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The Journal

DECEMBER
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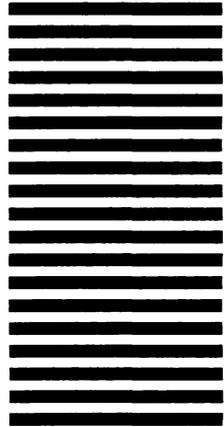
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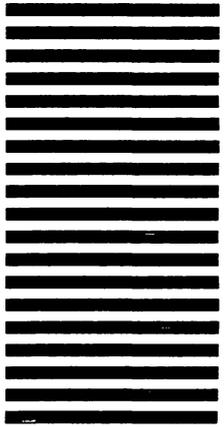
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COVER: Members of the congressional committees investigating the Iran-Contra affair didn't want television viewers to see Lt. Col. Oliver North's slide presentation on the Soviet threat to our southern flank. Instead they opted to view the slides during a closed session. SOF feels the American public has the right, and the need, to know what Congress wanted to keep from them. Lt. Col. North's presentation, in full, begins on page 52. Photo: AP/Wide World

INSET: Why was the USS *Stark* hit by Iraqi missiles in the Persian Gulf? Was it a failure in defensive systems, doctrine or command? Read SOF's insightful analysis on page 48. Photo: Sygma

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COMMAND GUIDANCE

by Robert K. Brown



Crazy Cecil & the NRA

CECIL Andrus, incumbent governor of Idaho and former secretary of the interior in the Carter administration, recently described the National Rifle Association as the "gun nuts of the world." The American Heritage Dictionary lists seven definitions for the word "nut," but I believe the one Cecil employed was No. 7: "a crazy or eccentric person." "Nut" may be a word he picked up while serving in the Carter White House, but it hardly describes members of the NRA.

Brother Cecil went on to accuse the NRA of being in collusion with groups attempting the violent overthrow of the government of the United States. He may just as well have accused the Daughters of the American Revolution of having ties to organized crime. Who's calling whom crazy? Maybe we should take a closer look at Cecil and try to understand why he would say such foul things about such a fine organization.

What did the NRA do to warrant being labeled as "nuts"? It would seem the heinous deed that drew the governor's ire was that the NRA supported his opponent in the last election. At a June press conference, Andrus vowed retribution against the NRA for supporting the other candidate. Imagine that. Exercise your rights and old Cecil accuses you of mental illness and threatens to get even.

The NRA decided to support his opponent when Andrus indicated in a pre-election questionnaire that he would support a seven-day waiting period for handgun transactions. Andrus also said he would support a ban on the private ownership of "military" firearms.

His remarks about terrorism

came after the NRA opposed a bill he introduced to counter white supremacist groups in Idaho. Never mind that the bill could have been used to prohibit many legitimate firearms activities, or that the NRA supported an alternative bill which, when passed, was described by the Idaho attorney general as "the toughest, most comprehensive (anti-terrorist) legislation of its kind in the United States." According to the attorney general, the governor "didn't lift a finger" to help pass the NRA-sponsored bill. It would seem that Andrus is more worried about getting in cheap shots on the NRA than he is in countering terrorism.

While the NRA was calling for an apology for what Wayne LaPierre (director of the NRA's Institute for Legislative Action) termed Andrus' "scurrilous" remarks, Andrus was being praised by Handgun Control Incorporated. A representative of that organization thought it "encouraging when someone like Governor Andrus will stand up to them." "Them" of course, being the NRA. HCI, like the governor, seems more concerned with the NRA than with terrorism.

That Andrus would use his office to question the mental stability of citizens who exercise their constitutional rights is appalling. I can only surmise from the governor's behavior that he is either not in possession of all his faculties or he is completely ignorant of the facts. Either way, all of us should be concerned about the behavior of Andrus and anti-gun politicians like him. His actions are a clear indication of how low that crowd will sink to deprive the rest of us of our Second Amendment rights. ✕

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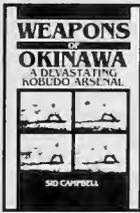


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by Jim Hrisoulas

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DREDGING FOR GOLD...

Sirs:

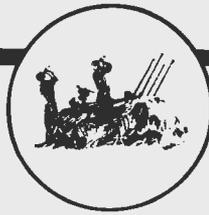
In the article by Robert K. Brown in the August '87 issue, "A Slow Boat to a Slow War," I found the insert about gold dredging on the Maroni River especially interesting. I would like to know:

- 1) Why aren't you people buying the gold and bringing it back?
- 2) How can I find out more about French Guiana and its export laws governing gold?
- 3) How can I make contact with the dredgers?
- 4) Most important — how likely am I to be shot, mugged or killed?
- 5) What do you suggest for arrangements for protection?

Mark Holzkamm
Myrtle Beach,
South Carolina

Yours isn't the first letter we've received on the gold-dredging operation along the Maroni River. We can't answer specifics as we didn't check out the operation in detail while on-site. After all, we're in the business of dredging up combat articles rather than gold. However, libraries, trade missions, consulates and embassies can offer a wealth of information. Certainly the best way to gather information is to travel to Saint Laurent, French Guiana, located along the Maroni River, and talk to the locals. Unless your high school French is first-rate, you'd better take an interpreter along, too.

As for your question number 4: There's a civil war raging on the other side of the river; drug-running is a big business; and folks have traditionally killed for only a few ounces of gold. Buy your ticket — take your chances.



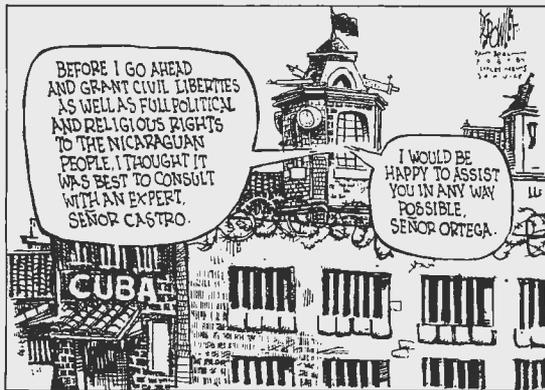
FLAK

THUMPING CONGRESS...

Sirs:

I can't believe those idiots in Congress actually think that so-called peace agreement in Central America is going to work. Sure, Ortega is going to sign it. Why not? It takes the pressure off him and his communist army that the freedom fighters are thumping every day. We're playing right into the communists' hands (again) if we don't keep up the support for the Nicaraguan freedom fighters. If we give Ortega breathing space, do you think he's going to put his army to work in the coffee-bean plantations? Hell no! He'll use the time to bring in more Soviet arms, equipment and advisers, build up his forces and then work on chewing up the rest of Central America. I really want to throw some history books into the faces of some of our congressmen — but I don't think they can read.

J. Darens
New York, New York



HANOI JANE...

Sirs:

What's wrong with Jane Fonda? Is she on drugs? We have not forgotten her information pipeline to the VC from the States. We haven't forgotten what she did and said to the POWs while they were in the cages and holes. . . . She cried [after seeing the movie "Platoon"]? For who, the VC in the movie? She's a scumbag, and we'll never forget.

R.J. Smith
Dirkou, Niger

Our position on Jane Fonda is pretty well known, but we'll state it again: Jane Fonda's a traitor to her country. Sue us please, Jane. There are hundreds of former POWs who would love to testify at the trial.

FIRING AT THE SA80...

Sirs:

The article "Firing the SA80" in your September '87 issue was the most blatant piece of puffery, i.e. promotion, that I have ever seen. I was very interested in this weapon, but the article was so high on bragging and so short on real information that I was really disappointed.

The "Battlefield Evaluation" at the end was an absolute farce. Where, oh where was the Stg 77? It is easily the most ubiquitous bullpup rifle in the whole world.

Give us a real break and have Peter G. redo this vapid article. As for the *Combat and Survival Staff*, forget it!

Roy Whittum
Eaton Rapids, Michigan

Hopefully the SA80 will receive what the EM 2 did not — U.S. cooperation. Or is the wretched 30-round M16 magazine being supplied as a sabotage item?

Under the "brandy" rating system (five stars for the SA80), the excellent Steyr AUG is conspicuously absent, indicative of a tight little island mentality. The evaluation of the SA80 was obviously written by the British, and it is superior in every way in print although unproven in the field. I suggest they call it the "Monty."

Edward Macauley
Soquel, California

In your recent article on the SA80 rifle, you rate the weapon five stars for reliability, making it the most reliable of all the rifles compared. My FN LAR, which you rate only three stars for reliability, has never jammed even with old worn magazines and it cycles all factory and reloaded ammo without fail.

I would really like to know who the SOF Combat & Survival Staff are. Who are these people who say the AR-15 is as reliable as the AKM and Galil? Who says the AKM is as accurate as the AR-15, but the FN is less accurate and less reliable than the other rifles in the comparison?

Mongoose
Deep River, Connecticut

*We received several letters in response to the article on the SA80 and obviously it was not clear to many readers that SOF merely reprinted the entire article from a British magazine called *Combat &**

Continued on page 8

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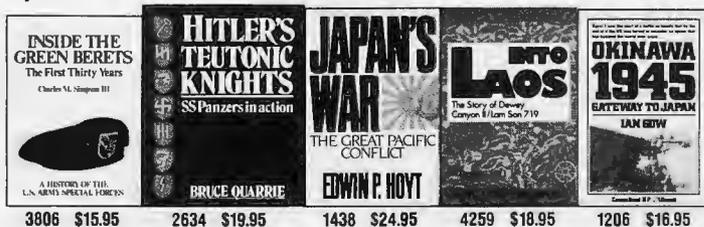
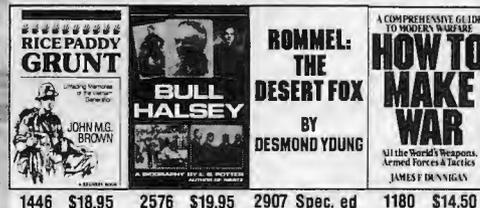


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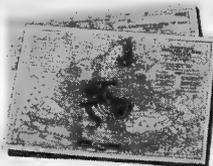
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Survival. Consequently, we were not able to change its data or correct for omissions. We purchased the article to see how it would work in our editorial format, mainly because it offered a different graphic presentation than is usually found in SOF, although we were very much aware of its technical shortcomings.

Technical Editor Peter G. Kokalis also had some harsh words for the article and information contained therein. You'll see his full reply in an upcoming issue.

OLLIE-GATOR SHIRTS...

Sirs:

I hope you can help me. I've noticed lots of people wearing T-shirts with a picture of or statement about Lt. Col. Oliver North. Is SOF selling any of these shirts, or do you know where I can get one?

Dan Mellanby
Keene, New Hampshire

There are several Ollie models on the market right now, but one sponsored by the Air Commando Association is especially noteworthy, as all proceeds from sales of the shirts go to help their medical and relief efforts in Central America. The T-shirt, which bears the image of the American flag and Lt. Col. North, comes in large and extra large only and sells for \$8.00, which includes postage and handling. Show your support for North and help people fighting communism at the same time by ordering from ACA, Dept.

SOF, 25 Miracle Strip Parkway, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548.

READER SURVEYS...

Sirs:

What are you guys doing with all those reader surveys I've been sending in? Are you reading them, or what?

Mike Keresey
San Francisco, California

You bet. We're still receiving thousands of surveys each month, and it takes time to compile the data. Our survey studies are a major effort to bring SOF exactly on-line with what you want to read each month. In fact, we've already made a few changes based upon your input. When we've put the whole packet through our statistician's calculator, we'll publish the results. Thanks to every one of you who's taken the time to fill out the surveys and send them in.

CUBAN SOLIDARITY WITH CONTRAS...

Sirs:

I am appalled by the ignorance of the people in this country. I recently pinned a notice for contra aid on the bulletin board at work and discovered an hour later that someone had scrawled "baby killers" across the notice. Contras are men and women just like you

and me who are fighting because the only other choice is communism, and to me and others like the contras, communism is not an acceptable choice. I speak from experience, since I am a Cuban political refugee. The contras could make their way to our borders and join the millions of other refugees finding security in this great country, but they choose to fight for the land that their fathers bled for.

Edward Ravelo
Garden Grove, California

ROLLING ON...

Sirs:

Your comments on the poor journalism of *Newsweek* ["News, Old News and *Newsweek*," SOF, October '87] are pertinent. More significant is the constant barrage of lies and misinformation pouring from the press on South and Central America. An example: A Vietnam vet protests arms for the southern resistance. He is run over and gravely hurt. This story is tragic in that it should have stated: A supporter of Nicaraguan strongman Daniel Ortega was injured when he deliberately planned a track-blocking incident. Alternately, it should never have been reported at all. Support for Nicaragua equals American soldiers' future deaths. Keep up the good work of exposing the foppery and pouting of the liberal press.

Dennis Hill
Las Vegas, Nevada

Anyone who purposefully throws himself down in front of rolling stock — which incidentally cannot stop on a dime — deserves the rather horrific results. If someone's that interested in dying for Marxist-Leninism, try a Soviet gulag in Siberia. It's not as messy, but just as terminal.

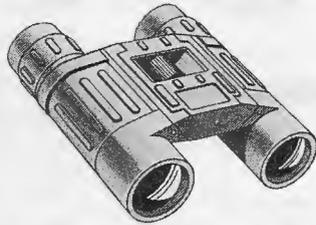
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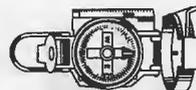
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OUR MAN IN AFRICA...

Bob Jordan, our southern Africa specialist, has just returned from his latest trip into war-ravaged Mozambique. Jordan's mission, sponsored by the Washington, DC-based Mozambique Information Office, was to effect the return of six missionaries to their home bases of Zimbabwe and Texas. The six were evacuated from a dangerous combat area by RENAMO freedom fighters and held until their release could be organized. Jordan spent three weeks inside Mozambique and expedited their safe movement out of the country.

While inside Mozambique, Jordan also investigated the alleged massacre by RENAMO forces of 380 Mozambicans living in the village of Homoine and found — as we had already suspected — that the FRELIMO government was the perpetrator. Their rationale for village genocide? RENAMO was winning too many military and hearts-and-minds victories at every turn, and in true Soviet *dezinformatsia* style, the propaganda tables had to be turned. For the sake of communist consolidation in southern Africa, the lives of hundreds of innocents obviously have little import.

Watch for Jordan's full account of his trip in an upcoming SOF.

BULLETIN BOARD



YANKS OUT OF NICARAGUA...

Fuzzy-headed North Americans have been traveling to Nicaragua for years to help pick coffee beans and bask vicariously in the glory of being true "revolutionaries." Well, we can't do much about that. But the U.S. House of Representatives has done something about the more militant (read dyed-in-the-wool communist) version of Yankee *Sandalistas*. In a 213-201 vote, an amendment sponsored by Rep. Robert Walker, R-Pa., passed which prohibits Americans who travel to Central America from assisting Sandinista military or communist guerrilla forces. In opposing the amendment, Rep. George Crockett, D-Mich., said, "Travel to Nicaragua . . . is a matter that must rightly be left to the conscience of these and other individuals," to which Rep. Walker responded, "I simply say in reply to the gentleman, this would be the equal of Americans going to Europe to help the Nazi regime."

Write your representative and find out how he or she voted on the Walker Amendment to House Resolution 1777.



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Our heartfelt thanks go out to these people and the
numerous other donors who requested their names not
be printed.

DISINVESTMENT DEZINFORMATSIA...

Pennsylvania's House of Representatives thought it would get into the foreign policy arena when it entertained the notion of yanking all of that state's investments related to South Africa. However, one clear-thinking representative took the notion a step further.

In a speech before the House, Rep. Ron Gamble reasoned, "If we pass the bills before us today, how can we not pass this amendment to do the same in the Soviet Union, Poland, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Albania, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda or Angola, all countries where violations of human rights are everyday occurrences?"

Presented with logic like that, Pennsylvania's House tabled the bill which would have required disinvestment in South Africa. We suspect Rep. Gamble may have a strong political future awaiting him by the Potomac.

SANDINISTA GESTAPO...

Sandinista security forces, armed with electric prods and trained dogs, apparently decided that the thrust of the peace agreement signed by Daniel Ortega and four other Central American presidents in August didn't really apply to Managua in terms of free speech and peaceable assembly. During the opening of the Democratic Coordinating Committee's new headquarters in the capital, just one week after Ortega signed the agreement, Danny's hatchet men arrested Lino Hernandez, executive secretary of the Permanent Commission of Human Rights, and Dr. Alberto Saborio, secretary of the Conservative Party and president of the Nicaraguan Bar Association. That same day, Sandinista gestapo attacked relatives of political prisoners attending a non-violent demonstration.

We can almost hear the Left shouting "Peace in our time" while Ortega continues his policy of domestic tyranny coupled with not-so-covert aggression against Nicaragua's neighbors. Munich 1938, anyone?

Continued on page 128

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FROM ASSAULT SYSTEMS



BATTLE blades that are properly designed and constructed can be hard to find and difficult to obtain. The matter is further complicated by the fact that precious few knifemakers specialize in making custom battle blades, and fewer still *really know how* to make this kind of knife.

To clarify, we are talking about a clip point, Bowie-style knife, forged from straight carbon or good Damascus steel, with a blade between 9 and 10 inches in length. The blade will be differentially tempered for maximum strength, tapered and balanced to generate maximum cutting power with minimum expended effort.

In all modesty, I've been the primary source for combat quality hand-forged Bowie-style knives for the last several years. However, there is a new generation of knifemakers emerging, and I'm happy to report that several of these men are doing outstanding work and have learned how to make a proper Bowie knife — one that really works.

All the men listed here make knives that I would be willing to stake my life on, and if you're looking for a serious battle blade, these men merit your consideration. In alphabetical order, here is my list of places to shop for a knife to carry into harm's way:

Jim Crowell, Dept. SOF, HC 74, Box 368, Mountain View, AK 72560; phone (501) 269-4215. Jim is a truly outstanding bladesmith by anyone's definition. Extremely versatile, Crowell is one of precious few men in this country who can make fine Japanese swords as well as outstanding Bowie knives and get both styles of weapon in the correct idiom. Make no mistake, Crowell is a truly talented bladesmith.

About a year ago at a trade show I saw a Bowie he'd made and I commented to him that it looked exactly like a Bowie that I'd made, only that his was prettier than mine. His answer to my comment both surprised and pleased me. He said, "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em. This is the best design for a combat blade I've ever seen, and everything else is a distant second. If you're serious, this is the knife to have. I don't intend to copy anyone, but I make this knife because it works better than any other."

Be advised that Jim Crowell is a full-time bladesmith and, like most good things, his knives don't come cheap. Expect to pay about \$500 for one of his carbon steel Bowies, and expect to wait a year for delivery.

Howard Fauchaux, Dept. SOF, Box 206, Loreauville, LA 70552; phone (318) 229-6467. Fauchaux is one of the best-kept secrets in knifemaking today. His knives are characterized by meticulous workmanship and outstanding fit and finish. A



BATTLE BLADES

by Bill Bagwell

Bowie Bladesmiths



John Smith, one of America's premier battle bladesmiths, puts the finishing touches on a Bowie at his shop in Centralia, Illinois.

One of Jerry Fisk's combat Bowies. This knife is of the highest quality, yet still affordable.



master craftsman, Howard makes a knife that is almost too pretty to use. Howard sets high standards for himself and does not make many knives, but he still does sell to the public. A man who carries a blade by Fauchaux can consider himself both fortunate and well-armed. A Fauchaux blade is characteristically extremely quick in the hand, with outstanding strength and edge-holding abilities. Prices for

his blades are in the \$500 to \$600 range for straight carbon steel and the waiting period is 12 to 18 months. Both time and money well spent, I might add.

Jerry Fisk, Dept. SOF, Rt. 1, Box 41, Lockesburg, AK 71846; phone (501) 289-3240. Fisk is a relative newcomer to knifemaking, but this does not mean you should sell him short. His knives may lack the spit and polish of Crowell or Fauchaux, but if you're looking for a solid, well-made battle blade with good workmanship — a blade with outstanding strength and cutting qualities — this is a good place to start. Fisk is a serious muzzleloading hunter and carries a Bowie on a regular basis. He knows what it means to need a serious knife for serious work, and the knives he forges are first-rate combat equipment. They are a bargain as well, as he will presently deliver a hand-forged combat Bowie for \$295, and with a waiting period of only 6 months or less. A Fisk knife is a good knife and a good value for the money.

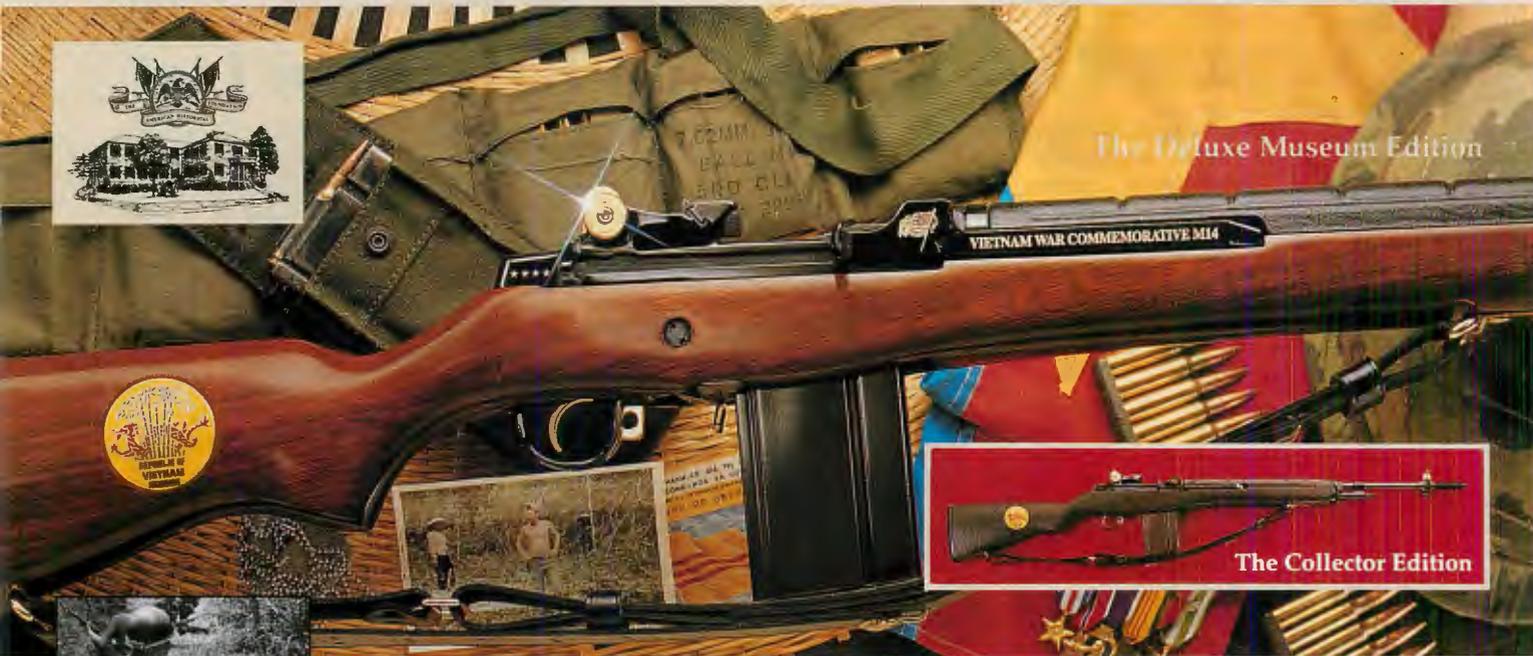
John Smith, Dept. SOF, RR6, Centralia, IL 62801; phone (618) 249-6444. John is one of those laid-back guys who enjoys his work and is very good at what he does. An accomplished blacksmith as well as an excellent bladesmith, John makes knives that are extremely strong and tough. This is a man who takes pride in his work and knows how to make a blade that cuts. John Smith's knives are modestly priced for fine handmade work, with his Bowie starting around \$300; his waiting period is a reasonable 6 months. John is another of those guys who has been around for a while and does outstanding work yet keeps a low profile. Don't let this mislead you, for a battle blade by John Smith is one of the very best that you can get, and I recommend his work highly.

Any of the men listed above can fill your need for a first-rate battle blade. Sure, there are less expensive ways to obtain a knife, but if you need a blade you can count on when the chips are down, one of these men will build it. ✕

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To increase the historical value, the components in both editions are genuine G.I. To custom finish and assemble them, the oldest American firm still making M14s, Federal Ordnance, was selected, using their new, deluxe polished receivers; each rifle is so well made it comes with a lifetime warranty for the original owner. As a benefit, each rifle fires in

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The Deluxe Museum Edition

The Deluxe Museum Edition is custom built with a "Supreme" grade American walnut stock by the respected firm of Reinhart Fajen; it gleams with seven coats of lacquer, hand-rubbed and polished to a museum-quality finish.

The serial numbers, between 001 and 500, with the prefix "VME" for "Vietnam—Museum Edition," further designate this to be a special edition. Serial No. 001 is being presented by the Foundation to General William Westmoreland.

The Collector Edition

The Collector Edition features a genuine G.I. wooden stock, specially finished in a black, highly-

Personalize your M14 with your service branch symbol and/or other special information engraved on the magazine. Marine Corps symbol shown; Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard available.



A furniture-finished solid walnut display case is available for either model. With three solid brass hinges and locks, the acrylic glass lid and velvet lining protect your investment from dust and unauthorized handling. Designed for wall mounting or for display flat or upright on a table. A section of Vietnam Service ribbon and brass plaque identify this as an important, patriotic tribute.

textured presentation-grade finish, symbolizing the black granite Vietnam Veterans Memorial; it complements the mirror polished and blued steel, and the 24-karat gold plated components. The serial numbers range between 001 and 500, with the prefix "VCE" for "Vietnam—Collector Edition."

Collectors who reserve both models may receive matching serial numbers, while available. Both models are fitted with a deluxe black leather sling. And a cloisonne fired enamel medallion proudly displays the Vietnam Service Medal.

Both models fire 7.62 mm (.308 Win.) ammunition and come with a 20-round magazine, Field Manual, and numbered Certificate of Authenticity.

This is available only from The American Historical Foundation. With your reservation, you will be made a Member. A monthly payment plan is available. If you do not have a Federal Firearms License, the Foundation will arrange delivery with you after your reservation is received here. If you do have an FFL, send a signed copy, and it will be shipped directly to you. Your satisfaction is guaranteed or return for full refund within 30 days.

RESERVATION

Satisfaction Guaranteed or Return in 30 days for Full Refund

To: The American Historical Foundation
1142 West Grace Street, Dept. C146
Richmond, Virginia 23220
Telephone: (804) 353-1812
TOLL FREE 24 hours: (800) 368-8080

Yes, I wish to reserve the firing Vietnam War Commemorative M14, selectively plated with 24-karat gold with special, etched inscriptions. I will also receive membership in the Foundation and information about the M14 Rifle. Satisfaction guaranteed.

—Deluxe Museum Edition of only 500, at \$1,595.

—Collector Edition of only 500, at \$1,395.

- My deposit (or credit card authorization) of \$95 is enclosed. Please charge or invoice the balance due . . .
 in five monthly payments (\$300 Deluxe; \$260 Collector).
 in full.
- Please also send the optional glass and walnut display case, adding \$225 to the final payment selected.
- My payment in full (or credit card authorization) is enclosed.
- Yes, I wish personalized engraving on the magazine, at \$25. Please send the Engraving Request Form.

Name

Address

Daytime Telephone (.....).....

For Visa, MasterCard or American Express, please send account number, expiration and signature. Virginia residents add tax.

YOU want a machine gun. You can't have them all. So how do you decide which of the many available to select? Whom do you buy it from? Where do you get parts and maintenance supplies? What about ammunition? Since most of my mail concerns questions of this type, here's a list of names, addresses and publications that will give you the answers you need.

Anyone contemplating the purchase of a full-auto weapon should be armed with as much knowledge as possible. In addition to the pages of *Soldier of Fortune Magazine*, there are several reference works you would be well-advised to acquire. Although there are many sources for information on military small arms, the following are, without doubt, the best:

Chinn, G.M., *The Machine Gun, Volumes I and II*: reprinted by Rare Military Publications, Inc., Harrodsburg, KY. 1951 and 1952. 688 and 215 pages, respectively.

Ezell, E.E., *Small Arms of the World*, 12th revised edition: Stackpole Books, Harrisburg, PA. 1983. 894 pages.

Hogg, I.V., and Weeks, J., *Military Small Arms of the 20th Century*, fifth revised edition: DBI Books, Inc., Northfield, IL. 1985. 303 pages.

Johnson, G.B., and Lockhoven, H.B., *International Armament, Volume II*, first edition: International Small Arms Publishers, Cologne, West Germany. 1965. 483 pages.

Nelson, T.B., and Lockhoven, H.B., *The World's Submachine Guns (Machine Pistols), Volume I*, first edition: International Small Arms Publishers, Cologne, West Germany (reprinted by T.B.N. Enterprises). 1963. 739 pages.

Nelson, T.B., and Musgrave, D.D., *The World's Machine Pistols and Submachine Guns (1964-1980), Volume IIA*, first edition: T.B.N. Enterprises, Alexandria, VA. 1980. 673 pages.

Unfortunately, I can no longer recommend the once monumental *Jane's Infantry Weapons*. At \$150, it is far too expensive, and current issues are filled with little more than manufacturers' puff pieces, outdated and unrevised evaluations of older weapons and expanded coverage of area weapons, electronics, training aids and body armor at the expense of small arms, to which only about a third of each yearbook is now devoted. The first four editions (1975, 1976, 1977 and 1978), under the direction of the late Denis H.R. Archer, have never been equaled and should be obtained if they can be located.

Now that you've decided you can't live without either a Schwarzlose or Goryunov, where do you find one? The following is a list of honest and



FULL AUTO

Text & Photo by Peter G. Kokalis

Rattle-Gun Reference List



There are 10 different machine guns in this photo. They are, from front to rear: Browning M1919A4, Vickers, Japanese Type 11, Stoner 63, Czech ZBz26, Soviet DP, '08 Maxim, French M1924/29 Chatellerault, Mk2 Bren and French M1914 Hotchkiss. SOF's technical editor tells you where to find full-auto weapons, their spare parts and the equipment necessary to maintain them.

reliable large-volume Class 3 dealers and/or Class 2 manufacturers that, between them all, can usually be counted upon to provide everything from

Brownings to Brens. Anyone not appearing here is not necessarily disreputable but just unknown to me personally:

Dolf L. Goldsmith, ARPAC, Inc., Dept. SOF, Suite 202, 800 Isom Road, San Antonio, TX 78216; phone (512) 342-4742 (specialist in older machine guns such as Maxims, Brownings, Lewis Guns and Vickers).

Irv Kahn, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 290, Monroe, OH 45050; phone (513) 746-1323 (large inventory of non-restricted transfer items).

Kent Lamont, Lamont's Precision

COLD? REALLY! WHY?

GUARANTEED, GENUINE WARMTH CAN BE ON ITS WAY IN LESS THAN 24 HOURS*

KAUFMAN'S WEST INC
ARMY & NAVY GOODS
 Dept. A-312660 Eubank NE Albuquerque, NM 87112
 Call Us TOLL FREE 1-800-545-0933
 (505) 293-2300

Quality, Functionality and WARMTH...

When it comes to winter clothing, the 3 main concerns of the military are quality, functionality and WARMTH. After this they think about price.

The US military wants its troops to keep warm in the winter in clothes that will last a bunch of winters. They know quality costs more.

GENUINE GI knows, the cheapest. But as every ex-GI knows, the clothes seem to last forever, they're very warm and designed to be functional.

Most of the items in this ad are current military issue, brand new and unconditionally guaranteed to satisfy you or your money back. And when you consider the quality, do the prices seem high at all?

USAF Heavyweight Flight Jacket - Type N2B

DESIGNED FOR TEMPERATURES OF -10° TO 32° F.

- Polyester Fiberfill Lining - (Maximum Warmth Per Ounce)
- Nylon Shell - (Waterproof & Windproof)
- 2 Outside Pockets
- Knit Cuffs and Waist
- Pile Line Hood - (drapes over shoulder when not needed)
- Flap Under Zipper to Prevent "Cold Spots"
- Zippered Sleeve Pocket with Pencil Holder



USAF Flight Jacket

These flight jackets are issued to military fliers and are designated Type MA1 for Intermediate Cold. (This means that it is the medium weight jacket, designed for comfort in a temperature zone of about 20° to 55° F). Look for the military designation, sizes and stock numbers inside the left pocket. The outer shell and lining are 100% nylon making the jacket completely wind and waterproof. The interlining is 100% polyester fiberfill for the highest degree of warmth per ounce. This jacket is reversible, outside in your choice of either sage green or blue and the inside is survival orange. It features: two hip pockets outside as well as inside, sewn pen and pencil holders plus zippered easy access storage pocket in the left sleeve. This a snappy, convenient, warm, fully functional jacket and it happens to be the latest fashion trend.

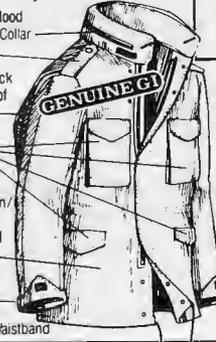
Choose: Black or Sage Green Outer Shell Color.
 Sizes: S, M, L and XL.
 \$94.25/each.
 Item #C-550

Specify:
 ■ Sage Green or Black Shell
 Sizes: XS, S, M, L, XL (Regular Lengths Only) ... ITEM #C-500
 \$54.75/each.

Field Jacket - Type M65

In one form or another, this jacket has been the military workhorse for over 40 years and is still going strong. The field jacket is designed for 3 season wear. In winter you can button in the liner (see below) or wear a vest or heavy sweater under it.

- Lightweight Hood Concealed in Collar
- Epaulets
- Gussetted Back for Freedom of Movement
- 4 Huge Outside Pockets
- Outershell of 50% Cotton/50% Nylon - Water & Wind Repellent
- Adjustable Cuffs
- Drawstring Waistband



Watch Cap - 100% Wool

- Tight Ribbed Weave
- Roll Down to Cover Ears When Desired
- One Size Fits All



Choose Color - Black or Olive Drab (OD) Green
 Item #H-355 \$6.00 each.
 Sizes: XS, S, M, L, XL (Send us your chest size for proper fit)
 Long Length (for person over 6 ft. tall)
 Choose: Olive Drab (OD) Green or Woodland Camouflage (Also Black or Tan Commercial Mt. to GI Specs. - Reg. Length Only) Item #C-476 Reg Length \$55.00 Long Length \$60.50 Extra Large Long \$85.00

MILITARY GOODS CATALOG
 1987 edition, 84 pages, loaded with genuine military clothing, gear and equipment. Item #P-500 \$2.00/each. Free with order.

Special Forces Green Beret - Jaunty and daring and classy

like the professionals who wear them. These are official regulation berets of 100% vat dyed wool and meeting all military specs. Made expressly for us by the prime government net contractor. Also available Official headgear for:
 - Airborne Qualified (Maroon)
 - Ranger Commandos (Black)
 - Artillery & Guardian Angels (Red)
 - Commando Dress (Camouflage)
 Sizes - 6 7/8 to 7 3/4



(Not sure of head size? Tell us how many inches around your head where you wear your hat. We'll send the right one.) Item #H-205 \$13.75/each

Ballacava (One Hole) Face Mask

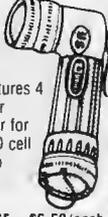


Masks are lightweight non-itch; non-allergic; 100% stretch acrylic woven in a bulky knit. Maximum protection from wind and cold.

- Knit Face Mask
 3 holes for maximum protection.
 Choose:
 ■ Black or Olive Drab (OD) Green. ITEM #H-390. \$5.95/each.
 ■ Camouflage (Reverses to bright orange) ITEM #H-390. \$6.95/each.
- Ballacava (One Hole) Face Mask
 One hole accommodates eyeglasses or other equipment.
 Black. ITEM #H-395. \$5.95/each.

Angle Head Flashlite - GENUINE GI

This is the heavy duty plastic flashlight issued to all military units. The flashlight is waterproof, non-glare and features 4 different lenses which can be easily installed or removed. It can clip onto the belt or suspender for hands free operation; operates on 2 standard D cell batteries and comes complete with a spare bulb. Brand new, sold in the GI box.
 Choose:
 Olive Drab (OD) green or black ... Item #H-165 ... \$6.50/each.



Black Commando Dog Tag Set - (A Kaufman's Exclusive)

2 GI stainless steel tags specially treated to be non-glare flat black plus 2 black (4" and 24") ball chains ... \$6.00/set.
 Regulation GI Dog Tags - GENUINE GI
 set of 2 stainless steel tags and 2 stainless steel chains (4" and 24") Item #X-670 \$4.00/set.
 Want us to print them? WE'LL PRINT ANYTHING up to 6 lines and 15 spaces per line.
 Printing ... Item #X-885 ... only \$1.50 per tag (\$3.00/set).

PLEASE, NO DOG TAG IMPRINTING ORDERS BY TELEPHONE.
 Dog Tag Silencers - black, non-glare rubber bumpers for tags
 Item #X-655 \$1.25/pair.

We're America's Army & Navy Store!!

WHEN IN NEW YORK CITY VISIT OUR ORIGINAL STORE AT 319 W. 42ND ST., NEAR TIMES SQUARE.
 (PRICES MAY VARY AT NYC STORE)
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

*All In-Stock Items Shipped Within 24 Hours. Satisfaction Guaranteed or Your Money Back.

M65 Liner - designed to be buttoned into the M65 Field Jacket.

these liners are lightweight, polyester-fiberfilled, and very warm. Order same size as your field jacket. Sizes: XS, S, M, L, XL Item #C-475 \$19.00/ea

Ranger Combat Cap - Woodland Camouflage - latest Army issue.

This winterweight cap features lined flaps which can fold out to keep your ears warm and tuck into the hat when the weather's balmy. Sizes run small. Also available in Olive Drab (OD) Green. Item #H-270
 Sizes: 7, 7-1/4, 7-1/2, 7-3/4 ... \$8.50/each.



Drill Instructor/Smookey the Bear Hat - Formerly called the Campaign Hat.

This is a really fine quality pressed felt headpiece. A hat with character. No one who wears it escapes a personality change. An uncontrollable urge to shout orders or heap abuses, pursue flammers or write traffic tickets. Let your true or wistful self be heard. Commercially manufactured to exacting specs. Sizes: 6-7/8 to 7-3/4
 Item #H-300 \$19.75/each.



- Genuine Leather Chin Strap Item #H-305 \$2.00/each.
- Acorn Hat Cord (as shown) Item #H-310 \$7.75/each. (Specify color: silver, gold metallic, black/gold, metallic, yellow, red or light blue)

IMMEDIATE SHIPMENT SHIPPING COSTS

Please include appropriate shipping costs from chart below with each order. Amounts shown include costs of postage, packaging, insurance and handling.

Orders up to \$10.00	\$3.00
Orders from \$10.01 to 20.00	3.75
Orders from \$20.01 to 35.00	4.50
Orders from \$35.01 to 50.00	5.25
Orders from \$50.01 to 70.00	6.25
Orders from \$70.01 to 90.00	7.25
Orders over \$90.00	8.00

Canadian Orders - Send Double Amount Indicated.

CAMOUFLAGE

Commando Camouflage Headnet - Spandoflage

Expandable camouflage mesh fits comfortably on any size head. Cool in summer, warm in winter, this revolutionary new mesh material can be cut (but will not unravel) to form eye-holes for the comfort of eyeglass wearers.
 Choose: Woodland Camouflage, Desert Camouflage or Solid Black ... Item #Q-275
 \$6.00/each; 2 for \$11.00.



Camouflage Face Paint

Each metal tube contains 2 colors of facepaint which can be easily removed with soap and water. Current military issue.
 Choose: Woodland Camo (green & tan); desert camo (light green & sand); snow camo (white & tan) ... \$2.75/tube; 2 tubes for \$5.00
 Item #Q-260

ORDER TOLL FREE 1-800-545-0933 - CALL MON-SAT; 9:00 - 7:00 (Mountain Time)

ORDER TOLL FREE 1-800-545-0933 - CALL MON-SAT; 9:00 - 7:00 (Mountain Time)



VIETNAM VETERANS will recognize this **TIGER STRIPE** camouflage as the type worn by **ELITE MILITARY UNITS** during the war.

Our copyrighted pattern has been proven highly effective due to its superior ability in breaking up your body silhouette at distances of 35 meters or more. This avoids the "blotting" effect known to happen with most other camouflage.



Both the jacket and pants, patterned after the original style, are cut to fit like an issue B.D.U. All garments are assembled by government contractors to exacting military specs. and are made from pre-shrunk 100% cotton to keep you cool, comfortable and quiet.

#6TJH - JUNGLE HAT - \$14.95 ea. Includes two inch brim, screen vents and a chin string with leather draw tab.

#6TPH - PATROL HAT - \$12.95 ea. Includes a hidden pocket in crown top.

#6TB - BERET - \$11.95 ea. Classic styling with adjustable string inside headband for that custom fit.

HAT SIZES: S(7) M(7 1/4) L(7 1/2) XL(7 3/4)

#6TJ - JACKET - \$34.95 ea. Includes two cargo chest pockets, one accessory sleeve pocket for field dressing or compass, double button cuffs with gusset and a square cut tail to allow for wear outside of trousers.

CHEST: XS(29-33) S(33-37) M(37-41) L(41-45) XL(45-59)

#6TP - PANTS - \$34.95 ea. Six pocket design with one acc. leg pocket, button fly and waist adjusting tabs. All sizes have a 35" inseam except XS which has a 33" inseam.

WAIST: XS(23-27) S(27-31) M(31-35) L(35-39) XL(39-43)



To order write or call:
TIGER STRIPE PRODUCTS
1720 WEST PARK CENTER DR.
ST. LOUIS, MO 63026
(314) 343-8284

TERMS: Please add \$3.95 for shipping and handling. Shipped UPS. VISA, MC, MO or personal check held 10 days or COD (\$2.50). Missouri residents add 5.725% tax. International orders - If order totals (\$0-35) include \$8.00, (36-90) 11.00, (91-170) 15.00. Payment must be U.S. funds. Sorry no COD's.

NIGHTMARE

Model 68



Shoots 68 Cal. Paint Ball
Overall Length 12 3/4"
Barrel 6 3/4"
Velocity 280 fps
(may vary on the climate)
Ten Ball Magazine
Rapid Fire Pump Action
Brass Upper and
Lower Barrel and Caps
Finish in Black Oxidized
Comes with Pistol Grip and
Rifle Stock

**Guaranteed
lowest
price
on
paint
pellets!**

WAR GAMES AIR GUN SUPPLY

3876 Midhurst Lane — Mississauga, Ontario L4Z 1C7 — (416) 848-4844
Dealers and Distributors Inquiries Welcome

Bullets, Dept. SOF, 4236 West 700 South, Poneto, IN 46781; phone (219) 694-6792.

Robert I. Landies, Collector's Corner, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 687, Char-don, OH 44024; phone (216) 285-3481 (large inventory of non-restricted transfer items).

Arthur L. May, Republic Arms, Dept. SOF, 2126 West 34th Street, Houston, TX 77018; phone (713) 682-5549 (both non-restricted transfer items and dealers' samples).

PARS International, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 37184, Louisville, KY 40233; phone (502) 452-1968 (post-May 19th dealers' samples).

Jim Pongrass, Auto-Arms, Dept. SOF, 21131 Park Tree Lane, Katy, TX 77450; phone (713) 492-7857 (both non-restricted transfer items and dealers' samples).

Neal E. Smith, Jr., Dept. SOF, 5381 Richards Drive, Mentor, OH 44060; phone (216) 257-4872 (machine guns and mortars).

Terry Williams, Dept. SOF, 544 Roxanne Drive, Antioch, TN 37013; phone (615) 331-9876.

Bill Wittstein, Billistics, Inc., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 944, Wallingford, CT 06492; phone (203) 269-3365 (specialist in UZIs, Heckler & Koch and M16s).

Whatever machine gun you finally select, you'll need a supply of spare parts to keep it cranking. While many of the Class 3 dealers listed above also maintain an inventory of components, there are several other important sources. Over a period of many years, I have found the most useful to be as follows:

The Gun Parts Corporation (formerly Numrich Arms), Dept. SOF, West Hurley, NY 12491; phone (914) 679-2417.

William J. Ricca, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 25, New Tripoli, PA 18066-025 (U.S. ordnance).

Sarco, Inc., Dept. SOF, 323 Union Street, Stirling, NJ 07980; phone (201) 647-3800.

Sherwood International Export Corporation, Dept. SOF, 18714 Parthenia Street, Northridge, CA 91324; phone (818) 349-7600.

Springfield Sporters, Inc., William H. Rodgers, Dept. SOF, RD #1, Penn Run, PA 15765; phone (412) 254-2626.

You can obtain the gunsmithing tools and supplies you need to work on these beasts from Brownells, Inc., Dept. SOF, Route 2, Box 1, Montezuma, IA 50171; phone (515) 623-5401.

Continued on page 97

WIN A LEGEND!

EDGE COMPANY KNIVES AND JEEP WRANGLER - KEEPING THE TRADITION ALIVE

THE EDGE COMPANY
GREAT '88
GIVEAWAY
SWEEPSTAKES!

GRAND PRIZE

JEEP WRANGLER SAHARA. NEW FOR '88!

4 x 4 x Forever. Sahara inherits the legacy. Become a part of it. The Wrangler Sahara slides into 4-wheel-drive on the fly and 4.2 liters of Jeep power takes you there in style. Edge Company knives and Jeep Wrangler give you the Edge.



ENTER NOW!

THE EDGE COMPANY
P.O. BOX 826
BRATTLEBORO, VT 05301
CALL TOLL-FREE
1-800-445-1021



1st PRIZE
A pair of Yamaha SRX250 street bikes!
Twenty-two horses of air-cooled counter-balanced power, dual carbs, and alloy wheels send you down the road on the cutting edge of excitement.



2nd PRIZE
Two Tickets to Paradise! An all-expense paid sun-drenched week on beautiful St. Croix, the emerald jewel of the U.S. Virgin Islands: Hot sun, cool breezes, aqua waves, and frothy pina colodas.



3rd PRIZE
\$1,000 of the best Camping Equipment to outfit you and a friend. Tested from Death Valley to Everest. Moss, Kelly, Caribou and more — rugged gear and the pro's choice.

