeat and extinction of their own country and of the values on which it is based. Of course, you are right that the decision not to go for a win in Vietnam was an abomination, but how much of that decision was a politician's compromise in response to pressures generated by the peace movement?

CONFRONTING KHADAFFI...

Sirs:

I have always believed that: "U.S. soldiers provide the enemy with the maximum opportunity to give his life for his country." It's great to see that the Libyans are getting what they've been deserving for a long time.

Ali Murat Koknar
Istanbul, Turkey

THE CUTTING EDGE...

Sirs:

I don't think anyone who has read Bill Bagwell's articles can honestly say he's not knowledgeable of the business of fighting knives, both in their design, use and quality. My question is, have you put mild sauce on Bagwell's last couple of articles for communal gain? Please leave the blanket off Mr. Bagwell in the future.

Donnie W. Hobson
Yadkinville, North Carolina

In the March '86 FLAK column you defend Bill Bagwell's bigoted and self-serving Battle Blades column. How can you in good conscience defend such a blatant bigot? The only time he mentions a knife other than a hand-forged Damascus steel bowie is to attack it.

Cadet Corporal J.L. Searcy
Army ROTC
Des Moines, Iowa

Bravo to Bill Bagwell for Battle Blades in the April '86 issue ("Japanese Knife Stands Texas Test"). I am sick of hearing misinformed information on Asian fighting arts. Want to sell something? Just surround it with Oriental mystery, such as the ninja myth. The real ninja was not a Japanese folk hero. He was a hired assassin, and in many cases a criminal as well. I'm glad Bagwell stripped away the crap about the tanto, as he did with the shuriken.

Robert Tucker
Millersville, Maryland

AFTER A GOOD NAP...

Sirs:

I just finished "Terror in Boulder" (SOF, April '86). Once again I was both appalled and amused at these

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This NRA-established Fund has wholeheartedly officially endorsed this buckle—the first time it has ever lent its support to a commemorative.

The Fund receives a portion of each reservation fee, and its name and other commemorative inscriptions appear on the back of each buckle. This will add to your pride when you wear it and enhance the buckle's value as a collectible.

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Each buckle is engraved on the reverse with its own limited edition serial number. The buckles are available individually or in matched sets of three—each with identical numbers (a good idea for collectors). These original buckles could become important collectibles in the future.

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This is available exclusively from The American Historical Foundation. To place your reservation call (24-hour toll-free, 1-800-368-8080), use the reservation form below or personally visit. With your buckle you will also receive Membership in the Foundation. Satisfaction is guaranteed, or return within one month for a full refund.

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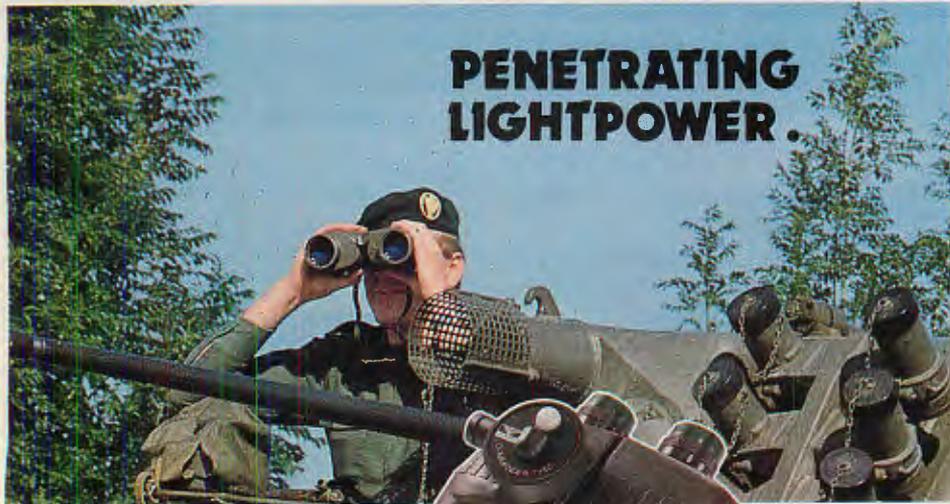
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liberals. I guess we cannot hold them responsible since they are probably graduates of the Central American Fantasy Island Peace Institute. Maybe these useful idiots should go live in Managua so they can hold ceremonies celebrating Marxism dictatorship at the drop of a coffin. Thanks for the much needed cynicism.

Kelvin King
Lewisville, Texas

I must thank Mr. Pate for one bad piece of journalism in his handling of the peace march in Boulder. There are those of us who believe in keeping abreast of current military technology. We subscribe to both SOF and Yoga Journal. Yoga is practiced in the Indian army and my own guru was an officer in the Indian Army Corps of Engineers. I can live without Mr. Pate's article. But at least he is honest. He describes his work as SOF bullshit. Let's have more articles on political and military affairs and less dwelling on inconsequential rabble.

Ame C. Eastman
Staten Island, New York

If SOF didn't exist, it would have to be invented. How better could Boulder's sanctimonious left manifest its goodness than by contrast with Darth Vader and his Death Star?

It must have been magnificent, that day the minions of Marx and lemmings of Lenin migrated down Arapahoe Avenue to exorcise the Devil from Boulder. The air so redolent of self-righteousness as to cause a grown man to don his M17 gas mask.

I must apologetically admit some concern for the safety of the staff but was reassured that all came through unscathed. The pizza got through and RKB completed his nap.

John Benedict
Clipper Gap, California

I hesitated about making any contribution to the freedom fighters but if SOF can attract the attention to the "peace" marchers, then you must be doing some good.

Terry Adams
Gibsonton, Florida

You took the right measures in your response to the peace marchers — you ignored them.

S.M. Caruso
Columbia, Maryland

Continued on page 107

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MEMORIAL CONTEST...

An Indiana shooting club is remembering one of its own, a member of the 101st Airborne Division killed with 247 other "Screaming Eagles" in the tragic Christmas crash at Gander, Newfoundland. Sgt. Brian Dumpert, whose mother still lives in Monticello, Ind., is also survived by his wife, Tonya, and two sons, ages 16 months and six months. Deployed for several months in Egypt just before his death, he had never seen his youngest child.

The Deer Creek Conservation Club Practical Shooters Group is organizing a combat shooting match to benefit a trust fund for his wife and children. **The Brian Dumpert Memorial Three-Gun Combat Match is set for 9-10 August 1986** at the Deer Creek Conservation Club three miles south of Jonesboro, Ind. On-site registration cost: \$35; advance entry is \$25. Write: **John Schultheis, Brian Dumpert Memorial Three-Gun Match, Rt. 3 Box 148-C, Franklin, IN 46131.**



Sergeant Dumpert in August 1984 competition. Photo: Frank James

Dumpert was an honor selectee to jump at Normandy in the anniversary celebration of the D-Day invasion in France. Dumpert also jumped several times with Spanish troops and was awarded Spanish paratrooper wings.

BULLETIN BOARD



PEACENIK UPDATE...

Efforts continue by Comrade Terry Choate, a Phoenix cab driver, to build a memorial to Vietnam War protesters. Progress is slow. Choate finally passed muster with the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, although their approval was understandably reluctant.

Maricopa County Attorney Tom Collins, a Marine Corps veteran who served in Vietnam, tells SOF he has received a large volume of mail, all of it against Choate's idea. Mr. Collins asks that we mention to readers that he has no jurisdiction unless Choate breaks the law. One letter to Collins' office was from an attorney representing "Hanoi Jane" Fonda. Choate's proposed use of her name on his memorial is "not authorized," said barrister Stanton Stein.

Fonda and her left-wing husband, Tom Hayden, himself a collaborator in North Vietnamese propaganda, are trying to soft-soap their radical image. Readers should write **Conservative Digest Magazine in Falls Church, Va.**, to get a reprint of a fine article by William B. Guidry on Fonda's efforts to polish her tarnished public image. Ask for the December 1985 issue, which has an article on page 51 titled: "Who Is Afraid of Blabby Jane? Hanoi Jane Fonda is playing a moderate these days to make millions to finance her husband's socialist projects."

All you ardent letter-writers out there, take note. Why not direct your opinions on Choate's project and Vietnam War protesters in general to Jane's attorney? Write: **Stanton Stein, c/o Stein & Kahan, 1299 Ocean Ave., Santa Monica, CA 90401.** Or better yet, call: **(213) 820-7555.**



Hlapane

Photo: U.S. Senate

ORPHANS NEED HELP...

The Washington press corps was typically blasé when Mr. Bartholomew Hlapane testified before the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Security and Terrorism on 25 March 1982. As a former member of the African National Congress (ANC) and the South African Communist Party, Mr. Hlapane met with other witnesses formerly from these groups and the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), according to U.S. Sen. Jeremiah Denton, subcommittee chairman. "Knowing they would be marked for assassination, each made an individual decision to tell his story and expose the role of the Soviet Union and other communist countries in subverting and exploiting the ANC and SWAPO to accomplish their own foreign policy objectives," Denton said.

Apparently not taking the threats against Hlapane or the other witnesses seriously, the Washington press completely ignored their brave testimony. Less than nine months later, after returning to his family in Soweto, South Africa, Mr. Hlapane's dreadful prediction came true. An ANC hit squad broke in Hlapane's home on 16 December and hosed down the interior with AK-47s. Mr. and Mrs. Hlapane were killed in bed. Left behind were six orphans, including a young daughter, Brenda, still paralyzed from wounds received in the attack.

Two older daughters, Audrey and Charmaine, have completed their first year of college in the United States on a work-study program. But money is running out for their support. A trust fund administered free of charge has been set up so they can complete their education. Donations, which are tax deductible, are badly needed. Checks should be made out to: **Bartholomew Hlapane Scholarship Fund, c/o National Forum Foundation, Suite 220, 214 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, D.C. 20002.**

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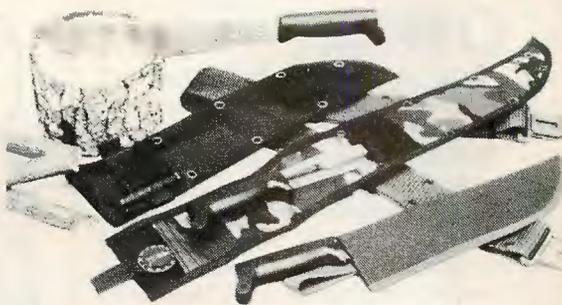
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OMEGA APOLOGY...

In an advertisement for the Barry Sadler System of Self Defense, seen on page 97 of the SOF Focus Series "Fight Back" issue, and page 33 of the April issue of SOF, Ms. Rumiko Urata, "America's Female Ninja," is shown in action. She does not appear on the Sadler videotape, however, nor does the use of her photos imply her endorsement of Sadler's program: Her photo was used without her permission. Omega's publications office apologizes for any confusion.

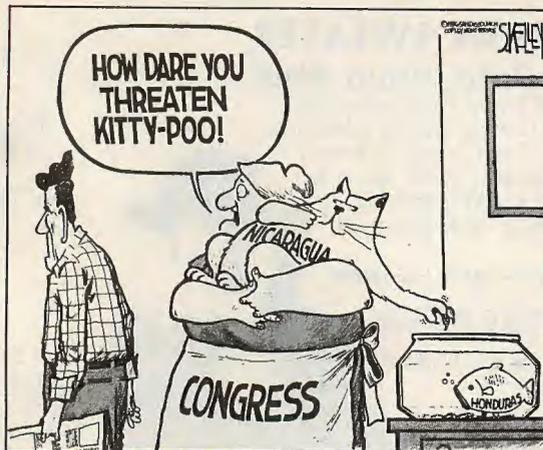
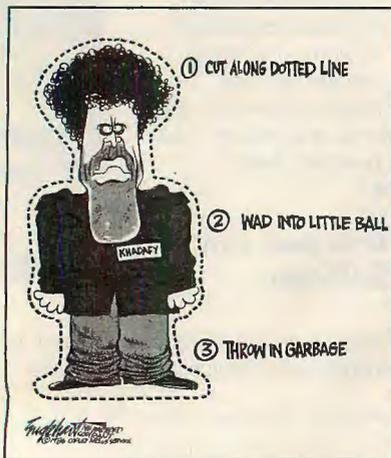
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IRANIANS MAKE UP...

Iran apparently has decided it can no longer afford the military and economic consequences of its hostile attitude toward its northern neighbor and wants to make up with the Soviet Union. This is evident in recent diplomatic shuttling between Tehran and Moscow.

In January, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akhbar Velayati visited Moscow. On 2 February, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Georgi Kornienko visited Tehran with a group of the Kremlin's military, trade and intelligence experts. Kornienko is the highest-ranking Soviet official to visit Iran since the Ayatollah Khomeini seized power in 1979. The Soviet delegates met with Iran's Speaker of the Parliament Hashemi Rafsanjani, President Ali Khamenei, Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi, defense minister Muhammad Hossein Jalali, intelligence chief Muhammad Reyshari and Velayati.

According to reports in Iran's official daily newspaper, *Kayhan*, the Islamic Republic News Agency and sources in Jerusalem's Media Analysis Center, the meetings resulted in decisions in the following areas:

— **Iraqi War:** Iran asked the Soviets to stop shipping arms to Iraq. Moscow refused, but pointed out that Kremlin shipments to Baghdad have dropped steadily for the last year. The Soviets hinted that if agreements are reached in other areas, Iran might receive weapons through Syria, Libya, North Korea and Vietnam.

— **Afghanistan:** The Soviets want Iran to end its support for anti-communist Holy Warriors. Iran refused, but promised to cut its aid package if the Soviets will reduce *their* support of anti-Khomeini rebels in Iranian Baluchistan.

— **Prisoners:** The Soviets want Iran to release members of Iran's communist Tudeh Party imprisoned for trying to overthrow the Khomeini regime. Iran offered to commute death sentences and improve their prison conditions.

— **Trade:** Iran's natural gas exports to the Soviets will resume for the first time since 1979. The Soviets will restart work on Iranian power stations at Isfahan and Ahvaz.

A major reconciliation between the Soviets and Iran seems certain.

RADIO VENCEREMOS...

Here's the translation of a broadcast monitored from El Salvador's communist guerrilla organ, Radio Venceremos, that's sure to endear its Marxist cause to the hearts of U.S. citizens:

"The U.S. Space Shuttle Challenger exploded on Tuesday ... after it had taken off from Cape Canaveral, Fla. The seven astronauts on board ... were killed. ... Two members of the Challenger crew worked as pilots in the Vietnam War. In other words, they were two killers who sowed napalm in the martyred Vietnamese land. ... Given that two war criminals have died aboard the Challenger, we share the happiness felt by those who reject and condemn the U.S. imperialism's warmongering policy."

These are among the very people in Central America supported by groups like the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), the Nicaragua Network and Witness for Peace.

CORRECTIONS

Soldier of Fortune erroneously reported in the May 1986 issue ("Pana Jungla") the name of the president of Panama. He is Eric Arturo Delvalle. And in the story "Peace Frauds" in the same issue, the home district of U.S. Rep. Ronald Dellums was incorrectly reported. Dellums, a liberal California Democrat who chairs the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Installations and Facilities, is from Berkeley. ✕

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FULL AUTO

by Peter G. Kokalis

Rock'n'Roll Metronome

THE cyclic rate of a machine gun is defined as the theoretical rate of fire of a weapon operated continuously with an infinite supply of ammunition, disregarding the requirement to change magazines or belts. Expressed in rounds per minute (rpm), it is important to everyone from designer to end user since the cyclic rate affects everything from hit probability to component life.

Military tacticians traditionally refer to three rates of fire when discussing squad or section machine guns. Slow or suppressive fire is used to hinder enemy movement and discourage him from interfering with the movements of friendly troops. At a rate of 40-60 rpm, firing three- to four-round bursts, a SAW or GPMG should be capable of maintaining this rate of fire for more than 30 minutes. Rapid fire, at 75-100 rpm and fired in six- to 10-round bursts, is designed to prevent the enemy from returning fire or moving. In combat expect to maintain this rate for no more than two minutes without damage to the barrel. Finally, during initial contact to gain ascendancy over the enemy, supporting the final moments of the assault or in beating off a determined enemy attack we may briefly employ the gun at its cyclic rate of fire. This is often referred to as "winning the firefight."

Personal experience indicates that upon contact most soldiers will opt for the cyclic rate until the firefight is over or they have expended their entire supply of ammunition. So much for the tacticians. When the shit hits the fan most gunners will lay back on the trigger without regard to overheating or ammunition logistics. Gunnery science for machine guns faded into oblivion as a training discipline after the Korean War.

But back to cyclic rates. Many factors affect a machine gun's cyclic rate. Some of the most important are method of operation, mass of reciprocating parts, port pressure (in gas-operated guns), ammunition, fouling, buffers, recoil springs, atmospheric conditions and lubrication.

Cyclic rates on recoil- or blowback-operated guns can be adjusted by in-

creasing or decreasing the mass of the bolt group. A case in point is the Mini UZI. Plagued by a cyclic rate of well over 1,200 rpm, IMI has introduced a new bolt for this weapon that features tungsten heavy-metal inserts. The additional 12 ounces supposedly drops the cyclic rate to 750 rpm. The cyclic rate of the M1921 Thompson was lowered from 800 rpm to 600 rpm on the M1928 version by means of a heavier actuator.

Reducing the port pressure on a gas-operated machine gun by diminishing the amount of gas permitted to reach the piston will lower the cyclic rate. Increased fouling will work to the same end.

High-pressure ammunition and extreme heat will increase cyclic rates somewhat. High-temperature lubricants can also slightly increase cyclic rates. But if too much is used it will attract debris, which in turn will lower the cyclic rate and induce stoppages.

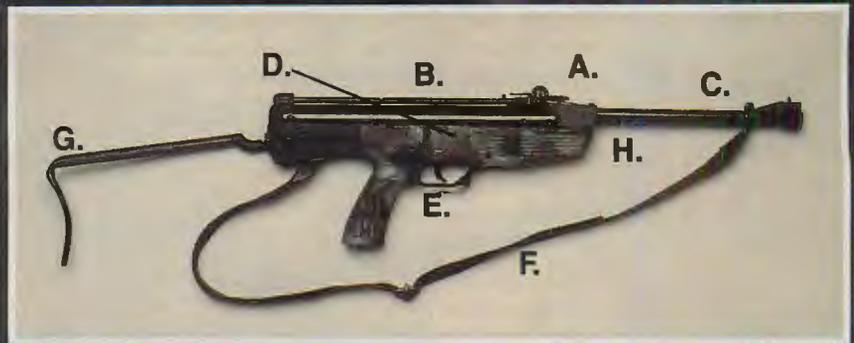
Weak springs with low force constants will generally lower the cyclic rate. Stronger springs will increase rates of fire up to a point. If the recoil spring is too stiff the bolt group will be unable to complete its rearward travel and the resulting "short cycle" will cause either a runaway gun or failure to feed the next round, depending on the load factor of the reciprocating parts.

Designers often employ buffers to moderate or increase the cyclic rate. Hard buffers are used when high cyclic rates are desired. A series of saucer-shaped Belleville washers are used in the M3 Browning .50 caliber aircraft machine gun and FN MAG 58 GPMG for this purpose. When the reciprocating parts strike these washers they absorb the energy by deforming into flat plates. Upon release of this strain energy the plates become saucers again and the surge of energy propels the recoiling parts forward into counterrecoil with a velocity only slightly less than their initial rearward velocity. Soft buffers can be used to retard the counterrecoil velocity and lower the cyclic rate.

High cyclic rates generally decrease hit probability on both point and area targets, with some important qualifica-

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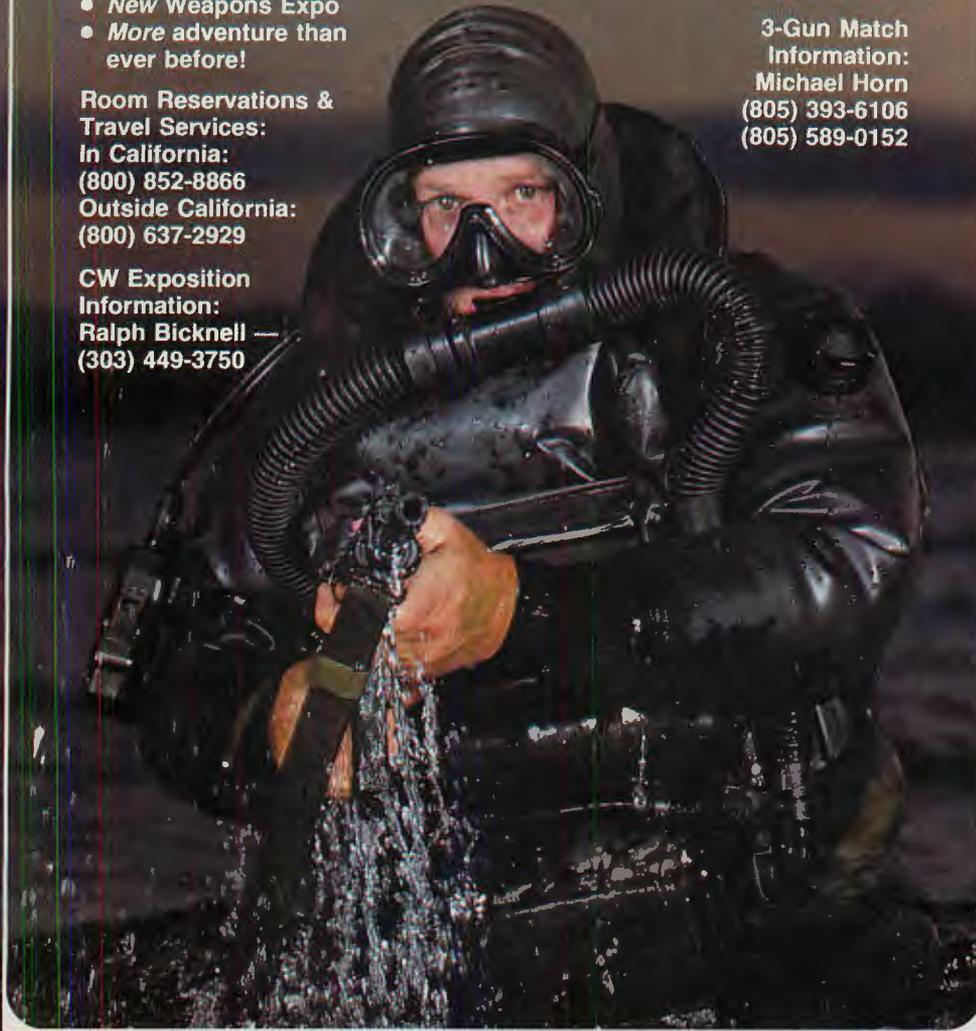
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tions. When a burst is fired, the vibrations of the gun, minor variations in the ammunition and atmospheric conditions give each bullet a slightly different trajectory. This group of trajectories is known as the cone of fire. The beaten zone is the long, elliptical-shaped pattern formed by the intersection of ground surface with the cone of fire.

If long bursts are fired, machine guns with high cyclic rates will produce larger beaten zones. If very short bursts are fired by trained gunners like the German MG-34/42 gunners in World War II, the group dispersion will actually decrease in size.

The gun mount will also affect group dispersion. A properly sandbagged tripod will yield smaller beaten zones than a bipod mount. The closer a bipod is to the gun's muzzle, the smaller the beaten zone. Whenever possible, German gunners fired their MG-34/42s with the bipod attached to the muzzle position. Of course, there is a tradeoff. The closer the bipod is to the muzzle, the more restricted are the gun's traversing movements. Soft mounts (tripods with moving shock absorbers on the cradle) will provide smaller beaten zones than standard hard mount tripods.

With all this in mind, what are the ideal cyclic rates for automatic weapons? Let's start with submachine guns. Submachine guns are usually fired from the shoulder, rarely from the hip and never from a mount (except for the Italian Villa Perosa). The human body is the most insecure of these firing platforms. The ideal cyclic rate for submachine guns is 550-750 rpm. 550-600 rpm is just right and over 700 rpm is a bit on the high side. The 1,200 rpm generated by the despicable MAC is a poor joke despite what some people might say. Three-shot bursts are easy to master with SMGs that fire between 550-700 rpm and this will conserve ammunition and maximize accuracy potential and hit probability on point targets engaged by these weapons. At 750 rpm both the Soviet PPSH-41 and Heckler & Koch MP5 are borderline in acceptability.

Assault rifles generally fire at slightly higher rates than the average sub-machine gun. The Kalashnikov series fires at about 600 rpm, the M16 series at 650-850 rpm (depending on the model), the Galil at 650 rpm, the French FAMAS at 850-900 rpm, the Beretta Model 70 at 630 rpm, the Steyr AUG at 650 rpm and the Enfield IW bullpup at 650-800 rpm (depending upon the configuration). I think the best range is between 600-750 rpm, except 7.62x51mm NATO caliber rifles cannot be controlled at any rate of full-auto fire.

With the increasing use of burst control devices we must examine the con-



FN Marketing's cyclic rate calculator is portable, hand-held and great for computing the rate of fire on all your full-auto toys.

cept of extremely high cyclic rates. Heckler & Koch's G11 is a case in point. When fired in the full-auto mode, the cyclic rate is 600 rpm. When the selector is set to three-shot burst, the rifle fires at an astounding 2,000 rpm. Why? Fired in such rapid succession, the third bullet has left the muzzle before the firer reacts to the recoil momentum. The increase in hit probability is phenomenal. At normal assault rifle cyclic rates the first round will impact on the target while subsequent shots veer high and to the right. We will see greater application of this concept in the near future.

Back to more conventional arms. Light machine guns and medium machine guns are most effective for ground use when they fire between 500 and 600 rpm. At least the M60's designers got this right. The Bren, Vickers and Browning series all fire at the correct rates for infantry use. And great gun that it is, the FN MAG 58 GPMG at 700-1,000 rpm fires too fast. The MG-34 fired at 900 rpm and this was increased to 1,200 rpm on Hitler's Zipper (the MG-42), but German troops were trained to fire short bursts. The HK21 is not only too light for its caliber (7.62x51mm NATO), but fires too fast at 850 rpm.

However, when we mount a machine gun into an aircraft, because the plane's speed decreases hit probability whether engaging another aircraft or ground targets, we want to throw out as much lead as possible, as fast as possible. Aircraft and anti-aircraft machine guns invariably fire at rates at least twice as fast as their infantry counterparts. The infantry version of the .50 caliber Browning machine

gun, good old Ma Deuce, chugs along at a mere 450 rpm — more than fast enough if you are one of its ammo bearers. In its aircraft configuration these Browning .50s spew lead out of the muzzle from 900-1,200 rpm. The 7.62x51mm General Electric M134 Minigun, an area weapon if ever there was one, rotates its six barrels fast enough to deliver 6,000 rounds per minute. This can really ruin your day.

Many machine guns do not fire at their specified rates. Sometimes the port pressure was not properly adjusted at the factory. Variables such as ammunition and fouling are beyond the manufacturer's control. And sometimes the manufacturer doesn't want you to know what the real cyclic rate is — usually when it's higher than desired. So how do you determine the cyclic rate of your cherished Thompson or mighty Vickers? Sources like *Jane's Infantry Weapons* get their specifications from the manufacturer. Hardly reliable. You can purchase an Oehler System 82 which features a machine gun chronograph. Unfortunately, these units start at \$6,500 and go up as you add modules.

FN Manufacturing Inc. (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 104, Columbia, SC 29202) will shortly be marketing a portable, hand-held cyclic rate calculator, called the FRM-SSD, for just under \$1,000. You bet it's expensive, but it beats the Oehler unit's price by more than five big ones and it can be carried out in the field. Powered by a standard nine-volt battery, a small microphone will pick up and compute any cyclic rate up to 1,200 rpm (production series units will feature microchip circuits and a capability of 500-2,000 rpms). Fastened to the arm by Velcro straps, just turn the FRM-SSD on, dial any delay from 0 to 5, set the number of shots you want to

Continued on page 84

"COMMAND Post, Sierra I."
"Go ahead Sierra I."

"Command Post, I have two men with scoped rifles on the forward slope of hill 1582. Refer to Bravo-Tango IV on your sit map. Will keep them under close surveillance and advise."

The sounds of the combat zone come through strong and clear through the static of the field radio. But this particular communication did not originate from a combat area. It was a radio communication between a countersniper team and its command post, on contract to a major international corporation somewhere in the free world.

The need has never been greater for professional security groups to provide countersniper teams to be tasked with the responsibility of protecting life and property of major corporations engaged in high-threat areas. Private industry is rapidly realizing that if they are to protect their employees and assets, they must go it alone. They cannot expect the local law enforcement agencies or armies, either at home or abroad, to protect them. So security has been given a higher priority and security personnel of the highest caliber have been sought out.

Most corporations have had a poor record in dealing with paramilitary attacks, and their showing has proceeded from the capabilities of security personnel they recruit. Sure, rent-a-cops look nice with their clean uniforms and their morning greetings are pleasant, but can they repel a terrorist attack? Can they prevent an abduction of management personnel or their family members? Can they neutralize a sniper who has half the work force pinned down and the other half afraid to even show up for work? No. Most corporations react to a crisis rather than take methods to prevent it from happening. This form of crisis management is costly and outdated.

Certainly, not all corporations need a countersniper team within their security division. But there are times when local conditions dictate the need for a professional team of highly skilled individuals. To procrastinate could cost a fortune in the loss of life, property and litigation.

A nonmilitary countersniper team has some degree of contact with its military counterparts in some areas. However, its priorities as well as the use of deadly force are far different and much more controlled due to statutory restraints, local governmental restrictions and corporative policy.

The primary mission of a military sniper team is to support combat operations by delivering precision fire on selected targets from concealed posi-



COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

by Sierra I

Civilian Countersniping



Sierra I and his special-built sniper rifle.



Sierra I and spotter displaying modified camo-cape and coat. This is a seasonal camo outfit and can be changed easily as weather conditions dictate.

tions. The primary mission of a nonmilitary contracted countersniper team is to provide protection to individuals, groups of individuals or property, notwithstanding additional requirements imposed subject to contractual requirements.

A nonmilitary countersniper team, depending upon where in the world it is operating, is governed by an inordinate number of statutes, policy requirements and restrictions, so much so that it dictates that the team members possess a high degree of maturity, good judgment, initiative, intelligence, common sense and equanimity.

The ideal team member has had military combat experience, formal military sniper training, law enforcement training, and possesses the traits mentioned above. He should be somewhat of a loner, able to exist

under adverse conditions, be extremely knowledgeable of military science to include map and compass, tactics, booby traps, scouting and patrolling, communications, movement, stealth, camouflage, and be able to hit a target, regardless of conditions, out to 1,000 meters. His creditability must be fully established.

The make-up of the countersniper team includes the countersniper (in most cases also serving as team leader), the spotter and a team security. This two- or three-man team is usually hired by putting the team leader under contract and then allowing him the latitude of acquiring the additional team members. To follow any other form of hiring practice would reduce team efficiency.

A countersniper team must be together constantly, usually under stress, adverse conditions (both physical and climatic) and despite these negatives they must work long hours day in and day out in harmony and trust. They must know each other's limitations and know that each man can be counted upon.

The contractor must provide the weapons and certain other equipment for the countersniper team, and provide sufficient lead time for the team members to acquaint themselves with the terrain they will be operating in and the work routine of the employees and the on-site security force. Logistical requirements will vary greatly depending upon environment, location and threat level, and is usually discussed during contract negotiations. In most cases, and this applies not only in foreign countries but the United States as well, weapons and military equipment of any kind cannot be carried as baggage or through customs. For legal reasons, all weapons must be under the ownership of the corporation (at least within the United States), and corporative legal staffs must do their homework prior to activating a countersniper team within their area of operation.

Upon arrival at the area you will be protecting, perform a thorough recon and initiate your position selection. Because your mission is normally defen-

Continued on page 84



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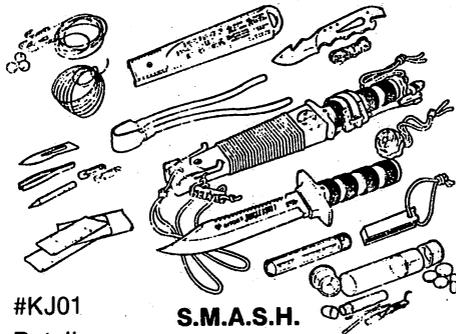
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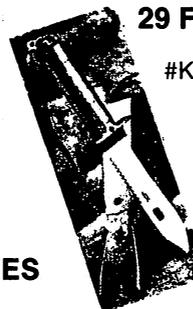
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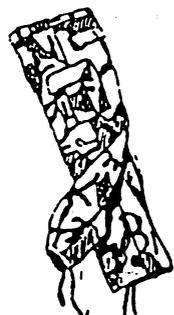
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BLADE length. It's one of the most important factors that determine how well a knife functions. But most Americans commonly select their knives with little understanding of the elements of utility and mechanical dynamics that are afforded by knives of different sizes. Today's knife buyer usually buys a blade based on how it looks, regardless of whether it's too short or too long to be a first-rate tool or weapon.

Let's face it, there is simply no such thing as a perfect all-purpose knife. There is one that comes pretty close for my particular requirements, but I have yet to see one that will excel at every chore from utility through combat. My solution to this problem is to carry two knives when venturing out into a potential survival situation. Otherwise I simply carry my front line knife and leave the other one at home.

My knives of choice are selected on the basis of function, not fad or fashion. For my constant carry I use a bowie knife with a blade $9\frac{3}{4}$ inches long. It is a deadly fighting knife and the single most versatile cutting implement one can have in a true survival scenario. My choice of an auxiliary blade is a small utility knife with a blade that is between $4\frac{1}{2}$ and $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches long. Each knife does several things extremely well, and the man who carries this combination is well-prepared for whatever might take place.

You will notice that no mention has been made of knives with blades between 6 and $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length. Knives of this size are often pleasant to look at, but as a handy skinning and camp utility knife or combat knife they just don't get the job done. They are too small and light to be an effective combat or survival blade and too large and unwieldy to be a good handy size in camp.

Many knifemakers and knife owners may kick at this idea. However, truly knowledgeable knife users know and understand what I mean. Most people don't realize that the overwhelming majority of knifemakers in this country are not really knife users. They make what they can sell, and most of their customers buy what looks good and appeals to their particular sense of aesthetics. This applies to the public at large as well as the military. The K-BAR and the bowie of Carlson's Raiders are two cases in point. Neither was as good as it could or should have been.

