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FEATURES



Korea's Marines — Page 60

Photo: Tom Marks

NO FRIENDS BUT THE MOUNTAINS Peter Douglas
SOF's longtime foreign correspondent ventured into the mountainous border region of Iran/Iraq after a story most others have forgotten: the Kurds, and their tenacious battle for freedom — and survival. Is the world writing off yet another proud people? In their eyes, the Kurds have no friends but the mountains 30

RAID ON YANTACO Peter Noble
Peru is unlucky enough to be infested with two fanatical, murderous terrorist groups — Shining Path, and the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) — which fight each other and the government. Our intrepid correspondent hooks up with the Peruvian army during its hunt for MRTA terrorists in the jungles north of Lima 36

MERCHANTS OF PAIN Neil Livingstone
Torture has been used to elicit information or confessions, and as a punishment, since the beginning of time. Who are today's "Blowtorches" and "Draculas"? Are the gulags of men's minds truly as black as the pain they inflict? This is a hard and brutal story, not for the faint of heart 40

KIA OR ALIVE IN LAOS? James L. Pate
In a story worthy of television's "Unsolved Mysteries," former SOF editor Jim Pate examines the case of Army Captain Donald Carr, supposedly dead since he disappeared in Laos in 1971. Now a photo of a middle-aged man has been identified by experts as Carr, and it seems *possible* he's been held in Laos for all these years. Is this real, or yet another hoax being played on the family of a man lost for 20 years? 46

SALVADOR DALLY Jack Thompson
In El Salvador, refugee camps are off limits to army personnel. True to type, however, communist FMLN guerrillas have seized the opportunity to turn many of these camps into operational bases. SOF's Jack Thompson was on the ground in Salvador, and brings us this first-hand account of how the government's handling the situation 52

El Salvador — Page 52

Photo: Jack Thompson





COLUMNS



Kurdistan — Page 30

Photo: Peter Douglas

JEFF COOPER'S FANTASTIC .45

Starting with the concept that the 1911A1 pistol works well but has a few weaknesses, Jeff Cooper fine-tuned this classic and came up with the Gunsite Service Pistol — a truly fantastic .45. **56**

HARD ROKS

“ROKs,” as we called them in Vietnam, were some of the most hard-core troops to ever serve in that war. When they moved into an AO, the Viet Cong moved out. Today, the Republic of Korea’s marines, known as “Dragons” by their U.S. counterparts, train hard and take pride in their reputation as the baddest boys on the block. **60**

KALASHNIKOPY COMPLIANCE

As transfigured to meet the approval of the “experts” in BATF’s Firearms Technology Branch, the mutated Egyptian ARM has about as much aesthetic appeal as the Hunchback of Notre Dame — but, looks aside, it’s the same gun. So what’s the point of these foolish regulations? **64**

Peru — Page 36

Photo: Peter Noble



Bulletin Board 4
 FMLN Arms Cache

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 ESP — DEA #22

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 Rewriting History

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 Gunshop Shootout

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COVER

Torture. Not a pretty subject, and unless you’re on Amnesty International’s mailing list, you don’t hear much about it. But as you read this, literally thousands of people all over the world are being tortured in a hundred ghastly ways for information, confessions or as punishment — or for the personal pleasure of the man (or woman) holding the cattle prod and wearing the blood-stained black hood. Who are these “merchants of pain”? Long-time contributor Neil Livingstone takes us on a gruesome tour, guaranteed *not* for the squeamish. We hate to ruin your holiday cheer, but the screams go on no matter what the season. Photo: courtesy Amnesty International.

BULLETIN BOARD



Bob Brown and friends at Keystone, Colorado, for another *Soldier of Fortune* Ski Week. Brown, Mike Williams, Mike McPike and others worked on their technique at NASTAR race clinic with top racing coaches, including Dennis Herbel, Rich Lafredo and Kim MacNeil. Rich is a former World Cup champion and USAF veteran; Kim raced with the U.S. ski team and frequently wins instructor races; Dennis, an Army Vietnam veteran, races bicycles as well as skis. "Ski racing is right up there with night parachute jumps and firefights for an adrenalin rush," according to Brown. If you're interested in a good deal on top ski instruction and some outstanding skiing in Keystone's new Outback area with Brown, write SOF Ski Week, PO Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306.

FMLN ARMS CACHE ...

Salvadoran treasury police have uncovered the largest FMLN cache yet discovered — some 16,000 pounds worth — at the tire business and home of a suspected FMLN supporter. Included in the haul were one SAM-7, three SAM-14s, two Redeye missiles; 41 AK-47s, one RPK, two Dragunovs and 23 Makarov pistols; 20 RPG-18s and two RPG-7 rocket launchers plus 250 81mm-mortar rounds adapted to PG-7 rounds; 400 blocks of TNT, 8,000 pounds of ammonium sulfate, 250 blasting caps, hundreds of yards of fuse, 60 Soviet F1 grenades and more than 600,000 rounds of assorted ammunition; plus 14 ICOM radios and a base station. If you ever wondered what your CISPES donations went for, now you know.

PRIME-TIME DEAD ...

A group named *Californians for Constructive Capital Punishment* is engaged in a ballot-initiative campaign to qualify two initiatives that would allow Golden State voters to decide if: all executions for capital crimes should be made in public; should take place in the community where the crime was committed; the victim's family members should be able to select the form of execution (from an approved list of methods); such a program should be made self-supporting by filling the office of executioner for each event by public auction and by regulating vendors at the execution site with licensing fees to defray execution costs; the executee may opt to donate his remains "for science or harvesting of transplantable organs," in which case the time/place/method of execution would be determined by the medical facility which accepts the donation.

The proposed statutes also would require the state to provide adequate facilities for full press coverage of executions, and to conduct the executions "at times most convenient for spectator attendance." Californians interested in further information may contact Thomas M. Hall, Californians for Constructive Capital Punishment, P.O. Box 4036, Burbank, CA 91502.

DELTA FORCE WANTS A FEW GOOD MEN ...

The 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment — aka Delta Force — has launched a recruiting drive for soldiers

who want to "routinely operate throughout the world either individually or in small ... teams" as part of a unit whose job is to "conduct missions that combine rapid response with the surgical application of a wide variety of unique skills and the flexibility to maintain the lowest possible profile of U.S. involvement," according to an announcement in a recent issue of *Infantry* magazine published at Ft. Benning, Georgia.

The Pentagon does not officially admit the existence of this super-secret hostage-rescue strike team.

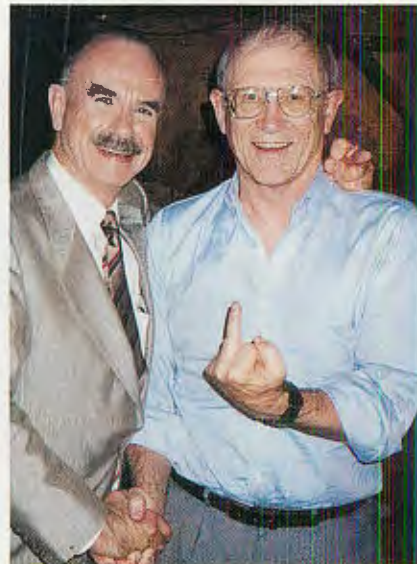
LASER BLOOD ...

The Army plans to create a one-shot laser round for the M203 grenade launcher as part of a project code-named "Perseus." Intended to dazzle enemy troops and/or destroy television sensors, the laser round will employ explosives or electricity to create laser beams. Firms technically qualified for research are presently being sought by the Army.

IOWA TESTS INCONCLUSIVE ...

Tests by civilian scientists failed to determine if the turret explosion that killed 47 sailors aboard the *Iowa* was

SOF Publisher Bob Brown and G. Gordon Liddy salute the collapse of communism at New York City's celebretoria *Elaine's* after Brown appeared on CNBC's talk show "Talk Live," hosted by Liddy.



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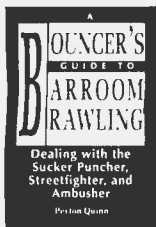
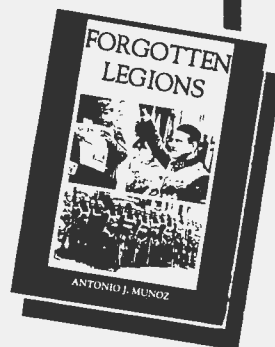


FORGOTTEN LEGIONS

Obscure Combat Formations of the Waffen-SS

by Antonio J. Munoz

Forgotten Legions has all the elements of a war novel: ambushes, glider assaults behind enemy lines, eleventh-hour rescues, courage and betrayal. Jump into Yugoslavia with the elite commandos, barely missing Tito himself. Accompany Otto Skorzeny on other missions, including rescuing Mussolini from a mountain-top resort and snatching the Hungarian president's son to prevent Hungary's defection. WWII buffs and serious scholars alike will want to follow this painstakingly researched history of lesser-known Waffen-SS formations during the critical war years 1943-1945, including the Eastern Turkic Moslem, Albanian-SS Mountain, Croatian-SS and Fortress Regiment Besslein. Munoz has compiled an enormous amount of information, maps, charts, photos and first-hand accounts from war diaries and survivors, much of which has never appeared anywhere else. 8 1/2 x 11, hardcover, photos, illus., 424 pp. **\$59.95**



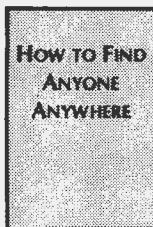
A BOUNCER'S GUIDE TO BARROOM BRAWLING
Dealing with the Sucker Puncher, Streetfighter, and Ambusher
by Peyton Quinn

As a bouncer in a biker bar and a participant in dozens of fights, Peyton Quinn knows the difference between fighting fact and fantasy. The result is a unique guide to self-defense that can save your ass in places where brawling is quick, dirty and very violent. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, softcover, photos, illus., 264 pp. **\$17.95**



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Here's a crash course in recognizing and escaping ambushes on the road before they become unsolvable and deadly emergencies. Action-packed footage shows high-speed turns, braking and ramming. Actual assassinations are analyzed for how the killers exploited weaknesses in security. Color, 58 min., VHS only. **\$59.95**



HOW TO FIND ANYONE ANYWHERE
by Ralph D. Thomas

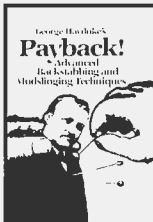
Here is a virtual encyclopedia on the topic of skip tracing. Learn how to quickly make national sweeps for data, design and execute pretexts that work, get the latest equipment and much more. This is the material that can make or break your investigations. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, 62 pp. **\$19.95**



BLACK MEDICINE: THE VIDEO
Vital Targets, Maximum Punishment
A graphic demonstration of how to exploit the vulnerable vital points of the human anatomy. The instructors - bouncers in some of the most violent bars and roadhouses in the country - focus on strikes that they know from experience will put a man down. Some of the techniques in this video are only appropriate for life-or-death situations. Therefore, this film is for information purposes only. Color, approx. 50 min., VHS only. **\$29.95**



U.S. NAVY SEAL COMBAT MANUAL
One of the rarest FMs in the field of military collecting, with special emphasis on underwater demolition techniques and explosives. Equipment and tactics employed by this elite fighting force are covered, as are SEAL weapons, communications, diving, infiltration and exfiltration, survival and more. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, photos, illus., 240 pp. **\$19.95**



PAYBACK!
Advanced Backstabbing and Mudslinging Techniques
by George Hayduke

The "Dirty Harry of Literati," a.k.a. George Hayduke, strikes again with another deadly shot of revenge. Get back at life's bullies, bad guys and bureaucracies with these tear-jerking tidbits of do-it-yourself terrorism. For entertainment purposes only. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, hardcover, 196 pp. **\$19.95**



MAKE MY DAY!
Hayduke's Best Revenge Techniques for the Punks in Your Life
Hayduke is back and meaner than ever with this all-new bag of bully-busting tricks. Hundreds of ideas from readers who rallied to George's stirring cry ("Do unto others before they do unto you") fill this antic anthology that will amaze and amuse you. **Make My Day!** is for entertainment only. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, hardcover, 224 pp. **\$19.95**



BREAK CONTACT, CONTINUE MISSION
by Raymond D. Harris
A widely praised account of the shadow war fought by MACV-SOG in Laos, Cambodia and North Vietnam. SOG vet Ray Harris tells the story of Ted Garner, a recon sergeant running missions out of the CCC compound, who discovers the truth behind the SOG motto: "You have never lived until you've almost died." 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, hardcover, fiction, 368 pp. **\$22.95**

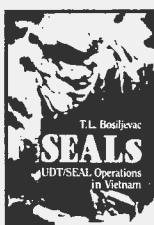


HOW TO BEAT THE CREDIT BUREAUS
The Insider's Guide to Consumer Credit
by Bob Hammond

In this sequel to his best-selling book, **Credit Secrets**, Hammond describes the deceptive web spun by the powerful credit bureau syndicate. He tells how to get a copy of your credit report, interpret it and then force the bureaus to wipe the slate clean. Get back on solid financial ground for good. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, softcover, 136 pp. **\$12.00**



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U.S. ARMY SPECIAL FORCES A-TEAM VIETNAM COMBAT MANUAL
This is the real thing, a reprint of the A Detachment Handbook issued to all Special Forces A-Teams during the Vietnam War. Everything from camp construction to interrogation procedures to psyops is covered. A must for collectors of military and Vietnam memorabilia. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, illus., 304 pp. **\$19.95**

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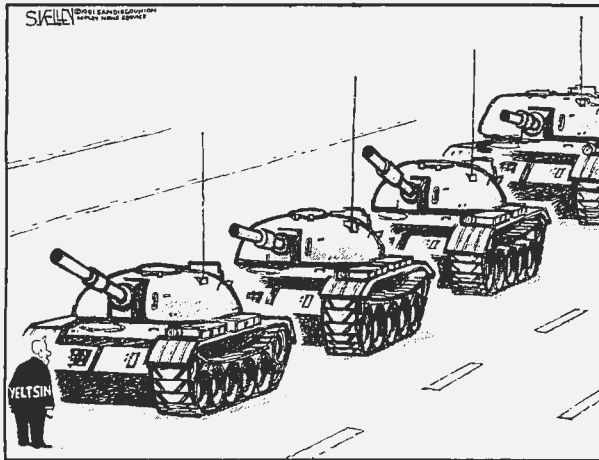
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BULLETIN BOARD



sabotage or an accident, according to congressional investigators.

CHORUS OF HUMMERS ...

More than 20,000 of AM General's High-Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWVs) were sent to the Gulf; more than 80,000 have been built so far for the United States and some 30 foreign governments. They're still being cranked out at 57-per-day at AM General's South Bend, IN, plant. Production for U.S. military orders is scheduled through 1994.

STEALTH RADIO? ...

With stealth planes, submarines, tanks, and even fatigues, we suppose it had to happen: The Navy is working on a stealth radio network. According to Vice Admiral Jerry Tuttle, director of Navy Space and Electronic Warfare, the Navy is launching a 30-year program to change its satellite links into stealthy radio systems, known as low-probability of detection (LPD) networks.

LPD networks disguise their radio signals as background radio static, and only friendly radios equipped with computers that recognize the pattern by which radio signals are hidden in static can detect the signals. Some \$3 billion per year has been earmarked for this project.

RIF'd? RETRAIN ...

One impact of current military force-reduction programs is that there will be a large number of vets entering the work force during the next five years. Realizing that vets have developed

skills and a strong work ethic that make them a valuable addition to the civilian work force, Florida has funded a program to help vets reach their maximum potential. This program is being administered in part by Valencia Community College in Orlando.

Vets or those about to leave the service should contact Jim Knight (5th SF Gp, [Abn.], Da Nang, '67-68), Military Transition

Program, Valencia Community College, Box 3028, Orlando, FL 32802; phone (407) 299-5000, ext. 1229. In addition to education, the program at Valencia includes assistance in family resettlement and referrals to qualified employers.

STUDENTS FOR FIREARMS AWARENESS ...

A student group named *Students for Firearms Awareness* has been taking on the anti-gunners head-to-head with a program of "saving lives and dispelling ignorance by promoting safety and understanding." Among their activities has been the founding of the National Collegiate Coalition for Firearms Awareness, and they've been enthusiastically getting good press for the Second Amendment. Find out what they're up to by contacting Paul Martin or Russ Nomer at 225 S. Whiting St., Suite 216, Alexandria, VA 22304.

GHASTLY MASKS ...

Among the statistics compiled as part of the after-"math" of the Gulf War is that at least seven people in Israel died of asphyxiation when they donned gas masks during Scud attacks, but did not remove the protective caps on the gas mask canisters.

GET EVEN, NOT ONE UP ...

The last decade has spawned a number of books on "revenge" or getting even with those who done you dirt, and the one we've been waiting for has finally been published by Paladin Press, acknowledged leader in the field. Most such tomes start with,

"First, get two pounds of enriched uranium." But any retribution we might savor would be much lower-key — more usable, more subtle, more creative.

Just such practical techniques for do-it-yourself redress are detailed in the new book *Operation Just Deserts, a Guerrilla's Guide to Getting Even*, penned by anonymous SOF staff(ers). Having read this new work, we do *not* want him/her/them mad at us, so this will be a favorable review.

The author(s) present nearly a hundred sweet-but-survivable revenge scenarios in some 47 chapters, most being recitations of actual incidents where the underdog prevailed with "wit and wisdom" by cleverly using everyday situations and materials to identify an antagonist's Achilles' heel, then assist the natural Karma process with surgical appropriateness.

Past-due accounts with thieves, cheats, boors, bosses, slanderers, vandals, neighbors, spouses and scoundrels of generic nature are all squared with finality and precision, as the book guides the aggrieved through a magical kingdom of non-lethal mayhem it calls the "soft revenge" technique. It is a hilarious handbook with information that can be used *today*.

Note the author(s): "*Better by far to use a subtler imagination and skill to stoichiometrically meter a kinder, gentler revenge. This will give you both satisfaction and the peace that can come only when, with supercilious smugness, you watch your artfully orchestrated velvet plan moving into place as gently as a tick working its way up your target's shorts.*" Recommended reading for those with a bone to pick.

Operation Just Deserts, A Guerrilla's Guide to Getting Even by General Trickery, 116 pages, paper, \$14, Paladin Press, Dept. BBD, Box 1307, Boulder, CO 80306.

DIFFERENT SAUCES ...

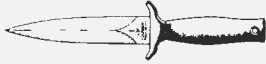
Virginia Governor L. Douglas Wilder, an advocate of strict gun control, told an interviewer for *Playboy* magazine that he keeps handguns in his private Richmond home and at his executive mansion. ☞

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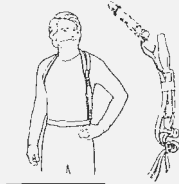
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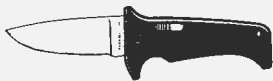
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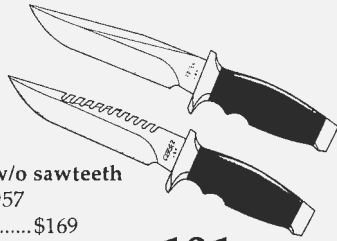
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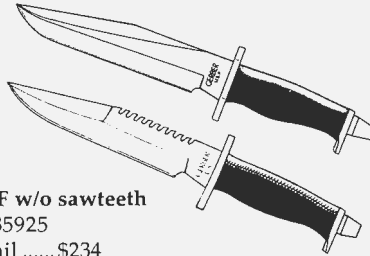
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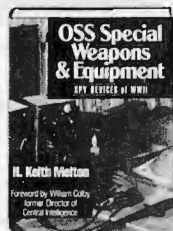
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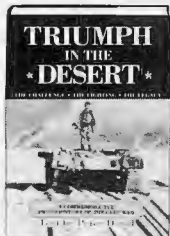
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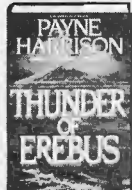
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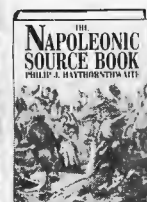
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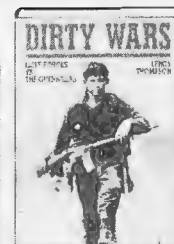
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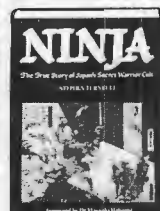
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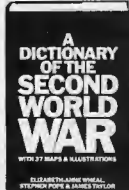
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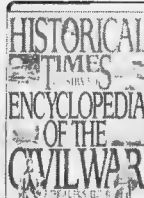
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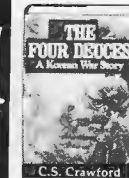
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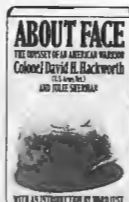


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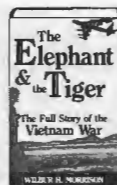


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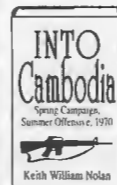
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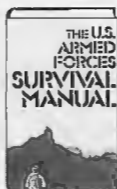


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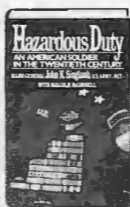
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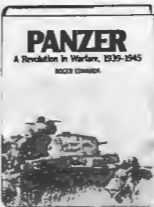
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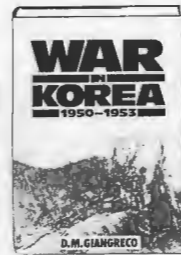
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BATTLE BLADES

Text & Photo by Greg Walker

ESP — DEA #22

KNIFE design for combat is an area inhabited by a select few custom knife makers. Robert Rippy is one of these, having incorporated hard-learned lessons from Korea and Vietnam into his Egress, Survival Protection (ESP) Combat Knife System.

Rippy's method of construction exploits the full potential of the knife's design. A full tang is used for strength, a double-guard for protection and a skullcrusher doubles as the butt cap.

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) approached Rippy through the U.S. Justice Department with a request to design and provide 110 knives and sheaths for its pilots stationed in Central and South America. They wanted a fixed-blade knife made from stainless steel with a set of sawteeth designed to tear through aluminum found on most small aircraft. Micarta was chosen for the knife's handle because of its toughness and durability. The knife also needed a rugged sheath which could be worn on a pilot's emergency vest so he could cut, saw, rip or hammer his way out of a downed aircraft.

Once on the ground the flyer needed a knife to serve his immediate survival requirements, as well as close-combat scenarios. "You go down in that kind of environment," Rippy noted, "you'd better have the best equipment."

The ESP — DEA #22 is available in three blade-lengths. These are 6 1/2-inch (\$450), 7 1/2-inch (\$550) and 9-inch (\$650). Blade finish can be either mirror-polish or subdued. The blade itself is ground from 1/4-inch ATS-34 stainless steel, professionally heat treated (sub-zero quench) and triple-tempered. Final Rockwell-hardness is an even 58 Rc. This process delivers the maximum potential of the steel in terms of strength,



The ESP-DEA #22 features a 6 1/2-inch blade of either 440C or ATS-34 stainless steel. The handle is black Micarta, with fixtures of 303 stainless steel. The DEA aviation seal is by Bill Johns, master engraver.

toughness and ability to hold its edge. The doubleguard, butt cap and handle-fastening pins are formed from 303-stainless steel; again, an incredibly strong steel which only the best knife makers use for such fixtures. The guard itself is fabricated from 1/4-inch stock, making it a truly protective feature for one's fingers and hands.

Black linen Micarta provides a secure grip through a series of three deeply carved finger impressions. Of particular note is the forward impression, which positions the forefinger directly against the lower guard. This placement, found on the original CISO/SOG knives of the Vietnam era, ensures both blade control and a secure grip when the knife is in use.

When extracting the blade from flesh, this positioning allows for the index finger to be immediately placed forward on the guard, so one can powerfully pull the knife rearward. A 1-inch flat platform, ground forward of the lower guard, complements this feature, allowing for finger protection during tugging/jerking/twisting motions.

Rippy relies on a spear-point format for the blade's pattern. I examined his #22 prototype, noting the point is ground to be supported by a hefty amount of steel rearward. Penetration is excellent. The specialized sawtooth design will rip through .04-inch aluminum, thereby meeting the DEA pilots'

requirement for such a feature.

The cutting edge of the #22 displays one of the finest cutting/slicing/slashing features I've seen in some time. Rippy knows not only how to sharpen a blade properly, but also how to choose an edge for the kind of knife being built.

Honing and sharpening are handily accomplished using either a good set of ceramic sticks or a pocket-size diamond hone. I normally carry a set of

medium and fine hones with me for daily blade touch-up, particularly when toting a stainless steel knife out in the field.

One can discount the tired old argument that stainless steel blades are difficult to sharpen in the bush. Diamond hones do the trick quite nicely, with carbon-steel blades responding to natural stones like a duck to water.

Those knives going to the DEA bear its "aviation" seal, stamped into the blade's ricasso. Civilian models will not feature this engraving, at the request of the DEA.

Sheaths for the #22 can be ordered in either black cordura or leather; my preference being leather, as cordura is quite finish-abrasive over time. Oiled and cared for, a properly tanned and treated leather sheath will last for years and is also quite handsome. When ordering, the buyer can specify a particular sheath pattern, or may ask for the DEA model.

Fighting Knives has examined and worked with three ESP models as of this writing. Rippy's workmanship, detail and attention to design are above reproach. As a combat-knife maker he has few equals. I recommend his knives highly should you be looking for a custom working knife for real-world use, perhaps in the jungles of Colombia or the rugged mountains of northern Iraq. ✂

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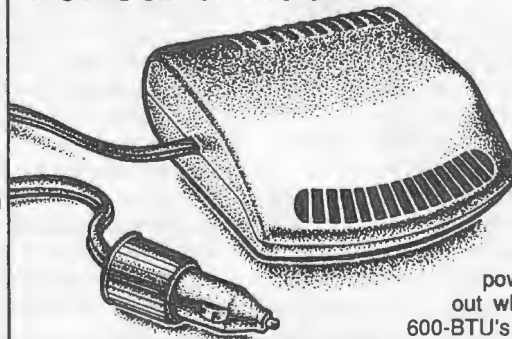


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"SCHWARZKOPF THE IMPERIALIST"? ...

This summer I was one of 20 people who marched at Custer Battlefield National Monument to protest our government's vote on a bill to rename that site "Little Bighorn National Battlefield."

Since the alleged motive for this change was to recognize the Native American victors of the battle, we were unjustly termed "racists" by certain media elements. In fact, the goal behind the name change was to dishonor General George Custer, and scapegoat him for America's past policies toward Native Americans.

The bill's sponsors somehow feel that Sioux and Cheyenne fighters will be honored by adding a river's name, and that by stripping Custer's name from the site, he will not be dishonored. This is Soviet-style political correctness, with traditional names heedlessly altered and yesterday's dead soldier today's "unperson."

While Custer is no doubt a controversial figure, no one disputes he died fighting for the Stars and Stripes. Removing his name for political reasons sets a terrible precedent.

No American serviceman, including Native Americans, should have his name effaced because hack politicians a century later feel they need a "goat." As J.W. Urwin, a chronicler of Custer's war triumphs, recently warned, "What we do to Custer, our children will do to

our current heroes."

Wayne M. Sarf
Riverdale,
New Jersey

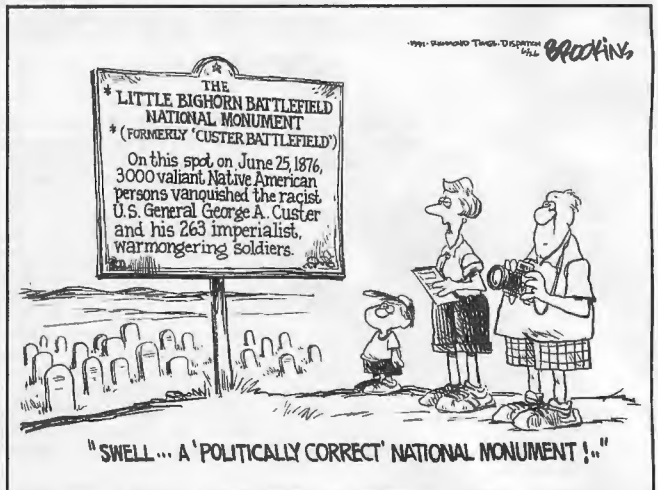
WHICH RIGHTS LEFT? ...

American politicians and media companies are destroying our country from within by conveying to us that we are not capable of taking care of ourselves. This is being done with a kind of Pavlovian conditioning, as defined by the Russian scientist, Dr. Pavlov.

You may recall Pavlov was able to demonstrate that if someone told a lie frequently enough, and over a long enough period of time, people became conditioned to believe the lie. We experience this "conditioning" every day from the anti-gunners.

Our greatest loss will be the Second Amendment. We are told, directly and indirectly, that guns are bad, so only bad people want guns. As SOF readers know, the current theme is that guns must be suitable only for sporting use. This is pure bullshit.

The Second Amendment was designed for one thing, and one thing only, and that was to ensure that American citizens had the means to protect themselves from criminals, tyrants and dictators.



firearms or magazines, nor abide by any so-called laws which conflict with our Constitution.

(Name withheld by request)
Plant City, Florida

This gentleman did not want to be identified with what he wrote for fear that agents from the FBI and BATF would feel inclined to pay him a visit. Threatened with losing his Second Amendment rights, it would appear his First Amendment rights are equally in danger. Enough said.

A SAFE INVESTMENT ...

I have a lot of apprehension regarding combat armor in the U.S. armed forces. Why are Kevlar helmets, but not vests, issued to our soldiers? I purchased a Silent Partner bulletproof vest (through an SOF ad) back in 1983 for \$100 and it has saved my ass at least twice.

My vest has completely defeated 9mm rounds, and made .233 rounds a skin-searing experience instead of an experience at the morgue. Even a 3- or 2-level vest will stop or impede AK rounds.

If Uncle Sam bought these vests in quantity, they would be cheaper than the Wehrmacht-style helmets now provided to our troops.

Robert Moilanen
Ecorse, Michigan

SHOTS IN THE NIGHT ...

"Assassination: Could We Have Hit Saddam?" by Neil Livingstone in your September issue was both good and



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TSgt. Fernando Castillo and friends from 162nd Arizona Air National Guard ride 15,000-lb. bomb during Persian Gulf War. See next month's issue for winners of SOF Operation Desert Storm Photo Contest. Photo: TSgt. Castillo

informative. Livingstone, however, failed to include some important points.

In my opinion, it would have been a disaster if the U.S. had assassinated Saddam Hussein. To assassinate the leader of another country, regardless of how corrupt or oppressive he may be, could lead to a myriad of international incidents. Also, assassinating Saddam could have made the Middle East even more explosive than it already was.

Assassinating a tyrant is historically justifiable, but only when the people who are being oppressed do the assassinating. And I believe that any person who bows to the people's prayers to kill the tyrant oppressing them has in no way acted unjustly.

Rrok Kalaj
Center Line, Michigan

SHOTS IN THE LIGHT ...

About two weeks ago, I came across your magazine (January '91 issue) for the first time here in Israel. I had heard much about *Soldier of Fortune*, but never actually read it.

What I read really opened my eyes, especially an article about Burma —

the dictators who run it and, more importantly, the Karen rebels and students who are, against incredible odds, trying to bring an end to the tyranny.

After serving in the Australian army, I eventually settled in Israel, where military service is mandatory. I served in an armoured infantry unit for one year in Lebanon and the Gaza Strip.

Recent newspaper articles have mentioned in passing that the Burmese have pushed the rebel groups out of their bases and that people are being murdered and oppressed. Good people are dying while the rest of the world does nothing, hoping the oppression will go away on its own. It won't.

This is where SOF can help me. I would like an address or phone number for the Democratic Alliance of Burma (Resistance) so that I can contact them and donate some time to this worthy cause. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Mark Idan
Kibbutz Kfar Maseryk, Israel

With world attention on the USSR and Europe, the Burmese government is preparing to use \$1.4 billion worth of weaponry recently purchased from the PRC to quickly and quietly destroy what remains of Burma's freedom-fighting rebel groups.

The most important thing SOF readers can do to help the rebels is: Get the word out on what is happening to them.

Call or write any media or government organization that will listen. More than bodies, what the freedom fighters need now is attention.

QUIRKY QUEBECIANS ...

I am an avid reader of SOF, and believe you supply information like no other magazine on the market. I am disappointed, however, that you have not reported on what is happening in Quebec.

I am referring to how the French Canadians, who, incidentally, control both political parties in Quebec, treat those who do not speak French. If you speak English or any other language, you have no rights, no justice, and are faced with a racist police force and a judicial system that will not defend you.

A friend of mine was recently jumped by a police officer in Quebec. When the cop spoke to him in French and my friend answered he could not understand because he only spoke English, the cop spit in his face. This kind of thing happens often.

This Canadian province, right next to the United States, is one of the most oppressive, anti-American, anti-English language, anti-equal justice places in the world.

Pierre Dyan
Quebec, Canada

MYTHS IN THE AIR ...

