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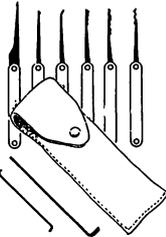
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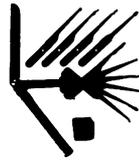
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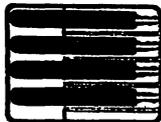
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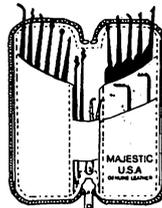
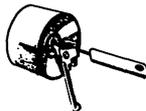
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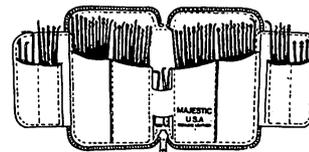
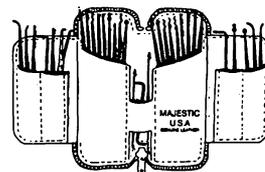


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Secret FBI "Gun Control" Group Endorses Assault Firearms Ban, Handgun Licensing

As we go to press, *Soldier Of Fortune* obtained a copy of a profoundly disturbing internal FBI memorandum. Leaked by a high-level Justice Department source, it advocates, among other restrictions, a complete ban on the sale or ownership by private citizens of "assault firearms" and mandatory licensing of handgun owners, who would have to pass government "training" to obtain such a license. The nine-page memo also states that "the FBI's gun control policy recommends the immediate enactment of the Brady Bill."

On its face, the policy proposal would apparently, if implemented, violate 18 U.S.C. 1913, a law forbidding federal agencies from lobbying "... directly or indirectly... in any manner a Member of Congress, to favor or oppose... any legislation..."

In apparent recognition of that potential problem, the memo's introduction notes that "the FBI does not comment publicly on matters that are the subject of political debate." In calling for highly restrictive gun control measures, it says "an extraordinary, singular departure from this policy is necessary," characterizing gun ownership as "a national public health crisis."

The memo's final recommendations call for the FBI's Office of Public and Congressional Affairs (OPCA) to "develop a media strategy to publicize and develop support for the FBI's position."

Sounds like lobbying to me.

John Collingwood, the FBI inspector who heads OPCA, told *Soldier Of Fortune* that "it appears ... that you have what may be an in-

ternal FBI working paper," i.e. a policy proposal that may or may not ever become policy. "What arrives on the director's desk does not necessarily bear any resemblance to the many original working papers generated in the process."

Collingwood said he "will not confirm this is a legitimate document." But he would not deny its validity, either. Asked if he, as head of the OPCA, had been contacted by FBI executives regarding the memo's mention of his office, Collingwood responded, "I can't say."

"I can tell you this for the record," he said. "Gun control, obviously, is a serious issue for law enforcement, and it is becoming more serious... Our training academy does consider research in those areas... to further protect officers and agents... We do not now have a public policy on gun control."

More disturbing than what the document says is what it *implies*: a flank attack on the Second Amendment by a supposedly impartial federal law enforcement agency sworn to protect and uphold the Constitution. The memo suggests a first step along the road to disarming the law-abiding public, an attempt to make mere ownership of a gun a criminal offense. Criminals have never abided by gun laws — and never will. Thus, the only people punished would be law-abiding citizens. Trite but true: If guns are outlawed, only outlaws [and the cops] will have guns.

But you draw your own conclusions. Here is the FBI's "Memoran-

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Photo: courtesy John Zimmerman

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COVER

Is employment of Special Operations Forces like this U.S. Navy SEAL, training at Coronado with M16 mounting M203 grenade launcher, the answer to the mess in the Balkans? The United Nations Protective Force (UNPROFOR) has shown hesitance to take necessary violent action. What’s needed is a more aggressive force, willing to enforce U.N. resolutions to the letter. See article on page 52. Photo: Pressens Bild/Gamma Liaison

BULLETIN BOARD

RANDY WEAVER CASE

Maybe instead of "federal government," we should call it the "feral government" — as in wild, savage and out of control.

After eight weeks of testimony, the feral government's case against Randy Weaver and Kevin Harris went to a jury in Boise, Idaho. It was a trial that showcased the willingness of feral law enforcement officials to lie, cheat and even kill innocents.

Harris, 25, is charged with murder and Weaver, 45, with aiding and abetting him, for fatally shooting Deputy U.S. Marshal William Degan. Degan was killed in a gunfight provoked by the feds on 21 August 1992, a couple of hundred yards from Weaver's remote ridgetop cabin in Idaho's panhandle, about 40 miles south of the Canadian border. Also killed in that firefight were Weaver's 14-year-old son, Sammy, shot in the back by Deputy U.S. Marshal Larry Cooper and Sammy's Labrador retriever, Striker, shot in the rear end by Deputy U.S. Marshal Art Rodrick.

Lucien Haag, a firearms and ballistics expert who matched bullets to weapons, said a shot from Harris' gun killed Degan, but testified that Cooper's and Roderick's account of where Degan and Harris were located when the fatal shot was fired does *not* correspond to the ballistic evidence. Cooper also testified under oath that he did not shoot Sammy Weaver.

That was one of many discrepancies in the testimony of federal agents. Prosecutor Ron Howen was forced to apologize to the court after it was learned he was told weeks before the trial that photographic evidence submitted by the FBI had been fabricated.

But U.S. District Court Judge Edward Lodge, who remarked twice that the government was far from proving its case, did not allow defense attorneys to tell the jury of misdeeds by the prosecution.

The prosecution was also embarrassed when it came to light

in the courtroom that mitigating facts from the notes of agents involved in the 11-day standoff were deliberately and illegally withheld from defense attorneys, including a statement by Idaho State Police Captain David Neal that he was under the impression after interviewing Roderick that Roderick had admitted firing the first shot that started the firefight.

FBI Agent Lon Horiuchi, a sniper with the Hostage Rescue Team, repeatedly denied in his testimony that he killed Vicki Weaver, Randy's wife, on purpose, claiming her death was an accident. Vicki Weaver was killed the day after her son; she was shot through the head while standing in the doorway of the Weaver cabin holding her 10-month-old daughter. Many Idaho citizens are wondering why Horiuchi has not been indicted for involuntary manslaughter.

But the most dramatic moment of the trial came after the government completed its presentation of evidence against Weaver and Harris. Howen, the lead prosecutor, apparently suffered a mental or emotional lapse in the midst of arguing against a defense motion for dismissal of charges. Howen inexplicably stopped in mid-sentence, his voice catching, and told Lodge, "I'm sorry judge, I can't continue." He then left the courtroom and did not return to the trial. The U.S. Attorney's office declined to comment, and another assistant U.S. attorney had to finish the trial.

"It sounds like he choked on his last lie," said a veteran lawyer and courtroom observer.

Lodge dismissed assault and firearms possession charges against Harris and Weaver, citing lack of evidence, and said he might also dismiss another count of harboring a fugitive. — *James L. Pate*

LAWMASTER UPDATE

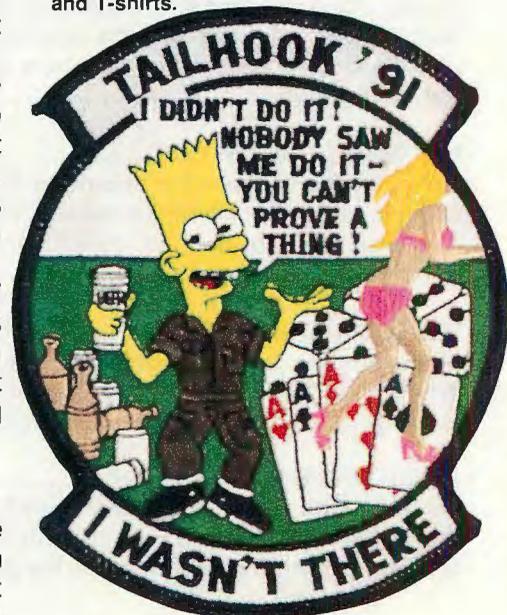
Did you know a person can make up a false criminal accusation against you, that law enforcement can use that information to get a

search warrant to ransack your house and, when nothing illegal is found, the feds will protect the identity of such a wanton liar?

That's what has happened in the case of John Lawmaster, whose home was left in a shambles after a raid by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms on 16 December 1991. Lawmaster's attorney, Steven L. Sessinghaus, assisted by the National Rifle Association, has been trying to force the government to unseal an affidavit used to obtain the search warrant.

According to the published opinion of the U.S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver, a sanitized version of the warrant — without the informant's name — claims that Lawmaster bought an illegally converted AR-15 rifle, that the informant had seen Lawmaster shooting it in a fully automatic mode and that it could be found in a green military gun case. Lawmaster says any allegation that he had a fully automatic gun is a lie — and this was confirmed by the ATF's fruitless search.

It had to happen, free enterprise being what it is ... You can get yours for \$8 from Vultures Row, Dept. SOF, 1886 Main Circle, #155, San Marcos, CA 92609. They also have other patches and T-shirts.

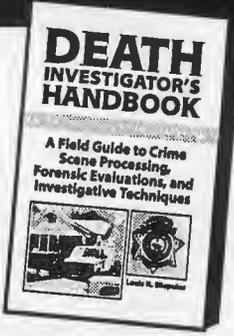


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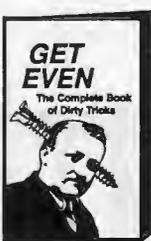
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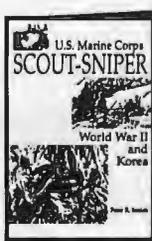
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In the latest round, the court filed a decision on 20 May, denying Lawmaster's attempt to obtain a full, unedited copy of the search warrant affidavit.

In oral arguments in Denver on 2 March, Sessinghaus stated the belief that Lawmaster's ex-wife, whom Lawmaster had just divorced, made false allegations to the ATF as an act of retribution.

Instead of trying to independently verify the informant's story, or check into the fact that Lawmaster had no criminal record or history of violence, or talk with Lawmaster personally, the ATF waited until Lawmaster wasn't home and then went over with two TV crews in tow to batter down his doors and turn the contents of his humble home upside down. Agent Blair Ward, the ATF scum in charge of the raid, had enticed Lawmaster's ex-wife to call John and get him away from the house on a pretense of getting her name off his car insurance.

The Lawmaster raid was witnessed by Ted Royster, ATF's regional agent-in-charge from Dallas — the same incompetent who led the disastrous ATF attack that got

four agents and six civilians killed in Waco on 28 February. It was one of many recent public relations disasters for ATF. When the Lawmaster raid came up empty-handed and ATF was strongly criticized for the damage it did to the home of a law-abiding citizen, ATF immediately tried to cover up its investigative incompetence by asking a U.S. magistrate to keep the search warrant affidavit — which presumably identifies Lawmaster's ex as the informant — sealed.

The government moved to seal the affidavit, claiming it was "necessary to protect the ongoing investigation" and because the informant "feared reprisal."

Sessinghaus appealed the magistrate's refusal to unseal the affidavit, charging an abuse of judicial discretion, but the U.S. District Court in Tulsa also refused to unseal the affidavit, even after the ATF admitted there was no ongoing investigation of Lawmaster.

The 10th U.S. Circuit Court decision noted that "the state is normally entitled to refuse to disclose the identity of a person who has furnished information relating

to an investigation of a possible violation of law. The underlying concern ... is the commonsense notion that individuals who offer their assistance to a government investigation may later be targeted for reprisal ... The government is entitled to assert the privilege without showing that reprisal is likely."

What about the idea that a liar using a law enforcement agency for retribution should be punished? What about one's right to face his or her accuser?

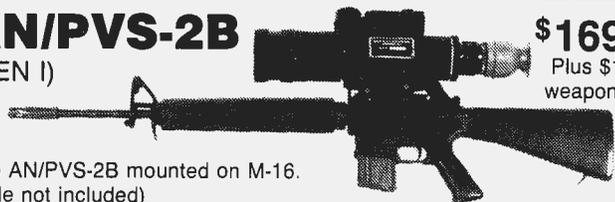
Such a snitch privilege will yield "when the identification of the informant is essential to ... the fair administration of justice." In a puzzling catch-22, the federal appellate judges in Denver said Lawmaster could gain access to the affidavit only if he could prove that "his need for the information outweighs the government's entitlement to the privilege." But he can't prove that without the affidavit.

Sessinghaus said he was undecided at this writing on whether to request a hearing before the U.S. Supreme Court.

— James L. Pate

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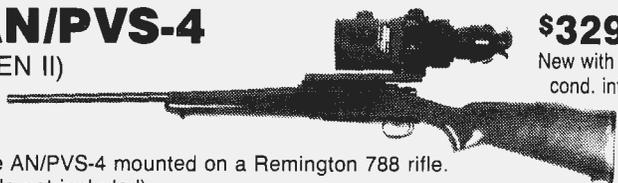
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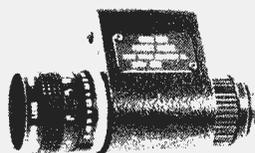
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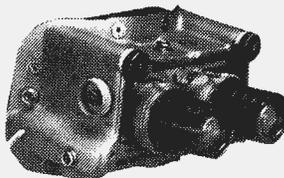
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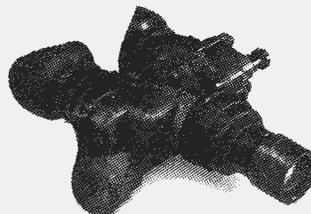
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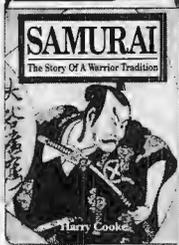
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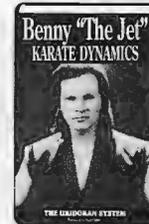
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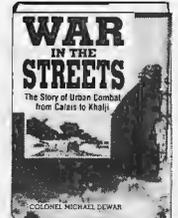
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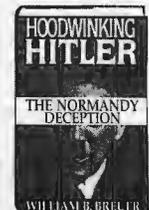
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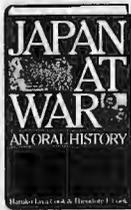
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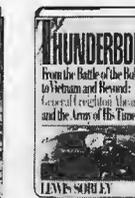
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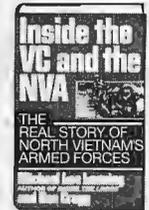
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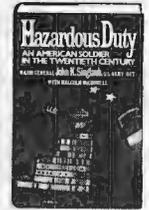
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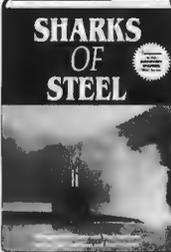
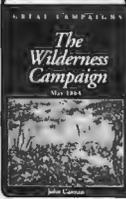
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SLICK WILLIE WATCH

GORE GAFFES

— Although Veep Al Gore has written much on environmentalism and has been billed as a staunch environmentalist, it may not be accurate to describe him as a tree hugger: When the current EPA chief Carol Browner was an aide to Gore, she bought a house in Takoma Park, Maryland, which bills itself as a tree city. She didn't care for a 60-foot oak tree in front of her house, and despite objections from her neighbors and the city she prevailed in cutting it down—six months later she moved!

— When asked whose picture he would hang in the VP office, Gore replied, "President Knox."

— Ever the high-profile outdoorsman, Gore made the mistake of trying it alone recently — and it took a platoon of 38 Secret Service men to find the lost Veep.

— We don't know who's in charge of such things, but the Secret Service has code-named the Veep "Sawhorse," and Mrs.

Hillary Rodham "Evergreen."

— Visiting Monticello as part of the inaugural Veep-elect's tour, Gore pointed to busts of George Washington and Benjamin Franklin and asked, "Who are these people?" The stunned tour guide filled him in. Maybe they confused him because they were next to a bust of President Knox.

WE'RE ALL GOING TO BE RICH

Remember how President Clinton promised, yes he did — he *promised*, that his administration would "look like America." Conversely, that means America will look like his administration, right? Well, we've got good news: Clinton has more millionaires on his cabinet than any president before him.

PEROT HIRES CLINTON?

In an interview with David Frost on PBS, wildcat politician Ross Perot said Clinton is so poorly prepared for the presidency that "you wouldn't consider giving him a job anywhere above middle management, if Clinton were to apply for a job in private industry.

Middle management? Well, I suppose ... as long it wasn't personnel manager — he hasn't had very good luck with the people he's tried to hire for his administration thus far ...

GENERAL FALLS ON HIS WORD

A little spicy insubordination is a typically American seasoning, but USAF Major General Harold Campbell was forced to retire and fined \$7,000 because he allegedly referred to Clinton as a "gay-loving," "pot-smoking," "draft-dodging" and "womanizing" commander in chief, while speaking at a banquet at Soesterberg Air Base in the Netherlands. Air Force officials decided Campbell — with two combat tours in Vietnam and a Silver Star — trod upon the UCMJ prohibition of "contemptuous" comments by officers in regard to their civilian leaders. We don't know how it is in the upper echelons of brass hats, but in the lower levels of journalism, hey, the truth is its own defense. ✂

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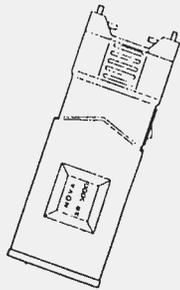
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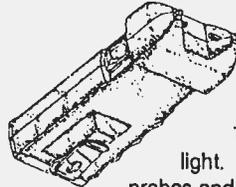
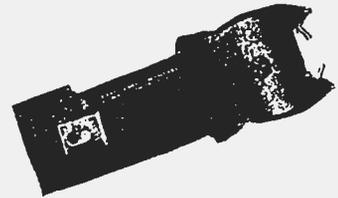
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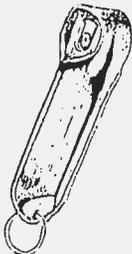


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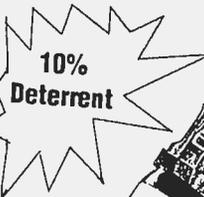
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VIDEO THAT TRIGGERED WACO RAID?

James L. Pate's article on the Waco tragedy in the July issue of your magazine was one of the most thorough offered on the topic.

As Executive Director of Gun Owners of America, I was particularly grateful that Mr. Pate took the trouble to correct the BATF's inaccurate citation of this organization's name in their original search warrant.

The videotape David Koresh showed a BATF agent was our "Breaking the Law in the Name of the Law: The BATF Story." This tape seems to have really teed these people off. It is the last item listed in the search warrant. Evidently the BATF's priesthood despises blasphemy against their god and prophets.

SOF readers who wish to see this tape for themselves can get it at a special 25% discount — \$14.95 including postage. Just contact Gun Owners of America and tell us Bob Brown sent you.

Larry Pratt
Executive Director, GOA
8001 Forbes Place, Ste.102
Springfield, Virginia 22151

WHAT WENT WRONG WITH BECKWITH?

Having just read Charlie Beckwith's article "What Went Wrong in Waco?" I'm looking for a bucket to heave in. Anybody who "cried" upon hearing about four government goons being killed and another 16 wounded needs some serious command guidance about who the aggressor was in that firefight.

Beckwith is obviously under the impression that the lower echelons of the ATF are farmboy conscripts instead of power-tripping wannabe SS volunteers. He also wants a "viable" ATF. I think he's identifying with that whacked-out British colonel in "The Bridge on the River Kwai."

As for Koresh and Co., the enemy of my enemy is my friend. If all the people who read *SOF* and complain about ATF had given Koresh a little help and run up the ATF casualty list, maybe the bureaucrats and politicians wouldn't sleep so soundly knowing that squads of government storm troopers may not be able to protect them.

W. Carter
Miami, Florida

MURDER IN THE NAME OF PUBLIC SAFETY

A particularly telling incident occurred recently. I was discussing Waco with a liberal acquaintance when he screamed at me, "If the people in Waco felt the way they did, they deserved to die!" As horrified as I was, I wish that chicken farmer in the White House (no offense to chicken farmers), and his attorney generalette had the decency to express their feelings as openly as this person did.

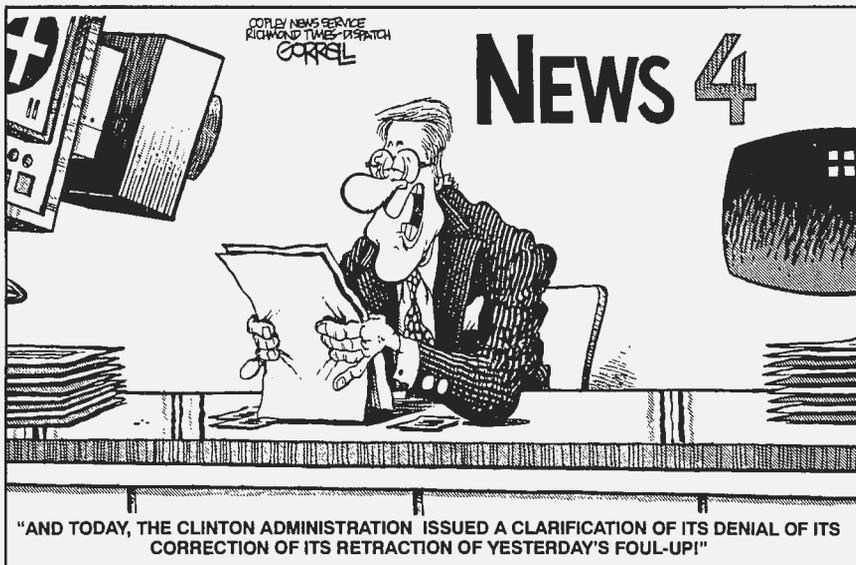
I have never been so sickened as watching our highest elected official blithely destroy two centuries of tradition — the presumption of innocence until proof of guilt and due process of law. Without one aggressive act being committed, 84 to 86 people were ultimately murdered in the name of public safety. I for one do not feel very safe, nor does Clinton's grandstand call for 100,000 more police patrolling the streets fill me with a particular sense of security.

James Wasserman
New York, New York

WACO ARTICLE WAS YELLOW JOURNALISM?

It was obvious from the cover of the June '93 issue that the articles within would be tinted. In order to attempt to give credibility to your comparison of "black-uniformed BATF men," you tinted the entire cover photo with a red hue, making the navy blue BDUs appear black. The red tint accomplished the desired result, whereas yellow would have been more appropriate for this type of journalism.

After the visible demonstration of your magazine's slant on the issue, the factual discrepancies were slightly easier to digest. Under the title "Gun Gestapo's Day of Infamy," statements attributing the use of MP5 SDs, "armor-piercing" cartridges and M16s to ATF entry teams are entertaining but not based on reality.



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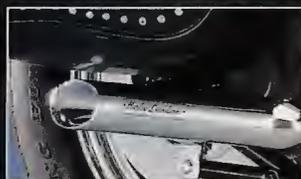


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The Harley-Davidson Heritage Softail Classic. Exclusively From Franklin Mint Precision Models.®

Regarding Vernon Howell's previous level of violence, could it be your "ace reporter" forgot to ask former Waco District Attorney Vic Feazell (whom he quotes on page 49) about the circumstances of the "attempted murder" in 1987, which he attempted to prosecute. And the lie regarding ambulances on page 53, denying the fact that there were ambulances standing by on the paved road two miles away from the compound, before the service of the search warrant, demonstrates that James Pate did not bother to read the interviews in local Waco newspapers. Where did he get his "facts?" Also, it would have been more informative if the author had quoted Frank Bolz Jr. in context (page 53).

Regarding the author, would you care to clarify his field experience and instructor-level credentials in the area of American law enforcement tactics and use of force?

Anonymous

James L. Pate responds: *Your letter is amusing. I don't blame you; I wouldn't have had the guts to sign it either. If I confused the navy blue*

uniforms with the black ballistic vests, please forgive me. I admittedly have trouble with colors. I would point out, however, that as the writer, I had nothing to do with the color screening used on the cover photograph. Though I don't see what difference it makes.

As for the weapons used by ATF: Two federal law enforcement sources told SOF that one agent, Steve Willis, was armed with an MP5 SD. We checked again with the sources and stand by the report. If ATF can prove otherwise, so be it. It would be nice to hear some factual statements from ATF for a change, instead of the evasions, misleading statements and outright lies they tried to foist off on the public in Waco. The ill-fated entry team that entered an upstairs window was armed with Sig-Sauers — stupid, because ATF knew the cult had high-powered rifles. A few agents also were armed with M16s.

As for former McLennan County District Attorney Vic Feazell's prosecution of David Koresh for attempted murder in 1987, I am aware of the general circumstances of the gunfight. The only injury was

sustained by George Roden, the former cult leader from whom Koresh and his followers wrested control. Roden was wounded in the finger, according to an affidavit filed by ATF.

As for ambulances, ATF did not have ambulances handy when needed, a major planning flaw. Why else did an agent request a TV reporter to get on the radio and call ambulances? Why else were agents initially evacuated in news vehicles? (I read all the Waco, Fort Worth, Dallas and Houston newspapers for the first week. The article quoted extensively from eyewitnesses mentioned in these reports.)

The Bolz statement is simple and declarative, not taken out of context. The ATF was foolhardy to storm a sprawling compound in which they knew were many innocent women and children. Period. And the horrible deaths of those women and children did "overshadow the deaths of heroic agents."

As for my "field experience" and instructor level credentials: I have covered the military and law enforcement for 16 years, including extensive time in the field. I also



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read extensively and talk to qualified experts to gain informed opinions. And the weight of informed opinion is that the ATF is a stumbling, bumbling bunch of idiots in sore need of some professional leadership. If you want to defend their Waco raid as a competent law enforcement operation, that is your option. But unlike you, oh Nutless One, I sign my name to what I write.

U.S. SOVEREIGNTY IN QUESTION

What gives with the U.S. flag shoulder patches on the wrong shoulders of our troops in Somalia (as pictured in the article "Aid, Attack and Restore Hope," SOF April '93)? Law requires these on the right shoulder, not left, to show there is nothing sovereign above it. Is this due to sovereignty now subjugated to the United Nations?