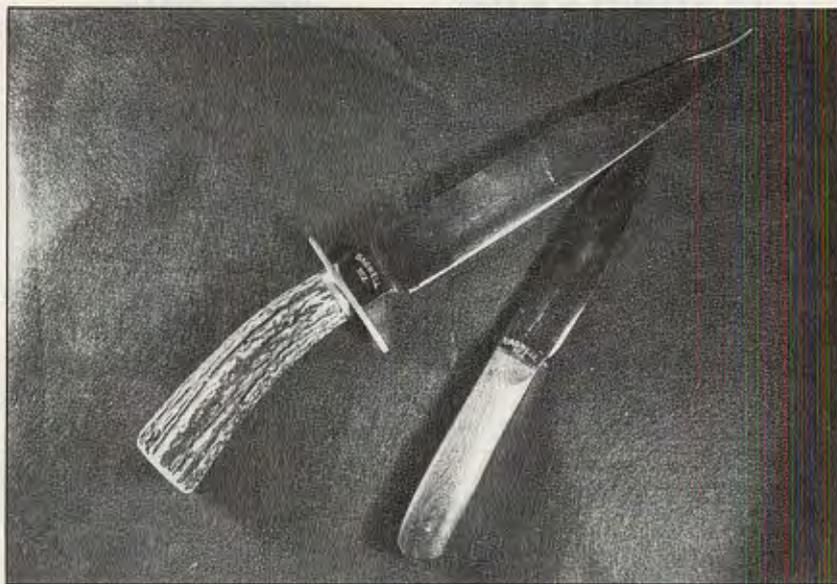
A combat knife and a survival knife are not exactly one and the same. However, a well-made and balanced survival knife makes a battle blade that is awesome in its effectiveness. On the other hand, the best combat blade



BATTLE BLADES

by Bill Bagwell

Blade Length: Function or Fashion?



A $9\frac{3}{4}$ -inch bowie knife and a $4\frac{1}{2}$ -inch utility knife should take care of most of your combat and survival needs.

makes something less than a first cabin survival knife. Let's look at the difference between the two, and see how blade length is a crucial factor in the performance of each.

A weapon should be selected on the basis that it will give the user an advantage in an encounter with other weapons of the same type. In a fighting knife, this means that your blade should enable you to cut your opponent more often and more severely than he can cut you. In a face-to-face confrontation with blades the man with a 2- or 3-inch reach advantage will come out on top if all other factors are equal. A man equipped with a knife that has a 6- or 7-inch blade simply can't acquire his target as easily or as safely as a person with a 9- or 10-inch blade. Speed is important, even vital in a knife fight, but speed coupled with reach is lethal. The ideal man-killing knife is a synthesis of length and quick-

ness, and long quick knives are hard to build. That's one reason you see so many knives with short blades.

Blade length does something else to the knife in your hand. It enables the laws of physics to come to your assistance in the form of mechanical advantage under the guise of leverage. Add length to your blade and you automatically increase the amount of power you can deliver in a stroke. A properly made bowie knife with a $9\frac{1}{2}$ -inch blade will cleave a section of 2x10 lumber that is 18 to 24 inches long with one stroke and will do it reliably and consistently. A knife with an $8\frac{1}{2}$ -inch blade won't make the same cut. Six or 7 inches? Out of the question.

A survival knife is one that must be capable of making a wide range of cuts with a minimum expenditure of effort. If you are injured or freezing, you don't need to expend vital energy or precious calories cutting firewood or building a shelter. If you are forced to defend yourself against an animal other than man, you need a blade that has the power to crunch bones, for an animal has a much

Continued on page 92

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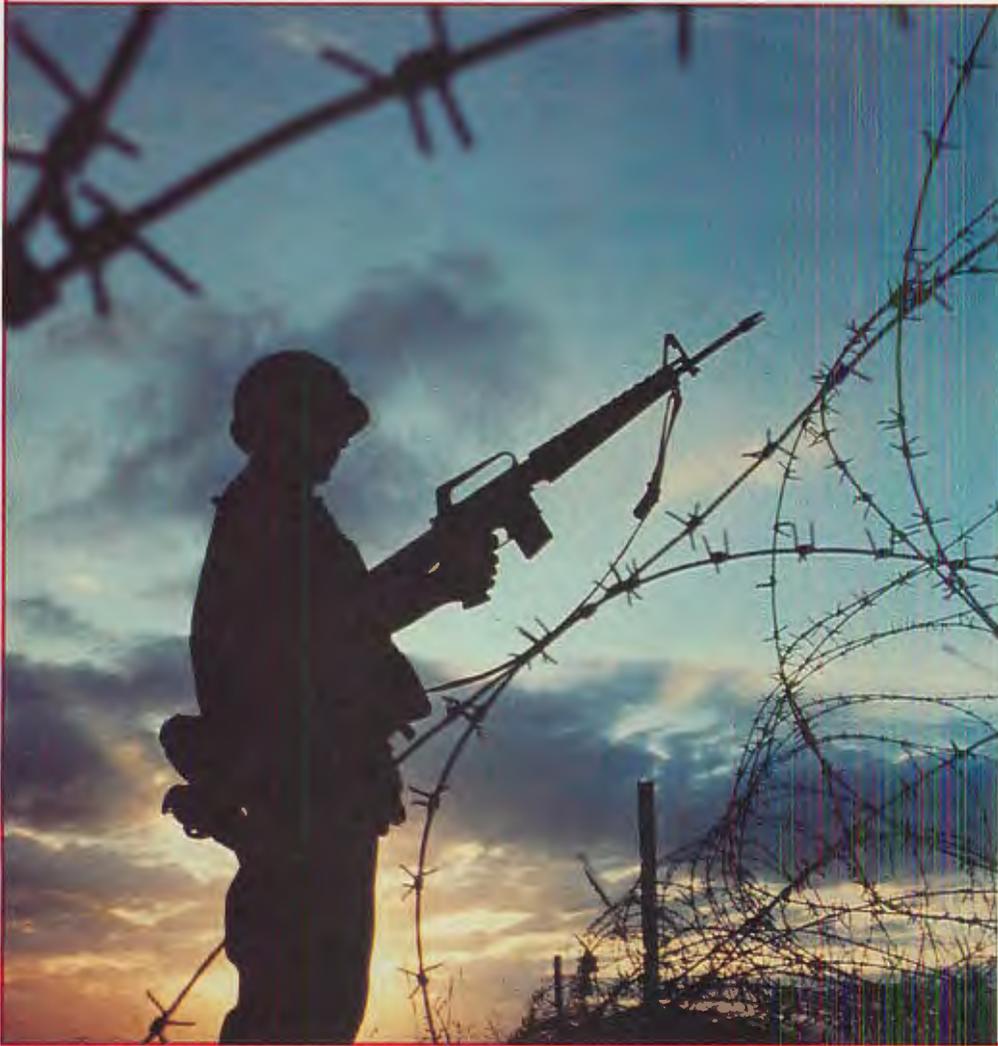
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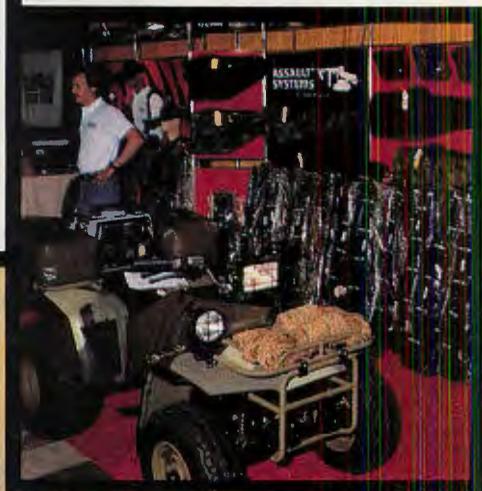
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THE LEOPARD HUNTS IN DARKNESS. By Wilbur Smith. Fawcett-Crest Books, Dept. SOF, 201 East 50th Street, New York, NY 10022. \$3.95. Review by John Coleman.

IT'S sometimes hard to draw any sense of humanity, any vision of *real* people, out of contemporary southern Africa. Thirty-second film clips on the nightly news give us superficial celluloid turmoil; print reporters give us their "in-depth" analysis of a situation they — and even our own government — don't begin to understand. But then, that's Africa in a nutshell: unfathomable unless you live it.

A few writers — Robert Ruark, John Gunther, David Lamb — have managed to freeze-frame and translate some of Africa's substance for the Western mind, but none present life in Africa with the same sense of style, understanding and depth of empathy as Wilbur Smith.

Leopard is a novel about today's Zimbabwe, and is actually a continuation of a series of books Smith has written about Rhodesia. It's been banned by the Zimbabwean government and the reason for that is simple: it's fiction based on *fact*.

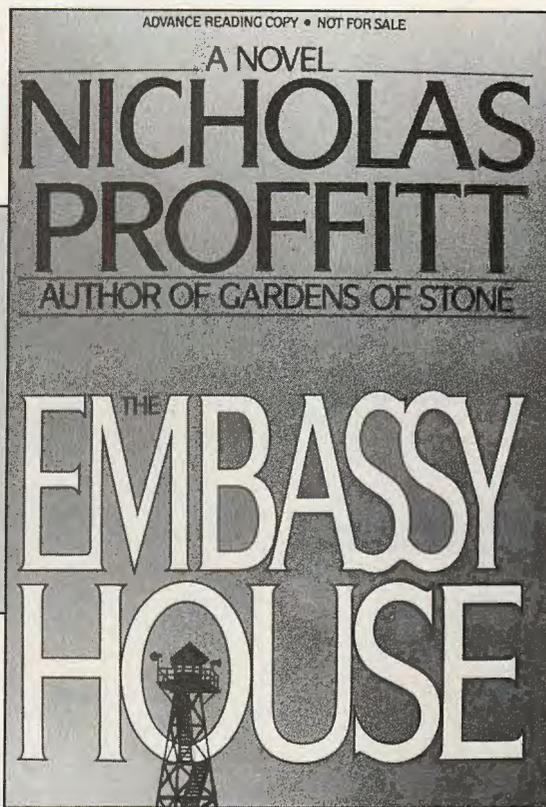
Smith winds us through the contemporary political corridors of tribalism — the ruling Shona versus the outcast Matabele — where those with the guns call the shots and reap the benefits of power. Ivory poaching in the Zambezi River Valley, political "re-education" camps for dissident Matabeles, a secret mission from the World Bank, and a Russian plot to overthrow the government are fiction in Smith's book, reality in life. Even the dash for Matabele King Lobengula's legendary hidden treasure deftly adds authenticity to the power struggle between black haves and have-nots.

There's no stinging condemnation here — Zimbabwean politics are really no different from any other African country's — simply a good storyteller's tale of people and their ambition, caught in the crush of history's collision with the present.

If you're one of those few people who want an *understanding* of southern Africa and its peoples rather than screeching rhetoric, **The Leopard Hunts In Darkness** is the ideal starting point.

THE EMBASSY HOUSE. By Nicholas Proffitt. Bantam Books, Dept. SOF, 666 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10103. 1986. 399 pp. \$16.95. Review by William J. Coughlin.

IN REVIEW



AFTER a ten-year barrage of fiction books about the Vietnam War, it was inevitable that the standard fare of grunts and rice paddies would be supplemented by plots with a new twist. Nicholas Proffitt offers a glimpse of a different world, a world of secret assassinations and dirty tricks. Here is a book that reveals the underbelly of the war in Vietnam and it has a powerful impact.

The Embassy House unmask the details of how the Central Intelligence Agency ran Phoenix, a program designed to destroy the Viet Cong infrastructure in South Vietnam by assassination, torture and imprisonment.

Phoenix was a brainchild of the CIA, which funded it and supplied the advisers who ran it until late 1969 when the agency began turning the program over to the U.S. Army's Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV).

Just how closely does Proffitt's book hew to the truth? He says only the characters are fiction, the incidents are real. And the incidents make for some interesting reading.

It is in this unsavory period, when both the CIA and Special Forces found themselves being sucked down by Vietnam, that Proffitt sets his story. The

countless killings of communists in the Mekong Delta are chewed together and spit out into one major incident which forms the core of Proffitt's novel. It involves the killing of a suspect who has been three-carded; that is, his name has been mentioned as a possible VC suspect by three different sources. His name, Nguyen Khac Trung, has been confused by Phoenix with that of another man with the same name in the same town. The reader has to wonder how many times that happened.

There seems little doubt that when Proffitt claims **The Embassy House** is based on fact, he speaks the truth. And now that the war has been partially laid to rest the facts about Phoenix can come out in the open. Perhaps **The Embassy House** will lead the way.

Armed with the details in **The Embassy House**, critics of the CIA will again have a field day raking the agency over the coals for past deeds. But they might want to reflect on Proffitt's own comment about Phoenix: "The North Vietnamese said after the war it was the most effective of all U.S. programs." And on that note Phoenix may be judged for what it accomplished. ✕

PERHAPS my greatest learning experience came almost two decades ago on a rainy night in South Vietnam. The year was 1968, just following the Tet Offensive, when the war had ceased to be a smattering of minor skirmishes.

We had been receiving mortar fire for what seemed like an eternity. It actually was closer to two hours and it was very, very nerve-rattling. Six of us sat in an armored carrier surrounded by steel planking. Both ceiling and walls were 4 feet thick with sandbags — a small but formidable shelter from the ground-shaking shells. I can still see the faces as we sat huddled against the wall, visages dimly lit by the battery-powered lights of the armored vehicle. It was as if we were a family of barn owls with illuminated faces, crouched low, everything tucked in for protection, frightened but trying not to show it.

Two of the men, both from Michigan, didn't belong in our bunker. They were building a bunker of their own when the incoming shells forced them to take refuge in ours. Now the explosions had slowed to staggered intervals, or what they call harassment fire. All this means is that a shell might explode every five minutes, every 20 minutes or one right after another.

Because of the slow rate of incoming fire, a lieutenant ordered the two men out to continue building their own bunker. Our first rule of combat was



I WAS THERE

by William Stodgel

A Soldier's Lesson



Eighteen years later, I'm still learning from my experiences in Vietnam. Photo: William Stodgel

that everyone must have 4 feet of sandbags over his head or none of us were allowed to sleep. So the two 18-

year-old GIs walked from relative safety to the danger in the blackness.

I won't go into detail about how they were hit by a mortar shell landing within 3 feet of them. I will tell you that one of them crawled 50 yards in an attempt to get help for his partner. I will tell you that one died with his last words being about how sleepy he was. I will also tell you that the other was horribly disfigured from the waist down but lived to tell about it.

What did I learn from this? I'm still learning 18 years later. I learned it's not always wise to blindly follow orders. I learned to have empathy for those in agony. I learned that being in the wrong place at the wrong time can be fatal. At the age of 21, I learned how mortal we all are. Most of all I learned that death can be truly merciful and that youth is no guarantee of things to come. ✕

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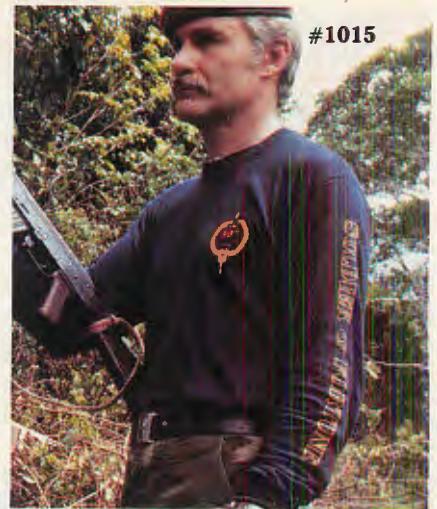
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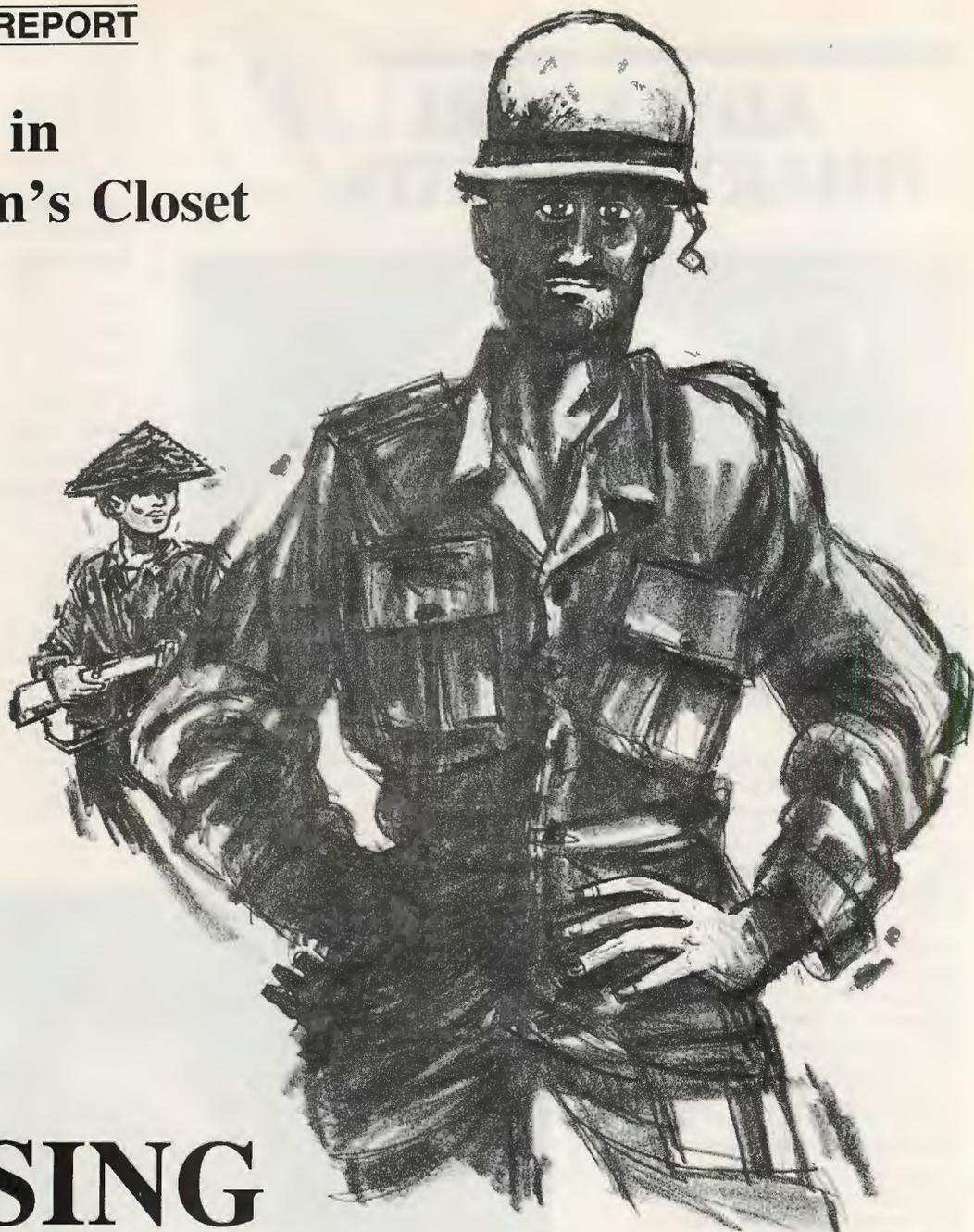
One thing, though, before you buy one: Be sure to check the local laws — some states frown on the use of such things.

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Skeletons in Uncle Sam's Closet

by James L. Pate



MISSING IN ACTION

"For the record, and for the sake of any next of kin, the armed services regard positive identification of the remains of servicemen to be of paramount importance. The lab, the only one of its kind in the world, is dedicated to ensuring that the remains assumed to be those of Lt. John Smith are actually those of John Smith."

— From "Lab Insures ID of Vietnam War Dead"

Pacific Stars and Stripes

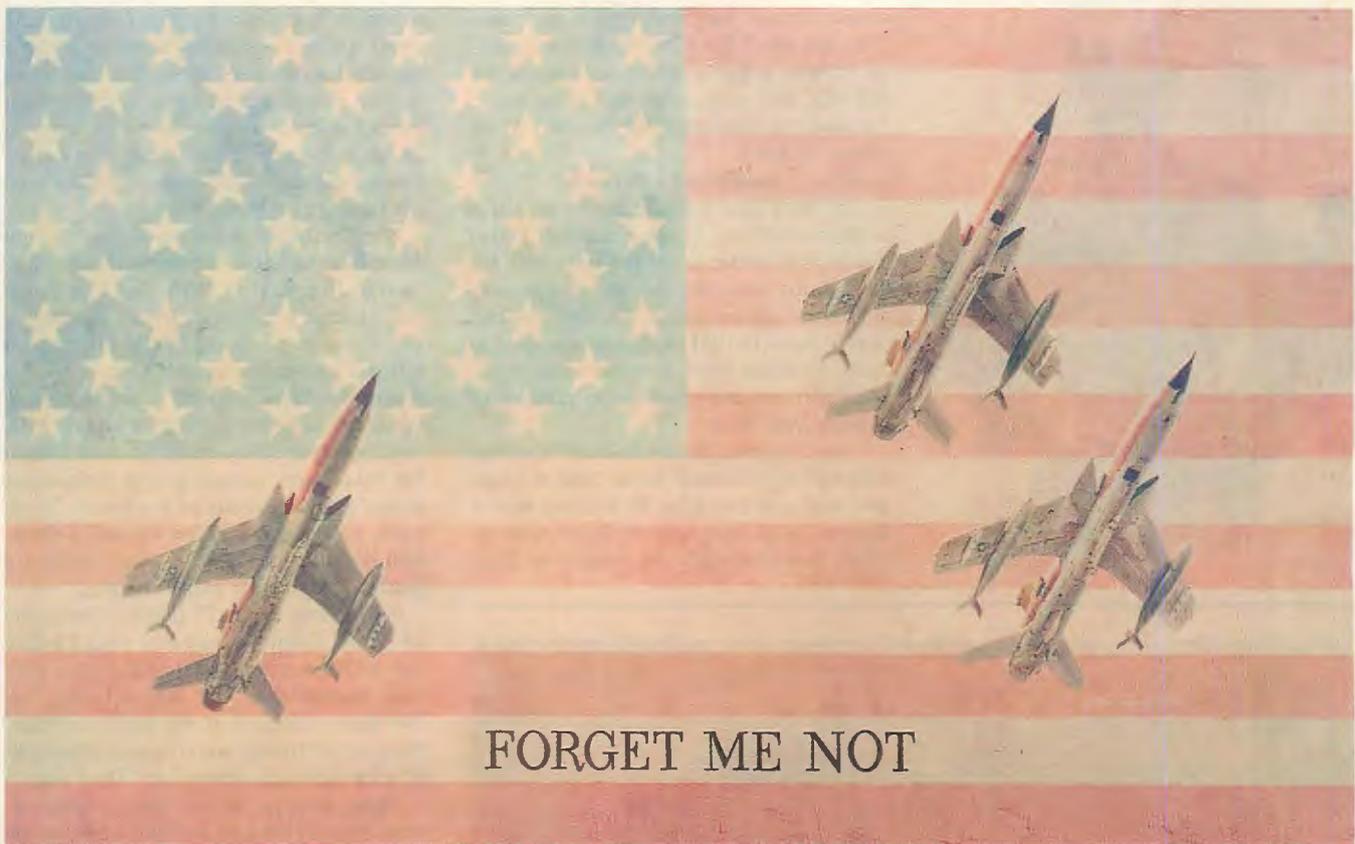
19 December 1982

PRESIDENT Ronald Reagan publicly recognized the cruel plight of MIA families early in his first term. They had been overlooked for too long, he said. But out of a national healing process for the Vietnam War's social wounds came an awareness that made MIA — the Missing In Action — a household word in America.

Still, many use the term as a convenient acronym, seldom stopping to think about what it means for families which have someone who is a prisoner of war (POW) or missing in action: the mental torture from

long years of excruciating loneliness, a constantly nagging uncertainty.

But there are about 2,400 families who will not, cannot forget. For these fathers, wives and mothers — and children now reaching adulthood, many who can't remember or never knew their fathers — "MIA" is more than just a word. It is a sentence in itself, a continuing sad story. An MIA in a family can mean a life in limbo, an emotional roller coaster between hope and despair to a never-never land; never forgetting, never knowing, never ending.



FORGET ME NOT

Reagan vowed that *his* administration had "made resolution of the problem one of highest national priority." Negotiations were begun with Vietnam and Laos for the return of MIA remains and resolution of numerous POW sightings. Progress was extremely slow until 1985.

In February 1985, a U.S. team accompanied by Laotian combat engineers was allowed to recover remains from an AC-130 crash site in Laos, at the southern village of Paksé in Champasak Province on the Mekong River. There had been a midair explosion and fire after a few crewmen parachuted. The Specter 17 gunship nosedived into the steamy jungle and burned. Ammo cooked off for hours, according to reports.

Over 65,000 bone fragments were recovered from Paksé. The Army's Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii (CIL-HI) — run by a civil service/military staff — later separated between 600 and 700 bone and dental fragments into 13 piles weighing a total of about 3 pounds. CIL-HI then "positively identified" the 13 airmen believed to be on the plane when it crashed and burned.

A second site has also been excavated since then and remains believed to belong to 14 men recovered. But after determining there were no survivors at the site, U.S. forces rocketed and bombed the crashed aircraft to prevent intelligence losses. These remains consequently are in "much worse" shape than those recovered from Paksé, according to two scientific sources who have seen them. The sources agreed in separate interviews that the only identifications possible would be from dental evidence because bone matter was too fragmented and

burned. These remains were still being processed by CIL-HI in early April.

A third U.S. crash site believed to contain the remains of over 10 MIAs is also due to be explored. These accomplishments made 1985 the most productive year for MIA negotiations since 1973, when U.S. forces officially withdrew from Vietnam.

Despite the new MIA finds of 1985, only 200 sets of U.S. remains from the Vietnam War have been returned from Southeast Asia as of 1 April 1986. Over 2,400 Vietnam War servicemen were listed by the Pentagon as MIA in the region: about 100 in Cambodia, around 560 in Laos, almost 900 in South Vietnam, about 500 in North Vietnam, and six are believed to have disappeared in China. The remainder were lost at sea.

While the Reagan Administration has made marked progress on foreign fronts to resolve the Vietnam War's MIA tragedy, efforts toward that end on the home front — specifically CIL-HI's work on the Paksé cases — have drawn severe criticism; from MIA families, Capitol Hill, the scientific community and the press.

But as most modern presidents would attest, the best intentions of even the Commander in Chief are not always enough to penetrate the packed strata of midlevel federal bureaucracy. A two-month investigation by *Soldier of Fortune* Magazine into CIL-HI's processing of the Paksé and other MIA remains resulted in some disturbing findings: lab reports "doctored" by personnel lacking in either academic or professional qualifications for their jobs, an ill-equipped and improperly supervised lab, and positive identifications made in MIA

cases in which such findings are not scientifically supportable.

SOF's investigation included interviews of over two dozen people: MIA relatives, government personnel from the Pentagon to Pearl Harbor, and professionally recognized forensic anthropologists from several universities and the Smithsonian.

Also interviewed were two doctoral-level forensic anthropologists and a forensic odontologist (dentist) who were appointed by the Army to evaluate CIL-HI and its personnel. Their report was released by the Pentagon in February. The Army's interpretation of the report differs dramatically from that of everyone else who has read it.

The Army would not allow *Soldier of Fortune* to interview the lab's top scientific staffer, nor its civilian and military administrators. However, several persons with extensive knowledge of CIL-HI agreed to be interviewed if they would not be publicly identified.

SOF's findings were made available in March to the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Investigations, which immediately launched its own probe into the lab's work. At press time, U.S. Rep. Bill Nichols, the subcommittee chairman, had advised Secretary of the Army John Marsh to make an appointment at the congressman's office for discussion on the issue and what corrections are warranted. Nichols underwent open-heart surgery in April and it was still uncertain whether hearings would be held.

Poor Facility

Despite Army claims that CIL-HI was the best facility anywhere for its mission — "the only one of its kind in the world" —



characterized that Pentagon report as a "whitewash." But Air Force Major Virginia Pribyla, a public affairs spokesman for CIL-HI, still claims that this same report "found the operation [of the lab] to be above reproach."

Conflict of Interest?

The lab's chief forensic anthropologist is a Japanese-born civilian named Tadao Furue. His whole career has been with the U.S. Army, most of it on a contract basis as a forensic lab technician. His first contract was in Japan in 1951, where he was hired to help doctorate-level forensic anthropologists sort out and identify the remains of Korean War dead.

One of those doctorate-level forensic anthropologists whom Furue came to know and like was Dr. Ellis R. Kerley, now a University of Maryland professor who, in 1985, helped identify the remains of Nazi

Sciences. Interviewed in New Orleans at the 1986 AAFS Convention, at which Furue's application membership was due for action, Kerley denied that any conflict of interest existed in his evaluation of the lab because of his long-running friendship with Furue. He said that friendship in no way influenced his findings on Furue's lab.

The facility in question — the Central Identification Lab — was moved from Thailand to Honolulu in 1976. In 1977, Furue was hired as a full-time civil servant, rating GS-12 (since promoted to GS-13), to head CIL-HI's scientific work for the Army. No longer was Furue working in just a technical capacity. As uncertainty grew among MIA families, spurred by scientific challenges to the Paksé cases, questions were raised about Furue's qualifications as a scientist. These came up again at the New Orleans convention because the AAFS requires at least a master's degree for membership.

As recently as the 27 January 1986 issue of *Army Times* — only two weeks before the AAFS meeting — Furue has been publicly identified as "Dr. Tadao Furue," as two photo captions in this article indicate. Many of his friends and colleagues habitually refer to him as "Doc" or "Dr. Furue."

Furue does not have a Ph.D., however. And when he applied for membership in the Physical Anthropology Section of the AAFS, Furue indicated on his application that a "diploma" he received in 1945 was a "B.S. equivalent." The "diploma," Furue wrote, was from "Dai-shichi Kotogakko-Zoshikan," which he indicated in parenthesis underneath was "University of Kagoshima." A Mr. Shimopori at the Japanese Embassy in Washington said the above translates as "Seventh High School, Zoshikan" (school name). Shimopori said it did not attain university status until after Furue left.

Also on the application, Furue indicated that a B.S. degree he received from the University of Tokyo is an "M.S. equivalent." Shimopori said that although this institution has a reputation of being the best in Japan, he does not think a B.S. degree there would be equivalent to a master's degree in the United States. Because of these and other questions raised about his professional credentials, Furue's application was quietly withdrawn at the New Orleans meeting without coming up for action.

Yet Furue's background presumably was checked when he was granted a secret security clearance by the Army. The Pentagon's Kerley report states: "We examined the . . . credentials of the professional personnel directly involved in the identification process. . . . The anthropologists are generally well-trained, experienced and technically competent."

Untrained Supervision

Just below Furue in the lab hierarchy are three Ph.D.s, all GS-12s and all added to the staff since the controversy over the Paksé remains arose. This was an Army response to recommendations in the Kerley report. The report recommended that one national-



the lab was not properly set up to begin with. The Pentagon's own evaluation rated the facility as "between inadequate and barely adequate." It said the lab's x-ray equipment was "minimal" and unsuited for bones, located "in a poorly shielded and . . . inaccessible place." Film has to be sent out for processing, partly because the lab building has no hot water. Remains must be moved from place to place on old canvas stretchers because there are no rollable body tables usually available in forensic labs where remains are processed. CIL-HI's only available camera was bought with personal funds by a lab staff member. Only one microscope is in the lab, according to the Pentagon report, and a reference library does not exist. The report said mistakes "of a blatant nature" had been made in identifying some remains. For instance, it said 11 of the 13 Paksé identifications were scientifically unsupportable.

Yet, despite these and other strongly stated criticisms of the lab's operation, one SOF source familiar with the lab's operation

These remains, with a plastic wrist ID tag added by the lab, were "positively identified" by the Army as those of MSgt. James Fuller. Everyone who has seen these remains except the Army says that such an identification is scientifically impossible.

death camp doctor Josef Mengele. Kerley and Furue met in 1954 and they have been close friends ever since. For instance, Furue was Kerley's best man when the latter married.

In late 1985, when criticism by MIA families and the press began to grow louder, the Army appointed its own three-man team of experts to evaluate Furue and his lab. It was the Army's hope that an evaluation by a team of experts would settle questions about CIL-HI's identification procedures. Heading the evaluation team: Ellis R. Kerley.

When Kerley was appointed to head the Army's evaluation team, he already was an active sponsor of Tadao Furue for membership in the Physical Anthropology Section of the American Academy of Forensic

ly recognized forensic anthropologist be hired on a full-time basis to work over Furue. Instead, someone with no graduate degree (Furue) is over three Ph.D.s. The lab has two bosses, one military and the other civilian.

CIL-HI's commanding officer is Army Lieutenant Colonel Johnie E. Webb Jr., a good-old-boy Texan whose hobby is working on old cars. All CIL-HI COs have come to their commands from the Army Quartermaster Corps, and Webb is no exception. He has no experience related to the lab's work other than serving as its executive officer prior to being named CO. He spent his Vietnam tour working in fuel storage and resupply. Yet he now is a leader in "technical negotiations" with the Vietnamese over the recovery of MIA remains from crash sites.

The lab's other top administrator, Webb's civilian counterpart, is H. Thorne Helgesen. His official title is laboratory director. Helgesen's related experience consists of four years in Vietnam as an enlisted embalmer and a course he took at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.

When purported MIA remains are delivered to the lab, Furue and his staff try to separate them if they are comingled. They are analyzed for particular characteristics. If any dentition is recovered, the teeth are turned over to the resident forensic odontologist, Army Major J. Curtis Daley, for analysis. All listed MIAs are cataloged in a lab computer system (which some have complained is inadequate for its task). Results are compared against known records. Once the bones and teeth have been analyzed, a "Record of Identification Process" is prepared, including a skeletal chart indicating what portions were recovered. An attached anthropological narrative explains how conclusions were reached. Furue signs these reports as the lab's top forensic anthropologist.

Helgesen and Webb send the lab reports on individual remains with a recommendation — such as for positive identification — to a board of the Armed Services Grave Registration Office (ASGRO) in Washington. The ASGRO Board reads Furue's recommendations and makes the official decision as to whether a set of remains has been positively identified.

Webb is fond of mentioning that "not once" has the ASGRO board ever repudiated a CIL-HI lab recommendation. The board consists of one civilian appointee each from the Army, Navy and Air Force, "none of whom are professionally trained to interpret the findings" they get from CIL-HI, according to the Kerley report. "They cannot be expected to detect any errors or misstatements . . . nor can they judge the biological or judicial strengths of identifications." The Kerley report recommends that a professionally qualified person be added to this board to evaluate the scientific validity of submitted CIL-HI data.

Altered Records

Two sources extensively familiar with



Lt. Col. Webb, right, watches as Furue demonstrates one of his controversial — and scientifically unproven — lab techniques. Photo: *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*

Lab's top scientist, Tadao Furue, has no graduate school degree. Photo: *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*



CIL-HI's work confirmed a third confidential SOF source who told the magazine that some MIA lab reports containing "alterations and deletions" were signed and sent to the ASGRO board, which subsequently ruled the cases as "positively identified." All three sources indicate the changes in the records were made by Webb and Helgesen against the advice of Furue and one of the lab assistants who at the time was signing reports, Ms. Marla Mahoney. Furue and Mahoney were ordered to sign the altered lab reports anyway.