EDGE COMPANY KNIVES AND JEEP WRANGLER: RUGGED, INDEPENDENT, TOUGH - AND BOTH AVAILABLE IN AUTOMATIC.

Model 120
\$49.95

THE CLASSIC AUTOMATIC STILETTO.

Handmade in Italy. Brass lined, Side opening, 8 3/8". Handle in Pearlite: Blue, Green, Red, White, and Black.



Automatic Knives sold in kit form only.

MODEL 817
\$39.95

LEVER AUTO HUNTER.
Gleaming Brass & Hardwood. Side Opening Brushed S/S Blade. Brass Lined, 8".



MODEL 108
O.D. 19.95

Camo. \$21.95
NATO MILITARY.
The most popular automatic in the world. Olive Drab or Camo covers, gun metal black caps, front opening, 8".



WIN A LEGEND!

YES!
Enter me in The Edge Co. Great '88 Giveaway Sweepstakes, and rush me these knives.

NO

I'm not buying, but enter me in the sweeps anyway, and use the address above

Use the coupon to order any one or more of these Edge Co. Knives and you'll be entered automatically in the Great '88 Giveaway Sweepstakes. Or: Use the Coupon, but check the "No" box. No purchase required.

Model _____ Qty. _____ Model _____ Qty. _____ Model _____ Qty. _____

Add \$1.50 Each Shipping and Handling — Allow 10 Days Shipping

Check or Money Order Enclosed Total \$ _____

Visa/MasterCard No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I am over 18 years of age _____

Signature _____

THE EDGE COMPANY, P.O. BOX 826, BRATTLEBORO, VT 05301
CALL TOLL-FREE 1-800-445-1021

SF12

OFFICIAL RULES

1. No purchase required. Fill out The Edge Company Great '88 Giveaway Sweepstakes Order Form/Entry Coupon on this page and mail to: The Edge Company, Great '88 Giveaway Sweepstakes, P.O. Box 826, Brattleboro, VT 05301. Order Form/Entry Coupons must be postmarked by February 29, 1988. You may also enter by hand printing your name, address, zip code, and if you want to order, your Edge Company Knife selections on a plain piece of 3"x5" paper, and mail as above. No purchase required, enter as often as you wish, but each entry must be mailed separately.

2. Winners will be determined in random drawings conducted on or about April 2, 1988 by an independent judge, whose decisions are final. Winners will be notified by mail, and will be asked to sign a

statement of eligibility, which must be returned within 21 days of receipt or alternate winners will be selected at random. All federal, state and local laws apply. Sales taxes, licenses and any options are the responsibility of winners. No substitutions except as required due to availability. All prizes will be awarded.

3. Sweepstakes open to residents of the United States 18 years of age and older. Employees and their families of The Edge Company, the American Motors Corporation, the Yamaha Motor Corporation, Kelly, Caribou, Coleman, Moss, Thermarest, the independent judge, their affiliated companies, advertising, print, and production agencies are not eligible. Void where prohibited by law. For a list of prizewinners, send a S.A.S.E. to The Edge Company, Great '88 Giveaway Sweepstakes, P.O. Box 826, Brattleboro, VT 05301.

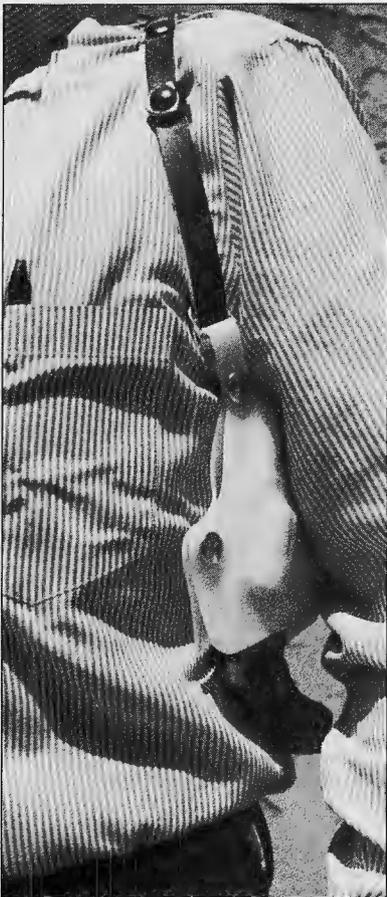
EDGE COMPANY KNIVES: GUARANTEED FOR LIFE

LIGHTNING DRAW

Most shoulder holster rigs have several things in common — they're uncomfortable, they bind up on your shoulder and they print through whatever you're wearing. But it doesn't have to be that way. Meet K.L. Null's model SKR ultra-concealable shoulder holster.

SKR incorporates the three most important characteristics of any good concealment holster — it's comfortable, accessible and as close to invisible as possible. Made from dense, yet thin, polymer material, the SKR is available only for J-frame Smith & Wessons and sells for \$49.95.

Send \$3 for a catalog detailing the full line of K.L. Null products. Write K.L. Null, Dept. SOF, 678 Green Springs Road, Hanover, PA 17331; phone (717) 632-6873.



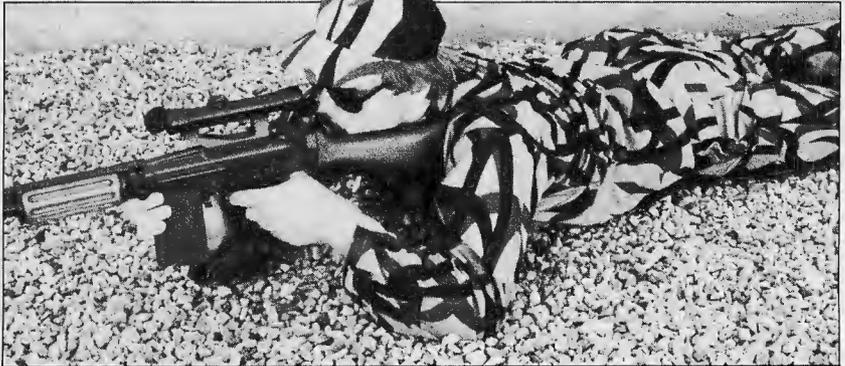
ALL-SEASON, ALL-TERRAIN

Since World War II tremendous advances have been made in helping soldiers blend in with their surroundings. In fact, camouflage has become such an essential part of modern warfare that to be without it lessens your chances of survival drastically.

Brigade Quartermasters, a Georgia-based supplier of adventure

ADVENTURE QUARTERMASTER

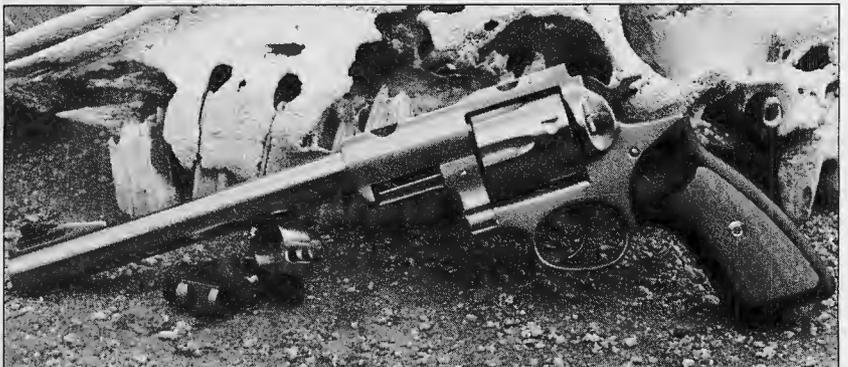
by Tom Slizewski



gear, has recently advanced the state of the art in camouflage with the introduction of its All-Season, All-Terrain (ASAT) line. It spent eight years developing ASAT and the result is camouflage that significantly "out hides" conventional camo in urban and rural environments. ASAT eliminates the blobbing effect often associated with conventional camo by combining large, tricolored pattern blotches with high tonal contrast in a

pattern that blends into shapes found outdoors.

ASAT is currently available in tan or gray. Jackets and trousers cost \$39.95 each, mesh baseball caps \$4.50. A boonie hat (not pictured) is also available for \$11.99. For further information or to order Brigade's catalog (costs \$3), contact Brigade Quartermasters, Dept. SOF, 1025 Cobb International Blvd., Kennesaw, GA 30144; phone (404) 428-1234.



SUPER REDHAWK

One of the first two models to be introduced in Sturm, Ruger & Company's new series of double-action revolvers is the .44 Magnum Super Redhawk.

Available in 7½- and 9½-inch barrel lengths and expressly designed for the powerful .44 Magnum cartridge, this heavy-frame revolver should hold considerable appeal for hunters and metallic target shooters alike.

Super Redhawk is vastly improved over its predecessors. The most significant improvements are the

massive extended frame design and use of an integral scope mounting system, which provides a solid scope mounting surface (mounting rings come standard with all Super Redhawks). Also worthy of mention are Ruger's new cushioned grip panels, which provide a comfortable, non-slip hold and cushion recoil considerably.

The only thing standing between you and this fine firearm is about \$470. Contact Sturm, Ruger & Co., Dept. SOF, 49 Lacey Place, Southport, CT 06490; phone (203) 259-7843.

WEATHER RESISTANT "FOXHOLE" RADIO

This Sony radio provides a subdued look with lively full color sound. Compact design 5 7/8" x 3 3/8" x 1 11/16" and only 13.5 ozs. AM/FM reception. Features: electronic band selector, electronic volume, 20 second memory night light, retractable telescoping antenna, ear plug, rubber end protector, nylon neck strap, and 4.5V DC jack (transformer sold separately below). Uses three AA batteries (not included).



SF07-4019 \$69.95
SF07-4016 4.5 Volt Transformer \$6.95

BRITISH REGIMENTAL M. O. D. KNIFE

PARA PROTECTION



Heavy-duty worldwide action. Actual issue to the British Army Parachute Regiment. Its carbon steel blade is 7" long. The brown rosewood handle is riveted with 3 solid copper pins for machete-like strength and feel. Especially strong knife when your needs include digging, wedging or prying. Overall length, 12 1/4". Brown leather scabbard. Imported from England.

SF07-1120 \$49.95

U.S. CAVALRY FOR GIFTS, SURVIVAL, & ADVENTURE

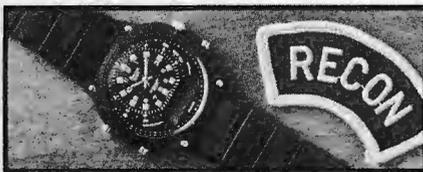
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED!



COMPACT SHORT WAVE RADIO

9 band availability. AM/FM and 1-7 Short Wave. Compact hand size: 5 1/4" x 3 x 1". It weighs 9 ozs. with two AA batteries (not included). Can also be DC powered with three-volt converter (not included but readily available at your local electronics store). Earphone, short wave guide, carrying case, and wrist strap provided.

SF07-4058 \$119.95



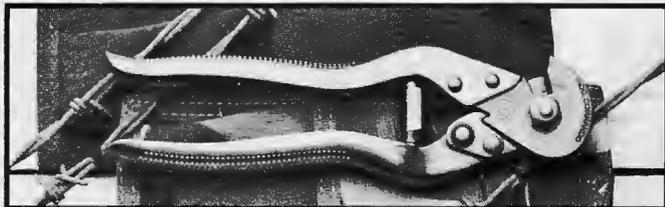
DOUBLE TIME WATCH

Keeps track of two different times concurrently. Independent analog and LCD digital timepieces in one watch. Accurate quartz movement. Never needs winding. 50 meter water resistance. Luminous hands and a self-contained light allows easy low light and night reading. Digital display features 12 or 24 hour format, minutes, seconds, month, day, year, chronograph stopwatch, 24 hour alarm, and hourly chime. Mineral glass, non-scratch crystal, and tough black acrylic resin case.

SF05-0530 \$39.95

COMMANDO WIRE CUTTERS

Swiss manufactured. Cuts all wire, cable, military style concertina wire, and razor tape, as well as barbed wire. Tempered jaws.



Spring-loaded handles lock down for storage. 7 1/2" x 2 1/2". Weight 10 ozs. Case sold below.

SF07-2200 \$31.95

Propex Canvas Case. Snap flap closure and belt loop. ALICE clips not included but may be used.

SF07-2198 Woodland Camo \$5.95 SF07-2199 Black \$5.95

TACTICAL SHAVER

Ready when time is short and water isn't accessible or must be saved. Move the head outward and it's on; inward and it's off. 2 1/4" x 2 1/4" x 1 1/2". Includes vinyl case. Uses two AA batteries (not included).

SF05-1578 \$9.99

SF05-1577 Extra Blade Unit \$2.49



ADVENTURER'S BULL WHIP

In the trained and practiced hand, the Bull Whip can be a tool for reaching objects, a weapon for protection, or intimidation to large animals. Perfectly balanced eight-plait tapered top-grain latigo leather. 10' whip is controlled by a covered revolving steel handle. Used by cattlemen, survivalists, and adventurers. American made. Wear eye protection while training.

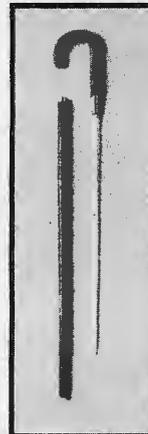
SF07-2192 \$49.95



SLEEVE KNIFE™

Have something up your sleeve handy and ready to use. Not a toy. It's small so it's easily tucked away and undetectable. Yet its rubber covered grip is large enough to effectively deploy the 2 3/4" blade. Fits into its own nylon protective sheath that can be carried on your belt, or it straps to your arm or leg.

SF07-2159 \$14.95



SWORD CANE

Concealed inside this genuine maple gentleman's cane is a sword made of the finest stainless steel. One pull on the classy carved crook-shaped handle transforms you from a gentleman with a cane to a force to be reckoned with. Prior to ordering, check your local ordinances for owning and carrying this product.

SF07-2211 \$129.95



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SURVIVE WITH SURVIVOR

Is there a nuclear reactor in your neighborhood? Chances are there's one close enough to be dangerous should a nuclear accident occur. Human senses can't detect high radiation levels until it's too late. If you want to be warned about a radiation hazard before your hair begins falling out, get Survivor Radiation Warning Receiver.

In addition to detecting alpha, beta and gamma rays, Survivor also warns of high levels of X-rays and radioactive radon gas.

Because power failures would likely accompany a nuclear accident, Survivor has a built-in rechargeable battery which activates whenever the primary power source ceases. This feature also makes Survivor portable and allows for 24 hours of use before recharging.

This could well be the best \$185 (includes postage) you ever spent. Available from Threshold Technical Products, Dept. SOF, 7225 Edington Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45249; phone (513) 530-5242.

EMERGENCY KIT

Many of us would never consider buying a "survival kit." The very

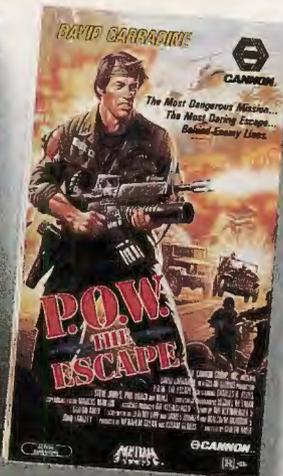
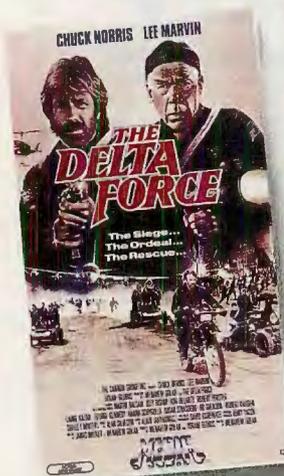


word "survival" brings to mind nuclear Armageddon, concrete bunkers and armed mobs looting in the streets. More often, however, survival means weathering a hurricane, flood or other natural disaster and alerting rescue personnel as to your location. The time period involved between when a disaster strikes and when the rescue crews arrive may be only a few hours or could last several days, depending on the severity of the situation.

During this time you'll need to survive. That's where Elliot Emergency Survival Packs come in. Each kit contains necessities for survival: a heavy-duty flashlight, extra batteries, 4 ounces of water, 2 pounds of high-protein food, first-aid kit, calibrated drinking cup, signal mirror, jackknife, can opener, matches, candles and survival manual. Optional extras such as parachute flares, fishing kits and whistles are also available at additional cost. The basic kit sells for \$99, with discounts available for bulk orders.

All items in the kit are U.S. Coast Guard approved. Contact the distributor, Seaco, Inc., Dept. SOF, 3874 Fiscal Court, Riviera Beach, FL 33404; phone (305) 842-8900. ✖

BLOW THEM AWAY THIS CHRISTMAS.



Action-packed films, on video-cassette, make explosive gifts! And now, blockbusters like "The Delta Force" (starring Chuck Norris and Lee Marvin), "Murphy's Law" (with "hit man" Charles Bronson), and "POW, The Escape" (with David Carradine), are only \$19.95!

We've specially priced 21 hits, in time for Christmas. Get them at your video store, where the action is.



HITS FOR THE HOLIDAYS: ONLY \$19.95

- The Delta Force
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- POW, The Escape
- Cross of Iron
- Blademaster
- Eagle's Wing
- Naked Cage
- Nightmare on Elm Street
- Nightmare on Elm Street II
- Choose Me
- 3:15
- Hamburger
- Chanel Solitaire
- The Grey Fox
- Santa Claus, The Movie
- Day of the Dead
- Stitches
- Touch of Class
- Elvis: '68 Comeback Special
- Elvis: Aloha from Hawaii
- Elvis: One Night With You



FINALLY! A WATCH THAT'S TOUGH AS YOU!

X-SHOCK-PLUS

\$5200 postpaid



Liquid-filled, slide on compass fits on band. **\$4.00 each postpaid.**

Here's a watch that can stand up to your rough treatment and begs for more. The X-Shock-Plus is specially made for men on the GO — construction workers, truckers, bikers, police, flyers, military, hunters & sportsmen. This handsome watch is finished with flat black case and band. It's lightweight (under 5-oz.) and trim, yet heavy-duty. Secret to its tough performance are EIGHT miniature shock absorbers that protect X-Shock-Plus's hi-tech electronic workings. These shock absorbers are surrounded by a rugged stainless steel case which in turn is covered by a urethane resin casing. THREE LEVELS OF PROTECTION to take the most destructive abuse! Bang it...drop it...stomp it...freeze it...X-Shock-Plus is water and shock resistant to 1,650-feet. Any torture you could subject X-Shock-Plus to would probably kill you first! X-Shock-Plus's exclusive tough construction is reason enough to buy. But check out this long list of features, including NEW sports functions: Super QUARTZ DIGITAL accuracy; 12/24 hour (military/European) time; light for viewing in the dark; displays hour, minutes, seconds, AM/PM, month, date, day of week; auto-calendar; daily alarm and hourly chime; dual time zones; 24 hour stopwatch accurate to 1/100th second; records 2 split/lap times plus cumulatives of those times; pacer sets from 65 to 215 beats per minute; calculates distance walked/run in miles/kilometers; programmable stride from 1" to 10"; repeatable countdown timer settable from 24 hours to 0; comes complete with long life Lithium battery. \$52.00 postpaid or two for \$99.00 and three for \$141.00 postpaid. Liquid filled, slide on compass fits on band, \$4.00 each.

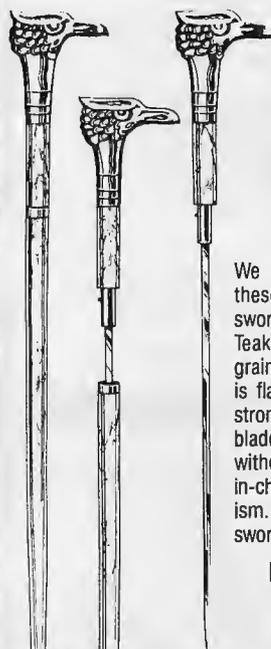


EAGLE SWORD CANE

\$148 postpaid

The NAPOLEON BONAPARTE Eagle Sword Cane is the masterpiece of our French Collection. From handle to sword-tip, one of the most beautiful canes we have ever seen. Stunning silverplate eagle head is intricately reproduced with a jeweler's eye for detail, perfectly complements the dark brown cane shaft. Sword is made of high carbon steel, with tri-foil design tapering to a distinct point. A collector's must!

\$148.00



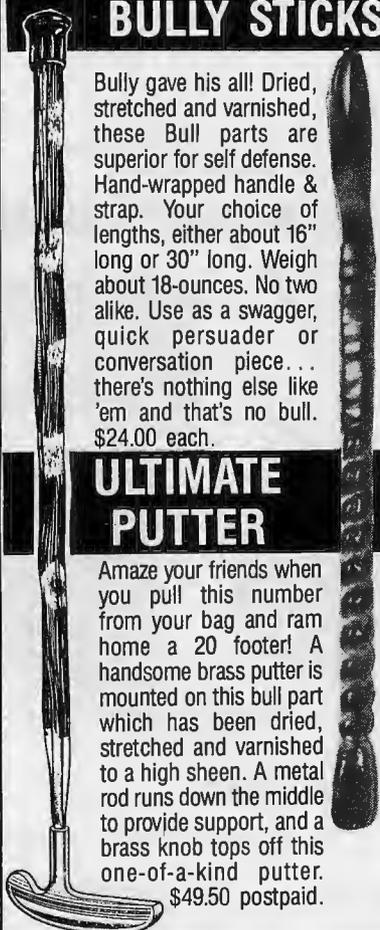
BRASS EAGLE SWORD CANE

We made a great buy on these brass Eagle head sword canes. Shaft is of Teakwood, with lustrous grain and finish. The sword is flat style, hard steel, so strong you can pound the blade into a hardwood floor without dulling the tip! Pin-in-channel locking mechanism. 36" overall length, 32" sword.

Priced right at \$49.00 postpaid.

BULLY STICKS

Bully gave his all! Dried, stretched and varnished, these Bull parts are superior for self defense. Hand-wrapped handle & strap. Your choice of lengths, either about 16" long or 30" long. Weigh about 18-ounces. No two alike. Use as a swagger, quick persuader or conversation piece... there's nothing else like 'em and that's no bull. **\$24.00 each.**



ULTIMATE PUTTER

Amaze your friends when you pull this number from your bag and ram home a 20 footer! A handsome brass putter is mounted on this bull part which has been dried, stretched and varnished to a high sheen. A metal rod runs down the middle to provide support, and a brass knob tops off this one-of-a-kind putter. **\$49.50 postpaid.**

TEAR GAS

PENalyzer CS Tear Gas \$8.95



Looks like an ordinary ball point pen, complete with pocket clip. But pull off the cap and you've got a potent punch of CS Tear GAS at your disposal. Wear PENalyzer in your shirt pocket and have unobtrusive security no matter where you are. 8g aerosol shoots disabling blast 6 to 8 feet. PENalyzer is filled in France by one of the world's oldest and largest manufacturers of chemicals and equipment for police/military applications. Special Dutchman price of \$8.95 each or six for \$29.00 postpaid. Hurry, supplies are limited on this very unique product.

SMITH & WESSON MACE®

Don't mistake MACE with lesser tear gas aerosols. Chemical MACE delivers a potent punch of highly purified CN tear gas to incapacitate an assailant allowing you plenty of time to get away. MK-VI unit comes in individual gunlike case with real trigger action. Unique pistol grip allows quick hand orientation and sure action; attach to key-ring, purse or belt. Fires about 25 half-second bursts. Order one for **\$14.50** and SAVE by ordering six for **\$60.00**.



PARALYZER TEAR GAS

Sold at wholesale prices while quantities last!

Police Model shoots a stream of tear gas 18 feet. Fires 70, one-second blasts. List price \$8.95. Sale price only **\$6.50 each**, or 6 for \$30.



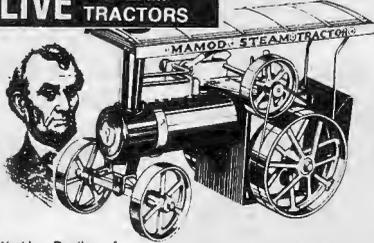
SILVER MONKEY SWORD CANE

Brand New! Direct from France, the latest offering from our French cane maker. Its devilish grin and piercing eyes beg the question, "What's this monkey got up its sleeve?" That we can only guess, but we do know this monkey means business with its 32" high carbon steel tri-foil sword. An internal pin-in-channel locking mechanism keeps the sword securely in place; a quarter turn unsheathes/sheathes. The Silver Monkey is a full body rendition, wrapping itself around the cane shaft as if climbing a tree. The intricate design of the monkey highlights its precise detail, and is joined to a highly lacquered brown hardwood shaft with horn tip rounding out this collector's piece. **\$175.00 postpaid.** Be one of the first people in America to own this sword cane!



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50,000 VOLTS!

The Nova XR5000 Stun Gun can protect you from attackers.

STUN GUN will instantly "scramble" attacker's nervous system causing immediate (temporary) paralysis! By simply touching your attacker anywhere, he will drop helpless even through many layers of clothing. STUN GUN is not lethal and is safe to use. Cannot transmit shock back to you. Requires a 9 volt nicad battery and charger \$16.00. The Nova is sold with a leather holster for \$63.00 postpaid. This is the authentic American made product. Put 50,000 volts in the palm of your hand, order today.

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SWORD UMBRELLA



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Known to be popular with agents of fact and fiction. Oversize black umbrella, matching handle, 32" high carbon steel quadrafoil sword in umbrella shaft. 36" overall length. \$130.00.

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NEW! "SOUND CUT-OUT" CIRCUIT

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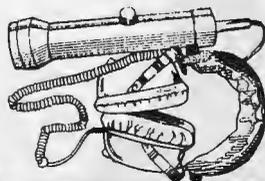


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FARFOON

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BIONIC EAR

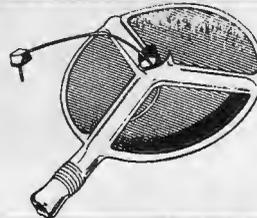


Our price \$68.00 postpaid and that includes a tape jack and sound shut-off circuit standard.

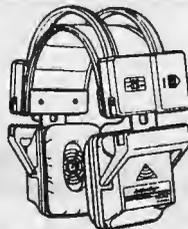
BIONIC BOOSTER

Optional Booster increases pick-up by 37%. \$39.00 postpaid.

SAVE: ORDER THE COMBO PAK FOR JUST \$98.00 POSTPAID.



ACTION EAR



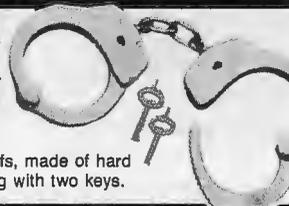
Same as Bionic Ear but with TWO microphones mounted in the headset for hands free stereo operation. Sound shut-off circuit standard.

Our regular \$118.50, **SALE PRICE \$99.00 postpaid.**

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Order our Top Model #28/754 for \$25.00, holster \$8.00 or our Standard Model #28/765 for \$15.00, holster \$4.00. Both are professional cuffs, made of hard steel, double locking with two keys.



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Praised by SWAT teams/police, serious shooters & sportsmen. 3 in 1 ELECTRONIC hearing: Sound Amplifier, Sound Suppressor & Top Quality Ear Muffs. Stereo operation. "Off" gives conventional ear muffs. "On" lets two sensitive, powerful microphones in each muff detect low level sounds and AMPLIFY to normal hearing level; loud noises are SUPPRESSED to acceptable levels. Volume control knob for precise pickup. Powered by 9v battery, is lightweight and has one year warranty. \$148.00 postpaid.



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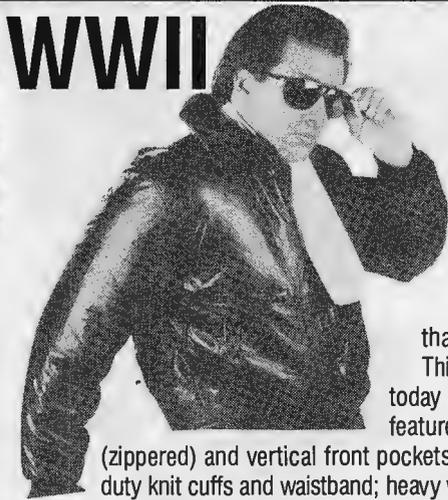
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WWII

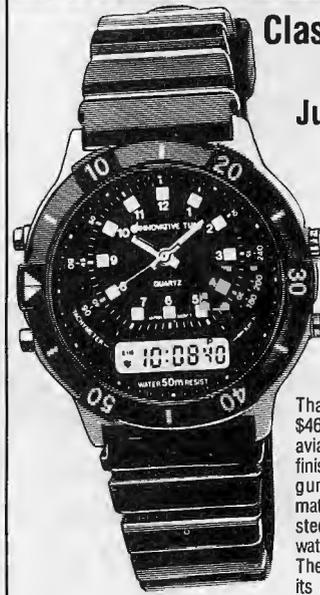


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For just \$46.00 because it's made of all THE RIGHT STUFF. The classic WW II Bomber Jacket for the flyer/Racer look. Made of Dura-Hide, a man-made leather that defies you to tell it from the real thing. This is your chance to pick up the hottest look today at a very reasonable price. Check out these features: Heavy duty Brass zippers; horizontal (zippered) and vertical front pockets; zippered left sleeve utility pocket; heavy duty knit cuffs and waistband; heavy weight pile collar; stylish epaulettes on each shoulder; inside storm flap for wind resistance; 100% nylon lining; 8-ounces polyester body fill for great warmth that doesn't weigh you down. This is the jacket taking America by storm... **DON'T MISS OUT...** be a TOP GUN (or make the Top Gun in your life happy) by ordering TODAY for just \$46.00 + \$3.00 shipping. Specify XS (30-32), S (34-36), M (38-40), L (42-44), XL (46) and XXL (48-50) and be sure to tell us BLACK or BROWN color. Youth sizes also available.



NIGHT COMMAND

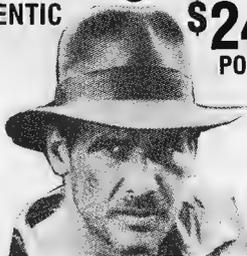


Classic Pilot's Watch Just \$46.00 POSTPAID

Analog/Digital Combo

That's right, for only \$46.00 you can have this aviator/racer watch. It's finished in handsome gunmetal black with matching black stainless steel band. The classic watch, because it has all The Right Stuff — from its All Business outside to its high-tech electronic workings. This is today's most popular watch — the perfect blend of history and style for men on the GO. Check out these features: Both Analog AND Digital time displays with luminous hands and numeral markers and LCD display; allows for dual time zone settings; has 12/24 European/Military time settings; reads hours, minutes, seconds, AM/PM, month, date and day of week; has a daily alarm and hourly chime; has a one-hour stopwatch with 1/100th second resolution; times splits, laps, time-outs and 1st/2nd place finishes; has a rotary time ring bezel, is water resistant to 50 meters (165-feet); has a 1 1/2 year battery; and mineral glass crystal so it will never scratch! PLUS the intricate QUARTZ movement is accurate to an amazing +/- 15 seconds a month. At \$46.00 postpaid it's a deal, but save by buying two for \$86.00 and save again when you order three for \$120.00 postpaid.

INDIANA JONES™ AUTHENTIC HAT \$24.95 POSTPAID



We have the authentic INDIANA JONES™ hat. Now the adventure can be yours!

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The Warmth & Comfort of a SWEATSHIRT. The Style & Good Looks of a WATERPROOF SPORT JACKET. Brand New! Finally somebody got smart and put these TWO great styles together: Inside is a zippered SWEATSHIRT, with warm & comfortable fleece hood & belly warmer to keep you snug. Next comes a 100% coated nylon lining with 4-ounces of polyester fill for the kind of warmth that doesn't weigh you down. Finally, the outside jacket is WATERPROOF Nylon with snaps on front and on side pockets. This tough outdoors jacket has a good looking matching knit collar, cuffs and waistband for an overall appearance that says Top Gun no matter what game you're playing. It's the layered look in one GREAT jacket! Available in S, M, L, XL and XXL (see flite jacket sizing) and be sure to tell us Black, Red, Navy, Royal or Silver. \$42.00 postpaid.

DUCK PHONE HOLY QUACK! QUACK PHONE



Replace Ma Bell with the Duck that talks — the original QUACK Phone. Amaze your pals — pick up your Duck and dial! This colorful two-piece wood decoy has a full feature tone/pulse/redial phone built into its body. When the phone rings... err, QUACKS, the duck's LED eyes light up, too. The QUACK Phone is handcrafted and painted in bright duck colors. It's a lot more attractive than your standard phone and a conversation piece to boot! FCC approved and discount long distance service compatible. Order QU2 for just \$79.95 postpaid.



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Cancer causing Radon seeps into your home, collects in deadly concentrations and is now #2 cause of Lung Cancer. Test your home NOW with RADTRAK Radon Detectors: 1) QUICK SCREEN (\$24.95), a five day test that tells you FAST if Radon contamination is present, and 2) ALPHA TRACK (\$39.95) a super sophisticated three-month test for peace of mind only long term testing gives. SAVE, order both for \$59.95. No other costs. Each kit comes complete with detector & postage-paid mailer. Send to RADTRAK & in FIVE days you'll have confidential computer analysis of Radon contamination. 30+ years in professional radiation detecting now available to homeowners in EASY & INEXPENSIVE kits. We pay shipping. Order from:

FOLDING TRENCH KNIFE



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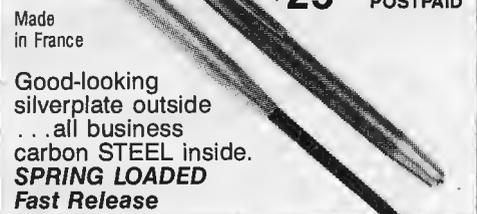
THUMB CUFF

\$10.00 POSTPAID
Double lock thumbcuff — 2 keys. Nickel plated steel. Vinyl carrying case.



SILVER GUARDIAN

\$25 POSTPAID
Made in France
Good-looking silverplate outside... all business carbon STEEL inside. **SPRING LOADED Fast Release**

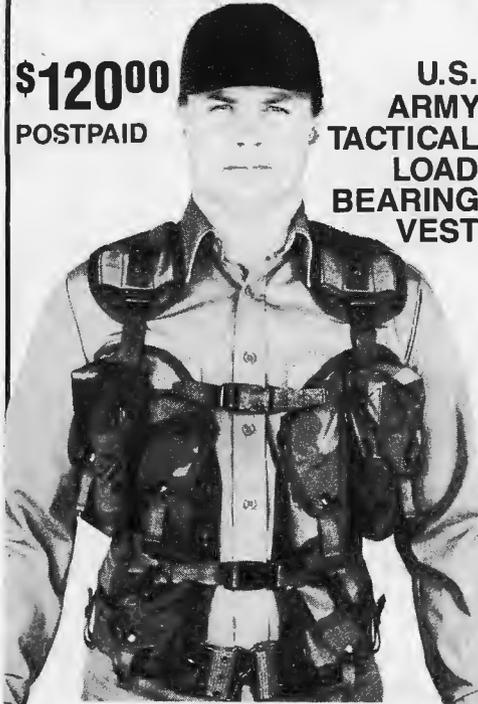


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- Mil spec - replaces outdated Alice Type systems
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- Type IIA parachute cord lacing for adjustable side openings
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- Alice Type clips on top of shoulders attach packs
- D rings on back attach other items
- One size fits all - fully adjustable
- Brand New

PORTABLE ELECTRONIC PERIMETER ALARM



Tiny 4" x 4" Electronic Motion Detector AUTOMATICALLY senses any movement in its path. Now you've got a PORTABLE SECURITY DEVICE that's sensitive enough to detect any person or object moving past it. Upon sensing movement a piercing 90db alarm sounds instantaneously. Use it to guard your perimeter, or for easy set-up security when camping, boating, or guarding your home or office. Applications are endless — you can even use this alarm to announce guests. The Electronic Perimeter Alarm is super sensitive thanks to a specially designed sleeve that gives it a narrow field of view for pinpoint detection. The unit has a 360° swivel head so you can mount it on walls or ceilings, as well as any flat surface. Solid state and powered by an inexpensive 9v battery. Small and easily moved from site to site, and priced right for just \$32.50 postpaid. Order this little jewel and never worry about your backside again!

INCREDIBLE NIGHT VISION

AN/PAS-5 INFRARED GOGGLES

- Used by U.S. forces in Viet Nam and refined by the Israeli Army for desert warfare and counter-terrorist campaigns. Our Israeli contact secured a number of these AN/PAS-5's. They come direct from Israeli storerooms, are in excellent condition and are operation-ready.
- Now you can see them... but they can't see you! You blend into the night — virtually INVISIBLE — yet your infrared goggles turn night into day. Put the ultimate in high-tech on your side. Ideal for surveillance, hunting, war games, police work, survival settings, home security, urban patrolling... the applications are endless.
- These AN/PAS-5's are designed for "hands free" operation, fit snug and comfortably on your head. Weight 11-oz. Here's what you get: 1) AN/PAS-5 infrared goggle binoculars 2) close-up lens assembly 3) light restriction caps 4) operating manual 5) mercury battery 6) high impact carrying case 7) super concave 4 1/2" infrared filter 8) Blue Streak 110,000 candlepower Rescue Light with Krypton bulb 9) adjusting head strap assembly. Extra Mercury Batteries \$5.00 each, 1-3/4" Filter \$12.00, 5-3/8" Filter \$16.00.

**Lets You See Them...
But They Can't See You**



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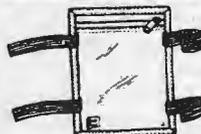
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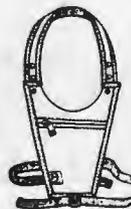


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IN REVIEW



BROTHERHOOD OF WAR and THE CORPS series. By W.E.B. Griffin. Jove Publications, Inc., Dept. SOF, 200 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016. Review by John Coleman.

NOT since Anton Myrer's brilliant *Once an Eagle* has a writer managed to

capture the traditions and flavor of the Army's officer corps — warts and all. W.E.B. Griffin's **Brotherhood of War** series begins, as did *Once an Eagle*, with young officers and soon-to-be officers stepping into the threshold of war. In this instance, it's World War II. Griffin then holds on to the same main characters as they rise in rank (hence his titles: *The Lieutenants*, *The Captains*, *The Majors*, *The Colonels*, *The Berets* and *The Generals*), fighting our country's battles on both the field of honor and along the halls of the Pentagon.

It's the most revealing and realistic treatment we've seen of the Army and its officer corps, and each book, though best read in sequence, pro-

vides first-rate, stand-alone entertainment.

After running out of Army officer ranks, Griffin turned his attention to the U.S. Marine Corps' officer corps, following much the same format as he did in his first series. **The Corps** novels start out with the China Marines (*Semper Fi*) and then graduate to World War II, where Griffin tackles the still-controversial Evans F. Carlson and his Marine Raiders (*Call to Arms*).

We also suggest you check out Griffin's latest book, *The New Breed* (in hardcover from Putnam), a continuation of his **Brotherhood of War** series which throws his family of Army officers into the 1964 Congo uprising. Front-line entertainment at its best.



GOOD FRIDAY. A novel by Robert Lawrence Holt. Tab Books Inc., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 40, Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214. 1987. 224 pages. Hardcover. \$14.95. Review by John Coleman.

YOU'RE not going to run across a more timely novel about the Middle East, or one as brisk and downright enjoyable, as Robert Holt's **Good Friday**.

The place: oil fields of the Persian Gulf. The time: now. The scenario: The Soviet Union launches an invasion from Afghanistan into Saudi Arabia to seize the Saudis' oil fields. America's president, elected on a defense cutback platform, must make a decision on how to checkmate this threat to our Middle Eastern oil pipeline. His solution? Launch a counter-invasion.

Sound implausible? Not in the least — if you've been keeping an eye on today's headlines.

Holt does a superb job of blending believable characters — American,

Soviet and Saudi — and order-of-battle forces and equipment into this tightly written plot. His grasp of political and military realities, from the War Room in Washington to the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh to the cockpit of a Marine AV-8B V/STOL, seems solid, as does his understanding of the Byzantine Saudi royal family.

It's a tough job for any writer to pack a well-crafted novel into a 48-hour time line, but Holt pulls this one off admirably. There's enough high-level geopolitical intrigue and strategy, battlefield heroics and bad guys here to satisfy fans of both General Sir John Hackett and Mack Bolan.

Clear off your schedule for **Good Friday**. You won't want interruptions once you turn the first page.

THE NEW MERCENARIES. A History of the Hired Soldier from the Congo to the Seychelles. By Anthony Mockler. Paragon House Publishers, Dept. SOF, 2 Hamarskjold Plaza, New York, NY 10017. 1987. 374 pages. Hardcover. \$19.95. Review by G.B. Crouse.

BOOKS on mercenary soldiering have most often been limited to former hired soldiers' memoirs, such as Rolf Steiner's *The Last Adventurer* or Colonel Mike Hoare's *Congo Mercenary*. There are also academic works, such as Gerry Thomas' *The Mercenary Soldier in Modern Africa*, and occasionally

even a book such as *Firepower*, which offers a rare glimpse inside the workings of a particular operation.

But a general and comprehensive account of mercenary soldiering is hard to come by. Several years ago, Anthony Mockler wrote such a book, *The Mercenaries*. But recent events and new information have outdated this once-standard reference, so Mockler has gone back to work, updating his previous effort. The result is **The New Mercenaries**.

Mockler's new book provides historical background on mercenary soldiering, examines institutions such as the French Foreign Legion and looks at what the future holds for the mercenary trade. His main focus is the wars

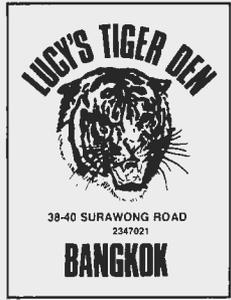
and coups in the Congo, Biafra, Angola, the Comoros and the Seychelles — which together comprise the most significant and widely publicized mercenary operations of modern times.

The New Mercenaries is not quite complete, concentrating as it does on Africa and the Indian Ocean. But Mockler's long association with the subject matter and his personal rapport with many of the famous mercenary leaders has allowed him to provide one of the few balanced and accurate examinations of mercenary soldiering available. As a result, **The New Mercenaries** will serve, as did Mockler's previous book, as a standard reference on the subject of hired soldiers in recent times. ✕



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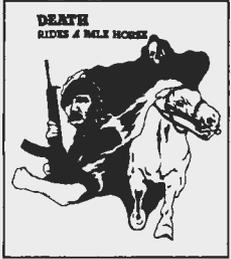
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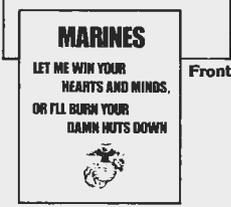
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IT was midday in late fall of 1970 when I received a call from my company commander to move my rifle platoon to a landing zone (LZ) for extraction. One of our sister companies in 2/5 Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) was in heavy contact on the edge of a massive NVA bunker complex in our III Corps area of operations of Vietnam. The plan was to conduct a combat air assault of our entire company on an LZ on the far side of the bunker complex from where our sister company was in contact. It was to be a classic squeeze play.

Needless to say, our pucker factor was high when we finally conducted our air assault. Never before had we faced such a strong likelihood that the LZ would be "hot." Fortunately, the only resistance we encountered was one lone hand grenade chucked at us from an enemy observation post as we moved into the LZ's tree line. There were no casualties. Our company quickly formed up for movement to the bunker complex several hundred meters away. My platoon was assigned the point position. As platoon leader, I positioned myself in the front with only my point man and his slack (cover) man in front of me.

We advanced gingerly toward the enemy bunker complex, never knowing when we would run into it. On several previous occasions we had encountered such bunker complexes. Invariably the bunkers themselves were superbly camouflaged and supplied with firing slits that provided excellent grazing fire. All too often they also had the Chicom version of claymore mines in front of the bunkers. To say we were highly alert would be a gross understatement.

Unfortunately, the move to an extraction LZ, the flight to the insertion LZ, the air assault itself, and the forming up and movement had eaten up most of the day. It was late afternoon when my point man signaled that he had a bunker in sight. After radioing the situation to my company CO, I formed a clearing patrol out of the front half of my platoon. We stealthily crept toward the bunker, which we found to be unoccupied.

I then moved back 50 yards or so to the company CO's position to report the situation and to make my recommendations. It was quite clear that we had a huge bunker complex between ourselves and our sister company. It was several hundred meters across and probably consisted of more than 100 bunkers and fighting positions. By this time our sister company was no longer in actual contact but was still deployed on the edge of the far side of the complex. The lateness in the day severely limited our possible oper-



I WAS THERE

by Charles Karwan

Ground Logic Overrules Aerial Orders



"Somehow I felt that if the battalion commander were down on the ground in the murky jungle with the point platoon instead of flying around at 3,000 feet in the sunshine, he might have a different outlook." Photo: DoD

ational options.

My company CO made a radio report to our battalion CO, who was circling the area in his command and control (C&C) helicopter. The battalion commander ordered us to proceed into the complex, clearing it as we went. When my company commander passed along these orders, I had no recourse but to protest. I pointed out that it was already so late that visibility was getting poor. Clearing bunkers is a slow and meticulous process even with good visibility. It was obvious that we would not be able to get even halfway through the complex before it became pitch dark. Then we would have our entire company inside an enemy bunker complex with almost no knowledge of the layout. The enemy could then easily make use of his intimate knowledge of the complex's tunnels, spider holes and bunkers to attack us with grenades, claymores and anything else they had to throw at us. To make matters worse, we would not be able to use supporting artillery, mortars, gunships or air strikes because the

enemy would actually be inside our own positions.

From my viewpoint the chance of gaining anything from proceeding into the complex that late in the day was far outweighed by our potential for losses. It would be *stupid* to put ourselves in such a dangerous situation. Much to his credit, my company commander agreed with me and called the battalion CO back to try to get him to change his orders. After a somewhat heated exchange and a sincere effort on the part of my CO, the battalion commander still would not budge. We were ordered to proceed into the complex. I could not help but think of the old Polish proverb: "No task is too difficult as long as it is someone else who has to do it." Somehow I felt that if the battalion commander were down on the ground in the murky jungle with the point platoon instead of flying around at 3,000 feet in the sunshine, he might have a different outlook.

