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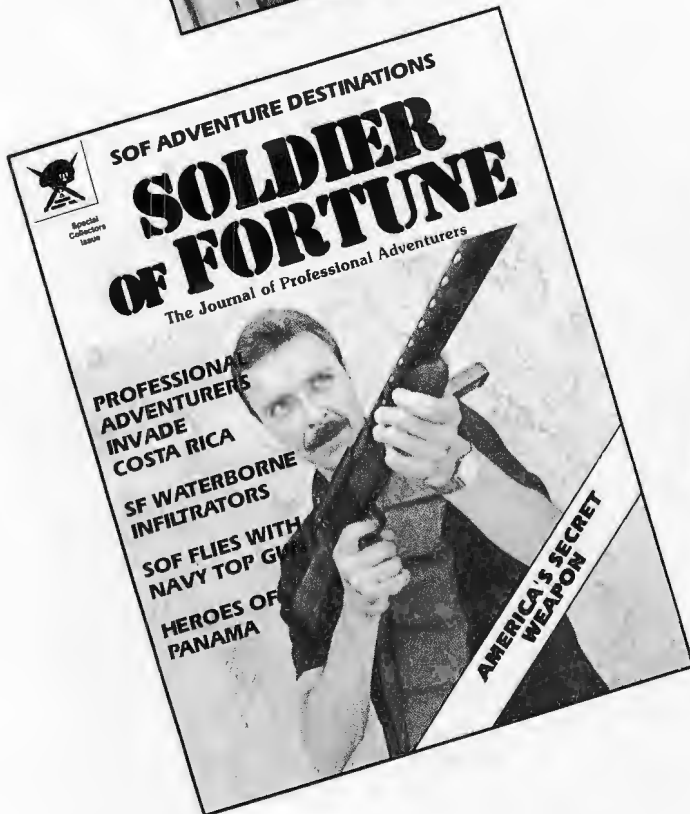
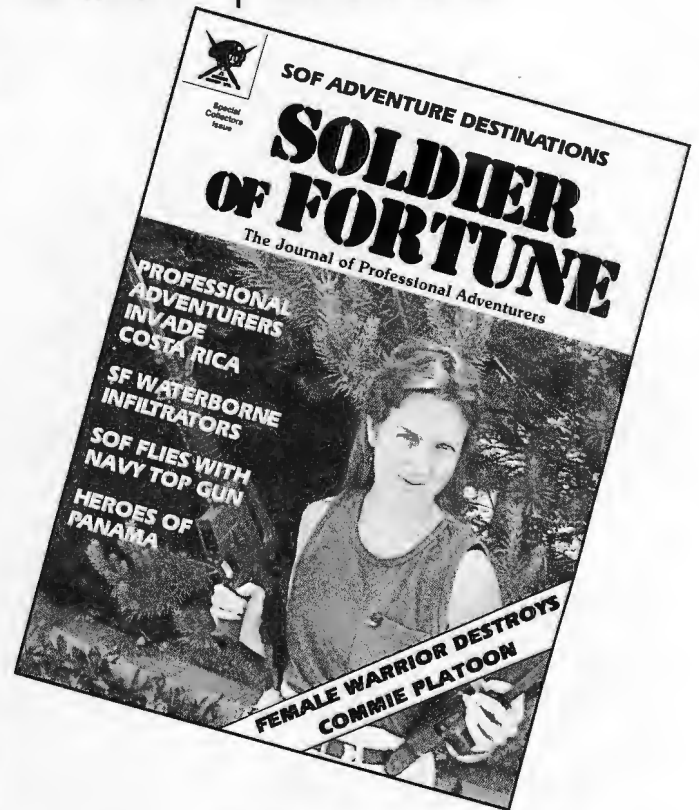
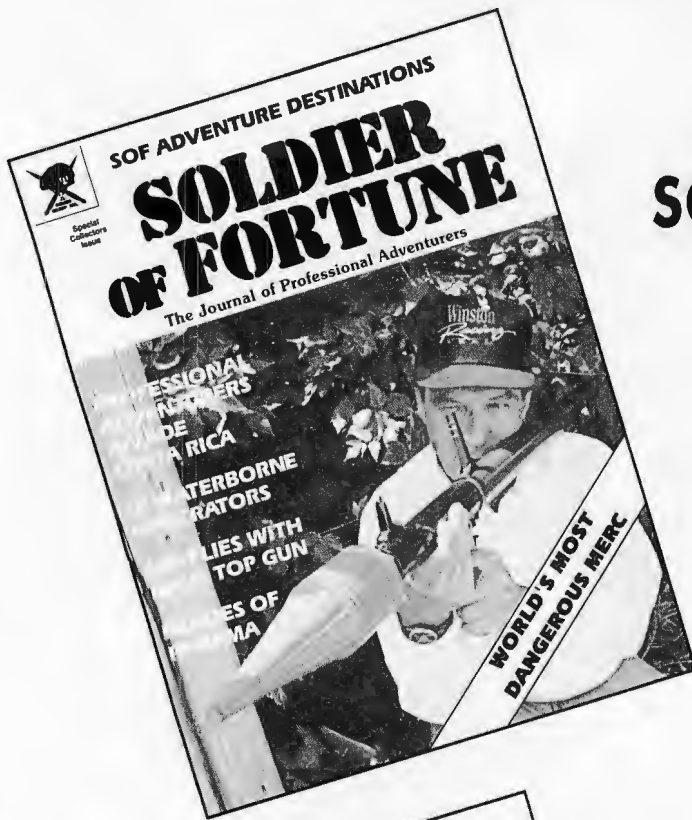
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In Memoriam

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For the past 17 years, *Soldier Of Fortune* has laid it on the line for what we believed in, all over the world. We have taken incoming fire ranging from small arms to Scud missiles in places like Croatia, Bosnia, Lebanon, Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan, Burma, Laos, Cambodia, Rhodesia, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, Liberia and a few other places. We have reported on and become involved in many of the nasty little wars, battling tyranny, terrorism and oppression.

Now the battle has come home. It is being waged with lawyers, legal arguments, paper and polite voices in the courtroom; but this makes it no less of a deadly threat to the survival of *SOF* than rockets and napalm.

In our early years, we ran "job wanted" classified ads, figuring Vietnam vets and others with military skills could use them to find work as security consultants, bodyguards, couriers and so on. A significant number of our readers are cops, so it did not occur to us that such ads would be used for illegal purposes.

We were wrong. And when we found this out, in June 1986, we immediately stopped running the so-called "personal service ads."

There have been five "gun for hire" cases. In each, an individual placed an ad seeking work as a bodyguard, courier, etc., with the intention, as stated in later testimony, of getting legal work. Then came the phone calls asking the advertiser to kill someone's wife, business partner, or whatever. Intermediate discussions, attempted hits — some of them successful — detection, prosecutions and in most cases jail time, followed.

Inevitably, lawsuits alleging that *SOF* was negligent in publishing the ads were filed — alleging that we were a proximate cause of the death or injuries sustained. One case was settled, two were dismissed by the plaintiffs, and two went to trial resulting in multimillion-dollar verdicts against *SOF*.

Of these two, the *Eimann* case in Texas was thrown out by the U.S. Court

of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in August 1989, and the U.S. Supreme Court declined to review it. On 13 August 1992, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, by a 2-1 vote, upheld a verdict and judgment of \$4,375,000 against *SOF* in the *Braun* case.

Unfortunately, between the insurance coverage and the net worth of *SOF* there aren't any millions to be had. This judgment is therefore enough to wipe us out several times over, and we are taking the only path left to us by petitioning the U.S. Supreme Court to review this case.

In non-legal terms, this is the bottom half of the ninth inning, with two outs and two strikes against us, and no one on base. E. Barrett Prettyman, our appeals-attorney/designated-hitter, is probably the best in the business. And thanks to the very generous and loyal support of our readers for the Omega First Amendment Legal Defense Fund, we are still in the battle.

Surprisingly, newspapers and magazines all across the country have seen this judgment as a grave threat to their First Amendment rights and are showing strong editorial support.

In short, we are down to the wire and unpleasantly close to the portable adobe wall, but we ain't dead yet and, with your support, we plan to win this one. Our liability insurer has agreed to pay the legal costs of the petition for hearing by the Supreme Court; this is a *big* help. But we do have to provide for the "worst case scenario." This includes keeping in touch if *SOF* gets shut down. Please send a postcard or letter with your current mailing address to:

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Robert K. Brown ✉

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FEATURES



Desert Sand — page 54

Photo: Matt Whitcher

TWO TOUGH AFRIKANERS Peter G. Kokalis
Pistol perfection from the Dark Continent? *SOF's* Tech Editor reports on a pair of 9mm South African service pistols 30

HOW MUCH IS THAT TANK IN THE WINDOW? Mike Williams
In Bosnia-Herzegovina, it's situation normal — all fouled up 36

DEFINITIVE STUDY ON HANDGUN STOPPING POWER? Gary Roberts & Eugene Wolberg
A new book lauded by the popular gun press is considered a bad joke by wound ballistics experts 40

SALVO ADVISERS WIN RECOGNITION BATTLE — LOSE WAR? Greg Walker
Despite a special resolution by the VFW, army brass continues to take a hard line on recognizing El Salvador advisers 42

RIOT CONTROL Rex Applegate
Recent advancements in crowd-control methods and equipment are being ignored while police training remains inadequate — this is risky business in times of societal stress 43

PROPAGANDA WAR Mike Williams
English-language posters are circulating to boost international support for Croatia's fight for freedom — *SOF* offers you a glimpse 48

INSTANT ORDNANCE Robin Anthony
A fledgling armaments industry sprouts wings in Croatia 50



Mission: Impossible — page 60
Photo: Dale B. Cooper



COLUMNS



Afrikaners— page 30

Photo: courtesy LIW

DESERT SAND, ROLLING STEEL Matt Witcher
SOF goes into the maelstrom with the 18th Mech as they roll over Saddam's Republican Guards 54

\$\$\$ FOR POWs Bruce McKibben
Did Vietnam set a \$4 billion price to return live POWs? If so, why did the White House try to cover it up? 58

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE Dale B. Cooper
Freedom of movement, flashy toys, U.S. Customs' trusty K-9s and expertise barely affect the flow of smuggled dope hitting our streets 60

Croatia — page 50

Photo: Zeljko Hanich



Bulletin Board 6
Too Many Defectors

Full Auto 14
Not Your Father's Goose Gun

Combat Weaponcraft 16
Frag Vest Test

World SitRep 22

FLAK 25
Bo Brouhaha

Advertisers Index 73

Supply Locker 74

Classified 78



COVER

National Guardsman protecting South Florida grocery store against looters after Hurricane Andrew devastated the area. Various police agencies, Army, National Guard and Marine units answered the call to restore order, but were ill-prepared for the job. Rex Applegate takes a look at what's required for effective riot and population control beginning on page 43.
Photo: Debbie Clark
Inset: courtesy Art Muti

BULLETIN BOARD

TRADING RED PERIL FOR RED MAN'S REVENGE

In Russia, 40%-70% of men and about 30% of women are heavy smokers: As more and more folks in the West kick the habit, American and European tobacco companies are being drawn to the East, where 70 million smokers consume 450 billion cigarettes per year, and where consumers are tired of Russian cigarettes with no filters, bad taste and crumbs of tobacco that stick in their throats — and where annually there is a 50 billion difference between the demand and supply of cigarettes.

Philip Morris Companies Inc. has started producing Marlboros at a converted plant in Samara, while RJ Reynolds Tobacco has so far spent \$15 million on new machinery for a plant in Uritski to make Camel and Winston brands. More than 400,000 people die annually in the former Soviet Union from diseases linked to smoking.

Dale Sisel, president of RJ Reynolds Tobacco International, said "We see tremendous opportunity here."

RATS AND MOLES JUMPING SHIP

The rate of defections by Cuban agents, and by those "in place" in Cuban-American communities, is accelerating at such a rate that the FBI is telling would-be defectors to take a number and wait — "Don't call us, we'll call you."

SOF TRAVEL ADVISORY

Don't plan to visit Nicaragua if you are accident-prone or allergic to hot lead or cold steel. In June 1990, the Nicaraguan contras disarmed after being given a host of guarantees and assurances by the U.S. State Department, the United Nations and by the Organization of American States (OAS). Since then, United Nations and OAS personnel have spent the bulk of the repatriation money living very well.

While the Chamorro government and the State Department turned their backs on the freedom fighters, the Sandinistas arranged a different fate for the hapless contras. As of midsummer, more than 300 demobilized contras, mostly ranking commanders, have died in mysterious traffic accidents or outright assassinations. One contra riding in an OAS vehicle was dragged from it by Sandinista troops and murdered right in front of OAS



Every year, leathernecks from the USMC Air Station at Tustin, California, sponsor the "Volkslaus" mud run, which is more than six grueling miles of mud, sand, barbed wire, walls — and firehoses manned by folks with a terrific sense of humor. This year, of the 300 or so six-man teams that entered from the United States and Canada, the "old men" of the LAPD slogged in 19th place overall. Here we see them assembled for a clean start, then coming in as six "Dirty Harrys." Photos: Robert Walchli

observers. The death toll is expected to climb, as no one seems to care.

A scathing report issued by the Republican staff of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee charges that Chamorro is "merely the titular head of state," and that "all real power remains with the Sandinistas, who were supported by only 40.8% of the popular vote." The report adds that General Humberto Ortega (brother of the ousted Daniel Ortega) and Chamorro's son-in-law Antonio Lacayo, minister of the presidency, hold the real power.

The report is laced with allegations of corruption and human rights abuse, including "a systematic campaign to assassinate former members of the Nicaraguan contra resistance force."

Also, the report acknowledges that at least 217 former contras were assassinated after they were demobilized. Charging that corruption is rampant "at the highest levels of government," the report further cites evidence that "foreign-aid funds were used by high-level officials to bribe Nicaraguan congressmen." — Marty Casey

PALADIN PRESS



INSIDE S.W.A.T. America's Elite in Action a L.O.T.I. Group Film



S.W.A.T. teams are the weapon of choice when dealing with drug busts, hostage takers, riots and other violent acts. *Inside S.W.A.T.* is the first film to go all the way inside America's shock force in the war against crime. Go inside a S.W.A.T. armory in south Florida for a hands-on look at the state-of-the-art weapons and equipment used by S.W.A.T. Tactical Intervention Units. Learn firsthand the trade secrets of S.W.A.T. snipers. Travel to an actual S.W.A.T. training school and see how teams learn to use force and stealth to steal inside crime scenes. Watch behind-the-scenes combat pistol and machine gun shooting at the training range. Find out how helocasting, rappelling, fast roping and high-speed boat casting are all essential skills for these elite crime stoppers. One look at this action-packed film will convince you that it is a must for anyone with a serious interest in modern police science. Color, approx. 40 min., VHS only. **\$29.95**

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

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

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How Successful Deer Hunters Bag Trophy Deer and Keep Their Freezers Full
by Larry Grupp

Forty master deer hunters recount time-tested tricks and proven methods for bagging big deer. This "case study" approach is a gold mine of deer hunting lore that will help you land that trophy buck or freezer-filling critter. 6 1/2 x 11, hardcover, photos, illus., 240 pp. **\$39.95**



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BY RALPH D. THOMAS

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Vital Targets, Maximum Punishment

A graphic demonstration of how to exploit the vulnerable vital points of the human anatomy. The instructors - bouncers in some of the most violent bars and roadhouses in the country - focus on strikes that they know from experience will put a man down. Some of the techniques in this video are only appropriate for life-or-death situations. Therefore, this film is for information purposes only. Color, **\$19.95**



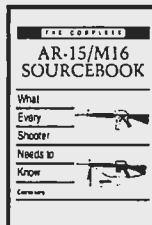
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What Every Shooter Needs to Know
by Duncan Long

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A Pictorial Memoir of the 10th Mountain Division
by Flint Whitlock and Bob Bishop

Here is the story of the 10th Mountain Division, the only U.S. troops specially trained for mountain warfare. Vivid personal accounts, including a Foreword by 10th veteran Sen. Bob Dole, and an outstanding collection of rare photos breathe life into the memories and pay tribute to the heroes who fought and died in WWII. 11 x 8 1/2, hardcover, photos, illus., 244 pp. **\$50.00**



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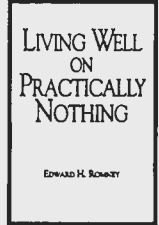
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TURKEY TO LEGALIZE COTTAGE INDUSTRY GUNMAKERS

Turkey's traditional but illegal home-made weapons industry on the Black Sea coast is slated to receive government support — and legitimacy — in an effort to turn it into a profitable enterprise. Two state-run organizations, the machinery-and-chemicals group MKE, along with the Management Agency for Developing Small and Middle Scale Industries (KOSGEB), will oversee the project.

An estimated 150,000 workers in the area now turn out pistols, semiautomatic arms and hunting rifles, which are sold locally and through a brisk but unsanctioned cross-border trade with Syria and Iran. New plans are for 30,000 quality handguns to be made annually in the provinces of Trabzen, Gumushane, Rize and Artzin. KOSGEB chief Sedation Karaerkek noted, "We want to boost legalized manufacture of good quality pistols to strengthen the region economically."

ONE MORE TIME

New York Magazine's cover story for 24 August by contributing editor Christopher Byron comprised an exposé of *Time* magazine's "Lockerbie Exclusive" cover story of 27 April 1992 which was, it would seem, based on a hoax that ABC-TV, NBC-TV and *Time*

swallowed whole-cloth and reported. Their stories reportedly went that the U.S. government, through the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), shares responsibility for the 21 December 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, where all 259 people on board were killed.

Byron writes that the hoodwinker in this case was journalist-cum-DEA-snitch Lester Coleman. Coleman's credibility problems date back to his 1987 claim that he blew the whistle on the Iran-contra affair. Coleman's shaky background, and also how he enamored himself to the likes of Cable News Network's Peter Arnett, NBC's Brian Ross and ABC's Pierre Salinger are the guts of Byron's article.

As the editors of Media Industry Newsletter noted, "How *Time* fell into this trap is fascinating reading and tells much about the state of the media industry today." MIN further commented that the Brooklyn jury that unanimously found Pan Am culpable last spring didn't buy Coleman's "untold story," either.

SPOOK TECHNOLOGY LETTER

A new newsletter, *Technology 2008*, is available from John S. Wilson Jr., Dept. SOF, Box 5264, Augusta, GA 30906. For those unfamiliar with John Wilson, he's a master designer of leading-edge electronic surveillance gear,

and one of the major benefits of the \$20-per-year newsletter is that Wilson offers his subscribers dirt-cheap (\$5!) schematics of his unpublished designs. Some of the neat gear shown in these plans would cost thousands — if it were available privately. *Technology 2008* is a must-have newsletter for electronic snoopers.

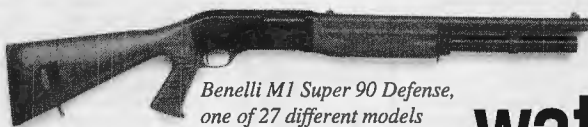
BOOTLEG URANIUM PELLETS ON MARKET

Smugglers have tried to sell uranium pellets in Vienna, Austria, smuggled from the former communist bloc. Exactly where the pellets came from is moot. In two raids, Austrian antiterrorist police have confiscated natural uranium, enriched uranium and uranium-dioxide pellets believed to have been stolen from civilian nuclear facilities and ultimately destined for Arab customers.

GE TO DEVELOP AIR DEFENSE WEAPONS FOR MARINES

General Electric Armament Systems has received an \$18 million contract for continuing research and development on the Marines' Light-Armored Vehicle Air-Defense (LAV-AD) system. The production decision, on 100 systems @ \$2.5 million each, is expected in 1994. GE's system integrates a 25mm Gatling gun and Stinger mis-

Before you buy your next pistol or
shotgun, why not
watch a little TV first.

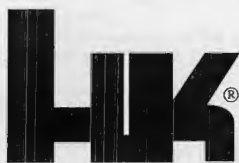


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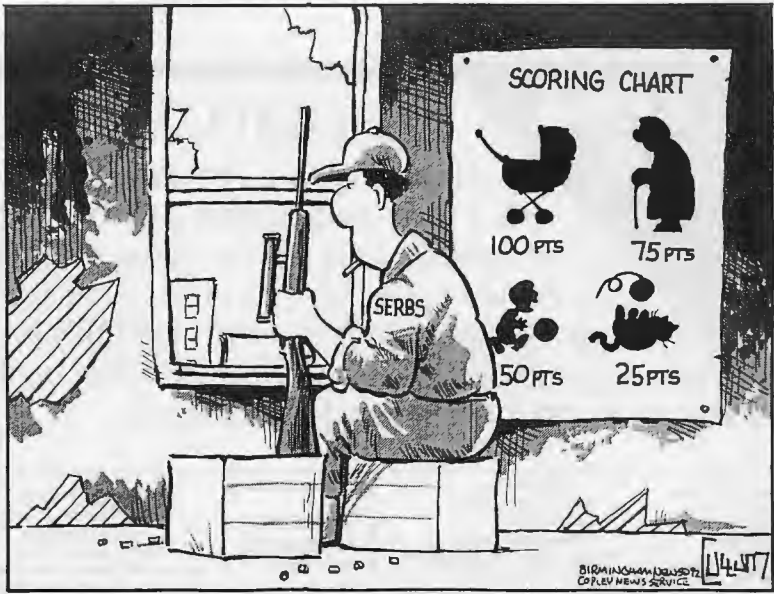
The Diesel Division of General Motors Canada would integrate the turret with LAVs already in service with the Corps, while Texas Instruments Inc. would provide the sophisticated radar and television sighting gear.

FYI

SOF is in the process of conducting a thorough, broadly based investigation into all the facts surrounding the U.S. government's standoff with Randy Weaver of Naples, Idaho. We're specifically concerned with his initial arrest and subsequent failure to appear, and also with why the government waited eight months to apprehend a man that they had been surveilling for the same period of time, which resulted in the deaths of three people.

SOF is also interested in the possibility the initial charges may have been unwarranted, predicated on an informant having provided less than accurate information to the government as to Weaver's alleged original criminal conduct, which led to the initial charges and arrest.

We encourage any SOF readers who have knowledge of this incident to contact us at P.O. Box 693, Boulder, Colorado 80306.



NEW TOYS FOR TROOPS

Under the U.S. Army's Soldier As A System (SAAS) program, dubbed "Warrior's Edge," the goodie kings in white lab coats are developing a plethora of new technologies for the American fighting man — uh, make that *fighting person* — of the 21st century. The Marines and USAF are cooperating in the program.

Army focus is on technology for use by infantry, but there are also plans to develop technology for armored and chopper crews. Among targeted items

for GIs are stealth technologies for individual soldiers, new bullet-trap rifle grenades, electronics capable of resisting nuclear explosions, and advanced computer networks. Helmet-mounted sensors and computer displays are also needed, according to Colonel Ken Sutton, SAAS manager at Training and Doctrine Command, Fort Monroe, Virginia.

Officials of Special Operations Command submitted a brief, asking for computerized speech translators and fast-moving, heavy-lifting, skeleton-like machines to be worn by soldiers. ✕

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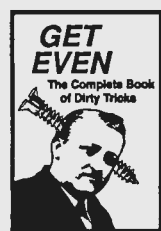
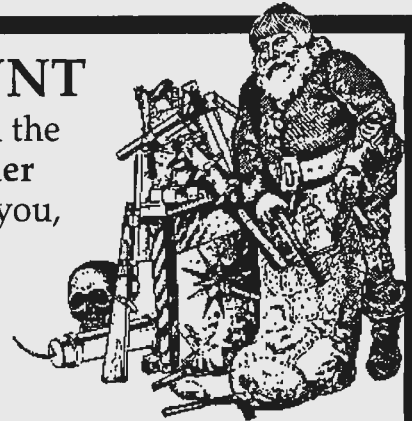
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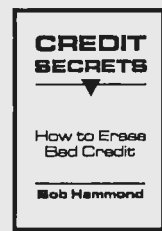


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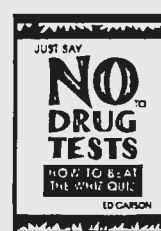
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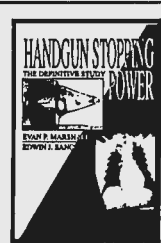
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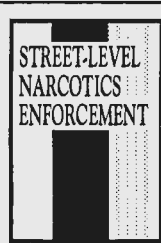
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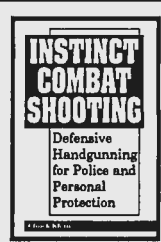
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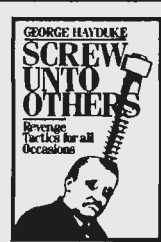
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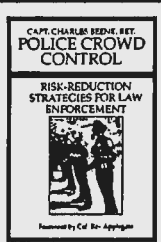
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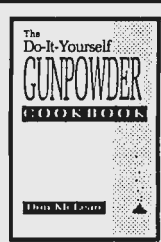
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In Defense of People

Sierra Club Out Of Closet

John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, was a great naturalist and sportsman — we don't think he would agree with the "Sierra Club" of today.

For instance, regarding childbearing, Sierra Club lobbyist David Brower said it should be "a punishable crime against society unless the parents hold a government license." All potential parents, he thinks, should be "required to use contraceptive chemicals, the government issuing antidotes to citizens chosen for childbearing."

Brower, who built the Sierra Club into the moneymaking machine it is today, noted: "I founded Friends of the Earth to make the Sierra Club look reasonable. Then I founded the Earth Island Institute to make Friends of the Earth look reasonable. Earth First! now makes us look reasonable."

Earth First! founder David Foreman has said, "Man is the cancer of nature, and I am the antibody." A sister group of the Animal Liberation Front (ALF), Earth First! has advocated "human extinction," and has urged AIDS patients to commit "eco-kamikaze missions." Four of the group's leaders were recently convicted of conspiracy to sabotage a nuclear power plant. *Earth First! has even solicited contributions toward a "species-specific" virus to wipe out the human race.*

Yet the Sierra Club's Brower shows no shock at Earth First!'s exploits. "They're not terrorists," he said. "The real terrorists are the polluters, the despoilers." John Muir would weep.

ALF Is Terrorist Group

The U.S. Office of Technology Assessment recently released *Technology Against Terrorism: Structuring Security*, an analysis of worldwide terrorism and the role technology plays in the fight against it. The section of the report describing how terrorism functions classifies animal-rights terrorism as "single issue" terrorism and notes that it "now accounts for a significant fraction of domestic terrorism."

The ALF is used as an example of a typical single-issue terrorist group, and is declared "one of the 10 most dangerous terrorist organizations." The report continues, "The ALF opposes the use of animals in medical and scientific research, including psychological and surgical experimentation on living animals. It also generally opposes other uses of animals, such as for test-

ing new drugs and cosmetics, for instructional purposes (especially in biology classes and medical schools) and for food, clothing, sports, circuses and pets.

"To achieve their goals, ALF attacks have been made against a variety of targets ranging from medical and scientific research laboratories to butcher shops and furriers. Its tactics include theft of research animals, destruction of research equipment, vandalism and physical intimidation of researchers and their families. These acts have had a significant effect on biomedical research, slowing work in a number of areas."

The country's largest animal rights group, PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), which has some 350,000 members and a yearly budget of more than \$8 million, was singled out in the government report for its involvement with terrorism. PETA leaders "have acted as intermediaries to the press for the ALF, including distributing a videotape of an ALF break-in," according to the report.

Copies of the 148-page report can be obtained from the Government Printing Office for \$7.50, as publication No. 052-003-01272-3 by phoning: 202-783-3238. If you are interested only in the four-page section on animal-rights terrorist groups, you can send a SASE to: Putting People First, 4401 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Suite 310-A, Washington, DC 20008.

Terrorists Raid Police HQ

Animal rights terrorists broke into a top-security police office in Edinburgh, Scotland, last July and stole highly sensitive files reportedly containing details of police investigations into recent firebomb attacks by animal rights activists in Scotland and their links to Irish extremists. One of the thieves told a Scottish paper that ALF activists broke into the building and spent three hours ransacking files in the Scottish Crime Squad office. Police and security officials have had a long-standing suspicion of links between animal rights groups like ALF and criminal circles in central Scotland.

The animal rights thief told the newspaper that the files were handed over to the Irish Republican Army and the Protestant Ulster Voluntary Force, both Irish paramilitary groups, adding that "We got files and a number of addresses of people who have been in-

forming on us. Two people have been approached and have been given 24 hours to leave Scotland."

Because ALF firebomb attacks on research facilities had not been effective at changing government policy on animal research, terrorists were now planning "an absolutely spectacular event which would go right to the heart of the establishment," he added.

President Signs Stenholm Bill

What started as H.R. 2407/S. 544 became the "Animal Enterprise Protection Act of 1992" and was signed into law by President Bush on 26 August. The act is aimed at stemming terrorist activity against animal operations such as run by biomedical researchers, farmers, ranchers, meat processors, etc. Noted Kathleen Marquardt, chairman of the grassroots organization Putting People First, "This is a terrific victory for human rights and the rule of law." It is also a feather in the cap of Marquardt and PPF, whose tireless efforts on behalf of reason are helping stem the tide of "animal rights" idiocy, and whose coordinating skills are pivotal in helping such laws get passed, while exposing the hidden agendas of eco-Nazis.

No Nuts For Squirrels

The animal rights group known as In Defense of Animals (IDA) successfully blocked efforts by the Richmond, California, public works department to rid a park around a city pool of a plague of squirrels. The squirrels, having flourished because of generous park patron feeding, are damaging the grounds and posing a health hazard to children who frequent the pool.

At first, the city planned to live-trap the critters and relocate them, *somewhere*, but state law forbids relocation of animals. So it was decided to humanely exterminate the excess.