A congressional source confirmed that

the changes involved the deletion of plus-or-minus figures for already twice-extrapolated data and changes in the anthropological narratives written by Furue. The changes, the four sources said, were made by Helgesen and Webb in order to make Furue's recommendations appear more scientifically certain than they actually were.

Untested Methods

Much of Furue's work is based on a self-developed method he calls the "morphological approximation technique." Forensic anthropologists routinely use long-tested approximation tables in their work to get a scientifically reasonable estimate of stature. Various tables are used based on racial and sexual differences in skeletal remains. When complete skeletal remains are not available, certain bones such as from the arms or legs can be used through an additional extrapolation formula to approximate height. But certain landmarks must be present in bone fragments used in order for the morphological approximations to have a scientifically acceptable degree of accuracy.

Furue's technique is unproven, and according to several recognized forensic anthropologists who've examined Furue's work, flawed. Furue, who speaks English with difficulty, has said the Army would not permit him to publish his findings in professional science journals because of the classified nature of the lab's work. Scientists routinely publish new findings and techniques, thus allowing other professionals to examine the work to see if it's scientifically sound. Furue's other disadvantage in the controversy is an almost painful politeness and an inscrutable reticence toward confrontation; both cultural characteristics of his Japanese upbringing.

Using MIA lab records from CIL-HI and the actual remains identified as those of one Paksé crash victim — Air Force Master Sergeant James Fuller — several professionally recognized forensic anthropologists examined Furue's work privately while attending the 1986 AAFS convention in New Orleans. CIL-HI's purported Fuller remains consist of 27 or so tiny bone frag-



Another who examined the remains claimed by the Army to belong to Fuller, Dr. George Gill of the University of Wyoming, looked at the few tiny bone fragments and the corresponding lab reports signed by Furue. Gil said the Fuller case was "most troublesome," adding that Furue's morphological approximation technique "is worse than just poor methodology. Even an undergraduate osteology student would get an F from me on this type of work. It does suggest some things that are very hard to explain."

Dr. Michael Charney, a professor emeritus at Colorado State University who worked as a consultant for SOF in preparing its findings, had brought the remains to New Orleans. The most vocal of the lab's critics, he is the antithesis of Furue's soft-spoken manner: bold, bald facts stated without

this man's so-called techniques."

An Army spokesman declined comment, except to say Charney's charges of deliberate wrongdoing are "absurd."

Dr. T. Dale Stewart, chairman emeritus of the Department of Physical Anthropology at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, also questioned Furue's findings when he examined MIA records, including Fuller's, in his office. Stewart, recognized as the world's foremost forensic anthropologist, said he, like Kerley, has known Furue since Furue began working for the Army as lab assistant in Japan in the early 1950s. Stewart, one of several experts hired for the same lab on a temporary basis, said Furue "was one of the better men at making racial identifications. But this is really all he's ever done. His work here [referring to Paksé MIA records] is not passable. But then this is the only future he knows about, working with the military. Judging from these reports, I'd say the pressure's definitely on by the military to get these bones from Southeast Asia identified and out to the families for burial."

Move the Lab?

Congressman Nichols was briefed on these and other findings by SOF during a 6 March meeting. Nichols was able to view CIL-HI records and remains. A House Armed Services Committee investigator later spent three days at CIL-HI. Based on findings by the magazine and the congressional investigator, the following recommendations were submitted to Congressman Nichols:

- A nationally recognized forensic anthropologist should be put in charge of the Army's identification laboratory. This person should have a doctorate degree and work full time to supervise all of CIL-HI's work.
- The Army should study the feasibility of closing the Honolulu facility and moving its Central Identification Laboratory to the Washington area, possibly to locate near the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. This would provide more direct oversight and save money.
- The lab should discontinue the use of Furue's "morphological approximation technique" until that technique has been accepted by the scientific community.
- Furue must submit his new technique for publication so that it can be fully scrutinized by recognized forensic anthropologists.
- Eleven of the 13 Paksé cases should be reclassified from their present status of "positively identified."

Apparently forgetting for the moment that the Army had investigated its own facility once already, one congressional source who asked not to be named said he hopes the Army will take care of its problems internally so congressional hearings will not be required. "It's an issue that we don't need to get a lot of publicity on. It gets the families all upset, especially the families in that particular crash [Paksé]."

Two schools of thought exist among MIA families about the disturbing questions raised over the scientific validity of CIL-



Dr. Mike Charney, right, explains identification procedures to SOF staffer Jim Pate. Photo: William B. Guthrie

ments, one of them since identified as nonhuman. Another fragment was identified as being from the pubic region of the pelvic bone, when actually it is a piece of skull, according to the several scientists who looked it it. A pubic bone face which the lab claimed it used to determine age was not present.

One of those who examined the Fuller remains, Dr. Walter Birkby of the University of Arizona, is president of the American Board of Forensic Anthropology. He said of those remains that "the proper sort of caution has not been exercised in certification. The Army says the [Paksé] identifications are positive and they are not. But they [CIL-HI] can get away with sloppy work because they don't have to go into court with it, which means over a period of years you get more and more lax. . . . This [work] is carrying the exclusionary method to a ridiculous extreme."

The exclusionary method is typically used in crash cases in which specific persons were believed present at the time of the incident. Other possibilities and identities are excluded by known circumstances in the case.

sugar-coating. Charney's behavior perhaps as much as Furue's reflects his own background. He is the son of a Russian royal leathersmith who made boots and saddles for the czar's cavalry units. In his 74 years — 52 as a forensic anthropologist — Charney served in the U.S. Cavalry when it still had horses, was in the Texas Rangers crime lab and taught for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Because of his reputation of success in hard-to-identify cases, Charney was initially contacted by a few MIA families who wanted a second opinion on whether remains were actually those of their loved one. Based on 19 separate cases he has reviewed as of April, Charney said the positive identifications in only two can be stated with any scientific certainty. He has charged that Furue's apparent mistakes were "deliberate" and that his untested lab methods are "intellectually dishonest. I feel there's no regard for the truth. No wonder the Army doesn't want anybody evaluating



From left, Mrs. Dorothy Shelton, whose husband is still listed as a POW, and MIA relatives Jerry Dennis, Kathryn Fanning and Anne Hart outside U.S. District Court in Raleigh, N.C. Photo: Jason Brady

HI's work. One side wants the Army to deliver, accepting on blind faith that the remains are who the Army says they are, have a burial and finally put the long nightmare behind them.

Others, like Kathryn Fanning and Anne Hart, wives of two MIAs, say they've been lied to repeatedly by the government. They want to know the truth. Both have been presented remains identified by CIL-HI as their husbands. Both rejected the remains after Charney and other experts examined each set of bones and said they could not be positively identified. Both women have other reasons — albeit slim threads of hope — to suspect that their husbands might still be alive.

Mrs. Hart was the second MIA relative to publicly challenge the identification of the remains purported to be her husband. The first was in 1970. Mrs. Hart filed suit in U.S. District Court in San Francisco in 1985, challenging the armed forces remains identification process. Her husband, then Captain Thomas T. Hart III, was table navigator aboard the AC-130 in the Paksé crash.

A U.S. District Court Judge solicited written comments from affected family members. He then dismissed the case, claiming his court had no jurisdiction, and ordered records sealed. Hart appealed the dismissal. Meanwhile, SOF obtained portions of some of those sealed letters.

Typical of those families who want the matter put to rest at any cost are Delma

Dickens and his wife, Ilma, of Omega, Ga. Their son, Captain Delma Ernest Dickens, was among the Paksé crash victims subsequently listed as MIA.

About two dozen pieces of small bone fragments — none larger than two or three inches — were identified by CIL-HI as the final remains of Capt. Dickens. Many of the fragments are severely burned. According to Charney, who examined CIL-HI's report on these remains, "claims by CIL-HI as to sex, race, age, stature are not possible. . . . It's not even possible to tell if the fragments belong to one and the same individual."

Yet in a letter to the court, Mr. and Mrs. Dickens wrote that any delay in the return of these remains would be "intolerable and outrageous." They asked for the immediate delivery of the remains "without further handling by someone with a misguided will or lack of respect for the family members and friends of our deceased son. . . . We are satisfied that Ernest's remains are within his coffin."

Dickens' parents concluded by stating that "we prohibit any action, legal or otherwise, that makes his body a battlefield for the experts."

But of those experts, even Kerley and his

two colleagues who wrote the Army's evaluation report admit that 11 of the 13 Paksé remains cannot be identified with any scientific certainty. Kerley's two colleagues in writing the Pentagon report were William R. Maples, Ph.D., curator of physical anthropology at the Florida State Museum, and Dr. Lowell Levine, a dentist and forensic odontologist who worked with Kerley on the Mengele identification team.

Kerley and Maples have said privately that there's not enough scientific evidence to say with any certainty that 13 people were definitely on the plane when it crashed. After seeing the remains identified as Fuller's in New Orleans and looking at other CIL-HI records, Maples said he agreed with all of Charney's criticisms except the issue of whether lab mistakes were made deliberately.

"We're all responsible for what we sign," said Maples in a telephone interview, referring to reports circulating that Furue had been told to sign reports he knew were altered. "I will frankly admit that we said some things in that [Pentagon] report that we weren't qualified to say . . . such questions as whether pressures [to make positive identifications] were involved. We were not qualified to do that type of investigation.

"But if you work for the Army for 30-some-odd years [like Furue] your priorities

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ISLAND FIGHTING

52 IB Tracks Elusive NPA

Text & Photos by Tom Marks

“APITONG is coming.” The cryptic note, scrawled by some communist soldier on a page of his hastily abandoned notebook, told the story. Our counterinsurgency patrol, code-named Apitong, had indeed come — led by a baby-faced lieutenant the troops were later to christen affectionately, “Edgar the Jungle Fighter.”

It was his first real contact. Three times before, infantry of the Philippine army’s 52nd Infantry Battalion (52 IB in Manila’s shorthand) had searched for an advanced military training camp in their area. Used by the New People’s Army (NPA), military arm of the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), it had remained successfully hidden in a thickly forested valley protected by the forbidding terrain of northern Samar.

But now Edgar’s patrol stood amidst its prize. The notebook scribble told the story. As anticipated, the enemy had been monitoring our frequency; they even knew our call signs. What the NPA had not banked on was the deceptive thrust away from the objective as they watched our progress. When the guerrillas attempted an M60 ambush at close range, Apitong foiled it and then made straight for the communist camp.

At times climbing on all fours, 52 IB seized the high ground. Led down the NPA’s own trails by several guerrillas-turned-informants, the troops came in from an unguarded flank.

Considering how rough the terrain was, the troops moved quickly through



The strain of the week-long patrol in rugged country shows on the faces of these troopers.

the maze of tumbled-down trees and thick undergrowth. Thorny vines clawed a sleeve off my shirt. My problem wasn't shared by the rest of the troopers, though. Some of the patrol strolled along the jungle trails barefoot, moving easily through the bladed bushes. One soldier deftly humped a 90mm recoilless rifle with one shell, an M16, two M203 rounds and a bulging combat pack. I found myself breaking stride in an effort just to keep up.

We just missed the big score. The NPA departure had been so hasty that half a dozen fully loaded packs still lay in place, their owners unable to retrieve them. Though the guerrillas and their weapons had moved out one step ahead of us, the document haul alone made a good catch. Included was a detailed analysis of the guerrillas' situation which confirmed what I had already discerned during a month-long visit: The NPA might be getting great press overseas, but in Samar it was in deep trouble.

Samar . . . the jewel of the Philippines . . . the archipelago's third largest island after Luzon and Mindanao has a level, placid-looking coastal strip that conceals some of the roughest interior in the country. Most of the 1.2 million people are farmers or fishermen. Villages (*barangay*) in the hinterland, as Filipinos call the rural areas — which means just about everywhere — are linked to the outside world by a patchwork of narrow trails. Government neglect is near-total, poverty absolute. The soil is poor, fertile only for the growth of insurgency.

To such a promising environment came the CCP/NPA in the late 1960s. Still licking its wounds from continual drubbings in the Philippine heartland of Luzon, the movement was in need of a safe base. Samar proved ideal. The guerrillas picked the most isolated villages and built their infrastructure. They were aided by the ineptitude of government officials and heavy-handed army operations swelled guerrilla ranks.

The communists got their biggest boost when President Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law in September 1972. "Legalized dictatorship," as one source called it at the time, cut off avenues for legitimate political dissent and forced activists to make a choice: Give up in the face of substantial government repression, or work with the CPP. A hefty core of disgruntled local politicians, clergymen and students in Samar chose the latter course. Thereafter, the mass base so essential to successful guerrilla action increased rapidly.

By the mid-1970s it was estimated that half of Samar's villages had been



OLD ASIA HAND

Tom Marks is a former U.S. Army officer with plenty of time in Asia. He has spent the last three years in Hong Kong and the Philippines studying the counterinsurgency capabilities of governments in Southeast Asia. Most recently, Marks journeyed to the south-

Head and shoulders above the Filipino soldiers, Tom Marks shares the hardships of the jungle with the troopers of 52 IB.

ern Philippines to check on the progress of Manila's fight against the communist New People's Army.

penetrated. By the end of the decade the situation was a nightmare. In some areas authorities felt that 80 percent of the villages had fallen under communist sway. Security force casualties soared.

Manila, faced with what had become the most developed communist infrastructure in the islands, deployed no less than 12 battalions to the region

— a larger maneuver force than had been available to the whole army in 1972. Though the number was down to 9 by 1981, it was still one of the largest concentrations of military power in any sector.

A tough situation demands tough measures. Brigadier General Salvador M. Mison, a man regarded by many as

the Philippines' foremost combat soldier, was brought in to take charge of the region in 1981. Mison had earned his reputation in the intense fighting of the mid-'70s against the separatist Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). First as a battalion commander in the battle for Jolo City in Sulu, then as a brigade commander on Basilan Island with 12 maneuver battalions assigned to him, the general established himself as a no-nonsense, aggressive officer with a flair for improvisation. He refused to accept excuses for poor performance and quickly drew to him a core of like-minded officers.

Mison's new area of operations (AO) encompassed both Samar and Leyte, an arrangement which eventually became Regional Unified Command 8 — or RUC-8 — under an armed forces scheme to rationalize its command structure. Both islands were communist targets, but Samar was by far the bigger problem.

Platoon commanders check out the map for possible routes taken by fleeing NPA guerrillas.



The general, a student of revolutionary warfare, understood the importance of winning hearts and minds — his first task was to win the confidence of the people. This he did by tightening discipline and eliminating abuse of the population. He himself became renowned for spending the night in troubled areas, demonstrating that there was nowhere the government could not — and would not — go. Local government officials were encouraged and coerced to execute their responsibilities.

In the field, multibattalion operations were launched to break up large guerrilla formations. Simultaneously, to cover his rear area, Mison made adroit use of intelligence assets to uncover and dismantle the main communist front activities. In particular, Samar's premier Catholic Social Action center, which had become a key source of CPP funds and influence, was shut down. Thoroughly infiltrated, it had become a virtual nerve center for communist underground activity in the region. Once organizational centers had been broken up, the long, tedious task of small-unit warfare could begin.

I arrived at Calbayog City in



mid-February 1986. Nationally, there was political chaos as the rigged election held on the 7th had prompted mounting protests against the corrupt Marcos government. But in backwaters such as the province of Northern Samar, it was business as usual. At the headquarters of 52 IB an operation was in preparation. I joined it.

Responsible for an AO of more than 3,000 square kilometers and 163 villages, 52 IB was illustrative of the Philippine approach to counterinsurgency as waged in RUC-8. The battalion had been formed in December 1984. After just four months

Not all Filipino soldiers have adequate equipment. This M60 machine-gunner seems fully prepared to tromp through the jungle barefoot.



of training, it had deployed to Samar with a majority of its personnel still raw draftees.

The NPA followed its usual pattern of testing new units, and a 52 IB convoy promptly blundered into a carefully prepared ambush on the coastal highway leading northward. They lost. The troops quickly got serious about the mechanics of soldiering.

Improvement was rapid. The battalion had only known one commander, Lieutenant Colonel George Vallejera. Tall for a Filipino at 5 feet 11 inches, he was a tough, experienced officer who loved his troopers. By the end of 1985 they knew the ropes and had captured a major NPA training camp. Continual small-unit patrolling led to frequent encounters, yet casualties were minimal.

The NPA would ambush and raid settlements, but was unwilling to pick a fight once the unit had established itself as a force to be reckoned with.

When I talked to Vallejera, it was obvious that 52 IB was led by as keen an expert on revolutionary warfare and counterinsurgency as any I had ever encountered. He knew how the enemy thought, what the NPA goals were, and how the communists hoped to accomplish them. And he knew how to utilize his limited assets for maximum effect.

52 IB is a composite force drawn from all four of the battalion's companies. As seen through American eyes we were a U.S.-style platoon-sized "patrol" broken down in Ranger fashion: lead, main and rear elements. Each element had its own "squads"

Red bandannas tied to the arms and weapons of 52 IB help soldiers keep track of who's friendly and who's the enemy.

drawn from different units. Heavy weapons were in the center under control of the patrol leader.

The companies, platoons and even squads of the battalion are based throughout the AO. They carry out constant patrols within their assigned areas, grouping for larger operations as circumstances dictate. Operations are based on developed intelligence; virtually all, even small patrols, are accompanied by local guides and NPA who have rallied to the government side. The constant presence of the security forces, real or imagined, deprives the guerrillas of their most



Heavily armed soldier prepares to lead NPA sympathizer back to the base camp.

valuable weapon, the initiative. Engaged in a deadly game of hide-and-seek with government troops, they are unable to organize and implement their own schemes.

Along with tactical operations, the security forces organize (countermobilize) threatened areas to resist the guerrillas. Local self-defense forces are formed in the towns first, then in the villages. These forces are always teamed with regular military or police personnel.

The precise deployment adopted depends upon the size force the enemy is capable of putting together. Self-defense units must be substantial enough to hold out for the minimum time which would likely be required to

effect reinforcement. With fixed targets protected by self-defense units, the battalion can concentrate on hunting down guerrilla camps and units.

And that's just what the patrol I was with planned to do — go out hunting. We prepared for departure just past midnight. In a classic reversal of roles, darkness and bad weather didn't aid the guerrillas. We were moving out under the cover of blackness to conceal our intentions so any informers who might see us leave camp would be hard put to discern our objective.

Weapons were checked. Our patrol had the standard issue: M16s, M14s and M1 Carbines, M203s and an M60 machine gun. Someone had dug up a 90mm, so we took that in lieu of a 60mm mortar. Commo equipment was antiquated but adequate: the old U.S. M6 "walkie-talkie," supplemented by local purchases. Commercial

off-the-shelf gear is favored by both sides due to its lightness, substantially better range and lower cost.

Equipment inspection told the story of Manila's neglect and gave substance to the bitterness I'd found among field officers. Fatigues are often issued twice and jungle boots quickly disintegrate under the rigors of sustained operations. The result is a riot of colors and styles: Adidas sweats, T-shirts, jungle fatigues, ski caps, blue jeans, sandals, tennis shoes, bare feet — even a pair of soccer cleats. Packs range from surplus U.S. Army to wicker baskets.

Haircuts are not a priority item. Besides, the commander doesn't want his men to stand out from the local populace. So great is the similarity between military formations and their NPA opposition that each operation is assigned its own recognition device. This time around we tried old signal flags tied around our shirt sleeves.

We left camp in a couple of dilapidated trucks, the only organic transport in the entire battalion. It is estimated that there are 50-plus Hueys in-country, but the last time anyone remembers a concentration of them for a single operation was in the filming of *Apocalypse Now*. The film crews are long since gone.

One of the battalion's missions is to protect the coastal highway. The best way to do that is by patrolling the interior, forcing the guerrillas to react to the security forces. During the election earlier in the month, the NPA tried an ambush along a deserted stretch of road. They didn't hit anything, but the try means they've established a staging area within striking distance of the coast.

Our objective was the suspected NPA camp deep in the forested hills. An informant had given us a rough map of the place and he estimated its strength at 200 "ST" (subversive terrorists). Given probable exaggeration and the element of surprise, those odds weren't prohibitive.

Before the sun rose, the unit had piled out of our small convoy of trucks and entered the green fastness. As the first rays of light appeared, we moved down an abandoned logging road and set up a command post (CP). The patrol itself pushed on.

Hours passed. The rutted, washed-out road was a sea of mud, but it was still a faster alternative than the snarled jungle all around us. Fresh jungle boot tracks kept the men on edge. It had rained last night, and there were no other government patrols about. Someone was close by.

A young man suddenly spotted our patrol. He ducked and started to run, then thought better of such rashness and surrendered. Accompanying

members of the intelligence platoon questioned him — you don't go on nature walks in northern Samar. He claimed to be a logger but soft hands and an inconsistent story gave the lie to such nonsense.

Taking no chances of compromising the operation, the patrol took him along to be questioned later at the battalion. He rapidly became a full-fledged participant in the operation and by the end of the day he was carrying a pack and three 90mm rounds.

We moved off. The troops joked that there are only two seasons in Samar — the wet and the very wet. We have managed to hit a dry day after weeks of rain, but the intense sun that replaced the rain was little consolation. Besides, in the humidity we were soon soaked through with sweat.

Noise to the left flank caused the entire patrol to leap into firing positions. A team moved into the bush and returned with three young boys who had been hunting lizards. They said we were the second group of "soldiers" they had seen today. They were released to go back after their lizards.

At a bend in the road stood three huts previously used by logging teams. No sooner did we appear when the jungle resounded with the noise of someone banging on an iron bar. He said "soldiers" told him to do that so that they would know when their "companions" were in the vicinity. Maybe we were still in luck.

A search of the huts turned up a homemade shotgun, but there was no one else about. The old man — who claimed to have been born "during the time of the Americanos," which began with the Spanish-American War at the turn of the century — was fashioning rattan into long strips which he hoped to sell to handicraft makers.

While waiting to see what the old man's signal would conjure up, the patrol settled down for a quick meal. Operational rations for the Philippine army would be the envy of any hard-core instructor who ever tried to make his Ranger class eat snakes: rice with dried bits of squid and some canned sardines. The rice, already cooked and carried in pots, was spread on banana leaves so everyone could dig in. Dessert was soda crackers and the entire meal was washed down with water from a rushing stream. Purification tablets hadn't been in the supply pipeline for years, so we all took our chances. Samar is famous for the nasty things you can get by drinking untreated water.

With the meal completed and no sign of the bad guys, we left the road and moved into the thick stuff. The radios crackled constantly with the call sign as the patrol elements coordinated their movements — "Apitong One, this is



THE ROOTS OF INSURGENCY

Experts have filled whole books with theories on why individuals join insurgencies. Intellectuals are the easy part of the puzzle: They become converts to a new religion. What is the rationale of the rank-and-file?

A sense of injustice seems to be the lever most often used by the communist leadership. Long after the original causes have vanished, the mechanisms of organization keep the movement active.

CPP tactics of infiltration and subversion have been perfected to a science. Captured instructions give a systematic "Step One-Two-Three" approach which has proved highly successful in the absence of strong and competent local government. Both of these qualities are rare in the Philippines although the situation seems to be changing.

The communists claim the system is rotten; the military says that only the bad apples need to be cleaned out. Faced with an improved environment, the people listen to whichever side has the preponderance of force and the ability to use it to protect them.

It is crucial to an understanding of revolutionary war that the government (and the press) recognize that the sole purpose of the NPA is to serve as a shield to protect the activities of the party. They accomplish this mission by hitting numerous points, thereby forcing the authorities to spread their forces in a static defensive posture. Pitched battles are fought only when absolutely necessary to defeat government forces which endanger the political mobilization process whereby new members are recruited and villages organized in the revolutionary infrastructure.

The government is in a bind. If it does not protect key targets, society will be destroyed, further contributing to the conditions off which the insurgents feed. If it does seek to protect

As morning comes, Filipino soldiers pack their gear for a long patrol.

everything, available forces are never sufficient, since the guerrillas can always choose their point of attack. Small, isolated outposts are picked off at leisure, subjecting the security forces to what amounts to a slow, painful process of defeat. In the meantime, with government forces tied up, the field is free for revolutionary cadre to organize the masses — which in turn provides the guerrillas with increased manpower and logistical support for further expansion.

The solution to the government's deployment dilemma is, of course, countermobilization, organizing one's own side as effectively as the enemy is attempting to do. Militarily, this resolves itself into the same strategic consideration facing the guerrillas: how to throw up a shield behind which society can be organized. The answer is much the same: force the enemy to dissipate his strength.

Security forces first concentrate superior power and saturate an area with units. Under the weight of the attacks, the regular guerrilla units are forced to break down into smaller bodies to avoid becoming targets. Government forces follow, likewise breaking down into small units, with a corresponding reduction in manpower requirements.

In its early days in the AO, 52 IB had mounted operations in battalion strength. Later, this was reduced to company-sized forays. Now, platoon and squad-sized patrols are the norm. The presence of numerous security force movements in the rural areas keeps the NPA concerned more for its own safety than for its original mission.

The insurgency in the Philippines is far from over. On Samar, the government has a good grip on rebel depredations. On some of the other islands the picture is not quite as rosy, but the army seems to be moving in the right direction.

Only time will tell.

Apitong Six, over.”

The terrain was substantial, to use an understatement. The lead element, accompanied by the guides, hacked a trail of sorts. The forest's own sounds enveloped us and the tangled foliage absorbed all sound of the lead element toiling ahead of us. Every branch bristled with rows of thorns like the blade of a saw. Steaming jungle, you could call it, yet no one here uses the term. It's just Samar.

For a time Apitong stuck to the high ground.

Convinced we were not being shadowed, the patrol moved off the hill crests to the river valley floors. There, movement was along stream beds. The going was faster than in the jungle, but it kept the lower half of the body soaked. At least there weren't any leeches.

It soon became obvious why even those troopers with boots had brought sandals along. The combination of constant wetness and humidity bring on foot ailments almost immediately. At least with sandals you get a chance to dry out a little. Foot problems are a major source of combat ineffectives for the battalion.

At twilight we reached our first objective, a village of some 50 houses and a population of just over 200. Another 52 IB patrol, coming from the opposite direction, had already secured the area. After receiving the okay from battalion, we all stayed put for the night.

The entire village was called together so the patrol could check for known members of the communist underground. No such luck.

No fear showed on the faces of the population as the troops made their rounds. Everyone got a private conference with the troops so that no one individual could be fingered for any

52 IB troopers take time out to talk to some village children.



bits of information the patrol obtained.

That night, using the intelligence gathered, a plan was laid. Gathered about a map in the flickering glow of candles, the element leaders were given assignments.

Leaving the village early in the morning, the patrol retraced its steps, making a feint toward the low ground. We didn't get far before the inevitable happened.

The ambush exploded in the confined quarters of the forest. An NPA M60 attempted to catch our lead element as it came out of a crossing, the main body still midstream. An incompetent NPA machine-gunner and quick responses on the part of the carefully prepared advance element prevented casualties. The ambush party had been spooked, had opened up too soon and having given away their position, the hunters became the hunted.

The patrol's response flew toward them. M16s blazed; the distinctive *wuuump* of exploding M203 rounds crashed like giant cymbals in the foliage to our front. Then silence. The enemy ran as fast as he could, leaving a trail of belongings.

Such an action clearly demonstrates the fragile validity of statistics in guerrilla war. Technically, we had been ambushed. The contact would be so carried on the books. That, however, implies the enemy had the initiative. In reality, he was attempting to react to us. Most 52 IB encounters come about this way. It is the security forces which are on the offensive.

A U.S. unit would have gone after the retreating ambush group, but the patrol knew where the real goal lay. Turning perpendicular to our line of march, we dashed for the high ground. Moving along a path littered with dropped enemy gear, we were in their camp two hours after the ambush.

It was a major find: nine huts. Put



away thoughts of Viet Cong redoubts with bunkers and such. The typical NPA camp is a cluster of thatched roofs set on raised floors, tucked away on the slope of a forested ridge. There normally aren't any fortifications or fighting positions to speak of. Location provides the protection.

Location is also the key to spotting a camp. Peasants don't put villages in the middle of the boonies divorced from sustenance of rice paddies and coconut palms. NPA camps are within comfortable distance of both villages and water sources, but they are nonetheless off the beaten track.

This one, according to the documents which turned up during the search, had been used for advanced military training. Glancing at the manuals produced no surprises. Terminology and tactics are copied from either government publications or materials obtained and mailed in by sympathizers overseas. The result is standard American small-unit tactics. The NPA has even taken to passing out certificates of completion so that personnel files can be maintained accurately.



As the troops divided up clothing and destroyed the huts, one document in particular held my attention. Its title translated roughly as "Comparison of Relative Strengths of Armed Groups in the Province (1984-1985)." Amidst the usual claims that all was rosy in the revolution were tucked away some frank admissions of difficulties.

Most crucially, the NPA, said the document, lacked the capability to launch continuous, coordinated operations, especially with larger formations such as companies; or to take on "relatively large formations of the enemy." Unit commanders were faulted for not knowing the enemy situation or employing their forces correctly. In a telling commentary on the state of the guerrilla movement, tactics were critiqued as "limited." Night operations were not being used, "even in the lowlands." The plan? Keep carrying out raids to secure firearms, cause enemy casualties and gain experience.

Also contained in the report were several tables of particular interest in light of the recent debate on the precise nature of the NPA: Are they "Nice

People Around" or "Pol Pot Communists"? As with most insurgent movements, the truth probably lies somewhere in the middle. A movement seeking to seize power through a "people's war" cannot afford to alienate the population. Neither, though, can it behave like saints. Terror is usually an integral part of the process. Movements differ in the degree of its use, not in its existence.

The evidence in my hands said as much. Several tables contained records, by district, for "sparrow squad" killings, hits by assassination teams which are part of the standard NPA military organization. Neatly recorded in another table were actions taken against "KRME," counterrevolutionaries. While "sparrows" usually target government functionaries such as policemen and local officials, KRME operations deal with civilians.

For the years 1984 and 1985, one chart noted, 25 sparrow operations had been carried out; three-quarters, revealed another table, were in 1985 alone. Similarly, in 1985, 62 "death penalties" had been carried out against opponents of the revolution. No figures

Government soldiers respond to NPA fire during an ambush in a remote village on Samar.

were given for actual numbers killed as a result of each sparrow hit, but assuming one per operation, the total murders for the year would come to 79 — all in a fairly small slice of RUC-8's total AO.

Government statistics, of course, are listed by province rather than CPP/NPA structure. RUC-8's 1985 total for "liquidations" known to have been carried out by the communists in Northern Samar Province is 41. Its total for all three provinces of Samar is 105. Using the ratio of "undercounting" and extrapolating from the figures in the document would give a figure of 202 nonmilitary killings on the island in a single year — not a bloodbath, but a healthy number, far more than the number of annual combat deaths.

The NPA killings came with such frequency that a new symbol was needed on the situation maps: a skull. That macabre reality was echoed by

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Diving on Japan's Ghost Fleet

Text & Photos by John C. Fine

TRUK LAGOON



200,000 tons of shipping went to the bottom of Truk Lagoon as carrier-based U.S. aircraft struck at Japan's Gibraltar.

THEY were just tourists now, the Japanese, Australian, British and American visitors who sat in the screening room of the Continental Hotel on Moen Island, Truk island group. Forty-two years ago they would have been locked in a life or death struggle in the Pacific, but now they sat together — quietly, without animosity, reflectively. The projectionist turned off the lights. In an instant the screen filled with the horror of the Pacific war — documentary clips of battle, victory and surrender, Japanese suicides . . . and the final tragedy of boiling mushroom clouds over Japan. The room was silent except for the grinding noise of the projector and the documentary narrator's familiar voice.

Truk was the site of Japan's Pacific Fleet anchorage during World War II. Japan's Imperial Navy used Truk as a base of operations and fortified the island with concrete bunkers, deep caves and cannons. Some called Truk Japan's Gibraltar, but it was more than that. Truk's large sheltered lagoon, on the route between Tokyo and Hawaii, became the staging area for wartime operations in the Pacific.

The morning of 17 February 1944 was peaceful when the first American reconnaissance plane flew over the

lagoon. Below, some 50 ships rode at anchor, and on land the Japanese prepared for their routine chores. Airplane mechanics readied the large seaplanes, and doctors made their rounds in the cement and stone hospital complete with Gothic columns on Dublon Island. Road builders began giving stern orders to the Trukese forced labor gangs. A few minutes later the air attack began.

Carrier-based fighter planes launched the first attack on Truk, immediately followed by a second wave of 18 bombers which destroyed Truk's airfields. With Japanese aircraft destroyed or immobilized, additional waves of American bombers and torpedo planes were launched from their carriers. At anchor in the lagoon were the support ships for Japan's fleet: tankers, cargo vessels, sub-chasers, diving tugs, submarine tenders and submarines, and a few warships.

Almost all of the Japanese planes were caught on the ground. In the first day some 250 planes were destroyed and 200,000 tons of shipping went to the bottom. Torpedo plane after torpedo plane made runs on the larger ammunition ships, and gun-camera pictures taken by aerial reconnaissance at the time showed the fury of the raid. Huge ships exploded in flames and sank to the bottom almost immediately. A second raid on Truk in April 1944 destroyed more ships.

The Japanese sitting in the projection room were old enough to remember the war as was a doctor from Kansas who had served in the Navy's Pacific Fleet. What thoughts crossed their minds during the screening were impossible to divine, but their attention was riveted to the screen. For the Japanese, Truk has become a new but still obscure tourist attraction. They come in small groups to visit the islands they once occupied, spending money as though it has no value, acting very much the stereotype of a 1955 American tourist in Europe. They seem completely out of place, not the image one would have of the once-powerful masters of Micronesia.

A small war memorial has been erected by the Japanese on Moen Island, the capital of the Truk state. The black marble base is topped with a black ball, commemorating the dead. But there are few Truk residents who remember the war because Micronesia are islands of youth. Children are everywhere, gently smiling or calling out hello or waving. Some, though, like James Sellem and his wife Nikku, remember only too vividly.

As a young man James Sellem was pressed into service by the Japanese in 1934 when he began work on the





ABOVE: Rotted gas mask and tennis shoe lie covered with silt in the crew's quarters.

BELOW: Ship's telegraph now stands silent, encrusted with four decades of coral and sponge.

BELOW RIGHT: Local diver displays the skull of a Japanese victim of the American surprise attack on Truk during February 1944.



construction of their airfield. Eventually he loaded gasoline and supplies for them.

"The Americans came here and started to attack, the airplanes came and threw down bombs. The Fujikawa Maru was the last wreck to sink. I saw the planes throw down bombs and torpedoes on the Fujikawa," Sellem said, pointing out toward the lagoon where the two iron masts still stuck out of the water from the shipwreck.