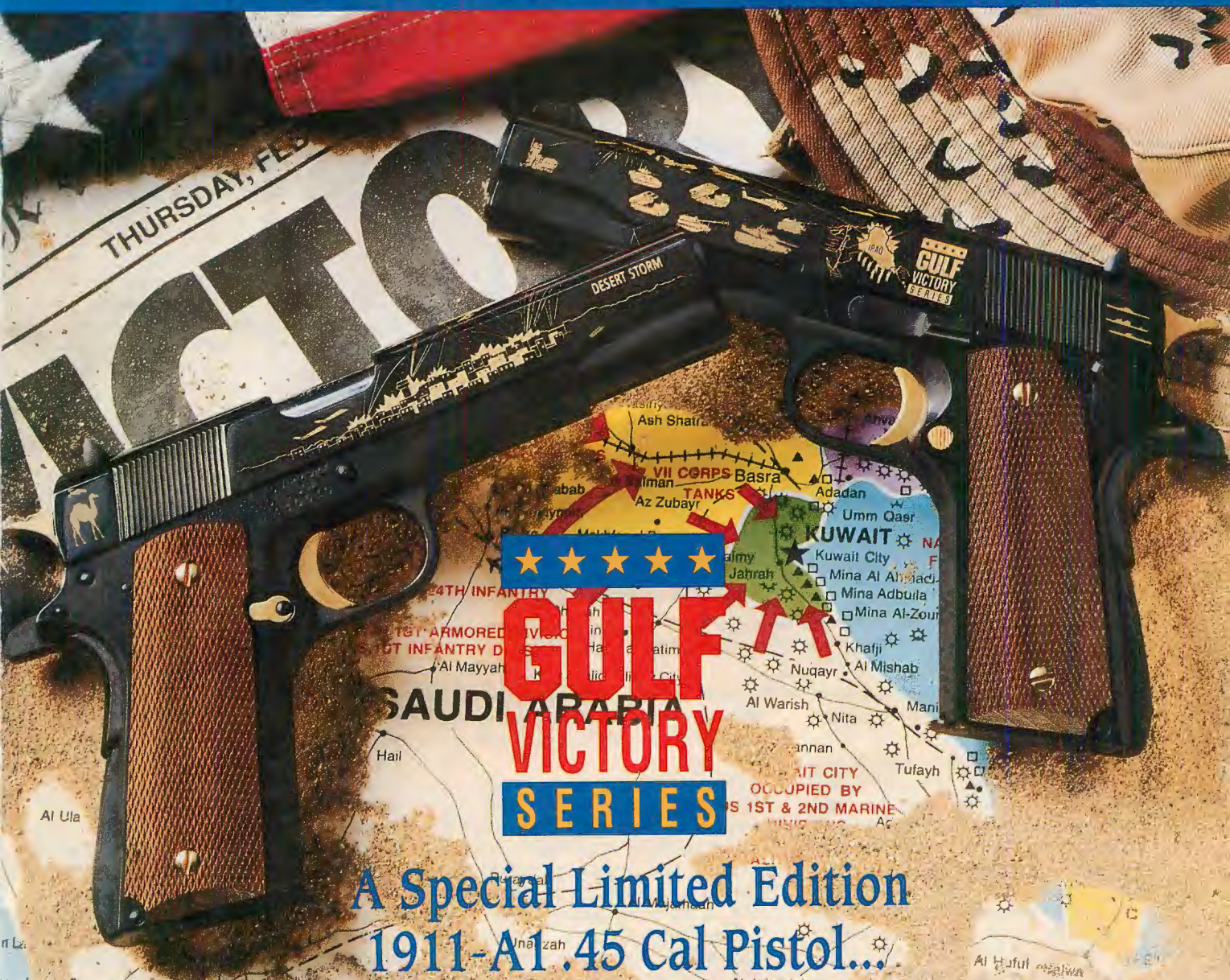
In your article "Inside the IRA" in your October issue, you talk about the "myth" of the IRA. You then spewed out the real myth that the "Protestant backlash" was caused by IRA violence. Wrong.

Catholics in Northern Ireland have been victims of Loyalist intimidation and terror for years. When they attempted to peacefully gain basic civil rights, they were met by brutality. Your precious RUC and UDR either sat back and watched, or took part in the terrorism wearing civilian clothing. The Provisional IRA is a terror that terrorism produced.

Your magazine's often one-sided view on this subject is the height of hypocrisy, although Scott S. Smith's article was a breath of fresh air.

James Crowley
Colt's Neck, New Jersey ✈

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Gulf War veterans, their families, and all Americans...a proud remembrance of a time when patriots answered the call of duty and upheld their nation's honor.

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I WAS THERE

by Robert D. Bendsten
Photos courtesy Anoka Sheriff's Dept.

Gunshop Shootout

On 29 June 1991 all hell broke loose in the small town of Andover, Minnesota. On that day four Vietnamese gang members attempted to rob Andover Firearms And Shooting Supplies.

I'd just happened to stop by my office behind the store. The partition between the office and retail area was fairly thin, so sometimes I was able to hear what went on in the store. At 1645, about 15 minutes before closing time, I heard what I thought was the last customer leaving. As he departed, more people entered the store.

The next sound surprised me. It was a heavily-accented voice, loud and very tense, ordering Jack, a store employee who'd just started that day, to "get the fuck down on the floor and shut up. Hurry up!" Although I didn't know it then, two Vietnamese men wearing loose-fitting shirts to hide guns had entered the shop and pretended to look at merchandise.

Two other punks remained in a late-model Monte Carlo, idling outside the front door. Just as the last customer left, these other two came into the store. The holdup's timing indicated these crooks must have checked the place out earlier; but they probably didn't know about an office behind the gun shop.

There were two locked doors between them and me, so I figured I had enough time to call 911 before anyone found out I was there. When the operator answered, I said there was an armed robbery in progress. He asked a lot of stupid questions and tried to keep me on the line, but when I said I had to be as quiet as possible, he finally got the message — thin walls are a two-way street.

Luckily for Jack and unluckily for those four Viet-creeps, I enthusiastically exercise my Second Amendment right to protect myself with firearms.



Author, armed with Remington 1100, prevented these suspected Asian gang members from robbing Andover Firearms and Shooting Supplies.

So, with back-up on the way, my next chore was to pick which one of my many guns I wanted to shoot assholes with that day.

Being outnumbered four-to-one, I wanted the gun with the most firepower, so I picked my Remington 1100 with a 10-round mag, modified lifter assembly and Choate "goodies." Besides this, I also had a 15-round web sling, a 55-round bandolier and two Armstec speedloaders loaded and ready to go. I like to be prepared.

Moving quietly out the back door, I worked my way to the front of the building, where I saw one man loading a duffel bag into the Monte Carlo. I waited for him to go back inside. Then I snuck up to the car, opened the passenger door and looked inside the bag. As expected, half the store's handgun inventory was there, including many large-caliber Smith & Wessons, Glocks, Rugers, government Colts and others.

I figured if these guys got away, a lot of innocent people were going to get hurt. I decided right there that none of them were leaving with those guns. It was them or me — no other option. I pulled the car keys out and threw them as far as I could. If they took me out, at least they'd be walking.

Suddenly two robbers came out the front door. I ordered them to drop to their knees with hands over their heads. But I didn't have a clear shot, as

the car was between us.

Then the shit hit the fan fast. While the first two creeps fell to their knees, a third whom I hadn't seen in time started shooting, using the store's door frame for cover. His first shot hit me in the hip 1-inch below the hip joint. The .357 Magnum round broke my femur and dropped me like a rock, but not before I took out the door frame with return fire. If I'd had buckshot, the shooter would have been history.

After I hit the pavement, I realized that if they could see how badly hurt I was, they'd circle the car and finish me off. So, to let them know how alive I was, I pulled off several more fast rounds under the car they hid behind. It was a turkey shoot.

Legs everywhere. The first shot missed, but the second and third hit the right calf of one creep and severed his leg below the knee.

The punk next to the wounded guy saw what was happening and started dancing, trying to get above my fire. Now they were scared, so at least I had psychological advantage. If I weren't in such a serious mess, I would have been laughing my ass off.

Remember the third and fourth guys? Well, they weren't done yet. During a brief lull I quickly reloaded (thanks, Armstec) and dragged myself behind another car located about 20 feet away. I made sure the tires were between them and me, so they couldn't return fire below the car body.

Then my worst fear came true. They grabbed Jack, the clerk. One Viet threw his arm around Jack's neck and jammed a .357 Magnum in his eye saying they'd kill him if I didn't give up the car keys. By this time, they had grabbed a lot of ammo, a convertible MAC M10 and a CAR-15 from the shop.

Continued on page 73

The Recon Scout®
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 and Special Projects
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5/16"

Top View of Recon Scout® and Gryphon® combat knives. Recon Scout is a full 5/16" thick and over 1, 1/4" longer than the Gryphon®.

WORLD SITREP

4 BELGIUM
Sending 100 troops to join multinational force protecting Kurds ... Turkish-Greek infighting blocks funding of \$1.58 billion NATO budget.

3 ARGENTINA
Peronist Party scores midterm victory; President Carlos Menem wants to run again despite constitutional ban.

1 ALGERIA
Military authorities ban publication of extremist Islamic Salvation Front's two newspapers ... Premier Sid Ahmed Ghozali promises to free 329 fundamentalists held since June.

5 CAMBODIA
Peace talks bog down over disarmament, human rights, elections; mediator Prince Norodom Sihanouk still optimistic.

2 ANTARCTICA
Soviet jet evacuates 172 scientists from ice-bound Soviet vessel; 50 will stay.

6 COLOMBIA
Half of cars ordered off road to conserve fuel after leftist SBGC attacks cut oil production ... 30,000 peasant protesters close Pan-American highway, demand improved living conditions.

7 CZECH AND SLOVAK FEDERAL REPUBLIC
Air force to reorganize around British RAF structure, revert to RAF blue uniforms adopted in 1940; no more red stars.

8 EGYPT
Will start production of enhanced Scud-C missiles with range of 600km; has worked with North Korea, Iraq on past missile projects.

9 EL SALVADOR
More than 130 escape Mariona prison during attack by FMLN guerrillas; sixth attack in 11 years; 150 escaped in 1985 attack.

10 GERMANY
Holding talks with six NATO nations on cutting legal privileges of foreign troops stationed in Germany ... Crime wave continues in reunited Berlin.

11 HONG KONG
PRC Vice President Wang Chen: "We can take Hong Kong in 24 hours ... to hell with the British and Indian troops in Hong Kong." British Prime Minister Major signs pact with PRC Prime Minister Li Peng for \$16.2 billion airport.

12 INDIA
Sri Lankan Tamil militant Sivarasam, believed to be mastermind of assassination of late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, commits suicide along with six followers after siege by police in Bangalore.

13 IRELAND
Gerry Adams, head of IRA's political wing Sinn Fein, says he's willing to hold peace talks with Brits; Brits say no, citing continuing violence in Northern Ireland.

15 KASHMIR
Heavy fighting, heavy casualties between Pakistani and Indian forces ... Pak Chief-of-Staff General Mirza Aslam Beg fears attack on Pakistan over disputed territory.

14 ITALY
Deported 17,000 Albanian refugees in one week (as they arrived).

16 KUWAIT
Approves 10-year defense cooperation agreement with U.S. Vat of mustard gas, chemwar equipment found in Kuwait City schoolyard — first public confirmation Baghdad deployed chemical munitions ... Meanwhile, Army lab in Maryland is examining Soviet-made chemical warhead secretly brought in from Kuwait.



33

ZAIRE

Parliament holds emergency session after police fight pro-democracy protesters, who want reign of President Mobutu Sese Seko ended; Seko seized power 26 years ago.

32

YUGOSLAVIA

Croats, Slovenes, Macedonians want to break away; Serbian minority wants to break away from break-away Croatia ... heavy fighting between Croatian and Serbian federal surrogates ... SOF is on scene to help sort it all out; watch for upcoming reports.

31

SOVIET "UNION"

"We will bury you ..." (under an avalanche of collapsing rubble).

30

TURKEY

American, Turkish generals to coordinate activities of multinational "Poised Hammer" task force based in southern Turkey to protect Kurds in Iraq.

29

THAILAND

Buying \$3.8 million worth of 130mm artillery shells from North Korea.

28

SWITZERLAND

In Geneva, police arrest Ali Rad Vekifi, wanted for killing former Iranian Premier Shapour Bakhtiar at home outside Paris ... On-again/off-again deals for arms with Turkey.

27

SAUDI ARABIA

Negotiating with PRC to purchase atomic warheads for already-supplied DF-3A IRBMs; Saudis would like 12.

26

ROMANIA

Total of 237 officials sacked by Romanian leader Petre Roman as part of anti-corruption campaign.

25

PERU

Suspected Shining Path guerrillas kill Italian priest in continuing campaign against foreign social workers; earlier, two Polish priests, two local mayors killed.

24

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

U.S. congressmen on human-rights visit to PRC accosted by security forces in Tiananmen Square when they unfurl banner "to those who died for democracy in China"; TV crews for ABC, CBS and CNN punched up, congressmen unhurt.

23

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

With extensive violent crime, parliament votes to restore death penalty, abolished in 1975.

22

NORTH KOREA

Believed to be in possession of material and technology to produce small, crude, enriched-uranium bomb.

21

MOROCCO

After 15 years of fighting, formal truce in effect between government troops and Polisario guerrillas; U.N. peacekeepers in place to monitor cease-fire.

17

LAOS

National Assembly elects Communist leader Kayson Phomvihane as president.

19

LIBERIA

Fierce fighting between forces of ex-President Doe and Charles Taylor; Doe loyalists invade Sierra Leone sanctuary of Taylor.

18

LEBANON

Nineteen killed, 58 wounded in fighting between PLO, Lebanese army; in largest offensive in 16 years, army captures five PLO villages ... Gen. Michel Aoun granted "special pardon" allowing him to go to France.

20

MADAGASCAR

Opposition party declares itself in power as President Ratsiraka no longer in control, despite no evidence Ratsiraka in fact ousted; army prefers neutral transition of government.



GUNSTOCK



Al Mar Knives 5755 SW Jean Road Suite 101 Lake Oswego Oregon 97035 USA 503/635-9229



A multicaliber firearm is an appealing concept that has most often been poorly executed. Single-action revolvers, such as the Ruger and Freedom Arms .454 Casull, are conspicuous for their success, since only the cylinder need be replaced to change from .45 Colt to .45 ACP and .454 Casull, respectively. Multicaliber semiauto pistols, most notably the recent 9mm Parabelum/.41 Action Express combination, have never provided the promised reliability, especially with the rebated .41 A&E case.

Caliber conversion kits for military rifles and submachine guns have generally been chambered for the .22LR rimfire cartridge. This limits their use to training purposes only. Furthermore, .22LR ammunition produces a lot of fouling (bullet lube, unburnt powder granules and brass shavings), and selective-fire weapons, which consume large quantities of ammunition in a short period of time, have also never exhibited acceptable reliability levels when driven by rimfire rounds.

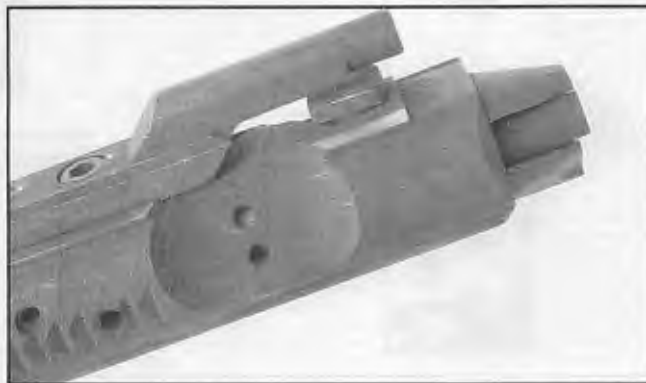
An assault rifle chambered for an intermediate-size rifle cartridge that could be converted with ease to a pistol cartridge has some cost-effective and tactical applications for law enforcement agencies and possibly for military special operations units.

The AR15/M16 series offers an ideal envelope for execution of this concept. First, because the upper and lower receivers can be easily separated and the upper receiver contains all of the components, except for the feed system, required for caliber conversion. It remains only to modify the



In spite of its high rate of fire, experienced shooters can expect to fire accurate three-shot bursts with the CAR-9, providing the correct isometric hold is employed.

magazine well to accept a different magazine. Secondly, the M16 lower receiver contains the firearm's serial number and is thus the portion the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Fire-



CAR-9's ability to feed bullets in every possible configuration with total reliability is a function of its unique cone-shaped bolt head which mates with a conical barrel extension.

arms (BATF) considers to be the weapon if registered as a selective-fire Title II firearm.

Olympic Arms Inc. (Dept. SOF, 624 Old Pacific Highway S.E., Olympia, WA 98503; phone: 206-459-7940) has recently introduced upper-receiver conversion kits for AR15/M16 rifles available in four calibers: 9mm Parabelum, .45 ACP, .40 S&W and 10mm Auto.

All of these units fire from the closed-bolt position. While the 10mm

Auto version operates by means of a gas-piston, the other three are unlocked, blowback-operated.

SOF Picks 9mm

We selected a CAR-9 9mm Parabelum unit for test and evaluation, as handguns in this caliber now prevail in U.S. law enforcement inventories. Although it was shipped with an M16-type bolt, it was attached to an Olympic Arms semiautomatic-only lower receiver. This

was set aside and the upper receiver was attached to a registered selective-fire Colt M16A2 lower receiver with retractable stock.

Assembled to the M16 bolt carrier is a cone-shaped, non-rotating bolt head with a spring-loaded extractor. A standard M16 cam pin is used to hold the bolt head in place. As the bolt head does not rotate and thus the cam pin remains at all times directly under the bolt-carrier key, the bolt head cannot be removed from the bolt carrier unless the bolt carrier key is first removed. Since its Allen-head retaining screws have been peened with a center punch to prevent their loosening, this is not recommended and really not necessary unless the extractor needs to be replaced.

A coil spring has been added to the standard, hard-chromed M16 firing pin to retract the firing pin and inhibit firing out-of-battery.

The CAR-9 upper-receiver body, a mill-finished 7075 T6 aluminum alloy forging, is black hard-coat anodized and in all respects except one is that of the Olympic Arms caliber 5.56x45mm NATO rifles. At the end of the carrying handle is an M16A1 two-

Continued on page 24

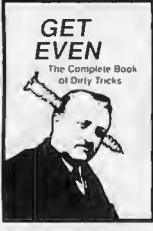




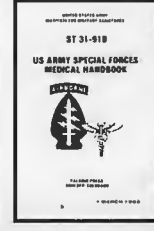






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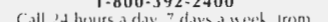
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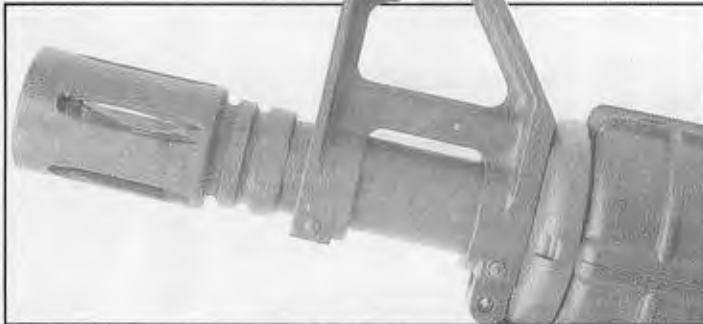
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aperture, flip-up rear sight. Also present are the bolt-assist and bolt-carrier-actuated dust cover of the M16 series.

Coiled around a cross-pin added to the receiver, just above the lower receiver's magazine well, (and held in place by a coiled spring, wrapped around the pin and retained by a small roll pin) is a bent spring-steel ejector. This component serves several important purposes. First, of course, the 9mm Parabellum case is too short to be reliably thrown out the ejection port by the bump-type ejector normally located on the M16's bolt face. In addition, the cross-pin prevents inadvertent insertion of a caliber 5.56x45mm NATO M16 magazine. Finally, when clearing the weapon, this ejector prevents the short 9mm round from being retained by the extractor claw and re-chambering when the bolt is closed.

The handguards are those of the CAR-15/M16A1 Carbine. As this firearm is blowback-operated, there is no gas tube under the handguards and the gas port in the gas block pinned to the unvented barrel has been blocked by a stainless steel plug. The standard M16-type gas block was installed since it also carries the front sight assembly, bayonet stud and front sling swivel.

The rifled portion of the barrel is 11 1/2 inches. A permanently attached flash suppressor has been added to bring the overall barrel length to 16 1/4 inches — 16 inches is the minimum rifle barrel length permitted by the National Firearms Act



CAR-9 9mm upper receiver can be provided with an 11 1/2-inch barrel; an oversize, M16A1-type, bird-cage flash hider and an M16 bolt carrier for registered selective-fire M16 lower receivers.

of 1934. Those who can provide Olympic Arms with a certified copy of an approved BATF Form 3 or 4 for a selective-fire M16-type rifle can obtain an upper-receiver conversion unit with an 11 1/2-inch barrel and oversize, M16A1-type, bird-cage flash hider, as well as an M16 bolt carrier. All barrel and front sight assemblies, regardless of caliber or length, have been phosphate-finished.

Sten Mags

Modified British Sten SMG 32-round, staggered-column, detachable box-type magazines are used to feed the CAR-9's 9mm ammunition. They have one salient advantage. By November, 1944, 40,915,858 had been produced. As a result, they are still readily available and inexpensive. Of single-position-feed type, they are no more or less reliable than other magazines of this vintage, such as those of the German MP40 and U.S. M3 "grease gun."

Like all single-position-feed magazines they are almost impossible to load to capacity without a loading tool — which, again, is easy enough to locate and can also be provided by Olympic Arms. For use in the CAR-9, these magazines have been altered by flattening the punched-out stops on each side of the magazine body and by the addition of an Allen-head machine screw at the rear.

This screw acts as a catch, which interfaces with a spring-loaded steel release lever pivoting on a roll pin that attaches the lever to a black-anodized, aluminum-alloy spacer that must be

inserted into the AR15/M16's magazine well. Once in place, the aluminum block is retained and removed by the lower receiver's magazine catch/release mechanism. It takes no more than 45 seconds to convert an M16 into a CAR-9.

With the exception of the bolt group, disassembly procedures for the CAR-9 duplicate those of the M16. Removal of M16 handguards has always been a minor irritant of the system.

It remains so on the CAR-9. To lower your frustration level, remove the bottom handguard first.

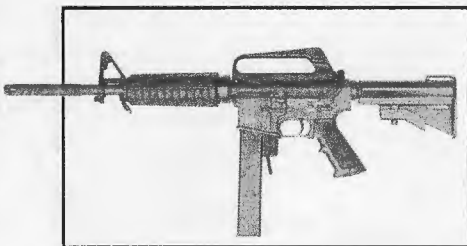
One of the CAR-9's most important attributes is its ability to feed bullets in every possible configuration with total reliability. This is a function of the unique cone-shaped bolt head which mates with a conical barrel extension. In a vain attempt to defeat this so-called "forcing cone" system, we fired ammunition bullets of every conceivable type: wadcutter, semi-wadcutter, Full Metal Jacket (FMJ) round nose, cast lead alloy round nose and Jacketed Hollow Points (JHPs) in numerous shapes. There were no stoppages of any type throughout the course of our test and evaluation of several thousand rounds.

Another Bullet Hose

As delivered to us, the cyclic rate of this CAR-9 conversion is far too high. Israeli 115-grain FMJ U.S. Navy contract ammunition leaves the CAR-9's 11 1/2-inch barrel at 1,400 fps. Using the cyclic-rate-counter mode of a PACT MK111 timer (see "Full Auto," August '91), we determined the cyclic rate with this ammunition to be 1,215 rpm. Black Hills' subsonic 147-grain JHP is pushed up to 1,120 fps by the CAR-9 barrel. Its lower recoil impulse dropped the cyclic rate to 1,040 rpm. Still too high. Black Hills 115-grain JHP ammunition dropped the cyclic rate further to 880 rpm. Still too high.

Fortunately, this is easily corrected. CAR-9 bolt groups designed for

Continued on page 68



CAR-9 9mm upper receiver installed on M16A2 lower receiver with magazine-well spacer and modified 32-round Sten SMG magazine.



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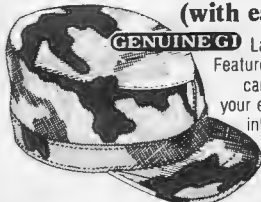
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by Chuck Fremont

Streetfight Showdown: Surviving an Urban Ambush

ASK any infantryman what combat situation he fears most and he'll tell you it's an ambush. Ask what terrain he is least interested in assaulting, and he'll probably tell you it's urban areas. Put it together, and an ambush in the hostile streets of an occupied city is an infantryman's nightmare.

Sadly, it is also becoming a police officer's real-life nightmare. And if the social disintegration of our cities continues, civilians may have to worry about bushwhackers instead of just muggers and rapists. Women who enjoy running in urban parks probably need counterambush training more than the average Marine.

An ambush is planned with one outcome: complete annihilation of every living thing in the kill zone. The odds of surviving a well-planned, properly executed ambush are slim. U.S. doctrine for counterambush operations emphasizes, first, not walking into one. This is hopefully accomplished by constant alertness, especially when entering terrain favorable for an ambush.

If caught in an ambush, infantrymen are taught that their one chance for survival is to assault through the ambush as aggressively as possible. Counterambush technique is usually trained in wooded terrain, with the ambush configuration conforming to the linear or more deadly "L"-shaped ambush patterns. (For a complete discussion of the ambush, refer to *Combat Craft*, SOF, December '86.)

Urban combat — what the U.S. Army calls MOUT, or Military Operations in Urban Terrain — opens up countless possibilities for creative ambushers. The vertical dimension is much more significant than in natural terrain. Tall buildings, overpasses, even subways and underground utility tunnels allow ambush configurations impossible to imagine in natural terrain. Winding streets and alleys make overwatch difficult.

Add to this the probability that multiple snipers will be supporting an urban ambush and the increased availability of good cover and concealment for the ambushers. The tactical advantages for an urban ambusher are significant.



The aftermath of urban war in Panama City. Empty ruins, or a killing field for ambushed patrols? Photo: SOF staff

But a careful examination of the reasons behind those advantages reveals some vulnerabilities.

Outsmarting The Ambusher

Recall first the seven keys to a successful ambush:

- Security
- Kill zone with restricted maneuver area
- Good fields of fire
- Withdrawal routes for ambush force
- Fire from unexpected directions
- Cover and concealment for ambush force
- Surprise

To survive an urban ambush you must defeat it, for there is little chance of retreating from even a poorly executed ambush in what will likely be a confined kill zone. Defeating the ambush depends on exploiting any weakness in one of the above seven considerations. Let's analyze each in the context of urban combat.

Because urban areas are more densely populated than remote areas, security for urban ambushers is dependent on having a sympathetic indigenous population. Accurate intelligence on the attitude of the locals toward the occupying force is critical. If the people living in the area favor that force, then it will be real tough to find weaknesses in the ambushers' security.

But if you can link up with disaffected locals who know something about the disposition of enemy forces, then you've punched a big hole in their security without firing a shot. U.S. SpecOps forces didn't go into Kuwait City accompanied by Kuwaiti Resis-

tance fighters just because it was good public relations. Even children can be great intel assets. Kids notice things that no one else does. But they must trust you. You'll probably need local help to work with kids. Don't be either overly trusting or overly paranoid.

A kill zone that gives the intended victims little maneuver room is easy to ar-

range in cities and villages with narrow streets. Plan routes of march into urban areas from recent reconnaissance photos, since bombardment or deliberate demolition by the enemy may have closed off streets that look good on maps. Be especially wary of abandoned trucks and buses that have closed off roads.

These are great places to hide explosives. If at all possible, leaders should personally recon the area by air. The idea is to move through the city along an axis that allows lots of options for maneuvering. Use a bounding or traveling overwatch as appropriate, and plan the movement so that the overwatch element can keep the lead maneuver element in view without being right on top of them. This isn't always easy in cities. Be creative. The overwatch team may need to go high, securing rooftops as temporary overwatch platforms. Multiple overwatch elements, particularly countersniper teams, may be necessary. Claim as much maneuver room as possible.

Good fields of fire are not always easy to find for the urban ambusher. He wants clear control of the kill zone and any potential cover that the intended victims may seek. Be especially suspicious of any terrain that looks deliberately cleared. Long narrow streets lined with tall, row-house-type buildings, uncut by alleys or side streets, are ideal killing grounds. Avoid them if possible, but if you have no choice, try to gain the high ground. Flat-roofed row houses or shops may be practical to move on, but move cautiously: Such roofs may not be constructed with an eye to supporting the 220-plus pound weight of a fully equipped combat soldier.

The urban ambush force may not be as concerned with good withdrawal

routes as in natural terrain, being more confident of success. This can work to your advantage, since without a good exit, they may panic if attacked forcefully. Most building exits are at ground level. Since the ambush force may not wish to exit onto the street, pay particular attention to buildings with obvious roof or alternate exits. This is another reason for air recon.

One of the most dangerous aspects of the urban ambush is the likelihood of fire from many directions. Look for likely firing points — windows sandbagged or barricaded, sandbagged balconies, partially open doors — that control the same terrain. Assign each member of your patrol particular zones of responsibility in the event of an ambush so that fire will be returned in whatever directions necessary. At least one scoped rifle, preferably an M21 or M24, should be carried by each maneuver element for counter-sniper work.

Cover and concealment opportunities are abundant in urban areas. One of your primary intelligence requirements should be information on the type of building construction used in the area. If heavy masonry is the standard building type, just about any building in the area will give the ambushers good cover, particularly if they further buttress the walls inside the building.

Your patrol should be equipped with weapons adequate for defeating anticipated cover, since artillery and tactical air support may not be available. If you can get armor support, you'll reduce the advantage of enemy cover. But armor is vulnerable in urban situations, so plan for independent operation.

As in any ambush, urban bushwhackers will seek surprise. Alertness is always your primary defense against surprise attacks, but get some help — from indigenous resistance fighters or from careful enemy prisoner of war (EPW) interrogations. The best defense against a surprise attack is a surprise attack of your own, and this may be easier to pull off against an urban ambush than one set in the boonies.

The urban ambush will probably be set up in buildings, and people tend to get comfortable in buildings. When they get too comfortable, they may get careless. If the bad guys are kicked back watching spaghetti westerns on the VCR, you may notice the ambush before it's triggered. If you do, then attack with violence and precision.

Reaction To Ambush

The urban ambush, executed with modern weapons and explosives in a confined kill zone, is one of the most

Continued on page 87



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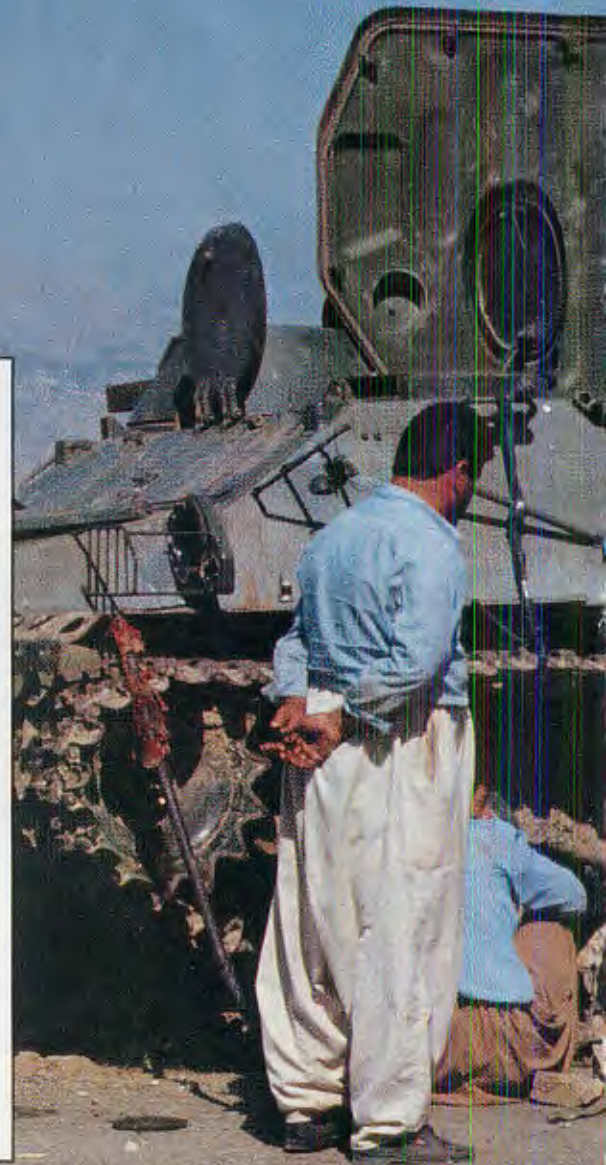
In our last issue, the author entered Iraq hoping to locate and interview Masud Barzani, the charismatic leader of the Kurdish Democratic Party. Searching for Barzani, Douglas traveled with Kurdish freedom fighters, the Pesh Merga, witnessing their resistance to the Iraqi army and observing guerrilla raids on Iraqi troops in the Chory Pass region of the Zargos Mountains.