Outraged at the thought of exterminating squirrels, IDA demanded the squirrels be spayed and/or neutered instead; the group claimed that though this method would cost more, it was morally correct. The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported a sterilization program would cost \$30,000 — and would kill roughly 80% of the squirrels.

The city backed off from the extermination and instead put up signs telling people not to feed the squirrels. ❌

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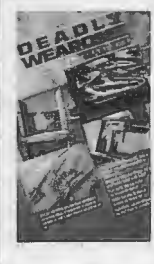
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FULL AUTO

Not Your Father's Goose Gun

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis

The late Elmer Keith once referred to the shotgun as "the best alley cleaner of all." During the Malayan counter-insurgency conflict of the 1950s, British troops carried it with great effect on jungle patrols as an anti-ambush weapon. In the Vietnam War as well, it more often than not armed the vulnerable point man.

When employed within the framework of its limitations and maximizing its salient characteristics, the combat shotgun with its multiple-projectile ammunition provides short-range lethality matched by no other firearm. It is especially effective when employed as an entry weapon by law enforcement special response teams in urban environments.

Most fighting shotguns, whether they be slide-action or semiautomatic, are modified derivatives of sporting arms. Both Malaya and Vietnam demonstrated that slide-action types offer the greatest mechanical reliability in a military environment. One of the most successful slide-action shotguns ever enlisted for military and law enforcement applications is the venerable Remington Model 870.

It was introduced in 1950 to replace the Model 31 and shares a high percentage of component commonality with the Model 11-48, which appeared in 1949. Side-ejecting and without an external hammer, the Model 870 has a tubular magazine and takedown, interchangeable barrels.

Its method of locked-breech operation has been taken from the John Browning-designed Model 11 semiautomatic shotgun. When in battery, the bolt remains locked to the barrel by means of a locking block within the bolt body, which engages a recess in the barrel extension. Receiver strength is not critical in this system, as the recoil forces are mostly absorbed by the bolt assembly and by the barrel extension.

A steel slide, to which has been attached a stepped lug (also housed within the bolt body), is mated to twin action bars attached to the forearm. When the slide is racked forward, the front step on this lug moves under the front end of the locking block and pivots it upward to engage its forward projection in the recess on top of the barrel extension.

After firing, when the forearm is manually driven rearward, the slide



Nothing if not intimidating — with only a 12.5 inch barrel — Scattergun Technologies' 12-gauge Entry Gun packs a number of essential attributes for a modern fighting shotgun into a very compact envelope.

moves back through about a half-inch of free travel, after which the locking block drops downward to unlock the action. Completion of the rearward cycle by the operator will draw all of the reciprocating parts to the rear and eject the empty shell out the ejection port on the right side of the receiver.

The trigger mechanism's disconnector, which requires the trigger to be released between each shot, can be actuated both manually by depressing the action-bar lock button, and by the fall of the hammer. There is a standard cross-bolt-type safety at the rear of the alloy trigger guard.

All of this is fine as far as it goes, but out of the box the Model 870 just won't do for anything other than bird shooting. Since we have a more dangerous prey in mind, we need to maximize functional reliability, enhance the accuracy potential, increase the speed with which the weapon can be employed to incapacitate the opponent and attach only those accouterments demonstrated to be of value when the pucker factor approaches 10. When the target shoots back, you can't afford to compromise on your equipment.

Scattergun Technologies Inc. (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 24517, Nashville, TN 37202; phone: 615-254-1441) provides a wide range of what they refer to as "Tactical Response" shotguns to armed professionals, and to those civilians concerned with providing themselves

with a self-defense potential at the highest possible level, that meet the above criteria and then some.

Soldier Of Fortune was recently provided with a test specimen of their Entry Model (Item No. 90101). Since it has a 12.5-inch barrel, this model is classified as a Title II firearm by the National Firearms Act (NFA), and although it can be transferred tax-free to Class 3 dealers by means of a federal ATF Form 3, transfer to individuals through an ATF Form 4 requires a \$200 transfer tax.

Why bother with a shotgun with a barrel length of less than 18 inches (the NFA minimum)? If you're ever tried to run through a doorway with something like an FN FAL (with an overall length of almost 45 inches) battle rifle held at port arms and gotten doubled over it when it got wedged sideways against the doorjamb, you wouldn't have to ask that question.

Overall length of Scattergun Technologies' Entry Model is just about 33 inches. It starts out in life as a Remington 870 Police Magnum, a rather plain-Jane shotgun with phosphate ("Parkerized") finish and a totally unnecessary 3-inch Magnum chamber.

The factory wood buttstock has been replaced with a black, high-impact, Fiberglass-filled polypropylene stock fitted with a thick, solid-rubber recoil pad. The recoil pad has rounded edges to facilitate speed mounts and inhibit snag-



Sidesaddle shotshell carrier attached to the left side of the receiver provides instant access to six spare rounds, or to alternate types of ammunition. Safety strap on SURE-FIRE Tactical Light can be employed to jack the slide action with the force required to prevent short-cycling.

gung on clothing. Length of pull, as measured from the center of the trigger to the end of the recoil pad, is about 14 inches.

After the barrel has been cut back to 12.5 inches, a permanent, tapered choke insert is installed which provides maximum restriction, yet still permits the use of solid projectiles (both rifled slugs and sabot-type rounds.)

One of the most important features of all Scattergun Technologies fighting shotguns (with the exception of the four concealment models — which are classified as "Any Other Weapon" by the BATF and require a \$5 transfer tax) are the "Trak Lock" sights. The rear sight consists of a chrome-moly steel assembly (patent pending) with a counterbored "ghost ring" aperture that provides a shadowlike effect with extremely fast sight alignment at close-range buckshot distances, without compromising the requirement for precision sighting with solid projectiles at

longer ranges.

Adjustments for both elevation and windage are accomplished through the manipulation of a single screw, which also locks the aperture to the sight base, mating and locking notches on the underside of the aperture body with a corresponding notched surface on the base. The exceptionally sturdy, high-profile, front sight blade has a self-luminous, tritium-gas-filled glass capsule installed by Trijicon.

Because of the short, 12.5-inch barrel, the standard four-round magazine tube has been retained. With a round in the chamber, the total capacity of the Entry Model is five rounds. Added, however, is a fluorescent green, combat-style follower with a projection on the head that instantly indicates by sight, or by touch, if the magazine tube is empty. Molded from non-rusting, high-impact ABS, the follower has a tapered tail to prevent the magazine spring from binding. The magazine

spring, designed by W.C. Wolff Co., has been coated with Robar's NP3, which produces a dry-lubricated, low-friction surface.

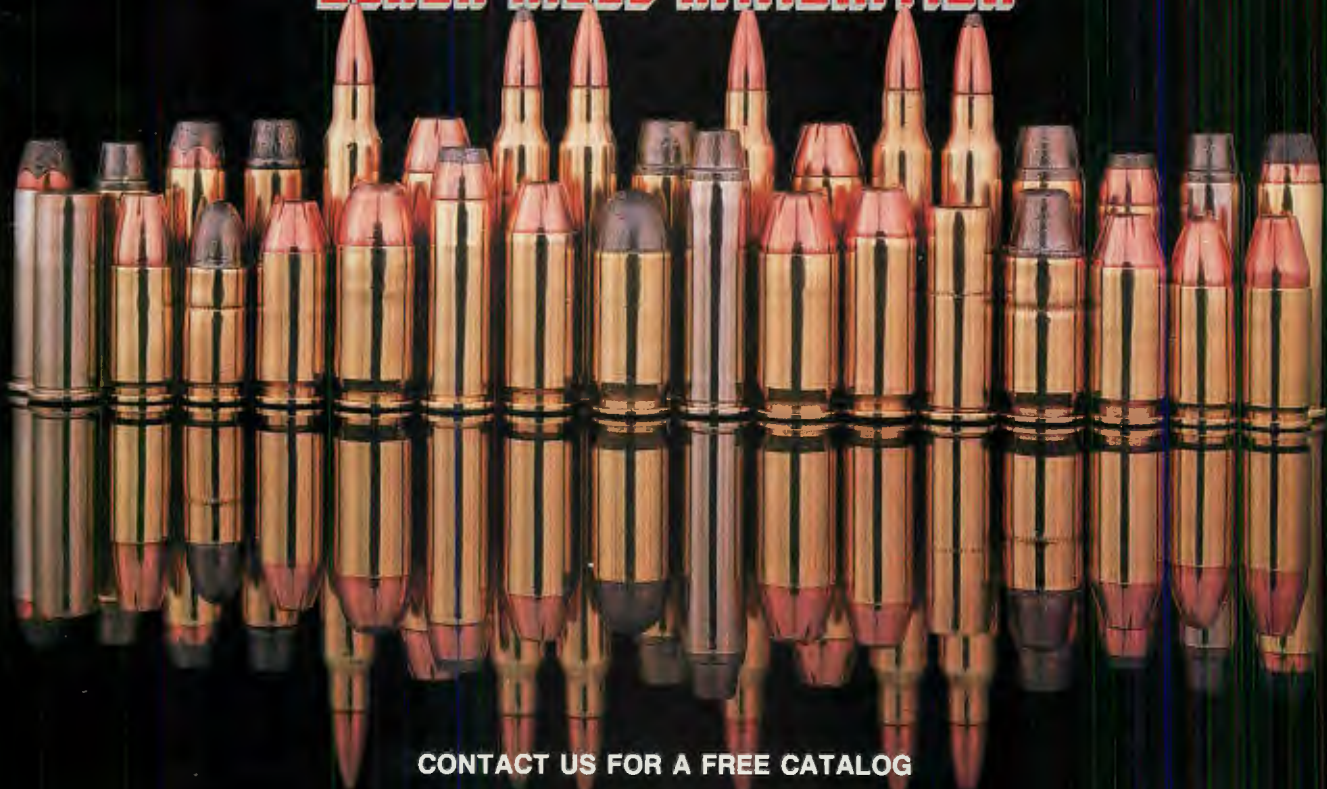
As a supplement to the four-round magazine tube, a Sidesaddle shotshell carrier has been attached to the left side of the receiver. Holding six rounds and manufactured from injection-molded black polymer, the Sidesaddle provides instant access to spare rounds or alternative types of ammunition, such as slugs. Rounds should be loaded into this carrier from the bottom, bases down. To remove a shell from this carrier, simply push down on the top of the shell.

An excellent adjustable sling has been installed. Fabricated from 1¼-inch milspec black nylon, it's designed for either standard over-the-shoulder carry, hands free over-the-chest, or a backpack carry position. It attaches at the buttstock end to a steel swivel, and at the front to a steel swivel attached to the left side of the forearm.

The standard forearm has been replaced with a Laser Products SURE-FIRE tactical light. The Model 318 is a 3-volt system with a pressure switch on the right side that throws a high-intensity beam from directly under the barrel, which will both identify and mo-

Continued on page 64

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by Gary K. Roberts & Michael Bullian

Historically, the majority of modern battlefield casualties have sustained injuries from fragments produced by artillery, mortars, bombs, rockets, grenades and mines. The standard U.S. Military Personal Armor System, Ground Troops (PASGT), fragmentation vest is tested with a .22-caliber fragmentation simulator at approximately 1550 fps (feet per second) and is not tested with handgun, shotgun or rifle bullets.

The PASGT vest is intended to protect troops against fragments from exploding ordnance and provides no protection against standard military center-fire rifle cartridges used in conventional warfare.

When U.S. military and National Guard troops are deployed to quell civil unrest and urban rioting, they are no longer exposed to typical battlefield dangers, and instead face the same threats that confront

American civilian law-enforcement personnel. The majority of gunshot injuries to law enforcement personnel are inflicted by handgun and shotgun projectiles, rather than from fragments of exploding ordnance or center-fire rifle bullets.

**The majority of
gunshot injuries to
law enforcement
personnel are
inflicted by hand-
gun and shotgun
projectiles ...**

For this reason, most law enforcement personnel wear concealed body armor designed to defeat typical handgun and shotgun projectiles. The only protection U.S. military and National Guard troops have from handgun and shotgun projectile injury to the torso is the standard-issue PASGT fragmentation vest. This article analyzes the ballistic protection provided by the standard fragmentation vest against threats from handgun and shotgun projectiles.

Kind and Knox Type 250 A ordnance gelatin was mixed into 25.4cm x 25.4cm x

50.8cm blocks of 10% concentration and stored at 4 degrees Celsius using the methods described by Fackler and Malinowski. The blocks of gelatin were calibrated by using a Crossman "Pumpmaster 760" air rifle to fire a 0.177-inch BB into each block. Both velocity and penetration were recorded. At a velocity of 590 fps (+/- 15 fps), an ideal range of penetration was defined as 8.5cm (+/- 1.0cm) of penetration, although up to +/- 1.5cm was considered acceptable. The velocity of each shot, except shotgun projectiles, was calculated using an Oehler Model 35 chronograph and three Skyscreen II photoelectric screens placed at 2-foot intervals, beginning 3 feet from the muzzle.

Used, good condition, standard U.S. military PASGT fragmentation vests (NSN 8470-01-092-8600) made of layered, flexible Du Pont Kevlar fabric were placed in close approximation to the gelatin blocks and held in place with elastic straps. Five or 10 shots were fired into the vests at both a 90-degree angle and a 45-degree angle using each type of ammunition.

All shots were made from a range of 10 feet using common weapons. The 9mm 115-grain FMJ bullets were fired from an

TABLE 1

LOAD	NUMBER OF SHOTS	SHOT ANGLE	VELOCITY RANGE	NUMBER OF VEST PERFORATIONS
9mm Win 115 gr FMJ X9LP	10	90/45	1272-1315 f/s	0/2
9mm 124 gr FMJ M882	10	90/45	1207-1227 f/s	0/5
9mm Fed +P+ 115 gr JHP 9BPLE	5	90/45	1321-1339 f/s	0/0
9mm Fed 147 gr JHP				
P9HS2 Hydra-Shok	5	90/45	956-995 f/s	0/0
.38 Sp 130 gr FMJ M41	5	90/45	792-817 f/s	0/0
.357 Mag Win 125 gr JHP X3576P	5	90/45	1533-1591 f/s	0/0
.40 S&W Win 180 gr FMJ Q4238	5	90/45	906-922 f/s	0/0
.40 S&W Win 180 gr JHP-SXT				
S40SW Black Talon	5	90/45	930-973 f/s	0/0
.44 Mag Fed 180 gr JHP A44B20	5	90/45	1499-1578 f/s	1/1
.44 Mag Fed 240 gr JHP 44A	5	90/45	1242-1271 f/s	0/0
.44 Mag Pro-Load 300 gr JSP	5	90/45	1194-1226 f/s	0/0
.45 ACP 230 gr FMJ M1911	5	90/45	787-811 f/s	0/0
.45 ACP Rem 185 gr +P JHP R45AP6	5	90/45	1115-1141 f/s	0/0
12ga. Win 00 Buckshot X12RB5	5	90/45	N/A	0/0
12ga. Win 1 oz Foster Slug X12RS15	5	90/45	N/A	5/5

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After each shot, the vest was repositioned. Shots were separated by a minimum of 6.35cm (2.5 inches). Damage was assessed by measuring any resulting surface deformation or cracking in the gelatin, or if the projectile perforated the vest, and by the projectile's penetration depth into the gelatin, as well as the projectile's recovered diameter, length and weight.

Table 1 shows the cartridge, load, velocity range, and any resultant perforation of the vests for all of the test shots. Table 2 lists the shot angle, velocity, penetration depth, recovered diameter, recovered length, and recovered weight for the bullets which perforated the vests. One of the 12-gauge shotgun slugs which perforated a vest and exited the gelatin block was not recovered.

Only one handgun bullet perforated a vest when fired from a 90-degree angle: a .44 Magnum 180 grain (gr) JHP. Eight handgun bullets perforated vests when fired at a 45-degree angle: two 9mm 115 gr FMJ; five 9mm 124 gr FMJ, and one .44 Magnum 180 gr JHP. No shotgun pellets perforated the vests at either the 90-degree or 45-degree angles. All of the 12-gauge shotgun slugs perforated the vests at both the 90-degree and 45-degree angles.

The eight .44 Magnum 180 gr JHP bullets stopped by the vests ruptured the

inner nylon lining and were visible beneath a few remaining strands of the nearly perforated last layer of Kevlar fabric. The underlying gelatin sustained superficial cracks of approximately 2cm in length. All of the other handgun bullets and shotgun pellets stopped by the vests were found embedded in intermediate layers of Kevlar fabric and caused no tearing of the vests' inner nylon linings. In these shots, the underlying gelatin sustained only shallow dimpling or small superficial cracks of approximately 1cm length.

The underlying damage to the gelatin, from the handgun bullets and shotgun pellets stopped by the vest, indicated that any resulting trauma would likely be limited to minor superficial injuries requiring minimal medical treatment.

The handgun bullets and shotgun slugs which perforated the vest penetrated sufficiently into the gelatin to produce significant injuries which would likely require immediate surgical intervention. The extensive tissue disruption produced by the penetrating 12-gauge shotgun slugs would likely result in fatal injuries if the

wounds occurred in the central torso.

Based on single shots to anesthetized swine flanks protected by fragmentation vests, a previous paper concluded that the standard military "flak jacket" provided direct ballistic protection against low- and mid-velocity bullets, including handgun bullets, 12-gauge 00 buckshot pellets, and 12-gauge shotgun slugs, but not standard high-velocity military rifle bullets. The re-

Only one handgun bullet perforated a vest when fired from a 90-degree angle: a .44 Magnum 180 grain JHP.

sults from our study differ, as some of the 9mm FMJ bullets and all of the 12-gauge shotgun slugs perforated the fragmentation vest and caused extensive damage to the underlying tissue simulant. These differences may be attributable to the small sample size used in the previous study or to flaws in the previous paper as discussed by Mason and Fackler.

The current National Institute of Justice (NIJ) methodology for testing body

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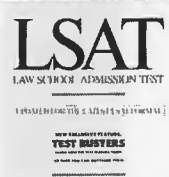
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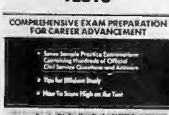
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TABLE 2

LOAD	ANGLE	VELOCITY	PENETRATION	RECOVERED LENGTH	RECOVERED WEIGHT	RECOVERED DIAMETER
.44 Mag Fed 180 gr JHP A44B20	90	1578 f/s	42.0 cm/16.5 in	19.0 mm/0.75 in	7.18mm/0.28 in	11.25 gm/173.6 gr
12ga. Win 1 oz Foster Slug X12RS15	90	N/A	43.5 cm/17.1 in	19.8 mm/0.78 in	9.4 mm/0.37 in	25.7 gm/396.8 gr
12ga. Win 1 oz Foster Slug X12RS15	90	N/A	50.0 cm/19.7 in	23.9 mm/0.94 in	9.2 mm/0.36 in	26.4 gm/406.6 gr
12ga. Win 1 oz Foster Slug X12RS15	90	N/A	50.8+ cm/20.0+ in	20.8 mm/0.82 in	9.7 mm/0.38 in	27.2 gm/419.5 gr
12ga. Win 1 oz Foster Slug X12RS15	90	N/A	50.8+ cm/20.0+ in	22.4 mm/0.88 in	8.8 mm/0.35 in	26.1 gm/402.9 gr
12ga. Win 1 oz Foster Slug X12RS15	90	N/A	50.8+ cm/20.0+ in	20.4 mm/0.80 in	9.0 mm/0.36 in	25.6 gm/395.1 gr
.44 Mag Fed 180 gr JHP A44B20	45	1545 f/s	37.5 cm/14.8 in	17.5 mm/0.69 in	15.9 mm/0.63 in	11.5 gm/177.4gr
9mm Win 115 gr FMJ X9LP	45	1304 f/s	28.0 cm/11.0 in	14.0 mm/0.55 in	8.8 mm/0.35 in	7.43 gm/114.8 gr
9mm Win 115 gr FMJ X9LP	45	1305 f/s	36.5 cm/14.4 in	9.7 mm/0.38 in	13.2 mm/0.52 in	7.42 gm/114.4 gr
9mm 124 gr FMJ M882	45	1213 f/s	14.5 cm/5.7 in	13.5 mm/0.53 in	9.8 mm/0.39 in	8.03 gm/123.9 gr
9mm 124 gr FMJ M882	45	1216 f/s	21.5 cm/8.5 in	13.2 mm/0.52 in	9.8 mm/0.39 in	8.03 gm/123.8 gr
9mm 124 gr FMJ M882	45	1212 f/s	38.5 cm/15.2 in	10.3 mm/0.41 in	12.5 mm/0.49 in	8.07 gm/124.5 gr
9mm 124 gr FMJ M882	45	1228 f/s	45.0 cm/17.7 in	9.8 mm/0.39 in	13.1 mm/0.51 in	8.03 gm/123.9 gr
9mm 124 gr FMJ M882	45	1238 f/s	50.8+cm/20.0+ in	9.1 mm/0.36 in	15.7 mm/0.62 in	8.08 gm/124.6 gr
12ga. Win 1 oz Foster Slug X12RS15	45	N/A	39.5 cm/15.6 in	25.8 mm/1.01 in	8.4 mm/0.33 in	25.7 gm/397.2 gr
12ga. Win 1 oz Foster Slug X12RS15	45	N/A	48.0 cm/18.9 in	21.6 mm/0.85 in	9.7 mm/0.38 in	28.5 gm/439.2 gr
12ga. Win 1 oz Foster Slug X12RS15	45	N/A	48.5 cm/19.1 in	24 mm/0.95 in	8.8 mm/0.35 in	26.4 gm/407.7 gr
12ga. Win 1 oz Foster Slug X12RS15	45	N/A	49.5 cm/19.5 in	19.4 mm/0.76 in	10.2 mm/0.40 in	25.1 gm/387.9 gr
12ga. Win 1 oz Foster Slug X12RS15	45	N/A	50.8+cm/20.0+ in	N/A	N/A	N/A

armor is grossly flawed and yields invalid results due to poor testing procedures. One of the major problems of the NIJ testing is the use of clay as a tissue simulant. This inelastic material poorly replicates the elastic properties of living tissue. Elastic human tissue is highly resistant to blunt trauma, unlike inelastic clay tissue simulant.

The NIJ test methodology backface deformation limit is artificial and invalid as it overstates the effect of backface deformation and does not correlate with the

minor injuries seen in actual backface deformation blunt trauma to human tissue. The NIJ protocol is unscientific and unrepeatable since it fails to accurately describe the exact type of ammunition used for each test shot. Jason and Fackler have published an extensive review analyzing the numerous NIJ test protocol errors.

Unlike inelastic clay tissue simulants, properly prepared and calibrated 10% ordnance gelatin is a tissue simulant that approximates the disruption that occurs in living elastic animal tissue, such as muscle.

Bullet deformation and fragmentation results duplicate those seen in living tissue, and penetration depths are within 3% of those measured in living tissue. In addition, the average penetration of bullets in the human torso has been shown to be nearly the same as bullet penetration in properly prepared and calibrated 10% ordnance gelatin.

The results from this study indicate that the standard PASGT fragmentation

Continued on page 73

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WORLD SITREP

1

Nagorno-Karabakh

Two Azerbaijani Su-25 Frogfoots bomb Stepanakert, capital of Nagorno-Karabakh enclave, killing 10. Armenian region is entirely surrounded by Azerbaijan, which claims it ...

2

Sri Lanka

Armed forces resume attack against Tamil Tiger rebels on Jaffna Peninsula. Offensive was suspended after nine senior army officers were killed by a Tamil land mine in July ...

5

Mozambique

Former armed forces commander Col. Gen. Sebastia Mabote and 13 other officers and civilians are charged with planning a coup d'etat in 1991 ...

6

Ukraine

Reportedly negotiating sale of aircraft carrier *Varyag* to People's Republic of China. 67,000-ton carrier is under construction at Nikolayev South shipyard 75 miles east of Odessa and is about 70% complete. Ship was being built for Soviet navy, and while Russian navy is said to still want it, Russians don't appear to have funds to finish it. Acquisition of a carrier by Beijing would provide additional reason for U.S. to sell advanced aircraft to Taiwan ...

10

Bhutan

A little-noticed "ethnic purification" program has been underway in this Himalayan kingdom nearly two years, and has so far resulted in at least 70,000 refugees fleeing to Nepal through 100km of Indian territory. King Jigme Singye Wangchuk likely seeks to rid his country of ethnic Nepalese and Indians, who make up more than 60% of country's 1.4 million population, and have lived there for centuries ...

12

Bolivia

Anti-American feeling is reported on increase after DEA agent was spirited out of country after accidentally wounding a barfly during a drunken argument. Tensions were further increased after an unannounced U.S. military exercise — "Santa Ana" — U.S. military aircraft were seen landing 10 times daily, while Army engineers were seen digging pits for trash disposal. Rumor started that pits were part of a U.S. scheme to dispose of nuclear waste in Amazon basin. Real reason behind tension is that 20% of Bolivian labor force is engaged in cocaine production ...

15

11

19

12

15

Cuba

Fidel Castro suspends work on Soviet-funded nuclear power plant after Russia quits paying bills ...

14

Philippines

New People's Army marks its rejection of President Fidel Ramos' offer of amnesty by getting into a firefight with government troops near town of Kasibu, resulting in 22 guerrilla dead ...

16

Iran

Iranian aircraft, reported to be "bombers," forced two Turkish military aircraft to land in Iran as part of an attempt to end Turkish violations of Iranian airspace — Iran was reportedly holding crews. Tensions have been escalating since Turkey mobilized 150,000 troops along its borders with Iran and Iraq in attempt to halt attacks by Kurdish rebels. Incident suggests a new aggressiveness on part of Iranian air force, which has been receiving large infusions of aircraft from Russia ...

3

Afghanistan

Islamic government erects gallows and announces public hangings to deter crime. As many as 120 people are said to be under death sentence for crimes ranging from murder to theft ...

4

Zimbabwe

Cancels plans to buy Russian MiG-29 Fulcrums, claiming aircraft are no longer needed because regional tensions have eased. \$400 million order, originally reported in 1986, almost certainly hinged on former Soviet Union extending favorable financial terms, which non-communist Russian government appears unlikely to offer ...

7

Azerbaijan

Mishap at ammunition dump near Baku sets off seven hours of explosions ...

8

Iraq

While enforcement of no-fly zone in southern Iraq gives Shi'ite resistance time to organize, Saddam Hussein may have done even more damage to his own regime by summary execution of 42 Jordanian traders for alleged profiteering. As a result, leakage through U.N. sanctions of supplies from Jordan has dropped from 200 truckloads per day to no more than 12 daily as other traders refuse to do further business with Baghdad. Official government ration of rice in Iraq is now 1.5 kilos a month (only enough for two weeks). Free market price of rice is \$180 per kilo ...

9

Czechoslovakia

Czechoslovakian federal parliament works out four separate ways for country to dissolve itself: by popular referendum, by joint agreement between Czech and Slovakian parliaments; one republic's unilateral secession, or by simple declaration by federal parliament. Last option is currently seen as most likely, since secessionists won parliamentary elections earlier this year ...

11

Colombia

Medellin Cartel chief Pablo Escobar says he will be considering surrendering again and would even accept a less luxurious jail this time, but also suggested his organization would abduct U.S. nationals for use as bargaining chips if United States succeeds in capturing him ...

13

Indonesia

Indonesia and Singapore stage joint exercises aimed at combating piracy in sea-lanes around the two countries ...

19

Peru

Shining Path guerrillas kill 17 in two raids, one involving attack on a police station in which Senderos left behind a booby-trapped van filled with explosives. In second raid, 100 guerrillas blocked a road leading from Ayacucho, 230 miles southeast of Lima, burning five buses and four trucks, and killing 10 people including two police officers. Abimael Guzman, leader of Sendero and seven top leaders arrested in Lima suburb ...

20

Bosnia-Herzegovina

Iran found to be delivering arms to fellow Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Shipments were uncovered when Croatian officials inspected cargo of an Iranian 747 supposedly delivering relief supplies for overland shipment to Bosnia-Herzegovina. Cargo consisted of 4,000 guns, more than 1 million rounds of ammunition, and 20 to 40 Iranians. Croatians kept ordinance and sent Iranians home ...

18

Jordan

Jordanian police arrest a number of Islamic fundamentalists, including two members of parliament, amid reports that militants were stockpiling arms for a campaign aimed at thwarting a possible agreement by PLO for self-rule in West Bank and the Gaza Strip ...

17

Lebanon

PLO Lt. Col. Hani Al Debelky is assassinated in West Beirut, becoming eighth PLO official killed in two months and 14th since beginning of this year. He was shot 17 times. Assassinations are being called a settling of scores between rival guerrilla groups, but since some groups are clients of various Arab and Islamic regimes, notably Syria and Iraq, other agendas may motivate shootings ...



BE FAIR TO BO

Your article, "Bo Knows Politics," by Jim Pate [Sept. '92] failed miserably to achieve what your editor's note called for: "an in-depth look at Gritz's campaign." Trying to hold Bo responsible for the baggage and beliefs of all kinds of different people who may support him is shallow and clouded with bias. A major blunder by Pate is that he, for some reason, left out the fact that the Populist Party formed in 1984 under Willis Carto has nothing — *no connection at all* — with the Populist Party of America that is in place today.

It seems that at this time in history, with our liberty hanging by a thread, you would at least telephone Bo or send someone to go interview him. Ask him what his platform is. Ask him who he would appoint to his cabinet, what his objectives and convictions are. Keep it simple and let him speak for himself.

Dan Ray

Author Jim Pate did contact Gritz; several quotes from Gritz in the September article were drawn from this telephone interview — stay tuned next month for a special "FLAK" section on Bo Gritz and the Populist Party.

SPETSNAZ AND THE BATF

Your June '92 issue with the Spetsnaz trooper on the cover along with the blurb about "Gun Gestapo Terrorizes Tulsa" was most fitting.