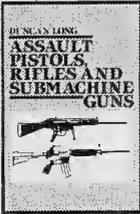
I was in a tough spot. I had the choice of following orders and putting the entire company at severe and unnecessary risk or figuring out some way to defy the orders. All my training at West Point with its emphasis on "Duty, Honor, Country," my airborne training with its jump-into-hell attitude, and my Ranger training with its can-do

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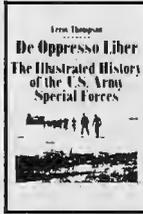


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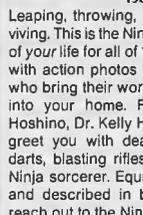
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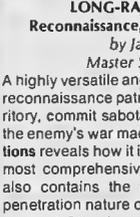
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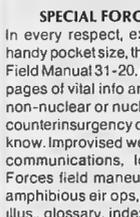
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ABOVE: View of frontal assault. SAS troopers prepare to force entry into the Iranian Embassy after terrorists executed one of their 26 hostages and threatened to kill another every fifteen minutes.



ABOVE RIGHT: Pre-assault assembly of rear assault group. Minutes later television stations in Britain began live coverage of the assault. Eleven minutes later, the siege was over, all but one of the terrorists dead and the SAS on their way back to Hereford.

SOF HOSTAGE RESCUE

7 YEARS FOR 11 MINUTES

SAS Training Pays Off at Princes Gate

by Jim Shortt

Photos Courtesy Ministry of Defence

SOF REGULAR

Jim Shortt, a frequent contributor to *Soldier of Fortune Magazine*, is the author of numerous articles as well as six books on military and martial arts subjects. Shortt was formerly director of projects for a London-based security company. See his article on the Swedish Rangers, "Rebuffing the Bear," on page 84 of this issue.



SAS trooper with rappelling harness and leg bag.



ABOVE AND ABOVE RIGHT: First trooper of the rear assault party begins his rappel, becoming caught on the rope just short of his objective. Fires started by SAS stun grenades threatened the trooper's safety as he hung suspended until the raid was completed.

be six members of the *Martyr Muhyedden al Nasser Group* (named for an Arab separatist killed in Iran in 1963). The terrorists took 26 hostages, including Trevor Lock, an armed member of the Diplomatic Patrol Group (DPG).

Within minutes two constables of the DPG arrived

on motorbikes. Assessing the situation, they drew their .38 Smith & Wesson revolvers, radioed for assistance and secured the area. Soon they were joined by bright red DPG vehicles with their crews. Many of the DPG members present wanted to attempt a rescue of their colleague, Police Constable (PC) Lock, and the other hostages, but wiser counsels prevailed.

A call went out to the Metropolitan Police Firearms Unit (D11) to respond and provide a secure cordon around the seized building. Fourteen members of D11 arrived with Parker Hale rifles with telescopic sights. By noon DAC Dellow had arrived, backed up by the

AT 1907 hours on 6 May 1980, Deputy Assistant Commissioner (DAC) John Dellow, head of the Metropolitan Police "A" Department, passed a handwritten note on lined yellow paper to Lieutenant Colonel H.M. Rose, Commanding Officer of 22 Special Air Service (SAS) Regiment. The note read:

24 Princes Gate
London SW7

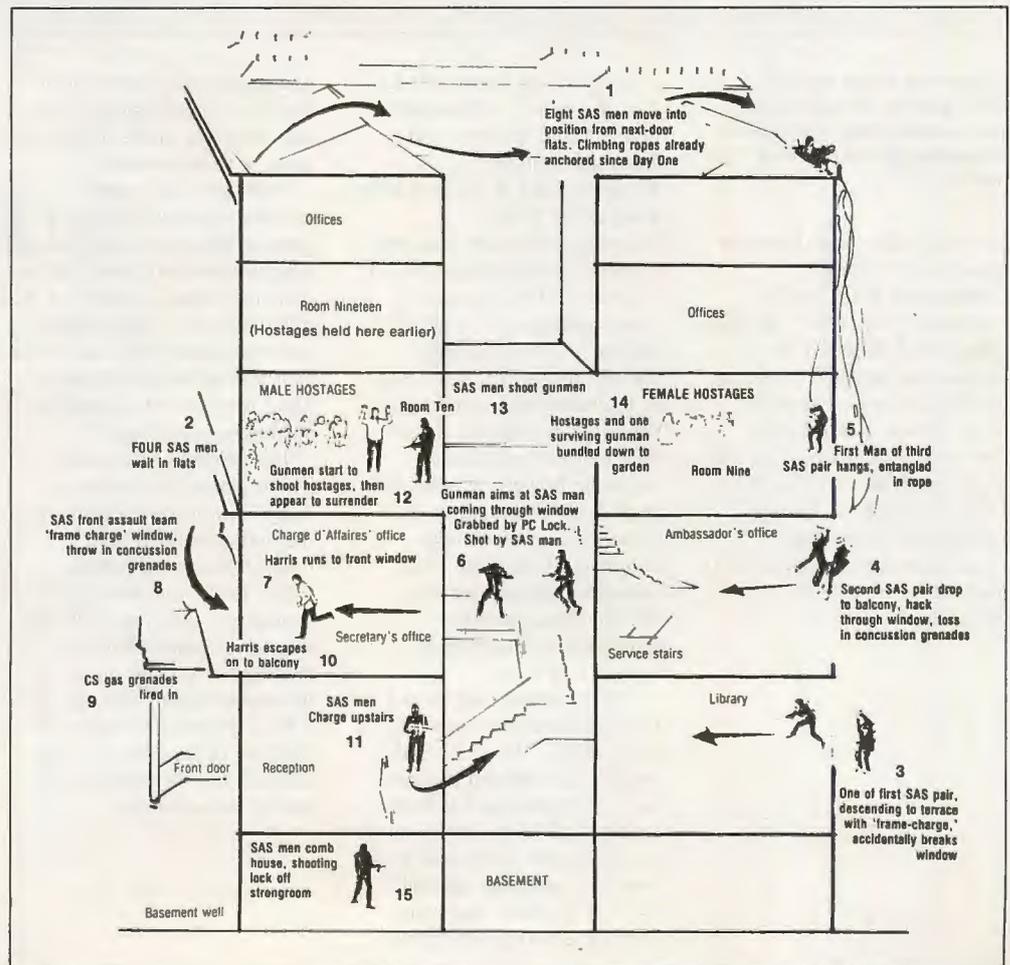
At 1907 on 6 May 1980, I, John Dellow DAC "A" passed control of Iranian Embassy incident to Lt Col HM Rose.

Signed
JD Dellow

Lieutenant Colonel Rose took the paper, signed it and ordered his assault teams to stand by.

Dellow and Rose were standing in the makeshift operations room of 24 Princes Gate. They had hurriedly assembled there the previous Wednesday, just after noon. Earlier that day, at 1120 hours, terrorists had seized the nearby Iranian Embassy at 16 Princes Gate. They claimed to

Diagram of the Iranian Embassy, detailing the progress of the SAS assault.





At the rear of the embassy (1925 hours), the eight-man rear assault group prepares to descend to the second floor balcony.

85-man Police Anti-Terrorist Squad (C13), under Commander Peter Duffy. Policemen from "B" Division (The Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea) set up roadblocks and secured an outer cordon marked with distinctive white tape. All 180 members of the Special Patrol Group of the Metropolitan Police had raced across London from various points to respond to the call for assistance.

Next on the scene was Lt. Col. Rose with a headquarters element and advance party from the Counter Revolutionary Warfare (CRW) wing of 22 SAS.

Accompanying him was the Officer Commanding (OC) B Squadron. The regiment's four squadrons — A, B, D and G — rotate through various duties. In May 1980 B Squadron was standing by for such an incident. Their OC and reconnaissance elements moved by helicopter from SAS headquarters to London. The remaining elements of the team, the sniper and assault groups, headed along the M4 motorway in their Range Rovers and vans.

The regiment had trained for this operation since the early 1970s. When 22 SAS was given a special projects role, no textbooks had been written and no real experience was available. They had to start from scratch. Special projects in those days was divided between prevention

and response; prevention in the form of bodyguard skills and response in the form of a counter-terrorist team.

When the first counter-terrorist team rolled out of the gates of Bradbury Lines (SAS's base in Hereford), they had not gone more than a quarter of a mile when their radio contact gave out. There were no special suits and no special weapons. Their response was limited to sniping or assaulting.

But progress was made. The regiment's demolitions wings developed method upon method of entry to get through doors, windows, walls, floors and roofs. The squadron's own boat, air and mountain troops evolved methods of getting on or into the assault point. A study of SWAT (Special Weapons & Tactics) in the United States showed various methods of ending armed sieges.

Camouflage uniforms gave way to blue, then black, boiler suits. Desert boots, parachuting gloves, an S6 respirator in case irritant gas is used in the assault, and a leather hip holster with an HP35 9mm Browning and an UZI 9mm SMG completed the kit. The UZI gave way to the Ingram and, by the time the now-standard H&K MP5 arrived, CRW troops wore black custom-made coveralls with hoods, often made of fire-retardant material. Black belt kits with holster, flexi-cuff pouch, stun grenade pouches, respirator haversack and three MP5 magazine pouches were the order of the day. Three magazines for the Browning pistol were carried, one in an elasticized wrist strap (known as a "wristrocket") and two on the thigh.

During the CRW teams' formative years they responded to situations ranging from



1927 hours: The first two members of the assault group rappel down. One trooper's rope and equipment tangle, jerking him upward and causing his foot to break a window.

criminals/terrorists barricaded in buildings, such as the Spaghetti House Siege and the Balcombe Street Siege, to hijacked aircraft at Heathrow and Stanstead airports. Members of the regiment had assisted the German anti-terrorist unit GSG9 in storming a hijacked Lufthansa jet aircraft in Somalia.

When the Iranian Embassy was taken over, the procedures settled upon over the years were put into force. The responsible departments sought out plans of the building and surrounding structures. Architects and all

workers involved with the building were brought in. A floor-by-floor scale model was constructed, accurate in every detail — the way in which a window opened or whether a door opened in or out. Information on both the hostages and hostage-takers was assembled from both cameras on the scene and from family albums and official records. Current intelligence was gathered from fiber optic lenses and from both membrane microphones (placed on the walls) and microphone probes (inserted into walls). Electronic intelligence teams tried to provide a constant, updated situation report on the position and number of hostages and hostage-takers.

Further intelligence was gathered from five hostages released by the terrorists on humanitarian grounds. It was discovered that there were in fact six terrorists. Their

descriptions were matched up to photographs taken by the police audio-visual department. The terrorists tried to fool the security forces and hostages by changing headdress and jackets. But they obviously had the same footwear and trousers, and usually retained their personal weapons.

All this information when collated was passed to the command and control element that formed the CRW team's intelligence cell. This cell then briefed the assault and sniper groups on who was who. The team members spent days memorizing the faces and names of the terrorists, just as they had done during tours in Northern Ireland searching out IRA and UVF terrorists.

Next a plan was formulated for the various contingencies. It was decided that only in the event of a hostage being shot or about to be shot would the police hand over control to the SAS. SAS decided that to assault the building their best position for waiting and

assembly would be in the offices of the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) next to the embassy. It was far enough from the press and shielded by a block of houses on its other side. By the second day of the siege all the inhabitants of the RCGP had been extracted through to the outer cordon.

After the first day of the siege the SAS troops had been all but forgotten. One DPG member volunteered to go out and buy them hamburgers from a nearby fast-food shop. After the first day the team members rotated in stages, those on stand-down staying at the Horse Guards Wellington Barracks nearby



SAS trooper in CRW kit with H&K MP5K and Browning HP35.



The rear ground assault party, having thrown in stun grenades, enters through the library window.

and relaxing by running in Hyde Park. A few days before the assault, a building architecturally similar to the embassy was found near Regent's Park and off-duty teams rotated there to practice the assault scenario.

It was decided that, in the event of an assault, eight members of the squadron's mountain troop would rappell off the rear of the roof to the second floor balcony, a further six men would assault through a rear ground floor window, and a four-man assault team with a frame charge made by the



regiment's demolitions wing would assault through a first-floor front balcony. A command and control group of six would monitor progress with a party of four (two front and two back) providing cover.

At 1740 hours Wednesday, the terrorists gave a 45-minute deadline, demanding that their conditions be met. At 1840 hours there were four shots inside the embassy. The body of an Iranian staff member was dumped outside. The terrorists announced that they would begin shooting someone every 15 minutes. The police had done all they could to resolve the situation without bloodshed. They handed over control to the SAS.

At 1915 hours, the first members of the roof assault party gathered on the roof, armed with H&K MP5A2s with Streamlight torches mounted on top. Stun

grenades and sledgehammers were carried. Usually with locked doors, a Remington 870 shotgun with rifled slugs is used to take off the locks and hinges, but because of the construction of the doors and the chance they could be barricaded it was decided to use sledgehammers to force entry. By 1920 hours the assault group had donned their S6 respirators, fastened their hoods and stood on the parapet waiting for the signal from the CO. At 1927 hours the first two descended, quickly followed by the rest.

All assault elements, front, back, upper and lower, would go in at 1930 hours. The first man off the roof slowed as he approached the balcony. But his rope ensnared with the horned figure "8" descender — and his weight on the line prevented disentanglement. The sudden jerk caused his head and upper torso to fall back as his seat harness was jerked upward by the shock, causing his left boot to break a pane of glass in the balcony

On the second floor balcony, the main assault group has run into problems. The door and windows have been barricaded by the terrorists and stun grenades have set the furniture and fittings on fire. Flames threaten their trapped comrade, whose clothing has been set afire.

window. The rest of the team pressed forward with the assault, certain that they had been heard. They were correct. Oan, the terrorist leader, was already on the negotiations phone demanding answers. His answer came in the form of stun grenade explosions and windows and window screens breaking under the assault of sledgehammers.

The ground floor assault party lifted the window, already having slipped the lock. Stealthily, the six men entered the library, weapons cocked, safeties off, covered by their rear party of a radio man and one assault team member.

At the front, two men in plainclothes, wearing balaclavas and carrying their respirators on their arms, covered the front of the building with HP35 Brownings. As one prepared to fire a 38mm riot gun loaded with a CS gas cartridge, two members of the front assault party traversed the first floor balconies, carrying H&K MP5s and a frame charge. As television stations switched to live coverage of the assault, they placed the frame charge and withdrew. The explosive charge removed the window leading to the *chargé d'affaires* office, providing an entry for the four-man front assault party.



While two men lower themselves to the first floor balcony and assault through the ambassador's office, the remaining five members press on with their assault despite the flames.

Once inside, shooting was immediately heard from the room above, where the male hostages were being held by three terrorists in the telex room. Responding to the shooting, one of the front cover party fired a CS gas canister through the window of the telex room. The terrorists responded by killing one hostage and wounding two others, but the irritant smoke prevented them from killing any more.

At the back, the assault team from the roof had considerable problems with the barricaded windows. Fires, started by exploding stun grenades, made entry hazardous at best. Two men descended to the balcony of the ambassador's office on the first floor while the other five went in through the upper section of the burning windows, receiving cuts and burns. The sixth, still hung up on his rope, dangled while his clothing caught fire.

In the ambassador's office on the first floor, the two SAS men were met by one of the terrorists, Hassan. Stun grenades thrown by the two had knocked Hassan, Oan and two hostages into confusion. Oan fled into a nearby office, as did the BBC's Sim Harris. Hassan, gun in hand, ran toward the ambassador's office, the source of the explosions. He was pursued by PC Lock, who tackled the terrorist before he could shoot at the two SAS men coming through the window. The SAS

men ordered Lock clear and then fired, killing Hassan.

Once inside the embassy, the CRW team carried out the task they had trained in for years — basic house clearing, but with an added proviso — you can only kill the bad guys. This is fraught with hazards — booby traps, ambushes from behind barricades, attacks from disorientated hostages, terrorists who try to surrender so they can get close enough to hostages and rescuers to explode charges strapped to their bodies. Nothing is left to chance; every arc of fire is covered in a fire-and-movement operation second to none. Door kicked open, stun grenades in, team crisscrosses into the room and takes out hostile targets ('malleting' them, in SAS jargon).

The assault team which entered from the rear swept through to the front of the building. The front assault party had swept through to the ambassador's office, linked up and started moving through the rooms. In the process, Oan was discovered and cut down by a burst from the MP5 of the lead trooper.

At the same time the five-man assault party from the second floor balcony swept through, finding the women hostages and the terrorist Ali, who surrendered. He and the women were thrown to SAS men placed at the bottom of each flight of steps and along the short landings.

Other members of the assault team, drawn by the sound of the shooting, crashed into room 10 (telex room) and through the irritant smoke to find one hostage dead and two wounded. They immediately killed the three terrorists hiding among the hostages.



Front cover party of two SAS troopers gives cover to firemen who try to douse the now-burning building. These two SAS men saved the lives of the hostages in the telex room on the second floor by accurately firing a CS gas canister into the room when the terrorists started to execute the hostages during the assault.

All hostages were quickly rushed out of the burning building. Ali, the only surviving terrorist, was flexi-cuffed and led away by police officers to the Royal College of General Practitioners and then to a waiting police vehicle.

Operation Nimrod, as the assault was named, lasted only 11 minutes. Afterward, three SAS men required hospital treatment. Unfortunately, some time later one of the heroes of the assault, Tommy Palmer, was

killed in a car crash in Northern Ireland.

Nimrod was a cool and efficient response to terrorism, which had plagued Britain for some eight years previously. In its wake things quieted considerably in London. In the words of one of the team, "Big boys' games — big boys' rules," and the terrorists didn't want to play in the big league.

Ali is still in prison and his comrades are buried in a London cemetery. The mastermind of the seizure, Sami Muhammad Ali, fled to Iraq and is still wanted for questioning by the police. When the staff of the Royal College of General Practitioners returned to work on the following Tuesday, the only signs that the SAS had paid a visit were the smoking shell of the Iranian Embassy next door, firemen removing the bodies of the terrorists and a cold half-eaten hamburger that one of the team had left behind when Lt. Col. Rose accepted a handwritten note — and a place in history. ✕

Outside the embassy. The only surviving terrorist, 19-year-old Ali, is flexi-cuffed by members of the cover group and assault group.

BELOW: Front view of the embassy after the assault.



BURMA'S UNLIKELY ALLIANCE

Bandits and Buddhists Join Forces in Golden Triangle

Text & Photos by Jake Border



"To fight you must have an army, and an army must have guns, and to buy guns you must have money. In these mountains, the only money is opium."

— General Tuan Shi-wen, 5th army of Kuomintang (KMT)



ABOVE: Khun Sa and Korn Jerng during ceremony. Training camp flag (blue) and photo of Thai king were included to add legitimacy to the proceedings.

BELOW: Insignia of the unified SSA (Shan State Army).



UNTANGLING THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE

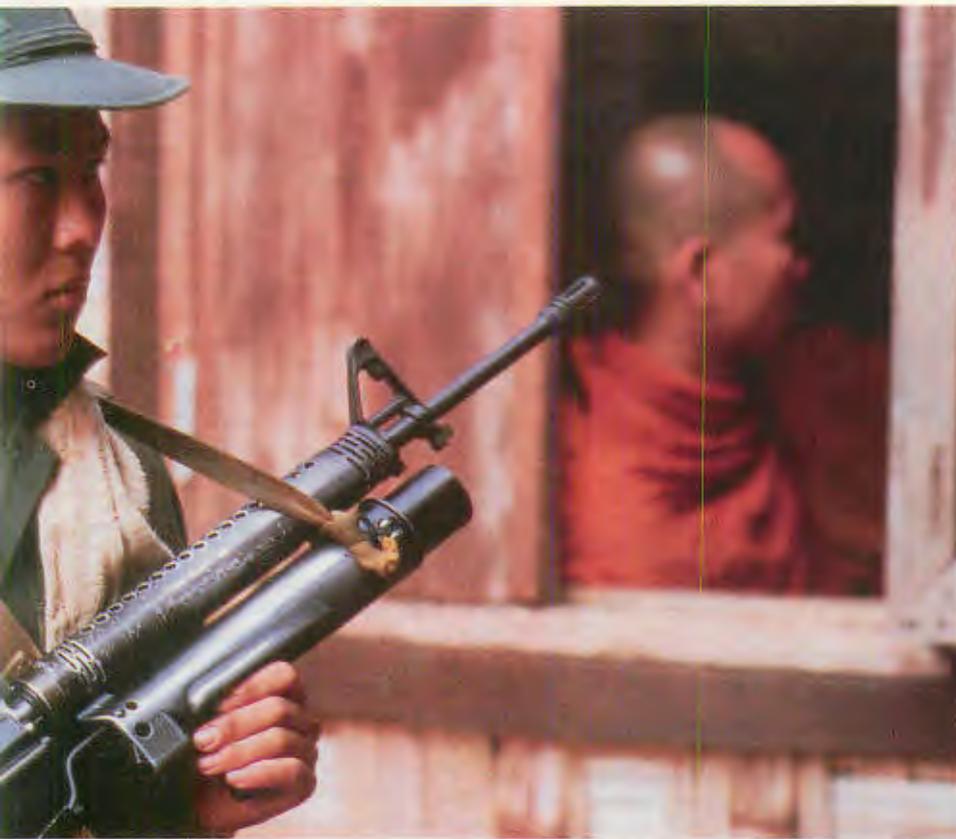
Jake Border, SOF's man in South Asia, is one of the few reporters around who really understands the crazy political world of the Golden Triangle. Years of experience in Asia have given him rare insight into the workings of the Shan State, where opium warlords, bandits, the Burmese army, former members of the Chinese Kuomintang and Shan anti-communist insurgents battle for control of their country. Other Border articles include "Cambodian Recon," SOF, October '86, and "Battle at Three Pagodas Pass," SOF, August '87.

SETTING out from the headquarters of the Communist Party of Burma (CPB), a 100-man caravan slowly snaked its way from Panghsang, located in the northern Wa hills of the Shan State along China's southern flank, to the Thailand border. Interspersed among 70 porters were 30 soldiers dressed in jungle fatigues, Chinese-made sneakers and baggy little caps with a red star pinned to the front. And they were armed to the teeth.

Communist soldiers accompanied this caravan for one reason: to guard its precious cargo of opium and *huang pi* (raw morphine base) from attack and plunder by any number of enemies, including the Burmese army, bandits, small-time warlords and rival Shan insurgents in the drug trade.

Suddenly, just 30 clicks from Thailand, this silent, orderly procession erupted into explosive flame and madness. Ambush! The clatter of British-made, World War II-vintage Bren guns rose above the high-pitched *pop-pop-pop* of Vietnam-era M16s, all of which was punctuated by the deep, resonant *crump-crump-crump* of M79 grenades. Anti-communist Shan rebels had struck with a fierce vengeance to protect their territory.

When the fighting was over and the dust had cleared, the victorious Shan rebels



ABOVE: SUA (Shan United Army) soldier with XM148 grenade launcher mounted on M16A1, the prototype M16 grenade launcher still found along the Thailand-Burma border. In background is saffron-robed monk, also part of Shan National Unity Conference.



LEFT: Guard at entrance to Khun Sa's Ho-mong camp residence armed with M16A1. Sign above reads "Blood and Guts."

BELOW: Doi Lang, mountain stronghold of unified SSA. Buddhist pagoda is surrounded by a network of newly constructed steel-reinforced concrete bunkers, then connected by deep zigzag trenches and encircled by a double perimeter of punji sticks and barbed-wire fence.



rounded up 11 CPB prisoners, a large haul of weapons and 42 bundles of narcotics.

This incident, which occurred about a month before my first visit with the Shans at their headquarters in Maisung near the Thailand border town of Pieng Luang, was nothing new for this region. Opium trafficking lies at the heart of the nationalist Shan State's war-torn history.

Shan Nationalism: Historical Background

Unlike Burma proper, the Shan State (as it was known until Burma's independence in 1948) was never conquered and colonized; the British merely established a protectorate there in which they practiced benign neglect. Consequently, the hereditary chiefs of the region, or *Chao fah* (in Burmese, *Sawbwa*), who are feudal aristocrats of the 30-odd principalities that made up the Shan State, survived with their sovereignty intact; their independence was never really challenged.

Though the Shans were manipulated into joining the Burmese in seeking independence from the British when they signed the Panglong Agreement in 1947, the age-old distrust and enmity the Shans had for the lowland Burmese were never lost. The 1948 Constitution of Burma took this fact into consideration by prescribing the Shans' right to secede after a 10-year trial period (1958) if they were disenchanted with the Union.



ABOVE: Chicom Type 51 7.62x25mm pistol and Communist Party of Burma (CPB) belt.

Actual unrest in the Shan State began with the incursion of Chiang Kai-shek's Kuomintang (KMT) forces. After their defeat by Mao's communist troops in 1949, retreating KMT forces crossed into the Shan State from Yunnan, where they were initially supported by the CIA for the futile mission of trying to regain a foothold in China. They turned to opium as a source of revenue, continuing to dominate the narcotics trade even after their expulsion from Burma in 1961. Setting up bases along the Thailand border, they regrouped as the 3rd and 5th armies commanded by Generals Lee Wen-huan and Tuan Shi-wen, respectively. Thai authorities tolerated the KMT presence as a useful buffer and unofficial border police. In reality, KMT "customs posts" along the Thailand-Burma border collected "taxes"



TRC ANTI-NARCOTICS POLICY

About a month after the successful Shan ambush of the Burmese communist caravan in the Mong Hta District, I arrived at Shan headquarters in Maisung, opposite the Thailand border village of Pieng Luang, which is about 250 clicks northwest of the provincial capital, Chiang Mai.

Maisung is a well-established stronghold. There is a large office complex, a meeting hall, barracks, jail, parade ground, a printing press which was churning out a biweekly newspaper called *Freedom* for distribution in the Shan State underground, a school for 125 children (the youngest class of which was reciting "Baa Baa Black-sheep" when I arrived), and a pagoda where TRA (Tailand Revolutionary Army) chairman Korn Jerng goes to pray.

My arrival in late June 1984 was quite fortuitous, for some ambitious changes in TRC (Tailand Revolutionary Council) policy were about to be announced. Both member groups, SURA (Shan United Revolutionary Army) and SSA (the anti-communist faction of the original Shan State Army), had been waging war against the Burmese government for independence of the Shan State and had been financing their resistance struggle by trafficking in drugs.

However, a new anti-narcotics policy was adopted by the TRC which demanded that all connections with drug trafficking be dropped. This policy complements its previous decision to adopt an anti-communist stance. An unprecedented move, to say the least, it is an attempt by chairman Korn Jerng to demonstrate his concern about improving the image of the Shan nationalist movement in the eyes of the world. To show his

Hoping to improve image of Shan nationalist movement in the eyes of world and demonstrate the sincerity of his anti-narcotics stance, unified SSA president Korn Jerng sent about \$7 million worth of opium and heroin base up in smoke. SSA soldiers pictured here are armed with (from left to right): M16A1s, M79 grenade launcher and Soviet-made AK-47.

seriousness about this anti-narcotics policy, he ordered the TRC on 4 July 1984 to publicly torch 47 kilograms of opium and 22 kilograms of *huang pi* captured from the CPB (Communist Party of Burma), sending about \$7 million worth (Western street value) of drugs up in a beacon of intoxicating smoke.

The morphine base was wrapped in paper bags with crudely printed labels showing a rising sun over mountains and the letters "KK" — presumably meaning Kokang, a CPB-dominated region adjacent to the Wa hills that is a prime growing area of Shan State opium.

In addition to the opium bonfire, the 11 CPB prisoners captured in the ambush — a mixed bag of Wa, Chin, Kachin, Chinese and Shan nationalities — were paraded before us in manacles, and captured Chicom hand grenades, 9mm pistols, AKs and CPB uniforms were displayed along with Chinese banknotes, a graduation certificate from a military training school and a copy of Mao Tse-tung's "little red book."

As well as demonstrating goodwill to the Thais and foreign community concerned with the flood of debilitating and addictive drugs reaching their shores, the TRC's anti-narcotics declaration could also be seen as a move to distance itself from the SURA's former allies — the Kuomintang (KMT).

Only time will tell whether this policy gesture is merely symbolic or a real attempt to stem the narcotics tide and bring peace to the region.

from every shipment of opium coming from the Shan State.

Wary of the KMT presence, the Burmese government under U Nu deployed troops between 1952 and 1959 in the Shan State on the pretext of ousting the KMT. But the Shans, who considered both the Burmese and KMT troops trespassers, decided that these "invaders" had to go. Relying first on benign political protest, armed resistance soon became the accepted means of expelling their enemies.

Initial successes of Shan rebel groups probably kindled the 1962 military coup which ousted U Nu and installed socialist General Ne Win. When Gen. Ne Win abolished the constitution and therewith any Shan hopes of legally seceding from the Union, numerous new resistance groups formed, and the atmosphere of war grew in intensity.

Attempts were made in 1964 to unify these Shan resistance groups. Three such groups, the Shan State Independence Army (SSIA), the Kokang Revolutionary Force, and the Shan National United Front (SNUF) merged to form the Shan State Army (SSA). Unfortunately, this "merger" was more hot air than hard reality and soon disintegrated.

With this failure at unification, the Shan State soon turned into an anarchic shambles of independent resistance armies. These separate warring factions did, however, have one thing in common — opium. In the words of KMT 5th army General Tuan Shiwen: "To fight you must have an army, and an army must have guns, and to buy guns you must have money. In these mountains, the only money is opium."

Opium: Lifeblood of Shan Resistance

Opium was introduced into the Shan State from southern China in the 19th century by migrating hill tribes. While production was limited, its taxation was a source of revenue for the state treasury of the Shan aristocrats. The British, with their monopoly already established in Burma proper by importing Indian opium, tried to suppress Shan opium production even further. The 1923 Shan States' Opium Act imposed by the British saw the opium harvest drop from 37 tons in 1926 to 8 tons in 1936.

Arrival of the KMT soon reversed this downward trend. By the mid-1950s, opium production had increased to an estimated 600 tons, and many Shan farmers had joined the indigenous Lahu, Kisu and Wa hill tribes, which were growing opium.

Economic problems caused by Gen. Ne Win's restrictive police state and "Burmese Way to Socialism" left the government financially strapped and unable to handle the growing tide of insurgency. In 1963, the government took a drastic step by creating township militias, called *Ke Kwe Ye* (KKY), to fight the rebels. In exchange for fighting the rebels, the militias were permitted to join in government-sanctioned opium trafficking.

This program was successfully self-supporting, but in the long run it was also self-defeating for Gen. Ne Win's Burmese

INTERVIEW WITH KHUN SA

For the several hundred Shan visitors, the highlight of the January 1987 festival sponsored by the unified SSA was the graduation ceremony of nearly 700 new SSA recruits who had recently completed their basics, but for Khun Sa it was time to put his statement on record.

Contrary to some previous reports, the general looks to be in robust health. He is partial to a daily ration of wild honey his men collect from the jungle. Weary of being vilified, Khun Sa claims to be a scapegoat and portrays himself as a Shan nationalist fighting for the freedom of his people, which the new SSA recruits have been indoctrinated to believe.

A top official of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) whom I interviewed at the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok a week before visiting Khun Sa disagrees: "The SUA [Khun Sa's rebel group] are the primary refining operators. It is reasonable to put the figure as high as 80 percent of the refining activity of the Golden Triangle under Khun Sa's control." The DEA also stated that the SUA has a commercial agreement with the CPB (Communist Party of Burma) to purchase opium.

Roused out of bed at sunup for a person-to-person interview, I was met by Khun Sa dressed in pressed green fatigues and chain-smoking his habitual 555 State Express cigarettes. In reply to DEA allegations, he raised a hand containing his camouflage-green Zippo lighter and mimed a pistol shot.

"We are fighting against the CPB. The ones who really have agreements with the CPB are the ex-KMTs [Kuomintang]," he said.

Khun Sa went on to counterclaim that the KMT refines CPB opium into heroin in refineries on Thai soil, adding, "The opium trade has indeed enriched many KMT remnants, but the stigma of opium warlord falls not on them, but unfortunately on us . . . I am only a scapegoat."

I then asked what percentage of TRC (Tailand Revolutionary Council) revenue comes from narcotics involvement. Khun Sa replied, "Sixty percent."

"What does this figure mean, exactly?" I asked. "Does that revenue come from the taxation of refining heroin, or is it from the taxation of the sale of heroin?" His reply: "All of them."

Khun Sa thus admitted to revenue from taxation of sales and refining but balked at the DEA's accusation of operating his own refineries.

"The DEA," he said, "has been using me as a bait for more funds for their operations. The more funds they have, the more mistresses and cars they can



Khun Sa — opium warlord or Shan nationalist liberator?

have. I'm just a fighter for my nation."

The mention of DEA to Khun Sa is like waving a red flag before a bull and is usually an invitation to a diatribe. Perhaps a reputed five million *bhat* (nearly \$200,000) bounty on his head (denied by the DEA) gives Khun Sa a reason to feel bitter about them.

When questioned about refineries, Khun Sa showed reluctance to be pinned down on the issue of whose authority the refineries operate under, pitching his reply once again with well-rehearsed skill: "We have refineries in the Shan State. Thailand also has refineries, Hong Kong and America have refineries, so does it make them responsible for their existence? Heroin does not only exist in the Shan State but also in the United States — so can I call Mr. Reagan an opium warlord?"

Regarding military opposition, although Khun Sa says the Burmese army is the most important enemy, he rates the KMT as a greater military threat: "The KMT presents the most immediate threat," he said. "They don't have many [men] numerically, but they are based in Thailand — that makes it impossible to wipe them out."

This much is certainly true. On my latest border run I checked out Mae Aw, an isolated outpost in a rugged mountain setting. On the Thailand side of the border was not only the KMT but also the Wa National Army (notorious Khun Sa adversaries) and the opposition SSA (Shan State Army). Two plainclothes KMT Chinese soldiers packing .45s were passing through the unmanned checkpoint to one of their hilltop posts a couple of clicks away inside Burma. They obligingly pointed out the Khun Sa outposts ringing Mae Aw, all within

75mm recoilless range. The situation was quiet then, but in the event of too much heat being applied the KMT merely have to double back into the sanctuary of their Mae Aw village in Thailand.

With the KMT's long association with the dope trade I asked Khun Sa whether they were his commercial rivals. "Yes," he replied. This may be an inadvertently revealing reply, for it could be construed as an answer to the question of what business Khun Sa is really in — "business" business or the liberation business.

But revolutions cost money, big money, and it can't be raised in a raffle. Khun Sa admits to expenses of 12 million *bhat* (\$460,000) a month for his troops alone, which supposedly include 15,000 armed regulars plus another 20,000 trained but unarmed reserves. So the drug business continues.

I asked Khun Sa whether there were plans for a military offensive against the Burmese in the near future, but he sidestepped a direct answer. "I don't want you to ask me such questions," he said. "I don't want the Burmese to know my plans."

I wasn't sure whether or not this last statement was a bluff. Khun Sa later elaborated — lamely, I thought — that this was a time of preparation and consolidation when "we are preserving our strength and increasing it." In other words, mobilizing more men for the future.

In this sense you could say Khun Sa was acting in the tradition of the true Chinese warlord, whose prestige rested not so much on the achievements of his men in the field but on the number of soldiers confined to barracks who could be counted on for a grand display of marching in parades.

Somehow I expected something more from a man whose personal quarters are signposted with the slogan "Blood and Guts."

government. Although many rebel groups switched sides to ride the government gravy train, they soon became better armed than the Burmese army itself. With their relatively small but consistent take from the overall drug trade, Shan rebels and warlords had the money to buy the best arms the black market had to offer, such as U.S.-made M16s and M79s hot from the battlefields of Indochina.

Rise of Shan Leader Khun Sa

By the time the KKY were disbanded in 1973, one man had become legendary in Golden Triangle opium lore. His name is Chang Shee-fu, better known as Khun Sa. Born in 1933 of mixed Shan-Chinese blood, Khun Sa grew up amid the tea plantations of the hills of the Mong Yai state and was well-versed in the ways of opium warlords and Shan resistance groups.

After an initial flirtation with the Shan nationalist movement, Khun Sa switched sides to lead his Loi Maw KKY to prosperity and power in the opium trade. Like other traffickers, he had to kowtow to the KMT, paying them taxes on his opium. But Khun Sa was ambitious and decided to challenge KMT supremacy.

In 1967 he mustered a massive caravan of opium at his Loi Maw headquarters in the Shan hills and ran it directly to buyers in Laos, deliberately bypassing the KMT tax stations. Thus began Khun Sa's rise to narcotics notoriety.

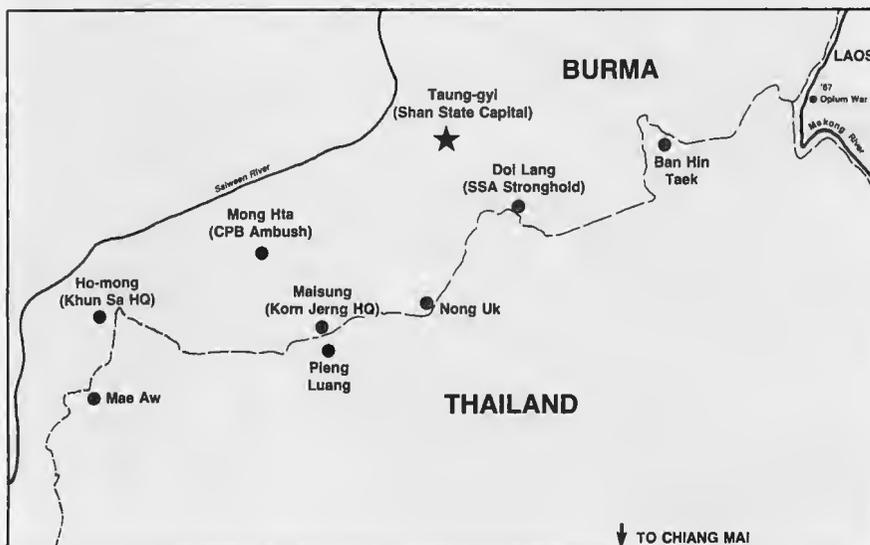
Marshalling their forces to intercept Khun Sa, the KMT had a showdown with him and his men at a deserted sawmill on the banks of the Mekong River inside Laos. The intense firefight between the KMT and Khun Sa's men was an embarrassment to General Ouane Rattikone, commander-in-chief of the Royal Lao army, especially since he was the buyer of the opium. Being a seasoned veteran, Ouane solved his dilemma in classic cover-your-ass style — he ordered a squadron of T-28s from his Lao air force to bomb *both* sides.

Referred to today as the 1967 Opium War, Khun Sa admitted to losses of "over 700 *joi* [about one ton] of opium, over 70 mules killed and 37 men killed." Presum-



ABOVE: Two SUA soldiers at Maisung, one with Canadian-made 7.92x57mm Chinese Bren gun, other with M16.

Map of northern and central Shan State.



ably Khun Sa was referring only to losses under his command, since the caravan reportedly carried a total of 16 tons of opium.

Imprisoned from 1969 to 1974 following his capture by the Burmese, Khun Sa was released — apparently in exchange for two Russian doctors kidnapped by his men in the Shan State capital of Taung-gyi — and re-established his group, known as the Shan United Army (SUA).

Khun Sa's SUA, soon fierce drug rivals to the KMT and other Shan rebel groups, established a headquarters at Ban Hin Taek, about 5 clicks inside northernmost Thailand. In January 1982 the Thais, fed up with Khun Sa's blatant presence on their soil, succeeded in shunting him back to Burma but only, ironically, after an airstrike by the Royal Thai air force.

Far from being crippled, Khun Sa soon recovered and stomped down the border with the ruthlessness of a Mongol despot, establishing a string of new bases. Barely six months after his ouster from Thailand, Khun Sa had dislodged communist-backed Lahu tribes from Doi Lang, an important mountain range that straddles the Thailand-



Burma border. Then in March 1983 he forced out the inhabitants of the Mong Mai valley opposite Thailand's Mae Hong Son Province.

A year later, the SUA bombed the house of a KMT general in Chiang Mai and attacked the KMT and their Wa allies at the Mae Aw border crossing point, another trade pipeline into the Shan State that is important for jade and gemstones. Khun Sa and his men then routed the Pa-O national army from its nearby headquarters and blitzed the KMT village of Nong Uk a little north of Pieng Luang.

By March 1984, Khun Sa had thrown down the gauntlet, threatening to expand his influence into rival areas. One month later, possibly as a countermeasure to Khun Sa's expansionism, two Shan rebel forces officially joined ranks and formed the Tailand Revolutionary Army (TRA), with a political wing called the Tailand Revolutionary Council (TRC). Not to be confused with Thailand the country, Tailand refers to the Shan State because *tai*, in their language, means "free." Therefore, Tailand denotes the free or independent land of the Shan. Led by the former communist and staunch Shan nationalist Korn Jerng, the TRA is the result of a union between the Shan United Revolutionary Army (SURA, formerly known as SNUF, commanded by Korn Jerng) and a breakaway southern faction of the Shan State Army (SSA) that disagreed with their northern group's decision to forge a military alliance with the Burmese communists (CPB).

By April 1984 the squeeze was certainly on and the newly formed TRC was feeling the pinch. With only a narrow corridor open to the interior of the Shan State, an economic stranglehold had been placed on the TRC. In fact, the TRC admitted that since 1982 its revenue from taxation had dropped by a



SUA (Shan United Army) soldier with XM148 grenade launcher mounted on M16A1 stands at attention at Maisung near Thailand-Burma border.

staggering 80 percent.

During a 1984 interview I asked then-TRA chairman Korn Jerng whether he considered Khun Sa and the SUA a military threat, and if so, how would he handle it?

"What Khun Sa has been saying is that he's waging a revolution for Shan independence, and if he's really doing it I must accept his word — not that I'm ignorant of his encroachments," he replied. "Believe me, I will not succumb to any intentions that would be detrimental to the nation, culture

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BELOW: Khun Sa addresses some of his SSA officers.



ABOVE: Korn Jerng (left), president of the TRC (Tailand Revolutionary Council) and Khun Sa, commander-in-chief of the SSA (Shan State Army) give victory salute at graduation ceremony for 700 new recruits inside Shan State.



STREETWISE COLT .45

Modified for Peak Performance

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis



NO doubt about it. Real men don't eat quiche and always pack a .45. While I have to test and sometimes carry everything from large-capacity double-action nines to .22 LR pocket pistols like the Walther TPH, when push comes to shove, I invariably stuff one of Colt's .45 ACP pistols into my waistband. Call it a placebo if you will, but that 230-grain slow-moving freight train provides the aura of power you need when the pucker factor reaches ten.

Colt has moved in the right direction with its Officer's ACP Models. With a barrel length of only 3½ inches, the overall length of the pistols in this series is only 7¼ inches.

Firing the Colt Lightweight Officer's ACP Model .45 pistol as modified for the real world by Robbie Barrkman.

A chopped butt cuts the magazine capacity to six rounds, but reduces the height to 5½ inches. The width remains 1½ inches, considerably thinner than most revolvers. A high demand and short supply item ever since its introduction, the Lightweight version, with its aluminum alloy frame, weighs only 24 ounces, empty. In the right leather, such as Bruce Nelson's Summer Special or #1 Professional, the Officer's ACP Model is very concealable.

After three quarters of a century, the method of operation perfected by John Moses Browning is still more than adequate. Locked-breech, recoil-operated, the barrel and slide are locked together by two ribs on the top of the barrel at the chamber end which engage two recesses in the underside of the slide. Securely locked together during the moment of high chamber pressure, the barrel and slide travel rearward a short distance still firmly mated to each other. During recoil, the barrel swings backward on its link, which is attached to the frame by the slide stop pin passing through it. As rearward travel continues, the



barrel is forced downward and away from the slide. The barrel's rearward travel ceases when it strikes its stop in the frame, while the slide continues backward to complete extraction and ejection of the empty case before rebounding, by means of the recoil spring, to strip and chamber another round from the magazine.

With its proven reliability in a compact package, we have the makings here of the ultimate street gun. But not as it comes out of Hartford. Streetwise pistoleros have never been satisfied with the M1911A1 (or any other handgun, for that matter) as it was delivered in the factory box. The goal of every professional, who can literally live or die as a consequence of the instrument strapped to his side, must be to maximize functional reliability, preserve or enhance the inherent accuracy potential, and increase the speed with which the weapon can be employed to incapacitate the opponent.

Robbie Barrkman knows this better than most. A fourth-generation native of the Republic of South Africa, Barrkman spent 11½ years in the South African Defence Forces and emerged as the youngest company sergeant major in his battalion's history. He captained three South African International IPSC teams and spent 4½ years as senior range master and official gunsmith at Jeff Cooper's Gunsite. Now widely recognized as one of the world's premier combat gunsmiths, he presently operates an impressive gunsmithing and plating facility in the Arizona desert (Robert A. Barrkman, The Robar Companies, Inc., Dept. SOF, Suite B, 21438 N. 7th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85027; phone 602-581-2648). He was the logical choice for SOF's project in pocket perfection.

After several detailed conferences, a decision was reached on what both of us felt needed to be modified. Keep in mind that our attention was directed to serious social purposes. While the end result is quite handsome, no gingerbread was tolerated. Steel

Custom Colt Officer's ACP Model features a unique nickel/phosphorus finish with sub-micron particles of teflon on the frame group and a black chrome sulfide conversion coating on the slide. Note that all sharp corners have been carefully rounded off prior to refinishing.

gongs or paper are not this pistol's intended targets. No muzzle weights, extended slides or barrels, Aimpoint sights or conversions to .38 Super will be found on this nasty little pistol. The grotesque fantasies of IPSC shooting were ignored and avoided.

Let's start with the frame group. Most pistolsmiths are content to file a 45° radius on each of the magazine-well's lips and pretend this assists insertion of the magazine. Not Barrkman. He bevels the magazine-well using a long radius cutter on a milling machine to remove as much metal as is prudent. Blind-sided files are used to polish the long slopes cut into the sides of the well. Without a magazine in place nothing appears altered.

Current Colt mainspring housings are fabricated from plastic. This just won't do. As a substitute, Barrkman chops and painfully reshapes an original steel Government Model housing to fit the Officer's Model frame. As I prefer the arched housing, he modified one of this configuration.

Browning's grip safety was obsolete the day he designed it. No modern pistols, with the exception of blatant M1911A1 clones, use this device. The factory grip safety was replaced with a beavertail-type of Barrkman's design and deactivated by pinning. Available in either stainless steel or chrome moly steel, Robar's beavertail grip safeties are one-piece castings that require slight alteration of the frame and some hand fitting.

Colt's frame-mounted thumb safety is in an excellent location, but those who fire from the Weaver position with both thumbs positioned over the safety will find it a bit too short. It was replaced by a one-piece,

investment-cast, extended thumb safety of Barrkman's design, which was hand fitted to smooth its operation.