"I saw houses burned. The sea was burning from oil. We could not see the ship because of the smoke," Sellem continued, describing how he hid in the caves to escape the bombing. There was not always room in the caves for the Trukese people. Sometimes the Japanese used the islanders, hoping the Americans would not drop bombs if they saw island people. James Sellem lost part of his arm in 1944 in one of the bombing attacks on Dublon Island.

While the Sellems do not speak bitterly, they remember the pain and hardship. "We were forced to work for the Japanese and were not paid. In 1940 the Japanese army was all over the island. You had to work. If you didn't work *one time the Japanese hit you*," Sellem said.

Fifty-five-year-old Kimiuo Aisek also remembers Japanese occupation before and during the war. "In 1936 the Japanese construction started on Dublon Island," Kimiuo told me. "They always said they were going to develop the island, nothing said about the military. By 1940 all was near completion, the gun emplacements and the airfield. By the middle of 1941 the Japanese started to bring in their military men, the navy. We knew about Pearl Harbor the same day. The Japanese had a big shout.



They said they were going to win the war in eight months.”

Their memories of the war are poignant, made more so by the two tall masts of the Fujikawa Maru standing starkly in the lagoon. The ship stands as a constant reminder of the past; to visitors, however, it offers a breathtaking underwater tourist attraction.

“The Fujikawa is a fantastic shipwreck. There are a lot of things to see on it. It’s an enormous ship, about 434 feet long,” Clark Graham, owner of Micronesia Aquatics, said, describing one of his favorite dives in the lagoon.

Clark and his wife Chineina founded the company in 1976. Clark has co-authored a guidebook about the wrecks and describes each one with familiarity.



“There are shipwrecks at all depths. Some are right near the surface, some at 30-40 feet, some at 70 and 80, and some are deeper,” Clark explained, motioning toward the lagoon.

Snorklers can lie on the surface and see many of the sunken ships because visibility is usually 50-100 feet. In the summer months from about May through August the lagoon is quite calm although there is slightly more plankton in the water. During December through February, the usual period when it rains sometime during the day, the water in the lagoon is a little rougher than in summer. January viewing is usually quite good according to Graham, but there’s really no one perfect season for Truk’s shipwrecks because visibility can vary from morning to afternoon — and sometimes does.

In the hold of the Fujikawa Maru, new Japanese Zero fighter planes seem almost as good as the day they were made. Nearby, the cargo of new propeller blades and parts adds to the drama of the dive. Forward, crates of cartridges and belts of machine gun ammunition still give mute testimony to the war.

A favorite dive of many visitors to Truk is made on a tanker sitting upright in about 70 feet of water. The Shinkoku Maru has a bow and stern gun, each gun overgrown with lush coral, rooster comb oysters and sponges. On the bridge, divers pick up the ship’s telephone, or examine large brass telegraphs, long overgrown with coral. In the cabins, ship’s china and wine decanters that once graced the captain’s table are found in the silt. An operating table and sterilizer stand stark in the corner of one room, covered with a layer of silt. In the stern, bones and skeletons of sailors provide eerie evidence of the fatal sinking of the “Divine Country,” the meaning of the ship’s name.

Nearby, the Heian Maru lies on her port side. Converted from a passenger ship to a submarine tender and pressed into military service in 1941, the Heian, or “Peace” in English, had new periscopes stored along her catwalks near the bridge. Torpedo warheads and ammunition are stacked in her holds, and her huge propellers stick up toward the surface, overgrown with black wire coral, sponges and rooster comb oysters.

Pohaku Hauoli Smith, the resident manager of Truk’s Continental Hotel, was trained as a commercial diver in Honolulu and dives frequently on Truk Lagoon.

“I used to think that there couldn’t be any better spots to dive than Hawaii at that time,” he said. “But after coming out to Truk and Palau, Hawaii is going to be boring.”

Hauoli’s favorite wreck is the Hanakawa Maru. He gets called on every so often to check her cargo of leaking peptic acid. He doesn’t mind the mild skin burns he sometimes gets since it gives him a chance to see the beautiful black coral growth on the wreck.

“The profusion of black coral is amazing. On this wreck the black coral is clean and there are big trees, pretty much like that,” Hauoli said, pointing to a five-foot-diameter fan coral hanging over the Continental cashier’s window.

Today, the instruments of war have been converted by nature into a divers’ paradise, and the only battle for survival takes place between sea life vying for an ecological niche along the silent catwalks and decks of Japan’s once-proud fleet. Under the emerald waters of Truk Lagoon, the horror of wartime has been camouflaged by nature’s beauty.

Topside, the wartime documentary ends and the multinational crowd of visitors quietly disperses. Tomorrow some will dive on the lagoon while others will be content to stare out over the placid water — broken only by the masts of the Fujikawa Maru. Regardless, they’ll see more than just rusting and coral-covered remnants of a battle

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RUGER GP-100

Wheelgun for the Future

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis



SINCE introduction of his Mark I .22 LR pistol in 1949, Bill Ruger has had a string of successes unequaled in the firearms industry during the 20th century. With an uncanny knack for anticipating the desires of the gun-buying public, Ruger has introduced the right gun at the right time for the right price for 37 years. His new GP-100 revolver is no exception.

Americans have loved wheelguns since their first commercial appearance. The vast majority of American law enforcement personnel are still armed with sixguns and it remains the most popular side arm for the

TOP: Muzzle whip is high with hot and heavy loads in the GP-100, but perceived recoil is reduced by the addition of rubber grips.

LOWER LEFT: Ruger's latest offering, the .357 Magnum GP-100 is sure to be a hit with wheelgun enthusiasts.

LOWER RIGHT: The horizontal configuration of the Galco Defender holster aids concealment of the GP-100 revolver.

game hunter. Regardless of its deficiencies as a military small arm, it will remain an important item in the inventory of the Amer-

ican gun enthusiast.

Revolvers possess advantages that cannot be denied. Should a cartridge fail to fire, and they do upon occasion, merely pull the trigger or cock the hammer once more and the cylinder will rotate to another round. By their configuration and method of operation, they can be chambered for extremely powerful cartridges without reaching large, clumsy proportions. And of no small consideration to handloaders, one need spend no time crawling about on hands and knees in the prickly pear looking for empty cases.

Ruger's Security-Six and Redhawk re-



Disassembly of the GP-100 is easy.

RUGER GP-100 SPECIFICATIONS

- Caliber**357 Magnum
- Operation** Six-shot revolver. Single- and double-action. Transfer bar safety and floating firing pin. Modular design, disassembled without tools.
- Weight, empty** 41 ounces
- Length, overall** 9 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches
- Barrel** Five-groove with a right-hand twist of one turn in 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches.
- Barrel lengths** 4 and 6 inches
- Stocks** Rubber with polished Goncalo Alves wood grip panel inserts.
- Sights** Ramp front retained by spring-loaded plunger; replaceable. Square-notch, white-outline rear, adjustable for both windage and elevation.
- Finish** Black oxide over satin polish.
- Price** \$340
- Manufacturer** Sturm, Ruger & Company Inc., Dept. SOF, Lacey Place, Southport, CT 06490.

volvers have enjoyed unmitigated success. Never one to sit back and rest on his laurels, Bill Ruger's new revolver combines features of his previous two double-action designs, with some clever innovations that guarantee him another trip to the winner's circle.

Ruger has pioneered the use of carefully mill-finished investment castings for receivers and other components in his entire product line. The frame of the GP-100 is an investment casting of heat-treated A.I.S.I. 4130 chrome-moly alloy steel. Except for the trigger and hammer mechanism, the visible external parts have been satin polished and finished with black oxide. Like its predecessors, the internal parts are installed either through the top or bottom of the frame and there is, therefore, no side plate. This double solid frame contributes significantly to the revolver's extraordinary strength.

The GP-100 has been initially chambered for the popular .357 Magnum cartridge in both 4- and 6-inch barrel lengths. SOF's test specimen was fitted with a heavy 4-inch barrel which yielded an overall length of 9 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches. Weight is 41 ounces, quite appropriate for this chambering. A massive ejector shroud extends full length. The result is a decided, and desirable, muzzle-heavy effect. The barrel is made from a hot-rolled section of ordnance quality 4140 chrome-molybdenum alloy steel. It has five grooves and a right-hand twist of one in 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches, standard for .357 Magnum. The barrel thread diameter has been increased to $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch for greater wall thickness in the area of the threaded barrel stub surrounding the bore's throat.

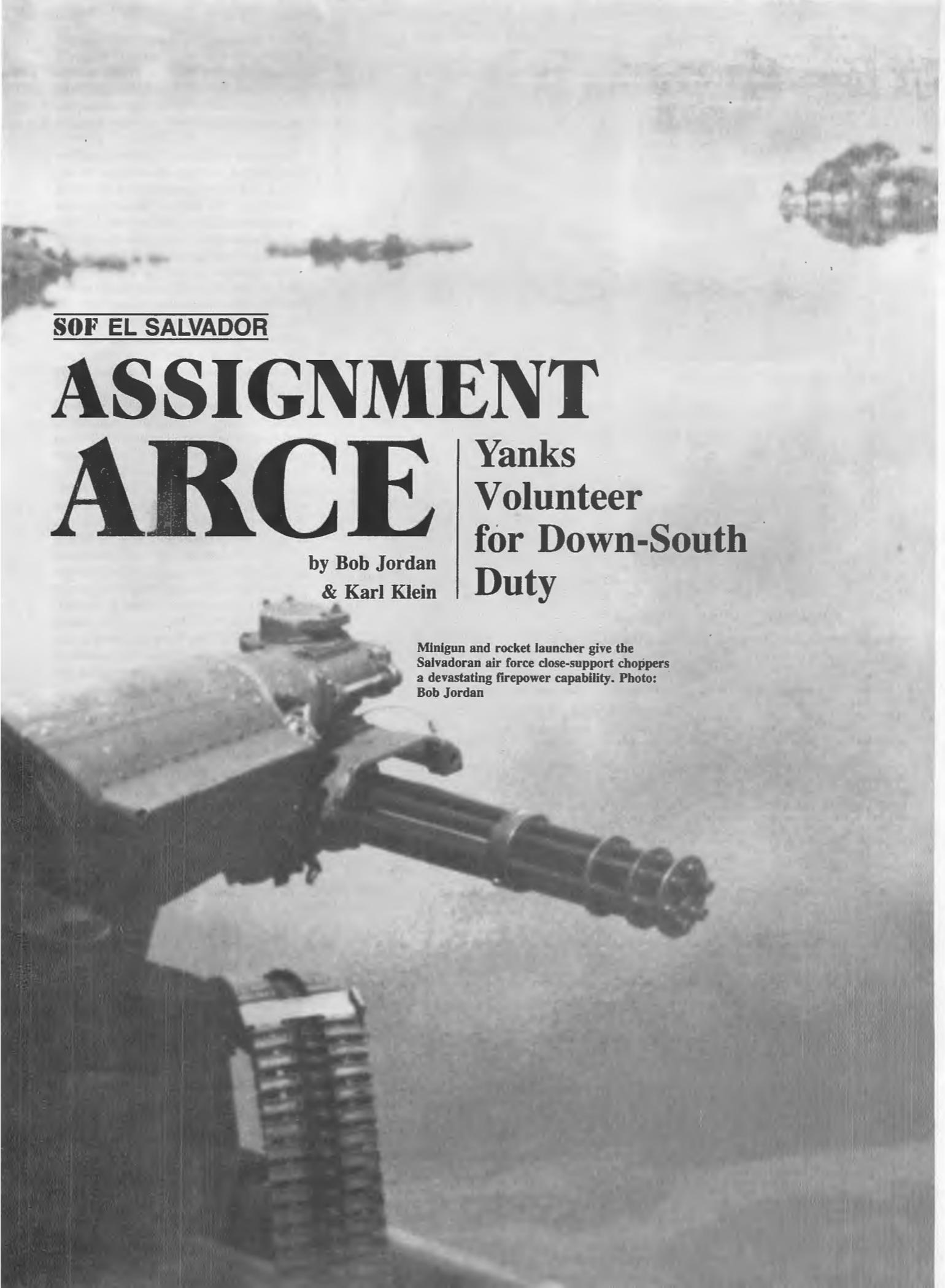
The sight system is similar to the one employed on the Redhawk series. Held in place by a spring-loaded plunger, the ramped and grooved front sight can be removed from its dovetail and replaced by

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CHRONOGRAPH RESULTS: .357 MAGNUM AMMUNITION

Instrumentation: Oehler Model 33 Chronotach with Skyscreen detectors positioned 10 feet from the muzzle. Ambient temperature: 87 degrees F. All readings in feet per second. Fired from Ruger GP-100 with 4-inch barrel.

.357 Magnum Ammunition:	Low Velocity	High Velocity	Extreme Spread	Average	Standard Deviation
Super Vel 110-gr. JHP	1,414	1,536	122	1,469	36
Reload: Speer 146-gr. JHP w/ 14.5 grains 2400	1,297	1,346	49	1,320	17
Samson 158-gr. JSP	1,261	1,418	157	1,360	47
Reload: 162-gr. SWC w/10.5 grains 2400	1,018	1,171	153	1,080	49
Reload: 162-gr. SWC w/12.5 grains W-W 630	1,277	1,338	61	1,299	18



SOF EL SALVADOR

ASSIGNMENT ARCE

by Bob Jordan
& Karl Klein

Yanks
Volunteer
for Down-South
Duty

Minigun and rocket launcher give the Salvadoran air force close-support choppers a devastating firepower capability. Photo: Bob Jordan

WITH monotonous predictability a sodden shroud of hot and humid air clung to El Salvador's airport. It was always the same and this October evening was no exception. There were nine of us in this latest SOF training team, including a journalist and his cameraman, and we quickly finished our business with customs and got on with the meat of our mission.

The purpose of my appearance in El Salvador was to assess the tactics being used by government troops in their counterinsurgency campaign against the Nicaraguan-backed FMLN guerrillas rooting up the Salvadoran countryside. I wanted to compare their tactics with those the Rhodesian army had used and refined during their war in southern Africa.

As a member of the Rhodesian Special Air Service (SAS) from 1970-80, I had helped develop and execute those tactics, and was keen to discover if they could be applied in El Salvador. You can't do that while sitting in a hotel bar sipping Pilsener beer, so I hoped to observe combat operations with the Salvadoran infantry during my two-week stay.

The opportunity soon arose. Lieutenant Colonel Roberto Staben, commander of the elite Salvadoran Arce Battalion, extended an invitation to join his unit in the field. SOF staffers Karl Klein, Paul Fanshaw and I readily accepted, and within hours we were on our way to Arce headquarters at San Miguel. (The battalion takes its name from a historic Salvadoran fighter, General José Manuel Arce.)

We hit San Miguel ready for the bush, but a change of plans delayed our field work for a few days. We put the time to good use, however, by observing battalion activities, boning up on our Spanish, and by inspecting nearby bridges blown up by the guerrillas two years ago.

Karl Klein, an ex-Special Forces and artillery officer, was particularly interested in the standard of mortar handling in Arce's support company. His primary mission during our trip was to make recommendations on future training and employment of the 81mm mortars — the primary indirect-fire support weapon for Salvadoran troops.

Klein, Fanshaw and I were impressed by what we saw in the Arce Battalion. Morale was excellent, discipline was good without being Prussian, maintenance of weapons and equipment was faultless. A construction program in progress will soon provide a new hospital, kitchen and mess hall, and modern laundry facilities for the garrison. Virtually the only problem was the sporadic electricity supply which prevented the water pumps and showers from being completely functional.

This problem wasn't confined only to the military base. Guerrillas had cut the supply to the whole town, causing more than minor inconvenience to the locals. It was a good example of how the guerrillas are losing their "hearts and minds" program because the population of San Miguel was definitely pro-government.

While we waited for Arce's operation to start, another interesting invitation came our way. This one concerned a "spot of yachting" with the Salvadoran navy, and we quickly accepted. Joining us were SOF Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown, Contributing Editor John Donovan and the rest of our training team, and several officers from the Arce Battalion. It took two crowded Hueys to get us to the coast.

A quick 20-minute flight over the coastal plain brought us hovering over our "yacht" — a heavily armed 75-foot navy patrol boat. I thought it would be a tight squeeze — the Arce officers, all of us gringos and the crew — but there was room to spare as we pulled away from the quay and began our run.

Our patrol area for that day was the border with Nicaragua; the purpose to interdict

resupply routes for the FMLN in El Salvador. As we approached the border, a stretch of thickly jungled coastline attracted the skipper's attention.

Under the watchful eyes of the skipper, the Browning .50 cal. M2 HB was readied for action — just in case. You never know when the Sandinistas might pull something. The Gulf of Fonseca has long been considered one of the conduits through which the Sandinistas funnel supplies to their comrades in El Salvador. We were there to see if we could do something about that.

We rendezvoused with two other Salvo patrol boats a short while later and continued to cruise the coastline for another uneventful half-hour. For the Salvadoran navy, coastal patrol duty is usually boring. They don't catch much, but along with other



DEADLY DEVICES

This FMLN booby-trap training device was captured in a recent attack against the Gs by El Salvadoran forces.

It's one of over 200 different booby traps now being employed against the Salvadorans, and is indicative of the simplicity which make this type of homemade explosive so effective in the guerrilla environment.

Enclosed in a 12x2-inch Chinese telescope box (what unwary grunt would pass up the opportunity for that type of souvenir?) are a homemade pressure release switch, power source (usually discarded batteries) and, in this case, a Christmas light bulb to simulate the detonator.

Operational modes of this bomb would be packed with plastic explosive and a blasting cap instead of a training-aid light bulb. The lid would be closed, depressing the release switch, and then the booby trap would be placed in an area of likely Salvadoran troop movement. When the lid is opened the red button releases, allowing the electrical circuit to complete — and then detonate the cap and explosive.

The object of this booby trap, as with most others, is not to kill but to maim. Wounded soldiers require medical assistance and evacuation, thus tying up other troops — and lowering morale.



GUN RUN

Ever since I was medevacked out of a firefight in Vietnam with my right shoulder and other pieces of anatomy blown to bits, I've liked helicopters. They've pulled me out of a lot of tight spots since then, especially those armed with an assortment of fireworks designed for close-in ground support.

This time, I had a chance to ride on the sending end.

With echoes of Wagner's "Ride of the Valkyries" and visions of "Apocalypse Now" running through my mind, our cameraman, Alwyn Kumst, and I climbed aboard the Salvadoran "Mike"-model Huey in preparation for a hot strike against G forces.

My adrenaline level jumped as soon as the chopper lifted off from Ilopango, and I could see by Kumst's expression and white knuckles — it was his first airstrike — that he was asking himself, "Just what in the hell am I doing here?"

That really was a good question because gringos don't just go on live airstrikes with the Salvadoran air force every day. Yet permission had been granted.

Kumst and I rode as observers on one of the gunships while Bob Brown pulled the same duty on the second bird now flying about 50 meters to starboard and slightly ahead of us. The third chopper, a Hughes 500M light observation aircraft, rounded out our attack force.

En route to the target area, our pilot gave us a quick emergency drill briefing. If it was designed to make us feel any better, it didn't.

"If we get hit," the pilot said, "don't worry. If we go down, get away from the chopper before it explodes, but don't go too far." He pointed to his CAR-15 and said to Kumst, "If I don't get out, you'd better take this."

The co-pilot started to make the same offer to me, but saw I was already armed. He gave us a thumbs-up and said with a cheery smile, "Another helicopter will come and get us if the guerrillas don't first." Just dandy.

When we drew close to the target area, all three birds dropped down to fly nap-of-the-earth, a ridge-hopping and tree-skimming rollercoaster ride designed to give us the element of surprise, and to put more white in Kumst's knuckles. When the gunships pulled up to

Heavily armed "Mike"-model Huey and light observation helicopter head out from Ilopango to suspected guerrilla base camp. Photo: Bob Jordan

1,000 feet, I knew the war was about to begin.

The Loach went in first, marking the target — a guerrilla camp located deep in the jungle and spotted earlier by a recon patrol — with smoke. The pilots were busily talking back and forth, coordinating the attack and identifying the target, and then the gunship carrying Brown dove on the camp.

Rockets from their 14 2.75-inch tubes, seven on each side, slammed into the thick green bush followed by a steady stream from the miniguns. The first bird pulled up and away, and our pilot followed his attack run. Our miniguns erupted with their peculiar fabric-ripping sound, then the rockets at my feet blasted away toward the G position.

In a blur we swept past the camp, then took up station for another run. More ripping from the guns, tracers and ball cutting up the foliage, and we finally took up a circular orbit around the campsite. Nothing moved down there except smoke plumes, dust clouds and falling brush.

My pulse rate began to drop when my body realized that it had survived another one. I hadn't been so lucky during an airstrike on terrorist targets in Zambia when my fixed-wing had taken some bad hits — and had crash-landed hard too far from home.

We had plenty of ammo left on both Mikes, so with the Loach dropping down low to spot and mark targets, we carried on hitting the camp area and likely escape routes until fuel levels sent us back home.

There was no way to tell just how effective our attack on the G camp had been. Trained insurgents know all too well that their best defense against an aerial attack — unless they've got superior anti-aircraft weapons — is to lay low and wait for the aerial stingers to buzz off.

Recon patrols were already moving into the area to assess the damage, but it would be some time before we received any kind of official word.

No matter, though. We had hit the bastards hard and we knew it. Better still, so did they.

— Bob Jordan

security-tightening measures along the entire coast, the Salvadorans have managed to grab a loose stranglehold on supplies going to the FMLN. Captured guerrilla documents attest to the damage being done to their supply line and if the hold tightens, the guerrillas' ability to fight a protracted war could come to a screeching halt.

Back at the quay, amidst friendly smiles and handshakes, we left our naval hosts and were soon airborne back toward Arce headquarters — and our promised field op.

Early the next day we joined 4 Company, commanded by First Lieutenant Carlos Soto, which was already out in the bush. Their mission, primarily search and clear, would first involve a sweep to the Pan-American Highway from their tactical headquarters at Nueva Granada, then a convoy move to Jucuapa, finishing up with a sweep of the road and surrounding areas from Jucuapa to the village of Las Marias. Both road and power lines had been interrupted by guerrilla forces for the past 15 days — much to the distress of the civilian population.

Soto, a hard-core and competent veteran of several years of operations, was happy to see us. Holding true to State Department and Department of Defense policy, U.S. Army MilGroup personnel in Salvador, who train Salvadoran soldiers, are *not* allowed to accompany them into the field. It's not MilGroup's idea of good training, and it severely limits the effectiveness of their operation in El Salvador. Our gringo presence in the field gave Soto a chance to explain and demonstrate how his company operated in the bush.

We were inserted by chopper and were escorted to the HQ at Nueva Granada, the center of 4 Company's night defensive position. Platoons were spread out around the outskirts of the town, and Lt. Soto took us into his company HQ for a briefing on tomorrow's operations.

"We will leave at 0530," Soto said. "We have to reach the Pan-American Highway by 0800, then trucks will take us to Jucuapa, our new area."

Hauling a journalist and cameraman along on a tactical operation was a new experience for me, so I asked Soto where he wanted us all located during the move.

"You stay with me — with the command group," the lieutenant said. "We will move along the road."

I was just starting to question the wisdom of walking down the middle of a road when the company commander pointed to his map again.

"In front of us there will be three *patrols* [20-30 men], one on each of these ridges, and one clearing the road. The 81mm will be behind us, and farther back, another *patrulla*."

My doubts were eased. We talked a bit longer while daylight faded, then settled down for a delicious tamale dinner — courtesy of the local villagers — and an early night's sleep.

The night was punctuated by small-arms and heavy machine-gun fire from a firefight

WHO DARES ...

Bob Jordan is no stranger to guerrilla warfare be it in Southeast Asia, Africa or Central America. His initiation to war came in 1967 during ops against the NVA in Vietnam. A machine gun bullet abruptly ended his tour — and started 53 weeks of operations and physical therapy which resulted in a medical discharge from the Army.

Undaunted, Jordan went on to spend 10 years with the Rhodesian Special Air Service. He rose from the rank of trooper to major and en route picked up a hard-earned Silver Cross, Bronze Cross, and the coveted SAS Wings On Chest. After Rhodesia fell, Jordan pulled a tour as Officer Commanding, 2 Commando, 1 Recce Regiment in South Africa. He capped off his African service as 2 i/c of the Transkei Defence Force's Special Forces Regiment, and as an intelligence officer in the TDF's Military Intelligence Detachment.

Since his return to the United States Jordan has worked as an SOF volunteer trainer in Central America, instructing El Salvadoran troops in the finer points of SAS counterinsurgency warfare.



ABOVE: SOF volunteer trainer Bob Jordan brought 15 years of African special ops experience with him to El Salvador. Photo: Al Venter

BELOW: SOF volunteer trainer Karl Klein worked with Salvadoran mortar teams — whom he rates as excellent. Photo: Al Venter

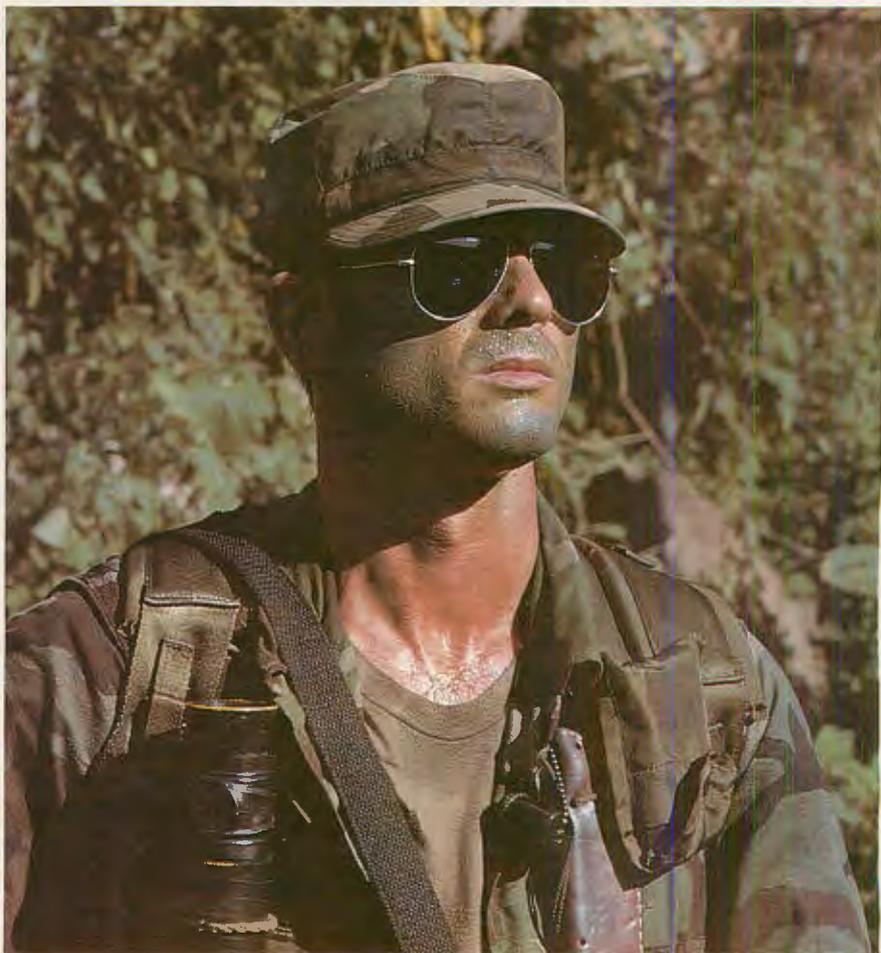
THROUGH THE RANKS

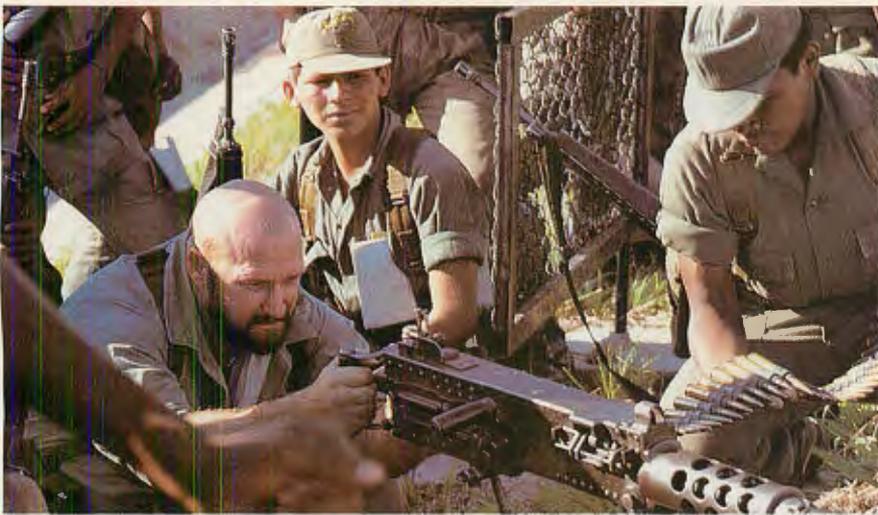
When military service gets into your blood, it's a hard habit to kick. Karl Klein enlisted in the Army in 1967, went through jump school, and then on to Vietnam with Charlie Company, 1/502nd Airborne Infantry of the 101st. His tour with the grunts took him into I Corps at Firebase Sally; he came back to the states with sergeant's stripes and an assignment with the 82nd at Fort Bragg.

After his ETS, Klein joined the 19th Special Forces Group of the Colorado National Guard and the ROTC program at the University of Colorado. He received his commission in the Field Artillery, was assigned to the Combat Development Experimentation Command and later the 2/8th FA at Fort Ord, California. He eventually ended up back at the 19th SFG where he served as an A-Team XO and commander.

He left the service to complete his master's degree in civil engineering but not before completing the static-line jumpmaster's course and 47 jumps, two sniper courses and Ranger School. After finishing his education Klein pulled yet another hitch with the Army Reserves.

Klein has worked for SOF as a volunteer trainer in Central America, helping the Salvadorans develop their counterinsurgency indirect-fire support capability.





ON TARGET

El Salvador's harsh tropical day was slowly fading into dusk, and Lt. Carlos Soto's infantry company of the Arce Battalion was quietly settling down into its nighttime routine. It was my first day with the company and I thought it would be a good time to begin my part of the SOF training mission: assess the indirect-fire capability of the Salvadoran army, and recommend any further training which might make them more bush effective.

We were at 4 Company's tactical HQ at Nueva Granada, and I wandered over to the 81mm mortar emplacement located fairly close to the company CP. It was well dug-in and protected by layers of sandbags.

Three figures materialized out of the gloomy half-light of the waning day, not trigger-happy, but just suspicious enough to maintain a well spread-out distance.

"*Quién vive?*" one of the figures asked softly.

"*Capitán Karl,*" I answered, and then pointed to the poncho-covered mortar standing in the center of the pit. "May I look?"

The three mortarmen were happy to oblige and pulled the cover off the tube, eager to show this gringo their weapon. It became quickly apparent why.

The tube was spotless, no dust, and covered with a light coat of oil. The sight was set at deflection 2715, elevation 1136 mils, and both bubbles were centered. I looked through the sight and saw a perfectly compensated sight picture, with the far aiming post neatly splitting the interval between the near post and the sight reticle. I was impressed so far; these guys had their shit together.

It was near dark by now, and firing a mortar at night presented its own complications. "*Hay luces?*" I asked.

A waterproofed container material-

ized in the gunner's hand, and he produced an M53 reticle illuminator. With practiced ease he screwed the threaded cable into the socket on the sight and switched on the rheostat.

I looked through the sight again and saw a reticle pattern glowing red against a now dark background. "*Y las luces allí, rojo y verde?*" I pressed.

With a patient, faintly amused smile, the assistant gunner walked over to the aiming posts and switched on their lights: red for the near, green for the farthest. Another quick look through the sight confirmed what I had expected to see. The green dot in the sight was equidistant between the red dot and the glowing reticle. "*Qué bueno!*" I told the grinning mortar crew.

I turned my attention to the M16 plotting board set up beside the tube, neatly indexed as per Fort Benning SOP. The chart operator gave me a range card for the new four-charge M374A3 ammunition, only recently phased into active U.S. Army units.

The young Arce soldier pointed to a crossmark two squares off center in the lower right quadrant of the board. "*Mortero,*" he explained, then indicated another cross above the first.

"*Objetivo,*" he continued. "*Distancia: dos nueve cinco cinco.*" He laid a scale alongside the plots to show me the range of 2,955 meters. I checked my range card. The optimum propellant increment for that range was charge three, and I ran my finger across to the table elevation already set on the sight.

"*Sí,*" the section leader agreed. "*Carga tres.*"

I quietly shook hands with the crew and congratulated them on their obvious proficiency. I couldn't recall inspecting a mortar crew, of any nationality, who had it more together than this one.

"*Gracias, Capitán,*" their commander said. "*Hasta mañana.*"

— Karl Klein



TOP LEFT: Contributing Editor John Donovan mans .50 caliber MG during Salvadoran weapons training. Photo: Al Venter

ABOVE: SOF Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown mans the patrol boat's helm during a sweep for infiltrating FMLN guerrillas. Colonel Villalta, commander of the Salvadoran navy, and SOF Contributing Editor Al Venter stand by to offer constructive advice. Photo: Harry Claffin

involving a neighboring company, but nothing to cause us much worry. We were up early, and after a quick breakfast hit the road.

Soto's advance patrols had already moved out, and there was no delay or milling about in the dim early morning light. The lieutenant's troops were well-briefed, and had obviously done this sort of thing before.

The move to the road junction with the Pan-Am Highway was smooth and professional, and uneventful, as was the truck convoy trip to the light asphalt road leading south toward Jucuapa. Our pace slowed considerably once we hit the turnoff; this was now potential ambush country, and Lt. Soto sent advance patrols out front to secure the high ground before our convoy drove through.

It was midafternoon by the time we reached Jucuapa, debussed and fanned out into our tactical movement formation. The objective was to locate a small band of guerrillas whom previous intelligence reports had placed near the small village of Las Marias.



Lieutenant Soto knew the terrain well. Control of the area had been bitterly contested in the past and Soto's company had been instrumental in gaining the upper hand. At one time the Gs had operated in the area with impunity, strangling commerce and shutting down most local activity, but now they were limited to sporadic terrorist activity.

Government patrols such as Soto's continually hunt down the survivors to keep them off balance, and the Gs' grip on local commerce has nearly vanished. We watched a steady stream of produce-laden farm trucks driving north from Las Marias, each slowing to pass between the two columns of soldiers moving along the secondary road.

Lieutenant Soto moved his headquarters platoon onto the road itself in order to stop and question the drivers coming from the area of the guerrilla sighting.