The goals of Spetsnaz and the BATF [Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms] are remarkably similar: total confiscation of all privately owned firearms, along with government-controlled media propaganda to "convince" the general public of the need for tougher gun laws, and the subsequent prosecution of decent, law-abiding gun-owners who are perceived by Big Brother and a naive, gullible general public as criminals and extremists.

Robert B. Cobretti
Sioux City, Iowa

I was particularly interested in Jim Pate's story about the BATF raid on Mr. Lawmaster's house in Tulsa in your June '92 issue.

Such raids have been going on for years now in the name of the Drug War, and most folks not only approve of them, but enjoy watching them on television. Indeed, one of Mr. Lawmaster's neighbors implied that it

would be fine with him if the house-breaking had occurred to "the druggies at the other end of the block." I guess it just depends on whose ox is being gored.

When people support drug prohibition they are effectively supporting the subversion of the Constitution. Once the collective conscience has been numbed by popular misuse of government power, and the Drug War does that in a glorious way, it will not be long before guns are next.

Richard Sinnott
Eglin, Florida

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Your article, "Pretty Good Little Fight," [Aug. '92] was the usual highly professional work by the Poos/Huet team that many have come to expect. And it does raise old questions in my mind.

In fall 1970, while associated with National Police Special Branch in I Corps, I was in frequent contact with Henri and his then-partner, Terry Wolkerstorfer. I last saw them in Da Nang prior to the abortive Laos incursion at the end of the year. Rumor had it that Henri had been killed hitching a ride in Laos with an aircraft loaded with high-ranking Vietnamese officers which was shot down.

Having maintained an incestuous relationship (screwing each other when

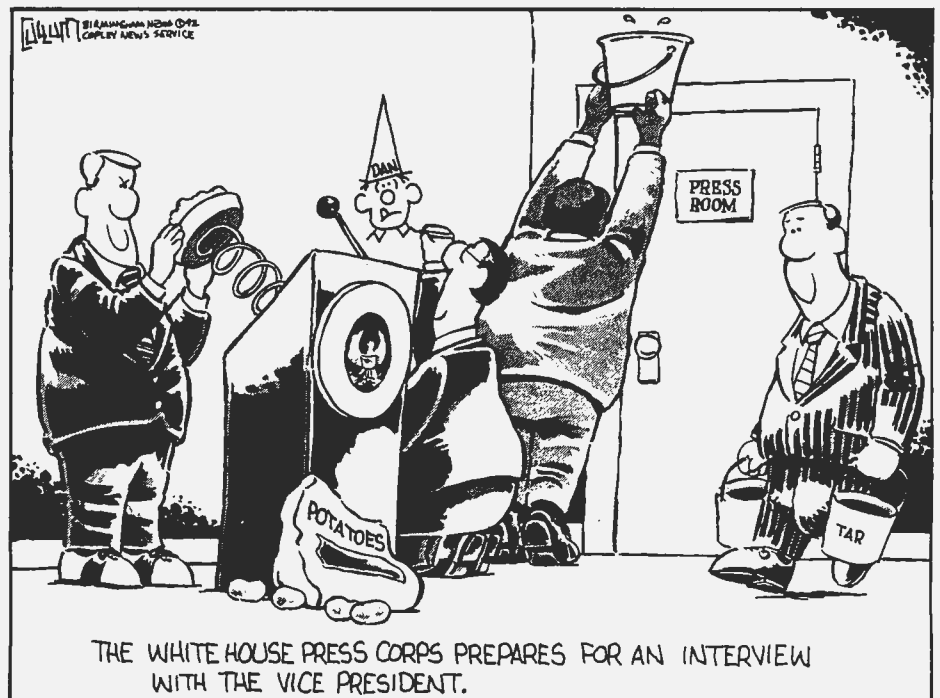
ever possible while members of the same general family) with Terry and his "pirate" friends, reaching back to language training and intel field work in the Delta during the build-up, I regret having no idea of their eventual fate. Hopefully, both survived. They paid their dues.

James Stanard
Richmond, Virginia

Bob Poos reports that Henri Huet was reported missing in Laos when his helicopter was shot down during Operation Lam Son 719 in February 1971. A couple of years later, Poos received a phone call from some Special Forces guys who had been very close friends of Henri. At great risk to themselves they made their way into the valley where Henri had gone down and found his remains. We don't know about Terry Wolkerstorfer. Anyone?

IF PAT DOESN'T LIKE US, WE MUST BE DOING SOMETHING RIGHT

Recently my favorite radio talk show personality, Rush Limbaugh, quoted Congresswoman Pat Schroeder (D-Colo.) as saying in 1988 that SOF was part of the cause of the increase in violence in America in recent years. She said it really should not be in circulation. With an endorsement like that from a politician whom I already hold



almost beneath contempt, I have almost no choice but to send in a donation to your legal fund. Please keep us informed on how the fight is going.

Jaan C. Rank
Yonkers, New York

DANGEROUS FRAUDS

Rob Krott's "Hollywood Commandos" [Oct. '92] pays humorous homage to those who take themselves far too seriously, but the plague of fraudulent veterans and phony war heroes should not be considered a laughing matter. For every harmless wannabe, there is a professional car artist who has elected to make a veteran's status his vehicle for fraud.

Our organization has helped expose over 15 phony special operations "heroes" in the last two years. One of the worst offenders, Dennis Chapman, was featured in "SEALing Saddam's Fate" [Feb. '92].

Your readers should understand the damage such parasites are capable of and once inside the system, the fraudulent veteran/war-hero is extremely difficult to ferret out.

We have found that many veterans organizations fail to follow their own bylaws when considering prospective members, allowing individuals to join without proper documentation or references. This is why most frauds find it

so easy to make fools out of the veteran community at large.

Do not believe everything you hear, and demand original documentation when preparing to invite someone into the meeting hall or workplace. Then you won't have to worry about being sucker-punched by a professional "veteran."

Gregory Walker
Bend, Oregon

NAIVE POLITICIANS, RIGHT-WING RELIGIOUS HYPOCRITES AND LEFT-WING ACADEMICS

Regarding Neil Livingstone's two-part article on the threat of Islamic fundamentalism [Aug. and Sept. '92]: It's about time that somebody recognized this threat to the very existence of human civilization as we know it. Livingstone is to be commended for sounding the alarm.

Unfortunately, terrorism isn't the only weapon that the kingdoms of the Middle East, both fundamentalist and secular, have at their disposal. There is also the internal threat of naive politicians, right-wing religious hypocrites and left-wing academics, all of whom have decided to pledge their troth to the new evil empire bent upon world domination.

Ronald Reagan used Jimmy Carter's failure in Iran to drive him out

of office; then they turned around and sold weapons to Iran. Patrick Buchanan not only opposed the Gulf War, he was practically a point man for Saddam Hussein in the United States.

President Bush, however, has done the most damage. His obscene support for Red China while it sends nuclear and missile technology to Iran and Syria is a serious threat to our nation's security.

W. Simpson
Pomona, New York

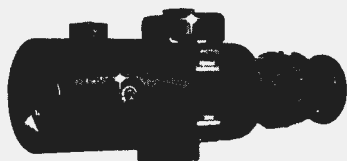
PRIVATE SECURITY GUARDS RESPOND

I am writing in response to the letter in FLAK [Sept. '92] in which someone wrote that private security guards are not up to snuff. As a current security officer at a nuclear-power generation plant, with nine years experience and a total of 15 years in the private security field, I take issue with the writer's criticisms of private security.

Simply because an individual is employed by a private security firm rather than a law enforcement agency or the military does not mean that he (or she) is less motivated, less trained, or is not a professional. This is proven by the results of the National SWAT Team Championship held 7-11 June 1992 in Gainesville, Georgia. After a three-day,

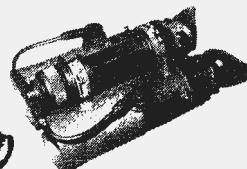
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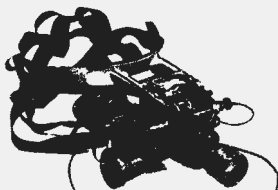
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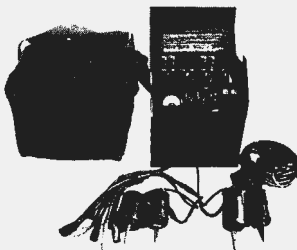
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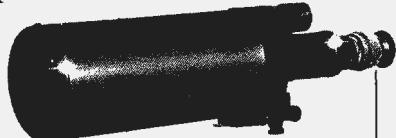
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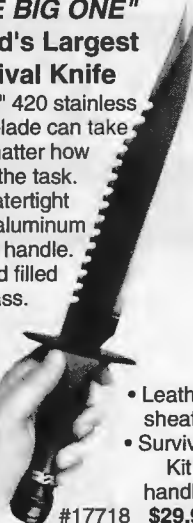


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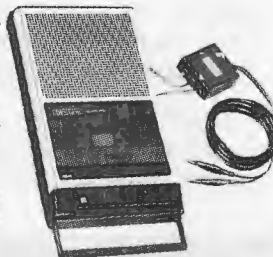
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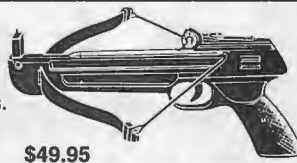
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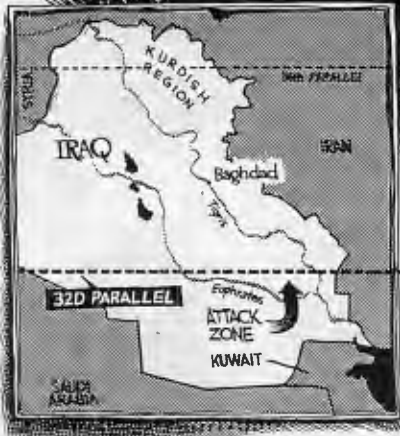


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seven-event competition involving response teams from across the nation and from police, private security, and military organizations, the top six teams were from the private sector. The winning team is a Department of Energy team from Idaho, and this was their second win in as many years.

Willie F. McElhany
Fort Mill, South Carolina

See "Catch 23" (Oct. '92) for more on the National SWAT Team Championship mentioned above.

The guy that claimed that private security guards for government agencies were inadequate was all wet.

I am a member of a Special Response Team (SRT) at a major Department of Energy (DOE) facility. The entire protective force is composed of private citizens employed by a DOE contractor, not a security guard company. Some protective-force contractors at other DOE facilities are security companies.

When a DOE protective force is on duty, each person is acting in a federal

officer capacity. Each officer must have a DOE "Q" clearance, and hiring policy here is that each applicant must be an ex-peace officer or ex-military.

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Department of Energy SRT teams have consistently placed high in the National SWAT Team Championship. This year, DOE took the first six places. So, although we are private security personnel, we are a well trained force.

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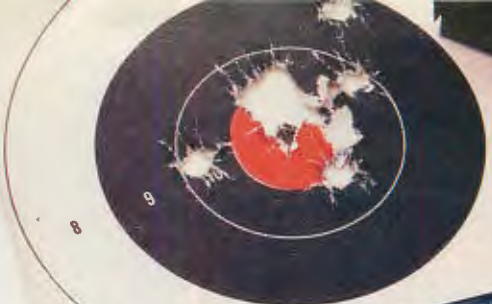
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Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis

TOUGH KANERS

The scramble to introduce .40 S&W pistols in warmed-over 9mm Parabellum envelopes has reached a feeding frenzy in the United States. It has apparently paid off handsomely, at least for Glock. During 1991, 31.5% of Glock's law enforcement sales were pistols chambered for the .40 S&W cartridge (9mm pistol sales represented 54% of the total during that time frame).

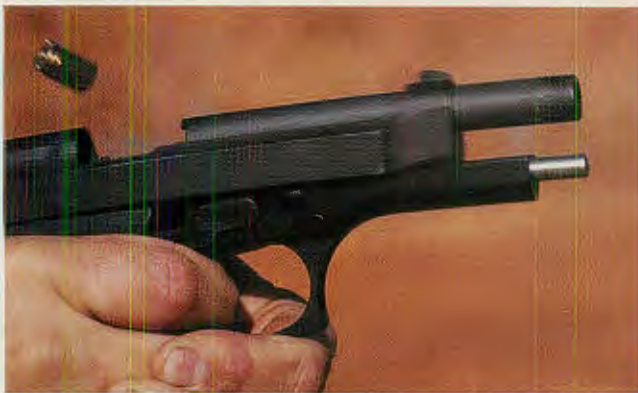
In 1992, the total law-enforcement sales of .40 S&W pistols may double in volume. Meanwhile, throughout the rest of the world, the .40 S&W round has to date elicited little more than a yawn. With the exception of the former minions of the collapsed Evil Empire, the 9x19mm Parabellum cartridge still reigns supreme with police and military organizations all over the globe.

Developed in 1904 for the Luger pistol (with a 6-inch barrel) that was adopted by the Imperial German Navy in that year, the 9mm *Pistole Patronen 08* (for the year 1908, in which the cartridge and the Luger pistol with a 4-inch barrel were adopted by the German army) has survived 88 years of ridicule in the United States to emerge as the world's oldest and still most popular combat handgun cartridge.

The Republic of South Africa (RSA) and its defense industry have also managed to survive, and even prosper, during a period of economic sanctions imposed upon it by other nations intent on altering the RSA's internal domestic policies.

While the handgun of issue with the South African Defense Force (SADF) was the Spanish Star Model B 9mm Parabellum pistol, the South African Police (SAP) most often carried Beretta pistols (as well as some Walther P.38s). In 1985 the SAP issued a requirement for a new 9mm pistol. Because of the arms embargo, it was decided to explore the possibility of indigenous manufacture.

Discussions between Armscor and the SAP led to a specification which was submitted to Lyttelton *Ingenieurswerke* (Afrikaans for Engineering Works) — or "LIW" as it is now referred to — in April 1986 with series production to



Left: South African Z88 service pistol exhibits the very highest possible levels of reliability and durability. Right: New SP1 has somewhat less muzzle jump than the Z88, no doubt a consequence of its slightly heavier slide.

commence within two years. During my visit to LIW in the spring of 1988, I examined preproduction models, of which 200 were manufactured to confirm LIW's production capability and to employ in field testing. Twenty of these pistols were used in the field trials, during which 146,000 rounds were fired successfully in the usual environmental tests.

Three years prior to this, on 14 January 1985, the U.S. Army announced that the Beretta 92SB-F 9mm Parabellum pistol had been selected to replace the Colt M1911A1 .45 ACP pistol.

Not A Clone

The South African Z88 pistol takes its name from the late T. D. Zeederberg, former general manager of LIW who was instrumental in the project's success, and from the year of its introduction.

At first glance, the Z88 appears to be no more than an unimaginative clone of the Beretta 92F. This superficial assumption could not be more incorrect. Beretta 92F (or M9 as it is called by the U.S. armed forces) slides have experienced catastrophic failures that have resulted in physical injuries to service personnel. There have been no failures at any level by any component of the Z88 pistol.

By now, it's common knowledge that the U.S. armed forces experienced slide failures with the M9 service pistol. Not publicized have been numerous failures of the locking block as well. Most recently, M9 barrels have burst on the underside, just in front of the chamber. The problem is one of metallurgy, not design deficiency.

Due to insufficient "fracture toughness" (a qualitative term that cannot be quantified, and which means resistance to cracking), at least 17 M9 slides have separated at the junctures of both the front and rear sharp radiuses of the locking block recess on each side of the slide. Twelve of these failures were deliberately induced. Four failures occurred during U.S. Navy SEAL training exercises (January and July 1988) and one happened at a U.S. Marine Corps facility. In addition, a Navy-owned commercial Beretta 92F pistol experienced this failure, and two more commercial Beretta

92F pistols that I have personally examined exhibited catastrophic slide failure. There have undoubtedly been more instances that have gone unreported.

As an interim solution, a slot has been cut into the inside rear of the slide, and an enlarged hammer-pin head installed. If the slide should separate, the new hammer-pin head will engage the slot and capture the rear half of the slide. Beretta apparently has no plans to introduce this modification on commercial versions of the 92F. Long-term corrective measures include a re-examination of the heat treatment process to determine if changes can be made to increase fracture toughness.

Dimensionally, the South African Z88 duplicates the Beretta 92F. The weight, with an empty magazine, is 2.16 pounds. The overall length is 8.68 inches (217mm). The six-groove barrel, with a right-hand twist of one turn in 10 inches (254mm), is 5 inches (125mm) in length.

Height, with the magazine, is 5.8 inches (145mm). Width, at the grip panels, is 1.4 inches (35mm). These are the dimensions of a large service pistol, intended for ex-

posed holster carry.

The Z88 is a double-action, locked-breech pistol that operates by short recoil with a falling locking block driven downward to disengage the slide from the barrel and halt the barrel's rearward travel. This method of operation was taken from the German Walther P.38 — a double-action pistol of World War II vintage (which employed the same locking principle, albeit highly modified, of the Mauser Model 1896 "Broomhandle" pistol).

The Z88 slide is cut away to reduce weight and minimize ejection stoppages. The ambidextrous manual thumb safety both disengages the trigger from the sear, and drops the hammer if it is cocked. Located on the slide, it's not quite as convenient to reach and operate as that of the Colt M1911A1. Furthermore, it must be rotated upward to place the mechanism in the "fire" position.

The firing pin is inertial, and a spring-loaded steel block limits its travel. This mechanical firing-pin stop, also located in the slide, is activated by a coil spring and deactivated at the last moment of trigger

Z88 and SP1 frames are CNC-machined from high-grade aluminum alloy barstock.



travel by the trigger bar and a lever assembly. It ensures that the pistol cannot fire unless the trigger is pulled. Finally, the hammer has a rather useless half-cock position.

Trigger pull weights on the specimen we tested in South Africa were 8.75 pounds at double-action and 5.5 pounds when fired single-action. The slide-mounted extractor also serves as a loaded-chamber indicator. The recoil spring's guide rod is fabricated from steel. The fixed ejector is attached to the frame. There is no magazine safety and the pistol can be fired without a magazine seated into the well.

On commercial versions of the Z88, the barrel and the top of the slide have a high-gloss black oxide finish with RSA proofmarks. Pistols intended for the SAP are furnished with a matte finish and are devoid of proofmarks.

Z88 pistols are issued with green tritium night sights, which consist of a single gas-filled glass capsule on the front sight blade and a capsule on each side of the open square-notch rear sight. A worthwhile addition, but in this instance not quite properly executed, in my opinion. The front capsule is too small and the rear capsules have been installed vertically, in the Israeli Meproflight manner, through holes in the top of the sight which were then filled with black epoxy. This method of installation has been demonstrated to be insecure.

Points Of View

Self-luminous sights provided by Innovative Weaponry Inc. (IWI, Dept. SOF, 337 Eubank N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87123; phone: 800-334-3573) are installed with the capsules completely supported in a horizontal position (in the case of the Z88 and Beretta 92F this requires a larger rear sight, which overhangs the sight dovetail in the slide). Furthermore, IWI has recently designed a multicolor night sight system that focuses attention on the front sight and speeds target acquisition by a considerable margin. Most tritium self-luminous sights glow green, simply because this color is highest on the night visibility spectrum. However, operator alignment of three green dots in subdued light can be confusing; this detracts from emphasis on the front sight and retards target acquisition.

The largest self-luminous dot (0.108-inch in diameter) is installed in the front sight and it is green. The two smaller dots (0.093-inch in diameter) in the rear sight are either yellow or orange. In use, I have found that the eyes instinctively focus on the green front dot with a strong 3-dimensional triangulation effect that helps to funnel the shooter's vision directly onto the target. I can personally recommend IWI's multicolor system highly and without reservations of any kind.

The Z88's "ringed" magazine-release button is properly located to the rear of

Z88 SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber:	9x19mm Parabellum.
Operation:	Short recoil, locked breech with a falling locking block; double-action trigger mechanism with slide-mounted, ambidextrous hammer-drop manual safety.
Feed:	15-round, detachable, staggered column, single-position feed, box-type magazine.
Weight, with empty magazine: ...	2.16 pounds.
Length, overall:	8.68 inches (217mm).
Height:	5.8 inches (145mm).
Thickness:	1.4 inches (35mm — grip frame area).
Circumference of grip frame:	5.88 inches (147mm).
Barrel:	Six-groove with a right-hand twist of one turn in 10 inches (254mm).
Barrel length:	5 inches (125mm).
Sights:	Fixed, blade-type front sight with a single green tritium dot; fixed, open square-notch rear sight with two green tritium dots.
Finish:	Matte or polished black-oxide slide and other steel components, or optional satin nickel. Black anodized aluminum-alloy frame standard.
Manufacturer:	LIW, Dept. SOF, 368 Selborne Ave., Lyttelton, P.O. Box 7710, Pretoria 0001, Republic of South Africa; phone: 27-12-620-2103; fax: 27-12-620-2407.
T&E summary:	A Beretta 92F variant of substantially higher quality and durability with both slide and locking block machined from billets. Large, double-action service pistol exhibiting excellent feeding reliability with almost all bullet configurations.



**South African
Z88 9mm
Parabellum,
double-action
service pistol,
fieldstripped.**

the trigger guard. It may be reversed for either right- or left-handed shooters. Empty magazines fall freely away when the release button is pressed. Magazine capacity is 15 rounds. The staggered column, single-position-feed magazine bodies have been heat-treated by means of carbonizing to a depth of 0.01mm. This process insures an extremely rugged magazine, which will not deform from repeated reloadings

nor when it is dropped on the all-critical lips. The finger-extension floorplate, which is larger than that of the Beretta M9, is made from nylon-6 with a steel insert.

The Z88 differs in other details from the Beretta 92F. Z88 triggers are grooved instead of smooth. The dished-out front of the trigger guard has vertical grooves instead of horizontal serrations. The vertical grooves on the frame's front and back

straps are wider than the M9's. Also, on the Z88 the lanyard ring at the heel of the grip frame has been pivoted 90 degrees from that of the M9.

Lytelton Ingenieurswerke is no longer part of Armscor, which now serves as a procurement agency only. A new logo was chosen for the three-letter acronym, LIW, to reflect its association with Denel, a group of companies with strong commercial focus. Both the Z88 grip panels and the magazine bodies carry the old LIW logo. This will presumably be changed when stocks of these components have been depleted.

None of these features constitute a major departure from the Beretta 92F. Why are Beretta 92F (M9) pistols self-destructing at an ever-accelerating pace while the South African Z88 takes a licking and keeps on ticking, without so much as a bent magazine feed lip, let alone cracked slides, broken locking blocks and burst barrels?

Superior Steel

Beretta slides are mill-finished drop forgings. Forging applies force at a 90-degree angle to the slide's axis. This could disrupt the steel's axial flow lines. Add to this the cutaway top portion of the slide, the 90-degree sharp corners at the junctures of both the front and rear radiuses of the locking block recess on each side of the slide, and also the possibility of improper heat treatment, and you have the recipe for catastrophic failure.

Z88 slides are machined from high-quality, ordnance steel (EN-24) billets. Although far more labor-intensive and expensive than mill-finishing a drop forging, in this manner the slide's flow lines are maintained in a longitudinal direction without distortion. Before milling, the billet weighs 2.5 kilograms (5.525 pounds). The finished slide weighs only 0.3kg (10.6 ounces). Also important are the 0.5mm radiuses machined into the critical corners of the locking block recess to prevent stress risers. Z88 locking blocks are also machined from barstock, as is the anodized aluminum-alloy frame. No doubt about it, when compared to the Beretta, the Z88 slide and locking block exhibit considerably higher fracture toughness.

Furthermore, after machining, Z88 slides and other important components such as the locking block are heat-treated by dipping in a neutral salt bath (to prevent decarbonizing) at 840 degrees Celsius for 25 minutes. They are then quenched in a neutral salt bath at 340 degrees Celsius for 20 minutes and finally cooled by air. The hardness of the steel after this treatment is 42-48 Rockwell C without any internal brittleness.

Z88 pistols issued to the SAP are equipped with two magazines, a bristle bore brush, brass cleaning rod and bilingual (English and Afrikaans) manual — all in a fitted black-plastic case with the

SP1 SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber:	9x19mm Parabellum.
Operation:	Short recoil, locked breech with a falling locking block; double-action trigger mechanism with frame-mounted ambidextrous manual safety that blocks trigger and does not drop the hammer.
Feed:	15-round, detachable, staggered column, single-position-feed, box-type magazine.
Weight, with empty magazine:	2.16 pounds.
Length, overall:	8.44 inches (211mm).
Height:	5.8 inches (145mm).
Thickness:	1.3 inches (grip frame area).
Circumference of grip frame:	5.4 inches (135mm).
Barrel:	Four-groove polygonal rifling with a right-hand twist of one turn in 10 inches (254mm).
Barrel length:	4.72 inches (118mm).
Sights:	Fixed, blade-type front sight and open square-notch rear sight. Tritium night sights available as an option.
Finish:	Matte black-oxide slide and other steel components or optional satin nickel. Black anodized aluminum-alloy frame standard.
Manufacturer:	LIW, Dept. SOF, 368 Selborne Ave., Lyttelton, P.O. Box 7710, Pretoria 0001, Republic of South Africa; phone: 27-12-620-2103; fax: 27-12-620-2407.
T&E summary:	Closed slide and locking block machined from billets for maximum durability. Frame-mounted ambidextrous manual safety permits locked-and-cocked carry. One-piece grips emulate CZ75 configuration. Reduced muzzle jump and high hit probability. Large capacity, double-action service pistol brought to its ultimate level of perfection.



South African SP1 9mm Parabellum double-action service pistol, fieldstripped.

SAP emblem on its cover. Commercial Z88 pistols are usually issued with the same accessories in a cardboard box, although a brown, Cordura-type zipper pouch is available as an option.

Z88 disassembly procedures duplicate those of the Beretta series: Remove the magazine and clear the chamber. Press inward on the disassembly latch button located on the right side of the frame, and at the same time rotate the disassembly

latch lever, on the left side of the frame, downward 90 degrees until it snaps into place against the stop-pin on the frame.

Pull the slide group forward and separate it from the frame. Push the recoil-spring guide rod forward and lift both it and the recoil spring from the slide. Grasp the barrel by the locking block and lift both of these components out of the slide. If you want to remove the grip panels, each one is held in place by two screws,

which should be turned out or in with care. Disassemble the magazine in the normal manner by depressing the follower spring's bottom plate and sliding the floorplate off the magazine body. After cleaning and lubrication, reassemble in the reverse manner.



Many steps in the production of a modern firearm must still be done by hand. Z88 slides are deburred with Swiss files.

Not content to rest on its laurels, LIW, which also produces the R4 rifle series, the SS-77 caliber 7.62x51mm GPMG (See "Armcor Artistry," Sept. '88), several different 20mm automatic cannons, the G5 towed and G6 self-propelled 155mm artillery (See "Death From A Distance," Aug. '89), a 35mm computerized antiaircraft cannon system and numerous other defense products, has just introduced another interesting item at the small end of its power curve.

Enter The SP1

Utilizing the same method of operation as the Z88, the new SP1 (Service Pistol 1) was slated to enter series production this fall (1992). Although it may resemble the Z88 internally, the SP1's slide and frame — as well as some other important features — are startlingly different.

While it has been machined from the same ordnance steel billets as the Z88 slide, the SP1's slide is closed except for a conventional-sized ejection port on the right side. In overall geometry, the slide is quite distinctive. The exterior radiuses are all clearly defined and the sides, at the muzzle end, are wedge-shaped. The top of the slide has a wide integral heat rib with 12 serrations, each 1mm apart. The rib has a dished-out configuration, and both the front and rear sights rise above the serrations. The slide has a matte-black oxide finish.

The blade-type, stepped front sight is retained by a roll pin and can be removed to install higher or lower blades. The rear sight is exactly that of the Z88 and I would recommend its removal and replacement with the IWI multicolor self-luminous sight system.

The left side of the slide is marked with "VEKTOR" over the logo, which is a "V" and cross hairs superimposed over a target, along with "SP1 (with the numeral 1 in a box) 9mmP" over "MADE IN SOUTH AFRICA." Vektor is the new military small-arms and commercial division of LIW.

Best of all however, the ambidextrous manual thumb safety has been moved from the slide to the frame. It now blocks the trigger and, most important, permits this double-action pistol to be carried "locked and cocked" (with a round in the chamber, the hammer cocked and the safety

engaged).

Also, the SP1's thumb safety now also has the correct sense of direction, which is to rotate downward into the "fire" position. In addition, it can be easily manipulated with the thumb of the fir-

ing hand while maintaining the firing grip. If desired, the hammer can be lowered (slowly and very carefully) by hand (the safety lever does not operate as a hammer drop) with a round in the chamber, so that the first round will be fired double-action.

Personally, I can think of no situation in which I would not prefer to carry this pistol in the locked-and-cocked mode. The spring-loaded, mechanical firing-pin stop remains, as does the 19th-century hammer half-cock notch. Trigger pull weights on the SP1 we tested were 8 pounds at double-action and 4.5 pounds when fired single-action. The trigger is smooth, although the mechanism is the same as that of the Z88. In comparison with the Z88, the SP1's hammer has been lightened and its profile altered.

The polygonal-rifled barrel, at 118mm (4.72 inches) in length, is 7mm shorter than the Z88 barrel. Polygonal rifling seals propellant gases behind the bullet and increases barrel life. The four-groove rifling retains the same right-hand twist of one turn in 10 inches as does the Z88. The recoil-spring guide rod, while of the same dimensions as that of the Z88, is made of a lightweight, black polymer material.

After giving some here and taking some there (e.g., the SP1 slide is 0.08kg heavier than the Z88 slide), the SP1 ends up the same weight, with empty magazine, as the Z88: 2.16 pounds. The height remains the same, but the overall length of 8.44 inches (211mm) is 6mm less than the Z88's.