Extended slide stops are for IPSC types who fire from the Isosceles position, not requiring the Weaver since their wimp loads are designed to minimize recoil. The rest of us will press our thumbs downward on an extended slide stop, causing the slide to travel forward on an empty chamber after the last round has been fired (of course, we always change magazines before we've emptied the pistol anyway — don't we?). However, the rear face of the factory slide stop should be carefully dimpled to prevent the stop lever from jumping upward to engage the slide's stop notch in the middle of a firing sequence.

Barrkman's trigger work included installation of a trigger stop to reduce overtravel. Hammer and sear engagement surfaces were stoned to obtain a crisp 3½-pound trigger pull weight. The sear was then heat treated to resist wear. All other bearing surfaces in the trigger mechanism were polished and inspected for correct engagement. New Colt disconnectors are vibratory-finished investment castings. In most cases the two halves of the mold appear to have been displaced during the casting process. These disconnectors should be mill finished to insure positive disconnector-to-sear engagement. All the bearing surfaces on the sear leaf spring were also polished.

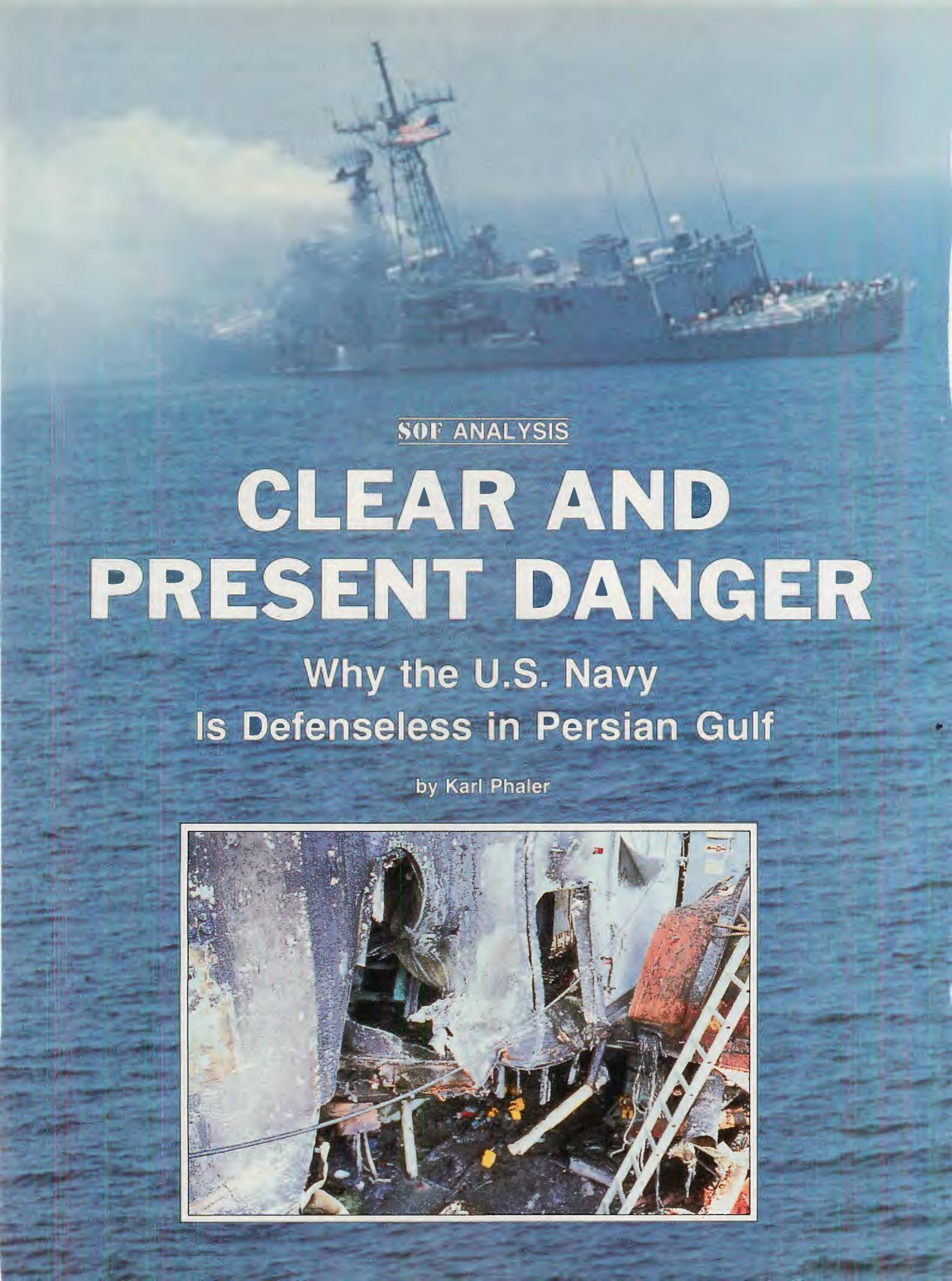
It would appear that all Colt Officer's ACP Model hammers lean to the left and impinge upon the ejector. Either the hammer casting is distorted or the hammer or frame holes were milled at an incorrect angle. The left side of the hammer must be resurfaced.

Every sharp corner and radius line on both the frame and slide was rounded and subdued by polishing. There is nothing on this pistol that will snag on the holster or clothing or interfere with a "tap, rack, bang" maneuver.

Finally, the frame, slide stop, beavertail grip safety, extended thumb safety, magazine latch mechanism, grip panel screws and frame cross pins were finished with a revolutionary new process called NP3. NP3 is a surface treatment for metals and metal alloys that provides the appearance of satin electroless nickel by combining sub-micron particles of PTFE (polytetrafluoroethylene, i.e., teflon) with autocatalytically applied nickel/phosphorus. The result is a very accurate, dry-lubricated, low-friction surface that is extremely resistant to wear. As the PTFE is evenly distributed and locked into the nickel/phosphorus matrix, when wear occurs, fresh particles of PTFE are exposed to keep the surface lubricated. No lubricants of any kind are required in the frame group, and powder residue and carbon fouling can be easily removed with a dry cloth.

For mere esthetics and because I have to

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A large U.S. Navy ship, possibly a fleet ocean transport ship, is shown at sea. The ship is grey and has a complex superstructure with various antennas and masts. It is viewed from a distance, and the sea is a deep blue. The sky is overcast with grey clouds.

SOF ANALYSIS

CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER

Why the U.S. Navy
Is Defenseless in Persian Gulf

by Karl Phaler



Thirty-seven of the USS Stark's crew members have been buried, two of her officers have been relieved of duty and work has begun to repair the damage caused by two Iraqi Exocet missiles. But the battle of the USS Stark rages on. Fingers point at systems failures, command failure, doctrinal failure — while the corporations, congressional committees and Navy commanders bitterly defend their positions.

Only the passage of time and critical self-examination might uncover the answer to the question: "What went wrong with the Navy in the Persian Gulf on the evening of 17 May 1987?"

This article offers one of many possible answers to that explosive question.

ALL bureaucracies ignore history. In the 42 years since we have had a fight at sea, the Navy has become a bureaucracy like any other. Ignoring history, however, is very dangerous for a navy. This lesson is being driven home today in the Persian Gulf, where we are wholly unprepared to deal with any of the real-world threats now facing us.

The USS Stark incident demonstrates the sad consequences when we reject our own experience and place all our faith in new, untried, expensive systems which in fact do not work. If we had remembered lessons from World War II about technology and tactics, the Stark's 37 killed crew members might have survived, instead of dying undefended.

We learned hard lessons in 1942. Worse, we often didn't understand them at first, as with our submarines. The heart of our Asiatic fleet was a flotilla of 29 subs with modern

LEFT: USS Stark, listing heavily to port after being struck by two air-launched Exocet missiles. Photo: Sygma

INSET: Stark's pierced hull, approximately 6 to 8 feet above the waterline on the port side. Photo: Sygma

weapons, including the new Mark 14 torpedo. But while Japanese forces swept the Pacific clear of Allied shipping, our submarine efforts were a disaster, despite heavy losses.

For a long while the Navy believed poorly trained, inexperienced crews were to blame, along with officers who lacked the daring required for success in war. Some of this was true, but the real problem was a misplaced faith in technology: The Mark 14 torpedo in fact ran much deeper than its settings, generally passing well beneath the targets. Worse yet, Navy testing of the Mark 14 missed another small problem, which was when a torpedo did hit a target, its defective detonating mechanism usually would fail to explode.

Another lesson from the Pacific war was not understood. The worst damage Navy ships suffered was in kamikaze attacks in 1944-45. Suicidal pilots were not the phenomenon of interest, but rather the great difficulty any surface ship has in shooting down a target coming in fast and low. By 1957, an unmanned missile was able to do the job, and by the late '60s, in every war game we conducted, inexpensive missiles were shown to be very cost-effective against our very expensive ships. This lesson about tactics, and the lessons about faith in technology, were of vital importance to us.

But in the Korean and Vietnam wars there were no serious threats to Navy combatants. In the last 40 years we have behaved as if our ships were invulnerable, and this prevented us from understanding the hard lessons of the past, including the clear vulner-

ability of any surface vessel to a fast, low-level attack, whether by aircraft, missiles or boats. Even more recent events, pointing up these truths, did not change our Navy's way of thinking.

In the Falklands in 1982, British ships were lost both to aircraft bombs (HMS Coventry) and Exocet missiles (HMS Sheffield). It was clear that early warning (AWACS) and point defense systems such as Phalanx might have reduced British vulnerability. Because the U.S. Navy has procured many such expensive systems since 1982, we have been told by Naval officials that the Sheffield's fate, in fact, could not befall our American ships.

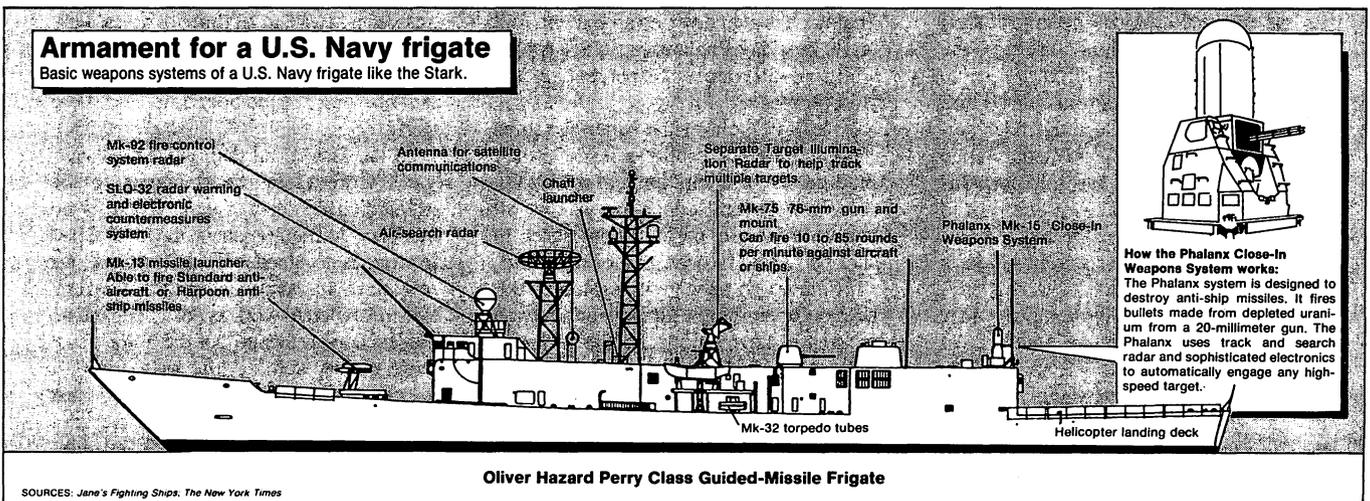
Simple mathematical computation, however, raised serious questions concerning the ability of Navy ships like the Stark, particularly when steaming alone, to survive missile attack. While U.S. Navy bureaucrats repeatedly assured us our ships would not repeat the British experience under a cruise missile attack, the available historical record indicated, with near certainty, that precisely what did happen to the Stark in fact would occur.

Because it refused to acknowledge a problem existed, however, the Navy placed all of its faith in expensive high technology, unproven in combat. The result of our Navy's long ostrich-like exercise, inevitably and inexorably, was the disastrous fate of the Stark. In the rush to defend their misplaced wisdom, Navy officials have now tried to put all blame on the crew, as in 1942. This necessarily will mean, as it did in 1942, that more brave sailors will die before we focus on the true problem, which is that our ships cannot defend against missile attacks.

A great threat to ships in the Persian Gulf, moreover, is terrorist-style, small, high-speed boat attacks. The U.S. Navy demonstrably is even less prepared, and far more vulnerable, to fast gunboats than to cruise missile attacks. (This was documented in the last year with simulated terrorist high-speed boat attacks during amphibious warfare exercises with units based in San Diego.) Our forces need a capable defense

SMALL BOAT SPECIALIST

Karl Phaler, a Vietnam veteran, spent 10 years on active duty with the U.S. Navy, serving as an adviser to the Vietnamese navy and later as an electronic warfare instructor in San Diego. He currently operates a San Diego-based business specializing in high-performance offshore patrol boats.



Courtesy of The San Diego Union/Ken Marshall

against small boat attack. At a minimum, we must have a realistic exposure to this threat in training before we can hope to defeat it in reality.

There are any number of long-term, billion-dollar "fixes" for these problems, and also a number of inexpensive off-the-shelf remedies. In this area and every other, however, U.S. Navy procurement is biased in favor of expensive, gold-plated, over-complex, unproven technological wonders, and biased against anything perceived as too simple or too cheap.

This being true, there is no point in bothering to hang sailors. A floating Desert One, like the *Stark*, properly is laid at the feet of the paper sailors on the Potomac, who send real sailors off into an increasingly hazardous world with only theoretical, rather than real, means to defend their ships and their lives.

Perhaps the deepest shame is that the paper sailors have known for some time that all this would happen. This is the reason their systems are never tested under realistic combat conditions. We have constructed a vast Potomac bureaucracy with a large



FAILURE IN THE GULF: SAILORS OR SYSTEMS?

The USS *Stark*'s SPS-49 air search radar in theory can track aircraft out to a range of 150-plus miles. On the night of 17 May, it was, in fact, unable to track the Iraqi aircraft at all until it had closed to a range of only 70 miles.

The SLQ-32 ECM receiver on the *Stark* did not intercept signals from the Iraqi aircraft Cyrano-4 radar in search mode until the aircraft was almost within launch range for the Exocet. This is well below design standards. It is clear that the *Stark* ECM operator's timely observation of the Cyrano-4's transition to fire-control mode, however, proved the operator was alert. If there is any doubt on this point, the ECM operator's further observations of the Cyrano-4's return to search mode and the second transition to lock-on mode validate the fact the operator, at least, was functioning as designed. Also, given an alert ECM operator who had observed the search and lock-on signals, it is folly to suggest operator inattention caused him to miss the Exocet's homing radar signal. (If you noticed an armed man in your vicinity, and then saw him point his weapon at you, would any sane person then look away before the trigger was pulled? The committee report suggests the ECM operator on *Stark* did.) Instead, as Norman Friedman writes in the July issue of the USNI (United States Naval Institute) *Proceedings*, "It is possible that the problem was a signal trapping layer of humid air above the surface of the calm sea. Under such circumstances, the SLQ-32, which is positioned

relatively high in the ship, would never receive signals from a low altitude missile." Again, there is no human error here, but another system failure.

The Mark 92 fire control radar on the *Stark* did lock on the Iraqi aircraft briefly, but only after missile launch, which it was thus unable to detect.

The chaff dispensing system was not deployed, and its effectiveness therefore cannot be determined. It is relevant to note, however, that arming the chaff dispensers required one of two ECM operators to (1) leave his post in CIC (Combat Information Center), (2) climb to the next level, (3) prepare the launchers, and (4) return to his battle station in CIC. Thus, at the most critical possible time one of the two most vital personnel onboard must desert his post.

Finally, in Navy tests on a similar frigate, only three days before *Stark* was hit, Phalanx was able to track a simulated Exocet only intermittently. No Phalanx has ever downed an Exocet, and on its best day Phalanx has a PK (probability of kill) of only 63 percent against slow drones.

The Navy's claim that American ships would defeat a cruise missile attack ignored one problem: the real world. On the *Stark* several separate systems all had to function perfectly in order to shoot down an Exocet. In the real world, ships never go to sea with systems 100-percent operational. (This is one reason we steam in formations, so that deficiencies on one ship can be covered by another ship's systems.)

If a single vessel depends on four or five systems to defeat a missile, probability theory tells us that on any given

day, the odds are stacked in the missile's favor. The *Stark*, for example, had an air search radar, fire control radars, ECM receiver, missiles, guns, chaff and Phalanx all available for missile defense. Assume only five systems are needed in a given attack. Assume average system reliability of only 80 percent, which is high. Probability (the law of multiplication of independent probabilities) tells us the likelihood on any given day that all five systems will function is only 33 percent, even if every human in the system functions perfectly. (The true odds against defeating a single cruise missile are probably 10-1. With two missiles inbound, no Perry-class frigate in the Navy could escape.)

Commander G.R. Brindel, CO of the *Stark*, in his statement to the congressional committee investigating the *Stark* incident, asked "why no missile launch was detected on the air search, fire control radars, or the SLQ-22." The short answer is, two out of three of these were not working properly and the third was not being used at the precise moment of launch, which is the only time it could be useful.

In the face of all this, the Armed Services Committee report comes to the astounding conclusion that "There is no evidence that equipment on the *Stark* failed to work as designed." To the contrary, we now have abundant evidence that several systems failed to work as designed, and no evidence at all that any of the *Stark*'s systems, in fact, were working as designed. It is, given our determination to enter and remain in the Persian Gulf, only a matter of time before more of our sailors and ships are lost.



LEFT: USS *Stark*, FFG-31, soon after her commissioning in October 1982. Photo: U.S. Navy

ABOVE: Iranian fast attack boats in the Persian Gulf. Small boats represent just one of the real-world threats the Navy is incapable of countering with current systems. Photo: Sygma

vested interest in expensive, unworkable complexity, with Congress acting as its accomplice.

Two consequences of this are (1) inexpensive and useful innovation is seen as a threat, since it points out weaknesses, and (2) such tactical thinking as exists is focused only on massive retaliation and revenge, since our ships are now unable to protect themselves against real-world attacks in the first place.

The last decade's efforts have resulted in a Navy with no low-end patrol, interdiction, riverine or special operations capability whatsoever. Without competent effective defenses against Iranian missiles, mines or gunboats, our gulf convoys will be no more than high-value targets for the Iranians. With competent defenses, we can save both our ships and sailors, as well as preserve the flexibility and integrity of national security policy in the region.

Without such competence, we will lose more ships and more brave men, and be forced to cast our lot with the policies of the weak and the defeated, whose true long-term national security is only imperiled and degraded by the need to take revenge after an inability to fight and win in the first instance. Until we learn how to win in the first place, we will go on throwing away ever larger amounts of men, money and materiel. Here, as in so many other areas, the difference between victory and defeat is no more than the daring of individuals. In England the SAS has adopted as a motto, "Who dares, wins." In America we still

ask, "Who dares to win?"

A policy of defeating the enemy in the first instance, by winning the first engagements, cannot be adopted under our current system, although the benefits to our Navy and to our nation of such a policy are clear. (The victors, after all, have no need for revenge.)

How much longer must we go on thinking like victims, whose weaknesses can be protected only by a threat of massive retaliation,

instead of thinking like warriors, whose aim is the defeat of the enemy in combat? The answer to this question, for any American, should be (in the late Soviet leader Josef Stalin's favorite words), "Clear, one would think."

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"UNKNOWN AIRCRAFT ... STATE YOUR INTENTIONS"

This is a timetable of events onboard the USS Stark, 2000-2115 hours, 17 May 1987:

2005 — AWAC aircraft advises USS *Coontz*, the electronic warfare control ship, that an Iraqi aircraft is over 200 miles from *Stark*. *Coontz* relays this information on to *Stark's* CIC (Combat Information Center) personnel.

2015 — Full power run (30 knots) cancelled, speed reduced to 15 knots.

2050 — *Coontz* is tracking Iraqi aircraft on own radar at 120 miles from *Stark*. *Stark's* air search radar is unable to detect Iraqi aircraft.

2100 — SPS-49 air search radar on *Stark* still not tracking aircraft. The bridge orders CIC to shift the radar to short range when it finally detects the Iraqi aircraft, now at a range of 70 miles.

2104 — Aircraft is at 43 miles range, with a predicted CPA (closest point of approach) of only 4 miles from *Stark*.

2105 — SLQ-32 operator detects the aircraft's Cyrano-4A/C radar in its search mode.

2107 — Aircraft is at 15 miles with predicted CPA of 11 miles.

2108 — Warning broadcast by *Stark*, "Unknown aircraft, this is U.S. Navy warship on your 072 at 13 miles. Request you state your intentions."

2109 — SLQ-32 operator detects fire control lock-on by aircraft radar, then a return to search mode. (First missile launched.) Chaff dispensers on *Stark* enabled by assistant EW (electronic warfare) operator. Phalanx shifted into AAW (antiaircraft warfare) manual mode, where it should detect and track missile, but not fire. SLQ-32 operator does not detect the first Exocet's homing radar signal at any time.

2100 — SLQ-32 operator detects a second fire control lock-on, then a return to search mode. (Second missile now launched.)

2110 — Warning broadcast by *Stark*, "Unknown aircraft, this is U.S. Navy warship on your 080 at 11 miles. Request you identify yourself and state your intentions." Mark 92 fire control radar on *Stark* illuminates Iraqi aircraft momentarily. Phalanx does not lock on either target. Again, SLQ-32 operator does not detect the Exocet's homing radar.

2112 — First missile hits *Stark* but does not explode; 15-20 seconds later, the second missile hits and explodes.

WHAT CONGRESS DIDN'T WANT YOU TO SEE

Lt. Col. Oliver North's Slide Presentation Exposes Soviet Threat to U.S. Southern Flank

Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North, during what have been termed the Iran-Contra hearings, offered to present before the congressional investigating committees — and the American viewing public — 57 slides which concisely outlined the threat posed to the United States by the Soviet surrogates of Cuba and Nicaragua, and indeed by the Soviets themselves, in the areas of the Caribbean basin and Central America. These committees, in an obvious move to try to dampen the immense groundswell of American public support for Lt. Col. North, and by extension for the Nicaraguan freedom fighters, or *contras*, refused North access to the electorate.

We felt you, our readership of more than a half-million worldwide, should have that access. Presented in their entirety, we offer the 57 slides our Congress refused to let you see. We believe we're the only publication to print, in toto, Lt. Col. North's slide presentation.

Captions for each photograph were prepared by Congressman Duncan Hunter (R-San Diego), although they do not differ in meaningful content from Lt. Col. North's own prepared presentation. Due to space limitations, minor editing of Congressman Hunter's captions was necessary.

Lieutenant Colonel North's introduction to the presentation, as he gave it to a group of concerned Americans in June 1986, begins below and opens the following pages of slides. Some of the information contained in the slides and captions may not reflect contemporary data, especially in terms of communist manpower strengths or military/economic aid. We'll guarantee, however, that they've significantly increased.

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Kenneth F. Boehm, president of Citizens for Reagan, and Jeffrey L. Pandin, communications director of the International Freedom

Foundation, for their assistance in preparing this article. We also highly recommend the IFF's 30-minute video, *Telling It Like It Is*, which combines the slide show and other previously unreleased materials. *Telling It Like It Is* can be obtained from the International Freedom Foundation, 200 G Street NE, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20002, for \$8.95 postage paid; or call 1-800-533-0433 for further information.

"We have been engaged in the last few months in military action in an effort to prevent further acts of terrorism. We have taken a number of steps under this president that other presidents in other administrations have been unwilling to take. We are, I believe, engaged properly in a war against terrorism in a way that does not mean that the United States has to practice the same."

"The important thing in all of this is to understand that the current attack against the United States by radical subversives and terrorists is one that is conducted worldwide. In an effort to make the United States withdraw back in and unto itself, and what we see happening in the world today — in the hands of people like Abu Nidal, the M-19, the Red Army Faction and various other terrorist organizations and radical groups — is designed to intimidate and frighten, and scare."

"I do not wish to tell you that we are winning this war, for we are not. We are not winning this war because Americans no longer feel free to travel as they would. We are not winning this war because we are closing down and reducing the size of our diplomatic missions and building higher and higher walls around them. And I will tell you that, in my personal opinion, as the president's adviser on

counter-terrorism, it will continue to be that way until we can in some measurable way turn the tables on those who support and defend terrorism.

"It is interesting to note, as Claire Sterling frequently points out, that the other superpower is indeed rarely attacked. Some will say that is because the threat of a Soviet reprisal is so great; others will allege it is because the Soviets themselves have provided the backing, support, training and logistics to aid these people on their way. And indeed this is the case. The Soviets are not known for their remarkable reprisals. But it is hard to challenge the evidence presented by people like Claire Sterling who point very clearly . . . to movements like the Sandinistas in Nicaragua, the M-19 in Colombia, the Abu Nidal organization in the Mideast, the Red Army Faction, the Red Brigades, the IRA; the list goes on and on for 103 major international terrorist organizations. And somewhere in almost every one of them we can find a cadre member or a leader, or one of the terrorists themselves, who has at some point in time been back to the camps of the Crimea or the Caucasus, or East Germany or Yugoslavia or Hungary, for some type of training.

"I do not want you to believe, because I do not, that there is a gremlin in the basement of Dzerzhinsky Square, the KGB headquarters in Moscow . . . that there is a man who [picked] up the phone on the night of April 12, 1983 and [said], 'Muammar, go blow up the American Embassy in Kuwait.' That doesn't happen."

"But indeed within that . . . party organization that blew up our embassy in Kuwait, there were members who had indeed received that training. When they finished their training in the camps of the Caucasus or Yugoslavia or Czechoslovakia or Hungary, they left and they were patted on the backside and [were told], 'go out and do good things for the Shi'ite cause; go out and do good things for Sandino; go out and do good things for the Irish Republican Army; go out and do good things for whatever your cause is, because whatever your cause is, [it] will cause the Americans to withdraw, to pull back, to be frightened and fearful, to lose confidence in their government, to fear for themselves, to stop traveling.'

"I believe that we will have to reverse the course that the Soviets have set for us in order to achieve victory. It is indeed important to address the root causes of terrorism. But it is even more important that the Soviets know that they cannot indeed support this kind of activity, regardless of how covertly, and get away with it with impunity."

"And I would allege that the best way to do that is to prosecute individual terrorist organizations just as we have . . . but to go after the Soviet model in the true sense of the word."

"Less than three hours' flight time from here there is a Soviet model [Nicaragua]. . . ."

"Since Ronald Reagan became president there have been 38 new democracies in the world, and if that doesn't terrify them [the Soviets], nothing does. And that's when terrorism really begins to take off, because when Ronald Reagan says, 'I want democracy as the wave of the future, not just in this hemisphere but around the world,' that worries the Soviet Union."

— Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North, June 1986

At this point, Lt. Col. North turned his focus to Central America and introduced his first slide — sea lines of communication and trade — which opens the presentation on the facing page.

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SOVIET POLICY:

TO CREATE SUCH TURMOIL IN THE CARIBBEAN BASIN THAT THE U.S. MUST DIVERT ATTENTION AND MILITARY RESOURCES FROM AREAS CRITICAL TO THE SOVIETS.



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Andrei Gromyko

"The region is boiling like a cauldron" - Cuba and Nicaragua are living examples for countries in that part of the world."
Moscow, April 1983

3

MARSHAL OGARKOV ON COMMUNISM IN LATIN AMERICA

"The Marshal said that over the decades ago there were only Cuba in Latin America, today there are Nicaragua, Grenada, and a nuclear battle is going on in El Salvador."
Moscow 18 March 1983



SLIDE #1: The Soviets clearly recognize the geographic significance of Central America. Strategically, Central America is of vital importance to the economic stability and security of the United States. The Soviets already have a willing partner in Cuba, threatening our sea lines of communication and trade, and placing at risk our access to vital resources. Through the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean pass 55 percent of our crude oil, 45 percent of our imports and exports and, in the event of war in NATO or the Persian Gulf, 60 percent of our reinforcements and supplies. Sixty-five percent of trade passing through the Panama Canal is either coming to or from the United States. The Soviets recognize that a foothold on the mainland, particularly on this vital land bridge between North and South America, would be of enormous advantage.

SLIDE #2: In 1983, then Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko clearly reflected Soviet intentions. His statements in Moscow were ample indication that the Soviets have designs which we seem to ignore.

SLIDE #3: Also in 1983, Chief of Soviet Armed Forces Marshal Ogarkov, in discussions he had with a visiting delegation from Grenada's communist movement, clearly reflected Soviet views on the "contest" for control of the Caribbean basin.

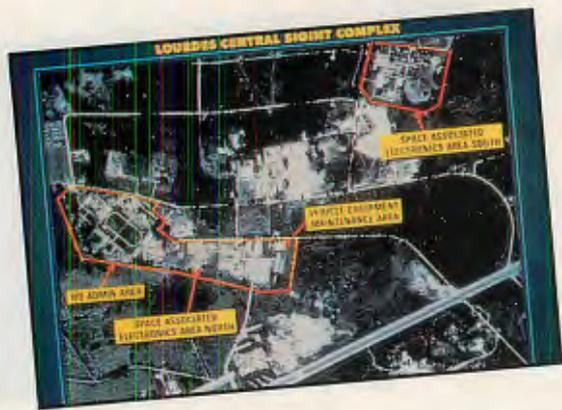
SLIDE #4: Soviet policy goals summarized from their own writings and journals indicate that the Soviets see considerable advantage in fostering revolution in this hemisphere.

SLIDE #5: The Soviets have backed their policy with more than just rhetoric. They are consistently outspending us in our own hemisphere — both economically and militarily.

SLIDE #6: This 1985 photograph of a Soviet surface action battle group was taken just miles off the Louisiana coast. The Soviets and their surrogates no longer consider the Caribbean to be an "American lake." Deployments such as these send a clear message to our friends in the region that the United States no longer controls the water frontiers off our own coastline. To Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica, this serves as intimidation.

SLIDE #7: The Soviets have supplied Cuba with sufficient numbers of diesel submarines to threaten U.S. resupply for Europe in the event of war. In World War II Hitler was able to sink nearly 45 percent of American shipping headed for Europe with submarines based 4,000 miles away. These submarines are based less than 150 miles away.

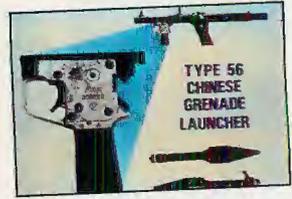
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SLIDE #8: Soviet bases in Cuba allow aircraft such as this Soviet BEAR naval reconnaissance flight to land in Cuba after surveilling U.S. military installations on our East Coast. This photograph was taken just 13 miles off the Virginia Capes and, while the Soviet bomber is being escorted by a Navy fighter, the fighter cannot interfere with Soviet intelligence collection.

SLIDE #9: Soviet aircraft are routinely based at facilities they have constructed for this purpose in Cuba; San Antonio de los Baños shows four Soviet aircraft used to provide surveillance along our East Coast. Completion of similar facilities in Nicaragua will similarly enable the Soviets to threaten our Pacific Coast.

SLIDE #10: Soviet intelligence collection site at Lourdes, Cuba, is the largest Soviet intelligence site outside the Soviet Union. This site is manned and operated by Soviets, not Cubans, and is used to intercept our communications — particularly telephone and satellite communications on which we rely for most of our military and diplomatic message traffic.

SLIDE #11: The Soviets have not stopped at constructing facilities. Cuba's youth are prepared for military service in grade school. Political indoctrination and military training are part of the education for the smallest children.

SLIDE #12: These children become the mercenary army for the Soviet empire. Cuban troops are deployed worldwide in support of Soviet strategic interests and they serve wherever their Soviet masters desire.

SLIDE #13: Until October 1983, Grenada offered a similar opportunity for Soviet expansion in this hemisphere. The runway at Point Salines and its associated military facilities alerted us to the fact that something was seriously wrong on this little island.

SLIDE #14: When American and Caribbean troops arrived in Grenada on the rescue mission in October of 1983, they found warehouses full of "Cuban economic aid" in the form of tons of munitions and weapons.

SLIDE #15: Careful research after the Grenada rescue mission showed that the little island of Grenada was being used as a subversion base for Latin America. This rocket propelled grenade (RPG) launcher was captured in El Salvador from communist guerrillas.

SLIDE #16: Inventory lists of weapons held on Grenada indicate that the Salvadoran RPG, along with many other weapons, had been transshipped through Grenada with the support of the Cubans. Interestingly enough, this particular RPG probably was provided by the communist government in Vietnam, sent to Cuba, then to Nicaragua and on to the FMLN communist guerrillas in El Salvador.



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SLIDE #17: Secret military agreements found in the Cuban Embassy and in the Party offices in Grenada indicate that the Soviets and their surrogates had even bigger plans, which were aborted by the rescue mission.

SLIDE #18: Soviet designs for this hemisphere have not stopped with Cuba and Grenada. The Soviets clearly see Nicaragua as the best opportunity for advancing their cause in the hemisphere. Approximately the size of the state of Iowa or Michigan, Nicaragua is today the only country in Latin America with a decreasing population. The Nicaraguan people, once numbering about three million, are fleeing the communist takeover of their country by the thousands.

SLIDE #19: Today, Nicaragua has the largest army ever raised in Central America. By 1985, with the support of the Soviet Bloc and with advisers from the Soviet Union, Cuba, East Germany, Bulgaria, Libya, North Korea and the PLO, the communist regime in Managua had built the most combat-capable military machine ever seen in Central America. This military capability has two primary purposes — intimidation of its neighbors and the indoctrination of its population.

SLIDE #20: To support this military buildup, enormous quantities of military hardware have been delivered to the Sandinistas. The Soviets have provided more than 150 of these T-55 tanks — more than all the rest of the armor in Central America combined.

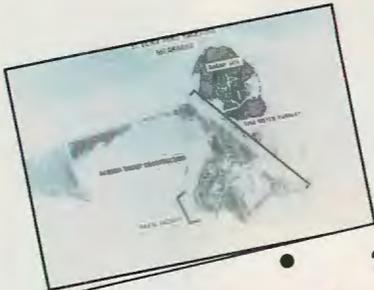
SLIDE #21: PT-76 tanks like these and other armored vehicles provide an offensive capability that threatens the stability of the entire region.

SLIDE #22: Soviet Bloc support has turned the civilian airfield at Sandino into a military bastion.

SLIDE #23: El Tempisque armor staging area is the largest in the region and was built in accordance with Soviet design.

SLIDE #24: Forward airstrip at San José de Bocay, built to Soviet and Cuban design, provides not only a means of attacking the Nicaraguan resistance, but threatens Honduras as well.

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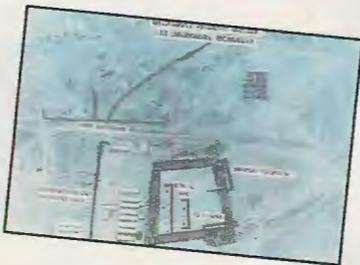
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SLIDE #25: So too does the mechanized infantry brigade at Las Enramadas, located along the main attack route into Honduras.

SLIDE #26: Soviet improvements to the Pacific Coast port at Corinto have turned this peacetime port into a naval facility which threatens Honduras and El Salvador. Firepower like that on the Soviet and Korean patrol boats shown here has never before been seen in the region.

SLIDE #27: Corinto is also used as a main depot for receiving Soviet military supplies shipped to the Pacific side of Nicaragua.

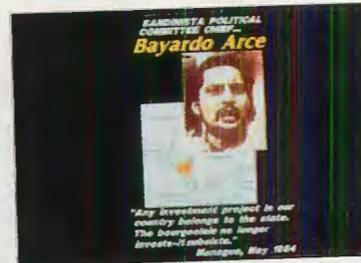
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SLIDE #28: Bulgarian- and Soviet-supervised construction at El Bluff on the Atlantic Coast offers a "two ocean" capability to the Soviet navy. When completed, this port and airfield complex will allow Soviet Bloc ships to base under air cover on the Atlantic Coast of the mainland of the Americas.

SLIDE #29: Punta Huete Airfield, when completed, will allow any aircraft in the Soviet inventory to launch or recover in Nicaragua. Punta Huete is larger than Andrews Air Force Base and is the largest military airfield in all of Central America. Aircraft based at this facility are protected from air and ground attack by Soviet-designed revetments and pose a threat from the Panama Canal to the United States.

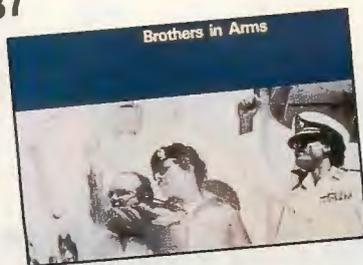
SLIDE #30: Initial Soviet support to Nicaragua was not always as blatant as what we have seen in the preceding reconnaissance photographs. Initially, the Soviets tried to disguise their deliveries and the Nicaraguan military buildup. Attack helicopters like this Mi-8 Hip were originally sent to the Sandinistas as "agricultural support equipment." Note the unique agricultural uniforms and the "agricultural rocket launcher" on this attack helicopter, which bears the Sandinista party emblem.

SLIDE #31: The Soviets have provided a large number of these Mi-24 Hind assault helicopters to the Sandinistas. These "flying tanks" have proven devastating to the Afghan resistance and the freedom fighters in Angola, and are now being used against the contras in Nicaragua. The Soviets deliver, assemble and test-fly these machines of death, which are then flown in combat by Cuban and Nicaraguan pilots. This assault helicopter is the most lethal assault helicopter in the world today. Without effective anti-aircraft weapons like surface-to-air missiles, the contras are highly vulnerable to these weapons.

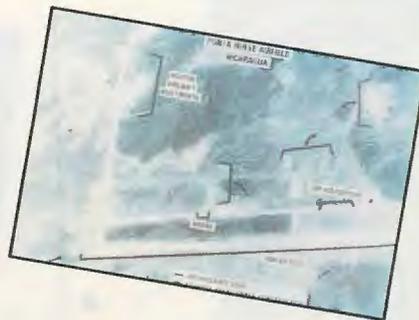
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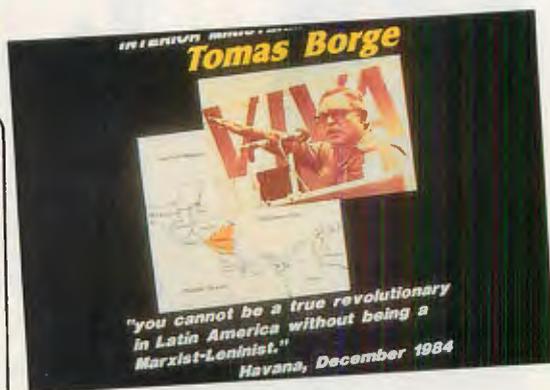
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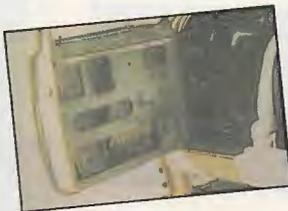
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SLIDE #32: Not content simply to deliver material and advice from the sidelines, the Soviets have also flown reconnaissance missions for the Sandinistas in an AN-30 reconnaissance aircraft — disguised as an Aeroflot commercial plane. This one was photographed at Sandino Airfield outside Managua.

SLIDE #33: For some reason many have been unable to see what the Sandinistas really represent. Yet their words have been true to their purpose all along. Humberto Ortega, the Sandinista defense minister, is the brother of Nicaragua's "president" — a mirror image of that organization in Cuba where Fidel's brother, Raúl, is the defense minister.

SLIDE #34: Bayardo Arce, regarded by some as the Sandinistas' "Che Guevara," clearly believes in spreading the communist philosophy throughout the region.

SLIDE #35: So, too, does Tomás Borge, the Sandinista interior minister. Borge doesn't run the national parks — he runs the secret police. Yet somehow there are many who seem to believe that these people who run Nicaragua today want to live peacefully side by side with democracy. Their own statements deny the fact. By their words we should know them.

SLIDE #36: Daniel Ortega, shown here with his mentor Fidel Castro, can no longer disguise the fact that he believes in Lenin's philosophy of a "vanguard of the revolution."

SLIDE #37: These "brothers in arms" — Daniel Ortega, Muammar Khadafi and Miguel D'Escoto (Nicaragua's foreign minister) — clearly pose a threat to the United States and place at risk American interests in our own hemisphere.

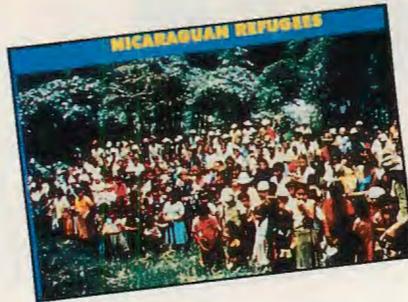
SLIDES #38 & #39: Sandinista efforts to destabilize democracies in the region take many forms. Last year this car — a Soviet-built Lada — crashed into a bridge abutment in Honduras. When police officials became suspicious about the documents carried by the two occupants, they checked more carefully and found that the automobile bearing false Costa Rican license tags had more than a dozen secret compartments.

SLIDE #40: The contents of those secret compartments revealed direct Nicaraguan connections to the communist guerrillas in El Salvador. The ammunition, code books, instructions, East German agent radios and counterfeit currency were to be used by the FMLN in their attacks against the struggling democracy in El Salvador.

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SLIDES #41 & #42: These weapons, collected after the M-19 terrorist attack in which all the justices of the Supreme Court of Colombia were murdered, originated in Nicaragua. The Sandinistas are intent on exporting their revolution — by supporting insurgent, subversive and terrorist movements in the region.

SLIDE #43: Sandinistas also insist on enforcing their revolution at home. When Somoza ruled Nicaragua there were two prisons. Today there are 11 — built to Soviet "gulag design" and designed to ensure that the Nicaraguan people who refuse to submit to their communist rulers are carefully controlled.

SLIDE #44: For those who will not yield, there are few choices. This minister, who refused to shut down his church, was bound hand and foot and set afire inside his church.

SLIDE #45: Like their Cuban counterparts, schoolchildren in Nicaragua are now educated to hate. This is a page from a grade school arithmetic book.

SLIDE #46: Hundreds of thousands of those who will not submit have now become refugees. This entire town fled to neighboring Honduras simply so they could go to church.

SLIDE #47: The Miskito, Sumu and Rama Indians have been all but wiped out on the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua. Over 25,000 Indians have fled to neighboring Honduras and Costa Rica.

SLIDE #48: Denied all other recourse, thousands of young men and women have taken up arms and become freedom fighters against the communists who now rule from Managua.

SLIDE #49: Some freedom fighters, like this 57-year-old coffee farmer, have joined the resistance because their families have felt the brunt of Sandinista repression. This man's entire family was murdered by the Sandinistas simply because they gave water to a contra patrol.

SLIDE #50: Sandinista propaganda would have us believe that the CIA or Ollie North created the contras. It is not so. The Sandinistas created the contras by their own repression and denial of basic human freedoms. It is Sandinista repression that fuels the resistance.

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SLIDE #51: Supporters of the Sandinista regime also would have Americans believe that those who oppose the communists in Managua are simply supporters of the old Somoza regime. This is not true. In this photograph, 11 of the 17 men present once served with the Sandinistas. Adolfo Calero, on the right, was twice jailed by Somoza.

SLIDES #52 & #53: In spite of a vacillating policy of support for the resistance, the ranks of the freedom fighters continue to grow. During the period when no U.S. government funding was available, private U.S. and foreign supporters provided arms, uniforms, food and medical supplies to keep the resistance from being annihilated.

SLIDE #54: This young fighter would have died without the medical supplies sent by American donors.

SLIDE #55: This hospital tent was all that existed prior to the support offered by private Americans and foreign donors. It didn't even have mosquito netting for these grievously injured freedom fighters.

SLIDE #56: Until U.S. government aid was restored, the fighters were forced to draw their own maps on plastic sheets as they went into combat deep inside communist-held Nicaragua.

SLIDE #57: Today, U.S. support has been restored. This humble wooden cross marks the grave of a Nicaraguan freedom fighter. If we are to offer these brave people more than a chance to die for the freedoms they believe in, our support must continue.

SOF ARMOR

BRADLEY IFV

**Pentagon's
Daydream Becomes
Tactical
Nightmare**

by Munremur MacGerrcinn
Photos Courtesy Department of Defense



Some have called the Bradley a camel — a horse designed by committee. Intended as a replacement for the dated M113-series APC, the Bradley has been continuously upgunned and improved to the point that now its battlefield role is unclear.

SINCE its introduction, the M2 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle (BFV) has created a maelstrom of controversy. Most of this heated debate has centered around the vehicle as a machine, with critics focusing on its inability to swim and its vulnerability to anti-armor fire. Proponents have, quite reasonably, argued that the Bradley must be evaluated as a component of the combined arms team. Each component — tank, infantry fighting vehicle, artillery piece, engineer vehicle and so on — has a role to play, and they complement each other on the battlefield.

Comparing it to its predecessor, the M113-series Armored Personnel Carrier (APC), the Bradley is without doubt a superior automotive product. The old M113 APC can be, and has been, product improved to the point that it can equal the Bradley's speed on roads, but not across country. Suspension design of the older vehicle limits its ability to cross rough terrain at high speeds.

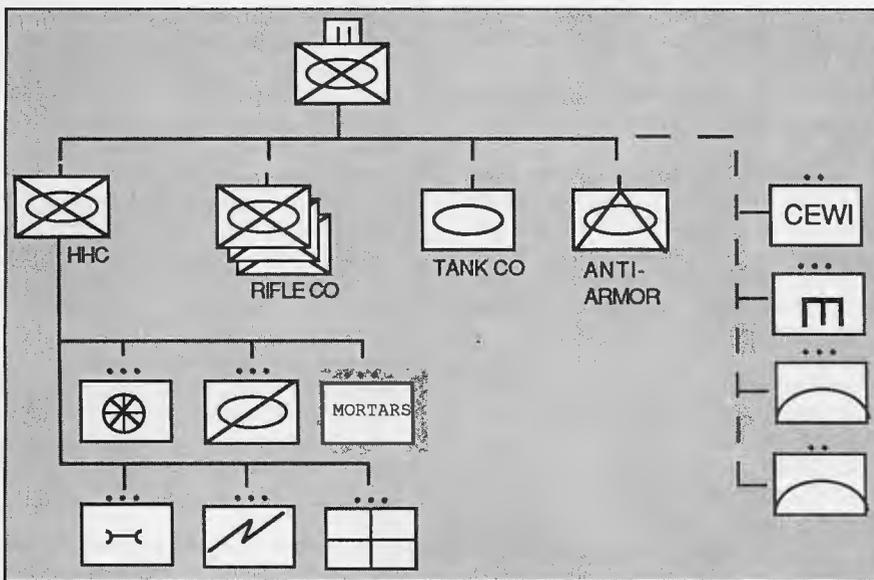
Also, the Bradley has an impressive array of weaponry the M113 can't begin to match. The Bradley's 25mm chain gun will defeat its Soviet counterpart, the BMP, at ranges up to 2,700 meters. Its TOW (Tube-launched, Optically-tracked, Wire-guided) missiles will kill tanks out to 3,750 meters. Bradleys also have a coaxial 7.62mm machine gun and five M231 firing-port weapons — essentially cut-down versions of the M16 rifle.