AFTER a night in the hilltop town of Rawanduz we sent off early the next morning for Sardawe, where we would finally be able to interview Masud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP).

There was just time on the way for a visit to the KDP mobile radio station, "Voice of Kurdistan," which transmits Kurdish music, poetry and news reports four hours daily. The four-man team broadcasts from a captured Iraqi radio truck.

We found them parked in a peaceful mountain glade overlooking the Di'ana Basin. Prior to the recent cease-fire they had been forced to move regularly as the Iraqi army constantly monitored their broadcasts. When Iraqis succeeded in pinpointing their location, air strikes followed. Two station personnel had been killed in just such an attack.

As we descended from the mountains it was possible to see, laid out on the floor of the valley, the rigid, concrete lines of a "concentration village" built by Saddam. These bleak controlled villages were built to contain Kurds, who were forcibly relocated miles away from their original homes. Those in this particular village of Kurdistan had been



BUT MOUNTAINS

Fighting for a Kurdish Homeland

Text & Photos by Peter Douglas



Kurdish civilians strip assets from knocked-out BTR-60 for scrap.



the luckier ones. Many had been deported hundreds of miles to the deserts of southern Iraq.

At Sardawe I was ushered in for my interview with Masud. He was of slighter stature than I had expected after all I had heard of him; a man whose quiet, contained manner conveyed authority and generated confidence. Unlike some other Kurdish leaders, during the rebellion Masud stayed in the mountains, enduring with his Pesh Merga all the dangers and hardships of guerrilla warfare. Within Kurdistan he is, like his father before him, by far the most popular and respected of present Kurdish leaders.

His father, Mullah Mustapha Barzani, was indeed the most famous figure of the modern Kurdish struggle. In 1970 he had drawn up a peace treaty with the Iraqi government, doomed to failure by 1974. Since some say terms of the present treaty are almost identical with those of 1970, I asked Masud why he thought that, this time, things might be different.

"As far as I am concerned life is a school. You learn as you go along. Twenty years ago, when we dealt with this government, we were not the 'wiser. They had



Iranian KDPI troops return to camp after day on range.

been in power only a short while and we were just beginning," Masud said. "We have learned a great deal during the past 20 years of bitter struggle; blood has flowed between us.

"Twenty years later we are the wiser. We know if we are to solve this problem we have to sit and face each other around a table, because the solution to every conflict must be through talk and peace," Masud added. "Otherwise we might find ourselves in a situation where 50 years hence our children will be repeating the same thing. That is what is different this time — 20 years of experience."

Many members of Masud's own family and tribe perished at the hands of the Ba'athist regime during those 20 years, so I asked how he could bring himself to negotiate with Saddam, the man responsible for orchestrating their deaths.

He replied, "I do not look upon this from a personal perspective. I look at it as part and parcel of our people's tragedy. My clan and my family has been engaged in bitter struggle through most of the century and has sacrificed a great deal.

"However, as I look at this problem, it is not with the eyes of a family man but with the eyes of someone who looks at the entire destiny and future of my people," Masud noted. "... the greater goal of peace, of stopping all these tragedies for our entire people was the greatest goal that I wanted to achieve. I therefore went to the talks with the aim of achieving this once and for all."

As for the future, Masud commented, "Basically the infrastructure has been eliminated for Kurdish society. It needs a great deal of good work to reconstruct and rebuild this area. Meanwhile the people have to exist, they have to live and work to rebuild their country."

Iranian KDPI troops on Iran-Iraq border train at secret camp in Zargos Mountains.

MEETING

The smart 4-wheel-drive jeep of the Iranian Pesh Merga faction rolled to a stop on the tarmac road at a junction with a smaller dirt track. Gassim announced we must walk the remaining 1km to the village. Pacing up the dusty track in the heat of the day, I wondered why we abandoned the jeep. Gassim happily informed me the track was thought to be mined. He did not want to risk losing the jeep.

I had been invited by the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran (KDPI) to visit their training camp in the Zargos Mountains on the Iran-Iraq border. They wished to attract media attention to the fact that, like Kurds of Iraq, the Kurds of Iran are also victims of a repressive regime, in their case the Iranian Islamic Republic (IIR).

The largest Kurdish resistance faction in Iran is the KDPI. The secret location of this training camp was not in the mountains of Iran itself, but in neighboring Iraq. While Saddam implemented a policy of genocide against Iraqi Kurds he simultaneously supported dissident Kurdish factions in Iran, a country he had propelled Iraq into war against (in 1980) to fulfill his own territorial ambitions. Although a cease-fire was signed in 1988, Saddam maintained support of Iranian Kurds in order to retain some political leverage in Iran.

During the Iran-Iraq war Iran had maintained similar support of Iraqi Kurds in their struggle against Saddam. As a result the whole border region in the Zargos Mountains had been a free-fire zone, and army-sized battles had raged over the ridges and valleys.

The village I was taken to housed some 200 Iranian Kurdish families. Though exiles from their homes in Iran, they had established a lifestyle of reasonable comfort, unmolested by either Iraqi or Iranian forces. With a foot in both camps as it were, they were also uniquely well-placed for involvement with the cross-border smuggling industry.

With the imposition of U.N. sanctions on Iraq, goods from Iran destined for the Iraqi black-market must have become a lucrative business. Many families were also related to serving members of the KDPI.

After cordial Kurdish hospitality had been extended it was time to move on to the training camp itself. Entry there was surprisingly formal. Uniformed sentries manned a front gate, checking our credentials before raising a barrier to allow our passage. The camp had been built by the KDPI on land provided by Saddam where, prior to being demolished by the Iraqi Army, an Iraqi Kurdish

WITH IRANIAN KURDS

village had existed.

The camp nestled between two spurs which ran down from a tall mountain. Trees ensured plenty of shade from the hot sun, and a profusion of flowers had been planted. Buildings lining the road winding through the camp were spaced well apart, partly due to the steep grade and partly as precaution against air attack.

A brief tour began with a visit to the well-equipped hospital staff, trained by the French humanitarian organization *Medicine Du Monde*. The hospital served not only camp personnel and their families in the refugee village close by, but received casualties ferried back from *Pesh Merga* groups operating in Iran. Those who survived the arduous mountain trip could expect first-rate attention here before, if necessary, being taken to Baghdad for specialist treatment.

Other facilities included a rehabilitation complex (which also served as a rest home for *Pesh Merga* too old to continue active service), library, bakery, cooperative shop, canteen, dentist, lecture rooms and barracks for staff and students in training.

KDPI students are given a five-month course in military theory and Kurdish history. During my visit I observed some class lectures and spoke to students. Most gave as their reason for joining KDPI a burning desire to achieve greater freedom and civil rights within Iran.

They also cited examples of abuse and humiliation they had personally been subjected to as Iranian Kurds. While enjoying more civil liberties than Turkish Kurds, they were adamant that the Iranian government seeks to suppress the Kurds and actively pursues policies detrimental to Kurdish interests.

After a lunch break it was time to move on and see hands-on military training. This was conducted in a drill area a short jeep ride away. The twisting track wormed its way up a defile to level ground. Several small huts, barracks for the students, stood under the shade from a copse of trees.

A path led uphill to the parade ground itself, guarded by a 12.7mm heavy machine gun, deployed for antiaircraft fire. It was manned, not from any real fear of attack but on display for my benefit. The gunner was rehearsed to fire a few salvos by way of greeting, but the timing had been left unclear. As a result he waited until after I walked past — the sudden and unexpected burst of fire just 2 feet behind my head caused me to jump visibly, much to the amusement of my companions.

A platoon-sized unit was being put through its paces on the drill square. The men were all dressed in a khaki uniform-version of traditional Kurdish attire, which gave them an orderly and marshal bearing. After several turns around the square they broke into sections and went through various weapons drills. A two-man RPG team fired a rocket which, on launch, completely obscured them in a choking cloud of dust.

Next, rifle-propelled grenades were fired in salvos. Other sections took advantage of target practice to prepare the men for incoming rounds. Each man in turn had to run for cover behind a boulder at the target end of the range, after which his companion fired shots at the boulder.

After an hour of this the platoon reassembled to march a few more turns of the drill square. Marching in slow time they sang patriotic songs, a spectacle not unlike that performed by the French Foreign Legion. This culminated in a mass volley before marching off the parade ground with another song. Back among the barracks the men sat on blankets and stripped their weapons for cleaning.

Chako, the chief military instructor, had previously served in the Iranian army. He said that after training, students would join small units of experienced men and infiltrate across the border toward a predetermined target. The Iranian military dominates the rough terrain with observation points on all mountaintops and checkpoints on all the roads.

As a result, most KDPI movement and military action takes place at night. Often several units combine for an attack, then split up to complicate hot pursuit. Casualties are treated in the field, as this represents an important additional source of arms.

After a busy day touring the camp and talking with students, it was a welcome relief to discover the KDPI maintained a guest house for visitors, boasting a shower with hot water. Suitably refreshed, I made my way to the central office, where a meal was to be served.

My host was Hassan Shariffi, overall second-in-command of the KDPI. Much to my surprise, chilled Italian wine was served with a traditional Kurdish meal consisting of several vegetable and meat dishes, with prodigious portions of flavored rice. The meal afforded an opportunity to talk with my host.

Hassan explained that the KDPI had supported the revolt against the Shah, expecting democracy for Iran and autonomy for the Kurds as a result. Instead the new Islamic government

attacked them. They were faced with only two options, surrender or fight.

The armed struggle has continued unabated ever since. Hassan blamed much of the problem on the government being Shi'ite Moslems (while most Kurds are Sunni Moslems) and on the state's desire for a religious dictatorship, intolerant of any wish for autonomy expressed by the Kurds.

Hassan went on to say, "We see a lot of changes internationally. Everybody is talking about democracy. We too are struggling for democracy and autonomy for the Kurds. We seek the support of countries that welcome democracy, at least politically and morally."

He emphasized the KDPI realizes the stand taken on Kurdistan by most nations. "International interest lies at the heart of it. This time the flood of refugees was treated like an international disaster in Iraqi Kurdistan, but nations do not support us politically, they support us only as a humanitarian issue."

This harsh political fact was a bitter one to accept, Hassan noted. "Many nations are waving the flag of democracy. What they should do is not support dictatorships out of national interest, but to support the democratic groups."

However Hassan has little hope the Iranian Kurds may win any such international support in the near future. He explained the major handicap is the West's view of Iran's present leader, Rafsanjani. According to Hassan, "Rafsanjani has established an international public face, but he is the same underneath as Ayatollah Khomeini. He believes in the same things."

This is a similar predicament to that which the Russian democracy movement has faced under Gorbachev. He was accepted by the outside world as a great pro-democracy reformer but to his own people he has been the principle obstacle to speeding the process of democratization (until his power was undermined in the failed August coup attempt).

During the meal, other Kurds from various Iraqi factions unexpectedly turned up, and the evening became louder and more raucous as added wine and spirits were produced to wash down the meal. Late in the evening, as hot sugary black tea was served, the table companion on my right made a light-hearted remark that should I wish to stay in the mountains for a while, they could issue a ransom note and we could split the proceeds. This sounded like shaky ground to be on and, discretion being the better part of valor, I decided it was time to turn in for the night.

— P.D.



Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran training camp on Iran-Iraq border in Zargos Mountains protected by quad 12.7mm anti-aircraft guns.

I was to see something of the scale of the reconstruction task and the extent of Kurdistan's continuing problems the next day visiting the devastated city of Qala Diza. In the meantime I had to take my leave of Masud. He was heavily involved in the peace talks in Shaqlawa, and our meeting had been slotted into a busy schedule.

All too soon it was over. I was left with the impression of a man dedicated to his people and capable of leading them toward a better future. As Masud left for the negotiating table, I asked if he was tired of the struggle waged for so many years in the mountains.

He smiled at my question. "We fought because we had no other way. We went to the mountains to defend ourselves. The mountains are home to us, they are symbols, where we initiated our struggle, where all our martyrs have fallen. There is blood under every stone you turn," Masud said.

"Therefore they have great meaning for us ... I will never tire of the struggle and I will never tire of the mountains, I love them both," he added. "But now, I hope that we will not have to fight again in mountains, but that we can preserve them as sacred places of beauty for our people".

Roads To Destruction

The next day I set off to visit Qala Diza,



KDPI Pesh Merga with 7.62x54mm Soviet Dragunov sniper rifle. After training, students join small units of already experienced men and infiltrate across border into Iran.

a large Kurdish town in Suleimaniya province which formerly boasted a population of 80,000. The route swept over mountains on a new tarmac road, allowing for speedy driving. When large-scale road building first started in Kurdistan it was welcomed, the Kurds believing the government was at last taking a healthy

interest in developing the area, as opposed to decimating it.

Only later was it apparent the roads were intended to open up the area for the Iraqi army's bid to control the Kurds and swiftly maneuver troops against the Pesh Merga. Down these same roads, hundreds-of-thousands of Kurds were driven to exile in the southern deserts, or to appointed places of execution. In one 1982 operation alone, 8,000 Barzani tribesmen were arrested and driven away on these roads, never to be seen again.

Occasionally the road ran within sight of ridges still occupied by the Iraqi army. Feeling a little uncomfortable since we were doubtless held in their gun sights, we drove a little faster. Ninety minutes of fast driving brought us to Raniyah, a bustling Kurdish town and hub of black market smuggling from Iran to bust the U.N. sanctions.

Shops were filled with produce from all over the world — Pakistani rice beside glass tableware from France, television sets from Japan next to cheaper Korean versions and cigarettes from Turkey or the United States. Just about anything, all at inflated prices. The food, while abundant, was beyond the means of abject Kurdish refugees milling in the streets. Most goods were destined eventually for Baghdad's black market, where prices go even higher.

Among the throngs of people would be many secret police keeping an eye on everyone in preparation for whenever the Iraqi military regained full control of the area. After a quick tea-stop, we pushed on for Qala Diza and soon found ourselves racing along the banks of the Dukan Dam.

The military pontoon bridge which once spanned the banks of a narrow divide to the Suleimaniya city road was no longer in place, having been removed to the Kuwait front during the Gulf War. In its place a lazy ferry inched its way across the blue water, carrying a few cars at a time.

Fate Of Qala Diza

At first glimpse I presumed Qala Diza was still some distance away, judging



Sign painted on the side of ruin in destroyed town of Qala Diza, once the home of 80,000 people.

The city was not only flattened, it looked like a whole army of giants had danced on its grave.

from the gray concrete smudge marking its position amid the sunbleached landscape. However, we reached its outskirts remarkably fast. The illusion of distance was now explained: the city had been

BEKMA DAM PROJECT

As part of his long term strategy against the Kurds, Saddam planned to flood some of the best agricultural land in Kurdistan. To this end he began the Bekma Dam project to flood the valleys of the Great Zab River in the Zargos Mountains.

The resulting lake, with a water level at 2,500 feet, would sink thousands of square-kilometers of Kurdistan, permanently denying the land to the Kurds and presenting a serious physical barrier for the Pesh Merga. A further, vitally important byproduct of the Bekma Dam would be hydroelectricity, required for Saddam's nuclear development program.

The Iraqis made extensive use of foreign contractors. During the recent Kurdish uprising, the course of the Great Zab river had already been diverted and dam foundation work completed. The Iraqis had also begun work on a lakeside resort town. Many of these houses were reserved for Ba'athist party loyalists and members of Saddam's extended family. There was to be no place for Kurds.

During the uprising, the dam site fell under control of the Pesh Merga, who set about destroying much equipment to ensure that however the uprising fared, there would be enforced delays on the project. The future of the Great Zab River's valleys now hangs in the balance.

An area of outstanding natural beauty, it is an emotive issue for many Kurds. Kurdish leader Masud Barzani has said that if the price for regional peace is completion of the Bekma Dam project, then the Kurds must pay that price, but he added the dam's water level must be set much lower than originally planned.

— P.D.

leveled. No natural calamity could produce such total destruction.

The city was not only flattened, it looked like a whole army of giants had danced on its grave. Every house was demolished, street upon street throughout the city reduced to rubble and dust. A few returning families had pitched forlorn tents, or piled up crude homes from chunks of masonry. That life continued here was remarkable, and only possible because while the town was a total write-off, the network of plumbing beneath it still functioned!

Qala Diza's destruction was part of Saddam's policy to remove the Kurds from Kurdistan and eventually replace them with Arabs. He had first cleared and depopulated a belt of land 15km wide along the Iraq-Iran border. Later, during the Iraq-Iran War this was extended to 45km. Then Saddam began a series of operations of unprecedented brutality, code named "An Fal."

The name comes from Islam's holy book, the Koran. In rough translation An



U.S. forces on Fourth of July in Zaku, Kurdistan.

Fal means "spoils" and in particular refers to spoils of war. It is a Koranic dispensation for Moslems to commit any act — theft, rape, murder ... anything — while embarked on a holy war. Saddam chose An Fal to justify the brutality of his Kurdish adventure, legitimizing genocide through the Koran.

During these operations, thousands upon thousands of Kurds were butchered, and all traces of their homes obliterated. After the deportations and killings, houses were dynamited and the rubble bulldozed. This fate befell Qala Diza and its 80,000 inhabitants.

It was a sobering experience to wander among ruins stretching into the distance in all directions. This was Saddam's final

Second-in-command of KDPI troops, Hassan Shariffi.



solution for the Kurds. Without a civilian population in Kurdistan the Pesh Merga of the mountains could not survive. If achieving an end to his Kurdish problems called for eradication of every Iraqi Kurd, Saddam was willing to carry it through.

It is disturbing to realize that this systematic genocide could go unreported by the media in general, and continue without response from the United Nations. Instead of action to stop Saddam's ultimate Kurdish solution, the West actively supported his regime with arms during the Iran-Iraq War.

It was 115 degrees in Qala Diza as more refugees trailed into town returning from the mountains on the Iranian border. Here, far beyond the Coalition security zone, there was precious little Western aid. A few non-government organizations ventured further than the rest and were frustrated by the near-impossibility of explaining to the outside world the continuing scale of problems they encountered.

This was compounded by the fact that most of the media circus preferred to report the Kurdish story from the safety of the Coalition security zone, or from relative comfort in hotels on the Turkish border.

Kurdish Humor

Now it was time to head home, and a relief to rise back into the cooler breezes of the mountains. After another night in Rawanduz I set off early for the long drive back to the Turkish border. Leaving the good tarmac road and climbing higher on a progressively deteriorating dirt track was cause for concern.

Thankfully the roads were dry. In the small rental car they would have been

Continued on page 75



Peruvian soldiers swarm into village of Yantaco, systematically kicking down doors in search of MRTA terrorists. Gunfire erupted, but only from soldiers firing into air to scare peasants.

RAID ON YANTACO



After hassling with Peruvian officials for days, author finally got to accompany troops to front lines. Here, a soldier prepares for raid with RPG-7.

for the military to make contact. We sleep late, have breakfast and, returning around noon, find a message stating that the general will see us in the afternoon. After a short taxi ride, we're back at the military base. This time, we get dropped at a different entrance.

While we're waiting for somebody to contact the general, we make conversation with a couple of military personnel. We see a vehicle which looks like it's used to haul prisoners. The military personnel confirm this. When I ask if they have any prisoners at the moment, they reply that they did until a couple of days ago. When I ask what happened to them, they reply, "We questioned them. Then we killed them."

When I put this same question to Gen. Rios during our interview, I don't mention the conversation I had earlier. The general's reply is, "We do not take prisoners. What few we do get are turned over to the police." During the interview, the general produces documents sent to him — the documents we had spent days filling out and taking to various government departments in Lima. Finally, it looks as though we will be getting some cooperation.

We explain in detail exactly what we wish to do, which is accompany some of his units into the "emergency zone" to witness what is happening in the outback of his country — either between the military and MRTA, or possibly between the military and narcotics traffickers.

At this, Gen. Rios points out that narcotics traffickers are not in his region and, in fact, are not a military problem. Special police units backed up by U.S. Drug

At the conclusion of "On a Shining Path to Hell" in our November issue, Peter Noble was preparing to go out with the Peruvian army in search of Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) terrorists. Hardly the first time an SOF correspondent has put his life on the line to show our readers what happens on the front lines of obscure wars, here is his report.

ANOTHER journalist and I are airborne and headed for Taraputo province, located in the jungle some 45-60 minutes from Lima. Upon arrival, I am overwhelmed by heat and humidity — it is the first time I have felt warm since my arrival some two weeks ago. It feels good.

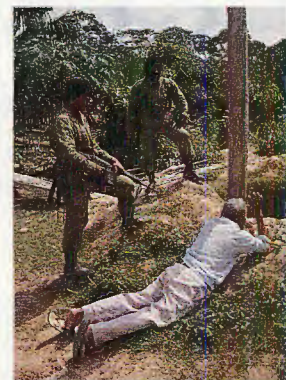
We grab a taxi and head out to the military base, then one-by-one work our way up the chain of command. After a lot of confusion, we discover we won't be able to meet our contact, General Rios, until the next day.

We insist on finding our own way back to town. Because we are deep inside territory held by the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA), we feel it would be best to keep a low profile. But this is not to be. We ride back into town in a military truck with several soldiers in the back carrying automatic weapons.

The last thing we want is to cruise down the main street in a military truck. We wonder who has seen us and, with this in mind, retire to the hotel to ponder the day's happenings.

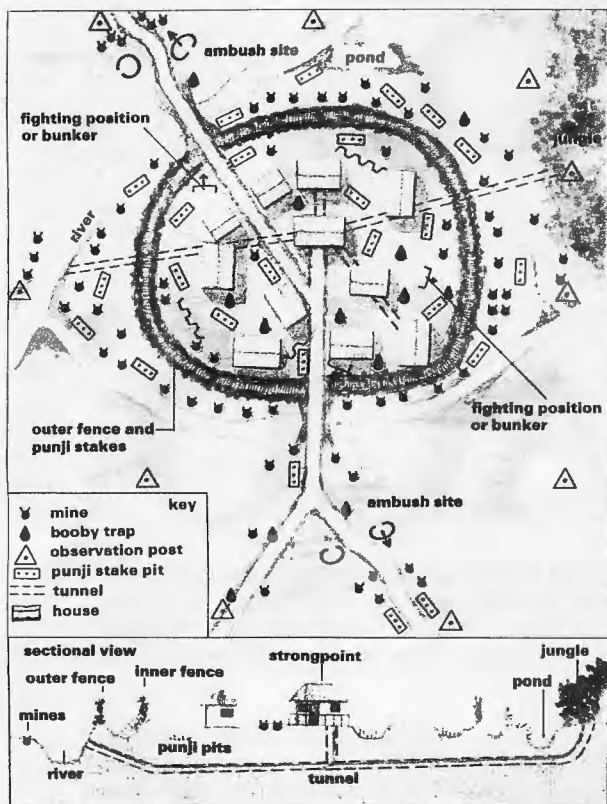
My colleague recounts a situation not unlike this where he had spent the best part of a week here waiting

Villager caught carrying small-caliber pistol tells soldiers of his innocence. Author heard two explanations regarding prisoners: 1) it was not the army's responsibility to take prisoners, and 2) after being questioned, they were shot.

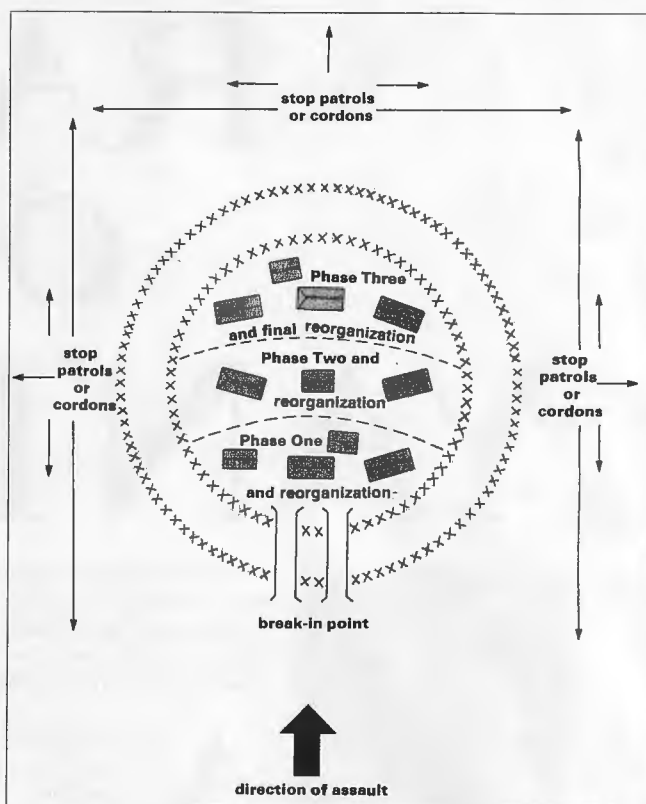


SOF Joins Peruvian Army In Search of Murderous MRTA Terrorists

Text & Photos by Peter Noble



While the Peruvian army could find no terrorists in Yantaco, many villages in Peru are both completely run and heavily defended by MRTA and Shining Path guerrillas. The diagram above shows the serious obstacles an attacking force must deal with when confronted with a well-fortified enemy village.



The essential feature of this kind of assault is maintaining surprise. It is important that stop-patrols or cordons be in position and ready before an assault group crosses the starting line. Near Yantaco, Peruvian soldiers also prepared ambushes on likely terrorist escape routes.

Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents are responsible for this, he says, and we will need to go through all the paperwork and phone calls again if we wish to go to this region with the police. We decline.

We then express an interest in going to the most likely trouble spot in the region, and point out that all our papers are in order. We show the general a copy of *Soldier of Fortune* Magazine with an article on Peruvian police units. We stress SOF's angle and the need to see what's really happening on the front lines.

At this, the general seems to give in, and begins the customary briefing about how much shit he would be in if we were to get killed and how dangerous and unpredictable things could be in any of the areas at any time.

Taking Chances

Also, he says we could end up on patrol in the jungle for up to a couple of weeks and still not have made any contact with MRTA. When we point out that this is acceptable and we will take our chances, the general says he will arrange something. He will try to get us a helicopter to take us to one of the areas to join an ongoing patrol.

At the base the next day, we see two combat helicopters, a Soviet Mi-8 and an Mi-17 (which we would spend much time

in over the next few days), sitting off in the distance. I notice that much of the Peruvian military equipment is of Soviet origin.

The general tells us to be prepared to be gone for several days. The choppers are warming up. Rotors are spinning. We jog over to the largest helicopter, board and are immediately followed by the general. The stairs are pulled up and we are off.

There are some 40 soldiers on board with full combat gear. As we are seated and hardly off the ground, a soldier busies himself with fixing in place a door-mounted Soviet 7.62mm PKM GPMG. Another is already mounted on the other side pointing out a small viewing window. Both soldiers on the guns never let their gaze wander from the countryside below.

A soldier tells me that both terrorist groups (Shining Path and MRTA) are now in possession of weapons capable of downing their choppers with considerable ease. Although they have yet to be used, the terrorist groups are getting sophisticated weapons, in part for services rendered to the narcotics traffickers, who seem to have no problem bringing them into the country.

We arrive in Rioja an hour later without incident. General Rios briefs us on our upcoming mission, which is not going to take place until the next day. Intelligence reports indicate the presence of a guerrilla

patrol in the area of Yantaco, a village. Under cover of dark, we will be sending in 50 soldiers 35km to the village. They will start their journey in trucks, then finish on foot when they get closer to the village. We spend the rest of the day preparing and listening to last minute briefings.

The plan is a simple one. The troops departing this evening will, during the course of the night, take up positions around the village, leaving open an area just large enough for our two Soviet helicopters to land later on. Onboard the Mi-8 and the Mi-17 will be 60 soldiers ready to go.

According to the plan, MRTA terrorists will, at first light, be alerted to our presence by the arrival of the choppers, then stay and fight, risking not only heavy losses themselves, but the possibility of civilian casualties. It is assumed they will eventually attempt to exit the area in a direction away from the approaching choppers, running into the ambush prepared for them during the night by our troops, who left on trucks earlier.

Sounds simple enough, but as we know, the best laid plans sometimes can go sour. Only the morning will tell. For now, time to get some sleep.

Room Service Not Included

In what became known to me and the other *gringo* journalist as the "Rioja Hilton," a one-room brick structure that

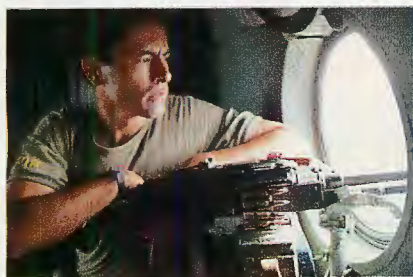
doubled as the area's airport, we settle down for the night. Our room is a small area behind six check-in desks. But, between the sentries on duty outside the airport coming and going, and the 50-odd soldiers falling over each other as they try to make the bathroom in the dark, there is not much sleep. This is *not* going to be easy.

I am offered a place in one of the choppers to sleep, but remember how isolated and dark this building is at night. It would be easy for terrorists to approach unseen, fire a few rounds at the choppers sitting in the distance, illuminated by a couple of portable military lights, and escape in the darkness. "No thanks," I say, "I think I'll take my chances here."

Come morning, the place is a hub of activity with soldiers making their last minute adjustments. The choppers are already warming up. We board the Mi-8, the smaller of the two, which we are told will be the first into the combat zone. Twenty soldiers already are on board. They are no more than kids, but this morning they sit in silence, obviously pondering their fate.

It is just a short flight to Yantaco, and the second chopper can be seen just off to our side as we start our descent.

The door gunner starts to move his machine gun out of the doorway; this seems to be the signal for the troops to begin moving toward the door. At this, the officer in charge holds up a hand to stop them and beckons me toward the door. We



Gunner in Soviet Mi-17 with 7.62mm PKM GPMG scans countryside below. Both Shining Path and MRTA now have weapons capable of taking down choppers, but have yet to use them.

are some 15 feet off the ground and can see the ground troops who have set up perimeter security.

Over the rotor noise, the officer shouts, "You go first — you can get photos of the second helicopter coming in. *Go now! ... Go!*" We are now hovering about 10 feet from the ground as we jump from the chopper. The rest of the troops jump out behind me and the chopper goes up and out of decent gunshot range.

This is repeated by the second chopper, and in just a few minutes, they are both out of sight. The last men from our group are already disappearing into the jungle to the hurried commands of their officer in



Peasants of Yantaco listen to Peruvian army leaders tell them they should keep their distance from MRTA terrorists. Villagers steadfastly declared no terrorists had come to their village, which only caused soldiers to believe they were lying.

FROM INCAN LEADERS TO LEFTIST KILLERS

The Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) was born in 1983. It originally claimed to be a Castro-supported group in alliance not only with Cuba, but also with Nicaragua, Colombia, the Salvadoran Farabundo Marti Liberation Front (FMLN), and the Battalion of the Americas. The movement was named after the last Incan leader to lead a revolt in 1780.

MRTA terrorists originally came from revolutionary factions of the far left Peruvian political party called the Popular Revolutionary Alliance of the Americas (APRA), as well as from Shining Path. MRTA has always drawn members from better educated and higher social classes than Shining Path. Shining Path predominantly draws its members from the peasant community.

There has always been animosity between MRTA and Shining Path. This has led to violent clashes in areas of disputed control. MRTA generally targets government buildings, and tries to avoid killing peasants during attacks.

MRTA views itself as an urban guerrilla group, operating more or less in the greater Lima area. In 1986, however, the movement extended into the northern Huallaga Valley in the Department of St. Martin, then in 1988 moved into the mountains and jungles in the Department of Junin.

MRTA enjoys amiable relations with narcotic traffickers in the lower Huallaga Valley, but not to the extent that Shining Path does. The upper Huallaga Valley is under MRTA influence, but the region just north of Tarapoto grows fewer coca leaves than areas to the south and west.

Leaders of MRTA have capitalized on Peru's media, appearing regularly for interviews in newspapers and weekly magazines. They also take over radio stations to broadcast revolutionary slogans.

Most of the MRTA's operations are funded by proceeds from well-publicized kidnappings of wealthy Peruvians, who usually are released after paying high ransoms. Terrorists also collect protection money from farmers and small business owners.

The movement is particularly anti-American in its rhetoric, and has attacked Western embassies and private American businesses as well as restaurants, movie theaters and missions. But MRTA's real strategy focuses more on direct confrontation with Shining Path and government security forces.

Killing sprees, however, are by no means exclusively the domain of Peru's terrorist organizations. In fact, during my visit, 17 people died in a plane crash, including two children — witnesses said that a 10-man police patrol had been drinking at the end of the runway during the incident.

The police shot at the plane as it took off because they believed it was carrying drugs. All members of the patrol now are under arrest, pending further investigation. The bloodshed continues.