Gen. S. B. Vaughn
Las Vegas, Nevada

According to Sgt. Maj. Taylor from the uniform division at the Dept. of the Army in Washington D.C., the wear policy for the U.S. flag states that it must be worn on the

right shoulder with the blue field going forward. This is not a formal code, but a "message policy" necessitated during periods of conflict when national identification needs to be established.

However, public affairs 2nd Lt. Mitchell from Camp Lejeune told SOF that the Marines have always worn their patches on the left because it is the arm closest to the heart. According to CWO Right from Marine Corps Public Affairs in Washington D.C., the Marines have no specific code regulating which shoulder the patch is to be worn on; the authorization is made by the overall commander of the operation being undertaken. If Americans are operating under the blue hat of the United Nations, the U.N. commander can decide on how and where to wear the flag.

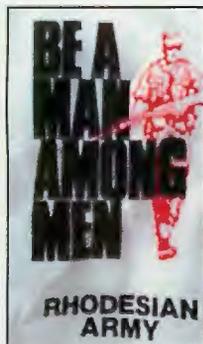
MARINES KEEP THEIR MUTTS

In response to guardsman Purpuro's surprise at the Marine contingent in Somalia using M151A2 jeeps (FLAK SOF June '93), I'd like to provide an answer for him, as well as other befuddled vehicle enthusiasts.

Despite the almost complete adoption of the Humvee series by the U.S. military, USMC air assault companies have chosen to retain the old MUTTS, as the Humvees, due to their width, are unable to fit into CH-53 Sea Stallion cargo holds.

These old jeeps have been given a new lease on life by means of an upgrade that includes fitting of IR lights for high-speed night driving (when used in conjunction with NVGs), larger off-road tires, roll cages with ballistic windshields, as well as performance improvements such as an external radiator and better suspension system. They are referred to by the Marines as Fast Attack Vehicles (not to be confused with the dune buggy-type vehicles used by SpecOps units). These super jeeps could be seen during the televised landing of the Marines at Mogadishu airport, driving out of the rear doors of CH-53s to establish defensive perimeters. At the time, the CNN military "expert" referred to the little jeeps as LAVs, which is an entirely different animal.

Christian Petak
Burlingame, California

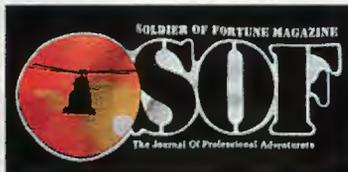


Rhodesian #1003

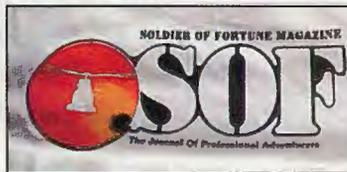
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 1300 — SOF FIREPOWER DEMO

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by Louis Awerbuck



Backup guns come in a wide array of calibers and configurations. But whichever model is selected it must be carried in an immediately accessible location.
Photo: Peter G. Kokalis

It is not mere conventional wisdom that one's person is increasingly in jeopardy from violent attack: Crime statistics prove it beyond reasonable debate.

It is also patently obvious that law enforcement resources are stretched to the limit, both logistically and judicially. Prudent preparation for active self defense is often the only protection against being mugged, raped, murdered or car-jacked.

The simplest precaution to enable the Good Guy to defend against deadly force is a firearm and attendant training in his weapon of choice. This article will not cover the training aspect, but it will offer some rationale for carrying more than one sidearm.

While this suggestion often raises eyebrows and elicits comments seasoned with terms like "paranoia" and "cowboy," the idea is not as ludicrous as it might appear at first glance. If you cannot access your one and only handgun *instantly* with either hand while standing, kneeling, prostrate or seated in your car at a traffic light, all you are doing is carrying a "security blanket," as

opposed to a security device.

Likewise, it doesn't help to have a second gun in such deep concealment that it, too, is inaccessible. The base reasoning for having more than one gun available is to allow instant access to either one of the guns, depending on the tactical defensive scenario of the moment. And the operative word is "defensive." If the scenario is of your choosing, and thus essentially offensive in nature, the basic problem discussed in this article is not relevant.

It is interesting to note that while many people tote a high-capacity semiauto pistol and abundant spare magazines, the mere mention of two or more guns on or near one's person often raises doubts about your sanity. What situations could arise to warrant the consideration of multiple sidearms?

The first — and most obvious — is when the primary weapon is out of commission. This can be the result of numerous causes, ranging from running out of ammo to mechanical malfunction.

While there have been horrific, extended fights where shootists

have run their weapons down to zero ammunition, the usual bland reply to this possibility is "Well, I always carry enough spare mags to cover that eventuality." The only problem is that no matter how proficient you become at speed-loading, you cannot count expended rounds in a hot-and-heavy rapid-fire confrontation, you don't always have the luxury of cover and concealment, and it will take at least a second to work out the reason why your weapon has ceased to function. In other words, the man hasn't been born who can perform a one-second shot-to-shot reload in a contact-distance fight, because of the *reaction time which will pass* before the actual process of reloading can begin.

So don't be beguiled by that one — or the premise of a split-second malfunction clearance either — for the same reason. This is a real war we're talking about, not some trumped-up predetermined firing range exercise. Pulling a second gun is invariably faster than trying to fix a mechanical problem.

Additionally, while weapon retention techniques should be rigorously practiced, anybody can be overpowered and have a weapon either snatched from their possession or deflected off target for long enough to effectively put him/her out of commission.

A second tactical consideration is that of injury. Again, while you should practice accessing your primary weapon with either hand, this may be too slow for a specific scenario, not feasible on a given day, or simply impossible because you take a hit before you can clear leather with the hand of your choice. The smug thought that you're tactically aware and will always see the trouble building in advance has filled many a coffin.

Take a round through your car window into your strong-side arm

and your normal sub-one-second draw stroke becomes a nightmare of eternity. Correlated to this situation is the relatively new-to-America fad of car-jacking, which is essentially a new version of a tried-and-true terrorist assassination technique. Tactics need to be modified in consideration of the ever-changing avenues and techniques of criminal attack, but there is one inviolable answer to a car-jacking: Either react with explosive, instantaneous force of your own, or be prepared to beg mercy from a barbarian — and we all know how *that* story ends.

If you choose the former option, and elect to use a firearm, you will probably need to carry a second, or even a third handgun. And again, if words like "paranoia" or "lunacy" leap to mind, ask yourself: "Can I bypass a seat belt and access my handgun *without delay* while seated behind the wheel at a traffic light?"

If the answer is negative, your current mode of carry won't help you one whit in a jacking situation: You either need an additional gun or an alternative mode of carry.

There is neither a middle-of-the-road answer nor a perfect solution. But you don't have to be a rocket scientist to figure out that you're probably not going to win a gunfight without a gun. And that you had better put your hand on one fast if you have a gun muzzle shoved in your face through your car window, because you have only about three-fifths of a second to react before you're dog meat.

So what's the golden answer to how many guns you carry, and how you carry them?

There isn't one.

It will depend on your lifestyle, clothing; there are legal considerations, and most everybody's needs are different. But if you're carrying a backup gun in the ubiquitous ol' ankle rig, don't wear skin-tight jeans.

It doesn't matter how sexy you look if you're dead.

Louis Awerbuck is proprietor of the Yavapai Firearms Academy in Prescott Valley, Arizona, and a frequent contributor to "Combat Weaponcraft." ❧

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WORLD SITREP

1

Belize

Over 12-month period, Britain will withdraw 1,500-man garrison maintained in commonwealth since independence in 1981. Move is to deter Guatemala from acting on territorial claims it has on Belize. Some 200 Brit troops will remain to operate jungle warfare training center ...

2

Peru

Thirty-three Shining Path guerrillas killed in battle with army troops in upper Huallaga River valley, costing army three KIA. Guerrillas offensive marked 13th anniversary of insurrection ...

3

Haiti

U.N. prepares to impose oil embargo on Haiti in attempt to force ruling junta to accept return of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide ...

7

Italy

Italian air force considers leasing up to 70 McDonnell Douglas F-15A/B or 70 General Dynamics F-16A/B aircraft to maintain capability until delivery of German-designed Eurofighter 2000 aircraft, projected for 2007. Leased craft would replace Lockheed F-104 interceptors ...

8

Albania

Jitters over prospect of fighting in an expanding Balkans war prompts country to bring military equipment out of storage and up to operational readiness ...

12

Nigeria

Ruling military poised to nullify results of election on returning country to civilian rule, when initial vote tally makes it clear junta lost ...

14

Zaire

More than 2,000 reported dead from 10 months of ethnic fighting in eastern Zaire. Clashes believed instigated by government against tribes of political rivals trying to end President Mobuto's 27-year reign and bring democracy to country ...

13

Liberia

Rebels loyal to guerrilla leader Charles Taylor blamed for mutilation killings of 300 refugees in camp outside capital city of Monrovia. Taylor radio broadcast two weeks earlier ordered "reign of terror" on refugees ...

4

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16

Lebanon

The 400 Islamic members of Hamas movement expelled from Israel last December aren't living martyrs' lives. Deportees' camp north of Israeli security zone equipped with portable generators, large-screen TV and VCR, with small store selling cold drinks and fresh eggs — also four cellular phones for international calls ...

2

17

Turkey

Kurdish guerrillas in eastern Turkey end two-month truce, ambush bus carrying 34 soldiers and three police, killing all along with the driver. Government retaliatory strikes kill at least 44 Kurds ...

21

Indonesia

Defense ministry to purchase one-third of vessels from former East German navy, for bargain-basement price of \$420 million. Buy includes 16 "Parchim" class 1,200-ton corvettes, 12 "Frosch I" class 1,950-ton landing craft, nine "Kondor II" class 400-ton minesweepers, and two "Frosch II" class support ships ...

22

Philippines

Government claims New People's Army insurgents' ranks have dropped 7% over past year, declining to 11,160. Drop attributed to strife among rebels and counterinsurgency successes ...

4
Guatemala

President Jorge Serrano ousted after military refuses to back his attempt to dissolve congress and seize power ...

5
Spain

Spanish air force will acquire 14 Mirage F-1s from Kuwaiti air force, which is re-equipping with McDonnell Douglas F/A-18s ...

6
Switzerland

In national referendum forced by local pacifists and greens, voters approve purchase of 34 McDonnell Douglas F/A-18s for Swiss air force ...

9
Croatia

Croat military reportedly obtaining new arms, said planning offensive for late summer to regain control of Krajina region, west of Bosnia. Serbs have been mounting attacks there, possibly to pre-empt Croat move ...

10
Hungary

Hungary will get 22 MiG-29 fighters worth \$800 million from Russia in payment for debts incurred by former Soviet forces when stationed in-country ...

11
Russia

Country will demilitarize 1.2 billion tons of ammo between 1993 and '97 ...
Russia reaches agreement with Ukraine to evenly split Black Sea fleet, to remain based at port of Sevastopol ...

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18
Afghanistan

Defense minister Ahmed Shah Massoud agrees to step down under terms of cease-fire agreement ending latest round of fighting against forces of mujahideen leader Hekmatyar, who is prime minister designate ...

15
Israel

Israel aerospace and arms firms gaining major supplier contracts for ex-Soviet Bloc nations and Third World ex-Soviet arms recipients. Israeli companies said to have inked deal with Romania to upgrade 100 MiG-21 fighters, while negotiating similar deal with India to upgrade its MiG-21 fleet.
Israeli firms also believed to have closed \$400 million-plus deal to supply India with tank fire-control systems along with \$50 million contract to provide Estonia with small arms ...

14
Iran

Air force launches strikes on two mujahideen *Khalq* guerrilla bases in Iraq ...

20
China

Foreign minister Qian Qichen tells Israel no further deliveries of ballistic missiles will go to Iran or Syria ...
Defense Minister Gen. Chi Haotian says China will not use military force to take over disputed Spratly Islands in South China Sea, claimed (all or in part) by China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Brunei, Malaysia and the Philippines ...
People's Liberation Army will demobilize 64,000 officers, double last year's total. Discharged personnel urged to find jobs in private sector; past stand-downs normally included offers of government work ...
Police teargas demonstrators in Lhasa, Tibet, protesting inflation when event turns into protest against Chinese — first serious disturbance since pro-independence protests were crushed in 1989 ...

22

21

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profitable civilian line, ate the higher cost of accelerating production, cranked out Randolphs around the clock — and met the request on time, with no increase in unit cost to DoD. That's putting your patriotism where your profit used to be. DoD cited Randolph Engineering for their extraordinary efforts, and if you want to cite them for their patriotism — look for their glasses. To find the Randolph dealer nearest you, simply call them; phone: 800-541-1405. Or look for their distinctive "shotgun shell" displays at better sporting goods stores. Or drop them a note at Randolph Engineering Inc., Dept. SOF, 275 Centre St., Holbrook, MA 02343-1075.

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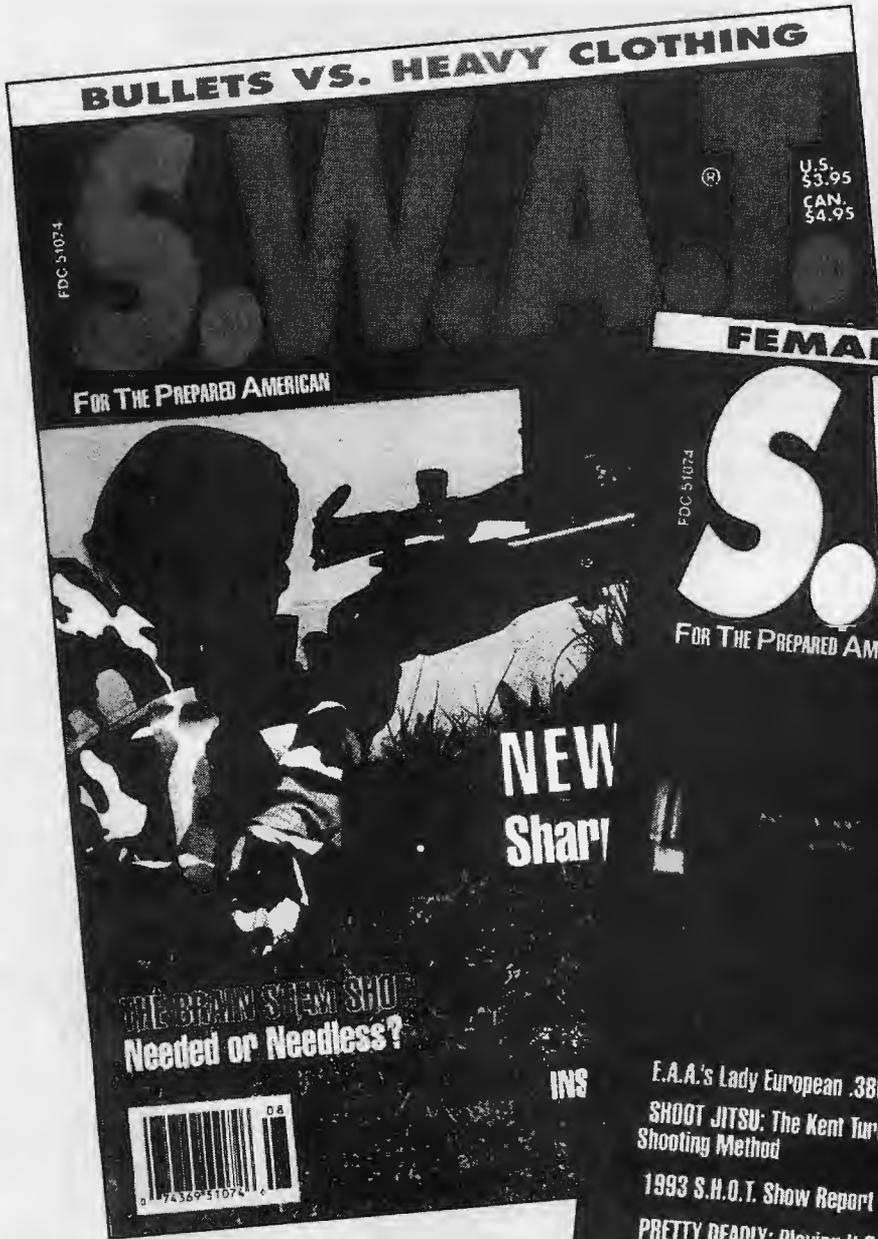
Afko is now marketing a full line of miniature laser target designator "sights" for duty pistols by Beretta, Glock, SiG, Colt, S&W and Ruger. They all feature ambidextrous, ergonomic "tap-touch" sensors for on-off tac-



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tion on the "lower center mass" — the proven method of hitting a target in low light or other stressful conditions. For further information, send a stamped envelope to JAS Inc., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box O, Rosemount, MN 55068; (612) 890-7631.

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Any clean water is good when you're thirsty: But cold water sure tastes better. Aqua Sack (from Designer Beverage Wear, Dept. SOF, 9700 E. Iliff, Suite I-95, Denver, CO 80231; phone: 303-751-9483, has that consideration well-covered with an idea borrowed from Israeli soldiers. Their Aqua Sack insulated water bottle covers come in four sizes from 2 liter to 1/2 liter and in 10 cool colors, to keep your water cold and make it easy to carry. A practical item for yuppies to survivalists. ☞

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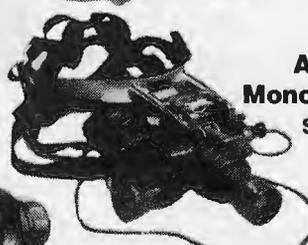


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93FSOF

EXCLUSIVE

BATF'S MAGIC BULLETS

EDITOR'S NOTE: SOF's mention of a tubular steel bullet in our first report on the ATF/Waco disaster (see "Gun Gestapo's Day of Infamy," June '93) drew so much comment, it was decided that a full-scale follow-up was in order.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms (ATF) continues to deny that any of its agents were wounded by their own men in the raid on the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas. Citing an anonymous federal law enforcement source, *Newsweek* magazine reported "evidence" that there *were* victims of friendly fire. *SOF* rechecked its sources, who also insist that there were friendly fire casualties, and they cited the use of tubular steel ammunition as that evidence. They emphasized, however, that these friendly fire casualties did not include any of the four agents killed.

The most persistent account is of an agent wounding himself with an accidental discharge (AD) from his weapon before the raid began. Indeed, the very first notice of the raid received by this reporter — from a source with ties to federal law enforcement who called the afternoon of 28 February — included information that an ATF agent wounded himself with an AD as he got out of a cattle trailer.

According to that source, who had talked with ATF personnel, that accidental gunshot and the agent's cries of "I'm hit! I'm hit!" could be what started the firefight that left four ATF agents and an unknown number of Branch Davidians dead.

SOF has been able to discount one version of an AD resulting in a gunshot wound, that of an ATF agent who supposedly shot himself in the leg as he unholstered his sidearm while climbing a ladder. Our viewing of broadcast film, including outtakes, conclusively disproves this report. The agent's right foot merely slipped off a ladder rung, and his color-coded helmet confirmed that the agent reached the roof and entered a second-floor window.

It is worth noting that the ATF's initial count of their wounded — 16 — was later revised to 15. Perhaps supervisors decided to make a bad situation look a little better by eliminating friendly fire casualties from their count of the wounded.

Exotic 9mm "Cyclone" Round Exposed

by James L. Pate

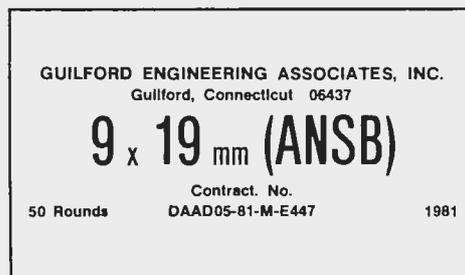
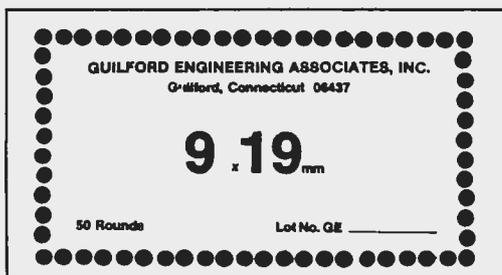
Photos by Ken Carter

By any count, though, the raid was an unqualified disaster. If 100 agents participated in the raid, as initially reported, the original casualty rate, including four dead, works out to 20%: unacceptable to most commanders, with the possible exception of Iranian fanatics plotting human-wave attacks against fortified positions. One agent who participated in the raid, anonymously interviewed on CBS' *Street Stories*, said only 90 ATF agents participated, which would bump the casualty rate up to 22%. Other reports indicate the actual assault team numbered significantly lower, with one figure indicating 50% casualties.

Two *SOF* sources cited the recovery of a government-issued bullet from at least one wounded agent. They both described a tubular steel round, supposedly issued in case cult defenders were wearing body armor. Reports from cult survivors indicate that Koresh and a few others were wearing body armor.

One source described the tubular steel bullet as a "Cyclone," saying it apparently had been nicknamed by some agents because of its destructive potential — a powerful force spinning rapidly around a hollow center.

The "Cyclone" nickname is not well known. But exist-



Left: copy of label from purported FBI SWAT bullet, by Guilford Engineering Associates. Right: label from ANSB rounds Guilford produced under military contract.



"Cyclone" tubular steel rounds, designed to defeat polyaramid fabric body armor: At left is prototype bullet loaded in Winchester brass for U.S. Army at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. At right is similar bullet loaded in GEA brass with a high-density polyethylene feeder-tip to facilitate functioning in automatic weapons.

Note hollow-steel core in bullet, which presents a rapidly spinning annular knife edge to ballistic fiber, cutting through body armor and continuing on into target. Polyethylene tip on round at right ensures positive feeding and protects lips of annular knife, but does not interfere with "cookie-cutter" effect of round.

Two variations of the annular-nose, solid-base (ANSB) ammo made by GEA for Delta Force and the ultra-secret ISA (Intelligence Support Activity). Essentially a steel-cored re-invention of a hollow-point bullet, these rounds were not very effective.

ence of the tubular steel bullet has been publicized before, and a legal variant (not steel) was sold in the United States for a short time.

Here's what we've learned since the first Waco story.

The small arms handgun tubular bullet concept was conceived and developed by Abe Flatau in 1978-80. At the time, Flatau was an experimental aerodynamacist specializing in unconventionally configured ammunition at the Army's Edgewood Arsenal, adjacent to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

"Everyone at that time was impressed with Kevlar [the trademark name of a DuPont-developed anti-ballistic polyaramid fiber used to make soft body armor]," Flatau told *SOF*. "I had an idea that I believed would make Kevlar easy to defeat."

That idea was a light, high-velocity, tubular steel bullet, hollow in the middle and sharpened on its leading edge, jacketed in copper to prevent the steel from damaging the bore of a gun barrel.

After putting his ideas on paper, Flatau hired Guilford Engineering Associates Inc., of Guilford, Connecticut, to make the first rounds for testing. Guilford is run by David Findlay, whom Flatau knew from having worked with him. Findlay made the first rough prototypes, and design modifications thereafter included changes in the bullet's shape and size.

The product that resulted is remarkable for its high gyroscopic stability, making it less likely to wildly ricochet. It has high velocity and high kinetic energy, yet significantly reduced recoil. Flatau, now retired, pointed out that the round shoots flatter, and has a shorter time in flight, with less aerodynamic drag.

Flatau's bullet penetrates body armor rated to stop conventional 9x19mm or .45 ammunition, and then some. Experiments in the wound ballistics laboratory indicated superb terminal ballistics.

For the shooter — and especially the shootee — superb terminal ballistics translates as "a very nasty bullet," Flatau said. The tubular design produces a coring effect as it penetrates a target, much like a small, high-speed cookie cutter, leaving a wound very difficult to repair. Large amounts of tissue are extruded and the bullets tend to tumble 180 degrees after penetration, which exacerbates the displacement effect.

The terminal ballistics — and the patent application — of Flatau's tubular steel bullets were classified by the Army at the time, he said, but have since been declassified. They remain illegal for civilians to possess. Neither soft body armor nor Kevlar helmets, which were just being tested at the time, will stop a tubular steel bullet at conventional pistol range.

Flatau left government service for 18 months in the private sector in 1980. He returned to the Special Projects Office in the Human Engineering Laboratory at the Army's Aberdeen Proving Ground in late 1981, resuming his work in experimental ammunition for special operations units.

Findlay's Guilford Engineering Associates continued to provide the actual ammunition, expensive rounds that had to be individually machined and essentially hand-loaded. The rounds were a tubular steel body encased with a copper rotating band; the steel was machined to a sharpened leading edge, a key feature in its ability to penetrate anti-ballistic fiber.

The experimental ammunition was made in four sizes, Flatau told *SOF*: 9x19mm, .45 ACP, 9mm Magnum and .45 Magnum. The Magnum bullets were made "just to determine the bullet's basic performance characteristics," Flatau said, not with any intent of possible production.

The 9mm steel tubular projectile developed by Flatau is a 57.2-grain bullet with a velocity of approximately 1,600-1,800 feet per second from a 9x19mm case with appropriate loading. His .45 ACP steel round weighs 116 grains and has a velocity of about 1,250 feet per second.

The velocities on the experimental Magnum rounds were impressive. Using a Thompson-Center Contender with a 7-inch barrel, the tubular steel .45 Magnum rounds achieved a velocity of 2,700 fps, Flatau recalled, while the 9mm Magnum tubular left the barrel at about 2,350-2,400 fps.

Word about the new steel bullet got around. It was demonstrated for small arms instructors the Marine Corps Development and Education Center (MCDEC) at Quantico, Virginia. "They were crazy about it," Flatau recalled.

In 1984, the law enforcement community expressed its first interest in Flatau's tubular steel bullet. All orders had



GEA (Guilford Engineering Associates) headstamp: GEA loaded this and other rounds for FBI special operations units.

