



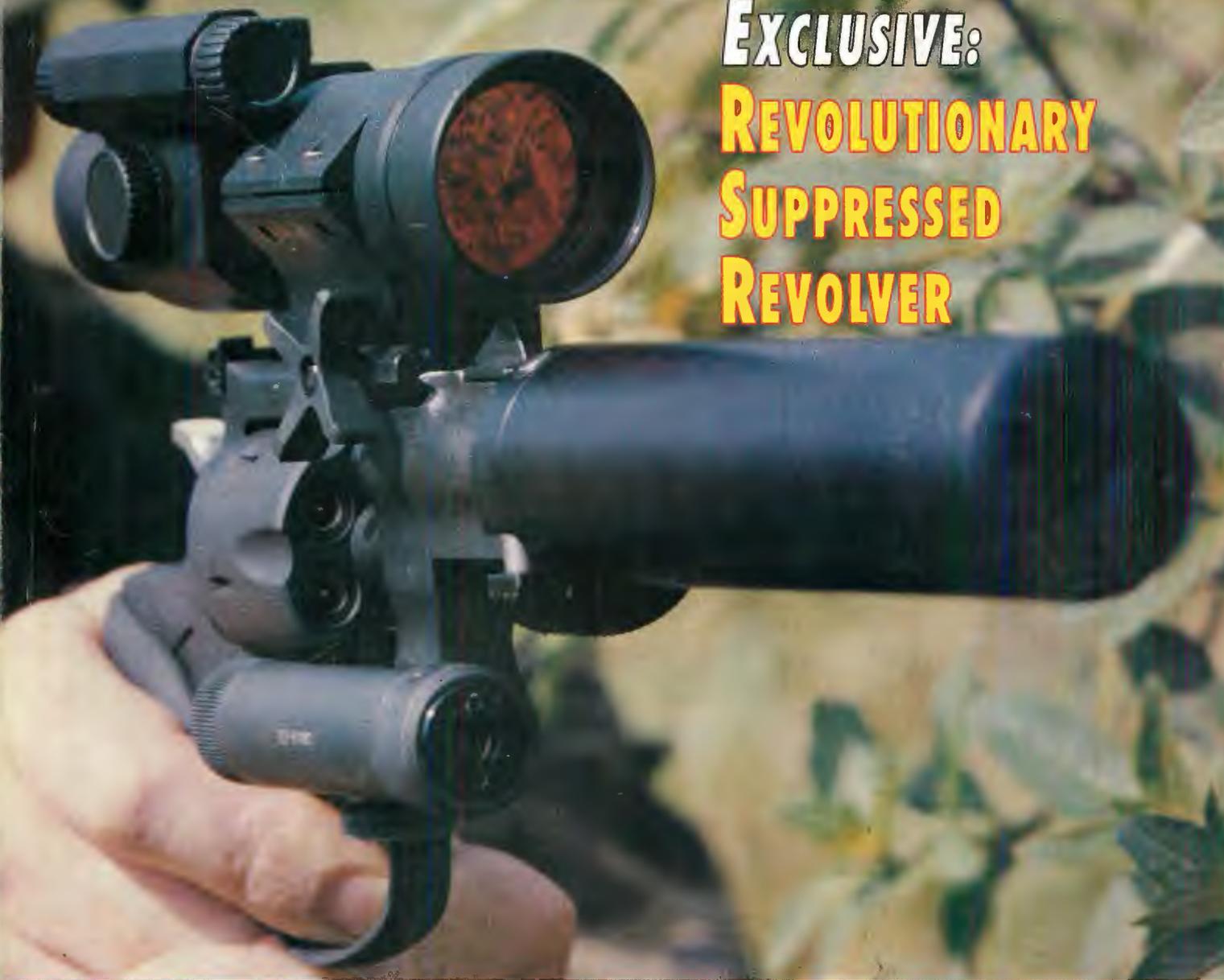
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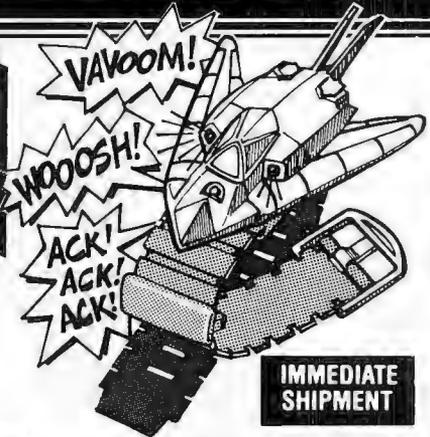
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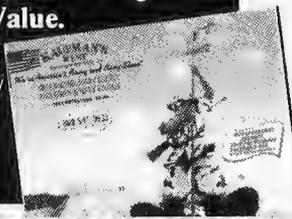
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## Battling The Dragons

Since 1989 there have been astounding changes. Except in Serbia, the communist regimes in Eastern Europe are gone; the Soviet Union, core of the "Evil Empire," is no more. Between the defeat in December 1989 of the communists' "general uprising" in El Salvador and the February 1990 elections in Nicaragua, the situation in Central America is radically improved. In Afghanistan, the Soviet army and the Najibullah puppet regime are gone. In short, Leninist socialism seems to be generally on the way out.

There are still too many (and one is too many) police state tyrants bullying people who can't hit back. The successor states to the Soviet Union are still a long way from tolerant pluralistic democracies with prosperous economies; they still have major military forces, including massive nuclear capabilities. With their bankrupt economies, the temptation to sell these nukes to the likes of Muammar Khadaffi and Saddam Hussein is going to be hard to resist.

China is still ruled by Stalinists. In 1989 they made it obvious that they cannot be removed without massive revolutionary violence. The Chinese people do not forget: Next time, the AKs will be on both sides of the barricades. Meanwhile, Beijing rules more than 1 billion people and has a very large armed force and a massive strategic nuclear capability. They also have internal nationalities problems and several disputed borders. Whether they will assume leadership of the international communist movement, is yet to be seen, but the potential is there.

In Cuba, as in China, the tyranny isn't even making cosmetic noises about liberalizing. Castro has a very large army, led by men with long experience in the Soviets' colonial wars in Africa, and he has a dismal record for making trouble.

In each of these, and in several other tyrannies (North Korea, Vietnam, Zimbabwe, Libya, Syria, Iran ...) there is no viable armed resistance, no civil opposition nor any assurance that, when the smash comes, the successor regime will be any improvement. A case in point is Afghanistan.

But, there are effective freedom fighter movements in Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kurdistan, Burma, Laos, Mozambique, Sudan and Suriname. In Colombia, Bolivia and Peru, dismal alliances between left-wing terrorists and super-rich drug thugs corrupt the police and the armed forces, and threaten the survival of friendly governments. Also, a Marxist-led insurgency in Guatemala, the Tamil rebellion in Sri Lanka, and a few other "small wars"

exist to be reported by the brave, tough, military-minded young men who do these things for us. All of this will be covered one way by CBS News and another way by *SOF*.

In short, there are still a lot of dragons out there to be slain.

And so, with the continuing support of our readers, the men of *SOF* will continue to bring you what's really going on in the dragon-slaying business, including taking on the occasional dragon ourselves.

And we are not alone. A newly formed entity called the U.S. Alliance for Freedom and Democracy (USAFD) has retired Major General Singlaub as honorary chairman, former Ambassador to Costa Rica and Colombia Lewis Tambs as chairman, and Joyce Downey as treasurer. These are old and loyal friends who have been battling the tyrants all their adult lives. The objective is to speak for the tortured and forgotten people in Laos, North Korea, Vietnam and wherever suffering under damnable tyranny will otherwise be forgotten. Their mailing address is P.O. Box 3023, Scottsdale, AZ 85271. Donations are gratefully received. ☸



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Photo: Tony Davis

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Photo: Rob Krott



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Reed Knight's revolutionary suppressed Revolver-Pistol is chambered for special telescoped ammunition and equipped with tritium emergency sights, Aimpoint 5000 red-dot sight and Terminator II-type laser sight.  
Photo: Peter G. Kokalis  
INSET: Iranian-backed Moslem extremists spell trouble for the West.  
Photo: Julian Gearing



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Photo: Jim Morris

# BULLETIN BOARD



## BACK A GOOD GUY...

Former California state Senator H. L. "Bill" Richardson is running for Congress in the newly formed 3rd District in California. Bill is a very strong, long-term vocal supporter of the citizen's right to keep and bear arms; he is a 10-year director of the NRA and has a 100% pro-gun voting record as a state senator.

Richardson has also been a strong supporter for cutting taxes and government spending, and advocates stiffer sentences for violent crimes. Bill is running against incumbent Rep. Vic Fazio, who is not "one of us."

Since graduating from college in 1966, Fazio has never been off the public payroll. His gun-rights record is best summed up by the fact that in 1990 he received \$2,500 from

When somebody saw a tractor wending its way through the mud of World War I and thought it might make a portable mount for a light artillery piece, the tank was conceived. And this wheeled farm tractor with homemade armor and mounting an HMG in Croatia may well share a common ancestry with a BRDM.

Photo: Eric Micheletti, *Raids* magazine

Handgun Control Inc. — the largest contribution in that year by HCI to any of the 435 members of Congress. In addition, Fazio's voting record on defense could hardly be worse: It includes voting against both the resolution authorizing President Bush to go ahead with the Gulf War, and against funding for the Patriot missile.

As a result of the 1990 census, California congressional districts

were re-drawn. The 3rd District is basically a new creation, which includes a lot more Republicans and conservative, rural Democrats than Fazio's former district. So this contest is far removed from the usual shoo-in for the incumbent. Its outcome affects all of us, and not only California's 4th (now 3rd) District. If you're in this district, be sure to *register and vote*. If not, you can make a valued contribution by sending a check to:

Richardson for Congress — 1992  
P.O. Box 276267, Sacramento, CA 95827.

We normally do not devote space in an international magazine to local elections. But *this* one rates an exception. — *Colonel Alex McColl*

## ASSAULT RIFLES NOT USED IN CALIFORNIA CRIMES

After a local nut-case shot up a Stockton school yard with an (illegally purchased-transported-possessed) semiauto AK back in 1988, California became the first state to outlaw sales of "assault" weapons. But the record reflects it was a pointless exercise.

As Steve Helsely, assistant director of the state's Division of Law Enforcement, told the *Los Angeles Times*, "These kinds of guns don't play a large role in violent crime and they never have." To wit: Of the fatal shootings investigated by the L.A. Police Department's South Bureau homicide unit in 1990 and 1991, less

*Continued on page 10*

President Andrew Molchan of the National Association of Federally Licensed Firearm Dealers (NAFLFD), left, presented the annual Cicero award to American Shooting Sports Coalition (ASSC) director Richard Feldman, right, for his pro-gun efforts. Presentation took place at the Law Enforcement Alliance of America booth at the NRA convention in Salt Lake City.

Photo: courtesy NAFLFD



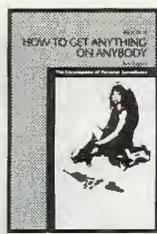


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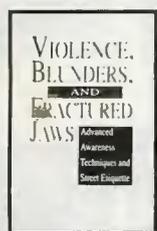
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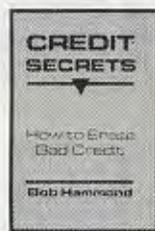
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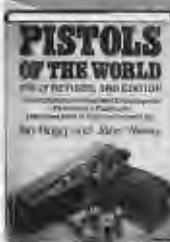
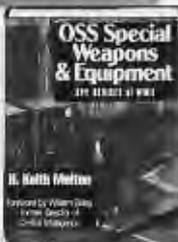
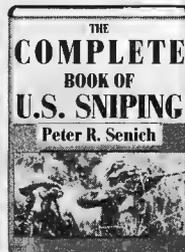
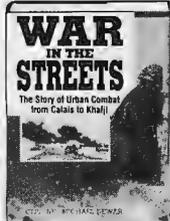
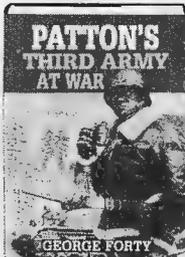
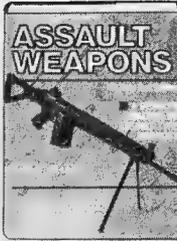
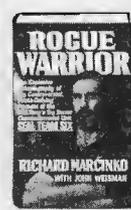
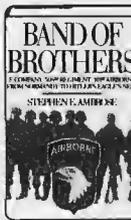
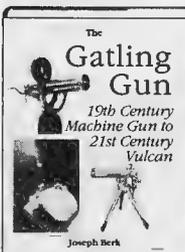
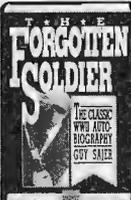
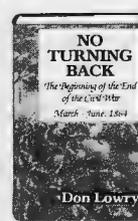
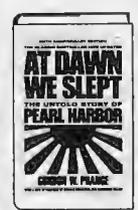
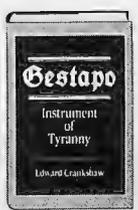
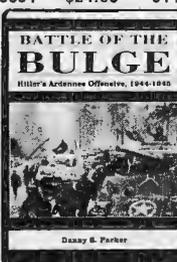
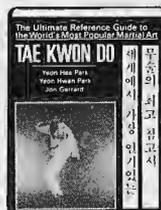
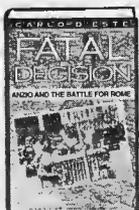
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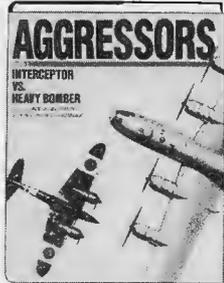
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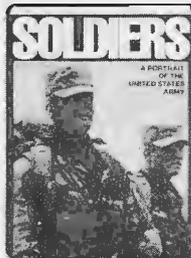
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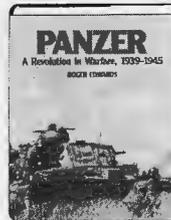
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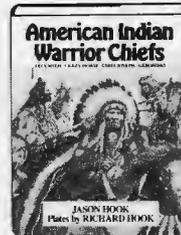
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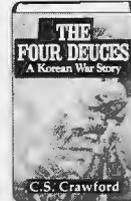
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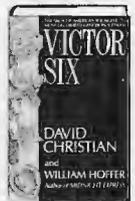
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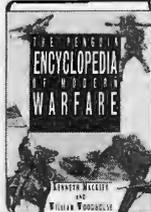
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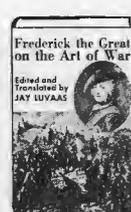
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than 2% involving "assault" weapons.

Of 341 gang-related fatal shootings investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in 1990 and 1991, only 28 involved "assault" weapons. Of 1,979 guns seized in 1990 by California narcs, only 58 were on the California list of banned "assault" weapons. Only six of 199 weapons examined by the Orange County Sheriff's crime lab were on the list. In Huntington Beach, it was only seven out of 264. San Diego police firearms examiners only saw two "assault" weapons of some 124 examined in connection with 1990 crimes.

Where's the crime associated with "assault" weapons? Oh, here it is: Of the 300,000 to 600,000 estimated "assault" weapons in California, only 70,000 were registered. Assuming a median number of 450,000 and subtracting the 70,000 which were registered, that leaves something like 380,000 "assault" gun owners who are now criminals by legislation.

#### CORRECTION...

The item in the July "Bulletin Board" entitled "Update: Lawmaster And The Phantom Accuser" contained an unfortunate misquote of Lawmaster's attorney Steven L. Sessinghaus, Esq. The subject quote *should* have read: "We're alleging wrongdoing by the government." *SOF* regrets this error.



California's state Senator H.L. "Bill" Richardson, now running for U.S. Congress in California's 3rd District — Competent, honest, uncompromising in his defense of individual rights of lawabiding citizens. Photo: courtesy Richardson for Congress

#### PEROT ON GUN RIGHTS...

NRA spokesman Jim Baker, questioned by *SOF* Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown regarding independent presidential candidate Ross Perot's position on gun rights, responded "We don't yet have the details on his position, but he is

#### U.S. POW/MIAs — ALIVE IN RUSSIA?

As we go to press, the dust is just clearing from the verbal bombshell dropped by Russian President Boris Yeltsin — U.S. POWs may still be alive in the former Soviet Union.

On 12 June, Yeltsin sent a letter to the U.S. Senate's Select Committee on POW and MIA Affairs, stating that nine U.S. aircraft were downed in the 1950s, with 12 surviving crewmen held in prison camps and "psychiatric clinics" of the Soviet *gulag*. He also revealed that perhaps hundreds of U.S. servicemen imprisoned in Nazi camps liberated by Soviet forces were held in Soviet labor camps long after World War II ended.

advocating a stronger criminal justice system response to violent crimes involving firearms, which is the NRA's position."

Any chance the NRA will endorse Perot? "We're not going to endorse anyone until after the conventions. And we're not ruling anyone out yet either. It's within the realm of possibility that the NRA will back Perot."

Perot stated that waiting periods and registration aren't the answers to gun violence during a call-in session on NBC's *Today* broadcast of 15 June. Look for a major article on Perot in an upcoming *SOF*.

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## CENTRAL MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS

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General Dmitri Volkogonov, head Russian representative on the joint U.S.-Russian commission checking reports of U.S. POWs in the former Soviet Union, stated an eccentric American reportedly living in the Ural Mountains may be one of these lost men.

On 15 June, Yeltsin followed with an NBC News interview, during which he said U.S. POWs from the Vietnam War "were transferred to the territory of the former USSR and were kept in labor camps. We don't have complete data and can only surmise that some of them may still be alive."

Later, addressing the U.S. Congress (17 June), Yeltsin said, "I promise you that each and every document in each and every archive will be examined in order to investigate the fate of every American unaccounted for. As president of Russia, I assure you that even if one American has been detained in my country, and can still be found, I will find him. I will get him back to his family." He received a standing ovation.

During the Korean War, photo reconnaissance and weather missions along and over Northeast Asia (probably including the Siberian coast, Sakhalin island, the Korean peninsula and China) were flown by RB-29 aircraft based in northern Japan. These World War II-era bombers were no match for MiG-15 interceptors, and a

number were lost. Some crewmen were captured by the North Koreans and Chinese.

One RB-29 pilot, repatriated after the war, told U.S. officials of being questioned by Korean captors about other U.S. airmen who were MIA and presumed dead. A Russian officer was present at his interrogation. A standard procedure following a POW interrogation is to cross-check the information one prisoner has given you with another prisoner's, and this aviator believed this was the Russian's intention. He felt this strongly indicated that the Soviets had captured Americans, but this was never acknowledged — by either the Russians or the U.S. government — until Yeltsin's remarks.

In the Cold War years of the 1950s, intelligence collection missions continued by RB-29/50s, and later by RB-47 and RB-57 aircraft. These subsonic jet bombers were workhorse intelligence-collection platforms until development of the high-flying U-2 photo-reconnaissance aircraft in the late '50s. Officers and technicians who operated RBs would have been choice prizes for Soviet intelligence.

On 1 July 1960, an RB-47H on an ELINT (electronics intelligence) mission was downed by a MiG-19 over the Barents Sea, and Yeltsin's remarks indicate that a number were shot down or forced down over Soviet territory.

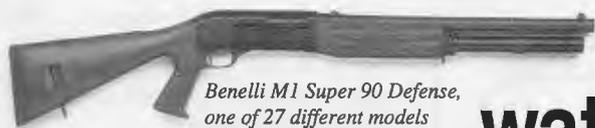
Why the Soviets made such a public spectacle of Gary Powers, shot down in a U-2 in 1960, but kept silent about any earlier captives is a mystery not yet answered. Also unanswered: Why hasn't the U.S. government discussed the losses of these men? Operational security is no longer a valid excuse.

Of more recent concern: Yeltsin's acknowledgement that U.S. POWs were taken to the USSR during the Vietnam War. Retired U.S. Army Colonel Fred Caristo, one of the most knowledgeable sources on POW/MIA matters (see "We Tried So Hard," Feb. '92, and "Tales Of A POW Hunter," March '92), has stated that the electronics warfare officers on U.S. attack aircraft were of high intelligence interest to the Soviets.

It is Caristo's belief that a number of these "back seaters" were taken to Russia, where more sophisticated interrogation techniques (i.e., drugs) could be used in questioning them.

Caristo told *SOF* "when the Soviets got everything they needed, they probably just overdosed them on the same drugs. I really doubt any of these guys are alive." But perhaps Boris Yeltsin's honesty will at last allow their families to know the truth. We can only hope. ✕

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## LETTER FROM SARAJEVO

In November 1991 I wrote an article on the conflict in Yugoslavia that some readers deemed to be pro-Croat and anti-Serb. Hate mail and irate phone calls flooded *Soldier Of Fortune's* offices denouncing me for attacking the Serbs in Croatia. Having just returned from Sarajevo in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the former capital of Yugoslavia, I want to report the following incidents:

An 11-year-old girl ventured from her artillery-battered home in Dobrinja, a suburb of Sarajevo, to search for food and water while her family huddled in the basement of their home. Minutes after she entered the street, a sniper's round hit her and she dropped to the sidewalk. A 40-year-old neighbor was shot in the hip by the same sniper as she ran to the child's aid. Both died in the street.

A convoy of vehicles carrying families fleeing from mortar, artillery and tank rounds raining on Sarajevo was stopped by Serbian guerrillas and the occupants ordered out. Children and parents were quickly separated and the fathers were told the children were to be executed on the spot.

When the fathers pleaded to be shot instead, they were told that the children's deaths would send a

message far stronger to the Croats and Moslems. Kalashnikovs made quick work of defenseless children and the Serbs left.

Croat and Moslem civilians of all ages were blown apart in Sarajevo streets by Serbian tank-fire as they waited in line for bread.

I never said that all Serbs were murderers of defenseless women and children, but it seems to me that Serbs shelling Sarajevo and those guilty of murdering the children and elderly seeking bread can't be classed as just "good old boys!"

Mike Williams  
Zagreb, Croatia

## DRUG WAR DISASTER

Regarding your article on "Cuban Cocaine Cabal" (July '92), at the risk of sounding trite, how much longer is it going to take America to realize that much of our drug problem is a communist conspiracy? There is no way we as a nation can continue to fight a "drug war" without invading and occupying most of our Latin neighbors or declaring the Constitution null and void.

As a Libertarian, I believe that our drug prohibition is 100% identical to alcohol prohibition. The increase in

crime and hard drug use parallel it in every manner. The worst part of the drug war is the threat to our liberty. The entire Bill of Rights is in jeopardy, especially the Second Amendment, because the commie-libs blame guns and not people for their actions.

What is the biggest fear of communists? A free market. Fidel will not last another day if the drug lords have their black-market carpet yanked from under their feet. Neither will the drug lords.

As far as I'm concerned, you can have your joint if I can keep my Smith.  
David M. Holden  
High Ridge, Missouri

## PRIVATE SECURITY GUARDS NOT UP TO SNUFF

Last year your magazine published an article involving the Department of Energy and the Emergency Reaction Team ["Nuclear Snake Eaters," April '91] that it used to handle extreme problems. What your magazine did not explain is that this and other special teams in the government are actually composed of private security personnel.

It seems that some of the so-called high threat level areas — the State Department, the Department of Energy and a few others — are protected by security guard companies with little or no authority and lacking all but the minimum training to actually carry out its support mission.

Not matter how well intentioned it may be to put a program together to save the American taxpayer money, rest assured in the long run it costs more money because of high employee turnover due to low morale, conflicting orders, requirements and specifications, minimal training, constant harassment, no benefits and less-than-qualified leadership.

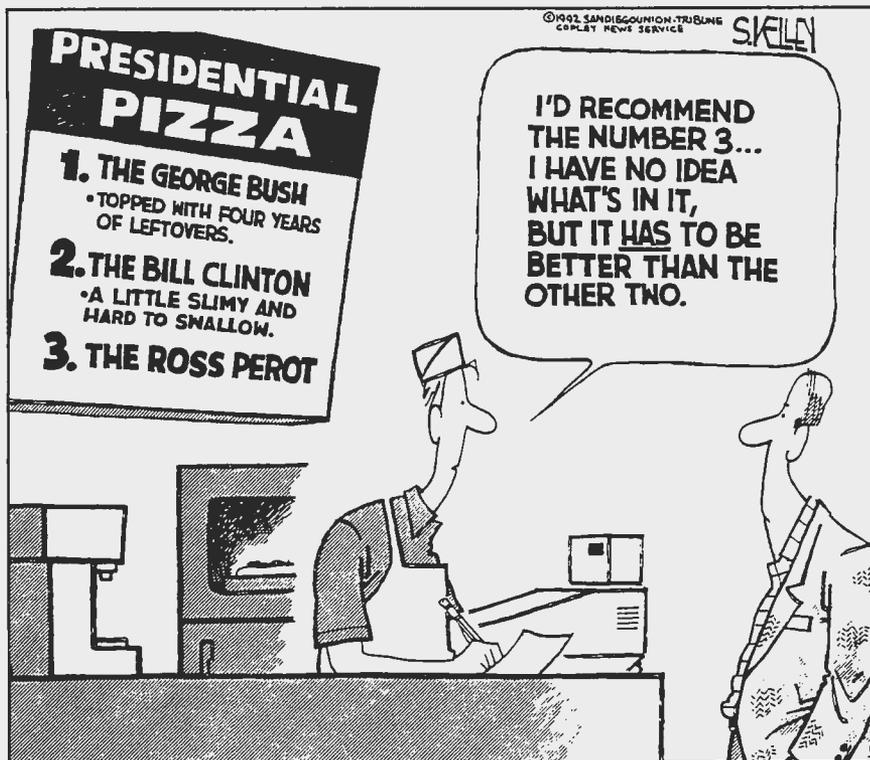
It will never replace a highly motivated, well-trained professional ERT force.

Name Withheld

*We would like to hear from other knowledgeable readers on this subject, preferably with specifics. — RKB*

## KING GEORGE

As we approach election time, let us all remember "George The-Assault-Rifle-Ban Bush" has been responsible for banning more firearms than any Democrat ever did.



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His call for, and support of, the Crime Bill with its waiting periods, anti-gun provisions and trashing of your legal rights under the guise of drug/crime controls would abort what little freedoms you have left.

I, for one, will vote Libertarian, for it is better to fight for the truth than to pave the way for our own destruction by electing those with a proven record of being our enemy. A vote against the Second Amendment is a vote against us all personally, and we have every right to tell this current "King

George" to get stuffed.

Those who will not stand up and tell Bush "No New Gun Laws" will deprive themselves and their offspring of liberty and justice for generations to come.

Robert Harrison  
Hollywood, Florida

*The NRA has told Bush he's going to have to demonstrate that he deserves gun lobby support by doing one or more of the following: fire BATF director Higgins, revoke the import ban on assault rifles, admit he made a*

mistake in supporting said ban, and guarantee he will veto the Brady Bill.

The Bush crowd thinks irate gun owners have no place else to go. NOT! We can focus all our efforts and money into Congressional elections.

By the way, if we want a pro-gun Congress, every gun owner must register and vote! — RKB

### PSYCHOPATHS & MERCS

I have seen your magazine at the supermarket and bookstores but never thought twice about buying one, because I thought all it was was just a bunch of psychopaths with guns and ads for mercenaries.

One day, on impulse, I bought one and it hit home. I was shocked at how much bullshit the media has been feeding me.

In my first issue (June '92) there were stories about the Gun Gestapo and BATF abuses of gun-owners' rights. When I read your "Command Guidance" in the July '92 issue I blew a fuse at how stupid the BATF is.

Mr Brown, I can't thank you enough for opening my eyes. I am now (as of yesterday) a member of the NRA.

Erik Booher, Age 15  
Zionsville, Indiana

As a reader for many years, I was interested to see (in "Gun Gestapo," June '92) the BATF doing a great impression of the SS in World War II — not to mention Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and China.

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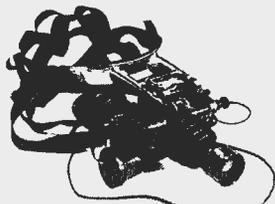
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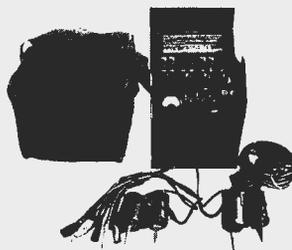
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I believe readers would overwhelmingly appreciate not a "World Sitrep," but a sitrep for the USA. The Tulsa incident is a prime example. I believe this would prompt those on the edge of their seats to go ahead and pick up pens and phones and raise hell. We can't rely on the NRA alone to voice our opinion.

Name Withheld  
Conroe, Texas

## MORE SUPPORT FROM OUR READERS

OK! I've been blown out of my comfort zone. I hardened my heart to your first appeal in the magazine. Then I got your letter and started thinking about what this rag means to me ...

In 1976, as a young trooper on active duty, I would place my copy of *SOF* prominently in my wall-locker display. The inspecting officer would spot the magazine, pick it up and suddenly it didn't matter how much dust lay on my shelves. Sometimes, though, we'd be standing at attention while he read the whole damned magazine.

Later, as a student, I left *SOF* prominently displayed in my apartment. One factor in my successful choice of a mate was my selection of a woman who could deal with the fact that I read magazines which might feature a pile of skulls on the cover.

The magazine first clued me in about the IAAV Israeli jump tour, which I finally got to attend in 1988. I raged along with your first big lawsuit and gave a big spontaneous OO-RAHHH in the Berlin U-Bahn when the Fifth Circuit reversed.

So here's a check. You may find it amusing that one lawyer is helping pay your lawyers. I agree with the guy who suggested you counterattack these plaintiffs. If I weren't working for Uncle Sam, I'd join the team.

I want *SOF* to still be around so my kids can use it to disrupt wall-locker inspections.

Mike Finn  
Address withheld

.....

When I came back from Vietnam in '68, I felt great. Then, for many years, the media tried to tell me I was a fool at best, a psycho killer at worst. Family and friends were supportive, many people told me they felt sorry for me, but if just one person had said, "You did a fine job," I would have broken down and cried.

Then I bought your first issue, found out I did do a fine job, and have been a good ol' boy subscriber ever since.

We're with you. Keep fighting on.  
Lawrence B. Tirreno  
Westport, Connecticut

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Hello from the Persian Gulf. *Soldier Of Fortune* Magazine is one of the most informative magazines for our armed forces. From those in the Persian Gulf to troops in Korea and elsewhere — without *SOF* we will have to rely on such "state run" programs as *Navy News* and *FEN* who tell you only what they want you to hear.

Please accept this contribution. Long live Robert K. Brown and *Soldier Of Fortune* Magazine.