The most significant dimensional difference is the circumference of the grip frame, which is 147mm (5.88 inches) for the Z88, but only 135mm (5.4 inches) for the SP1. This is a consequence of the SP1's radically different frame.

Injection molded, one-piece, black nylon grips, with an attractive enameled brass Vektor logo embedded on each side, are held to the frame by a single allen-head screw at the heel directly to the rear of the magazine well. A threaded steel insert in the black-anodized, aluminum-alloy frame retains the grip screw. The top of this steel insert serves as a guide for the hammer spring. Inside the grips, 45-degree dovetails help secure the grips to the frame. A

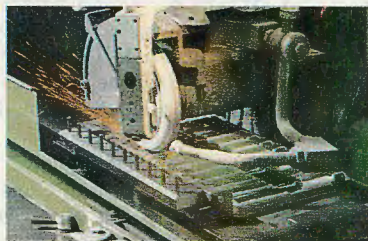
hump at the bottom of the back strap approximates the grip configuration of the Czech CZ75 (a very popular pistol in South Africa).

At the bottom of the frame, directly under the barrel, is a flat surface which flows into the recurved trigger guard, which has no serrations and is thinner than that of the Z88. The rear of the trigger guard is undercut, and this provides the firing hand a larger purchase on the grip frame and lowers the barrel's axis to diminish muzzle climb.

Both the Z88 and SP1 are available with an optional satin nickel finish.

Except for a few steps, disassembly procedures generally duplicate those of the Z88. After removing the magazine and clearing the weapon, retract the slide group to the rear and lock it back by pushing upward on the spring-loaded slide-stop lever. Rotate the disassembly lever

(on the left side of the frame, directly in front of the slide-stop lever) downward 90 degrees. With the slide under control, press the slide-stop lever downward and draw the slide group forward and off the frame.



Z88 slides are brought to a high polish by automated machinery.

If you need to remove the grips, unscrew the single allen-head screw holding the grip module in place and carefully work the grips down and to the rear to separate this component from the frame. Everything else is as previously described for the Z88. After cleaning, reassemble in the reverse order. Note that the disassembly lever must remain in its downward position so that the flat surface on its axis will permit the slide to move to the fully rearward position during reassembly. Furthermore, the recoil-spring guide rod must be completely seated in its notch in the locking block, or you will not be able to retract the slide rearward enough to rotate the disassembly lever upward to lock the slide onto the frame.

Testing & Conclusions

During a recent one-month visit to South Africa, I was presented with the opportunity to conduct extensive firing tests of both the Z88 and SP1 pistols. Thousands of rounds were fired at both static outdoor targets and moving video targets projected on a paper screen at a unique indoor range in Verwoerdburg owned and operated by David Fourie (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 12756, Clubview 0014, RSA), a former dog of war who has pioneered realistic audiovisual firearms training among military and law-enforcement circles in the Dark Continent.

Continued on page 65

HOW MUCH I IN THE WIN

Bloody Blunder

“There’s something in the pocket of this jacket.”

Tom, an American of Croatian parents, peered cautiously into the side opening of a Yugoslav National Army (JNA) field jacket. The dark-green jacket was one of two we’d picked up a few minutes earlier, thrown away by Serbs running from attacking Croatian forces in the hills above the town of Mostar, in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

“I saw you check out that jacket back down the hill when we picked both of them up,” I said. He glanced at the jacket I was carrying, then back down at his, lying on a small pile of rocks at the side of the macadam road.

“Yeah, I know that ... but there’s still something in it.”

Tom, Franco, John (my interpreter/guide) — all Croatian-American volunteers — and I had earlier moved down a steep, rocky hill overlooking the town. Nestled on the banks of the Neretva River, Mostar previously held a population of some 100,000, but many of those had been killed and wounded by *Chetnik* (Serbian irregulars) and JNA attacks. The town was now being pounded by fire from Serb tank, mortar and Multiple Rocket Launcher (MRL) positions in the mountains across from us.

We’d left a section of Croat tanks dug in on the high ground behind us, in order to get to a better observation post to watch the fireworks. Our section leader had warned us not



Though desperately short of antiarmor weapons, the Slovenes, Croatians and now Bosnians have managed to repeatedly blunt Serbian armored assaults.

to stay on the road too long, as the area was receiving Serbian sniper fire. We hadn’t ignored his warning and were on the way back up a hill, sweating in the noontime heat, feeling the slight prickling sensation at the back of the neck that comes from not knowing if you are in the cross hairs of a scope with someone’s finger taking up the slack on a Dragunov’s trigger.

We’d found the jackets in a shallow ditch cut into the hillside. I hadn’t heard of any widespread booby-trapping by the JNA or Chetniks, but there was always that possibility when people were trying to kill one another. I wasn’t too keen about fooling with battlefield loot.

However, as Tom had pointed out, “Nights in the field can get damned cold ... and besides, the jackets look like they’re brand-new.” So we’d decided to give it a go. Even

though, over the years, I’d seen enough of what could happen to curious grunts that picked up souvenirs landing them in body bags, I had taken the barrel of Tom’s AK and carefully lifted the left jacket sleeve. Nothing ... Slowly, I’d eased the barrel under the jacket’s back ... still nothing. Tom, in the meantime, had done the same with the other jacket.

Evidently God takes care of fools and drunks. There weren’t any sudden loud *BOOMS*, no steel fragments scattering pieces of flesh and bone over the roadbed. Satisfied the jackets were harmless, we’d picked them up and started back up the hill, stopping for a break when Tom made his discovery.

Things That Go Boom

He took a closer look, then stood up slowly, carefully backing away. “It’s a grenade,” he said.

Jim Dandy! I thought. He’d dragged that bloody jacket halfway back up the

S THAT TANK DOW?

Balkan War

s On

by Mike Williams

Photos by John Evans



hill, only a few steps behind me, banging it on the asphalt road's rough surface. When I squatted down next to the jacket I could see only a small portion of the object, but that was enough. Small, black cobble squares forming the exposed side of the cylinder were partially covered by a narrow vertical metal strap — the spoon. The position of the grenade made it impossible to determine whether the pin was still in place.

If the pin was out, then sometime during the walk back up the hill, jacket thumping and banging on the asphalt, the spoon probably would've separated from the grenade, starting the fuse-ignition sequence; the resulting explosion would have killed three of us and wounded the fourth.

There wasn't an explosive-ordnance disposal unit with the tankers, and for all I knew there probably wasn't one between here and Zagreb. At any rate, we couldn't sit here all day and wait for the 7th Cav and George Custer.

I don't recall whether Tom eased the frag out and handed it to me or vice versa, but I *do* remember holding the spoon to the grenade in a very tight grip. It reminded me of the grip — pressure-wise — that Mary Alice Snodgrass, my date at the Byrd High School prom, used on my "member" in the backseat of her father's Chrysler sedan. She did that, Mary said, "to keep us from going all the way ... ruining our lives!"

That was about 100 years ago, but in spite of her concern my life has been screwed up anyway. I heard later that she'd run off with a fat used car salesman.

The good news was that the pin was still in place. Even had there been no pin, the terrain around us wouldn't have permitted getting rid of the grenade. While there were some scrub bushes, the entire area was composed of rock formations: big rocks, little rocks and millions of little-bitty rocks. A frag explosion here could ruin your day.

Tank with turret blown into ditch is relic of fierce battle with JNA. Zadar was attacked by an entire armored brigade, but Croats managed to beat them back and retain control of city. Inset: Roads of Bosnia-Herzegovina are littered with abandoned vehicles like these burned-out JNA military trucks.

Everybody celebrated: "Atta-boy" and "Good-onya" exchanged all around. Tom picked up his souvenir jacket and we started back up the slope to the tanks. As we hiked along I mentally cursed myself for voluntarily coming back to this slaughterhouse after having been here in June 1991.

The war that began in Slovenia had spread to Croatia and now to Bosnia-Herzegovina. As if to remind me that I was back in Yugoslavia, Tom and Franco began a little game of catch, tossing the grenade back and forth. I didn't say anything until they mentioned something about having a soccer match.

We reached the tankers' position and

handed the grenade to the section commander. He was tired and dirty; his rumpled, grease-stained uniform was matched by those worn by the rest of the crews. Some of them were showing "thousand-yard stares" along with the fatigue that came from not knowing when they'd get a break.

While we were talking with the tankers, the volume of fire on Mostar's airport had increased; dirty gray smoke from impacting rounds drifted slowly over the area. However, none of the rounds were hitting the runways; instead they were landing in a small village near the airport. Pieces of homes — roofs, walls, timbers, chimneys and, occasionally, occupants — soared into the air, mixing with smoke clouds.

It was a toss-up as to whether the Serbs were trying to hit the airport or the village. Apparently, they hadn't changed since 1991: If they hit anything at all it was regarded as a tactical success. That included civilian men, women, children, dogs, cats, chickens, pigs and an occasional Croat soldier.

The crew of one T-62 was laying out rounds for the main tube in a neat row several yards behind their tank. Given the sun's direct rays, I didn't envy the loaders when they had to pick the shells up and muscle the hot cases into the turret.

Like most ex-grunts, I have ambivalent feelings about armor. In a static defensive position, in what normally would be a relatively quiet sector, usually what you got was maybe some incoming random harassment-and-interdiction mortar or arty rounds that could make you hunker down. Once in a while there might be an occasional sniper who wanted to crank off a few, but that was about it.

But let a tank platoon, a section or, heaven forbid, a lone steel-tracked monster show up and I will guarantee you that every piece of ordnance known to military science will most assuredly rain down on your head.

However, if the other side starts sending their own armor in your direction, your tankers and their iron mounts become VIPs and as welcome as a hard-on at a senior citizens' Friday-night dance.

We said our goodbyes to the section



Since hitting anything at all is considered a tactical success by the Serbs, air strikes and ambushes on main roads often result in civilian casualties.

leader and crews, then started back through Croatian lines. We stopped at what had been a small Bosnian village. According to several of the Croatian troops stationed there, the JNA had briefly occupied it before being run out by Croatians and Bosnian volunteers. Before they'd retreated, the Serbs had methodically gutted and destroyed every house within the small area.

Several Croat riflemen stood by silently; no comment was needed. Broken glass from the windows crunched under our boots as we slowly walked beside the bullet-pocked walls of the houses. A small child's torn Raggedy Ann doll lay on the doorstep, half-covered by charred pieces of wood ripped from the doorframe.

All this was not the result of an isolated incident. Destruction of this sort is routinely accompanied by rape, murder and ritual mutilation of corpses. More recently there has been evidence of deliberate starvation of Croats, Moslems, Bosnians and others in Serbian-run concentration camps. Belgrade's government

calls these outrages "ethnic cleansing."

Depending on what map one read, Imotski was either a village of 2,000 or a town of 5,000. It was about eight kilometers from the Bosnian border and had a press office operated by Croatian-American volunteers who were approved by Croatian army HQ in Zagreb. You can reach Imotski from Zagreb by bus. That takes 12 hours if you're lucky.

I took Air Croatia to the port city of Split and had John pick me up for the ride back to town. On the two-lane "highway" from Split we ripped past a series of trucks, cars, farm tractors, goat carts, Mercedes', bicycles, hitchhikers, hay wagons, Croatian versions of a Bangkok "Tuk-Tuk" and a lone idiot on roller skates.

Back in June 1991, John had been a calm, stable university grad student. Now, one year later, he'd evidently seen too many Rambo and/or Chuck Norris movies. He'd acquired a Kevlar helmet with bomb-disposal unit cover, a brand-spanking new AK and a .45 auto, both highly polished, along with new, handmade combat boots.

This didn't bother me too much, though. I'd seen that type of combat disease before in other places, and those infected usually got over it. The shine would disappear from the AK and the .45, and strict attention would be paid instead to the smooth functioning of the weapons' insides. Mud, dirt and thorn scratches would change the exterior of the boots, along with the attitude of their wearer.

What did concern me was John's attitude toward test-firing both weapons before going into a free-fire zone. I'd mentioned something to him about the importance of this and gotten a shrug in response. So then I suggested a friendly contest to see who could fieldstrip and reassemble the AK fastest — another shrug.

Field soldiers in any army will argue tactics, but there are damned few who will disagree on the absolute importance of having total mastery of one's issue weapon. If you can't strip and reassemble your rifle with ease while blindfolded, a simple malfunction during night operations can cost you your life.

People in Imotski are friendly, funny and drink like Dubliners. There are almost as many bars in Imotski per block as there are on Patpong Street in Bangkok but,

unfortunately, no massage parlors with floor shows.

John set out to show me as much of the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina as possible. Tom went with us, riding shotgun. John had his AK and .45; I had my camera and a K-Bar. Although I'd been promised one, there wasn't an extra AK.

We left Imotski for Zadar, a town on the Zadarski Canal, 24km from the Adriatic Sea. At Zadar, I met the area commander, a graduate of the Command and General Staff course at Fort Leavenworth whose English was far better than my Croatian. I'd learned not to speak Russian to the natives. He stated that the Croats didn't need foreign officers or NCO volunteers, but they desperately wanted high-tech weapons, particularly SAMs and any type of antitank ordnance.

Zadar had been attacked by a JNA armored brigade that included T-72s and first-line armored vehicles, but the Croats had managed to beat them back and retain control of the city. Some 80% of the area around Zadar was suitable for armor operation.

Although the commander was cordial and the meeting friendly, it surprised me that there was no tactical briefing. There was no situation map or the usual dog-and-pony show from a staff S-2 or S-3 giving enemy and friendly force dispositions. This was to prove the rule everywhere else I went.

What's With The Moslems?

From Zadar we drove to Vitez, crossing the Vrbas River and climbing through mountain ranges that rose above terrain as wild as parts of Afghanistan. Rain and mist became heavier and vegetation increased the higher we went. This was textbook ambush country. Roadblocks began to appear and, in addition to Croats and Bosnians manning them with a wild assortment of weapons, Moslems, some wearing distinctive religious headgear, watched us sullenly as we passed.

"What's with the Moslems?" I asked. "They seem pissed about something."

"I don't know, but we'll find out in Vitez," John replied, speeding up so the wheels of the Volkswagen skidded in the muddy ruts.

It was dark when we reached Vitez. At the first roadblock on the outskirts of town, we found out what was going on. A Croatian rifleman wearing a poncho stopped us. "Don't go into town that way," he told us, pointing toward a road to our left. "The Moslems have been firing on our people and have barricaded the road."

When we asked why, he answered, "During the last attack against the Serbs, we lost 11 killed and the Moslems ran away. The commander told them that if they weren't going to fight, then they had to give up their weapons. They said they wouldn't give up anything and, besides, they wanted their own commanders ...



The war in what was once Yugoslavia has no easily defined front lines, as sympathies are divided entirely along ethnic lines.

that's when the shooting started."

John got directions to the Catholic church and gave the guard a small mini-mag flashlight, then we roared off into the dark. I got a good grip on my K-Bar and felt like a first-class idiot. This screwed-up mess reminded me of the Texas joke about "what kind of dumbass brings a knife to an honest gunfight?" We stopped at the church, got directions to the local HQ and again careened off into the night like Keystone Kops.

Headquarters was in a hotel. We had to push our way through at least a platoon of locals milling around in the lobby. Finally the unit's exec showed up and led us into a dining room where they served some coffee. Apparently there wasn't any food available due to the road barricades, but rumor had the Moslems cooling off. At least the firing had died down.

The commander and exec led the way downstairs to a bar-cum-dance hall, where they introduced me to a willing girl named Sonya. I told her I was engaged and saving myself for my new bride who was 29 and still a virgin; besides that, I explained, my only previous lovemaking experience had been with heifers when I was growing up in Amarillo. She sniffed, dismissed me and turned to John and Tom.

Neo-Nazi Wannabes

I drank local schnapps, beer, wine and God knows what else, and insulted a group of HOS-wannabes [HOS is an extreme right-wing party in Croatia] by asking them if there were any paratroopers among them, since one of the group, who looked a simply 14 years old, was wearing a World War II German *Fallschirmjaeger* (paratrooper) helmet, a bandolier of ammo, a slung AK, a broomhandled Mauser, two knives, and had managed a sneer in my direction. I then managed to escape up four flights of stairs to my room.

At breakfast I thanked the CO and exec,

expressed my delight at the party and asked them to offer my admiration to Sonya. No briefing, again; no SitMap — no S-3 ... but there was an offer to go hunting.

We did attend a meeting at the Vitez town hall with a group consisting of Bosnians, Croats and Moslems who were attempting to iron out the problems of the previous night.

When we returned to Imotski, I spent several more days hanging around town, being promised that we were going to go up to the front with the troops from Imotski. We didn't.

Later, in Zagreb, I met several Croatian-American volunteers who'd served the previous year in the International Brigade, a unit composed of foreigners. They said they were going home because the Croats wanted to disband any unit that had foreign mercenaries in it.

One merc from Canada who'd been in Sarajevo laughed when he told me about the black market going on among the Serbs manning positions on the high ground surrounding Zagreb. It seemed that when the JNA pulled out, they left all their ordnance on-site, including tanks, MRLs, mortars and artillery. Local Serbs were told they could have it all.

One story going around had a Serb who'd bought a T-80 for 1,500 German marks (about \$1,100). It appeared that said tank had been "camouflaged" by driving it through the back door of a building and poking the main tube through the structure's front window. Ergo: How much is that tank in the window?

I admire the Croats, Bosnians and Moslems, but two tours in Yugoslavia is about it for me.

"Mad" Mike Williams has fought in wars on three continents and pissed off Serbs on two (that we know of). When not covering stories for SOF, he resides with his girlfriend and two Rottweilers. ✎

DEFINITIVE STUDY ON HANDGUN STOPPING POWER?

by Gary K. Roberts & Eugene J. Wolberg

No firearms-related topic is, or should be, of greater concern and importance to law enforcement personnel, and others involved in the use of handguns for self-defense, than the performance of bullets once they strike a human target.

Unfortunately, it would, at present, be no less than a cynical understatement to say that wound ballistics has become a highly charged and intensely controversial subject. Evan Marshall and Edwin Sanow, with no pretense whatsoever at modesty, have entitled their new volume: Handgun Stopping Power: The Definitive Study. But, is it?

Embraced almost without reservation by the popular gun press, while condemned by many in the scientific community involved at various levels with trauma medicine, the Marshall/Sanow presentation warrants closer scrutiny than so far provided by those with no professional or scientific background in terminal ballistics.

In the interest of providing SOF readers with an analysis of this book they are not likely to encounter elsewhere, we are presenting a critical review by two individuals eminently qualified to do so.

Dr. Gary K. Roberts is a U.S. Navy Reserve Dental Corps officer involved in wound ballistic research and combat casualty care training. Eugene J. Wolberg is the Senior Firearms Criminalist at the San Diego Police Department Crime Laboratory. Both are full members of the International Wound Ballistics Association.

— Peter G. Kokalis

Handgun Stopping Power: The Definitive Study by Evan Marshall and Ed Sanow. Paladin Press, Boulder, Colorado, 1992. Hardcover, 240 pages, \$39.95.

Rather than being the "definitive study" of handgun stopping power, as the title self-proclaims, this confusing text provides the reader with a schizophrenic mixture of material. The majority of this book is replete with contradictions, mistakes and unsubstantiated speculation. There are so many gross errors and inconsistencies in the text that it is impossible to mention them all in a short review.

For example, Dr. Mary Case, a board-certified neuropathologist and forensic pa-

thologist with the St. Louis County Medical Examiner's Office and St. Louis University School of Medicine, Dr. Michael Graham, a forensic pathologist with the St. Louis County Medical Examiner's Office and St. Louis University School of Medicine, Colonel Charles Van Way, a general surgeon with the U.S. Army 325th General Hospital, and Dr. Thomas Helling, the Director of Trauma Surgery at St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City, all reviewed Chapter 2. "A Neurologist's View of 'Stopping Power.'" These well-qualified scientists are unanimous in condemnation of this material.

The absurd claims made in this chapter, as well as the similar remarks on pages 6, 7 and 176 regarding the ability of a bullet to remotely stress and shock the central nervous system (CNS), are grossly inaccurate and completely unsupported by any accepted scientific evidence, according to Dr. Case. This pseudoscientific speculation is presented as verified scientific fact, yet an allusion to Göransson's discredited data is the only scientific reference the authors cite to support their unjustified claims. Dr. Helling remarks that this material "relates to anecdotal experience and pure hypothesis," while Dr. Van Way states it "would seem not only to be without supporting evidence, but to contradict common sense."

A thorough review of the scientific literature relating to wound ballistics has failed to identify any valid research papers which demonstrate that projectiles can exert even a remote effect on the CNS.

Throughout the text, Marshall and Sanow offer "street results" which purport to show the "stopping power" and percentage of "one-shot stops" that particular handgun bullets have produced in actual shootings. On page 47 they write, "These street results are the heart and soul

of this book on stopping power." Accurate, documented field data of bullet performance in actual shootings is a crucial adjunct to laboratory test results; unfortunately, valid information is difficult to acquire. Their "field data" appears to be based on anecdotal "war stories" which are incomplete and unverified, as illustrated by the example below:

On page 121, Marshall and Sanow state, "The following five Glaser shootings come



from Gene Wolberg, senior criminologist, San Diego Police crime lab." Yet Wolberg [co-author of this review] testifies that only the third and fifth incidents described are fully documented and verifiable cases. Wolberg states he is only casually aware of the fourth incident and emphasizes that his secondhand information is undocumented. Wolberg denies all knowledge of the first two shooting reports that Marshall and Sanow attribute to him.

On pages 43 and 44, Marshall and Sanow discuss their data collection methodology: "In order to be included in this study, I insisted on either having or at least being able to review some of the following: police reports, evidence technician reports, statements by the victim (if he survived), homicide reports, autopsy results, and photos. Whenever possible, I also talked to the emergency room doctors and attending physicians. Recovered bul-

lets were either personally examined or photographed by me, or I was provided with photographs of the bullets."

But Wolberg never provided Marshall or Sanow any of the reports, test results, photos or evidence which they insist they inspected prior to including a shooting in their data base. As a result, the veracity of their entire data base is questionable. The verisimilitude of the authors' "street result" data is also in doubt, since they violate basic principles of scientific research by not publishing their original data and by claiming "secrecy" when asked to identify source documentation so that independent researchers could inspect their original information and verify their results.

Additionally, Marshall and Sanow's "street results" and "one-shot stop" statistics fail to address what anatomic structures are disrupted and damaged by the bullet. They also ignore the crucial fact that many adversaries are incapacitated due to psychological rather than physiological reasons: They *decide to stop, but are not forced to stop*. While the degree and rapidity of any physiological incapacitation produced by a given bullet is predictable, based on what anatomic structures the bullet disrupts and the severity of the tissue damage, psychological incapacitation is an extremely erratic, highly variable and completely unpredictable individual human response, which is independent of any inherent characteristics of the bullet.

One typical example of the contradictions in this book is the following quotation from page 161, which indicates the authors are fully aware of the meaningless nature of these irrelevant and misleading "street results" and "one-shot stop" statistics:

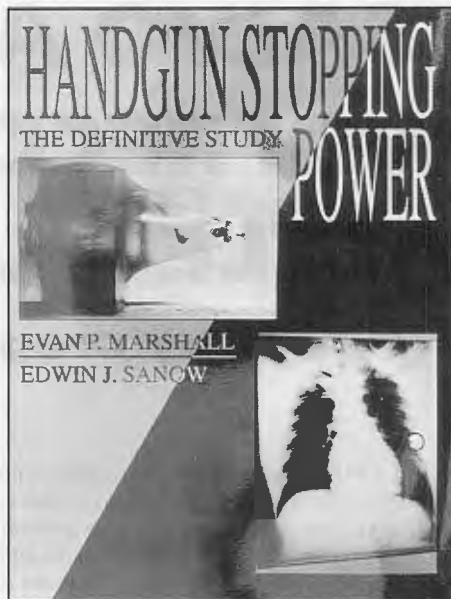
"To make matters worse, all shootings

results are anomalies, or single cases, unique to themselves. The data is strictly anecdotal. As such they blatantly defy direct comparison to one another. Each case is filled with variables almost beyond number. Some of these variables are real. Some are only perceived.

"The real fact-based variables include but are not limited to the victim's state of mind, the presence of alcohol or other behavior-modifying chemicals such as PCP, and the physical size and stamina of the victim. Other variables include the barrel length and bullet impact velocity, the generation and condition of ammo used, and the presence of obstacles that the bullet passed through to reach the intended target.

"The largest variable in any gunfight is the exact path the bullet takes from entry until exit and the exact tissue the bullet engages. Two bullet paths can be identical from entry to exit. If one happens to nick something like a major artery or chip a bone in the spine, the results can be wildly different, even if the rest of the scenario is identical."

The pseudoscientific formulas purported to predict "stopping power" which are presented in Chapter 17 are unsupported by any scientific evidence. These formulas appear to be completely mean-



ingless, since they are based on the irrelevant and misleading "street results" and since the gelatin test results used by the authors appear to be flawed and inaccurate.

The penetration depths of test shots into ordnance gelatin listed by Marshall and Sanow in Table 17-1 of the book are considerably deeper than those reported by other wound-ballistics research facilities throughout the United States,

as illustrated by the following examples: Table 17-1 lists the penetration of the Winchester 147-grain (gr) Jacketed Hollow Point (JHP) as 15.9 inches, while data from the Southeast Missouri Regional Crime Laboratory indicates only a 13-inch average penetration; with the Federal .357 Magnum 125gr JHP, Table 17-1 lists a penetration depth of 13.3 inches, while the FBI reports only a 10.6-inch average penetration; also, Table 17-1 gives a penetration depth of 17.1 inches for the Remington .45 ACP 185gr JHP, while Letterman Army Institute of Research data shows only 10.9 inches in average penetration.

Numerous articles have discussed the poor performance of shallow-penetrating, lightweight, high-velocity JHP and pre-fragmented handgun bullets, and how such ammunition jeopardizes law enforcement officers' lives. These articles strongly urge law enforcement agencies to choose more effective ammunition to prevent officer fatalities due to inadequate bullet performances. Besides increasing officer safety, changing to more effective ammunition would also reduce law-enforcement agency liability.

If an officer were killed or wounded while using issue ammunition which legitimate law-enforcement publications and scientifically accepted wound-ballistics literature had reported to be ineffective, the agency would be considered negligent during any civil litigation. Marshall and Sanow seem to agree with these recommendations when they state on page 23: "Now, instead of 6 to 8 inches of penetration being acceptable, the bullet needs to penetrate 12 to 15 inches. The same deep penetration is needed against a crouched or prone assailant, a felon seated in a car, a shooter seeking cover and exposing only non-vital parts, or a person who shoots

ALL THE TRUTH THAT'S FIT TO PRINT?

In juxtaposition to Roberts' and Wolberg's highly critical review of *Handgun Stopping Power: The Definitive Study*, "gun writers" have largely waxed ecstatic over the Marshall/Sanow book. This is not really surprising, as both authors are frequent contributors to gun magazines — and thus two of "their own." Besides, these publications rarely criticize any product unless it is a government project with no potential for advertising revenue.

What follows are brief examples of the radiant praise heaped upon this book:

"This is a good book with lots of valuable information and some great insights." — Charles E. Petty, *Handgunning*

"... each anecdote is a glittering piece of a complex truth, hot from the crucible of the street." — Massad Ayoob, *American Handgunner*

"Quite simply, it is the most COMPREHENSIVE [their emphasis] study of the subject I have ever seen." — Sgt. Dave Spaulding, *Guns & Weapons*

"This is a frothy mix of accounts of criminals being shot by police or citizens and the authors' own extensive gelatin testing and conclusions on the effectiveness of the handgun ammunition involved." — *American Rifleman*

"... this book is recommended to all who have serious interest in the subject of handgun cartridge effectiveness." — Keith Dyer, *Magnum*

Continued on page 69

SALVO ADVISERS WIN RECOGNITION BATTLE – LOSE WAR?

by Greg Walker

Between 1979 and 1991, troops of the U.S. military group in El Salvador fought a war that was never officially recognized in this country. Some 75,000 Salvadorans died in this war, but because of post-Vietnam War sensitivities, our government never wanted to publicize the activities of Special Forces (SF) troops in Central America. Originally restricted to 55 advisers (hence the nickname "Double Nickel"), the troops received combat pay during this non-war; many men were wounded and more than 15 were killed.

These veterans of El Salvador fighting for recognition of their efforts (See "Blue Badges of Honor," Feb. '92, and "Salvador's Unsung Heroes," July '92.) took their battle to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) national organization. In August 1992, the VFW approved resolution No. 427, which urges the Department of Defense to award the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal to those in the U.S. military group in El Salvador whose assignment to the unit consisted of 60 days or more and entitled them to Imminent Danger Pay.

Those pushing for official recognition of SF service in El Salvador hope that this move by the VFW is a step toward official recognition of their contribution, but the brass in Washington have not yet agreed with them. Here's what the powers-that-be have said about this issue:

"After an assessment of the situation in El Salvador, it was determined the conditions (e.g., scope of operations, etc.) did not warrant the award of the AFEM (Armed Forces Expedition Medal). This decision should in no way be considered as a lack of appreciation for the sacrifices of our U.S. military advisers who have served in El Salvador."

Colonel Kenneth A. Deutsch,
U.S. Army
Office of the Assistant Secretary
of Defense
30 June 1992

"Oftentimes truly meritorious actions or achievement goes unrecognized in the form of official emblems or devices ... Soldiers who served in El Salvador know they have made a difference and should be proud of their service, regardless of whether formal recognition was received."

Major Patricia Sigle,
U.S. Army
Chief
Military Awards
Branch

"Encounter, incident to such participation, foreign armed opposition, or are otherwise placed or have been placed, in such position that, in the opinion of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, hostile action by foreign armed forces was imminent even though it did not materialize."