Able to carry only a squad of nine men (which includes three crew members), the Bradley has less capacity than the M113. A nine-man squad is smaller than the traditional 11-man squad the U.S. Army has had for the past three decades, and this reduction is due primarily to the fact that the Bradley can't carry more than nine men. Three of these men make up the vehicle's crew, and the remaining six are the "dismount element." They fight on foot when the situation calls for dismounted action, using M16 rifles, M60 machine guns, M249 Squad Automatic Weapons (SAWs), shoulder-fired Dragon medium-range anti-armor missiles and other infantry-portable weapons.

Although the Bradley is the basic vehicle of the mechanized infantry battalion, U.S. Army doctrine does not call for battalions to fight "pure." Instead, the basic fighting concept is built around the tank-infantry task force. A Bradley-equipped mechanized infantry battalion would normally exchange one or two of its Bradley companies for tank companies. Platoons might be exchanged between companies in a similar manner, to produce tank-infantry company teams.

This tank-infantry task force would have other attached assets as well. A typical task force would include a platoon of engineers (useful for breaching obstacles), FIRST (Fire Support) teams from supporting artillery, air defense and military intelligence assets.

The first thing you notice when viewing its structure is that a task force has many compo-



TOP: Since its introduction, the M2 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle has been marred by controversy. Is it the key to bringing U.S. mechanized infantry into the 1980s and beyond?

ABOVE: Organization of a typical battalion task force. Most components still rely on the M113. Bradleys are concentrated in the three rifle companies.

MAKING TRACKS

After serving as commander of A Company, 1/61 Infantry, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), operating in I Corps, RVN, Munremur MacGerrcinn spent four years at Fort Benning's Infantry School. He later completed a tour as deputy G-3 with the 2nd Infantry Division. MacGerrcinn has written articles for *Infantry* and *Military Review* as well as a fiction novel, using a pen name, for the SOF Adventure Books series. He currently works as a military specialist developing training programs on the East Coast.

nents. Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) has six "specialty" platoons: support, scout, heavy mortar, maintenance, communications and medical.

In addition to a tank company (which replaced one of the original four mechanized rifle companies), there are several other attached units. Typically, these would be a ground surveillance radar section from the Communications, Electronic Warfare and Intelligence (CEWI) battalion, an engineer platoon, an air defense Vulcan platoon (with its 20mm Gatling gun) and a Stinger section (with its shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles).

All parts of the task force are vital. The task force can't function without its communications platoon, for example. But the communications platoon doesn't have any Bradleys. It has a combination of wheeled vehicles and an M577 armored command post vehicle — which is simply a stretched version of the old M113 APC. And that M577 can't keep up with the Bradleys.

Where are the Bradleys? They're concentrated in the three rifle companies of the task force. In HHC the only Bradleys are in the

scout platoon, plus one for the battalion commander and one for the S3 operations officer. All other elements are mounted either in wheeled vehicles or in vehicles based on the old M113 chassis.

Think about that for a moment. Suppose you were wounded. Where would the ambulance be? It would be far behind, since it's on an M113 chassis. And once it picked you up and brought you to an aid station, how would it ever catch up again?

It gets worse. The anti-armor company is equipped with Improved TOW Vehicles (ITV). They're also built on the M113 chassis. The anti-armor company can't keep up with the tanks and Bradleys. Neither can the engineers, air defense and military intelligence elements, the Air Force liaison officer or the artillery forward observer teams. Even the main command post is mounted on M113-based vehicles.

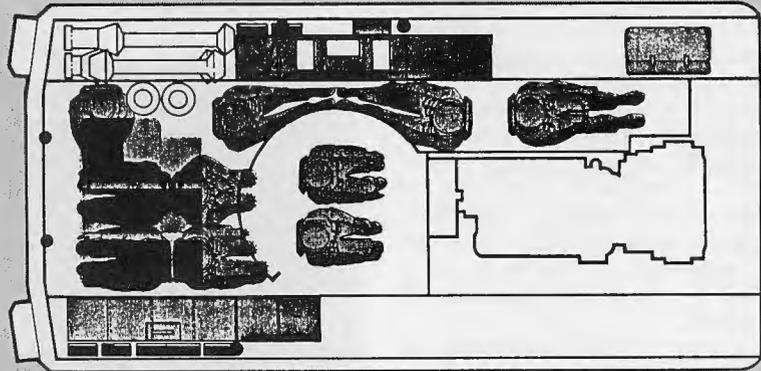
What do we do about this problem? The answer is simple — we slow down and wait for them to catch up. Even though the Bradley and the Abrams tank are capable of high-speed cross-country operations, they're tied to the speed of the slower M113.

There is a second problem with the Bradley. Those infantrymen in the Bradley are there for good reasons. They're a vital fighting element, used to assault enemy strong-points, clear trenchlines and fight the close-in phase of the battle. Armored vehicles like the Bradley and Abrams are deaf and almost blind when "buttoned up." In heavily wooded or broken terrain, they are terribly vulnerable to ambush. So when they come to terrain like this, infantry dismounts and clears the way. In villages and cities, infantry again carries the battle. And on a round-the-clock basis, infantry provides patrols and local security and sets ambushes. Obviously, we need a lot of infantry. But how much do we have in this battalion task force?

We have three companies, each with three platoons and each platoon with three squads. That's 27 squads. And each squad has nine men, right? Wrong! When was the last time you saw a full-strength squad? A typical Bradley squad is closer to six or seven. And remember, three of those have to stay with the vehicle. So we have only three or four men who can dismount. And that means that our mechanized infantry task force can muster only about 100-110 real infantrymen. That's just about a single light infantry company!

Another problem is the armament systems on the Bradley. There are three different systems: TOW anti-armor missiles, with a range of 3,750 meters (a little over 2 1/4 miles); 25mm chain gun, with a range of about 2,700 meters (about 1 3/4 miles); and infantry squad weapons — the M60, M16, M249, Dragon anti-armor missile and so on. These weapons have ranges between 250 and 1,000 meters.

In other words, the three systems have significant range differences. TOWs can achieve hits much farther away than tanks



M2

FIRING PORT WEAPONS

The Bradley has six M231 5.56mm firing port weapons. Of all the problems with the Bradley, these firing port weapons are among the most often condemned. Firing port weapons are mounted on ball mounts through the sides and rear ramp of the vehicle, two on each side and two in the rear ramp. The M231 is essentially a stripped-down, short-barreled M16 without sights. It has a cyclic rate of 1,300 rounds per minute and fires from a 30-round magazine, just like the M16.

The problem with the firing port weapon idea is that it doesn't work. Field of view through the vision block is too limited for soldiers to acquire targets, and there are no sights. Its high rate of fire and limited magazine capac-

ity make it difficult to "walk" bursts into a target. At 1,300 rounds per minute, the magazine can be emptied in less than 1 1/2 seconds. By the time you find where your rounds are hitting, the magazine is almost empty.

A second problem is that the right side of the vehicle is vulnerable. Men on the left side sit facing each other and fire from their M231s' interlocks. But on the right side, soldiers sit back to back. The solution to this is for the vehicle commander to open the hatch, lean out and shoot any bad guys who attempt to approach on that side.

Ri-i-ight!

can fire accurately, so the best way to fight tanks with the TOW is to engage at extreme range whenever possible. That gives you the ultimate luxury of being able to shoot at an enemy who can't shoot back. But if you position the Bradley where it can most effectively use its TOW missiles, the other weapons systems are useless — because

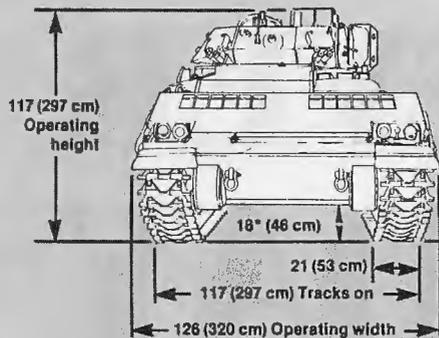
they're out of range.

If you position it so that you can use the 25mm chain gun, then you have given up a half mile or more of range advantage for your TOW. The TOW then becomes simply a slow-moving, slow-loading missile and you're matching it against high-velocity rapid-fire tank guns. And your infantry

COMPARING THE M113 APC TO THE M2 BRADLEY

	M113 APC	M2 BRADLEY
Weight, combat loaded.....	12.5 tons	23.5 tons
Height.....	98.25 inches	116 inches
Width.....	105.75 inches	128 inches
Road speed.....	67 kph	66 kph
Cross-country speed.....	20-30 kph*	48 kph
Cruising range.....	578 kilometers	480 kilometers
Vert. obstacle crossing.....	24 inches	36 inches
Trench width crossing.....	66 inches	100 inches
Armament.....	.50-cal. MG	25mm gun & TOW
Armament range (in meters).....	2000	25mm gun - 2700 TOW - 3750
Crew.....	1	3
Passengers.....	12	6

*Cross-country speed limited by roadwheel travel



A third problem is that of the tail gunners. Can you imagine trying to explain to the first sergeant, "The driver dropped the ramp before I could dismount my M231, Sarge. That's why the barrel's bent and plugged with mud."

So why does the Bradley even have firing ports? As an infantry school representative put it, "You don't understand the psychology of being inside a vehicle under fire and not being able to fight back."

Oh, yes I do! And I've got a couple of Purple Hearts to prove it.

Take it from an old hand: When the vehicle is within rifle range of the enemy, *get out*. If you stay inside, someone is going to put an RPG round into you, and everyone's going to die. Firing port weapons only encourage you to do something that's going to get you killed.

weapons still can't get into action.

If you bring the Bradley forward so that the infantry can get into action, you've given up all your range advantages and you've exposed hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of sophisticated equipment to destruction by a 50-ruble RPG round.

If you put the Bradley where it can best use its TOW and put the infantry where they can fight, how do you get them there? They'll have to walk, exposed to fire the whole way. Remember, the whole idea behind mechanized infantry was that they would ride into action, protected from artillery shrapnel and small arms fire. And if you have to pull back in the middle of the battle, how does the infantry get back to their Bradleys? Does the rest of the task force just run off and leave them to the tender mercies of the Red horde?

In grappling with these questions, the Army has adopted four mutually incompatible solutions. The first solution is that the Bradley will be used at long range, held under cover to "overwatch" the tanks with its TOW system. This is the solution that has been presented to Congress in response to criticism of the vehicle's vulnerability. These solutions are described in FM 7-7J, *The Mechanized Infantry Platoon and*



TOP: Many elements of U.S. mechanized infantry battalions still rely on the M113-series Armored Personnel Carrier — which can't keep up with the faster Bradley during cross-country advances.

ABOVE: Can the Bradley swim? The spec sheet says it can. Opponents, however, remain skeptical, as several have sunk during training exercises.

Squad (Bradley).

For a mounted assault, the manual suggests:

"The mounted assault should be done with tanks leading and BFVs (Bradleys) supporting on the move. BFVs should orient their turret weapons on antitank guided missiles (ATGM) and dismounted targets that could slow the tanks. Firing port weapons should be manned to ensure a high volume of suppressive fire during the assault. As the BFVs move over the objective, care must be taken to ensure that the bypassed enemy infantry are not able to emerge from their trenches and attack the tanks and BFVs with close range AT (anti-tank) weapons."

This fails to take into account that the TOW can't be fired on the move, the vehicle

is highly vulnerable to short-range infantry antitank weapons, and how do you "ensure that the bypassed enemy infantry are not able to emerge" when your own infantry is buttoned up inside the Bradleys?

For dismounted assaults, the manual has three suggestions:

- With tanks. "The assaulting infantry breaches the obstacle line while the tanks provide close support to suppress the enemy. The BFVs provide long overwatch and aid in the suppression effort."

(But how does the infantry get to the obstacle line if the Bradleys are in "long overwatch" positions?)

- Separate from tanks. "Dismounted infantry moves to a position where it can provide close overwatch for the tank assault. . . . The BFVs provide long overwatch to suppress the enemy and destroy point targets of opportunity."

(Again, how does the infantry get into position to support the tanks?)

- Without tanks. "The dismounted infantry breaches the obstacle to permit the BFVs to assault. If the ATGM threat is too great, the infantry moves or infiltrates to a position to

Continued on page 100

NEVER ON SUNDAY

NVA Hits Spike Team Idaho in Laos

by Isaac Staats

Target: E-4.

Command and Control: MACV-SOG, 5th SFGA.

Area of Operation: Laos.

Codename: Prairie Fire.

Mission:

Primary — General recon.

Secondary — Find major NVA POW underground complex where U.S. POWs are held. Complex located near major intersection of Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos.

Alternate — Cancel mission if opportunity to capture live NVA soldier arises.

Target Team: Spike Team (ST) Idaho.

Date: 6 October 1968.

Launch site: Phu Bai, FOB #1, South Vietnam.

Insertion Aircraft: Vietnamese-piloted Sikorsky H-34 helicopters. Kingbees.

Lead ship: 10 — U.S. team leader, 11 — U.S. assistant team leader and 01 — Vietnamese team leader.

Second ship: 12 — 3rd American, 02 — team interpreter and 03 — point man, Vietnamese team.

Third ship: Backup.

Assets on site: two A1E Skyraiders, one O-2 Covey, two UH-1B Huey gunships and Phantom F-4s on call.

I always thought Sunday was a good day not to run missions, especially when the target area was in the deadly Prairie Fire AO (area of operation).

However, for several days prior to 6 October 1968, the weather had been cloudy and uncertain, which prevented any Forward Operating Base (FOB)-1 teams in Phu Bai from launching into the Laos AO. FOB-1 sat along Highway 1, north of the Phu Bai airport, on the north side of an ARVN training compound, just south of the tiny village of Phu Luong, about 10 miles south of Hue.

When there were no teams on the ground, the brass in Saigon got nervous. Hence, in the mornings the first thing the team leaders did was check the mountains west of Phu Bai. If they were clear, the brass would try to get a team or a Hatchet Force inserted in Prairie Fire.

On Saturday, 5 October 1968, the weather had broken enough for ST Idaho One-Zero (U.S. team leader) Don Wolken to fly a VR (visual reconnaissance) over the target area. While Wolken was flying, Sau (the Vietnamese team leader) and I inspected the team.

Sunday morning, the weather was crystal clear, nary a cloud in the sky. Wolken and Sau quickly inspected the team: each American carried a minimum of 25 magazines for their CAR-15s, the Vietnamese carried 20 magazines. Wolken and I both carried sawed-off M79s, 21 HE rounds and one tear gas round. Wolken also carried a .22-caliber semiautomatic pistol with a suppressor. I carried the PRC-25 radio and a bunch of hand grenades, while Robinson and the Vietnamese carried several claymore mines and extra batteries for the PRC-25. Sau and all Americans carried URC-10 emergency radios also.

Shortly before we left, the team posed for a photograph, over the strong protests of Sau and our interpreter Hiep. They said we'd jinx the mission.

STAATS' STATS

Isaac Staats served two tours with the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in Vietnam. The first tour of duty was at FOB-1 in Phu Bai and SOG's CCN in Da Nang, the second at CCN in Da Nang. Staats now lives and writes in San Diego. His other articles in SOF include "Border Legend," SOF, July '87 and "Interview: Harold W. Ezell," SOF, September '87.

A few minutes later, we were on the H-34s flying west on the hour-plus flight to Laos. Those long flights to the target area were peaceful and memorable because we were flying high, where the air was cooler, looking at the dark, lush greens of the jungle. From 4,000 feet, South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia were beautiful. During these flights, I often thought about my grandfather's farm in Belle Mead, New Jersey.

As the H-34s churned westward, my vision always seemed better, aided by the adrenaline that was flowing, anticipating the unknown. Once over Laos, the doorgunners test-fired their .30-caliber machine guns.

Then, the Kingbees went into a dying swan spiral, spinning madly toward the earth. The G-force pushed my stomach upward into my chest. At the last second, the pilot flared out and hovered a few feet off the ground. The right wheel of the Kingbee touched the bomb crater that was our LZ. While we were descending, Wolken sat in the door, looking at the LZ itself. I squatted behind him, with my hand on his left shoulder, watching the perimeter of the LZ for any enemy movement.

Now the blood was pounding through our veins.

As the Kingbee wheel again touched the lip of the bomb crater, Wolken jumped out and promptly disappeared in the elephant grass. I followed. When I landed on the crater, I started slipping down the outside lip. The angle alongside the hill was much steeper than I had realized and the ground was muddy and slippery. I started rolling down the hill, the same way Wolken had. Robinson and the Vietnamese successfully landed on the crater's lip and laughed at Wolken and me. It took us several minutes to rejoin the team.

I radioed Sergeant First Class Robert "Spider" Parks, who was flying overhead in the O-2 Covey, and told him that we were OK. Spider said he'd stand by for 10 more minutes before releasing the assets. Ten



“For more than an hour, my cries and screams into the radio . . . went unanswered as the NVA mounted more mass attacks.”
Illustration: Ralph Butler

minutes later I broke squelch three times for the final team OK.

As we moved away from the LZ, Phouc was walking point, with Sau behind him. Wolken was third in line. I was behind him, Robinson was behind me while Hiep brought up the rear. We had been moving up the hill for about 10 minutes when Phouc hit a beehive. We took a break as Phouc, Sau and Wolken applied mud to their bee stings.

About half an hour later, Phouc signaled that he heard a lot of activity in front of him. Within seconds we all heard the noise. At first, we thought it was an NVA regiment charging toward us. I got behind a log and pulled a pin from an M26 frag grenade, only to realize that we were being overrun by a chattering group of monkeys.

After being overrun, we went into the standard move-10-minutes, wait-10-minutes pace, on the principle that in the jungle you can learn more from hearing than seeing. Then around noon, we heard the first shot fired by an enemy tracker. By 1400 hours they sounded like they had located our trail. By dusk, the trackers had moved through the thick jungle quicker than we had and were closing in on us. We kept moving until last light, then we finally set up our RON (Rest Over Night) site. As I moved out to place a claymore mine on our eastern perimeter, the tracker startled us by firing one last round, which sounded like he was less than 10 meters from our southern perimeter.

Because the trackers were so close, we didn't eat until midnight, after I radioed a team OK to the airborne command center

that flew over Southeast Asia 24 hours a day. Sau and Hiep went right to sleep. Wolken and I were too scared to sleep. Between 2000 hours and 0200 hours the next morning, I listened to the tracker skirt our team, ending his travel in front of my claymore mine.

I wasn't sure if he had located it or not, so I detonated it and woke up the team and half the jungle with the explosive roar. For the rest of the night, there was no more movement around our perimeter.

At first light, we moved on. When Spider flew over, I gave him a quick sitrep (situation report). Through the morning, we heard no more tracker shots or any obvious enemy movement. The only thing that concerned me was the fact that Sau's eyes began to get bigger as the day progressed. By that time, he had been running missions for five years. He could smell the NVA. During one break, he said, “Beaucoup VC, beaucoup VC.” That scared me, because I hadn't heard or seen anything to corroborate Sau's intuition.

At noontime, I gave Spider a team OK, but told him Sau was nervous. Spider reminded me to trust Sau's instincts and said he'd return at 1600 hours.

By now, Sau and Hiep had swapped places, with Sau in the rear and me in the number five slot next to him. Around 1300 hours, I heard Sau hiss like a snake. Across a ravine, on the hill we had just descended, were two NVA soldiers, armed with AK-47s and smiles.

Smiles!!

What kind of game was this?! They didn't

raise their weapons or make any hostile moves. They just smiled at us.

Because they were no more than 45 yards away, I pulled out my sawed-off M79, indicating to Sau I'd like to permanently wipe the smiles off those smirking faces. Sau said, “No, beaucoup VC, di, di! (go, go).”

I told Wolken what had happened and immediately we headed for high ground. Within an hour, we were atop a knoll big enough to hold ST Idaho. Wolken told me to get on the PRC-25 and get Spider back over us ASAP.

By now, Sau's eyes were bigger than saucers. I put the long antenna on the PRC-25 and made several calls on the primary, secondary and alternate frequencies, to no avail. I turned on the emergency beeper on the URC-10. That distress signal was on a channel which was supposed to be monitored at all times by all aircraft flying over the Prairie Fire AO.

No one responded. I opened a can of apricots and was sipping the sweet nectar when all hell broke loose.

Suddenly, the green jungle around us erupted with deafening full-automatic blasts from NVA-held AK-47s. Sau, Phouc, Hiep and Wolken responded instantly.

The crack of AK-47 rounds never sounded louder or closer. All I could see from our perimeter was the smoke, the red and orange blasts coming from the darker-than-ever green jungle, and green AK-47 tracers, which were flying over our heads.

The thunderous fury of dozens of men blasting away at each other on full automatic, within 10 or less feet of each other, kills

SPIKE TEAMS, HATCHET FORCES AND SLAM COMPANIES

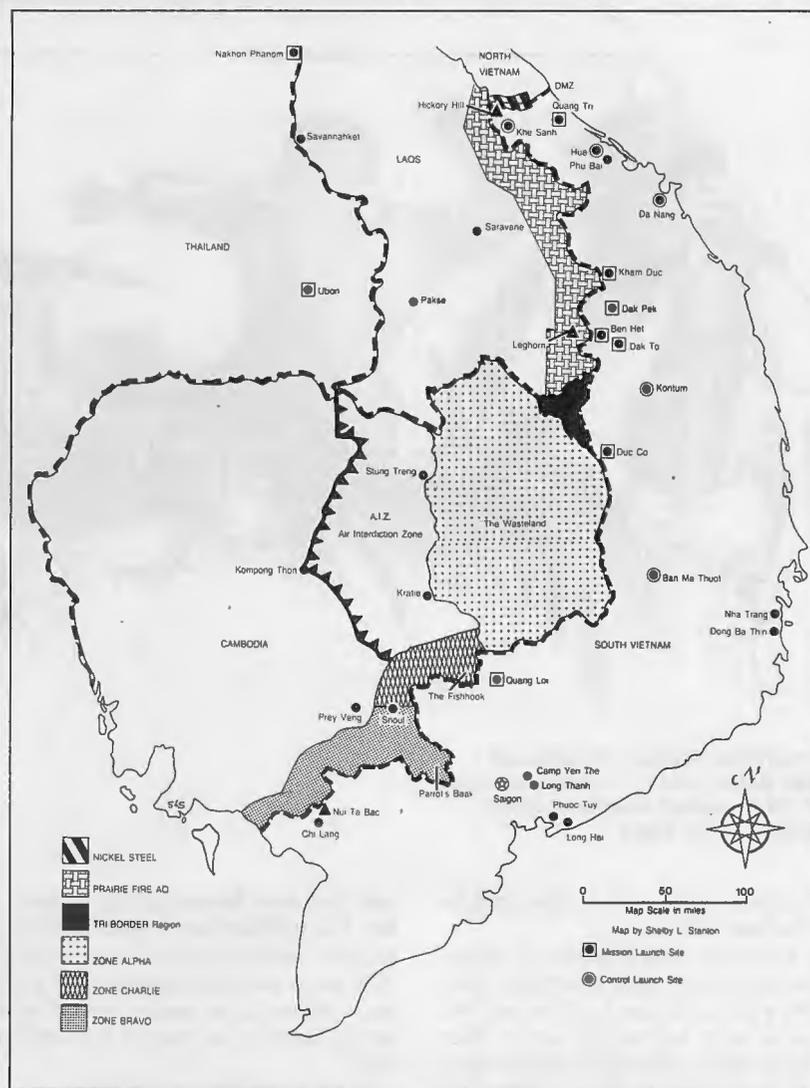
Mention of the U.S. Army's Special Forces in Vietnam usually conjures up images of A-Teams in remote outposts training and fighting with Meo and Montagnard tribesman. After all, the Green Berets' primary mission before Vietnam was the support of guerrilla and partisan forces behind enemy lines. But as America's ground war in Vietnam expanded, so too did the role of Special Forces.

A major departure from their pre-war mission was strategic ground reconnaissance. These missions were conducted under the guise of the Studies and Observations Group (SOG), a subordinate command of Military Assistance Command (Vietnam). Ground Studies Group (SOG 35), one of eight operational commands within SOG, was charged with ground operations and had responsibility for cross-border missions. Operating from Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) located at Phu Bai (FOB-1), Kontum (FOB-2), Khe Sanh (FOB-3), Da Nang (FOB-4), Ban Me Thuot (FOB-5) and Ho Ngoc Tao (FOB-6), Green Berets detached from 5th Special Forces ventured into the border areas of Cambodia and Laos and often beyond.

Frequently, intelligence provided by the recon teams (known as Spike Teams, usually consisting of two to three SF troops and nine indigenous personnel) was exploited by SOG as well. Battalions consisting of four SLAM (Search-Locate-Annihilate-Monitor) companies operated from the same four FOBs as the Spike Teams, and so were often called on to engage in direct ground combat against targets located by the Spike Teams.

Spike Teams were tasked with linear, point, area and route reconnaissance; road, trail and river watch; route mining, interdiction and ambushes; capture of prisoners; bomb damage assessments; the direction of air and artillery strikes on targets of opportunity; crash site inspection; allied prisoner recovery and limited ground combat. SLAM companies were made up of Hatchet (later Hornet) Force platoons. These platoons were tailored to specific missions which included rapid engagement of reproduced targets, reconnaissance-in-force, route interdiction, ambushes and raids, security of temporary patrol bases, short-term area denial, cache destruction and allied prisoner recovery.

After reorganization in November 1967, SOG 35 operations included Command and Control South (CCS), headquartered in Ban Me Thuot, Command and Control Central (CCC) located at Kontum, and Command and Control North (CCN) in Da Nang. The



Project areas for SOG cross-border operations. The map was prepared by Shelby Stanton for his book, *Green Berets at War*, the most complete account of Special Forces operations in Southeast Asia.

border areas in which the teams operated were divided into three "projects": DANIEL BOONE (further divided into three smaller zones), which ran from the southern border of Vietnam on the Gulf of Siam to the tri-border region; PRAIRIE FIRE, which ran from the DANIEL BOONE area to just north of the border with North Vietnam; and NICKEL STEEL, which ran astride the western half of the DMZ. CCS operated in the Bravo and Charlie zones of DANIEL BOONE, CCC operated in PRAIRIE FIRE and the Alpha zone of DANIEL BOONE, and CCN operated in the PRAIRIE FIRE and NICKEL STEEL areas.

If you aren't confused yet, stand by. It should be noted that all three of the "projects" were assigned different names during different periods of the

war. PRAIRIE FIRE was originally known as SHINING BRASS, and after April 1971 was changed to PHUDUNG. DANIEL BOONE was renamed SALEM HOUSE and later changed to THOT NOT. NICKEL STEEL was originally DOUBLE CROSS.

From September 1966 until April 1971, Special Forces personnel assigned to SOG conducted more than 1,500 missions into Laos and Cambodia, providing tactical and strategic intelligence for those directing the war from Saigon and Washington. In the spring of 1971, Congress passed the Cooper-Church Amendment, which prohibited Special Forces from conducting missions across the border, and although the missions continued for some time after that, Vietnamization and the withdrawal of U.S. forces eventually brought the operations to a halt. The sustained unconventional warfare activities of SOG 35 represented not only a broadening of Special Forces' pre-war role, but at the same time it was the Army's most successful deep-penetration campaign.

— G.B. Crouse



said, "Put your heads down. I'm going to make you sweat."

He brought it so close we could feel the heat from the deadly jell. A few seconds later we smelled burning flesh. As he dove toward us a third time, the pilot said, in a quiet Southern drawl, "It's crispy critter time."

When the NVA heard the old World War II plane making another run, they charged us in a desperate attempt to get close to us in order to avoid the Skyraider's deadly ordnance.

Then we blasted away and pushed them back down the hill, and the Skyraider pushed them back toward us, like a death dance. Right then and there I thanked the Lord for Uncle Sam's Air Force.

By now, each team member had developed lanes of fire down the hill. At one point when I was talking to Spider, I thought I saw something moving in my lane of fire. All I could see was the ass of an NVA soldier crawling up the hill. I told Spider, "Wait one" (second). Then the NVA stuck up his head to see where he was, and the last thing he might have seen was a puff from my CAR-15 as his head exploded like a coconut.

For the next few hours, Spider and I worked numerous fast movers and A1Es, hitting the southern and eastern perimeters hard. The Air Force dumped thousands of mini-gun rounds, 20mm rounds, several 500-pound bombs, numerous napalm and CBU (Cluster Bomb Unit) canisters on the dauntless NVA troops. In between gun runs, Wolken and I would fire our M79s upward, like mortars, through one small opening in the jungle canopy.

About half an hour before dusk, Spider told us the Kingbees were on the way. And by that time, the Judge and Executioner had refueled and reloaded and were returning with them.

Ten minutes before the Kingbees arrived, Spider was like a master conductor, running F-4s and A1Es around our perimeter.

The Judge and the Executioner led the Kingbees into an LZ which was about 10 yards west of our perimeter. Spider had spotted a little ridge from our knoll to a knoll covered with elephant grass and small trees. The Kingbee could not land, but Captain Thiñh roared in, chopping the tops off several small trees, and hovered 10 feet off the ground.

ST Idaho ran to the chopper. That wasn't as easy as it sounded. It took us 10 minutes to cover those 10 yards.

The ground was wet and muddy. The elephant grass between 6 and 10 feet tall and thick. Because the grass was so thick I went first, trying to blaze a trail through it. When I fell, Wolken ran, literally ran over me, and plowed forward. When he fell, I returned the favor.

As we moved slowly toward the chopper, the activity around us heightened to a frenzy. The NVA knew what the Kingbee was

Continued on page 116

all sound. Numbs all eardrums.

Then, just as suddenly as the roar had begun, it stopped.

Everybody ran out of bullets, except for me, and I emptied my magazine toward the most intense area of enemy fire.

The only sounds audible through hurting ears were the metallic clicks of magazines being slammed into hot rifles and gunbolts sliding shut to resume the apocalyptic death roar.

ST Idaho won the reload race. Nobody was faster than Sau and Phouc at getting the first magazine out and the second one in. Within seconds we had gained fire superiority. At that instant, at the peak of the fire-fight, those brief, tense adrenaline-pumping seconds made all other games in life seem like patty-cake. You miss your man here and you die.

The majority of the enemy firing was coming at us from the south and west parts of the small knoll. Wolken and I chucked a couple of M26s down the sides of the knoll, in between blasts of full auto on our CAR-15s.

As soon as we gained complete fire superiority, I turned on the URC-10 beeper and started screaming into the PRC-25.

The small knoll saved us. The jungle was so thick and the knoll so small, only a score of NVA could rush us at once.

Soon they were stacking bodies and firing at us from behind their dead comrades. A lot of NVA soldiers died in those first few minutes of hell on earth.

For more than an hour, my cries and screams into the radio and URC-10 beeps went unanswered as the NVA mounted

"By now, my adrenaline was roaring through my body like a berserk subway."
Illustration: Ralph Butler

more mass attacks.

But the hill, the jungle and our CAR-15s worked against them as they continued to pile up or drag away more bodies. With no help around, conserving ammo while keeping Charlie back became a top priority.

Waiting several hours for help in the Prairie Fire AO after making contact with the NVA was not unusual. In fact, any time a team got help in less than an hour or two, people boasted about it as though it were a minor miracle because the AO was so far from Vietnam.

Finally, I heard Spider on the radio. He said an F-4 Phantom returning from a bombing run in Northern Laos had heard the beeper and called him.

I told Spider we had a "Prairie Fire Emergency," which diverted all airborne assets in the AO to our target, including any F-4s that were heading north. Spider also said he had called the Judge and the Executioner — an Americal Division gunship team that was temporarily attached to our operation. Within minutes, Spider was over our position. He told me to pop smoke. I popped a yellow smoke, Spider said he saw two yellows, which meant the NVA were monitoring our frequency.

We changed frequencies and I popped a violet smoke. A few minutes later, the first A1E Skyraider arrived on target and made a gun run on the western perimeter. He made his first napalm run on the south side and

CASE OF THE MISSING MERCS

Legionnaires AWOL in Suriname?

by Patrick Chauvel

ONCE AGAIN I was in the city of Saint Laurent on the banks of the Maroni River, the muddy body of water which separates French Guiana from Suriname.

A rumor of a new offensive, with new mercs, made me come back to this guerrilla war that has never really begun and will never really end.

Upon arriving in Saint Laurent, I headed straight for the cafe in the Toucan Hotel because I knew from long and arduous study of history books that the cafe is where French history is made. The cafe is the site of all gossiping, slandering and conspiring in a French town. Although Saint Laurent is thousands of miles away from Paris, the minute I walked through the door of the Toucan cafe I knew that I had come to the right place.

Seated at tables around the bar I saw the local police, *Deuxieme Bureau* operatives (the French equivalent of the CIA), the military police, the border patrol, local yokels, jungle commandos on leave, pimps, whores, doctors and gold hunters.

After a few *pastis* we were all best of friends and were exchanging our most intimate secrets, swearing to each other that we would never repeat what we heard. I waited. Then, one of the *gendarmes* dropped the bombshell. Lowering his voice to a whisper he told me that six Foreign Legionnaires had deserted from the French military rocket base at Kourou and had joined Ronny Brunswijk's gang of raggedy guerrillas in Suriname. My intuition, which told me when to follow up on dubious leads in every major conflict from Vietnam in 1968 to Beirut in 1982, was telling me to go upriver into Suriname and check this one out. I soon made arrangements to do just that.

After I'd endured the interminable six-hour ride upstream in a wooden canoe, I saw Ronny Brunswijk, leader of the Surinamese guerrillas, standing on the bank of the river as if he were expecting me. He took me back

to his camp and I asked about the legionnaires. He was evasive and said that he had a few white men with him but that he couldn't give me any more information. Ronny was usually very anxious to boast about his army and his men; I knew I was on to something.

I asked the question differently, but Ronny was busy. He was playing with his grandfather, who was imprisoned in a cage (in Suriname and French Guiana the bush negroes carry a caged bird which they claim contains the soul of their grandfather). Ronny's grandfather was a beautiful blue bird. I speak of Ronny's ancestor in the past tense because he regrettably passed away at that very moment. Ronny had been tossing the bird up in the air to "show me." After being thrown heavenward for the third time, the animal dropped back down and slapped into the mud never to chirp again.

Ronny was angry and sad over the demise of his flying grandfather. He said some harsh words to his uncle the medicine man

and left.

I just stood there with my mouth hanging open, ready to ask my next question. I didn't have to ask it. A young white man appeared from behind a house and, after looking at me for a few seconds, he walked over and we shared a few whiskeys. He soon began talking.

He was French, and I'll call him François. He was 19 and came to Suriname with his brother to "fight for the free world."

I knew this type of man. I'd met them before, in Lebanon in 1975. There were 25 of them fighting alongside the Christians. Some of them are good, some are bad and all are dangerous. They fight free of charge, for an ideal. I'm always suspicious when I see anybody doing something for free.

François I could trust because I knew his chief, Titi, who is half French, half Vietnamese. Titi is 38 and I met him in Beirut in 1975. He never talks but he's a very dangerous and brave man.

The most amazing thing about him is that he's still alive. He'd been fighting in Burma for the past 10 years and the Karen consider him a king (but that's another story). François was like him. He wouldn't let me take pictures and only answered yes or no. Finally he agreed to talk about the other mercs.

"How many mercs are there in Suriname?" I asked.

"I don't know," he replied, obviously holding back.

"Have you seen them?"

"Yes."

"I have heard that there are six Foreign Legion deserters."

"Maybe."

"Look, everyone knows about them. Are they here or not?" I was growing impatient.

"The only thing I can tell you is that three white men were killed yesterday. They died like idiots."

"How and where?"

"In Blackwater, on the road east of Mon-

BACK TO THE JUNGLE

Patrick Chauvel has reported on and photographed conflicts from Vietnam to Rhodesia to Central America. He was also the first journalist to break the story of Ronny Brunswijk's rebels in Suriname (see "Mercs in Suriname," SOF, June '87, and Robert K. Brown's follow-up, "A Slow Boat to a Slow War," SOF, August '87).

"Suriname is interesting," according to Chauvel. "You've got guerrillas, led by mercenaries, who're into voodoo and fight with shotguns, crossbows and dynamite against a Libyan-backed dictator in this incredible malarial jungle teeming with anacondas and piranhas."

Only mad dogs, Englishmen, French photographers and SOF staffers travel to places like Suriname.

go. There were two pickup trucks packed with men. It must have been around 0700. As usual they were driving very fast. The three white men were riding in the first truck. They felt safe because the only bridge in the area had been destroyed [the one Karl, John and I blew up during my earlier visit—see “Mercs in Suriname,” SOF, June ’87]. But the Surinamese army had just gotten some new equipment, built a temporary bridge, came across the river in an armored car and waited behind a hill. They probably heard the trucks coming from a mile away because they don’t have exhaust pipes. When the pickup reached the top of the hill, the driver slammed on the brakes but couldn’t avoid a direct hit from the armored car’s 90mm gun. They were all instantly killed. The second truck skidded off the road and everyone jumped out and began running into the jungle. They survived to tell us the story . . . stupid . . . stupid.”

“Who were the three guys?”

“One Dutch guy and two Foreign Legionnaires.”

“Do you know their names?”

“No.”

“Were they good soldiers?”

“I don’t know. Sorry, but I have to go now.” And he left.

It seemed to me that this was the day when everyone was going to leave me standing in the mud with my questions.

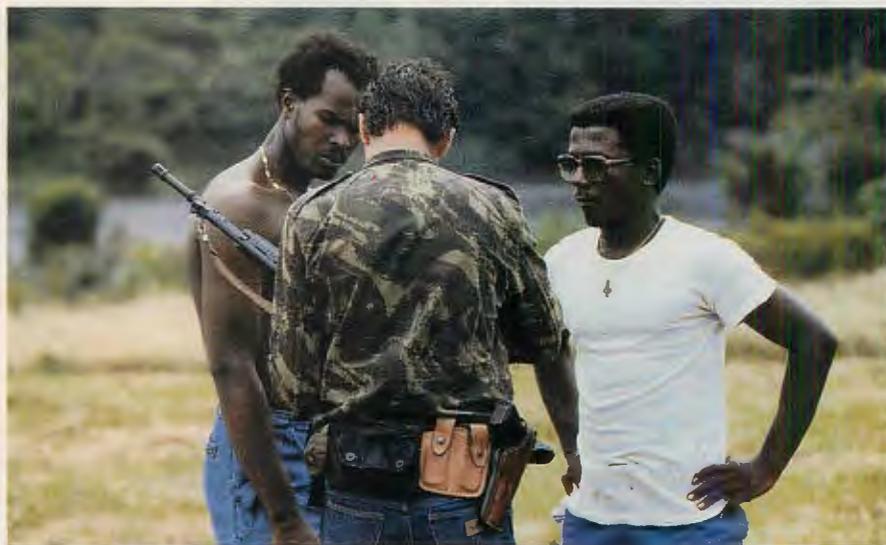
Toward the end of the day, Ronny decided to attack his own headquarters. He and 10 of his men began shooting all over the islands. The “defenders” in the exercise panicked and bullets were flying everywhere. As Ronny grabbed a recently captured .50-caliber machine gun, I tried to warn him that the photo tripod it rested upon could not withstand that kind of weight. He ignored me. After the first round had been fired, the gun slowly fell to the ground with Ronny gripped to it, screaming his head off and firing. The gun finally jammed and I was surprised to see that no one was hurt or dead. In fact, everyone was laughing. Over at the French outpost, I could see lots of agitation. Maybe they thought Bouterse had attacked the island.

After eight more days of waiting and periodic visits to the “front,” I went back to Cayenne. In Cayenne, I called a friend who gave me photos of the two dead legionnaires that had been released by the Surinamese government.

They are accusing the French of assisting the rebels.

I interviewed Jacques Dewarte, the prefect of French Guiana. He said the death of the two men had greatly embarrassed the French, especially since one of the legionnaires had been carrying French military identification.

“It’s going to be very difficult to explain to the Surinamese that these guys had deserted and didn’t know where to go and went to Suriname in search of a little adventure. Now we are stuck with an official complaint. Usually we tell our neighbors when we have deserters, but this time we



TOP: Squad of Surinamese guerrillas during morning drill.

ABOVE: British merc advises rebels as to the proper use of an assault rifle.

didn’t tell anybody. That is why the Surinamese are saying that these guys were not deserters.”

“Were they deserters?” I followed up.

“Of course. Do you seriously believe France is going to take that kind of risk? No way. We are waiting to see what will happen over there. We will only take action if we are directly threatened. For now we show our support by accepting refugees and housing and feeding them. That alone costs us a lot of money.”

“You’re also sending a lot of food to the rebels. I’ve seen the bags.”

“The Surinamese use the same bags. We don’t help any armed force.”

Realizing I would get nothing but the official line from Mr. Dewarte, I concluded the interview and made plans to return stateside.

Text translated from French by Max Berley.

Editor’s Note: After filing this story, author Patrick Chauvel contacted SOF and relayed several rumors he’s picked up since leaving Suriname. One source said that be-



ABOVE: Surinamese guerrilla with FN FAL during training exercise.

tween 20 and 60 foreign mercs have joined Ronny’s guerrilla band. Also, “Doctor John” (see “Merc Rip-off in Suriname,” SOF, August ’84) is reportedly back in-country. We’ll keep you posted as the situation develops.

Rumors aside, SOF has received a letter from the Surinamese Embassy disputing our story on the rebels and their mercenary brothers-in-arms. Look for Ambassador Arnold Halfhide’s letter and SOF’s response to his accusations in an upcoming issue. ✎



After rappelling from the rooftop, a team member holds his position outside window until assault begins.

FOR years Israel has been in the vanguard of those countries fighting terrorism. El Al aircraft were among the first to be hijacked, and in 1970 Israeli commandos stormed a hijacked Sabena jet, becoming the first to use their military skills to recapture a hijacked airplane from terrorists.

Israel plays the anti-terrorism game with its cards close to its chest. Techniques, training, tactics, strategy and equipment used by elite units that recaptured the Sabena airliner in 1970, rescued the hostages at Entebbe in 1976 and prevented dozens of hijacking attempts against Israeli planes since then have long been kept secret, officially shared only with a few close allies

SOF COUNTER-TERRORISM

CONTROLLED VIOLENCE

IDF Alumni Export
Anti-Terrorist Expertise

by Robert Rosenberg
Photos by Jeff Rotman

ON TEL AVIV'S FRONT LINE

Robert Rosenberg, currently a staff writer for the *Jerusalem Post* in Tel Aviv, has spent the last seven years covering crime and terrorism in Jerusalem. Rosenberg is also a special correspondent for *U.S. News and World Report*, has written for *Time*, *Playboy* and *Life* magazines, among others, and recently completed his first novel. We welcome his first contribution to SOF.

such as the United States, West Germany, France and England.

But in recent years, as terrorism has spread like a virus across the face of the Western world, Israeli veterans of those elite units have been turning their experience and reputation into a business, teaching their skills to others — and with the blessing of the Israeli Ministry of Defense.

Exporting Israeli security know-how, which Israeli sources estimate now to be a \$100-million-a-year business for Israeli companies, brings valuable foreign currency to Israel. Exporting Israeli security skills also helps spread Israel's political message: Don't give in to terrorists.

Several Israeli companies, staffed by veterans of the Israel Defense Forces' most elite units, now operate in dozens of countries. Governments and international corporations have hired Israeli firms to provide training for armies and private security operations.

International Security and Defence Systems (ISDS) is one of those companies. ISDS was founded by Leo Gleser, who currently heads ISDS; Gleser and his staff are all former members of the Israel Defense Forces. ISDS uses the philosophy, strategy and tactics of the same Israeli army units in which ISDS staffers served.



ABOVE: ISDS personnel on a training exercise prepare to enter building occupied by terrorists holding hostages.

BELOW: ISDS team enters building carrying, from left to right, Browning High Power, sound suppressed UZI and UZI SMG.



The basic philosophy that underlies the strategy for all Israeli anti-terror operations is that, from the moment terrorists strike, the military option is the only real option.

Executing that option is what Gleser and his staff teach at ISDS's school in Israel and on training missions abroad. Courses in subjects as varied as escape driving, forensics, terrorist ideology and weapons handling are taught to students sent by governments and corporations from North America, Europe, the Far East and Central America.

Although training is available for private individuals, it is restricted to personal protection-type training. Gleser does not offer his services to non-democratic countries, nor to countries that are unfriendly to Israel.

Only about 10 percent of those enrolling in one of Gleser's anti-hijacking or VIP protection courses successfully complete the course. Anything from slow reflexes to a volatile personality can cause a trainee to wash out. In Israel, a candidate for an elite unit undergoes psychological testing as well as testing in basic soldiering skills.

Training ranges from teaching students about terrorism and terrorist tactics to the ideologies of the terrorists they are most likely to encounter and the basic skills and equipment needed for the kind of mission involved.

The first step in any anti-terrorist operation is intelligence. "The mission," says Gleser, "hinges on intelligence." Often, intelligence available to the unit includes biographical data on the terrorists. Few terrorists hijack a plane without their organization broadcasting responsibility for the mission, and properly organized intelligence-gathering about potential terrorists means that a well-prepared commando unit will be familiar with the specific tactics used by that group.

Intelligence means information about what's going on inside

the airplane, who the terrorists and passengers are and their condition. Negotiations can mean the release of the elderly or the ailing, the children or the women. And with the information that those released passengers can provide the commando team, the team is able to put together its tactics for the rescue mission.

How many terrorists are onboard? What kind of explosives or weapons are they brandishing? Are they quarreling among themselves? Who is the leader? Where are they positioned inside the aircraft?