AO1 Melvin J. Kirker  
USS Independence CV-62

#### FROM RKB

*Although we can only print a fraction of the letters we've received, I want to express my personal thanks to everyone who has written and sent in contributions.*

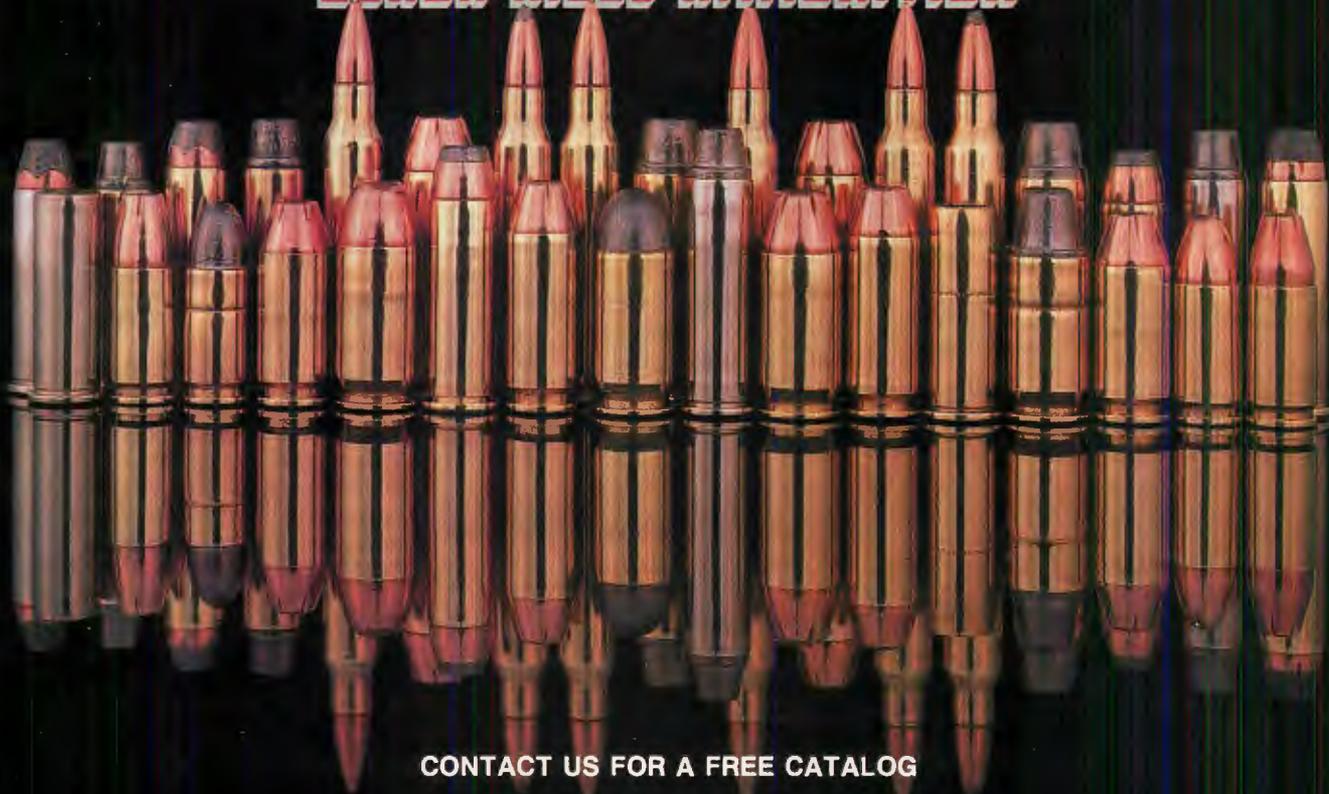
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AW2 Brad (Gash) Marsh sends greetings from the Persian Gulf. His detachment (HSL 43, Det 2B), forward deployed to Japan, is now onboard CG-52 USS Bunker Hill DNM.

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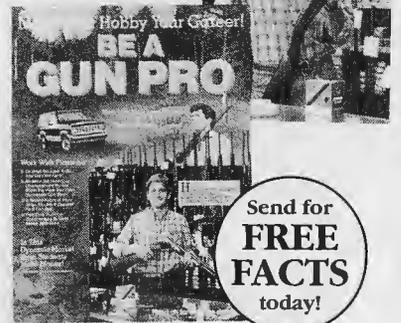
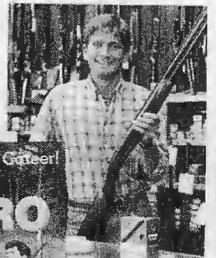
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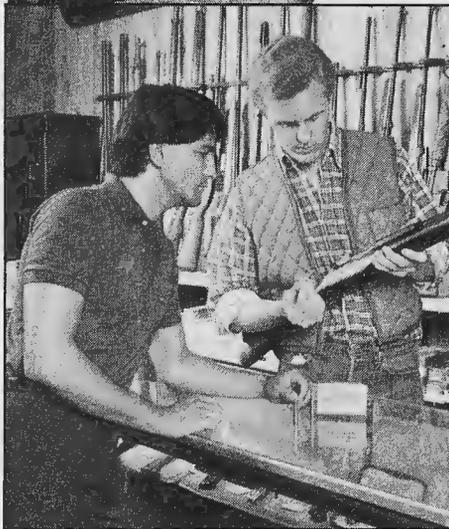


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Text &amp; Photo by Greg Walker

For more than 30 years, U.S. Navy SEAL teams have been in want of a good knife. This past April, the SEALs conducted a brutal series of tests to select a successor to the issue Mark-III (Mk-3) combat-utility knife. In a unanimous decision, the SEAL committee elected to go with the ATAK model, a design from custom maker Kevin McClung. As Kevin is a regular correspondent for *Fighting Knives* magazine, a final prototype of the ATAK was made available to us for evaluation within days of the committee's decision.

In August 1991, Naval Special Warfare Group One (NSWG-1) determined the issue Mk-3 combat-utility knife simply was not suitable: Its blade rusted easily, with a tip that readily snapped off. The blade itself was prone to breaking under moderate lateral pressure and also was incapable of holding a working edge. In short, the Mk-3 was not what SEAL operators wanted in a working knife. Operator complaints and recommendations were logged by NSWG-1's combat development committee, responsible for pursuing items of equipment necessary for SEAL operations.

The search for a proper SEAL combat knife had been underway since the early 1980s. The Mk-2 fighting-utility knife served satisfactorily in the Vietnam War, but showed deficiencies in materials and manufacture. In 1980, the SEALs were given a design by Buck Knives Inc.

The "BuckMaster" was touted as being the ultimate combat-utility knife for naval special warfare. A number of the blades were evaluated by SEALs from NSWG-1, with mixed results. In the end, a command decision was made to shelve the BuckMasters, as they were "too ugly and not what the teams needed in a knife." Although a commercial success, the BuckMaster was never an issue item for SEALs.

The Mk-3 officially replaced the Mk-2, much to the SEALs' dismay. The Mk-3 did offer a synthetic scabbard — better than the Mk-2's leather sheath — plus a hard plastic handle that wouldn't loosen or rot with use. Still the SEALs were burdened with a knife that broke easily and offered little in terms of performance.

In 1990, Phrobis International introduced the Phrobis Combat-Utility Knife (or C.U.K. to the SEAL community),



but it was soon dropped from the SEAL inventory, leaving SEALs again with only the Mk-3.

Determined to find a knife for their specific needs, the SEALs evaluated more than 31 commercial models. Each SEAL team assigned one operator/knife aficionado to the testing committee who had earlier polled his teammates as to what they wanted. The committee was looking for a knife to meet the approval of all those involved, not just of one team's operators. The result was a firm set of guidelines, as well as testing criteria each candidate blade would have to undergo.

The research and design committee made every effort to fairly evaluate every knife that might meet the requirements established. Each blade and its sheath was examined for form, function and cost. By April this year, only three knives were left in the running: Buck's T-model, SOG Specialties' Government RECON knife, and Mad Dog Knives' ATAK model.

The committee required the following criteria: blade length of 7 inches; full tang; field design with one edge, and no stress risers (wire cutters, serrations, etc.); corrosion-resistant materials or coating; synthetic handle (non-slip) with lanyard hole; pommel suitable for pounding; matte-black color; edge hardness of 62-63 Rockwell (Rc) rating, with hardness in the blade at 56-58 Rc; and finally, a sheath fabricated from Kydex.

On 13 April the knives were subjected to a final series of harsh tests. They'd already been subjected to long-term seawater submersion, so they

SEAL Team 5 provided intense testing and evaluation for the ATAK, with input coming from SEAL operators representing Teams 1 and 3. Some 31 other knives were discarded during the trials. The hands-down winner was the ATAK by Mad Dog Knives — a simple but sturdy bowie design, featuring stress-relief filework along the blade's upper back.

were now applied to those tasks deemed important to SEAL operations.

"We cut every item of issue cord and rope in the Navy inventory, both wet and dry," reported one SEAL present at the evaluation. "We chopped wood, cut sniper-rifle rests, bored holes with points, cut No. 3-4 multiconductor electrical cord, and applied extreme lateral stress to the blades." To apply such stress, each test knife was suspended off the ground so that a SEAL could hang freely from its handle.

"We began with a 125-pound SEAL doing pull-ups using the knife as an anchor. If it survived, the operator was replaced with a 145-pound man, then a 200-pound SEAL. Civilians don't use their knives as underwater anchors like we do," one participant said. "A blade for us needs to be able to hold a diver and his equipment in place, often against strong currents, until he is ready to continue his mission."

According to the committee, the Mk-3 broke as the first pull-up was executed. The Buck ST and SOG RECON models experienced material failures during the 145-pound stress test. The ATAK showed no lateral-stress

*Continued on page 73*

# WORLD SITREP

1

## Thailand

Massive civil unrest that brought down Gen. Suchinda Kraprayoon in May appears to have resulted in around 600 fatalities, not fewer than 50 as was reported at the time. Bangkok Metropolitan Police Bureau reported 589 people were missing in wake of demonstrations. Most of them are presumed dead. Fatalities are largely result of troops shooting unarmed civilian demonstrators ...

2

## Rwanda

Two-year-old invasion of Rwanda by Tutsi rebels backed by Uganda continues in north, despite government counteroffensive. Tutsi troops are 130 miles from Kigali, country's capital. Rwanda is governed by majority Hutu farmers, who seized power from minority Tutsi cattlemen in bloody civil war 30 years ago. Francophone Hutus have French backing against English-speaking Tutsis ...

5

## Bosnia-Herzegovina

President Alija Izetbegovic announces a formal military alliance with Croatia to oppose Serbs, who have been shelling Sarajevo and driving non-Serbs out of areas of country they consider their own. Izetbegovic earlier called for U.S. or NATO air strikes against Serbian and former Yugoslav federal army troops operating in country, claiming U.N.-imposed sanctions are too little, too late ...

6

## India

India successfully tests a *Prithvi* short-range ballistic missile at the Interim Test Range near Bangalore in early May. Missile has a range of 150 miles with a 250kg warhead, or 100 miles with a 500kg warhead. Less than a month later, India successfully tests *Agni* missile with 1,500-mile range. Tests are denounced by United States, which hints at sanctions ...

9

## Sri Lanka

Sri Lankan army launches offensive aimed at taking Jaffna and crushing Tamil Tiger insurgents and Tamil separatist movement. Army claims 250 Tigers killed in initial phases of operation ...

10

## Peru

100 Shining Path guerrillas ambush military patrol and shoot up civilian bus on road near Las Vegas-Garganta del Diablo, about 210 miles north-east of Lima. 10 soldiers and civilians dead, 21 wounded; 10 guerrillas also killed ...

12

## Georgia

Four killed when car bomb apparently aimed at deputy chairman of Georgia's ruling state council explodes in Tbilisi. Dzhaba Ioseliani, whose enemies include supporters of ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, was unhurt in blast, which killed four bystanders ...

13

## Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea troops return to Bougainville to fight Bougainville Revolutionary Army, which is demanding independence for island's 110,000 people. Low-level conflict has killed maybe 150 and closed copper mine at Panguna, which had provided Papua New Guinea government with an estimated \$1,000 per minute ...

16

## Cambodia

Khmer Rouge waltz on peace agreement by barring U.N. forces from its camps and refusing to disarm. Khmer Rouge want U.N. to "re-inspect" Cambodia to ensure all Vietnamese troops are gone, and, more important, they want limited powers of Supreme National Council enlarged to make it, in effect, a national government. The latter move would make Khmer Rouge a major partner in a coalition government with power to thwart free elections, which it would be unlikely to win. Prince Norodom Sihanouk's guerrilla group sensibly says if Khmer Rouge won't disarm, they won't either ...

17

## Iran

Rioters in northeastern city of Mashhad go on a four-day long orgy of looting and arson, burning main library and several police stations. Government control is restored only after authorities send in militia units. Riot, which took an anti-fundamentalist tone and may have been orchestrated by anti-regime mujahideen, left at least nine militiamen and probably 30 civilians dead; there have already been eight hangings in its aftermath ...

3

### Japan

Japan's parliament votes to permit stationing of Japanese military personnel abroad for first time since World War II. Bill creates a 2,000-man force that can participate in United Nations peacekeeping operations. First deployment will probably be to Cambodia, to monitor peace accords ...

At Kobe, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries launches a 185-ton experimental submarine powered by a magnetohydrodynamic propulsion system similar to that described in Tom Clancy's novel *The Hunt for Red October*. Sub is named *Yamato 1* ...

4

### Italy

Giovanni Falcone, Italy's leading anti-Mafia judge, assassinated by large bomb planted in highway drainage tunnel, which was detonated as his car sped from Palermo airport. Falcone obtained convictions of several hundred members of Sicilian Mafia, presumed responsible for his death ...

7

### China

China sets off 1-megaton nuclear explosion, largest underground nuclear test it has ever conducted, and one that substantially exceeds 150-kiloton limit United States and former Soviets have observed. China is not a signatory of Threshold Test Ban Treaty and is widely believed to be selling nuclear technology to Third World nuclear wannabees like Iran ...

8

### Afghanistan

Afghan interim President Sibghatullah Mojaddidi escapes death when a SAM hits cockpit of his plane. Aircraft managed to land safely ...

Mojaddidi hints he may try to hang on to power past June 28, when he is supposed to resign, by offering ministries to member of additional factions and by seeking support of "the people" ...

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### Azerbaijan

Following a coup attempt by former communist-party leader Ayaz Mutalibov that was thwarted by a popular uprising, Azeri forces launch an offensive in disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, recapturing several towns from Armenians and sending refugees fleeing. More than 100 tanks and armored fighting vehicles joined assault on Shumyan ...

2

14

### Israel

Government intends to spend \$220 million over next several years to replace approximately 1 million of some 4 million gas masks issued to Israeli public prior to Gulf War. Decision to proceed with replacement program follows scathing criticism in state comptroller's annual report last year. Replacements suggest that had Iraqi Scuds carried gas, civilian casualties could have been substantial ...

15

### Pakistan

Pakistan moves nearer to civil war, as predominately Punjabi army is sent into southern province of Sindh with orders to end a decade of ethnic warfare and terrorism. Sindh is the power base of Benazir Bhutto. Bhutto's father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was hanged in 1979, an act that ignited a Sindh nationalist movement, which turned into a separatist movement after Benazir's removal ...

13

18

### Iraq

Part of U.S. plan to destabilize Saddam Hussein reportedly involves flooding Iraq with counterfeit money. Scheme may be having only limited success, however, since recent U.S. government study shows Saddam is politically stronger today than one year ago ...

19

### Lebanon

Israel Defense Forces carry out series of air strikes and cross-border raids in south Lebanon and Bekaa Valley, aimed at persuading Hezbollah Islamic fundamentalist guerrillas to refrain from attacks on Israel's security zone. Most spectacular strike was on town of Jibchit, where a helicopter dispatched a Hezbollah commander by firing a missile into his house. Air strikes on Janta near Baalbek in Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley killed 12 and were taken as warning to Assad to rein-in Hezbollah ...

# SOF'S 1993 AFRICAN SAFARI

You started reading about Africa in the first issue of *Soldier of Fortune* Magazine; now *SOF* can help you hunt Africa and experience the thrill of Africa's big game.

## THE 1993 SAFARI SEASON

*SOF's* Outdoor Editor, Galen L. Geer, has arranged for a May, 1993 Safari where a limited number of *SOF* readers can join *Soldier Of Fortune* Editor Publisher Robert K. Brown and Geer on a 10-day South African and Zambian Safari.

In addition to the Safari, *SOF* Magazine and Geer are now offering a complete African Safari booking service through an agreement with Roc's Safaris and one of the country's top travel agencies. *SOF* and Geer will map out your Safari, planning your hunt in South Africa and Zambia for the best trophy opportunities.

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# I WAS THERE

by "Ivanhoe"

## The Night We Nuked North Korea

A stiff, freezing wind stirred a heavy chop in Yonghungman Bay, located in the Wonsan Harbor area of North Korea. It made an uncomfortable ride for those on the Yak-130. The night was pitch-black with no moon; the stars hidden behind thick clouds.

It was late October 1952 — a perfect night for the mission.

"OK, Yun. This will do it. The wind is blowing toward land, so the junk should end up in the harbor if we let it go here," the lone American decided, speaking in fluent Korean.

"You are learning the sea, my friend," the short, stocky Korean skipper laughed. "Very soon you will not need me."

"That will be the day," Ryder snorted in mock derision to hide his pleasure at this small flattery. [Ryder was not the true name of the American, nor was Yun the Korean skipper's name. Nor was it October 1952 — but for this story we will use these names and dates. The target, Wonsan Harbor, and the rest of this story are factual.]

After coming to a dead stop, the deckhands pulled in the beat-up fishing junk being towed, tying it alongside the larger Yak. Ryder jumped to the rotten deck of the junk, critically examining its cargo of explosives and napalm. Satisfied everything was all right, he screwed the caps of the A-C delays down to break the glass vial. In six hours (more or less) the acetone would eat through the celluloid divider, setting the charge off. Next, he checked the booby-trap wires stretched a few inches off the deck, pulling the safety pins when he was satisfied. He climbed back aboard the Yak.

"Cut it loose, Yun. This will give the bastards something to think about," Ryder laughed.

"That it will, my friend," Yun chuckled knowingly.

Two minutes later, the fishing junk was drifting toward Wonsan Harbor. Operation Flash was underway.

The idea for "Flash" came to Ryder when he was sorting through supplies the monthly LST dropped off at Nam-do, a small, barren rock island on the 39th parallel north, 15 miles off North



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Korea's eastern coast. He had ordered C-3-type plastic explosive for a mission and gasoline for the generator. This was in addition to the normal supplies of food and ammunition.

When he had opened one of the large wooden cases marked "Explosives," Ryder found that instead of the C-3 he was expecting, the case was filled with 5-pound cans labeled "Photographic Flash Powder — Mfg. by Eastman Kodak Co., Rochester, NY, 1937." There were 20 cases of the stuff; 12 cans per case — a full 1,200 pounds of flash powder.

Ryder checked the "gasoline." It was gasoline all right, 10 drums of jellied gasoline — napalm, in 55-gallon drums. Seeing this, he was fit to be tied. He had tried to have the LST take the flash powder and napalm back. Its skipper refused. The manifest said it was for Nam-do, as far as he was concerned.

But the skipper was more tolerant about Ryder's need for gasoline. He traded 10 drums of gas for some fresh fish. (Ryder used the boats for fishing when they were not needed for operations. He sold the excess in Samch'ok and Chumunjin to buy cigarettes and other comfort items for the Koreans.)

After the LST left, Ryder began wondering what to do about the napalm and flash powder, which were clearly unstable after this many years. He decided the best thing to do was to blow everything. As an experiment, the Koreans rolled one of the drums of

napalm around to the north point of the island. Ryder took a case of flash powder, set it on top and wired it together with det-cord, then waited until dark to set it off. The results were spectacular. The flash lit the sky for miles, then a black rolling cloud of smoke poured skyward, looking exactly like the aftermath of a miniature A-bomb explosion: Operation Flash was born.

On the next trip to Chumunjin to sell fish, Ryder bought an old fishing junk and towed it to back to Nam-do. It took some repairing, but eventually the old junk was seaworthy. They loaded it to the gunnels with napalm and flash powder, wiring in 100 pounds of old TNT for good measure, then sat back to wait for the next dark of the moon.

The trip to Wonsan Harbor was uneventful. The towline broke once, but they recovered the junk quickly and put a new towline in place. They were challenged by a picket destroyer, but not stopped when they responded with the correct answer. The destroyer's captain was familiar with the boats from "Task Force Kirkland" — they were a common sight in the area during the dark-of-moon period every month.

The junk was released some 5,000 yards from the harbor entrance, a distance Ryder calculated would allow the junk to drift close to shore before its charge exploded. After the junk was released, the Yak-130 moved southeast some 20 miles to wait for the fireworks.

The sky to the east was beginning to pale when the junk exploded with a flash, lighting the sky from horizon to horizon. A ball of fire rose hundreds of feet in the air, clearly visible to the men waiting on the Yak. It took 30 seconds for the dull rumble of the explosion to reach them. In the paling morning sky they could see a mushroom cloud rising.

"That should do it. I'll bet every one of the bastards in Wonsan filled their pants," Ryder said.

"I'm sure they did, my friend," Yun agreed.

Both stopped grinning a few minutes later when the picket destroyer roared by, slowing enough as it passed for its captain to yell across an order for them to get the hell out of there because "some damned idiot has set off a nuke."

There was one small problem with "Flash." Ryder had not cleared the operation with anyone, nor had he anticipated the size of the explosion and the reaction to it. Not only had he filled the North Koreans' pants, he'd filled pants all the way to Washington, D.C.

Very quietly, the Yak-130 sneaked back to Nam-do while Ryder prayed no one ever found out who was responsible. Officially, they never did. But two weeks later, he and Yun were transferred to JACK, the CIA operation in Korea.

*"Ivanhoe" served in Korea during the Korean War.*

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# COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

Text & Photos by Louis Awerbuck

## Fast-Feeding Your Firearm



First stage of AK tactical reload: With fresh magazine held high alongside rifle, firm grip is obtained on both magazines. Primary magazine is then released. Next: Fully withdrawing primary magazine from well, replacement magazine is aligned for insertion. Next: Once inserted, downward pressure is exerted on the full magazine to check locking. If not empty, replaced magazine may be retained for possible future use.

The ability to reload a firearm quickly, smoothly and with economy of motion is an essential component of combat weaponcraft.

For several reasons, as we approach the 21st century, more and more rounds are being expended per enemy stop. It doesn't take a brain surgeon to balance the Ledger of Poor Marksmanship: The more often you miss your intended target, the sooner you will exhaust your ammo reserve. While the art of street-battle accuracy has retrogressed in direct proportion to the advance of the 20th century, it is not as simple as some pundits would have you believe.

There has been a continuing change in enemy mind-set — currently bordering on an air of invincibility — as well as a more common use of personal and vehicle armor protection. In short, even accomplished fighters are expending more rounds to neutralize a given opponent than they did 10 years ago, often for reasons other than poor shooting.

This in turn emphasizes the need for the dexterity necessary to quickly and reflexively replenish a dwindling or exhausted ammunition supply.

The combat reload has two facets: the tactical reload and the speed load, each used under different circumstances in the field.

In theory, the tactical reload should be used far more often than the speed load, the assumption being that the operation will run smoothly and the enemy will be quickly neutralized with a minimum of ammunition expenditure. The good guy is then free to use any lull in action to recharge his weapon.

This assumption is based on a utopian premise that Murphy's Law won't apply here. Unfortunately, like all natural laws, Murphy's law is universal. The situation often goes to poo-poo: More rounds than expected have to be sent

downrange, and your brain train becomes a loose caboose. This is often closely followed by a resounding "click" from the weapon instead of a "bang!" — time for a speed load.

Another occurrence that can necessitate a speed load is that of a mechanical malfunction. Whatever the malfunction's cause, if a speed load is required you are in deep, deep trouble. The load has to be accomplished with maximum alacrity and dexterity, because you will almost certainly have to shoot again after recharging the weapon, unlike the scenario which prompts a tactical reload.

Unquestionably the fastest "reload" consists of switching to a secondary weapon, but this is not always tactically viable or feasible, especially in a military situation. Hand in hand with this is the less-than-comforting thought that the secondary weapon is usually less ballistically efficient than the primary one — but anything is better than an inoperative primary.

Most box-magazine-fed selective fire and autoloading weapons can be speed-loaded by the same sequential process. The first step of this is to ensure with the non-firing hand that there is a replacement magazine within your reach. Along with this goes the obvious fact that the spare ammunition should be carried where it can be grasped, irrespective of body position or tactical gear worn.

Having ascertained that the fresh supply does indeed exist, remove and jettison the original magazine from the weapon. Some rifles and subguns, because of inefficient placement and operation of release mechanisms, may require the shooter to use the non-firing hand to remove the magazine. In this case, you'd better pray that your reserve supply is located where it's supposed to be.

If you're one of the breed who

chooses to tape or clip together your primary and reserve magazines, then obviously you won't jettison the equipment but merely extract the empty, then quickly reposition and insert the adjacent back-up magazine into the magazine well.

Once a weapon or cerebral malfunction has been cleared, and a fresh magazine has been inserted, *pull down on the magazine* to ensure that it is seated. Following this, *cycle the bolt*. This latter step will ensure that a round has been chambered, but is totally dependent on the fact that you have already pulled down on the magazine; otherwise you may extract and eject a live round and replace it with a black hole. (The weapon may not have run "dry" or malfunctioned: Not releasing the trigger during the firing of multiple rounds often leads people to believe that their weapon has malfunctioned or run out of ammo.)

Obviously, when using a pistol, magazine seating should be checked by pushing upwards, as opposed to the "pull-down" technique mentioned above.

A tactical reload is less of a brain drain than the speed load, because you are in control of the situation and are merely replenishing an already existent — albeit reduced — cartridge supply.

In this situation, you bring the replacement magazine to the weapon before releasing the primary magazine. Utilizing one of a variety of systems — and everybody and their brother has a version of the "only" way to hold the spare — acquire a firm grasp on both magazines with the non-firing hand before completely removing the primary magazine from the magazine well. Remove the primary, insert the replacement and make sure the latter is se-

*Continued on page 64*

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In L.A.'s version of a bread riot, happy looters sprint down street carrying a new wardrobe. Photo: Courtesy AIM

# DID THE MEDIA CAUSE THE L.A. RIOTS ?

The late April acquittal of four Los Angeles police officers on charges of beating Rodney G. King plunged Los Angeles into a fiery cauldron of racial violence. More than 50 persons were killed, and property damage totaled almost \$1 billion.

In media interviews after the verdict, jurors and defense lawyers maintained that the totality of the evidence presented in court supported the officers' contention that they used justified force in controlling a violent person who had led them on a dangerous high-speed chase and then fought viciously when they tried to arrest him.

The American media did not agree. What we saw on the television networks, ad infinitum, was a snippet of video showing officers raining baton blows on a supposedly helpless King. Incredibly, this segment was shown even as a backdrop to comments by jurors and lawyers who were stating that the "whole tape" showed King lunging at the officers "like a professional football linebacker," as one attorney stated.

Not until Wednesday, 6 May — a full week after the verdict, and after the riots had already subsided — did one of the Big Three TV networks let viewers see the crucial piece of film showing King's attack. It was run on the NBC-TV *Today* show, in slow motion with explanatory commentary by John Barnett, the lawyer for Officer Theodore Briseno.

Barnett called the segment "the centerpiece" of the defense case. Although the full tape had been available to the TV networks for more than a year, the networks withheld it from their viewers for a crucial week when it could have given the public a better understanding of a controversial verdict.

At the annual CBS shareholders meeting in New York on 13 May, Accuracy In Media challenged Howard Stringer, head of the broad-

by **Reed Irvine  
& Joe Goulden**

cast group, to justify censoring the centerpiece of the defense case. Stringer replied that he did not consider the segment vital to his network's coverage of the case.

We disagree. We also disagree with the national media's malfeasance in not giving their audiences an intelligent summary of what the jurors actually heard during the trial. The material was readily available. The full proceedings were telecast nationally on the Court-TV cable channel and by two Los Angeles stations; area papers, including the *Los Angeles Times*, gave detailed coverage to the testimony.

Trial by jury is a critical part of our democratic system. Juries change with every case, and hence they are not subject to the ongoing special interest pressures felt by the legislative and executive branches of our government. The controlled structure of the courtroom means jurors can hear and evaluate all the evidence, not just portions selected by a TV news producer or a newspaper editor.

Herewith is a summary of crucial parts of the case not adequately covered by the national media. The material about testimony came from superb daily accounts written by Richard A. Serrano of the *Los Angeles Times*.

### The Chase

According to trial testimony, Officer Melanie Singer of the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and her partner-husband, Officer Timothy Singer, saw King speeding in a Hyundai on the Foothill Freeway shortly after midnight on 3 March 1991. During the 7.8-mile chase that ensued, Mrs. Singer said King drove on the freeway at speeds "exceeding 115 miles per hour." Then he left the freeway and continued speeding down residential streets at up to 80 mph, ignoring stop signs and red lights.

At one point, Mrs. Singer said, she pulled the CHP cruiser alongside King's car and her husband yelled, "Pull over to the right. You won't get hurt."

But King ignored the order. He finally stopped when a pickup truck blocked his path near an apartment complex in the Lake View Terrace area of Los Angeles. "He was trapped," Mrs. Singer said. "He couldn't go any farther."

Other officers had heard radio reports of the chase and arrived soon after the CHP. These included officers from the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and others from the Los Angeles Unified School District.

When King got out of his car, Mrs. Singer testified, he "seemed almost happy and jovial. He was smiling."

King appeared to be talking to the two passengers in his car. He waved and smiled at a police helicopter overhead. Then he turned towards Mrs. Singer and "grabbed his right buttock and shook it at me."

King was an enormous man, 6 feet 4 inches tall and upwards of 250 pounds, with bulky shoulders.

The two passengers got out of the right-hand door of the car, surrendered to the Highway Patrol and were handcuffed without incident.

### Resisting Arrest

Mrs. Singer drew her revolver and moved toward King, ordering him to lie facedown on the ground with his arms and legs spread. He refused at first, she testified, "dancing around, almost like a pitter-patter." One of King's passengers, Bryant Allen, testified at the trial that he had never seen King behave in such a fashion before, that he "didn't appear to be in this world at all." King was sweating profusely and did not respond to verbal orders.

To the officers, King was displaying a influence of drugs or alcohol. LAPD Officer Laurence Powell yelled to others at the scene, "Watch out, he's dusted!"

Finally, King got down on all fours but, Mrs. Singer said, "he paraded around almost like a dog." She moved to within several feet of King, preparing to handcuff him. Then LAPD Sergeant Stacey C. Koon stepped in, saying, "Back! Get back! We'll handle it! We'll handle it!" Koon would testify that he wanted the other officers to "swarm" King and subdue him by force of numbers.