Executive Order 10977,
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

"Mr. Chairman, my amendment is intended to provide authority for the Secretary of Defense to grant hostile fire pay to our military personnel in Lebanon and El Salvador."

Rep. Pat Schroeder (D-Colo.)
U.S. House Amendment to PL 98-94

"Effective October 1, 1983, the entitlement to hostile fire pay was extended to members of the uniformed services on duty in foreign areas where they were subject to 'the threat of physical harm, or imminent danger on the basis of civil insurrection, civil war, terrorism, or wartime conditions.'"

Hostile Fire Pay
Legislative Authority 37 U.S.C. 310



American adviser pauses for map check with his Salvadoran counterpart during two-day patrol op in eastern El Salvador. The sacrifices of SF advisers like him who helped win Central America's longest war continue to go officially unrecognized. Photo: courtesy author

"The bureaucracy is not well-enough organized or interested to orchestrate a cover-up. Most individuals know nothing; some are willing to invent to be helpful; some are willing to invent to obstruct; some are hateful little shitheads; some are sincere government blockheads."

Former MilGroup Adviser
U.S. Embassy,
El Salvador

Recommendation for Award of the Joint Meritorious Unit Award: "Operating under the potential and real dangers of both political and

physical fire, U.S. armed forces personnel designed and carried out a program to help build the Salvadoran armed forces ... Military group personnel have occasionally been shot at, and one has been killed. They fly, drive, train and teach on a daily basis in the knowledge that they are high-priority targets for enemy attacks. They have been singled out, by name, over Radio Farabundo Marti, for assassination ... I recommend that all members of the military group assigned and attached who have served here for more than a total of 60 days in any capacity between January 1, 1981 and June 7, 1985 be eligible to receive the award."

Mr. David Passage,
Chargé d'Affaires
U.S. Embassy,
El Salvador

Continued on page 68

RIOT CONTROL

Army And National Guard Unprepared To Rule The Mob

by Rex Applegate



Soldiers of Florida National Guard subdue man in Miami whom they suspected of looting; note they are carrying full battle packs and carbines, both inappropriate for riot/disaster control. Although the suspect was armed, there was no evidence he was a looter. Had he run, would they have shot him? Appropriate non-lethal weapons would provide ability to control without killing in such disaster situations. Photo: AP/Wide World

The entire world seems to be in a state of political, economic and nationalistic turmoil. Governments are continually being overthrown by military coups or by civil insurrection, usually preceded by mob violence.

It seems that peaceful, democratic means for changing power structures are becoming increasingly rare: The breakdown of the communist empire in the Balkans has seen national and inter-ethnic rioting followed by civil war; there is chaos in the former Soviet Union; turmoil continues in the Middle East; in South America

and Asia, rioting is almost endemic; natural and man-made disasters in the normally peaceful United States have been followed by massive looting and crime waves. Control of civil disturbances, it appears, is a worldwide problem not peculiar to any one country.

A major new factor has recently been added to the local and international riot scene, however. A violent mob-police confrontation is no longer just a local "happening." Television has brought mob violence occurring in even the most remote corners of the world into our living rooms.

Acts of rioters and military-police countermeasures are exposed, judged, and often emulated.

Riot control measures, degrees of force, and the types of weaponry used are as varied as the countries in which disturbances occur. Civil unrest in many Third World and totalitarian countries is simply not tolerated. The "bayonet in the gut — shoot them down" tactic is usually employed. Permanent crowd- and riot-control forces are maintained in many riot-prone nations such as Mexico, Italy, France and South Korea. These units are usually



Rock-throwing Palestinian in Ramjallah, occupied West Bank, wears ineffective surgical mask against tear gas along with *Keffiyeh* to hide face from Israeli identification. Troops fire rubber bullets, which are not effective at long range, yet potentially lethal at close ranges. Photo: AP/Wide World

“standby” types that do not take part in normal policing duties.

In the United States, initial riot-control responsibility falls on local civil law enforcement and is based on the “necessary” minimum force concept. The primary backup to civil police forces is the National Guard, trained and equipped by the U.S. Army and under command of the state governor. If the Guard is unable to control the situation, it is federalized and placed under command of the regular armed forces when they are ordered onto the scene. This is what happened in Los Angeles this past April and May.

The regular Army has a historically based reluctance on being called in at the outset of major rioting. It much prefers that the more politically palatable citizen-soldiers of the National Guard be used, initially, in any major civil disturbance

operation.

In 1932, in the midst of the Great Depression, a national movement, largely made up of a ragtag army of 22,000 jobless and desperate World War I veterans formed what the press called the “Bonus Army.” They encamped in Washington, D.C., where unsuccessful pleas were made to Congress for prepayment of a veterans’ bonus scheduled for 1945.

Government demands that the “Bonus” marchers disperse were resisted. Fearing incipient revolution, President Hoover ordered Army Chief of Staff Douglas MacArthur to clear the capital. This was forcefully done using cavalry, tanks and infantry. There were numerous casualties and one child died from the effects of tear gas.

As a consequence, the Army received very bad publicity and there were political

repercussions in Congress — on which the military was dependent for its future appropriations. This incident has been one contributing factor to the low priority given to military riot-control training, doctrine, research and funding for non-lethal weapons procurement. In turn, this low priority directly affects the National Guard’s ability to more effectively back up civil law enforcement in major domestic disturbances. Recent incidents such as the Los Angeles riots and the East Coast looting after Hurricane Andrew point to the need for such a domestic force that is properly trained and equipped.

Mob violence, in all its variations, has been a plague on mankind since earliest times. It is interesting to note that rocks, used as ammunition by the most ancient rioters, are still used by today’s mobs. The police forces of ancient times used shields and wooden clubs against rioters — and they still do today.

During the 1960-1970 period, when this country was racked by anti-war demonstrations, civil rights movements and student unrest, the principal non-lethal riot control weapons in use by law enforcement were tear gas agents, 36-inch riot batons, and a smattering of other weapons developed by the private sector. However, the National Guard used the battle rifle in place of the riot baton because this was Army issue, and nothing less lethal was authorized or normally available.

Shok Batons

During the “Sixties,” numerous civil and federal commissions, seminars and “think tanks” made in-depth examinations of the existing field of less-than-lethal riot weaponry. Some new weapons were suggested for police and military employment. None were funded or eventually adopted. Many of the non-lethal weapons suggested had merit only for specific civilian riot- and crowd-control situations (foam machines, slippery “banana peel” compounds, electrically charged streams from water cannon, etc.). The individual members making up these various commissions and seminars were from all types of backgrounds and political persuasions, advocating everything from “feather duster” police batons to the non-lethal injection of individual rioters with tranquilizer darts.

Some effective new police weapons were unable to stand up to the test of public acceptance. A classic case was the 36-inch Shok Baton, a flashlight battery-powered baton that produced a painful but relatively harmless electric shock on the recipient’s skin surface. It was an excellent, non-lethal weapon, useful in moving and separating crowds, breaking up unlawful demonstrations, and dislodging the passive “sit-down” type protesters without the necessity of police physically carrying them away.

Unfortunately, the Shok Baton’s initial successful use brought about its downfall:

It frustrated the purposes of the student anti-war and civil rights movements, and also of the press that supported them. The Shok Baton was compared to the cattle prod, which had been developed as a humane means to move livestock. The hostile press and other media then made the obvious negative comparison between people fighting for their political and civil rights and treatment of cattle.

Consequently, neither civil law enforcement agencies under political control, nor the military where the Shok Baton was first developed could ever fully utilize this effective non-lethal weapon. Logic regarding its employment did not prevail even when it was pointed out that a harmless, invisible shock was less damaging than a blow to the head or thrust from a wooden baton. It was just too tactically effective, and to the media not nearly as newsworthy as the photo of a baton blow on the head portraying "police brutality."

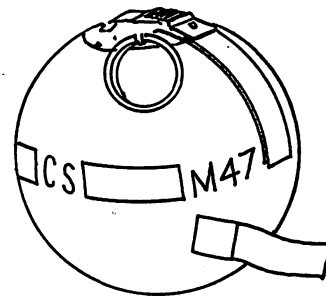
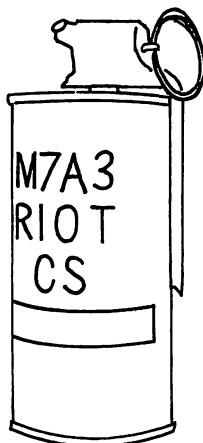
The Shok Baton is still unlisted in police catalogs. However, in the last decade, electric TASER weapons and stun guns seem to have become publicly acceptable police weapons. Perhaps the coming need for more effective non-lethal weapons, and a changed public attitude, will enable the Shok Baton to be employed in police and military counter-riot and crowd control operations.

With the exception of the U.S. Army tear gas agent CS, there have been no major new military developments in riot control weaponry introduced and proven since the riot-prone Vietnam War era. Army research and development efforts during this period were almost exclusively directed toward the war effort and the perceived worldwide communist threat. Yet there was then, as now, an imperative need for less-than-lethal tactical weapons to enable riot forces to selectively and successfully engage and deter individuals or small groups of rioters out of rock and firebomb throwing range (approximately 40 meters).

Landmark Tragedy

In May 1970 on the Kent State University campus, anti-war demonstrations, rioting and destruction of property forced local civil authorities to call in the Ohio National Guard. A small unit of conventionally armed guardsmen, running out of tear gas, lacking other non-lethal weaponry and isolated from other units, panicked. The individual guardsmen, fearing their lives were in danger from the rock-throwing students, resorted to gunfire resulting in four dead and others wounded.

There was much adverse national publicity. After a prolonged investigation and much controversy, the Ohio guardsmen were finally absolved from primary responsibility. This incident emphatically pointed out a need, at that time, for a new degree of non-lethal force for the military to use in quelling riots and dispersing rock-



According to Army FM 19-15, the M47-type CS is now the basic riot-control grenade. Its contents are expelled as a vapor from taped-over port in grenade body, causing grenade to "skitter" around on the ground, making it difficult for rioters to throw back. After seven years this grenade has not seen tactical action, and is still believed to be unissued for training.

throwing demonstrators. The 20th anniversary of the Kent State incident was commemorated with much publicity. Our National Guardsmen have still not been issued any newly developed, non-lethal weapon that would help prevent a similar incident from being repeated today.

The Israeli Problem

A mob throwing rocks, firebombs, or other missiles can cause a fatality, put out an eye, cause a concussion or other serious injury. To the victim hit, it makes no difference who threw the missile, adult or child. For the past five years we have witnessed on TV screens the frustration and inability of the Israeli army to adequately combat this Palestinian tactic, the same one long-encountered in South Korea and by the British troops in Northern Ireland: Small mobile bands of rock-throwing youngsters confront or ambush Israeli army patrols. The troops fire rubber bullets from launchers that, at long range, usually miss due to the inherent inaccuracy of the projectile and its high, slow trajectory.

The children disperse, to reform and throw rocks again. If the rubber bullet scores at close range, serious injury or fatal consequences to the rock thrower results. The Israelis have tried all types of projectiles in attempt to solve this problem in a non-lethal manner, but seem to have settled on rubber bullets for lack of any better alternative. This extract from an Associated Press dispatch of June 1990 says it all:

ISRAELI TROOPS SHOOT, KILL ARAB BOY DURING PROTEST

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli soldiers shot and killed an 8-year [old] Arab boy Tuesday during a confrontation in a West Bank refugee camp.

The victim, Ahmad Salama, died at Al Itihad Hospital in Nablus after being struck by a rubber bullet that penetrated his skull, hospital officials said.

According to the Israeli human-rights group Betselem, 43 Palestinian children ages 12 years and younger have been killed by Israelis.

Original U.S. military riot-control doctrine was based on tactics and weapons more suited for use on a population under military occupation as the result of losing a war. Over the past few years there has been some recognition of the fact that tactics must change to meet the reality of dealing with our own citizenry in domestic civil disturbances. However, with the exception of tear gas agents and projectors, the basic weapon in the hands of the troops in direct contact with rioters is still the rifle and bayonet. No other less-than-lethal weapon has been issued to fill the gap between the use of anti-riot gases and deadly force.

In 1959 the U.S. Army introduced a new riot control agent, designated CS; it was more potent and tactically effective than the previous mild tearing agent, CN. By 1970, CS had been effectively used in Vietnam and in major domestic riot actions by civil law enforcement and by the National Guard. As of this date, CS is the preferred riot-control agent for most of the world's military and civilian counter-riot forces. It is delivered by means of grenades, backpack projectors, helicopters and by fired projectiles.

All tear gas grenades are subject to deterioration and leakage of loading, fuze failure and loss of tactical efficiency after prolonged storage, especially when they are stored under hot, humid conditions.

The Army declared in 1974 that the M7A3-type CS grenade was being replaced for civil disturbance use by the M47 rubber-ball-shaped CS grenade.

When first issued, the M47 grenade had performance problems that created a hazard to the thrower. It is reported that the taped-over exhaust port in the bottom half of the rubber-ball body failed to open under pressure of burning gases in the

grenade body, causing the grenade to explode and making a dangerous projectile out of the metal fuze body. Apparently, to date, no major changes have been made in the M47 grenade itself, but it has recently been declared available for issue. Instead, new regulations were issued requiring the thrower to wear eye protection. This still does not eliminate eye danger to rioting elements when the grenade fails.

The M47 is still in limited supply (approximately 60,000), has not yet been issued for training and probably cannot entirely replace the M7A3 grenade for riot actions as originally intended. The entire Army riot-grenade program requires immediate attention and upgrading, to match the quality of those riot munitions now available to civil law enforcement.

U.S. Army Field Manual 19-15, *Civil Disturbances*, is the current basis for Army and National Guard doctrine, training and

1974 period. It was claimed by the media to have been used in Northern Ireland causing extreme irritation to the skin, and it was dubbed "fire gas."

However, the U.S. Army Chemical and Research Center conducted a thorough and exhaustive research program on all aspects of CR, and it was authorized for use in riot situations. Army doctrine now calls for the use of both agents CS and CR in riot control. Liquid agent CR, projected in a wet spray, or stream, from either handheld or backpack dispersers, is advocated for employment at individual rioters or onto crowds in close contact. However, CS in a pyrotechnic mixture, or in dust form, is declared to be more tactically suitable under favorable wind conditions against large, more distant crowds.

The U.S. Army secured its initial supply of CR for testing from British manufacturers and is still believed to be depen-

by the visual media, its use may cause some second thoughts regarding its issue.

The Ring-Airfoil Grenade was the brainchild of Abraham Flatau of the Aerodynamics Research Group at Edgewood Arsenal. The system was originally intended for application in the lethal weapons field. However, the program was diverted to the non-lethal control of civil disturbance in the early 1970s.

Prior to final acceptance of the RAG system, exhaustive tests were conducted of all known comparable commercial or military less-than-lethal riot projectile weapons. During the considerable time lapse between Army acceptance of the system and its procurement in 1985, the RAG system was approved by the U.S. Army Military Police Command and extensively and successfully demonstrated to civil and federal law-enforcement organizations.

The RAG system consists of two dough-

Developed at the U.S. Army Chemical Research and Development Center under Senior Development Engineer Walter Abrogast, M234-type system has integral sights, can accurately engage even moving targets at 40-60 meter range with 90% hit probability, causing minimal injury even at point-blank range. The Army reportedly has accumulated 20,000 launchers and 500,000 Sting RAG projectiles at a cost of at least \$15 million. For unknown reasons, system has not been issued to National Guard or MP units for training/familiarization. Instead, it is in the process of being declared obsolete, as launchers will not fit M16A2 rifle. Photo: author's collection



tactics. When published in 1985, this manual listed two new less-than-lethal riot weapons as being available: CR, a new riot agent, and the Ring-Airfoil Grenade (RAG) anti-rioter missile system. Seven years have since passed and neither of these weapons has been issued to Army or National Guard units for training or tactical use.

The irritant agent CR, first developed in England in 1967, was declared to be a superior riot-control agent, with six to 10 times more potency than CS, yet less toxicity. The British press gave CR a great deal of negative publicity during the 1973-

dent on them for its basic supply.

Although CR was declared to be an available riot control agent in 1985, it has remained on a "hold" status by order of the U.S. Army surgeon general. The stated reason for the long delay in issue has been that it needed to be first declared "environmentally safe."

Finally authorized for issue in 1992, CR still has not been issued to any Army or National Guard units. Full tactical employment techniques have yet to be worked out. It is also possible that due to the probable negative, dramatic, visual effects on the civilian population when portrayed

nut-shaped rubber projectiles fired from a launcher attached to the M16A1 rifle. The two projectiles — designated Soft RAG and Sting RAG — are soft, round rubber missiles with a diameter of 2.5 inches and a weight of roughly 12 ounces. Sting RAG is a kinetic energy projectile that deters individual rioters by inflicting a painful non-lethal blow on the target individual. The Soft RAG version of the same basic projectile contains a limited amount of powdered CS tear gas, which is also deposited on the target individual.

The M234 launcher weighs 2 pounds and uses a special crimped (blank) car-

tridge to provide the propulsion force. No modifications of the basic M16A1 are required and regular sights are used in the aiming process. The RAG projectiles are launched at a velocity of approximately 200 feet per second and revolve at a spin rate of 5,000 revolutions per minute. The launcher can fire either projectile interchangeably, depending on the tactical effect desired.

The round airfoil shape of the spinning projectile results in a flat trajectory, enabling selected individuals to be hit at distances beyond rioter rock-throwing range (40 meters). Effective range is estimated to be 100 meters when directed at small groups. Muzzle velocity and trajectory are such that targeted rioters are unable to avoid hits by dodging. Due to their design and soft rubber construction, the RAG projectiles minimize possibilities of serious injury or fatality at all operational ranges, including point-blank.

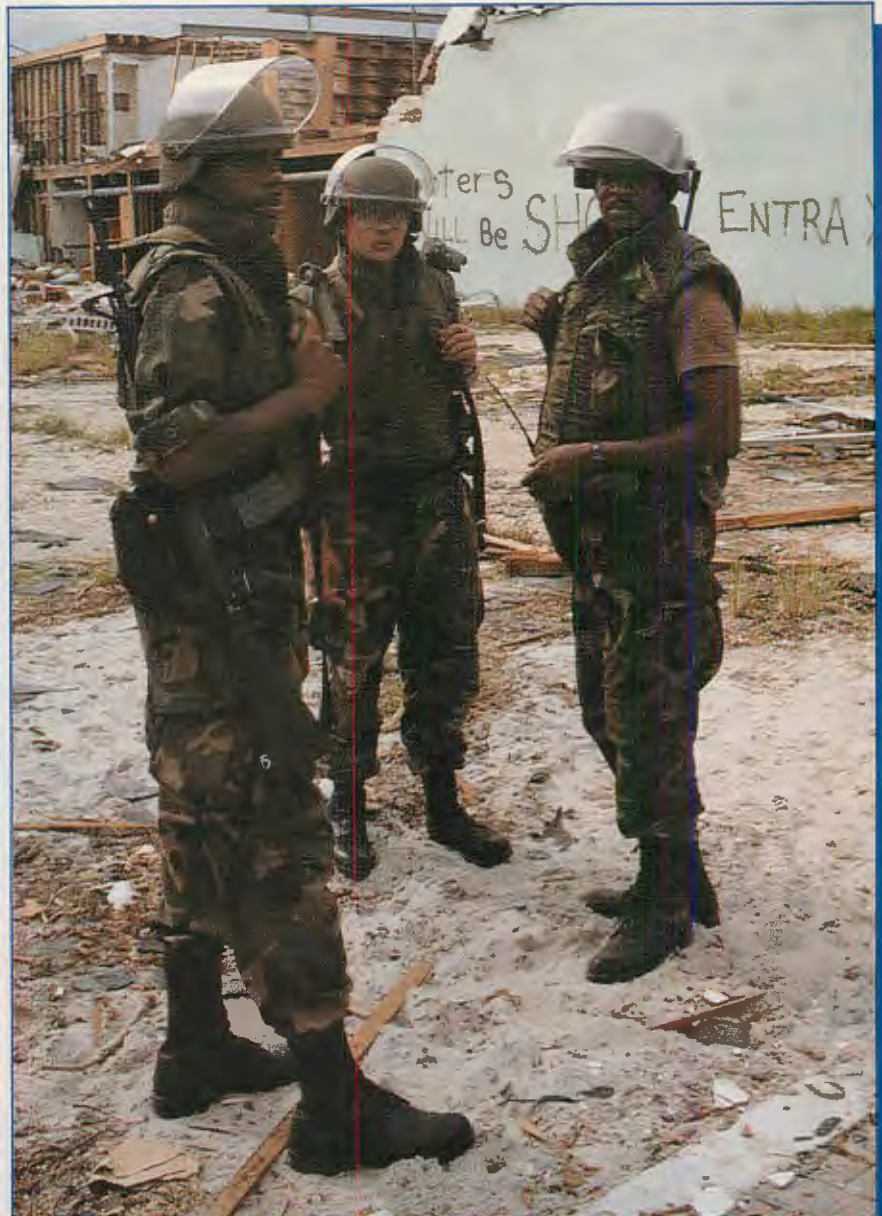
Unused Asset

Over a five-year period beginning in 1985, the U.S. Army stockpiled 20,000 M234 launchers and 500,000 Sting RAG missiles. The Soft RAG version was not inventoried due to production difficulties. It is estimated that from \$15 million to \$20 million was expended in development and procurement. The accuracy, range, effectiveness and "minimum" hazard characteristics of the RAG system provided an additional military flexibility of response to rioters. Although the actual potential value of any new system cannot be fully evaluated until its operational usage, the RAG concept and development appear to be superior to anything now existent, military or civilian.

This year, the U.S. Army began the process of declaring the RAG system obsolete for the stated reason that the launchers originally built for the M16A1 rifle would not fit on the new, thicker-barreled M16A2 model. Apparently it was also feared that liability lawsuits based on RAG use in domestic disturbances would be directed at the Army.

If the RAG system had been available to the Ohio National Guard at Kent State in 1970, that tragedy with its national repercussions could possibly have been avoided. With the Sting RAG and launcher on hand in Army inventory, it is difficult to understand why it was not supplied to the Israeli army as an aid to a deserving ally and for field-testing during the continuing civil troubles there, especially since other riot-control weapons and munitions were exported to that country under our military aid programs.

There is no apparent justifiable reason why the RAG system cannot be retained by issuing an M16A1 rifle along with each launcher. As it now stands, rioters throwing rocks will still be able to do so with impunity while our National Guard will still be armed only with rifles which they



Our National Guard represents the intermediate level of force available to maintain order between normal civil police activity and martial law. Traditionally the first military response to natural disasters and large-scale disorders, Guard units should be trained and adequately equipped for this important mission. Photo: D. Clark

are generally instructed not to fire, and bayonets that are unlikely to see use.

The RAG system remains the best-known, non-lethal answer to the problem of rock-throwing rioters.

Oleoresin Capsicum

Generally, civil law-enforcement riot control equipment and weaponry originated and developed by the private sector is superior to, and more applicable to modern riot situations, than much of the similar military-oriented hardware. For example, *oleoresin capsicum* (OC) may prove to have a much more valuable riot-control potential than the still-mysterious, untried military riot agent CR, when projected from a hand disperser.

A derivative of cayenne pepper, OC

was introduced to law enforcement almost 15 years ago, under the trade name Cap-Stun. It was found to be a much more powerful, and immediate, incapacitating agent than the standard CN loading of Chemical Mace (a brand name), introduced to police in the mid-1960s as a non-lethal alternative to the police baton.

Since its introduction, the mild CN-based tear gas formulation of a Chemical Mace unit had been subject to police criticism due to its ineffectiveness when confronting highly aggravated or emotionally unstable individuals — especially when they were under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

When sprayed in the face, OC has been

Continued on page 71

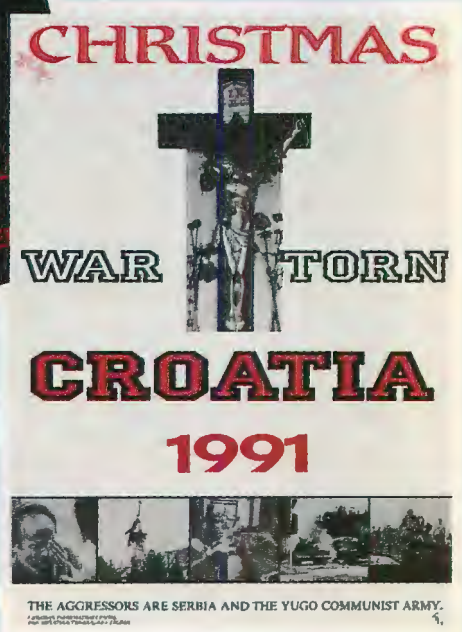
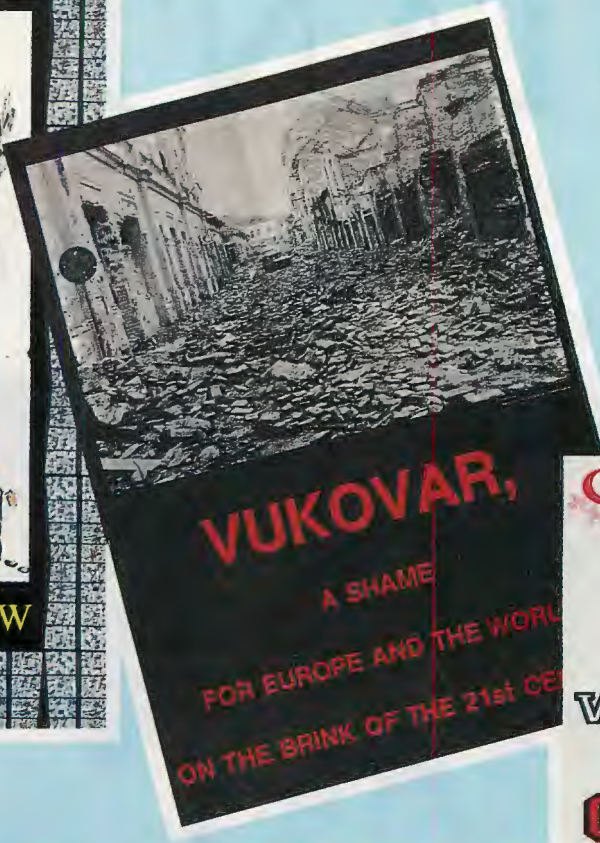
PROPA

There are presently two wars raging in what was once Yugoslavia: one with tanks, armored personnel carriers, mortars, artillery and MiG-23s; the other with propaganda showing effects of the deadly fire on civilians of all sides.

The fact that the material shown is printed in English rather than Serbo-Croatian indicates the people its creators seek to impact are not their own countrymen.

Posters shown in this article were produced by the Croatian ministries of Information and Defense in Zagreb, Croatia, and are widely available.

—Mike Williams



GANDA WAR



PLEASE STOP THE YU ARMY

THE AGGRESSORS ARE SERBIA AND THE YUGO COMMUNIST ARMY.



INSTANT ORD

Embattled Croatia Pulls



No doubt due to the widely held perception that she represented a worthy cause, the breakaway Republic of Croatia received early diplomatic recognition from the international community, led by her former ally Germany. Unfortunately the family of nations also instituted an arms embargo on the region, essentially concurrent with Croatia's recognized independence.

History views the Balkans as prone to bitter, brutal, lengthy wars fueled by the unrevenged wrongs of the previous bitter, brutal, lengthy wars — which are in turn predicated upon earlier bitter, brutal wars and unrevenged wrongs. The family of nations probably did not think an arms embargo would actually cure the cyclical nature of the Balkan disease, but they hoped at least to alleviate some symptoms by withholding fuel from a smoldering fire that has started one world war *so far*.

This left Croatia independent, but without the arms that would guarantee her independence from the powder keg that heretofore had been Yugoslavia. Many weapons were captured in the Croatian insurrection against federal forces. Wealthy expatriate Croats contributed funds and combed the world's arms mar-

kets for whatever could be gleaned to further the fight for independence.

Covertly sympathetic political entities gave aid appropriate to their levels of sympathy and their individual assessments of the risk/gain factor for their own interests. But a nation, or a man, who covets true independence must by definition be capable of supplying his own defense.

Although she represents the technological high-water mark of the Balkans, Croatia has never produced arms. A year ago, her fledgling government was preoccupied with setting up a working infrastructure to concurrently govern and defend: It had neither resources nor personnel to form an ordnance establishment. But in the private sector there was an in-place cadre of engineering and manufacturing talent, with a passion for the success of both a free Croatia and a free enterprise system.

As is usually the case when an unfettered free-enterprise contingent is aware of a need, they fill it promptly. In the March 1992 *Soldier Of Fortune*, this correspondent related how the first indigenous Croatian weapon, the HS-91 9mm submachine gun, went from concept to test-firing in only 10 days. On my recent return to Croatia and Bosnia, I found the HS-91 widely issued to military, police

Good optics, in-place iron sights, built-in bipods, flash/sound diffuser, serious calibers, detachable box magazines — the features snipers want have been built into the Elmech EM-922/EMM-992 sniper rifles. Photo: Zeljiko Hanich

and civilian users in an evolved form designated the "Pleter '91."

What astonished this writer, however, was that in the six months I had been out of theater, the Croatians had literally pulled an indigenous arms industry out of their hats. I found *four* private-sector submachine guns now in production, plus a sniper rifle system, a new pistol, an 82mm mortar — in addition to ordnance items such as rockets, explosive ordnance, ammunition and more. I was also privileged to examine a new bullpup assault rifle in working preproduction form. Croatian designed and produced arms are now being offered for *export*. And now they even have Croatian gun publications.