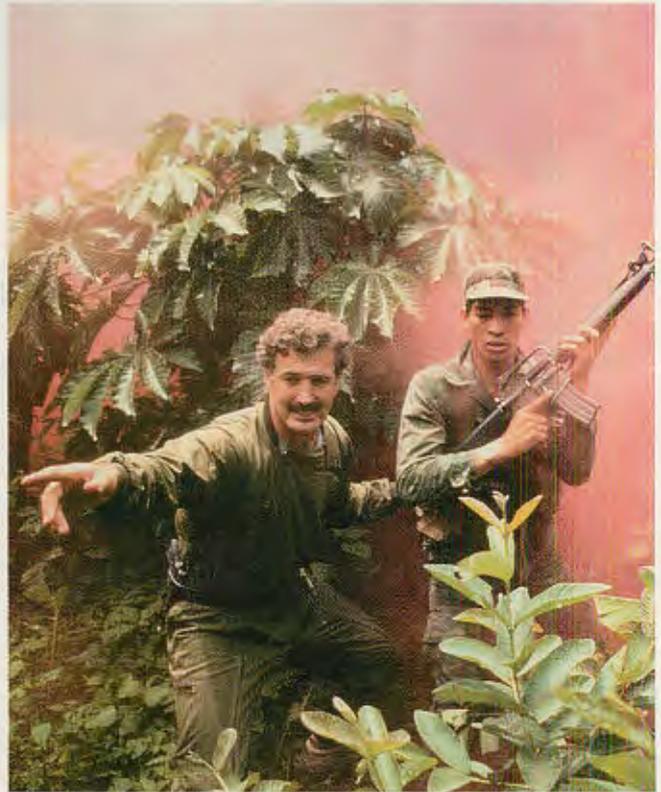
Intelligence can also be gathered with listening devices attached to a plane so that an operator can hear terrorists' conversations. Special cameras fitted with lenses and filters able to see through the windows of a plane provide the commandos with real-time surveillance of the inside of the aircraft.

After intelligence, the most important element in successful counter-terrorism — once the political willpower exists — is the skill of the commandos. Commandos are taught to work as a team, repeating the same maneuvers over and over again. Almost all actions undertaken by soldiers in an actual mission involve pairs, with one soldier watching the back of the other: a built-in backup system that is aimed at doubling both firepower and self-protection.

As they train, commando teams are given hypothetical situations. They may be told that there is only one terrorist onboard, holding only the cockpit hostage, or they may be told that there are six terrorists onboard, holding 200 passengers hostage with suitcases of explosives and high-powered rifles.

In each case, the team commander has to put together the most appropriate response. In the training course Gleser runs for airline hijackings, the hypothetical situation usually involves a team of between three and six terrorists, holding at least half a planeload of passengers hostage with explosives, grenades and small arms.

In some cases, the assault begins with subterfuge, drawing the attention of the terrorists in one direction and moving in from another. The terrorists are unable to see under the plane and, at night, lighting can be set up so that they are essentially



Anti-terrorist training in the jungles of Central America.



ABOVE: Over 20 years of field experience fighting terrorists have produced a host of Israeli experts offering their skills and expertise to responsible foreign governments and corporations.

BELOW: ISDS team members hang from ladder attached to airplane door with grappling hook prior to assaulting the aircraft.



blind to what is going on beyond a short radius from their position.

Charging the plane from across the tarmac, as the Egyptians did in Malta (resulting in the deaths of dozens of passengers and soldiers), is not the Israeli way. Rather, the Israelis emphasize using small teams that get to the plane out of sight of the terrorists.

The theory of the attack is to strike from as many different entrances to the aircraft as possible. Passenger planes are built with safety hatches and doors for passenger and crew entry, as well as storage areas. Small charges can be used to blow open those hatches and entryways, and if done properly the explosions can distract the terrorists.

An important element to keep in mind here, say Israeli experts, is that, although terrorists onboard a plane usually threaten to blow up the aircraft with themselves onboard, none have ever done so.

Suicide terrorists commit suicide quickly, but once terrorists have taken a plane and begun negotiations, their assumption is that they will somehow get out of the situation alive — or go down in a firefight.

One strategy of the Israelis seems to be based on the assumption that, once under attack, terrorists will respond to the attack rather than shoot at hostages. Hostage shooting takes place during the waiting period, not during the assault itself, unless something goes drastically wrong.

Once the assault begins, commandos want to create as much

confusion for the terrorists as possible. Smoke grenades, tear gas and shouts to passengers in the languages they know are all used.

The basic idea behind the method of assault is that the commandos wrest control of the situation from the hijackers. The hijackers may be expecting an assault — but they don't know when it will occur. When it comes, the chaos and confusion are routine for the commandos. But for the terrorists, worn down by the anxiety of hours or days of negotiations, the chaos is disorienting, putting them on the defensive rather than giving them time to shoot hostages or detonate preset explosives.

Any letup in the assault gives the terrorists time to take cover, grab a hostage as body protection and shoot back. Ideally, the terrorists should have no time for any of that.

Right behind the first assault team comes a second team which includes paramedics able to begin first aid treatment under fire. That second team's purpose is to begin evacuation of the hostages through exits that have been cleared of terrorists. Assault team members all have training as sappers (bomb neutralizers), but several specialize in being able to quickly dismantle booby-trapped suitcases or explosives wired to go off. Their work begins while the assault is still underway; both sappers and medics put their skills to use as soon as they board the aircraft.

A successful assault, from the moment the confusion begins until the hijackers have all been disarmed, captured, wounded or killed, should take no longer than about 60-90 seconds. The longer it lasts, the more likely there will be casualties for friendlies — commandos or hostages.

Just as important as training is planning. "Planning is what security is all about," says Gleser. ISDS staffers have planned security for airports, put together a VIP protection mechanism for a soft-drink manufacturer with plants in more than 30 countries, helped rescue an executive kidnapped by criminals in Latin America, and provided security for one of the largest cash payrolls ever put together in a Central American country. ISDS



Member of hostage rescue team perched on aircraft wing in full kit.

ISDS-trained team practices retaking hijacked aircraft in Central America.



is currently at work on a proposal requested by a European city bidding for the 1992 Olympics, preparing a security plan in the event the city does host the Olympics.

Planning security for a major special event in a large city can require years of hard work. Events like the Olympics can draw millions of people to a city. Thousands of VIPs and hundreds of physical plants such as buildings, bridges and airport facilities can become targets for terrorists. Meanwhile, security has to be designed so that it doesn't disrupt normal activities of the city where a special event takes place.

Transit routes, VIP security, hotel security, border control, crowd control, disaster management, energy and water and sewage sources: All these elements and many more are the concerns of the security planners. Collecting all the information is a multi-year task.

Another aspect of ISDS work is preparing risk studies for corporations interested in new territory. Everything from the economic and political stability of a country to an analysis of military threats that country faces (or poses to its neighbors) is considered. Risk studies have to be conducted with a high level of professionalism based not only on field operation skills but also on expertise in such varied academic fields as history, political science, psychology, economics and military strategy.

Gleser emphasizes that airline security begins as preventive security. All his staffers, in addition to being members of elite combat units, were professionally involved in security for international transport.

Commando assault teams to rescue hostages are a last resort in a long line of security measures ranging from effective baggage searches and terminal security to undercover air marshals who travel along with passengers onboard.

Gleser's company provides training for that kind of comprehensive security, and when taking on a course to train commandos, he does so on condition that other aspects of the

airline's security are also improved.

Israeli troops haven't had to storm a hijacked plane since the early 1970s in large part, say Israeli officials, because of the effective security measures taken before the airplane lifts off.

But Israeli military units continue training to this day for such an eventuality. That kind of preparedness is what Gleser's staff tries to teach every commando who passes through ISDS courses.

There is no guarantee that any group of soldiers, no matter how well-trained, will successfully overcome a group of hijackers holding an airplane and its passengers hostage. Israeli troops have done it. West German troops have done it. Others have not been so successful. Twice, in 1978 and in 1985, Egyptian troops tried it and on both occasions dozens of passengers were killed.

But even without such a guarantee, the Israeli philosophy is based on the assumption that the only appropriate response to the uncontrolled violence of terrorists is the controlled, surgically accurate violence of highly trained troops.

Negotiations with terrorists will only lead to more terrorism, more extortion.

But like all professionals in the business of counter-terrorism, Gleser believes that, as terrorists learn that authorities are ready to risk lives instead of knuckling under to terrorist demands, terrorists will think twice before attempting an attack.

Soldiers learning this Israeli philosophy in Latin America, security personnel training in ISDS courses in Israel, and government and corporate officials who decide on the Israeli method have all made one basic decision: that terrorism may not be eradicable, but it can be fought.

Enquiries regarding the services and training offered by International Security & Defence Systems should be sent to ISDS, P.O. Box 2283, 76122, Rehovot, Israel. ✕



THE ADVENTURES OF SPECIAL BRANCH

Dangerous Dirty Work in Rhodesia

by Mick Doyle

group whose only reason for existing was to fuck with us ordinary troops. In reality this was not the case. Its real job was in the field, gathering intelligence at the grass-roots level — and many of them were to die doing it.

Much of the danger in doing SB's "dirty work" lay in the seemingly crazy risks we used to take in the TTLs (Tribal Trust Lands). We were forever sneaking into kraals at night, unannounced, to "detain" a likely lad or two for "questioning" on the whereabouts of the ever-elusive and much hated enemy — communist-backed terrorists. We sometimes unknowingly arrived in terrorist-occupied kraals — and the results were *always* interesting and sometimes fatal. We always faced the prospect of being set up for an ambush when keeping jungle appointments with our bought-and-paid-for African informers. And the fact that many of our patrols were by vehicle (the dictates of time and mobility often left us with little other choice) made us extremely vulnerable to the constant threat of road ambush. The sort of danger and risks that we faced working for SB can best be illustrated by the example of a couple of policemen.

On 19 July 1976, Constable Sylvester Manyawu, while carrying out a vehicle patrol with a patrol officer in the operational area, was ambushed from the front and both sides by terrors.

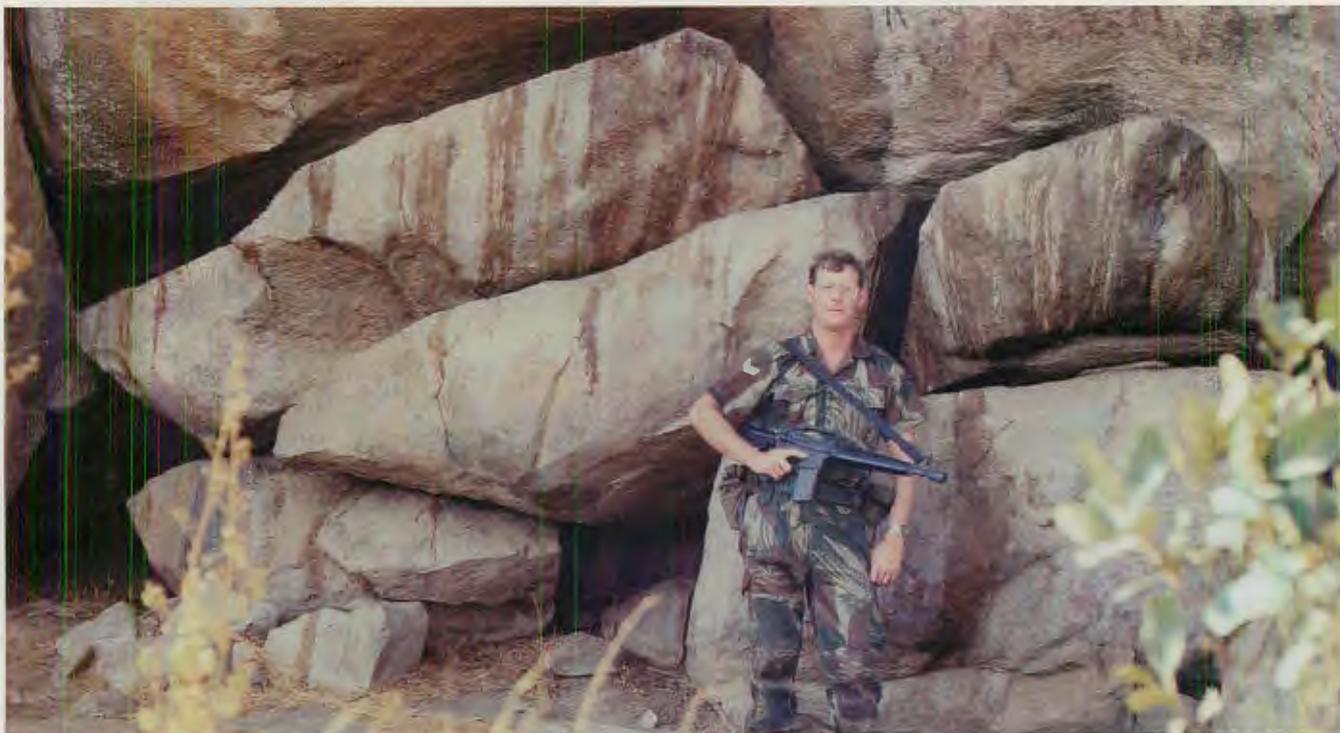
LEFT: Bluey, the inimitable, incorrigible Australian of 1 Commando, RLI. Photo: Rhodesian Army *Assegai*

BELOW: Texan Bob Holloway strikes a pose with his "varmint gun" before the prehistoric rock paintings of Domboshawa in Rhodesia.

SPECIAL BRANCH was always with us in Rhodesia and, in our war stories, still is!

SB — Special Branch — was that clandestine part of the BSAP (British South Africa Police) that did the sort of jobs the FBI and CIA do for America. It also ran the intel side of our little brushfire war.

I was with the BSAP in Rhodesia. I eventually got to work for SB and even eventually understood its unconventional ways, but initially at least I was in the same boat as the rest of the guys serving there. We generally had the impression that SB was a sinister





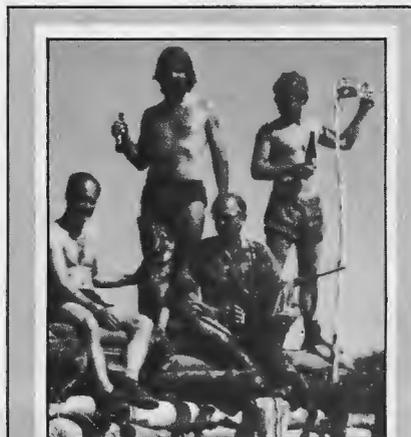
The vehicle was extensively damaged by small-arms fire, and Constable Manyawu was horribly wounded five times — in both thighs, right lower leg, right wrist and on the left side of his neck. The patrol officer suffered serious bullet wounds to his face, shoulder and neck. Constable Manyawu returned the terrorist fire until his weapon jammed. He then took over the patrol officer's rifle and continued to put down effective fire until the terrors broke off the engagement. The patrol officer, due to his injuries, was in no condition to assist, and Constable Manyawu helped him to a nearby small African township — where assistance was repeatedly refused. (Refuse a man like this at your own peril, I'd have thought!) Although seriously wounded himself, Constable Manyawu hid his wounded comrade and set off on foot and walked three miles — with three AK bullets in the legs alone — to a bush school, where he collapsed and was later revived by the schoolteachers.

Later in the day, the attention of an overflying Security Forces airplane was attracted and medical assistance obtained for Constable Manyawu, who, in turn, led the rescue party to the wounded patrol officer.

Constable Sylvester Madenda Manyawu was awarded a well-deserved Police Cross for Conspicuous Gallantry.

Also doing so-called dirty work for SB were the Special Investigation Sections of the BSAP. As much as SAS was Rhodesia's LRRPs (Long Range Reconnaissance Patrols) outside the country's borders, SIS were the LRRPs inside the TTLs of Rhodesia.

The SIS teams were multi-racial police units which were deployed into an area after an unsuccessful Security Forces contact. Once a police or army unit had lost contact



Bunker-building author Mick Doyle (far right) and mates, including Fritz the Dog, hang out on a beer break at an SB patrol base.

BLACK BOOT AUSSIE ADVENTURER

Mick Doyle served an eventful tour of counterterrorist operations in Rhodesia with the Black Boots — the British South Africa Police (BSAP) Support Unit. The adventurous Australian stays on the move nowadays, filing frequent dispatches for the pages of SOF detailing intriguingly diverse experiences and encounters abroad.

An abbreviated list of Doyle's articles for SOF includes "Taiwan Hookup" (May 1987), "Airborne Vigil" (October 1986), "Rice Paddy DZ" (June 1986), "Green Hell" (March 1986), "Bats, Bugs & Blisters" (February 1986) and "Coppers on Cyprus" (January 1986).

Road ambush presented a constant threat to police and army troops in Rhodesia. Photo: Rhodesian Ministry of Information

with a terror group, SIS would be clandestinely inserted into the area. The SIS men would stay under cover, laying-up on OPs (observation posts) during the day and only moving at night. Once the terrors were hunted down, the SIS men would, with the advantage of surprise, engage them or, if the enemy force were too large, Fire Force (parachute and heliborne reaction units from Rhodesian Light Infantry or Rhodesian African Rifles) would be called in to surround and destroy the terrors.

One SIS man I knew personally was Rob Parker, who had previously served in the Support Unit (BSAP's infantry regiment), who had been decorated with the Commissioner's Special Commendation for Brave Conduct, and who was promoted to the rank of inspector by the time I left Rhodesia. Rob was also awarded the Legion of Merit (Member) for some of his successes in SIS.

There are exceptions to everything, and it was those exceptions that left us with the impression I initially shared of SB being some sort of a Gestapo, more concerned with screwing the guys fighting the war than with killing terrors.

I recently met a South African, a veteran of the BSAP's CID (Criminal Investigation Department) who had done many bush tours on attachment to SB. He was one of those painfully straightlaced types that seem to abound among the dour Afrikaners of South Africa's own Bible Belt. He seemed to have forgotten the BSAP's military traditions, and appeared to get as much pleasure out of investigating his own comrades-in-arms as he did hunting down terrorists.

It was he who uncovered the ivory poaching and smuggling racket of the Selous Scouts. Only it turned out, when he took the investigation to its conclusion, that policemen were involved from start to finish. An SB reservist who worked with the Scouts was obtaining the poached ivory from a Territorial (reservist) Scout in the Gon-Re-Zhou National Park, the elephant country of the far southeast of Rhodesia. Scouts were secretly transporting the ivory by army trucks and air force helicopters to the South African border at Beit Bridge. There it was loaded onto SB trucks and smuggled across the border, where it could be sold for much-sought-after foreign currency. South African Customs never bothered to search SB vehicles at Beit Bridge, as they were forever crossing the border on operations against terrors who hid out in remote parts of the world-famous Kruger National Park.

I know of several other examples of SB supposedly harassing the troops. Some of the troopies' bitches were legitimate, I know, because I knew those very troopies and the overzealous detectives involved.

But most times it was petty rules that SB was obliged to enforce on behalf of the army — such as not letting the troops keep pieces of captured enemy kit as souvenirs. The reasons for this were well-known to the troops who did the bitching. The Selous Scouts and the various irregular auxiliaries needed the latest terr kit to be able to mix freely with the terrorists and to successfully pass themselves off as terrorists. Also, units such as the Selous Scouts, SAS and, to a lesser extent, RLI could use all the terr kit they could get to maintain the captured gear they were already using against the enemy. (Rhodesia was one of the only guerrilla wars

where government forces captured large amounts of their gear from the insurgents — usually it's the reverse.)

I sympathize with the blokes who had kit taken off them — *if* the SB officer was keeping it himself instead of handing it in. That *did* sometimes happen. I must say, I kept a few knickknacks myself and I did allow the troops working for me to keep a few souvenirs, too. But I tried to draw a line between harmless collecting and overdoing it.

For example, on a number of occasions when we had hit terrorist resupply groups and recovered a great deal of equipment, I didn't mind my blokes picking up an AK magazine or a bayonet as a memento of a bloody good day's work. I was, however, quite strict about not letting them have any of the weapons, mines or ammo, or any of the medical supplies. Some of the blokes would have gone just too bloody far given half a chance — and

it was those very same blokes who did most of the bitching about SB.

Some of the so-called SB harassment of the troops often involved what have to be admitted were justifiable criminal charges resulting from undeniably criminal acts. A good friend of mine was the well-deserving victim of one of these incidents. Like me, he is an Aussie and was known to all of us in Rhodesia by his Australian nickname, Bluey. (He had bright red hair!)

Bluey was a very enterprising soldier, to say the least, in 1 Commando, RLI, and had also served in Vietnam with the Australian army. He had a well developed, if a little strange, sense of humor, too — unfortunately for the Rhodesian Air Force, which was often its target. I remember when Bluey borrowed (stole) a Panhard armored car from the Blue Jobs (the air force men) at the Grand Reef Fire Force Base, outside Umtali. He took all the boys of 1 Commando — who were well game for such adventure — for joy rides, much to the annoyance of the Blue Jobs. What is really amazing is that Bluey almost always got away with it!

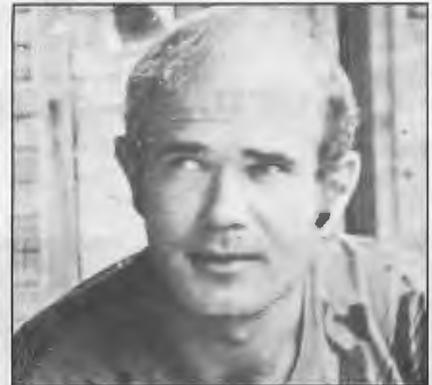
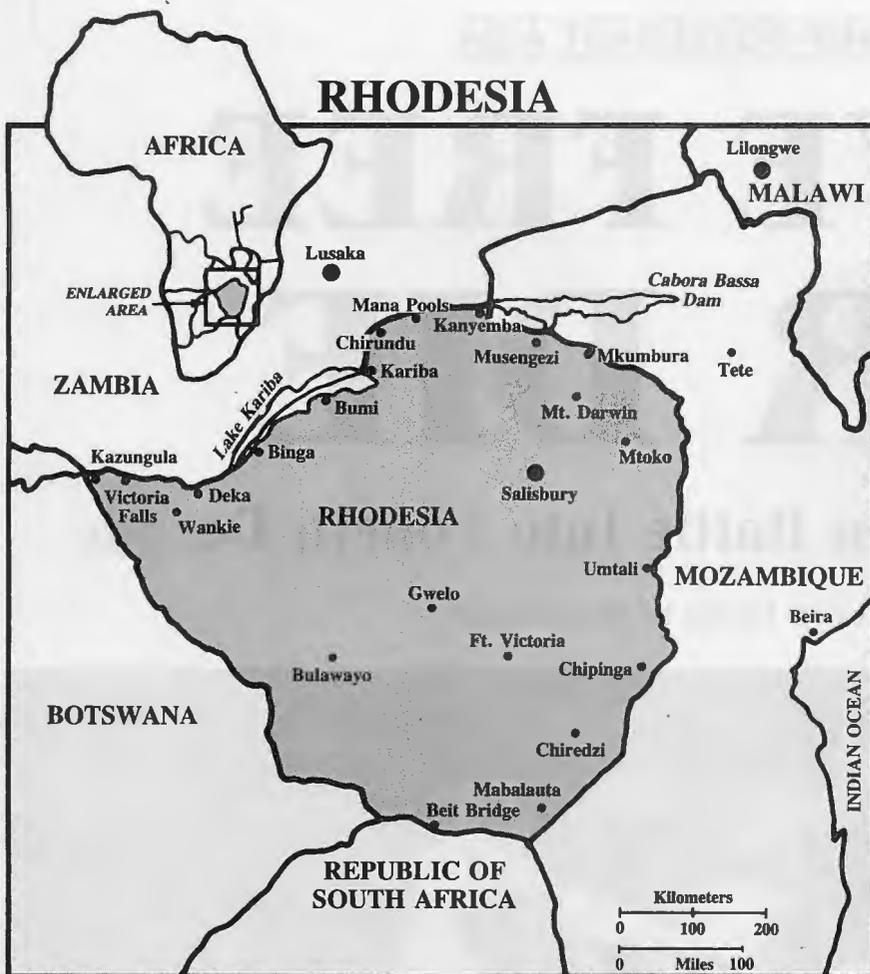
Bluey had a certain style. Like when he tried to kill the Commando sergeant major who had been giving him a rough time. Bluey missed with his 9mm Browning High Power, and then claimed it was just a battle fatigue reaction to a rat-a-tat-tat noise made when someone nearby dropped a stack of shovels. He talked his way out of attempted murder charges and ended up only getting



LEFT: Heliborne Fire Force arrives on the scene in the bush. Photo: Rhodesian Army

BELOW: BSAP Special Branch troopers solicit intel in the kraals. Photo: BSAP Outpost





TOP: BSAP Constable Sylvester Madenda Manyawu, recipient of the Police Cross for Conspicuous Gallantry.

ABOVE: BSAP Inspector Rob Parker, recipient of the Legion of Merit (Member).

two weeks in the RLI box (guard house) for an AD (accidental discharge)!

In his inimitable style, Bluey had the Regimental Police at the box bluffed in no time at all. When I visited him, he was not only refusing to go out on work details, but he actually had the somewhat timid RPs bringing him beers and "stick books" in his cell.

Bluey finally ran afoul of SB when he was arrested for stealing pistols from a Blue Job armory and selling them off to the local white farmers. Now don't be forgetting that Bluey had been at this dodge for quite some time before SB finally nabbed him. He was only caught because one of his supposedly close friends, a nasty little Irishman, had informed on him.

The Irishman, Gerry M., was quite a surprise to all of us. He was ex-British Army like many other Irishmen in the Rhodesian Security Forces, only the other "micks" were all bloody good blokes who'd die before they'd rat on a mate. I do hope Bluey one day catches up with him.

Bluey spent a few weeks in prison in Salisbury before they deported him to Australia. He thus became the only foreign serviceman ever to get his ticket out of Rhodesia paid for by the government.

I visited Bluey in prison and found him to be quite comfortable there. (No cruel remarks about the convict origins of us Aussies, if you don't mind!) You see, we foreigners had an inside friend in the Rhode-

sian Prison Service. One of its officers was an Englishman by the name of Mike Large. A real old-fashioned gentleman, he was. He'd served in World War II, Korea, the Mau Mau uprising in Kenya, as a mercenary in the Congo and Zambia, and in Rhodesia with the Rhodesia Regiment, BSAP, and finally as the hangman in the Prison Service — and as such certainly put more terrors under the sod than any individual ever did in the bush.

Mike saw to it that Bluey wanted for nothing. Besides, back in the old days of Rhodesia, each white prisoner was assigned a black prisoner as a batman (personal servant)!

One really lucky piece of work was done one time by an off-duty SB officer in Bulawayo, the provincial capital of Matabeleland. He had been having a few drinks in Bullies (Bulawayo) at the end of a long hot day, when he started chatting with a fellow from Rhodesia Railways. This civilian was working in the railway shunting yards and was making a big song and dance about a very large train that had very recently been shunted off onto a siding. The cargo, he said, was agricultural equipment, its origin was the port of Cape Town in South Africa and its destination was Zaire.

This got the ever-inquisitive SB officer very curious indeed, because it was at that time in 1977 that big bunches of Belgians were being butchered in Kolwezi in south-

ern Zaire. After many more Shumbas (Lion Lagers), the railway worker was finally convinced by the always very persuasive SB type that it was, in fact, his own idea to take SB down to the train for an unofficial look.

Lo and behold, the first crate of "agricultural equipment" they crowbarred open contained FN FAL rifles and the next was chock-a-block full of FN MAG machine guns, all brand new. And so it went throughout the whole trainload.

SB arranged for another engine to shunt the trainload of hardware out of the Bulawayo yards and up to a dusty old siding at Llewellyn Barracks just east of the city. It took the army two weeks to unload, catalog and store this newly appropriated horde of FN goodies. A few weeks later, I started to see brand-spanking-new Belgian-manufactured weapons in the hands of freshly trained, still wet behind the ears, African troops and policemen. What I wouldn't have given for a chance to trade my very worn and weary South African R1 for a nice new Belgian FN FAL!

In town, SB liked to play the little game of listening in on private conversations in public places. (I imagine they expected to catch people selling secrets to the Russians, or the British, or the Americans, or some other national enemy!) Anyway, we foreigners who used to RV (rendezvous) at the

Continued on page 101

LIVE FREE OR DIE

Burma's Karen Battle Into Fourth Decade

Text & Photos by Bruce Siegel



AS the war between Karen rebels and Burmese forces nears its 39th year, neither side seems likely to give in. The Burmese government seeks a unified Burma — one nation, one people. But the Karen want independence.

The fighting occurs in a slice of eastern Burma alongside the Thai border. To the Karen, it's the Republic of Kawthoolei. To the Burmese, it's Karen State.

Of the 160,000 soldiers in the Burmese army, some 17,000 are stationed there, compared with the estimated 5,000 soldiers in the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA). In this disputed territory, the Burmese control the major towns, roads and

A soldier in Wang Kah offers his soda to a Karen baby. The sign in the background cautions drivers to slow down.

some military camps, but the Karen control nearly everything else.

Kawthoolei, with its dense jungle, muddy rivers and mountains, is ideal for guerrilla warfare. The Karen have mastered the art: They lure enemy troops into ambushes, inflict heavy casualties and withdraw.

"The Burmese suffer very much," said Saw Ba Thin, prime minister of the Karen provisional government, speaking at headquarters in Kawthoolei. Burmese casualties outnumber the Karen's eight to one. "You

know they can read a map. But our soldiers know every inch of this area, so when the Burmese enter this area, we know how to encircle them, how to ambush them, how to kill them."

Another reason for the Karen's success is motivation. The Karen fight in one of their traditional homelands for cultural survival; often the Burmese are there because it's a job. There is almost no work in Rangoon, so young men join the army. Before going to Kawthoolei, they're told only a few Karen soldiers remain and it's an easy assignment. In addition to their salary, soldiers in the war zones receive special benefits, according to Ba Thin.



ABOVE: Corporal Saw Maung Saw holds captured artillery rounds. In his right hand he holds a high-explosive round with timed fuse. In his left is a high-explosive antitank round.

LEFT: KNLA soldiers patrol a trail which connects Wang Kah to the front line some 3 miles away.

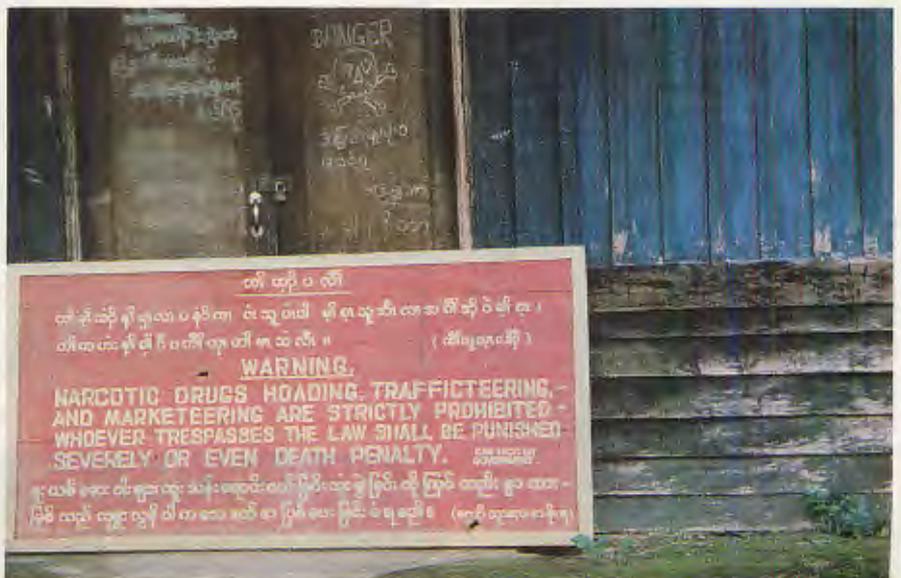


ABOVE: Lance Corporal Saw Noah, recently returned from the front, cradles his RPG-2.

RIGHT: A soldier chats with some of the few girls left in Wang Kah in Kawthoolei.

BELOW RIGHT: This sign in Wang Kah explains the Karen position regarding drugs. In 1983 KNLA soldiers executed a man for attempting to smuggle heroin through Kawthoolei.

BELOW: A KNLA soldier uses a giant leaf to protect his rifle from the rain.



"It's logical. If I was a young man in Rangoon, I'd join the army too," said a Karen official. "What else would I do?"

It's not until the new recruits arrive in Kawthoolei that they learn the truth. "Many of the young Burmese officers are very aggressive. They come to Kawthoolei, wanting to make a name for themselves. They lead patrols deep into the bush and die. The more experienced Burmese soldiers know better; they advance slowly and suffer less. They realize the Karen won't give up," said Ba Thin.

Increasing the risk to the Burmese, KNLA soldiers mined the jungles in Kawthoolei. "Land mines don't kill; they just cripple. That way they [the Burmese] have to carry their wounded. It means more trouble for them," said another Karen official.

During the dry season in 1984, the Burmese advanced deep into Karen territory and established several camps, which they still occupy. When attacking the Karen, they often use recoilless rifles and howitzers, but with limited success.

Heavy artillery intimidates the civilians, but the soldiers are used to it. At the start of an attack, they entrench themselves in bunkers and ditches. Unless there's a direct hit, which rarely happens, there's no real danger, says a Karen soldier.

Last February the Burmese, attempting to capture some high ground, shelled the KNLA base at Wang Kah for 20 days without hitting a single bunker. During that battle 19 Burmese were killed and 34 were wounded. But only two Karen were wounded, according to a Karen official who asked not to be identified. And many Burmese weapons were captured, including antitank rounds and rocket launchers.

More often than not, when the Burmese engage KNLA troops, they lose. In 1975, to compensate for these failures on the battlefield, the government implemented its

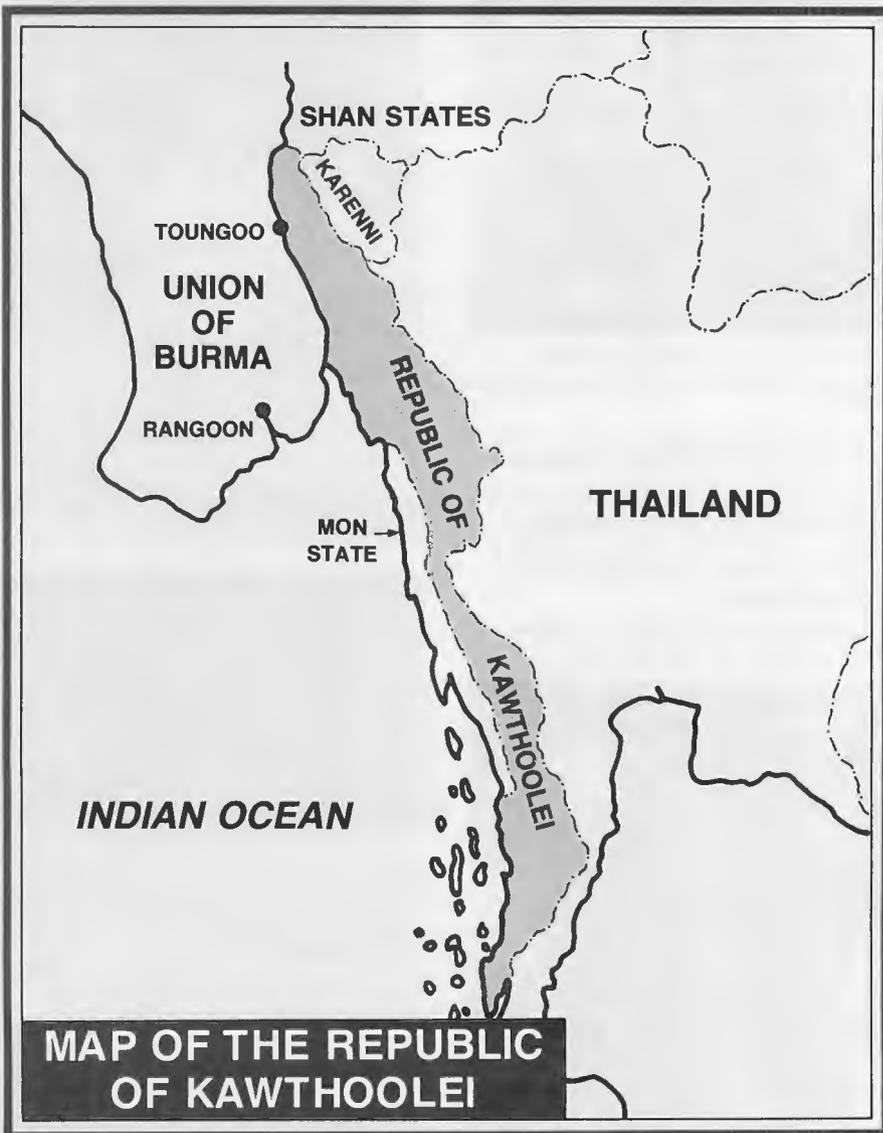


ABOVE RIGHT: Soldiers and civilians work together to manufacture charcoal. When it's ready, they load it into a truck and distribute it throughout Wang Kah, Kawthoolei.

RIGHT: To the Karen, it's the Republic of Kawthoolei; to the Burmese, it's Karen State. Whatever you call it, the fighting between the Karen and the Burmese has been going on for 39 years and shows no signs of ending in the near future.

OUT OF KAWTHOOLEI

Bruce Siegel became familiar with the Karen cause while working in refugee camps in Thailand in 1979 and '80. Siegel, a native Californian, has worked for various newspapers in the San Francisco Bay Area and also hosted a community affairs program for a local radio station. His articles have appeared in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Palo Alto Weekly* and *Portalwood Press*. This is his first article for SOF.



KAREN TESTIMONY

U MAUNG MAUNG, 57, Kyet Thuang Seik village near Belin township



"On 22 November 1986 I was arrested with 10 others at Thet Po Ta, close to Thuang Seik village, where we were asked to reveal where we had hidden our weapons. I told the Burmese we were civilians and not soldiers and had no weapons. They tied us up and beat us and asked us to lead them to the Karen positions. I told them we would not do this as the paths were mined. The Burmese soldiers then tied my hands behind my back, and a Burmese soldier tied a rope to me and made me walk in front of him, jerking me from side to side, using me to clear the mines. I tried to walk on the side of the path, but he jerked me back onto the path. I stepped on a mine."

U Maung Maung's left foot was blown off. He also suffered a deep wound to his right leg. The Burmese soldier was also injured. The Burmese treated their own soldier's wound but did nothing for U Maung Maung. When the soldiers left, the villagers came to pick up U Maung Maung's body but found him still alive. They carried him for six days and brought him to the Karen dispensary, where he is now being treated. He is too weak to be operated on for removal of the stump. His leg will have to be amputated below the knee when he is strong enough to withstand the operation. Soldiers from Number 70 Light Infantry Battalion stationed at Pyin Ma Bin Seik were responsible for this crime. The officer commanding the column took part in the beatings.

PAN SHWE, 27, farmer from Me Re Ki village, Papun District

"My father-in-law and I were traveling to Me Wi village to visit relatives on 17 December 1986. We were stopped by Burmese soldiers of the 59th Regiment, who accused us of being Karen soldiers. The Burmese were talking among themselves and spoke of taking us to their commanding officer, where we would be executed. We understand some Burmese, so knowing we were to be killed we waited for an opportunity to run away. When the soldiers were not looking, we escaped."



The father-in-law escaped unscathed, but Pan Shwe was shot in the back of the right shoulder. The bullet passed through and hit the right cheek, fracturing the jawbone. His right eye was also injured. He hid under a bush and the soldiers were unable to find him. The soldiers left and he stayed under the bush all night. Next morning villagers found him and took him to the Karen dispensary. It took five days to get there. There is little that can be done for him. The side of his cheek is shot away, and the jaw would have to be wired up. There is extensive damage, causing distortion of the teeth and gums. He cannot eat solid foods. A well-equipped modern hospital could probably repair some of the damage, but it would be a long and expensive treatment and the Karen don't have the money.

[Editor's Note: This evidence of human rights violations in Burma was collected by a small committee called Tribal Refugee Welfare in Southeast Asia, 35 Tangmere Way, Balga, Western Australia 6061. Members of this group use their own money to bring the plight of the Karen to the attention of the public. They will gladly accept donations and also suggest that concerned readers write their senators or congressmen.]

Four-Cut Policy: (1) Cut the rebels' supply lines; (2) Cut the rebels' contact with civilians; (3) Cut the rebels' source of income; and (4) Literally cut their heads off.

The government assumed Karen civilians in Kawthoolei assisted KNLA soldiers by providing them with food and information. So Burmese soldiers, acting with the authority of the government's new policy, began targeting civilians.

They burn villages and granaries and force farmers to work for them as porters, carrying munitions and food. And they use them as human mine detectors. "When they launch an operation, they round up villagers like criminals," said one Karen. Many have been forced into "protected villages," which are guarded by Burmese soldiers.

In May, Burmese soldiers visited Karen villages in the Du Tha Too District in Kawthoolei.

"The enemy, that is the Burmese army, came to our village and killed some of the villagers, captured some, took away their rice and paddy [unhusked rice], and they try to make them go to a concentration camp. . . . They fixed a date, and on this day all of us must go to the concentration camp. If we see you in this place after that date, there's no question." The soldiers threatened to shoot civilians found in the village past that date, said Saw Thura, speaking through an interpreter in a refugee camp in Thailand.

More than 30 villagers were killed, he said. Some were shot, others were bayoneted. After the soldiers left, Thura and other survivors headed for Thailand.

Saw Chit Khine, a farmer who arrived in the same refugee camp in July, said Burmese soldiers kidnapped his wife and two-year-old son. And they made him accompany them on a military operation. They suspected him of having contact with KNLA soldiers, so they tied his arms behind his back and forced him to march in front, using him as a human mine detector. He did this for 10 days, until he stepped on one. When he removed his shirt, he revealed thick purple welts on his back, shoulders and arms. The backs of his legs were also scarred.

The soldiers sent him to a Burmese hospital, and after he recovered from his wounds, he escaped. He was afraid to return to his village, so he went to Thailand. But since he arrived there, he's heard nothing about his wife and son.

As a result of the Burmese policy toward civilians in Kawthoolei, some 20,000 Karen live in refugee camps in Thailand, and many villages in the war zones are abandoned. However, the soldiers — Burmese and Karen — remain and the fight goes on.

The Karen's strategy is in part determined by their small budget. "Because of limited resources, we must fight defensively," said Ba Thin.

"They [the Karen] try to specialize in attacking the Burmese strongholds. And the

Continued on page 104

REBUFFING THE BEAR



SWEDEN last fought a war in 1815, when Russia seized Finland and then part of the Kingdom of Sweden. Up until then the Swedes had been heavily involved with politics and war in central Europe and at one point invaded the Russian heartland; after the loss of Finland, Sweden concentrated all energy on preparing to rebuff a Russian invasion. Their preparations were consolidated in the south of the country, and their strategy was to allow the invader to land, then fight him on Swedish soil.

In 1855 Sweden adopted a policy of neutrality, which has been maintained ever since, even through two major European wars. Neutrality, however, has never prevented members of the Swedish army from volunteering their services to other nations. In 1866 many Swedes rallied to fight against the Prussians and in the early part of the Second World War 9,000 Swedish volunteers formed the Swedish Volunteer Corps, the Hango Battalion and the Svir Company to help the beleaguered Finns fight against

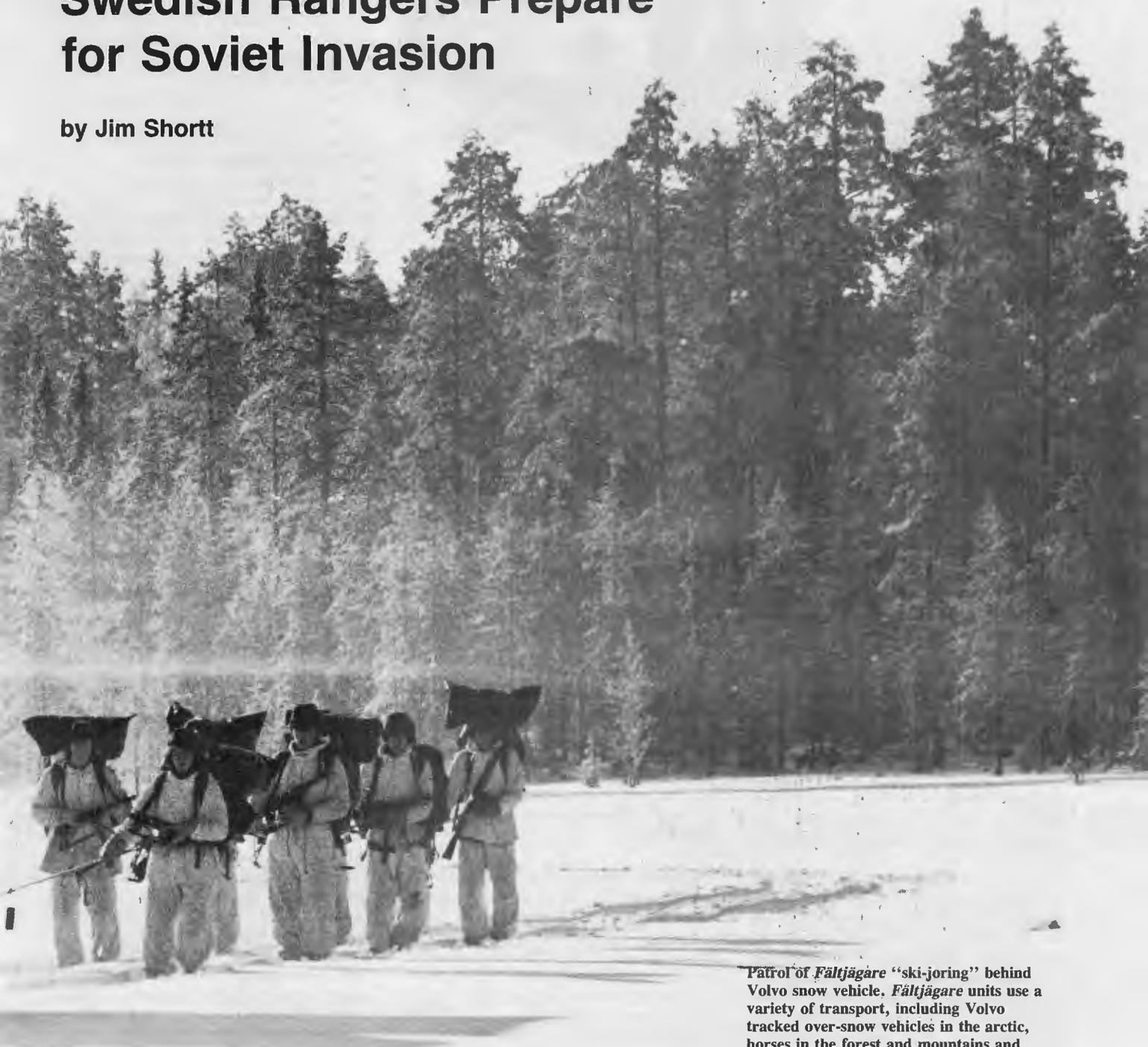
the Soviets.