"Yes, *teniente*, we have seen three strangers with rifles near the village today . . . No, *teniente*, I don't know where they are now." At least it was better than Vietnam and Africa where the best you'd get in reply would be a blank, often hostile, stare.

As the company neared Las Marias, Lt. Soto stopped southbound traffic and kept it

Continued on page 82

WAR . . . FORT BENNING STYLE

There are a thousand ways to tell good troops from bad troops: efficiency in the bush, the state of their weapons and gear, their ability to quickly and correctly respond to orders, to name just a few. Perhaps most important, however, is their attitude, morale and discipline.

And Arce Battalion soldiers are good troops in every sense of the meaning. Their light, noise and movement discipline in the bush was first-class. Intensive training had taught them to instinctively avoid the time-honored deathtrap of bunching, and each man reflexively covered his area of responsibility during halts.

All in all, there didn't seem to be much we could teach these men about individual soldiering.

The main problem, though, didn't lie with the skills of the combat infantryman. Officers of the Arce Battalion, at both company and platoon level, were well-trained in *conventional*, Fort Benning-approved infantry deployment, rather than the area of training they needed most — counterinsurgency (COIN) warfare tactics.

This war, like most being fought around the world today, is unconventional, and *that* calls for unconventional methods of operation in order to win. There is no requirement to advance with

the traditional "two platoons up, one back" when you're hunting down a 10- to 15-man guerrilla group, and employing three companies in a 10-by-10-kilometer area is an unnecessary waste of manpower. Moreover, humping such backbreaking weapons as a 90mm recoilless rifle and heavy-duty 81mm mortars — when RPGs, LAWs and a 60mm commando mortar would do as well — is a dubious proposition.

Lieutenant Soto and his fellow officers were in full agreement, but they just don't know how to do things differently. Our suggestions for using four- to six-man patrols instead of the current figure of 25 were enthusiastically received, but training for that type of deployment has not been given enough emphasis by conventionally minded, "straight-leg" planners.

Employment of indirect-fire support weapons is another area which desperately requires modification to an unconventional-war scenario. Like the infantry they support, Arce mortar leaders have been trained for conventional axis-of-advance/defense maneuver. The 6400-mil firebase concepts developed during the Vietnam War have largely been eliminated from Salvadoran training, a definite problem considering that the Gs, first, do not hold to static lines of defense, and second, they can attack from any direction at any time.

Both of these problems — patrol size

and level density, and indirect-fire support for these COIN patrols — can be solved *if* senior military trainers can be convinced that it takes guerrilla tactics to beat guerrilla forces. And that may prove to be too big an "if."

Small-unit long-range patrols, multiple small-team ambushes making maximum use of claymores, observation posts designed to monitor guerrilla movement and then call in and adjust air or artillery strikes are just a few of the operations that could be employed to good use in the Salvadoran bush war. The complex system of fire support coordination required to effectively use indirect-fire weapons in populated areas also needs to be developed for the purpose of supporting small counterinsurgency patrols in Salvador. Mortar section leaders in the Salvo battalions must be trained to fill the role of forward observer for higher echelon artillery support as well as act as mobile fire controllers for battalion organic weapons.

Why not move along this tactical line? The Salvadorans are receptive and more than willing to learn this type of new concept, especially in the phase of guerrilla warfare now underway in El Salvador. Without a doubt, *U.S. military* trainers would be happy to comply.

Perhaps we'd better pass that question along to the policy-makers at the State Department and the Pentagon.

FIRST SHOT COUNTS

Tank Killers Take on Big Game

Text & Photos by Al J. Venter



A Soviet T-55 battle tank rumbles slowly through the southern Angolan countryside, its two mates in echelon close behind. The FAPLA tank commander peers nervously at every shadow, at every oddly shaped bush and rock. He knows the South Africans are nearby, and he's sweating not only from the blistering heat, but from fear as well.

He calls a halt at the edge of a small clearing, straining to pierce the thick bush on the other side. Twisting in the cramped turret, he hears rather than sees his infantry support struggling to catch up, their gear loose, rifles and equipment catching and breaking scrub branches. The two other T-55s sit idling, oily diesel smoke staining the clear air. The FAPLA commander sighs and turns back to the front, ready to push on.

Suddenly, three simultaneous flashes erupted from the tanks' flank. The T-55 commander didn't even have time to raise an eyelid before the South African Ratel's 90mm HEAT round slammed into the turret. He never knew that the other two T-55s under his command suffered the same fate.

Before the Cuban infantry adviser could even react, the three Ratels had disappeared into the bush, leaving only the sound of their turbocharged diesels — and three burning T-55s — in their wake.

Conventional Western light armored fighting vehicles beating Soviet armor? The above incident never took place, but ones just like it have — all over the world. And the outcome is real enough. Infantry Fighting Vehicles (IFV) and Fire Support Vehicles (FSV) can, and do, kill Soviet heavy armor — even in the face of the time-worn axiom, "It takes a tank to kill a tank."

Ask the Israelis or the South Africans, or the Rhodesians when they were still battling Soviet-supplied armor inside Mozambique. The catch, of course, lies in the level of crew training and tactical employment of the tank-killing weapons. In general, training of Western armored forces is far superior than that of their adversaries; if the reverse were true — watch out.

The Israeli equivalent of a lieutenant colonel, Yoram Nevo, phrased it this way when I saw him last in Jerusalem: "Put a well-trained American crew into an APC or similar thin-skinned vehicle, and that group of soldiers would be no match against an equally well-trained European tank

Eland 90 Light Armored Car, based on the French Panhard AML, sees heavy service in the operational areas although more emphasis is being placed on the IFV concept.



Russian T-34 tank after a short-lived encounter with SADF Ratel.

crew. And that includes the Soviets."

He cited the example of two Iraqi tank divisions that were wiped out in a single afternoon in the northern Israeli highlands during the Yom Kippur War. "Things are a little different in the Third World, in places like the Arab world and Africa. It's there that the odds are weighted *for* the better-motivated, better-trained and better-equipped force." Naturally, Nevo counts the Israelis among the latter.

Let's look at a few of the incidents.

During the Yom Kippur War, when Israeli troops and guns were initially heavily outmatched and Israel as a nation was caught by a sneak attack across two fronts (Egyptians from the south and Syrians from the north), there were some recorded Israeli successes of light armor forces versus tanks. Often, heavily outgunned, Israeli crews in thin-skinned vehicles managed to slip through successions of Arab "cordons of steel" — the Egyptian and Syrian description of their armored thrusts.

Israeli troops, deployed in captured Russian BTR-152 armored personnel carriers or Israeli half-tracks, usually armed with nothing heavier than 120mm Soltam mortars, managed on several occasions to blast their way out of positions previously regarded



Choppers, Dakota and armored fighting vehicles stand by to move during a long-range penetration into Angola.

as hopeless. Usually they achieved this by laying down a terrible volume of fire. They slammed through supporting troops and forced armor units to pull back, if only temporarily.

Sometimes, however, it didn't work out that way. Ammunition ran out and Israelis were then overrun or taken captive, but many times the ferocity of the Israeli counterthrust was enough to effect a breakthrough.

The Israeli secret, according to Lt. Col. Nevo and other senior military commanders, rests with the premise: *If you've got the momentum, then you have the initiative.* And, for the Israelis, the premise works.

The South Africans do things a little differently although the concept is basically the same. In almost two decades of fighting inside and along the Angolan border, they have never

deployed any of their *Olifant* (Elephant) Main Battle Tanks (MBT) into that combat zone. They haven't needed to.

Of course, this doesn't detract from the fact that FAPLA, the Angolan army, does have and use large numbers of Soviet-supplied tanks. These include the antiquated T-34, which still sees good service in many theaters of Third World military activity, as well as a combination of T-54 and T-55 MBTs. The latter are usually armed with 100mm D-10T rifled tank guns with a range of just less than 15,000 meters — a distance of almost nine miles.

These have been deployed by Angola's ComBloc advisers in large (but classified) numbers *throughout* the southern half of Angola, adjacent to South African positions in northern South West Africa/Namibia. And when Pretoria occasionally decides that the time has come to take out SWAPO (South West Africa People's

Organization) terrorists at their source, an occasional ill-matched confrontation begins between the South Africans and the Angolans.

There have been at least a dozen well-documented instances of South African light armored vehicles, such as Eland armored cars and Ratel IFVs, exchanging body blows with Soviet armor in this region. To date, the South Africans have knocked out or captured about 30 pieces of Soviet hardware.

This tally includes Russian T-34 medium tanks, T-54 and T-55 MBTs as well as the much lighter PT-76 amphibious tank — now appearing inside Angola in unusually large numbers.

The reason for this success? South African (and Israeli) strength when using light armor against heavily armored tracked vehicles lies essentially in the mobility of their lighter vehicles.

Several Ratel and Eland commanders with whom I spoke during and after Operations Protea and Askari — both incursions into Angola — agreed that they lived to tell the tale of encountering a Soviet-supplied MBT simply because they were able to quickly reverse gears and scurry away to safety in double-quick time. These youthful commanders, most barely over 21 years old, would then probe the tank's flanks in the hope of pushing a 90mm HEAT shell up their backsides. More than once their efforts were successful.

One young lieutenant I stayed with north of Ongiva told me of his experiences during Operation Protea: "We weren't away from the main thrust of our force for more than a few hours one morning. Together with three other Ratels — ours had a 90mm gun mounted on the turret — we were probing defenses around a village where reconnaissance units had told us there had been a fairly heavy concentration of the enemy."

Without warning, the light armored force was hit by a ground attack.

"An RPG rocket launcher was obviously meant to signal the onslaught, but fortunately the warhead glanced off the sloping turret. The blast was terrific and there was no doubt that we had hit trouble.

"I ducked the Ratel behind the village toward a slight mound which appeared to be something of a garbage heap. Coming round the flank I almost ran into a T-54 tank, dug into a hull-down position with only the turret protruding. That crew was as surprised as we were, but we didn't hang around."

Taking up a position in some thick clumps of bush, he sent one of his

men into a tall tree to recon movement around the strongpoint. There was a definite risk that he could have been spotted, but the armored car officer needed the intel in order to formulate his plan. Moments later the man returned. The tank had emerged from its bunker.

The lieutenant had to weigh his options carefully. His position was obscured by bush so he was safe — at least for the moment. The T-54 tank crew knew he was in the vicinity, but they weren't certain exactly where. Both crews knew that the first to get a shot off would win the battle.

"So," the South African said, "we just sat tight."

"We knew, when the battle came, that we would have to fire through some fairly thick bush. We were also aware that we had the additional gamble that a thick branch could detonate our outgoing shell. But then they had the same problems," the lieutenant explained.

It was the Angolan tank's ground support unit that first spotted the South African IFV as they maneuvered past — and that's when training paid off. All the infantrymen started jabbering in Portuguese and gesticulating simultaneously, each trying to tell the T-54 commander where the Ratel was hiding. Confusion reigned.

The enemy tank stopped, started again, reversed, and finally turned its turret toward the clump concealing the Ratel. And then — wham! One shell from the South African 90mm gun ripped into the Angolan tank's lower turret area, and the short-lived



ABOVE: Captured Soviet hardware burns following the South African invasion of Southern Angola. Thin-skinned SADF vehicles were used throughout this raid.

BELOW: PT-76 tank taken intact during Operation Protea. These are beginning to see heavy service with MPLA and Cuban forces in Angola.





IFV-versus-tank battle was over.

A second tank was also destroyed that morning, this time a T-34. Its lone occupant, deserted by the rest of the crew after the first fracas, tried desperately to load, aim and fire the 85mm gun. It was a valiant attempt, and the FAPLA tanker even managed to fire one shot before a 90mm shell

SADF troopies inspect Soviet T-34 captured intact during Operation Askari.

blew him away.

Clearly the South Africans enjoyed two advantages in this and other encounters against Soviet hardware in Angola, even though these are marginal when compared to the armor

and armament which are an integral part of conventional Soviet tanks. Aside from the quality of training, the South Africans have mobility on their side, and their Ratels and Elands offer a lower vehicle profile — both essential facets in Third World warfare.

At the same time, it's becoming more of an acceptable axiom that *any* moderately armed vehicle which *gets* the first accurate shot away will win the fight — especially in the thick African bush. Infantry support troops simply can't maneuver in massed formations and provide the protective screen for their armor that close-in, vision-obscured fighting demands. The armor crew, be it Ratel or T-55, who takes advantage of this bare-knuckles bush warfare and reacts first will live to shoot another day.

More important than this, however, is the critical aspect of training and leadership — especially at the junior commander level. When separated from their Soviet, Cuban or East German mentors, Angolan FAPLA troops have shown a tendency toward poor shooting and retrograde operations. The South Africans — and the Israelis in their own sphere of ops — generally don't have this problem.

At the same time, though, the South Africans haven't had it all their own way. During Operation Askari in January 1984 a South African Ratel troop carrier drove into a minefield, setting off a TM-57 land mine which crippled the vehicle. An Angolan T-54 nearby had more than enough time to pump a shell into the vehicle, killing everyone onboard.

Another Ratel was also knocked out a few years previously during Operation Smokeshell, when it took a salvo from a 14.5mm anti-aircraft gun. Similar rounds hitting any one of the Soviet MBTs would have glanced harmlessly off the shell.

The South Africans are the first to admit that, so far, they have been fortunate. Most of their successful ventures in the tank versus light armored vehicle saga have been as a consequence of ambushes.

Overall they have fared well, but Pretoria concedes that the Angolans have learned a few lessons about armored warfare. For this reason they wouldn't like to use the likes of Ratels or Elands again — preferring the heavier Olifant MBT — should they ever need to face Russian tanks once more.

For the *time being*, the South Africans have updated the chapter on tank killing in the '80s. Theirs is the first soft-skinned force in modern warfare to have challenged tanks — and come out on top. ✕

MISSION: UGANDA

Commonwealth Trainers Bootstrap UNLA

by Ron Cavaller

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UGANDA. The name conjures memories of the brutal and repressive dictatorship of Idi Amin and the finely honed, shock-action Israeli rescue at Entebbe in 1976. Since then, Uganda has jumped to world prominence when Amin was ousted in the 1979 War of Liberation and more recently due to a series of coups and internal strife which boiled over in July 1985.

What isn't widely known is that Uganda has been receiving military training assistance from various countries almost continuously since its independence in 1962. Why? The answer is as complex as Third World diplomacy, but simple as the axiom: "If we don't do it, the other side will."

Once a British Protectorate, Uganda is now one of 90-odd former British colonies which make up the Commonwealth of Nations with the Queen as its titular head. It's a sort of mini-United Nations which, if nothing else, gives a number of small countries the opportunity to voice concern about world affairs in a legitimate forum. This is not to say that the member countries all toe the British line. The opposite is more often true, as a large number of members are leftist-leaning republics whose views and policies are quite removed from that of their former masters.

Each year, one member will play host to

OUT OF AFRICA

Ron Cavaller is a part-time journalist and adventurer who has traveled extensively in central and east Africa. He hopes to return to Uganda, which he describes as a "fascinating place," as soon as the current troubles are over.

SOF's offer and its conditions still stand. Amin has repeatedly offered to return to Uganda — but not under these circumstances.

the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, known as CHOGM. The origin of the Commonwealth Military Training Team (CMTT) goes back to the CHOGM conference held in Melbourne, Australia, in 1981. Uganda's president, Dr. Apollo Milton Obote, had previously requested a unilateral agreement with Britain for a training team to instill basic soldiering skills — especially discipline — into a ragtag militia that had emerged from the bush to evict Idi Amin and his supporters from the country in 1979. Britain, however, had avoided committing itself to this venture on a one-to-one basis. The matter was raised at the Melbourne conference and the idea of a composite training team, put forward by Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, was eventually adopted. Six Commonwealth countries agreed to provide troops for the team and a number of others agreed to provide monetary assistance. The team was to be committed as soon as practicable for an initial period of six months.

A small working committee was formed at the Commonwealth and Foreign Office in London and a plan formed to have the team deployed in Uganda by early 1982. After some hasty arrangements had been made, the first team was ready for insertion. Team strength was never to exceed 40 personnel throughout its entire deployment. No team member was below the rank of sergeant and the commanding officer was a British colonel, responsible to the Commonwealth and the Foreign Office. Approximately 50 percent of the team at any one time was made up of British Loan Service personnel who have the opportunity to volunteer for strange tasks such as this. Some of their original team members were from the SAS.

Medical support was provided by the Canadians, consisting of a Regimental Medical Officer (RMO) with the rank of major, a warrant officer and a sergeant. The Australian team was originally a major, a warrant officer and two sergeants, with a captain being added later. It was a rare turn of events to find troops from these two countries serving in Africa. Altogether, soldiers from six nations made up the CMTT: Britain (20), Australia (5), Canada (3), Jamaica (3), Sierra Leone (2) and Tanzania (2). Tanzania, while not a Commonwealth country, had a vested interest in training the Uganda National Liberation Army (UNLA) because both forces had been responsible for the liberation of Uganda in 1979. They provided a liaison officer and a sergeant-instructor.

The first team arrived in Uganda by various routes in March of 1982. Destination was to be the UNLA School of Infantry (SOI) at Jinja, 50 miles east of the capital at Kampala, where the first few days were spent gathering equipment and undergoing briefings. At this time, the process of disarming the UNLA had not begun; Kampala at night was alive with the sound of gunfire. The political situation remained unpredictable and it was with some trepidation that team members wondered exactly what they



Uganda army master parachutist's wings (top) and parachutist's wings (bottom). Both are from the Amin period.

Commonwealth Military Training Team shoulder patch as worn by CMTT members, 1982-83. A larger version of this emblem was displayed on the team's vehicles to aid recognition. Each man also wore a sky-blue beret, similar to that of the UN peacekeeping forces.



had gotten themselves into.

Jinja is Uganda's second-largest city, with an approximate population of 50,000. It is situated on Lake Victoria at the very start of the Nile River, where the Owen Falls Dam and hydroelectric plant now control the lake's output of water. In the past, Jinja was a picturesque and pleasant town, but now its once fine lakeshore mansions show signs of neglect, a sure reflection of the depressed economy. As arrangements for the team's accommodation in the barracks in Jinja had not been completed, they found themselves temporarily quartered in Jinja's largest hotel, the Crested Crane. It

too had seen better days and was quickly named "cockroach city." Night life in Jinja was not much better than that in Kampala.

The local barracks has an interesting history of its own. Existing buildings were constructed in the 1930s by Italians, and it was the home of 4 Battalion, King's African Rifles (KAR) until 1962. It was then occupied by the Uganda Rifles, the Uganda army and the UNLA in succession. As mentioned before, several foreign training teams had also been installed there. Some British advisers remained on after independence, followed by the Israelis and then the Libyans. In 1982, Khadaffi Barracks was its official name, but it quickly became known as Jinja Barracks in the interests of diplomacy.

Mounted at the entrance to the barracks is a German naval gun from the World War I gunboat *Konigsberg*, used by German General Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck in the East African campaign and captured by British colonial forces in 1917. Just beyond the gun was the old guardroom in which Idi Amin gathered all those senior officers who he thought opposed him — and where he blew them all up. The floor of the destroyed building still remains and a new guardroom was built opposite. It too was to gain infamy during Amin's time — and later — as a hellhole for those unfortunate enough to be incarcerated there.

CMTT was allocated office space and student accommodation adjacent the School of Infantry within the camp. Accommodation for CMTT personnel was in four married quarters on the ridge line above the camp. These buildings had formerly been used by KAR officers and their families and then by the successive training teams quartered there. The existing officers' and sergeants' messes were retained by the UNLA.

CMTT's immediate problem was to design and implement training courses with a minimum of resources. Obtaining supplies,



ABOVE: Uganda air force pilot's wings and anodized shoulder title.

ammunition, equipment, or even a straight answer from UNLA officers at SOI or General HQ at Republic House in Kampala was a major achievement. Several training sections, or wings, were set up within CMTT with varying responsibilities. The two largest of these were Officer Wing run by the British, and Warrant Officer/NCO Wing run by the Australians. Drill instructors from the Guards and Jamaica (Wooden-tops) were allocated to these two wings for drill and ceremonial instruction.

Officer Wing's main responsibility was to run junior staff courses for UNLA officers, some of whose only qualification for being officers was belonging to the right tribal group. Students on these courses were second lieutenants and lieutenants. In 1983 another course, the senior staff course, was added to cater to those of the rank of captain and above.



ABOVE: Uganda army shoulder patch showing the brightly colored national bird, the crested crane.



NCO Wing trained the bulk of students. It was responsible for basic weapons handling, fieldcraft, infantry minor tactics up to platoon level, and drill and ceremonies. The best students from the first warrant officer course were selected to become instructors at SOI. Besides their instructional ability, they also had to be able to speak good English as well as Swahili in order to communicate with CMTT staff and other students. The Australians made a particular point of learning as much Swahili as possible during their tours; this went down very well with the locals, and the linguistic exchange was quite often mutual. UNLA weapons instructors were able to give lessons in both English and Swahili, peppered with colorful Aussie expletives. Courses in WO/NCO Wing were expanded in time to include additional instruction for corporals, regimental police and physical training instructors, and each course eventually included some instruction in basic military law.

The Canadian medics were included originally to provide medical support to CMTT members only, but successive RMOs and their assistants worked daily in the garrison clinic providing whatever help they could to the local army and civilian community. They soon became very competent in the recognition and treatment of a variety of tropical diseases, the most common of which were various strains of venereal disease. Needless to say, their efforts were greatly appreciated and helped enhance the CMTT presence.

The major UNLA supply depot was located at Magamaga, about five miles east of Jinja. It was here that several British Royal Army Ordnance Corps (RAOC) personnel under command of a major ran basic stores accounting and transport supervisors' courses. When they first arrived in Magamaga, a large ammunition storage shed had its doors jammed shut with explosives piled from floor to ceiling. To make matters worse, the whole shed had been laced with detonators and booby traps. At great personal risk, the RAOC major — a demolitions officer — spent many hours defusing, stacking and sorting the many types of ammunition found within. It was rumored that the departing Tanzanians had set the booby trap in 1979 and no one had dared to enter the shed until CMTT arrived. In the same area was a large weapons store containing small arms from almost every country in the world and dating back to the turn of the century. It sounds like a gun collector's paradise, but many of the weapons were so badly maintained that they were beyond recovery. At the rear of the depot were the remains of the tank park and workshops commenced but never finished by the Israelis. The whole compound was littered with the wrecks of several generations of jeeps, trucks and mainly Soviet armored vehicles — another collector's paradise.

At the end of 1982, a system was introduced to award every individual student with a certificate for attendance at CMTT courses at either Jinja or Magamaga. These

TIMETABLE OF TERROR

If there's one element in African politics guaranteed to perpetuate government instability, economic failure and human rights abuse, it's tribalism. Uganda is no exception. Changes in government come not from popular vote or established parliamentary procedure, but rather from loose tribal coalitions formed for expediency's sake — and from the barrel of a gun.

OCTOBER 1962. Apollo Milton Obote as prime minister leads coalition Ugandan government to full and peaceful independence from Great Britain.

FEBRUARY 1966. Conflict within the government — centralists versus those favoring a loose federation of tribal groups — leads Obote to suspend the independence constitution and take over all government powers.

APRIL 1966. Obote ramrods a new constitution through Parliament and becomes the executive president with wide-ranging powers. Continues to expand his power; numerous human rights violations continue against other tribal groups.

JANUARY 1971. Armed forces commander Idi Amin Dada leads military coup and ousts Obote. Dissolves parliament, declares himself president and assumes absolute power. Expels 50,000 Asians in 1972 which precludes complete economic collapse and disintegration of the social order. Massive violation of human rights, especially against Obote's and his supporters' Acholi and Langi tribes. International Commission of Jurists in 1978 estimate more than 100,000 Ugandans were murdered, some figures state 300,000; thousands exiled.

APRIL 1979. After abortive invasion of Tanzania by Amin troops and Libyan "advisers," Tanzanian forces and Ugandan exiles capture Kampala. Amin flees with his supporters, ravages eastern and northern parts of Uganda. A series of new coalitions are formed; Yusuf Lule, Godfrey Binaisa, Paulo Muwanga are successive leaders during a 19-month period.

DECEMBER 1980. Obote returned to power. His 4½-year rule follows the Amin blueprint: corruption, economic disarray and social collapse — and genocide.

JULY 1985. Coup led by Brigadier Basilo Okello overthrows Obote; Obote flees to Kenya. Uganda armed forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Tito Okello sworn in as interim head of state.

AUGUST — NOVEMBER 1985. Bitter fighting continues between Yoweri Museveni's National Resistance Army (NRA — a rebel coalition of



Tanzanian war medal issued to all Tanzanian troops who took part in repulsing Idi Amin's attack during 1978, and the subsequent invasion and "liberation" of Uganda in 1979. Incidentally, the Tanzanian army "liberated" every piece of military equipment it could get its hands on.

southern tribes long oppressed by Obote and Amin) and the government coalition of northern tribal and political groups. NRA forces continually gain ground. President Daniel arap Moi of Kenya attempts to mediate between the two groups.

DECEMBER 1985. Nairobi peace accord signed. Museveni agrees to dismantle NRA and become deputy chairman of the ruling military council, but never abides by accord (later says he was "forced to sign" by Moi and Tanzanian President Mwinyi). Museveni's forces assault Kampala; Okello and his supporters flee to Sudan — laying waste to the countryside as they go. From Saudi Arabia, Idi Amin says he is willing to return to Uganda and regain control.

FEBRUARY 1986. Yoweri Museveni sworn in as president of Uganda. His 8,500-man NRA is disciplined and restores order; instructions are given to shoot military personnel found looting or terrorizing the populace.

During the reigns of Obote and Amin, an estimated half-million Ugandans were murdered and thousands more forced to flee the country. Uganda's economy is in a shambles and fear permeates the country.

The question now — as it always has — revolves around tribalism. Will Museveni's coalition government, primarily composed of southern ethnic groups, take revenge against the north for two decades of brutality? Time and precedent are not on Uganda's side.

— John Coleman

certificates became highly prized in the UNLA and were a great incentive for the *askaris* (soldiers) to complete one of the eight-week courses. A large parade was held at the end of each series of instruction in Jinja and visiting dignitaries handed out prizes to top students on each course. This was always a good opportunity for the UNLA to show off its predilection for sharp drill accompanied by the North Korean-trained brass band which was noted for its unique boogie style.

CMTT must take some large amount of credit for bringing stability to Jinja and the surrounding area. Commerce in the town began to flourish again, Jinja markets were operating to capacity and various kinds of consumer goods began to reappear in main street shops. CMTT personnel, in their distinctive blue berets, were a familiar sight around the town or on the road to Kampala in their specially marked Land Rovers. A friendly smile and a wave were enough to get them through army or police roadblocks. They were well-accepted in the areas in which they operated. In time, the team was able to live in Jinja in relative comfort: a ration run was made to Kenya every month for unobtainable supplies, newspapers from home arrived regularly and videotapes were available in small quantity from Kampala. Team members helped with refurbishing local tennis and squash courts and much later, games of rugby, soccer and cricket were organized against local teams.

A six-month tour of duty with CMTT was no holiday although some treated it only as a means of picking up their Loan Service pay. Others showed their true colors by spending far too much time at golf and tennis, dashing off on safari, or just big-noting themselves with the diplomatic community in Kampala. This caused a considerable amount of resentment, but of course, no criticism of the establishment was allowed. It appeared at times that "putting on a good show, chaps," was of more importance than solving the training need problem for the UNLA.

The real reason, of course, for the team's deployment was to train Ugandan soldiers. Most of those who served there would agree that what the *askari* lacked in organization or materiel, he made up for with a good deal of enthusiasm. UNLA soldiers love to sing and were often seen on the way to their training areas swinging along to a rhythmic chant. They were, however, generally terrible rifle shots and nothing the weapons instructors did could help overcome their fear of firing a rifle in the recommended fashion. Their preferred method was to fire from the hip or straight into the air. At SOI, students were taught the fundamentals of weapons handling with the AKM assault rifle and the 7.62mm H&K G3. Other weapons available included the 7.62mm SLR and the UZI 9mm submachine gun. CMTT personnel preferred to carry the UZI or AKM (an

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LIGHT INFANTRY DIVISION

Agile, Mobile ... Vulnerable

by David Segal

THE United States Army has always recognized that some sort of battlefield superiority is desirable if it is to stand a reasonable chance of winning. Throughout our nation's history the Army has sought to defeat its enemies by confronting them with superiority in at least one, and preferably all, of the following areas: manpower, firepower and mobility. The Army's new Light Infantry Division (LID) marks a radical and foolish departure from this sound policy.

The LID, as presently constituted and planned, can march into battle with the confident expectation that it will be outnumbered, outgunned and outmaneuvered by almost any regular force it is likely to confront. The good news is that, as they die, the LID's men will probably have met TRA-DOC's (Army Training and Doctrine Command) requirement of being deployable in under 500 C-141 sorties. As currently planned, our LID wouldn't stand a chance against a regular Syrian or Iranian division, let alone a Soviet one.

A close examination of the LID's organization, equipment and proposed mission will clearly reveal serious and specific vulnerabilities, but before we do that, let's take a brief look at the Army's rationale for the light infantry system.



The Army wants to increase the number of active component divisions to meet a wide spectrum of possible threats. The normal way to do this is to increase the number of soldiers on active duty and form them into new divisions. Unfortunately, this option just isn't open right now.

Anyone who tried to reinstitute military conscription in the absence of a national emergency would be committing political suicide, so the easiest way of raising manpower isn't available. Meanwhile, economics and demographics both indicate a probable decline in our volunteer troop strength. Our economy is relatively strong and fewer people are joining the Army for job security and economic opportunity, as was often the case in the past.

Additionally, our pool of prime-age military manpower is declining. The Mini-Baby Boom is over and birth rates are expected to remain low, or even fall, well into the next two decades. For these and other reasons, the Army has decided to let its active component strength fall to 781,000 and keep it at that level through the year 2000, according to TRADOC's Major General Carl McNair.

Thus, with a fixed number of active duty soldiers to draw upon, the only way to form



ABOVE: TOW-mounted HMMWV will be used in airborne, airmobile and light infantry units as a multipurpose vehicle. Photo: Dept. of the Army

LEFT: HMMWV replaces jeeps, Gamma Goats and some other vehicles in the 1/4-ton class. The Army is buying around 55,000 of these vehicles for \$22,000 each. Photo: Dept. of the Army



new active divisions is to reduce divisional manpower and increase the number of divisions. The LID certainly does that. Its planned strength of 10,212 is dramatically lower than the 18,500 of the average U.S. mechanized division. On paper, it looks pretty good, and if little or nothing were lost in firepower and mobility, the LID would be a stroke of pure genius. Unfortunately, as we'll see later, the loss of firepower and mobility is even more drastic than the manpower savings. TRADOC's approach to increasing our combat formations is really just a case of semantic juggling and redefining "division" will not alter reality.

The Army also claims to want the LID for its mission design and strategic mobility. TRADOC notes the obvious fact that our current divisions are designed to fight a major conventional war in Europe. They then note that most recent wars fall into their "unconventional warfare" and "minor conventional warfare" categories. From these two facts they conclude that a smaller, less heavily equipped division is just the ticket for fighting brushfire wars with a smaller investment of men and money.

That reasoning may be partially correct. The LID concept could work in a situation where the United States is forced to rush to the aid of some beleaguered Third World ally, but it won't work if we try to use LIDs to oust an established government, like the Ayatollah in Iran or Ortega in Nicaragua. Such divisions simply don't have the muscle. But then that type of thinking merely masks the original purpose of the LID which was to inject it into the Persian Gulf area in case of a flare-up there. Unfortunately, the LID couldn't even hold its own against Khomeini's Revolutionary Guards let alone a determined Soviet onslaught.

Of course, a smaller light division can get into action faster than its traditional counterpart. The LID is designed to be transportable entirely by the C-141 Starlifter in under 500 sorties (478, to be exact). A regular infantry division's heavy equipment has to be loaded on the big C-5 Galaxy which, unfortunately, can only use major airfields. In any case, TRADOC figures that a regular infantry division would need 1,443 C-141-equivalent sorties and could not deploy to the Persian Gulf area in less than 12.4 days. A LID, by contrast, could be fully deployed in the Persian Gulf within four days.

The reason such a rapid deployment is possible is that the LID is specifically designed around the severely limited airlift capacity of Military Airlift Command's (MAC) 252 C-141s. The question posed in designing the LID was: "What kind of division-sized outfit can we come up with that can be airlifted to the Persian Gulf in 500 or



ABOVE: Dragon weapon system: LID soldiers will have to rely on this bulky and relatively unreliable weapon for much of anti-tank capability. Photo: Dept. of the Army

fewer C-141 sorties?" The need for a procrustean fit with MAC's limited airlift capability determined how big the LID would be and how it would be equipped. It would seem that the Army is going about things backwards.

The proper design question should have been: "What kind of unit can we come up with that is hard-hitting, mobile and can win in a wide variety of situations, including a war in the Persian Gulf, without being tied to a large and complex supply base?" Once that all-important question was answered, we should have designed MAC's airlift capabilities to meet that unit's requirements and get it to the Persian Gulf in four days or less.

The absurdity of designing our combat units for MAC's convenience gives us a LID whose great strategic mobility is badly compromised by its tactical immobility and ridiculously inadequate firepower. Firepower will be dealt with at length later, but a quick note on tactical mobility is in order here.

Of the LID's nine 543-man infantry battalions, only two can be mobile at any given time. One can be airlifted by the unit's 36 UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters. Once deployed on the ground, however, it can move no faster than it can march. A second battalion is afforded mobility by the division's 306 1¼-ton High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV, pronounced "hum-vee"), better known as the "Hummer."

While the Hummer is an excellent vehicle with outstanding rough terrain capabilities, its lack of any real armor protection makes it vulnerable in combat. Still, it is a reliable vehicle if it isn't being shot at, and it's a whole lot better than what the LID's other combat battalions get for transportation, namely their own feet.

In an age where rapid communications, firepower and fast response time mean eve-

rything, seven of the LID's nine infantry battalions must *walk* into battle with inferior firepower and no significant fire support. When TRADOC boasts about the LID's "fast response time," they mean its fast *strategic* deployment ability, not its tactical mobility.

The importance of superior *tactical* mobility and firepower has been demonstrated time and again by the Israelis and by our own experience in Vietnam where the greatest successes were won by the most mobile units. Not that they fought from vehicles and helicopters; far from it. But units like the 1st Air Cavalry Division were able to get to the scene of the fighting fast and in force. They could also shift to meet a new threat and be rapidly supplied, reinforced or, if need be, evacuated.

Not so the LID, which has less firepower (relative to its probable opponents) and scarcely more mobility than the Chinese had in Korea. Indeed, the main problem the Chinese had in Korea was the inability of their "straight-leg" infantry to exploit its own successes or shift to meet new threats and situations.