Continued on page 69

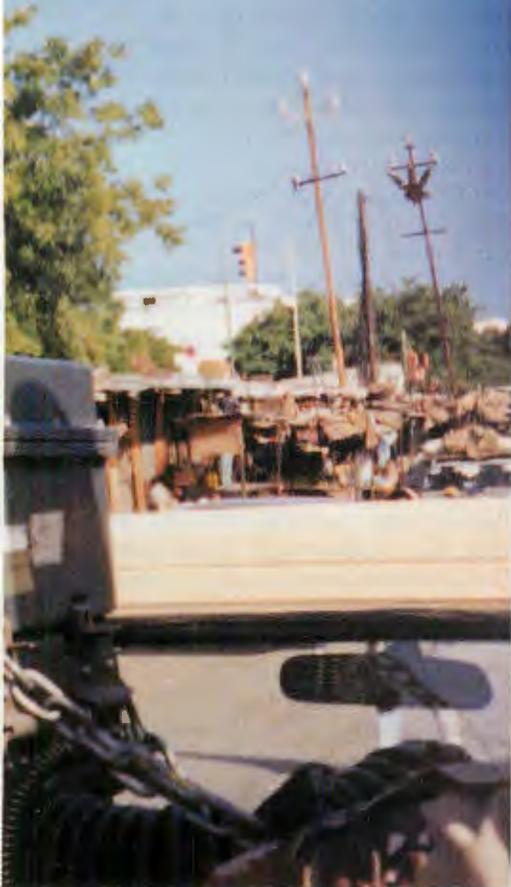


WORST KIND OF

**5 Firefights, 4
“Humanitarian”**

by John Zimmerman

"We were lucky, we were quick, we had superior technology, and they were dead." Photo: Rob Krott



Remember, the United States is NOT at war!

... stated the first line of the rules of engagement. America may not have been at war in Somalia, but U.S. ground troops *were* involved in combat. From a soldier's perspective it was the worst kind of combat, where the enemy was unrecognizable.

Looking back at my 15 weeks (15 December 1992 through 1 April 1993) serving in Operation Restore Hope, a "humanitarian mission," I recall seeing no starving Somalis nor very much humanitarian relief. What I did experience as a U.S. Army light infantry scout squad leader was five firefights, four confirmed kills, hostile sniper fire, rock-throwing and rioting.

Shortly after arrival in Somalia, our scout platoon of the 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry, 10th Mountain Division was ordered to help establish law and order in the port city of Marka, some 75km southwest of Mogadishu on the Indian Ocean.

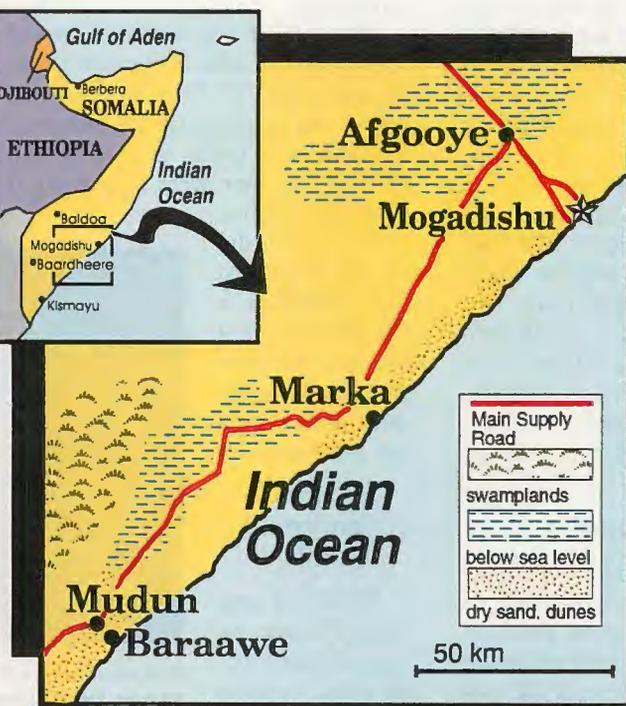
Establishing law and order meant confiscating weapons, so life in Marka could return to a Somali sense of normalcy. In my view, the objective required an unannounced cordon of the area, followed by a thorough search of the whole community. But politics hindered our ability to effectively do the job.

Marka had been inundated with PSYOPS leaflets warning how the Americans were coming for days prior to our arrival there on New Year's Eve. People were warned that non-"registered" weapons would be seized if observed. Crew-served weapons or armed "technical" vehicles would not be condoned.

But we didn't seize any arms until 5 January. The Somalis weren't stupid and didn't want to give up their guns, so they logically hid them until they needed them. Those first few days counterintelligence teams, interpreters, civil affairs and PSYOPS personnel did their thing. The Somalis knew the deal: We were blowing smoke.

Then 5 January rolled around, the date for our big, battalion-sized, synchronized, systematic weapons sweep of Marka. Thus far the deal was: If we openly observed any weapons, we could take them. Otherwise the Somalis would have to offer them to us. We could not enter homes or search clan compounds.

All that day we talked with the locals. Some "Sammies" were wise guys, telling us straight out that we couldn't take their hidden guns away — it really pissed us off. We did seize a few weapons kept in plain sight inside vehicles. Offering kids a buck or so to point out caches



Map: Krissie Anderson

WAR

Confirmed Kills During Ops in Somalia

or bring us weapons turned up a few more specimens, but nothing significant. It was irritating for us to bypass known clan compounds housing weapons and Sammies who played dumb.

I got the ass and had a brilliant idea: Somalis weren't exactly technologically advanced — one group of guards at a compound thought Sergeant Warren's GPS



Army scouts using Humvees on 24-hour roadblock op outside Afgooye, 25km northwest of Mogadishu — risky duty in blistering midday heat or at night — searching vehicles filled with intoxicated, armed or aggressive Somalis.
Photo: John Zimmerman

(Global Positioning System) was a camera. Moving to another compound, we ordered the Sammies there to bring out all their weapons. Of course they denied having any. Then I began to lean on them, saying we knew they were lying and hiding arms and demanded they surrender them at once or we were going in after them.

Again the Sammies denied having weapons, but I replied that my “machine” (the GPS) had detected their guns. Chagrined, they brought out a couple of AK-47s, an H&K G3 rifle and a 9mm Beretta submachine gun. Afterward I passed my little success story on to other scout squads.

Sergeant Stevens tried the GPS trick on another compound and his squad reeled in the day’s biggest catch: two belt-fed machine guns — a .50-caliber and a .30-caliber — 13 varied assault rifles and two technical vehicles. All in all, our scout platoon took 28 of 32 weapons seized by the battalion that day.

Risky Roadblocks

Our battalion command worked out a rotational plan for securing Marka’s port, manning checkpoints, conducting patrols and maintaining perimeter security. To help implement the system, our scout squads were tasked with area assessment missions for small communities in the surrounding area. Typically, we would observe a particular town from several vantage points. For two days we would remain outside the community, silently eyeballing day-to-day life and watching for any technical vehicles, bandit activities or weapons employment. On our third day, two scout teams would provide overwatch, sniper positions and a quick reaction force. Then one scout squad, a lieutenant and an inter-

preter would take to the streets gathering information on banditry, town elders and political affiliations. The squad would also assess locally available water, food and medical aid.

Alternately, our unit conducted 24-hour roadblocks — potentially dangerous operations for a 19-man scout platoon unsure of its “enemies.” It

required a small act of valor at 0300 to stop a vehicle full of Sammies, herd them roadside, provide overwatch, then go about searching personnel and transport for weapons. It was also risky at midday when vehicles might be backed up both ways a half-mile or so; it was hot as hell and Sammies were stoned and aggressive on *khat* and other substances.

One vehicle we searched carried \$50,000 in U.S. cash along with a mint Browning M1919 .30-caliber machine gun — pity the poor, starving Sammies. Somalia was home to crooks and thieves. The men were lazy and did essentially nothing while women did all the work. At one roadblock a car got a flat tire; I watched the men inside it make their women get out and change it.

First Confirmed Kills

While we continued scouting around Marka, numerous reports were received of bandits setting up their own roadblock operations in the village of Mudun, southwest of us and just over the seacoast ridge from Baraawe. Our squads were short-handed, so my group and Stevens’ squad combined to form “Team Combat” to go there and assess bandit traffic in and out of Mudun.

Stevens would be my point man for this operation. As team leader, I would walk behind him, followed by my

radioman Corporal Peterson and scout/observer Specialist Smith, with Spc. Choate providing rear security.

On 18 February we inserted via two Humvees near a radio tower atop Baraawe’s coastal ridge at 2030. We moved parallel to Somalia’s north-south MSR (Main Supply Road) from 250 to 300 meters away, with a wood line providing concealment as we gradually worked our way down toward Mudun. We ended up some 300 meters from the village crossroad we were supposed to observe. Conducting a security halt to establish location, we could see lights, activity and what appeared to be a vehicle stopped at the intersection.

Based on this, Stevens silently guided the team into Mudun along the MSR to within 50 meters of the crossroad. We paused for another security halt, taking cover inside the blown-out corner wall of a United Somali Congress (USC — under major warlord Mohamed Farah Aidid) compound. Peering over the wall’s remains, we used our NODs (Night Observation Devices) to assess locations for setting up an OP.

Stevens and I noticed three figures crossing the roadway. In the dark we could see two Somali men distinctly walking together, with a third man 10



First confirmed kill for author’s scout platoon, 18 Feb. ’93 in Mudun. Dead Sammy carried M16A1 rifle with A2 tracer rounds. Scouts were assessing likely OP site when assaulted by three Somali bandits. From left in foreground: squad leaders Zimmerman and Stevens. Photo: courtesy author

to 15 meters behind them attempting to catch up. The lead pair were parallel to our wall and heading toward us.

I told Stevens to let the trio pass, but subdue and hold them if they compromised us. No sooner had I whispered this when the first two Somalis appeared at the blown-out portion of the wall, no more than arm’s distance away. Stevens was directly in front of

me ... "Stop! Drop your weapons now!" he shouted.

The first Sammy cracked a smile and raised his weapon at Stevens. Immediately the sergeant shot him. I moved to Stevens' right and fired, hitting the second man. Our squad instantly deployed on line to my right and conducted a textbook chance contact immediate-assault battle drill.

Since the first two men no longer posed a threat, I shifted my fire to the third Somali fleeing with a weapon.



Probing for weapons: Scout on Kismayu, Somalia, cordon and search operation, March 1993. Photo: John Zimmerman

We assaulted across the kill zone. The two Sammies were still alive and writhing about — a weapon lay at just a little more than arm's distance between them. We maintained our volume of fire until there was no more movement. Local security was established. I called in the sitrep to our lieutenant. On the kill zone was an M16A1 rifle with A2 tracer ammo, its selector switch set on auto.

It was a good feeling, as if we won the Super Bowl. We had finally reached the destiny of infantry training. Two confirmed kills! The adrenaline was pumping hard. The rest of our battalion was alerted and an extensive cordon and search of Mudun was promptly conducted. The third Somali who ran was never found.

The following day, a major from Special Forces congratulated my squad, saying the two dead Sammies were known and feared bandits. One of them had repeatedly slashed a woman's stomach a few days earlier. The Somali district commissioner also sent a message informing us that the two bandits were lucky to have died so quickly — they would have suffered slowly and painfully if captured by locals.

Returning to Marka in late February, we found the city regaining order, enforced by GIs and a new local secu-

rity force. However, these security "officers" were unreliable at best, often working stoned on khat or other drugs. But we wouldn't be staying at our home base for long.

Earlier, in mid-January, one of the strongest and most unpredictable Somali warlords, General Morgan (aka Mohamed Said Hirsi, leader of the Somali People's Movement), had gotten the bright idea to attack the southern port city of Kismayu and rid it of Colonel Omar Jess (warlord of the Somali National Alliance, allied with Aidid) and his men. Consequently our platoon was ordered south of the equator in early March to play army amid the ongoing civil unrest.

Valley Of Arms

Kismayu lies some 400km southwest of Marka. Moving

down the MSR by vehicle transport some 20 minutes northeast of Kismayu, we observed hundreds of people congregated nearby in an adjacent lowland valley. Riding in the trail vehicle of an advance convoy just moments beforehand, 3rd Squad scouts had spotted two Sammies with weapons alongside the highway.

The scout squad's vehicle stopped. The scouts then dismounted and pursued the fleeing gunmen. Two Sammies turned into four, then 3rd Squad suddenly came upon seven technical vehicles, some mounting .50-caliber belt-fed machine guns, one with a U.S.-type 106mm recoilless rifle, another carrying a 40mm grenade launcher, while one mounted a quad-.50. People with guns were all around.

As our main convoy element pulled up, all we heard was small-arms fire interrupted by the distinct burping of a blazing .50-caliber. Dismounting, we saw hundreds of people running toward the road, straight at us. We wanted to shoot, but none of these Sammies carried weapons. I had a doomed feeling we had bitten off more than we could chew and were all going to die.

We moved to an opening in the tree line and saw the seven technicals, but

3rd Squad already had the situation under control. All nearby Sammies were sitting or laying facedown. The .50-cal still fired in our direction from the high ground 600 meters or so away. Through an interpreter, our lieutenant assessed the situation and found these were Omar Jess' supporters; they had been corralled here in a "safe" zone by our forces.

Nonetheless they knew the rule about openly displaying weapons. So 3rd Squad was credited with two unconfirmed kills, while all of us got to experience being downrange of a .50-caliber.

Seaport Hellhole

Exciting — that was the word for Kismayu. After our platoon arrived there, Sammies occasionally tried to toss grenades at us. There were quite a few riots, thrown stones and exchanges of fire.

One Sammy tried to stab a soldier during a cordon and search. The GI shot him in the head at point-blank range, sending him to Allah real quick. A scout was forced to tackle another Sammy pointing a submachine gun, as shooting him could have killed innocent bystanders.

Kismayu was rough and violent. At the heart of the turbulent city lay sector C-6, where our lieutenant discovered a small, abandoned compound building. We occupied it early one morning and basically hootched out there until dusk, then at 1900 my squad readied for our first Kismayu night patrol.

As soon as it was dark, we climbed over our compound's back wall and slithered out into the night, every man carrying a set of NODs. Everyone had the feeling we would make contact. Specialist Lee was on point; I followed as squad leader. Lieutenant Harvey came next, followed by our interpreter Mohamed, then Spc. Arnold and Cpl. Peterson as respective platoon and squad radiomen, with scout observer Smith and Sgt. Garcia-Bochas providing rear security.

Hugging the walls, we moved through streets and alleyways, staying in shadows and making no sound. This was termed a security patrol. In reality we were going out to observe likely high-traffic areas — if we needed to apply the rules of engagement, then so be it. There was a curfew in effect and Sammy was supposed to be safe inside at home.

We set up one OP, but were unable

to stay there long due to Belgian troops patrolling close by in armored vehicles. Harvey, Lee and I were assessing another likely spot when Garcia-Bochas radioed me that an old man had told Mohamed he had just been robbed and could show us where the bandits went.

The three of us went back to link up with the squad and the old man. He led us up an alley intersecting a street, telling us the thieves were near a building across the street. Sending Garcia-Bochas and Smith toward this location, I left most of my squad as rear security, then took Lee and Peterson along with me to another alleyway down the same street. We would observe from a different vantage point, about 75 meters distant from Garcia Bochas and Smith.

Thirty or so minutes dragged by. Harvey radioed that his element was going to try to flush the Sammies out. They swept across the street, making their way up to and on line with my position.

Then all hell broke loose from Garcia-Bochas and Smith's position, a flurry of red tracers concurring with the gunfire. Using his NODs, Garcia-Bochas had spotted two Sammies advancing with weapons directly across the street from him; he nudged his partner to alert him. Smith shifted his position to face the oncoming threat.

In the moonlight, one of the advancing pair spotted the two scouts and opened up on them. Smith and Garcia-Bochas returned a high volume of their own fire as one Sammy somehow broke contact and got away; the other man was hit square between the eyes and went down. Open-eyed, his brains spilled out onto the ground as if someone had split him from forehead to nose with an ax.

My element flanked Smith and Garcia-Bochas while they assaulted across the kill zone. Harvey's group arrived at once — we established local security while he called the sitrep into battalion. Soon Major Stanton (operations officer) and Captain Klein (intelligence officer) arrived on the scene to interview Garcia-Bochas and Smith on details of the firefight. Meanwhile I moved my element

away to provide more security.

Soon after this, Lee, Peterson and I sat in a building shadow on a low ledge. We overlooked a small open area. My AN/PVS-7B night vision goggles revealed a Sammy moving cautiously through our AO toward us. When he came within 25 feet, I called out "Joogso!" (Stop!) several times. The Sammy fidgeted nervously. We rose and spread out on a line, keeping distance between us.



Providing overwatch on access road to Kismayu airfield and troop barracks — no more Beirut. Photo: Rob Krott

My intention was simply to search the guy since he acted suspiciously and was violating curfew. I commanded "Fadista!" (sit down!) several times. He stalled, squatted down and pulled a folding-stock AK-47 from his shawl, leveling it right on me. All three of us opened fire on the son of a bitch. Firing tracers, we all experienced whiteout in our NODs — we had to peer under them and walk the tracers up onto him.

As we assaulted across the objective, I could hear my platoon leader shouting from behind, asking how many and which direction. We ceased fire and secured the far side of the objective while I explained the situation.

Miraculously, this Sammy was still alive. Through Mohamed, he struggled to say he belonged to Morgan's forces, noting 40 or more of his buddies remained in our AO. He was shot through the jaw, the ankle and the back of his right knee. Medics were called; the Sammy was evacuated to a Belgian hospital where he died a couple of days later. Upon clearing the recovered AK, Lee found a 7.62x39mm round in its chamber with the primer dented and the weapon set to fire.

In a meeting a few days later, Kismayu's city elders told our battalion's commander that U.S. forces should leave the city. They pointed

out how Americans waved and smiled in the daylight while lots of Somalis died at night. A day or so after this, our platoon pulled out of Kismayu and returned to Marka. However, B Company remained behind to become involved in several more firefights, racking up additional kills.

Slap In The Face

Back in Marka, the brigade commander came by and gave our task force a big hoo-ah speech and awards ceremony. Every man in my squad was called forward. We all received the Army Achievement Medal (AAM), the most bullshit peacetime award there is. Like most men in my squad, I already had five of them. You get AAMs for getting a maximum score on a PT test. The AAMs were a slap in the face.

But the party wasn't over. Several days after our AAM formalities, a "last" mission came down for the platoon — observing potential roadblock locations some 25km northwest of Mogadishu in the vicinity of an old prison (supposedly a bandit hideout) outside the town of Afgooye. My team would watch a road intersection leading up to the prison.

Arriving at the AO, we found terrain around the prison wide open; there was next to no cover or concealment, except for a small man-made trench with 3-foot raised berms dug alongside the roadway. Using this we could observe at night and listen during daytime for any activity, with our target intersection just 50 meters away. The next afternoon, my squad sat in the trench, baking in Somalia's midday sun.

Our monotony lifted when a cargo truck came by and opened fire with a machine gun. We hugged the trench bottom, then I peered up to see what was going on. A crew-served weapon mounted on the truck was firing in our direction. Returning fire with our M16s, Garcia-Bochas and I tried to follow the trench up to a better position to cut off the vehicle. Lee and Smith remained firing from the OP.

In the flurry of gunfire we realized shots were coming from two directions — we were caught in a cross fire. Looking back, it's likely the truck's crew initially fired at the prison without knowing we were around. But in returning their fire, we announced to all bandits there were "sitting-duck GIs" nearby.

We couldn't fight in both directions,

Continued on page 68

Somalia Gruntspeak

by Rob Krott

Every armed conflict in American history has added words, terms, phrases, jargon and slang to our vocabulary. Deployment of U.S. troops to Somalia during Operation Restore Hope proved to be no exception.

Bermuda Triangle: The bandit-infested area north of Mogadishu's seaport, where people "just disappear."

Chicken Cach: Chicken cacciatore, packaged meal served day after day. The Spam of the '90s.

Diggers: Aussies, only called diggers by fellow Australians. Everyone else calls them ... Aussies.

The 'Dish: Mogadishu, Somalia's capital city.

Downtown: Mogadishu, referring to anywhere outside the U.S. Embassy, airport, university or stadium compounds.

Downtown K Mart: Chaotic traffic-jammed roadside market area, a good hangout for Ray-Ban Bandits.

Down the Hill: Mogadishu; for example, when leaving Bela-Dogle for the 'Dish, you go "down the hill."

Flapjacks: Looters.

Fly-shit Water: Boxed as opposed to bottled water. Boxes of Kilimanjaro-brand water were found to have a greater percentage of fly parts to water per volume than normally allowed; yummy.

Khat, qat: Also known as *mirra* in Kenya, khat is bundles of green twigs for chewing like "smokeless tobacco." It's a mild stimulant sensationalized as a narcotic by the media on a slow news day.

KC: Khat-chewer, sobriquet for any military-age Somali male who waves and smiles.

KCMF: Same as above carrying a weapon, whether he smiles or not.

Klingons: The 20 to 30 Somalis hanging onto the sides of ubiquitous decrepit Toyota pickup taxis.

Negligent Discharge: In the zero-defect military now facing the largest reduction in forces since the Vietnam War's end, there's no longer any such animal as the AD (Accidental Discharge). Clearing your weapon by discharging it into a clearing barrel, for example, is considered a negligent act. As the sign on the U.S. Embassy's clearing barrel warned, "You will fry" — said sign included a tally board of NGs, since removed from barrel because its stats became very embarrassing.

NGOs: Non-government organizations: relief agencies or relief workers, aka tree-huggers, Birkenstockers and Red Crossers.

People Beaters: Ax handles, ball bats, tent stakes, steel pipes, sticks, or cat-o'-nine-tails fashioned from commo wire. Used to keep the Ray-Ban Bandits at bay.

(Escalloped) Potatoes and Ham: The Ham and Limas of

the '90s. Since the Somalis are Muslim and Muslims don't eat pork, they won't eat these. Neither will the troops.

Power Tanning: Euphemism for tent guard duty or building bunkers, activities allowing troops opportunities to catch some "killer rays."

Ray-Ban Bandits: Street urchins, sunglasses thieves and feral children. They'll steal the shades and prescription lenses right off your face.

Rice Bandits: Thieves who prey on food shipments.

Sammies: Somalis, aka Skippies.

Scout/observer: Politically correct term for gentlemen equipped with especially accurate rifles that mount precision optics. In the kinder, gentler Marine Corps, there aren't any snipers, or what the Army calls "target interdiction specialists." I've always been partial to "shooters" and "designated hitters" myself.

Shooters: Armed military personnel riding in vehicles. The requirement is to have an armed driver, shotgun passenger and rear passenger. Vehicles travel in pairs or more. Should be called "shookees," since most bullets are fired by Somalis.

Tar Baby, or "the Tar Baby": Operation Restore Hope.

Tumbu Fly: More accurately, *Cordylobia Anthropophaga*, a local parasite. After its birth — in a "cradle" of sand, urine and

feces — it seeks out a human host. The maggot burrows into your skin, feeding until the larva grows large enough to tear out of your flesh (actually eating its way by gnawing a tunnel with its tentacle-like jaws) and continue its metamorphosis into a fly. Neat, huh?

Tumbu Fly Disease:

Affliction attributed to any GI enjoying himself in Somalia ("I'm nuts and I never want to go home") or otherwise acting goofy — "He's got tumbu fly."

Watch future TV cop

shows for Somalia-vet psycho snipers.

Wally World: Actually, Walli Wayne or Walle Uen, the village outside Bela-Dogle's airfield (named Camp Arroyo), scene of food riots. To the uninitiated, "Wally World" was the fictional fun park in the Chevy Chase movie *National Lampoon's Vacation*. Humor, ha ha.

A frequent SOF contributor, Rob Krott is a former Special Forces officer and infantry platoon leader now freelancing in the international security field. He recently spent several months in Somalia in a "civilian" capacity. ✕



Flapjacks beware: uninviting glass-fortified U.S. Embassy wall in Mogadishu. Photo: Rob Krott



Yo, homie! We got girlfriend! Marine Corps' 15th Counterintelligence Team really enjoying their tour in Somalia. Photo: Rob Krott

World's Best

Eclectic SS-77 Mows Down All Rivals

by Peter G. Kokalis
Photos courtesy LIW

In 1916, German small-arms authorities urged development of a so-called *Einheitsmaschinengewehr*, or universal machine gun. It was supposed to be an all-purpose, belt-fed weapon for employment from a bipod, tripod, anti-aircraft mount or vehicle. Nothing came of this idea until the air-cooled MG34, a composite of designs by Mauser and Rheinmetall, was adopted in 1934.

So impressed were the Allied forces by the MG34 and the subsequent MG42 that after World War II the concept of a General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG) became a principal focus of military small-arms designers. This resulted in the dreadful M60, the excellent FN MAG 58 and the superb Russian PKM. The GPMG concept reached its highest level of development with the South African SS-77, which is, in my opinion, the finest weapon of this type the world has ever seen.

Called the SS-77 (after initial designers Soregi and Smith, and for 1977 when the project commenced), this caliber 7.62x51mm NATO weapon is manufactured by LIW, a division of Denel (Pty) Ltd. (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.)

Since *Soldier Of Fortune* first field-tested and evaluated the SS-77 GPMG five years ago (See "Armcor Artistry," *SOF* Sept. '88), a number of important modifications have been introduced — this is as it should be. Weapons systems that are gradually improved as a consequence of field experience

and intelligent research-and-development programs retain operational efficiency far beyond their originally projected life spans. I was recently presented with an opportunity to extensively test-fire the most current version of the SS-77.

An almost perfect blending of battle-proven designs, the SS-77 contains elements, to greater or lesser extents, from the Belgian FN MAG 58 GPMG, from the Russian PKM and Goryunov machine guns and from both the R1- (FN FAL) and R4-series rifles.