Mrs. Singer said she holstered her pistol at this point and moved away, thinking that the LAPD officers had King under control and would handcuff him without further effort. Koon was emphatic in stating that he did not want Mrs. Singer and her pistol involved in the takedown. "She was injecting a gun into the situation," he said. "My tactical training has taught me to believe you don't approach out-of-control suspects with a gun."

Two officers, including Powell, tried to grab King's hands, but (as the *Los Angeles Times*' account summarized Mrs. Singer's testimony) "he jerked up, rolled

over and bounced them away." Then King "sprang to his feet."

Mrs. Singer continued, "The driver [King] was flinging his arms wildly, not punching, but trying to throw all these officers off him. I remembered he hit one of the officers in the chest. It wasn't a punch. It was more like a wild movement with his arm."

### Shot By A Taser

Sergeant Koon, who was the ranking officer at the scene, ordered the other police to "back away," and then he gave a warning to King: "If you continue to resist, I'm going to shoot you with this Taser." (The Taser is an electronic stun gun. It fires tiny darts attached to wires, which transmit an estimated 25,000 volts to the body of an unruly suspect.)

When King refused to get back on the ground, Mrs. Singer said, Koon fired the Taser, hitting King on the right side of his body. "The driver screamed and grabbed his side and made a moaning sound, but he wouldn't get down," she continued.

Lawyer Michael Stone told *Human Events*, "The officers know from their training that frequently ex-cons will learn in prison that they shouldn't go all the way to the ground if they want to still make a fight of it or run. They learn from their fellow prisoners how to disarm policemen when the police approach them for handcuffing."

Koon testified, "He [King] had several avenues to escape, and he chose to go to Officer Powell."

As King continued "flailing his arms" and moving toward Koon, the sergeant fired again, this time hitting King in the chest. "He began to stagger, almost appearing like a monster," Mrs. Singer testified. "He staggered one way and then the other way and then he fell, like all his body weight just carried him down directly in front of me."

King went to his knees, holding himself up with one hand, when Powell stepped in and hit him with a "power blow" across the head. Mrs. Singer said this blow split King's cheek, adding that Powell next struck King across the knuckles, forcing

LAPD officers exonerated in beating of Rodney King (left to right): Stacey Koon, Timothy Wind, Theodore Briseno. Laurence Powell (far right) still faces charges in the incident. Photos: AP/Wide World



him to drop his hands. Powell then hit King five more times, "in the head area," Mrs. Singer said, noting "in my opinion, there was no reason" for these blows, and that she had been trained not to hit suspects in the head with a baton, but only across the body.

(But part of Mrs. Singer's story was challenged on cross-examination by Powell's attorney, Michael Stone. Mrs. Singer claimed Powell struck King four times on the left side of the face and once on the right side, "splitting his cheekbone from the top of his ear down to the bottom of his jawline — blood spilled out, blood poured out," she said. But then attorney Stone showed her photographs of King taken shortly after the beating. She acknowledged that they showed only a 1-inch cut on the right side of his face and no marks on the left. Stone suggested that the blows actually landed on King's shoulders.)

The accounts of Powell and Koon at the trial had a more detailed perspective. Powell testified that he first saw King "moving real slow, in a real unnatural manner. Real stiff. He turned his head in all directions as if he was some kind of robot. Real slow."

Sergeant Koon said that when King tried to put his hands on the pavement "he began to pat the ground as if he didn't know where the ground was." He recalled King rocking back and forth on his haunches, like "a runner in a starting position in the blocks, or a football player on the front line. I could see his eyes were glassy. He was looking at me, but it's a bizarre feeling because he was looking through me."

### Superhuman Strength

Powell said he believed King was under the influence of the drug PCP — noting such persons are dangerous because "they can take your gun. You have to be able to overcome this superhuman strength display. And you don't want to get in a wrestling match, because they're going to beat you hands-down every time."

Koon directed the four officers to go into a "swarm," with each one going after a separate body limb in an attempt to control King.

By Powell's account, he was trying to put a handcuff on King's left wrist when the man finally went to the ground. But King suddenly managed to get up. "He knocked me off, and I fell backward and landed on my rear. He had great resistance and strength in his arms. This was a very big man."

Sergeant Koon testified that when King lunged at the officers "he kind of gave out a bear-like yell, and he continued to rise."

Recalling how Koon shot King with the Taser gun, Powell stated, "I could see little blue sparks from around where the dart was connected. His body was con-

vulsing. He turned toward me and you could see his cheek muscles convulsing. He was gritting his teeth and groaning ...

"I saw him get up, turn and come right at me. I just remember it was real fast. I had no time to react. It was practically a head-on collision. I was starting to swing my baton, but it was more like a check-swing and he collided into me." The blow hit King in the chest.

"I saw Mr. King fall like a rag doll down to the ground, and his face smashed into the pavement," Powell said. It was this fall, the defense contended, that broke King's cheekbone. Powell said he contin-



Rodney King displays a bruise on his chest during press conference at L.A. County jail, three days after the beating.

Photo: AP/ Wide World

ued hitting King because King continued to try to get up.

"I thought that if this guy got back up, he was going to take my gun and there was going to be a shooting," Powell testified. "So I was doing everything I could to keep him down."

### Media Misses "Lunge"

This "lunge" was what defense attorney Barnett called the "centerpiece" of the officers' case. The *CBS Evening News* showed this five-second sequence in March 1991, during the week after King's arrest. But CBS did not use it again after the trial verdict; the network was content to air later portions of the videotape showing the beating. So, too, did ABC. As noted earlier, NBC finally aired the "lunge" segment on 6 May. CNN ran the "lunge" segment several times.

This omission by the TV networks was crucial, because it denied the public the right to see an important part of evidence relied upon by the jury. Powell denied hitting King in the head or face, claiming the blows were not intended to "punish or

hurt" him but to keep him on the ground. He had been trained at the Los Angeles Police Academy to direct "power blows" to the shoulder, wrist or elbow of a suspect who violently resisted arrest. "The blow is to be with all the force you can muster, in an attempt to break the bone," Powell said.

As Powell and King scuffled, Mrs. Singer said Sgt. Koon shouted "Stop!" and Officer Theodore Briseno grabbed at Powell to push away his baton and keep him from hitting King any further.

King's continued resistance alarmed Koon. "I'm getting concerned, scared and a little frightened here," Koon testified. "This gentleman has been subjected to a multitude of blows from metal PR-24 batons, and there was no evidence he was going to comply."

Koon testified that Los Angeles police regulations permit officers to continually hit criminal suspects when they do not obey orders. These rules forbid striking suspects in the head or spine areas, where injuries could be fatal.

Koon said he did not consider use of a choke-hold to control King "because in Los Angeles the choke-hold is associated with the death of blacks." The Los Angeles police banned the choke-hold 10 years ago after the deaths of several arrestees.

Several minutes had elapsed before King quieted down and (according to Koon) yelled, "Please stop!" Then King finally raised his hands "in what I considered a compliance mode," Koon said. The two men riding with King had surrendered peacefully and neither one was harmed.

The first paramedic to arrive at the scene, Kathleen Bosak, testified she felt King suffered only minor injuries, chiefly a cut to his right cheek. "It looked like he had some dirt or gravel in his face ... like he had rolled on the ground with someone, but not that he had been struck." During the ride to the hospital, continued Bosak, King "started moving around and struggling," and she was unable to get his pulse or blood pressure.

Officer Susan Clemmer rode in the ambulance with King also. He was laughing and repeatedly used an obscene expression, she said. "He was spitting blood on my legs and shoes. I asked him to stop. He just laughed and continued."

King was still laughing when he was taken into the receiving room. Clemmer heard him mutter something to Koon and she asked him to repeat it. "He looked at Sergeant Koon and he said, 'I love you.' And he smiled and started laughing."

### Fair Trial in Los Angeles?

By the time a trial date was set for the LAPD officers, the home video had been shown uncountable times on both national and local television. Elected officials from President George Bush down to Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley and city councilmen in Los Angeles "had proclaimed

the guilt of the charged officers," attorney Barnett wrote in the 18 May *National Law Journal*. There were also noisy public fusses about the forced resignation of Los Angeles Police Chief Darryl Gates (who was scheduled to leave office this past June) and the work of the so-called Christopher Commission to recommend changes in the police department.

When Barnett made his first court appearance with Briseno, all the defendants wore flak jackets and were escorted by armed police guards. "Crowds of angry citizens screamed epithets as we entered the courtroom," he wrote. The presence of these protesters continued during pretrial proceedings.

Each day, as he entered the court, "I could clearly see the flag of the United States of America and the flag of the state of California, but the presumption of innocence was nowhere in evidence. I tried to explain to Officer Briseno, a 10-year street cop, that we would find a way to get him a fair trial. I was unable to convince myself," Barnett related.

Barnett and other defense lawyers asked the trial judge for a change of venue to a less hostile environment, but were refused. Nor would the judge delay the trial to give them time to review what Barnett called tens-of-thousands of pages of statements and other documentary, as well as hundreds of hours of video and audio tapes.

Finally, on the eve of the trial, defense attorneys went to an appeals court for a change of venue. On 23 July 1991, the Second District Court of Appeals ordered the trial be moved from Los Angeles. The court wrote: "So extensive and pervasive has been the [news] coverage, and so intense has become the political fallout, potential jurors have been infected to the extent there is a reasonable likelihood that a fair and impartial trial cannot be had in Los Angeles County."

The appeals court also criticized the trial judge's refusal to delay the trial or switch it to another county: "The trial judge's apparent willingness to sacrifice legal principles in order to achieve an expeditious trial date makes obvious why this court refused to vacate the stay of the trial."

The appeals court also rejected prosecution arguments that the publicity given in the King beating case was little different from that of other notorious criminal affairs such as the Charles Manson Family murders: "Manson was not entangled in local politics, did not focus on local politicians, and did not involve issues unique to Los Angeles County."

Still later, Barnett wrote, the defense learned that the trial jurist, Judge Bernard Kamins, had out-of-court contacts with Assistant District Attorney Terry White concerning the change of venue. (White immediately reported the contact, and Barnett stressed that "there was no suggestion that his office had engaged in any misconduct.") In any event, Kamins was

removed from the case, which was transferred to the Simi Valley division of the State Court in Ventura County, which is immediately north of Los Angeles.

### All-White Simi Valley?

Media accounts almost uniformly depicted Simi Valley as an all-white bastion of conservatism. National television stressed the fact that many white Los Angeles policemen choose to live there, and contrasted their comfortable suburban lives with the squalor of central Los Angeles. These TV stories featured shots of green lawns and happy children. Speaker Willie Brown of the California General Assembly told the Associated Press that Simi Valley was a "very white reactionary suburb of Los Angeles."

Actually, stating that the jury came from "all-white Simi Valley" does not jibe with the facts.

• The jury was drawn from all residents of Ventura County. Barry Scheck, professor at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, wrote in the 25 May *New Republic*, "Ventura County has a population of 669,000, 33 percent of whom are

Could millions of dollars in damages have been averted if TV-network media had shown the public the whole story?

Photos: Jim Morris



minority," i.e., black, Asian or Hispanic. As is true in all California counties, jury pools are drawn from persons who have either registered to vote or who have a driver's license.

• Of the 12 citizens who served on the jury, only two actually lived in Simi Valley. The remainder came from such communities as Santa Paula, Thousand Oaks and Oxnard.

• No blacks got onto the jury; there was one Asian-American and one Hispanic. The *Los Angeles Times* reported on 3 March that "only two percent of the 260 prospective jurors were black [seven per-

sons, actually] and many of them were excused after they advised the judge that they held strong views about the beating and did not think they could be fair to the police officers."

• There was another reason as well, which defense attorney Barnett outlined on NBC's *Today* show on 6 May. During jury selection, a man who represented himself as a "member of the local NAACP" approached several blacks on the panel and sought to talk to them about the case. Informed of these contacts, the trial judge agreed they had been "contaminated" and gave the defense much leeway in striking them from the panel for cause. But the judge denied a defense request to discharge the entire panel and start over.

Reporter Serrano of the *Times* wrote after the first day of juror screening about signs emerging that "Ventura County may not be as favorable a place for the trial as the defendants' attorneys once thought." Six of the first nine persons questioned had already concluded the officers were guilty, reportedly based on what they had learned from the media.

Both sides professed satisfaction with the fairness of the panel ultimately chosen. Although most jurors had seen the videotape, they said they could put aside preconceptions and return a fair verdict.

Nonetheless, when questioned in open court before their selection, several of the jurors admitted a predisposition. One woman told the judge that she felt the beating was "uncalled for." A man said, "the video made it appear that more force was used to control the subject than was necessary." And another man said he believed an officer should use force "only if the person or persons pose a danger to the officer or someone else." If they used excessive force, they "should be treated like I or anyone else would be treated — subject to the law," the man continued.

And yet another person, a 65-year-old woman who is a retired real estate broker, stated, "I would like to know what really happened — not all the hype."

Assistant District Attorney Terry White came under criticism after the acquittals because he did not put King on the stand. But as White said in several interviews, King could add little to what was already known, and letting him testify would let the defense explore his criminal record. We're trying the officers, not Rodney King, prosecutor White said.

Since King did not testify, Judge

*Continued on page 71*

# URBAN CLOAK

## Cutting-Edge Camo For Fighting Firearms



**B**ack in the good old days, guns were blued, their furniture was wood and that was that. Well, not exactly. The past was not always as simple as we'd like to believe.

While the array of metal finishes available for today's firearms can be confusing, and the final choice can approach an insolvable dilemma, what we refer to as just "bluing" actually has covered a multitude of chemical processes over the years. Among numerous others, there was London slow-rust bluing, hot-caustic blue, temper bluing, nitre bluing and slow-rust browning. All of these processes involved induced oxidation, or rusting, of steel surfaces, producing a dark blue, black or brown appearance.

Many of today's exotic surface finishes are derived from the aerospace industry and provide far greater protection than the more traditional processes. An excellent example is the polymer finish available from Robert A. Barrkman (The Robar Companies Inc., Dept. SOF, Suite B, 21438 North 7th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85027; phone: 602-581-2648).

Called Polymax, this finish can be ap-

**Steyr AUG with Omani contract furniture. The scoped receiver has been finished with Polymax — an aerospace process combining a high degree of adhesion with a hardness superior to many other surface finishes commonly applied to firearms.**

plied to ordnance-grade carbon steel and stainless steel, aluminum alloys and even synthetic surfaces. Its application can even eliminate surface blemishes, and it's available in all colors, from basic black to custom matches or camouflage patterns such as desert, tiger stripe, woodland and urban.

In addition to its attractive appearance, Polymax provides excellent resistance to water, to many corrosive chemicals, and to abrasion and impact by combining the important properties of a high degree of adhesion with a hardness superior to many of the other surface finishes commonly applied to firearms.

An enhanced formula — now available only in black — called Polymax T, is even more abrasion-resistant and contains Teflon (Du Pont's trade name for polytetrafluoroethylene, or PTFE). Firearms treated by this process require little lubrication, while carbon fouling can usually be removed by no more than an oily rag.

The Polymax process involves a number of steps, as meticulous preparation of the metal surface is absolutely essential.

First, the firearm is completely disassembled and then degreased. Mechanical surface preparation includes either aluminum-oxide blasting if the base metal is steel, or glass beading if an aluminum alloy is being treated. The steel components are soak-cleaned and placed into an acid activator. They are then phosphate-finished. The Polymax application is by means of pressure spray. The coating is cured overnight at ambient temperature before heat-curing in an oven.

Barrkman refinished the peeling, black-enameled slide of a Para-Ordnance P14.45 pistol and also a TACNINE sound suppressor for *Soldier Of Fortune* with black Polymax T. The appearance is outstanding, and both items, which take a lot of use and abuse, still look as good as new after many months of service.

As a tour de force, Barrkman color-matched the mustard-yellow furniture of a Steyr AUG from the Omani contract and Polymax-treated its scoped receiver for us. When assembled, the match was found to be perfect and the final result impressive. I doubt if the receivers originally finished by Steyr for this contract even approached this quality. *SOF* also examined two Colt AR-15 rifles which were given woodland- and urban camouflage finishes. Several U.S. military special-operations groups are testing M16A2s with Polymax camouflage finishes.

Polymax is not the only startling, space-age finish available from Robar. NP<sub>3</sub> is an exclusive Robar surface treatment for met-

# JUNGLE SHROUD

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis



**Two Colt AR-15s after Polymax treatment; the rifle in woodland camouflage, the carbine in an urban pattern. Polymax provides excellent resistance to water, many corrosive chemicals, abrasions and impact.**

als and alloys, providing the appearance of satin electroless nickel by combining sub-micron particles of PTFE with autocatalytically applied nickel-phosphorus. The result is a very accurate, dry-lubricated, low-friction surface

that is extremely resistant to wear. As the PTFE is evenly distributed and locked into the nickel-phosphorus matrix, when wear occurs, fresh particles of PTFE are exposed to keep the surface lubricated. No lubricants of any kind are required in the frame group of a semiauto pistol; powder residue and carbon fouling can be easily removed with a dry cloth.

More mundane Robar surface finishes include electroless nickel, which remains

one of the most durable and cost-effective coatings that can be applied to a firearm. Phosphating (known by many as "Parkerizing") is also available and involves the transformation of a steel surface to a rust-resistant manganese or zinc phosphate. This non-reflective, matte black finish is far superior to its World War II-era predecessors and has a sponge-like structure that entraps corrosion-resistant lubricants and provides an excellent coating for firearms exposed to high humidity and/or harsh environments.

Robar can blacken stainless steel by the application of oxidizing compounds. This process produces a black finish on stainless steel by converting the chrome present in

stainless steel to chrome-sulfide. The thickness of black oxide coating on stainless steel ranges from only 0.00006 to 0.0001 mil. This process not only reduces glare, but increases corrosion resistance and inhibits galling, a phenomenon sometimes associated with the bearing surfaces of reciprocating parts on stainless steel firearms.

Finally, and most cost-effective of all, modern "bluing" oxidizes a steel surface to a corrosion-resistant, black decorative finish by chemical reaction directly with the iron (Fe) in the steel alloy, to form oxide of iron ( $Fe_3O_4$ ).

Which of these finishes is best for you? That depends upon your intended use of the firearm and the size of your pocketbook. As I lurk in some pretty dark alleys and on steamy jungle trails, I prefer Polymax in a camouflage pattern to reduce the potential for position disclosure. If this is not an important parameter, then the advantages provided by Robar's  $NP_3$  are appealing to those whose firearms see heavy and sustained use. ☞

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**Of Thee I Sing ...**

# BARRY SADLER'S LAST PROJECT

by Jim Pate

**F**ew songwriters and few songs in recent history have had the impact of Barry Sadler and his "Ballad of the Green Berets."

More than a quarter-century after its release, and three years after Sadler's death, mention his name or the title of his only chartbuster and people remember the young Special Forces sergeant and the song he penned that stirred a nation's soul in the early days of the Vietnam War.

In a fitting tribute to the power and depth of his patriotism, even in death, Sadler's last musical project, *Of Thee I Sing*, has become a centerpiece for the official U.S. celebration of the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' voyage to America.

After the success of his hit song about "fighting soldiers from the sky, fearless men who jump and die," Sadler became a public relations bonanza for the U.S. Army. After leaving the service, he headed to Tennessee, where he worked in the music business and began a lucrative career writing novels about men at war. He also maintained his military contacts and served in law enforcement.

Sadler ended up on the wrong side of the law outside a bar one night, though, when he shot a man. But a judge had enough insight to recognize that Sadler's victim got what was coming to him — Sadler had been threatened at gunpoint by the victim on several occasions — so Sadler served only 22 days in jail for the fatal shooting.

After his release, Sadler headed to Guatemala to renew his long friendship with an old Army buddy, Ben Rosson, who had become a mercenary and trader in high-powered hardware. There Sadler began the first of many medical-assistance projects for rural Guatemalans, drawing on his expertise as a Special Forces medic; he also became a fixture in Guatemala City's mercenary community.

Sadler pursued many other interests as well, including martial arts, producing training videos and serving as a Contributing Editor to *Soldier Of Fortune* Magazine on the subject.

His *Of Thee I Sing* research resulted in a collection of historical popular music



from different eras in our nation's history, from the genesis of the American Revolution to the dawn of the 19th century. Sadler came up with the idea for a musical tribute to the nation in 1975; he began researching original popular songs from throughout America's history at the Library of Congress, the National Archives and the Smithsonian Institution.

"He loved his country dearly, and he was always looking for outlets to express that love," said Thadd Collins, a longtime friend who co-produced the album with Sadler. "Barry picked these songs because they are not the ones heard repetitiously in recent years ... but had been popular in their time and were lost or forgotten."

There was no particular rush on the project, so the producers took pains to make the musical accompaniment historically accurate.

"Careful attention was given to the instrumentation," Collins said. "Special research of the instruments of the era portrayed was made, and in every song this comes forward, even though in some cases it is backgrounded with instruments of today."

Of the 12 selections, Sadler does lead vocals on two, but handles all vocal ar-

Barry Sadler — singer, soldier, songwriter — sings "Ballad of the Green Berets" in Don Quijote's, known to Guatemalan locals as *la cantina de los mercenarios*, in summer of 1988. Photo: SOF staff

rangements. Also singing lead vocals on two songs is Merle Kilgore, a longtime friend of Hank Williams and presently manager for Hank Williams Jr.

Sadler and Collins finished all the recording work — and the tapes went into storage. "Barry, being Barry, had a lot of other projects going," Collins said. "He was cranking out his novels and staying busy in Guatemala."

Before Sadler could get back to the project, fate intervened. He was severely wounded in a 1988 accidental shooting in Guatemala City, and SOF Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown arranged for an air ambulance to move him to Nashville. Yet Sadler never fully recovered; he died two years later.

"We decided the work should not just sit on the shelf," Collins said, "so we dug the tapes out of the warehouse. They were remastered from analog to digital."

*Continued on page 68*

# MULLAHS ON THE MOVE

## The Surge of Islamic Fundamentalism—Part II

by Neil Livingstone

**O**n 16 February 1992, a convoy of vehicles sped away from the market town of Jibchit in southern Lebanon. A short time later a second, almost identical, convoy left the town. The second convoy, however, didn't make it. Israeli "Cobra" helicopter gunships, sweeping low over the rough terrain, ambushed the convoy and killed Sheik Abbas Musawi, his wife and 6-year-old son. The first convoy had been sent out as a decoy, but the Israelis were not deceived by it.

Sheik Musawi was the most prominent of four fanatical Shi'ite brothers and a top official of *Hezbollah*, the so-called "Party of God." He played a key role in the 1983 bombing of the U.S. Marine Corps barracks in Beirut, which had been pancaked by a car bomb, resulting in the loss of 241 American servicemen. More Americans were killed in that one blinding explosion than were lost on the battlefield during the Gulf War.

Musawi also was implicated in the earlier bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut that wiped out most of the CIA sta-

tion in Lebanon, and in the subsequent destruction of the embassy annex, with further loss of life. In addition, he was one of the principal figures involved in the kidnapping of Western hostages, including the abduction and subsequent murder of Marine Lieutenant Colonel William R. Higgins.

The Israelis had carefully planned their attack on Musawi since late 1991, because of the increase in Hezbollah operations against Israel and its surrogates in south-

ern Lebanon. As Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens announced, "This is a message to all the terrorist organizations, that whoever opens an account with us, we will be the ones to close the account."

Although Israel was widely criticized by other nations for the deaths of Musawi's wife and son, it is a fact that the sheik frequently used them as shields to discourage Israeli attacks. Hiding behind women and children is not an uncommon tactic of Hezbollah. A number of vehicle bombs used in attacks on American and other Western targets in Lebanon were constructed in the basement of a particular apartment building, obviously to make Hezbollah's enemies think twice about hitting the site because of the high number of civilian casualties that would be involved.

Musawi's successor is even more radical and bloodthirsty than Musawi was. To replace their fallen comrade, Hezbollah's ruling council named Sheik Hassan



These nations, plus large segments of Asia Major, already have Moslem majorities or are effectively under Moslem control: Will militant extremists led by Iran be able to enlist them for a Moslem world conquest?

Moslem independence movements, such as the rebels in Afghanistan who defeated the former Soviets and their communist puppets, are usually comprised of varying factions. Once the common enemy is defeated, extreme "fundamentalist" factions attempt to co-opt the victory, much as the communists did in Russia after the first revolution defeated the Czarists.



Photo: Jillian Gearing



Prayer and weapons: Moderate Moslems view liberation movements as a means to throw off the yokes of colonialism, communism, capitalism or other perceived oppressions. Extreme fundamentalists usually regard them as but steps in the march of Islam toward world domination. Photo: Julian Gearing

Nasrallah as its new secretary-general. Nasrallah immediately vowed that he would avenge Musawi's death, adding that his forces will attack Israeli and U.S. targets. He also promised to continue fighting "until all of Palestine is liberated" and rejected any consideration of coexistence with either Israel or its proxy, the South Lebanese Army.

Within hours of Musawi's death, Iran stepped up shipments of weapons to Hezbollah. On 17 February, the day after Musawi's death, a civilian cargo plane landed at Beirut International Airport and unloaded *Katyusha* rockets for Hezbollah. A second shipment of the Soviet-made rockets arrived on 20 February.

On 17 March, a powerful bomb blast devastated the three-story Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, killing 24 people and injuring at least 250 more. Approximately 100 kilograms of explosive (220 pounds) hidden in a Ford Fairlane was detonated as the automobile passed by the embassy. There was no warning before the attack, which followed close on the heels of the murder of an Israeli diplomatic security official in Turkey.

Argentine President Carlos Menem initially blamed the attack on pro-Nazis, because of his government's vow to release all information about former Nazis who took refuge in Argentina after World War II, but his statement was discounted by Western intelligence sources. The following day, Islamic Jihad claimed credit, saying, "We proudly announce that the operation ... is one of our continuous strikes against the criminal Israeli enemy in an open war that will not finish until Israel is wiped out of existence."

Islamic Jihad's statement praised the bomber, identified only as Yasser. "Yasser

... you strange Argentine," it read, "you have been guided by Islam in your land, which is a stranger to Islam, and believed in *Jihad* [holy war] as a way to support the religion which you have embraced and loved, and wished for blood-red martyrdom." There also were reports that members of the German Red Army Faction (RAF) were spotted in Argentina around the time of the embassy blast.

#### Hezbollah Strikes Again

According to U.S. and Israeli intelligence sources, the bombing was carried out by Islamic Jihad's action arm, Hezbollah. The explosive used was Czech-made Semtex that had been transferred to Argentina in the Iranian diplomatic "pouch," escorted by a former bodyguard to the Ayatollah Khomeini and kept at the Iranian Embassy until passed along to Hezbollah operatives in the country.

The arrival of the explosives at the Iranian Embassy caused a stir that was noted by Western intelligence services intercepting communications to and from the embassy. The detonator was part of a batch acquired by Iran from East Germany before the collapse of that communist regime. The actual bomb design was similar to that used in an unsuccessful December 1991 attempt to bomb a busload of Russian-Jewish immigrants in Budapest, Hungary.

It turned out that the driver of the vehicle was not a suicide bomber, but rather an innocent dupe told to drive the vehicle to a site in the immediate area. While he passed the embassy looking for a parking spot, the bomb was detonated by remote control. By lauding "Abu Yasser's" sacrifice, Islamic Jihad apparently hoped to leave the impression that the driver was a willing participant in the plot, eager to sacrifice his life for the glory of Islam, rather than an unwitting pawn tricked into driving the bomb-laden vehicle.

Reminiscent of the threat made against Saddam Hussein in the wake of the Scud missile attacks on Israel during the Gulf War, Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy

said that "those who carried out the murder and those who sent them are destined for a painful punishment. The government of Israel will decide on the place, the form and the manner to avenge the blood of the fallen."

#### The War Against Israel & The United States

While Islamic Jihad linked the car bomb attack in Buenos Aires to the killing of Sheik Musawi, in reality the death of the Hezbollah leader was just a convenient pretext for the terrorist action. A massive terrorist campaign against Israel and the United States had already been put in motion in late 1991.

Iranian officials, led by intelligence chief Ali Falahian, met with Hezbollah leaders and ordered them to disrupt the ongoing Middle East peace talks sponsored by the United States, by means of terrorist attacks throughout the region and Western Europe.

Iran transferred another \$35 million to Hezbollah to underwrite the operations, while giving another \$10 million to Hezbollah's chief political and spiritual leader, Sheik Mohammed Hussein Fadallah, to secure his cooperation. All of the funds are funneled to Hezbollah through Iran's ambassador to Damascus, Hassan Akhtari, and coordinated with Iran's chargé d'affaires in Beirut.

Thus, the attack in Buenos Aires was simply a continuation of the new terrorist offensive already underway. The Israeli Embassy was probably chosen because it was an old building located right on the street and would be easier to drop than many more-modern structures of steel and reinforced concrete.

By contrast to the formidable security at Israel's embassies in Europe, security at the Jewish nation's embassy in Argentina was not at a high level; it had been more than a decade since any serious at-

Trained cadres of militant true believers striving for martyrdom, enormous operational budgets, readily available supplies of quality weapons and explosives, the luxury of moving supplies or personnel under diplomatic cover — all spell trouble for the West as Iranian-backed Moslem extremists target their perceived enemies.

Photo: Julian Gearing



tack on an Israeli target in Latin America.

No one knows where Iran or its surrogates will strike next. Explosives and other materials have been pre-positioned in many countries, while Iran's embassies regularly assist and provide sanctuary to terrorists controlled by Iran.

Western intelligence specialists say that Tehran routinely abuses its diplomatic privileges by smuggling weapons and explosives in its diplomatic pouch. Similarly, Iran's national airline serves as a cover for many terrorists and agents of subversion, as well as a vehicle for moving guns and explosives around the world. Iranian assassination teams, moreover, have been pre-positioned in Lebanon, Egypt, Senegal, Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom, Italy, Nigeria, Bahrain, Switzerland and Germany.

While there is a sizable Iranian community in the United States (mostly former members of the ancient regime and backers of the Shah), and Iranian students are still permitted to study in this country, there is little evidence to suggest that there

are any imminent terrorist threat in the continental United States from Iran. It is still far easier to cross the street to carry out an attack than to cross an ocean. So long as the United States has so many inviting targets of opportunity abroad — embassies, tourists, American businesses, and aircraft — there is no need for Iranian-backed terrorists to come here to launch an attack.



Although the Koran frowns on graven images, such things as posters calling for unity in the struggle, or glorifying the Ayatollah Khomeini, are OK.