The Elmech EM-992 in .308 Winchester (7.62x51mm NATO) and the EMM-992 in .300 Winchester Magnum (7.62x66mm) are optically sighted, manually operated, turn-bolt repeating rifles designed for use against personnel targets out to 900 meters and 1,200 meters re-

NANCE

An Arms Industry Out of Her Hat

by Robin Anthony

spectively, and against vehicular and matériel targets at closer ranges.

A cursory review of the EM-992/EMM-992 rifles would lead one to think their designers were privy to the Mission Essential Needs Statement (MENS) that led the U.S. Army to adopt the M24 sniper system — but that the Croats got it right the first time: Consider for instance the attached bipods, dual-caliber capability through changing barrels, detachable box magazine, quick-detachable optics, fixed iron sights, etc.

The designers describe the breech system as "Mauser." Its ancestry obviously is of the Mauser turn-bolt family, but a DNA analysis just might indicate a close brush at some point with a Model 700 Remington.

The barrel and receiver are forged and machined from ordnance steel, well-executed and given an oxide finish. At the left rear of the receiver is a spring-loaded bolt release, which when depressed allows removal of the bolt for routine maintenance. On the right rear of the receiver near the bolt handle is a pivoting safety lever. The receiver is anchored in the stock by two strong bottom-to-top through-bolts mounted in conventional fashion.

The barrels, which are free-floating, have four grooves with right-hand twists of 2.6 turns in a barrel length of 67cm for the EM-992, and 2.6 turns in a barrel length of 69cm for the EMM-992. A muzzle-brake/flash-sound-diffuser is machined into the muzzle. The holes of the muzzle brake are drilled radially to the line of bore, but at varying angles to scatter the blast and flash, and to reduce the overall firing signature of the rifle. Later manufacture of this sniper system will include an attachable silencer to further reduce the firing signature.

The detachable, pressed-steel box magazines hold seven rounds of .308 or five rounds of .300 Winchester Magnum. The magazines are identical except that the .308 magazine has a spacer block of high-temperature synthetic in its front, held by two pins.

The stock is a robust monolith of laminated and synthetic-impregnated beech wood, reminiscent of the World War II

German K98k Mauser stock. It is given a utilitarian finish and is lightly stained green to give a pleasing overall camouflage effect. On the fore-end are mounted a pair of telescoping, forward-folding aluminum bipods of the Harris type. The butt mounts a sporting-type rubber recoil pad.

Conventional open iron sights usable to 400 meters are mounted on the barrel just forward of the chamber and to the rear of the muzzle. The integral barrel ring and receiver bridge have bases for a set of lever-disconnect, pivoting scope rings. Although at some future point the Elmech rifles may mount a domestic scope, they now come with a Leupold Police/Target 3.5-10X42 scope for use at ranges of up to 900 meters or 1,200 meters, depending on caliber. The rifle is designed to accept passive infrared scopes interchangeably with the conventional optics.

The rifle is fitted with a Timney trigger, adjustable for a pull of 0.9kg to 1.7kg. Muzzle velocity with .308 rounds is 897 meters per second, and with .300 Winchester Magnum 1,035m/sec. Factory accuracy specifications are a five-shot group with maximum spread of 2cm at 200m, 7cm at 600m, 21cm at 900m, and 38cm at 1,200m.

The sniper system comes in a soft-sided, waterproof, foam-padded case that is intended to be folded and used as a firing rest. The issue sling is made from

impregnated linen. A zippered case is included that contains routine cleaning-maintenance gear. The rifle, complete with optical sight, weighs 6.05kg and has a 1.23-meter length.

Information regarding options, prices and availability are available from:

Mr. Darko Durski, Chief of Production, Elmech, P. Hatza 16, 41000 Zagreb, Croatia; phone: 011-38-41-434-855; fax: 011-38-41-275-501.

PHP MV-15 Pistol

One of the immediately desirable weapons in any new country is the pistol. Handguns are of small overall military significance, but of considerable use for police and civilian personal defense — particularly in a new nation that has a legacy of internal strife.

Compared to a battle rifle, a pistol can be designed and placed in production in a relatively short time — at least it can be by the private sector. Such was the case with the MV-15. As there exists a wealth of already-proven handgun design features that have been perfected in practice, the logical shortcut to production is to select the design features you want and meld them into a new envelope that suits your requirements and production capabilities.

Such again is the case with the PHP (*Prvi Hrvatska Pistol* — First Croatian Pistol), MV- (initials of designer)

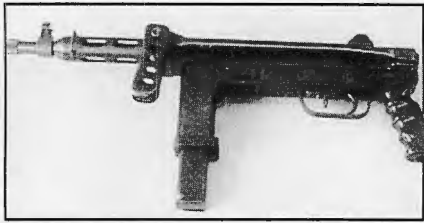
PRIVATE-SECTOR ARMS — PRIVATE-SECTOR ARMY?

Just as cobbled-together ordnance may or may not function, ad hoc military units formed from what can be dredged up may also be functional or not, depending on the quality of command and personnel. One organization that *does* function — and wants experienced "internationals" with clean records — is the Croatian volunteer army unit led by Commander Zeljko Glasnovic, now defending Tomislavgrad, Herzegovina. His is a disciplined, professional unit loved by the locals and lionized in the regional press.

Nationality is not important — Glasnovic is Canadian — but military experience and character (and documents to prove it) are.

Soldiers with military experience and a clean record (and a supporting CV) have linked up by flying into Zagreb, Croatia, then taking Croatia Airlines to Split (\$31 fare, 50-minute flight), then taking the bus to Tomislavgrad, Herzegovina. Croatian volunteer army headquarters is near the bus station, and locals guide incoming volunteers. Volunteers should bring uniforms, knife, canteen, LBE, cold-weather gear, personal effects — and a good CV.

— Don McLean



Sokac makes extensive use of synthetics in grip, lower receiver and even magazine housing. Early models had MP38/40-type folding stock, muzzle brake. Sokac P-1 borrows basic design from Soviet PPSH41, incorporates side-fold stock of Beretta M-12.
Photo: Bruno Radovcic

15 (magazine capacity in 9mm Parabellum). On handling this pistol for the first time, one is struck by a sense of newness/déjà vu. It fits the hand well, feeling rather like a slightly muzzle-light M-92 Beretta and looking like a second- or third-generation Walther P.38.

Measuring 224mm from hammer to muzzle and weighing 0.98kg empty, the PHP MV-15 has a machined and precipitation-hardened aluminum alloy frame, into the butt of which fits the 15-round, single-feed, staggered-row steel magazine. The magazine release is on the frame near the lower left rear of the trigger guard.

The cutaway-style steel slide holds the barrel and barrel-locking mechanism. Both of these components show strong P.38 design influence. The double-action trigger also is schematically similar to a P.38, but is much smoother and easier to cycle on double-action. Both the frame and slide are longer than a P.38, allowing the use of a single recoil spring that lies in the frame and engages a projection at the bottom front of the slide. The shape of the frame and butt is similar to a P.38 in silhouette, but thicker due to the larger-capacity magazine. The barrel is somewhat longer than a P.38; factory sources promise a resulting higher muzzle velocity.

Fixed square-notch and square-blade sights are fitted to the rear of the slide and muzzle, respectively. The extractor and ejector mechanism are similar to a P.38's.

The pistol readily fieldstrips into five groups for cleaning and maintenance: barrel, slide, frame, magazine and recoil spring.

Black synthetic grip panels surround the butt, retained by a conventional screw. The hammer spring is housed in the backstrap. The front of the trigger guard is recurved. The aluminum frame is anodized black with steel parts salt-blued. Fit and finish on the specimen I examined were to a high commercial standard.

Even as a private-sector enterprise, to have designed, tooled for and have in production a sophisticated design within the material constraints of a siege economy in only a few months is impressive indeed.

Future production is scheduled to make use of precision castings where appropri-

ate to cut production costs. Production rates are currently classified, but the specimen I examined, from fairly early in the PHP MV-15's production, bore a serial number in the 200s.

Zagi-M91 Submachine Gun

Much of the current fighting in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina is set in terrain and of a tactical nature to be suitable for the employment of submachine guns. There is no easily identifiable front line and the action takes place mostly in isolated pockets and in urban settings. In these conditions where the range is short, the submachine gun is a useful weapon. When it is what is available, it becomes the weapon of choice.

I had the opportunity to examine four new submachine guns that are in production, and a dozen or so in prototype or experimental forms. These are private-sector designs, MP 38-types approved by the Croatian government for production and procurement. The first was the Zagi-M91.



An UZI is an UZI, is an UZI — but this one was made in Croatia. Selector settings are marked "R-P-Z" and receiver bears name Ero, after local opera-character hero.
Photo: Bruno Radovcic

The basic design and caliber of the Zagi-M91 is that of the classic in beer-can ordnance, the World War II-era British Sten, or more precisely the MP 3008, the Nazi copy of the Sten that used an MP38-type magazine in a vertical orientation, as does the Zagi. The Zagi-M91 incorporates several other design features of more modern submachine guns. It has a full-length perforated barrel jacket, not unlike the Swedish M45 that was the original sophisticated knockoff of the Sten. The barrel and jacket are removable with a special wrench.

The telescoping stock is styled somewhat like an H&K MP5, but comprises simple round rods which slide, lock and release much like the U.S. M3/M3A1 submachine guns. It is fitted with a minimalist synthetic buttcap. The pistol grip, shaped similarly to an MP5, is black synthetic molding that includes the grip, trigger guard and side panels for the lower receiver group.

Sheet-metal pressings and weldments are common throughout. The steel compo-

nents are well-finished and salt-blued.

Like the later-model Stens and the Sterling designs which sprang from them, the bolt on the Zagi-M91 has peripheral grooves, designed to collect and sequester dirt and foreign matter that might interfere with operation. The safety mechanism on the Zagi-M91 is as on the early Sten: Retract the bolt handle, turn it to the left, and ease it forward into a safety slot in the receiver tube.

The Zagi-M91 fires semi- or full-automatic from an open bolt. The selector is a transverse button above and forward of the trigger. The sights are fixed, mounted at the front and rear of the receiver tube.

Fieldstripping is accomplished by removing two retainer pins, one on the front of the frame to the rear of the magazine well, and one at the top of the pistol grip, which allows the receiver-barrel group to be lifted from the frame. To remove the bolt and driving spring: With the bolt forward, push the buttcap retainer button, remove the buttcap and withdraw the bolt and spring from the receiver tube.

The Zagi-M91 weighs 3.15kg empty, is 565mm long with the stock folded and 850mm in length with the stock retracted. The barrel is 225mm long; the capacity of the MP-38 magazine is 32 rounds. Muzzle velocity in 9mm Parabellum is 389.8 meters per second.

Croatian UZI

When in a hurry to produce weapons, one technique that works is to borrow design ideas. Another that works well is to borrow a complete existing design — and if you can get it, the tooling already in place to produce it, as well as all the spares, semi-finished parts and magazines your agents can glean from the world's arms bazaars.

Some four decades ago, the UZI submachine gun was placed in production by Israeli Military Industries and by the Fabrique Nationale plant in Belgium under license. It quickly became the most widely distributed submachine gun in history, and for good reason. In simplest analysis, the UZI is a clever redesign by Israeli Major Uziel Gal of the Czech designer Vaclav Holec's Model 23 and Model 25 submachine guns. The UZI, however, is not merely a design knockoff: Many new features have been added, and the whole re-engineered for ease of production and maintenance. When introduced there was no design as good; and if you need a submachine gun today, it is still hard to find one better.

The salient features of the UZI are so well-known I will not review them at this point, except to note that the Croatian-made UZI has them all, as it is a line-for-line copy, apparently made on original tooling. There are two possible sources of original tooling — Israel and Belgium — and Croatian authorities are not discussing this or any other facet of aid they may

be receiving or not receiving from any parties. Word "on the street" is that tooling and/or spares came from Belgium. But that may be *disinformatzia*: Keep in mind the shocked sense of déjà vu that Israelis expressed when the world saw film of Bosnians, rounded up and starving to death behind Serbian barbed wire.

Many magazines in evidence with the Croatian UZI are not new, and many UZI



Zagi-M91 submachine gun is eclectic mix of features from Sten, Schmeisser, H&K — that work well together.

Photo: Bruno Radovcic

magazines were in use earlier on other Croatian submachine guns, which had been designed to accept UZI magazines because of their availability.

Markings on Croatian-produced UZIs vary, and many do not have serial numbers, leading one to believe some have been assembled at least partly from existing or semi-finished parts. Standard markings for the selector switch on Croatian UZIs are "R-P-Z," respectively for automatic, semi-automatic and safe (standard marks on export models were "A-R-S-"). Some were also observed with "N.-S.-VI" selector markings. All new Croatian production receivers are marked "ERO" below the left-rear sight ear. Ero was a brilliant character in a popular Herzegovinian historical opera.

All Croatian-produced UZIs I observed had the folding metal stock and were observed in the hands of both civil police and military units. All I examined bore evidence by their markings of having been produced in Croatia.

As with the other indigenous Croatian submachine gun designs rushed into production as a free-enterprise answer to Serbian sadism, the Sokac design leans heavily on proven, existing designs — in this case the Soviet Shpagin PPSH41 and Sudarev PPS43.

Sokac P-1 Submachine Gun

The salient feature copied in the Sokac is a receiver that hinges just forward of the magazine well. Pushing the release button on the rear of the receiver allows the top half of the receiver to pivot up and forward, exposing the bolt, which may then be withdrawn to facilitate cleaning and maintenance.

The bolt is a close copy of the PPSH-41, with a sliding member on the cocking handle that may be pushed transversely to

lock the bolt in the receiver, thus functioning as a safety. The upper receiver is made of steel tubing with the barrel permanently attached to the ventilated jacket.

The selector switch is mounted inside the trigger guard, as on a PPSH41.

The front sight is mounted on the barrel; the rear sight to the rear of the receiver. Early models had a muzzle brake. Later models do not, although the muzzle is threaded, with a knurled thread-protector nut installed so that a muzzle brake or suppressor can be attached if desired. Early models had an down-folding skeletal stock similar to the German MP38 and MP40; current production of the Sokac has a single-leg, folding butt, hinging stock that pivots at its rear to fold along the left side of the receiver, much like a Model 12 Beretta.

An interesting feature of the Sokac is that its lower frame, to include the pistol grip and magazine well, is molded from black synthetic. The magazine catch is at the rear of the magazine housing. The 25-round steel box magazine is unique to this weapon.



New Croatian PHP MV-15 pistol shows design influence from proven features of Walther, Beretta. Note P.38-type pivoting lock. Photo: Bruno Radovcic

Despite the use of synthetic components, the Sokac P-1 is heavy, at 3.85kg empty. The weight, and the length of the receiver, make it an easy weapon to control with the stock extended. Length with stock folded is 535mm; extended 810mm. Although in 9mm Parabellum, the Sokac has a cyclic rate of 1,024 rpm.

SOF introduced the 9mm Pletet '91 as the HS-91 in this past March's issue. It was the first serially produced weapon in Croatia's history. Early production had many variants-within-a-design, to allow use of what magazines might be available and what materials could be procured. Since that time, the weapon has taken a standardized form and is now designated the Pletet '91, a veiled reference to the classified place it is manufactured.

On our first night in Osijek during this tour, I stepped out of the hotel to make sure the pressures of war hadn't stopped *pivo* (beer) production, and the lone patrolling soldier who asked for my papers and purpose was carrying a Pletet '91. He assured this correspondent it was a very good weapon, well-liked by soldiers.

The Pletet '91 in its final evolutionary form is essentially a tubular receiver with a bolt, barrel lock nut, barrel, etc., in the fashion of a Sten, except that magazine is mounted vertically. The telescoping wire stock is as on a U.S. M3 "grease gun." The UZI magazine is used, and the magazine catch appears to be identical to an UZI's.

The trigger/sear mechanism is contained in a square box welded to the bottom of the receiver, and the whole of the lower receiver is enclosed in an aluminum casting that also comprises the pistol grip. The cocking knob rides in a slot on the top of the receiver, slightly offset to port, so not to interfere with the sights. The sights are mounted on the front and rear of the receiver.

One interesting feature of this full-auto-only weapon is the added grip safety, which is located on the *front* of the pistol grip so it will not be inadvertently disengaged in a fall. Although still a submachine gun in its most basic form, the bolt now has peripheral grooves to collect debris, and the front sight is an offset screw post, thus adjustable for both windage and elevation, retained by a locknut. The Pletet '91 has a cyclic rate of 630 rpm, is 519mm

long with stock retracted — 699mm with it extended — and weighs 3.15kg empty.

Having been the first indigenous weapon on the scene, the HS-91/Pletet '91 has received considerable distribution among civilian and official users.

The speed with which a people, having no experience at arms making but with a passion to be free, have fielded a half-dozen good-quality indigenous weapons should hold a lesson not only for the Serbians, but for all tyrants as well.

Robin Anthony is the nom de plume of a freelance writer and proprietor of a technical equipment repair service in the United States.



DESERT SAND, ROLLING STEEL

Soviet-made multi-purpose tracked vehicle dispatched during Coalition attack into Kuwait. Photo: courtesy Art Muti

The skies blackened and the clouds closed over us as we rumbled into Iraqi territory. It was 1530 on 24 February — my birthday. Scanning the horizon for any sign of activity — aircraft, birds, the enemy — I thought to myself, *one hell of a birthday present.*

To my left and right, tactical vehicles from the 4th Battalion, 18th Infantry (Mechanized), poured through breaches in the great sand berm dividing Saudi Arabia from Iraq. Fourteen M1A1 Abrams tanks, detached from 4/8 Cav — dubbed Team Whiskey, one with a mine-plow and three with mine-rollers — led the way, followed by 51 M2A1 and A2 Bradley fighting vehicles. Behind them streamed the battalion mortar platoon in their six M106A2 mortar carriers and their two M577 Fire Direction Centers in their Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs).

Behind the tactical vehicles came the attachments: engineers, a psychological operations team, and an MLRS (multiple launch rocket system) platoon. The combat trains followed, made up of maintenance crews, a medical aid station, fuelers and ammo trucks. The lines of vehicles crossing the border stretched far back into the neutral zone, like snakes weaving in the sand.

In the neutral zone, the buffer between Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, we exchanged our camouflage BDUs (Battle Dress Uniforms) for drab NBC (Nuclear, Biological, Chemical) uniforms. We wrapped M9 chemical detection paper around our upper arms, wrists, thighs and ankles. Strips of it were also placed at strategic points around the outsides of the vehicles. On contact

with a liquid nerve agent, the paper would turn to a rusty brown. This warning would give us a few minutes to say our final prayers, in case we couldn't reach our Mark I atropine injector kits.

Passing the berm, the battalion formed into three columns, 100-300 meters apart and 50-100 meters between vehicles. I was a sergeant in the mortar platoon, assigned as track commander for the platoon leader's vehicle.

Forming For The Assault

First Lieutenant Jones, our platoon leader, had been with us for quite a while. We knew him well and trusted him to lead us into battle. Our bumper number was "HQ 4.2" — Four-Deuce: the size of our mortar tube. Our motto was "Death From Above."

We positioned ourselves between the two sections in our platoon, Alpha in front and Bravo in back. Guns No. 1 and No. 3 rode in front, followed by first-section FDC (Fire Direction Center) and then the No. 2 gun. Bravo section ran the same formation behind us.

During training in Saudi Arabia, we had practiced maneuvering from a column formation — the traveling formation — to the fire formation, a lazy "W." On command, the No. 1 gun would swing out to the left and in, No. 3 would sweep to the right and in, while the No. 2 gun sped around the FDC and made a U-turn. Then all three gun tracks would stagger themselves. Bravo Sec-

18th Mech Runs Over Republican Guards

by Matt Whitcher

tion followed the same procedure. The two FDC tracks would move into the center between the sections, next to the platoon leader's track, and coordinate fire from there, sending the data to the guns verbally. The direction of fire was determined by the forward observers.

I gripped the handle of the M2 .50-caliber machine gun mounted in front of me, trying in vain to steady myself as we pounded over the terrain. My chest occasionally slammed into the worn rubber ring encircling the M113A2 APC's hatch.

Reaching with my left hand, I flipped up the feed tray on the .50, removed the armor-piercing belt of ammo, pulled the bolt to rear and released it. I did it twice, quickly, checking the action of the bolt as it slid back and forth. In the desert, you had to be careful with lubricants; too much and you would pay for it later cleaning oily sand from your weapon, not enough and you risked jamming under fire. Satisfied that it worked, I replaced the belt in the feed tray, but did not cycle a round. One thing we were all terrified of was shooting one of our own. M16s had full 30-round magazines inserted, but their chambers were empty. It took only a

Coalition spearheads encountered destroyed Iraqi vehicles of all types, testimony to the effectiveness of complete air superiority. Photo: courtesy Art Muti



fraction of a second to chamber a round in your weapon, but less time to accidentally kill a friend.

Each of the mortar tracks had two AT-4 antitank weapons and almost 1,000 rounds of .50 ammo. In addition, the gun tracks hauled 88 rounds of high-explosive mortar ammo. The FDC tracks carried two fragmentation grenades and two red-and-green smoke grenades per vehicle, along with one case each of claymore mines that the crews used as tables for card-playing and to stand on to see out their TC hatch.

We stopped late that night. After maintenance and refueling we set about digging our "coffins" — survivability positions 6 feet long, 3 feet wide and 6 feet deep. That night I slept with a new lover — an M16A2 cradled tightly in my arms.

The next morning, 25 February, it began to rain. Not hard, but a slow, thin drizzle you could barely discern, yet always feel.

Morning chow was on the move: We stuffed MREs (Meals, Ready to Eat), in the heater pipe of our track — anything tasted better warm.

We moved throughout the day, pausing only for maintenance breaks and to refuel. The M1 tanks took advantage of this time to blow their air packs — large filters attached to their back grills, used to catch the fine sand that had the potential to devastate everything from turbine engines to optic gunsights.

Prisoners were taken that day. Iraqi soldiers, identified as Republican Guards forces by the red triangles on their sleeve insignia, were found wandering around the desert in the general direction of the border. Later that afternoon we stumbled upon a makeshift tent holding three Iraqi soldiers. Apparently they had had enough walking, so they put together a shelter and waited for the Americans to come to them. As they were searched, an Iraqi looked up at his captor and asked, "What took you so long?"

We had no facilities to handle captured Iraqis. They were not our mission, so we gave them as much food and water as they could carry and told them to follow our tracks back toward Saudi Arabia, where they would work their way through the combat trains and official channels to the rear. Someone would pick them up eventually. They waved to us as we departed, MREs and water bottles held tight against their chests as they watched us move further and further under a black sky into the unknown.

That night, after we stopped and the "coffins" were dug, I lay awake and listened to rumbling off in the distance. The sound came in peeling drumrolls across the ground, a static display of thunderous roars. The earth shook with every thunderclap, causing bits of sand to tumble down the sides of my hole. I wondered if this was what an earthquake felt like.

Too soon, the morning of 26th February came as an imperceptible change in the black and gray of a dead sky over an eerie, lunar landscape.

I cut open an MRE on the move, fished around inside for a minute and pitched the brown package over the side. My appetite was where the sun was, or else I was start-

Catastrophic turret failures, as evidenced in this photo of a turretless T-54, were not uncommon among Soviet-manufactured Iraqi tanks. Photo: courtesy Art Muti





Devastatingly effective air strike caught this wagon-mounted anti-aircraft gun by surprise. Photo: courtesy Art Muti

ing to get a little nervous.

It was slow going that day. A lot of vehicles broke down, including mine. Bravo section's FDC track also bit the dust. We got off lucky, having only to replace two road wheels. The FDC was down for the count, needing a new transmission.

At 1730 we halted for a hot refuel. The rain, which had fallen

dry. The water from my canteen tasted tepid and metallic, doing nothing to slake my thirst.

Abruptly we stopped. Ahead I could see where the battalion was making a wide sweeping turn to the left. The radio still chattered away with reports from the 2nd ACR. One of their Bradleys had been hit by dismounted enemy with multiple RPG fire. Luckily, it had bounced off.

I sat up on the back hatch with a set of binoculars, scanning ahead, but the light was fading fast and I could barely make out the Bradleys in the turn ahead. When I saw them begin to move forward, I jumped back in the hatch.

Darkness closed in as we entered the turn. I looked around, but could not see past a few-hundred meters. In the desert, this is equivalent to seeing halfway down your arm. It made me disoriented, with no feel for the space around me.

Lock & Load

The air was still, almost torpid. Pungent wreaths of diesel fuel and burnt oil hung there from the fuelers that had just passed. I cycled a round in the .50 and loaded my M16, with the safety on. Next to me on the top of the track lay an AT-4, ready for use.

The column moved at a snail's pace. Off to our right rolled the tactical action center, the battalion commander's Bradley. Alpha Company's Bradleys were to our immediate front, 100-200 meters away. Charlie Company's Bradleys were off to our left flank, but the combat trains were coming up our ass, along with the Bravo Company Bradleys that were guarding them, and they were bunch-

Black plumes on horizon are incoming enemy artillery during Coalition advance in southern Iraq, 27 February. Photo: Matt Whitcher



off and on since 25 February, now fell in a heavy drizzle.

Slowly the columns moved forward. I saw Bradleys to my left, right, front and rear moving off to rejoin their formations after the hot refuel. The radios began to squawk with more traffic than normal.

Our track had two radios in it, one for the command net — the frequency our battalion commander used to communicate orders to the company commander on and receive up-to-the-minute information from the S3 — and the platoon net, the radio used to communicate with and to direct the mortar platoon.

Through my combat vehicle crewman helmet, I could hear the command net. The 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment was engaged in a pitched battle to our forward flank — they were taking a lot of hits. Suddenly I realized if *they* had joined with the enemy, then we would too. My heart began to beat faster and my mouth went

ing up in the turn; this could mean trouble.

Ahead of us, somewhere out there in the shadows, sat the Tawakalna Division of the Republican Guards, dug in and waiting. Our mission was to take them out and leave no enemy vehicle

Captured cache of Jordanian-supplied ammo — dates on shipping documents showed them to be from December 1990. Photo: Matt Whitcher



intact. We were to obliterate the Iraqi war machine and leave them nothing to fight with.

The radio snarled with traffic. I didn't pay attention until I heard a shout over the command net: "*Holy shit! There they are!*"

Time stood still, and then I saw the light.

The ground and sky erupted in a hailstorm of tracer fire ahead of us from the Bradley's 25 mike-mike and the *brrrrraaappp* of their 7.62mm coaxial gun. In the distance I heard sporadic, thunderous booms from the M1's main gun. Invisible rounds whizzed by, from ricochets or from the enemy guns pointed at us.

Behind us, 500 meters and to the right, the ground opened up and rounds from the MLRSs began their ascent toward enemy targets too far ahead for us to see. I watched as they arced up from the other side of a small dune, their bright orange trails iridescent against the backdrop of a coal sky.

The Whites Of Their Eyes

The lieutenant yelled into the hand-mike for us to form into our lazy "W" battle formation. We were less than 200 meters from the FEBA (Forward Edge of Battle Area) and were setting up to fire rounds on an enemy so close we could spit on them. According to U.S. Army doctrine, we were way too close — but we were also out of time to re-position.

In less than two minutes, the platoon was set and ready to fire, but no missions were sent our way. The only thing coming over the net were permission-to-fire requests from some Bradley commanders to the battalion commander, which were stopped by him saying: "*Just use your head. If they're enemy, shoot them.*"

Everybody's adrenaline was pumped to the max, so much so that after a few minutes of getting no fire missions, some of the gun squad leaders wanted to start dropping rounds down the tubes and *hope* they hit an enemy target.

I stayed on the .50 and slipped on a set of PVS 7-Bravos (night-vision goggles). They were the newest in the Army inventory, and you could spot a lit cigarette miles away with them. My main concern was enemy dismounts slipping in low to the ground and hitting us with RPG fire.

A mortar platoon is an open target to ground attack, and our tracks were

not exactly fortresses; an M113/106 is basically a steel box. A heavy-caliber machine gun would slice through our armor like butter and, once inside, the rounds would bounce around like rubber balls, shredding everything in their paths.

Finally, one of the companies called in a fire mission: enemy suppression, three rounds per gun, eighteen total. Seconds later the data was transferred to the guns, and one by one the mortars fired into the night. Even in the roar of battle their sound was unmistakable. The target was so close that we could hear our rounds impacting. The lieutenant stayed on the command net and reminded all commanders that we were there to *support* them, so use us, *Goddamn it!*

Other missions began to arrive. Our forward observers found a vehicle asking to die, so we put steel on target. Battle damage assessment — one destroyed BMP, unknown KIA/WIA.

To our rear, I began to see and hear Bradley 25 mike-mike. Not to be left out of the action, Bravo Company had started servicing any target they could lay their sights on, firing *across*

the field trains in order to do it. The Bravo commander asked permission to move up to engage the enemy, but was denied — over and over again.

To our front it looked like a fireworks display on the Fourth of July. I could see several enemy vehicles taking an incredible pounding. At one point two Bradleys crossfired into a BRDM. Another enemy vehicle caught fire directly ahead: a BMP-60 Papa, but that didn't stop the Bradleys from shooting at it.

I pulled off the goggles. It was difficult to see through them because of the bright tracer fire — your vision becomes screwy. The MLRSs were still firing from their position. After a while, I could tell from the *whoosh* behind me and the glow that momentarily shimmered against the desert sand that they were still up and active.

A dazzling explosion illuminated the Bradley line ahead, briefly blinding me. Fuzzy stars danced in my head. My ears pounded from the thunderous blast. The radio speaker was set to full volume; from atop the track, I heard a voice on the net say "*My God, that was a Bradley!*" Everything became quiet for a moment, except for the curses of unknown soldiers on the radio as they damned their enemy and swore to their god. The firing resumed a hundredfold. BMPs, BRDMs and Soviet-made tanks that were already destroyed and smoking now became twisted masses of molten junk.