The final result weighs in at 21.22 pounds, empty. This is about 10% less than either the M60 or the FN MAG 58 (23 pounds and 23.92 pounds respectively). One of the SADF (South African Defense Force) requirements stipulated employment for both conventional infantry and airborne operations. This latter specification mandated an overall length, with the stock folded, no greater than the armpit-to-knee length of an average-sized soldier. And the SS-77 measures only 37.6 inches with its stock folded. This is increased to 46.2 inches when the stock is extended.

Battle-Proven Heritage

The SS-77 is gas-operated, firing from the open-bolt position. Its designers borrowed a method of operation from the Russian SG-43 (Stankovaya Goryunov 1943) medium machine gun: piston-actuation that features propped breech-locking.

After the bolt goes into battery, stopping against the front of the receiver body, the bolt carrier (a machined drop-forging) continues forward to cam the rear end of the bolt into a recess in front of a locking shoulder (exactly that of the R1/FN FAL rifle, only peened in place to permit access by an armorer) on the left side of the receiver. Undercuts at the front of the receiver accept accumulated debris to insure positive locking. The right side of the bolt is also crosscut with debris channels.

This principle was patented by John M. Browning in 1895 but never used, as dangerous side-loads are supposedly transferred to the weaker walls of the receiver. However, this theoretical consideration never affected the highly regarded SG-43's endurance or reliability.

The rear of the cam post on the carrier also serves as a



The General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG) concept reaches its highest level of development with the South African SS-77.
Photo: Peter G. Kokalis

Machine Gun



Now in service with the SADF and armed forces of several other countries, the SS-77 is arguably the finest General Purpose Machine Gun the world has ever seen.

FAIL-SAFE FEED KEEPS SS-77 ON TARGET

All of the internal components of the SS-77's feed mechanism will interchange with those of the FN MAG 58. The feed mechanism operates in two distinct phases and feeds from the left. When the bolt begins its forward travel, the spring-loaded feed roller on top of the bolt carrier moves in the straight part of the top cover's feed-channel rail, while the feel pawls remain stationary. The first round is chambered during this movement.

During the second half of the forward movement, the feed roller reaches the bend in the feed-channel rail, forcing it to pivot to the right on its axis. This movement actuates the feed link, pushing the upper feed slide to the right, taking the front and rear feed pawls with it. At the same time, the lower feed slide moves the next cartridge to the right until it is in contact with the sloping face of the cartridge guide pawl. With its springs compressed, the inner feed pawl rides to the left over this cartridge. All three pawls are engaged behind the cartridge when the bolt carrier ends its forward movement.



SS-77 feed tray will accept almost any type of belt or links without alteration to the feed mechanism and with no increase in belt drag or reduction in the cyclic rate.

To activate the feed mechanism's second phase, the feed roller's rearward movement pivots the feed-channel rail on its axis to the left. The upper feed slide, with its front and rear pawls, now moves to the left. The lower feed slide, with the inner pawl, moves to the right. The inner feed pawl pushes the cartridge on top of the bolt as the cartridge-guide pawl rises into position behind the inner pawl.

The front and rear pawls are now riding over the third cartridge moving into position to recommence their cycle. The pawls do not move as the feed roller travels rearward down the straight portion of the feed channel rail. As the bolt clears the feed tray, the second cartridge takes its final position in preparation for the cycle's repetition.

Thus each set of pawls acts in turn as feed and stop pawls, as the cartridge slides halfway across with each forward and rearward motion of the bolt carrier. This method, adopted from the World War II-era MG42, produces a smooth belt-flow instead of a series of herky-jerky movements. The feed-channel rail, feed link and both feed slides are chrome-plated. The top-cover body is a high-grade aircraft aluminum casting, held to the receiver by a spring-loaded latch on the right side.

Fabricated from stainless steel, early SS-77 feed trays had two unusual slots to grab and secure the South Africa R1M1 links. These links (called "Vickers" links by the South Africans) are, in essence, a disintegrating (but less flexible, thus providing greater reliability in the South African 7.62x51mm NATO version of the Vickers water-cooled medium machine gun) variant of the German non-disintegrating DM1 metallic belt (in turn a derivative of the MG34/42 belt), as the extractor-groove tab is located on top of the link.

Although U.S.-type M13 links have their extractor-groove tabs on the left side of the link, they will feed through the SS-77 without alteration to the feed mechanism and with no increase in belt drag or reduction in the cyclic rate. Current SS-77 feed trays now have additional cutouts for M13 links, to prevent these belts as well from sliding out before the top cover is closed.

— P. G. K.

hammer. After locking, the carrier continues forward to strike the rear of the spring-loaded firing pin. At the initiation of the recoil momentum, the spring-loaded piston (independent of the recoil momentum to provide bottom ejection) strikes the carrier to drive it rearward in free travel until the chamber pressure drops to a safe level. The carrier then pulls the bolt away from its locking shoulder to move the entire group backward.

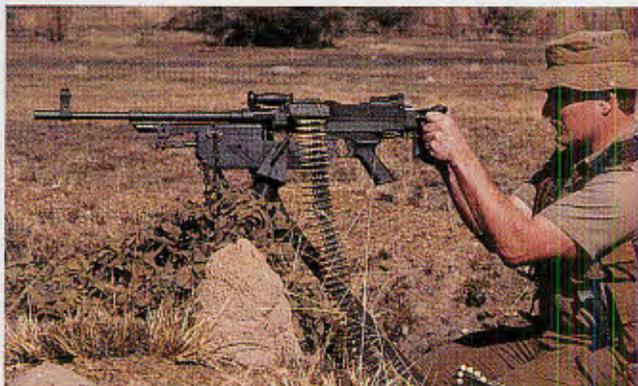
There is no primary extraction. A large extractor claw of the FN MAG 58 type — now made from tough tool steel — has been employed to assure positive extraction. The extractor stays — originally double-nested springs — now consist of a single-nested spring assembly and an inner rubber bushing for far greater endurance. Ejection occurs during the recoil stroke. A unique two-pronged, one-piece ejector riveted to the bottom of the feed tray throws the empty casings downward through the ejection port onto the trigger housing, where they ricochet to the front to prevent burning the operator.

Two sets of double-nested recoil springs and guide rods, in a configuration reminiscent of the Armalite AR-18, power the SS-77's return stroke. With a generous overtravel (the distance that the bolt moves rearward after ejection occurs) of 2.2 inches, the reciprocating components require a buffer of no more than modest dimensions. Originally a single piece of molded synthetic material (Desmopan 385) with a steel cap, the buffer — housed within the bolt carrier at the rear and butting against the recoil spring's bracket holder at the rear of the receiver — now has a vulcanized red-fiber sheet on each side of the molded piece to further increase its life span.

Smoking Hot Pink Barrels

The monobloc receiver body is milled from bar stock. A molybdenum paint of the dry-film lubricant type, which is extremely tough and both corrosion- and high temperature-resistant, has been baked on the phosphated exterior of the receiver, barrel, trigger housing, gas system and bipod. Early specimens were painted brown to match the R4 and R5 rifles of that period, but overheating turned this paint to pink on the barrels, so the SADF spec was changed to black.

The receiver's ejection port and both openings on the feed cover — left-side feed opening and right-side link chute — are fitted with spring-loaded dust covers. These covers spring open when the non-reciprocating black-nylon charging handle on the right side of the receiver is pulled



SS-77 can be employed for perimeter defense and in the sustained-fire role when mounted on a tripod and equipped with spade grips.

FIELD-FRIENDLY SS-77 TEARDOWN

There are no tricks involved in fieldstripping the SS-77. Remove the belt from the feed tray. Retract the cocking handle and visually inspect the chamber. Remove the barrel as described in main article. Pull the trigger and allow the bolt group to move forward into battery under control. Depress the spring-loaded latch on the gas cylinder in back of the bipod and withdraw the piston and its spring from the gas cylinder.

To remove the bipod, depress its serrated, spring-loaded locking latch on the right side of the gas cylinder, then pull the bipod forward and away from the receiver. Depress the buttstock latch on the right side of the stock latch and push the buttstock down and away from

the receiver as with the FN MAG 58. Pull up the recoil-spring holder inside the receiver body and withdraw the recoil springs and guide rods out the rear of the receiver.

With the spring holder still up, pull the bolt group to the rear and lift it out of the receiver. Separate the bolt body from the carrier. Push the trigger group's retaining pin to the right and pivot the trigger housing down and away from the receiver. With a small punch, or the tip of a bullet, push the top cover's retaining pin to the left and out. Separate the top cover and feed tray from the receiver body. No further disassembly is normally required. Reassemble in the reverse order.

— P. G. K.

rearward. The original axis pin on these covers — a removable split type — would sometimes vibrate out during firing sequences. These split pins have been replaced by solid types that are retained at each end by a roll pin.

The SS-77's gas system has been taken from the Soviet PKM. When originally fielded, the SS-77 was equipped with a three-position gas regulator. This has been eliminated as a cost-effective measure. In any event, gunners always opted for the highest cyclic rate and ignored the two lower settings. The cyclic rate is now fixed at 850 rpm.

The new gas block is easier to maintain — a minimum of 3,000 rounds can be fired before the gas system requires cleaning. Gas ports on the SS-77 were originally bored at a 57-degree angle to the barrel's axis to permit access for maintenance, while those of the PKM are set at a 90-degree angle and cannot be reamed. After elimination of the three-position gas regulator, the SS-77's gas port angle was changed to 32 degrees to prevent gas from escaping before the piston starts to move rearward.

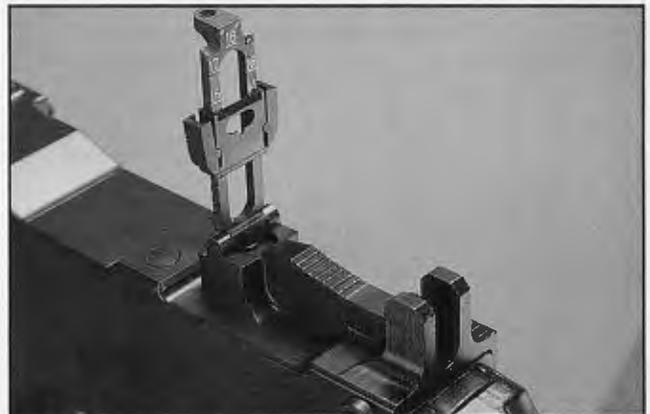
The gas cylinder, an investment casting pinned to the receiver body, has an integral front-sling loop, bipod-mounting block and a front mount for a tripod. Moving within the gas cylinder is a conventional tappet-type hard-chromed piston, which travels only 1 inch during the recoil stroke. The piston is retained within the gas cylinder by a spring-loaded latch to prevent it from falling out during barrel changes. The piston head is now of reduced diameter to prevent sticking in the gas block when expanded due to heat from firing long bursts. The piston itself is currently made of Werkstoff 12767 — a more durable steel than the original EN 24 steel. The new piston spring is a three-strand type to improve endurance.

With an overall length of 22 inches (without the flash hider) and weighing about 5.5 pounds, the hammer-forged barrel originally had eight longitudinal flutes at its rear to make it lighter and allow for heat dissipation. As the cooling effect was only marginal and the weight reduction no better than minimal, these flutes have been eliminated on current models to further reduce cost of manufacture. Both chamber and bore are hard-chromed. The four-groove bore has a right-hand twist of one turn in 12.2 inches, standard for this caliber.

A modified R1 (FN FAL) 22mm-diameter muzzle brake has been installed. Its four sets of three ports each are pitched forward to project the muzzle blast and gases forward and to the sides, not onto the ground nor in front of the sight. To prevent troops in the field from removing this flash hider with a wrench and re-installing it with too much torque (which can result in ring-like tension marks inside the barrel), it is now held in place with a retaining pin that inhibits its removal by all except properly equipped and



SS-77's folding-leaf rear sight has been taken from the FN MAG 58 and provides a peep aperture in the down position for ranges from 200 to 800 meters.



When raised, the rear sight exposes an open U-notch used for ranges from 800 to 1,800 meters.

trained armorers. It is optionally available with internal threading for a BFA (Blank Firing Attachment).

The barrel's quick-change mechanism has been taken from the FN MAG 58, while the barrel nut, latch and carrying handle are interchangeable with those of the FN MAG 58. To change the barrel, first retract the bolt and lock the trigger mechanism in the "safe" position. Depress the barrel-catch lever (located on the left side of the receiver). Rotate the carrying handle to the vertical position. This will rotate the barrel nut's two sets of interrupted threads out of engagement with the receiver's locking threads. Move the barrel forward by the handle and lift it off. Replace in the opposite manner. To carry the weapon by means of the handle, pull up on the handle's spring-loaded barrel catch and swing the handle up to the vertical position.

"Simple and efficient" describes the SS-77's trigger

SS-77 GPMG SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber:	7.62x51 mm NATO
Operation:	PKM-type gas system; no regulator. Conventional tappet-type piston. Propped breech-locking patterned after the SG-43. Fires from the open-bolt position.
Cyclic rate:	850 rpm.
Feed mechanism:	Belt-fed; two-phase system based upon MG42/FN MAG 58 systems. Will feed either U.S.-type M13 or South African R1M1 disintegrating links, or non-disintegrating German-type DM1 metallic belts without alteration.
Weight, empty with bipod and buttstock:	21.22 pounds
Weight, barrel only:	5.53 pounds
Overall length:	46.2 inches, stock unfolded; 37.6 inches, stock folded.
Barrel length:	22 inches, without flash hider.
Barrel:	Air-cooled, quick-change type. Four grooves with a right-hand twist of one turn in 12.2 inches. Chrome-lined bore and chamber.
Sights:	Front: post-type with protective ears; adjustable for windage and elevation zero; flip-up, single-dot beta light. Rear: FN MAG 58 type; projected folding leaf with peep aperture for ranges from 200 to 800 meters, also open U-notch for ranges from 800 to 1,800 meters with 100-meter increments; two-dot beta light. Sight radius: short range (up to 800 meters) 32.64 inches; long range (800 to 1,800 meters) 29.88 inches.
Furniture:	Black nylon handguards and pistol grip. Skeletonized buttstock with synthetic outer coating injection-molded over steel pins; thick rubber recoil pad.
Finish:	Black, dry film lubricant-type molybdenum paint baked over phosphated exterior.
Accessories:	Cleaning, maintenance and armorer kits, dial sight, sling, assault pack, tripods, pedestal and turret mounts, spare parts.
Status:	In service with the South African Defense Force and armed forces of several other countries.
Manufacturer:	LIW, a division of Denel (PTY) Ltd., 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:	Combines the best features of battle-proven designs along with indigenous innovation. Highest possible RAM-D (Reliability, Availability, Maintainability — Durability) rating. Clearly supersedes the PKM as the world's finest GPMG.



SS-77 GPMG factory cutaway view.

mechanism. When the trigger is pulled, the spring-loaded sear drops downward and out of engagement with the bolt carrier's bent (notch), permitting the bolt group to move forward. The reciprocating components will continue to travel back and forth until the trigger is released or until the belt of ammunition is expended. There is no provision for semiautomatic fire — this option is unnecessary for a machine gun that fires from the open-bolt position.

The safety lever is located within the trigger guard in front of the trigger. There is no better position for a manual safety on a rifle or machine gun. When flipped up, it blocks the trigger and rotates a safety sear upward to block both the sear and bolt carrier (whether forward or retracted). Thus the SS-77 can be safely carried with ammunition in the feed tray and will successfully pass a drop test from 5 feet while loaded and cocked.

A solenoid housing and plunger are fixed to the rear of the trigger housing for vehicular or aircraft employment. Spade grip assemblies are also available. No modifications are required to install these accessories. The sheet-metal trigger guard can be removed for gloved firing.

The black-nylon pistol grip has a steeper than normal grip-to-frame angle and exhibits excellent human engineering. The rear tripod mount is integral with the trigger housing (an investment casting). The tripod-mounting points on



Sophisticated H-019 long-range dial sight can be mounted to the left side of the SS-77 receiver body for indirect fire from defilade along fixed lines.

the SS-77 match those of the .30 caliber Browning machine guns. The entire trigger group is secured to the receiver body by a single pin, which in my opinion should be of the captive type, as it will be lost by troops in the field the first time they disassemble the weapon.

Dead-On Aiming

The SS-77 is equipped with the best and sturdiest set of sights I have ever seen on a GPMG, their designs once again taken from here and there. The round post-type front sight, essentially that of the R4/5, can be adjusted for both elevation and windage zero — the latter by turning opposing screws in the front-sight base (with three sets of lightening holes) to move the sight and its protective ears to the right or left. The front-sight screws now have a taper on the heads and on the protective ears they pass through to inhibit loosening during sustained firing sequences.

The folding-leaf rear sight (another investment casting) has been taken from the FN MAG 58. It provides a peep

Continued on page 65

AIDS WILL COST ARMED FORCES BILLIONS

By nature and training, medical doctors are a prudent group. We seldom have occasion to watch a member of that circumspect profession turn himself into an Al Sharpton-type snake-oil salesman with a few brash strokes of the pen. But we had that opportunity when Dr. Edward Martin, DoD's acting assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, issued a memo on 30 March 1993 which essentially dismissed the idea of any added health risk associated with having homosexuals in the armed forces. Dr. Martin said in part:

"We are not aware of any evidence that individual sexual preferences, in and by themselves, be they homosexual, heterosexual or bisexual, affect work productivity, scholastic aptitude, disease incidence, medical costs or crime rate in the population at large. In conclusion, since homosexuality, per se, cannot scientifically be characterized as a medical issue, DoD policies related to homosexual or heterosexual behavior should be based upon military personnel, unit and mission concerns and considerations."

When the Army surgeon general saw the memo, he said, "Where in the world is this coming from?" To accept Dr. Martin's statements at face value, you would have to believe that homosexual men, engaged in gay sex in the Castro District of San Francisco, had no greater "disease incidence" than the general population, and that the "medical costs" for a given population of

by James Brantley

gay men were the same as for the rest of the general population. This simply isn't so.

Even a casual glance at the accompanying chart (page 42) reveals the startling incidence of HIV infection in the population of male homosexuals, when compared to the incidence of HIV infection in the population of male heterosexuals. Data from the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta shows that between October 1991 and September 1992, 23,745 homosexuals developed AIDS as a result of homosexual contact. In the same period, 1,587 heterosexual men developed AIDS as a result of heterosexual contact. These figures become all the more startling when compared in the context of the relative gay-straight populations.

Homosexual groups loudly pro-

claim that gays comprise 10% of the populace, but in a study on "Aids Knowledge and Attitudes," a confidential survey that is given to 10,000 people each quarter by the Bureau of Census, only 2% to 3% of males have answered "yes" to: "You are a man who has had sex with another man at some time since 1977, even one time."

The University of Chicago's Opinion Research Center gets about the same results. They find that only about 2% of men say they have had sex exclusively with other men in the past year. Research just released by the Battelle Human Affairs Research Center, headquartered in Seattle, found that 2.3% of men had homosexual contact in the last 10 years, with only 1% saying they were exclusively gay. The 1% figure for exclusive homosexuality is similar to results of surveys in foreign countries.

If we generously interpolate these



Although a Gerald McRaney look-alike, Major Dad he ain't: Gay-rights marcher in Washington wears USMC dress blues, salad of ribbons and non-regulation (the last time we checked) earring.

figures and accept that 2% of American men engage in homosexual sex, that would mean this country has about 2.5 million males who engage in homosexual sex, out of a population of 125 million men. So I would ask the good Dr. Martin this: Do 23,745 new cases of AIDS coming from a population of 2.5 million male homosexuals, as opposed to 1,587 cases coming from 122.5 million heterosexual men, indicate "evidence" of increased "disease incidence" in homosexual men? I'm not a doctor, but I'm also not blind.

What these figures mean is this: One out of every 97 homosexual males will get full-blown AIDS in any given year, while only one out of every 77,190 male heterosexuals will get full-blown AIDS in a given year. In a military context, this means that a homosexual soldier is almost 800 times as likely to develop AIDS as his heterosexual counterpart — hardly a reassuring thought on a battlefield where the medical blood supply is taken from the soldiers themselves. It's a statistic that points up the dramatic potential gays in the military have to drain military medical funds and facilities away from those with service-related or otherwise legitimate needs.

A military medical report obtained by NBC News and *The Washington Times* stated that 42% of military AIDS cases were the result of homosexual acts with infected partners. If civilian figures are showing 66% of AIDS cases to be from homosexual contact, why would the military only be showing 42%? In 1987, Dr. John Muth, director of the El Paso County, Colorado, Health Department asked the same question. Dr. Muth couldn't believe reports by local military authorities that only 20% of their troops got AIDS



Oooh, I'd just love to be in the Army with all those cute soldiers! Beefy Washington gay marcher comes out strapless.

MALE AIDS CASES, OCTOBER 1991 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1992

(Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Disease Control, October 1992)

Exposure Category	Number	Percent of total to nearest whole number
Men who have sex with men	23,745	60%
Men who have sex with men and inject drugs	2,324	6%
Hemophilia/coagulation disorder	324	1%
Injection drug use	8,517	22%
Heterosexual contact	1,587	4%
Blood Transfer Components or Tissue	401	1%
Other Undetermined	2,666	7%
TOTAL CASES		39,564

from homosexual sex, when the civilian figures for that year were 79%.

Dr. Muth and his staff conducted interviews with each of the soldiers to determine the source of the virus. Not under pressure to hide their homosexuality, 70% of the AIDS-infected soldiers admitted to Dr. Muth's team that they were homosexuals. This gives us a good indication that civilian percentages can be used to estimate how many AIDS-infected military people are homosexuals. At present 60% of civilian AIDS cases fall in the category of "men who have sex with men" and 6% in the category of "men who have sex

with men and use IV drugs," or a total of 66% related to homosexual conduct. Figures published in *Military Law Review* in 1991 indicated that homosexual presence in the military was in the range of 3% to 5% — which could be greater or lesser than the population at large, depending which civilian estimates one used as a benchmark.

The Pentagon is downsizing to a force of about 1.5 million males and 200,000 women. Using the low-end figure of 3% from *Military Law Review*, we would only have about 45,000 male homosexuals in all the military services. What would the AIDS-related costs be to the taxpayers to maintain these 45,000 homosexuals on duty for the next decade? We already know that at current rates, one out of every 97 homosexual men is coming down with AIDS each year, but only one out of 77,190 heterosexual men are. So out of the group of 45,000 homosexual soldiers, 4,639 would predictably come down with AIDS in the next decade, while by comparison only six out of a group of 45,000 heterosexual soldiers could be expected to come down with AIDS.

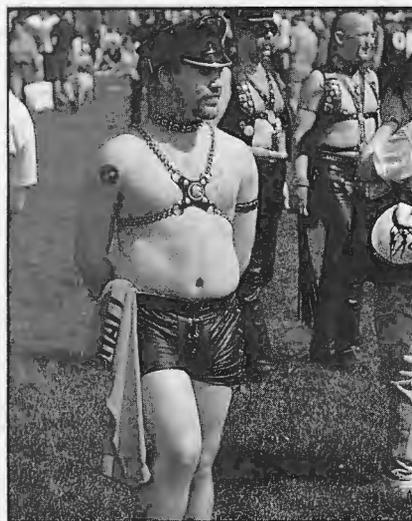
Department of Defense cost estimates published in the September 1989 issue of *Military Review* — an official



Heey, Sarge. whatcha doin after duty? Demonstrators at gay-rights parade in Washington cuddle up — if gays are openly admitted to armed forces, will this be the scene at the NCO club?

DoD publication — projects \$2.4 billion in AIDS treatment costs in the next decade. If 66% of these cases are among homosexuals, the AIDS-related medical costs to parade 45,000 homosexual soldiers in front of the American public would be \$1.58 billion — even if you assume there would *not* be an increase in AIDS due to an increased population of military gays under an open-door enlistment policy. AIDS-related costs for 45,000 heterosexual soldiers — same time period — would only be about \$2.5 million.

But AIDS is only one health issue among homosexual men. Some 50% to 75% of gay men have had hepatitis B. Hepatitis B is a highly contagious



Potential recruits in Clinton's politically correct armed forces gather on White House lawn during gay rights demonstration. Can major modifications to the military dress code be far behind?

disease that could devastate a military unit. Hepatitis A is a less serious form of hepatitis, but it can still make you seriously ill. Its prevalence in gay men is usually associated with fecal contact during sex. The Center for Disease Control reports that in the first six months of 1991, 29% of the Hepatitis A cases in Denver, 66% in New York, 56% in Toronto, 42% in Montreal and 50% in San Francisco were among homosexual men — stunning statistics in the context of the proportion of gays in the overall population. The incidence of sexually transmitted diseases among gay men was put at 70% by the British medical journal *Lancet* in 1984 and 78% by the *American Journal of Public Health* in 1985. Over 50% of the cases of syphilis in the United States are among gay men. The percentage of gay men suffering from a condition known as "Gay Bowel Syndrome" has been reported by various sources to be from 25% to 59%. This condition is brought about by anal intercourse with numerous sexual partners and is characterized by the presence of worms, flukes and amoebae.

It is noteworthy that Dr. Martin's memo came out at about the same time the Pentagon task force charged with planning the integration of gays into the military started its work: The memo was designed to counter health-risk arguments of the groups opposed to gays in the military. If I were in the military, I don't believe I would have too much confidence that the Pentagon's head health official was looking out for my best interests. Dr. Martin's ham-handed attempt to sweep compelling health considerations under the rug in favor of helping a liberal president's social agenda is contemptible.