Swedish defense policy has normally identified Russia as the major threat in the Baltic, particularly after one Russian leader predicted that one day Sweden would be Russia's friend in the same way as Finland.

With a population approaching 8.5 million, Sweden has an army of 9,000 regular troops, mostly officers and senior NCOs, a further 9,000 active reservists, 36,000 conscripts in initial training and a further 80,000 conscript reserves on refresher train-

Swedish Rangers Prepare for Soviet Invasion

by Jim Shortt



Patrol of *Fältjägare* "ski-joring" behind Volvo snow vehicle. *Fältjägare* units use a variety of transport, including Volvo tracked over-snow vehicles in the arctic, horses in the forest and mountains and assault boats where required. Photo: L. Sjögren, FLC

ing. Including the Swedish Home Guard, that provides the country with an army of about 835,000 men.

The Swedish army is mainly a conscript force, with a period of service varying from 7½ to 15 months depending on the service specialization. Conscripts are put through a physiological and psychological assessment before they are assigned to a unit. Women are required to complete national service but are not placed in combat roles.

Sweden has 26 military defense districts

grouped into six commands (*militärområde* or MILO):

- *Ovre Norrlands* (MILO ON)... Lapland
- *Nedre Norrlands* (MILO NN)... Northern
- *Ostra* (MILO O) Eastern
- *Sodra* (MILO S) Southern
- *Vastra* (MILO V) Western
- *Bergslagens* (MILO B)

In Home Defense, Sweden has organized her army into three types of brigades:

- Norrlands brigades situated in the north.
- Infantry brigades situated in the south and

in central Sweden.

- Armored brigades situated in the south.
- Sweden's elite units or special forces are the *Jägare* (hunters). Swedes translate the term in military parlance as Ranger. The Swedish army has operated elite units since at least the Second World War, when the 5th Infantry Regiment (I5) operated in an elite forest-infantry role and 19th Infantry Regiment (I19) operated in a cold weather and arctic role.

There are special forces within the three



armed services. The Swedish army contains:

- *Fältjägare* (Forest & Arctic Rangers).
- *Fallskärmsjägare* (Parachute Rangers).

The Swedish navy operates Coastal Artillery Regiments, which can be compared to a corps of Marines. Unit KA1 (1st Coastal Artillery), based at the main naval base at Vaxholm, operates a company-sized unit called *Kustjägare* (Coast or Marine Rangers).

Basjägare

The newest special forces unit was created in 1975, part of the air force. They are the *Basjägare* (Base Rangers) and are attached to F7 (*Flygvapnet* or air force base #7) situated at Sätenäs. Their role is aggressive patrolling and defense of airfields and the environs. They wear a green beret with the Swedish air force badge on it. Every second year they return to the Parachute Ranger school at nearby Karlsborg for six weeks training. All are parachute qualified. Their role and concept is very similar to 2 (Parachute) Field Squadron of the British RAF Regiment.

Fältjägare

During World War II, I19 was moved from Lapland north into the Arctic Circle to Kiruna, where it became a Ski Reconnaissance unit. In 1945, the *Jägarskola* (Ranger school) was opened at Kiruna. In the late 1970s, the 22nd Infantry Regiment (I22) became Arctic Rangers (*Fältjägare*). Prior to this, historically I5 was described as

TOP: Two men in ambush position, armed with 84mm Carl Gustav antitank weapon and AK4 FFV rifle with scope. All members of *Jägare* units are volunteers. Photo: L. Sjögren, FLC

ABOVE: *Fallskärmsjägare* show their instructor, Lieutenant Lars Falt, how they used his method of tree limbs, backpacks and insulation mats to build a raft. Photo: Jim Shortt

Fältjägarna operating in the Northern Military Region. The role of I5 was, however, more like mountain troops.

Presently there are three *Fältjägare* units, two based within the Arctic Circle and the third in the Western Military Region, sharing their HQ with the *Fallskärmsjägare* company. Though based in the south, K3 (3rd Cavalry Regiment — *Livregementets Husarer*) is also Arctic-trained. Another cavalry regiment, K4 (4th Cavalry Regiment — *Norrlands Dragonregemente*), is based in Lapland at Arvidsjaur. The northernmost *jägarbataljoner* is I22, based at the *Jägarskola* (Ranger school) at Kiruna.

Unlike most of the Swedish army, those entering service with the various *Jägare* units are all volunteers.

The purpose of the *Jägare* is primarily to gather intelligence behind enemy lines in an LRRP (long range reconnaissance patrol) role, in support of a division usually composed of:

- Two infantry brigades.

- One armored brigade.
- One HQ battalion.
- One field howitzer battalion.
- Various logistic battalions and companies.

Within the Arctic Circle the *Fältjägare* support the *Norrlands* brigades, each of which comprises:

- One arctic brigade HQ.
- One arctic reconnaissance company.
- Four arctic rifle battalions.
- One arctic field howitzer battalion.
- One arctic antitank company.
- One arctic engineer battalion.
- One arctic tracked antitank company.
- One arctic antiaircraft company.
- One arctic supply and service battalion.

Jägare will operate behind enemy lines for weeks or even months at a time, without resupply. During this time they will also engage in ambushing the invader and seizing bridges and bottlenecks to concentrate enemy forces in a position vulnerable to air attack and artillery bombardment. Recruits for the *Fältjägare* are usually selected from people in the area where the units will operate so that they are familiar with the local terrain and topography.

Each year, new conscripts are recruited to the battalions, while the outgoing *Jägare* are placed in the Reserve, in which they serve until the age of 32, at which point they are transferred to the Home Guard. The Home Guard is intrinsically an anti-Spetsnaz formation composed of locally-based 10-man units which guard airfields, borders, harbors, communications, mobilization depots and strategic non-industrial installations. A special industrial Home Guard has responsibility for the same defense function, caring for military industry such as factories, parliamentary buildings, post offices, the state banks, railways, telephone network, power stations and power net, and the broadcasting authority. On reaching 32, a Reservist can choose where he wishes to serve his remaining defense commitment.

For every *Jägare* battalion and company there are an estimated 10 to 14 Reserve battalions and companies. These Reserves have to return for update training every three to four years for between three and five weeks training. In addition to this, the Home Guard patrols also benefit by having many former *Jägare* personnel in their midst. Those who are very successful in training may also choose to make the *Jägare* their career and become senior NCOs and eventually officers on the training and support staff. In the Swedish army every member under the age of 40, regardless of rank, must complete a 30-kilometer forced march within 12 hours, each year.

Since 1985, *Jägarbataljoner* (Ranger battalions) supporting the divisions are also capable of operating at company strengths to support individual infantry battalions and the armored brigades of the division. *Fältjägare* units use a variety of transport including Volvo tracked over-snow vehicles in the arctic, horses in the forest and mountain regions and assault boats where required.

They are organized in platoons of 30 men for operations. Depending on their mission they can also operate in either two half-platoons of 15 men each or in fighting patrols of 8-10 men, usually consisting of:

- One patrol commander.
- One second-in-command.
- One signaller.
- One patrol medic.
- Two M78 gunners (Swedish version of the Belgian FN MAG58 7.62mm GPMG).
- Two CG 84mm antitank gunners (FFV Carl Gustav).

Fallskärnjägare

The *Jägare* started to look at parachute capability in the spring of 1951, having put a number of officers through the U.S. airborne school at Fort Benning, Georgia, the U.K. parachute school at RAF Brize Norton, and the Belgian paracommando jump school at Schaffen. The result was that the Swedish army opted for the British model for parachute training.

During 1951, an instructor's course and first course were put through parachute training at Karlsborg Fortress and the nearby F6 airbase. On 18 February the first Parachute Ranger course commenced training with the green, blue and yellow devil platoons, each made up of approximately 30 men. A separate *Fallskärnjägarkompanier* did not come into being until the early 1970s. From 1968, all Swedish officer cadets from infantry and cavalry regiments have been required to complete two weeks of parachute training and make at least three jumps.

All *Fallskärnjägare* are volunteers; of the 300-400 conscripts who apply for entry to the school only 100 are admitted for training after assessment. Of these 100 only about 60 usually make it past the first three weeks. Total training time is 2,000 hours, of which 125 hours are spent on jump training. Aspiring rangers at the Parachute Ranger school must complete about 20 jumps during training. A conscript has to be of very good physical and psychological strength for the special forces role. The Parachute Ranger patrol must be prepared to work far behind the invaders' forward combat units, in an area only reachable by aircraft. The patrols consist of two officers (patrol commander and second-in-command) and six NCOs (including a signaller, a patrol medic, a sniper and three demolition specialists).

The Swedish Army Survival School, also based with the FJS at Karlsborg Fortress, places a heavy emphasis on combat survival. It is run by an FJS officer who has completed the U.S. Special Forces SERE (survival, escape, resistance, evasion) course at Fort Bragg, the U.K. 22 SAS Combat Survival Course at Hereford, the Finnish *Laskuvarjo Jääkärikoulu* (Parachute Ranger) course, the Danish *Jaegerkorpset* (Rangers) and *Soevarnets Froemandskorps* (attack diver teams), and the Norwegian *Jeger* (Ranger platoons) courses.

Culmination of FJS training is the award of the *örnen* or golden eagle. The FJS stress-



TOP: Young *Fältjägare* carry Swedish AK4 FFV rifles (Swedish version of the H&K G3) fitted with brasscatchers as they emerge from their camouflaged arctic tent. Photo: L. Sjögren, FLC

ABOVE: Arctic patrol of *Fältjägare* of 22nd Infantry Regiment armed with M45 Carl Gustav submachine guns and auto assault rifles with brasscatchers. Photo: L. Sjögren, FLC

es that this is not a parachute qualification but rather a Parachute Ranger qualification. The FJS requires the following criteria be met for the golden eagle:

- "Have made eight satisfactory parachute descents, three with full combat equipment and weapons, and one in the darkness. Following one descent there must follow a 24-hour Ranger exercise. . .
- "Satisfactorily complete the Eagle March — 70 kilometers in 24 hours with rifle and a 25-kilogram pack [55 pounds]. During the movement the candidate will be tested with practicals on demolitions, communications, mines, weapon handling, individual navigation, combat shooting [tactical CQB range] and elements of personal and unit survival." The Eagle March is based partly on the British 22 SAS selection and continuation requirements.

Kustjägare

The *Kustjägarkompani* is composed of:

- Three fighting platoons.
- One mortar platoon.
- One landing craft troop.
- Attack divers.
- One support platoon.

Like the FJS, the *Kustjägare* (Marine Rangers) require all conscripts to pass a physical selection in addition to the Swedish army assessment. The *Kustjägare* are part of the Swedish navy and exist within the 1st Coastal Artillery Regiment (KA1) at the main naval base Vaxholm, northeast of Stockholm. The operations of the unit are limited to Swedish territorial waters and it has a special responsibility for Stockholm and the more than 1,000 islands that make up the Stockholm archipelago. In recent years they have been carrying out reconnaissance and sabotage, plus reinforcing the Coastal Artillery (Marine) regiments around Sweden's coastline.

Different *Jägare* units are usually identifiable by their berets. The *Kustjägare* wear a commando green beret with a gold Neptune's trident as a cap badge; the *Fallskärnjägare* wear an airborne maroon beret with a gold wreathed parachute as their badge; the *Fältjägare* wear dark green berets with their own regimental badges (K3, K4 and I22); the *Basjägare* wear has already been described.

Sweden's elite units stand ready to insure that their country will never become "Russia's friend in the same way as Finland." ❧

THE Chinese Type 86 combat knife offers the knife fighter a unique advantage — four .22-caliber shots fired from the hilt. This feature might make it the new weapon of choice among today's close-combat and clandestine forces.

Blade and barrel combinations were quite common back when handguns weren't reliable but a knife was. The Elgin cutlass-pistol was one such weapon used in the days of the wooden sailing ship. But nearly all these specimens eventually filled collectors' cabinets rather than weapons arsenals when firearms technology and ammunition improved.

However, as armed conflicts have evolved from battalion-sized set-piece battles into "dirty little wars" and isolated acts of terrorism, new tools for man-to-man combat have become hot topics for today's weapons designers.

By and large, the fighting knife has resisted the tide of specialization. A notable exception, of course, is the Rambo-type

survival knife with fishhooks and sleeping pills crammed into a Pandora's box of a handle. Experienced combat knife users just shake their heads in disbelief when they see these awesome saw-backed letter openers.

Therefore, it came as a surprise when I discovered that the Soviets had fielded a so-called "ballistic knife" which hurls a blade with tremendous force several meters distance. As one of the first Western sources to learn about this Soviet knife while debriefing a Czech defector, I later wrote about it in my *How To Kill* series, "Knife Throwing: A Sideways Glance." The knife is now known to be in the possession of Soviet Spetsnaz troops. A commercial variant is currently available in the United States.

Likewise, the new Chinese Type 86 knife pistol shows a real effort to stack the deck in favor of the soldier who has a one-on-one encounter with the enemy. Given the historic disregard by Marxist ideologues for the survival of the individual grunt, this

UNCONVENTIONAL WARRIOR

Jack Minnery spent 15 years in U.S. intelligence and is the author of several books on security and self-defense. *Tools of Intrigue* and the six-volume series entitled *How to Kill* are his best-known works, all of which are available from Paladin Press in Boulder, Colorado. Minnery is currently a security consultant for an international advisory group in Philadelphia and resides in Brantford, Ontario.

strategy is an eye-opener. (Particularly for those of us who've been on the receiving end of human-wave assaults by Chinese communist forces.) Rather than signaling a humane change of heart, I suggest this weapon shows the Chinese are putting new emphasis on more discreet, low-intensity combat.

SOF UNCONVENTIONAL WEAPONS

CHINESE KNIFE PISTOL

Deadly Duo or Toolroom Fantasy?

Text & Photos by Jack Minnery



ABOVE: Load pistol with four .22LR cartridges. Three of four firing-pin holes can be seen here inside pommel unit.

LEFT: Female officer of Norinco Arsenal, Beijing, shows proper aiming and firing position for Type 86 Chinese knife pistol.

BELOW: Spent cartridges are extracted by over-travel of trigger once pommel unit is removed. U-notch rear sight is clearly visible at base of handle.



In a knife fight where stealth has been compromised and the situation has degenerated into a bloody scrap, the fighter equipped with one of these specialized knives can quickly gain the upper hand. With the Chinese knife, he can even take on several adversaries at once, distributing his shots where they will do the most good and then following up with the knife. Or the bullets can be held in tactical reserve and used only if an opponent starts to flee or reaches for a weapon. This knife is also a great confidence builder for unblooded soldiers who might have to use a knife on recon missions or patrols. True, it's not silent like a knife, but a .22 is much quieter than most other firearm calibers.

After testing the Type 86 it is clear that the Chinese have designed a simple, well-made, lethal combination weapon designed to hold up in combat. The knife pistol is definitely not a toolroom fantasy or gimmick. With this new weapon, knife fighting is in for some interesting times. ✂

ABOVE RIGHT: Type 86 Chinese knife pistol in black leather sheath. Wraparound cover for pistol action is held closed by two snap fasteners.

RIGHT: To load the knife pistol, unscrew pommel end-cap by turning the large, straight knurled ring counterclockwise. Withdraw pommel assembly which houses striker unit and trigger transfer rod.



ABOVE: Red dot on safety ring of trigger/crossguard means knife pistol is ready to "fire." Note front sight just to left of trigger pivot and return spring.

CHINESE FOUR-SHOT KNIFE PISTOL

Weapon Designation:	Knife Pistol Type 86 (provisional)
Country of Origin:	People's Republic of China
Cartridge:	.22LR
Overall Length:	262mm
Blade Length:	140mm
Blade Width:	22.2mm
Maximum Blade Thickness:	5mm
Barrel Length:	86.3mm (four barrels)
Number of Lands and Grooves:	4
Rifling Twist Direction:	Right
Approximate Muzzle Velocity:	250 m/sec (1,000 fps)
Weight:	464 grams
Scabbard Weight:	40 grams
Type of Fire:	Four shots, sequentially
Trigger Pull:	3.2/3.8 kilograms
Sights (front):	Prominent square lug on left of grip
(rear):	Fixed U-notch
Effective Range:	30 meters
Manufacturer:	Norinco Arsenal, Beijing, People's Republic of China

The knife blade is a double-edged spearpoint. It is a conventional design except that it is double fullered on both sides to allow clearance for bullets. It is solidly mounted and capable of functioning effectively as a battle blade independently from the pistol unit, which itself is not overly large or cumbersome to hold. This reliable weapons system is a tribute to the design and engineer team that built it. I thank Norinco Arsenal for all their help in the preparation of the article, the test firing and photo session.

SIMPLY RELIABLE

Mossberg's M500 Shotgun

by Kevin E. Steele

Photos by Tom Slizewski



ABOVE: Mossberg's M500 shotgun is very popular with law enforcement agencies across the country.



ABOVE: Safety placement on the Mossberg M500 is unique. Located on the rear tang of the action, it is easily accessible by the thumb of the firing hand and is ambidextrous.

STEELE-EYED SHOOTER

Kevin E. Steele is the former executive editor of *Survive* and *Guns and Action* magazines. An experienced outdoorsman and author, he now writes exclusively on subjects he knows best — firearms and outdoor survival.

In the crowded world of combat, fighting and police shotguns, which includes offerings from Winchester, Remington, Ithaca, Benelli and Savage, there is one gun that's different — the Mossberg M500.

Widely accepted by sportsmen and police agencies, the M500 looks like any other conventional pump-action repeater, except for one important feature — the safety switch. The Mossberg's is mounted on the rear tang of the action, rather than somewhere near the trigger guard, as it is on other shotguns.

Why is safety location such a big deal? Give it some thought. How many birds have you missed when fumbling with a conventional safety while quickly trying to raise the weapon to your shoulder? Or, perhaps more common, how many of you have index fingers too short to reach the safety at the forward end of the trigger guard, or have to move your firing hand from the trigger guard to release a safety mounted at its rear? I'd wager many of you have experienced these annoying situations.

Consequently, many hunters abandon basic safety practices and release the safety before a target has presented itself. In law enforcement, since regulations require that the weapon be on "safe" until the moment to fire, an inconveniently placed safety switch could mean the difference between an apprehended suspect and a dead cop.

Safety placement on the M500 eliminates these problems. Mounted on the rear tang of the action, the safety is directly under the firing-hand's thumb while the weapon is carried at port or ready arms and when the gun has been brought up to the shoulder for drawing a bead on the target. When it's time to shoot, the thumb reacts instinctively, releasing the safety swiftly and positively just

Continued on page 114

MOSSBERG M500 SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber:	12 gauge, chambered for 2¾- and 3-inch magnum shells
Operation:	Pump repeater
Barrel Length:	18.5 or 20 inches
Weight:	6.5 to 6.75 pounds
Overall Length:	37.75 to 39.75 inches
Magazine Capacity:	6 or 8 rounds
Sights:	Metal bead front
Finishes:	Blued steel, parkerized, teflon-nickel
Suggested Retail	
Prices:	\$251.95 (blued steel)
	\$291.95 (parkerized)
	\$349.95 (teflon-nickel)
Manufacturer:	O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Dept. SOF, 7 Grasso Ave., North Haven, CT 06473; phone (203) 288-6491

EVERY so often a product appears that puts new life into the cliché, "state of the art." Such is the case with Flexor gloves, an offshoot of the American space program.

The design of these gloves is radically different from conventional ones. So different, in fact, that it was awarded U.S. Patent Number 4654896. What makes Flexor gloves special is that they are actually warmer than most mittens and have a dexterity level superior to traditional "box fingered" gloves. These two qualities make them a boon for people working in cold climates who require a high level of manual dexterity to do their job properly — namely military and law enforcement personnel, park rangers, surveyors, hunters and so on.

Dixie Rinehart, the brains behind Flexor gloves, has worked in design and development of high-tech environmental protective garments for 27 years. Originally an instructor of high-altitude physiological training at Edwards Air Force Base in the late 1950s, he was later on the team that developed the moon suit for the Apollo space program. (His first job with the space program was less glamorous — he helped develop the "space toilet" for the Apollo command module.) Today's Flexor gloves are a direct descendant of the gloves worn by Neil Armstrong and "Buzz" Aldrin when they walked on the moon.

The secret to Flexor gloves' ability to provide maximum dexterity and warmth lies in the use of "mobility joints" — unilateral tucks of extra fabric around the knuckles that allow the glove material to expand and extend each time your hand is flexed. The outer fabric on ordinary gloves stretches each time you bend your fingers, forming tension lines over the knuckles and back of the hand, flattening out the insulation. This squeezes out warm insulating dead air from the glove, allowing cold spots to form where the insulation is compressed. Flexor mobility joints, however, permit a free flexing of the fabric over the knuckles throughout the whole range of movement, letting the insulation maintain its loft for maximum heat retention. Also, to further reduce heat loss, Flexors have only two sewn seams around each finger (as opposed to box-fingered gloves, which have four seams), so warm air has less chance of leaking out.

SURVIVING FOR A LIVING

Jerry Younkens is a self-taught American survivalist with over 20 years of hands-on experience in self-sufficient wilderness living. With articles appearing in *Ninja*, *SWAT*, *American Survival Guide*, *The Blade*, *Guns and Action* and *Survive* magazines, Jerry is one of the most widely published authorities on outdoor survival techniques.

FLEXOR GLOVES

by Jerry Younkens

Photo by Barry Smith



Superior warmth and flexibility make Flexor gloves ideal for cold-weather activities that require a high degree of manual dexterity. Pictured here is a Flexor glove by Browning that has a special tapered trigger finger.

Currently, Flexor gloves are gaining acclaim in both civilian and military markets. The four 1987 Mount Everest expeditions have chosen these gloves for their

Continued on page 107

WHERE TO GET FLEXOR GLOVES

Rinehart Glove, Ltd.
Dept. SOF
P.O. Box 12377
Aspen, CO 81612
(303) 923-3421

Midwest Quality Gloves
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Chillicothe, MO 64601
(816) 646-2165

Browning
Dept. SOF
Route 1
Morgan, UT 84050
(801) 543-3200

SWIX Sports USA, Inc.
Dept. SOF
261 Ballardvale St.
Wilmington, MA 01887

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
Dept. SOF
970 West 190th St.
Torrance, CA 90504
(213) 781-5086

Costs and designs vary, but expect to pay around \$50-60 for the insulated-type glove.



.38 SPECIAL

Manstopper or Paper-puncher

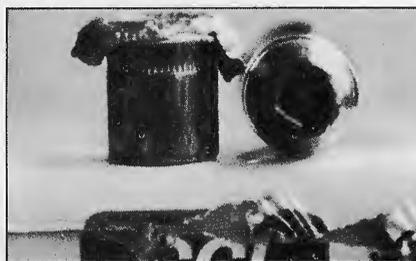
Text & Photos by Evan Marshall



ABOVE: Winchester 158-grain lead Hollow Points are the top .38 load. This particular one terminated a dope dealer during an attempted drug rip-off.

BELOW: A police officer fired this CCI 125-grain JHP during a bar holdup. The bullet struck the criminal above the left eye and stopped the robbery.

WHENEVER the "experts" discuss appropriate defensive handgun calibers, they generally dismiss the .38 Special rather quickly. They hasten to tell us that it's an inadequate stopper regardless of the loads carried, and they relate horror stories about bad guys absorbing cylinders full of .38 rounds without any noticeable effect. Well, if the gun shops in my area are any indication of what's going on nationwide, the "experts" are being ignored by the shooting public.



BELOW: This Federal 158-grain Nyclud + P Hollow Point severed a criminal's spine during a shootout in Chicago.

AMMO AUTHORITY

Evan Marshall, *Soldier of Fortune* Magazine's contributing editor for law enforcement, is a sergeant with a large Midwestern police department, where he is assigned as a full-time SWAT trainer. He has a master's degree in criminal justice and is an authority on police weaponry, ammunition and tactics. See his related article, "Killer Calibers for Handguns," in last month's SOF.



The .38 Special is the descendant of the .38 Long Colt that failed so miserably against the Moros in the Philippines. At least that's what we are told. A careful review of historical records indicates that this isn't as clear-cut as big bore lovers would like us to believe. Besides, the British used .455 Webleys against the same tribe and also reported numerous failures to stop.

The .38 Special became the traditional law enforcement caliber in this country in the early 20th century and has maintained that position, although the 9mm is giving it a real run for its money.

Years ago, officers who carried this caliber were severely restricted in their ammunition choices. Basically, a cop could choose between the standard velocity 158-grain Round Nose Lead (RNL), with a velocity of 750 feet per second (fps) from a 6-inch barrel, or the .38/.44 load (designed for N-frame Smith & Wessons and Colt big frame .38s) that pushed a 158-grain RNL slug at 910 fps from the same 6-inch barrel, or a 200-grain blunt nose "manstopper" at 690 fps.

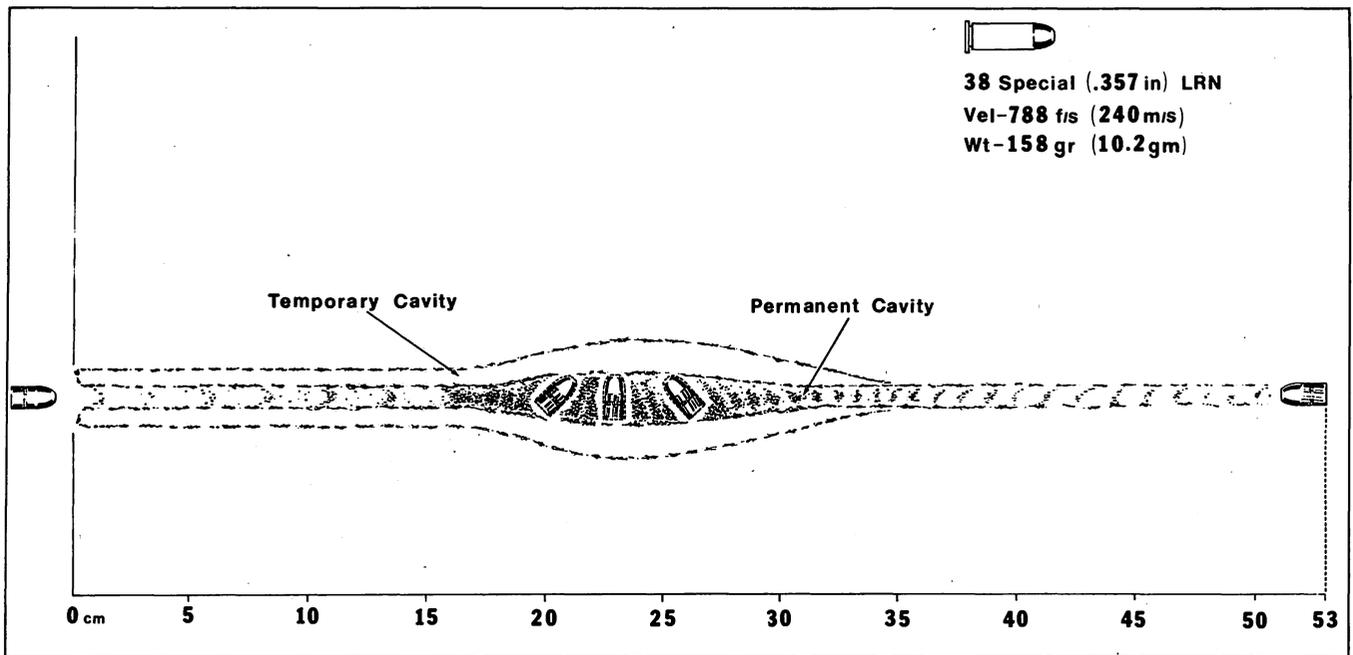
None of these loads was entirely satisfactory. The only options available were either a larger caliber (rarely allowed) or hand-loading (fairly uncommon). At least that is how things stood until a young man named Lee Jurras came on the scene. Lee decided that the way to get the .38 Special out of the doldrums was to lighten the bullet weight radically; make it a Hollow Point with a dead soft lead core and drive it at substantially higher velocities.

While the standard velocity 158-grain RNL produced velocities in the 650 fps range when fired from a 2-inch barreled revolver, Lee's load pushed the 110-grain Jacketed Hollow Point (JHP) out of the short barreled revolver at velocities in excess of 1,000 fps. Out of a 6-inch barrel the differences were even more dramatic—750 fps versus 1,198 fps. While expansion was rather iffy out of the 2-inch revolver, expansion was reliable out of longer barrels. Users of the .38 could now radically increase their chances for survival by simply buying a box of ammunition.

While the original Super Vel is no longer in production, there is a wide and bewildering variety of "high performance" loads now available in this caliber. Making the correct choice, however, is too important to depend on "war stories." In order to be effective, high performance loads in this caliber *must* expand in human tissue without hitting bone.

Since the velocities produced by this caliber are right on the threshold of what is needed for reliable expansion, subtle differences in jacket design, thickness, etc., are critical.

Before we get to listing specific loads that have done well in actual shootings, we need to destroy some myths that haunt this caliber. From .38 opponents we hear that these loads *never* expand in human tissue. This is nonsense. Every photo included in this article is of .38 Special loads that were removed



ABOVE: Police service load shows dismal performance and overpenetration. Diagram courtesy Martin Fackler

RIGHT: This wound diagram shows why the Winchester 158-grain lead Hollow Points are so effective in actual shootings. Diagram courtesy Martin Fackler

from people, not ductseal or gelatin.

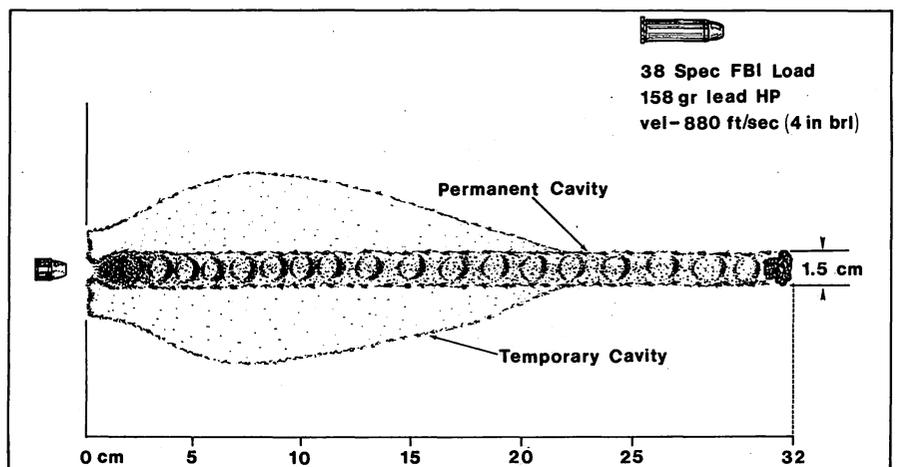
We have also been told that RNL in this caliber only stops a fight 10 times out of 20. Actually, RNL has a success rate of 55 percent. It should be pointed out that .45 ACP "hardball" only stops a fight with one shot 65 percent of the time.

The relative incapacitation index folks are just as guilty of mythology as their big bore enemies. If you believe the "computer man" results, you believe that the very best .38 Special loads are over 20 times better than RNL. Actual shooting data, however, has shown that the very best loads in this caliber stop fights 64 percent of the time. That 9 percent increase is a far cry from 20 times better.

There are, of course, a number of "specialty loads" for the .38 Special, ranging from the Glaser Safety Slug to the THV ultra high velocity round. These loads have not proven to be the panacea that some think they are. The Glaser does come apart in soft tissue and is a surgeon's nightmare to repair, but sometimes it does not penetrate deeply enough to reach and damage vital organs. The THV load, on the other hand, sheds velocity quickly and, unless you can guarantee that all your confrontations are going to be at point-blank range, you may want to look elsewhere for your stopping power needs.

Exploding bullets are also touted by some, but they routinely fail to explode in actual shootings. I have only been able to find one that actually worked, and that was a head shot.

What we are left with then are the com-



mercially available loads in this caliber. Two categories of high performance loads that have not proven to offer any dramatic improvement over RNL are the jacketed soft point and lead semiwadcuter loads. One well-known West Coast police department switched from RNL to 125-grain soft point ammo. When these "super bullets" didn't work any better than the ammo they replaced, the department approved carrying double action 9mms with soft point ammo. The semiwadcuter also hasn't produced any noticeable improvement over RNL when it comes to stopping power. All too often it overpenetrates just like RNL.

What has worked best in actual shootings, then? Well, in spite of the fact that Lee Jurras started the whole high performance trend with a semi-jacketed 110-grain Hollow Point, the very best performer in actual shootings has been the 158-grain lead Hollow Point +P as offered by Winchester, Remington and Federal. Without a shiny copper jacket it may not look very sexy, but it stops fights 64 percent of the time when fired from a 4-inch or longer barrel. That rate happens to be only 1 percent less than .45 hardball. These figures are not the result of some arcane mathematical formula I

dreamed up, but the percentages from shootings involving people.

Out of the snub, this load produces one-shot stops 60 percent of the time. After a decade of research I finally saw one that did not expand in human tissue, but that is one that didn't versus the 47 I've seen that did.

Frankly, the .38 Special has a lot going for it. First, weapons chambered for it are fairly inexpensive. Second, it is available in small versions that are basically modern Derringers. Third, its moderate recoil (even with high performance loads) makes it an easy weapon to shoot accurately. Fourth, the weapons designed for this cartridge are tried and proven designs of great reliability. And lastly, it doesn't convey any of the "Magnum" or "killer" images that other calibers often do.

For those .38 carriers who just can't overcome their desire to carry a lightweight Hollow Point, the Federal 125-grain JHP +P has given us one-shot stops 62 percent of the time when fired from 4-inch or longer barrels.

Is the .38 Special my first choice for a defensive handgun? No, but on two separate occasions when I needed a pistol badly, that is what I was armed with. The fact that I'm still around proves it can't be that inadequate. ☒



OUTFITTERS OF THE PROFESSIONALS

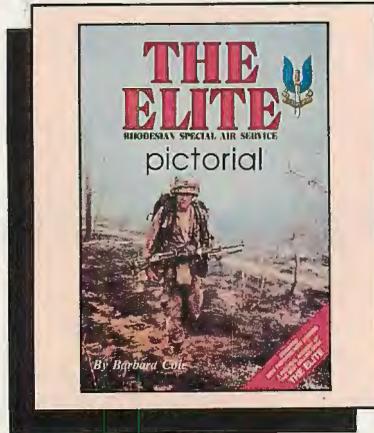
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FRONT & CENTER



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FULL AUTO

Continued from page 16

I use but two lubricants on all automatic weapons and unfortunately neither is widely distributed. Koppers (formerly PARR) All-Weather Weapons Lube should be applied to the reciprocating parts. It can be purchased from Koppers Company, Inc., Dept. SOF, 5151 Denison Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44102; phone (216) 651-2010, attention: Gilbert J. Martinson. After cleaning, I lubricate the entire weapon with G96 Gun Treatment, which is available in either 4.5- or 12-ounce aerosol cans from Motor Chemicals, Inc., Dept. SOF, 100 Sixth Avenue, Patterson, NJ 07524; phone (201) 278-0200.

Machine guns consume large quantities of ammunition. You'd better start thinking in terms of case lots instead of boxes. There are two ways to go: either surplus military ammo or reloads. I depend on both. Sherwood and Sarco sell reasonably priced foreign ammunition and Kent Lamont reloads for the .50-caliber Browning, but here are some other reliable sources:

Century International Arms, Inc., Dept. SOF, 5 Federal Street, St.

Albans, VT 05478; phone (802) 527-1252.

Hansen Cartridge Company, Dept. SOF, 244-246 Old Post Road, Southport, CT 06490; phone (203) 259-5424.

Keng's Firearms Specialty, Inc., Dept. SOF, Suite 222, 6030 Georgia Highway 85, Riverdale, GA 30274; phone (404) 996-2079 (all ComBloc calibers produced by the People's Republic of China).

Navy Arms Company, Dept. SOF, 689 Bergen Boulevard, Ridgefield, NJ 07657; phone (201) 945-2500.

Paragon Sales & Services, Inc., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 2022, Joliet, IL 60434; phone (815) 725-9212.

U.S. calibers, such as .30-06, 7.62x51mm NATO, 5.56x45mm NATO and .45 ACP can usually be reloaded for less than the cost of the equivalent European surplus, almost all of which will be Berdan primed. There are several excellent progressive reloaders on the market that will more than suffice for this purpose. All of them are manufactured by Dillon Precision Products, Inc., Dept. SOF, 7442 East Butherus Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85260; phone 1-800-421-7632. The Dillon RL1000, RL550 and new

Square Deal progressive reloaders were designed and manufactured by folks who own and shoot rattle guns.

If you need to fabricate ammunition such as 8x50R Austrian Mannlicher for your Schwarzlose or any other exotic caliber, I can guarantee you won't find the required components at your local sporting goods emporium. Berdan primers and the other esoterica associated with the obsolete cartridges so many machine guns are chambered for can usually be obtained from "Dangerous" Dave Cumberland, aka Old Western Scrounger, Dept. SOF, 12924 Highway A-12, Montague, CA 96064; phone (916) 459-5445.

With few exceptions, this directory should handle your every full-auto requirement. There is but one other essential address. Anyone who owns or has an interest in military small arms in any configuration, from pistols to heavy machine guns, should be an active, participating member of the National Firearms Association, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 160038, Austin, TX 78716-0038. Regular membership costs a mere \$25 per year. If you can't justify that, then you and the rest of us can just kiss our firearms goodbye. ☒



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I WAS THERE

Continued from page 28

approach, pointed toward one thing. Salute, say "Yes, sir" and do the best I could in a difficult situation. However, common sense just would not let me do something so stupid as to get my unit trapped inside an occupied enemy bunker complex at night.

I received my orders, made the cryptic statement to my CO, "Leave it to me, sir," and returned to my platoon. We saddled up and started our advance. After proceeding a short distance, I told my squad leaders that on my signal we were to have a small firefight. I fired a few rounds and deployed the platoon to fire to the front. I had them fire a few bursts, throw a couple grenades and then sit tight. It goes without saying that we had still not seen any enemy or received any fire since the hand grenade on the LZ. I then committed the ultimate military sin of making a false report by telling my company CO that we had made enemy contact and could not proceed any farther. He passed this along to the battalion commander, who reluctantly ordered us to fall back a couple hundred meters so that he could employ some heavy artillery on the complex.

We no sooner got back and set up a night defensive perimeter than night fell with a vengeance. We had not even had time to employ the usual trip flares around our position or prepare fighting or sleeping positions. We all spent the night lying flat on the ground with our fingers crossed while the artillery had a ball. Ironically, a large piece of lagging 155mm shrapnel came within inches of cashing in my chips that night, striking several inches into the ground between my medic, who was less than an arm's length away, and myself. I've kept that piece of shrapnel to this day as a remembrance of that night.

The next day we found that the NVA had decamped from the complex during the night artillery shelling. I can only conjecture what would have happened if we had gotten caught inside the complex that night. Granted they might have left anyway, but on the other hand they would have had my company at their mercy the whole night.

Some people would call me a coward for my actions and others would question my integrity. Rest assured that if our sister company had needed help I would have made every effort to get to them. Still, given the situation we were in, I felt it was better to do what I did than run the severe, needless and stupid risk of becoming trapped inside an enemy bunker complex at night. The fact is that I am rather proud of what I did. Don't think that the lesson

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to be learned is to lie or fake your way out of difficult situations. It's not. Instead, it's the simple fact that, when all is said and done, it's really you, the front-line ground commander or unit leader, who must take the final responsibility for both the welfare of your troops and the completion of your mission. Rather than defy your superior when he orders you to do something you believe to be fatally stupid or even illegal, it's usually better just to say "Yes, sir" and then figure out some way to do what you believe to be proper anyway.

Believe me, you will never learn that in any school, and if I am ever your commander I will deny I said it. What do you mean my last transmission was garbled?...

Chuck Karwan is a 1969 West Point graduate who went on to complete Ranger and Jungle Warfare schools, the Special Forces Officer's Course, Airborne and Jumpmaster training, and a number of other specialized courses. He served in various positions and areas around the world, including his 1970-71 Vietnam tour with the 1st Cav. ✕

STREETWISE .45

Continued from page 47

lubricate something or my self-esteem will suffer, I chose a black chrome sulfide conversion coating for the slide, barrel bushing and recoil spring plug. This process is similar to phosphating ("parkerizing") with a different chemical matrix. Economical and easy to apply, it's non-reflective and more resistant to corrosion and abrasion than black oxide (salt bluing) finishes.

But first, the slide group needed some important modifications. Nothing is more infuriating than watching the front sight of your M1911A1-series pistol sail downrange paralleling the bullet's trajectory. Barrkman's serrated-ramp front sight is installed by first machining a groove in the slide .700 inches long and .045 to .050 inches deep. The sight itself is silver soldered into position with high-temperature solder. It is then profiled with a milling machine to insure uniformity and perfect vertical alignment. The ramp's serrations are cut last. Believe me, this front sight won't part company with the slide.

Barrkman fabricates his own rear sights as well. Although machined somewhat larger than the slide's dovetail, the rear sight is also secured with an allen-head screw to further insure its rigidity and permit windage adjustments if required. The open space notch is 1/8 inch wide. There are no colored dots, squares or triangles. All sharp corners have been completely removed. Robar's fixed, high-visibility combat sights are the

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Ok... So you don't wrestle a crocodile very often... but if you enjoy the great outdoors there are plenty of times you could put a big knife to good use. In fact, since the early 1800's Americans have recognized that a big knife could serve in the place of a small knife, but not vice versa... And since the knife might have to serve as a means of protection, or clear a trail, or build an emergency shelter, the Bowie Knife in particular became indispensable.

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Overall Length: 14 1/2"

Weight: 18 ounces

Steel: Triple tempered

Carbon V™

Balance Point:

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best in the business.

The slide's ejection port was opened and relieved at the rear. This is a standard procedure designed to improve ejection reliability and prevent dents on the empty cases. The latter is an important consideration for reloaders.

The extractor was reshaped and its tension reset. The rear of the firing pin was polished to remove burrs that might decrease its forward velocity and cause light hits on the primer. Both the factory firing pin spring and nested double recoil springs were retained. Aftermarket springs have not demonstrated a measurable enhancement in performance. The barrel was crowned, throated (polishing around the chamber mouth) and its feed ramp polished. Barrel bushing and slide-to-frame tolerances were not altered, as reliability is more important than any marginal improvement in accuracy potential.

The end result was an attractive, totally reliable, sufficiently accurate, lightweight, compact concealment pistol chambered for a cartridge of proven capability. The cost of these modifications is approximately \$550, with a full one-year warranty. Expensive? For shooting at tin cans, yes. As a professional tool, not at all. How does it shoot and how does the stubbed Officer's Model barrel affect the .45 ACP's performance?

Black Hills Shooters Supply, Inc. (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 5070, Rapid City, SD

57709) provided the ammunition for SOF's test and evaluation of this pistol. We fired several hundred rounds of two different bullet configurations offered by Black Hills in .45 ACP: 230-gr. FMJ (Full Metal Jacket) and 185-gr. serrated JHP (Jacketed Hollow Point).

Our control pistol was a government-issue M1911A1 manufactured during World War II by Remington Rand with a standard 5-inch barrel. Average velocity of the 230-gr. load through the pistol was 817 fps. Although the 185-gr. JHP flies out of the 5-inch barrel at 961 fps, this is still too slow for reliable expansion. Stay with the 230-gr. pumpkin; its ability to seriously damage your opponent is well-documented and you'll lose only 72 fps through the OM's 3 3/8-inch barrel. With an average velocity of 745 fps, the 230-gr. bullet's muzzle energy is only 283.5 ft. lbs. While that beats almost all the .38 Spl. + P loads, it's considerably less than the .357 Magnum, but in pistol cartridges I'll take the slow moving, heavy, large-caliber projectile every time. It moves out of the barrel at a diameter no less than the maximum expansion potential of most .38 Spl./357 Magnum and 9mm Parabellum Hollow Point bullets.

With standard deviations ranging from only 8 fps to 11 fps, we have come to expect excellent accuracy potential from Black Hills ammunition in any caliber. Both the

230-gr. and 185-gr. loads will consistently dump five rounds into 1 inch at 21 feet when fired from a strong Weaver. More than 75% of all recorded gunfights involving pistols have occurred at ranges less than 7 yards.

Barrkman's beavertail grip safety distributes the recoil over a larger area than Colt's, and the perceived recoil is no greater than that of the all-steel Officer's ACP Model, which weighs 10 ounces more.

All the other handling and performance characteristics were superior to those of any concealment pistol I have ever carried. While they certainly do not all fall to .45 ACP hardball, no handgun cartridge will provide one-shot stops 100% of the time. If you can anticipate stepping into a combat scenario, you should be armed with an assault rifle. If you must pack a concealed handgun on a daily basis, the Colt Lightweight Officer's ACP Model, properly modified, is, without doubt, the ultimate street gun. ☒

BRADLEY IFV

Continued from page 63

provide close overwatch fire for the BFV assault or assaults, and keeps the BFVs in overwatch.'

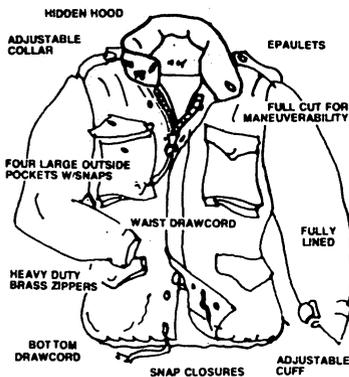
Translation: I haven't got the slightest idea — you figure it out.

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Each of these "solutions" suffers from the same fatal flaw — they don't address the problem of how to use all three systems so that they complement each other. The practice in most units is to use the Bradley as an antitank system, emphasizing the TOW and occasionally the 25mm chain gun. The infantrymen are simply spare crew members who dismount to provide local security when the vehicle halts. The results of this are clearly seen at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California.