Then the Alpha commander broke in among the cacophony and radioed, "*Wait a minute — that wasn't a Bradley, that was the burning BMP. Everybody's okay up here.*"

Cheers tempered with relief filled the net until the battalion commander broke in. I looked down at my driver in his hatch. He had collapsed in exhaustion against the controls.

Slowly, the sounds of war subsided. The MLRSs ceased firing, and the *toom-toom-toom* of the 25 mike-mike faded away. I felt my adrenaline rush begin to fade, replaced by mind-fogging fatigue. The ground was littered with HE packing tubes, and I had the strangest thought: *Who's going to clean all this up?*

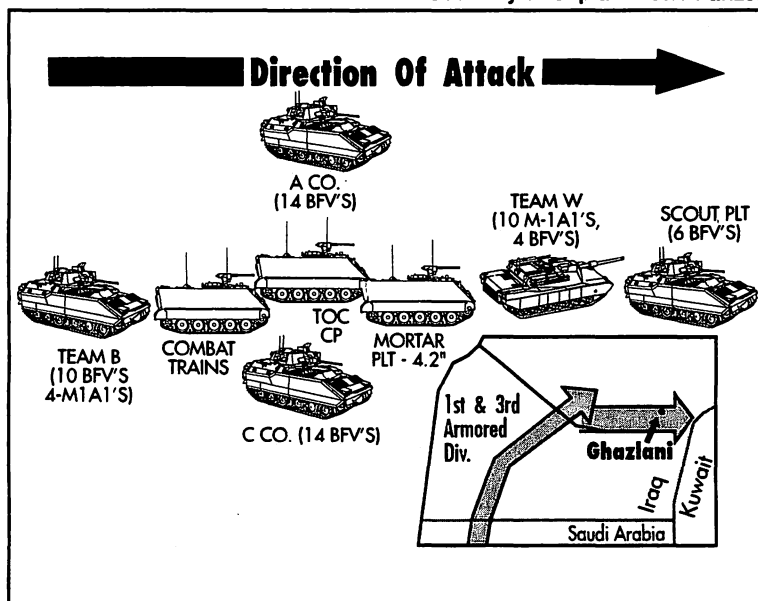
Our lieutenant received the order to move

out. The guns went out of action, the crews mounted their vehicles and we lined up as we were before. The order was to move up a few clicks to a phase line, but we never made it. The formation halted a few-hundred meters ahead, and I fell asleep in my hatch. It was 0400 on 27 February. We had fought the enemy, on his soil, and won.

A long time later, after I had come home and the sand had been washed from my boots, I thought of my friend who had died in a minefield far from home, after surviving the largest mechanized infantry battle since World War II, and realized that the longest year of my life had been spent during those 10 hours at Ghazlani.

A track commander in a mortar platoon during Operation Desert Storm, Sergeant Matt Whitcher is now with the 10th Mountain Division. Whitcher is currently writing a book about his experiences and those of his comrades in the Gulf War. ☘

Courtesy of Captain Peter Panzeri



ON 23 JUNE, a typical sticky summer day in Washington, investigators from the U.S. Senate Select Committee began interviewing former National Security Adviser Richard V. Allen on one of the most explosive POW/MIA stories ever heard — a tale that, if verified, will change forever what Americans believe about whether their countrymen were left behind in Southeast Asia.

That day, Allen described to astonished Senate staff members an offer made in January 1981 by Vietnam, through a third country, to free live Americans held since the end of the Vietnam War.

In return, the United States would give the Vietnamese government in Hanoi \$4 billion that the Vietnamese felt President Nixon promised them in 1973. The offer came just as President Reagan was assuming his responsibilities after a landslide victory over Jimmy Carter. It was taken up as part of the transition business by the Reagan team, according to Allen.

"This \$4 billion figure sticks in my mind and I remember writing something, I don't know whether it was during a meeting with the president or to him, saying that it would be worth the president going along and let's have the negotiation," Allen stated, according to the official transcript of his interview.

The startled investigators pressed him on the point. Was it possible the offer had been for the return of the remains of Americans killed in action? Allen said no. The Vietnamese were readily turning over remains without holding up the U.S. government for cash. No, Allen said, "If it was \$4 billion, it was indeed for live prisoners."

Richard V. Allen, before self-destructing in an ethics case surrounding the acceptance of money and expensive watches from Japanese journalists who wanted an interview with Nancy Reagan, was a top confidant of President Reagan. As national security adviser he was the man the president would turn to on matters critical to the nation's security.

Allen told Senate staffers on 23 June that both he and President Reagan believed in 1981 that American servicemen were still being held in Southeast Asia. When asked how many, Allen replied, "Dozens, hundreds."

Allen went on in his testimony that day to detail top secret missions mounted into Laos by Reagan in 1981 to free American POWs. The CIA-led, pro-American Lao reconnaissance found only cold trails before they were withdrawn.

But Allen's explosive testimony is only part of this story.

\$\$\$ For POWs

Washington Covers Up Hanoi's Secret Offer

by Bruce McKloben

The other part, perhaps the greater part, is how high-ranking officials in the Bush administration and the U.S. Senate have struggled to keep other witnesses from coming forward and support what Allen has said.

The reasons that many in Washington didn't want Allen's story to come out seem obvious to some government insiders. "Everybody had something to lose, and no one could be sure that it was a clear gain for them," one Washington source told me.

"Bush was in deep trouble if the story got out. He was already being seen on the front page of every newspaper in shouting matches with POW/MIA activists. He almost certainly would have known about the offer. Why wasn't more done?" mused a government official who wished to remain anonymous.

Draft Dodger Dodges Question

As for the Democrats, including Senate committee Chairman John Kerry, "They wanted their man Bill Clinton in the White House," the unnamed official continued. "If revisiting Vietnam became a big part of the campaign, how would that help a guy already being painted as a draft dodger?"

The lid began coming off Allen's testimony exactly two weeks after he delivered it. *The Washington Times* ran a front-page story headlined "Cash for POWs?" which began, "Vietnam offered to exchange live American POWs for \$4 billion in January 1981, former National Security Adviser Richard V. Allen has told Senate investigators."

The reaction, as the events of the next few weeks would show, was immediate, if clandestine. The *Times* story quoted a second man as corroborating Allen's ac-

count without naming him.

The newspaper didn't have to identify its source. Bush administration officials knew who he was — a former Secret Service agent who said he had been in the room when the meeting described by Allen occurred. This agent's story of what he overheard that day is highly controversial, but it closely follows what Allen had already told Senate investigators.

The agent said he was in the Roosevelt Room of the White House performing his duties when he overheard a meeting between President Reagan, Vice President Bush, CIA Director William Casey and Allen, in which the alleged offer was raised.

"Mr. Casey wanted to know what to do about this [offer]," the agent recalled. "He said it had come through China and Canada from the Vietnamese.

Reagan asked what he thought of it and Casey said there wasn't anything to it. Bush agreed. He said it was a lost cause."

Reportedly, Allen suggested they look into it some more, but Casey insisted that the offer constituted "blackmail." The agent said White House Chief of Staff James Baker and Deputy Chief of Staff Michael Deaver came into the room at this point and the discussion stopped.

A short time following the *Times* story, memos and letters were flying at the top levels of the Bush administration.

Secret Service Secrets

Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady — overall boss of the Secret Service and a close personal friend of Bush — sent a memo to Senator Kerry demanding the Secret Service agent not be allowed to testify.

"I am deeply concerned about the lasting effect which your subpoena to a former Secret Service employee will have on the U.S. Secret Service's ability to provide necessary and appropriate protection for our parties' candidates, for our country's leaders, for their respective families and for world leaders," the letter signed by Brady read. "I urge you to reconsider your action. I would be happy to discuss this matter with you and members of the Select Committee at your convenience," it went on.

Brady offered to bring all the forces of the powerful Treasury Department to bear if it would persuade the senators not to take the testimony of the former Secret Service agent. "I have asked the director of the Secret Service, John W. Magaw, to provide you specific details regarding the impact of this subpoena," Brady wrote.

Magaw followed with a memorandum to the senators providing detailed reasons

why the man shouldn't testify. Those reasons basically boiled down to one main argument: Allowing Secret Service agents to testify about what they overheard while performing their official duties could make it more difficult for the agents to do their jobs, especially if they had to worry about being subpoenaed by Congress.

No doubt Secret Service agents following presidents like Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon had seen and heard hair-raising things that the chief executives would just as soon not have aired to a notoriously leaky Congress.

But the official explanation was not the entire truth, according to the Secret Service agent involved in this matter (whose name is being protected here at his request). He mentioned receiving calls from officials warning him off from testifying. He had come to fear that his career was in jeopardy.

Washington insiders knew Brady owed his job as treasury secretary to his close personal friendship with Bush. There was no question that Brady was among the most loyal of Bush insiders.

The pressure worked, at least in the short run. The former Secret Service agent, who had already been served with a subpoena to testify by U.S. marshals, was informed that his appearance before the Senate committee was being delayed. The explanation given by the committee was that they needed to interview the other persons who were purportedly at the meeting to see if they could confirm the agent's account.

At roughly the same time, a White House spokesman issued a statement: "The president does not have personal knowledge of any American POW/MIA being held against his will. He would never allow such a situation to remain unresolved."

Meanwhile Allen, who also felt loyalty to Bush, a man he had worked closely with in the heady early days of the Reagan "revolution," had an abrupt change of heart.

Allen had been traveling in Asia when *The Washington Times* story hit, but it was quickly called to his attention. As soon as he returned to the United States, he contacted the Senate committee and said he wanted to change his story.

It Appears There Never Was A Meeting

In a statement sent to the committee on 21 July — exactly two weeks after his name first surfaced in relation to testifying about the \$4 billion offer — Allen explained, "It appears ... there never was a 1981 meeting about the return of POW/MIAs for \$4 billion. It becomes clear that my recollection of having written these notes refers to events of 1986, not 1981."

Allen went on to note that not only had he misremembered the date of the meeting by five years, but what he had recalled during his June deposition to be a meeting of high-level Reagan officials while he

was still national security adviser really occurred four years after he left the government and was working with a group of POW/MIA activists.

But it was getting tough to cram the genie back into the bottle. On 11 August, Senator Bob Smith of New Hampshire, ranking Republican on the Senate Select Committee for POW/MIAs, said the committee had received other confirmations of the POWs-for-aid offer.

"Already our committee is aware of three separate U.S. government officials who are stating that such an offer was indeed made," Senator Smith reported. The *Los Angeles Times* ran a story in early August saying it had another source, a retired senior intelligence officer from the Reagan administration, who confirmed that the January 1981 offer to free Americans had been tendered by the Vietnamese.

The account of the former intelligence officer was very similar to what Allen had said in his deposition and also to what the former Secret Service agent was prepared to testify.

According to the *L.A. Times*, the intelligence officer said that soon after taking office in January 1981, the Reagan administration received an offer from Vietnamese officials transmitted through Canadian diplomats. The Vietnamese were reportedly willing to free an unspecified number of prisoners in return for reconstruction aid they believed President Nixon had promised when the Paris peace accords were signed in 1973.

If such an offer was tendered by the Vietnamese, is it possible to say whether it was authentic, or an effort by the Hanoi government to blackmail or swindle the United States?

When he testified before the Senate Select Committee on 11 August, billionaire H. Ross Perot mentioned the Allen deposition as some of the strongest proof that Americans were left behind in Indochina.

"You don't ask for \$4 billion unless you have something to trade," Perot stated. "That's the strongest possible proof that Vietnam still holds what they feel we'll pay big money for — our men."

A government expert on POW/MIA matters said, "The Vietnamese would not have made this offer unless they really had the bargaining tool they claimed. It would have destroyed their credibility forever if [the United States] pursued the offer and then found out they were lying."

After the first press accounts of Allen's Senate testimony, the Vietnamese government formally denied such an offer was made. The official Voice of Vietnam radio quoted an unidentified Vietnamese foreign ministry spokesman saying *The Washington Times* report was "a lie."

The Vietnamese spokesman said that after the 1973 Paris peace agreement all American prisoners were handed over to the U.S. government. "There is not a single

U.S. prisoner of any kind, either surrendered or deserted soldiers, so there couldn't be any exchange," he reportedly stated. "The allegation is a sheer fabrication with all intention."

Difficulty in assessing whether such an offer occurred lies with the vast quantity of information still classified by the U.S. government. A trickle of documents were released beginning this past July after the Senate Select Committee passed a resolution and President Bush signed an executive order allowing their declassification.

But hundreds of thousands of pages remain sealed from the eyes of POW/MIA activists, journalists and others. It is clear, however, that the Reagan administration saw evidence in 1981 that Americans were alive in Southeast Asia, and that the evidence was powerful enough to launch search missions into Laos.

When Allen gave his deposition to Senate investigators he talked at length about a secret military operation ordered by Reagan in 1981. The mission was designed to bring back proof that American POWs were still held captive in jungle camps inside Laos.

Allen said he had convinced the president to authorize the mission by showing him a photograph taken by a spy satellite, showing a code stamped out in the grass of an exercise yard in a Laotian prison camp. The code was a numbers-for-letters substitution used by Americans held in solitary confinement in North Vietnam.

A reconnaissance operation mounted by anti-communist Lao guerrillas supported by the CIA reached the Laotian prison camp but failed to find evidence that Americans were being held there. A follow-up mission planned to rescue POWs was then scrubbed.

In his deposition, Allen said the Laotian mission had been opposed by the State Department and, he assumed, by the Pentagon, but that he and the president strongly backed it.

Allen said one possible reason the mission failed was that it took "bloody forever" to get organized. By the time the Laotian team completed its mission, five months had elapsed since the satellite photo had been taken.

To undertake such a risky mission, Allen's belief that Americans were being held in Southeast Asia was strong. And he still believes Americans are being held in the region: "I am convinced that there is still a reasonable chance in 1992 that there are some [POW/MIAs] alive, someplace, somewhere."

Bruce McKibben is a journalist and writer living in Washington, D.C., who has covered POW/MIA issues for numerous national publications.

MISSION:

U.S. Customs' Record Year Not Good Enough

Text & Photos by Dale B. Cooper

On the surface, it appears the U.S. Customs Service is on a roll. Seizures of cocaine for the first six months of this year are greater than for all of 1991, in itself a record year. There have been some spectacular busts involving high-speed boats and drug planes. But you've got to look beyond the numbers for the true story of what's happening in the drug war.

The Bush administration spent \$12 billion last year on the drug war, but the National Institute on Drug Abuse reports the administration didn't get a very big bang for its buck. They found that the number of cocaine users in the United States increased 29% from 1990 to 1991.

"The bottom line," according to Robert J. Stolba, an investigator for the Government Accounting Office (GAO), "is that we really haven't reduced the supply of cocaine coming into the country."

At the request of the chairman of the U.S. House Select Committee on Narcotics and Abuse Control, the GAO conducted its own investigation into how 23 different organizations, including the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Department of Defense, Central Intelligence Agency, Coast Guard and U.S. Customs Service, all collect intelligence on drug smuggling and also what they do with that information.

Their findings were shocking: The GAO found overlap, dupli-

cation and lack of central guidance. According to investigators, "No one individual or organization has the authority to direct what specific intelligence will be collected, analyzed and reported, and by whom, to support efforts to disrupt drug organizations and detect and monitor drug traffickers." As a result, law enforcement agencies are shooting themselves in the foot.

"The folks at customs have really blown it," a spokesman for the select committee claimed. "They're on a treadmill."

According to this spokesman, who recently returned from a fact-finding mission to Colombia where he found 20,000 hectares (about 50,000 acres) of opium under cultivation, interdiction can't keep up with the level of production in South America and Southeast Asia. "The more seizures customs make, the more drugs smugglers send our way," he said.

"We're getting clobbered," another congressional source maintained, adding he believed record drug seizures offer a false sense of well-being. "It doesn't make any difference how much coke, heroin and marijuana they [customs] seize, you can still buy it on any street corner in urban America."

For example, heroin, which is making a dramatic comeback in America, is selling for 75 cents per milligram on the streets of New York City. Seizures are up, but so is supply. And that's why prices remain low.

The heroin now entering our country from Guatemala via old smuggling routes in Mexico is so pure that addicts don't have to inject it intravenously. Not having to inject heroin with a needle makes it more appealing, since snorting or smoking heroin lessens the chances of contracting AIDS.

To see firsthand what was happening in the drug war, I spent two days at the "front" with America's foot soldiers, the men and women of the U.S. Customs Service, to see how they conduct what has become a war for survival.

Since 1988, drug flights directly to Florida have become rare, but there has been a huge increase in flights over Cuba, with airdrops made off the Bahamas.



IMPOSSIBLE

A man in a blue flight suit and goggles is holding a Remington Model 870 shotgun. The shotgun is mounted on his chest, and he is looking forward. The background is dark and appears to be the interior of an aircraft.

Cliff Lundgren, armed with Remington

Model 870, literally rides shotgun during

chase of Aero Commander.

One of the first things I learned was how drug smugglers are trying to beat customs by filing legitimate flight plans instead of trying to slip in under a radar net that blankets the Caribbean. Russ Manhold, operations manager of the Miami air branch of customs, and Bill Radtke, a branch pilot, were talking about this new wrinkle in the drug war when their conversation was interrupted.

The duty officer in the communications side of the customs hangar at Homestead Air Force Base, Florida, where the air branch is based, stuck his head in the door of the conference room. "Bill, we've got a Venezuelan aircraft inbound to Fort Lauderdale. Intel indicates this aircraft may be carrying contraband. Intercept it and take it apart if necessary," he said.

Radtke, a major in the Marine Corps reserves who saw combat in the Gulf War, ran down the hallway to the operations center where two members of his crew were checking weapons out of the walk-in armory. A fourth member of the crew, co-pilot Gary Antczak, was already strapping himself into the right seat of their UH-60A Blackhawk helicopter, one of several "Hawks" on loan

Reserve. "It's just as tense here fighting the drug war as it was over there fighting the Iraqis," Radtke noted.

"You never know what's waiting for you," Lundgren added. As a young Marine second lieutenant, he went through "basic" with Radtke at Quantico, Virginia, in 1976. Lundgren then went to the Naval Flight Program, where he became a bombardier/navigator on an A-6 Intruder.

Latham, a customs criminal investigator and air interdiction officer, explained that we were intercepting a twin-engine turbo-prop Aero Commander because intelligence sources in the Bahamas believed this aircraft had been involved in a drug airdrop in the Caribbean within the past 10 days.

To test the theory that dopers are beating customs by working within the system, i.e., filing proper flight plans, using their transponders to "squawk" the appropriate identifying code, and relying on good-natured Americans not to check them thoroughly when they enter the country, Radtke and other crews "launch" on every aircraft suspected of being used to smuggle drugs. The teams are batting about .300 so far; scoring "big time" on three out of every 10 aircraft they intercept and search.

"Slingshot," the command, control, communications and intelligence agency for air operations like this, radioed that the suspect aircraft was closing in fast. "Be advised the aircraft [which was detected by an Aerostat radar unit attached to balloons strategically located around the Caribbean] is 170 miles out, flying at 260 knots."

Aero Commanders are a favorite aircraft among dopers. They are pressurized and can also fly at high altitudes like normal airliners, and can also fly faster than most customs airplanes.

One hour after launching from Homestead, Radtke's crew was in position to intercept the incoming Venezuelan aircraft. The plane was on final approach to Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport, its pilot apparently unaware he had been tracked across the Caribbean and was now being shadowed by a Blackhawk.

As the Aero Commander rolled up to the small blue U.S. Customs Service building, we were waiting about 100 yards away on the tarmac.

The so-called "bust team," Lundgren and Latham, dressed in blue jump suits with 9mm Smith & Wesson Model 6906s strapped to their hips, followed the Venezuelan pilot and co-pilot into the customs building and watched as they signed the appropriate papers.

Radtke and Antczak followed and escorted the passengers — two men, two women and a young boy — to wooden benches outside the building, while a member of the Contraband Enforcement Team approached the aircraft with his drug-sniffing dog.

"If there's something in there, he'll find it," the handler exclaimed as he and his 6-year-old dog — Kirby, a mixed breed — circled the aircraft. The dog jumped up on its leash to check the wings and tail section, and stopped briefly to check some luggage that had been removed from the cargo compartment.

Kirby is one of the best drug-detecting dogs the government has. His picture appears on a series of anti-drug trading cards distributed nationwide to schoolchildren by customs. When Kirby and his handler climbed into the passenger compartment of the Aero Commander, the dog "alerted," indicating the presence of drugs. Kirby started scratching and biting the carpet on the left side of the aircraft's interior.

Drug dogs like Kirby are trained to detect four kinds of narcotics: cocaine, marijuana, heroin and hashish. An alert indicates the presence of one or more of those drugs, or at least residue. It's up to mechanics to find the contraband.

While Latham crawled into the cargo compartment and tried to find a "T" connection that might lead to an additional fuel tank, the mechanic removed the seats and pulled up the carpeting in the passenger compartment. "Can you do this?" I asked, as Radtke leaned inside the door behind the cockpit and handed the me-



Customs officers at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport after intercepting Venezuelan aircraft suspected of carrying contraband. From left, Cliff Lundgren, Jack Latham, Bill Radtke and Gary Antczak.

to customs from the U.S. Army.

Cliff Lundgren reached for his weapon of choice, a 12-gauge Remington Model 870 shotgun. Jack Latham grabbed a 5.56mm Steyr AUG assault rifle, the official rifle of the Customs Service. Although AUGs and Remingtons are intimidating weapons, aircrews keep them in black nylon cases most of the time.

"No sense in asking for trouble," said Radtke, who saw his share of violence in Iraqi-occupied Kuwait. "Most dopers we come in contact with aren't armed, and those that are packing weapons will only use them as a last resort."

The intercept call came at 1515 hours. A few minutes later, Radtke and I were running across the tarmac toward the Blackhawk. As we sprinted toward the olive-drab helicopter, we were joined by a mechanic who carried a soft bag of tools: everything he needed to take apart the suspect aircraft.

Lundgren, Latham and I hopped aboard and belted ourselves into our seats, then Radtke ran down the preflight checklist with Antczak, also a major in the Marine Corps Reserve.

My body sagged in the shoulder restraints as Radtke pulled power, lifted the Sikorsky assault helicopter off the ground and headed east toward the Atlantic Ocean.

The air was heavy inside the helicopter — humid and tense. On the way to intercept the target, Radtke, who commanded an antitank [TOW Missile] company in the Gulf War, talked over the intercom with Jack Latham, a warrant officer in the U.S. Army

chanic a socket wrench.

"Yeah," he laughed. "We're the U.S. Customs Service." Customs officers like Radtke can execute a search without a warrant.

Although the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution ensures the right of people to be secure against unreasonable search and seizure, none of the estimated 444 million people who enter the United States annually are entitled to that protection in cases like this. "A lot of people don't understand that when they re-enter the country, different laws apply," Radtke noted.

The owner of the plane, a Venezuelan businessman, told Lundgren he recently purchased the \$750,000 aircraft and didn't know anything about its crew or allegations that the aircraft had been used to drop drugs in the Bahamas.

Detecting dogs have been widely used since September 1970 as a major tool in the stepped-up drive to interdict narcotics smuggled through airports like Fort Lauderdale's or at ports of entry along the United States/Mexican border.

In fiscal year 1991, some 282 canine enforcement teams made 4,626 seizures of narcotics and dangerous drugs with a street value of more than \$3.5 billion. Dog teams detected 124,781 pounds of marijuana, 2,623 pounds of hashish, 41,528 pounds of cocaine, 52 pounds of heroin, 42 grams of hash oil, 16 pounds of opium, along with 360,496 dangerous pills or capsules and \$13,140,203 in drug money.

In June 1992, federal agents, including dog detecting teams from the U.S. Customs Service, made the biggest hash oil haul in history: 1,000 pounds of hashish oil captured through a series of raids in three Florida towns — Melbourne, Daytona Beach and Lighthouse Point. The hash oil, originally destined for eastern Canada, had a street value of about \$14.5 million.

The largest seizure involved 650 pounds of hash oil found aboard a sportfishing boat in Melbourne. The oil is produced by extracting the active ingredient THC from cannabis plants, using a solvent. A drop or two of hashish oil on an ordinary cigarette is equal to a single marijuana cigarette.

Despite a drug dog's "alert," enforcement agents are quick to point out this doesn't mean drugs are in the immediate vicinity. Cocaine can leave a detectable odor in the pressurized cabin of an aircraft for weeks, or months if the interior of the aircraft is not thoroughly cleaned. Dogs can still detect the presence of narcotics even after carpeting is vacuumed.

After going over the suspect aircraft with a fine-tooth comb for two hours and taking its interior apart, customs agents could find no telltale white powder; neither could Kirby.

Agents are not required by law to put aircraft back together, but as a matter of courtesy, the mechanics reassembled the aircraft. Radtke and Lundgren thanked the Venezuelan businessman for his cooperation, assuring his flight crew that the aircraft was as airworthy as it was when they taxied up to customs.

Before flying back to Homestead, I talked to the crew about being on the front lines in the drug war. "Do you feel like you're making a dent in the drug traffic?" I asked.

"If we weren't here, the country would be wide open," said Lundgren, who has also worked the Mexican border during his career at customs.

"Yes, we're making a dent," Antczak added. "But no one person is going to change the world. A police officer can't change it, the government can't change it. But together we can make a difference."

When Russ Manhold volunteered to help fight the drug war more than 20 years ago, the air war was a Monday through Friday



Drug dog Kirby is trained to detect cocaine, marijuana, heroin and hashish. A dog "alert" indicates presence of drugs or drug residue. Customs made 4,626 seizures in 1991, with a street value of more than \$3.5 billion.

operation, with weekends off. Flying whatever aircraft they could seize, aircrews would go out, spot an airplane, follow suspected smugglers until they landed on a back road or pasture in south Florida, and bust them.

However, the drug war has escalated in the past two decades. The air branch at customs no longer relies on what it can seize.

"Customs is the world's largest user of Citation II business jets, fitted with radar designed for F-16 fighters," Radtke explained. In addition to Cessna Citations, the air interdiction program is also using Lockheed P-3s, P-3AEWs, and UH-60A Blackhawk helicopters.

Blackhawks are better than the AH-1 Cobra helicopters that customs pilots used to fly. Unlike Cobras, which can only carry a two-man crew (one having to dismount when landing suspect aircraft), Blackhawks can carry at least four armed

agents; customs personnel are no longer usually outgunned or outmanned.

Radtke is an experienced helicopter pilot with strong, practical views about airborne drug interdiction. He believes customs might be able to achieve a tactical advantage over dopers if they could get their hands on the MV-22 Osprey, a limited-production aircraft the U.S. Marine Corps is testing. "We would only need one aircraft in our fleet — the Osprey. An aircraft that can hover like a rotary-wing helicopter with its tilt-type engines, or fly like a fixed-wing aircraft at speeds of 350 knots, could perform the functions of tracker, interceptor and apprehender."

With a range of 1,500 to 1,700 nautical miles, the Osprey could stay on a smuggler's tail from the time he left the source

"Can you do this?" I asked.

"Yeah," Radtke laughed, "we're

the U.S. Customs Service."

nation until he landed in this country or airdropped drugs offshore. In a war where drug traffickers can buy the best equipment available, it's comforting to know they can't get their hands on the Osprey. But neither can customs.

Drug planes flew predictable routes until spring 1984, when airborne drug traffic increased in the Bahamas, in Jamaica, around the tip of Cuba and into Florida. A significant change occurred in 1986 when customs started observing smugglers coming out of countries like Colombia and flying directly across Cuba. "We also began to see a lot of airdrops in waters off Key West and the Bahamas, and fewer landings in Florida," Manhold said.

There were two reasons for this sudden change. First, the smugglers felt comfortable flying over Cuba; second, Aerostats (radar mounted on tethered balloons floating high over the Caribbean) were giving customs good results with their 100-nautical-mile look-down capability.

By 1988, drug flights to Florida were practically non-existent. But there was an extraordinary amount of air traffic coming through the Windward Passage, located between Cuba and the Bahamas.

Continued on page 66

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FULL AUTO

Continued from page 15

mentarily blind your target at the same time. Try holding a flashlight next to the barrel while jacking the action with the same hand and you'll see why this equipment is mandatory for those operating at night.

Because the Entry Model's short barrel presents the possibility for sliding the support hand forward in front of the muzzle, a safety strap — of the same material as the sling — has been attached to the underside of the forearm. Pump guns must be racked smartly and completely, both rearward and forward, or they will short-cycle and either fail to eject the spent shell or chamber a new round. This is, in my experience, the most commonly observed stress-induced malfunction observed with slide-action shotguns. The Entry Model's safety strap permits the operator to rack the action with a great deal of vigor, without fear of his hand slipping off the forearm.

To facilitate manipulation of the cross-bolt safety, a jumbo-head safety designed by Scattergun Technologies has been installed. Manufactured from 4140 chrome-moly steel, it has undercut grooves to inhibit slipping. Trigger pull weight on SOF's test specimen was a crisp 3.5 pounds.

A wide range of buckshot types were used in SOF's test and evaluation of the Entry Model. At 10 yards, Federal Premium 9-shot 00 Buck impacted the target with all the pellets in a 4-inch oval. At 25 yards — in my opinion the outer limit of acceptable performance with buckshot — seven pellets would still consistently impact into the torso area of a humanoid target, albeit with a donut-shaped pattern.

Solid projectile accuracy at 50 yards was more than acceptable. Federal Hi-Shok 435-grain rifled slugs will place three rounds into 2.5 inches at 50 yards. These .70 caliber, hollow base, lead-alloy projectiles will typically penetrate up to 14 inches of soft tissue while expanding to 1.1 inches in diameter. When chronographed through the Entry Gun's 12.5-inch barrel, the Federal slugs were traveling at 1,420 feet per second (fps) 8 feet from the muzzle. This represents only an insignificant 9.5% drop in velocity from that observed when this ammunition was fired through a 20-inch barrel.