President Clinton admitted to a conference of journalists on 25 April 1993



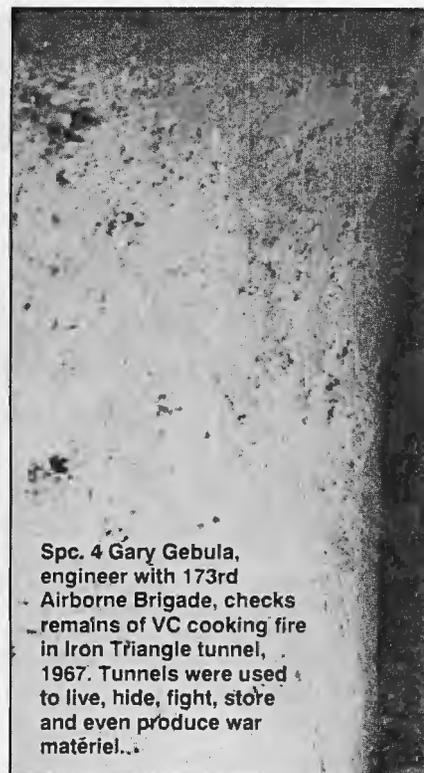
The makings of an elite unit — or the Staff Judge Advocate's worst nightmare? The Washington gay rights march was — at least — an exercise in "cultural diversity."

that he had paid a tremendous political cost for his stated intention of allowing gays in the military. The 3 May 1993 *Newsweek* quotes a senior Clinton aide as saying Clinton's move to open the military to gays "was a huge mistake." The record number of calls to Washington opposing gays in the military proved it was a "huge mistake." The "tremendous political cost" Clinton paid because of his stance on gays was due to the ethical, moral and religious beliefs of most Americans. But if you tell Americans that you don't mind paying \$1.58 billion to ensure a homosexual presence in the military, at the same time you're telling old-age pensioners they're going to lose their cost-of-living increases due to budget concerns, you won't just do it at "tremendous political cost," you'll be committing political suicide.

A 20-year USAF veteran with nearly 10 years in the Asian theater, James Brantley has written a number of well-researched and controversial articles for SOF, dealing with gays in the military and women in combat.



Sgt. Ray Quirk of the 173rd Airborne Brigade passes bag of rice to 1st Lt. Richard Blunders; tons of rice and peanuts were found in this tunnel complex during sweep of Iron Triangle.



Spc. 4 Gary Gebula, engineer with 173rd Airborne Brigade, checks remains of VC cooking fire in Iron Triangle tunnel, 1967. Tunnels were used to live, hide, fight, store and even produce war matériel.

"LONG ON BALLS,

Photos courtesy DoD

by L. R. Dick

First Lieutenant Randy Ellis, commander of the 1st Infantry Division's tunnel rats, helped lift his man into the medevac bird. While investigating a Viet Cong (VC) tunnel near Cu Chi in the Iron Triangle area northwest of Saigon, Virgil Franklin had taken three rounds in the chest and shoulder. Franklin had been the first man in a three-man team exploring a newly discovered VC stronghold and sanctuary. Covered in dirt, sweat and blood from dragging his point man to safety, Ellis watched the helicopter lift off.

An officer standing near Ellis ordered, "I want you to get down there and take prisoners."

"My adrenalin was pumping," Ellis

said. "I was just a first lieutenant, but I looked at this officer and said, 'You got to be shitting me.' I was going to go in that tunnel and rip somebody's lips off, but I sure wasn't going to take any prisoners."

A brigadier general, hearing the exchange, put his arm around Ellis' shoulders, walked him away from the other men and said, "Son, I know exactly how you feel, but I can't tell you how important it is that we get the information anybody down there may have."

"I turned back, got my tunnel rats together. 'Guys,' I told them, 'we got to go back.'" But the tunnel was uninhabited — because as soon as he had gotten Franklin out, Ellis had raced back with a couple of grenades, rolling them to where they had come under fire. "In retrospect, it was a stupid thing to have done, but I had to make a

statement about Franklin."

Following training at Fort Belvoir and deployment to Vietnam, Ellis found himself involved in more firefights than any other engineer officer in the division. But his first step to becoming a tunnel rat happened unknowingly during a regimental attack against a fire support base, Thunder Three, where Ellis' platoon was located.

Becoming A Tunnel Rat

The midnight attack wasn't repulsed until 0430. Charlie managed to get through the wire in front of Ellis' bunker, where a large ditch had been mined with claymores. Next morning, Ellis and his men were burying VC and cleaning up duds, when his commander radioed him in.

"I thought he's either going to kick

'Nam Tunnel Rats



Paratrooper of 173rd Airborne Regiment comes out of VC tunnel during search-and-destroy operations, 1967. Gas mask provides protection against CS gas, often used to smoke VC from underground, deny further access.

SHORT ON BRAINS"

my butt because the VC succeeded in penetrating the wire, or he's going to pat me on the back because we had upped the battalion's body count," Ellis recalled.

Sitting in the battalion XO's office, he was startled to see a friend's name on the manning chart, listed as 2nd Platoon leader. *My God*, he thought, *I've been relieved*. He looked around to see where he had been slotted (battalion chaplain's assistant or what?), and there was his name, written in grease pencil, for Rat Six.

"About that time, the battalion commander heard me talking to the XO. 'Randy, is that you out there,' he called. 'Come on in here.' Lieutenant Colonel Rodney E. Cox, a water walker, a superb leader in whom I had the utmost confidence, jumped from his desk. He grabbed my hand. 'God damn it, son,'

he said, pumping my hand, 'I'm proud of you. If I were 20 years younger, I'd be doing the same thing.' "

Communist Underground – With Teeth!

The tunnels of Cu Chi were originally dug by the Viet Minh as hiding places for nationalist guerrillas fighting the French. Evading French sweeps and spotter planes, Viet Minh used the tunnels for communication between hamlets. When the United States entered the war, the Viet Cong, forced into primitive tactics, expanded their tunnel network to stretch from the gates of Saigon to the border with Cambodia. Digging was done by hand with short shovels and hoes — and infinite patience.

Red clay, dragged back to the portal in baskets, was dumped into silt-

laden rivers, onto the ground and camouflaged, or into shell and bomb craters. Hundreds of tunnels housing hospitals, ordnance factories, living areas, storage depots and headquarters connected villages, districts and provinces. Some guerrillas even wore leather straps around their wrists to facilitate removing their bodies. They slept in roll-up hammocks often fashioned from U.S. parachutes and improvised oil lamps from small bottles. A ball of rice was their daily ration. From their underground labyrinths they launched surprise attacks against the hapless GIs.

Cu Chi was bombed, gassed, shelled and defoliated. Random artillery fire lit the night skies. Returning bombers were encouraged to drop unused ordnance on Cu Chi. Burrowed like shrews, the VC survived tear gas, explosives, Agent Orange and air strikes.

Ferret Out Charlie

During Operation Crimp, a 1966 search-and-destroy attempt to eliminate VC military/political headquarters, GIs were puzzled by elusive snipers. Intense, brief firefights ended with the VC melting into the jungle with their dead and wounded, frustrating U.S. body counts. When tunnels were finally discovered, many men, untrained in tunnel



1st Lt. Randy Ellis, center, with four of his tunnel rat team in Vietnam, 1969-70. Men at either side (with rifles) are Vietnamese "Kit Carson" scouts.
Photo: courtesy Lt. Col. Randy Ellis

warfare, were killed exploring them. U.S. casualties continued to mount — the VC were better trained and supported than previously imagined. Army commanders were astonished by the number of skillfully constructed tunnels.

American Response

The father of the tunnel rats is generally conceded to be Captain Herbert Thornton, a 1st Infantry Division chemical officer. Shortly after Operation Crimp, Herbert survived a tunnel blast from a booby-trapped mine that blew him out of the tunnel and into the air, resulting in only the loss of hearing in one ear.

In June 1967, a formal tunnel rat team was created as an offshoot of the 1st Engineer Battalion's intelligence and reconnaissance section. Only the 1st and 25th Infantry Divisions had dedicated organizations called tunnel rats whose sole function was to explore and destroy tunnels, although other Army and Marine units formed ad hoc teams. Especially early on, infantry units would attempt to explore tunnels as they were found — but there was a tendency on the part of troops sent down to quickly return with word that the tunnel didn't go anywhere.

In the 1st Engineers, the team commander, as lieutenant, was called Rat Six (Six being code for commander). Diehard Six referred to the 1st Engineer Battalion commander: The team was known as the Diehard Tunnel Rats. Every team had a medic and radio operator. The average Rat Six served four months as a tunnel rat, a year in Vietnam total. Ellis served six months as a tunnel rat. Most had experience in Vietnam before becoming tunnel rats. Hazardous duty pay of \$50 a month was authorized.

Ellis' men were volunteers. Ellis, able to pick and choose his own men, ruled with an iron fist: If a man got out of line there were 30 others waiting for that slot. Ellis selected men with extensive demolition experience. He had two six-man teams, a total of 13 rats in the division. One team was on a two-hour alert; the other, a six-hour. When ground troops found a tunnel, Ellis and his men were on a chopper within two hours, and Ellis was briefed by the on-site commander.

"I indicated what our requirements were, the most important: that they realize I had two Vietnamese scouts, Kit Carsons, former VC, who had rallied to our side. They were invaluable. I didn't want some nervous young rifleman engaged just a short time before in a jungle firefight, to suddenly turn and shoot one of my men emerging from a tunnel's trapdoor the battalion hadn't discovered. We had a set of signals we used as we emerged, covered with dirt, so they would know who we were. When intelligence reports indicated the potential for tunnel complexes in an area, we participated in the heliborne assault."

Warfare One On One

Ellis' volunteers were a capable elite, and he was proud of them. "We could have been in a firefight and if I asked them to stand up and bare their chests, they would have done it without hesitation. I didn't get a sense of power from that, but it was gratifying to know I could instill the kind of confidence that would inspire my men to risk the ultimate. That is probably what convinced me to make the military a career. It was a high stress environment. Some thrive on that, some don't. I had to let a couple of people go, because it was clear the chemistry

wasn't there. I had four former Vietnamese scouts, ages 16, 17, 18 and 20. I had to let an older Vietnamese go, because he just didn't have the courage.

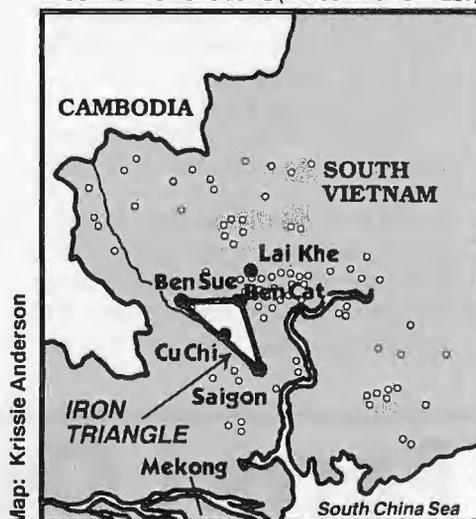
"The tunnels represented the singular situation in Vietnam where the war was reduced to one on one. We always used a minimum

of three men to explore a tunnel. The point or lead man was rotated for each tunnel. One of my biggest jobs was settling disputes over who could have point.

"If we got into an underground fight, it didn't matter if there were 20 VC, the point man did the shooting. Lying on the tunnel floor behind him, the number two and three man couldn't shoot. The tunnels were pitch dark. On the darkest night, in a dark room, after your eyes become accustomed, dim shapes, forms, are discernible. In a tunnel, however, we couldn't see our hands in front of our faces. The rule was you had to be close enough to the man in front of you to get aid to him if he's hit. The point man was also responsible for locating and disarming any booby traps discovered along the way. He had to guarantee the safety of his buddies, who were guaranteeing his."

On elbows and knees, tunnel rats slowly made their ways through the cool, confining bowels of a 3-foot-high

VIET CONG TUNNEL COMPLEXES III CORPS TACTICAL ZONE (◊MAJOR VC TUNNELS)



Map: Krissie Anderson

tunnel, 18 to 25 inches wide. The men carried no special breathing apparatus: If the VC could breathe stale air, they could too. Bathed in nervous sweat, the men inched forward, delicately probing walls and floors for wires and roots that didn't feel right. Every man's senses were tuned, particularly the sense of hearing.

With muffled sounds and no echoes, they could hear a man breathing. The rats could even tell which direction the man was taking, toward them or, hopefully, away. Each rat carried a knife, an electric torch and a pistol. Ellis carried a Smith and Wesson .38 revolver with a 4-inch barrel. One of his men carried a Canadian Browning High-Power 9mm pistol. Issue .45 pistols were not favored, too loud.

"The VC had AK-47 assault rifles, whose tracers looked like the green headlight of a train coming at us. After a couple of our guys were wounded, we upped the ante on protection. We had an M2 carbine with a folding paratrooper [M1A1] stock and 30-round banana magazine. A selector lever enabled us to fire it semiautomatic or automatic. We nicknamed it the 'Canon.' Our number three man dragged it along, prepared to pass it up if the need arose."

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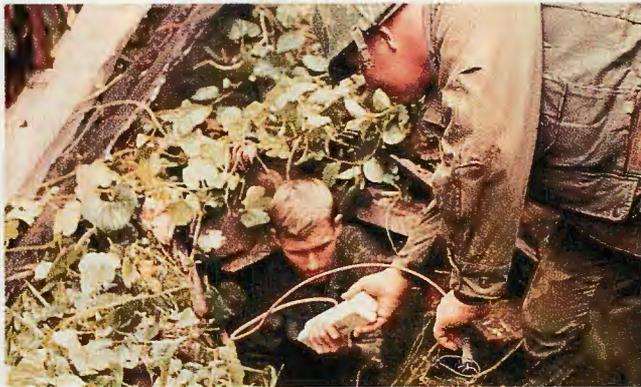
The men wore bush hats and jungle cammies. Their pocket patch was of a rat with a pistol in one hand and a bottle in the other, with "I don't give a rat's ass" in Latin: The inscription's bravado masked a deeper meaning — a tunnel rat would *not* leave a comrade underground. It was a measure of comfort for the men to know their comrades would get them back to the surface, dead or alive.

"When a man came to a bend in the tunnel or to a trapdoor, he stuck the light ahead of him. If the VC was there, and somehow you always sensed it, [and] he wasn't ready to rush into your arms and surrender; he would shoot. The thing at risk was the light. If we came to a fork in the tunnel, we always bore left so we would know what was explored, what wasn't. We left a man, a block, at the intersection to

shine his light down the unexplored branch of the tunnel. The object was to prevent the VC from getting behind us in the event the tunnel doubled back on itself. If we doubled back and saw the light, we hollered.

Trapdoors And Booby Traps

"The absence of booby traps didn't always mean there weren't VC present, but if you came across a booby trap, set and armed, you knew the tunnel was empty. A booby trap doesn't discriminate between good guys and bad guys. Given a choice, the VC would rather exit than stand and fight due to the odds they wouldn't get out. One time when we got near the end of this passageway, there was a trapdoor in



1st Sgt. Paul Yeager hands C-4 charge to tunnel rat from 3rd Marine Combined Action Group as they prepare to blow up tunnel/bunker complex, Vietnam, 1970.

the ceiling. I pushed the trapdoor up; somebody pushed it down. My heart sounded like a big drum. I had no choice — I placed a charge on the bottom of the door and backed out. It killed the guy sitting on top..."

The typical tunnel was approximately 5 feet underground; anything less could be collapsed by a tank or vehicle. Tunnel complexes varied in design. The solid laterite clays were readily dug with hand tools and dried to adobe-like walls when exposed: No shoring was required. Tunnels frequently changed levels, with trapdoors — small trays filled with dirt in a wooden frame, lifted out by a wire — for access. One exterior trapdoor was responsible for U.S. awareness that tunnel complexes existed: An NCO sat on the exposed lifting wire, thought a scorpion had stung him, so investigated and found the first tunnel.

"I shudder to think how many infantrymen went into a bunker, saw no one, and said, 'This one's clean,' and left. My experience showed that in al-

most every bunker, there was a tunnel linking it with another bunker so that the inhabitants, if trapped, had a means of escape. Trapdoors in the ceiling were approximately 14-by-18 inches." The only way in was to put the arms through first. "It was amazing how fast we could turn around in a tight space when the situation warranted. If a grenade came tumbling toward you, you could set the world's land speed record on your elbows and knees snaking down a tunnel to get away from the blast."

The most extensive complex Ellis' men explored was down five different levels, the lowest point about 25 feet underground. Tunnels would run for a distance, then turn 90 degrees to protect Charlie from a thrown charge or gunfire. Level changes with trapdoors were designed to protect the VC from the use of gas: It was impossible to apply enough overpressure to force gas through the level changes and trapdoors. Ventilator shafts were made from U.S. 2.75-inch rocket tubes, with tiny exit holes concealed by foliage. The longest tunnel Ellis encountered was 800 meters, a *long* way to crawl holding a flashlight and pistol. The tunnel connected the jungle to several villages, bypassing U.S. troops waiting in ambush.

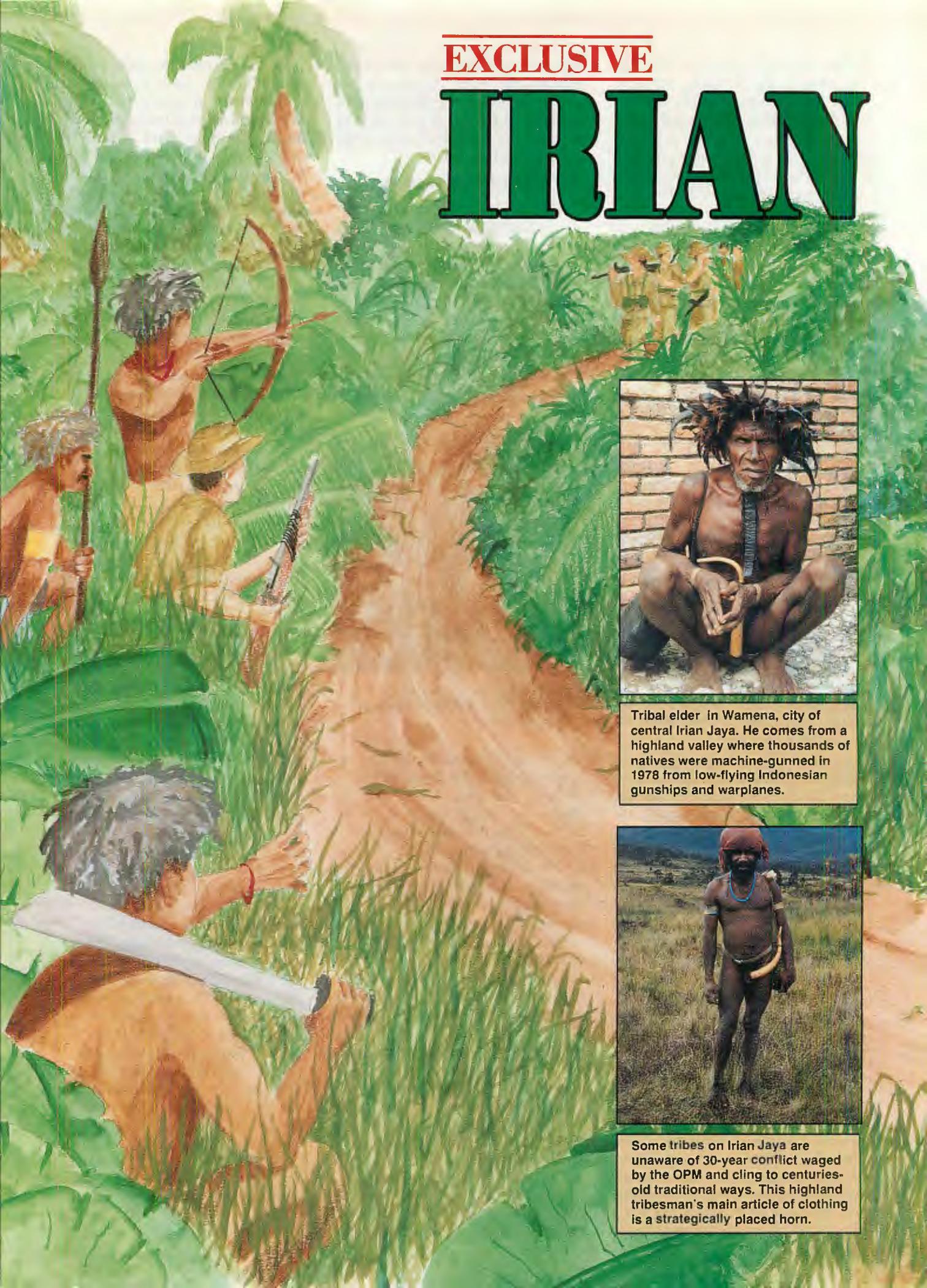
The steepest tunnel was a hole 22 inches in diameter, at a sheer angle with a curve. "The bottom of the hole couldn't be seen with our torches. We put a rope on an 18-year-old Vietnamese scout to send him down. All of a sudden, he started jerking the rope to pull him back up. He had crawled down the hole and come face-to-face with the tail fins of a dud 1,000-pound bomb. We had to crawl down and place a charge to try to detonate the bomb so the Viet Cong wouldn't find it and take it apart to use against us."

In one tunnel, Ellis discovered an enlarged room at the end. One corner had a hole filled with water. Ellis figured it couldn't be a spring, so wrapped his gun in a plastic bag and stepped into the hole. It fell away into a "U." In pitch dark, submerged in water, he fought panic, but he reasoned that if VC were on the other side, they wouldn't expect anyone. When he surfaced no one was waiting — the water trap was simply a deterrent ploy to discourage further tunnel entry, but most devices were not so benign. Most common were hand grenades with trip

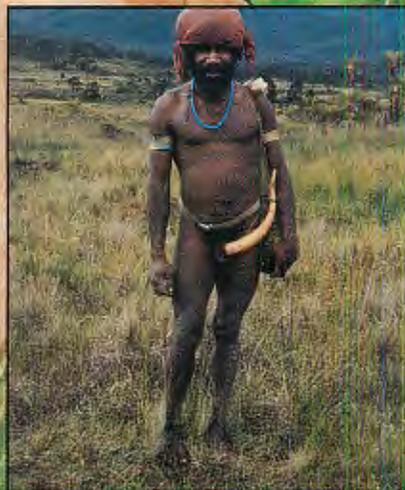
Continued on page 70

EXCLUSIVE

IRIAN



Tribal elder in Wamena, city of central Irian Jaya. He comes from a highland valley where thousands of natives were machine-gunned in 1978 from low-flying Indonesian gunships and warplanes.



Some tribes on Irian Jaya are unaware of 30-year conflict waged by the OPM and cling to centuries-old traditional ways. This highland tribesman's main article of clothing is a strategically placed horn.

JAYA'S UNKNOWN BUSH WAR



Bows & Spears Battle Indonesia's Modern Army

Text & Photos by Peter Jones

The drill was quite simple. We would wait in our concealed positions until the Indonesian patrol had nearly passed us by. Isaac would then launch an arrow from his hardwood bow, aiming at the last trooper in line. Then Peter would dash out to grab the fallen man's weapon and bolt off into the jungle.

My task, as an "experienced" soldier, was to cover the patrol with a homemade shotgun and blast anyone who looked to be causing us trouble. But my faith in the shotgun was limited. It was made from a piece of water pipe attached to a crude wooden stock; its firing mechanism consisted of rubber inner-tube material and wire. The shotgun's cartridge was a care-

fully preserved charge, giving the weapon its only possible hint of menace.

My faith in myself at pulling the trigger was limited as well. Could I shoot down another man in this conflict that, unlike my colleagues, I had chosen to become involved in?

Pondering my decision, I squatted by a jungle pathway with my native friends. Sources to the OPM (*Organisaisi Papua Merdeka*, or Free Papua Movement) had told us an Indonesian patrol would pass by here sometime in the morning ... so we waited.

Dispersed around me were the OPM fighters, all dark-skinned West Papuans with curly black hair and fine physiques. They seemed to thrive on their harsh existence. Some wore odd bits and pieces of Western clothing, but there was really no practical purpose for this in the warm jungle environment. Most of the indigenous tribal people spent their days walking around naked.

I smelled the odorous clove cigarettes (a favorite among Indonesian men) a full minute before the patrol came into view, chatting away. They looked happy enough to have nearly finished their time in the jungle — in good spirits, but sloppy in their powers of observation.

Lightning Strike

The patrol wandered past us, the men talking, weapons slung from their shoulders. As the last soldier filed by, Isaac let loose with a solid-tipped arrow normally used for pig hunting. It struck the man in the side of his chest. He went down with a grunt, but Peter hesitated to scurry over to him — the trooper had fallen across his rifle. He would not be easily rolled off the weapon before his comrades could hear, turn around and open fire.

The trooper's collapse did cause a soldier preceding him to quickly turn and spot me kneeling behind a sago

palm. He was a short man, Javanese in appearance and close enough for me to make out the long scar running along his left cheek. Sighting down my length of water-pipe/shotgun, I had him covered.

The soldier quickly swung his M16 toward me — I had a split second left to pull the trigger or face his fire. Jerking hard on the trigger, I prayed the plumb- ing would work.

My weapon re- sponded with a deafening roar and violent recoil. The trooper went down with a scream. Peter reacted immediately, running straight across the path, grabbing the man's rifle, then sprinting off into the jungle while the Indonesians dove for cover, hesitated a moment, then blindly opened up with every weapon they had.

Rounds ripped into the foliage as we dashed away into the jungle. Shredded tree branches and bushes fell on all sides of us, but thankfully none of us were hit. Peter

had literally retrieved a weapon from the enemy's hands; the ambush had been a success.

This was the most deadly action I saw during six weeks in the jungles of Irian Jaya living with members of the OPM, a movement founded 30 years ago after Indonesian forces invaded the large island of New Guinea and "incorporated" its western half into the Indonesian empire.

Once before I had come to Irian Jaya for a short visit. Upon returning home to Australia, I read widely about the troubles there. Consequently I decided to go back and try to help the indigenous West Papuan tribespeople who were attempting to throw off Indonesian rule.