That was in 1951. Today, the LID's chances of engaging an enemy under favorable conditions by marching into battle are as slim as those of Iran's Revolutionary Guards against the mobile Iraqis. As to the LID's chances of getting *out* of a losing battle with mobile enemy forces, suffice it to say that, with its three brigades, the LID should be regarded as the Light Brigade cubed.

In fact, when it comes to shock and firepower, the Light Brigade's horses and sa-

BELOW: AH-1 Cobras, which saw extensive combat in Vietnam, will provide the primary anti-tank air support for the LID. Photo: Dept. of the Army

BOTTOM: LID soldiers rush from the doors of UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters during a training exercise. Photo: Dept. of the Army





Under a camouflage net, an M102 105mm howitzer prepares to fire. This field piece will provide the LID's only "long-range" artillery support. Photo: Dept. of the Army

bers probably stood a better chance against the Russian guns than the LID would stand against motorized — let alone armored — Iranians, Libyans, Syrians or Nicaraguans. A look at the LID's table of organization and equipment (TO&E) shows that fact at a glance.

The LID's entire combat firepower consists of 3,465 M16 rifles (in the nine infantry battalions), 522 M203 40mm grenade launchers, 522 M249 5.56mm Squad Automatic Weapons (SAW), 162 7.62mm M60 light machine guns, 36 ground-mounted TOW anti-tank missile launchers, 36 107mm mortars, 72 Dragon individual anti-tank weapons, 54 105mm M102 howitzers, 18 Vulcan air-defense guns, 40 Stinger individual SAM launchers and 29 AH-1 Cobra attack helicopters.

There are also 31 OH-58 Kiowa scout helicopters and 36 UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter transports, but the LID's only ground vehicles are 306 Hummers (normally 34 per combat battalion and the rest scattered throughout the division) and 135 motorcycles. There is not a single tank, APC or armored tracked vehicle of any kind in the entire division.

The complete absence of tracked vehicles is deliberate. Tracked vehicles are prone to mechanical breakdowns and require a lot of spare parts and maintenance. Since the LID isn't supposed to be tied down to a complex supply base, the tracked vehicles had to go. While the LID's reliance on wheeled vehicles makes good logistic sense, it unfortunately means zero Armored Fighting Vehicles (AFVs), since all the Army's armor is tracked.

As if this weren't bad enough, the LID's only long-range artillery support consists of 54 M102 105mm towed howitzers whose 11.6-kilometer range is markedly less than the 15.3-kilometer range of the Soviet D-30 122mm howitzer that is standard equipment for most of the LID's probable opponents. In fact, the opposition is likely to have even

heavier guns, but — assuming the LID's outranged and unprotected M102s somehow survive the enemy's counterbattery fire — they still won't stop enemy tanks as well as a 155mm gun firing "Copperhead" rounds could.

What the LID *does* have to stop tanks are 72 man-portable Dragon anti-tank missile launchers, 36 ground-mounted TOW launchers and, if it wants to carry useless equipment, the M72 LAW. This is definitely not good news.

The LAW (Light Anti-tank Weapon) is a 5-pound, individually carried, disposable anti-tank munition with an effective range of about 150 meters against a moving target. It actually is rather good for taking out enemy bunkers and thin-skinned vehicles, but it is totally useless against tanks.

The Dragon isn't much better. Its 1,000-meter maximum range makes it the world's only medium-range anti-tank missile that has to be fired well within the deadly arc of the 12.7mm machine gun mounted on nearly all Soviet tanks. This is one reason foreign armies prefer to buy (or copy) the longer-ranged (2,000 meters) Franco-German MILAN instead. Another reason is that the Dragon has serious problems with its rocket thrusters and is only about 60 percent reliable. Even when it does work, it won't penetrate a modern tank's frontal armor. For these and other reasons, Dragon is now out of production.

Fortunately, TOW works quite well. Its 3,750-meter range is about all you can desire from a direct-line-of-sight weapon, and it will take out most tanks with one good hit. Unfortunately, the ground-mounted TOW launcher weighs 205 pounds, while the missile weighs another 62 pounds. Once the shooting commences, this baby isn't going anywhere in a hurry, a regrettable circumstance once the unprotected launcher and its four-man crew have been spotted.

The TOW's command-line-of-sight guidance system is also regrettable. Having to keep your sights on the target until the missile hits is no fun at all when you are under

The LID will run around in the field with 18 Vulcan air defense chain guns; not much defense against a host of Middle East-based MiGs. Photo: Dept. of the Army



fire. It also slows down your rate of fire, a major disadvantage when the whole division only has 36 TOW launchers to begin with. The only way the LID can hope to stop a real armored attack is through divine intervention, probably a more reliable contingency than trusting the division's 29 AH-1 Cobra attack helicopters to knock enemy tanks out.

The Cobra, which saw extensive service in Vietnam, proved to be an excellent weapon against enemy personnel and vehicles. Armed with a TOW, a Cobra can theoretically kill a tank, but this is difficult in practice. Any Cobra pilot who can avoid crashing or being shot down while he keeps a tank in his sights until missile impact certainly deserves the joy of the experience.

The Cobra is a sitting duck if the enemy has any air cover at all, an all-too-likely contingency when it's *your* LID that's intruding on *his* turf. The LID's anti-aircraft battalion is nice to have around, but 40 Stingers and 18 Vulcans do not an air defense system make. Remember, the Vulcan is the gun that the late and unlamented Sergeant York was supposed to replace.

Fortunately, all is not lost. The LID could become a significantly better fighting unit if it were made more mobile and had its worst equipment replaced by current, off-the-shelf systems, many of which are already in use by our friends and allies.

Here's one recommendation that might straighten things out. Unfortunately, U.S. defense contractors — and the congressmen from those districts — will not be happy with the suggestions. Replace the LAW with the Swedish AT4 or the French API-LAS. Replace Dragon with the Franco-German MILAN. Replace the M102 with Britain's L-118 105mm light gun. Substitute the battle-tested British Rapier air defense system for Stinger and the new SINGARS radios or the Israeli VHF-88 for the Army's outmoded AN/VRC-12s. As for Vulcan, it should be replaced by a completely new air defense gun or by a copy of the Soviet ZSU-23-4 mounted on the Marine Corps' Light Armored Vehicle (LAV).

The Hummer should be retained for sup-

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SOF USSR

SOVIET SHAKEUP

Red Army Purge of the '80s

by David Segal

CONTAINING the Soviet military colossus has been the foremost task of NATO planners since 1949. Yet while we argue about which weapon systems, what military formations and which tactical doctrines are best suited to counter possible Soviet military moves, the Soviet armed forces are undergoing their most dramatic reorganization since Stalin's Red Army purge of 1937-38.

That purge (which "removed" — usually by execution — three of the Soviet Union's five marshals, 13 out of 15 army commanders, 57 out of 85 corps commanders, 110 out of 195 divisional commanders and 220 out of 406 brigade commanders) ensured slavish subservience to Stalin but seriously weakened the Red Army.

The current Soviet military reorganiza-



S. F. Akhromeyev — Chief of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces. Photo: Novosti Press Agency

tion, begun by Andropov and followed through by Gorbachev, is nearly as widespread as the 1937-38 purge, but much more gradual and far less bloody. Above all, its aim is entirely different.

Stalin's aim was absolute political control, even if it meant destroying the Red Army's military capabilities. By contrast, Gorbachev's main aim is to enhance the Soviet armed forces' fighting power and flexibility, even if it means giving up some Communist Party direction.

The current military reorganization's political agenda is strictly secondary to the military one. Gorbachev can, of course, be expected to favor his own protégés for

promotion, but this is not the reason for the shakeup. If there is any political purpose, it is to get the armed forces, which became a major political force under the last three defense ministers (marshals Malinovsky, Grechko and Ustinov), out of politics — not the other way around. Indeed, the reduced importance of the new defense minister, Marshal of the Soviet Union Sergei Leonidovich Sokolov, tends to confirm this hypothesis.

According to recent reports and information from Soviet analysts, the Soviet defense minister is now merely one of 10 equal members of the Stavka (headquarters) of the Soviet VGK (Supreme High Command). He now presides, rather than directs. If any one person now directs the Stavka, it is its eleventh member, Communist Party leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Additionally, much greater emphasis is being put on the Soviet Union's four TVDs, or Theaters of Military Operations (Western, Southwestern, Southern, and Far Eastern). The four TVD commanders have reportedly been given greater independence in organizing their commands and planning and conducting operations, and, in time of war, their TVDs are expected to operate independently of each other and of the Soviet High Command for prolonged periods.

The identity of the commander of the Western TVD, directly confronting NATO, is uncertain as of this writing. The odds are good, however, that this crucial command has gone to General of the Army Mikhail Zaitsev who left his post as C-in-C of the 400,000-strong Group of Soviet Forces in Germany (GSFG) on 13 July 1985, the same month Marshal of the Soviet Union (MSU) Nikolai V. Ogarkov left his post as Western TVD commander to become commander in chief of the Warsaw Pact forces. Zaitsev is viewed as one of the most capable Soviet officers.

Meanwhile, a Colonel General Arkhipov reportedly replaced General of the Army Yuri P. Maksimov as Southern TVD commander when the latter became C-in-C Strategic Rocket Forces, also in July 1985. Very little has been publicly reported about Arkhipov as of this writing, but, assuming he is in fact the Southern TVD commander, he would play a major role in conducting Russia's expanding war in Afghanistan.

Only two of the four TVD commanders were left untouched in 1985. They are Generals of the Army I.A. Gerasimov (Southwestern TVD) and I.M. Tret'yak (Far Eastern TVD). The changes have been even greater on the higher command levels.

Eleven people compose the Stavka of the VGK. They are the General Secretary of the Communist Party, the Minister of Defense, the Chief of the Main Political Directorate, the Chief of the General Staff, the C-in-C Warsaw Pact Forces, the First Deputy Minister of Defense for the Far East and Local Wars, and the five service commanders (ground forces, strategic rocket forces, air defense forces, air forces and naval



Mikhail Sergeevich Gorbachev — General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Photo: Novosti Press Agency

forces). The Chief of the General Staff and the C-in-C Warsaw Pact Forces both hold the rank of First Deputy Minister of Defense, while the five service heads are all deputy ministers of defense. Of the 11 Stavka members at the beginning of 1984, only four remain, and only one holds the same position he did a mere two years ago. Even though three Stavka members died naturally, that still constitutes a major shakeup in a two-year period.

Given the recent shakeup, a closer look at Gorbachev's new high command and its members is in order. The information that follows is largely compiled from public reports (both Western and Soviet), but also from interviews with persons knowledgeable about the Soviet armed forces.

The Commander In Chief of the Armed Forces

Ever since Lenin seized power from Russia's democratic provisional government in a 7 November 1917 military putsch, the head of the Communist Party has effectively been the commander in chief of the Soviet armed forces. Today, that man is Mikhail S. Gorbachev who has been General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) and chairman of both Stavka VGK and the CPSU Defense Council since the death of his predecessor, Konstantin U. Chernenko, in March 1985.

Born on 2 March 1931 the 55-year-old Gorbachev is the youngest Soviet leader since Stalin. He is thought to be a protégé of the late Yuri V. Andropov, the former KGB chief who led the Soviet Union following the death of Leonid I. Brezhnev on 10 November 1982.

During his brief, 14-month reign, Andropov tried to modernize and streamline Russia's top-heavy bureaucracy, ousting many



long-time Brezhnev associates who strongly opposed his plans for reforms in the economy and the armed forces. These reforms were scarcely underway at the time of Andropov's death on 9 February 1984. He was succeeded by Konstantin U. Chernenko, an old Brezhnev crony who managed to slow or stop those reforms until shortly before his own death on 10 March 1985.

Gorbachev, who was widely viewed as Andropov's chosen successor, has been consolidating his own power base since 1982. After taking power last March, he promptly purged his leading opponents and resumed Andropov's modernization and streamlining program. An experienced technocrat who is acutely aware of the Soviet Union's economic and technological inferiority, Gorbachev has been playing hardball in setting the military direction of the nation he commands.

Any doubts about Gorbachev's control of the armed forces should be dispelled by last year's shakeup that remolded the Soviet military to suit the new Party leader. Since he took power, Gorbachev has already replaced the C-in-C Warsaw Pact Forces, the

One of the casualties: Vladimir Fyodorovich Tolubko was fired from his post as Chief Marshal of Artillery. Photo: Novosti Press Agency

Chief of the Armed Forces main political directorate, two service chiefs (Strategic Rocket Forces and Naval Forces), two TVD commanders (Western and Southern), the commander of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, and several military district (MD) commanders. Marshal of the Soviet Union (MSU) Sergei F. Akhromeyev, who has been Chief of the Armed Forces General Staff since September 1984, was already a Gorbachev man.

Chief of the Main Political Directorate

After Gorbachev himself, the CPSU's direct representative on the Stavka VGK is the Chief of the Armed Forces main political directorate, who is supposed to ensure the "correct" political education, motivation and loyalty of the armed forces. In the 23 years from May 1962 to July 1985, that post was held by 77-year-old General of the Army Aleksei A. Yepishev.

Born 19 May 1908, Yepishev started out as a political commissar in WWII. He was a

Deputy Minister of State Security in the MGB, the KGB's precursor, from 1951-53. Before and after that (1946-51, 1953-55), he took an active role in the "pacification" of anti-communist guerrillas in the Ukraine. He then served as Soviet Ambassador in Romania and Yugoslavia.

His own record clearly shows that Yepishev was a Communist Party political thug, rather than a military man. Unfortunately for him, he was Brezhnev's political thug at a time when Gorbachev wanted his own agent on the Stavka VGK.

Colonel General Aleksei D. Lizichev replaced Yepishev during Gorbachev's July 1985 military shakeup, but little is known about him. Before assuming his new post, Lizichev was the head of the political directorate of the 400,000-man group of Soviet forces in Germany. He is reportedly in his late 50s and presumably has some kind of KGB and propaganda background.

Until last summer, Russia's war in Afghanistan was virtually ignored in the Soviet media. Suddenly, Soviet soldiers killed in Afghanistan have become popular heroes and propaganda glorifying the war is widespread. The results — better morale in the Soviet army and a more pro-war attitude among civilians — exceeded expectations. It may not be a coincidence that this has all happened since Lizichev's appointment.

The Minister of Defense

Until recently, the Soviet Minister of Defense was second only to the head of the Communist Party in real power over the military, but recent changes have made the new Defense Minister, MSU Sergei L. Sokolov, just one of the 10 equals on the Stavka VGK.

It was rumored that Gorbachev's archival, Romanov, would become Defense Minister following the death of MSU Dmitri Ustinov in December 1985. Instead, the post went to Sokolov, a close Ustinov associate. Gorbachev retained Sokolov after the July 1985 shakeup despite the latter's reportedly close ties to the now-disgraced Romanov, but his power was reportedly curtailed. This is probably more of a reflection on his predecessor, Ustinov, than it is on Sokolov.

Ustinov reportedly was a major power broker in the selections of Andropov and Chernenko. The latter selection kept Andropov's chosen successor, Gorbachev, from power for 13 months until Chernenko obligingly died. Since that time, Gorbachev has weakened the Defense Minister's control of the armed forces in order to diminish his political significance.

Given Sokolov's close association with Ustinov and ties to Romanov, it's amazing Gorbachev has kept him. Sokolov's retention can only reflect well on his professional qualifications as an expert in armor and Third World affairs.

Born on 1 July 1911, the 74-year-old Sokolov joined the Red Army in 1932. His first combat experience was under the legendary Marshal G.K. Blukher (later arrested and shot on Stalin's orders) at the

battle of Lake Kashan in 1938 during the Nomanhan Incident with Japan. During WWII, he served with armored units on the Western and Karelian fronts. In 1960, Sokolov became chief of staff of the Moscow military district, leaving that post in 1964 to become First Deputy Commander and, in 1965, commander of the Leningrad military district. From that post, Sokolov made the colossal jump to First Deputy Minister of Defense with unspecified duties in 1967.

That his actual duties concerned Far Eastern affairs and local wars soon became evident from his activities. Those activities consisted of receiving military delegations from Far Eastern and Third World countries and going abroad for lengthy "special discussions." Between 1967 and December 1984, Sokolov is known to have visited Syria, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, North Korea, India, Egypt, Burma, North Vietnam, Peru, Mali, Cuba, Yemen, Somalia, Mozambique, Angola, Jordan and Ethiopia, many of them several times. His chief concerns appear to have been propping up pro-Soviet Third World governments, aiding anti-Western guerrilla movements and finding ways to counter China's growing military power.

Sokolov is also widely believed to have masterminded the December 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and, if he is retained as defense minister, we can expect to see an increased Soviet emphasis on Far Eastern affairs and local wars. Last August's Operation Kavkaz '85, viewed by informed sources as a dress rehearsal for a possible Soviet invasion of Iran, may be a portent of things to come.

The Chief of the General Staff

The most important purely military position in the Soviet armed forces is that of Chief of the General Staff, currently held by

S.L. Sokolov — promoted to Minister of Defense in December 1984. Photo: Novosti Press Agency



Considered the father of the modern Soviet navy, Fleet Admiral of the Soviet Union S.G. Gorshkov was dismissed in December 1985. Photo: Novosti Press Agency

62-year-old MSU Sergi F. Akhromeyev. He is the most important of the three First Deputy Ministers of Defense (the other two are the C-in-C Warsaw Pact Forces and the First Deputy Minister of Defense for General Affairs for the Far East and Local Wars), and all five service chiefs are immediately subordinate to him. He also has direct command authority over the Soviet Strategic Reserve, which reportedly includes the Moscow military district, the Volga military district (HQ Kubishev) and the Ural military district (HQ Sverdlovsk).

Born on 5 May 1923, Akhromeyev was enrolled as a cadet in Leningrad's Frunze Higher Naval School in 1940. The school was evacuated to Astrakhan after the 1941 German invasion. After graduating in 1942, Akhromeyev served as an infantry officer from Stalingrad to the final battle of Berlin. He first joined the armed forces General Staff in 1974, having served as Chief of Staff of the Far Eastern military district since 1972. In May of 1979, he became Chief of the General Staff's main directorate for operations and, thus, the top assistant to Chief of the General Staff, 'ISU Nikolai V. Ogarkov.

An Andropov protégé, Akhromeyev was promoted to Marshal of the Soviet Union on 25 March 1983 while he was still Ogarkov's deputy, an unprecedented rank for someone in his position. Whatever plans Andropov may have had for Akhromeyev were cut

short by the former's death, but when Ogarkov was suddenly fired as Chief of the General Staff on 7 September 1984 and assigned to "other duties," Akhromeyev replaced him.

The Commander In Chief Warsaw Pact Forces

The precise duties of the C-in-C Warsaw Pact Forces are something of a mystery. He obviously supervises the military readiness of the Soviet Union's Eastern European allies and Soviet Warsaw Pact units, but he doesn't appear to have any direct command authority. As a First Deputy Minister of Defense, the C-in-C Warsaw Pact Forces is directly subordinate to the Minister of Defense, rather than the Chief of the General Staff.

In the big July 1985 shakeup, MSU Nikolai V. Ogarkov replaced MSU Viktor G. Kulikov as C-in-C Warsaw Pact Forces. Whatever the reason, it wasn't age. Kulikov was 64 and Ogarkov was 68. Kulikov is rumored to be slated to head a Moscow area military academy. He seems to be playing musical chairs with Ogarkov, whom he also preceded as Chief of the General Staff.

Born 30 October 1917, Ogarkov is generally regarded as the Soviet Union's top military strategist. His colorful tenure as Chief of the General Staff began on 6 January 1977 and ended abruptly with his assignment to "other duties" on 7 September 1984. At the time, this was viewed as a disgraceful demotion, but those "other duties" turned out to be the command of the all-important Western TVD, a fact that was not publicly revealed until he assumed his



Vasily Ivanovich Petrov — First Deputy Minister of Defense for General Affairs for the Far East and Local Wars. Photo: Novosti Press Agency

current post in last July's reorganization.

Ogarkov's current assignment is probably more an admission of his indispensability than anything else. In the unlikely event that a major Warsaw Pact reorganization is planned, however, Ogarkov is certainly the man to do it.

The First Deputy Minister of Defense for General Affairs of the Far East and Local Wars

The Soviet Union's three First Deputy Ministers of Defense come directly under the defense minister and have broad powers and responsibilities. The general job descriptions of two of them, the Chief of the General Staff and the C-in-C Warsaw Pact Forces, are well-known, but for many years Western analysts didn't have the foggiest notion of what the third one actually did. If the charts and text appearing in the U.S. Department of Defense's officially released "Soviet Military Power" are any indication, the U.S. government is either still ignorant of the third man's duties, or it is unwilling to tell the public what they are.

The general nature of the third man's work is summed up by what is reported to be his full official title: First Deputy Minister

of Defense for General Affairs for the Far East and Local Wars (FDMDGAFELW). The extensive travels of MSU Sokolov, who held this post until December 1984, have already been mentioned. His former command's real activities appear to be as follows:

- Countering China's expanding military capabilities and fomenting tensions between China and her potential military enemies, such as India, Burma, North Korea and Vietnam.

- Propping up pro-Soviet Third World regimes, such as Angola, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Libya and Nicaragua against internal opposition and popular resistance movements.

- Helping such regimes organize and execute military operations designed to bring their neighbors under Soviet domination.

Last, but definitely not least, there are some indications that the Soviet Ministry of Defense, and not just Soviet intelligence, is directly involved in training, organizing and

equipping (but not directing) various terrorist organizations that operate against the United States, Western Europe, Israel, Turkey and Japan. These include Spain's Basque separatists, the Franco-Belgian "Direct Action," the IRA, Germany's Red Army Faction, Italy's Red Brigades, the PLO, Turkey's Armenian separatists (notably ASALA), and the Japanese Red Army.

Fomenting terrorism and "local wars" is certainly consistent with Leninist doctrine, which views such activities as an obvious extension of a fundamental struggle between two incompatible economic systems: socialism and capitalism. The Leninist axiom that socialism and capitalism cannot coexist leads to the inevitable corollary that the socialist countries must destroy the capitalist system by any expedient means. In Leninist terms, *peaceful coexistence means carrying on the class struggle by all means short of formal, declared war.*

From the Marxist-Leninist point of view, the Soviet Union has been at war with the United States and all other countries that do not embrace "scientific socialism" since the Bolsheviks seized power in 1917. Tactics may change, but the objective always remains the establishment of world communism by any expedient means. If the West doesn't realize it is at war yet, so much the better. It is enough that the CPSU knows it is conducting a life-or-death struggle with all of the social systems.

The FDMDGAFELW appears to be the CPSU's executive military agent in this struggle. His is the only branch of the Soviet armed forces, excepting the Southern TVD in Afghanistan, that is actively involved in current shooting wars. His importance can be seen by looking at the last two people to play the role of FDMDGAFELW.

MSU Sergei Sokolov's background has already been cited, but his selection as Defense Minister after Ustinov's death might well be due to the importance the Soviets attach to his achievements as FDMDGAFELW. A further indication of the post's importance is that Sokolov was succeeded by no less a figure than the Commander in Chief of the Ground Forces, 69-year-old MSU Vasili I. Petrov.

Born on 15 January 1917, Petrov joined the Red Army in 1939. He began World War II as a cavalry platoon leader and finished as the chief of operations of a rifle division. Interestingly, Petrov's 1978-80 stint as C-in-C of the Far Eastern TVD should provide useful experience for his current job. From 1980 to January of 1985, Petrov was the C-in-C of the largest of the Soviet Union's five services, the 1,825,000-strong Ground Forces.

The Commander In Chief Strategic Rocket Forces

The remaining members of the Stavka VGK are the commanders in chief of the five Soviet armed services, all of whom hold the rank of Deputy Minister of Defense. The most important of these services, the 385,000-strong Strategic Rocket Forces, was established as an independent

force by Khrushchev on 12 December 1959. This force controls all land- and sea-based strategic thermonuclear missiles and, presumably, targets those missiles and plans possible nuclear strikes.

From April 1972 until last July, this key service was commanded by Chief Marshal of Artillery Vladimir F. Tolubko. A Ukrainian, the 71-year-old Tolubko was the only non-Russian on the Stavka. His replacement, 61-year-old General of the Army Yuri P. Maksimov, had been C-in-C of the Southern TVD, which encompasses the North Caucasian MD (HQ Rostov), the Transcaucasian MD (HQ Tbilisi) and the Turkestan MD (HQ Tashkent). As such, Maksimov played a large role in conducting Russia's war in Afghanistan.

The Commander In Chief Ground Forces

The new Commander in Chief of the Soviet Union's massive Ground Forces (over 1,825,000 soldiers) is 68-year-old General of the Army Yevgeny F. Ivanovsky, who succeeded MSU Vasili I. Petrov when the latter took over as FDMD-GAFELW. Relatively little information about Ivanovsky has been published as of this writing.

Born on 7 March 1918, Ivanovsky was C-in-C of the Moscow MD from 1968-72. He then shows up as the commander of the 400,000-strong Group of Soviet Forces in Germany (GSFG — HQ Wuensdorf, GDR) before leaving that post in 1980 to take command of the Byelorussian MD (HQ Minsk). His long stint as GSFG commander could indicate uncommonly high organizational and planning abilities.

The Commander In Chief Air Defense Forces

The C-in-C Air Defense Forces, Chief Marshal of Aviation Aleksander I. Koldunov, is distinguished by being the only member of Stavka VGK who has held his present position for more than two years. In

N.V. Ogarkov — named C-in-C Warsaw Pact Forces in July 1985. Photo: Novosti Press Agency



Alexander Ivanovich Koldunov — Air Marshal of the Soviet Union. Photo: Novosti Press Agency

fact, the 62-year-old Koldunov has commanded the Soviet Air Defense Forces since 1978.

The Soviet Air Defense Forces are independent of the Air Forces and comprehensively embrace all aspects of air defense, including fighter-interceptor aircraft, radar and other detection systems, anti-aircraft artillery, surface-to-air missiles and anti-missile defenses. Indeed, the Soviets are widely believed to easily have the world's most massive, if not most sophisticated, air defense system.

That system's commander, Koldunov, is a genuine war hero. Born on 20 September 1923, he joined the Soviet air force in 1941. After flying 358 sorties in 96 air battles against the Germans, Koldunov emerged as one of the 10 top Soviet WWII aces with 46 enemy planes to his credit. He was twice awarded the highest Soviet decoration for bravery, Hero of the Soviet Union. He commanded the Moscow air defense district from 1970-75 before becoming deputy C-in-C of National Air Defense from 1975-78, when he took his present post.

The Commander In Chief Air Forces

In the Soviet structure, the Air Forces are a strictly offensive arm, completely separate from their Air Defense Forces. Basically, the Air Forces consist of bombers, strike and ground support planes, and escorting fighter-interceptors.

The present Air Forces commander is 63-year-old Marshal of Aviation Aleksander N. Yefimov, who assumed his new duties following the 3 December 1984 death of his predecessor, Chief Marshal of Aviation Pavel S. Kutakhov, at the age of 70. Born on 6 February 1923, Yefimov is another war hero.

After joining the Soviet air force in 1941, this IL-2 Sturmovik pilot flew 222 ground-attack sorties before the end of WWII, and emerged from that war with two Hero of the Soviet Union awards. He had been



Dmitry Fyodorovich Ustinov — Defense Minister of the Soviet Union since 1976. He died on 20 December 1984. Photo: Novosti Press Agency

Kutakhov's main deputy since 1969. His appointment as commander in chief is not thought to have any political significance.

The Commander In Chief Naval Forces

The same cannot be said for Admiral of the Fleet Vladimir N. Chernavin's appointment as the Commander in Chief of the Soviet Naval Forces last December. The 57-year-old Chernavin, whose 4 November 1983 promotion to Admiral of the Fleet marked him for advancement, had been Chief of the Main Naval Staff (roughly equivalent to the American Chief of Naval Operations) since December 1981. He was widely expected to be Admiral Gorshkov's eventual successor, but the unceremonious firing of Gorshkov last December came as a total surprise to most observers.

After nearly 30 years as C-in-C Naval Forces, the 76-year-old Gorshkov is a Soviet institution, a sort of Hyman Rickover and John Paul Jones rolled into one. Despite his advanced age, there are no reports of serious illness.

Under Gorshkov's tutelage, the Soviet navy was transformed from an adequate coastal defense force into a true blue-water fleet, second only to the United States Navy and superior to it in a few respects (notably submarines). His hard-driving, practical approach to naval design, doctrine and procurement made him a legend in his own time. Gorshkov's motto, "Better is the enemy of good enough," still reverently quoted by Soviet officers, is one our own defense establishment would do well to heed.

The headstrong Gorshkov was very much his own man, a factor that may have made him the latest major victim of the military shakeup that has been going on since Brezhnev's death. Chernavin is thought to be Gorbachev's personal choice and is expected to

Continued on page 106

PROPAGANDA

Paper Bullets Aimed at Hearts and Minds

by Herbert A. Friedman

SAFE-CONDUCT PASS TO BE HONORED BY ALL VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND ALLIED FORCES



Đây là một tấm Giấy Thông Hành có giá trị với tất cả cơ quan Quân Chính Việt - Nam Cộng-Hòa và lực lượng Đồng-Minh.

이 안전보장패스는 월남정부와 모든 연합군에 의해 인정된 것입니다.

BÊN NÀO HƠN

VIỆT-CỘNG

- 6% một ngày
- 2 bộ quần áo
- Đau yếu thiếu thuốc men
- Gia đình không ai trợ cấp
- Không có một nghề nghiệp bảo đảm cho tương lai

QUỐC-GIA

KHI RA QUY-CHÁNH

- Được đón tiếp nồng hậu
- 18\$ tiền ăn một ngày của bạn
- 18\$ tiền ăn một ngày của vợ bạn
- 9\$ tiền ăn một ngày của con bạn
- 200\$ tiền tiêu vặt của bạn
- 100\$ tiền tiêu vặt của vợ bạn
- Mọi người còn được cấp thêm 2 bộ quần áo.

KHI TRỞ VỀ VỚI GIA-ĐÌNH

- Bạn được cấp 500\$, Vợ bạn 200\$, mỗi con bạn 100\$
- Nếu gia đình bạn muốn vào ở Ấp Tân-Sinh được cấp 3.500\$ và ở tháng trợ cấp lương thực
- Ngoài ra bạn muốn học nghề nghiệp Chính phủ sẵn sàng giúp đỡ.



THEO CỘNG SẢN LÀ TỰ SÁT

CÁC BẠN CÁN BINH VIỆT CỘNG

Khi các bạn ra Quy-Chánh, ngoài sự đổi đời nồng hậu, các bạn còn được lãnh tiền thưởng nếu các bạn mang theo vũ-khí.

Dưới đây là giá biểu tiền thưởng tùy theo mỗi loại vũ-khí:



U.S.-distributed safe-conduct pass in Vietnamese, English and Korean.

AERIAL propaganda leaflets have been used for many purposes, but perhaps the single most valuable use of these so-called "paper bullets" has been their ability to save lives. They have accomplished this mission in several ways. They can convince the enemy to cease all resistance and come over to our side. They can offer him food, money and protection if he turns in his comrades or brings in his weapons. They can offer him a reward if he finds our personnel behind his lines and carries them back to safety. In every case the result is the same: If the propaganda works, our people live.

The United States has a long history of using propaganda leaflets. Those brave men who stood on Bunker Hill and defied the

This leaflet describes the benefits of the GVN side — the misery of the VC side. Reverse shows rewards offered for certain enemy weapons.

PSYWAR EXPERT

Herb Friedman served in the Korean War with the 51st Fighter "MiG Killers." He has since been collecting propaganda and has written more than 100 articles on the subject. His first article for SOF was "Sex & PsyWar," May 1981.

power of the British Empire were among the first to attempt psychological warfare. As the British prepared to march against us in their ominous red columns, our minutemen threw leaflets from the crest of the hill stating, "Prospect Hill: Seven dollars a month. Fresh provisions and plenty. Health. Freedom, ease, affluence and a good farm. Bunker Hill: Three pence a day. Rotten salt pork. The scurvy. Slavery, beggary and want."

The Germans attempted to influence the attitudes of our boys with messages such as these.



5 Minutes to Twelve

Luftwaffe down and out.
German war industry smashed.
Russians threatening Berlin.
The end in sight.

5 Minutes to Twelve

And so nobody wants to be killed
in these last five minutes. That's
common sense.

Watch your step!



STAMP PROPAGANDA

The number and variety of documents forged and parodied during wartime is staggering, and the ordinary postage stamp has been a frequent victim of these espionage or propaganda campaigns. Although the Vietnam War did not have a great deal of such espionage, it did produce a philatelic mystery. We really don't know if the stamp shown here is Allied or enemy propaganda.

Throughout the war, the North produced patriotic stamps to bolster the fighting spirit of the communist forces. They show such scenes as Allied aircraft being shot down or Allied convoys being ambushed. Since these stamps were obviously propaganda, it has never been doubted that they were made by the forces opposing us in Vietnam.

About a year or so ago, however, an ex-CIA agent casually mentioned that while he was fishing through some old files he had come across sheets of Vietnamese propaganda stamps. Allegedly, he read the file and discovered that the United States had produced them purposely, in a professional, well-printed manner, to show the rest of the world that they must have come from Hanoi since the Viet Cong were incapable of such high-quality work.

The stamps that the former agent identified as having been printed on CIA presses had been attributed to the National Front for the Liberation of

Whodunit? VC or CIA? Here's what's known about this stamp — you decide.

South Vietnam. Study by philatelic experts indicates that they were made in Hanoi. The paper, ink and perforations fit those of North Vietnamese stamps.

What would be the point of producing such a stamp? The entire world — with the possible exception of the American press — was already well aware that the North was deeply involved in the war. If it were a CIA product, it was probably used either to carry Allied propaganda mail behind enemy lines or placed on disinformation documents produced by the Agency to lend an air of legitimacy.

Whether we really produced those stamps or not is a moot question, since they did absolutely no good and now are only a monument to the strange ideas propaganda experts come up with in time of war.

I remember asking a top British agent how he could keep a straight face when people in his department came up with the WWII idea of fecal-odor spray for the pants of Japanese troops in China to make them lose face.

His answer? "We didn't like to discourage the PsyWar boys since every now and then they came up with a decent idea."

Stamps seem to be the same sort of thing: Let the idea men and the printers have their fun; they will come up with a beautiful passport or travel pass tomorrow.

It is doubtful that many of the British were convinced to come over to the American side, since it is now known that surrender leaflets seem to work best when the opposition suffers from low morale, is surrounded with no hope of escape or believes that he has lost the war. Well-motivated troops who believe that they still have a fighting chance will hardly ever be victimized by psychological warfare.

During World War II we dropped millions of leaflets. In Vietnam we hit a record we will probably never surpass, sometimes

dropping as many as seven million pieces of propaganda a day.