Photo: Tony Davis

Under pressure from the Bush administration, Syria joined the Coalition against Saddam Hussein and also participated in the peace talks aimed at resolving the long-standing Arab-Israeli dispute. Syria's role in the bombing of Pan Am 103 was conventionally swept under the rug by U.S. officials, who also ignored a quarter-century of support for international terrorism by Damascus. Although Secretary of State James Baker and others in the Bush administration would have us believe Syria has forsworn terrorism, the facts don't support such a conclusion.

### Syria: Up To Its Old Tricks

According to Western intelligence sources, Syria hosted three meetings in January and February 1992, designed to forge closer coordination between Palestinian terrorist groups and Iranian-backed Islamic fundamentalist organizations, especially Hezbollah. Present at the meetings were representatives of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine/General Command (PFLP/GC), Popular Liberation War Vanguard/al-Saiqa Forces, the Palestine National Liberation Movement (PNLM), the Palestinian Revolutionary Communist Party (PRCP), the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), and Hamas — the Islamic Resistance Movement.

Syria's immediate goal is to promote

an increase in the number of terrorist attacks against Israeli targets on the occupied West Bank and on the Gaza Strip. To this end, Damascus pledged greater logistics support for the various groups in attendance at the three meetings.

Iran's leadership clearly regards the Madrid conference and the subsequent peace talks between Israel and its Arab neighbors as a plot by the United States to extend its control over the region. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the Emirates are already regarded as American dependencies, and the present leaders of Oman and Egypt are considered "American stooges."

As a result, Tehran is desperate to derail the peace process by any means possible, and to this end Hezbollah and other pro-Iranian terrorist groups have been given the task of carrying out as many attacks against Israeli and American targets as possible during the coming year. In addition to efforts to undermine the

Arab regimes in North Africa, Iran is spending millions on plots to destabilize Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf states.

Iran's leadership was said to be shocked by the overwhelming superiority of Western weapons in the Gulf War, and by their own comparative military inferiority. As a result, they've gone on a weapons-buying spree and are expected to acquire \$2 billion worth of weapons this year. In addition, Iran has been engaged for nearly a decade in the acquisition of chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction. There are reports that Iran has managed to stockpile significant quantities of some chemical agents.

### Next, Nukes!

But it is Iran's drive to acquire nuclear weapons that is producing the greatest concern in the West. Initiated in 1975-76 by the late Shah, Iran's nuclear program languished for many years. Throughout the 1980s, it received only halfhearted support from the financially pressed Iranian government. Funding of the program averaged \$22 million per year.

In May 1991, however, a decision was made in Tehran to greatly expand and accelerate the nation's nuclear program, so an estimated half-billion dollars was pumped into it to give it new life. Mohsein Rizawi was placed at the helm of the crash program. Iran also formalized a series of agreements with other emerging nuclear powers like Pakistan, India, China and North Korea to share and exchange technologies.

In addition, the Iranians began to scour the world for nuclear scientists willing to work for them. Given the enormous salaries Iranians are willing to pay, they are said to have found many scientists eager to accept Tehran's blandishments, including some from the former Soviet Union. According to one source, by the end of 1991 Iran had managed to recruit 400 foreign scientists for its nuclear program.

### The Castro Connection

In September 1991, the Iranians reached agreement with Fidel Castro's economically destitute government for help delivering a nuclear payload to a target. According to the agreement, Cuban pilots would provide training to their Iranian counterparts in such areas as low-penetration maneuvers and special bombing techniques necessary for dropping a nuclear weapon from the MiG-23 BN jet.

Western intelligence sources also believe there was some discussion of Cuba selling several of the MiGs, which have a nuclear-payload capability, to Iran. In compensation for the training, Iran agreed to provide Cuba with a specified amount of oil, which Castro desperately needs since his Soviet fuel sources and other subsidies have been all but cut off.

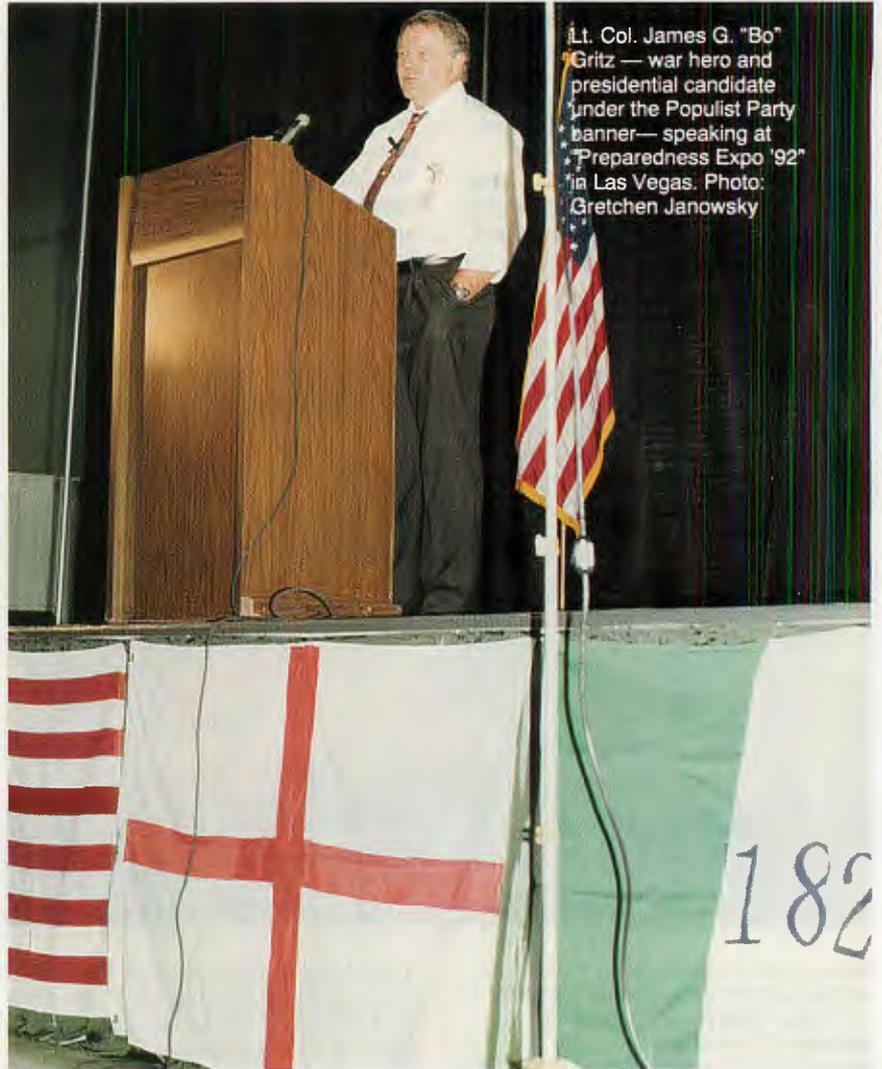
Observers believe the cooperative ef-

*Continued on page 69*

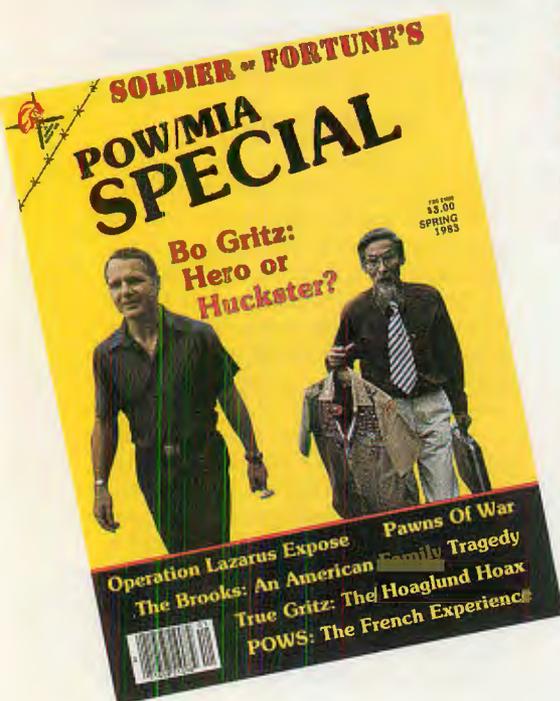
# Bo Knows politics?

## Klansmen, Christics, Clowns And Gritz's Populist Party

by Jim Pate



Lt. Col. James G. "Bo" Gritz — war hero and presidential candidate under the Populist Party banner— speaking at "Preparedness Expo '92" in Las Vegas. Photo: Gretchen Janowsky



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Due to numerous phone calls and letters asking about the Populist Party and its 1992 presidential candidate, retired Army Lieutenant Colonel James G. "Bo" Gritz, Soldier Of Fortune decided an in-depth look at Gritz's campaign was in order.

**W**hen the curtain fell on James G. "Bo" Gritz's "Freedom Call '90" forum in Las Vegas, political observers scratched their heads in wonder. A politically surreal assemblage, it had come off to some observers as guerrilla theater of the ideologically absurd, an anomalous political sideshow.

The philosophical spectrum of speakers was hardly less remarkable than if the late Senator Joe McCarthy and longtime U.S. Communist Party leader Gus Hall were to be united in a political alliance — imagine Fidel Castro speaking at a Jesse Helms fund-raiser.

Left: In 1983, Bo was a major player in POW/MIA rescue schemes; today his ambitions have broadened.

With the noted Vietnam special-operations warrior as ringmaster, center ring in Vegas included Eustace Mullins, a Hitler apologist and one of the nation's most virulent anti-Semites. His theory of a global financial conspiracy by certain wealthy Jewish families allegedly controlling the Federal Reserve System was available on videotape and being promoted by such lefty organizations as the Christic Institute, Prevailing Winds Research, and Pacifica Radio.

Also on the program was former Reagan administration staffer Barbara Honneger, whose book *October Surprise* alleges the Reagan campaign deliberately delayed release of U.S. hostages in Iran for political gain. Other notables included John Stockwell, the highest-ranking CIA officer-turned-critic, and also noted peacenik Father Bill Davis, a founder of the Christic Institute.

### Strange Bedfellows Wearing Sheets

Politics *does* make strange bedfellows. Some of them apparently were already wearing sheets when they hopped in the sack with their Populist Party comrades.

Sponsored by his Nevada-based Center for Action, Gritz said Freedom Call '90's speaker and topic choices resulted from 2,500 questionnaires sent to "patriotic groups." The July 1990 conference ultimately became a springboard for Gritz's presidential candidacy under the banner of the Populist Party, described in the March 1992 issue of *Reader's Digest* as "a haven for neo-Nazis, ex-Klansmen and followers of veteran anti-Semite Willis Carto."

While acknowledging Carto's pivotal role in resurrecting the Populist Party in 1984 under the auspices of the right-wing extremist Liberty Lobby and its publication, *The Spotlight*, Gritz noted in a recent interview that a great gulf now exists between Carto and the Populist Party.

*Reader's Digest's* characterization is unfair, Gritz said, adding that following David Duke's 1988 bid as the Populist Party's presidential candidate, the party ranks were purged of members having Ku Klux Klan and neo-Nazi backgrounds.

Gritz, who has two Amerasian children, renounced any racist beliefs on the part of his party. "If you've been in combat and you've huddled in peril with all races and all creeds ... you know what equal opportunity is," he said.

Still, Gritz's forum seems to reflect a bizarre political alliance between the right and left, one disturbingly reminiscent of partnerships made in the years following World War I, when both German Nazis and Italian fascists forged ties with labor unions, socialists and left-wing groups to seize political power.

Former CIA officer Stockwell, who said he "met Gritz there on stage [and] came away greatly unimpressed," added later that he neither endorses Gritz nor the Populist Party. And Father Davis, who

walked out during remarks by Mullins, said his own appearance should not be construed as an endorsement, either.

Apparently embarrassed by the ties to Gritz's campaign, Sara Nelson, national director of the Christic Institute, finally wrote in November that the alleged affiliations of the Populist Party with Klansmen and neo-Nazis, "if true, are extremely serious ... the Institute's former relationship with Bo Gritz [was] a mistake." Nelson attributed the association to "our ignorance of Bo Gritz's extremist connections."

The Populist Party's earlier connections to the Klan, neo-Nazis and other racist groups have left Nelson, Davis and Daniel P. Sheehan, the Christic Institute's best-known crusader, all looking badly duped by the old special ops commando.

These matters have also drawn criticism against the Christic Institute (usually one of the standard-bearers for liberal causes) from such organizations as People Against Racist Terror, and also from Political Research Associates, which specializes in tracking right-wing political movements. Both organizations faulted the Christics for not stridently renouncing Gritz and his campaign.

In a brief telephone interview with *Soldier Of Fortune* — one he cut short when asked about his cooperation with Gritz and the Populist Party — Sheehan equivocated and then fell silent.

### Populists Unite

Gritz's quest for a cross-ideological pollination to help his political ambitions blossom was clearly stated in the June 1991 issue of *The Populist Observer*, where he called upon "you as Republican, Democrat, Libertarian, independent, right, left, conservative, liberal ... to UNITE AS POPULISTS!" (emphasis in the original).

Gritz and other Populist Party supporters had already infiltrated the left-wing lecture circuit, especially on the West Coast, primarily under the auspices of Prevailing Winds Research, a group from Santa Clara, California, closely allied with the Christic Institute.

The Populists got generous airtime from the Pacifica Radio Network affiliate stations KPFK in Los Angeles, KPFA in Berkeley and KBOO in Portland.

Prevailing Winds helped promote many personal appearances and radio speeches by Gritz, including a three-hour talk to the Santa Barbara City College Political Awareness Club on 12 May 1991. Prevailing Winds has also published endorsements of Gritz's Center for Action, located in Sandy Valley, Nevada.

"We go wherever we're invited," Gritz told *SOF*. "If the Black Panthers invited me, I'd go. If the Jewish Defense League invited me, I'd go. Because my message is the same, and if you're an American you need to hear it ... but the Populist Party is soundly against ... Ku Klux Klan and neo-Nazi beliefs ..."

Gritz's message calls for abolition of the Federal Reserve System, the income tax and the Internal Revenue Service; he staunchly opposes President Bush's New World Order concept, and he wants a return to states' rights in legislating such

concerns as abortion, pornography, homosexuality and similar issues. Conspiracy theories are also referred to by Gritz, who alleges U.S. government involvement in drug smuggling and other crimes (such as President Kennedy's assassination), and that the AIDs virus was hatched in a U.S. government laboratory.

Gritz's Center for Action has promoted Christic Institute and Prevailing Winds Research causes, as well as Mullins' arguments against the Federal Reserve. In many of his speeches across the country, Gritz cites Christic condemnation of the Iran-Contra affair and especially former Marine Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North's involvement.

According to a February 1992 report by Political Research Associates of Cambridge, Massachusetts, Gritz also often implies a friendly working relationship between himself and key Christic figures, especially Sheehan. "Sheehan is featured in a privately distributed videotape program focusing on Gritz's research, which alleges high-level conspiracies by the Reagan and Bush administrations' intelligence communities to smuggle drugs," according to the report, written by Chip Berlet.

These conspiracy theories provided



Gritz claims support from Daniel Sheehan, honcho in the leftist Christic Institute, but Sheehan seemed somewhat nonplussed to find himself in league with neo-Nazis and Klan members supporting Gritz's candidacy. Photo: AP/Wide World

much of the common ground on which the right and left got together. And "the right's attempt to influence and recruit the left became highly visible during the Gulf War," Berlet wrote. "As the movement against the war in the Middle East began to grow, a handful of far-right and anti-Jewish groups began to seek alliances with liberal, progressive and leftist anti-war coalitions."

### Conspiracies Everywhere

"As the far right made overtures to the left, some of the classic conspiracy theories of the far right began to creep into progressive and even mainstream analyses of foreign policy and domestic repression," Berlet wrote. "An audience was created ... through public speaking, radio interviews, sales of audio tapes and published articles."

Berlet's report, which cautioned that the Liberty Lobby and the Populist Party are "separate and distinct from traditional

supply through coining unlimited amounts of silver; it sought government ownership of the railroads and phone companies.

Carto's 1984 reincarnation claimed lineage from the 19th-century populist movement, a claim Gritz also makes. But except for some superficial similarities, the modern incarnation has more in common in its organizational history with bed-sheeted night riders — its founders have political backgrounds that belie the egalitarian aura that a name like "populist" might suggest.

Gritz said the extremist tilt was more recent, stating that "when David Duke came on in 1988 ... it was like taking a perfectly good container and dumping it full of garbage ... I will not cooperate with any bigoted state group." He added that each state Populist group is autonomous. The Populist Party's Florida chapter is one such group Gritz has disavowed because of its refusal to admit non-white members.

separating mainstream American politics from extremism."

It was through the Liberty Lobby, *The Spotlight* and Carto's mailing list that a national constituency was created for former Nazi and Klansman David Duke, according to Berlet's report.

An article, "David Duke: Racial Politics for Profit," in the March 1992 issue of *Reader's Digest* said the 47,047 votes Duke won in 1988 were financed largely from campaign funds raised using Carto's mailing list of more than 100,000 names, many being "members of extremist groups ranging from Liberty Lobby to ... various Klan groups."

Gritz was Duke's initial running mate for vice president in the Populist Party's 1988 campaign. Duke's recent past as a grand dragon of the Ku Klux Klan became the prominent issue, though, and Gritz resigned from the Populist ticket to unsuccessfully seek the Republican nomination for a Nevada congressional race.

Yet Gritz continues to associate with people of questionable intent. Mullins is a good example.

"People call Eustace Mullins anti-Semitic," Gritz noted. "But all he does is name the owners of the Federal Reserve. And they happen to be people who are ... Jewish. I know him fairly well. What he talks about on the tape we sell is the Federal Reserve. He's done more research than probably anyone else and wrote a book called *Secrets of the Federal Reserve*."

Mullins has authored another book: *The Biological Jew*. Some passages from that book: which might be construed as offensive to people of Jewish ancestry, suggest that Gritz's uncertainty about Mullins is naive at best. "Throughout history we find the Jew entwined about the reproductive organs of the Gentile host," Mullins wrote in this book, "like a parasitic vine which is slowly strangling a healthy tree."

Gritz also said he does not know Jerry Pope, chairman of Kentucky's Populist Party. Pope was once a prominent figure in the National States Rights Party founded by racist J.B. Stoner, who was imprisoned for the deaths of black children in the bombing of a Sunday school class in Birmingham, Alabama.

If Gritz doesn't know Pope, it's interesting, because they both were members of the Liberty Lobby's Populist Action Committee in 1991, according to Political Research Associates. Another member of this committee that Gritz claimed he does not know is Robert H. Weems Jr., the first national chairman of the Populist Party and a former state leader of the Ku Klux Klan in Mississippi.

Gritz's campaign has at times taken on a distinctly militaristic air. Populist Party campaign workers were at a Phoenix gun show in February, wearing guns and camouflaged clothing, collecting money for Gritz under the auspices of the We The People Society, a Phoenix group. In Popu-



David Duke during a trip to London in 1978. Gritz claimed Duke's membership in the Populist Party was old news, adding he will not cooperate with any bigoted state Populist organization. Photo: AP/Wide World

conservatism," noted the Christics' West Coast office sells *The Guns and Drugs Reader*, edited by Prevailing Winds and prominently featuring material written by Gritz. Ironically, no other news medium has given more coverage to Gritz's candidacy and his right-wing allies than Pacifica Radio Network, noted for its left-wing slant on the news.

The Populist Party resurrected in 1984 is not your great-grandfather's Populist Party (see sidebar). The original Populist Party was a largely rural coalition of farmers and the working class that gained national power a century ago. It opposed the rapid economic changes then taking place and called for an increase in the money

"They're on their own," Gritz said. "We've been trying to dump Duke's people. Today, David Duke is a Republican. Why aren't they tarring George Bush with that brush?"

### Racists And Anti-Semites

But Populist Party ties to the Ku Klux Klan and neo-Nazis go back to its resurrection in 1984. Launched by Carto's Liberty Lobby newspaper, *The Spotlight*, today's Populist Party is described by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith as "the most professional and successful anti-Jewish propaganda organization in the United States ... a contemporary Trojan Horse, a ploy to breach the boundaries

## THE POPULIST PARTY: A POLITICAL TROJAN HORSE

Whatever its ideology may be today, the contemporary history of the Populist Party cannot be understood without knowing the political history of its founders, most notably Willis A. Carto.

Carto's documented political affiliations began in 1954, when he was a full-time secretary for an anti-Jewish group called Liberty and Property. The next year, Carto began soliciting support for the Joint Council for Repatriation, a back-to-Africa movement for blacks, which Carto said he hoped would prevent what he described as "the inevitable 'niggerfication' of America."

In 1960, Carto met Nazi philosopher Francis Parker Yockey, author of *Imperium*, a postwar *Mein Kampf*. Yockey soon thereafter hung himself while jailed in San Francisco, but Carto organized Noonide Press to finally publish Yockey's book in 1962. In his introduction to Yockey's book, Carto dedicated it to "the hero of the Second World War," which in the context of the book clearly meant Adolf Hitler.

According to William Turner, an ex-FBI agent who wrote *Power of the Right*, Carto was already predisposed to Nazi beliefs when he met Yockey, but the latter helped him form a more focused approach to future political activities. It was then that Carto began to be more careful in compartmentalizing his more-overtly pro-Nazi projects from the many political front organizations he would later establish.

He had formed the Liberty Lobby in 1958, which in the early 1960s was still considered just another conservative action group. Carto traveled in Republican Party circles and volunteered for Barry Goldwater's campaign in 1964. He broke with the Republican Party in

1968, when he climbed aboard the George Wallace presidential bandwagon.

Through the 1970s, the Liberty Lobby was emerging as a distinctly anti-Semitic, pro-Nazi group. By the 1980s, Carto and his Liberty Lobby newspaper *The Spotlight* were attacking both the Reagan and Bush administrations as pawns of "international Jewry" who, in Carto's words, "diligently avoid controversy in regard to Zionism, race, money and banking, and Trilateralism."

In Carto's mind, international Jewish bankers are enemies of Western civilization, bent on destroying white society through their alleged control of capitalist and communist political and economic systems. He blames them for both world wars, and for sending a "non-white" flood to destroy the United States.

Carto went on to found the Institute for Historical Review, a revisionist propaganda organization that conducts "research" tending to cast doubt on the extent or even the occurrence of the Holocaust.

It was in *The Spotlight* that Carto's followers in the Liberty Lobby began promoting the idea of resurrecting a Populist Party in 1983. The 10 December 1984 issue of *The Spotlight* even offered local Populist Party chapters a 50% commission on its annual \$30 subscription price in order to expand the party.

The first Populist Party convention drew about 600 people to Nashville, Tennessee, in August 1984. Each person paid \$35 to register, which made him or her a voting delegate. No non-whites attended. Robert H. Weems Jr., a Ku Klux Klan leader in Mississippi, was elected as the party's first national chairman.

— J. P.

list Party brochures, Gritz wears his medal-covered uniform. But in a pamphlet of the America First Coalition, Gritz appears the more conventional politician, in a coat and tie.

The America First Coalition is an amalgam of seven political parties, an attempt to increase the Populist Party currency under a host of names. The Populist Party itself will be on the ballot in only about 12 states, Gritz said. But he is on the ballot in other states under the auspices of such varied groups as the Independent Voters Alliance, the Alaskan Independence Party, the Constitutional Party and others.

Gritz also has had curious connections to the religious right. He confirmed his appearance as an invited speaker at Rocky



John Stockwell, former CIA officer turned government critic, met Gritz at Freedom Call '90 in Las Vegas and came away "greatly unimpressed." Photo: AP/Wide World

Mountain Bible retreats held by the Reverend Pete Peters, one of the most vocal proponents in the white-Christian identity movement. This persuasion preaches that those of white European ancestry are God's "chosen people," that Jews are "Satan spawn" and that non-whites are "pre-Adamic," or "mud races."

Peters has also provided funding assistance for distribution of Gritz's *Called to Serve* campaign biography, which has also been circulated with the help of the Christic Institute and Prevailing Winds Research. Peters has aired Gritz speeches on his con-

roversial Christian radio show.

Gritz recently said he and Peters have parted ways, and that Peters urges his followers not to support Gritz because, according to Gritz: "I will not support the persecution of homosexuals ... I've had hundreds of letters saying, 'Bo, how can you be so patriotic and not be willing to kill queers?' I don't support homosexuality. I'm a Christian. But I don't think they should be persecuted."

While at one of Peters' Bible retreats, Gritz said he also met with Colonel Jack Mohr. Mohr's sympathies for the Klan and neo-Nazis are well documented. It was Mohr's humiliation by Denver radio talk-show host Alan Berg that led to Berg's assassination by The Order, or *Bruder Schweigen*, a violent offshoot of Aryan Nations, whose founders Richard Mathews and David Lane met at Peters' church in La Porte, Colorado.

Gritz has also spoken to less-provocative groups, such as a convention of the Coalition for Tax and Money Reform in Denver in August 1991. According to a report of Gritz's speech published in *The Denver Post*, Gritz predicted the United States will have a cashless society by 1994, adding that by 1995, "we will have to kneel before the 'new world order.'"

Vowing that, if elected, he would govern the United States "as a Christian nation," Gritz said that "if I win this election, it's Armageddon time." He continued, according to the *Post*, "I believe our job is to identify and weed this garden until the King [Jesus] comes to claim it ... what I do best is cause train wrecks. And I'm going to cause a new-world-order derailment."

Gritz's reputation as a riveting speaker is well deserved; his ego is legendary and his charisma has led many well-intentioned people to follow him on all sorts of exotic and sometimes quixotic quests. From heroic missions as a Special Forces commander of Vietnamese indigenous forces in the 1960s (when he became the Vietnam War's most-decorated Green Beret officer), to POW/MIA activism and eventual entry into politics in the 1980s, Gritz has always been 101% self-confident, unpredictable, sometimes flamboyant — and messianic in his conviction that his is a divinely mandated leadership.

### Spiritual World Of Warriors

"I've heard him talk about a spiritual world of warriors," said James P. Monaghan, who served with Gritz in special operations in Vietnam. "He's convinced he's been ordained, reincarnated and sent back to Earth to form this mystical warrior society."

Gritz retired from active duty with a reputation for enormous physical strength, unflinching courage and immense energy; he was "something of a wizard in small-unit, unconventional warfare tactics and

*Continued on page 74*

**L**ieutenant Colonel Billy Diehl and three other F-16 pilots were rolling in on a “kill box” in Kuwait; 30 square miles of territory where no one but bad guys were dug in. It was early afternoon on 24 February 1991 — the ground war against Iraq was only a few hours old.

Diehl, commander of the 17th Tactical Fighter Squadron from Shaw Air Force Base (AFB), South Carolina, was working with some “Fast FACs” — Forward Air Controllers from Hill AFB, Utah, who were also flying F-16s.

Diehl’s flight of F-16C Fighting Falcons had just been cleared to roll in on some Iraqi tanks when one of the FACs (known as “Pointer-73”) asked Diehl if he had heard a transmission on “Guard,” an emergency UHF channel reserved for military units in trouble. Someone on the ground was talking to airborne command-and-control about needing air support.

“By the tone of his voice, you could tell he needed help and needed it fast,” Diehl recalled.

Diehl received orders to forget the Republican Guards armor and immediately head north. His flight was tapped to be the leading element of what would become a daylight Search And Rescue (SAR) effort involving 16 F-16s, and two MH-60 Blackhawks.

Diehl recognized the initial coordinates passed along by Pointer-73 from the airborne command post. “One hundred sixty miles north of here is Baghdad,” Diehl told himself while punching coordinates into his computer, “We’re going to Baghdad.”

A Vietnam veteran with 20 years of flying under his belt, Diehl at first thought the U.S. Air Force had an airplane down in the area. But as his four ships drew closer, they could hear the FAC talking to guys on the ground, a team of U.S. Army Special Forces (SF). As he made the half-hour, high-speed trip, Diehl couldn’t help but think, *What the heck are they doing that far north?*

Leading the second four-ship of F-16s, Captain Bill Andrew shouted, “Holy shit!” when he learned where they were headed.

By the time Diehl’s flight reached the area where Chief Warrant Officer 2 Richard F. “Bulldog” Balwanz and his eight-man team of Green Berets were locked in heavy combat with at least a company of Iraqi soldiers, one of the FACs had visually identified the team’s position in a drainage ditch on the desert floor. (*For the story of how Balwanz’s A-Team got into this situation, see “Bulldog Balwanz and His Eight-Man Army,” May ’92.*)

#### Needle In A Haystack

The FACs had locked on the A-Team’s global positioning system, which can pinpoint a unit’s position to within 60 feet anywhere in the world. But from 10,000 feet up, the ditch looked like a scratch in the sand.

“As we headed inbound, the FACs were trying to pinpoint the location of the Iraqis they wanted us to hit,” Colonel Robert B. Van Sice explained. Van Sice, deputy director of operations for the 363rd Tactical Fighter Wing, was flying the No. 3 position on Diehl’s wing.

Having learned the fine art of close-air-support flying F-4D Phantoms in 1969 out of Phu Cat, Vietnam, Van Sice explained how it was very difficult to see the features FACs pointed out on the ground. Unlike Southeast Asia, where there were rivers, trails and mountains, the ground in the Gulf region was barren and devoid of distinctive terrain.