Following Allied expulsion of Japanese forces from New Guinea during World War II, years of warfare and unstable "unions" arose there between Dutch and Indonesian forces. Both sides claimed the former Dutch territory, located north of Australia

across the Arafura Sea.

After centuries of colonial rule in western New Guinea under Britain and the Netherlands, the Dutch had been preparing to grant independence to native inhabitants and hand over administration of the territory to them. This plan was shattered by the overt intrusion of the Indonesians during the late 1950s and early 1960s; the invaders

set up their own government, re-naming the region West Irian.

The United Nations protested Indonesia's act of aggression. The intruders responded by claiming they were simply drawing yet another former Dutch colony into the greater nation of Indonesia, a republic consisting of 13,677 islands, of which some 6,000 are inhabited.

A referendum for West Irian was finally held in 1969 in order to satisfy U.N. demands. More than 1,000 people (a fraction of the population) were

polled, with the specific instruction being that to vote against union with Indonesia amounted to an act of treason and was therefore punishable by death. There was not one dissenting vote — the United Nations was placated. In 1973 the western half of New Guinea was again renamed, this time as Irian Jaya. The island's eastern half is now Papua New Guinea, a parliamentary democracy.

Since 1963 as many as 200,000 West Papuan natives are believed to have been killed by the Indonesian police and military. In 1978 alone, a number of sporadic uprisings by tribal groups resulted in 15,000 people killed, according to Australian news reports; actual figures could have been twice this.

Natives of the Baliem Valley in central Irian Jaya have told me about hundreds of people in every highland valley being machine-gunned by Indonesian helicopter gunships and from slow-flying OV-10F turbo-prop Broncos — these are multipurpose

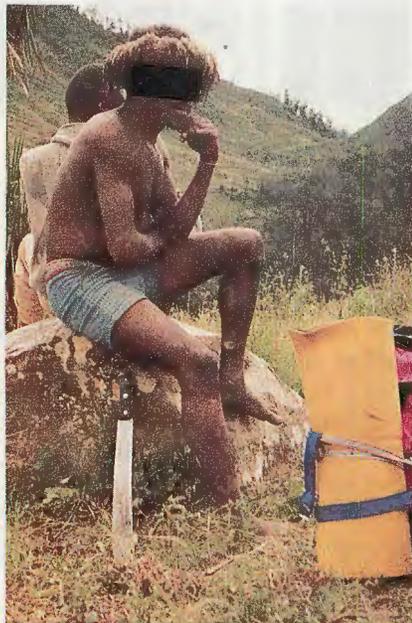
counterinsurgency/night-surveillance aircraft firing 7.62mm miniguns, often fitted with 20mm gun pods.

I stayed in one native hut with a charcoal drawing on its wall of a helicopter shooting at fleeing stick figures. Such harsh treatment of the West Papuan people provides the OPM with a wide support base and many applicants for membership.

Bamboo Bows vs. Modern Army

While still in the Australian army, I first encountered an OPM fighter group as I went on something of a vacation hike through a highland valley with some local tribespeople. The rebels we met were on a wide-ranging patrol involving months of jungle travel. They were seeking out neighboring tribal groups to provide information and promote a sense of solidarity among the indigenous communities.

The rebels carried longbows made from ironwood, bamboo arrows with wooden tips, several machetes and one steel-tipped lance. But the lack of modern weapons did not seem to trouble them — they assured me that had I been Indonesian they would have killed me, irrespective of my rank or station. Likewise, they faced summary execu-



Essential weapon/tool at hand, West Papuan rests in Irian Jaya. Along with guerrilla warfare against Indonesian troops, rebels wage bloody machete raids on farms of government-backed Javanese settlers.



Irian Jaya's scenic wonders conceal dangers — cannibalism and head-hunting are still reported. Wilderness varies from highlands' stunted growth, where snow can fall, to sprawling swamplands and ancient jungle pathways.

tions if captured by government forces. However, West Papuans' jungle skills are far superior to those of Indonesian troopers.

These OPM fighters followed their own political principles and the laws of their tribal ancestors. Travelling through remote areas of Irian Jaya's interior, they had encountered tribes unaware that Indonesians existed, let alone ever invaded the country. The OPM patrol faced dangers from some tribal groups who lived in total isolation and were hostile to all outsiders. In a few areas cannibalism and head-hunting still occurred.

Taking the men's names, I planned to keep them for future contacts if I chose to return to Irian Jaya. I gave them some money and cigarettes, then bid them farewell as they wandered off with bows and arrows to conduct their war. A year later I would be living with their people.

Brutal Killings

After leaving the army, I chose to return to Irian Jaya and contact the OPM, well aware of the dangers in having any association with them. Shortly before I arrived, a Swedish filmmaker named Per-ove Carlsson had met with and filmed some OPM members. He was later found in a shabby coastal hotel room with his throat cut; only his videotapes had been stolen.

The police and military did not appear too concerned about Carlsson's death. I never heard of any culprit being caught, so I was careful when asking about the OPM. Despite wide local support for the rebels, Indonesian informers do exist.

One day in a city tavern, I spoke with several men and mentioned names of rebels in the OPM patrol I had met in the highlands a year earlier. Whispers passed through the group, then one of them led me out into a side street where he asked questions on my knowledge and motives. Then he told me how two of the persons I had mentioned were dead, one from malaria. The other rebel had recently been shot through the head in his home village by an Indonesian police officer who had demanded information on the OPM. The victim never gave any intelligence.

For two days I was informally questioned before being led on foot another five days through the jungle to an OPM camp. Here the fighters were better equipped than those I had met earlier. These men had several home-

made shotguns and a few sporting carbines.

The OPM has problems getting sufficient arms. By capturing the occasional weapon or by making their own shotguns, they supplement their traditional ironwood bows and arrows. Rifles are occasionally ferried by small boats from the northern shores of Australia, traded for Papua New Guinea-grown marijuana. Some of these weapons make it across the island's jungle borders into the hands of the OPM.

Getting sufficient men prepared to use these guns appeared to be no problem. Fighters I stayed with claimed the OPM command had divided Irian Jaya into eight military zones, keeping five or six battalions in each one. Battalions each consisted of 800 to 1,000 rebels. This force opposed two battalions of Indonesians stationed on Irian Jaya, with government troops rotating in six-month intervals.

The OPM was commanded by a man called Colonel John, a 36-year-old honors graduate who joined the rebels shortly after his commencement from Jayapura University in northeast Irian Jaya. I never met with him during my time there, but all my colleagues spoke respectfully of Col. John's skills in organizing and motivating the resistance.

War On All Intruders

Tribal mentalities do not appear to fragment OPM cohesiveness. A recognition exists among the West Papuan fighters; though many come from different tribes, old rivalries have been overcome by a shared hatred for the Indonesian military. They also fight the gross exploitation of New Guinea's natural resources and the use of Irian Jaya as a dumping ground for transmigrants from the overpopulated island of Java, which includes Indonesia's capital city of Jakarta.

Under transmigration, hundreds of thousands of rural poor have been flown in, rain forests cleared and tribal lands given to the Javanese for farming. The

newcomers are specific targets of the OPM, showing the World Bank and other international bodies that West Papuans will fight for their homeland.

Other OPM targets include resource projects conducted by foreign multinational firms under protection of the Indonesian military. Rebels also strike the occasional Indonesian police or military post, although their recent strategy involves a quiet consolidation of OPM forces to prepare for a concerted military push aimed at forcing a



Vine bridge lashed over swift current provides passage to all parties in Irian Jayan conflict. Indigenous rebellions for liberty are scattered throughout Indonesia's great island chain.

settlement from Indonesia.

Occasionally, the army of Papua New Guinea is subject to attack if its troops are seen assisting Indonesian forces harassing rebel fighters near the border, or if arrests are made on OPM members operating within the adjacent country. Such arrests stem from Papua New Guinea's fears for its own security with respect to a possible Indonesian invasion.

The West Papuans are not the only group demanding independence from Jakarta. On the extreme northeast tip of the island of Sumatra, rebels in and around the city of Banda Aceh also fight for their liberty. Southeast of New Guinea on the island of East Timor, natives seek freedom from Indonesian invaders who swept into that former Portuguese territory in 1975 and annexed it the following year. Indonesia controls both of these regions with a heavy-handed military presence.

After a quarter-century living under Indonesia's President Suharto, Irian Jaya's OPM rebels fight on, hoping that the approaching change in

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NO GUTS — NO GLORY

United Nations Unfit To Keep Peace In Bosnia

Text & Photos
by Robert K. Brown

Standing fast to protect their ancestral homes, Croatian defenders suffered a murderous onslaught from invading Serbian irregulars and Yugoslav army troops in the summer of 1991. A tragic legacy dating back generations, the Balkan blood feuds were about to go full tilt again.

And as the killing goes on in 1993, the defenseless — the old, very young, sick and weak — can only look to UNPROFOR (United Nations Protection Force) troops for assistance in returning to their homes. These people have no grasp of the Vance-Owen peace plan, nor of the UNPA (United Nations Protected Area) concept. They are told, however, that the guys in blue berets and white vehicles can help take them back home.

Unfortunately, it is not so simple. The UNPROFOR was deployed to the UNPAs after former U.N. envoy Cyrus Vance designed his original plan for Croatia in late 1991 to establish peace, provide for return of refugees to their homes and restore war-torn regional economies. However, UNPROFOR deployments to both Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina have been less than effective, achieving few objectives. The U.N. soldiers have basically been given a mandate only to negotiate with militia commanders in charge of occupied areas, with no authorization to use force of any type to carry out their mission of implementing the Vance plan.

Balkan militia commanders (often thug-type warlords) usually do not respond to anything other than an argu-

ment of force; they have relied on violence to promote their own careers and “Rambo” images. Despite this, UNPROFOR still treats regional war criminals as partners in negotiation, thereby legitimizing, strengthening and contributing to the villains’ roles as “political figures.”

Meanwhile the U.N. Security Council’s 1991 weapons embargo on the former Yugoslavia has only impacted defenders of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina; Serb irregulars are provided with all the armaments they need by the pro-communist Yugoslav army. Aerial “no-fly zone” and “deny flight” operations have had minimal impact on the bloodshed as Serbian forces seldom use air power, relying instead on tanks, artillery and small arms to devastate their neighbors’ communities.

Though contested areas urgently need policing, the Security Council resolutions to monitor borders, sanction aggressors and place heavy artillery under U.N. control came far too late to stop or slow down rates of destruction. These measures were vetoed by European council members several times before being passed, resulting in major delays and further destruction.

Concurrently, NATO ships monitoring the Adriatic Sea effectively impact only Bosnia and Croatia. Along with many journalists, monitors from the European Community (EC) and United Nations have repeatedly witnessed road convoys or vessels on the Danube River transporting oil for the

Yugoslav army and Serbian militias. Moreover, Russian UNPROFOR units have failed to stop Serbian irregulars from taking over and exploiting oil fields and fuel production facilities in eastern Croatia.

This past June, UNPROFOR’s presence failed to halt the Serbs from effectively placing all territories they captured in Croatia and Bosnia into one state-like entity. The Serbian method is to force “referendums” in areas already “ethnically cleansed,” to ultimately unite such occupied territories with Serbia in spite of any UNPROFOR presence. This practice contradicts and negates the Vance plan, making any U.N. peacekeeping effort based on that document irrelevant.

Tough Talk — Too Late

“The inept sanctions policy against Serbia is a regrettable fact,” said “B.G.” an EC diplomat speaking off the record in Split, Croatia. “Had we imposed a stiff oil embargo against Serbia in 1991 when they attacked Vukovar using some 600 tanks, there would never have been a war in Bosnia. There would simply have been no fuel for all their military machinery. We could have saved thousands of lives and billions of dollars on UNPROFOR expenses in the former Yugoslavia.”

A British UNPROFOR officer remarked in June that “Some well-known politicians frequently make statements that do not really contribute to our effort in the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina.” For instance, the



Warrior APC of the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales' Own Regiment of Yorkshire located at the Sarajevo airport, armed with a Rarden 30mm cannon and 7.62mm machine gun. Note bolt-on applique armor kit, which provides maximum protection against RPGs. UNPROFOR troops are doing an excellent job and can't be blamed for United Nations' lack of will.

policy of announcing "military action against aggressors" and then doing nothing directly leads to further escalation of violence.

Designing initiatives like the Vance plan for Croatia or the subsequent Vance-Owen peace plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina, without bolstering their implementation, generates additional strife by creating a legal mess. In the British officer's opinion, such ineffective arbitrage employed in terms of "empty threats" radicalizes even the most moderate civilian, who in turn takes up arms for self-defense, adding further to the anarchy and chaos.

Statements by senior U.N. officials such as "all sides are to be blamed for this conflict," or "borders can only be changed by negotiations," or "the Vance-Owen peace plan may be modified at a later time," actually encourage the use of military force for further territorial gains, to be used by the various combatants as new starting positions in future negotiations.

The UNPROFOR officer observed

how even the May 1993 proposal for six safe havens in Bosnia, while promoted in Washington, D.C., was elsewhere seen as an announcement of "open season for seizing additional territory." Such proposals only encourage militias and local warlords to believe in using heavy artillery against civilian homes as a legitimate way to seize territory — although ethnic cleansing is evil, it will eventually be ignored. Aggressors arrive at the conclusion that they will enjoy the fruit of their crimes with impunity.

Another example of the West's lack of will is the 11 June 1993 statement of a U.S. State Department official who announced that the 300 UNPROFOR soldiers set for deployment to Macedonia would be pulled out if attacked by Serbs.

A Croatian army captain known as "J.P." recently observed, "The entire negotiations process begun and organized by the UNPROFOR cannot even theoretically yield any results." The reason for this is very simple: Serbian

irregulars, in both Croatia and Bosnia, still have a military advantage over all local defense forces by a ratio of 8-to-1, counting air capability, artillery, long-range missiles, ammunition and supplies. "While our defense forces have few weapons and suffer under an arms embargo which preserves this imbalance."

Cards Stacked For Serbs

The captain emphasized how serious negotiations are only possible when there is a relative balance of military power. Otherwise the stronger party, in this case the Serbs, will merely maintain a passive presence at peace talks in order to buy more time until they have occupied all territory they desire — especially when the West keeps repeating, "there will be no Western military involvement."

In J.P.'s opinion, the U.N. negotiators' stand on how "Croatians did not always behave well in Bosnia" is used as a device, regardless of the true circumstances, to make it appear that all

GIANT "WATER BOMB"

Roaring southward down the Cetina River at 85 mph, a 75-foot wall of water, mud, rocks and debris slams into a tiny Croatian village. Within seconds the community is obliterated — 3,000 men, women and children drown. Other small towns are erased before evacuations can be organized downriver; thousands more die while the flood rushes toward the Adriatic Sea.

Surging forward, the disaster's magnitude swells. Two hours after

In September 1991, Serb forces captured Perucko, a narrow, 17km-long reservoir located about 35km north of Split, a coastal city on the Adriatic Sea. The invaders immediately began allowing this substantial water source to fill up to its maximum capacity, with the announced intention of creating a gigantic "water bomb." Despite the Croat government's urgent and repeated requests to the European Community (EC) and United Nations

to act against this growing peril, not until January 1992 did enough international pressure compel the Serbs to lower Perucko's waters to a safer level.

When Kenyan UNPROFOR troops later assumed responsibility for the surrounding area, the Perucko dam was already prepared for demolition. Alarmed Croats demanded action, so UNPROFOR agreed to disarm and remove some 38 tons of TNT planted within the structure.

Somehow, though, these U.N. troops did not find time for this chore during their six-month watch. They did, however, establish a guard post on the dam to prevent Croats from retaking it.

Explosions rocked the facility at 1048 on Thursday, 28 January 1993. Four charges detonated, planted inside the dam's inspection gallery and on a road bridge over its spillway. Yet Serbian aims were not fulfilled by the sabotage. To UNPROFOR's credit, the reservoir's water had been held at a normal level, one reason why the major catastrophe hoped for by the Serbs was averted. A second factor involved the immediate response of Croatian military forces and area civilians following the blasts.

Before the dust had settled, Croat troops launched an attack to recapture Perucko. Several hours of fierce combat saw close-at-hand Serb forces pushed several kilometers away from the dam. By nightfall on 28 January, Croat

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sides are equally to blame, thus justifying the United Nations' failure to bring the conflict to a halt.

Not only does the arms embargo maintain the military imbalance, but authorities in Zagreb point out that Croatia is further weakened by having to provide for some 650,000 Bosnian and Croatian refugees without financial aid. They also note how UNPROFOR has done nothing to rebuild roads, power lines or economic infrastructure in Serb-occupied areas.

One excellent example of UNPROFOR inefficiency is the United Nations' failure to stop Serbian irregulars from detonating some of the 38 tons of explosives they had planted on the Perucko dam in late January (see sidebar). If the dam had been totally destroyed, tens of thousands of people would have been at risk.

The U.N. Security Council's Resolution 769 from August 1992, authorizing UNPROFOR to monitor and take control of Croatian borders in occupied areas, was never implemented, allowing Serb irregulars within Croatia to continue being resupplied from Serbia.

"Pink zones" in Croatia, occupied by Serb irregulars outside the UNPAs, did not exist in the original Vance plan, which specified these areas to be returned to the control of Croatian government. Many "protected areas" are still effectively being controlled by Serb irregulars who are quietly expanding the UNPAs by annexing the pink zones.

Rounding Up The Locals

The UNPROFOR personnel obviously lack the means and the will for stopping the forced resettlement of refugees from what is now Serbia into Serbian-occupied territories of Croatia and Bosnia. Deployment of UNPROFOR personnel did not prevent the subsequent expulsion of 2,450 more civilians (mostly Croats and Hungarians) from these areas by Serbs; many of these refugees are believed to have died in the eastern UNPA.

In September 1992, for example, when an organized refugee group tried to return to their homes in eastern Croatia, they were halted by UNPROFOR troops, ostensibly in order to save lives. The Croats say UNPROFOR's effort in Croatia is creating an intolerable solution for the

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Serb irregulars attempted to demolish Perucko dam, which would have destroyed more than 30,000 homes. United Nations made no attempt to remove 38 tons of explosives emplaced by Serbs during six months the peacekeepers controlled dam.

Serbian soldiers and engineers have blasted the Perucko dam to discharge its millions of gallons downriver, the onrushing torrent overwhelms a smaller dam in its path. Splashing into the Adriatic with a still-deadly 10-foot depth, the deluge has washed away an estimated 5,000 victims, along with the homes or livelihoods of more than 30,000 others.

Croatian hydroelectric plants supplying power to the entire coastal region of Dalmatia are devastated. People must endure without electricity there for several years, resulting in economic devastation to hundreds of thousands of farmers and for countless workers of the Adriatic coast's once-thriving vacation resorts. Already drained from two years' war and lost tourist revenues, Croatia will be further crippled from the great flood's inestimable costs for repair and resettlement. Such, at least, are the hopes of Serbian government officials who ordered demolition of the Perucko dam.

SEND IN U.S. SpecOps?

Regardless of the United Nations' bungling, the United States absolutely should not send troops into the Balkans simply to augment a European force, nor should it deploy forces under European leadership. "European leadership" is an oxymoron anyway. The same goes for "U.N. leadership."

But if America and Russia could work out an arrangement to jointly bang the heads of the warring Balkan factions together, Richard Daley-in-Chicago-style, then we might get somewhere. The Serbs care what Russians think, as they are Slavic and religious brothers. In the not-so-Brave New World of post-communism, the Eastern Orthodox church is, for the Serbs, a means to create a new "us" against "them."

Serbs will heed the Russians, while Croats will listen to Americans, particularly if we support Croatia's legitimate claims to territory lost to Serbia in 1991. Bosnian Muslims will also respect strong voices able to promise them some chance for survival. The United Nations and the EC don't speak with such convictions.

To his credit, President Clinton has suggested involving Russia in a Balkans peacekeeping force. Yet the Russians must be more than just involved — they should be full partners. This past winter and spring were brutally hard on Russia, and summer's not looking much better. Russia's military could use a constructive mission right now, which also might be a good thing for the disillusioned Russian public to see happening.

At one point Clinton was talking about committing 25,000 U.S. troops to help ensure compliance with the now-dead Vance-Owen peace plan, which proposed a loose confederation of 10 provinces making up Bosnia-Herzegovina. But all the belligerents found this plan unacceptable, while our president backed off on sending troops when a lack of domestic or European support became apparent. It's just as well that Clinton has had a reality check on U.S. military action — dropping parachute bundles of humanitarian relief

packages from 12,000 feet may not accomplish much, but at least it's relatively harmless.

A better idea than committing 25,000 troops would be to deploy about 3,500 men from the 10th Special Forces Group, already in Germany and trained for unconventional missions in eastern Europe. Special Forces soldiers have language skills and are trained for stabilization and

humanitarian assistance missions. If we want to be involved in a war, we should send in the infantry. That's what they're trained for. If we want to do something constructive, while minimizing our troop commitment, we should send in Special Forces.

The Russian army has equivalent forces which could be useful components for such an operation. Their presence and cooperation would convey considerable symbolic importance. Russia also has a lot of excellent equipment, such as the Mi-24 armored helicopter (NATO code name "Hind"). The Mi-24 features a sophisticated reconnaissance capability and can transport troop squads safely in areas where small-arms fire will pose a risk for years to come.

Maybe if Serbs, Croats and Muslims saw teams of U.S. Green Berets and Russian special forces — without the hated blue U.N. hats — stepping out of Russian helicopters, they would get the message that former enemies can get along.

Instead of barricading themselves behind razor wire and concrete in a few Bosnian towns (as U.N. troops are doing), the 54 A-Teams of 10th SF Group, working together with Russian —

or even Serb, Croat and Muslim — counterparts, could fan out through the countryside, providing security, rumor control, medical aid, engineering support and other civic assistance to war-ravaged villages.

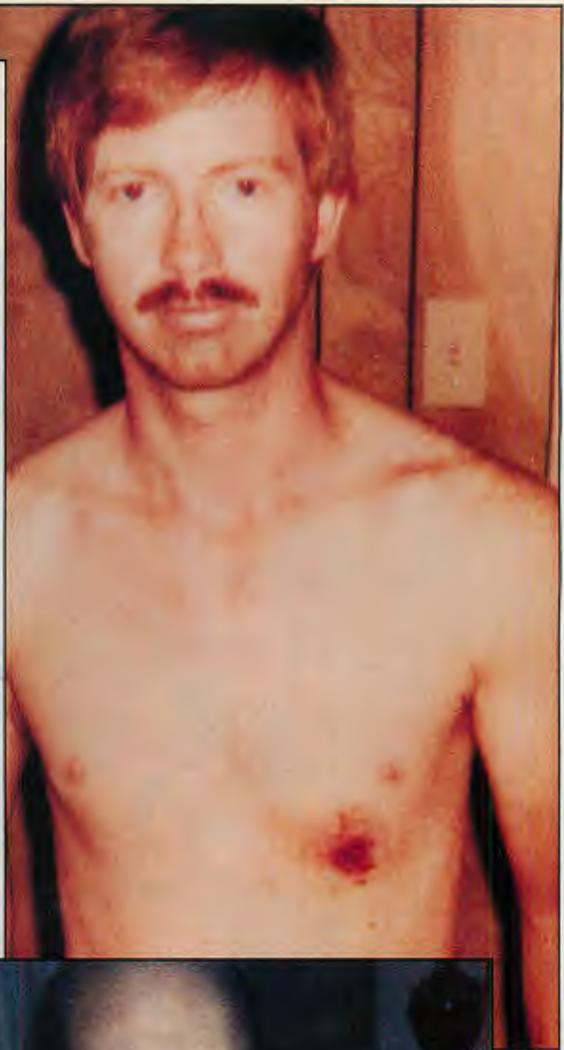
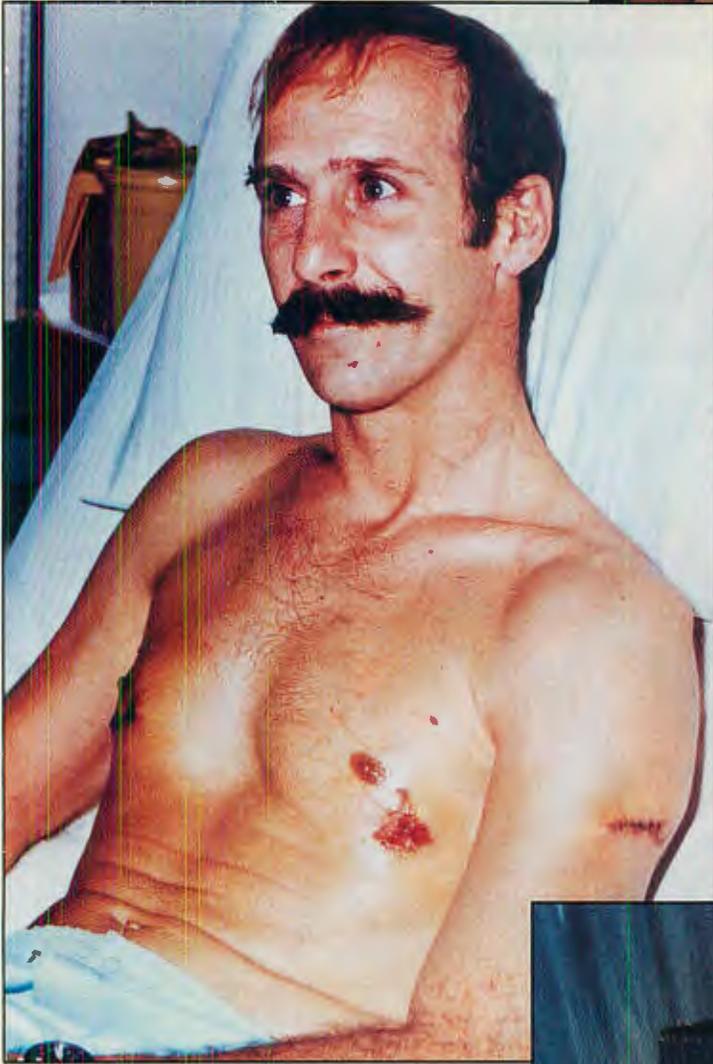
In a simple word, healing. This war won't end until the healing begins.