Our best-known surrender pass during WWII was a safe-conduct in the form of an official document dropped on German troops. We had tried various forms of certificates in the early years of the war and finally concluded that the German mind required a very official-looking form, resembling a diploma. The final version of this pass comes in various colors and sizes, but almost always has the seals of both the United States and the United Kingdom, and



中共空軍第六師十六團大隊飛行員劉承司，於中華民國五十二年九月二十一日，駕駛1765號米格十五型機飛向自由，安全抵達台灣。政府除了按照規定，給予黃金一千兩的獎金之外，並且已經授予空軍中尉官階，以償他決心反抗共抗俄而奮鬥的辛勞。

a text like the following:

"Safe Conduct. The German soldier who carries this safe conduct is using it as a sign of his genuine wish to give himself up. He is to be disarmed, to be well looked after, to receive food and medical attention as required, and to be removed from the danger zone as soon as possible. Signed: Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force."

Apparently the pass was so successful that the German psychological-warfare people parodied it: "Safe Conduct. The German soldier who carries this safe conduct is using it as a sign of his genuine wish to go into captivity for the next 10 years, to betray his fatherland, to return home a broken old man and very probably never to see his parents, wife and children again."

The Germans did more than copy our material. They attempted to influence

"Chinese Communist Navy Brothers: Take Liu Cheg-ze as a model. We welcome you over to our side."

Allied troop behavior. One of their leaflets shows an American GI stopping another just before he steps into an open grave. Behind them is a clock. The propaganda message states, "Stop, watch your step, it's five minutes to twelve!" The message on the reverse of the leaflet reads, "Five minutes to twelve. Luftwaffe down and out. German war industry smashed. Russians threatening Berlin. The end is in sight. Five minutes to twelve. And so nobody wants to be killed in these last five minutes. That's common sense. Watch your step!"

History has shown that we didn't need the German whisper. Our own government stopped our troops, allowing the Russians to walk into Berlin, causing political problems

that have not been settled to this day.

In the early years of the war planners presumed that the Japanese would not think of surrender. As the battle went on, however, it became obvious that many Japanese were more than happy to lay down their arms. We tried various types of surrender leaflets, but probably the best was a large sheet that stated in English, "Attention, American soldiers! I cease resistance. This leaflet guarantees humane treatment to any Japanese desiring to cease resistance. Take him immediately to your nearest commissioned officer. By direction of the Commander in Chief."

Note that nowhere does the word "surrender" appear on this leaflet. "I cease resistance" was substituted so that the Japanese would not lose face. Just to be sure that they believed our sincerity, the Japanese-language message states (from the American commander), "To all my men I am giving strict instructions not to fire a single shot If they violate this, they will be executed."

We even went so far as to tell them, "Some Japanese soldiers have committed untold atrocities against the Filipinos and Americans who have had the misfortune of falling within your clutches, but this does not make any difference. You will be treated with the utmost consideration just the same."

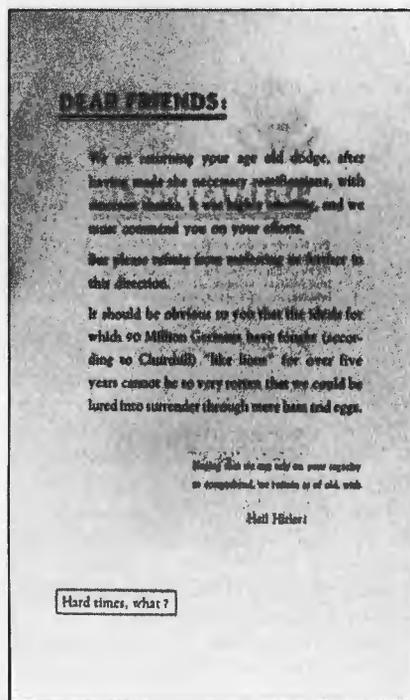
For those who didn't travel in the Far East after the war, I should mention that we did not speak for our Filipino allies, who would occasionally slit the throat of a visiting Japanese as long as 10 years after the end of the war. Our friends were not nearly as forgiving as we were.

During the Korean War, both sides used numerous safe-conduct passes. One of our most popular types was an imitation of a North Korean 100 won note with a message in English, Chinese and Korean on the reverse: "Attention, U.N. Soldiers: This certificate guarantees good treatment to any Chinese or North Korean soldier desiring to cease fighting. Take this man to your nearest officer and treat him as an honorable prisoner of war."

We also worked on enemy pilots. At the same time my old outfit was knocking MiGs out of the sky with a 13:1 ratio, we were dropping leaflets in Russian, Korean and Chinese that pictured a Polish air force lieutenant who had flown his jet to safety on the Danish island of Bornholm. The gist of the lengthy text of this leaflet is: "The Far East Command will reward with the sum of \$50,000 U.S. dollars any pilot who delivers a modern, operational combat-type jet aircraft in flyable condition to South Korea. The first pilot who delivers such a jet aircraft to the Free World will receive an additional \$50,000 U.S. dollars bonus for his bravery."

This plan, known as "Operation

Our official-looking safe-conduct pass was so convincing, the Germans copied it — with a few modifications.



RUGER GP-100

Continued from page 51

various styles, heights and colored inserts. Adjustable for both windage and elevation, the rear sight is a square notch with white outline. The barrel's integral wide top rib has both a matte finish and longitudinal serrations to minimize glare. The sight radius is 5½ inches on the 4-inch model.

In the Ruger tradition, both the mainspring and trigger guard latch spring are massive coils. In addition to the hammer and trigger, most of the small internal parts are stainless steel. Smooth and ungrooved, the trigger will please aficionados of the double-action combat revolver. Single-action trigger pull weight on our test specimen was a crisp 3.75 pounds. The double-action pull weight was a rather sluggish 11.75 pounds with no loading at the end of the stroke. Those who use a two-stage method for double-action shooting will be somewhat disgruntled.

Mounted in the frame, the floating firing pin must be struck by the transfer bar, which in turn receives the hammer's hit. Should the finger relieve pressure on the trigger while the hammer is falling forward, the transfer bar safety will drop down and the firing pin will not be driven forward. Few of us care for the transfer bar safety, but this condescension to a lawsuit-crazed society is here to stay.

Also fabricated from 4140 chrome-moly alloy steel, the cylinder holds six rounds. The crane/cylinder assembly swings out of the frame in the usual manner after its spring-loaded latch button is depressed. In the firing position, the cylinder is securely locked to the frame in two places — by a strong pilot bearing at the rear of the cylinder, and by a robust locking bolt at the front of the crane which engages a matching slot at the end of the frame. This mechanism was invented by Ruger and first used in the Redhawk revolver. For increased strength, the cylinder locking notches are substantially offset, not cut into the weakest part of the cylinder walls over the centers of the chambers. Cylinder rotation is to the left. The ejector rod does not rotate with the cylinder and serves only to activate the ejector, not as a bearing point for front locking of the cylinder. Cylinder-to-forcing cone gap on our test specimen was only .004-inch (.003- to .008-inch is the acceptable range).

Most startling are design improvements made to the frame. Frame width has been increased in those critical areas which support the barrel. The grip portion of the frame has been redesigned to accommodate thick, compressible rubber wraparound grips with polished Goncalvo Alves panel inserts. While they reduce felt recoil, checkered all-rubber grips have no place on a combat handgun. When drawing under stress, what you grab is what you got. It's almost im-

possible to quickly shift your grip position on Pachmayr-type rubber grip panels. This could prove fatal. In addition to structural reinforcement, the GP-100's wood panel inserts permit the hand to easily shift into proper firing position. Ruger gives us the best in this so-often disregarded area of handgun design.

Disassembly of the GP-100's internal components has been somewhat simplified and Ruger's instruction manual is explicit. No need to repeat these procedures here. Normal maintenance requires only the cleaning of the bore and cylinder chambers in the usual manner. Detailed stripping should be irregular at best and only when absolutely necessary. I do advise against use of the mainspring assembly to push the trigger guard lock plunger out of its recess in the frame. Although disassembly without tools is one of Ruger's promotional gimmicks, use a punch, since the spring-loaded lock plunger is difficult to depress.

Since stoppages are not a matter of concern with high-quality revolvers, only 500 rounds were fired through SOF's GP-100. Five different loads were tested to provide a representative range of bullet weights and configurations. The lightest bullet tested was the old Super Vel 110-grain JHP (Jacketed Hollow Point). It averaged 1,469 fps out of the GP-100's 4-inch barrel. A few rounds went as high as 1,536 fps. Despite these impressive figures, against human

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targets .357 Magnum bullets lighter than 125-grain will deflect and/or self-destruct on metal and bone. Stay away from them if you're man-trapping.

An excellent choice is the Speer 146-grain JHP in front of 14.5 grains of Hercules 2400 which will average 1,320 fps. For those who wish to buy their ammo off the shelf, Samson's 158-grain Jacketed Soft Point (JSP), manufactured by Israel Military Industries, is a good choice. It stepped out at an average velocity of 1,360 fps. However, billed as match grade ammunition, velocities varied from 1,261 to 1,418 fps and this resulted in a rather large standard deviation of 47. Two loads were tested using the popular Keith-Thompson type semiwadcutter (SWC) 162-grain projectile. Twelve and a half grains of W-W 630 propelled this hard-cast bullet out of the barrel at 1,299 fps. For practice and plinking, a more pleasant loading uses only 10.5 grains of 2400 which still moves out at 1,080 fps. CCI 550 primers were used in all the reloads. I prefer brass cases for reloading this caliber. Nicked .357 Magnum cases look attractive in a cartridge belt, but will split at the mouth after resizing just two or three times.

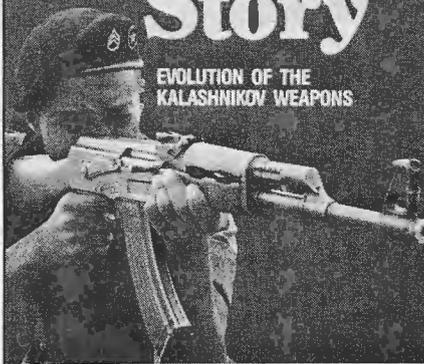
Even unburned granules of 2400 failed to lock up the GP-100's cylinder as it rotated in the correct direction and proper manner throughout the entire test without any cleaning. Accuracy potential was more than satisfactory. At 20 feet, firing offhand from the modified Weaver stance, I was consistently able to dump five rounds of the least accurate load, the Samson 158-grain JSP, into just 1.25 inches. Although muzzle whip remained high with all the hot and heavy loads, the reduction in felt recoil as a consequence of the thick rubber grips was remarkable.

Those who will not be packing the GP-100 in a police service holster may opt for a shoulder rig, and the 4-inch model is amenable to carry in a more concealable horizontal position. Galco Gun Leather (Dept. SOF, 4311 W. Van Buren, Phoenix, AZ 85043) sells the Defender for \$44.95. With premium saddle leather split to 8 ounces per square foot, the Defender is lock-stitched with #207 polydacron thread.

The half-harness, which I prefer for maximum concealment, is wet-molded and hand-boned. A Dot fastener on the holster body will accept an optional belt tie-down and a thumb-break snap with internal polypropylene reinforcement is countersunk to prevent scuffing the revolver. After the leather safety strap has been split, its fastener is attached and the strap cemented so the fastener does not touch the handgun. Rivets holding the nylon hangers onto the holster are also countersunk. The shoulder harness itself is made from 4½-ounce chrome-tanned cowhide, while the counterstrap support is constructed of polyelastic.

Ruger is sure to expand the GP-100 line. Three basic frame sizes are planned in chamberings from .22 LR to .44 Magnum. This superb revolver might very well revive

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law enforcement interest in the sadly neglected .41 Magnum. Shorter and longer barrel lengths are in the wind as well as stainless-steel versions. Suggested retail price of the GP-100, in either barrel length, is a modest \$340. Contact Sturm, Ruger & Company Inc. (Dept. SOF, Lacey Place, Southport, CT 06490) for further information. Bill Ruger and his team have a keen perception of our needs. My highest recommendation for their splendid new revolver series. ✕

ASSIGNMENT ARCE

Continued from page 57

behind the column so that word of the company's approach would not travel forward too quickly and alert the Gs.

The sun was starting to dip down toward the west when Soto's radio operator's handset crackled to life. It was the point platoon commander, and as Soto listened to the rapid transmission, a faint sparkle of excitement crept through his usual calm and professional demeanor.

"Guerrillas," he said with a wink, and unfolded his map. The rest of the column immediately took up defensive positions on both sides of the road and the 81mm mortar section leader, Cadet Officer Martinez, hurried forward to receive his instructions.

Three armed men had been sighted along a steep hillside trail southeast of the village, the lead platoon was in hot pursuit, and mortar support had been requested. Martinez and Soto huddled over the map and agreed on their present position, then plotted their target on the trail ahead of the fleeing Gs. In the meantime, the mortar crew had found the only clearing in the vicinity: a 10-by-10-meter area overgrown with tall, thick grass, with branches from surrounding trees obscuring the sky. It wasn't the best of fire positions, but it would have to do.

There wasn't much hope that the mortar barrage would actually hit the fleeing guerrillas, but the idea was to disrupt and disorient them long enough for the pursuit platoon to engage them with direct fire.

With the target data now available, the mortar section quickly went into action: plotting azimuth, positioning the aiming posts, laying in and sighting the tube, and preparing the HE round with a charge-three propellant. There was no wasted motion nor unnecessary commands, but the crew was hampered by the tall grass and an overlying tree branch. A few minutes of hectic chopping with well-oiled and sharpened machetes cleared those problems.

"Fuego," Cadet Martinez ordered and the round left the tube with its characteristic earsplitting roar and tongue of orange flame which briefly illuminated the gathering dusk.

A few moments later, we heard the hollow thump of the round exploding across the valley. The contact platoon leader called back for a second shot at the same position. Another resounding *crump* and we waited with strained patience for the results.

Thump. The sound of the second HE round drifted slowly back to our position. Soto's radio crackled to life, a disappointed platoon commander calling for termination of mortar fire and permission to abandon the chase.

The area near Las Marias is densely populated, and he was worried about inflicting civilian casualties in the darkened countryside. Besides, charging headlong down a dimly lit hillside trail after armed men only invites a hastily laid ambush.

Regretfully, Lt. Soto agreed, and he ordered the platoon to take up a position in the company's night defensive perimeter. Cadet Officer Martinez gave the Spanish equivalent of a "march order" to his mortar crew, and with the same efficiency with which they set up, they broke down their gear and blended back into the column.

With the professionalism we'd come to expect from Soto's company, troops quickly and quietly constructed fighting positions, set up a guard system and settled in for the night. We were all disappointed that the contact with the Gs hadn't been more productive, but we sure as hell had let them know that they no longer owned *this* stretch of countryside.

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The night passed uneventfully, and the next day, after a quick clearing mission along the road back to Jucuapa, we embussed on trucks for the trip back to Arce headquarters at San Miguel. As a final note to our brief field operation with the Salvadoran army, we noticed that Col. Staben had arranged for some of his troops to man the high ground along our truck route to HQ as a protective anti-ambush screen.

After watching Arce at work, we weren't a bit surprised at this final show of efficiency. ✕

FULL AUTO

Continued from page 15

count from 2 to 20 on the left-hand dial and blaze away. Press the display button for the reading and then the reset button when ready for another burst sequence. Simple and very interesting.

We chose five weapons to test on FN's FRM-SSD calculator: a Mini UZI, M16A1 Carbine, Sten MkII, .30 M2 Carbine and Thompson M1A1. IMI's specifications state the Mini UZI's cyclic rate to be 950 rpm. Every attempt to determine the Mini UZI's rate of fire produced nothing but goose eggs on the digital readout screen. Quite obviously the rate was over the calcu-

lator's 1,200 rpm capacity.

Using PMC M193 ball ammunition, the M16A1 Carbine fired at an average rate of 834 rpm. The Carbine and Commando versions of the M16 series fire at higher rates than the rifle.

The specified rate of fire for the Mk II Sten submachine gun is 540 rpm. Austrian Hirtenberger ball ammo ran through the Sten at 556 rpm. PMC ball moved out at a similar rate, 563 rpm. Spanish surplus (FNT 1952) upped the Sten's rate to 589 rpm and Yugoslavian surplus (1952) raced out even faster at 597 rpm. Ammunition certainly does affect a machine gun's cyclic rate.

GI ball ammo produced a cyclic rate of 761 rpm in the M2 Carbine, very close to the specified rate of 750 rpm. But the Thompson fired at a higher rate than specified. When the pure blow-back-operated M1/M1A1 Thompsons were introduced, they lost whatever retarding effect, however minor, the Blish Lock gave the M1921/28 guns and the cyclic rate supposedly rose from 600 to 700 rpm. I have always felt the M1/M1A1 series fired somewhat faster than 700 rpm. Using GI ball ammo our M1A1 fired at 741 rpm. A reload using 6.3 grains of Unique behind a 230-grain cast roundnose (RN) bullet — considered a ballistic duplicate of fac-

tory loading — pushed the Thompson's rate of fire up to 765 rpm.

I would like to eventually test every machine gun in my armory. Small-arms designers, serious researchers in the field of automatic weapons and advanced collectors will all find more than enough use for FN's little rapid-fire calculator. ✕

COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

Continued from page 16

sive in nature you should select your positions to provide the greatest degree of coverage offered as well as the degree of security it provides. Alternate positions are imperative. Range cards should be prepared immediately and weapons zeroed and rezeroed frequently.

Although you may have preference as to the type of sniper rifle you would like to have issued, be prepared to receive anything from a well-worn South American Mauser of late-1800s vintage, or in rare cases a special-built 300 Winchester Magnum which I prefer. Optics will range from inexpensive American varieties to high-priced Ger-

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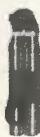
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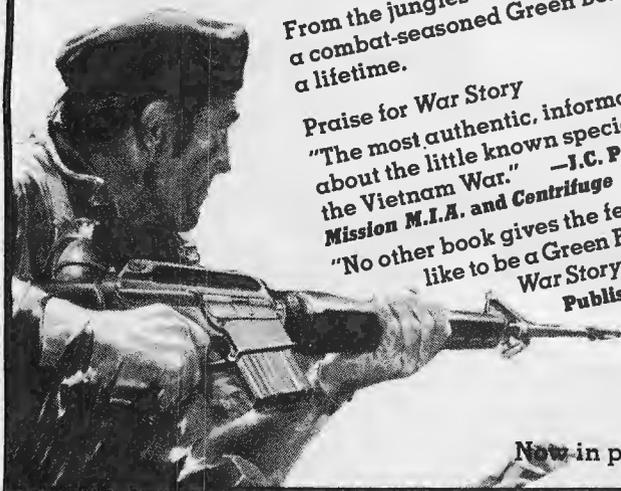
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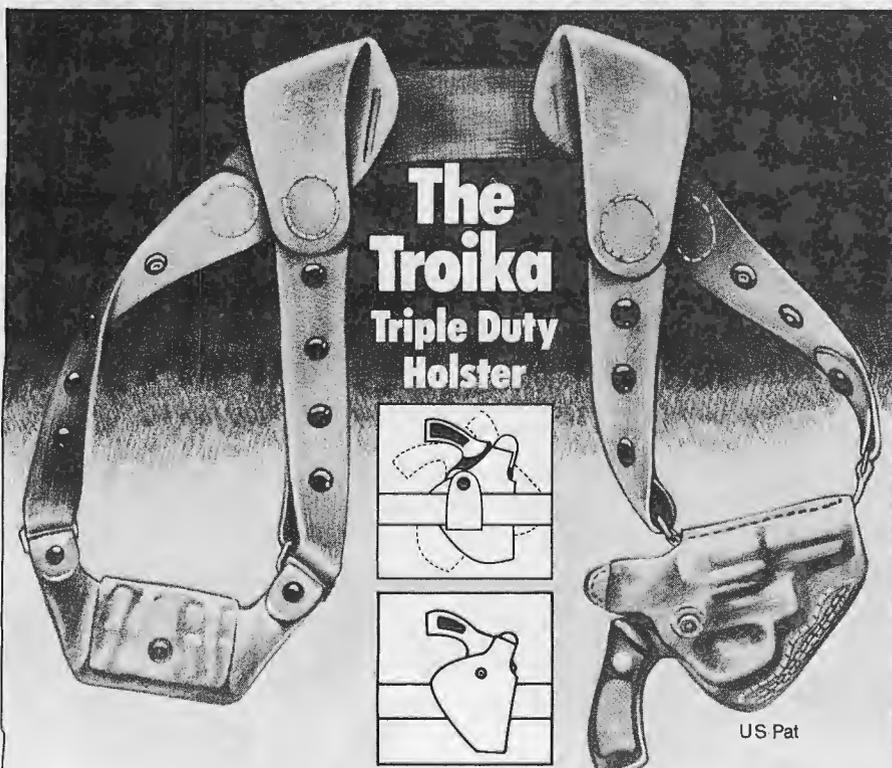
man ones. Your web gear will also run the gauntlet from the fine Israeli issue to the much used and worn Rhodesian or World War II British. Be prepared to improvise. A recommended check list for taking with you on an out-of-country contract would read something like this: several yards of burlap, steel afro-comb, black electrical tape, allen wrenches, screwdrivers, a good watch and compass, homemade sewing kit with strong carpet thread, jacket-size buttons, thimble, good needles, leather awl and waxed dental floss, several bottles of fresh water purification pills, antacid and headache pills, something for sore throat and diarrhea, a good first-aid kit to include sterile needles and thread, and an antibiotic. A good dental emergency kit is a welcome addition as well as several good pens and pocket flashlight with a red lens. Be prepared. The chance of finding what you need when you need it is almost nil.

Shortly after arrival acquire maps of the entire area you will be protecting. These are normally available from the contractor. Attempt to make an air recon if planes or helos are available. Check your positions from all angles, including from air and outside the compound. Keep abreast of all scheduling and schedule changes, maintain contact with the management and the supervisor of the security force. Keep informed of all intelligence gathered as well as day-to-day changes in the routine of the work and security force. Install wind flags whenever possible and keep them maintained. Whenever possible, put out warning devices around your positions and keep them in good working order.

Insist on separate radios for each team member and whenever possible, on separate frequencies or channels for your team's use only. If you use landline communications, follow your ground wire frequently to insure it has not been compromised. Make sure you always have an ample supply of fresh batteries and that your radios are always in good operating condition. Keep your gear maintained and never allow complacency to settle in.

During what little time you may have off (you will be on call 24 hours a day) share your military skills with members of the security force.

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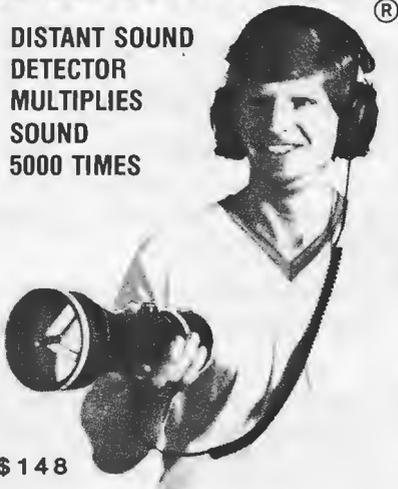
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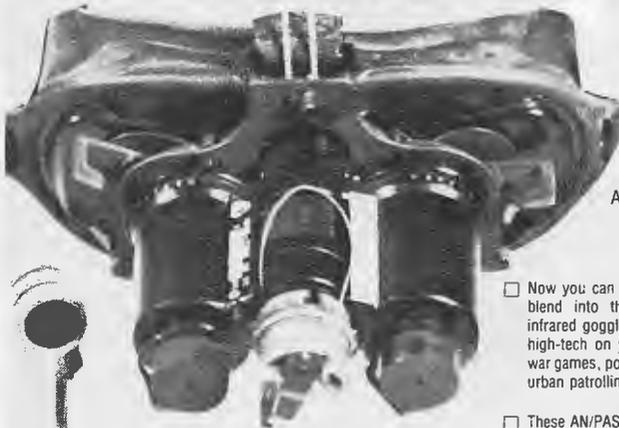


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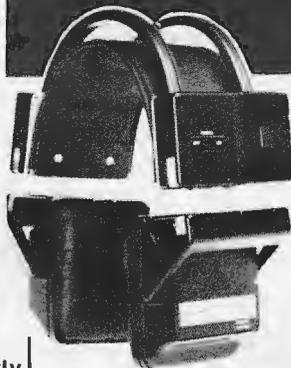
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Continued from page 49

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YAP: E.S.A. Hotel, P.O. Box 141, Yap, E.C.I. 96943

PALAU: Nikko Palau Hotel, Koror, Palau 96940.

Where to Dive

TRUK: Micronesia Aquatics, Clark & Chineina Graham, P.O. Box 57, Truk, E.C.I. 96942.

Blue Lagoon Dive Shop, Kimiuo Aisek, P.O. Box 429, Moen, Truk 96942.

YAP: Department of Resources & Development, Office of Tourism & Commerce, Box 36, Yap, Western Caroline Islands 96943.

PALAU: Fish N' Fins Dive Shop, Francis Toribiong, P.O. Box 142, Koror, Palau 96940.

MISSION: UGANDA

Continued from page 65

outstanding weapon) or, if being discreet about the matter, a Browning 9mm pistol. A contingency plan existed for the team's defense of its accommodation, and at night UNLA soldiers from the Demonstration Company patrolled the area.

Petrol was by far the hardest commodity to obtain. The petrol point in Jinja Barracks operated out of 44-gallon drums with a hand pump supplied by CMTT. On occasion team members were refused a fill but the solution was simple: confiscate the hand pump and bingo! Instant cooperation.

CMTT's vehicle pool consisted of a number of UNLA Land Rovers and two others purchased by the Commonwealth and Foreign Office, and they continually received a



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severe pounding on the shocking road between Jinja and Kampala. One particular officer became so obsessed with control of "his" vehicle that it became a standing joke among the rest of the team. Unfortunately, this individual drove like a maniac and his abrasive personality eventually ensured that no one ever traveled with him. He was reported to have had an apoplectic fit when his precious vehicle was written off by two WOs on a visit to Mbarara. Neither was badly injured and the team sniggered behind its collective hand at the zealot's misfortune. His departure from Uganda was celebrated royally in the sergeants' mess — after he left! Regretfully, that's not the end of the bad driver stories. Another officer appeared on the scene during the latter part of the team's tour and also proved to be a menace on the roads. He too was given the same treatment from potential passengers. It was later discovered that he had been expeditiously "sent down" from his regiment in Germany for drunk driving and was awaiting a court-martial. The team was not impressed.

At the same time that CMTT was operating in the southern part of Uganda, President Obote was burning the candle at both ends with a North Korean team of approximately 50 based in Soroti. Some UNLA soldiers had attended courses in both camps and noted that NK courses contained a heavy element of political indoctrination; this was not the case at Jinja. It was also rumored that the NK advisers were accompanying UNLA troops on operations in the "Luwero Triangle" against guerrilla forces and had taken casualties. CMTT personnel were forbidden from entering these operational areas and did not accompany the UNLA on any operations.

Still another training team was operating out of Kampala at the same time, a British-based security firm called "Falconstar" consisting of mainly ex-SAS men who had been contracted to train a Ugandan "Special Force" or bodyguard-type unit of about 300 men. Special Force troops were easily recognizable in their brown camouflaged uniforms. The Uganda Police (UP) also had a long-standing training commitment with their opposite numbers in Britain. The UP were by far the most professional military body working in Uganda at the time, and their discipline and organizational characteristics left the rest a long way behind.

Despite the development of very effective training at SOI, students leaving Jinja were not able to practice what they had been taught. Apathy and idleness in the UNLA were the norm rather than the exception. CMTT personnel were not allowed to visit UNLA units to see if their graduates were carrying out the instruction which was so badly needed. The UNLA attempted to assist by carrying out a census in early 1983 to determine exactly how many soldiers it owned. This failed dismally due to poor organization, but at least GHO was attempting to disarm as many of its men as it could. A system was set up to officially swear

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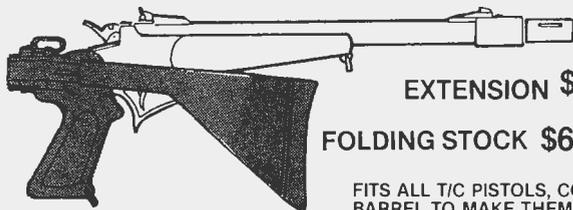
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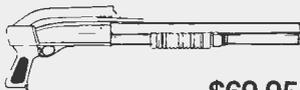
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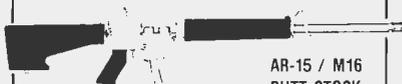
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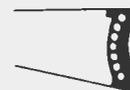
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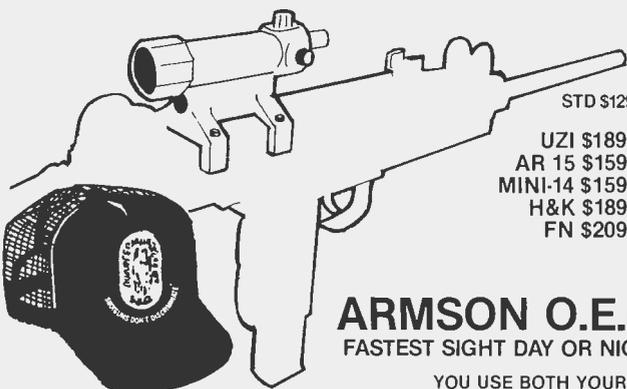


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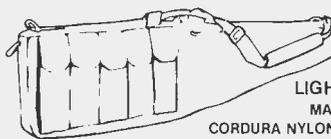
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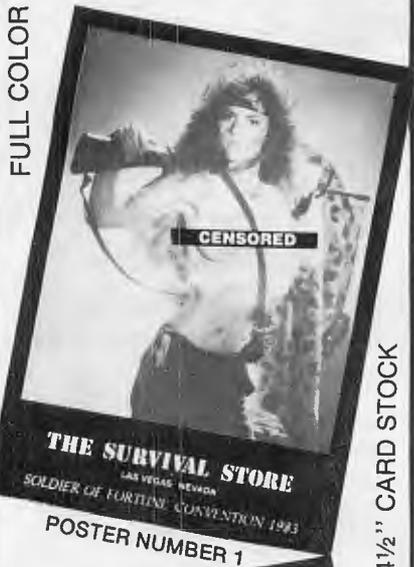
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soldiers in, give them a regimental number and get them on the pay lists.

In an effort to get at a wider section of the UNLA, a subunit-level course was set up in a training camp called Kabamba, about 50 miles southwest of Masaka. This camp's once-excellent facilities were now barely adequate for the task. The first courses were fairly successful, but later deteriorated due to lack of UNLA support. A most memorable incident occurred when a soldier from a "composite company" turned up for training at Kabamba wearing only a raincoat and gumboots claiming it was the only clothing he possessed in the world. Amusing as this may seem now, it was such frustration which CMTT faced every day of a tour. It was a hot, dry and dangerous drive from Kabamba back to the relative comforts of Jinja, but it gave an opportunity for staff to see another part of this fascinating country.

CMTT's original commitment had been for six months but this was extended three times to give the team an effective life of two years. In the short term, CMTT gave basic training to approximately 2,000 UNLA soldiers and probably contributed to a temporary calm in a troubled country. Under difficult circumstances they produced training of a high quality that was unfortunately not reinforced by the UNLA. In the long term, commitment to the team was killed off by contributing countries' dissatisfaction with Obote's appalling human rights violations.

In March 1984 the team was officially disbanded, but a small British Military Assistance Training Team (BMATT) remained behind to try to continue the work at SOI. They were still in Uganda when the latest series of disasters erupted.

Was it all worthwhile? Only history will answer that question. But for the 150 or so CMTT veterans now scattered all over the world, it was a most unusual experience. Each one has a different story to tell. Some loved every adrenalin-filled minute of it; some came away disgusted with the pompous, outdated "colonial masters" attitude of the British commanders; some would go back to Africa at the slightest excuse.

Whatever their experience, opportunities for service in training teams like CMTT don't arise every day. If nothing else, it was at least a chance to see how some other armies work and to decide which ones would be worth serving in ... and which ones wouldn't. ✕

BATTLE BLADES

Continued from page 18

higher threshold of pain than a human and is not intimidated by the sight of its own blood. When an animal decides to attack you, it comes straight in and stays in the fight until its heart pumps air. A knife with a blend of properly applied length and weight — factors that enable leverage and inertia to work to your

advantage — is just the ticket in this case. Happily, the knife that is the best in terms of balance and power for defense against an animal attack is also the knife that delivers yeoman performance when called upon to perform heavy cutting chores such as building litters or shelter.

The difference between a combat and survival knife, then, is not one of size. The length of blade that gives a lifesaving advantage in reach to the maximum effort fighting knife also imparts enough leverage to the weapon that even in a light, very fast package there is excellent cutting and slashing power at hand. A man will dodge and weave to avoid being cut, and unlike an animal, will often break off an attack in the face of injury. When man is the primary target, reach and speed are the prime factors, and blade length is crucial.

The survival knife does not require speed as much as it does power. Length plus selective placement of weight in a survival knife gives tremendous chopping power, and a state-of-the-art survival knife will chop small trees quite as well as will a tomahawk or Boy Scout hatchet. It will be fast in the hand, but not as quick as a pure fighting knife. But it is unfortunate that it will not stack up to the knife with the survival balance for all-around effectiveness. The pure fighter will not make the heavy cuts that the survival knife is capable of, and if you've used both types of knives for an extended period of time, you will discover that the survival knife is the more useful all-around knife. In short, the survival knife is far more effective in a knife fight than a fighting knife is in the wilderness.

A small knife has its place in the scheme of cutlery-related functions, but the 4-inch-bladed knives that some people carry concealed are a ridiculous attempt at carrying a serious edged weapon. In proper form, this size knife is quite handy and useful under a number of conditions, but a knife fight is not one of them. It is at its best as a general camp or utility knife used for light cutting and food preparation and the occasional skinning chore.

Three years ago it came to my attention that it was entirely legal to carry a fixed-blade knife in my home state of Texas as long as the knife had a blade 5½ inches or less in length, was single-edged, did not have a double-quillioned guard, and I did not carry it inside a liquor store. This description fit my small utility knife used for kitchen chores and skinning except for the blade length. I immediately made a hunting knife with a blade that was stretched from 4½ to 5½ inches in length, and I carried it quite happily for one spring and summer. When the fall hunting season rolled around, it was a different ball game. It just wasn't as handy as the smaller blades that it had



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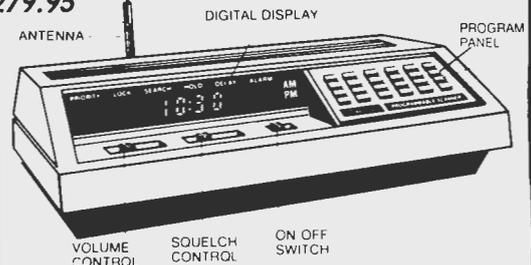
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Any combination of two to thirty channels can be scanned automatically, or the unit can be set on manual for continuous monitoring of any one channel. In addition, the search function locates unknown frequencies within a band.