— P.N.

Continued on page 72



MERCHANTS

Torture to the 21st Century

SCREAMS interrupted my conversation with Roger Lafontant in his basement office at Haiti's Interior Ministry in Port-au-Prince. Moments later, two stout Tonton Macoutes passed by the open door dragging a desperate man, alternately weeping and screaming, down the hall. Each Macoute held one of the man's arms as he dug in his heels with all his might, in a vain effort to stay his appointment with the torturers at the end of the long corridor.

Lafontant, the Jean-Claudist interior minister, simply rose from behind his desk, walked over and closed the door behind me, apologizing for the interruption. The screams faded away, muffled by thick walls. But I knew the man's agony was probably just beginning, for under the three-decade long rule of the Duvalier family Haiti had become a place of arbitrary arrests, cruelty, violent death, prisons and unspeakable torture.

Ironically, Lafontant currently may be a recipient of such abuse rather than its perpetrator, since being imprisoned now more than a year, following his attempt to overthrow Haiti's elected government.

According to the most recent Amnesty International (AI) report (1991), Haiti — despite the fall of the Duvaliers — is still a place where torture is “widespread.” Reports abound of political detainees being severely beaten with sticks on soles of the feet, on genitals and about the eyes and head.

As bad as these are, such methods pale by comparison to the Duvalier days, when notorious Tonton Macoute commander Madame Max Adolphe elevated torture to an art form. “Papa Doc” Duvalier once said, “It is the destiny of the people of

Haiti to suffer.” True to his words, she and her Tonton Macoutes turned the entire country into one vast torture chamber.

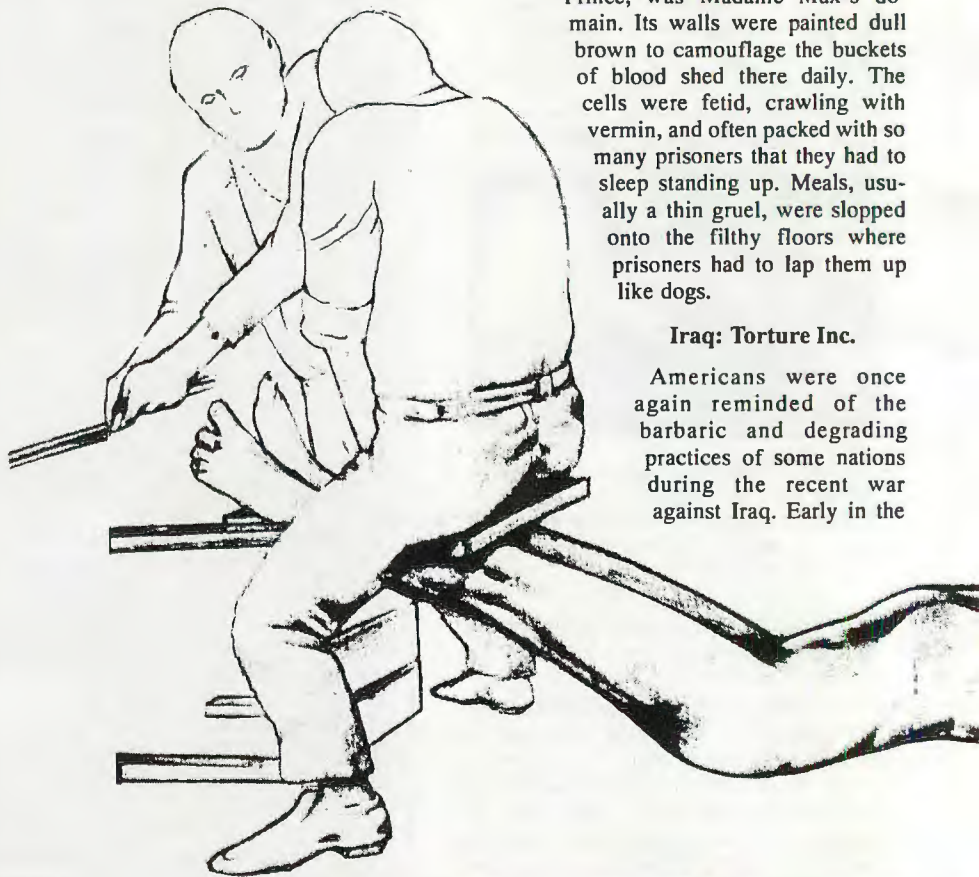
A dominatrix who preyed on young girls and amassed a huge collection of pornography, Madame Max ritually tortured opponents of the Duvalier regime and lived out her sexual fantasies by tormenting their genitals for hours on end. Prison-

ers also were whipped, beaten, burned, smothered, sodomized, had their eyes gouged out; were stuffed in the coffin-like iron maiden, or subjected to the “jack,” where they were bent over and trussed with sticks behind their knees and atop their forearms, then beaten with truncheons and clubs.

Fort Dimanche, on the edge of Port-au-Prince, was Madame Max's domain. Its walls were painted dull brown to camouflage the buckets of blood shed there daily. The cells were fetid, crawling with vermin, and often packed with so many prisoners that they had to sleep standing up. Meals, usually a thin gruel, were slopped onto the filthy floors where prisoners had to lap them up like dogs.

Iraq: Torture Inc.

Americans were once again reminded of the barbaric and degrading practices of some nations during the recent war against Iraq. Early in the



**There is a cert
to the world's to**

OF PAIN



by Neil Livingstone
Illustrations Courtesy Amnesty International

air war, downed American and Coalition pilots were paraded on Iraqi television. However, their bruised and battered faces provided unmistakable evidence for all to see of physical abuse and, in some cases, torture.

While most details have been suppressed by the U.S. government, upon their release captured pilots reported severe beatings, mock executions and several cases of electric shock torture. One pilot described being administered so much electricity that one of his fillings blew out.

Despite the fact that Iraqi treatment of captured pilots was a clear violation of international conventions governing POWs, no efforts have been made by the U.S. government or its allies to seize those responsible and place them on trial.

Similarly, the Iraqis tortured hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people to death in occupied Kuwait, and no Iraqi has yet been punished for these monstrous crimes. One torture chamber, left intact by retreating Iraqis, contained a set of bedsprings to which a prisoner could be tied and administered electric shocks.



Common form of torture in Turkey is *bastinado*, or *falakqa*, in which prisoner is beaten on soles of feet.

On a nearby table was an array of instruments for inflicting pain and causing mutilation: Pliers for pulling out fingernails and toenails; pins that could be driven through eyes or testicles; a wood plane for shaving away skin; a hammer to smash fingers and break bones; a small vise, and an axe — perhaps for delivering the coup de grace.

According to AI, a 17-year-old Kuwaiti student held by the Iraqis for one month “was severely kicked and beaten, subjected to *falaqa* (beating on the soles of the feet) for prolonged periods, had electric shocks applied to chest until he lost consciousness, had his skin pierced with pins, was threatened with the insertion of a bottle into his anus and was subjected to mock execution.”

Actually, he was one of the lucky ones. Many of his countrymen didn't survive their captivity, and the Kuwaiti government has assembled hundreds of stomach-wrenching photos demonstrating terrible torture administered to their citizens by Iraqi occupiers.

No one should have been surprised by Saddam Hussein's use of torture in Kuwait and against American and Coalition POWs. Iraq is one of the most egregious human-rights violators in the world. There is no way of knowing how many thousands of Iraqis passed through Saddam's torture chambers, but estimates run as high as a 10,000 per year. Survivors tell of crude beatings, *falaqa*, sexual abuse, electric shocks, burnings with cigarettes and special tools, mock executions and other depredations.

Victim is strapped on wooden bar and beaten in *pau de arara*, parrot's perch, a method of torture in Chile. Illustration by Mogens Norgaard/courtesy Amnesty International

There is a certain sameness to the world's torture chambers. The prisoners are held in tiny unlighted cubicles, no more than 1-meter square, full of cockroaches and filth. Screams and gunshots sometimes are piped into the cell, and the prisoner cannot know whether they are real or recorded.

Gradually the prisoner loses track of time. The only interruptions are when meals are served; often the guard will urinate on the prisoner's tin plate before scooping food onto it. When they are ready to interrogate the prisoner, the captors pull black hoods over their heads, then escort the subject to a windowless cement room bathed in bright white light. There is a stool in the center of the floor above a drain, and a hook in the ceiling used to suspend a prisoner by the thumbs. Dark stains cover the cement floor.

The method of torture depends on the torturers' mood. Sometimes they

ain sameness rture chambers.



administer electric shocks by hooking the prisoner's genitals up to a field telephone and turning the hand crank. In Guatemala, they have the *capucha*, a hood impregnated with noxious chemicals and insecticides.

Syria is notorious for the "black slave" (*al-'Abd al-Aswad*), where the prisoner is placed on a chair-like device which, when turned on, inserts a red-hot metal skewer up the victim's anus. Another Syrian torture device is the "flying carpet" (*Bisat*

al-Rih), where the victim is strapped into a frame resembling a human figure and electricity or a beating is administered all over the body.

A male prisoner may have his testicles placed in a jeweler's vise, or have ether and other unbearably painful substances injected into his scrotum. For females, it may be a metal rod inserted into the vagina or anus. Stories abound of women psychologically tortured with a stick of dynamite pushed into their vagina and its fuse being lit. Rape of both men and women is commonplace.

Much of the torture inflicted on prisoners has a sexual dimension, because it adds to humiliation and violation felt by the victim. Some torturers also find it stimulating.

Other methods of torture include holding the prisoner's head backward and

pouring water down the nostrils; suffocating them by tying plastic bags over their heads; forcing them to stand on razors, nails or sharp cans; mutilating them with power drills and blow torches; jamming wires or pouring hot pepper into their body orifices; castration, sleep deprivation, ice cold baths; whippings with barbed wire, fan belts, canes, and rubber hoses; pushing pins beneath the fingernails or removing them altogether; putting the eyes out with acid — and countless other terrible afflictions.

History Of Torture

Man, it seems, has always been

tortured. Christ, after all, was crucified, a particularly slow and odious form of death. Crucifixion, in fact, was a common punishment for thieves in Roman times, as well as for political agitators. History is filled with accounts of torture. The horrors of the Spanish Inquisition and Nazi Germany do not represent the exception, but rather the norm.

The terrible punishments inflicted on Francois Ravailiac, assassin of French King Henry IV in 1610, are recounted by J. Bowyer Bell. In an effort to compel him to reveal his accomplices, a metal boot was placed on one of Ravailiac's legs and the screws turned until his joints were crushed. Then, for more than an hour in front of a roaring mob, his torturers used red-hot pincers to tear away pieces of his chest, arms, thighs and calves.

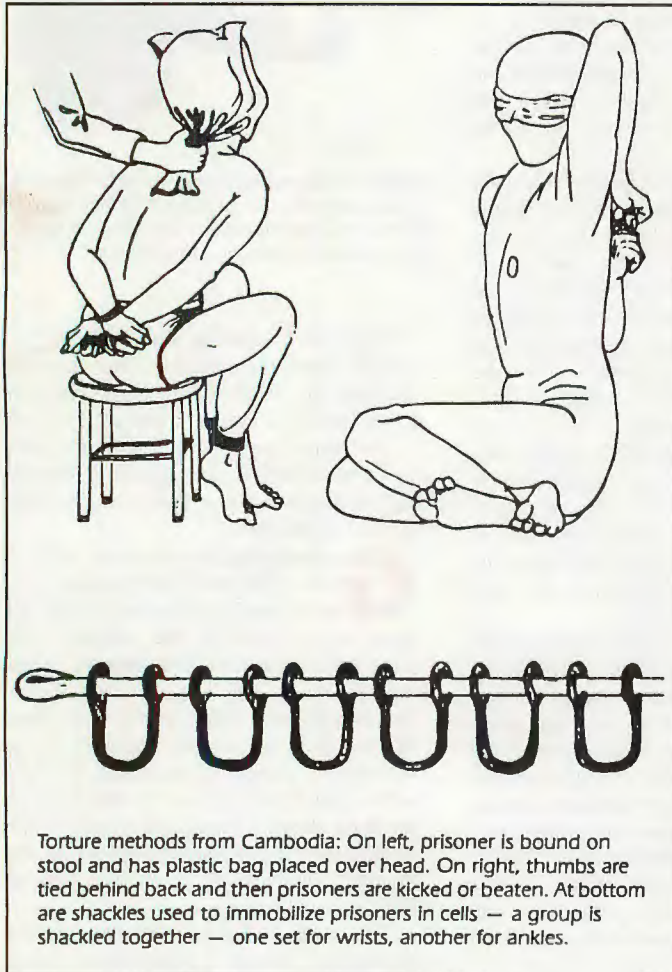
At that point "molten lead, boiling oil and resin, and a mixture of molten wax and sulfur were poured into the gaping rips, cauterizing the blood and wounds in an excruciating operation to keep him alive for the next stage," Bell writes.

Finally, Ravailiac was laid on the ground and each of his arms and legs were tied to one of four horses, which were then commanded to pull in different directions. After many agonizing minutes, a fresh horse was brought up and one of the victim's legs tied to it. When the horse bolted away, it ripped his leg from the socket and snapped the bone. Unbelievably, Ravailiac lived another 90 minutes before succumbing to his terrible injuries.

In many cultures, the way a man died under torture was the most important yardstick by which his life was measured. In his book, *Great Plains*, Ian Frazier describes how many Plains Indians expected to be tortured to death if captured by rival tribes, and how they looked forward to demonstrating their courage under extreme duress. A particularly brave captive might win the respect of his enemies by withstanding the most gruesome torments without murmur.

Torture has always been an instrument of communist terror. From the KGB's Lubyanka Prison on Dzerzhinsky Square to the Siberian outposts of the Gulag, torture was commonly used by the Soviet Union to exact revenge on its enemies and suppress dissent. As communism spread in the postwar period, so too did torture.

Consider, for example, a description of



Torture methods from Cambodia: On left, prisoner is bound on stool and has plastic bag placed over head. On right, thumbs are tied behind back and then prisoners are kicked or beaten. At bottom are shackles used to immobilize prisoners in cells — a group is shackled together — one set for wrists, another for ankles.

As unbelievable as it might seem, some torturers — off their hands, change their blood-splattered

SYRIAN SADISM

Amnesty International's *Torture in the Eighties* documents use of torture in at least 66 countries, with allegations of torture in six more. As just one example of man's inhumanity to man, AI's November 1987 *Report* detailed the following torture methods used in Syria.

- *Dullab* (tire): Hanging the victim from a suspended tire and beating him/her with sticks, clubs, cables or whips.

- *Falaqa*: beating soles of the feet.

- *Bisat al-Rih* (flying carpet): Strapping victim to piece of wood shaped like a human body and beating him/her, or applying electric shocks all over victim's body.

- *Al-Kursi al-Almani* (the German Chair): a metal chair with moving parts to which victim is tied by hands and feet. The back rest of the chair bends backwards, causing acute hyperextension of the spine and severe pressure on the victim's

neck and limbs. This results in difficulty in breathing almost to the point of asphyxiation, loss of consciousness and, in some cases, fracture of the vertebrae.

- Using domestic appliances such as irons or stoves to burn the body.

- Placing pieces of cotton wool soaked in gasoline on various parts of the body and setting them on fire; pouring gas over victim's feet and setting him/her on fire.

- Piercing victim's back or chest with a sharp hot metal rod.

- Electric shocks.

- Applying caustic substances to the victim's wounds or burns.

- Forcing victim to stand in bare feet against a wall with hands tied together above the head. The top of the victim's foot and toes are then crushed with the heel of a boot in a grinding motion.

- Plucking hair or skin with pincers or pliers.

- Extracting fingernails and toenails.

- Sexual abuse or assault.

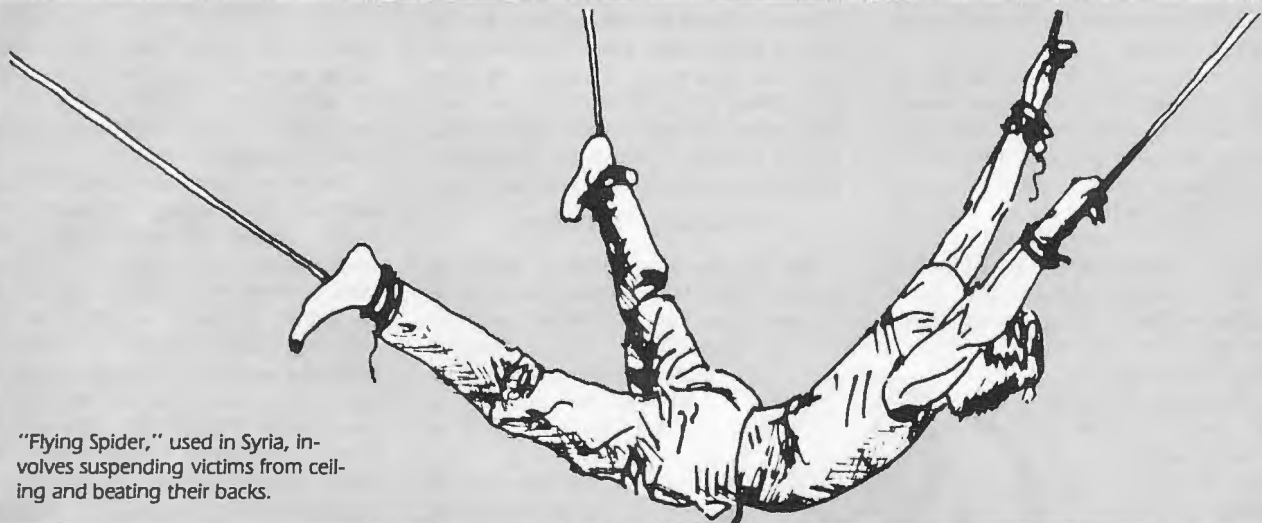
- Forcing victim to sit on bottle necks, or inserting bottles or sticks into the rectum.

Other methods used by Syrian security forces in Lebanon:

- *al'Ankabout al-Ta'er* (Flying Spider): hanging victims by their hands and feet from the ceiling and simultaneously beating them on the back.

- Placing large lamp of approximately 5,000 watts close to the skin, which burns as a result.

- Applying considerable pressure to the ankle bones by placing a Kalashnikov rifle across the ankles and twisting the rifle belt round the body of the rifle, so that it is tightly drawn around the back of the ankles.



"Flying Spider," used in Syria, involves suspending victims from ceiling and beating their backs.

the torture inflicted on a Grenadian farmer named Winston "Broko" Simon in Maurice Bishop's Marxist Grenada in 1980. According to author Mark Adkin, "Simon was stripped naked and held down by several soldiers, two of whom pulled open his legs.

"Layne (Captain Ewart 'Headache' Layne) took a razor blade and began to slice Simon's testicles and penis while Redhead (Lester 'Goat' Redhead) rubbed in the peppers. At the same time Simon was beaten about the head with a pistol butt by the others," Adkins writes.

Later, Simon was branded with a red-hot cutlass, immersed in a drum of oil until he couldn't breathe, then buried in a hole with heavy concrete blocks placed on top

of him. Finally, he was staked out on the ground and the heated cutlass shoved up his rectum. Miraculously, he survived.

In recent decades, Soviet torture often has been more subtle, but no less horrifying. Dissidents and other opponents of the regime were often confined to mental hospitals, taken away in ambulances instead of unmarked sedans. The Serbsky Institute (Moscow Central Research Institute for Forensic Psychiatry) worked closely with the KGB, as did much of the Soviet psychiatric community, using their professional skills to undermine, rather than improve, the mental health of their patients.

Patients were often put into a passive or catatonic state, robbed of their will and

identity by electroshock treatment, drug "therapy," insulin shock, lobotomies and even experimental surgery.

Political dissident Vladimir Bukovsky spent 12 years in Soviet labor camps, prisons and mental hospitals. He provides a chilling description of the Kashchenko psychiatric hospital, and the difficulty of maintaining one's sanity against a backdrop of "paralytics with their tongues hanging out, living out their days here; slow-moving idiots, like seals; skinny schizophrenics, epileptics falling into fits at hourly intervals ..."

There was one particularly sadistic doctor, writes Bukovsky, who tortured his patients with treatments like "three-on-five" and the "riding breeches."

finished with their grisly work – wash the blood clothing, and then go home to their families.

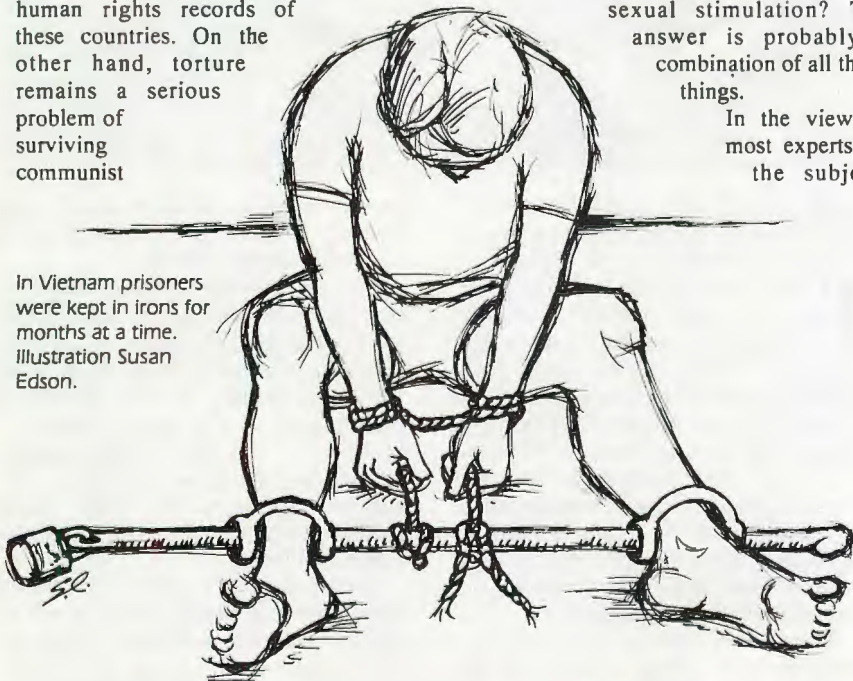


According to Bukovsky, the three-on-five consisted of "three injections of 5cc of sulfazine, two in the buttocks and one under the shoulder blade. After this, the feverish victim felt as if he were being crucified and was unable to move hand or foot for the pain." Riding breeches involved "pumping the thighs full of saline solution, so that they swelled up until they looked exactly like riding breeches. The pain was hellish and it was impossible to walk."

By contrast, prisoners in the Gulag were subjected to deprivation, numbing cold, hunger, sickness, overwork and other miseries designed to break their spirit and produce unquestioning obedience to the state, in the event they ever were released.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union and the sweeping changes that have overtaken the East Bloc, one can anticipate major improvements in the human rights records of these countries. On the other hand, torture remains a serious problem of surviving communist

In Vietnam prisoners were kept in irons for months at a time. Illustration Susan Edson.



regimes in Cuba, China, Vietnam, Afghanistan and North Korea.

But it is in the largely undemocratic Third World, with its venal dictators and preachy hypocrisy, where torture is most common today. According to AI, most nations in Africa and the Middle East systematically abuse and torture their own citizens.

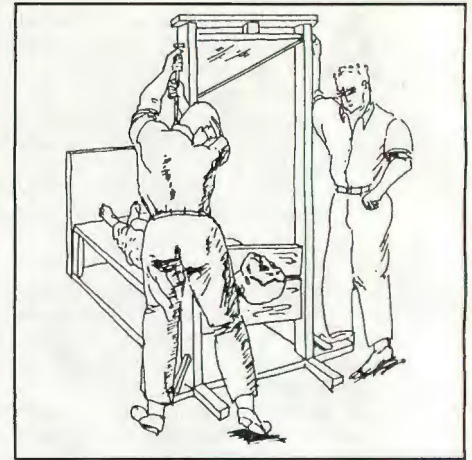
Idi Amin's house of horrors in Uganda, the Bureau of State Research, was not an aberration, as many Africans would have the world believe, but rather the rule in Africa today. According to AI's most recent report, there are credible reports of torture in nearly every country on the continent, from South Africa to Algeria, including almost all black African nations.

By contrast, Latin America has shown the greatest improvement with respect to human rights in recent years, as one dictatorship after another has given way to nascent democracies. Fidel Castro remains the last old-style dictator in the hemisphere, and credible reports of abuse and torture continue to filter out of Cuba, as they do from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia, Argentina and Peru.

Psychology Of Torture

But the question remains. Why do people torture? Is it to gather information? To sow terror and intimidate political opposition? For pleasure or sexual stimulation? The answer is probably a combination of all those things.

In the view of most experts on the subject,



Syrians use a torture method known as "The Guillotine," where blade stops just short of the victim's neck.

much of the cruelty inflicted on victims can be attributed to sadistic tendencies on the part of the inquisitors or a lust for vengeance — what might be described as a desire to square accounts.

There are certainly more effective methods of extracting information than torture. Torture, say psychologists, often leads victims to say whatever it is they think torturers want to hear, regardless of the truth, in order to alleviate their suffering. Subtler forms of persuasion, involving such things as drugs and sensory deprivation, are generally regarded as being more efficient and effective. The British, for example, have been accused of using sensory deprivation to "break" suspected IRA members in Northern Ireland.

In Saddam's Iraq, on the other hand, physical torture is the ultimate leveler and reminder of what lies in store for those who oppose the "maximum leader." According to Samir al-Khalil: "The phenomenon of the poor rural migrant making good in the secret police and then confronting a former prime minister over his bench and instruments is a very powerful symbol of the precariousness of privilege, influence and power in this world of fear."

Torture, even more than murder, remains the ultimate degradation of the human being. For those who have survived torture, it is often the most important passage of their lives, something never to be forgotten, the source of nightmares

In the view of most experts on the subject, much of the cruelty inflicted on victims can be attributed to sadistic tendencies on the part of the inquisitors or a lust for vengeance — what might be described as a desire to square accounts.

decades later. Once a man or woman has been tortured, he or she is never again the same.

In addition to physical scars and broken bodies, psychologists say torture victims often exhibit long-term memory loss, depression, fear, loss of concentration, temporary paralysis, depletion of energy, anxiety, sexual dysfunction, insomnia, nightmares and various forms of psychiatric breakdown. "No matter how well the scars heal," writes al-Khalil, "the memory of the bodily invasion is permanent according to the testimony of victims."

For survivors, torture is different than other close brushes with death. Herbert Gold writes of that "fire fight exhilaration when a person is just glad to be alive, because in a moment he won't be; a time when fruit tastes especially sweet, kisses sweeter, every breath is a moment of dreamlike flight. Men in combat sometimes recall this joy." By contrast, says Gold, "torture removes this wager on life. It simply breaks a person. If he lives, he seems to be weary forever."

It is a rare individual that takes strength

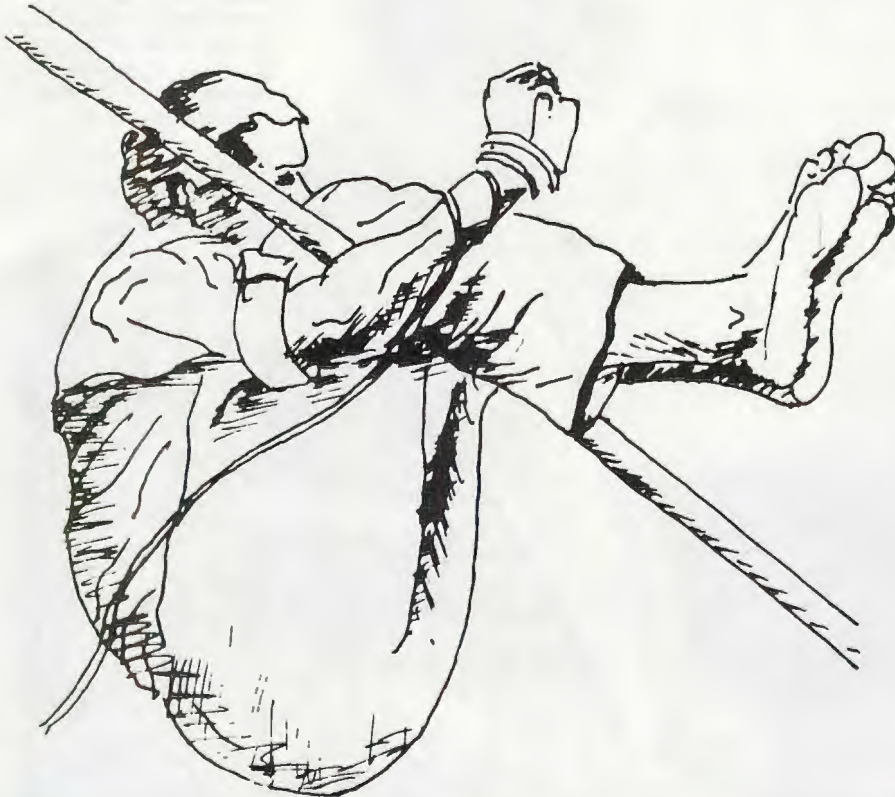
from torture. South Vietnamese general Duong Van Minh, known as "Big Minh," was one of those rare exceptions who did. He lost two of his upper-front teeth while being brutally interrogated by the Japanese Kempeitai during World War II. The late Senator Stuart Symington offered Minh the services of a U.S. military dentist to repair the damage, but the general refused, preferring instead to wear the gap as a badge of honor.

Profile Of A Monster

There is no standard profile of the average torturer. By contrast to the flamboyant Madame Max, most torturers ply their trade anonymously. If anything, many torturers are distinguished by nothing so much as their ordinariness. They live outwardly normal lives. As unbelievable as it might seem, some torturers — finished with their grisly work

Continued on page 76

Similar to the parrot's perch, in Syria and Lebanon, "The Chicken" is one of the most common forms of torture.



"Palestinian hanging," combines hanging and electric shock torture. Illustration by a former Turkish policeman/ courtesy Amnesty International

**if the cruelty inflicted on victims can be attributed
e inquisitors or a lust for vengeance.**

JACK Bailey had trouble getting people to take seriously his evidence that at least one American serviceman, Army Captain Donald Gene "Butch" Carr, remained alive in Southeast Asia. Like the shepherd boy who cried "Wolf," no one believed him when the real thing seemed to come along.

Twenty-plus years of fund raising on the POW/MIA issue has won Bailey a reputation as a quick-tempered bungler at best — a willing victim of scam artists at worst.

Thus, the news media and others displayed great skepticism when Bailey hastily called a press conference in July to release a color photograph he claims shows Carr as a prisoner in Laos in 1990.

Bailey's press conference came on the heels of another release of a photo purporting to show American prisoners, one that was quickly discounted as a crude fake by *Soldier of Fortune* and subsequently by the Defense Intelligence Agency (see SOF, October '91).

The second problem was Bailey's reputation as a loose cannon on the POW/MIA issue. Bailey has alienated some of the most stalwart POW/MIA activists. Even assessments of Bailey's credibility from supposedly friendly quarters are less than flattering.

"Jack Bailey believes his own lies," David Patterson, a Vietnam veteran and supporter of Bailey's ef-

forts on the POW/MIA issue, told the *Los Angeles Times* in August. Patterson added that Bailey "means well."

Most tragic — for Bailey, for all POW/MIA activists and especially for Carr and any other American troops possibly still held captive in Southeast Asia — the photograph Bailey released in July appears to be genuine. As such, it may be the first concrete evidence of an American POW still alive in Southeast Asia.

Donald Carr, MACV-SOG

In 1971, Donald Carr, then 32, was a Special Forces captain on his third Vietnam tour. Carr was one of about 244 American "Green Berets" and 780 South Vietnamese commandos in Task Force 1 Advisory Group, engaged solely in highly classified missions as part of MACV-

SOG's Command and Control North operations. Carr headed a reconnaissance team conducting cross-border missions to collect intelligence on enemy supply and troop movement.

Carr's team operated in NVA- and Pathet Lao-controlled territory in Laos, through which the northern portions of the Ho Chi Minh Trail ran. Depending on the nature of activity they observed, B-52 missions from Thailand and Okinawa could be ordered. Also, smaller strikes by carrier-based Navy and Marine A-6 "Intruder" attack bombers could be launched to interdict supply convoys. If necessary, ground teams could be sent in. Aviators and soldiers captured in eastern Laos usually came under NVA control, while servicemen captured in central Laos more often fell into Pathet Lao hands.

On 6 July 1971, Carr boarded an OV-10A Bronco — tail number 67-14634 — piloted by Air Force Lieutenant Daniel W. Thomas of the 23rd Tactical Aerial Surveillance Squadron, for a visual reconnaissance mission over south-



Jack Bailey, right, and associate Don McCullough in San Francisco aboard Operation Rescue vessel in February 1983. Photo: Wide World Photos

KIA OR ALIVE IN LAOS?