Price of the Entry Model, complete with a set of tools for disassembly and maintenance is \$695. There are three other NFA models available: the Professional Model, which has a 14-inch barrel and extended 5-round magazine tube; the Border Patrol Model with a 14-inch barrel but without the SURE-FIRE tactical light, and the SWAT

Model, which is a semiauto Remington M1 187 with all of the Tactical Response features and a 14-inch barrel. There are also seven models of the Tactical Response shotguns that are not classified as NFA weapons, as they have 18-inch barrels. Prices start at \$525.

Scattergun Technologies Inc. has assembled all the right pieces to complete the confusing combat shotgun puzzle. Reasonably priced, with all the attributes required of this type of weaponry by armed professionals, their Tactical Response shotgun series now clearly dominates the field of fighting smoothbores. ✕

PISTOLS

Continued from page 35

Operators with even moderate-sized hands may have difficulty firing the Z88 with the trigger forward in the double-action position. However, the smaller circumference of the SP1's grip frame will accommodate a much greater range in hand sizes.

We were unable to induce a stoppage of any kind in either of these pistols. Although the frame's feed ramp on both is quite shallow, the top cartridge in the magazine is positioned almost directly in line with the chamber, thus a wide variety of projectile configurations will feed with great reliability.

Subsonic ammunition with 147-grain Jacketed Hollow Point (JHP) bullets remains the best choice for serious social purposes, no matter what some gun magazine wackos, who have invented both their bona fides and data, may say.

A recent autopsy study of 27 shootings with Winchester 147-grain JHP subsonic ammunition conducted by Eugene J. Wolberg, the senior firearms criminologist at the San Diego Police crime laboratory, indicated the average penetration depth of this bullet in living human torsos was 13 inches, matching that obtained in 10% ordnance gelatin. The average expansion was to .54 caliber. This is precisely the balance between penetration and expansion we are looking for. Between 12 and 20 inches of penetration will usually insure that the bullet will reach vital organs and blood vessels from any entrance angle, even in persons with large amounts of subcutaneous fat, with enough potential remaining to disrupt these organs and vessels.

While these are both large 9mm service pistols and perceived recoil is not a factor in their evaluation, muzzle jump was perceptively less on the SP1.

When fired at stationary targets from a range of 7 meters (the maximum distance at which most human targets will be engaged with a handgun) most lots of ammunition employed during the tests impacted into a single ragged hole when fired by an experienced operator from the

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Initially, I obtained a higher hit probability with the Z88, a configuration with which I am quite familiar. However, after several magazines with the SP1 (which at first feels somewhat top-heavy when compared to the Z88), its superior grip ergonomics and reduced muzzle jump enhance target reacquisition and increase operator confidence (no small factor in performance).

Both the Z88 and SP1 are excellent handguns from a company with a proven track record in the defense industry. There is a real possibility that with the lifting of sanctions against South Africa, the SP1 will be imported to the United States. I hope so. LIW has brought large-capacity, double-action, 9mm Parabellum service pistols to their ultimate level of perfection with their locked-and-cocked SP1. ✖

DRUG WAR

Continued from page 63

By 1990, customs had a full-court press going from Key West to Grand Bahama island. Aerostats were tethered on Cudjoe Cay off the coast of Key West, on Grand Bahama island, at Cabo Rojo in Puerto Rico, at Georgetown on Great Exuma island, and on the fantails of several Coast Guard vessels.

The effect of this increased radar surveillance was to force smugglers to seek drug routes away from the Caribbean. "It's like squeezing a water balloon," Manhold explained. "You squeeze one end, and the other end gets bigger." However, the volume of drug traffic rarely changes.

Although Fidel Castro professes to have no love for drug dealers, aircraft continue to fly over Cuba, hiding from Cuban radar and from American radar stationed at Guantánamo Bay by hugging mountainous terrain near the southern tip of the island, then popping up over the Caribbean and dropping drugs in Bahamian waters.

"Our air unit has become very effective — so effective it's caused another problem — airdrops," stated Ron Bliss, in charge of the Marine Enforcement Division of the U.S. Customs Service in Miami. "Smugglers can no longer effectively penetrate the coastline of south Florida by air, so they are resorting to airdrops 100 to 200 miles from here, then working out the logistics of getting the contraband in by vessel."

The U.S. Customs Service and military are not allowed to fly over Cuba under any circumstances. "When we're trailing a suspect aircraft, we have to break off contact and fly around Cuba, hopefully reacquiring the target on the north side," Manhold said.

Radtke remembered the day he went "head to head" with a Cuban MiG-21 three years ago while tracking a suspect aircraft that had just flown across Cuba near Guantánamo Bay. "We were flying a CHET [Customs High Endurance Tracker], a twin-engine Piper Cheyenne IIIRC [restricted category] aircraft loaded with electronic gear."

Radtke had followed the suspect until a ship waiting for the airdrop blinked its lights below. "We filmed the whole thing with our FLIR [Forward Looking Infrared Radar] as he circled the ship eight times and dropped 26 bundles of contraband which we later recovered. Over 3,800 pounds of 99-percent pure heroin — street value in the hundreds of millions of dollars."

According to Radtke, drug pilots who fly airdrops are paid at least \$50,000 per flight. As the drug plane had turned back toward Cuba, Radtke followed. It was then he had noticed some "little chevron" signs had appeared on his radar.

Chevrons on your radar scope mean your aircraft is being "electronically interrogated" by a military aircraft, but because he was still in international waters Radtke hadn't thought much about it. "At the time, I thought it might be one of our F-16s or FA-18s looking me over." He snapped back to reality when Slingshot gave him a call and said, "You're about to



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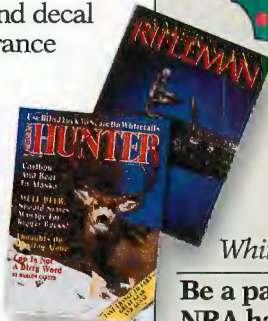
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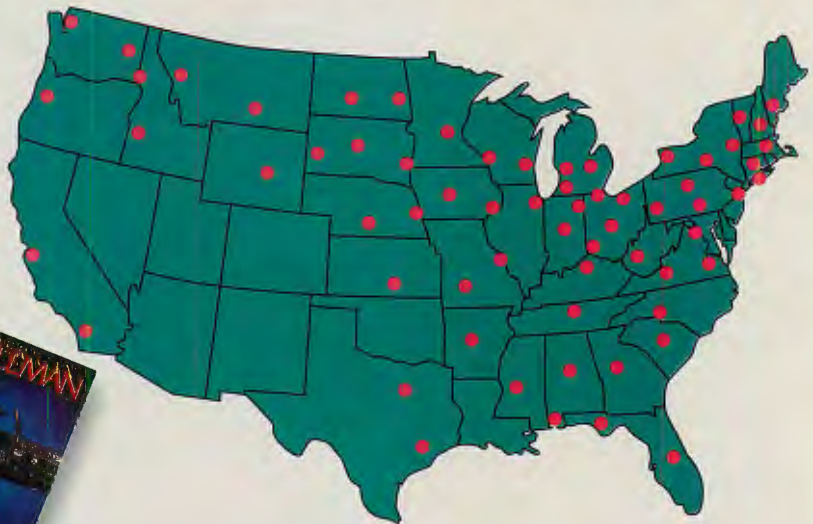
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be intercepted by a MiG-21."

Radtke shut down the radar on his plane, turned off the running lights and dove to the deck, hightailing it for home at 100 feet above water. When he returned safely to Homestead, Radtke learned that the Cubans consider interrogation by military radar to be an act of aggression.

"At the time we went head-to-head, the Cuban MiG was carrying an Atoll-10 heat-seeking missile, which he could have fired at any moment. There's no way we could have outrun or defeated the missile," Radtke explained. He still sees a constant stream of airplanes coming out of South America every night — but they aren't flying to Florida.

The air interdiction program has been so successful, smugglers have had to resort to airdrops and high-speed boats to get their drugs to dealers in the United States.

According to Bliss, smugglers follow one of two scenarios: "They drop the drugs to a couple of boats which head toward the United States at high speed in Midnight Express-class craft that carry three times as much fuel as the interceptors customs use — or people pick up the load and take it to a remote island in the Bahamas where the drugs are stashed in secret compartments of boats that blend in with thousands of pleasure craft that cruise between Bimini and Miami. Vessels with false fuel

tanks, double decks and other hiding places present the biggest problem to customs agents today. The ocean is full of boats, and it's impossible to halt and search each one of them."

Although customs' air-interdiction program has been extremely successful, a drug pilot will occasionally run the gauntlet.

One of them, 63-year-old James Edward Dodd, is a retired Pan Am 747 pilot who recently recovered from coronary bypass surgery. He is starting a 20-year prison sentence for a flight he made on 1 July 1992, a flight that almost caused his heart to stop.

An Aerostat spotted Dodd's plane, a twin-engine Piper Aero Star 601 skirting the east side of the Bahamas, heading in the direction of south Florida. Customs launched a Citation II which caught up with Dodd and followed him. A Blackhawk crew also launched to intercept the incoming aircraft.

Apparently Dodd spotted the Blackhawk behind him and ordered his helper to begin dumping the load. On videotape recorded by the Citation's FLIR, you can see the door of the aircraft open over the Everglades, and bundles of cocaine being kicked out into the slipstream.

Not all of the 20 "bales" of cocaine (white packages wrapped in a burlap bale) were kicked out before the aircraft flew over Homestead. One of the 70-pound

bales fell through the roof of a house; one fell in the front yard of another home, and a third bale landed in the parking lot of the South Dade Baptist Church.

Manhold recalled how the two partners were captured at a Homestead airstrip after three hours of zigzagging across Florida. "Dodd came in so hot he had to stand on the brakes," he recounted, noting that the Piper almost ran off the end of the airstrip after leaving a trail of burning rubber on the runway.

This type of smuggling has virtually ceased over the past 10 years or so, Manhold added, since the U.S. Customs Service uses more and more sophisticated radar detection equipment.

The woman into whose front yard one bale of cocaine had landed told Manhold's men she wished it had been a bale of money instead.

Little did she know each of the 20 bales was worth \$1 million.

Next month: Cooper goes on patrol with U.S. Customs' "fast boats" and gets more than he bargained for during a high-speed night intercept.

Dale B. Cooper is a freelance correspondent who's written numerous articles for Soldier Of Fortune. ✕

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SALVO

Continued from page 42

Recommendation for the Award of the Joint Meritorious Unit Award (Second Oak Leaf Cluster) — United States Military Group El Salvador "During the period 11 November 1989 through 23 December 1989, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) conducted the largest and most aggressive offensive in the history of the 10-year-old civil war in El Salvador. Throughout the country, the FMLN used modern Soviet-bloc weapons ranging from AK-47s to SAM-7 surface-to-air missiles during this large-scale operation. They attacked on a broad nationwide front, targeting military and civilian objectives in both urban and rural locations. They ... initially appeared positioned to defeat significant elements of the Salvadoran armed forces.

"Throughout the entire offensive, U.S. personnel assigned and/or attached to the U.S. Military Group El Salvador performed outstandingly in support of Salvadoran combat, combat support, and combat-service support operations. They were constantly exposed to enemy fire and continuously executed their mission with such valor, professionalism, and dedication to duty that the Salvadoran armed forces were able to achieve a significant victory.

"They [SF advisers] conducted intelligence operations to include analysis and dissemination; planned and coordinated combat operations at company, battalion, brigade and national levels, directed logistical operations and flew countless helicopter missions. They served with all branches of the Salvadoran armed forces during this emergency period. *The level of danger they encountered was consistent with what the U.S. personnel with similar responsibilities have faced during recent periods of armed hostilities worldwide. There were countless incidents where U.S. personnel were taken under direct and indirect fire and where enemy troop units moved within meters of U.S. personnel.*"

General Maxwell R. Thurman
U.S. Army Commander-in-Chief,
U.S. Southern Command

Mr. President, I have brought this concern to the attention of the VFW, and they tell me only the secretary of defense, or yourself, can grant us the great honor of being a part — rather than a guest — of this proud organization.

Greg Walker, 5 March 1991 letter to George Bush regarding AFEM

"I humbly request the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff review the efforts of those who have served honorably in El Salvador. Presently we are ineligible to join the VFW because a recognized campaign medal has not been authorized ... With all due respect, sir, will you recognize the efforts and sacrifices of myself

and my fellow soldiers through such a campaign medal?"

Greg Walker, Memorial Day 1991 letter to General Colin Powell

"Dear senators Hatfield and Packwood ... As to Mr. Walker's specific inquiry, award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for services in El Salvador is inappropriate. The [AFEM] is reserved for those military operations designated by the Joint Chiefs of Staff as involving a significant number of U.S. service personnel who encountered foreign armed opposition or for whom hostile action was imminent."

Colin Powell
Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff
9 March 1992

In August, President Bush addressed the assembled delegates of the VFW at their 93rd convention. No mention was made by the president of U.S. veterans from El Salvador's civil war, despite the VFW's resolution petitioning the Department of Defense to authorize an AFEM for those who participated in the conflict.

On 28 July 1992, Colin Powell was presented with a document packet clearly outlining the reality of the war for U.S. military personnel in El Salvador. General Powell was asked to review the evidence, and in its light to authorize a "Shoulder Sleeve Insignia (SSI) — Former Wartime Service" for wear by those who have served in El Salvador and meet the criteria established by Mr. David Passage, Ambassador Thomas Pickering and former SOUTHCOM commander Gen. Thurman for the awarding of the Joint Meritorious Unit Award (JMUA).

Copies of the memorandum authorizing "combat patches" for operations Desert Storm/Provide Comfort [post-Desert Storm operations helping civilians, especially Kurds] were sent to Powell's office: criteria for these SSIs were easily met by those having served in El Salvador.

To the author's knowledge, the explicit contents of Gen. Thurman's narrative regarding the role of U.S. personnel being directly involved in ground action and air combat have never been made public. They refute misleading claims and observations of other sources representing the Department of Defense and the Secretary of Defense's office. In addition, the comments regarding the role of El Salvador's earliest adviser efforts are likewise published here for the first time. Sources at the Pentagon claimed the narratives for JMUA's awarded to the U.S. military group El Salvador were "thrown away" or "missing."

A letter I received recently from a military group adviser currently in El Salvador reminded me what we were able to accomplish there:

"Dear Greg ... Civil action is the new war right now. When you look at a U.N.

cease-fire, this one is the first in the world that has held for over 100 days. Sure there are violations, but no one has mobilized. Right now we are building schools and giving away Desert Storm-surplus medical equipment. This is the first time SF has been an active part of a demobilization. I'm not saying I'm God's gift to El Sal ... I'm just trying to help some people find peace for the first time in 12 years. Keep the faith."

This campaign is dedicated to those advisers who died for what they believed in, and to those who fought and won the longest war in Central America's history. May our children know the truth, and be proud of their fathers' service to the nation.

Greg Walker is a former Special Forces NCO who served in Central America from 1982-1985. ✖

HANDGUN

Continued from page 41

with his body at a quarter-angle."

Yet they completely contradict their previous statements by writing the following on page 188: "Is 12 inches a realistic minimum, as some experts claim? No, not according to actual results. The three loads that do not meet the 12-inch minimum on the average are extremely interesting. Most significant is the Winchester 9mm +P+ 115gr JHP Q4174 used by the Illinois State Police. The +P+ bullet penetrates as little as 7.9 inches of gelatin, yet produces one-shot stops 88.23% of the time. This is an extremely effective round."

Larry Fletcher of the Dallas County Institute of Forensic Sciences (formerly the Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences) feels Chapter 5 misrepresents his organization's findings. He emphatically disagrees with Marshall and Sanow's recommendation of lightweight high-velocity projectiles such as the 9mm 115gr and the 115gr +P+ JHP, the .357 Magnum 110gr and 125gr JHP bullets, and also .45 ACP 185gr JHP and the 185gr +P JHP bullets. The Dallas forensic institute finds the overexpansion and excessive fragmentation typically exhibited by these bullets results in stretch-and-crush cavities at too shallow a depth.

Fletcher strongly emphasizes that all of these loads offer inadequate performance for law enforcement use, since they exhibit insufficient penetration to consistently reach the major organs and blood vessels in the torso, especially from the transverse and oblique angles commonly encountered in law enforcement shootings. The Dallas forensic institute recommends cartridges which offer reasonable penetration and reliable expansion without fragmentation, such as the 9mm 147gr JHP, the .40 S&W 180gr JHP and the .45 ACP 230gr JHP.

On page 35 Marshall and Sanow state, "The Winchester 9mm 147gr OSM was designed for maximum accuracy from carbine weapons in military roles. It is not suitable for maximum stopping power from handguns in a police or defensive role." On the next page, they add that the 9mm 147gr JHP "could not be a worse round for police use, according to actual police shooting results." On page 188 the authors state, "The lackluster street performance from the heavy 9mm 147gr bullets can be traced directly to overpenetration and too little expansion." Marshall and Sanow write on page 62, "Ballistic gelatin results clearly predict the 115gr JHP to be the top load in 9mm." But the authors offer no justification to support their assertions. In fact, the actual published data on 9mm JHP ammunition shows their comments to be utterly false and inaccurate.

After extensive testing to determine the best 9mm JHP ammunition for personal defense use in the XM-11 9mm compact pistol designated for military criminal investigators, military police, Department of Defense security personnel and for military intelligence agencies, ordnance engineers selected the 9mm 147gr JHP, citing its "outstanding performance" compared to 9mm 124gr and 115gr JHP ammunition. This test report makes special note that the various 9mm 115gr +P+ and the 124gr +P+ JHP cartridges offered the worst performances of any ammunition tested. The 9mm 147gr JHP is in current operational use by some U.S. military special-operations forces and, despite Marshall and Sanow's opinion, it has proven quite effective fired from pistols such as the Sig P-226 and the Beretta M9/10 (92F/92FS).

Wolberg reviewed the performance of his department's issue 9mm 147gr JHP ammunition by measuring bullet penetration and expansion after each shooting incident. The 9mm 147gr bullet produced a 13-inch average penetration in human tissue and reliably expanded in the 27 shootings to human torsos reported in the study. Since the study was published, an additional 17 documented shootings have exhibited nearly identical results. Wolberg's study of San Diego Police Department shootings also compared bullet performance in human tissue with the performance of bullets fired into properly prepared and calibrated 10% ordnance gelatin. Average bullet penetration in both tissue and gelatin was 13 inches.

Wolberg's study proves that the average penetration of bullets in the human torso is nearly the same as that in properly prepared and calibrated 10% ordnance gelatin. This analysis refutes another of Marshall and Sanow's unsubstantiated claims, which they make on page 171 of their text: "Penetration distances in 10% gelatin consistently will be 15% to 20% shallower, on average, compared to penetration in a living human being."

Documented scientific research has

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proven that properly prepared 10% ordnance gelatin not only duplicates the bullet deformation and fragmentation seen in living tissue, but that the penetration results in 10% gelatin are to within 3% of those measured in living tissue.

Contrary to Marshall and Sanow's incorrect statements, the penetration depths of expanded bullets in living tissue are frequently less than those exhibited in properly prepared and calibrated 10% ordnance gelatin, due to the tough, resilient characteristics of the skin on the exit side of the body. This strong, flexible skin can have the same resistance to bullet passage as 4 inches of muscle, and often causes bullets to end their path just under the skin at the anticipated exit point rather than exiting, as would be expected based on the deeper penetration results seen in ordnance gelatin.

On page 189, Marshall and Sanow state: "The average penetration distance for the best street loads is only 13 inches." Since this is exactly what the 9mm 147gr JHP has produced in actual shootings and in laboratory testing, it is surprising that Marshall and Sanow continue to recommend 9mm 115gr and 115gr +P+ bullets, which fail to meet the guidelines they themselves recommend on page 23.

Marshall and Sanow write on page 35: "The 9mm Silvertip has an excellent street record. The single instance of underpenetration in the FBI/Miami shootout is not grounds for withdrawal from service."

This statement is incorrect. Numerous failures due to insufficient penetration have been documented with the 9mm Winchester Silvertip 115gr JHP. One infamous incident occurred on Easter Sunday in 1989, when San Diego Sheriff's Department Tactical Unit officers were forced to shoot a criminal 27 times over several minutes because their 9mm Silvertips failed to penetrate deeply enough to damage any vital organs and cause physiologic incapacitation, despite solid torso hits. A bullet finally severed the relatively superficially placed carotid artery and jugular vein in the neck, resulting in a fatal hemorrhage which ended the encounter. Also, the San Diego Police Department switched to the 9mm Winchester 147gr JHP after several documented underpenetration failures with the 9mm Winchester Silvertip 115gr JHP.

It is unfortunate that the authors did not take the time to adequately research and document their material and that the book's editors did not demand correction of the confusing mistakes in evidence throughout the book. As a result, this text has far too many errors, inconsistencies and a blatant disregard for scientific truth to be recommended as a wound-ballistic reference book.

The reader is asked to believe, on faith alone, a field "data base" derived from unpublished "secret sources." No clear-thinking person should fall prey to this

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nonsense, but some individuals with no background in science or those too busy to do their own thinking could be misled. This book is a bad joke, a joke which may get law enforcement officers killed.

A bibliography of sources used in this review is available by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

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RIOT

Continued from page 47

found to be instantly incapacitating on all types of violence-prone individuals and in animal-control situations encountered in routine police work. Accordingly over the years, an ever-increasing number of smaller police agencies and individual officers have purchased OC-loaded dispersers for general police duty to replace their Chemical Mace units.

Initially, most major police agencies were reluctant to adopt OC, lacking any federal approval and medical background-testing data. Finally in 1987 the FBI, in response to a perceived internal need, began an in-house testing program of the OC agent. Medical research was conducted, along with a review of hundreds of cases where OC had been successfully used by civil police departments. This program resulted in the authorized issue of OC-loaded hand-disperser units to FBI and DEA agents in 1988. Today most major police departments already have OC, or are in the process of acquisition.

The tactical values of riot grenades and other riot-agent projection systems loaded with the dust-type OC formulation are as yet unknown. Testing in the private sector is ongoing. Due to its superior incapacitating effect when used by police in "one-on-one" confrontations, it may become a welcome addition to the riot weapon arsenal.

The current level and type of riot-control training the Army advocates for the National Guard does not meet our national need for handling future domestic disturbances. Army Field Manual 19-15 (1985) is badly in need of updating. Army-recommended supplemental manuals and related publications for riot control operations are many times unavailable, in need of revision and, in some cases, out of print. Training in civil police SWAT-type operations and training in civil law-enforcement riot control doctrine needs more emphasis. Various means to improve military-command cooperation and communication with civil police authorities are also imperative.

Basic civil law-enforcement weaponry needs to be stockpiled in military depots and placed in strategic locations available for National Guard training and immediate issue. No such Army program is known to be contemplated. Such items would in-

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clude flexcuffs, helmet-mounted face visors, body shields, new-type light ballistic vests, Polaroid and video cameras, 36-inch riot batons, hand-held and other-type communication equipment, special commercially developed riot agents, floodlights and spotlights, public address systems and bullhorns, night observation devices, grappling hooks, ladders, SWAT-team equipment and weapons, concertina wire, dispersers, basic fire-fighting equipment and many other essential items used in modern civil law-enforcement riot operations.

Currently, Army plans for emergency funding to enable emergency local procurement of such equipment are not adequate. Providers of such equipment are usually unable to deliver the needed quantities, due to exhausted stocks and the tactical urgency of the situation. Many times, federal funding procedures are too slow and too often bound in red tape — demands for final accountability and other requirements that often cannot be met once tactical riot operations are underway.

If the National Guard, while under state control, is to be the riot-control backup when local civil law-enforcement resources are insufficient, it must have up-to-date training and equipment to assume its riot control role.

Realignment of our national military goals and priorities since the end of the Cold War are now underway. Perhaps the National Guard should be given a new mission of civil disturbance control that would be of equal importance to its support role to the armed forces in times of national hostilities.

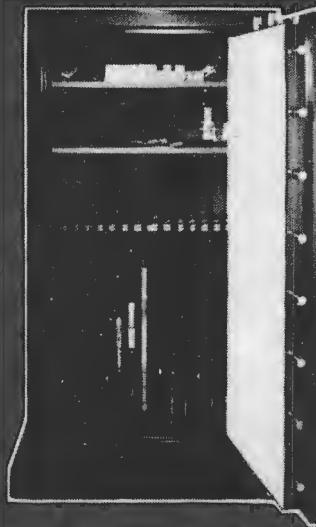
Another problem must also be addressed regarding the use of the National Guard in extended riot operations. The officers and men making up the ranks are citizen-soldiers with jobs, families and financial responsibilities that make it difficult to keep such units on protracted riot duty after the initial disturbance has been repressed. When this occurs, low morale and many other complicating problems emerge.

If the recent disturbance in Los Angeles is any indicator, it is quite probable that major, city-wide destructive riots in the future will call for a continued military presence *extending over long periods of time*. In this case, special regular-Army units may have to be readied and trained in military police operations and in a combination of riot control and urban combat tactics.

The Right Training

Modern riot control is a distinct police and military science. Unfortunately, senior and junior officers, in both civil law enforcement and the military, with actual riot-control experience are in short supply. Those who had such duty and training in the '60s have retired or long-since moved on to other assignments. This indicates that urgent consideration should be

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given to a new federally sponsored training effort, for both the civil police forces and the National Guard personnel in civil disturbance operations.

As of this writing, and for the first time in more than 20 years, the International Association of Chiefs of Police has held a well-attended, three-day seminar on civil disturbances. Unfortunately, civil law-enforcement agencies in most of our major cities do not have the numbers, training time, necessary local funding, political support, or other resources to simultaneously fight the war against violent crime, drugs and gangs, plus maintain normal policing duties, and conduct possible prolonged riot control and limited urban-warfare operations.

Major rioting in this country that would surpass in violence anything experienced in the past can be foreseen.

There is no higher priority than the internal security of the United States and the maintenance of the peace in our major cities and elsewhere. This is a nationwide problem that properly can only be approached by decisions made at the National Security Council level.

Author of the classic text, Riot Control: Matériel and Techniques, Rex Applegate is generally considered to be the world's leading authority on crowd and riot control. He is currently a lecturer and consultant to law enforcement agencies worldwide.

COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

Continued from page 20

vest provides protection from many commonly encountered handgun bullets and shotgun pellets, but not from shotgun slugs nor center-fire rifle bullets. This level of protection is approximately equivalent to between a Level II and a IIIA rating, as specified by NIJ standard 0.101.03. Further research and improvement in body armor experimental methods is necessary in order to develop a valid standardized test protocol.

The authors would like to thank Captain E. T. Rippert, commanding officer of the Naval Dental Center, San Francisco, for his encouragement, as well as Lieutenant Ed Finsell and the staff of the California Highway Patrol Academy Weapons Training Department for their help.

Authors: Dr. Gary K. Roberts is a Naval Dental Corps officer involved in wound ballistic research and in combat casualty-care training; Special Agent Michael Bullian teaches law enforcement officer- and weapons-training for the California Department of Justice Advanced Training Center.

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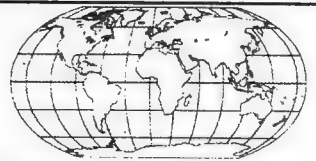


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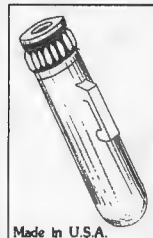
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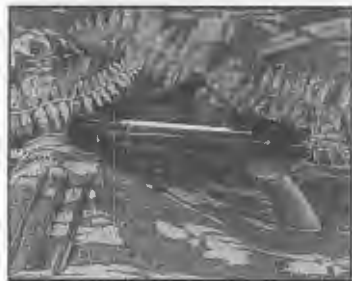
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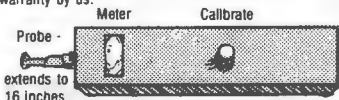
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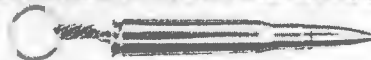
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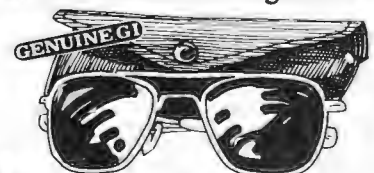
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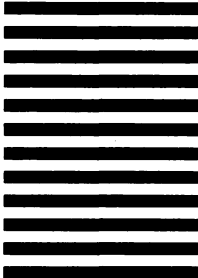
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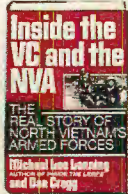
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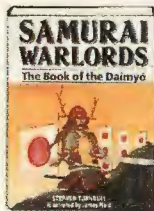
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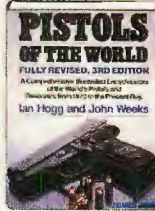
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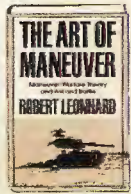
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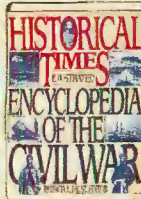
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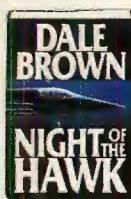
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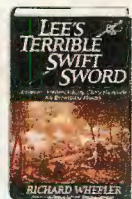
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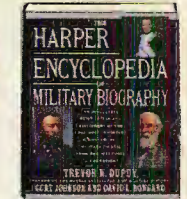
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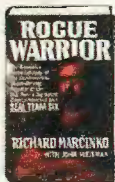
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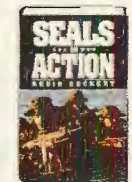
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