— Chuck Fremont



U.S. special operations personnel could be called into the Balkans conflict to stabilize the situation.

Photo: Pressens Bild/Gamma-Liaison



Selecting a particular soft, concealable body armor for daily wear is not a wardrobe consideration for most people. But if you're a cop on America's mean streets, your bullet-resistant vest may be the last barrier between you and a cold marble slab.

Soft, concealable body armor is designed to protect the wearer against the threats most frequently faced by police, statistically from .22- through .357-caliber handguns. Greater levels of protection are available, but the trade-off is that greater protection reduces comfort. The safest vest in the world is no good if not worn, and discomfort is most often cited by the officers, with vests available, who choose not to wear them.

Police wearing vests on a daily basis usually opt for a maximum of safety within the bounds of reasonable comfort. No flexible body armor wears like a T-shirt, and good fit is critical. Officers in hot climates must contend with potentially debilitating heat retained by thick or waterproof models. A vest of low-to-mid-range protection is ef-

Happiness is being shot at close range with a .357 Magnum, then proceeding to disarm or take out your assailant because you are wearing adequate body armor. Officer Steve Gadzik (left) was Second Chance save No. 54; John Solheim (bottom) was No. 215; and Joseph Bartlett (upper right) was No. 458. Each man was saved because he was wearing his vest.

VESTED INTERESTS

Experts Go Ballistic Over Disputed Body Armor Standards

by James L. Pate

Photos courtesy Second Chance Body Armor Inc.

fective against many — not all — handgun threats. And an officer deserves confidence that his vest will provide *at least* the level of protection advertised.

This begs the question: By what or whose authority ought a universally accepted — and understood — set of body armor standards be set? In the balance of comfort vs. safety, there's the rub.

Bitter Debate Over Standards

Just as scripture may be selectively quoted in support of a particular argument, so can the tests and supporting documents in the body armor debate. The virtual "Bible" of this debate is a two-volume report published by an agency of Congress which investigates technical issues raised on Capitol Hill, the U.S. Office of Technology Assessment (OTA). *Police Body Armor Standards and Testing* is the result of 18 months' research by OTA's International Security and Commerce staff, a project headed by Michael B. Callahan.

The OTA report has been embraced by both sides in the bitter debate over body armor standards — i.e. whether the voluntary standards promulgated since 1972 by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) are scientifically valid.

David G. Boyd, director of NIJ's Science and Technology Division since

August 1992, said he was "pissed off" after reading an article critical of the NIJ body armor standard — an article which dealt with the findings of the OTA report.

"Frankly, as a taxpaying citizen and former soldier who worries about the quality of stuff you give soldiers, some of this has really pissed me off," he said, "... stuff I see quoted out of context and some amazing distortions."

The article to which Boyd referred appeared in the October 1992 issue of *Law and Order* magazine. It was written by Dr. Martin Fackler, who directed the Army's Wound Ballistic Laboratory from 1981 until his retirement last year. Recognized internationally in his field, Fackler was one of 19 experts asked to sit on an advisory panel for OTA's body armor study. Although one among many, Fackler also has been NIJ's most formidable and persistent critic.

"The OTA report supported everything [critics have] said all along," Fackler told *Soldier of Fortune*.

After reviewing the OTA report, the

An important consideration is that a vest be comfortable enough it will be worn. Illustrated is the Second Chance "Deep Cover" vest designed for maximum concealability and comfort, worn by Officer Mike Jarabek (Second Chance save No. 500).



Judiciary Committee directed the Justice Department to form a National Armor Advisory Board to come to grips with what the OTA report means. NIJ is not bound to abide by anything in the report. Boyd told *SOF* it was his idea to form the advisory board.

DuPont: NIJ Test "Unreliable"

The U.S. Senate was not the first entity to take interest in the controversy. DuPont, a leader in developing fibers for antiballistic use, issued a report in 1990 with empirical conclusions very similar to the OTA study.

In an industry advisory to enforcement agencies and armor manufacturers, DuPont reported it had "carefully analyzed the test data provided by NIJ and concluded that there are significant problems in the test method," and a high degree of inconsistency and unreliability in the test results.

"Inconsistent results create many problems for the industry and the law enforcement community," DuPont concluded, "including confusion, loss of product confidence, liability concerns and reduced vest wear."

Confusion is understandable, given parallel use of the same documents to support greatly divergent viewpoints. "The people in our department who are responsible for purchasing body armor really don't understand the technical details of the ... certification process," a police officer wrote in a letter to the Fall 1992 issue of *Wound Ballistics Review*, a scientific journal edited by Fackler and Alexander Jason. The officer noted that while his department knows there are big problems, they are afraid to purchase armor that does not meet the NIJ standard.

Standard Too Strict, Too Costly?

The OTA report suggests that NIJ's more stringent standard, instead of saving money, as Boyd claims, actually increases law enforcement costs because "the variability of [NIJ] test results induce manufacturers to make armor that is heavier, stiffer, less comfortable and more costly than necessary to provide the nominal protection certified."

DuPont, which would likely sell more of its Kevlar fiber if manufacturers all adhered to the voluntary NIJ standard and erred in favor of making vests too heavy, advised its manufacturing customers to abandon NIJ's test for a newer standard established by an industry group, the Personal Protec-



Richard C. Davis, the colorful and outspoken pioneer of the soft body armor industry, is a man who stands behind his product — then shoots himself, as he has done innumerable times to demonstrate the effectiveness of his vests.

tive Armor Association.

"Despite valid evidence to the contrary, the NIJ has persisted in proclaiming their standard valid and refusing to consider revisions," Fackler wrote in the *Law and Order* article. He stated that the controversy has confused the law enforcement community and is undermining confidence in soft body armor. After studying the OTA report, Fackler said in his article, "That report states, unequivocally, 'It is clear that the standard should be revised ...'"

Whose Facts Are Facts?

Fackler "quoted that out of context, because what the report *really* says is, 'It is clear that the standard should be revised,'" said Boyd, pausing to carefully pronounce each syllable of the omitted word, " 'e-ven-tu-al-ly.' "

Boyd responded to Fackler's article with a 10-page rebuttal titled "What the OTA Report *Really* Said." A draft copy provided by Boyd to *SOF* states it was prepared in response to a query by an unidentified "major metropolitan police department."

Law and Order did not publish Boyd's rebuttal, but he pleaded NIJ's case in the May-June issue of *Sheriff* magazine. "NIJ has pioneered the development and deployment of technologies which have saved police lives,"

Boyd wrote, noting this was accomplished "despite its austere budget" of only \$24 million. Boyd's article implies it was NIJ which first developed soft, concealable body armor, a claim he repeated to *SOF*.

[While NIJ helped popularize soft body armor by making 5,000 commercial vests available at no charge to police departments in a pilot program, the overall thrust of NIJ's claim is disputed by DuPont and Allied-Signal, both of which raced to produce and patent the first polyaramid fibers used in most body armor — DuPont's Kevlar and Allied's Spectra-Shield. Boyd's claim is also hotly disputed by Richard C. Davis, president of Second Chance Body Armor Inc., an industry pioneer who holds several manufacturing patents on soft body armor.]

"Out Of Context?"

After comparing Fackler's article to the OTA report, Boyd wrote in the executive summary of his in-house rebuttal, "I found that several of the direct quotations had been edited, that others had been taken out of context and that contrary material had been ignored."

Carefully comparing Boyd's rebuttal and its quotation of the OTA report to *SOF*'s copy, the reader should be cautioned that this reporter also "found that several direct quotations had been edited, that others had been taken out of context and that contrary material had been ignored."

Where the truth lies, it seems, can be subject to interpretation. But body armor either works or it doesn't. Given the lethal consequences, one failure to perform as advertised could put a body armor manufacturer out of business pronto — although it's never happened, either to NIJ-certified or uncertified armor. So who do you believe? Fackler and his allies in the scientific and manufacturing communities? Or the NIJ, which claims it was asked by police departments to establish the first body armor standard in 1972?

Perhaps it is in the reader's interest to quote from the foreword of the OTA

report, a five-paragraph statement in which OTA Director John H. Gibbons makes some simple, declarative statements about the background of the controversy. The following condenses the first four paragraphs of that foreword.

For two decades, the number of police officers shot to death each year has been declining while the number of officers shot has been increasing. The decrease in the lethality of shootings is partly attributable to the increase in wearing bullet-resistant body armor, especially soft, inconspicuous armor designed to be worn full-time.

... To provide benchmarks for protection, the National Institute of Justice issued NIJ Standard 0101.03 in 1987. It specifies standard procedures for testing samples of armor ... The standard has been controversial since it was issued ... To date, all armor of NIJ-certified models has performed as rated in service — but so has uncertified armor, including armor that would fail the test specified by the standard. This has provoked charges that the NIJ test is too stringent and fails to discriminate some safe armor from unsafe armor...

These read to this reporter like fairly straightforward, declarative statements, and they do seem critical of the NIJ standard. But in an almost 90 minute conversation, when this reporter asked for Boyd's response to these and other statements, Boyd on several occasions accused me of "taking quotes out of context." Other excerpted examples in the OTA report, critical of the NIJ (italics ours) include:

•From OTA report's "Findings:" *"Much of the current controversy over armor standards and testing arose and persists because the certification pro-*

cedure does not quantify the risks, and the uncertainties in the risks, to manufacturers, purchasers and wearers."

•From "Options for the Department of Justice" section: *"It is clear that the standard should be revised — eventually. It could be revised now to reduce the latitude in test procedures permitted by the standard. This would limit lab-to-lab and test-to-test variations in test conditions, which might be partly responsible for variations in test results ... Moreover, as discussed above in "Findings," the validity of the current test has not been demonstrated — nor can it be until acceptable risks are specified ..."*

•Also from the report's "Findings:" *"The realism of NIJ-compliant testing would be improved if the NIJ standard were revised to allow testing of a whole armor garment on a test fixture, such as a mannequin, to which the armor could be affixed by the strapping or fasteners a wearer would use."*

•From "Options:" *"... Many have expressed the feeling that NIJ has become unduly wedded to the existing standard. They feel that longstanding conflict over the body-armor issue among persons whose*

strong personalities and knowledgeable minds are driven by the earnest desire to save the lives of as many police officers as possible has solidified positions, especially those at NIJ, to a degree beyond that justifiable on purely scientific or technical grounds. This perception constitutes a public relations problem for NIJ."

So, just which parts of the NIJ test

are at issue? In as close to lay language as possible, here are the most contentious points and some comments by Fackler and Boyd:

• **Backface Signature (BFS):** *"The impact of a bullet stopped by armor can kill or injure the wearer,"* states the OTA report. *"Bruising and minor laceration is to be expected, but some test of the ability of armor to protect its wearer from critical injury is needed. The NIJ test, which is based on the depth of the crater made in clay behind the armor when it is hit, serves this purpose. Of the armor that have stopped bullets in assaults, those that would have passed the NIJ test ... limited the chance of death or life-threatening injury to about 1 in 300 ..."* [NIJ's maximum allowable BFS is 44mm (1.73 inches).]

Part of the OTA study, Fackler said, included DuPont-sponsored re-enactments of actual shooting incidents in which officers had survived firearms assaults. In 25 such re-enactments using the same model of vest and firearm, "The NIJ test methodology was used," Fackler wrote, "the panel being held against a flat wall of clay by four elastic straps."

Should Testing Mimic Life?

In 10 of 25 re-enactments, the observed BFS in clay failed the NIJ standard — yet the vest had a proven track record of saving a life. The most significant finding, noted Fackler, was that "when the armor panel was shot against an unyielding wall of clay, many of the bullets that were stopped by the vest on the officer penetrated the armor panel on the clay." Of 138 shots fired in 25 re-enactments, 36 shots perforated the armor on clay. "There were no perforations when this same armor was shot with the same bullet when it was being worn by an officer. Thus, the clay backing used in the NIJ standard fails to predict bullet penetration accurately," Fackler concludes.

"The standard clay backing used for measuring backface signature is *not* intended to be a human tissue simulant, but serves only to measure blunt trauma," Boyd wrote. "The inelasticity of clay was a quality sought after by NIJ researchers because it makes possible the measurement of [BFS] without high-speed photography or other elaborate, expensive means — all of which would dramatically increase the cost of testing, and thus the



Virtually any level of protection can be offered by body armor — even against .30-06 armor-piercing. But realistic standards for protection against the most likely threats can help assure body armor is adequate, while comfortable. Illustrated is Second Chance's "Six Point Adjustable" vest (model is Officer Dave Miles, Second Chance save No. 450).

Continued on page 72

DODGING THE DRUG WAR

Budget Cutters Blow Smoke; This Time Clinton Inhales

by David Rivera

Photos by Richard Emblin

On 9 March 1993, President Clinton sent Colombian President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo a letter in which he stated, "I assure you that my administration will continue supporting your efforts to combat drug trafficking." But budgetary and policy actions coming out of Washington recently indicate that the "continuing support" may be slashed to little more than lip service.

White House Chief of Staff Thomas McLarty has stated that the administration will radically change its emphasis, shifting funds from foreign programs aimed at interdiction to domestic programs targeting consumption. That shift of funds will be massive. In March the U.S. Congress began consideration of a budgetary package for Andean producer nations that would slash aid by 55%.

And while nations such as Colombia probably can do without additional helicopters, transport aircraft and other big-ticket items, such a huge reduction in aid will almost certainly worsen an already critical training, maintenance and resupply situation, crippling anti-narcotics police efforts. Programs in the Middle East and Southeast Asia will be similarly affected.

Even more troubling than aid reductions are policy and bureaucratic changes being undertaken or contemplated in Washington. According to two U.S. government officials, the perception of narcotics as a security concern has virtually disappeared. These officials have told *SOF* that under the Bush administration, the National Security Council (NSC) rated narcotics

matters third on its list of national security concerns, but under Clinton it has been downgraded to 29th on the list. Asked to explain the change, Assistant Press Secretary for Foreign Affairs Paul Clarke said, "I know of no such list," and added, "It sounds conspiratorial to me." A U.S. Embassy spokesman in Bogota also denied knowledge of the existence of such a list.

Bloodletting Among Bureaucracies

With budget cuts looming, enforcement agencies are scrambling to protect their bureaucratic kingdoms. *SOF* has learned that the FBI has submitted a plan to the Justice Department in which it proposes to "take administrative control" of the DEA. FBI spokesmen in Washington would neither confirm nor deny the existence of the proposal and referred inquiries to the Justice Department. Despite repeated phone calls, then acting Director of Public Affairs Frank Shults was unavailable for comment (Shults quit on 12 March).

According to these same sources, the DEA has prepared a bureaucratic counter blow in which it proposes to take control of the FBI's narcotics division. DEA Public Affairs Director Illa Brown confirmed the existence of the proposal, but said that it was "preliminary staff work prepared by DEA, but never reviewed or approved by DEA management."

Whether or not such changes in "administrative control" eventually come about, it is certain that much time and

energy will be spent battling over bureaucratic turf, thereby diminishing the effectiveness of international cooperation at a time when only the United States has the capacity to coordinate efforts to combat narcotics trafficking.

What happened? Did we win the drug war when no one was looking? Is a downgrading in priorities justified?

The Enemy Gains Ground

The drug war is not over. America's streets are still flooded with cocaine, marijuana, and increasingly, heroin. Consumption in Europe is exploding. Even Japan is seeing disturbing signs of a skyrocketing problem. In 1991, authorities in Colombia and the United States seized more cocaine than ever before. In fact, they seized a quantity greater than the *entire estimated 1986 consumption*. But prices in the United States remained largely stable, which indicates those losses were simply part of the cost of doing business for the cartels.

Step back a moment and ask: Just how big is this problem, anyway?

According to classified documents prepared with the participation of the CIA and National Security Agency (NSA), many users spend more money on illegal drugs than they spend on food, clothes, housing or anything else. The international narcotics industry's annual revenues exceed half a *trillion* dollars. That's more than three times the value of all U.S. currency and coin in circulation, and more than the gross domestic product of all but a handful of countries on earth.

Clinton's budget plans call for what



Colombian national police in Bell 212 chopper, armed with U.S. M60D variant, patrol wealthy southern neighborhood of Medellín, looking for signs of fugitive cocaine king Pablo Escobar. U.S. hardware and funding — subject to drastic cuts by Clinton administration — are critical if governments under siege from drug cartels are to have a chance of winning.

THE CARTEL WARS

In June 1992 drug lord Pablo Escobar became convinced that two of his top lieutenants, Mario Moncado and Fernando Galeano, were skimming profits from Medellin cartel operations. Escobar ordered the two men kidnapped and brought to the "prison" outside the town of Envigado where he was ensconced. He personally interrogated the two men, who were then tortured (power drills through the knee) and killed.

It was, perhaps, the biggest mistake of his life.

When news of the outrage reached President Gaviria Trujillo, he ordered the militarization of the prison. The operation failed miserably, and Escobar escaped (see "Sometimes the Good Guys Lose," SOF Nov. '92).

Since then, Escobar has been on the run, and although he has delivered some severe blows to the state, his power is being steadily eroded. In the six months following his escape, the drug baron was responsible for the deaths of 21 civilians and the murder of more than 100 police officers in the city of Medellin alone. In one particularly gruesome murder, approximately 40 heavily armed men arrived at the home of a police intelligence captain late at night. Using explosives, they blew out the wall of the bedroom where the captain lay sleeping, then emptied automatic weapons into his body. According to statements made by participants who were captured or later surrendered, the operation had been directed by Escobar's 16-year-old son, who used a megaphone to shout orders.

The government response was to form a special unit of approximately 1,500 men from elite army and police forces, and offer rewards as high as \$7 million for information leading to the capture or death of Escobar and his top lieutenants. Over the next seven months the *Bloque de Busqueda* (roughly "Search Block") performed nearly 8,000 operations and slowly but surely, Escobar's organization began to crumble.

The first important blow came last October when police burst into a house in Medellin occupied by Brances Muñoz Mosquera. Known as "Tyson," Muñoz was linked to the murder or assassination of some 500 people, as well as various car-bomb blasts. He died in a hail of gunfire. In the next four months, five other top men of the cartel's "military wing" were killed by security forces, and 12 more surrendered.

Escobar tried to up the ante in January of this year by ordering a series of car bombings in the capital of Bogota. More than 40 people were killed and dozens more injured. But this wave of bombings was different from the one that nearly paralyzed the country three years ago: These car bombs were notably less sophisticated, indicating a weakening of his infrastructure.

Weakened not only by the police, following the deaths of Moncado and Galeano at Escobar's hands, the surviving members of the "clan" formed a group called Los PEPES ("Persons Persecuted by Escobar"). This shadowy group gave security forces valuable tips on cartel members' hideouts and habits.

In February Los PEPES decided to take matters into their own hands. An armed group of men pulled up outside one of Escobar's luxurious ranches and bombed and burned the place to the ground. Another group torched a warehouse containing the drug lord's \$5 million collection of antique cars. Days later Los PEPES gunned down two of Escobar's top henchmen and bombed a house where his mother was thought to be living. In early March, a group of 10 young men stopped at a gas station outside Medellin, all riding dirt bikes and dressed in expensive riding clothes. Suddenly three vehicles pulled up and roughly a dozen men jumped out and opened fire on the group, killing nine. The young men were all friends of Escobar's son, who normally rode with them. That day, he hadn't.

Feeling the pressure, Escobar again changed tactics. The bombings stopped, and he began having "conversations" with the archbishop of Barranquilla. But the government, which in recent years has been distancing itself from the Catholic Church, was unimpressed and nothing came of the move.

As of this writing, Escobar is still "free" but even the most cynical observers have to admit it is only a matter of time. But what about Los PEPES? "What bothers us about [them]," said former Anti-Narcotics Police chief General Roza Jose Serrano, "is that they seem to be taking advantage of the hunt for Escobar in order to allow the unification of all Colombian cartels."

— D.R.

has been termed "the biggest tax increase in history." That plan would raise a total of \$246 billion over a four year period — less than half the amount spent on narcotics every year! At least *that* money is slated to be spent to reduce the deficit and improve the nation's infrastructure and industrial base — but the vast preponderance of drug money is simply bled away from the United States. And yet no government agency has, publicly at least, made a study of the economic impact of such a mammoth hemorrhage of capital. If the billions siphoned from the American economy were to stay in legitimate circulation, the taxes generated would make the \$45.3 million Uncle Sam spent in Colombian anti-drug efforts in 1992 pale by comparison — not to mention the billions lost nationally to increased law-enforcement costs and caring for the addicted and nonproductive.

Although not a panacea for the drug problem, American anti-narcotics aid in Colombia has been generally well

spent, with 90% going to the police and the remaining 10% split among the DAS (Secret Service), the National Drug Policy Council and for general support on anti-drug activities. Of the 90% that went to the police, roughly 60% went for the purchase of helicopters, vehicles, spares and base construction; some 25% went for operational costs such as fuel and rations. Roughly 15% was expended for training, mostly for helicopter pilots.

In 1992, more than 250 Colombian pilots received an aggregate of 2,200

student-weeks of training at Fort Benning, Georgia. Aviation mechanics also receive training under the aid programs, although there is still a shortage of certified personnel to keep the Bell 212 choppers and five Turbo-Thrush fixed-wing craft flying.

Anti-narcotics personnel also receive psyops training at Fort Benning, although proposed training of rural medics to treat locals as part of a "hearts and

minds" strategy is in jeopardy if aid funds are slashed.

U.S. aid in support of these pro-



Rival drug lords, honest police and judges, recalcitrant politicians — all are targets of assassination. "Collateral damage" in the drug war is considerable: This Bogota car bomb blast last April — of which Pablo Escobar was accused — killed 10 in a shopping center, wounded 200.

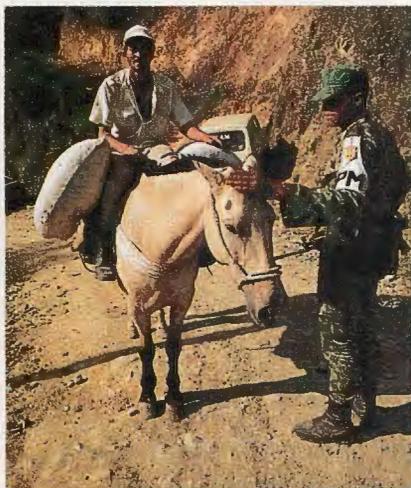
grams was \$29.8 million in 1990, which was increased to \$33.1 million in 1991 and grew to \$45.3 million in 1992. As of 1 April 1993, only \$25 million in State Department funds have been earmarked for these programs.

War With No Allies

What's more, senior U.S. intelligence sources report that *every single country* in Latin America is now involved in the illegal drug trade, either as a producer, shipper or money launderer — not to mention countries in the Middle East and Asia. Europe, too, is involved not just in money laundering, but also in facilitating production. Cocaine processing requires huge quantities of ether: Germany and Holland are happy to supply it, no questions asked.

Dirty Big Secret

This illicit cash flow has impact far beyond the weakening of the U.S. economy. It also distorts the economies, politics and moralities of the countries that receive it. A top-secret report prepared by an intelligence agency in a South American country (not Colombia) states, "We have documented numerous companies in [the capital — names deleted by author to protect the source] that are acting as front companies for the Cali cartel. These companies vary from small retail operations ... to multi-million dollar companies. The objective of these companies is to legitimize narco-dollars and funnel the money back to the traffickers' accounts in Colombia. Many of these companies were originally legitimate companies competing legitimately on the open market. An example of this is [company name]. This was a legitimate multi-million dollar [commodity] company located in [the capital] until it was purchased by [a man] who utilized the company to launder money. By charging far less for its services they were able to bankrupt other similar but legitimate [commodity] service companies."



Military police, in hills near Medellin, question local coffee grower. Pesanos, who have grown and used coca leaves for centuries and who often lack a viable alternative crop, are but financial pawns in other men's wars and empires.

The political situation in Latin America, although much better in recent years, is fragile at best and can hardly be improved by the easy access to literally hundreds of millions of dollars in "hot money." Speaking of the leading contenders in an upcoming presidential election for a South American country, a western diplomat with more than five years' experience told *SOF*, "They're all dirty [with drug money]. I shudder to think what will happen to this country. I'm glad I won't be here to see it."

Latin America is not the only place to be affected by drug-funded violence. The newly independent nations that comprised the southern states of the former Soviet Union probably will become major players in the narcotics industry. As increased fighting among ethnic groups burns off

previously stockpiled arms and ammunition, the combatants may well turn to drug trafficking to purchase the weapons that their shattered economies cannot afford. This area of the world has a long history of opium poppy cultivation — and a smuggling tradition that is not likely to be ignored by those hungry for cash.

The Great Corruptor

Eastern Europe, too, will probably continue its involvement in drug trafficking. Countries like Bulgaria have long specialized in arms-for-drugs transactions. Through a front organization called *Kintex*, Bulgarian State Security ran such an operation for more than 20 years, working closely with the KGB to fund and arm various terrorist organizations such as the PLO. Communism may have collapsed, but as one narco-terrorism expert puts it, "People with the connections and expertise are still around. They're not going to say, 'Well, that's all over,' and get jobs at McDonalds. They're still players."