The Unsolved Mystery of Donald Carr

by James L. Pate



Enlargement from POW photo of Carr provided by Bailey. SOF sources say this photo was taken in 1990; Bailey supplied Laotian national with camera in 1989, and this individual finally provided Bailey the promised photo in 1991. Bailey has declined to say who supplied photo, and exactly where and when it was taken.



Enlargement from 1961 wedding photograph of Army Special Forces Capt. Donald Carr, then 23, which was used as control picture for anatomical comparison.

central Laos.

Although its small cabin was uncomfortably hot, the Bronco's large canopy provided an excellent observation platform. The twin-turboprop aircraft had some armor and could mount machine guns and small bombs. But it was often used by forward air controllers, making it a much-hated sight to Viet Cong and NVA gunners, who knew its appearance often meant air strikes. Thus, it was a favorite target.

Thomas radioed at 1530 hours that he and Carr were over the target area, but that it was under heavy cloud cover. They had 90 minutes of scheduled time over the target. That transmission, from 15 miles inside Laos, west of Ben Het, was the last known contact with the two Americans.

A ground reconnaissance team in the area reported an impact or explosion about 30 minutes after final radio contact. They saw no aircraft. Search teams were launched, but their efforts ended four days later with no signs of wreckage or survivors.

A Defense Intelligence Agency source later reported that he saw an American POW in that area in early July 1971. The source said a guard told him the prisoner survived an OV-10 crash a week earlier.

Carr and Thomas were listed as MIA. Back in East Chicago, Indiana, where Carr was born, his family held out hope that the cocky, highly decorated soldier, a veteran of three Vietnam tours, would somehow show up.

"We've always said that if anybody

could come out of the jungle, it would be him," his brother Matthew, a retired public school administrator, said. "He was a hard-nose, and well-trained by the government."

But Carr was not among the American POWs repatriated during Operation Homecoming in 1973. Three years later, the Pentagon declared Carr to have been killed in action/body not recovered (KIA/BNR).

Jack Bailey's Story

Jack Bailey, 68, a retired Air Force colonel who served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam, is many things to many people.

- To himself, his family and friends, he is a highly decorated combat pilot and shining-knight crusader for Vietnamese boat people and the POW/MIA cause.

- To the scandal sheet and supermarket tabloid *National Enquirer*, Bailey is a self-described "top expert on American servicemen missing in the Vietnam War."

- Less flattering, after becoming stranded on Bailey's rusted vessel in the Gulf of Thailand, *People* magazine dubbed Bailey "an American Don Quixote."

- To people who've worked with Bailey on the POW/MIA issue, such as Patterson, Bailey is a True Believer who will do anything to further his cause; he is someone who "believes his own lies."

- And according to the *Bangkok Post*, Bailey has even used misleading information to raise money to bankroll his misadventures in Thailand.

Since his retirement, Bailey's image as a war hero has been tarnished by repeated controversies growing out of his persistent efforts on behalf of Vietnamese boat people and POW/MIAs, organized around a non-profit group he named "Operation Rescue."



Carr being awarded commendation as leader of MACV-SOG recon unit during one of three tours in Vietnam. Photo: courtesy T.G Schweitzer III

*"He's a loose cannon,
a True Believer
who gets caught up
in the euphoria of
half-baked information."*

Operation Rescue is not to be confused with the militant anti-abortion group of the same name, but in its own way, Bailey's Operation Rescue is also about abortions — one aborted effort after another.

One was recounted in the 26 April 1982 issue of *People*. It chronicled Bailey's misadventures in the Gulf of Thailand aboard the limping hulk S.S. *Akuna II*. Ostensibly out to rescue Vietnamese boat people from pirates, Bailey's own vessel broke down and itself had to be rescued.

"We have yet to see many positive results from his efforts," one United Nations official familiar with Bailey's Operation Rescue told *People*. "But we give him credit for trying."

Boat Ride

Also along for that ill-fated cruise were SOF Publisher Robert K. Brown and two former SOF staffers, Jim Coyne and Tom Reisinger. Reisinger served in Vietnam as a Special Forces medic, and this apparently offended Bailey, who launched into one of his well-known, vitriolic tirades.

"We've got all kinds of medicines aboard and people who know how to treat everything," *People* quoted Bailey as complaining. "I need a frapping medic like I need a hole in the head."

What Bailey *didn't* have was enough fuel, an extra fuel pump or the means to fix the ship's rudder, which broke at sea. The tubes on one boiler were shot and the electrical and steam systems failed. Other than that, everything was fine.

On the same trip, Reisinger recently recalled, Bailey kept talking of a

letter he had obtained, purportedly written by an American POW in Can Tho, Vietnam. Pressed to produce the letter, Bailey told Reisinger that he'd left it in Bangkok. Asked to produce at least a copy of the purported letter, he failed to do so.

"He always talks in circles, never getting down to specifics," Reisinger said. "We finally decided that, at best, he'd only heard about this letter. He's a loose cannon, a True Believer who gets caught up in the euphoria of half-baked information."

Bailey's last dealing with Brown and SOF was his sale of a photograph Bailey said showed American citizens on a POW rescue mission inside Laos. After shelling out \$1,000, all Brown got was a blurry, black-and-white picture showing some unidentifiable people running through the brush in some unidentifiable place.

"I'm not surprised that the press looks with a jaundiced eye at anything Jack Bailey presents as fact," Reisinger said. "He has no appreciation for details or chain of evidence. He definitely doesn't have his shit together. He wants to be a leader on this issue, but he's mainly a detriment."

Dieter Dengler had a similar, more recent experience with Bailey in Thailand.

Dengler is a former Navy pilot who, like Carr, was lost when his plane crashed in Laos. Captured by the Pathet Lao, Dengler ultimately became the only American POW to escape from Laos.

Dengler contacted Bailey in 1988, after hearing of Bailey's claim that Dengler's old cell mate, Eugene DeBruin, was still alive, according to an August story in the *Los Angeles Times*. Although unsubstantiated, the "leads" Bailey shared with Dengler were enough to convince him to write a fund-raising letter for Bailey's organization and then join Bailey in Thailand to search for more clues.

But after only a few days in Thailand — and enduring Bailey's imperious just-take-my-word-for-it attitude — Dengler returned to his northern California home. He wrote Bailey by certified mail that "what I saw and heard was not what I expected ... I myself see you burning yourself out totally on this MIA issue, dealing basically with untrustworthy people."

Dengler's letter advised Bailey that he was withdrawing permission to use the fund-raising plea he had written for Operation Rescue.

Bailey sent Dengler's solicitation letter out anyway, minus Dengler's signature, but including a photograph of Dengler as a bearded and emaciated escapee weighing less than 90 pounds. It was signed "an ex-POW."

Dengler was outraged, and in a letter of bitter complaint to the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, charged that "this whole thing of (Bailey's) is a scam and a fraud."

Michael Charney, Ph.D.

Seated at the desk in his forensic science laboratory in Fort Collins, Colorado, beneath the hollow-eyed stares of hundreds of skulls lining the walls, Michael Charney dialed the Radisson Park Hotel in Washington, D.C., and asked for Room 223 — Jack Bailey's room.

An internationally renowned expert on identifying human remains, Charney's congressional testimony about incompetent and fraudulent work at the Army's Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii resulted in major changes there. (See "Missing In Action; Skeletons in Uncle Sam's Closet," *SOF*, July '86; and "Bones of Contention; Army Stonewalls on Lab Scandal," *SOF*, December '86.)

Jack Bailey had just returned to the Radisson from a Capitol Hill press conference at which he released color photos he said were of Carr in 1990. He picked up the phone in his hotel room. Charney, who had compared the photos with one taken of Carr at his wedding in 1961, said he was certain the man in Bailey's photo was Carr. But Bailey ignored Charney's request to delay the press conference until Charney completed

COMPUTER SCREENED

After all the digitized imaging and micro-measurement by a state-of-the-art computer system, my most convincing way to see that the young Donald G. Carr in one photo is the aged man in the other was rather crude: I held the two slides up to the light and placed one over the other.

The faces — the jaw lines, cheek muscles, eye sockets, brow ridges, even the smiles — merged almost perfectly. Michael Charney must be right. The aged man reportedly photographed in Laos in 1990 appears to be Carr.

But Charney, who holds a doctorate in forensic anthropology and has 50 years of experience in his field had to be sure. He had to have scientific proof.

Here, in Charney's own words, is the process he used in comparing a 1961 wedding photo of Carr to a photo said to be Carr as a POW in 1990.

"The two photos were put on 35mm slides and projected by zoom lens to the same magnification. The two were then superimposed to see if the distances between the features of the face, eyes, brows, nose, lips, chin and ears would or would not coincide. They did.

"The ears were studied in detail as to similarity of lobes, helix, concha, tragus. They matched. Ears are under strict genetic control. If one person has a freehanging ear lobe and the other has an attached ear lobe, they're not the same person. If you have an attached ear lobe and you marry somebody with an at-



Computerized images accurate to .01 inch show 1990 POW photo of Carr outlined in black on left, and 1961 wedding photo of Carr in red on right. Second computer image shows black and red outlines merged. Qualified scientists say merged images indicate the man in both photographs is Donald G. Carr. Photos: courtesy Colorado State University

tached ear lobe, then your kid's born with a freehanging ear lobe, then you know your wife's been committing hanky-panky.

"The two photos were then turned over to Associate Professor Dr. Patrick Fitzhorn, Department of Mechanical Engineering. The outlines of the facial features ... were drawn on a computer—that of the 1961 photo in red, that of the 1990 photo in black. These lines are drawn to an accuracy of a hundredth (1/100) of an inch. The two outlines were then superimposed. The fit is sufficient evidence that the two photos are those of the same person, Donald Gene Carr.

"The two photos were not taken at precisely the same angle, which accounts for certain minor discrepancies: (1) The 1961 photo of Carr is tilted and brought to an upright by rotating 14 degrees. [Editor's note: this rotation is accomplished through computer-assisted design (CAD) techniques.] (2) The length and width of the ears are not quite the same due to this difference. (3) The top of the head in the 1990 photo

cannot be precisely drawn, as the background obscures the top of the head, both being dark. (4) The eyes do not coincide, as in the 1961 photo; Carr is looking off to the left.

"Human biological individuality is based on the science of genetic inheritance. Children will resemble their parents, but not duplicate them exactly, to paraphrase Darwin. Over the years, the features of one's face will change with onset of jowls, pouches, crow's feet, thickening of the nose and the like. However, underlying bony structure will remain the same and the relationship of the facial features will remain the same ..."

According to Fitzhorn, "The muscular structure of the face where he smiles is exactly the same ... His smile is nearly identical" to the wedding photo smile. "I've been working with Dr. Charney for four years now and I was shocked at how well these matched."

—J.L.P.

his lab report.

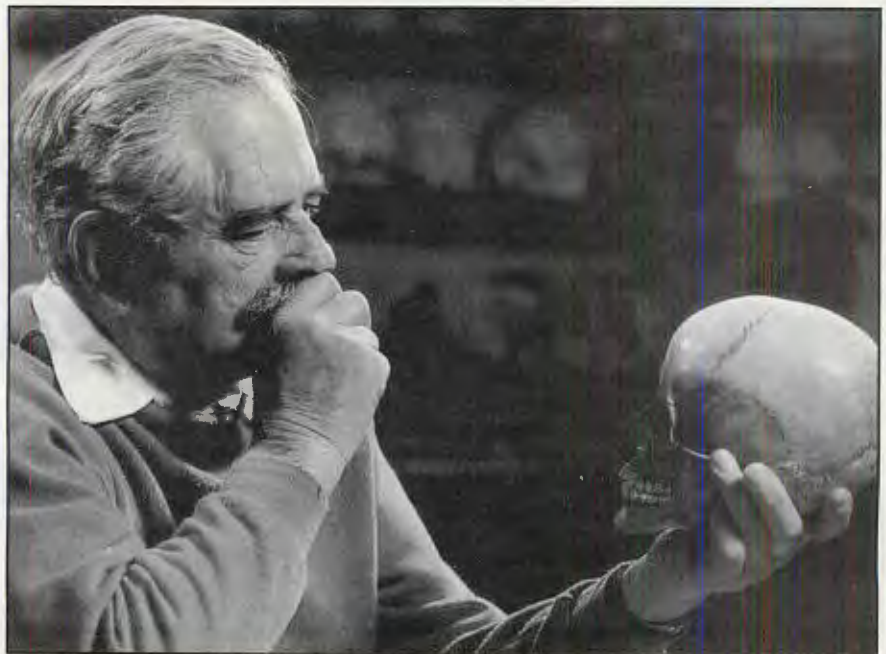
Charney also asked Bailey to talk to me to answer a few questions about the photos. Bailey, if my intuition is correct, was less than pleased to be interviewed for an article in SOF.

"You can take your story and shove it up your ass," he screamed into the phone. "And you can tell Bob Brown to shove his magazine up his ass. Tell him I said to kiss my frapping ass."

I apparently had done the unforgivable. I had asked him very impolite questions: Who took the photograph? When was it taken? Exactly where was it taken? Who had the original negatives?

Our little chat was shorter than I had hoped. When I tried to call him later at his

Dr. Michael Charney, an internationally recognized expert in human identification, is certain that the photo Jack Bailey provided is that of Donald Carr. Photo: Don Eddy



**"TELL
THE
WORLD**

**about
US"**

**America's
SOLDIERS**
are Still

Prisoners **O**f War / **M**issing **I**n **A**ction

IN *Vietnam*

IN *Laos*

IN *Cambodia*

James M. ...

home in California to give him an opportunity to be more rational, his number had been disconnected, the recording told me. Ditto his fax number. But in the few moments before he lost control, Bailey did answer a few questions — albeit in his typically rambling and unspecific fashion.

The several color photos purporting to show Carr as a prisoner were “taken by a close associate of a Laotian government official,” Bailey said. They were “taken in Laos ... I can’t disclose the prison camp, but it’s near a small village ... a Pathet Lao camp ... controlled by the North (sic) Vietnamese.

Mystery Theater

“Right now I can’t disclose the name and location of the camp,” he said, “because there are still people in that camp. I had many meetings over more than a year to get to the person with this photo. I was working also at the time with a U.S. government agency.”

When his source said he could get access to an American POW named “Garr” being held in Laos, Bailey said he gave the source a camera already loaded with a marked film canister, a blue polo shirt, a watch and sandals to dress the subject in to verify the photo was made on that trip.

Bailey said the source later told him Carr appeared not “to be 100% mentally.”

Finally, Bailey told me he had the original negatives, but would make them available for scientific scrutiny “only in closed session.” Then he began screaming profane demands that I put Charney back on the phone.

“Jack Bailey is not a very cooperative person ... very volatile, hard to work with,” Tracy Usury, a special investigator for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee’s minority staff, said. He had asked Charney to analyze the purported POW photos obtained by Bailey.

“But based on Charney’s findings, I do believe the photo is valid, that it is Carr, and that Bailey did obtain it,” Usury said. Usury helped compile the committee’s May 1991 report, “An Examination of U.S. Policy Toward POW/MIAs.”

Whether Bailey got it under the circumstances he

described or if he really knows where it was taken “is anybody’s guess,” Usury said. “I asked him to take a polygraph test. At first he said he would, and then he said he wouldn’t at this time. He said he felt he didn’t have to. We wanted to do it to legitimize Jack Bailey.

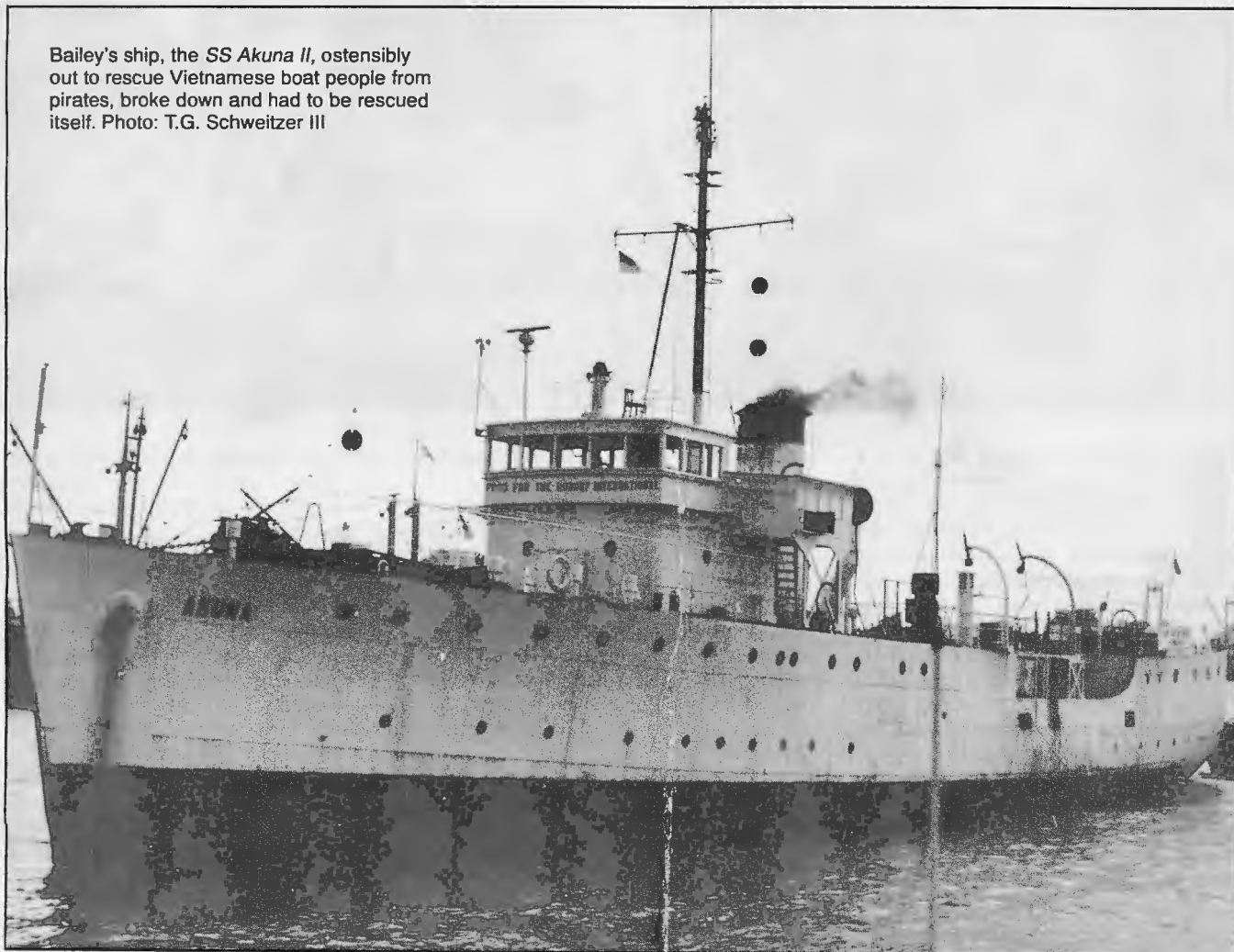
“I think (Bailey) knows the country and the general geographic area, but not the specific location” of where the photographs were taken, Usury said.

Usury, like Charney, had asked Bailey to delay the photograph’s release to give investigators time to pursue leads and

Continued on page 86

Bailey said the source later told him Carr appeared not “to be 100% mentally.”

Bailey’s ship, the *SS Akuna II*, ostensibly out to rescue Vietnamese boat people from pirates, broke down and had to be rescued itself. Photo: T.G. Schweitzer III





Landing in a swirl of dust, the two Hueys touched down in the dark. Medics and stretcher-bearers ran toward them carrying the wounded. A few feet away we heard the distinctive throat-rattle of a man dying. Before our eyes the young Salvadoran soldier expired.

Wounded were quickly and carefully loaded on board. Only the aircraft's red interior lights provided illumination. Then the choppers arose and sped toward San Salvador on their flight of mercy.

The evacuation took just minutes, and the sense of urgency impressed me. Now the pad was dark and still, with everyone silently wiping hot Chalatenango dust from their eyes.

Within minutes more trucks slowly rolled in. Joe and I first saw the convoy as our ride to the base, but we misjudged. The

trucks only carried the dead. No sense of urgency here.

Men pulled bodies off trucks, then stacked them in neat rows. Some corpses hit the ground stiffly like boards; others were still warm, rippling as they struck the dirt. Wrapped in ponchos and blankets, they lay waiting for their final flight home.

Again the choppers flew in. Using only night-vision goggles, their pilots landed in total darkness. Bodies were loaded; the Hueys revved up and were gone. More dust in my eyes.

As they flew away, I realized that I had just seen almost as many friendly killed here in Chalatenango in one night than all American front-line casualties of Desert Storm.

I couldn't help but wonder why Chalatenango had become such a hot war zone and why it had become so essential to both

sides in the Salvadoran war. Over the next few days, I would be with troops and commanders in the field, seeking answers to these questions.

Nothing More Than Guerrilla Bases

Upon arriving in El Salvador, I called on a long-time friend of *Soldier of Fortune*, Colonel Luis Mariano Turcios. As a major, Col. Turcios was airborne battalion commander for some of our initial training missions to El Salvador in 1983-1984. He is a "mustang" officer, having worked his way up through the enlisted ranks. After many successful years in the airborne battalion, he moved to the atonal battalion and is now commander of Military Zone 1, Chalatenango.

Colonel Turcios was excited that we were in-country — myself and my friend Joe Summers. (Joe is a world-class pistol



SALVADOR DALLY

Painting the Countryside Red in Chalatenango

Text & Photos by Jack Thompson

Joe Summers scopes out guerrilla turf with accurized M16 and Mark II scope.

shooter and Africa veteran.) The colonel arranged ground transportation for us to Chalatenango. It was there where we witnessed the medevac missions.

Turcios gave us a concise briefing on events in Chalatenango. Refugee camps could not be entered by army personnel, he said, because of pressure from the United Nations and other external groups. World relief organizations provided food, medicine and support to the camps, but they were, in fact, nothing more than guerrilla bases.

Focal Point Of Their War

Leftist guerrillas used the camps as safe havens. Such hot spots were numerous in Chalatenango province, becoming the



Author at scene of the crime: In 1990, his friend was killed in Chalatenango by a SAM.

current focal point of the war, Turcios said. The army's efforts to control areas around these camps have now set the stage for battle.

Guerrillas were trying to establish a base of operations in Chalatenango strong



Minutes after his friend was wounded by a land mine at Cerro Tepeyac, machine gunner stands at the ready only 1km from refugee camp.

enough to declare the province their own. Obviously, it was in the interest of the government of El Salvador to prevent this.

The degree of success the military achieves in thwarting guerrilla ambitions here will have a profound effect on the rest

of El Salvador. Witness the guerrillas' enormous effort and devotion of resources in Chalatenango. This makes perfect sense, since Chalatenango is a large province sharing a border with Honduras, while its rugged, rural topography makes counterinsurgency operations difficult.

Turcios said guerrillas actually conduct military operations from within the refugee camps. If, after initial engagement, guerrillas break contact and flee into a camp, the military may not pursue them.

He related instances of guerrillas shooting at the army from camps while soldiers were forbidden to return fire. Also, Salvadoran aircraft have been fired upon by heat-seeking surface-to-air missiles (SAMs) launched from within the camps with the military unable to respond due to U.N. pressure.

I was already painfully aware of the situation. On 4 December 1990, an air

About two minutes later, we saw a Salvadoran soldier stumbling toward us covered with blood.

force pilot (and personal friend of mine) was flying an AC-47 into Chalatenango. The plane was downed by a SAM launched from inside a refugee camp and my friend was killed.

The people in the refugee camps have full citizenship rights and may vote for guerrilla parties in open elections. As such, they pose a threat to the security and overall war aims of the Salvadoran government.

Lynch Pin

After our briefing, Turcios and his executive officer, Lieutenant Colonel Aleman, expressed their pride in commanding military units within this province. They knew that Chalatenango was the lynch pin upon which everything else hinged in El Salvador.

The next morning, after singing the national anthem and raising the flag, which Turcios likes to do every morning, we happened to see an old friend of ours who greeted us warmly, Captain Ciliazar. He commands a newly formed light immediate-reaction group called the Ricardo Guzman Battalion.

I introduced Capt. Ciliazar to Joe

Summers, and asked if there was any chance of us going out with his unit. He said yes, providing we didn't use any names or unit identification. We agreed, cleared it with Turcios, piled into the captain's pickup, and headed for his camp.

His battalion was camped at Sierpe. I was struck by the appearance of his troops — they looked older and harder. The men of the Ricardo Guzman Battalion were not raw recruits; they were veterans.

Ciliazar told us of a unit close by ordered to clear a road from Chalatenango to a little church in Tamulasco, a few kilometers to the southeast. We could link up with them and go out for the day if we wished. We readily agreed, and set out by foot with him and a security detachment.

Twinges Of Excitement

We proceeded from the edge of Chalatenango and went down to a bridge at the Tamulasco River, where we linked up with the company commander of the unit there.

When the troops were ready to move out, we started up the road in what soon became obvious was a very hot area. The dead and wounded we had seen on our way in at the helipad had been hit in a firefight near Tamulasco.

We headed into an area just south of Tamulasco in the vicinity of a refugee camp called Guarijila, known to be used as a

communist base. The company organized itself into three platoons, the command element clearing the road, with flank security on either side.

The company commander had his troops well-organized. Spacing between everyone was good, the troops were alert, and their weapons and equipment were well-maintained. But like most soldiers in the Salvadoran army, many were in need of new boots and load-bearing equipment.

We started up the road around 0800. I looked at Joe Summers, who was carrying an M16 with a Mark II scope. I was carrying a short M16 with an Aimpoint scope. I asked him how he felt and with a twinge of good, nervous excitement, he admitted to being a little apprehensive, but was ready to go.

Everyone shared his feelings, knowing well we were entering a hot zone. None of us were under any illusions — today could be the day where we'd have to slug it out big time.

The troops went out and there was the normal shaking down over the first 100 meters, getting spacing and flank security together. It was the job of the men on flank security to go out and clear any high

ground and look for ambushes on either side so the command group clearing the road wouldn't have any nasty surprises.

Mangoes, Water And Kindness

The army was well-received by the local population as it progressed along the road. Green mangoes, water and other acts of hospitality greeted the troops wherever they went in Chalatenango, except of course in the refugee camps.

After a few hundred meters, when everyone settled down into their routine of combat patrolling, things became serious and the troops were "switched on." Anytime you get near the refugee camps in Chalatenango, you have to be on a high state of alert.

When we arrived at the church in Tamulasco at 1030, we put out flank security and everyone did a 360-degree patrol. The company commander sent a platoon to the top of the nearby hill, Tepeyac. We remained with him at the church, which sits at a crossroad. This was a perfect place to monitor the foot and vehicle traffic that came along these roads, especially as we approached the refugee camps.

The church itself was pockmarked with numerous bullet holes and obviously was the scene of some pretty heavy fighting just a few days previously. We had lunch there. Joe and I had brought in MREs to cut down the weight of carrying cans.

While we were having lunch we talked to the company commander to get his insight. He repeated much of what we had already heard, but added that the guerrillas were terrorizing the locals into supporting them against their will. The army very much wanted to come to grips with the guerrillas.

Medic Keeps His Cool

Just as we were discussing the situation with the enlisted men and NCOs, we all heard a loud boom that came from the hill at Tepeyac. Joe asked me what I thought it was. I told him it sounded like a muffled boom; maybe it was an accidental discharge.

About two minutes later, we saw a Salvadoran soldier stumbling toward us covered with blood. He had taken up an observation position and was clearing away some rocks when he detonated a small land mine. His hand was badly wounded.

The medic kept his cool and did a good job patching him up. The man had secondary wounds from the rocks and fragments on his chest and stomach. He hadn't gone into shock yet, and I gave the medic a syringe and general anesthetic from my own kit to prevent this. The troops made a stretcher and carried him back to base along with a security detail.

We got to the top of Tepeyac and searched the area. There, we observed the guerrilla camp that was a couple of kilometers away, but were unable to see

much in detail. We then turned around and left Tepeyac to patrol the area around it. Finally, we went back to the church.

We organized the company once again and headed back to the Tamulasco River. We crossed the river and returned to Sierpe base, where we linked up with Capt. Ciliazar once again, who debriefed us on all we had seen.

We visited the wounded man in the infirmary; he was now awaiting transportation by helicopter to take him to the military hospital. He was most grateful for the anesthetic, evidently feeling no pain when we saw him.

Captain Ciliazar then took us back to Military Zone 1, where we saw Turcios, who talked to us about what we had seen and done. That evening after dinner, we talked to other officers who were coming in from their patrols.

Morale was high, but everyone shared the same frustration about the rules of engagement they were forced to obey in this seemingly endless war.

The next day, after we got up, we arranged with Ciliazar to go out with another of his units that was up north of Chalatenango. Ciliazar's immediate battalion mission was to provide security for the town of Chalatenango.

We linked up with the next company, which was poised to overlook the town of Chalatenango. It was hazy all around us; air was thick with moisture, just waiting to release its water and let the rains begin.

We humped up steep hills and by the time we got about halfway up, everybody was sweating profusely. As we patrolled the hill, the company commander had his other platoons go on different routes. We

Salvadoran trooper who detonated mine at Tepeyac gets medical attention and pain killer, courtesy SOF.



Catholic church at Tamulasco, Chalatenango — scene of heavy fighting which claimed the life of a Salvadoran captain. Note many bullet holes and damage to the structure.

were all part of a larger picture, which was that of a well-coordinated battalion — units on all sides, systematically clearing the hill.

Blackest Night I'd Seen

The lieutenant in this company was a former communications sergeant who greatly impressed me with his technical and leadership skills. He explained to us that the guerrillas tended to fight at night. They try and anticipate where army units will bivouac, then place land mines there.

Failing that, they send someone to throw stones at the bivouac site, in hopes of provoking a sentry to return fire and disclose his exact position. Once the sentry has opened up on them, someone else will throw a grenade at the unit.

With flank security on either side, this Salvadoran unit clears road from town of Chalatenango to Tamulasco.

There are no huge military units racing across the sand as in Desert Storm in this area; only the individual soldier moving from rock to tree; units going up and down hills trying to flush out guerrillas.

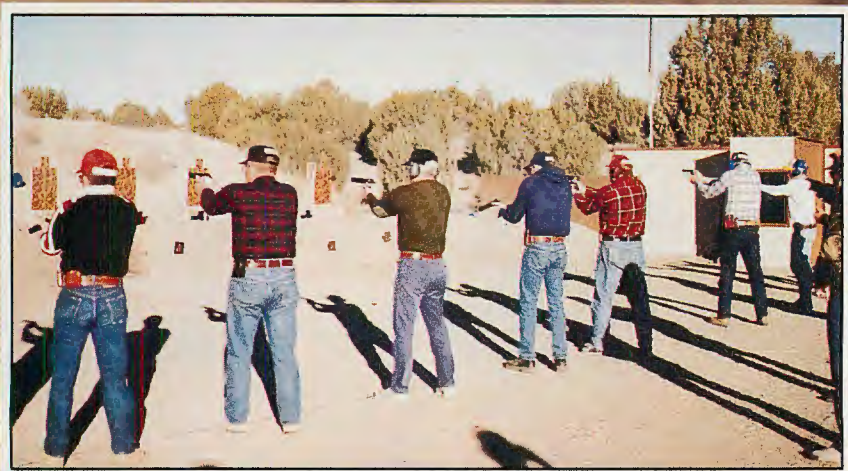
We humped up another hill and waited for nightfall. Just before dusk, it rained. Then the whole company had the misfortune of having to go down this hill in some of the blackest night I'd ever seen. Going up the hill took a couple of hours; going down took damn near all night.

Several hours later, we had descended to a position near town and taken up a defensive perimeter. The night movement of the troops was very good; the men showed extremely good noise discipline and unit coordination.

At any rate, it was a difficult night maneuver, and Joe and I were glad it was finally over. We bivouacked at an intersection of stone fences. It became obvious that this was a standard defensive night position other companies had used before. Unfortunately, Salvadoran troops have a bad habit of not making garbage pits. They throw tin cans all over, turning the camp into a garbage dump.

You couldn't clear the debris away because you'd make too much noise. Consequently, Joe slept the whole night on

Continued on page 76



Brown believes cost of Cooper's course was money well spent; quality of instruction exceeds military courses Brown has attended. Photo: Jesse Harris

Jeff Cooper needs scant introduction to SOF readers. Colonel Jeff Cooper (USAR Ret.) is the father of modern combat pistolcraft. The combat shooting techniques refined by Cooper and taught at his American Pistol Institute at Gunsite, Arizona, have influenced a generation of shooters and trainers. Cooper is one of the most outspoken — and least “politically correct” — commentators on a variety of issues in the country.

In the '50s and '60s, Cooper defended the 1911A1 pistol as the most useful service sidearm when most “experts” were advocating double-action revolvers, claiming that the John Browning-designed .45 was inaccurate and too difficult to



JEFF COOPER'S FANTASTIC .45

Somebody Finally Gets It Right

by Robert K. Brown

shoot. When 9x19mm pistols became popular, Cooper again defied mainstream gun writers and experts, claiming that the NATO pistol round was insufficient for defensive use.