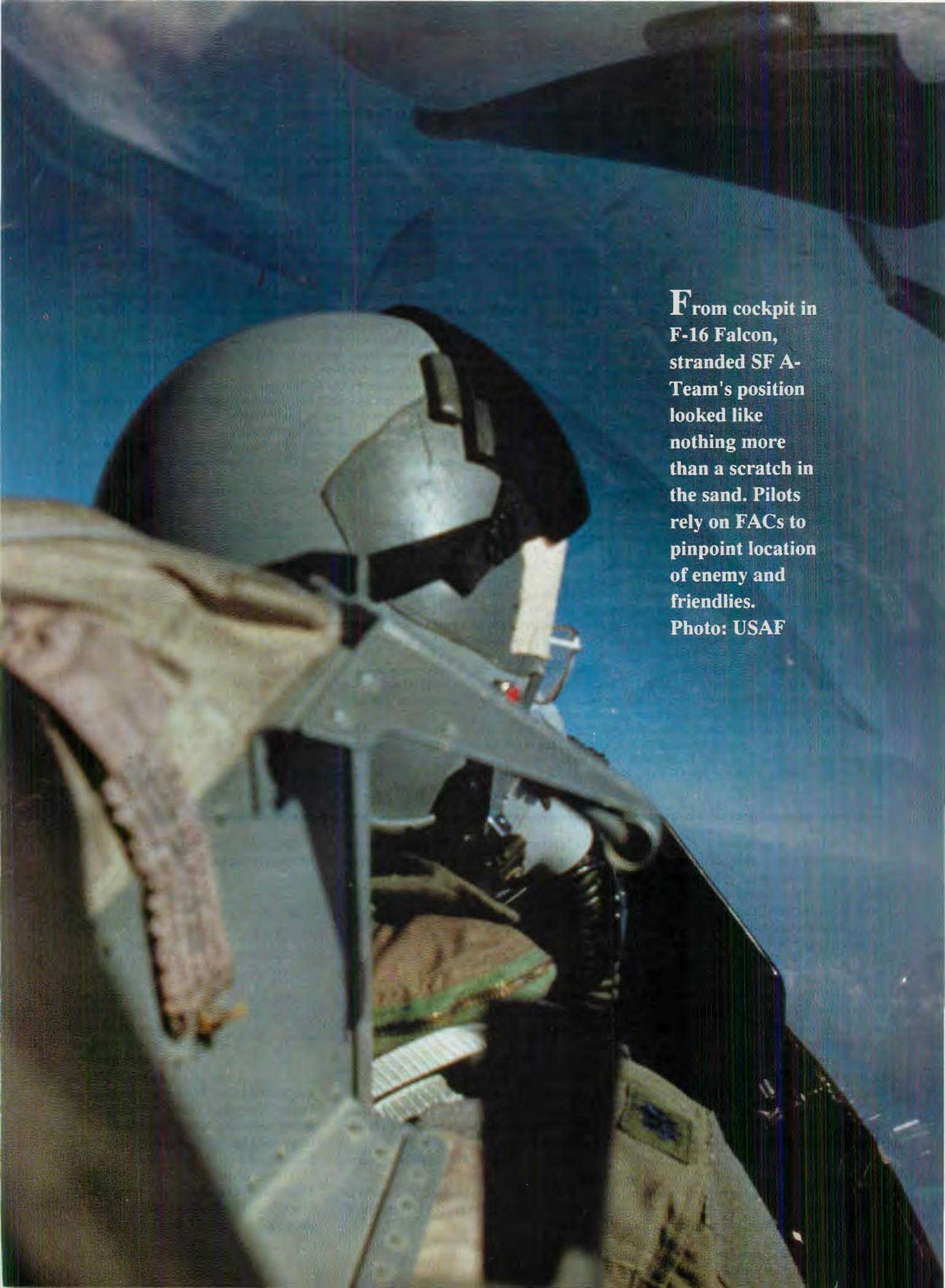
“The biggest fear in a rescue attempt like this is putting ordnance on the good guys, and killing your buddies on the ground,” Diehl noted; it took 10 minutes for Pointer-73 to show him exactly where the friendlies were situated

# BEST MISSION

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## F-16s Take Heat Off Green Berets Trapped In Iraq

by Dale B. Cooper



**F**rom cockpit in F-16 Falcon, stranded SF A-Team's position looked like nothing more than a scratch in the sand. Pilots rely on FACs to pinpoint location of enemy and friendlies.

**Photo: USAF**

# SHOT DOWN BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Although antiaircraft artillery fire over Iraq was the heaviest encountered by American pilots since Vietnam, the 363rd Tactical Fighter Wing lost only one pilot (a non-combat fatality) and three jets during the Gulf War air campaign. Captain Dale T. Cormier was killed while landing his F-16C on 15 February.

Another pilot who lost his jet when its engine failed managed to get out before it crashed. Ironically, U.S. Army Special Forces were involved in the rescue of Capt. Scott Thomas. He and his wingman, First Lieutenant Eric Dodson, flew an armed reconnaissance mission over the Euphrates River, searching for and destroying bridges that Iraqis were using to rush reinforcements to the front in Kuwait.

The engine in Thomas' F-16C lost power while climbing 27,000 feet, some 30 miles from the river. "Bummer, dude," Thomas radioed as his Falcon faltered behind enemy lines.

Sliding under his buddy's crippled fighter-bomber, Dodson could see a trail of white smoke, but closer examination revealed the smoke was JP-4 jet fuel vaporizing behind the aircraft and creating a white cloud. "Okay, now you've got sparks and shit coming out of your engine," observed Dodson, who contacted an airborne command post and asked for a Search And Rescue. He advised his friend that rescue choppers were heading their way. Although the fuel leak was small, the engine would not develop thrust; without thrust, Thomas couldn't stay in the air much longer.

The book says an F-16 trades about 5,000 feet of altitude for every seven miles traveled. With some 18,000 feet of altitude left, a tail wind and some thrust, Thomas figured it would be close, but he should be able to make the Saudi border. His optimism faded when sparks started shooting out the back of the engine as he and his wingman flew between two enemy encampments.

Some 40 miles from the border, the engine began disintegrating and the cockpit filled with smoke. "Okay, I'm getting out," Thomas radioed.

In the time it took Thomas to reach for the ejection handle, he heard Dodson answer, "You're on fire." The next thing Thomas knew, he was swinging from a parachute and watching his disabled jet disappear in the clouds, miles away.

Just before light faded, Dodson located his friend on the desert floor below and ordered him to "stay put."

Gathering up his survival gear, including an inflated rubber raft which he used as a makeshift hut, Thomas sought shelter from a vicious thunderstorm. About two hours after ejecting, he was picked up and returned to a forward base in Saudi Arabia.

Captain Bill Andrews (who replaced Billy Diehl over Richard Balwanz's A-Team in Iraq) wasn't as lucky.

Andrews was shot down over Iraq on 27 February and captured by the Iraqis. He broke his leg ejecting from his crippled F-16 after it was hit, probably by a heat-seeking missile. Andrews was shot down on the last day of the Gulf War while attacking Republican Guards units trying to escape from Kuwait along the infamous Highway 8 near Basra.

"I was working the area about 30 minutes ahead of Bill," Lieutenant Colonel Ed Rosenthal recalled, "but the weather was terrible — so bad, my flight had to go home with its bombs."

Andrews got tagged when he elected to descend through the clouds to see if he could identify the target he'd been given by the airborne command post. No one saw him get hit, since his wingmen stayed above the cloud deck. "The ship blew apart, and I punched out through the flames," remembered Andrews, now an F-16 instructor at Arizona's Luke Air Force Base.

When Andrews failed to make radio contact with his flight, they came down to see what had happened to their leader. That's when the Iraqis opened up with surface-to-air missiles (SAMs). "Andrews called several SAM breaks to them using his handheld PRC-90 survival radio when he saw shoulder-fired stuff going their direction," Colonel Robert Van Sice added.

Finally, the Iraqi army captured Andrews and knocked the radio out of his hand, but did not break it.

Van Sice also reported that when an A-10 approached, trying to set up a SAR effort for Andrews, "Bill saw it, and also saw the Iraqis were going to start shooting some more SAMs at the Warthog — so he reached down, grabbed his radio, and hollered into it for the A-10 pilot to break, pop some flares, and get out of the area."

In Southwest Asia, SAR efforts were joint Air Force/Army missions, however the Army end of this effort ended in tragedy when a Blackhawk from the Aviation Brigade of the XVIII Airborne Corps was shot down while trying to rescue Andrews.

Army Major Rhonda L. Cornum (paratrooper, pilot, doctor and flight surgeon) was one of two people aboard the chopper who survived the crash, but Cornum broke both arms and was captured.

Andrews managed to escape from his captors. "They were so intent on packing up and leaving, I was able to slip away in the darkness and hide in a nearby bunker," he said. "But I was recaptured the following day by some other enemy soldiers." Andrews and Cornum were repatriated along with other Coalition POWs after the war.

Andrews was awarded the Air Force Cross, but would gladly return it if it would bring back to life the men who died trying to save him.

— D. B. C.

Illustration by: Rob Wentz

on the battlefield far below.

"It's very difficult to convert ground references to airborne references," Van Sice noted. "That's why we normally deal with Air Liaison Officers (ALOs), pilots assigned to ground units who act as forward observers. But A-Teams don't take along ALOs." The FAC kept referring to "the football," a lopsided patch of light-colored terrain where the team was hunkered down. "But I have yet to know what he was talking about. I could not pick up anything that looked to me like a football," Van Sice said.

Lieutenant Colonel Edward P. Rosenthal, who flew the No. 2 position, was equally frustrated. "The football field looked more like a baseball diamond to me," he recalled. Rosenthal flew F-111s in Thailand after the Vietnam War ended and was now the Central Air Force's director of flying safety. He, too, was reluctant to drop his bombs until being sure where the team was located.

"I could hear one of them talking about

five Iraqi trucks loaded with troops coming off the road and heading for them," Diehl said, "but I still didn't know where the friendlies were." Before rolling in on the target, he switched on his gun camera, which recorded not only the video portion of the ensuing attack, but also the audio communications from Sergeant 1st Class Robert Degroff of the trapped A-Team to Pointer-73 and Diehl's flight.

Pointer-73: "You've got a four-ship with CBU-87 [the improved version of cluster bombs] on those vehicles."

Degroff: "Roger, we certainly appreciate — over."

Pointer-73: "What I need you to do is give me directions where the bombs fall, if possible."

Degroff: "We'll do the best we can. Obviously we have our heads down pretty low at this time."

**"I'm in," responded Diehl, as he flipped his F-16 onto its back and dived at the trucks heading across the desert toward the trapped A-Team.**

Pointer-73 (to Diehl): "Stop the vehicles on that road."

"I'm in," Diehl responded as he flipped his F-16 onto its back and dived at the trucks heading across the desert toward Degroff

and his buddies. Screaming down at 480 knots (540 mph), Diehl put his CCIP (Constant Computing Impact Point) sight on the target, pickled (released) two cluster bombs and scored a direct hit on the trucks.

Flying in the No. 4 position, Lt. Bryan Turner watched the cluster bombs hit. "I saw some guys running from the trucks, but once they [a pair of CBUs] hit in the field,

I didn't see 'em anymore."

When a CBU canister breaks open, more than 200 tiny bomblets are scattered over a 5,000-square-yard area. CBU-87s are awesome weapons against trucks, light armor and personnel. It's no wonder CBUs were the weapons of choice among American pilots in the Gulf War.

### Weapon Of Choice

"When CBUs explode, it's spectacular," Turner said. "It looks like a bunch of sparklers on the Fourth of July. It goes off real fast, sparkles for two or three seconds, and then it's over with."

Degroff was still talking to the FAC about the need to "take out" the vehicles first, when Diehl interrupted their conversation and in a businesslike manner said, "Those vehicles should be down. What's next?"

When Degroff asked Pointer-73 if he could give Diehl a bomb-damage assessment, the flight leader politely replied this wouldn't be necessary. "The trucks are gone," Diehl radioed. (Later, recalling the incident as he watched gun-camera videotape of the attack, Diehl said that it was the best pass of his career.)

Pointer-73 (to Diehl): "Looks like there was some 37-millimeter over there [coming from a nearby town]."

Diehl: "I saw some flashes, but no air bursts yet."

Degroff: "Pointer-73, this is Guard — over."

Pointer-73: "Go ahead, Guard."

Degroff: "Do you have any ammunition to box our position?"

Pointer-73: "Negative."

Degroff: "Roger — then, from our position, please drop cluster bombs for personnel, approximately a platoon-sized element 500 meters due north of our position."

Diehl (to Pointer-73): "Make sure he understands these are cluster bombs. This is danger close."

As they rolled in, one of Diehl's wingmen reported the aircraft were being tracked by Iraqi anti-aircraft radar. "Okay, let's put some chaff out, but no flares," the flight leader responded.

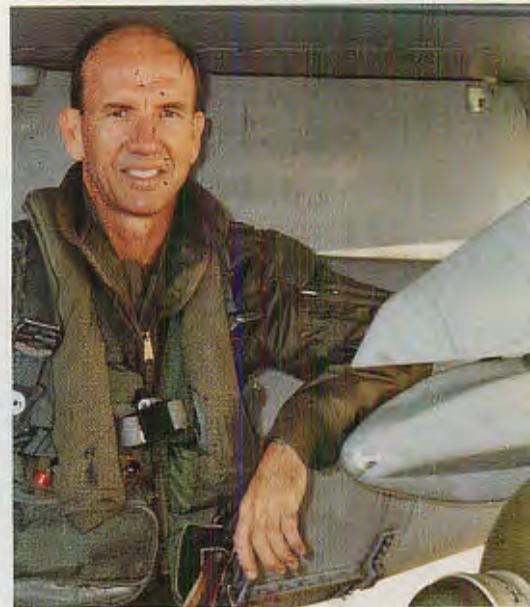
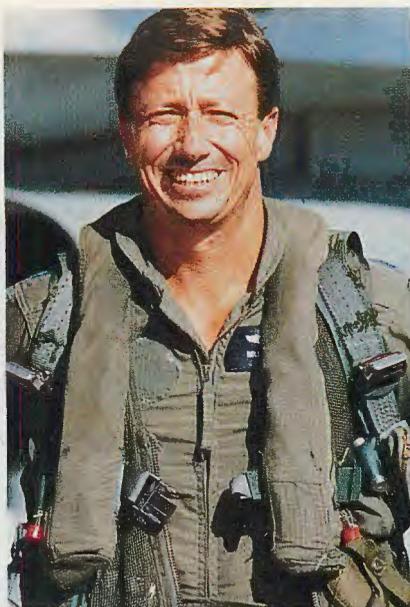
Pointer-73 dropped a bomb 300 meters from the target to mark the enemy troop concentration for the F-16s, and told Lt. Turner to put a pair of cluster bombs about 200 meters to the north of a football-shaped patch of ground where the A-Team was fighting for its life.

Turner: "Roger — I'll be rolling in from the west."

Degroff: "Good Hit!"

Pointer-73: "Roger — keep your head down, we've got more."

Although Pointer-73 knew where the A-Team was pinned down and was able to point out their position to Diehl, the flight leader still had a hard time relaying that information to his wingmen. "Initially my Number-two man, Rosenthal, couldn't pick up the team's position, but Number-



four, Turner, could see the target and I cleared him in ahead of Rosenthal," Diehl recalled.

"It was frustrating trying to locate their position," said Rosenthal, who flew 20 combat missions during the Gulf War. As a former instructor at Florida's Patrick AFB who taught close air support, Rosenthal knew how hard it is to "talk a person's eyes onto a target."

Since Diehl didn't have similar training, it was apparent to Rosenthal that Diehl would not be able to talk his eyes onto the target.

Unlike Turner, who saw Diehl's bombs hit, Rosenthal couldn't see them from where he was holding high, at 20,000 feet.

"Unless you're looking right at CBUs when they start going off, there's nothing there. No big cloud of dust, nothing. So that put me at a big disadvantage," Rosenthal explained. Even after Diehl's second pass, Rosenthal was still unsure where the friendlies were located. But Turner salvaged two canisters of CBU-87s into the Iraqis.

On the ground, Degroff shouted, "Right on target! Right on target!"

Flying about 3,000 feet below Rosenthal, Van Sice experienced the same problem identifying the target. He also had all his ordnance hanging on the racks, but eventually, both Rosenthal and Van Sice made their drops. Anti-aircraft fire from the town of Quasam al Hamash, about five miles down the road, convinced Diehl to keep his flight above the anti-aircraft artillery. "Flying around for any period of time below 10,000 feet would have been dangerous," he said.

Although the F-16s were out of range of Iraqi gunners in a nearby town, the enemy filled the sky with 37mm and 57mm air-

**Left: Lt. Col. Billy Diehl was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for helping save an SF A-Team trapped deep in Iraqi territory. Right:**

**Lt. Col. Edward "Rosy" Rosenthal stands next to CBU-87 cluster bomb — an awesome weapon against trucks, light armor and personnel. Photos: courtesy author**

bursts every time Diehl and his wingmen rolled over the town and dived toward the target.

### No Sweat

After taking out a platoon of enemy soldiers trying to outflank the Green Berets, Diehl learned that other Iraqis had managed to slip into the lower end of the ditch which led to the A-Team. "We're taking fire from these guys," Degroff radioed, "Can you take 'em out?"

Nosweat — a pair of cluster bombs took care

of the problem. After the air strike, no one saw any Iraqi survivors crawl from that ditch.

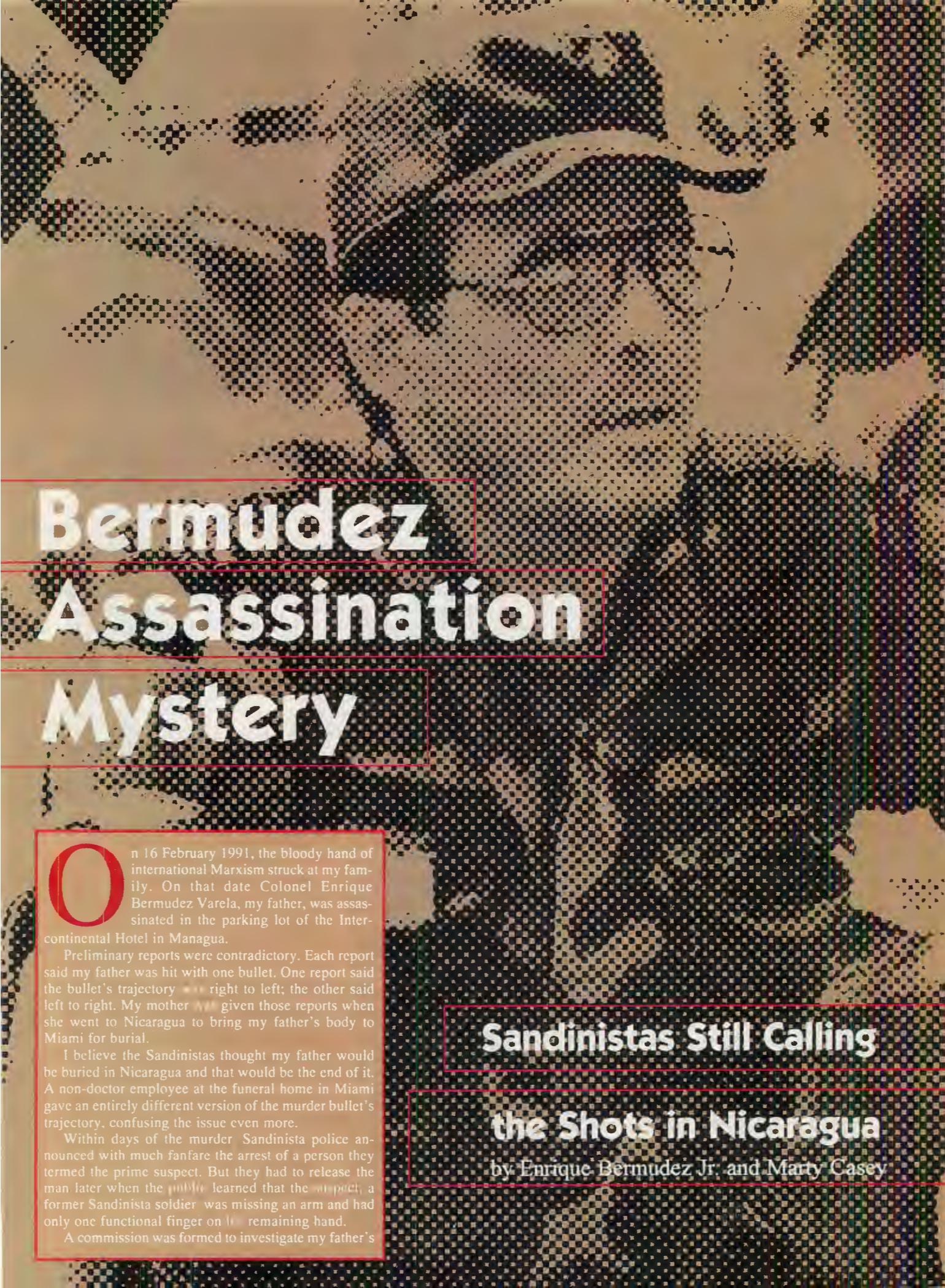
By now the sun was setting, casting long shadows across the battlefield, making it more difficult with each passing minute to identify friend from foe. It took a team effort — four sets of eyes — to pick out the targets and destroy them without hitting the SF team.

When Rosenthal was finally cleared in to the target, Diehl followed him "down the chute" to make sure he was lined up properly and not pointing at the friendlies. Rosenthal's heart pounded as he came off the target, and he could tell from the tone of Diehl's voice that there was concern. "My God," Diehl said, "that was awful close."

It seemed like an eternity before Degroff came back on the radio, and shouted, "On Target ... On Target!" Despite the jubilation on the ground, Diehl cautioned Van Sice not to drop his ordnance any closer. Van Sice shared Diehl's concern about cluster bombs.

CBUs are not laser-guided smart bombs

*Continued on page 64*



# Bermudez Assassination Mystery

**O**n 16 February 1991, the bloody hand of international Marxism struck at my family. On that date Colonel Enrique Bermudez Varela, my father, was assassinated in the parking lot of the Intercontinental Hotel in Managua.

Preliminary reports were contradictory. Each report said my father was hit with one bullet. One report said the bullet's trajectory was right to left; the other said left to right. My mother was given those reports when she went to Nicaragua to bring my father's body to Miami for burial.

I believe the Sandinistas thought my father would be buried in Nicaragua and that would be the end of it. A non-doctor employee at the funeral home in Miami gave an entirely different version of the murder bullet's trajectory, confusing the issue even more.

Within days of the murder Sandinista police announced with much fanfare the arrest of a person they termed the prime suspect. But they had to release the man later when the public learned that the suspect, a former Sandinista soldier, was missing an arm and had only one functional finger on his remaining hand.

A commission was formed to investigate my father's

## Sandinistas Still Calling

## the Shots in Nicaragua

by Enrique Bermudez Jr. and Marty Casey

# EXCERPTS FROM AN AUTOPSY

## NAME:

Bermudez Varela, Enrique, 14 October 1991, 10:30 a.m., Case No. 91-2706

## IDENTIFICATION:

The body was identified by Dr. Manuel A. Alzugaray, personal friend, when the casket was opened prior to the autopsy.

## EXHUMATION:

The remains are disinterred at Woodlawn South Cemetery commencing about 7:45 a.m. Present were FBI agents Larry Neaves and Jerry Forrester, plus cemetery and funeral home officials. The concrete vault was removed, transported to the cemetery repair facilities and opened. Within was the casket covered with a Nicaraguan flag, a military officer's cap, a photograph of a child with an adult female, and a Florida driver's license, "Enrique Alfredo Bermudez, 2/26/67" ...

In the right hand is a rosary. On the neck is a metal chain attached to an ornament created from a rifle full-metal-jacket cartridge whose case was flattened and cut in a design along the edges. On the flattened brass cartridge were the numbers "380" and the letters "FDN." A silver-colored medallion pin is on the left lapel with pyramid-and-sun designs and "Republic de Nicaragua." The left breast pocket is covered with a cloth patch in the form of a shield of burgundy color, green trim and a green central outline of the geographic shape of Nicaragua, its flag, and "C.R. San Jacinto FDN." At the upper edge of the shield is a baseball motif pin: "Dodgers, Cy Young Award, Drysdale, Koufax, Marshall, Valenzuela."

## EVIDENCE OF INJURY:

Three injuries are apparent, two perforating gunshot wounds plus a scalp contusion. The gunshot wounds are most distinct in their bone pathways and less distinct in the soft tissue, which is extremely hardened by embalming ... The sequential designation of the wounds as "A" and "B" does not indicate an opinion as to the sequence of shots ...

... Both gunshot wounds appear to have been fired in quick succession from the right toward the left, the directionality evidence for gunshot wound "A" being quite clear due to the bone-defect configuration. Directionality of gunshot wound "B" is less clear and is considered most likely right to left by association with wound "A." Each would create instantaneous collapse and rapid death due to brain and spinal cord sequelae ...

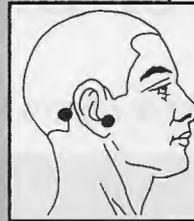
## COMMENT:

... According to Dr. Saenz, the original autopsy was performed by a general surgeon. It would appear that the prior autopsy surgeon commingled the two gunshot wounds into one, the skin defects of wound "B" being integrated with the internal head defects of wound "A." It is easy to appreciate this, inasmuch as the skin holes were small and obscured by hair except for the portion of wound "B" involving the right ear lobe and its counterpart on the opposite side.

It would be most logical that the assassin fired two shots in rapid succession, the victim immediately collapsed and the scalp contusion of the left rear resulted from the collapse ...



ENTRY



EXIT



Autopsy report showed two bullets fired at very close range, which made no sound, no flash and left no powder burns.

## ABOVE:

SOF's exclusive report on this silent killer may explain some of the mystery surrounding the murder of Enrique Bermudez — small over/under double-barreled derringer, chambered for combloc 7.62x62.8mm low-signature cartridge. Photo: Peter G. Kokalis

maneuvered the Sandinistas into an agreement to exhume my father's body and have independent forensics experts conduct an examination.

After all their stall tactics were exhausted the Sandinistas sent a forensics expert to Miami in October 1991. The Sandinista doctor was joined by two FBI forensics experts; the exhumation was conducted by Dr. Joseph Davis, medical examiner for Dade County.

Another week passed before my mother received a copy of the medical examiner's report. There was a lot of very technical language that meant little to me, but one startling revelation was that there were two bullet holes found in my father's skull, not one.

Witnesses to the assassination had

*Continued on page 70*

assassination and my mother was permitted to choose some of its members, but the government severely limited the commission's power by refusing to give it subpoena powers. The commission's role was further hampered by a government directive prohibiting any actual investigating by the commission. The commission was just supposed to rubber-stamp the Sandinista police findings.

Many long months passed as my mother pushed Violeta Chamorro's government to bring the killers to justice. The Chamorro government publicly accepted the FBI's offered help in the investigation, but then never formally arranged for the assistance. It was apparent that the Sandinistas would not permit President Chamorro to uncover the truth.

If the truth were to surface, there would be a confrontation that neither the Sandinistas nor Chamorro want — Chamorro would be forced to ask General Humberto Ortega to resign [from his position as head of Nicaragua's army]. If this were to happen, Ortega would kick her out in the wink of an eye. What has up to now been a technical coup, with the

Sandinistas 99% in control, will become a full-blown coup d'état with the president killed, imprisoned or exiled. President Chamorro prefers to remain a figurehead.

The first break in the case came in early September 1991, when my mother

## NICARAGUAN PATRIOT

Born in 1933, Enrique Bermudez rose from humble origins to move up through the military ranks in Nicaragua in the 1950s, '60s and '70s. He graduated from various military courses, including the U.S. Army Command and General Staff School, the School of the Americas and a military engineering school in Brazil.

At the time the Somoza regime fell in 1977, Bermudez was the Nicaraguan military attaché in Washington, D.C.

In 1979 he sold his Washington house and used the money to found the Nicaraguan resistance movement that came to be known as the contras. Bermudez rented a Miami house for his wife and children and went off to war against the Sandinistas for the next 11 years.

His strong personality kept the contras together; Bermudez fought for his homeland both in Nicaragua and in the United States, where he lobbied for aid. Eventually his contras became the largest guerrilla army in Latin American history, with the exception of the Mexican revolutionaries.

In 1990, after the people of Nicaragua had voted the Sandinistas out of office, Bermudez returned to Nicaragua. There he found former Sandinistas still in control of much of Nicaragua, and thousands of ex-contras and their supporters dissatisfied with the Chamorro government. Dissatisfied resistance leaders asked Bermudez to guide them, but after numerous death threats he was forced to flee Nicaragua.

In January 1991 he returned, knowing the danger but, as usual, putting his country ahead of his own safety.

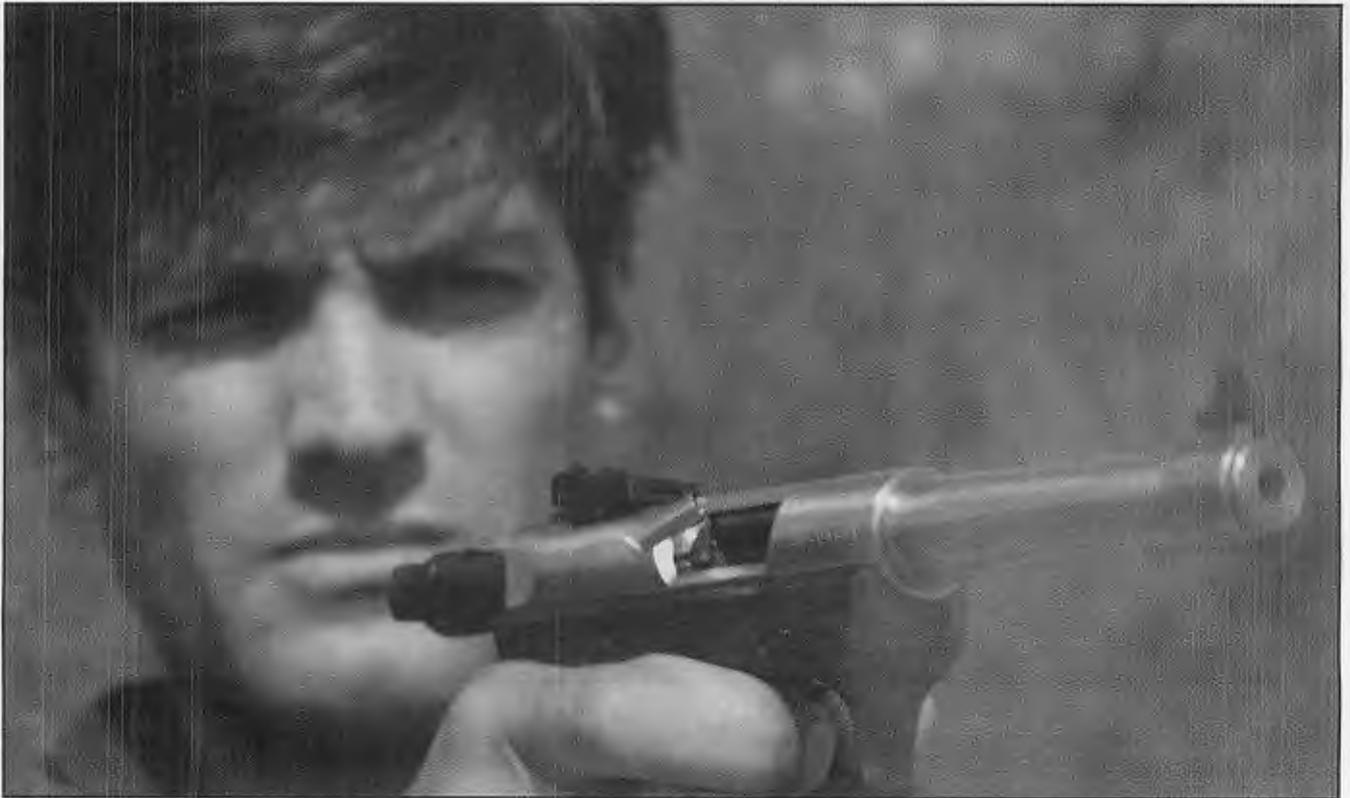
He was murdered on a Saturday night, 16 February 1991, at the age of 58. At this writing, his assassins are still at large.