At Fort Irwin, the Army has a "Soviet" regiment. This regiment is equipped with either real Soviet-bloc equipment or with American or allied equipment modified to look and perform like Soviet equipment. Every weapon is fitted with a laser transmitter, so that firing a blank triggers a laser beam. Men and vehicles are fitted with laser detection harnesses, and the whole thing is linked into computers.

The battles that U.S. Army battalion task forces fight at Fort Irwin are the most realistic thing we've ever come up with. And in these battles, the Bradley just doesn't show up as the great leap forward that its proponents envisioned. The reasons are glaringly obvious:

1. The Bradley doesn't carry enough infantry.

2. The problem of having three widely different weapons systems on one vehicle can be solved only by emphasizing one of those systems and, in effect, writing the

other two systems off. One of the systems we write off is the infantry — and we didn't have enough infantry to start with!

3. The battalion task force is still shackled to the speed of the slower M113 APC chassis.

There is a solution to these problems, however. We have only bought about half the number of BFVs we need, roughly 3,000. The next 3,000 Bradleys should have no turrets, no TOW and no chain gun. This would have several beneficial effects.

By eliminating the turret and the ammunition for the TOW and the chain gun, we would make room in the vehicle for a full squad of infantry. We would also solve several other problems — the vehicle would swim better without all that weight on top, and we wouldn't have to carry so much high explosive ammunition inside. This would reduce vulnerability to secondary explosions.

Turret, TOW and chain gun account for more than half the cost of the vehicle. If we eliminate them, we can buy twice as many Bradleys and get rid of all those slow, M113-based vehicles.

Bradleys we already have (the ones with the turret, TOW and chain gun) should be grouped into anti-armor platoons. They would be used as long-range, direct-fire support vehicles. They would overwatch the maneuver of tanks and turretless Bradleys, and could be positioned to obtain maximum benefit of the TOWs' range without

compromising the infantry role in the mechanized infantry task force.

This approach would also clear up the doctrinal problem — use the Bradleys with turrets as long range antitank weapons and use the Bradleys without turrets as infantry carriers.

Some people have said that the Bradley is like a camel — a horse designed by committee. That's true. And since we've already bought this particular camel, the best thing we can do is strip off some of the excess baggage so that the infantry can ride it. ☒

SPECIAL BRANCH

Continued from page 79

Monomatapa Lounge for a few drinks got to know the SB wallflowers quite well before long. They generally seemed to be older ladies and gentlemen (probably retired business executives) who almost certainly did this eavesdropping as their contribution to the war effort.

It was a criminal offense in Rhodesia to be caught spreading "alarm and despondency," and we foreign members of the Rhodesian Security Forces were natural targets for these SB listeners when we got back to town on R&R from a bush trip, all full of new war stories. Bob Holloway — yes, in case

Continued on page 104

UNDERWATER SURVIVAL

<p>Gerber BMF Knife 8" Bowie blade with chisel tooth saw. Overall length 13". Blade thickness 1/4". Weighs 15 ounces without sheath, 28.5 ounces with. Constructed from carbon surgical stainless steel, hardened to c54-55 Rockwell. Sheath features jeweled compass, attached diamond sharpening hone, Alice clips, belt loop, and more. Retail \$160.00</p>  <p>Sale \$129.95</p>	<p>Chronosport The name in divers watches! All black, multi function analog/digital combination, alarm, rotating bezel, sweep second hand, timer, two time zones, more! With nylon strap - Retail \$462.00 Sale \$346.50 With bracelet - Retail \$545.00 Sale \$408.75</p> 	<p>Compact Scuba All in one unit, ready to use! 2 Cubic Foot Capacity cylinder with regulator mounted on top. Includes neoprene belt holder and filler. Overall length 17 1/2", 2 1/2" wide. Use for emergency air supply, short dives, and more! Retail \$175.00</p>  <p>Sale \$139.95</p>	<p>Selko Quality divers watch from a top name! All black with HD black rubber strap. Multi function digital and analog displays. Alarm, two time zones, timer, rotating bezel, sweep second hand, more! Model SPW005. Retail \$350.00 Sale \$264.95</p> 
<p>Camouflage rubber coated 7X35 with rapid focus, carry case, strap. Measures approx. 7 X 5 X 2". Model 139. \$85.00</p> 	<p>Camouflage rubber coated 7X50 with rapid focus, carry case, strap. Measures approx. 7 X 8 X 2 1/2". Model 140. \$99.95</p> 	<p>Black rubber coated Nikon Tropical 7X50, individual focus for each eye, includes special lens covers, strap. Measures approx. 8 1/2 X 8 1/2 X 3". Model 750HP1F. Retail \$630.00 Sale \$399.95</p> 	<p>Compact Nikon 9X25, with center focus, carry case, strap. Porro prism, measures approx 4 1/2 X 4 X 4 1/4". Model 925CF. Retail \$190.00 Sale \$119.95</p> 
<p>U.S. TECH SCUBA All American made equipment! Shadow all black BCD with power, pack, large pockets, and more, ARIS series Explorer regulator with ARIS octopus, Datacom double console (PSI/Depth), and Aluminum 80 K cylinder with boot. Retail over \$1000.00 Sale \$579.95</p> 	<p>Dive Flasher Ideal for diver location, rescue work, or marking. O-Ring sealed. Uses one C cell battery. Water-proof to 150'. Measures approx. 5" X 1 1/4". \$29.95</p> 	<p>Mini Flash Light Features pocket clip, magnet in butt, transparent housing. Screw down lens to turn on. Very bright. Uses two AAA batteries (included). Overall length 4 3/4", 3/8" wide. By Pelican. \$8.95</p> 	<p>Mask, Snorkel, Fin Package Graphite black fins with vented blade and open heel, silicone mask with tempered glass, and large bore silicone snorkel. Rugged, high quality, great for snorkeling or SCUBA. Retail \$140.00 Sale \$84.95</p> 

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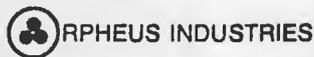
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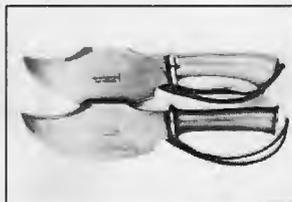


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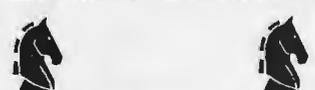


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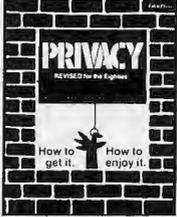
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Continued from page 101

you're wondering, the same Bob Holloway who produced the HAC-7 assault rifle — was one of the genuine characters of the very pukka Rhodesian war and, in his Texas drawl, he used to tease the SB listeners with remarks about spreading alarm and reality.

On one occasion at the Monomatapa, Bob was invited by a journalist to have lunch at the Cecil Hotel. When he and the reporter got up to leave, he noticed a very conspicuous, and suspicious, little old lady vacating her listening post at the same time. Then, when he and the reporter arrived at the Cecil, he noticed the little old lady coincidentally taking a nearby table. So Bob got up and strolled over to the now very embarrassed woman and escorted her over to join him and the reporter for lunch.

"I don't want you to miss out on anything or strain yourself listening from way over there," Bob explained to her.

We foreigners used to play the Big-Brother-is-listening routine quite a bit at the Monomatapa. As I remember, we used to lean over the table at which we were sitting and whisper, "Testing, testing. One, two, three..." into the pot of flowers. The drunker we were, the more we were amused.

SB was certainly always with us in Rhodesia — because even when it wasn't, we pretended it was.

SB amused us then, and nowadays, in retelling old war stories at the Rhodesian Veterans Association's annual reunion, SB amuses us still! ✕

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LIVE FREE OR DIE

Continued from page 83

last seven or eight times they succeeded in taking the strongholds and capturing weapons. But they did not occupy the strongholds. After taking them, they came back. . . . They destroyed everything there before they left. When the Burmese came back, they had to resupply them, to bring new food and ammunition," said Saw Marshall Schwin, a Karen elder now living in a refugee camp.

Burma receives assistance from many nations, including the United States, West Germany and Japan. The Karen, on the other hand, are almost completely self-supporting. They impose a 7-percent tax on blackmarket goods transported through their territory. However, drugs are illegal. In 1983 the Karen executed a Chinese man from Rangoon because he attempted to smuggle heroin through Kawthoolei.

And they export teak into Thailand. But in recent months the Thai government, pressured by the Burmese government, has attempted to stop the teak trade. This summer several teak traders were arrested in Thailand near the Burmese border and their wood was confiscated.

As a result of this crackdown, the Karen's

income has been reduced. They purchase few new weapons; indeed, much of their arsenal has been captured from the Burmese. "If we had more munitions, we could take the initiative," said Ba Thin.

Fortunately for the Karen, the Burmese have economic troubles as well. "Militarily they can't do much. Economically they suffer a lot. And it's the same thing with the Karen. So it's a stalemate now," said Saw Ler Law, editor of a Karen newsletter.

During the monsoon season, when the fighting slows down, the government pursues its policies elsewhere. Seeking to control its national resources and people, it encourages the Karen and other minorities to assimilate.

"Right now they have the plan to Burmanize everyone in Burma," said KNLA Adjutant General Saw Hla Htoo. Burmese schools teach only Burmese and, recently, English. The teaching of minority languages, such as Karen, is prohibited.

The six million or so Karen in Burma, 15 percent of the population, compose that nation's largest minority group. But fewer than two million of them live in Kawthoolei.

Most of them live in the Irawaddy Delta area south of Rangoon. And many there have already assimilated. Some, who've never learned the Karen language, speak only Burmese. Some have changed their Karen names to Burmese, and some have married Burmese.

But for many in Kawthoolei, assimilation is not a reasonable option. "The Burmese believe in racial superiority; they do not believe in integration. I was born a Karen; how can I be a Burman?" asks a Karen. "I'm from Burma, but I'm not Burmese or whatever they call it. They want me to change my name. They want me to assimilate, but how can I do that?"

KNLA soldiers fight for cultural survival. But they're not alone. In the northern and eastern jungles, members of almost every minority group in Burma fight government forces.

Officials representing 10 ethnic groups — including the Karen — formed an umbrella organization, the National Democratic Front (NDF), to represent the democratic forces in Burma. NDF members are anti-communist and dedicated to preserving their traditional cultures.

If another country or an international organization such as the United Nations would endorse the NDF, the NDF might be able to pressure the Burmese government to grant concessions, which would end the fighting, said Saw Maw Reh, president of the NDF.

"The blacks in America won their freedom because of the intervention of white people in the north. This was the intervention of a third party for the blacks. But in Burma we don't have any third party to fight for us," said Schwin. Before he joined the Karen revolution, he'd been superintendent of the Shegyin Karen School in the Toungoo District in Burma.

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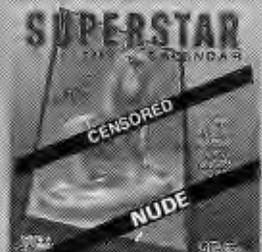
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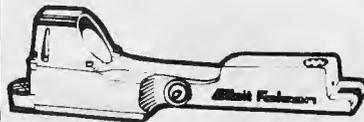
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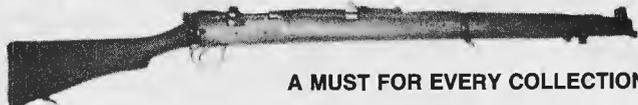
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Ideally, Kawthoolei and the other minority states would be autonomous within a federal republic of Burma, said Ba Thin.

Presently, the Karen's provisional government administers schools, hospitals and a game preserve, where no one is allowed to hunt. Several species, including rhinoceros, wild bison and hornbill birds, are protected throughout the republic.

Religious freedom already exists there; amongst the Karen there are Christians, Buddhists, Animists and Muslims.

The flag of the Republic of Kawthoolei — red, white and blue — features a rising sun, which signifies a rising nation. But it could be a long time before the Burmese government, or any other country, recognizes Kawthoolei as an independent state.

The conflict between the Karen and the Burmese is rooted in ancient history. According to Pee Emma, a Karen elder, the Karen migrated from southern China to Southeast Asia. No one knows when the first group arrived in Burma, but according to tradition, the final migration occurred in 739 BC, the first year of the Karen calendar. The Western year 1987 is the Karen year 2726.

When the Karen reached Burma, people from India already lived there, and other tribes were migrating there from China. Indians intermarried with members of the different tribes, including Karen, and eventually they became the Burmese, according to Emma, who once taught school in the Toungoo District of Burma.

Over time, many of the smaller tribes were assimilated, but others maintained their traditions and independence. For centuries the Burmese oppressed the ethnic minorities.

Karen were used as slaves for building pagodas and irrigation canals; their villages were plundered and their women molested. To escape persecution, many Karen moved into the hills and other unpopulated areas.

This oppression continued until the British annexed Burma in 1885.

The British favored the Karen over the Burmese and, under their rule, the Karen got a taste of freedom. Some become officers in the Burma Rifles and government officials. Through the guidance of British and American missionaries, many became Christians and learned English.

During the Japanese occupation (1942-45), Burmese officials, who sided with the Japanese, accused the Karen of spying for the British. Burmese soldiers persecuted and sometimes killed Karen civilians.

Soon after the British retook Burma, they granted it independence. But they did not provide the Karen with an autonomous state. And the Burmese continued their oppression.

On 31 January 1949 Burmese soldiers attacked a Karen neighborhood in Rangoon and two Karen communities nearby. More civilians were murdered. Finally the Karen leaders had had enough, and the rebellion began.

Now, some 39 years later, the fight for

independence continues.

Though Karen leaders have expressed their willingness to negotiate a settlement, Burmese officials, who consider KNLA soldiers terrorists, have demanded unconditional surrender. To the Karen, mindful of past atrocities and unwilling to sacrifice their culture, this is unacceptable.

"Freedom is for those who dare to fight. To die fighting is better than to live a slave," according to a sign at the KNLA base in Wang Kah.

Without pressure from the international community it could, indeed, be a fight to the death. ✂

FLEXOR GLOVES

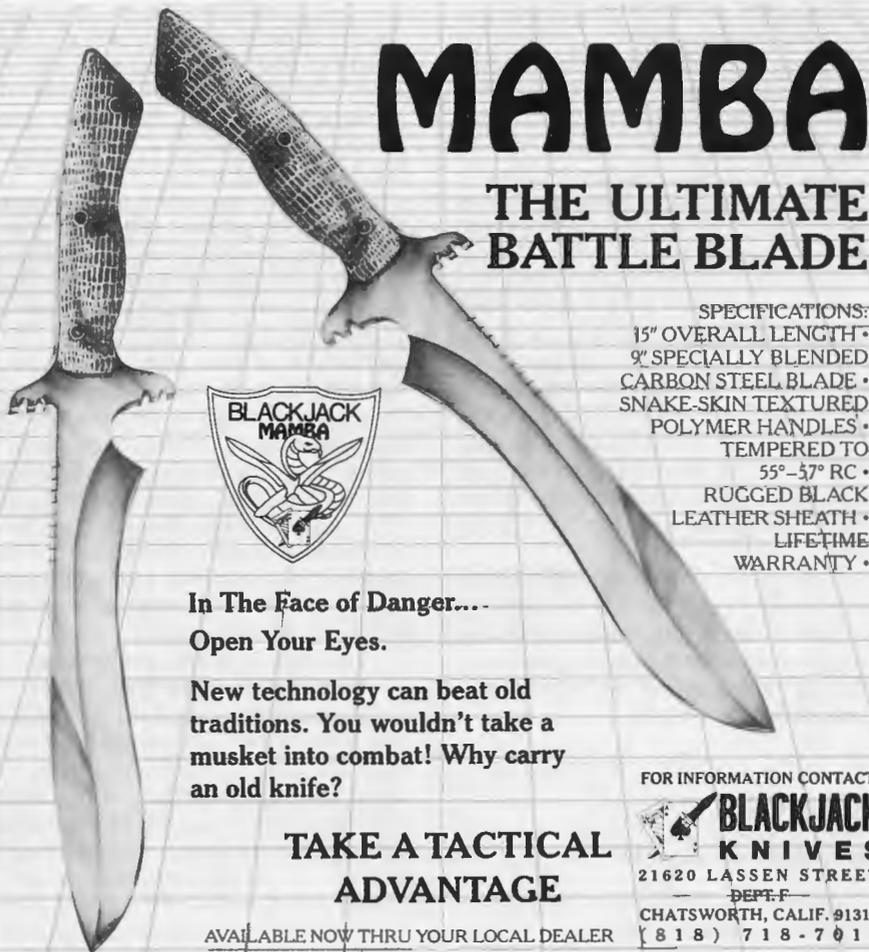
Continued from page 93

group members. Elements of the U.S. Army, Marines and Navy are also using Flexors. The Navy has used them for the past two years in the severe cold of Antarctica in Operation Deep Freeze. It's probably only a matter of time before all cold-weather military units will be fitted with Flexor gloves as standard equipment.

Military versions of these gloves are manufactured by Midwest Quality Gloves in Chillicothe, Missouri. They may eventually be available to the public as surplus overruns. Midwest also offers a variety of Flexor work gloves, and other companies have their own non-military styles as well. Browning, the famous firearms manufacturer, has a waterproof model in light brown or brown camouflage. SWIX, the well-known ski-glove manufacturer, offers a number of Flexor models in both fingered and fingerless designs, including all-leather styles and a waterproof nylon model with leather palms. They also make a glove for cross-country skiers. Honda, Inc. will soon introduce a Flexor motorcycle glove.

The Browning gloves I tested have a breathable waterproof membrane between the outer fabric and the inside insulation. This is an important feature for a glove that will be used under all types of cold-weather conditions. I used mine on winter camping trips in the Rockies. Neither the bitter sub-zero nighttime cold nor the wet snow I encountered while taking some "junior troopers" sledding ever penetrated the gloves. My hands are particularly sensitive to the cold since, as a result of an industrial accident, I have three frozen joints on one finger of my left hand. When a pair of gloves can keep my left hand warm despite its poor circulation, in these extreme conditions, that is definitely something to write home about.

Another nice feature of Browning's Flexor gloves is that the trigger finger is slightly tapered. Since most commercial firearms are not fitted with a military-style winter trigger guard, this is a plus for shooters such as lawmen on winter stakeouts, whose lives can depend on their ability to handle a firearm effectively.



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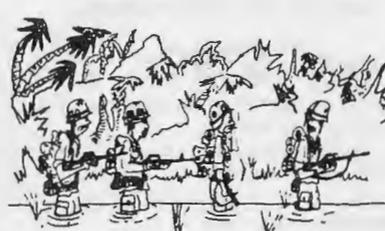
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Flexor's advertising states that "No other glove moves like a Flexor." Darned if it isn't so. The manufacturer urges potential buyers to try a box-fingered glove on one hand and a Flexor on the other and compare the comfort and mobility characteristics of each. If you want further proof, try loading some cartridges in a box magazine with conventional gloves and then with Flexors; you'll never wear anything but Flexors again.

Cold is the body's mortal enemy, with the hands usually being the first casualty. For the person who wants superior protection from the cold while maintaining maximum dexterity, Flexor gloves are the winner — hands down. ✕

SHANS

Continued from page 45

or religion. But my desire is not to settle our arguments on the battlefield."

I asked what the TRA would do if Khun

Sa's army moved in and camped on its territory. With the consummate skill of a seasoned diplomat, Korn Jerng answered, "I would ask, 'What are you doing here?' If the answer is political, then I will settle politically; on the other hand, if the answer is military, then I will settle likewise."

The stage was thus set for either a violent showdown or political settlement when Khun Sa and Korn Jerng met in the spring of 1985 near the Salween River in the Shan Mong Hta District, some 30 clicks from the Thailand border. No doubt to the disappointment of many observers, the SUA and TRC chose the latter, signing on 3 March 1985 a Treaty of Unity, which has been dubbed the "Salween Agreement." An expedient move, it was also an about-face on Korn Jerng's policy concerning the SUA. An official communiqué in my possession dated 24 April 1984 states, "Membership of SUA within the TRC is unacceptable because of its dealings in drugs and Burmese communist groups."

TRC and SUA Join to Form the Unified Shan State Army (SSA)

By chance, my second trip to Maisung later in March 1985 coincided with the Shan National Unity Conference for Independence. Invited guests at the heavily guarded TRC stronghold included the chief Buddhist monk of the Shan State, as well as Khun Sa deputies. It was my first chance to get a close look at Khun Sa's SUA troops. More importantly, at this conference Korn Jerng was appointed president of the Interim Gov-

ernment of the Shan State and Khun Sa head of the military and finance departments.

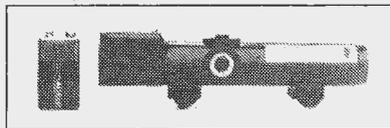
With the TRC's acceptance of the SUA into its ranks, cynical observers concluded that the TRC anti-narcotics policy, which was announced one year earlier, in June 1984 [see the accompanying "TRC Anti-Narcotics Policy"], had to be a sham. In their view, Khun Sa would use Korn Jerng's clean image to camouflage ongoing narcotics activities, while Korn Jerng could retire under the protective umbrella of the numerically superior SUA forces.

In fact, a high-ranking TRC official confided to me that, while Khun Sa had accepted a TRC plan for the control and eradication of narcotic drugs, it was understood that he would continue a "limited involvement with narcotics for an indefinite period."

Before the SUA merger, the TRC's credibility was relatively firm. A February swoop on Pieng Luang by helicopter-backed Thai paramilitary rangers yielded only 85 guns (freely surrendered) from this TRC enclave, but no drugs. In contrast, according to Thai officials in Chiang Mai, 54 kilograms of heroin, 8 kilograms of opium, 56 liters of acetic anhydride and 20 liters of ether (both used in the chemical conversion of opium to heroin) were seized from the house of local KMT commander Lao Chu. Of course, this didn't constitute an entirely clean face for the TRC, but it was

Continued on page 113

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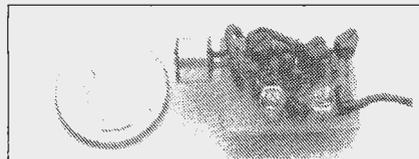
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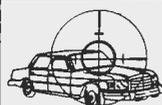
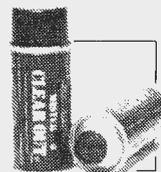
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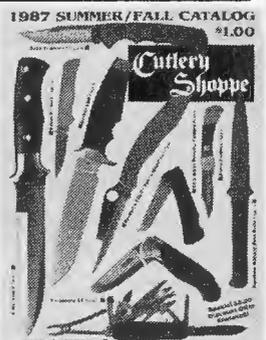
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a start.

Nonetheless, after the TRC/SUA merger the dubious Thais acted swiftly, stationing army Rangers at the signposted "Tai-Thai" border (formerly guarded by TRA soldiers), permanently barricading the road. Now TRA officers who live in Pieng Luang cannot drive across the border at will, and all supplies and border trade moving through the checkpoint must now come under direct Thai government scrutiny.

A few months after the initial agreement was signed between the TRC and SUA, the combined fighting force of the SUA and the TRA was renamed the unified Shan State Army (SSA), which is distinct from but easily confused with the earlier pro-communist northern SSA which joined the CPB back in the 1960s.

Despite this confusion of names, the new unified SSA (formed by the SUA and TRA) claims to speak for the majority of the Shan people. In January 1987, they hosted a festival aimed not only at the Shan community from both sides of the border but also, for the first time, at the foreign press, who were invited to meet with Shan leaders Korn Jerng and Khun Sa.

Khun Sa was the key target of interest, for although he has been called a villain of Southeast Asia's illicit narcotics trade by the international press — dubbed variously as the "opium warlord" or "heroin king-

pin" of the Golden Triangle — he has always maintained a limited physical presence along the border, being a specter whose impact was felt rather than seen.

On this occasion, at the training camp in the Shan State village of Ho-mong just a few hours' drive inside Burma, Khun Sa was uncharacteristically accessible to public scrutiny, while still under the protective watch of bodyguards packing who-knows-what under their trench coats for "defensive" firepower.

No doubt the general was proud of his 700 new SUA recruits made up of Shan, Lahu, Wa, Kokang and Chinese young men and even one Gurhka, all of whom goose-stepped past Khun Sa in near-Teutonic precision during their graduation day ceremony. Though all were dressed in new uniforms, not one had a weapon. Khun Sa publicly confessed to a shortage of guns for his men, saying that for drill purposes recruits must carve their own wooden replicas of M16s or AKs.

Analyzing Khun Sa is no easy task. Whether he is a drug baron, brigand or freedom fighter is moot, and epithets such as "terrible mobster" and "prince of darkness" (as one regional rag recently called him), are a discredit not only to the man himself but also to the discerning observer, who deserves a more objective statement of the facts.

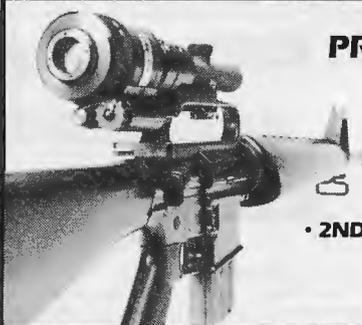
At this January 1987 Shan festival I attended, Khun Sa revealed a side of him-

self that must have lain dormant for years — he is a media genius with a public relations acumen that would be the envy of any political hopeful. On and off camera, he portrayed the qualities of leadership that might be expected of any general, warlord or otherwise, laced with enough charisma to fire a personality cult. As master of ceremonies at the post-graduation dinner, he reveled in the adulation of his men, whose spirits, enhanced with free-flowing Shan moonshine, cheered, danced and hoisted him onto their shoulders, while the more sober-temperamented Korn Jerng, a devout Buddhist, sat chatting solemnly with other monks.

Indeed, while Korn Jerng carries the impressive title of TRC president, many believe that Khun Sa is actually the one who exercises true authority. During my own visit to the SSA camp, I saw nothing to contradict this observation. Though both Shan leaders profess unity, they still maintain separate headquarters, aides and, no doubt, homeguards.

Where to Turn for Solutions

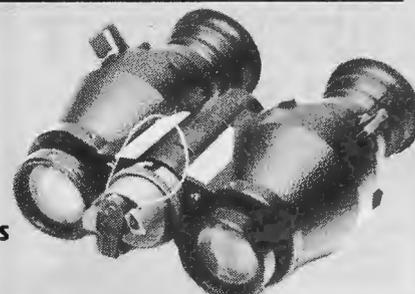
Western attempts to understand the Golden Triangle's drug wars run up against paradoxes similar to the TRC's declared anti-narcotics policy and Khun Sa's Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde personality. On the one hand, the new SSA (led by Korn Jerng and Khun Sa) is culpable for the production of narcotics and perpetuating armed conflict, while on the other hand, this same



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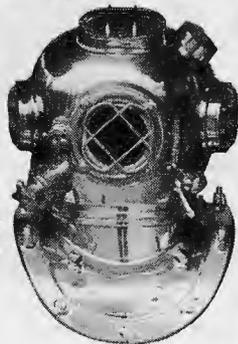
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SSA could also help provide a resolution to these problems. Korn Jerng echoed this point during a press conference at Ho-mong when he stated, "In the past you [the West] have only used the Burmese [to eliminate the drug problem] . . . not the Shan people. I would request that you use the Shan people." Unfortunately, the Shan are summarily ignored when solutions to the drug trafficking and warfare are sought.

This is not the Shans' fault. On at least three separate occasions they have made overtures to the West, offering their assistance. In 1973, a former drug kingpin, Lo Hsing-han, and the original SSA offered to sell all opium controlled by their armies to any international organization. They even invited U.S. narcotics agents to be independent observers. In 1975, a joint offer from the same SSA and SUA was made to sell their annual opium crop. And in 1977, Khun Sa presented U.S. Congressman Lester Wolfe with a six-year plan for the settlement of the narcotics problem. All offers were rejected.

The U.S. response to the Golden Triangle drug crisis — the DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) conservatively estimates at least 25 percent of all U.S. heroin is Golden Triangle-derived — has been to provide the Burmese government with helicopters and the controversial herbicide 2,4-D (the chemical used in the defoliant Agent Orange) to eradicate poppies in the Shan State. Meanwhile, the livelihood of Shan and hill-tribe subsistence farmers who depend on opium as a cash crop is under attack. With the Burmese army on one side, the DEA and Thai army on the other, and rival Shan drug groups in the middle, these farmers are fighting a no-win battle for survival. For them it is like being put on trial without a chance to present a defense. And they cannot get a public hearing because Burmese restrictions on the free movement of foreigners inside the country prohibit objective analysis and exposure of their predicament.

When I asked Khun Sa if he expects to see the liberation of the Shan State in his lifetime, he replied, "I am confident about this, but I have a reserve plan in case I do not succeed — my sons and daughters [the Shan people] will carry on with the struggle." In the meantime, Khun Sa, a proven survivor, sits atop an estimated 800- to 1,000-ton bumper crop of opium coming in this season (which converts to 80 to 100 tons of No. 4 heroin, 85 to 95 percent pure). He, unlike the Shan farmers, can afford to buy himself more time.

But the magnitude of the drug problem is not lost on Khun Sa. His final words from my interview are no less true for their touch of melodrama: "If I can get back my country, eight million of my people will rejoice. But if I can stop the narcotics problem, then the whole world will rejoice." ❧

MOSSBERG M500

Continued from page 90

before firing. Also, this tang safety is

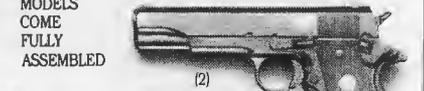
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ambidextrous.

This means police officers can leave the M500 on "safe" and still have that degree of confidence which allows them to do their job while protecting their own life. For this reason, in addition to its dependability and accuracy, this shotgun is extremely popular with police departments nationwide.

Another practical feature of the M500 is its light weight in comparison to the major competition. Utilizing a high-strength aluminum alloy receiver, it weighs in at a very light and manageable 6.5 pounds. Featuring a single action-bar, the M500 does not use a rotating bolt system of locking but rather a rising block that locks into a hardened recess in a short barrel extension. As the pump handle is pushed forward, the breech block pivots upward, engaging its recess in the barrel extension and thereby locking the bolt in battery.

It is true that a single action-bar will, under certain conditions, cause a pump's sliding forend to bind. Though I have never experienced this, it does happen. However, while many pump repeaters now feature double action-bars, just as many still use the single: Mossberg, Ithaca and Stevens, to name a few. Therefore, I do not consider this a negative feature for, if the slide does bind, it can easily be moved forward to release the pressure and then be recycled.

Mossberg's military/police scattergun line is called the "Persuader" series and consists of three basic models: an eight-round, 20-inch barrel; a six-round, 18.5-inch barrel; and a six-round, 18.5-inch barrel model with pistol grip sans buttstock. All three models are available in blued steel, parkerized or teflon-nickel (marine) finish, and each is chambered for 2³/₄- and 3-inch magnum shells.

The butt and forestocks are made of walnut-stained birch with oil or satin finishes. The forestock or pump handle is deeply grooved around its circumference to provide excellent purchase, even under wet conditions. The pump-action works smoothly and is very fast in operation. The extractor is positive; I have never had a failure to extract and eject with my M500, even when shooting handloaded cases.

Stock dimensions for the M500 are rather standard for the industry, with a 14-inch length of pull, 2¹/₂-inch drop at heel and 1¹/₂-inch drop at comb. All Persuader models come fitted with a 1-inch-thick ventilated rubber recoil pad for dissipating recoil, which is substantial when firing 3-inch magnum shells. This hefty recoil is due, of course, to the gun's light weight.

Sling swivels are fitted forward and aft. The rear swivel is tapped into the bottom of the buttstock a few inches forward of the toe and the forward swivel is attached to the underside of the magazine tube retainer.

Like all modern pump repeaters, save the Ithaca, the Mossberg M500 is a bottom-loading/side-ejecting weapon. This method of operation is favored by police departments over the old-style bottom-feeding/bottom-ejecting guns for a number of

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reasons. For one, side-ejecting guns are less likely to "lose" or "drop" a round being loaded by the carrier if the handle is worked too violently and the carrier skips over the rim of the case being loaded, as sometimes happens with bottom-ejecting guns. Another is that when the shooter is firing from the prone position, expelled cartridge cases fall out the side rather than from the bottom, where they might strike the ground head down and then, as the shooter recycles the action, get caught up by the carrier and reinserted back into the action, thereby jamming it with a reverse of the common "stovepipe" stoppage prevalent in self-loading designs.

As is common in the short-barreled "riot gun" genre, M500 Persuaders are cylinder bore (also called "open bore"), meaning there is no choke constriction at the muzzle. This equates to a pattern placement inside a 30-inch diameter circle of 25 to 35 percent at 40 yards. If the weapon is a 12-gauge, a cylinder bore will give it an effective range of 30 yards with 2¾-inch shells loaded with 00-buck and 45 yards when firing 3-inch magnum buck loads. Slugs have an effective range out to 100 yards, with the ability to place three shots within 6 to 8 inches. Unfortunately, M500s are not available from the factory with rifle-type sights. So if you want to seriously shoot slugs and maximize accuracy potential, you'll have to get a competent gunsmith to fit your weapon with these sights.

During range tests, we found the M500 fully capable of holding 100 percent patterns inside a 30-inch diameter circle at 15 yards and 40 to 50 percent patterns at 30 yards when firing 2¾-inch buckshot loads of Winchester, Remington and Federal manufacture. Likewise, with 3-inch magnums, the gun kept 50 and 100 percent patterns at 45 and 22 yards, respectively.

From the bench, which is not a particularly comfortable shooting position due to recoil, I was able to place three 1-ounce Remington slugs within a 7.5-inch circle at 100 yards. This is more than acceptable slug accuracy, and yet it could be improved with the addition of rifle sights.

As stated earlier, the M500 fed, extracted and ejected all of our test rounds without difficulty. This dependability is what makes the pump repeater a favorite with law enforcement personnel over the faster-shooting automatic.

Mossberg's M500 Persuaders are excellent combat shotguns, the ones with a difference. From the standpoint of design, price, weight, accuracy and dependability, they're hard to beat. ❌

NEVER ON SUNDAY

Continued from page 67

doing. The NVA knew we were vulnerable. And Spider knew that they knew we were vulnerable. He directed the Judge and Executioner through gun runs along the eastern

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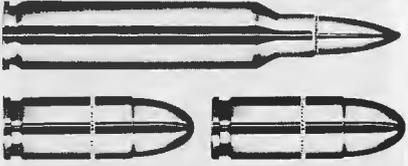
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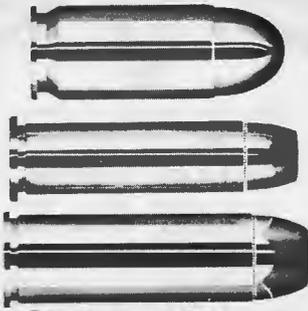
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perimeter while the Kingbee hovered on the western edge.

Sau and Hiep covered our frantic, desperate drive to the chopper. As the Kingbee hovered about 8 feet above us, Wolken and I threw the other four members into the chopper. At some point during that craziness, I looked up at Capt. Thinh, and he was sitting there as cool as a Rocky Mountain breeze, keeping the aging H-34 hovering while taking numerous hits (the next morning, the maintenance crew counted 48 holes in the ancient ship).

Finally, Wolken told me to get in. By now, my adrenaline was roaring through my body like a berserk subway. I grabbed Wolken by his fatigue jacket and threw the 220-pound staff sergeant into the Kingbee. Then I threw my rucksack and jumped up onto the ladder, where Wolken grabbed me by the shoulder while telling the gunner to get the hell out of there.

As Capt. Thinh lifted the Kingbee, Hiep and Sau blasted away out of the port windows, Phouc and Robinson blasted away out of the starboard window and Wolken and I emptied our last magazine into the dark jungle, which had dozens, if not hundreds, of muzzle flashes lighting up the darkness. As we ascended skyward, I fired my last M79 round and dropped my white phosphorous grenade, which looked spectacular against the quickly fading jungle.

Seconds later, the hell and fury and death of the LZ were behind us.

Suddenly, the cool night air hit us, as Wolken and I watched the final fleeting moments of the sweetest sunset we had ever seen in our lives.

We had survived. How many NVA hadn't survived?

Captain Thinh flew us back to Phu Bai. Before he returned to his base at Da Nang, I climbed up to the pilot's seat and thanked him for saving our lives and told him he never had to pay for a drink in the FOB-1 club again.

Because it was late, I went to the mess hall and got some chow for Sau, Hiep and Phouc and ate with them. Sau appeared as though nothing unusual had happened. I had never been so close to thunderous death before. Our meal was somber. Later I went to the club, where an Australian floor show was in progress. A lot of the guys wanted sex. I was happy to be alive. Later, when talking to a friend, I realized I had killed a man, perhaps more than one. The line from an old Doors song surfaced in my mind: "The war is over for the unknown soldier . . . bullet struck the helmeted head." Silently, I thanked the Lord for sparing me, again. ✕

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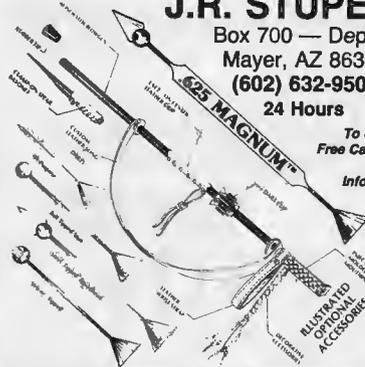
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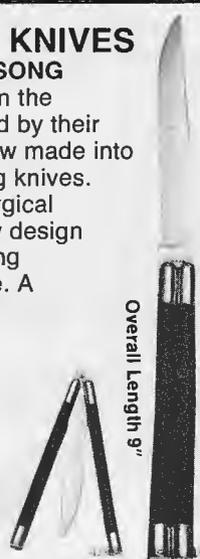
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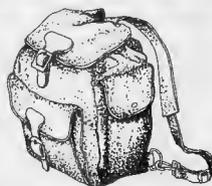
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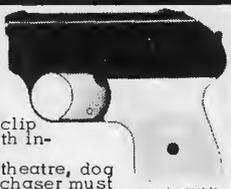
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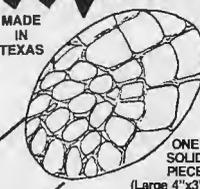
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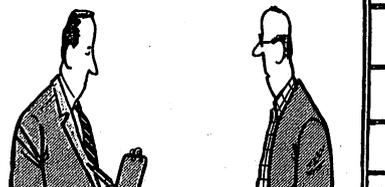
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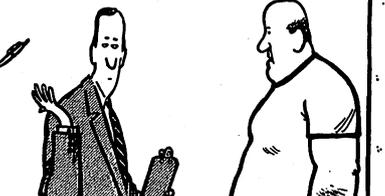
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AMERICANS FOR FREEDOM...

Army Reserve Lt. Col. Karen McKay, who founded and headed up the Committee for a Free Afghanistan for nearly six years, has a new organization called Americans for Freedom, Inc. McKay hasn't quit the Afghan issue — just expanded operations to take on the whole world. Freedom, Inc. will engage in active psyops in support of all anti-communist, democratic freedom movements. Freedom, Inc. has launched a grassroots educational program to help average Americans understand today's *realpolitik*.

Freedom, Inc.'s mission is to help Americans understand the relationship of Afghanistan, Nicaragua, Angola and other communist-dominated countries to our strategic mineral reserve, our airlift/sealift capability, our ability to project force to protect our interests — basically, our nation's ability to defend itself and maintain its sovereignty.

"These freedom fighters in Nicaragua, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Mozambique and elsewhere ought to be seen as strategic weapons," McKay said. "Our own security depends upon our supporting them."

We agree with that sentiment wholeheartedly. For more information, contact Americans for Freedom, Inc., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 44086, Washington, DC 20026. Your contributions are more than

welcome, and are tax deductible, too.

Freedom, Inc. is also offering T-shirts ("LTC Oliver North Is a National Hero" (President Ronald Reagan) — He's One of the Few Good Men) for \$12, postage paid. Proceeds will go to underwrite Freedom, Inc.'s public education program supporting the Nicaraguan freedom fighters.

WORK AVAILABLE (MAYBE)...

During our recent SOF Convention, a number of "recruiters" for overseas, military-type jobs were circulating business cards, buying drinks and making some pretty hefty promises. Our advice? Be careful. If you go after any security/military work, especially overseas, check out the employer's reputation and exact conditions of employment and payment. Ask to make contact with at least two other people who have worked for that firm in the past; if they tell you that can't be done for "security reasons," forget it. Unless they offer at least expenses and airline tickets up front, forget it. If they won't offer a salary payable in U.S. dollars or in some other safe currency such as British pounds or German marks, forget it. If they offer "shares" in some overseas project as payment, or payment after the contract, forget it. In other words, walk into these offers with your eyes wide open.

As a reminder, SOF does not hire or recruit for this type of work, nor do we have any information

available on who's legit and who isn't. *Caveat actor* — "let the doer beware" — as it were.

SIERRA LEONE MERCS?...

Word comes from our man in England that merc recruitment is underway in Aldershot for an operation in the west African country of Sierra Leone. According to our source, money for the op has been put up by a wealthy Sierra Leone businessman but — and it's a big "but" — his recruiter for the job is the notorious John Banks, of the Angolan and numerous other failed missions. We suspect this particular piece of work will come to the same end. We'll keep you posted as word comes in, so don't write or call us for more information. You now know what we know.

AIDS FOR IDI?...

This item crossed our desk, and although the embassies of Uganda and Saudi Arabia and the State Department's Uganda Desk can't verify it as we go to print, it makes for great reading either way. According to a press report out of Saudi Arabia, Idi Amin Dada, Uganda's genocidal maniac (and who incidentally was poster boy for an SOF reward offer), is a terminal AIDS patient not expected to last out the next few months. We know that breaks your heart. Amin, who did his frenzied best to depopulate Uganda through torture and mass killings, blames his body bugs on — you guessed it — nasty Yankee mercs. "I was poisoned by bounty-hunting American mercenaries who wish to get me dead or alive," Mr. Congeniality was quoted as saying from his bed in the Royal Crescent Hospital in Jidda, Saudi Arabia. To top it off, Amin apparently has requested martyr status from Islamic mullahs who take care of the terminally ill at Royal Crescent. Why? Quite simple, really. He says he's a martyr for the people of Uganda because of the nature of the origin of his illness. The report goes on to say that Amin has requested permission to re-enter Uganda to live out his last few days. We second that motion. No doubt the Ugandan people would love to have him back — if only to carve him up into little pieces with an AIDS-proof 10-foot pole. ☒

VIETNAM COMMEMORATIVE M14

The very first limited edition M14 ever offered.
A fitting tribute to the gallantry, duty, and devotion
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Khe Sanh. The Plain of Jars. The Iron Triangle. A litany of hard-fought battles and campaigns. A testimonial to the dedicated men who served with valor in a troubled land so far away.

In a war without battle lines, hard fighting marines and battle seasoned GIs needed rifles they could trust to save their bacon when "Charlie" was knocking on the door. The rifle they invariably chose — their *first* choice — was the M14, the .30 caliber dynamo with a well earned reputation for shooting straight, hitting hard, and always doing its job when "plastic toy guns" failed.

First Ever Limited Edition M14

The US M14, chambered in 7.62mm NATO (.308 Win) is the second generation version of John Garand's legendary M1 rifle. Officially adopted by the US military in 1957, the M14 first saw the light of day in John Garand's own design laboratory at the original Springfield Armory. So, it's appropriate that the *very first limited edition M14 commemorative* should be issued by Springfield Armory, Inc., the modern day continuation of the oldest tradition in US military firearms.

Two Models, Only 1500 of Each to be Issued

Two different models are available: A *US Marine Corps Commemorative M14* and a *US Army Commemorative M14*. Only 1500 of each model will be issued, thereby ensuring the future investment value and collectibility of these beautiful first-ever commemoratives. Matching four-digit serial numbers are available for collectors purchasing one of each model (i.e.; ARXXXX and MCXXXX). Special arrangements can be made for serial numbers that match commemorative M1s and M16s previously offered by other companies.

Great Looks and Performance

Both commemorative rifles are completely authentic semi-automatic firearms. Like all

Springfield Armory products — and like the original GI M14s — these special commemoratives are among the world's most accurate and reliable military firearms, completely capable of being pressed into service when needed. But, their real uniqueness is their spectacular eye appeal. Metal parts are finished in a deep, highly polished blue. 24-karat gold plating has been tastefully added to many key components. A distinctive medallion is imbedded in the beautiful American walnut stock. Standard accessories include one twenty-round magazine, a leather sling, and a GI M14 tech manual. Optional accessories include a cleaning kit, bayonet, and a handcrafted walnut display case. Purchasers of two M14 commemoratives (one of each model) receive a *free* display case for each rifle. An optional brass plate can be affixed to the front of the stock and engraved with up to two lines of copy of your choice.

Low \$1595 Price

Collectors have become accustomed to paying as much as \$2000 for commemorative US military rifles. But, unlike the commemorative M1 Garands manufactured by Springfield Armory and marketed by another company, these M14 Commemoratives are being sold direct, without a middleman, at the *unbelievably low price of just \$1595 each!* The savings of selling direct are passed on to you, and a *nominal \$95 deposit will hold the rifle of your choice.*

How to Reserve and Order

The US Army and the US Marine Corps Commemorative M14s are available exclusively through Springfield Armory, Inc. Stocking firearms dealers or individuals holding either Federal Firearms Licenses or Type 03 Curios and Relics Licenses may order directly from Springfield Armory. Non-license holders may place a reservation now and arrange for delivery through a local dealer prior to delivery. Allow 90 days for delivery.

For more information, write:

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Division**

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Or, send \$3 for complete product catalog

RESERVATION/ORDER FORM

Please reserve the following M14 Vietnam Commemorative Rifle(s) and optional accessories for me.

- US ARMY M14
with: optional bayonet optional walnut display case
 optional cleaning kit
- US MARINE CORPS M14
with: optional bayonet optional walnut display case
 optional cleaning kit
- Optional brass plate should read:
(two lines maximum, 24 characters per line)

Preferred Serial #: 1st choice _____
2nd choice _____
3rd choice _____

- My payment in full is enclosed (\$1595 per M14; \$189 per display case; \$47 per bayonet; \$23 per cleaning kit; \$22 per brass name plate)
- My \$95 deposit (or credit card authorization) is enclosed for one rifle.
- My \$190 deposit (or credit card authorization) is enclosed for two rifles.
- Please invoice the balance *in full* on delivery (C.O.D.).
- Please charge the balance to my credit card:
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