But he didn't just dogmatically defend the .45 ACP: In the early 1980s, Cooper advocated the modern 10mm cartridge as perhaps the ideal combat round. The FBI agreed, and in 1990 that agency abandoned the 9x19mm and adopted the 10mm as its service round. Cooper's creativity has also influenced riflemen. His "Scout Rifle" concept goes against mainstream opinion that a semiautomatic weapon based on military assault rifle design is the best fighting rifle.

But the 1911A1 pistol in .45 ACP

remains Cooper's favorite tool for personal defense, and his thoughts on making this outstanding weapon even better have been applied to the Gunsite Service Pistol (GSP) project. Starting with a Springfield Armory 1911A1, an all-steel forged pistol built to military specifications, top gunsmiths at Gunsite have fine-tuned this weapon for use as a combat service pistol. SOF Editor and Publisher Robert K. Brown was impressed enough with this concept to order a GSP. In the following interview with RKB, Cooper discusses the thinking that went into the pistol.

Robert K. Brown: Jeff, when did you first come out with the Gunsite Service Pistol (GSP)?

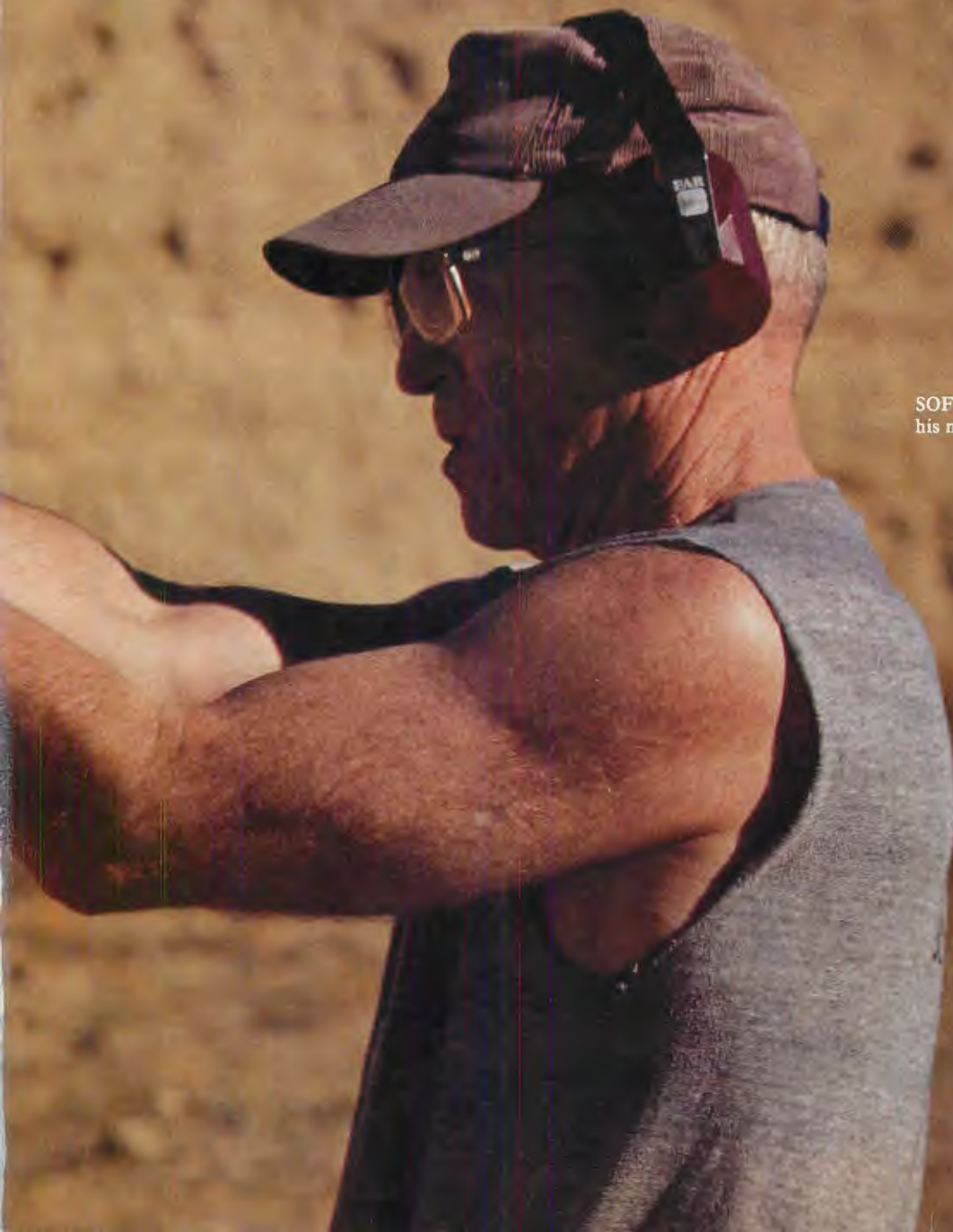
Jeff Cooper: We've been building them

for about three years.

RKB: What was behind the concept?

JC: Mainly my own taste. I decided long ago that less is more when you start messing with a pistol. I have scant patience with people that spend thousands of dollars on gadgets. The important thing with a weapon is does it work. So we start with the notion that the 1911A1 works pretty well, but it has a few weaknesses.

First, it doesn't have sights that are worth using. So you have to put on sights that you can see. Big sights. Then you have to make sure it has a good trigger because a good trigger is important, to me anyway. The trigger should be short and dry. We put in a trigger that we can manage and then we dehorn the rear end so you won't



SOF Publisher/Editor Robert K. Brown tries his new GSP at the range.



Jesse Harris, left, and R.K. Brown, were impressed with Gunsite instructions and facilities. Photo: courtesy Jesse Harris

cut your hands or your clothing.

Beyond that there is not much to be done except that which is personally idiosyncratic. For instance, I don't depress the grip safety properly all the time, so I pin mine shut. Many people get bitten by the hammer, so we bob the hammer, take 3/16 of an inch off it, and round it so it doesn't have any sharp edges.

And we round the ramp on the bottom of the chamber just enough to take the sharp edge off. We also round the bottom of the extractor hook. I also like a lanyard ring in the butt. I've found many occasions in my misspent life when it was necessary to tie a pistol on.

RKB: Why is that?

JC: People don't always realize that you don't make an appointment for an emergency. It's just as likely that you are going to be sound asleep when it happens.

RKB: Do you sleep with your pistol on condition one?

JC: In certain circumstances. Other times, the pistol is down between my ankles in a sleeping bag, and I put the hammer all the way down in condition two.

RKB: Do you have a long cord then?

JC: Yes. A 48-inch shoelace.

RKB: Why do you have the gun down between your ankles?

JC: So I don't crack myself with it. Hemingway, in *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, said his man had his .45 tied to his wrist by a 6-inch thong. I tried that, and I would roll over and practically brain myself.

RKB: What about having it under your pillow with a 2-foot cord?

JC: In a normal bed, you have someplace to put the pistol. A headboard or something. No, I'm talking about in the field when you're sleeping either under a blanket or in a sleeping bag. Then you need the lanyard. Also, if you're involved in operations around water, jumping around on boats, you don't want to lose your pistol over the side.

RKB: You also replace the collet bushing with a solid bushing. What's the problem with the collet bushing?

JC: The collet bushing enhances accuracy. Unfortunately, the collet bushing can break. If it breaks, the pistol's gone; you can't use it.

RKB: When I commanded the Ad-

vanced Marksmanship Unit at XVIII Airborne Corps, we had our own armorer. We did a lot of in-house custom work, looking for precise accuracy. We would often tighten the slide-to-frame interface with a vice and hammer. Sometimes the slide wouldn't even move until graphited. This is obviously not satisfactory for serious social work, but we were paper-punching. Do you recommend such modifications?

JC: It can be done, but I don't recommend it. In the first place, the contact of

Jack Thompson coaches RKB on how to shrink a group.



BELOW: Gunsite Service Pistol starts life as a Springfield Armory 1911A1, incorporates modifications important for a combat — not competition — pistol. Note smaller grip circumference compared to Combat Commander. Brown, who has small hands, ordered GSP because "It felt good in my hands." Officer Jesse Gonzales, Northwest Region V.P. of the Colorado Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors Association, fell in love with the GSP. "The best part of our annual conference," he said, "was the opportunity to shoot the Slim Line."



the slide to the frame is unimportant. Accuracy is determined by the contact between the barrel and the slide. So I can take my .45 and rattle it in my hand, and it will still print 3-1/2 inches at 50 meters.

I've heard people say they get accuracy jobs because it gives them confidence and that builds their paper scores. Possibly. I'm not going to argue the point. If a man feels that his weapon is accurate, maybe it shoots better for him, but in the technical sense, there is not one pistol shooter in 500 who could appreciate the difference between .45s that can print a 2-inch or 3-inch group.

RKB: I ordered a lowered safety on my GSP. Tell me about that.

JC: That's an idea which has taken root at the ranch. I don't need it because I have an ample hand and getting my thumb up on top of the safety is no problem for me. Kit, our chief gunsmith, likes them because they add comfort for people who have small hands and who don't wish to train themselves to put their thumb up in the right place.

It's a nice accessory, but I don't push it because I think it tends to give you bad habits. If your gun has a lowered safety and somebody hands you one with a high safety, you may not be able to operate it.

RKB: Tell me why you developed the "Slim Line" concept.

JC: Slim Line is one of the few important advances in pistol design in my lifetime. The .45 ACP Government Model 1911A1 is too big for most people. It's simply too thick in the butt. That's one reason I never recommend putting custom stocks on one unless a man has a hand like Jack Weaver, with 7-inch fingers. The weapons should be made smaller, not larger.

That is one of the great drawbacks of double-column automatic pistols. You don't need 13 rounds, but you do need a gun you can hit with. But the idea of hitting what you shoot at has almost been abandoned by most police departments.

RKB: Elaborate.

JC: When you find both the military and law enforcement establishments of the world going crazy over weapons which are harder to shoot, harder to hit with, you have to assume their people are shooting so badly that it doesn't make any difference if they shoot any worse. So they just give up on training and try a different system.

RKB: You feel they are trying to make up for deficiencies in marksmanship with gadgetry?

JC: Sure, and with the spray-and-pray system. That's all they're teaching now. Point it down range and empty it. A female officer in Baltimore recently got into a situation in which she fired 27 rounds. She was commended by her chief, who said if she'd had a revolver she would have had to reload several times.

A police lieutenant in the Chicago area, in an official statement, said, "Well, we



can get out 42 rounds in 25 seconds, and if we can't hit anything we can at least scare them to death."

In Santa Monica, a female officer and her partner responded to a robbery call. A couple of dogs — the homeowner's — lunged at her partner. He couldn't draw his sidearm because it was locked in a safety holster that he'd never practiced with. She drew her pistol, closed her eyes, pointed it south and emptied the gun. She hit her partner once in the right leg, once in the left leg, and hit one of the

"The trend is not toward honest guns. It's toward something that has about six levers on the left side and shoots two different ways." — Jeff Cooper

dogs. The dog recovered, hit only with 9mm.

RKB: Jeff, let's get back to the Slim Line. Is that a concept you initiated?

JC: The concept was mine. The execution is that of Kit Carson, our head gunsmith, with help from John Mann. We mill the frame, thin it as much as we can without losing structural integrity. We also reduce the thickness of the grip panels by shaving down the inside surfaces. This requires shortening the grip-screw bushings. We remove metal from the front and rear of the grip frame as well. Then we install a short trigger. We are able to reduce the circumference from the tip of the trigger to the grip safety by 7/8 of an inch without affecting the firing stroke.

RKB: Do you believe in beveling the magazine well?

JC: It's not necessary. If you reload an automatic pistol properly, you do it by touch and you don't need any help. I also don't believe in extending the magazine well, enlarging the ejection port or adding a duck-bill grip safety, extended slide stops or ambidextrous thumb safeties.

RKB: Lets talk fixed versus adjustable sights.

JC: I'll admit that adjustable sights are useful when you have to mess around with different loads. But fixed sights won't fly off the slide in the middle of the Sahara. I've had adjustable sights go flooey on me in very awkward situations.

RKB: What about sights for subdued light scenarios?

JC: I've tried using different colored sights. I discovered, over a period of a couple of years, that it didn't seem to make a difference. But my reflexes are deeply

JACK THOMPSON ON SERVICE PISTOLS

On the Gunsite Service Pistol: Sights are quite good; the rear notch is sufficiently wide to allow you to pick up and align the front sight very quickly. This is important in a combat pistol. The extended safety, with thumb platform lowered compared to most 1911A1 safeties, lets you get a more natural position with your right thumb. Magazine well should be beveled, even if it just means rounding the edges a little. Nice pistol.

On white-dot sights: I kind of like them. I think anything that makes the sights more visible is good. But it's an individual thing; some people don't like them.

On new rounds: The .40 Smith and Wesson looks real good in theory. I mean, it does what a good .45 ACP load does in a smaller package; can't argue with that.

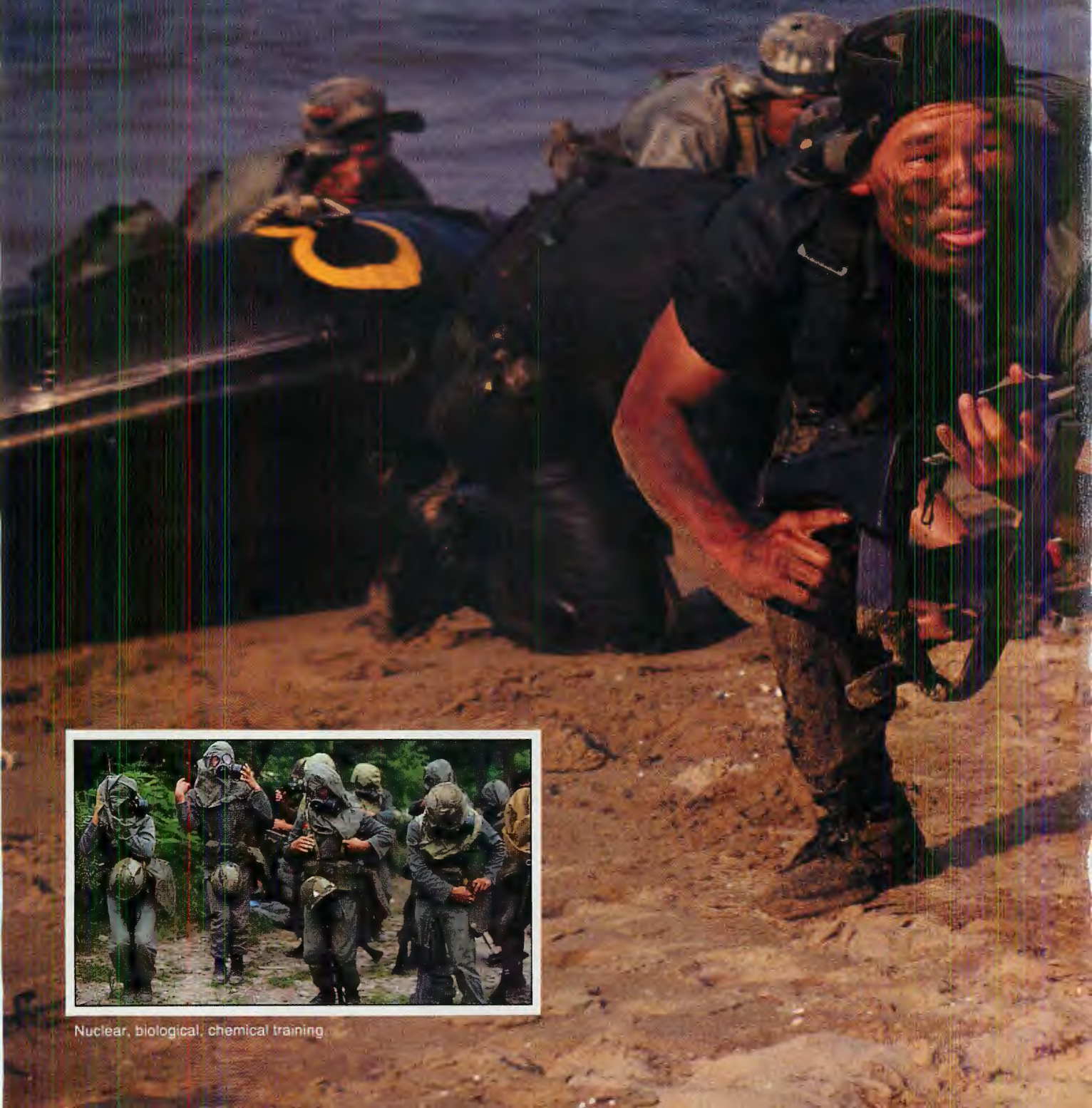
On the Glock: It's real light; good for carry. Simple to use. The heavier New York trigger seems like a good thing for police use. In .40 Smith and Wesson — assuming it works reliably — it might be the coming thing.

Personal sidearm: Colt .45 Government Model, worked over a little.

— Chuck Fremont

Continued on page 84

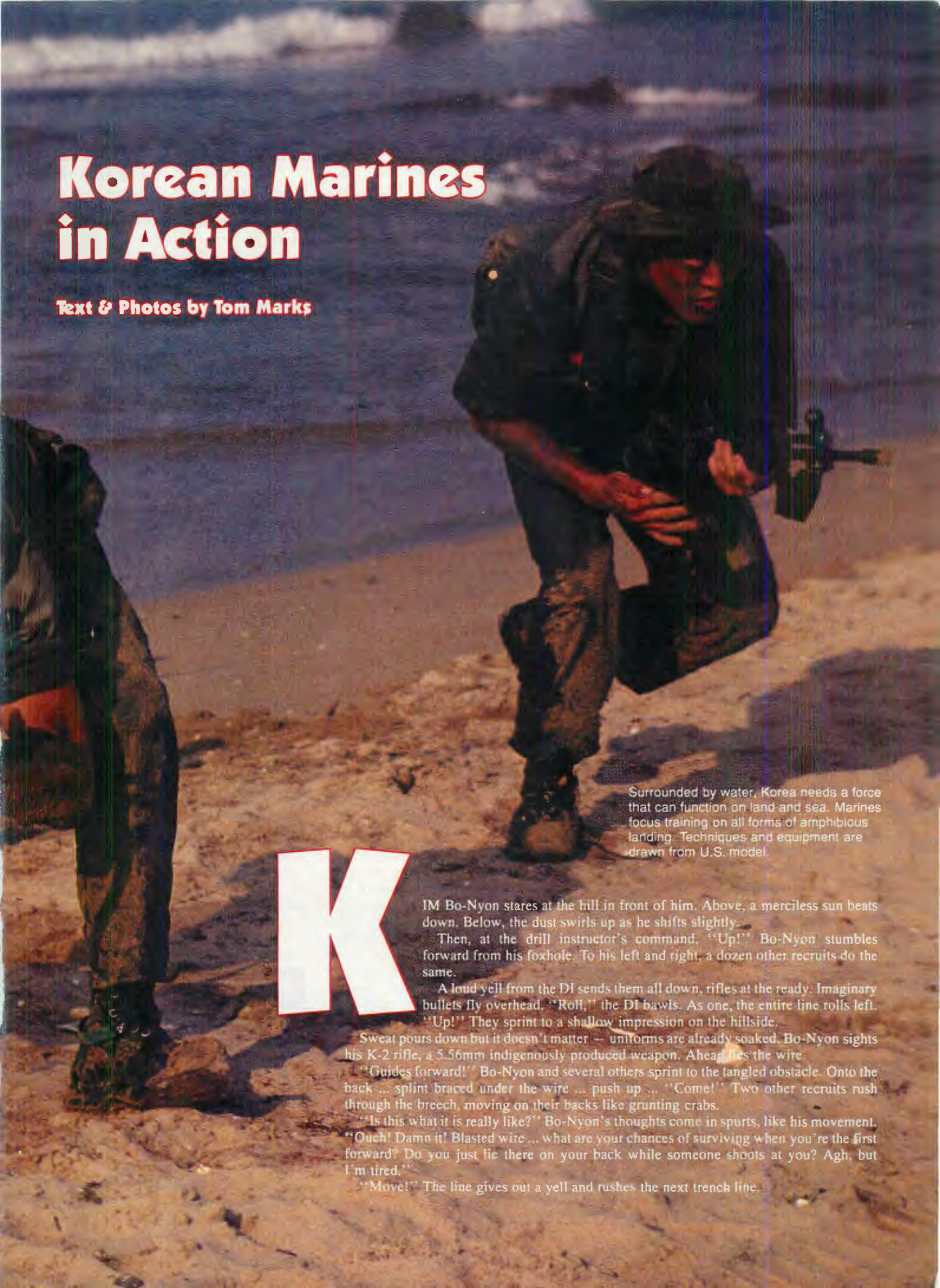
HARD ROKS



Nuclear, biological, chemical training

Korean Marines in Action

Text & Photos by Tom Marks



Surrounded by water, Korea needs a force that can function on land and sea. Marines focus training on all forms of amphibious landing. Techniques and equipment are drawn from U.S. model.

K

IM Bo-Nyon stares at the hill in front of him. Above, a merciless sun beats down. Below, the dust swirls up as he shifts slightly.

Then, at the drill instructor's command, "Up!" Bo-Nyon stumbles forward from his foxhole. To his left and right, a dozen other recruits do the same.

A loud yell from the DI sends them all down, rifles at the ready. Imaginary bullets fly overhead. "Roll," the DI bawls. As one, the entire line rolls left. "Up!" They sprint to a shallow impression on the hillside.

Sweat pours down but it doesn't matter — uniforms are already soaked. Bo-Nyon sights his K-2 rifle, a 5.56mm indigenously produced weapon. Ahead lies the wire.

"Guides forward!" Bo-Nyon and several others sprint to the tangled obstacle. Onto the back ... splint braced under the wire ... push up ... "Come!" Two other recruits rush through the breach, moving on their backs like grunting crabs.

"Is this what it is really like?" Bo-Nyon's thoughts come in spurts, like his movement. "Ouch! Damn it! Blasted wire... what are your chances of surviving when you're the first forward? Do you just lie there on your back while someone shoots at you? Agh, but I'm tired."

"Move!" The line gives out a yell and rushes the next trench line.

A half-dozen times Bo-Nyon and the others repeat the process. All the while, the air hangs damp with humidity. The sky shimmers, a dazzling blue. Not even a hint of cloud serves to block the sun, though monsoons are due. Their steel pots could fry eggs.

"Up!" At last, the top. "Down!" Squint along the rifle barrel. "Now!" Over the crest surges the line. Bo-Nyon stumbles, then drives forward. The entire dozen sprint down to positions concealed in a stand of woods.

Halt ... aim ... move. A final yell. The mass rushes by.

"Formation!" Shoulder to shoulder ... column of twos ... port arms ... march ... double time ... down the winding road to the base of the hill. Trees offer a moment's respite, their shade lowering the temperature, if only so slightly.

Back in line ... "Ready!" comes the command. "Go!" Again, Bo-Nyon rushes forward. He and the others have been at it since first light. They will continue another hour. It is their eighth day in the corps. Only five more weeks to go. Then they will be part of the elite.

Making Of The Dragons

Thus are made Korean marines — "The Dragons," as Americans often know them. Certainly training — tough as it may be — is but part of the equation. Basic is Basic around the world; a DI is a DI.

No, it is not just training. What matters here is lineage, heritage, tradition — the intangibles. These are what ultimately set a unit apart and raise it above the others. And it is here that the marines of the Republic of Korea (ROK or South Korea) have few equals.

"I knew I would have to go into the service anyway," Bo-Nyon, 21, with two years' college under his belt, says during a brief respite. "I wanted to be a part of

something special. The marines have a reputation of having the toughest training; they have a good reputation in society. So I joined them."

It is a refrain heard over and over.

"Certainly the people we're getting have changed a great deal," Staff Sergeant Chang Bum-Jin, a veteran with 16 years' service, observes as we chat about the stunning development South Korea has experienced through several decades.

From a state of complete devastation following the Korean War (1950-1953), the country has risen to powerhouse status with one of the world's most dynamic economies. This has resulted in a corps where, according to statistics provided by one general officer, 78% of enlisted personnel have college educations.

"Necessarily, we must give much greater emphasis to personal concerns," SSgt. Bum-Jin continues. "We have to treat the men as human beings. This has resulted in training that is not always as difficult as it once was. There's much more emphasis upon conditions of service.

"We've had no growth in disciplinary problems. Things are just different. Because the men are more educated, it's much easier to teach them. More important, the atmosphere, the pride we take in ourselves, hasn't changed at all. What is very special about the marines is that we are a close family. All the veterans support us," Bum-Jin notes.

Once A Marine, Always A Marine

"A marine is always a marine, whether in service or out. Every place he goes, there will be a special marine association to which he can belong," Bum-jin says. "These do a lot for the country, and former marines are looked at as a steady influence in the community at large. I don't see such continuity with the other services."

What accounts for this closeness? Size certainly is an important factor. Though presently at two division-plus strength, a not insubstantial force, the marines are dwarfed when compared with South Korea's massive army of more than 40 divisions. A disadvantage when it comes to claiming a share of defense resources (the marines are less than 5% of the force structure) such proportional imbalance nonetheless fosters unity. Marines, in a sense,

have only each other.

This has had ironic results. "We've had to work at improving our image," an NCO observes, "because even as we became known as elite, we also became known for fighting. On leave we were always getting involved in fights with other military personnel.

"You could have 10 army guys standing around while one of their own was in trouble. But if you had those same 10 beating on one marine, a rescue operation would be carried out, even if there was only a single marine to do it," the NCO says. "We were physically fit and liked to use it!"

In perhaps the most famous such incident, a 1966 marine-officer training class of some 140 men launched a predawn raid on an air force barracks. This was to repay the beating of a colleague in a bus one day previous. Outnumbered, the marines used the element of surprise and a healthy supply of bamboo sticks to even the odds. Sound planning paid off in a complete rout of the foe.

It all might have ended there and entered the annals as just another instance of ROK forces' intramural bickering, except one of the air force men picked the moment to die of a heart attack. The resulting uproar resounded in the national press. Three ringleaders stepped forward and accepted responsibility for the group. All received prison terms, though the time actually served was cut down from years to months.

Still, the key figure, Chun To-Pong, a Yonsei University graduate, did six months in the brig and was forced to leave the service. His two compatriots served several months each.

From The Brig To Vietnam

Bureaucracy, though, has a mind all its own. After a year as a miserable civilian, To-Pong received his draft notice. Paper in hand, he made the rounds of appropriate Ministry of National Defense (MND) offices in the capital city of Seoul, asking if there hadn't been some sort of mistake.

To his astonishment, To-Pong was told not only was the draft notice in error, so was his earlier dismissal from the marines. If he was up for it, a man of his talents should be quite useful as, say, a platoon leader in Vietnam.

During To-Pong's year in the wilderness, South Korea had chosen to lock horns once again with the communists. The marine corps Blue Dragon Brigade had deployed to I Corps in South Vietnam, and were establishing an enviable reputation as a tough, effective force. To-Pong knew his calling, and he signed the paper.

"OK, I was young and naive," To-Pong grins, almost sheepishly. "But I wanted to be a marine!" As he speaks, he throws his arms wide, as if to say, "Doesn't everyone?" On his collar glistens the star which identifies him as select among the few, a marine general officer.





ROK marines go under tangled obstacle, moving on their backs like crabs.

The years have not dulled the youthful enthusiasm which led the general to Vietnam. "I was there for the fighting of 1967-68, which included the Tet Offensive. We (the Blue Dragon Brigade) were a tough outfit, but Vietnam was as difficult for my people as for yours," To-Pong notes. "Many of our veterans have also had psychological problems. But it has also given us a reservoir of combat experience."

This reservoir has made its impact felt in heightened professionalism. In a sense, the present-day ROK marines are a legacy of the Blue Dragons. Even the corps museum reflects this, with a majority of exhibits devoted to the Indochina conflict. All senior officers in the corps are Brigade veterans, having learned soldiering the hard way against both guerrillas and main force units. As such, they demand training be tough and realistic.

The Price Of Being Elite

Perhaps more important, they make sure every marine understands the price of being elite. "We must be brave in war and willing to give up our lives as necessary," a marine circular says. "We must develop skills which allow us to be the first to



Preparatory to amphibious raid, special weapons such as crossbow are used to take out sentries.

deploy when war breaks out. We must be able to die for the glory of the marines. One must be willing to give up his life for the marines."

It is a commitment written in the blood of two major conflicts and countless smaller engagements. The thaw in political relations between North and South Korea notwithstanding, Pyongyang



Marine armed with 5.56mm Daewoo-manufactured assault rifle goes through tactical training.

still attempts regular incursions. Consequently, the threat of hostilities is ever present.

Such a reality takes a psychological adjustment. This is, after all, 1991. True, there are errant dictators such as Saddam Hussein capable of precipitating good-

Continued on page 77

KALASHNIKOPY

KOMPLIANCE

Egyptian ARM vs. Gun Gestapo

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis



D

URING the last decade, tens of thousands of Kalashnikov-type rifles were imported to the United States. They were not "assault rifles." The term — derived from the German expression *Sturmgewehr* (attack or assault rifle) — requires, by general consensus of military small arms authorities, three essential characteristics.

First, they are most commonly chambered for a so-called "intermediate-size" military rifle (not pistol) cartridge, such as the original German 7.92x33mm *Kurz* round or the ComBloc 7.62x39mm and U.S. 5.56x45mm NATO cartridges. A second salient feature of a true assault rifle is that it be lightweight, although there is no agreed-upon standard in this area. Finally, and most important, assault rifles are all capable of full-auto fire.

This characteristic enables them to deliver an intense blanket of fire during the critical phase of an infantry assault upon the enemy's position. Without this all-important selective-fire capability, a hand-held infantry weapon, by definition, cannot be an assault rifle.

Except for a handful of Class 3 dealers' samples, the Kalashnikovs imported to the United States were all capable of semiautomatic fire only. The very first semiauto-only Kalashnikov to reach these shores was the Valmet (Valtion Metallitehtaat or State Metal Works) M62/S, imported from Finland and based upon the third-model AK-47 with a mill-finished, forged receiver. Unfortunately, it bore little resemblance

FAR LEFT: Mutated semiauto-only Egyptian ARM rifle meets BATF regulations, is therefore "suitable for sporting purposes," and can be imported to the U.S.

LEFT: If you modify a currently imported Egyptian ARM or any other Kalashnikov-type rifle into this configuration, or even so much as insert a 30-round magazine into its magazine well BATF says you're going to prison for five years.

externally to the Kalashnikov stereotype, and, although of high quality, it was a decided failure on the U.S. marketplace.

In contrast, the next semiauto-only Kalashnikov imported to the United States was, in almost every regard, an exact duplicate of the Russian AKM (*Avtomat Kalashnikova Modernizirovanniyi* or Modernized Automatic Kalashnikov) — which has a pinned and riveted sheet-metal receiver. During the late 1950s, the Soviet Union, as part of its military-aid program, established the production of Soviet-pattern small arms in the Arab Republic of Egypt. AKM rifles were manufactured at “Factory 54” of the Maadi Company for Engineering Industries in Cairo. Key Egyptian personnel were trained in the Soviet Union and the plant was initially supervised by Soviets, prior to their abrupt expulsion from Egypt.

Automatic Rifle Misr

Designated as the “ARM” (Automatic Rifle Misr), a semiauto version of the Egyptian AKM was introduced to the American public in 1982 by the U.S. division of Steyr-Daimler-Puch in Steyr, Austria. For all intents and purposes this was as close as any of us would ever come to a Soviet AKM. The laminated-wood handguards and buttstock were all correct in every detail. The lower handguard had the proper hand swells and the buttstock had been reinforced with steel pins in all the right places. All the wood furniture was imported from Finland, but finished in Egypt. The plastic pistol grip had been molded to the correct Soviet configuration.

The metal components were exactly those of the Russian AKM. Small recesses on each side of the sheet-metal receiver, directly over the magazine well, serve as magazine guides and instantly distinguish this as an AKM. The four gas-escape holes found on each side of the AK-47’s gas cylinder were omitted and there were two half-circle gas-relief cuts on each side of the gas block where it mates with the gas tube. The bayonet lug was directly under the gas block. Rear sights were graduated to 1,000 meters (with a 300-meter battle-sight setting marked “P”), instead of the AK-47’s 800-meter maximum.

An AKM muzzle brake had been installed. The sheet-metal receiver cover had transverse ribs and a rolled edge over the ejection port. Chambers and bores were hard-chromed. All exterior metal surfaces were finished with a baked-on black enamel over phosphate. Only the green web sling was of Egyptian design.