— SOF Staff

# RUGER'S NEW 22/45

## Pop Gun in Body of Big Bore Boomer

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis



**L**iterally billions of .22 LR (Long Rifle) rimfire cartridges per year are sent downrange by target shooters, hunters and plinkers (Warning: Be advised that the wizards in the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms aviary have determined this latter activity serves no "legitimate sporting purpose."). A substantial number are fired through Ruger handguns and rifles.

Caliber .22 rimfire cartridges had their origin with the Flobert BB Cap, developed in 1845. The .22 Long Rifle (LR) cartridge was introduced by the J. Stevens Arms & Tool Company in 1887.

In August 1949, William B. Ruger and Alexander M. Sturm introduced the .22 Ruger pistol, their first product. Its price then was \$37.50. The method of operation was unlocked blowback, with the barrel fixed to a tubular receiver in which the bolt reciprocated.

Thirty years after this, in 1979, the

**R**uger's new 22/45 pistol is the progeny of a popular and successful series of .22 LR Rimfire handguns, of which more than 1 million have been made.

1-millionth Ruger Standard Automatic Pistol was manufactured.

In 1982, the so-called Mark I — by this time produced in either blued or stainless steel versions with 4 3/4-inch or 6-inch tapered barrels, or a 5-inch bull barrel — was re-designed.

The new Mark II pistol had a new trigger pivot retainer and a reformed trigger. With the safety engaged and the sear locked, it was now possible to manually operate the bolt to clear the chamber. The magazine was redesigned to increase its capacity from nine to a total of 10 rounds. Scallops were milled in each

side of the receiver tube at its rear to permit cocking ears in the bolt to be grasped more securely. Finally, a bolt hold-open device with a release button above the left grip panel was added.

The pistol's basic configuration remained as before — that of the German Luger (9mm Parabellum *Pistole 08*). The grip angle of both pistols was 35 degrees. This is the angle the front-leading edge of the grip frame makes with an imaginary line drawn perpendicular and downward from the bore's axis. The Ruger pistol has retained this form for more than 40 years in far more than a million copies.

This has never really satisfied competition shooters who prefer a grip angle similar to that of the M1911A1 .45 ACP pistol. Since the demise of High Standard, no high-quality, target-grade .22-rimfire pistol has been available that duplicates the M1911A1's grip angle.

Ruger's recently introduced 22/45 Pistol provides shooters with both the

M1911A1's 17-degree grip angle and its left-side controls, as well as a frame fabricated from a space-age synthetic material.

The Ruger 22/45 pistol's grip frame is made of matte-black, glass-filled, injection-molded Zytel nylon. Zytel is unaffected by salt water, sweat, oils or bore-cleaning solvents. It will not crack, chip or peel, and never needs refinishing. Depending upon the model, the Zytel frame reduces weight by 7 to 8 ounces (17% to 23%) compared to standard Ruger Mark II pistols. The frame's center panels are ribbed and carry the Ruger logo. The front of the trigger guard is re-curved to comply with the current fetish for a completely useless feature. Shooters firing from the correct Weaver position will just ignore the front of the trigger guard.



The magazine catch/release has been moved from the heel of the frame, where it is found on the standard Ruger .22 pistols in the European manner, to the left side of the frame directly in back of the trigger, where it is located in the M1911A1 series.

The manual thumb safety is also located in the left side of the frame, in the same location as that of the M1911A1's thumb safety and where it also is in the Ruger Mark II series: Push down for firing. In the safe position, the mechanism blocks the sear and prevents it from pivoting forward to release the hammer when the trigger is pulled. As the safety button barely protrudes above the Zytel frame, it is somewhat difficult to re-engage.

The bolt's hold-open release button will be found the left side in approximately the same place as the M1911A1's slide-stop lever. The hold-open is activated after the last shot has been fired, when a steel button protruding from the left side of the magazine (and also used for manually lowering the magazine follower when loading the magazine) pivots a sheet-metal lever in the frame upward to hold the bolt to the rear. This lever is spring-loaded on

Mark II pistols and, after inserting a loaded magazine, it will drop downward when the bolt is pulled slightly rearward, permitting the bolt to travel forward after it is released to strip a round from the magazine and chamber it.

With the 22/45, the hold-open release button must be manually pressed downward to release the bolt, strip and chamber a round after a new magazine has been inserted with the bolt held to the rear.

Ruger 22/45 receivers are made from heavy-walled, seamless 400-series stainless-steel tubing that has been machine-finished. The stress-relieved barrel forgings are also made of heat-treated, 400-series stainless steel. All Ruger .22 LR semiauto-pistol barrels have six-groove riflings with a right-hand twist

**O** riginal  
Ruger .22 LR semiauto pistols  
featured configuration and grip  
angle (35 degrees) of the German  
Luger. New 22/45 pistol takes the  
grip angle (17 degrees) of the  
M1911A1 .45 ACP pistol.

of one turn in 16 inches. The finish is a natural brushed satin.

The bolt is made of polished, black oxide-finished, chrome-moly steel. Ruger 22/45 bolts have the Ruger logo stamped onto their rear faces. The fixed ejector, a stainless steel stamping, is permanently attached to the receiver.

The two-piece extractor is spring-loaded. Also spring-loaded, the firing pin's protrusion is restricted by a cross-pin that passes through the bolt body. The recoil spring, held captive in its guide rod, rides on top of the bolt body.

All triggers for Ruger .22 LR semiauto pistols are serrated and made of aluminum. Trigger pull weight on our test specimen was a crisp 3¼ pounds with no perceptible

overtravel. Of three Mark II pistols in my possession, two have identical pull weights to the 22/45 pistol we tested and one, a "U.S." target bull-barrel model, has a 3½-pound pull weight.

### Trigger Talk

That's good enough for me, but those striving for trigger perfection usually opt for Jim Clark's 3/8-inch-wide serrated-steel Ruger trigger, which is longer and has precision-drilled and reamed pinholes. Clark's trigger costs only \$15 and can be obtained from Brownell's Inc. (Dept. SOF, Route 2, Box 1, Montezuma, IA 50171-9989; phone: 515-623-5401).

There are three different models of the 22/45 pistol; these differ only with regard to barrels and rear sights. The KP-4 model is equipped with a 4 3/4-inch tapered barrel and fixed rear sight. *Soldier Of Fortune* was provided with a KP-514 model for test and evaluation. It has a 5¼-inch tapered heavyweight barrel and a click-adjustable rear sight. The KP-512 model is equipped with the same rear sight, but has a 5½-inch barrel.

Our test specimen has a black-oxide, blade-type front sight — 0.125-inch thick and roll-pinned to the barrel. The black-oxide, open square-notch (also 0.125-inch wide) rear sight can be adjusted for both windage and elevation.

Each click of either the windage or elevation screws will move the point of impact of the bullet approximately 3/4-inch at a range of 25 yards.

No adjustment of the sight was required, as Ruger .22 LR semiauto pistols are factory-zeroed by means of a unique, and quite accurate, laser system.

Overall length of these pistols varies from 8 13/16 inches to 9 9/16 inches. Width at the grip-frame area is about 1.1 inches, just slightly less than that of the M1911A1 (approximately 1.26 inches). The weight, empty, varies from 29 ounces for the KP-4 model to 36 ounces for the heavier, bull-barreled KP-512. Our KP-514 test specimen weighs 32 ounces. Height is about 5.5 inches for each model.

Although the single-column, detachable box-type magazine retains the 10-round capacity of the Mark II magazines, the magazine body's angle with relation to the floorplate had to be changed to accommodate the change in grip angle, while maintaining the same feed angle with regard to the receiver body. Ruger 22/45 and Mark II magazines are therefore not interchangeable. The Ruger 22/45 magazine falls freely away from the pistol when the magazine catch/release button is depressed.

All three models of the 22/45 pistol are priced to compare with similar models

of stainless-steel Mark II pistols. Suggested retail prices include a lockable, fitted gray-plastic box; a lock with keys; two magazines and an instruction manual. Suggested retail price of the KP-4 with fixed sights is \$329.25. Both of the adjustable rear-sight models — the KP-514 with 5¼-inch heavy tapered barrel, and the KP-512 with 5½-inch bull barrel cost \$388 each. Contact Sturm, Ruger & Company Inc. (Dept. SOF, 200 Ruger Road, Prescott, AZ 86301; phone: 602-778-6555) for further information, or for ordering parts and/or servicing.

If you don't follow the instructions explicitly — and a few hints are not found in the manual — reassembly of any Ruger .22 LR semiauto pistol can prove to be a nightmare. Let's cut through the manual's chaff, focus on the essentials and add a few tips from our own experience.

First, remove the magazine and clear the pistol while visually inspecting the chamber. The safety must be placed in the "off" ("F") position. Point the pistol in a safe direction and pull the trigger. The hammer must be uncocked before proceeding any further.

Use a plastic-coated paper clip or a similar non-marring tool to swing the housing latch on the back strap open, like the blade of a pocketknife. Swing the entire housing outward on its pivot and pull downward, removing the mainspring housing and bolt stop pin. Pull the bolt assembly out of the rear of the receiver. Push the barreled receiver forward and separate it from the frame. This latter step is easier to perform with the 22/45 than the Mark II pistols, which sometimes require a smart blow with a plastic or leather mallet to either separate and/or re-install their barreled receivers onto their frame.

The mainspring and guide rod can be lifted off the top of the bolt body. To remove the firing pin assembly, drift out the cross-pin (the firing pin stop). The magazine should be disassembled by inserting a drift in the hole in the floorplate and depressing the magazine-block retaining plunger. Then slide the floorplate forward. Keep the plunger and follower-spring under control. Withdraw these

divine guidance and then proceed as follows:

With the safety still on "F," place the hammer in the horizontal (cocked) position. Place the barreled receiver on top of the frame and slide it rearward until the steel lug on front of the frame is engaged in the recess on the receiver's underside. The rear end of the receiver will slightly protrude past the frame.



**M**anual safety, magazine catch/release and bolt hold-open release controls on the Ruger 22/45 approximate the location of those on the M1911A1.

components from the magazine body, along with the follower.

No further disassembly is required for normal maintenance and cleaning. After cleaning and lubrication, the magazine and bolt assembly can easily be reassembled in the reverse manner. Before attempting to reassemble the pistol itself, pray for

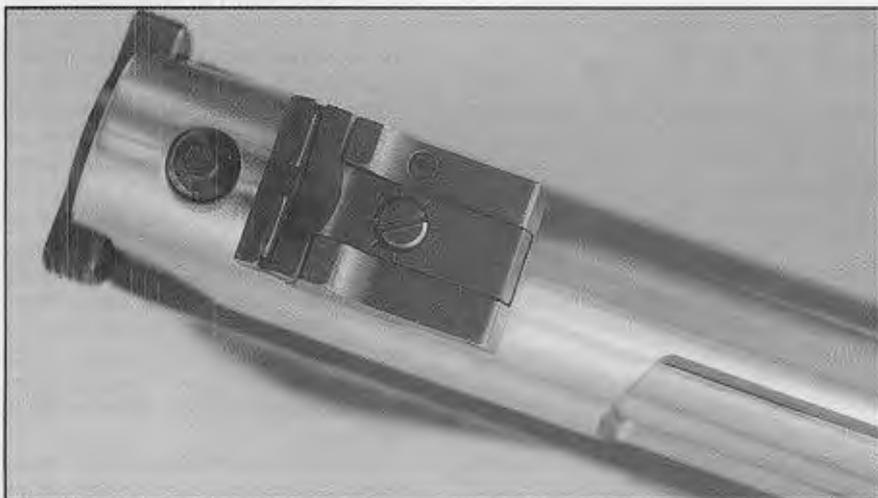
Point the muzzle up and pull the trigger to make sure the hammer is still cocked. Slide the bolt group into the receiver.

Point the muzzle down and pull the trigger. Gravity will cause the hammer to fall to its uncocked position. Insert the bolt stop pin through the holes in the receiver and bolt until the tip of the pin protrudes beyond the top of the receiver. The bolt stop pin must be fully seated, or you will not be able to swing the mainspring housing into the frame.

Rotate the mainspring housing on its pivot pin upward against the frame to drive the bolt stop pin fully home. Make sure the hammer strut is free to move and swing the mainspring housing back down into the frame. Close the housing latch.

Test reassembly by drawing the bolt to the rear. If the bolt cannot be drawn fully rearward, then the hammer strut is misaligned and you must remove the mainspring housing and make sure the strut is positioned correctly to seat in its recess in the housing.

None of this is either as simple as field-



**C**lick-type rear sight on KP-514 and KP-512 models of Ruger 22/45 provides a 0.125-inch-wide open square-notch that can be adjusted for both windage and elevation zero.

## RUGER 22/45 SPECIFICATIONS

<b>Caliber:</b> .....	.22 LR (Long Rifle) Rimfire.
<b>Operation:</b> .....	Unlocked blowback. Bolt reciprocates in a receiver tube, to which is attached the fixed barrel. Manual safety, bolt hold-open release and magazine catch/release located on the left side of the frame in the M1911A1 manner.
<b>Feed:</b> .....	10-round, detachable, single-column, box-type magazine.
<b>Weight, empty:</b> .....	KP-4: 29 ounces; KP-514: 32 ounces; KP-512: 36 ounces.
<b>Length, overall:</b> .....	KP-4: 8 13/16 inches; KP-514: 9 5/16 inches, KP-512: 9 9/16 inches.
<b>Thickness:</b> .....	1.1 inches (grip frame area).
<b>Height:</b> .....	Approximately 5 1/2 inches.
<b>Barrel:</b> .....	6-groove, with a right-hand twist of one turn in 16 inches.
<b>Barrel length:</b> .....	KP-4: 4 3/4 inches, tapered; KP-514: 5 1/4 inches, tapered heavyweight; KP-512: 5 1/2 inches, bull barrel.
<b>Sights:</b> .....	Black-oxide, blade-type front, 0.125 thick; rear sight eight fixed (KP-4 only) or black-oxide, open square-notched type, adjustable for both windage and elevation zero.
<b>Finish:</b> .....	Brushed satin stainless-steel barrel and receiver; matte-black, glass-reinforced Zytel frame.
<b>Suggested retail price &amp; accessories:</b> .....	KP-4: \$329.25; KP-514 and KP-512: \$388 — prices include a lockable, fitted gray-plastic box; lock with keys; two magazines and an instruction manual.
<b>Manufacturer:</b> .....	Sturm, Ruger & Company Inc., Dept. SOF, 200 Ruger Road, Prescott, AZ 86301; phone: 602-778-6555.
<b>T&amp;E summary:</b> .....	Progeny of a successful series; reliable; provides grip angle and controls of the M1911A1 in an economical .22 LR Rimfire envelope; stainless steel and Zytel construction exhibit exceptional durability. Highly recommended.



10-round groups of between 1 1/2 and 2 inches. Remington and Eley match-grade ammunition, not unexpectedly, performed best. If you want to improve on this, you'll have to change barrels for a heavy match type with a slightly faster 1:14-inch twist, tight chamber and 12-degree forcing cone. However, for most of us — intent only on watching beer cans spin into the air — the Ruger 22/45 as issued will more than do, as its accuracy potential exceeds our ability to hold the weapon steady.

Reliability was excellent and there were no stoppages of any kind. I wouldn't expect anything less from a series of which more than a million have been made. Without exception, all of *SOF's* test personnel preferred the 22/45's 17-degree grip angle over that of the Mark II series.

I concur. I don't make my living pointing German Lugers at either people or paper. Armed professionals, who carry and practice with some version or another of the M1911A1 series on a daily basis, will find the new Ruger 22/45 pistol to be a more than satisfactory complement to



**R**uger 22/45 (left) and Mark II (right) magazines are not interchangeable, as the new 22/45 magazine body's angle with relation to the floorplate had to be changed to accommodate the change in grip angle, while maintaining the same feed angle with regard to the receiver body.

their battery.

Bill Ruger's uncanny ability to predict what U.S. gun owners want and need, and his superstar batting average at successfully doing so, continues to astound everyone in the firearms industry.

Although we have occasionally disagreed on matters of tactics with regard to the Second Amendment, I remain proud to count him among my friends. Ruger's new 22/45 pistol appears destined for success, and rightfully so. 

stripping a Walther PPK or as complicated as disassembling a 20mm M39 revolver cannon. In general, the 22/45 seems to be somewhat easier to disassemble and reassemble than the steel-framed Mark II pistols.

A large assortment of .22 LR rimfire ammunition totaling close to 1,000 rounds was fired during *SOF's* test and evaluation of the Ruger 22/45. Included were CCI Stinger, Eley Tenex and Match (Black

Box), Federal Hi-Power 22s and American Eagle 22s, Remington Pistol Match, High Velocity and Hyper Velocity Vipers, South African Swartklip, Winchester Super-X and Winchester Western T22.

As both the rear and front sights are mounted on non-reciprocating components — the receiver and barrel, respectively — the Ruger 22/45 pistol's accuracy potential is quite high. When fired from a rest at 25 yards, all of the ammunition tested punched

We were supposed to be in a guerilla camp in the hot, steamy jungles of Laos. Instead on this chilly April night we were click-clacking our way in a train through newly independent Slovenia, heading for Zagreb, capital of Slovenia's southern neighbor Croatia.

My companion was Richard Vialpando, whom I had met by the Sahara Hotel pool in Las Vegas during the 1991 *Soldier Of Fortune* Convention. A former officer with 5th Special Forces Group in Vietnam, he had also spent some time near my old haunts in Central America. It seemed we both liked "hot spots."

At first we decided we ought to do something for the H'mong. After organizing a medical training team of six experienced combat medics, two former Special Forces officers now practicing as MDs, and a five-man team of trigger-pullers for security, we got what amounted to a cold shoulder from our "contact." I had asked "Pando" as a result, "How about Croatia?"

What followed was a frenzy of gear packing, map reconning and language study. We worked up a quick area study from recent news items and some declassified materials.

We were both used to military ops in Central American countries where the troops fight over your old worn-out boot socks; where giving away your extra fatigues and jungle boots would make you friends for life. But this was an industrialized nation, albeit a new one, which even under Tito's rule had been prosperous compared to places like El Salvador. Not knowing what was seriously needed by the International Brigade or the Croatian forces, we took things you never seem to have enough of: medical supplies and weapon-cleaning kits.

#### Just Ask Any Soldier

So, here we were. We dismantled the train in Zagreb around 2000 hours on a Saturday. I ran into a Croat soldier who was stewed to the gills. Besides that, it seemed he paid little attention to personal hygiene ... you could've cultivated mushrooms in the fuzzy green-black tartar of his teeth. And he wasn't very helpful with directions to the International Brigade HQ, either.

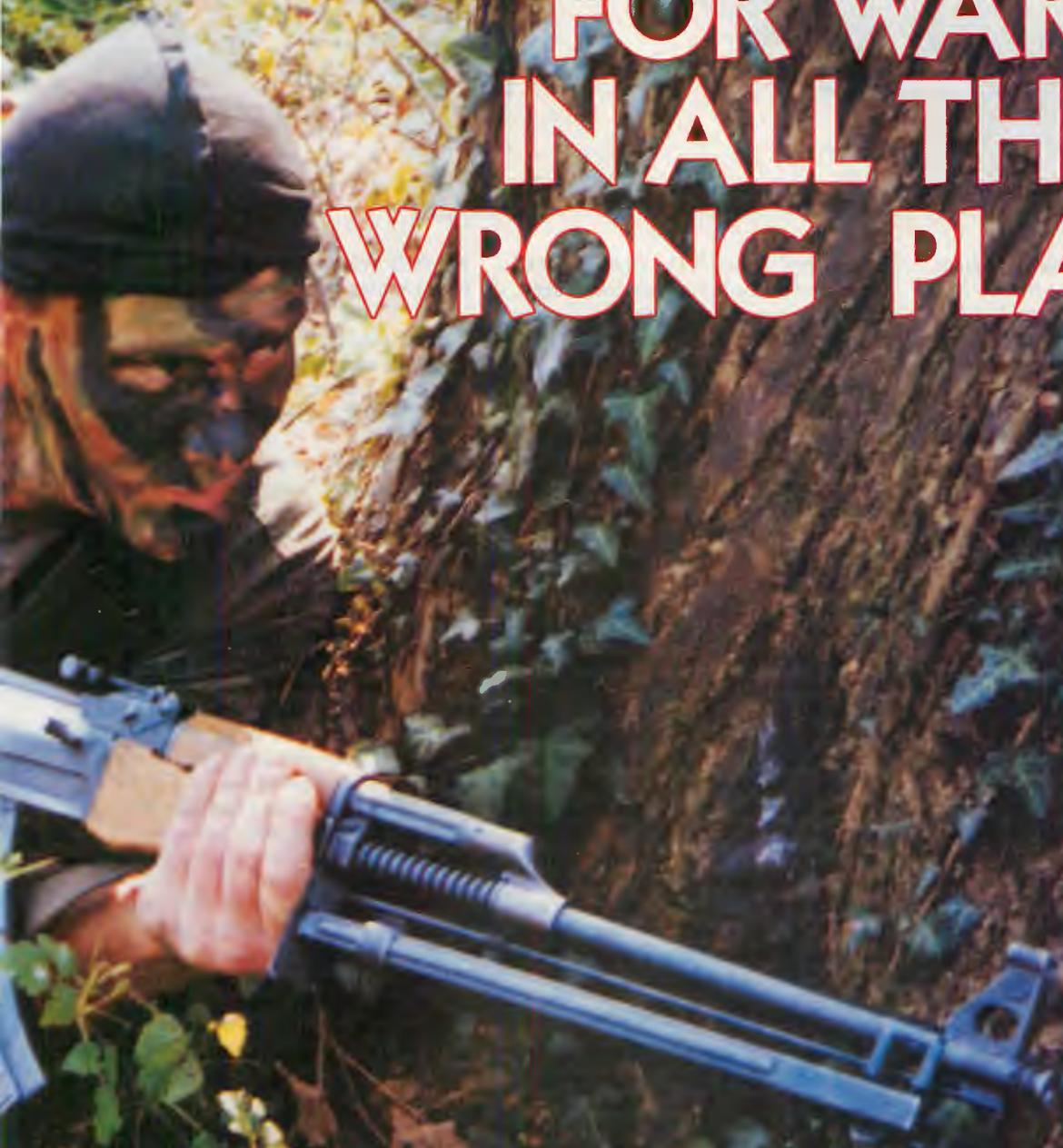
A note from *SOF* Editor/Publisher Bob Brown in the April '92 "Flak" column had read, "... go to Zagreb and ask the first soldier you see where the International Brigade reception center is located." Yeah, right. This was to become the oft-repeated joke/motivation-check during our stay in Croatia.

After conversing with some difficulty to various taxi drivers, we found a couple who knew where we wanted to go, then we stopped at a government building



**Yanks in Yugoslavia**

**LOOKING  
FOR WAR  
IN ALL THE  
WRONG PLACES**





Col. Wim "Willi" Van Noort inspects unit before leaving on patrol near Zazina.

which we later found to be the right place (headquarters for the International Brigade is at Operativna Zona Zagreb, Ulica 292, Kagarna 1). Of course, this being Saturday night, there was no one around.

Following a brief stay at a base outside of town while a couple of staff-types called around, we got a ride back into Zagreb to a military base. We were told that a guy from Chicago would see us in the morning, and they put us up for the night. The base had the last sit-down toilet we would see for two weeks.

In the morning, we humped our gear two blocks down the street to the same building our taxi had stopped at the night before. After cooling our heels in the vestibule for an hour, a staff-type showed up and ushered us upstairs. Even though this is the capital and far from the front, everyone carries a pistol. They're almost as common as the ubiquitous red-and-white checkered enamel badge of Free Croatia. We had neither, and therefore felt inadequate. Upstairs, we sat on two chairs in the hallway conversing in English and occasionally Spanish.

A character in a mismatched uniform with foreign dog tags and several crucifixes dangling walked up to us. He was an ex-Hungarian soldier in his early 20s named Szalay Attila. It was all Pando and I could do to keep from falling on the floor with laughter. The first expatriate soldier we meet in Croatia is Attila the Hungarian.

Attila proved to be a wealth of information on the state of the Croatian army and the International Brigade. As he told us, "Croat soldier [is] shit. Drunk. Drink cognac, drink *rakija* [Croatian brandy], drink beer. Dirty. Don't wash. Always with AK ...

Boat drills on the Kupa River: Repetition, repetition, repetition — until it's perfect. Good PT, too.



Buuuurrrrrp! Stupid." He then described the proper method of a three-round burst. This guy knew how to handle a weapon anyway, but he wasn't staying. "I need money. Buy benzine for my *Trabi*. Go home. Hungary. Matakovic good officer — he pay."

Eventually an English-speaking officer came by and we were shuttled over to *Ministartvo Obrane*, the Croatian defense ministry, to see a General Russo. Everybody in town had effectively passed the buck (us) up the chain of command. We waited an impatient hour, then got a taxi back to the operations building.

Attila the Hungarian was outside waiting for Matakovic with an anemic-looking, chain-smoking teenager wearing a skinhead haircut. An Irish Ranger, he said.

"Kevin" introduced himself and in a strong brogue said, "Me friend Bobby's over here makin' boodles." Great. He wanted to know where to get a uniform. Didn't he bring any gear? "Just me SAS smock [pronounced *sass mock*] and I don't fancy getting any holes in it." No boots? No, no boots. What kind of soldier for hire goes to a war zone without a pair of boots? We soon found out when Kevin asked, "Where are the brothels?"

#### Werner The Magnificent

Down the street came somebody in uniform, and Pando initiated a conversation. "Hey, Rob, come here — this guy's an American," he called. The man was Werner, from Chicago. He was sporting a good Marine Corps haircut with his dive knife strapped to his leg, several crucifixes around his neck, an earring with the Croatian crest dangling and

a pistol strapped to his hip. Kevin took one look and in his heavy brogue said, "He's got a sense of humor, doesn't he?" What the hell, maybe there's hope for the kid yet.

Yet, from Werner we received a rather chilly reception. Supposedly the International Brigade was no longer hiring. Seems two Englishmen killed a taxi driver for kicks a few months previously. There were conflicting orders (or rumors) about getting all internationals (or *outsiders*, as Werner kept saying) out of the country. We could talk to Matakovic later, he said, but *he* thought we should just go home.

Werner next informed us that he had (1) spent seven years in the U.S. Marine Corps, (2) graduated from the University of Illinois, (3) worked for the FBI for a year, (4) got out of the USMC in '90 as a lieutenant, (5) had been here close to a year, and (6) was now a colonel. Not bad, considering he was only 25 years old.

Maybe I could give him the benefit of the doubt on that chronology, but he also said a few other things that didn't jibe. We humped our gear back to the barracks and went for lunch.

We hooked up with "Howie," a comrade of Attila's from the Vinkovci front. Howie laughed when we recounted Werner's story to him: "*I'm in charge of the internationals now. I came over as a lieutenant and they put me in charge of one of four desants of 56 men. They kept giving my unit all the missions. I lost a few every time, until I was down to six or eight. They made me a colonel — I was kind of surprised.*"

Talking to others, we learned that Werner had destroyed a Brit's hearing with the backblast from an RPG, never commanded anything, and had told everyone he went to West Point. West Point, too, — an amazing young man. I wonder why he didn't tell two Army captains that

he was a ringknocker? From Howie and Attila we found out there was no real International Brigade per se ... no real unit, just a bunch of foreigners assigned to various units and, in most cases, issued a Croatian army ID.

Later, we walked over to meet Matakovic. He was a mean-looking dude: long hair, tough face. The officer sat behind a desk littered with various grenades. A half-dozen automatic weapons were leaning in a corner; a crossbow decorated the wall behind his head. The place looked like a prop room for a Rambo flick.

### Take Our Ball And Go Home?

Werner translated our documents to Matakovic. Kevin said he left his documents in his bag (we later found out he had the Brit version of a bad conduct discharge). Pando and I were not optimistic. Though Werner seemed to be doing a fairly honest job, we doubted if he would be eager to have somebody around who could shoot his stories full of holes. Matakovic explained that he was not supposed to take any more international volunteers, but transcribed our names and passport numbers into his logbook of internationals. We were told to come back at 1000 the next day.

After leaving the office Kevin said, repeatedly, "I might just as well go home." Pando and I were not overjoyed with his "optimism." What'd the kid expect? Brass bands? As for me and Pando, this might be our only chance to see an honest-to-God shooting war on the European continent in our lifetime and dammit, we were *not* going to miss it.

Back at the barracks, we met another international. Milo was an Austrian of Bosnian descent and had seen action with Howie and Attila. We looked at some photos of them with other internationals on patrol and hanging out in fortified houses and bunkers near Vinkovci. We engaged in a typical bullshit session, then the six of us (two Americans, two Brits, an Austrian and a Hungarian) wandered out to find something for dinner, ending up at a bar on the corner.

### Saved By The Dutchmen

Pando and I elected to drink Coca-Cola, and we soon noticed an older gentleman in a maroon beret with foreign jump wings. Introductions came when he and two friends heard us conversing in English. Yes! Finally! Somebody who actually looked, walked and talked like a professional soldier. With Colonel Wim "Willi" Van Noort were two other Dutchmen, Douwe Van de Bos and a strange character named Johann but known as "Crazy Joe."

Colonel Van Noort, 64, started his military career with the British in 1944, later serving in India until 1950. He saw action again in the Korean War; after moving to Australia he served as an adviser in Vietnam in the early 1960s. Willi had been in

Croatia off and on since November '91.

Douwe struck me as very professional, but I shouldn't have been surprised. He was formerly a staff sergeant in the Dutch army. He carried himself with the self-assuredness characterized by

professional NCOs the world over, reminding me of every S-3 operations sergeant I ever knew. Willi described Douwe as "my administrator ... he knows all about the paperwork." Crazy Joe had no military experience, but supposedly had seen some action with a Croat army unit.

These three Dutchmen were the remnants of a much larger Dutch volunteer force, the 1st Dutch Volunteer Unit. We learned from them that, if assembled in one place, the International Brigade (which numbered about 140, with 40 more of Croatian heritage) would be a real rogues' gallery of misfits and wannabees. But there were some professionals scattered here and there in the Brigade. After the colonel and Douwe checked us out, Willi offered us a job training troops with him — a commando group down south near the front. It sounded better than hanging around Zagreb until the politicians evicted us, and a lot better than traveling all the way to Vinkovci on Croatia's southeastern border, just to sit in a bunker.