Other features include scan delay, priority and a bright/dim switch to control the brightness of the 9-digit Vacuum-Fluorescent display. The Z30 can be operated on either 120 VAC or 12 VDC. Includes one year warranty from Regency Electronics (optional 3 yr extended warranty only \$35, gives you a total of 4 yrs complete warranty or 2 yr extended warranty only \$25, gives you a total of 3 yrs complete warranty.)

REGENCY HX1200

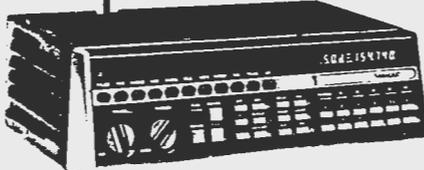
Digital programmable 45 channel hand-held Scanner. Frequency coverage 30-50MHz, 118-136MHz, 144-174MHz, 406-420MHz, 440-512MHz. Covers public service bands plus Aircraft. Has priority, search, lockout, scan plus much more. Package includes HX1200, AC charger adapter, ni-cad battery, carry case, rubber antenna and 90 day factory warranty. **\$216.99** (6.50 shipping) (3 year extended warranty only \$35.00, 2 year \$25.00)



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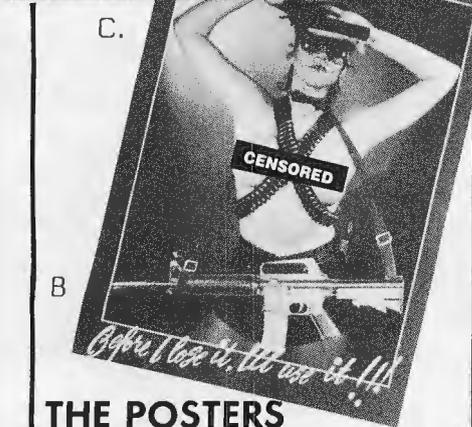


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replaced. When I started skinning deer, I knew that the 5½-inch blade was a mistake, for it simply did not work as well as the same blade shape an inch shorter.

Experience has shown that in a survival situation, skinning is one chore that is not as common as many people think. In fact, it is probably the least common chore that is performed in most hunting camps. While a 9½-inch blade will handle skinning chores, the man who tries to build a shelter with a 4½-inch blade is going to find rough sledding. If I can have one knife as a tool or weapon in a survival or combat situation, mine will have a blade between 9 and 10 inches in length. If you never need a combat or survival blade, you will be better served with a smaller implement that has a blade less than 5 inches long.

Knives with long blades work as well as small ones. Both have their applications, and I carry both. My 9¾-inch bowie knife does exceptionally well in the combat and survival arena and my small utility knife is great for common camp chores. With these two knives I can address any cutlery requirement that may arise in the realm of combat, survival or general camp use. ✕

PROPAGANDA

Continued from page 79

different messages and vignettes on the reverse. There are about a dozen different varieties, some with one flag, some with as many as five or seven. On the reverse, some are signed by Nguyen Van Thieu, others by Nguyen Cao Ky. A few of the leaflets have a photograph of a Vietnamese trooper pointing the way to a communist guerrilla. On others, a cartoonlike drawing shows a government soldier walking with his arm around a pajama-clad Viet Cong.

These leaflets were probably the most common printed propaganda of the war. They were used for practically the entire duration and are so common that they regularly show up at military and gun shows around the country.

What about these days of "peace"? In the Falklands, the British first dropped safe-conduct passes on Argentine troops occupying the islands. The English-Spanish leaflet declared: "Instructions to British Forces. The soldier who bears this pass has signalled his desire to cease fighting. He is to be treated strictly in accordance with the Geneva Convention and is to be evacuated from the area of operations as soon as possible. He is to be given food and medical treatment if he requires it and is then to be held in a place of shelter to await repatriation. Signed: J.F. Woodward, Rear Admiral, Commander, British Forces."

During the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon, leaflets were dropped on Syrian troops

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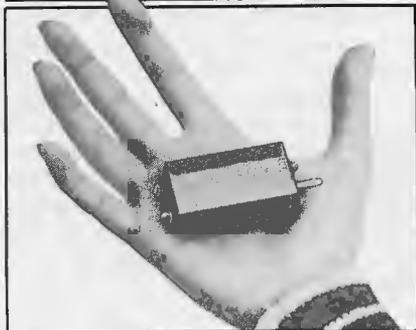


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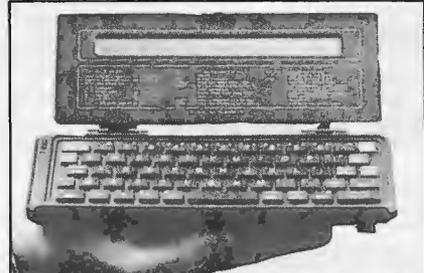
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with a map showing escape routes left open and the text: "We have no intention of fighting the Syrian army and for this reason we have issued orders to allow you and your forces to leave Beirut without any hindrance and annoyance." The leaflet was signed by Israeli Major General Amir Drori.

Propaganda's paper bullets have been fired in every modern conflict to break the enemy's will to fight. These leaflets have not always worked, but enough troops have laid down their weapons and come across no man's land holding them high in the air to make their continuing production worthwhile. ✂

ISLAND FIGHTING

Continued from page 45

another. Prisoner interrogations consistently revealed the use of a common code-name by the NPA to describe its murders: Operation *Linis* — "clean" or "cleanse." The mindset of the NPA was clear — kill anyone who might get in the way of the revolution.

Packing up our find of documents, we burned the NPA camp into charred ruins and moved after the former occupants. The going was typically tough and exhausting. Dripping after another day of walking, we reached the outskirts of another village as darkness settled in.

Skirting carefully around it, we crossed the adjacent river upstream, then cased the area. A team reconnoitered as the rest of us sprawled on the ground, hidden by high grass. Overhead, coconut palms were silhouetted against a half-moon and more stars were out than I can remember ever seeing.

An hour later, with the scout party back, we moved quietly into the village. Again, there were some 200 inhabitants living in some 35 dwellings. Informants told us the NPA had been there earlier but left quickly. We camped and planned our next move.

The patrol was now traveling north, heading for a linkup. The battalion CP had relocated and was pushing south with another force, ready to reinforce us in case we got our teeth into the guerrillas. The informants' observations indicated that the NPA had split into two groups. Figures of 50-100 were the most common enemy strength estimates among our informers.

Dawn found us once again on the move. Nobody had any proof, but we all knew we were being shadowed. You can feel the strange presence. Sure enough, several figures broke out of the foliage provoking a quick exchange of fire.

We cut away to the high ground, constantly alert. For hours we moved this way, plunging down, clinging to

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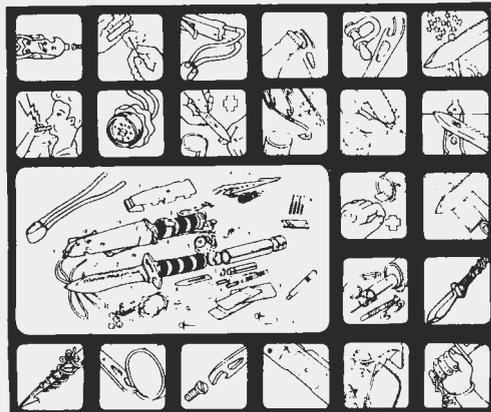
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vines to slow our descent, then scaling up to another stretch of rise. Suddenly, one of the downward treks ended in flat ground. A small group of huts, less than a village, a *sitio*, stood amid some scattered rice fields.

As usual, the inhabitants were friendly. A woman offered me a greasy cup of water and, as I grasped it, all hell broke loose.

From the high ground to our front came the rattle of M14 fire, then a crescendo from the right flank as troops scrambled for cover. For a moment it appeared we had fallen into a perfect L-shaped ambush. Uncertainty flickered through our minds as our soldiers glanced anxiously at each other.

More firing snapped across our flank, but still no one had been hit. Quick examination determined that the noise in that quarter was not the enemy, rather it was our own rear guard responding to the firing directed at it. One less threat to worry about.

To our front, hostile figures ran across a rise. The whole incident was trancelike; everything was in slow motion. Our machine-gunner broke the spell. Opening up with his M60, he blasted away at the NPA while the rest of the patrol followed his lead by sending out a "mad minute" of firepower, shooting in a 360-degree arc. The only silent weapon on the line was the 90mm.

A man appeared at the door of the hut behind me. The soldiers motioned to him to take cover which he quickly did, sprinting from the door with five children clinging to him, three on his back, and his wife in tow. They tumbled into a ravine for shelter, certain their thatched dwelling would be the next target when the enemy started to shoot back.

But the NPA figured we were too strong to rush, so they dashed for safety while a hail of ordnance blanketed their slope. M203 rounds escorted them to cover.

Obviously someone in the village was collaborating with the NPA. One of the angry intelligence personnel grabbed the arm of the farmer he had been questioning when the firing started and towed him off to the patrol leader for interrogation. No one harmed him, but his lack of surprise during the encounter told the story. He wasn't NPA, but he hadn't told the patrol all he knew, either.

Shaking, the man bowed his head and recounted the typical peasant's dilemma in guerrilla war. An NPA group had been in the *sitio* the previous day, he confessed; another, quite large, maybe 60, had passed by early that morning. He had said nothing for fear they would return and kill him. His confession accepted, the farmer was released.

The troops turned their attention elsewhere, curiously examining the gouges left by the bullets which struck next to one position. Once again, our patrol escaped without a scratch. Stories were swapped about how silly we had all looked crawling on our bellies attempting to find cover. When the joking died down we all drank fresh coconut juice and used coconut oil to clean weapons.

The second NPA ambush of the day was as sloppy as the first, sprung too soon when it appeared the patrol was not going to follow the anticipated route. If the enemy wanted a reading on our firepower, though, they sure got it. The sheer volume of fire which our patrol could spit out made it clear to the NPA that we were a bit much for them to tackle straight out.

Back on the high ground, we came across a rarity in this war — a booby trap. Booby traps, like mines, are seldom used because the NPA rightly fears most casualties from such devices will be civilians. The guerrillas' terror is very selective.

Another *sitio* appeared ahead. Our guide, a former NPA from the area, quickly noticed that there was a new face in the village, a young, well-built male. Quiet questioning confirmed that no one knew him.

Discovered, the man tried to escape. A trooper leveled him with a butt stroke and one of the intelligence personnel put him in a headlock. Our spy was told that no harm would come to him if he cooperated, but that if he attempted to escape, he would be killed immediately.

The prisoner quieted down and the questioning began. Apparently, he was a member of the group we had been tailing, left behind to observe our movements. Interrogation completed, he fell into our formation, acquiring someone's pack.

Our guides pulled off another coup at the next *sitio*. One spotted a woman from his village, several days' walk from our present location. She had no relatives in the area and a check with the inhabitants turned up the obvious: She was recruiting for the guerrillas. A further search netted two young boys who were acting as NPA couriers. All three joined our growing caravan.

The next days were uneventful. At each village stop we seemed to be six hours behind the last NPA group the inhabitants had seen. Our mission was going well, though. The guerrillas were running fast enough that they had no time to stop at the villages. Although we hadn't caught them, their camp was gone, and for a week they hadn't been able to do anything except evade and ambush us. When we got tired of running around the jungle, another patrol would be waiting to move out in

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MISSING IN ACTION

Continued from page 37

may change," Maples said. "It's awfully hard to keep a good perspective on what the most important thing is, your professional opinion or your job."

The family of Master Sergeant James Fuller see the controversy differently than do Mr. and Mrs. Dickens. No one except the lab personnel at CIL-HI will look at the remains identified as Fuller and continue to argue that they provably belong to Fuller, or anybody else.

Fuller's nephew, Dr. Donald J. Parker of Beaverton, Ore., said that declaring that these remains indeed belong to Fuller "would certainly become a death sentence for him if he is a POW."

And relatives of the flight crew have valid reasons to doubt whether their loved ones perished in the crash at Paksé. Intelligence agencies hid from MIA families reports indicating that five open parachutes and two piles of bloody bandages were found near the Paksé site soon after the crash.

Yet when the Pentagon released the Kerley report on 10 February 1986, an attached memo to reporters said the Pentagon's "policy of full and complete disclosure with the families will continue."

Both Mrs. Fanning and Mrs. Hart characterized that assertion by the Pentagon with the same barnyard epithet.



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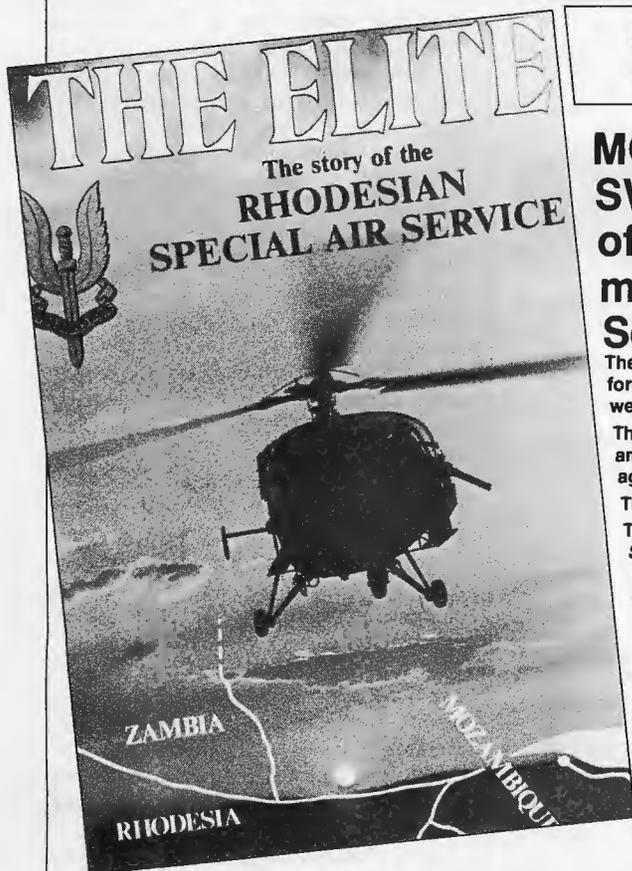


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Mrs. Hart has a copy of an intelligence summary leaked to her by a source in the Defense Intelligence Agency. The summary indicates that in the spring after the Paksé crash of 21 December 1972, a U.S. escape and evasion symbol was discovered over two hundred miles away from the crash site. Quoting from the intel summary: "The symbol was in the form of the numbers '1973,' followed by the letters 'TH.' It was believed that the numbers could be the year ... while the letters could indicate a person's initials. This was thought to be Capt. [Thomas] Hart." Early in 1986, Mrs. Hart was able to obtain a photograph of this evader symbol taken from a U.S. reconnaissance satellite.

The 10 February 1986 Pentagon news release also stated that "next-of-kin desires for private opinions on identifications will be supported." Yet when Mrs. Hart asked Charney in July 1985 to review the remains identified as her husband, she had to get a court order compelling the Air Force to let Charney examine the remains. He said they can't be positively identified. Charney further noted that certain landmarks referred to in the CIL-HI report and in other of Mrs. Hart's correspondence with the lab were not present. In other words, the lab claimed to have determined Hart's height using parts of bones they did not have.

Kathryn Fanning is another good example in understanding why many MIA relatives no longer trust the government. Marine Corps Captain Hugh Fanning and his bombardier navigator were downed after their A-6 Intruder was hit on 31 October 1967. Fanning's status as MIA was changed 24 September 1976 to KIA. Remains identified by CIL-HI as his were returned to Mrs. Fanning on 17 July 1984. The casualty assistance officer told her identification was "positive" because of dental and skull analyses.

A year later, Mrs. Fanning became suspicious when she learned that the casualty assistance officer, Marine Major Richard Harmon, had hidden her husband's forensic report in his own home. After obtaining that report from Mrs. Harmon, Mrs. Fanning got a court order to exhume the remains identified by CIL-HI as her husband. No skull or teeth were found in the coffin, a fact reflected in the forensic report. The other bones were turned over to Charney and Dr. Clyde Snow of the University of Oklahoma for analyses. Their conclusion: while definitely of human origin, the bones were not complete enough to type as any particular individual.

Mrs. Fanning then learned that no chain of evidentiary custody existed for these remains. They had been recovered by communist officials in Vietnam and turned over to CIL-HI, which accepted without proof that the remains had come from the Fanning crash site.

In a closed-door meeting at the New Orleans convention, Marla Mahoney, Furue's lab assistant, told her colleagues that Maj. Harmon's explanation to Mrs.

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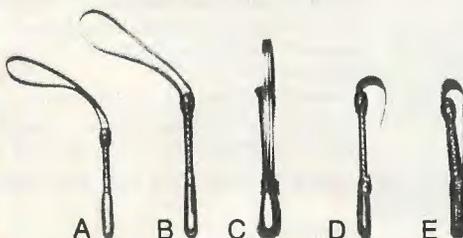
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Fanning had been "completely inaccurate. Obviously there were no teeth." She also acknowledged that while there was no chain of custody for the remains, "there is almost always an analysis by the Vietnamese. Very rarely do they make a mistake. We had no reason to believe it was *not* Hugh Fanning."

Fanning's crash site, it turns out, is near the scene of a battle between the French and Viet Minh in the 1950s. The crash occurred at an old French cemetery near Tke Sat, south of Haiphong. Charney said the remains easily could be French.

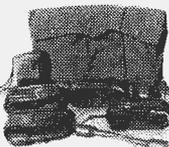
Finally, like Mrs. Hart, Mrs. Fanning obtained a copy of an interesting government document. An ASGRO Board internal memorandum states that the remains in CIL-HI Case Number 0013-84 — the same bones later given to Kathryn Fanning — could not be positively identified as any particular individual. Yet the Pentagon gave these remains to Mrs. Fanning and told her that they had been "positively identified" by CIL-HI as those of her husband. And the Army continues to assert that no CIL-HI findings have ever been successfully challenged.

The misidentification of MIA remains by CIL-HI is nothing new. Jerry Dennis, a Florida fire chief, was the first to raise a question in 1970, four years after remains identified as those of his brother, Navy Corpsman Mark V. Dennis, were returned and buried. The Pentagon said Mark died in a helicopter crash 15 July 1966. Family members spotted someone they say is Mark in 1970, in a *Newsweek* Magazine photograph in a story about U.S. POWs.

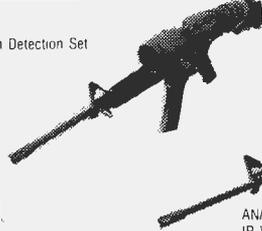
Jerry Dennis exhumed the body a few months later. Chemical tests performed on the dog tag included with the remains indicated it was not genuine. Papucci Testing Laboratories of Cincinnati indicated that the dog tag found in the coffin — which the government had advised the family against opening — had been burned since the charred body and at a much cooler temperature. The tag said "Church of Christ." Mark Dennis' dog tag had said "Protestant." The remains were of an individual who stood five-foot-five, according to analysis by two separate forensic anthropologists. Mark Dennis was six feet tall. But the Pentagon continues to this day to insist that the remains of Mark V. Dennis were "positively identified" and that he is dead.

All this leaves MIA families — on one side weary of asking questions, on the other angrily demanding answers — with no real resolution. All that remains are more disturbing questions. If 11 of 13 identifications in one MIA recovery case were improperly made, how many others prior to Paksé were erroneous? Why, if the work is correct, will the government not allow its personnel to answer questions directly? And why were two Ph.D.s, Judy Suchey and Roger Hegler, quietly flown in from the mainland to double-check CIL-HI's work on five sets of remains due to be shipped from Hawaii to the families on 11 March 1986? Dr. Maples, one of the Pentagon-appointed experts, says

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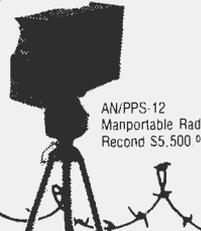
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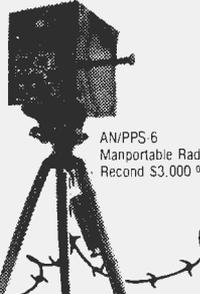
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Perhaps the Army is incapable of admitting its mistakes. Perhaps its refusal to make such an admission in any of the many challenged MIA identifications is not so much the whim of its public affairs gurus as advice from its attorneys.

The only recent time when the Pentagon did not stonewall questions on the issue, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger personally phoned reporter Ray Robinson of *The Daily Oklahoman* to vehemently protest Robinson's story suggesting that incorrect MIA remains identifications had been made. Perhaps Weinberger "doth protest too much," especially for a man not known for regularly phoning the hometown press.

Finally, are we to trust our former enemies in Vietnam in their own recovery and analyses of U.S. MIA remains? Should we accept the claim of Furue's lab assistant, Marla Mahoney, who said "very rarely do they [the Vietnamese] make a mistake"? Should we ignore eyewitness accounts by Vietnamese government defectors who reported the existence years ago of 452 coffins containing U.S. remains stacked in a Hanoi warehouse, waiting for some whimsy to return them? What of the remains already returned by the Vietnamese as "killed in action," remains examined by SOF scientific sources who say biological evidence indicates the servicemen died of hunger, apparently in captivity?

As Anne Hart and other MIA wives are quick to point out, the Army has a definite advantage because the answers to many of these questions, any evidence of possible wrongdoing by the Army, is conveniently buried.

"I wouldn't have survived this long if I'd constantly speculated on the possible fate of my husband," Mrs. Hart told SOF. "It's hard to accept that someone you love is dead. . . . That's not something out of the ordinary, that somebody you love dies. What is out of the ordinary is that you do not know. What is out of the ordinary is that you speculate constantly as to whether this person might be alive and starving or mistreated. You can't do that and survive.

"So all I think about is that I don't know," she said, nervously lighting another in a long chain of cigarettes. "It's like putting together a puzzle in which the U.S. government holds many of the pieces. You just keep looking for those pieces, knowing that you may never find them, knowing that you may never have an answer."

She and others are very skeptical that the Pentagon will provide any meaningful answers. The last time anybody from CIL-HI was allowed by the Army to speak in print, it was the conclusion to the 27 January 1986 *Army Times* report. CIL-HI's commanding officer, Lt. Col. Johnnie Webb, noted: "We work for the families here, and we do our best to put them at ease. They've been living with uncertainty, in some cases,



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LIGHT INFANTRY DIVISION

Continued from page 69

ply duties, but about 900 LAVs should be added to the division. This highly versatile wheeled armored vehicle can carry nine men and mount a wide range of equipment. This includes the Israeli 60mm hypervelocity anti-tank gun, a 90mm or 105mm low-velocity assault gun, a double-barreled TOW launcher with 12 missiles, and anti-aircraft guns or missiles. All of these should also be added to the LID's TO&E.

Except for SINGGARS, all substitutions and most of the additions are foreign equipment. Even the Marine's LAV is a Swiss MOWAG derivative. Unlike the Marines, the Army has historically been reluctant to irritate the American defense industry by buying foreign equipment, so it may be quite some time before such changes come about. The AT4 will definitely replace the LAW and the British light gun is under active consideration, but that's about it.

The American Congress (not to mention the U.S. public) has never been willing to look away from our shores for military equipment, but that attitude only closes off some viable avenues for improvement of our defense capability. Some of our allies — Israel and France, to name two — would be more than happy to license some of their equipment to be manufactured in the United States. With that sort of solution Congress and the defense contractors would be at least partially pleased. And the U.S. military would be on the road to a more efficient combat capability.

Even if all the above changes were made, TRADOC still has to give the LID a clear mission and a realistic operational doctrine. Right now, the LID lacks both, and, until this is rectified, it will not be an effective combat unit.

Given all the current flaws in the LID concept, it's surprising that the Army wants any such units in its order of battle, but they presently have one LID (the 7th Infantry) and will add another (the 25th Infantry) this year. Another three are to be added by 1990.

These should not be confused with the dynamic 9th Division at Fort Lewis, Washington. That experimental High Technology Light Division is a very different outfit that may well pave the way for a *real* light combat division someday.

But the Army wants LIDs, and it wants them now. In fact, the 26 September 1985 American Defense Preparedness Association exhibition at Aberdeen Proving Grounds witnessed an interesting announcement by TRADOC's Major General McNair. As part of its “Army 21” initiative, said McNair, the Army plans to field 20 divisions (compared to the present

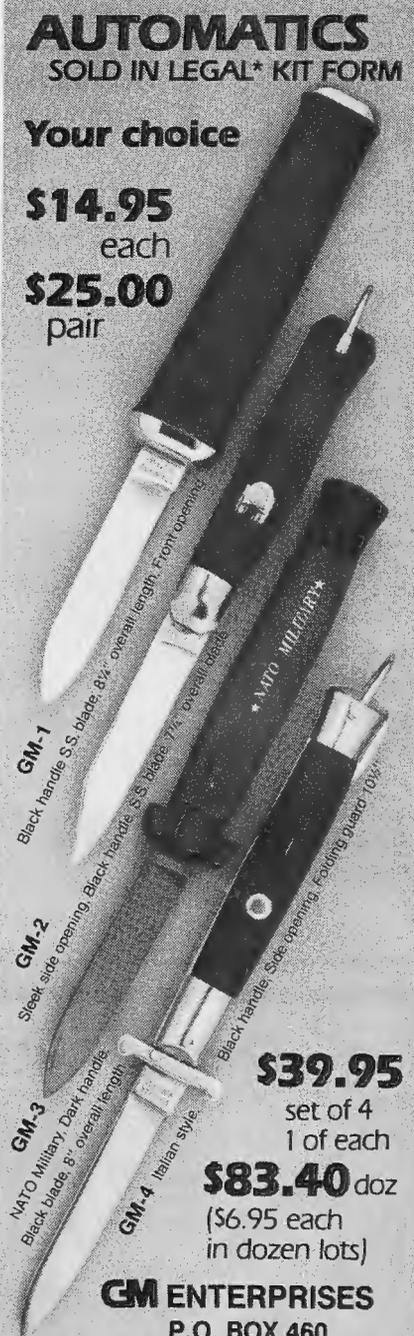
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17) by the year 2000, and 14 of them will be light infantry divisions.

If the Army's leadership intends to win wars, expanding the LID to include half of the Army's divisional formations is a strange way of doing it. The Army's proposal to add 13 more LIDs to our order of battle by the year 2000 is baffling, but only so long as you assume that the Army's objective is to win wars.

If all goes according to plan, we should have 12 more active Army divisions in the year 2000 than we did in 1984, all without increasing our manpower. Divisional strengths will be less than they are now, but the new LIDs will save the most on manpower. They will also be cheaper to equip. Congress should like that.

Never mind that the LID can't fight its way out of a paper bag; there are careers to be made here. Besides, adding 12 new divisions to our order of battle means we have to come up with about four corps, 12 divisional, 36 brigade and 108 battalion commanders, all new — and that's just for the LID's infantry components. Now 52 more generals can get their tickets punched in an active component command at any given time, and then there's rotation. Everybody should be happy, including our good friends the Russians.

When they hear of these developments, the Soviets' reaction should be interesting to watch. The prospect of having to face a new "Army of Excellence" that fields not one, not five, but 14 LIDs should definitely shake their composure. Unfortunately, they'll probably regain their composure just as soon as they can stop laughing. ☒

SOVIET SHAKEUP

Continued from page 75

further the latter's policies and political control in what is rapidly becoming "Mikhail's Navy."

Chernavin was born 22 April 1928 and joined the navy in 1951. He has a strong background in both attack and missile-launching submarines and is regarded as one of the pioneers of Soviet nuclear submarine warfare. He commanded the Northern Fleet, based in Severomorsk near Murmansk, from July 1977-December 1981. On 1 December 1981, Chernavin became Chief of the Main Naval Staff, a position he held until taking his current post last December.

Now that we have looked at Gorbachev's new Stavka, what conclusions can be reasonably drawn? One thing is certain: the July 1985 shakeup and the December firing of Gorbachev strongly suggest that Gorbachev is in firm control of the Soviet armed forces and actively remodeling them to serve his political and foreign policy goals.

A quick glance at the new Stavka also shows that, except for Ogarkov, all the new people are younger than those they replaced. Although lack of space precludes a detailed look, the same trend also appears at the lower command levels. More important,

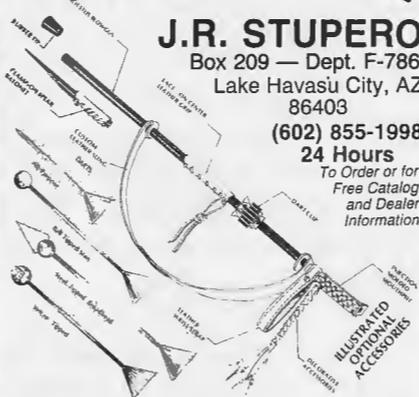
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Gorbachev appears to actively favor creative thinkers, regardless of age, and MSU Nikolai Ogarkov is a case in point.

A third point that emerges is also interesting. As a rule, service in the Far East has not been the path to quick promotion in the Soviet armed forces, yet there seems to be a lot of first-class Far Eastern talent in three of the five top Stavka positions. To be precise, Sokolov, Akhromeyev and Petrov all have extensive Far Eastern experience.

That trend continues on the command level immediately below Stavka. Among the important recent appointments with Far Eastern backgrounds are Colonel General Makhmut A. Gareyev, Chief of the Main Directorate for Operations of the Soviet General Staff (1984); General of the Army Vladimir L. Govorov, Chief of the Armed Forces Inspectorate since the spring of 1984; Colonel General Valentin Ye. Pankin, Chief of the Main Staff of the Soviet Air Force since April 1985; and Colonel General Aleksander N. Zakrevsky, who was named Commander in Chief of the Air Force for Rear Services in December 1984.

With this new trend, Chinese Sovietologists would be wise to be more than a little alarmed at these developments, while American policy-makers would do well to move toward even better relations with the Chinese —now. ✂

FLAK

Continued from page 6

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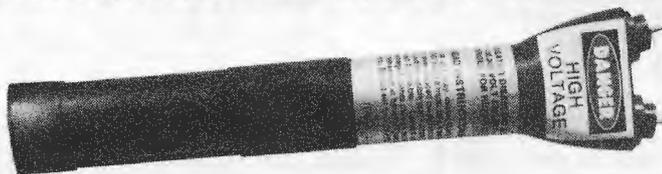
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the Vietnam vets did. Believe me, being from Cuba, I know what communism can do to a country.

Armando Castro
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I am a grandparent of 13 grandchildren and a concerned citizen of our country. I saw the Vietnam Vet's Memorial in Washington, D.C., recently. Those young men did not die in vain because there are millions of veterans who will honor them always. I'm not a veteran, but will do my part to honor those that are gone, those at home, and especially those that remain in communist hands. Keep on telling the true story of our brave and free people. It's because of them that we are free.

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As a former police officer and dedicated firearms instructor I agree that many police departments and sheriffs have been misled, believing that the McClure/Volkmer Bill will allow criminals freer access to firearms. Many of these people truly believe that more restrictive firearm laws are a necessity. I have personally heard officers state that they felt that gun confiscation would make their jobs a lot safer. It's my firm conviction that if he can't live with the fact that he might have to defend his life in the performance of his duties against a criminal with a gun he's in the wrong line of work.

Many police officers do not spend as much time perfecting defensive skills. In addition to inadequate training, many academies fill the trainees' heads so full of fear of lawsuit possibilities that they are afraid to defend themselves if they had to.

Attitudes and policies must be changed if we are to count on the support of the law enforcement community to back us on this type of legislation. We must support the police and better prepare officers for the realities of our increasingly dangerous streets. Get involved in local government. Don't allow nincompoops to run our lives.

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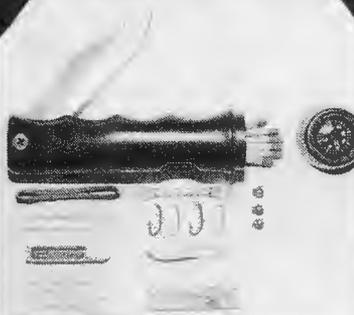
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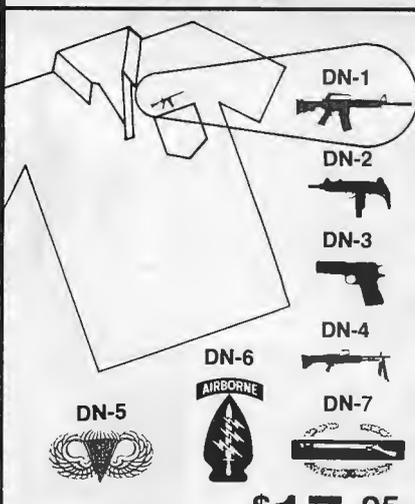
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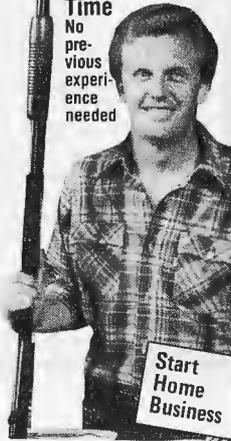
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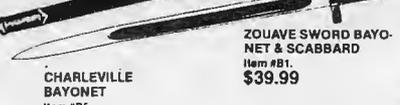
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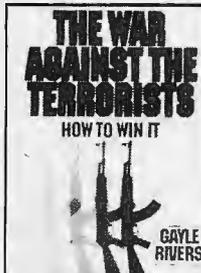
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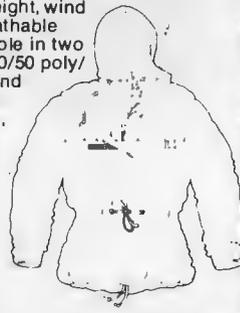
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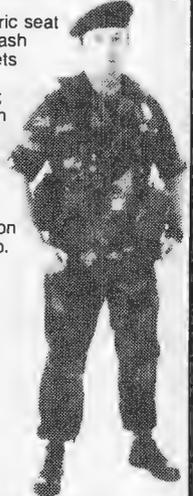
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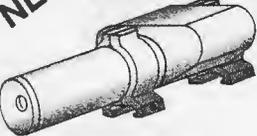
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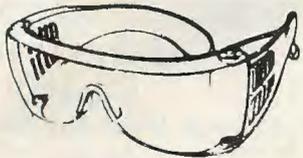
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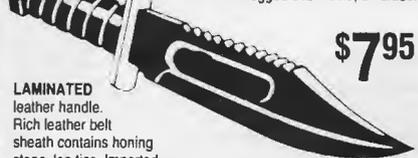
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