No doubt about it, except for the selective-fire option and markings on the receiver, this was a Soviet AKM. Yet only 2,000 were imported from March to May, 1982, before importation ceased. (Note: In 1986 about two dozen semiauto Egyptian AKMs with a side-folding stock similar in appearance to the early East German MPiKMS-72 variant entered the United States via an independent importer.)

How many crimes are committed at bayonet point?

Why did it fail? There were two principal reasons. During this time a supply of reasonably priced ammunition was not available. Berdan-primed, noncorrosive, Finnish Lapua 7.62x39mm ammunition (usually headstamped “VPT” with two digits indicating the year of production) cost 45 to 55 cents per round. Norma’s boxer-primed ammo in

this caliber was selling for 85 cents per round. Yugoslav ammunition was just starting to trickle into this country. Americans don’t buy firearms unless they can afford to shoot them.

Secondly, within a year after introduction of the Steyr/Maadi AKM, the People’s Republic of China gained “Most Favored Nation” status with the United States. Then Clayco Sports Ltd. of Clay Center, Kansas, commenced importation of the first PRC semiauto Kalashnikovs at a price substantially lower than the Egyptian version.

“No Sporting Purpose”

On 14 March 1989, at the behest of President Bush’s Drug Czar, William Bennett, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF) announced it was suspending the importation of several makes of “assault-type” weapons, including all variants of the Kalashnikov.

A subsequent BATF document, titled “Report and Recommendation of the ATF Working Group on the Importability of Certain Semiautomatic Rifles,” upheld and justified the original import ban by concluding that the firearms in question were not suitable for “sporting purposes” as defined by the BATF. Unfortunately for U.S. gun owners, “suitability for sporting purposes” is an import provision contained in Title I of the Gun Control Act of 1968.

What characteristics make Kalashnikov-type semiautomatic-only rifles unsuitable for sporting purposes? Certainly not their method of operation, which is gas-actuated and locked-breech by means of a rotary bolt. Any number of hunting rifles share that method of operation, such as the Winchester Model 100 semiautomatic rifle, introduced in 1960 in caliber .308 Winchester (7.62x51mm NATO).

No, it is suddenly — after authorizing their importation for almost two decades

Thumb-hole buttstocks are a generic characteristic of all semiautomatic-only military-style rifles now banned from importation except in configurations making them suitable for “sporting purposes.”



Be advised that none of this fools Sarah Brady and those riding on her broomstick.

— a firearm's external physical features that supposedly determine its suitability for sporting purposes, according to those flitting about in the BATF's aviary. These menacing features are 1) the ability to accept a large-capacity, detachable magazine; 2) folding or telescoping stocks, 3) pistol grips, 4) bayonet lugs, 5) flash suppressors, 6) bipods, 7) grenade launchers, 8) night sights; 9) whether the firearm is a semiautomatic-only version of a selective-fire weapon; and 10) whether its centerfire cartridge-case has a length of 2.25 inches (57mm) or less.

This latter criterion is especially disturbing as it infers something sinister about rifle cartridges with case lengths less than 57mm: .17 Remington, .22 Hornet, .220 Swift, .222 Remington, .223 Remington, .22-250 Remington, .243 Winchester, 6mm Remington, .250 Savage, .257 Roberts, .284 Winchester, .300 Savage, .30-30 Winchester, .303 Savage, .308 Winchester, .348 Winchester, etc., etc.

Furthermore, the 7.92x57mm, 7x57mm, 7.5mm French, 8mm Lebel, 7.65mm Mauser and numerous other military cartridges which have case lengths of 57mm or less are most certainly not intermediate-



size "assault rifle" rounds by any standards other than those of the BATF's gun "experts." Also, note that Harris bipods will fit any rifle and that all military-surplus Mauser and other bolt-action rifles imported to this country have bayonet lugs (how many crimes are committed at bayonet point?).

Finally, any rifle with a detachable box-type magazine can accept a "large-capacity" magazine, if one is available. You are free to draw your own conclusions about possible future BATF extensions beyond the intent of Congress.

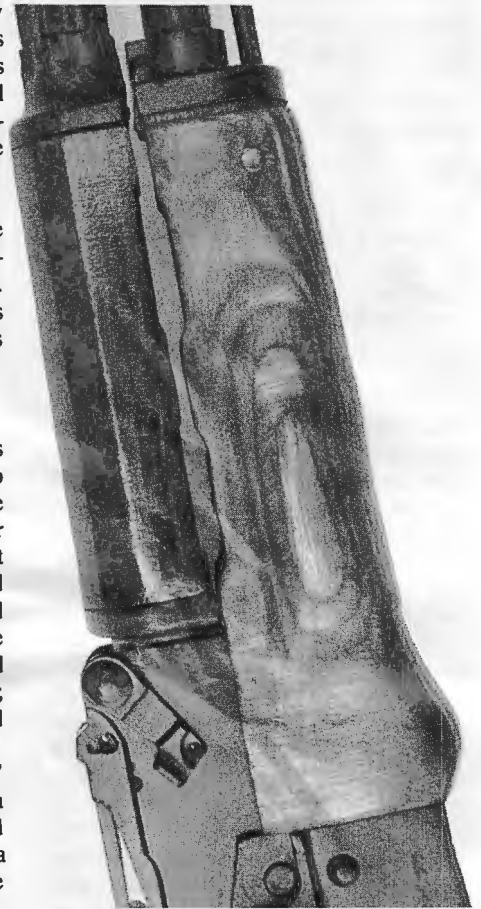
"Plinking Doesn't Exist"

As a further outrage to U.S. gun owners — since the vast majority of those who own and shoot military-style rifles use them for informal target practice, or "plinking" — the BATF document arbitrarily concluded that "...the so-called activity of plinking is not a recognized sport." This in spite of the fact that the word "sport" is most commonly defined as no more or less than "an active pastime; diversion; recreation," and that the word "recognize" means "to perceive or acknowledge the validity or reality of." Quite clearly, the BATF developed a hypothesis and then selected only data and opinions which supported it — a characteristic of this federal bureau since its very inception.

As citizens of the United States, our individual right to possess and utilize firearms is guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the Constitution, no matter what gun prohibitionists may fantasize about its application to only "organized" militias, such as the National Guard. All of this is rather explicitly expressed and clarified in the ancillary writings of the Founding Fathers. The Second Amendment makes no mention of "sporting purposes."

Charitably, if an unspecified number of the above features are deleted from a firearm, the BATF may graciously wave its magic wand and the rifle will become instantly suitable for sporting purposes and thus earn the BATF's holy imprimatur. An example of this mystical metamorphosis is the Egyptian ARM rifle as now imported by

Egyptian ARM rifle is equipped with a 5-round magazine, more suitable for sporting purposes than the original 30-round magazine.



Retained from its sinister predecessor are the laminated-wood upper and lower handguards that duplicate those of the Soviet AKM.

PARS International (Dept. SOF, PO Box 37184, Louisville, KY 40233; phone: 502-363-0000).

Mutant ARM Not Much Different

As transfigured to meet the approval of the "experts" in the BATF's Firearms Technology Branch, the mutated Egyptian ARM has as about much aesthetic appeal as the Hunchback of Notre Dame.

Instantly noticeable is the grotesque "thumb-hole" stock which replaces the standard buttstock and pistol grip. This is a salient feature of all of these semiautomatic-only Kalashnikovs, HK91s and FN FALs modified to gain importation approval under the new regulations. This eliminates the pistol grip which of course, as we all know, precludes a firearm's use for legitimate sporting purposes. Somehow, the tens of thousands of high-power competitors who shoot AR15/M16 rifles equipped with pistol grips in formal, sanctioned matches each month haven't

received this information from the BATF's firearms wizards.

Made of varnished, laminated wood, this thumb-hole stock has four steel reinforcing pins in exactly the same location as the previous version. The new ARM's laminated-wood upper and lower handguards remain identical to its Soviet predecessor.

The original 30-round, staggered-column, detachable box-type magazine has been replaced with a shortened, 5-round magazine of the same design. The bayonet lug under the barrel, at the bottom front-end of the gas block, has been ground off. The AKM-type muzzle brake and its spring-loaded retaining pin are gone and the threads at the end of the barrel used to attach the muzzle device have been removed.

In every other regard this rifle remains true to the Steyr/Maadi semiautomatic ARM rifle imported in 1982. This is a well-made rifle — at the very least one grade above those produced in the PRC and now returning to the United States with thumb-hole stocks, et al. Its reliability, accuracy potential and handling characteristics are equal to, or perhaps a touch above, any of the more than 50 million Kalashnikov-type rifles produced to date. None of the cosmetic modifications mandated by the Gun Gestapo either diminish or increase any of these latter essential attributes and thus, of course, have no effect on the firearm's supposed suitability for sporting purposes.

It weighs 6.8 pounds empty and without magazine, with an overall length of 35.6 inches. The 16.56-inch, four-groove barrel has a chrome-plated chamber and bore with a right-hand twist of one turn in 9.4 inches. Trigger pull-weight on SOF's test specimen was an exceptionally light 3.5 pounds, preceded by the usual highly variable amount of creep peculiar to this system. The suggested retail price is \$495 complete with one magazine, sling, buttstock cleaning kit, under-barrel cleaning rod and the best English-language manual ever written for a Kalashnikov.

Of the currently imported Kalashnikov-type rifles, the Egyptian ARM is, without doubt, the best. It lacks appeal only to purist collectors of military-type firearms. It will be used principally for the same purpose its tens of thousands of predecessors were, informal target shooting, i.e., "plinking" (unfortunately not a recognized sport).

Caliber 7.62x39mm
ammunition remains



Flash suppressor, muzzle threads and bayonet lug have been removed from Egyptian ARM rifle to comply with arbitrary BATF rules.

EGYPTIAN ARM SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber:	7.62x39mm.
Operation:	Gas, locked-breech; piston-driven bolt carrier with rotary bolt; semiautomatic-only.
Feed mechanism: ...	5-round, staggered-column, detachable box-type magazine.
Weight, without magazine:	6.8 pounds.
Barrel:	Four grooves with a right-hand twist of one turn in 9.4 inches (235mm); chrome-plated bore and chamber.
Barrel length:	16.56 inches (414mm).
Sights:	Round, post-type front sight with protective ears; adjustable for elevation and windage zero. Sliding, tangent-type rear sight with open U-notch; elevation adjustments in 100-meter increments from 100 to 1,000 meters with 300-meter battle-sight settings marked "P."
Finish:	Baked black enamel over phosphate.
Furniture:	Varnished, laminated-wood, thumb-hole buttstock and handguards.
Price:	Suggested retail: \$495 complete with one magazine, sling, buttstock cleaning kit, under-barrel cleaning rod and instruction manual.
Manufacturer:	Maadi Company for Engineering Industries, Cairo, Egypt.
Importer:	PARS International, Dept. SOF, PO Box 37184, Louisville, KY 40233; phone: 502-363-0000.
T&E Summary:	Cosmetic Kalashnikov-mutant created by import regulations imposed by BATF. Reliability, accuracy potential and handling characteristics unaffected by modifications. Best of the currently imported Kalashnikov-type rifles.

cheap and can be purchased for between 8 to 10 cents per round.

Sarah Brady And Her Broomstick

Be advised that none of this fools Sarah Brady and those riding on her broomstick, not for one minute. She recognizes this firearm for what it is: the same "assault gun" — only in sheep's clothing — that was responsible for 0.0003% (that's three ten-thousandths of 1%) of all the murders committed in the city of Chicago from 1965 through 1989. You can believe she's already notified those sympathetic to her cause in both the U.S. Congress and media that she intends to expose

this loophole and see that these "murder weapons of choice for drug dealers, terrorists and psychopaths" are cut off at the pass.

Well, in any event, nothing separates you and an Egyptian ARM rifle from a 30-round magazine and a standard buttstock and pistol grip but a magazine catch/release and some buttstock screws. Right? Wrong. According to the BATF, five years in a federal penitentiary will separate you from your family if you attempt to so much as insert a 30-round magazine into a newly imported Egyptian ARM rifle, or any other firearm imported in a similar configuration. I was personally informed of this by two different sources in the BATF's Firearms Technology Branch. Outrageous? Preposterous? No more so than anything else the BATF has been handing U.S. gun owners for decades. What is the basis for this latest BATF assault on gun owners?

On 29 November 1990, Section 922(r), Title 18, United States Code (U.S.C.) became effective. It states in part:

"It shall be unlawful for any person to assemble from imported parts any semiautomatic rifle or any shotgun which is identical to any rifle or shotgun prohibited from importation under Section 925(d)(3) of this Chapter as not being

Continued on page 70

HISTORY OF SNIPING

FULL AUTO

Continued from page 24



"One Shot One Kill" 24"x17" Full Color
U.S. Army Sniping Team In Vietnam
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 - L-064 American Sniper School.....\$4.25
 - L-093 9th Div Sniper, Subd. Patch.....\$4.95
 - L-121 82nd Abn Sniper Patch.....\$4.85
 - L-181 Sniper Skull, blk/white Patch.....\$5.95
 - M-415 Foreign Legion Sniper Pin.....\$8.95
 - M-472 USSR Sniper Pilot Badge.....\$19.95
 - M-5398 F-4 Viper Sniper Patch.....\$6.25
 - M-824 3rd USMC Recon Sniper.....\$5.95
 - L-299 One Shot One Kill, subd. Patch.....\$5.95
 - L-300 One Shot One Kill, color Patch.....\$6.25
- Delta Insignia Catalog (over 2500 items)\$3.00



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Olympic Arms is examining several alternatives, including higher-capacity synthetic box magazines and a snail drum. Stamping machinery and dies, as well as robot-welding equipment required to manufacture sheet-metal magazines is expensive and not cost-effective unless tens of thousands are produced. It is for this reason that designers not contemplating major-series production are most often forced to use existing magazines.

I have no qualms about recommending the CAR-9 conversion unit. Its reliability with all types of 9mm ammunition was clearly demonstrated during SOF's test and evaluation. It provides a handy and useful pistol-caliber carbine for those with semiautomatic-only AR15s.

Those with a registered M16 can in this manner obtain the potential of a 9mm submachine gun without payment of another \$200 transfer tax. Law enforcement and military personnel already familiar with the M16 system will have no problem transitioning to the CAR-9 as the ergonomics and handling characteristics remain identical. The suggested retail price is \$424, complete with one magazine. Additional modified Sten magazines and the loader are available at reasonable cost.

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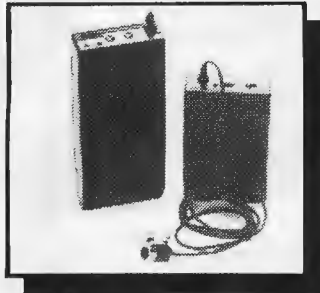
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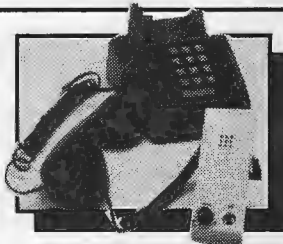
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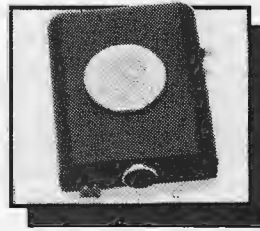
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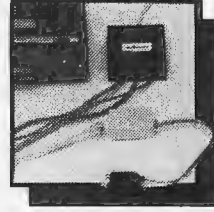
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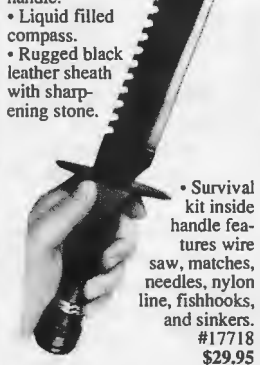
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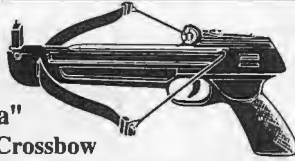
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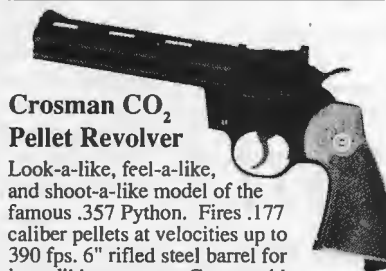
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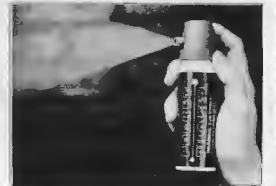
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YANTACO

Continued from page 39

charge. So far, we have not come under any fire, so we start to jog and catch up with our troops, who are proceeding at a brisk rate.

Exertion clearly shows on the soldiers' faces as they struggle to maintain pace up a gradual series of rolling hills. Weighed down by their equipment and the heat of the day, it becomes evident we are trying to make Yantaco village by a prearranged time so that no escape route becomes available to MRTA terrorists.

Kick 'n' Shoot

We move into the village systematically kicking down doors, checking houses for terrorist activity. As we approach the village square, there is a sudden burst of gunfire. Silence, then more gunfire, as we stop and crouch down along one side of the square to get some perspective.

I cannot pinpoint the gunfire, which is continuing, but becoming more sporadic. There are no incoming rounds, and I am assuming that the Peruvian army must have had contact with small groups of MRTA terrorists.

I am heading in the direction of the shooting when a soldier appears around the corner discharging his weapon into the air. All of a sudden, everything is clear — there was no conflict. These soldiers were just running around the village firing into the air. Some of them even bothered to stop to put on black ski masks.

As I wonder about this, local people start to appear and are being herded toward the village square. In a short time, the entire village is assembled in the square and is given a speech by our operational commander about the danger of harboring subversives.

The speech is about how one is guilty by association and how it would be in the villagers' best interests to inform on MRTA terrorists. The villagers all steadfastly declare that terrorists have not come to Yantaco. This, combined with the fact that the Peruvian army did not find any terrorists, seems to make the army more determined than ever to prove the terrorists' existence.

At this point, men, women and children are separated and moved to each corner of the square, where the security forces pick people or children at random from the groups.

They are not mistreated, in the sense of being beaten, but all are very afraid. One



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little girl, who has just been returned to her mother, is clearly ill, and vomits on the floor of the square in front of us to reveal a parasite some 5 inches in length.

I point this out sometime later to a group of Red Cross volunteers who just entered the village. They tell me this is not unusual. Most of the children are lacking in nutrition and suffer open wounds. They are left to fend for themselves, and it's a wonder they're even alive.

So, on this day, the Peruvian army and I didn't find any MRTA terrorists, but I was able to see what was really happening on the front lines of one of the many civil wars being fought in Peru — a country largely ignored by the American media and the rest of the world.

Florida-based Peter Noble is an award-winning British photographer. This is the second part of his two-part story from Peru for SOF.

I WAS THERE

Continued from page 16

All of a sudden things weren't looking good for me. As long as Jack was both hostage and shield, I couldn't shoot unless they came at me. Of course, with the cops on their way, time was on my side. When the creeps demanded the keys a second time, I shouted that I'd thrown them away, so there was no way to return them.

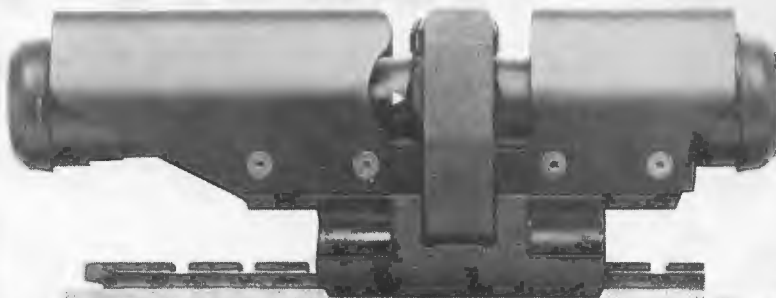
The Viets were too dumb to understand. They just kept demanding the keys and promised they would release Jack a couple miles down the road. I replied it would be difficult to pull over and release a hostage while 60 cops were releasing bullets into what little brains they had.

By this time, squad cars were pulling into and blocking driveways, but the punks didn't know this yet because, except for one guy's leg, they were all crouching inside their car below window-level. (It's too bad they took the hostage. Late-model Chevys aren't known for their ability to stop high-power slugs.)

The Viets yelled back, "What cops? You are alone!" But the cops were there all right. They just weren't getting close until figuring out what was going on, or who the good guys were. "What do you mean alone? You're surrounded, boy," I shouted, and quickly thought about the ending of *Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid*. One of the jerks must have looked out the window and seen the dozen or so sheriff's deputies with 870s salivating, just hoping to mess these clowns up. Silence.

"OK man, we're coming out." Great, I thought. I finally had gotten to tell

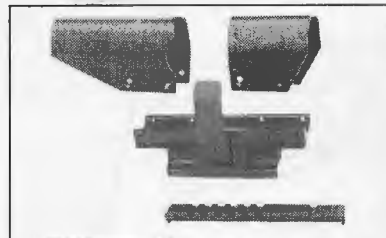
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someone to "throw your guns down, keep your hands away from your bodies and spread-eagle on the pavement." By this time, the first deputy got to my position by climbing a fence at the rear of the property. I didn't know he was there until he picked up my gun.

After that, it was just an ambulance ride to Dreamland, and six months of therapy. I still don't walk well, but I won't give up until I do.

One of the cops told me later they kept the Viet-punks on the hot asphalt for over two hours. Maybe there is a little justice in the world. Each one of the creeps is being charged with seven felonies, including first-degree attempted murder and kidnapping. They are being held on \$1 million bail each.

In all, we recovered 60 guns the robbers took from the store, plus those brought with them. When these three guns were checked, authorities found they were stolen during two other robberies, one from Capra's Sporting Goods in Blaine, Minnesota on 13 June this year, and the other from a Marshall, Minnesota, gun store on 18 April 1991.

Fifteen handguns were stolen from the Blaine store, while 17 were taken in the Marshall robbery. Guns from these two holdups, recovered from Asians charged with other crimes, have been tied to drive-by shootings in Wausau, Wisconsin, and St. Paul, Minnesota.

Alan Pendelton, Anoka County's district attorney for Andover said, "It appears that these four people may be responsible for a series of gun store robberies, and that they were responsible for supplying Asian street gangs with firearms. Every gun we traced appeared to be involved in an Asian-related shooting." ❌

KURDISTAN

Continued from page 35

impossible after even a light shower. Our peace of mind was not enhanced when overtaken by a large, 4-wheel-drive jeep; the driver of which leaned out of his window to express the opinion that in attempting mountains in such as car as ours, we should not expect our bones to be found after the next winter snows had melted. Dismissing these remarks as Kurdish humor we made steady, if not comfortable, progress.

Not far from Almadeiha, back in the Coalition security zone, we gratefully rejoined a tarmac road and made better time. Along the way we drove past one of Saddam's numerous palaces built in the Kurdish mountains. Here Iraqi soldiers sullenly stood guard, allowed to remain by agreement with Coalition forces.

Stopping to photograph the palace was

an unwelcome intrusion on the Iraqi guards' lazy daily routine. Angry sentries menacingly brandished AK-47s and encouraged us to keep moving. Their sour humor was not enhanced by the abuse they received from locally-based British Royal Marines. The Marines were in the habit of driving past with a salute of naked backsides dangling over the side of their jeeps.

Across the valley a large scar was etched across a mountainside. This mysterious excavation was said to be linked to Saddam's secret nuclear development program. It was still guarded by Iraqi military. The Pesh Merga claimed this was again by agreement with the Coalition.

Over the last mountain ridges on the run back to the border town of Zaku, there was ample evidence of Coalition air activity in the form of C-130 transporters, A-10 tank busters and Chinook helicopters. It was the Fourth of July, and U.S. troops based near Zaku down on the plain were celebrating.

In the central compound there were barbecued burgers and cold beer. The concrete walls of the occupied Iraqi-army base reverberated with rock 'n' roll. As soldiers lined up for courtesy-phone booths in the blistering heat to call home, loudspeakers blasted out the refrain to the old Animals' song ...

"We gotta' get out of this place, if it's the last thing we ever do ..."

Then the lyrics were drowned out by the clatter of a Cobra gunship flying low overhead.

Within a month the Americans had left Kurdistan.

Poised Hammer

When Coalition forces pulled out and moved to a forward base in Turkey, near Silopi, as part of the "Poised Hammer" trip-wire force, they were positioned to deter Saddam from any further military action against the Kurds. They did not have long to wait.

In late July there were clashes between Iraqi soldiers and Kurds near Suleimaniya. Kurdish reports claimed between dozens and several hundred killed. Since this occurred south of the 36th parallel, the line set by the Coalition for Poised Hammer intervention, no action was taken. By early August Turkish army forces launched an attack into Iraqi Kurdistan, within Poised Hammer's jurisdiction, attempting to flush out members of the Turkish Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). This action was by prior agreement with Saddam and, according to press reports, involved the deaths of some two dozen Kurdish civilians. Coalition forces took no action, nor was any official complaint lodged with the U.N.

Coalition forces are already planning to phase out Poised Hammer deployment as, contrary to the evidence, they feel Saddam is now both unwilling and unable to

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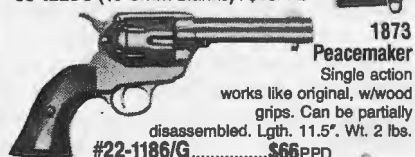
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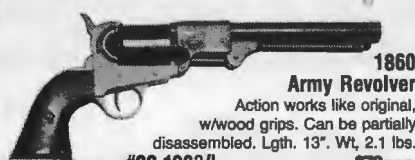
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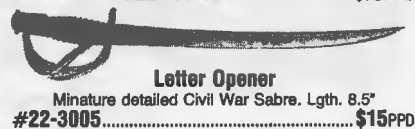
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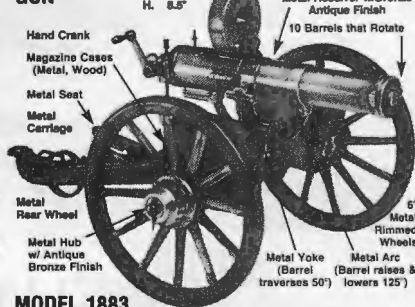


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embark on further military action against the Kurds.

Such recent events seem to prove the sad truth of the old Kurdish proverb which anyone who travels in Kurdistan will hear:

"The Kurds have no friends but the mountains."

Peter Douglas is a combat photojournalist who has covered wars throughout the world for SOF.

SALVADOR

Continued from page 55

a pile of tin cans. Hopefully, Turcios would eventually get his troops to clean this place.

Just Like Vietnam

There was no contact that night. When we got up in the morning, we ate breakfast and gratefully accepted some coffee given to us by the people living in houses nearby. It was obvious that the local population clearly was on the side of the army. We then hitched onto a little patrol that took us back to the military zone and headquarters.

Everyone said the same thing here as in Vietnam: If you let us fight, we'll clear out the guerrillas. We're handcuffed. Now the guerrillas are entrenched and it's very

difficult to do anything about it.

Anytime the guerrilla units do stand and fight, the army puts up a real good show. The emphasis now is on individual soldiering, because with the introduction of SAM-7s and SAM-14s to the guerrilla units, the army has become a lot more reluctant to give close air support to ground troops. The air force does its flying at night, primarily on resupply and medevac missions.

Officers and men have their work cut out for them here. In their opinion, what happens in Chalatenango now will have a direct bearing on what happens in El Salvador for many years to come.

We thanked Turcios. Joe Summers gave him his personal pair of binoculars. The colonel was touched to receive such a gift. Salvadorans troops are very sensitive to friends, but to the enemy, they can be pretty hard boys.

Jack Thompson, a former Marine, divides his time between his security consultant business and reporting for SOF.

TORTURE

Continued from page 45

— wash the blood off their hands, change their blood-splattered clothing, then go home to their families with no more

emotion that returning from the office or a Rotary meeting.

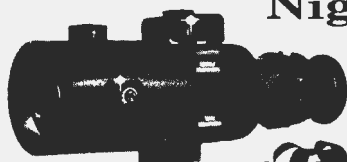
The torturer's psyche is beyond comprehension, as the story of the great Israeli spy, Wolfgang Lotz, illustrates. When the Egyptians discovered his real identity, they imprisoned and tortured Lotz for weeks. Lotz later described to acquaintances how some days the Egyptians would torture him until lunch, at which time they would take a break. He was permitted to wash up and change into a suit, then lunch at the table with his tormentors, all the while discussing a wide range of topics from philosophy to politics, like old friends. After lunch, however, he would change back into his prison rags and they would resume torturing him.

Some of the nicknames of torturers conjure up nightmarish images. There was El Lobo ("the Wolf") in Honduras, a doctor who abandoned the Hippocratic Oath at night, turning his skills to torturing people with the same instruments he used daytimes to relieve suffering. During the 1960s, Brazil boasted a creature known as "Frankenstein," and several Latin American countries had torturers nicknamed "Dracula." Klaus Barbi, a fugitive Nazi, operated a Bolivian death squad known as "The Husbands of Death."

Every death squad in recent years, moreover, seems to have had at least one individual nicknamed "Blowtorch,"

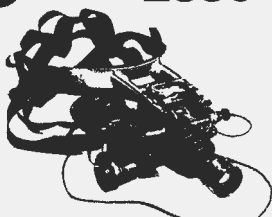
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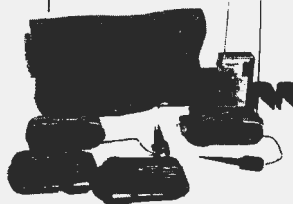


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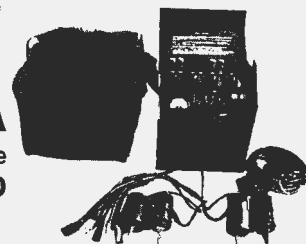
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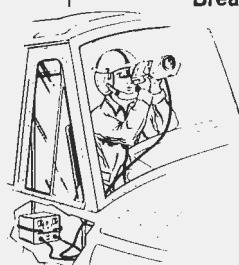
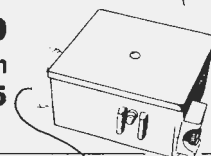


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indicative of just how common the blowtorch has become as an instrument of torture and interrogation. Guatemala's "Blowtorch" was a lean man with tinted glasses and a pencil-thin moustache who, true to Hannah Arendt's description of Eichmann in terms of the "banality of evil," was soft-spoken, polite and physically unimposing.

He drove an old white Fiat convertible, exhibiting a reckless disregard for his own security. He spoke fondly, almost sentimentally, of American television and a trip to Disney World. He even sported a Disney World bumper sticker on his car. But when men spoke of "Blowtorch" their voices dropped to a whisper and their eyes ranged around to make certain no one was eavesdropping.

El Salvador's "Blowtorch" by contrast, was reported to be "Blowtorch Bob" D'Aubuisson, the former rightist presidential candidate, who allegedly had the 1984 election stolen from him by the Reagan administration. It was feared D'Aubuisson's election would make it impossible to win congressional approval for economic and military aid to El Salvador.

Accordingly, the hand-picked choice of the Reagan administration was the late Jose Napoleon Duarte, an American-educated moderate capable of attracting support in the U.S. Congress and the American media. The CIA provided at least \$1 million to Duarte's Christian

Democratic Party and \$430,000 to the National Coalition Party, headed by presidential candidate Francisco Jose Guerrero.

At the last minute the CIA may have actually engineered a sweeping vote-fraud conspiracy to steal the election from D'Aubuisson, who appeared to be winning in spite of the agency's best efforts.

D'Aubuisson was linked to the murder of Roman Catholic Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero in March 1980, and accused of being "godfather" of the nation's death squads. According to reliable reports, D'Aubuisson and his men would cruise the streets of San Salvador after dark in customized vans. Victims were dragged into the van, strapped to a table bolted to its floor, and worked over with blowtorches, electric shock and other torture devices. Women were often gang-raped. The lucky ones were released on the city's outskirts; the bodies of those less fortunate were dumped alongside roads.

AI maintains that fully one-third of the world's governments engage in practices which can be described as torture. As a result, numerous international conventions outlawing torture have been promulgated, such as the United Nations Declarations Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. But if they're hooking you up to a field telephone, don't look to the United Nations for protection.

Many of the signatories to the U.N.

declaration are the very countries responsible for much of the globe's torture, including Algeria, China, Cuba, Guatemala, Guinea, Gambia, Libya, Peru, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey and Uganda. The Organization of American States (OAS) and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) also have conventions banning torture, but once again, many of the signatories are governments which regularly use torture against their opponents.

The use of torture will not diminish until governments like the United States make it clear, once and for all, that torturers — individuals and governments alike — will be held accountable and punished for their depredations. A good first step would be for the U.S. to bring to justice the Iraqi torturers — including their commander-in-chief Saddam Hussein — responsible for abuse of the Coalition fliers and the gruesome murders of so many Kuwaitis.

Neil Livingstone is an adjunct professor at several institutions, including Georgetown University. His areas of expertise include terrorism and security topics.

KOREAN MARINES

Continued from page 63

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communism continues to fall apart. Its armed legions, though still dangerous, find themselves hamstrung by political changes wracking their societies. In cases such as East Germany, they no longer even exist.