### Johnny And The Hogleg

Shortly before midnight, we arrived at the old JNA (Yugoslavian national army) base at Zazina, a few kilometers from Petrinja, held by the *Chetniks* (Serbian irregulars). We were shown to the "instructors' " room in the barracks and met John Rajkovic, 19, from Burlington, Ontario. Johnny had come over with his father soon after the fighting began, staying on when his father had to return to Canada.

John's anti-aircraft battery in Sisak had shot down six Serbian aircraft (the Croats have no functional air force). He was assigned to Willi as an interpreter. A 6-inch, Smith & Wesson, .357-Magnum "Hogleg" in a Dirty Harry-type shoulder holster was his constant companion. During our stay, we tried to teach him as much about soldiering and light infantry tactics as we could. Since John had no prior military experience, everything about an organized military amazed him, especially techniques like long-range patrolling and strategic reconnaissance. To John, it was all new. As he said, "Hell, a year ago I was just trying to get through high school."

In the morning John introduced us to the troops. I talked briefly with Pedrag Matonovic, 22, the company commander.



Life goes on in Sisak, as old man pedals past building pockmarked by small-arms fire. Many buildings have been leveled or scarred in the fighting.

He was here to undergo training with 19 of his troops. Pedrag proudly displayed his 5.56mm SAR-80.

A quick tour of the barracks room showed that the troopies were armed with .308-Argentine Modelo III-type folding-stock FN FALs, .308 German G-3s, 7.62x39mm M-

70 Kalashnikovs and an interesting assortment of pistols and knives. These guys liked pistols and knives.

The questions soon started, led off by Pedrag with, "When is America going to send us M16s? When do we get *M-sesnaest*?" I guess these guys had watched too many Rambo videos. They think the M16 is *the* weapon. No amount of discussion could persuade them that their own M-70 Kalashnikovs were superior to, or at least as good as, the M16.

Shiny new American rifles weren't what these guys needed. These kids had guts ... if only they had decent boots and six weeks of basic infantry training.

### Don't Step Off The Road

The next morning we took the troops for a run outside the small base and for some guerrilla drills in a little field next to a church. As we ran past the gate, Pando said, "Don't step off the road." What? "The colonel told me before we left that the whole perimeter is mined." Nice to know.

As I led pushups, I noticed these troops weren't much for upper body strength. We circled the field doing guerrilla drills until the ground churned into mud. The afternoon was spent chalk-talking the Fire Team Wedge movement formation. We moved back to our little training area to practice, practice, practice. Other than the column, this was the first movement formation these guys had ever seen. We trained under watchful eyes of some former JNA officers who followed us from the base.

Willi handed us two brand-spankin' new, still-wrapped-in-plastic, Romanian AKs. We were very happy campers. We had only four magazines and about 60 rounds, but the troops kicked in some more ammo, including some green tracers and some lovely armor-piercing rounds. Pando was *mucho* happy. We wiped off the Cosmoline and did a detailed fieldstrip.

Douwe soon left for Zagreb to scrounge equipment. We were not quite sure what Crazy Joe's function was ... Willi said Joe was a survival expert and would teach survival. Great, that should cover about one day of the training schedule (if we had one). Joe seemed to devote much of his time to teaching English to Sonja, a good-

*Continued on page 65*

# Looking For A Very Few, Very Good Men

## What It Takes To Join Delta Force

by Rob Seibert



The 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta (SFOD-D), more commonly known as Delta Force, was activated at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, on 19 November 1977. The unit was the brainchild of Colonel Charlie "Chargin' Charlie" Beckwith, an SAS-trained U.S. Army Special Forces officer. Beckwith commanded Project Delta in Vietnam (a forerunner of SFOD-D) and was selected by the Army brass to form and train an elite counterterrorist unit.

In its formative days, Delta struggled through much controversy among Army hierarchy and the powers that be at Fort Bragg. Beckwith had to prove that his people could successfully take over the role then held by a Bragg unit known as Blue Light, a team formed from members of the 5th Special Forces Group. Beckwith prevailed, and Delta became well known following the failed Iran hostage-rescue attempt.

Although the Delta mission in Grenada was also not successful, Delta has since prevailed in several clandestine missions around the globe, including ones in Panama and Iraq. The nature of their assignments is such that most successful missions cannot receive recognition. Today, 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta is a specially trained unit of carefully selected soldiers that stands ready as America's premier counterterrorist unit.

I first came into "contact" with Delta while at Camp Mackall, outside of Fort Bragg, while completing Phase One of the Special Forces "Q" course, aka John Wayne High School. It was February 1986; the Pakistanis were having problems with airline hijackers, and Delta — "the long-haired beeper crowd" — was on its way. They were spending the night at Camp Mackall readying for their departure.

We had strict orders not to leave the concertina-wire perimeter surrounding our

tar-paper shack: Delta had its sentries out. Drifting among the shadows were silent figures dressed in blue jeans, fatigue jackets and black watch caps — carrying night-vision-equipped weapons. Their orders were "shoot to kill any intruders on sight — no warning, no questions asked." I stayed inside, shined my boots, oiled my Kabar and repacked my rucksack.

Personnel are assigned to Delta in either Direct Support, Service Support or Operational roles. Support personnel must (1) have outstanding performance evaluations in their Military Occupational Specialty (MOS), and (2) volunteer for Delta, and (3) be selected. Operational personnel (those who actually conduct Delta's missions) must be volunteers who meet or exceed established prerequisites and successfully complete the assessment and selection course.

To be considered for an operational assignment with Delta, an individual must (obviously) be a member of the U.S. armed forces. He must then meet (or exceed) the following prerequisites: He must be a male volunteer, at least 22 years old, and a U.S. citizen without a history of recurring disciplinary action. Service branch and MOS are immaterial, but volunteers must have four years' minimum service. Volunteers

must be airborne-qualified or volunteer for airborne training and duty.

Enlisted volunteers must possess a GT score of 110 or higher (retesting is permitted), be in the grade of Sergeant (E-5), Staff Sergeant (E-6), or Sergeant 1st Class (E-7) with a minimum of four years' time in service. Additionally, they must have two years' active duty remaining, or extend or re-enlist to meet this requirement if selected. Maximum age for NCOs is 35 years.

Officers must be captains or majors on active duty (or a reservist who meets the prerequisites) and

graduates of a branch advanced course. They must have a college degree (B.A. or B.S.) and have successfully completed at least one year of command time at the company (battery, troop, aviation platoon, or Special Forces detachment) level. Officers must have completed 20 years of service by age 55. All volunteers must pass a stringent background security investigation and must possess at least an interim secret clearance. Minimum age is 22. The medical exam is a modified HALO/SCUBA medical examination.

Volunteers must have no limiting physical profiles (class 3 or 4). Although



Colonel "Chargin' Charlie" Beckwith, mastermind/father of the Army's elite Delta Force, at White House welcome ceremony for hostages returned from Iran in 1981. Photo: AP/Wide World

in the past, volunteers were required to possess 20/20 vision with *absolutely* no waivers, currently they need only uncorrected vision in the better eye of 20/80 and at least 20/200 in the poorer eye. Both must correct to 20/20.

A unique characteristic is the grueling assessment and selection program, identifying volunteers suitable for training and duty with Delta Force. "Selection," as it is known, evaluates *individual* performance, self-discipline, determination, stamina and, above all, an individual's ability to func-

pushups, sit-ups and the two-mile run.

(1) In the inverted crawl, you must crab-walk feetfirst 20 meters, with the feet leading, and then back 20 meters with the hands leading, all in a maximum of 25 seconds.

(2) The run-dodge-jump is a straight-forward obstacle course which requires one to dodge through wooden "gates" in a serpentine manner, then jump a 5-foot ditch. Distance sprinted is 48 feet, one way. Maximum time for completion of this event is 24 seconds. The run-dodge-

after day. Basically, you must be able to run 20 miles through wooded, hilly terrain with 50 pounds on your back in less than five hours, and be able to get up the next day and do it again.

A battery of psychological tests and evaluations, including a personal interview, is conducted by the SFOD-D psychologist.

Following successful completion of the stress phase, physical phase and psychological interview, the final determination of acceptance to Delta (for training) is



Not just the right stuff — the best stuff: the best men, the best training, the best equipment for the job. Above, Delta team takes five in the desert atop their fast attack vehicle. Photo: SOF Files

tion effectively under physical, psychological and mental stress factors.

Each volunteer must successfully complete the objectives without assistance. The assessment and selection is extremely demanding — physically, mentally and emotionally. Just completing selection, even if one is not ultimately assigned to Delta, is a *major* accomplishment.

The formal selection course consists of a Physical Fitness Qualification Test (PFQT), land navigation exercise, psychological evaluation and a commander's interview.

The uniform for the PT test is fatigues/BDUs, with boots. The shirt may be removed for all events except the swim test. For the swim test, volunteers must swim 100 meters — any stroke, with no time limit — but in BDUs and boots. Other stations in the PT test include: the inverted crawl, the run-dodge-jump, also

jump is one of the old (pre-1980) PT test events. It measures agility, coordination and dynamic-running strength.

(3) The volunteer must complete a minimum of 40 pushups in one minute, and a of 40 bent-leg sit-ups in one minute.

(4) The two-mile run must be completed in 16 minutes or less.

Land navigation exercises provide the necessary challenges for physical, mental and psychological testing in the stress phase of the course. All land navigation exercises have each participant carrying a rucksack weighing 40 to 50 pounds along with a rifle, food and water. Actual distances over hilly terrain vary from seven to 40 miles. Minimum pace is always 2.5 mph, regardless of distance.

To successfully complete the stress phase, volunteers must be able to move 20 miles in less than five hours, with the rucksack — and maintain this pace day

made by the Delta commander, following a personal interview by himself and other selected team members.

If selected for assignment from a reserve component, you will be brought on active duty in the regular Army for an initial hitch of three years. If you do well you will be given an option to extend.

For additional, *official* information, write: Commander, 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta, P.O. Box 70149, Fort Bragg, NC 28307-5000.

The best source for anyone wanting additional insight is the book *Delta Force* by Col. Charlie A. Beckwith, U.S. Army (Ret.) and Donald Knox; 1983, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Inc., New York.

*Rob Seibert is the nom de plume of a former infantry and Special Forces officer. His vision is 20/200.*

# SILENT

**N**othing lifts self-styled weapons *cognoscenti* out of their armchairs faster than a villain on the boob tube waving about a revolver with a sound suppressor. They will quickly inform their novitiates that the gap between the cylinder and the rear end of the barrel precludes a significant reduction in the sound pressure level, no matter how efficient the suppressor attached to the barrel's muzzle may be.

They are theoretically correct. However, these experts appear to have had no influence upon either Irish Republican Army terrorists or Chicago gangsters, both occupational groups from whom have been seized countless examples over the years of all makes and calibers of wheel-guns to which have been attached sound suppressors of one degree of sophistication or another.

In an effort to increase the efficiency of a sound-suppressed revolver, some years ago the designer Siegfried Hubner of West Germany developed a system that enveloped the barrel, cylinder and front portion of a Smith & Wesson Model-10 frame. The end result was incredibly clumsy, and most designers have restricted themselves to both locked-breech and blowback semiautomatic pistols.

While there is no front cylinder gap to contend with, semiauto pistols spit empty cases all over the scenery and there are some operational circumstances under which this might compromise the mission.

C. Reed Knight Jr., of Knight's Armament Co. (Dept. SOF, 7750 9th St. S.W., Vero Beach, FL 32968; phone: 407-562-5697), designed the American 2000-model pistol, which Colt produces. Knight also reintroduced the Stoner 63A weapons system (see "Stoner's Super 63," July '91) and recently commenced series production of the SR-25 countersniper system (see "Death in the Tall Grass," August '92). He is known principally, however, for the sophisticated sound suppressors he supplies to the U.S. military (see "Silence is Plastic," August '89). In my opinion, Knight easily ranks among the top three sound-suppressor designers in the world today (all three are located in the United States).

Faced with a Request For Proposal (RFP) for a relatively close-range (100 to 200 meters), sound-suppressed sniper weapon with the potential for rapid follow-up shots and no empty cases to police up, Knight responded with a tour de force totally unique in the

annals of sound-suppressor history. Knight's successful response to the RFP combines special telescoped ammunition of two calibers with different modified Ruger revolvers (a GP-100 and a Super Redhawk) to which have been attached sound suppressors. It is, of course, all quite a bit more complicated than this.

The so-called "Revolver Pistol" starts out as a stainless steel Ruger GP-100. It's an excellent, and very rugged, starting point. Both the mainspring and trigger-guard latch spring are massive coils. In addition to the hammer and the trigger, most of the small internal parts are stainless steel. Mounted in the frame, the floating firing pin must be struck by a transfer bar, which in turn receives the hammer's hit. Should the finger relieve pressure on the trigger while the hammer is falling forward, the transfer-bar safety will drop down and the firing pin will not be driven forward.

The cylinder's capacity is six rounds, and the crane/cylinder assembly swings out of the frame in the usual manner after its spring-loaded latch button is depressed. In the firing position, the cylinder is securely locked to the frame in two places — by a strong pilot bearing at the rear of the cylinder, and by a robust locking bolt at the front of the crane, which engages a matching slot at the end of the frame. This mechanism was invented by Ruger and first used in the Redhawk revolver.

For increased strength, the cylinder locking notches are substantially offset, not cut into the weakest part of the cylinder walls over the centers of the chambers. Cylinder rotation is to the left; the ejector rod does not rotate with the cylinder and serves only to activate the ejector, not as a bearing point for front locking of the cylinder.

While the trigger system remains unaltered, the factory barrel is replaced with a caliber-5.56mm barrel, 3 inches in length. This stainless steel barrel has six grooves with a right-hand twist of one turn in 6 inches. The front of the cylinder face is cut

back by a half-inch.

The fast-twist rifling is required to stabilize the 47-grain, flat-based projectile with its needle-sharp point that's guaranteed to penetrate most current body-armor types.

This screw-turned brass bullet leaves the muzzle at 1,025 feet per second (fps). The bullet is encased in a piston made from a space-age synthetic called Ultem. Both are loaded into a Winchester .38 Special case and powered by an unspecified propellant of undisclosed charge weight. Upon ignition, the piston moves forward a small amount and its beveled face interfaces with the rear end of the barrel to seal the front cylinder gap. A rubber O-ring

**Knight's unusual  
Revolver Rifle,  
chambered for  
special .30-caliber  
telescoped ammunition,  
offers the  
potential for rapid  
follow-up shots and  
no empty cases to  
police up, along with  
sniper capability out  
to 200 meters.**

# SIX-SHOOTERS

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis

on the piston seals the case from propellant gas blow-by, so that all of the propellant gas is driven into the sound suppressor attached to the barrel. Due to the proprietary nature of this unique ammunition, we were not permitted to publish close-up photographs of it, nor of the larger-caliber cartridge described further in this article.

The sound suppressor housing for the Revolver Pistol — 6 inches in overall length — is made from 6061 T6 aluminum-alloy tubing, which has been hard-coat anodized. Internally, it contains both

aluminum and steel baffles. In order to obtain the highest level of sound reduction, these baffles must be kept wet so that the main propellant gas jet can be cooled at an increased rate over conventional designs. For this purpose, a small amount of Shooter's Choice-brand All Weather High-Tech grease is applied to the first baffle at the rear end of the unit.

The method employed to attach the suppressor to the revolver is that of the Knight unit obtained by the U.S. Air Force for the Beretta 92F (M9) pistol. Between a top-piece at the rear of the suppressor housing





Knight's Revolver Rifle comes equipped with sophisticated optics, including a Leupold VARI-XIII scope and a Simrad KN250 night-vision unit mounted directly over the Leupold. Emergency tritium sights complete the package.

and the knurled and rounded push-release on the underside are two sets of stainless steel pins. The two inner pins are notched so that the suppressor can be removed from the pistol when the push-release is pressed upward. When locked to the revolver, the unnotched surfaces of the two inner pins interface with a slot on each side of the muzzle. Simply apply thumb pressure to the push-release to instantly install or remove the suppressor.

The sound signature produced by this system is about 123 decibels (dB). This is outstanding performance, with a net sound reduction of 40 dB, as the revolver itself generates a sound-pressure level of about 163 dB without the suppressor. The sound of the hammer falling on an empty chamber is about 112 dB, so the muzzle blast is reduced to only 10 dB more than the sound of the action. The firearm's flash signature is also totally eliminated.

These sound signature were measured by means of a Bruel and Kjaer type 2209 Impulse Precision Sound Level Meter, with a No. 4136 microphone placed 1 meter away from the front, and to the left, of the muzzle at an angle normal (90 degrees) to the barrel's axis. The meter was calibrated both before and after these tests: No instrument drift was noted. All of this is as per U.S. milspec.

### 21st Century Sights

The sights provided for Knight's Revolver Pistol are every bit as elaborate and startling as the rest of the system. To the standard-type, open-notch rear sight (retained for emergency use) has been added two horizontal tritium bars. A single tritium dot has been installed on the serrated blade-type front sight, which is mounted in a dovetail on the barrel shroud.

A dovetail has been milled into the pistol's top-strap for installation of a battery-operated AIMPOINT 5000 red-dot sight with polarizing filter. A rotary switch with 10 positions adjusts intensity of the red dot to accommodate all light levels, from bright sunlight to pitch dark.

A dovetail milled into the frame accepts an Applied Laser Systems Terminator II laser sight, which has been modified by Knight's Armament Co. with a new switch and more rugged body and mount. This unit is available with either a visible or infrared (IR) laser beam.

The word "laser" is an acronym; its letters stand for Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation. There are several processes used to produce lasers, and in each instance they generate an intense beam of light. This beam of light is both very pure — i.e., all of the light rays in the beam are nearly the same color (monochromatic) — and well collimated, i.e., all the rays are headed in almost exactly the same direction ("highly coherent").

The Terminator II is a state-of-the-art diodide laser unit, also

known as an injection laser. It is a semiconductor diode having a "pn" junction and emitting laser radiation when the diode is forward-biased with a current above the threshold of the pn-junction material.

There are several types of laser diodes, the most commonly used being the gallium arsenide (GaAs) diode, which emits in the infrared spectrum in the range of 8,200 to 9,050 angstroms. The direction of forward current flow is from the n-type layer to the p-type layer in the pn junction, when a current of 100 milliamperes (threshold current) or more is applied across the junction operating analogous to a resonant cavity. The diode behaves like an ordinary light-emitting diode when biased with a current below the threshold level.

Visible laser sights (such as a gallium-aluminum-arsenide diode unit, which emits in the visible spectrum in the range of 6,300 to 6,700 angstroms) mounted on small arms have, in my opinion, extremely limited applications. However, when coupled with passive night-vision goggles, an infrared laser

beam projects as a bright dot to the operator. It cannot be detected by others unless they are also equipped with night-vision viewing devices. In this latter mode we have something that can actually be useful to those who sneak about in the shadows.

### Revolver Rifle

All well and good for handgun ranges, which are most often under 7 or 8 meters and rarely more than 50 meters, but to pop human targets at ranges of 100 meters and more, we need a more stable firing platform. For this purpose, Knight designed the "Revolver Rifle," which although conceptually similar to the system described above, differs in several significant areas.

Starting envelope for the revolver rifle is a Ruger caliber .44 Magnum Super Redhawk revolver. The crane/cylinder assembly is essentially the same as that of the Ruger GP-100. All stainless steel components of both the Revolver Pistol and the Revolver Rifle have been finished by a black-oxide process.

The factory barrel of the Revolver Rifle has been replaced by a four-groove, .30-caliber barrel, 10 inches in overall length, with a right-hand rifling twist of one turn in 9 inches. The front cylinder gap is adjusted to a maximum of 0.005-inch and a minimum of 0.003-inch (as is that of the Revolver Pistol).

This is an exceptionally fast twist for a bullet weighing only 145 grains. However, the muzzle velocity is only 1,025 fps (muzzle velocity of the .30-06 150-grain military ball round is 2,700 fps). A rifling twist of 1:9 inches is required to stabilize the flight path of a lightweight projectile moving at such a reduced velocity, and to provide the necessary accuracy potential. To further minimize the tendency of the slow-moving projectile to yaw in flight, "driving" or "rotating" bands have been milled into the flat-based, solid brass bullet in the manner of many artillery shells. Driving bands transmit rotation from the rifling to the shell.

Screw-turned with a needle-sharp point, the bullet is encased in an aluminum piston with a black-plastic front face seal. Both are loaded into a Federal .44 Magnum case and powered by an unspecified propellant of undisclosed charge weight. As with the Revolver Pistol, upon ignition the piston moves forward a small amount until its front face impinges against the rear end of the barrel to seal the front cylinder gap. Once again, a rubber O-ring on the piston seals the case from propellant gas blow-by so that all of the propellant gas is driven into the sound suppressor attached to the barrel. Early prototypes of this concept featured 7mm bullets.

An unusually long sound suppressor (18.75 inches) fits over the barrel and is attached to the revolver by means of a knurled, threaded coupler on the front end of the frame. The suppressor's housing is made from black-anodized, 6061 T6



With an overall length of only 36.5 inches, Knight's Revolver Rifle is equipped with a detachable buttstock, polyurethane forearm and Harris bipod, all of which provide the stable firing platform required for accurate head-shots out to 200 meters.

aluminum tubing. The interior consists of a series of steel and aluminum baffles, together with rolled metal screen material. This suppressor has an exceptional life span of 5,000 rounds or more.

When the suppressor is installed, a small amount of Shooter's Choice All Weather High-Tech grease should first be applied to the front of the barrel. There is a small index pin on the suppressor housing. During installation, this pin should be inserted into a keyway slot on the rear of the barrel before attempting to tighten the knurled coupling nut.

The sound signature produced by this system is about 119 dB. This sound-pressure level is about 4 dB lower than that generated by the suppressed Revolver Pistol, with a net sound reduction of 44 dB, as the Revolver Rifle itself generates a sound-pressure level of about 163 dB without the suppressor. Once again, the sound of the hammer falling on an empty chamber is about 112 dB, so the muzzle blast is reduced to only 7 dB more than the sound of the action. And, once more, the firearm's flash signature is completely eliminated.

The black polyurethane forearm under the barrel has a quick-release stud to which can be attached a Harris bipod. A detachable polyurethane and steel buttstock is also provided. The overall length of the Revolver Rifle is 36.5 inches with the buttstock and sound suppressor attached. Without night vision equipment, the weight is 8.5 pounds. Add another 1 pound for the Simrad night vision unit.

Once again, to the standard-type, open-notch rear sight (which has been retained for emergency use) have been added two horizontal tritium bars. A single tritium dot has been installed on the serrated blade-type front sight mounted on the end of the suppressor housing.

Knight's Revolver Rifle comes with a Leupold VARI-X III scope. This compact, variable-power scope can be adjusted from 1X to 5X magnification. Its adjustment system consists of a 15-minute dial with clicks and markings at 1/4-minute intervals (a 1/4-minute equals a 1/4-inch at 100 yards).

A Simrad 1X KN250 image intensifier can be mounted directly over the Leupold VARI-X III scope. It can use both second- and third-

generation 18mm wafer tubes and does not magnify the image.

Second- and third-generation passive night-vision equipment employs a so-called "micro-channel amplifier," which consists of a bundle of extremely minute fibers — several million of them in a tube no more than 3/4-inch (18mm) in diameter. A screen in front of the fibers receives the optical image and generates electrons which are fed into the micro-channels.

### Dark Illumination

The amplifier unit is supplied by an electrical field. As the electrons travel down the micro-channels, they ricochet off the thin peripheral layer (known as "cladding," it is made of an optical material of lower index refraction than the core material) and by means of their zigzag path through the core, generate additional electrons so that the signal coming out the end of the micro-channels is much greater than that which went in. These outward-bound electrons strike a second screen and provide a visual image. This image can be then either viewed by an ocular or given further amplification by another micro-channel amplifier.

Micro-channel amplifiers are much more compact than first-generation "cascade tubes," and a single unit provides a much greater degree of amplification. The total amplification (often referred to as "gain") is about 64,000 times with the more sophisticated units. Thus, a very murky star- or moon-illuminated scene becomes almost as clear and distinct as if viewed under the noonday sun.

What's the accuracy potential of these esoteric snuffers? *Soldier Of Fortune* tested Knight's Revolver Rifle at 100 meters from a benchrest. We fired 2-inch groups until it became monotonous. That's more than sufficient to meet any Mission Essential Need Statement (MENS) likely to have been developed for this weapon system: likewise with the Revolver Pistol.

At the close ranges handguns are employed in (the vast majority of all gunfights with a pistol take place at ranges under 7 meters), it will more than do. Furthermore, the AIMPOINT 5000 red-dot sight extends the Revolver Pistol's useful range out to a distance where it overlaps with the Revolver Rifle's range (at the low end of the latter's potential).

Without doubt, C. Reed Knight Jr. has created a most impressive and totally unique weapons system. However, this equipment is most definitely not available to the public under any circumstances. Unless you can demonstrate that you represent a U.S. government agency qualified, and with a substantial need, to possess such equipment, do not bother to contact Knight's Armament Co. Inquiries are accepted only from legitimate governmental and military users. ☒

Disassembled for transport, the Knight Revolver Rifle's major components consist of a sound suppressor, detachable buttstock, Ruger .44 Magnum revolver with Leupold VARI-XIII scope and forearm, Harris bipod and Simrad 1X KN250 image intensifier.



## BEST MISSION

Continued from page 47

that pilots can put through a roof vent in any enemy command-and-control center, as was done in Baghdad. CBU canisters are designed to break open in midair and spew hundreds of tiny bomblets all over the battlefield. For that reason, most pilots, including Diehl, don't like to drop CBUs any closer than 1,000 meters from friendly forces.

When Air Force pilots fly future close-air-support missions, they will have the benefit of lessons learned in the Persian Gulf War.

### Friendly Fire

It became abundantly clear that the ferocity of the campaign carried a price in terms of "friendly fire" casualties caused by accidental strikes on friendly forces. Mistaken identification by American aircraft and ground units, coupled with malfunctions of certain weapons, caused the deaths or injuries of 107 Americans during the short-lived conflict. In addition, 22 Britons were killed or wounded in accidental attacks by American forces.

Despite the danger, Degroff kept insisting that Diehl drop cluster bombs "closer" to keep the Iraqis from overrunning his position. "If you don't," the cool-as-a-cucumber Degroff warned, "there won't be any of us left alive down here."

One of the last drops Diehl's flight made was less than 200 meters from the A-Team. Too close for comfort. Before calling it a day, Diehl's men had dropped 16 canisters of cluster bombs, but the fate of the Green Berets was still up in the air when Diehl departed the area and hooked up with a tanker for the trip back to base. Diehl didn't learn until the next morning that the team had been saved.

A four-ship led by Bill Andrews in Diehl's sister squadron, the 10th Tactical Fighter Squadron from Hahn AFB, Germany (which has since disbanded), arrived over the area at about the time Diehl's flight went "Winchester" (out of ordnance) and "bingo" (low on fuel).

"We spent about 20 minutes over the team before having to bootleg a tanker to get home," Andrews reported. At one point, he refused to drop CBUs any closer to the team. "We walked 'em in till I couldn't stand it anymore," he admitted.

Andrews and his wingmen, Lt. Joey Booher, Capt. Evan Thomas and Capt. Pete McAffrey, dropped 14 of their 16 CBU canisters on the Iraqis before they binged out of the area and hooked up with the tanker.

"On the last pass, Evan and Pete really kicked their butts into the ground," Andrews said. "After that, the Iraqis lost the will to fight."

Of 40 combat missions in the Gulf War, and 172 combat missions in Vietnam, Diehl observed without a doubt, "This

one was the *best mission* I have ever flown."

*Dale B. Cooper covered the Gulf War on the ground for Soldier Of Fortune. This is the last installment in his series of after-action SOF stories on the Persian Gulf conflict.* ✖

## SUPPORT THE NRA

### WEAPONCRAFT

Continued from page 26

curely seated. The partially depleted magazine is then deposited somewhere where it cannot later be mistaken for a full magazine, should circumstances dictate another reload. It is probably not a good practice, as some advocate, to remove the first magazine and then reach for the backup. This downloads the weapon to only one round for an unnecessarily long time frame — or worse, in the case of an open-bolt mechanism, to zero rounds in the gun.

Keep weapon downtime to the shortest possible time span, even though the confrontation is supposedly over. For example, think of one platoon which consists of personnel who all simultaneously break down weapons for clean-

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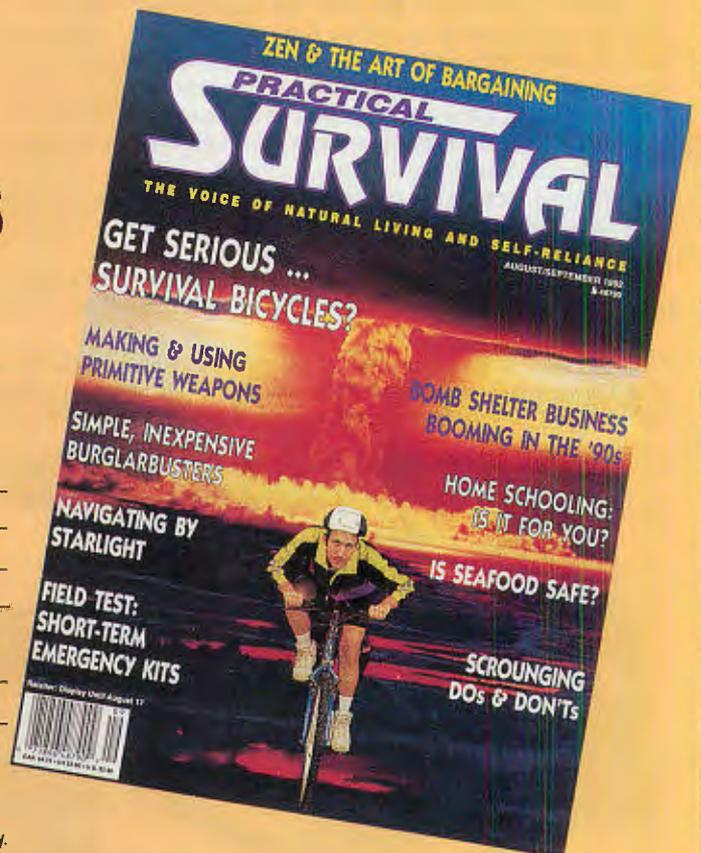
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ing, contrasting with members of another platoon who clean weapons in relays so that some are always ready to fight.

It is in the field of reloading where revolvers fall behind the power curve, primarily because of the problems encountered with ammunition management. If a speed loader is employed during the reload, any remaining live rounds from the initial cylinder load end up kissing Mother Earth.

### Reloading Revolvers

A tactical load can be performed by individually removing fired brass and replacing it/them with live rounds, but the process requires more manipulation and a cooler brain than that needed for a magazine switch.