This is not the case in East Asia. In this portion of the globe, diehards still harbor dreams of communist victory. China, Vietnam, North Korea ... all have tightened the political screws even as their own societies demand change.

In North Korea, aging dictator Kim Il Sung, 79 — the only ruler of the northern peninsula region in postcolonial history (it was under Japanese rule before World War II) — still plans for a reunification by force of arms. No matter that the market economy of the South has since surpassed, and now dwarfs, its northern counterpart. Or that Seoul has increasingly moved into the democratic mainstream even as the Orwellian North maintains its totalitarian controls. "Liberation" remains the communist goal.

Faced with a military machine in the North of some 800,000 troops, mostly deployed in assault positions, South Korea must maintain its own substantial armed forces. Universal service is in effect, and four entire armies stand ready to repulse communist forces. Deployed with them is an understrength U.S. 2nd Infantry Division of just four infantry, two armor and three artillery battalions (see "SOF on the DMZ," November '90). It is a commitment to joint defense — but the punch must come from Koreans themselves.

And it does. Their own experience in the brutal Korean War prompted Seoul's agreement in deploying forces to South Vietnam at America's request. Ultimately, two entire army divisions joined the Blue Dragon Brigade. All three units were highly regarded. However, the marines served as the example of just how good Koreans could be.

"We loved working with the Blue Dragons," recounts a former U.S. Marine colonel and aviator. "Their area was always squared away."

That it was. In one remarkable engagement, at Cha Bin Dong in February 1967, a company of 100 marines stood fast against a reinforced regiment. The marines suffered 15 KIA but policed up more than 300 Viet Cong bodies. Of such sharp encounters are legends born.

Returning home as heroes, the marines were soon forced to grapple with a new challenge — defining their role in South Korean defense. As less than 30,000 men, sandwiched amid two elephantine forces of nearly 1.5 million troops, the marines might have been judged irrelevant, swept aside like a fragile referee caught between two sumo wrestlers.

Threatened By Marine Unity

By 1973 the marines' independent status was terminated; their commander losing four stars in favor of three, thus

outranked by the navy's chief admiral. Organic marine air assets were given over to the air force. Marine airborne capabilities were dismantled and special warfare roles assigned to army units.

A 30-year marine veteran, now a farmer, displaying a keen feel for realities of Korean politics says, "All politicians who have been in power recently have felt threatened by the marines. They (the politicians) were all former army generals, and they felt army units could undertake special missions. Further, marine unity threatened them. So they worked at developing the army at the expense of the marines.

"But no one could argue that the marines weren't necessary, because Korea is surrounded by the sea. We are a peninsula which also has many (adjoining) islands. Therefore, we need a force that can function on both land and sea," he adds. "This is why the marines are crucial. Our main purpose was to be able to use amphibious assault techniques to strike in the enemy's rear."

Shades of MacArthur in a rice paddy! A farmer and former corporal discussing Inchon, the brilliant landing near Seoul which turned the enemy's flank even while he battered at the gates of Pusan in those dark days of 1950.

"It's common sense," he shrugs.

So it is. Consequently, marines focus training on all aspects of amphibious landing. The main drill area at Pohang bustles constantly, as units rotate in to sharpen LVT (Landing Vehicle Tank) skills.

Techniques and equipment are drawn mainly from the American model. Indeed, while South Korea's domestic arms industry produces most all its equipment for ground combat — including artillery and armor — LVTs are still bought from the U.S. Doctrinally, there is greater independence now, as the corps has developed skills fitting to Korean circumstances.

In particular, the ROK marines emphasize mobility. This more often than not means on foot, as the terrain of both Koreas is dominated by rugged, forested hills and mountains. Hence, unit Tables of Organization & Equipment (TOE) are lighter than in comparable U.S. outfits.

Relations With The USMC

This aside, U.S. influence remains much in evidence. Relations with the U.S. Marine Corps are close, and a visitor to a Korean marine outfit might well be forgiven thinking he has been transported to Camp Pendleton.

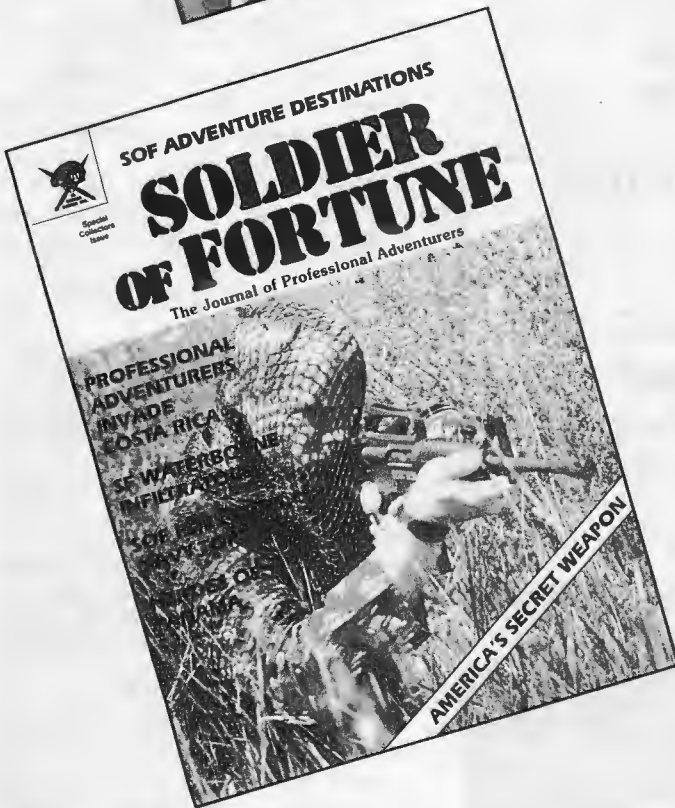
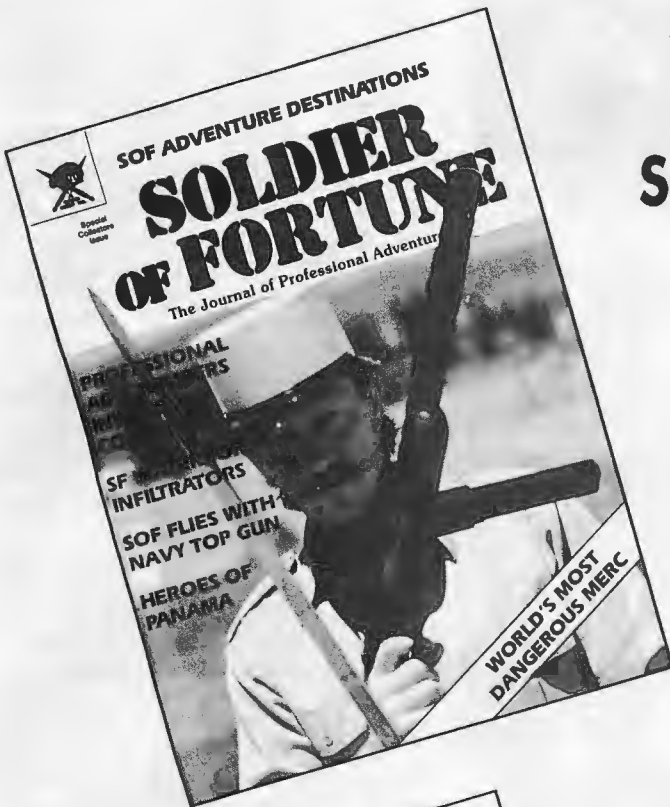
"We have close relations with USMC," Major General Kwak J.S., commander of the Korean First Marine Division, states. "We learn from them, especially from their doctrine and manuals. We regularly send our officers to U.S. military schools, and we train together. We're fortunate to have the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force

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so close in Okinawa."

Present, too, is the sense that marines, while masters of amphibious warfare, can do virtually anything, do it well and on a moment's notice. Until cutbacks began, training focused on a whole range of rapid deployment skills. Marines became adept at airborne and mountain warfare, as well as traditional missions associated with the sea. Though formal division of the annual training schedule into this tripartite skill structure has ended, the techniques continue to be taught.

"Our terrain is very rugged," Brigadier General Chun analyzes. "This makes the line of communication of any invading force very vulnerable. By using a variety of alternative means, we can create options for ourselves, open up another dimension of the battlefield."

"We have looked at the lessons of Air-Land Battle," Maj. Gen. Kwak says. "We also understand that the Soviet Union has influenced the North Koreans according to OMG (Operational Maneuver Group) doctrine. Thus we understand the type of war we must be ready to wage."

"By forward deploying its units, the North opens up options for us. Modern means of movement and communication — take for instance airmobile and amphibious operations in coordination with heavy units — allow us to exploit his weak points, especially his flanks and his rear areas," Kwak adds.

To train men who can give substance to this strategy of indirect approach, the marines go after the very best. Recruiting virtually takes care of itself. With universal service in force, all but the most lean periods — "those with very hot summers and very cold winters," laughs Chun — see more than enough young men volunteer outright, rather than wait for their draft summons and a likely ticket into the army.

Numbers, then, are not a problem. Neither is retention, with statistics showing re-enlistment rates above 50 percent. What the marines wish to ensure is quality. For only with quality comes the performance necessary for the fast-paced battlefield envisioned by marine doctrine.

Making Marines

To this end, training is intense. New recruits are already those fortunate enough to be selected — "It is very competitive to be a marine," one soldier tells me. They see themselves as special and they are thrown immediately into an environment which, in addition to teaching them basic skills, stresses physical toughening.

"We have to emphasize physical training," an NCO notes matter-of-factly. "The new generation has to study so hard that they are in bad physical shape. First we get them into physical shape; then we develop their minds and their spirit. We do all of this even before tactical competence."

In effect, the initial six weeks of the

universal 30-month term is but a transition from civilian to marine life. There is Advanced Individual Training (AIT) only for certain technical skills. Real training begins for most soldiers only after they move onto their units. By this point, prospective NCOs will already have been separated and enrolled at their own 16-week school. Officers come from either OCS (Officer Candidate School) or the Naval Academy and receive their own advanced training principally through the school systems of the army and navy.

There are no particular disciplinary problems. "Once in a while someone will get drunk," an NCO observes, "but it doesn't get out of hand. To my knowledge, we have no drug use. Combat readiness remains our greatest concern. That is what we train for."

The amphibious mission serves the corps well in this respect. "Annually, we conduct battalion, regimental and large scale amphibious assaults," Chun notes. "This allows us to exercise virtually our entire force in a combined forces role."

As the team begins to come together, bodies and minds are toughened still further. All personnel, for instance, receive instruction in martial arts. The best of the best move into ever-more sophisticated units, such as the special reconnaissance companies which are organic to the divisions. There, training will include everything from demolitions to winter warfare techniques.

Interestingly, the small size of the Corps again works to its advantage in specialized training. Rather than maintaining a network of formal service schools of its own, the marines use trained personnel, once they have graduated from the courses of other services — for example, the Army Special Warfare School or the Navy Underwater Demolition School — to instruct all other personnel in their units. Though this at times results in an increased accident rate, in-house training fosters a higher degree of individual responsibility and unit morale: all for one and one for all.

Such a system is only possible, of course, due to the high quality of the cadre. "We have very high retention of NCOs and officers," Kwak notes, "so we can be ready." With such experienced, highly motivated leadership, the corps can function at a level a cut above the ordinary.

"Morale, discipline, and effectiveness depend upon your leaders," Chun says flatly. "If you have strong leadership, keep a high level of discipline and morale, your leaders must first be at that level. The men cannot reach a level higher than their leaders. Because we have experienced personnel, we can lead by example."

The example of the marines has inspired South Korea in the more than four decades that the corps has been in existence. Yet the force recognizes it must function in a changing society. Development has brought with it structural upheaval and a questioning of previous assumptions. Even

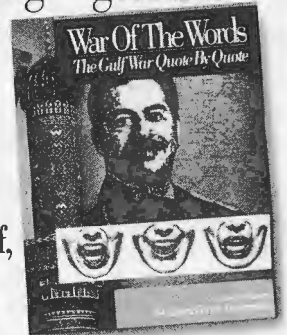
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the defense of South Korea has not been immune from criticism by passionate but frequently misguided advocates of a new order.

Changing Values

Most troubling to the marines, whose entire leadership cut its teeth in combat against communists, is the notion advanced by radicals that defense is something artificial created by the military to solidify its historical domination of domestic politics.

In the marine museum at Pohang, grisly pictures of bullet-riddled corpses and displays of captured gear — the flotsam of thwarted North Korean infiltration efforts — serve as eloquent testimony to an undiminished North Korean effort for peninsular domination. Yet there are those who claim it is all a hoax.

The problem for the Korean military is to stay vigilant and prepared even while political leaders pursue rapprochement with the North. In the West we have already experienced how difficult this can be. And South Korea has less room to survive a miscalculation.

"We are in a defensive posture," a marine general states. "We're not preparing to attack anyone. But we will defend ourselves. When you look at what the communists have done, it is not too difficult to discern that they are thinking about something (a possible attack). They

are constantly active, probing. The North maintains its dream of reunifying the country by force; 65% of its forces are along the DMZ. They are constantly ready to attack, so we must be ready to protect ourselves."

Such protection requires a multifaceted effort. Another marine general observes, "We don't have problems with drugs or alcohol. We're more worried about the infiltration of communist ideas. So we're very watchful. Certain student elements are already influenced. What we want to do is to prevent subversion within the armed forces.

"We cannot afford to underestimate our enemy," he continues. No marines have defected to North Korea, but some army recruits have, thinking they were running to a paradise. In the marines we are very strict about who is recruited. We allow no radicals. Of course, if they were to get in, they would fail due to our atmosphere. Our beliefs and our training build pride — there is no space for the communists to penetrate."

Communism and threats from the North are no doubt far from the minds of the grunting, sweating troops going through their training paces. As they run up and down the beach with alternating 20kg and 30kg packs (44 or 66 pounds each) under a blistering sun, as they scramble up and down the assault course, as they march up and down wave after wave of hills, the

men focus on sheer survival.

"Sure I demonstrated as a student," Bo-Nyon pants. "But now things are different."

Very different, he might have added. From an authoritarian political structure, South Korea has progressed to the status of functioning democracy. Elected officials hold the reins of power. Yet this is not enough for a small, hardcore radical element, which annually, during "demonstration season," turns the streets of the capital and other urban centers into the semblance of a football game. The radicals do not have a corner on the demonstration market, but they make the most noise.

A healthy proportion of all marine personnel today, in fact, seem to have been politically active; that is, at one time or another during their student years they have actually been out in the streets demonstrating for or against something. This is virtually a rite of passage for Korean university students (not only do the marines now draw the bulk of their recruits from university graduates, but more than half of the population at large, according to recent statistics, earns a degree from a four-year college). But such activism does not interfere with discipline.

"We developed many of our traditions to foster pride within the marines," notes the training circular mentioned earlier. "Now, as the country becomes more

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democratic, the marines must change, too."

From all indications, the marines have done just that. A senior NCO preparing to depart the corps for a business opportunity states, "We must pay more attention to personal concerns, but this is still the marines. The corps has been like a teacher for me. I've learned that nothing is impossible. You can do anything as long as you work hard. Besides, I'm not really leaving: Once a marine, always a marine — that's our motto. What makes us different is our unity."

"Unity." It is an end that most Koreans desire for their own divided land. The South is fortunate to be guarded by the descendants of the Blue Dragons. Their own unity and *esprit* are the insurance policy that reunification, when it comes, will be a triumph for democracy over dictatorship. They stand as some of the last centurions on the frontiers of freedom.

Dr. Tom Marks is SOF's Chief Foreign Correspondent.

FANTASTIC .45

Continued from page 59

ingrained, so maybe it doesn't matter. I know people who shoot with colored sights and like them and I wouldn't quarrel

with that, but we don't put them on the gun unless they are special-ordered.

RKB: What does the Slim Line option cost?

JC: The Slim Line job costs at this time \$250 over and above the cost of the weapon.

RKB: You would think some of the small, custom producers would build .45s on such a frame.

JC: You would think so. But the trend is not toward honest guns. It's toward something that has about six levers on the left side and shoots two different ways. In other words, a double-action automatic pistol. You couldn't sell anybody in the industry on bulk production of a single-action automatic pistol today. Excellence is one thing but sales is another. There are probably fewer than 10,000 people in the world who understand pistols.

Most probably have their equipment the way they want it. Trying to build excellence into firearms is a tricky business. It can be done, but you are always running up against the question of how many people are knowledgeable enough to spend the money.

TOP MERC TEACHES OLD DOGS OF WAR NEW TRICKS

RKB's new Gunsite Service Pistol provided a good excuse for a trip to the range. Jack Thompson was in town and was

drafted for duty as range officer. Jack is a professional soldier whose military career began with USMC service, continued through a completed tour with the Rhodesian SAS (the first American to accomplish this) and Selous Scouts, and today involves security and adviser assignments in several Third World trouble spots. Jack knows what he's doing where weapons and tactics are concerned.

Unlike soldiers who have served with only one service, Jack has been free to explore new ideas and develop techniques that work, rather than conform to a particular military dogma. Jack's pistol technique is the product of experience as a soldier, privateer, Olympic-style free pistol competitor, IPSC shooter and coach. His skill as a shooter keeps him employed as well as alive.

In addition to RKB, Jack and myself, Major Mike Williams (10th Special Forces Group, Rhodesian Army Grey Scouts) and Colonel Alex McColl (former province adviser, RVN) were present. Weapons included the GSP, a Colt Commander (light-weight version) and two Combat Commanders.

All were .45 ACP — 'Murican guns, 'Murican caliber. We wanted to run a variety of ammo through the GSP to test functioning, so we had about a thousand rounds of Remington, Winchester and PMC hardball, Winchester Silvertip and Remington hollow-points, as well as some miscellaneous ammo that had been collecting in Alex's pistol kit. We also had several Mag-Pac 8-round magazines. No technical shooting aids — Ransom Rests, sandbags, etc. — were used; RKB wanted to test the GSP



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in the manner it was designed to be used.

Jack put the first eight rounds through the GSP, punching a 1 3/4-inch group inside the 10-ring of a combat silhouette at 10 meters. Not bad for the first time with a new pistol, I thought. Wrong answer, Airborne. Jack was not happy: "Terrible, just terrible. Let me try that again." He reloaded, stepped to the firing line, took a strong Weaver-type stance and emptied the magazine. This time all eight rounds cut one ragged hole about 5/8-inch in diameter, obliterating the X. Jack's comment: "Now that's the way I'm used to shooting." The rest of us kind of looked at each other.

RKB fired next, printing a respectable sub 2-inch group inside the 10-ring. Jack watched him shoot. "Good shooting, Bob. But you want a little more power from the tricep of your strong arm going into the grip." He demonstrated, then had RKB shoot five more rounds. The group shrank to 1 inch inside the 10-X. But Jack wasn't through. "Better, Bob. Now I want you to equalize the strength in both hands."

With A Grip Of The Wrist

Jack demonstrated this by gripping RKB's wrist as if it was a pistol grip, alternately gripping more with the left and right hands. Then he gripped equally with both. RKB could feel the grip around his wrist when the pressure was equalized. Then Jack switched places with him and had RKB repeat the exercise on him to reinforce the teaching point. RKB put five more rounds into the target, shrinking his group to 5/8 inch.

Now, Col. McColl took a turn with his Commander: all shots in the black, but not tight. Jack went to work. "OK, Alex. Let's

work on that grip. I want you to have hand on hand, thumb on thumb. Press down on your right thumb with the thumb of your support hand. You're shooting with parallel thumbs, which isn't as strong."

While Alex practiced, Jack watched Maj. Williams and me. He noticed that we both tended to "teacup" our Combat Commanders, gripping with the left (support) hand under the shooting hand, even though our thumbs were properly interlocked. Jack had us adjust our grips, bringing our support hands up to the underside of the trigger housing. He then coached us to equalize the pressure exerted by both hands. Our groups shrank from the 2-inch range to the 1-inch range.

Jack wasn't through with me, though. "Chuck, that Colt has a pretty heavy combat trigger. That's OK, but it means that you've got to concentrate on an even squeeze. I want you to pull that trigger smoothly, straight back, like you're pressuring the brakes on your bicycle, slowing down just enough to make a tight, downhill turn."

Jack knew I was an avid bicyclist, and he consciously chose a metaphor for evenly squeezing the trigger he knew I could relate to. It worked: My shots started going in one on top of the other, and the X disappeared into a ragged hole. I had never shot that well in 20 years of experience with the .45.

Jack showed us an exercise he uses to teach trigger control: While RKB gripped the now-empty GSP, Jack pressed against RKB's relaxed trigger finger until the hammer dropped, asking him to call the pull "right" or "wrong." "I use this in Guatemala with my *paracaidistas*," Jack commented. "It works pretty well if they're not pulling

smoothly. You can't just explain a technique; you've got to get the shooter to feel what you want him to do."

So Jack Thompson "trained the trainers" that afternoon. All of us improved significantly, and no one was a novice to begin with. RKB has coached military pistol teams and was already an expert shot by military standards, and Mike, Alex and I were all experienced with the 1911A1 from the military.

Marked Improvement

Jack wasn't surprised that we improved. "Most military guys aren't very good shots. Let's face it, the Army just doesn't emphasize shooting. What do you get, one or two days on the range a year as part of your required training after basic and AIT? The rest of the time, you're running around with blanks. No one learns to shoot like that."

Back to the GSP. So far, it had functioned fine — no misfires or failures to feed or eject with a few hundred rounds of various ammo; fine performance for a brand new pistol, not yet broken in. And the groups were plenty tight. RKB and Jack were punching 1/2-inch to 3/4-inch five-shot groups. Jack had one more test in mind.

"Let's move back to the 100-meter line," he suggested. "I want to see how it shoots from a little distance. I get a lot of my work by long-range shooting." Shooting five rounds at a fresh silhouette, Jack put two shots squarely into the torso, one in the shoulder and one in the upper arm. The fifth missed the torso by an inch. Two kills, two disabling wounds, one near miss from 100 meters. Yeah, the Gunsite Service Pistol shoots OK. So does Jack Thompson.

— Chuck Fremont

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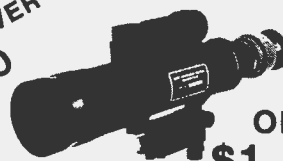
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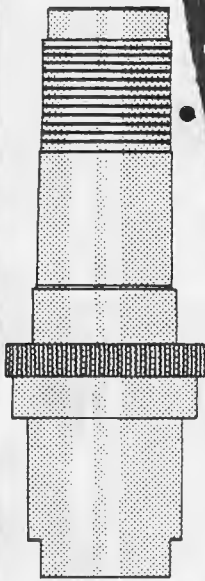
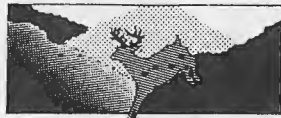


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KIA OR ALIVE?

Continued from page 51

prevent Carr's captors from perhaps moving or harming him.

"Bailey was ill-advised" in ignoring the advice, Usury said. "The residual effects have been devastating."

Real Assistance

And Bailey's half-cocked behavior left a sour taste in his mouth, Charney said. Charney has performed hundreds of hours of lab work at no charge, and traveled thousands of miles at his own expense to aid surviving MIA family members.

"Bailey had no business calling a press conference when he did," Charney said. "He threw away whatever credibility he had. I'd have to think twice before working with him again."

Charney said he also was annoyed because he received calls from three different MIA families to whom Bailey had spoken, leaving them "with the impression that I had been somehow silenced by the Pentagon because I would not attend his press conference. That's ridiculous."

But the Pentagon had its own aspersions to cast on Charney's professional reputation. In an interview for an article published in the 10 August issue of *Human Events* magazine, Commander Edward Lundquist, acting as a spokesman for the Secretary of Defense, alleged Charney was being paid to reach certain conclusions.

"I've been told by a reporter that Charney is on the payroll of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee," Lundquist was quoted as saying in *Insight*. "In other words, those guys who are trying to debunk the U.S. government efforts are paying him. That draws questions in my mind as to whether this man is biased."

"I'm not on anybody's payroll and never have been," Charney said. "And I will do Commander Lundquist the favor to say that he knew that was a damned lie when he said it. Nobody ever gave me a bloody dime to work on any of this. If he really thought that to be true, all he had to do was check with the committee office. It's common knowledge that their budget and disbursements are public record."

For whatever it says about Charney, the Pentagon, meanwhile, is not dismissing Bailey's photo or Charney's conclusion that it is indeed of Carr.

"Our position right now is that we don't know," a Pentagon spokesman, Lieutenant Rich Oborn, told SOF in late August. "It might be him, and it might not."

Matthew Carr said he has no doubt the picture is of his brother.

"I identified him with one look," he told SOF. "As soon as I saw it, I knew it was him. I don't think the government wants to believe it. But we're not waiting for them. I told my brother's son, Don

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Junior, we'll do something. I made a promise to him. That's his dad and we're going to do everything in our power to bring him home again."

James L. Pate is a newspaper editor and former associate editor of SOF who has written extensively on the POW/MIA issue. ✕

COMBAT CRAFT

Continued from page 27

violent combat actions. The successful counterambush must be even more violent and explosive. To accomplish this, you need heavy weapons — LAWs, AT4s, M60s, M203s with HE grenades. LAWs are weak antiarmor weapons, but they work great on buildings and are quick to use.

A lead patrol going into an urban area should carry as many of the above weapons as possible. Firing LAWs or AT4s into the enemy's firing points will suppress that fire. They will also open up entry holes — "mouse-holes" always being preferable to doorways — into the ambush building. Grenades go in next, followed by the assault team.

At the same time the rockets and 203s are launching, your machine gunners should be laying fire on suspected firing points while the counter-snipers maneuver for cover and begin their activities. Smoke may help provide concealment, but the emphasis must be on assaulting the ambush and getting out of the kill zone. If you can get inside the principal building the enemy is using, you have a good chance to defeat him.

Be wary of dodging into adjacent buildings, since they likely will be mined. While the lead element is assaulting the ambush, the overwatch team is putting as much fire into the ambushers' hide-sites as they can. If the overwatch team has cover and is in a good position, they probably will want to stay put and concentrate on effective fire.

Once the enemy is aware of your presence inside his building, he likely will try to escape. Be careful about following too closely, since he may try to do hasty mining or lead you into a secondary ambush. He has the tactical advantage if he is above you. Grenades roll easily down stairwells. Firing LAWs vertically is not advised; the backblast will hit the floor by your feet, and bringing down a flood of rubble on your team will not help. M60 GPMGs will punch through most interior floors without excessive collateral damage.

To survive the ambush you must defeat it. Strike back hard, fast and smart. ✕

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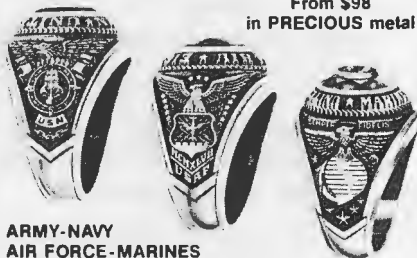
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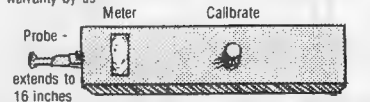
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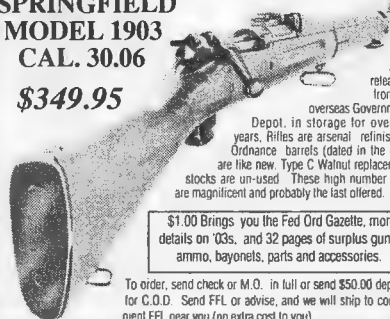


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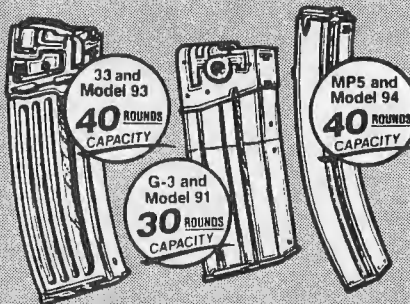
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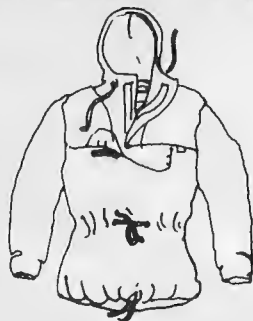
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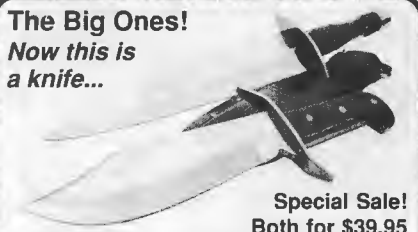
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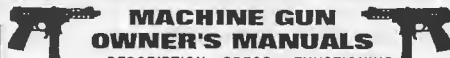


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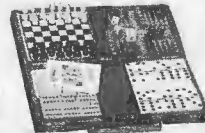
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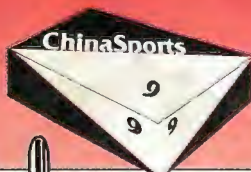
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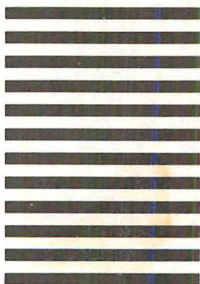
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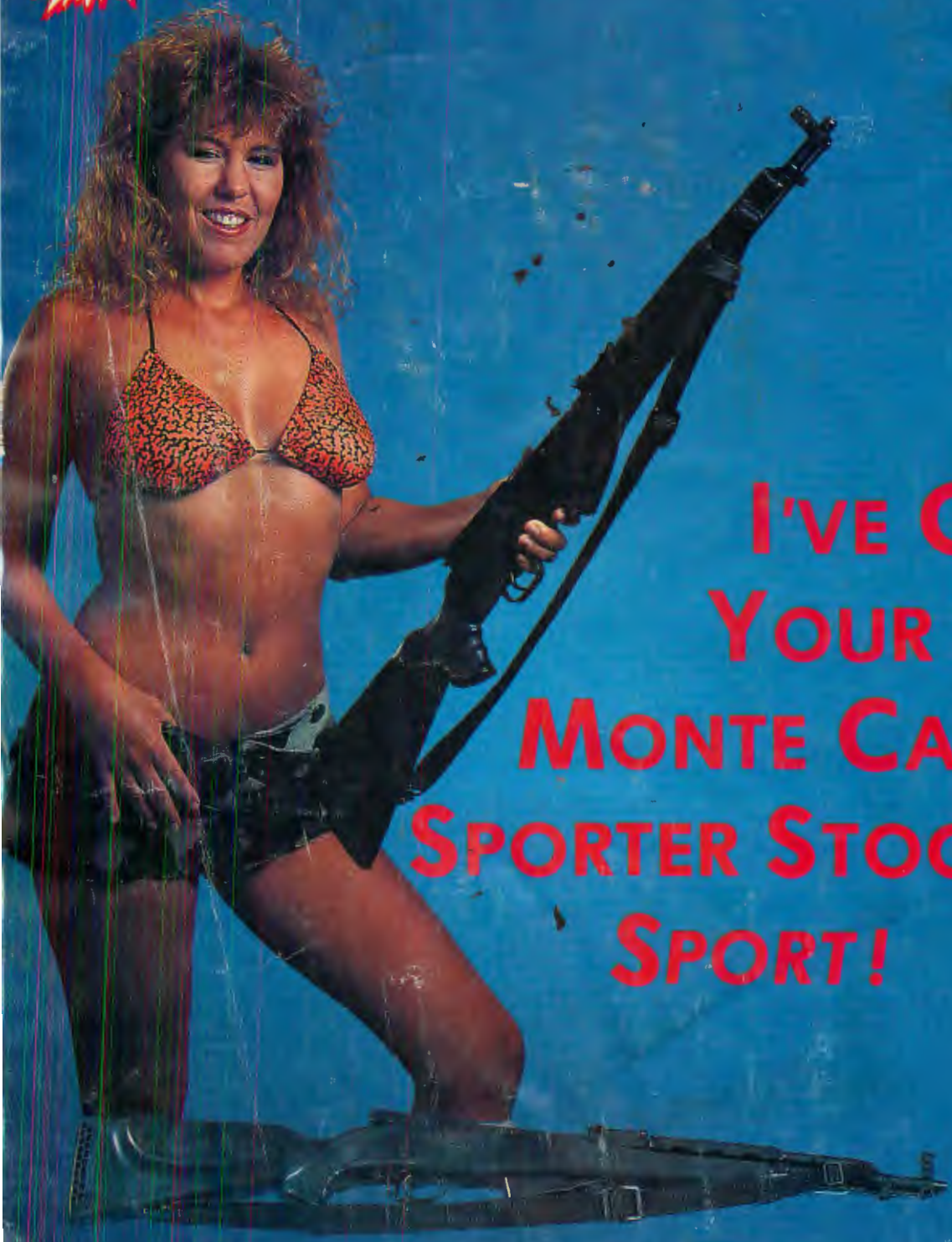
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