Probably the best overall system to use for wheel guns is the strip loader; this enables the operator to accomplish both tactical and speed loads with relative haste, utilizing only one equipment system and technique. Another alternative is to modify the revolver to accept half-, third-, or full-moon clips.

The important fact to bear in mind is that a revolver cylinder, irrespective of whether it is of five-, six-, seven- or nine-shot capacity, will always have two adjacent chambers in a straight line. A straight-line strip loader can therefore be efficiently manipulated to load two rounds simultaneously, providing you

with a minimum of fuss and bother.

Similarly, when loading by means of a cylindrical speed loader, allow two adjacent bullets to make contact with two adjacent chambers, then "rotate" the remaining cartridges into their respective chambers. This virtually eliminates the frustrating task of attempting to simultaneously line up six male cartridges with six female chambers.

### Shotguns

If tube-fed shotguns are your weapons of choice, the loading/reloading process is normally achieved by the individual insertion of cartridges. This system does, however, allow the operator to select different types of ammunition at his discretion at a moment's notice, which cannot be done with box- and drum-fed shotguns, though the latter are generally quicker to speed load from empty to full. The striker and its clones are a notable exception to this rule.

Trick speed loaders for the shotgun are usually a disaster for serious gunfighting, and seem to be more trouble than they're worth. Whatever your weapons system, you would be well advised to expect the worst-case scenario: Be prepared to expend at least twice the amount of ammo that the mission should require.

While you may, on occasion, be able to keep track of rounds fired in a short,

ideal fight, most gunfights usually end up as an unexpected tactical- and marksmanship-logistics zoo. A positive, smooth, reflexive reload is your insurance policy against an ammunition recession.

*A frequent contributor to "Combat Weaponcraft," Louis Awerbuck is director of Yavapai Firearms Academy in Prescott Valley, Arizona. ✕*

## CROATIA

*Continued from page 57*

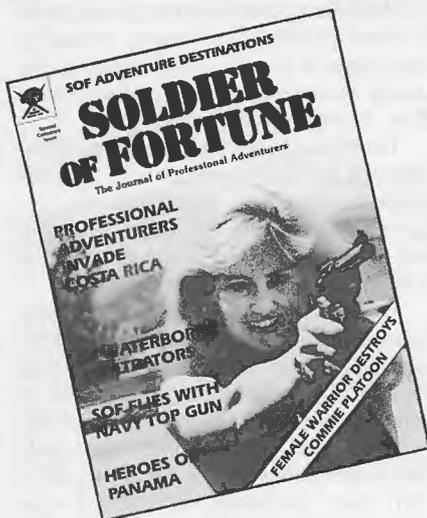
looking brunette who worked in the kitchen. War is hell.

On Tuesday, the next morning, we rode a small bus through the local ville, Zazina, which borders the Kupa River. We were headed toward the front for some "live-fire training." The houses were pock-marked from small-arms fire and artillery fragments. Windows had been blown out by shell blasts.

### The Petrinja Swim Team

The pontoon bridge across the river is a major target. Six kilometers due south, down Highway 12-2 and just across the winding Kupa, is a well-known little town, Petrinja.

Petrinja was the scene of fierce house-to-house fighting in the fall of '91 (reported in *SOF* by Jim Wallace and Bob



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Jordan, Jan. and Feb. '92 issues). The town was overrun by a Serb armor force in October. RPGs don't do much against the T-84 (Yugoslav version of the Soviet T-72). A battalion of Croat troops operating south of the Kupa was pushed back to the river and forced to swim for it. Many were shot while entering the water. Non-swimmers were captured and later executed. The survivors are still known as "The Swimmers."

After making our way through Zazina, the bus dropped us off south of the ville. We were still in one of the landlocked curves formed by the Kupa, but nearer to no-man's-land and Chetnik-occupied Croatia. We heard that other internationals at the front had wandered through large gaps in the lines only to be waved back by frantic Croatsians.

We patrolled a little gravel country lane. Houses and farms in the immediate area are abandoned. Their occupants no doubt fled the Chetnik marauders backed by Serbian tanks, running for safer havens in Sisak, Zagreb or abroad.

Our troops patrolled up the road, and we observed. This training was as near to being in actual combat as possible. The last two days of tactical training had been the only real training our group received. Though they were all former JNA, their training as conscripts didn't contain much small-unit infantry tactics. Some of the "commandos" were previously tank drivers or missile crewmen during their national service.

Willi had concentrated on putting them in shape, pushing them on ever-increasing long-distance marches. Unfortunately, the troops were developing some bad blisters from their poor-quality boots.

Back at Zazina, I explained the principles of *zasjeda* — the ambush ... organization, coordination, communication, security, and violence of action. The only way we could translate violence of action was ... "to go *ludite*" (crazy).

Breakfast the next day was fatty sausage — again. Our "commando trainees" were all cammied up, wearing black watch caps. We'd gotten them in the habit of wearing their load-carrying equipment and carrying rucks. Well, at least they looked like a special ops unit. A far cry from the shirt-open, no headgear, in-need-of-a-shave Croatian soldiers we were accustomed to.

While we would be much more comfortable in boonies or watch caps ourselves, Willi had asked that we wear some sort of beret, so that we might "stand out." Pando and I were both a little uneasy about "standing out," especially if we should move into an area inhabited by Chetnik snipers. We also tried to explain to Willi that American soldiers don't wear berets in the field.

As the unit moved out that morning through Zazina, the surrounding countryside and into the hills, we passed small groups of indolent "reservists." It seems

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that every yahoo in the country was issued a uniform and a Kalashnikov.

Pando found it hilarious. "It's just like Zagreb, Rob, none of these guys do anything but hang around." That seems to be a major problem. If they aren't actively engaged in combat, there's no organized training or equipment maintenance program to occupy the troops. Without training, it's an army of cannon fodder. Even daily enforced PT would be an improvement. Most of the physiques we saw were indicative of high-fat diets and too much pivo (beer).

We passed one group in maroon berets: nothing special. In the Croatian army if you have some extra *dinars*, you just buy some berets and call yourselves Special Forces, Rangers — whatever. These guys even had matching shoulder patches which, translated into English, read "Street People." Pando and I kept walking, lest our giggling get us shot.

### Lost In Wine Country

We broke for lunch on a grapevine-covered hilltop with a beautiful vista (this area reminded me of the western New York wine country), before resuming our patrol. Willi was interested in the PT element, while Pando and I saw the need for further live-fire tactical training. We moved down a ridgeline for a click or so, until Willi changed our direction of march 180 degrees. Willi had no map (I finally got one of Zazin *after* we left the AO) and so had shot his azimuth from the wrong hilltop.

Pando was up front with the lead element and felt that the colonel's momentary "disorientation" had caused him to lose face. Willi learned the hard way ... don't piss Pando off.

We stopped after a while, secured the area and did a "rucksack flop." We conducted more IADs. Pando played sniper on an L-shaped bend in a dirt road. As the first burst of AK fire shattered the silent afternoon, Pedrag issued commands, decisively this time, and the commandos executed rapidly and violently: AK, FN and G-3 rounds snapped through the air.

As I moved up the road to observe their fire and maneuver I caught a burst of AK fire over my head. Somebody had decided that, instructor or not, Krott needed to be in the dirt with everybody else.

After a hurried critique, I explained by using a hastily made sand table how to execute an L-shaped ambush. Points stressed were use of claymore (which they called "TV mines"), personnel mines, security and searching the kill zone. We discussed how to react to both far and near ambushes. The unit was split into two 10-man groups to go force-on-force. With live ammo, of course. You fired into the ground, at a tree next to your target, or the air above the "enemy's" head ... closely if you didn't particularly like the guy.

Our unit received orders the next day to move to Sisak. A few days after our

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redeployment there, I noticed Willi was in foul spirits. There'd been a serious communications glitch about Pando and I going back to the front for a few days.

The commandos practiced assembling two rubber assault boats. They had motors, but not one knew where they were. I'd have been happy to have paddles.

Something was in the wind among the Dutchmen, but we would have to wait to find out. In the afternoon we practiced using ropes to scale a bridge abutment and gave impromptu classes on bridge demolition and improvised munitions.

Later that night, we got the word from Douwe that the "politicians" in Zagreb were unhappy about some Americans training troops in Sisak. Matakovic had tracked us down: Simply put, we were supposed to get the hell out of the country (This was our second and third country "expulsion" for the two of us, respectively.). At the very least, we had to disassociate ourselves from Willi, who had tenuous approval for his operation.

We decided to boogie, since the Easter vacation was approaching. The next day (wearing civvies) we observed boat drills in the Kupa (they found the paddles), packed our gear and got some train tickets. That night there was a loud explosion that rattled the windows — a restaurant around the block was bombed through some of the curious infighting among the Croats.

The next day was Holy Thursday; the troops were on pass and the Dutchmen departed for Zagreb. Willi wanted to know if we were going to Vinkovci. We didn't think it was a great idea to travel across the country without papers when we had people in Zagreb pissed off at us.

The fighting in Bosnia had just flared up and we were planning on going to Sarajevo, but we kept that information to ourselves. Unfortunately, our contact who would take us into Bosnia didn't make it himself; maybe next trip.

*An infantry platoon leader in the 1/17th Infantry (Mech.), Rob Krott enrolled as a graduate student of anthropology at Harvard after his ETS — but still finds time to go where the action is. ✪*

## SADLER

Continued from page 35

With compact discs and cassettes already on sale at the Smithsonian's six gift shops and at the Library of Congress — and through the SOF Exchange: \$25 includes shipping and handling; phone: 800-743-5624 — the album premiered this past February over Voice of America radio to an audience of more than 200-million listeners around the world, including China and the former Soviet Union.

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tion, along with a 500th anniversary 1992-1993 calendar which notes important dates in U.S. history.

It's definitely a "period piece" of musical work that will be enjoyed by both old-music aficionados and die-hard Barry Sadler fans — hard-core R 'n' R and heavy-metal fans can expect to be disappointed: It is, after all, largely *patriotic* music.

The response to this recording has been such that a stirring stage production incorporating the album's music was put together and, at the invitation of the U.S. Information Agency, was set to debut on 3 August at the United States' pavilion at Seville's Expo '92. The stage production closes on 12 October 1992, which is the 500th anniversary of Columbus' landfall in the Bahamas.

Appropriately enough, as Collins noted, the *Of Thee I Sing* production is dedicated to the memory of the man who nurtured the first seeds of the idea, from its inception into a musical product: Barry Sadler.

"This is only proper," Collins said, "because it was Barry Sadler's insight and dedication that brought this album to life. In traveling around the country, and even around the world to promote this project, I've been amazed at how many people out there still know and love Barry Sadler. He touched their hearts a quarter of a century ago with a great song, and they've never forgotten him." ✨

## MULLAHS

Continued from page 39

fort with Cuba was triggered by Iran's hope to purchase one or more tactical nukes from one of the republics of the former Soviet Union. In May 1991, a high-level Iranian delegation made overtures to Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, and Azerbaijan in search of a possible purloined weapon. Initial discussions were said not to be encouraging in Tajikistan and Azerbaijan, but in mid-October a second Iranian delegation arrived in Kazakhstan, led by Dr. Mahdi Khmrani, a top aide to Iranian intelligence chief Ali Falahian.

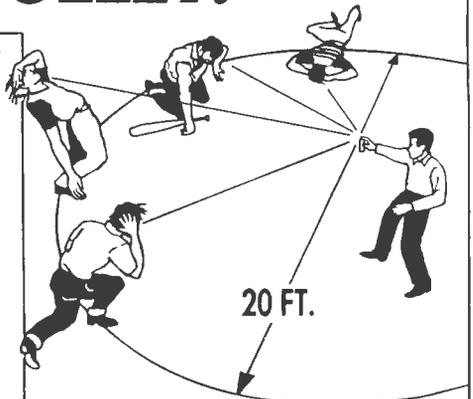
A graduate in nuclear physics from the University of California, Dr. Khmrani is reported to have purchased three nuclear devices from Khazakhi officials for a figure rumored to be \$165 million. Secret bank accounts were opened for the Khazakhi officials in Luxembourg, Liechtenstein and Switzerland. Intelligence sources say the bombs were transferred to Iran through Turkmenistan by truck in December 1991. Reportedly the weapons could be made operational by mid-1992.

In an effort to secure a more sophisticated delivery system, Iranian president Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani struck a secret deal in late October 1991 with a high-ranking Chinese delegation to Tehran, headed by President Yang Shangkun. By the terms of the agreement, China committed to provide Iran with both medium —

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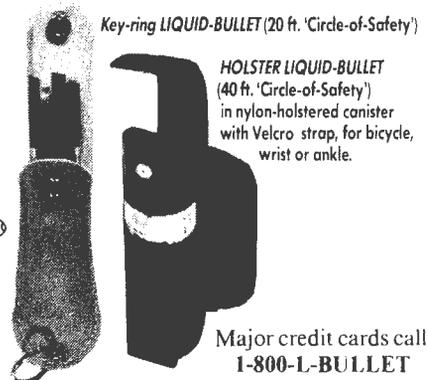
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and long-range ballistic missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads. All of the missiles are to be transferred to Iran via North Korea. In return, Tehran agreed to pay the Chinese and North Koreans some \$250 million, to be remitted through the China Bank of Hong Kong.

United States intelligence sources indicate that — at its present pace — Iran should be able to construct a workable nuclear device of its own by the turn of the century, eight short years away. In the meantime it may have three tactical nukes capable of being dropped from a plane or married to a ballistic missile. By all accounts, it is clear that the Iranians believe nuclear weapons are vital to the preservation of their revolution and their expansionist plans for the future.

Only if their "jihad" is backed by the power of nuclear weapons, say the mullahs now in control of Iran, will they be able to liberate the holy cities of Mecca and Medina, recover Jerusalem, purify the Islamic world and defeat the United States (which in their eyes remains "the Great Satan") and its despised Western allies.

*Neil Livingstone is an adjunct professor at several institutions, including Georgetown University. A frequent contributor to SOF, his areas of expertise include terrorism and security topics.*

## BERMUDEZ

Continued from page 49

stated they heard no noise and there was no blast, nor were there any powder burns on my father's body. What kind of weapon would do that?

Suddenly, my mind flashed back to an article I had read months ago in *Soldier Of Fortune Magazine*. It had described a Soviet assassination derringer with silent ammo [see "Mystery Bullet," May '90, and "Combloc Connection," July '90]. At that time, the article was interesting, but had no particular significance to me. But now I was sure I knew how they killed my father.

I recalled a conversation with a friend who stated he knew someone who was present when the Soviet ambassador to Nicaragua gave the Sandinista leadership some special assassination weapons that gave off no noises, no flash signatures and no powder burns.

The articles described a twin-barreled derringer with special ammunition that when fired operates a plunger-like mechanism, making no noise, no flash and leaving no powder burns.

I contacted a friend who knew the witness to the Soviet gift of weapons in Nicaragua, sending him a copy of the *SOF* article. He, in turn, showed the picture of the weapon to Major Roger Miranda, Gen. Ortega's top aide and privy to all

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Sandinista political and military secrets until he defected in the late '80s.

Miranda is now in hiding, the Sandinistas having put a large price on his head. Through a roundabout means of communication, Miranda confirmed that the weapon shown in *SOF* was the same type of weapon given to the Sandinistas by the Soviet ambassador.

General Oretga had more than enough reason to want my father dead. When my father returned to Nicaragua in January 1991, thousands of former contras and many more thousands of their supporters openly begged him to once again become active and lead them. People were fed up with the Sandinistas and with the inept, cowardly Chamorro government. Many former contras were being hunted down and killed by Sandinista death squads, while none of the promises made to them were being fulfilled.

When my father returned to Nicaragua, he was the one person who could have made a difference. A Soviet derringer with special assassin bullets changed all that.

Nicaragua's only hope for the future is a binding referendum. The people have already spoken once, voting to throw the Sandinistas out — but President Chamorro refused to listen. Now a binding referendum supervised by the Organization of American States and the United Nations is the only way out.

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- Ortega in or out
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- Confiscation of all properties taken by the government or stolen in the past 50 years, with return to their legal, lawful and rightful owners
- An international investigative force to root out perpetrators of all human rights abuses committed in the past 50 years, with prosecution of the guilty.

None of these moves will bring my father back, but they will help to get Nicaragua back into the fold of democratic countries. This is what he always wanted.

*Enrique Bermudez Jr. is an engineering student in Florida; Marty Casey is a long-time contributor to SOF.* ✕

## L.A. RIOTS

*Continued from page 31*

Stanley Weisberg refused to let the jury hear that he had pleaded guilty to second-degree robbery of a grocery store in 1989, stating that the possible value of the evidence was outweighed by the potential that it could "unduly influence" jurors



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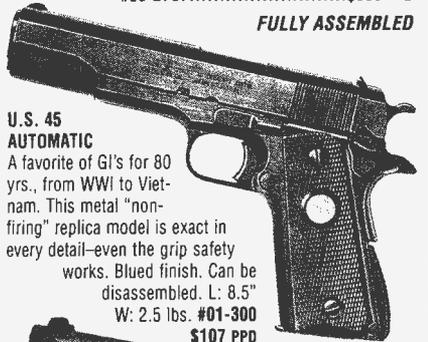


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against King. But Judge Weisburg did permit the jury to hear that King was on parole at the time of the 1991 chase and arrest, and that terms of his release forbade him to use alcoholic beverages or associate with felons.

Nor would the judge permit testimony that King had traces of marijuana in his system the night of his arrest. Weisburg said the defense had not proven King was under the influence of the drug.

Paul DePasquale, an attorney for accused Officer Timothy E. Wind, argued that the drug test result was relevant because it showed King had reason to resist arrest and fight the officers. "As a parolee, King knew he would be sent direct to prison because the presence of cannabis is a misdemeanor," DePasquale stated.

But prosecutor Alan Yochelson rebutted that the presence of marijuana in King's urine did not prove he had used the drug in violation of his parole. "It could have been before the conditions of parole arose, and could have been in his body for several months," Yochelson said. Weisburg accepted this argument.

Also stricken was any mention of King's arrest of 28 May 1991 on a charge of trying to run down an undercover police officer after he had tried to pick up a transvestite prostitute. King was cleared of the charge two months later.

In their summations, as reported by Serrano of the *Los Angeles Times*, lawyers "gave contradictory portrayals of King — that of an innocent victim of an unprovoked attack, or of a violent man whose beating resulted from his refusal to obey orders."

Attorney Michael Stone, speaking for Powell, said officers are not paid to win "second-place ribbons" when fighting aggressive suspects. He said they are normal human beings who are fearful of "rolling around in the dirt with the likes of Rodney King."

If society demands that officers unnecessarily risk their lives, Stone said, "the thin blue line that separates the law-abiding from the not-law-abiding disintegrates. These are not 'Robocops.' They hurt, and ... they bleed and they die, just like everybody else."

After many days of deliberations, the jurors acquitted the officers on all charges save one against Powell, that of unnecessary use of force. On 15 May, a judge granted the district attorney's request that Powell be retried on that charge.

In a breach of common sense, if not any formal journalistic code of ethics, on the day after the verdict was announced the *Los Angeles Daily News* obtained and printed the names of the jurors. The *Ventura Star Free-Press* reprinted the *Daily News'* story. A few days later, the *Star Free-Press* ran a letter from one of the alternate jurors, which read, in part:

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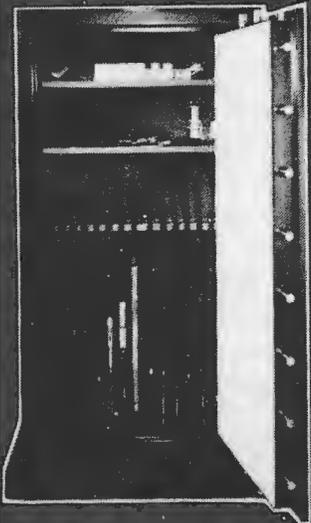
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group of his peers. It also dictates that when a citizen receives a jury summons that it is his civic responsibility to seriously fulfill that duty. Once seated on a jury, the system dictates which testimony and evidence will be presented. And once this has been done, the system further dictates jury instructions, which include strict and specific instructions on following the law.

"And what happened when it was over?"

Our government leaders, including the president, condemned their decisions ... For eight weeks I was with these 12 men and women. They are responsible, intelligent and sensitive people. I saw and felt their tears and frustration while they were doing a difficult job, a job which our system expected and required them to do. And for doing their job, they were condemned."

Judge Morton I. Greenberg of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit said in a letter published in *The New York Times* on 15 May, "It will be a sad day for this country when criminal cases are decided in accordance with public opinion shared by media exposure rather than by a jury on the basis of the evidence before it. While the Los Angeles verdict demonstrates that we are not at that point yet, the people contending the verdict was wrong are pushing the country in exactly that direction."

Reed Irvine and Joe Goulden are with *Accuracy In Media*. For AIM's report on the King affair, write: 1275 K St. N.W., Suite 1150, Washington, DC 20005.

## BLADES

Continued from page 19

damage at 200 pounds, even after more than 20 pull-ups were accomplished by the SEAL in question.

By the end of the day, there was no question as to which knife the SEALs wanted. "The Mad Dog ATAK simply outperformed the others considered, while also meeting the agreed-upon criteria set by the operators," commented a senior evaluator.

I was provided an ATAK for field-testing within days of the SEALs' approving the design. Fit and finish on both the knife and Kydex scabbard were excellent.

McClung developed the scabbard with input provided by from SEALs. The Kydex body lets water drain from the sheath, while providing both knife and user with additional protection. Black nylon cord is wrapped around the body of the scabbard, with a single strap-'n'-snap security system working in tandem with the formfitting sheath to secure the knife. A leg tie-down is provided to cinch the knife up closely against one's hip and outer thigh — one of the few workable (and comfort-

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able) such designs I've encountered.

The ATAK's blade is laser-cut from American 01-type high-carbon steel. After a unique 14-hour treat, the blade is double hard-chromed, then coated with a non-reflective Kalgard "skin," resulting in a high-carbon steel blade both corrosion-resistant and fairly non-reflective. I was able to peel the Kalgard coating away from the point/tip area of the ATAK, but I've done the same on nearly every such blade subjected to this kind of testing. To replace the non-reflective option, simply spray the blade with flat-black paint.

McClung's handle is ergonomically designed to give a sure grip, regardless of hand size. Formed from S-Glass epoxy composite, the grip is impervious to damage.

My own cutting, prying and lateral-stress tests confirmed what the SEALs had earlier discovered: The ATAK cuts cleanly and quickly, requiring no touch-up honing during three days' testing in the desert. The blade performed well even after pounding the first 2.5 inches of cutting edge through steel banding material, a task normally reserved for tin snips. Prying open ammunition crates was no challenge whatsoever for the ATAK.

At one point I managed to apply an enormous amount of lateral stress to the blade and watched it flex at least 1/4-inch from true. No damage was done to the blade, which returned to true as soon as I removed pressure.

Carry-wise, I found the ATAK wonderfully comfortable. The scabbard system rides with the body during movement and does not interfere with sitting or prone positions. Removal and replacement of the knife in its sheath is quick, easy and usually silent.

Overall comments from SpecOps people I showed the ATAK to were positive. Its simple, straightforward design and quality workmanship resulted in above-average performance across the board. McClung, a materials scientist who has developed a number of exotic items for the CIA, is devoted to creating working knives to meet the requirements of the user. He has succeeded with the ATAK, the first SEAL combat knife worthy of being considered so.

A civilian model of the ATAK will become available in 1993. Of particular note is that the SEALs' new knife is made entirely in the United States. I'm immensely impressed with the ATAK knife. It is a 21st-century combat knife designed and developed around rock-solid performance requirements, as determined by professional users.

For further information, you should contact Mad Dog Knives by phoning: 1-800-4MAD-DOG ☒

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## BO GRITZ

*Continued from page 43*

jungle operations," wrote retired U.S. Army Col. Alex McColl, formerly of MACV-SOG and a *Soldier Of Fortune* Contributing Editor.

Unfortunately for Gritz and his troop of true Bo-believers, his Pied Piper tactics since retirement have not been uniformly professional — sometimes not even competent. For instance, on one of his forays into Laos looking for POWs, he led 11 men into the jungle armed only with three semiautomatic UZIs.

Monaghan had been initially invited to join Gritz's POW rescue effort, but like several other former Green Berets, he bailed out early when Gritz's judgment came into question.

"From start to finish, it was a pipe dream," Monaghan recalled. "He's not able to always differentiate between fact and fiction ... preferring to live in a fantasy world. He believes whatever he's into at the moment. And to that end, he will associate with anyone who will listen and give him the adulation he thinks he deserves."

### **"I'm not a front man for anybody — I will never be used by anybody."**

"His troops [in Vietnam] worshipped him," maintained Howard Stevens, a former Green Beret comrade-in-arms. "I think the world of Bo. But sometimes I think he's a 54-year-old kid looking for another war to fight. I can't believe he'd affiliate himself with some of these people."

There are examples of Bo deliberately misleading his public. On 29 May 1981, in a speech at a Vietnam veterans' luncheon at the Statler Hotel in Buffalo, New York, Gritz described his personal participation in a special-operations team mission in Vietnam where Staff Sergeant George Hoaglund was severely wounded and, according to Gritz, committed suicide to relieve the other members of the team from the burden of trying to get him out. It's a good story, except for two things: Gritz was *not* present during the action in which Hoaglund was killed, and Hoaglund did not kill himself.

Populist Party campaign literature contains some Gritz stretches. In numerous brochures, Gritz claims he was cited by General William Westmoreland as "the American soldier" of the Vietnam War in Westmoreland's book, *A Soldier Reports*.

But a review of the general's book reveals only that Gritz was described as "daring," and that Westmoreland characterized Gritz's special ops exploits as "unusual." Westmoreland did praise Gritz's Cambodian forces on their amazing recovery of a flight recorder from a U-2 spy plane shot down inside enemy territory, and he noted Gritz's successful struggle to take the 3,200-foot Nui Ba Den mountain near Tay Ninh City.

However, in Gritz's version of the black box's recovery, the team ambushed an enemy force, then interrogated a prisoner who led them to a base camp which they stormed, taking back the black box. Yet other members of the team say none of these things happened: They say Gritz just happened, by blind luck and coincidence, to find the black box in the brush.

In an *SOF* interview for this article, Westmoreland said Gritz had taken a phrase from the book out of context. "The American soldier" was merely the name of one chapter and was "no reference to him [Gritz] at all. It was about many men, the typical American soldier."

Despite contrary facts, Gritz told *SOF* he was "not seeking alliances with anyone ... I have no relationship with the Christic Institute and never have had a relationship with the Christic Institute."

"My campaign is very simple," Gritz said. "I'm for the Constitution. I'm grassroots ... I do not believe that we're going to be voting as Americans in 1996 unless we restore our constitutional government. And we're not going to do that as 'Republicrats,' which is one party with two names when it reaches the presidential level. If we don't vote in 1992, by 1996 we may be defending what few rights we have with bullets."

"Everything comes out of Rockefeller," he added. "It's all part of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Trilateral Commission — it's all globalist. George Bush is the ballcarrier and he's got it on the 1-yard line, and it's first and goal — we've got to stop them now."

As for Ross Perot, Gritz said, "Anyone that would support Perot right now, the way he stands, would buy a pig in a poke." Gritz remains convinced that he will emerge victorious in November.

"My candidacy will catch fire in September or October, when the media wakes up to discover that I am on the ballot in enough states to win the election," Gritz said. "And when I get my 15 seconds of national television time, I believe my statements will be a patriotic testimony to 250 million Americans — they will determine that it's true."

"Because I'm not a front man for anybody," he said. "I will never be used by anybody."

*Former Associate Editor Jim Pate remains a frequent contributor to Soldier Of Fortune.* ☒

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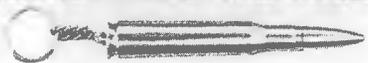
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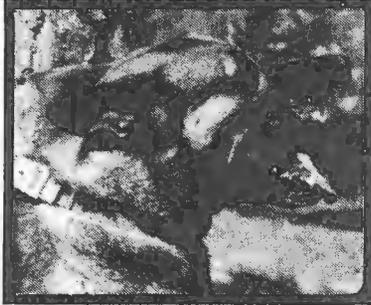
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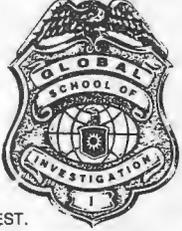
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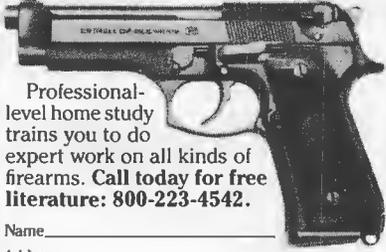


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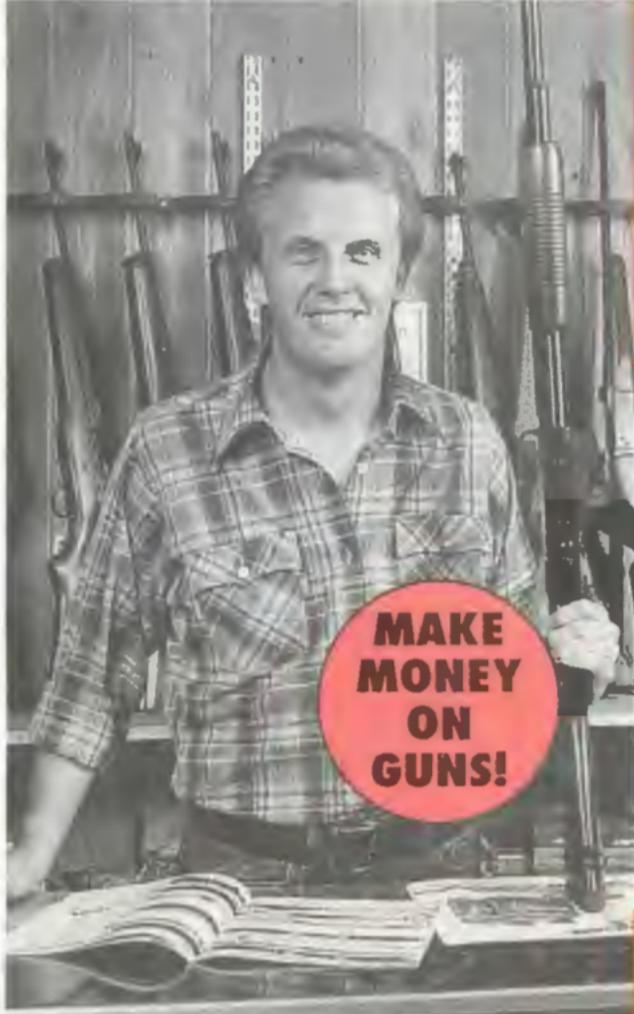
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