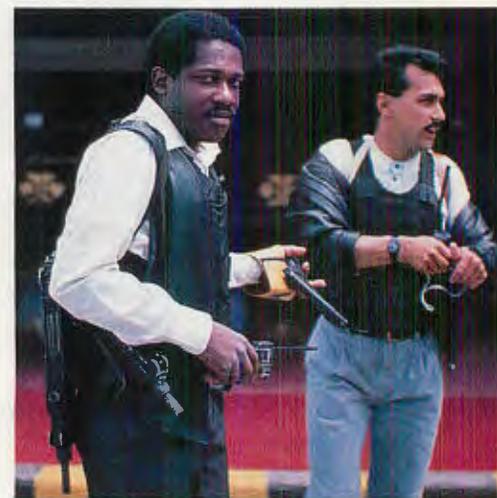
Nor is Western Europe immune to the profound corrupting influence of

narcotics trafficking. Numerous top Italian officials, including a former prime minister, are under investigation for alleged ties to the Sicilian Mafia. The French government, too, may be tied to narcotics trafficking. The French secret service has long been rumored to have a working relationship with drug-smuggling groups operating in Argentina and Venezuela: It may be more than coincidence that Pablo Escobar has in the past used French government officials as intermediaries to send messages to the U.S. government. Or that Escobar's wife and two children, fearing for their safety, tried unsuccessfully to flee to France.

The Clinton administration's shift of emphasis in the direction of demand reduction is entirely sensible from a domestic, long-term point of view. But the effects of such a policy on worldwide demand and trafficking patterns are diminishing every day as drug use expands in Europe and Asia, with shipments and drug money crossing and recrossing numerous borders.

One Bogota-based narcotics analyst observed, "If the Clinton administration, for whatever reason, greatly diminishes American anti-drug efforts throughout the world, the consequences will be severe for everyone."

David Rivera is a freelance journalist based in Colombia. This article is the last of three parts dealing with the drug war — see also "Sometimes the Good Guys Lose," Nov. '92, and "Combating the New Drug Threat," June '92. ✕



UZIs, Berettas and autoloaders: With the increase in sloppy internecine vendettas and escalating violence between drug lords and over-extended authorities, those Colombians who can afford it have hired their own private security.

COMMAND GUIDANCE

Continued from page 3

dum to Members of the Gun Control Committee." Bracketed portions are paraphrased for space reasons, and all grammatical errors are included:

June 11, 1993

MEMORANDUM TO MEMBERS OF THE GUN CONTROL COMMITTEE

RE: FINAL PROPOSED POSITION OF COMMITTEE

Attached is a copy of our memorandum which forwarded the committee's final proposed position to the Director. We forwarded the memorandum up the chain of command on or about the date of the memorandum. For your information, the Director now has the original of this memorandum, but as of today we have not been informed that he has approved it.

Set forth below is the group's proposed position, preceded by an introductory statement for the position drafted by my staff. For your information, we then provide a brief statement of the basis for the inclusion of each of the six elements of the policy. Finally, we recommend the adoption of each of the six elements, as well as additional actions that we believe are appropriate at this time.

FBI POSITION REGARDING GUN CONTROL

Introduction:

The FBI does not comment publicly on matters that are the subject of political debate. The reasons for this policy are obvious and well founded. As the principal Federal law enforcement agency, the FBI must both remain apart from politics and be perceived as such by the American people. If the FBI creates or allows the perception that it is engaged in partisan politics, it would destroy the confidence of the Executive Branch, the Congress and the American people that the FBI will investigate crimes against the United States wherever such investigations may lead.

After careful consideration, and with the full support of the FBI's executive leadership, I believe that an extraordinary, singular departure from this policy is necessary. The proliferation of firearms in our society

and the use of firearms as instrumentalities of violent crime is of deep concern to the FBI. [Followed by four paragraphs of gun-related crime statistics.]

The deaths and serious injuries suffered by Federal, state and local law enforcement officers from armed violent criminals must be addressed more effectively. Additionally, the staggering number of deaths and traumatic injuries in American society, particularly among our young people, caused by firearms have made gun control a national public health crisis. [Followed by two paragraphs of gun-related crime statistics.]

**"We strongly
recommend the
immediate enactment
of the Brady bill."
— FBI memo**

We do not take this public position on gun control lightly. We recognize that the FBI will be criticized for taking a position on this intensely debated issue and may be subject to pressure to comment upon other issues of public debate. We will resist that pressure. The need to adequately control the possession, transfer and use in criminal activity of firearms is an extraordinary, unique issue in our society. The time has come for the FBI to participate, as the leader in the law enforcement community, in the efforts to reduce the scourge of gun related violence in our society.

Position:

The FBI has adopted the following position on gun control:

We favor the licensing of handguns and mandatory training for persons who wish to obtain a handgun license. We believe handguns are inherently dangerous. Licensing and training requirements would be consistent with the obligations attendant to other activities, such as operating a motor vehicle. In conjunction with licensing and training requirements, we recommend a statutory system pursuant to which, for a specified period of time, persons may receive appropriate reimbursement upon voluntarily turning firearms over to

law enforcement authorities.

2. We strongly recommend the immediate enactment of the Brady bill. We believe that the core concepts embodied in the Brady bill, including the presentation of adequate identification by a person seeking to purchase a handgun and a record check to ensure that the receipt or possession of a handgun by the purchaser would not violate Federal, state or local law are important, long overdue steps towards the reasonable regulation of the sale and transfer of handguns.

3. We recommend a complete prohibition upon the transfer, importation, transport or possession of assault firearms.

4. We recommend a complete prohibition upon the possession of armor piercing ammunition. The only exceptions to such a ban should be for companies selling to the U.S. military and law enforcement agencies. We also favor amending existing laws to define armor piercing ammunition based upon performance standards, not composition.

5. We recommend a reallocation of existing resources to increase the regulation and oversight of federally licensed firearms dealers, importers, manufacturers, and collectors. This increased regulation and oversight should include: a substantial annual fee for the issuance of a Federal firearms license (FFL); requiring an existing place of business before an FFL to conduct firearms business could be issued; requiring applicants for FFLs to appear in person and be fingerprinted; requiring applicants for FFLs to provide proof that they have met all applicable state and/or local laws and regulations pertaining to gun dealers; increasing the frequency with which Federal authorities may inspect the inventory and records of FFL holders; and reallocating resources within appropriate agencies to ensure that increased inspections are in fact conducted.

6. The FBI will continue to afford a high priority to investigations of interstate thefts of firearms and unlawful trafficking in firearms. We urge appropriate Federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to increase efforts against these activities.

Continued on page 66

SOUTH AFRICAN SS-77

Continued from page 40

aperture in the down position for ranges from 200 to 800 meters, in 100-meter increments with a sight radius of 32.64 inches. When raised, the sight radius is reduced to 29.88 inches. An open U-notch is used for ranges from 800 to 1,800 meters, again in 100-meter increments.

The numerals "2," "4" and "6" are engraved on the left side of the sight to indicate distances of 200, 400 and 600 meters, respectively. This small feature is of significant benefit to the assistant gunner during fire redirect; it illustrates the type of combat experienced user input that has become a hallmark of South African weaponry.

Two dot-type beta lights in the rear sight can be aligned with a single-dot beta light of the flip-up type on the front sight for subdued light or night firing. In addition, the sophisticated H-019 long-range dial sight can be mounted to the receiver for indirect fire from defilade along fixed lines.

Ergonomics played no small role in the development of the SS-77's buttstock, which passed through three stages. First prototypes carried the Galil (R4) buttstock. Subsequently, a skeletonized nylon-over-steel stock, attached to the receiver by two steel rods, was tested. In its final configuration, nylon was injection-molded over steel pins integral with the stock's investment-cast hinge. After depressing the spring-loaded latch button, the stock folds to the left, pivoting on the stock bracket, which is dovetailed to the end of the receiver. The latch spring is currently slightly weaker to answer early complaints about the difficulty of opening and closing the buttstock assembly.

A thick rubber recoil pad is held to the buttstock by a single screw. The stock bracket, another investment casting, contains the rear sling loop. The two-piece nylon handguard is attached to the gas cylinder by two screws and nuts. Lock washers instead of Loctite are now used with these retaining screws.

A modified R4 bipod, with feet taken from the Bren light machine gun, is fixed to a steel block at the front end of the gas cylinder. This is the best compromise location, as hit probability is not sacrificed for the

sake of lateral mobility. The bipod's non-adjustable tubular steel legs offer a command height of 16.8 inches. Rotation from the vertical is 15 degrees in either direction. There is a hole in the foot of each leg so the bipod can be bolted onto the body of an armored fighting vehicle to further enhance the accuracy potential. There is now an additional ridge on each foot of the bipod legs to improve gripping. The leg welding has also been strengthened.

There is almost no end to the range of accessories available to the SS-77. Its two vinyl cleaning pouches contain spare parts, large and small plastic oil bottles, a cleaning rod, a pull-through, chamber and bore brushes, a nylon bristle brush, gas port and regulator reamers, a broken-case extractor, screwdriver and vise grips. A wooden chest with a complete set of armorer's tools and gauges is also available.

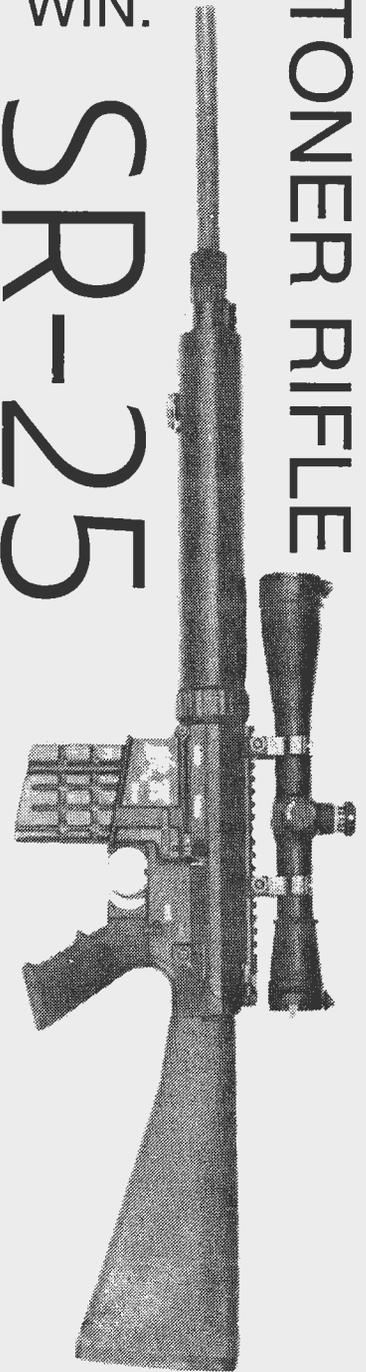
A web sling of the FN MAG 58 type is standard issue. An assault pack fabricated from vinyl and steel, holding 100-plus linked rounds, snaps in place onto a stud on the left side of the receiver, just below the feed tray. This press-fit stud is now further secured by a roll pin. Although more comfortable than rigid metal or plastic assault packs, it will still jab you in the guts on a long hump.

The SS-77 can be mounted on the M2 Browning machine-gun tripod, or on a lightweight and simplified tripod designed by LIW or also onto a modified FN MAG 58 tripod. Elaborate and over-designed, the FN tripod is spring-buffered with aluminum two-piece legs. While the recoil impulse is somewhat diminished and the accuracy potential at extreme ranges is enhanced, this tripod is not cost-effective and is far too clumsy for infantry operations. Single- or twin-type turret and pedestal mounts are also available.

Relentless Execution

We fired the latest version of the superb SS-77 GPMG from its bipod, also from the lightweight LIW tripod and from a twin pedestal mount. During the entire day we spent at a range facility provided by the SADF's 115 Battalion (See "South Africa's Shield: 115 Battalion," *SOF* March '93.), firing thousands of rounds, there were no stoppages of any kind. This was no more than expected, as the FN MAG 58 feed mechanism and PKM gas system have been battle-

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Basis for Inclusion of Each Element of Policy:

1. Licensing of Handguns and Mandatory Training.

The group discussed at length whether the FBI should recommend a general ban on the possession of handguns. After careful consideration, the group concluded that a proposed ban would not receive sufficient support. Additionally, adopting this element in our policy would likely place us outside the scope of the current debate over firearms, and thus perhaps marginalize our overall impact.

The group instead chose to recommend that the FBI endorse mandatory licensing and training for those who wish to possess a handgun. We believe that such requirements would aid existing efforts to control the proliferation of handguns and criminals' ready access to them. We also believe that such requirements could build upon the Brady bill, should the latter be enacted.

Within this element, the group also recommends a statutory scheme pursuant to which persons would receive compensation in exchange for voluntarily turning firearms over to law enforcement authorities.

2. Brady Bill.

The group strongly recommends the immediate enactment of the Brady bill. As you know, the FBI has a number of technical concerns with the version of the Brady bill supported by the Administration. Our concerns include the completeness of state disposition records, the adequacy of the penalties placed upon those states which do not achieve the required 80 percent of case dispositions in computerized criminal history files, the time allowed for the Attorney General to implement a national, instant criminal background check system and the penalties imposed upon the Department of Justice if such system is not certified by the Attorney General within a specified time. The FBI has made these concerns known to appropriate officials within the Department.

Notwithstanding these concerns, the Working Group believes that the core concepts contained in the

Brady bill, including the presentation of adequate identification by a person seeking to purchase a handgun and a criminal history record check on the purchaser, warrant the full support of the FBI. We are hopeful that the Department will work with the FBI to address the technical concerns with the Brady bill identified above.

3. Ban of Assault Firearms.

The group recommends a complete ban upon the possession or transfer of assault firearms. This would include high capacity, rapid firing rifles and handguns, as well as submachine guns. These types of firearms are the most destructive and possess little or no utility for sport or target shooting.

4. Ban of Armor Piercing Ammunition.

The group recommends that existing laws relating to armor piercing ammunition be strengthened. Additionally, the definition of armor piercing ammunition should be based upon performance standards (i.e. ability to penetrate body armor) and its possession should be prohibited.

5. Enhanced Regulation and Oversight of Federally Licensed Firearms Dealers.

The group concluded that current laws relating to the granting of Federal firearms licenses, and the regulation of holders of such licenses, are inadequate. This element of the proposed policy recommends specific actions to strengthen Federal regulation of federally licensed firearms dealers.

6. Afford Priority to Investigations of Major Thefts of Firearms.

This element states the resolve of the FBI to continue to afford a high priority to investigations of thefts of firearms from interstate shipments and recommends that other law enforcement agencies afford a high priority to investigations of major thefts of firearms.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the FBI's gun control policy recommend mandatory licensing and training for those qualifying to possess a handgun, as well as a statutory scheme by which persons would be compensated for voluntarily turning firearms over to law enforcement authorities.

2. That the FBI's gun control

policy recommend the immediate enactment of the Brady bill.

3. That the FBI's gun control policy recommend a complete prohibition on the sale, transfer or possession of assault firearms.

4. That the FBI's gun control policy recommend a complete prohibition upon the sale, transfer or possession of armor piercing ammunition, and a definition of such ammunition that is based upon performance standards, not upon composition.

5. That the FBI's gun control policy recommend a reallocation of existing resources to increase the regulation and oversight of federally licensed firearms dealers, importers, manufacturers, and collectors.

6. That the FBI's gun control policy state that the FBI will continue to afford a high priority to investigations of thefts of firearms from interstate shipments, and that we recommend other law enforcement agencies afford a high priority to investigations of major thefts of firearms.

7. That you advise the Attorney General that the FBI is adopting this public position.

8. That you advise the President that the FBI is adopting this public position.

9. That OPCA prepare a communication to all SACs informing them of the policy and providing them with a short comment period.

10. That OPCA develop a media strategy to publicize and develop support for the FBI's position.

I trust all gun owners — anyone who holds the Constitution dear — would find this as alarming as I do. To paraphrase the heroic revolutionary, Paul Revere: To the phones! To the phones! The bureaucrats are coming! Get on the phone immediately to your elected federal officials, especially those in the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives. Call the Capitol at (202) 224-3121, ask for the office of your public servants and make your opinions known. Because what President Clinton, Sarah Brady of Handgun Control, Inc., and now, alas, even the FBI, want to do with your Second Amendment rights is a clear and present danger to the sovereignty of "We, the People..." ✕

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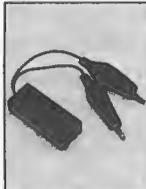
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Perceived recoil of the SS-77 when shoulder-mounted and fired off the bipod is extremely low, due in no small measure to the excellent recoil pad attached to the buttstock. With an empty weight of just 3.5 pounds more than the PKM's 17.5 pounds, the SS-77 handles and carries more comfortably than either the FN MAG 58 or the M60. Accuracy potential and hit probability are both significantly higher than can be obtained with the PKM. Muzzle climb is almost imperceptible during short burst sequences.

During sustained fire, the handguards became quite hot. Without frequent barrel changes, no air-cooled GPMG can serve adequately in the sustained-fire role. But how often today are machine guns employed to fire along fixed lines for long periods of time, or from defilade positions on highly stable ground mounts? These techniques are not only contrary to modern tactical doctrine, but long gone from the operators' data banks.

Machine guns of this type, chambered for standard-size .30 caliber cartridges, will continue to serve effectively at battalion levels well into the foreseeable future. The U.S. Marine Corps has just abandoned the M60 series entirely to adopt a ground version of the M240 (a coaxial model of the FN MAG 58).

Certainly, the SS-77 is capable of laying down an effective base of fire at the squad and platoon level as well. But is it too heavy when compared to 5.56x45mm NATO caliber SAWs (Squad Automatic Weapons) like the M249? In some combat environments, where fire and movement of ground forces is paramount, it might be.

However, the SADF and armed forces of other African and Middle Eastern nations fight mainly from armored fighting vehicles across flat, largely open terrain. In this environment, the 7.62x51mm NATO cartridge remains obviously superior. Also, GPMGs and SAWs should be deployed on the battlefield in a complementary manner, not viewed as tactical competitors.

In my opinion, the GPMG concept has reached its highest level of development with the SS-77. Now in service with the SADF and by armed forces of several other countries, the SS-77 is arguably the finest GPMG ever manufactured. ✕

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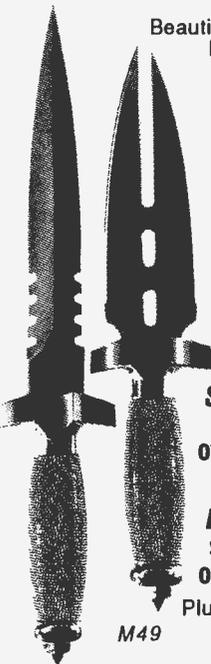
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SOMALIA

Continued from page 34

so we concentrated on the truck. It lurched back, then sped up and un-assed the AO. We turned to take out Sammies firing from the prison, but they also got away. I called in a sitrep while the whole platoon linked up at our squad's location before moving to clear the prison — it turned up dry.

This incident was our last risky episode in Operation Restore Hope. Our platoon left Somalia on 1 April. Plans were for 1st Battalion to head for Puerto Rico, where the spring Ocean Venture exercises were scheduled for May; the battalion wanted its scout platoon returned from 2nd Battalion. What a way for us to go home, just in time to turn around for another deployment, this time to play army.

Bogus Recognition

Appropriate commendation for our efforts in Somalia is apparently not forthcoming. Thus far, our commanders in the Somalia mission's Joint Task Force have severely limited awards allotted to each company of U.S. Army vets of Operation Restore Hope to:

- 20 Department of the Army Certificates of Achievement
- 10 Army Achievement Medals
- Six Army Commendation Medals

I know the men of my platoon deserve better recognition. Every one of them was involved in at least one firefight. Every man acted with valor and took part in at least one confirmed kill — close and personal. We were lucky, we were quick, we had superior technology and they were dead. We all deserve the Combat Infantryman's Badge (CIB), one award showing we played in the game for real.

According to the most stringent CIB award criteria, employed on the DMZ in Korea prior to 4 January 1969, an infantryman had to be in five firefights and be authorized hostile fire pay for 60 days while assigned to an infantry unit of company size or smaller. We met all these criteria and then some.

Not to take credit away from anyone who served in Grenada, Panama or the Persian Gulf, but all most of them had to do was show up. There were plenty of folks in those hostilities who never fired a round and are sporting CIBs today.

After writing for assistance from

my congressman this past spring regarding CIB recognition for my platoon, I was referred to the Department of the Army's Military Awards Branch, eventually receiving a letter from Lieutenant Colonel Patricia A. Sigle, branch chief.

Sigle informed me that the U.S. deputy secretary of defense designated the U.S. armed forces' role in Somalia as a contingency operation (on 8 December 1992) supporting a U.N. Security Council resolution and, as such, "active ground combat was not involved ..." and wartime award approval never granted to the senior Army commander in Somalia by the secretary of the Army — thus the CIB could not be awarded to veterans of Operation Restore Hope.

Yet on 17 May this year, awarding of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal was approved for many Somalia vets by Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, including those vets "engaged in actual combat, or duty which is equally as hazardous as combat, during the operation with armed opposition, regardless of time in the area." Powell's acknowledgement of U.S. troops' performance in ground combat does not square with Sigle's letter.

A former Ranger and scout sniper, Staff Sgt. John Zimmerman leaves active duty this month to attend Syracuse University. His long-range objective is state or federal law enforcement work. This is his first contribution to SOF. ✕

IRIAN JAYA

Continued from page 51

Indonesia's leadership will foreshadow a breakup for the empire and allow them their long-awaited freedom. But if freedom ever does come to the West Papuans, many who helped to achieve it will not see it.

Death Before Slavery

Peter, who snatched the rifle in our ambush of the Indonesian patrol, died from cerebral malaria one week before I last left my OPM camp. This is not an uncommon form of death for rebels who live among New Guinea's malarial swamps. From the time we realized the boy had contracted the disease, his demise was quick; several feverish days later he was dead.

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As we watched Peter's body being floated downriver for burial, the man standing next to me vowed, "We will all continue the fight until we win, or we will all die trying. This is our land, this is not Indonesia. We cannot live without our land."

Even though the OPM has survived 30 years and now boasts a larger, more heavily armed membership than ever before, who can say if its victory is closer than at any previous time? Still, considering the level of commitment OPM fighters and supporters clearly have, opposed to the modern war machine Indonesia fields to combat rebels and protect its claim to Irian Jaya's resource-rich lands, it is clear this forgotten war is far from over.

A first-time contributor to SOF, Australian army veteran Peter Jones works as a freelance writer/photographer.

MAGIC BULLET

Continued from page 29

come from various branches of the Department of Defense until the FBI ordered 150 rounds of 9x19mm for one of its special weapons and tactics teams, Findlay told SOF. Unlike any Findlay had made before for Flatau's Army testing, the FBI order specified that these rounds be tipped with a high-density, polyethylene feed guide to improve rapid, jam-free chambering in weapons with high cyclic rates. The bullets were tipped especially with the H&K MP5 SMG in mind, Flatau said.

"This was all R&D-type [research and development] ammunition," said Findlay, whose company then specialized in small, fast-pay R&D contracts for the federal government. Like Flatau, he regularly dealt with small lots of ammunition specifically ordered for small arms by special operations units. But like almost all of that ammo, Flatau's 9mm tubular bullets were "never a production item in any form."

[There was one larger Army contract about that time placed with Guilford, records show: 100,000 rounds of Annular-Nosed, Solid-Base (ANSB) ammunition. Ordered by a different section of the Army's Weapon Systems Concept Office than for which Flatau worked, the ANSB was a steel hollow-point round which was initially classified. Findlay said his only knowledge of the end-user was that it was a special operations unit. SOF sources

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indicate the rounds were made for the Delta Team and the Intelligence Support Activity (ISA).]

Flatau's tubular ammunition concept — but *not* the highly lethal steel variation — finally found its way into the marketplace. Pan Metal Corp. (PMC) of South Korea, which has a facility in Nevada, obtained the design without realizing it was patented. In 1986, President Reagan signed a bill outlawing the manufacture or importation of any steel bullets capable of penetrating Level II body armor. PMC decided to market a tubular bullet in the United States made of ductile copper.

PMC, which runs the largest copper and brass mill in the world, acquired Flatau's design without his permission. When he confronted PMC management, they implied that they had legal resources for lengthy negotiations. Flatau then made a license agreement with PMC. They ignored his advice to consider .45 and 9mm, which Flatau considered as potentially a larger market. Instead PMC manufactured their copper-tubed bullets in .38-and .44-caliber for revolvers. Marketed as the "Ultramag," PMC's tubular copper rounds initially sold very well and but later had reduced sales and were ultimately discontinued.

Freebies — To Feds Only

PMC then returned its license to Flatau so he had the rights free and clear, other than the U.S. government retaining for itself royalty-free use.

Could the tubular steel round dug out of an ATF agent in Waco have come from a Branch Davidian gun?

"They were only made for the United States government," Findlay said. "It's highly unlikely this bullet could be found outside government channels."

Indeed. When *SOF*, with a lot of help from some good friends, tracked down sample rounds for this story, they ultimately came from a federal government source, who naturally wishes to remain unknown. Our samples included the 9x19mm tubular steel round made for the Army, which was loaded in preprimed Winchester brass; the plastic-tipped version made for the FBI, with a GEA headstamp; and variations of the ANSB bullets made for Delta and the ISA, also with GEA headstamps.

Is the federal government — or any of its many agencies and bureaus — technically capable of making more rounds on its own?

"Certainly," said Findlay. "But

I'm not aware of it."

But keenly aware of the proported lethality of Flatau's tubular steel bullet, if any federal law enforcement bureau or agency *did* want such a tactical advantage — but wanted distribution tightly controlled — making its own ammo in secret "would definitely be the way to go."

A former SOF staffer, James L. Pate covered various aspects of the Waco story from ground zero, and continues to delve into "the rest of the story." ✕

LONG ON BALLS

Continued from page 47

wires. Enormous scorpions and poisonous spiders, placed in matchboxes with trip wires, would dump free when a wire was dislodged. The VC even booby-trapped the bodies of their dead. Bamboo vipers, tied by their tails to pieces of bamboo stuck in tunnel ceilings, hung down ready to strike anyone in range.

"A man crawling through a tunnel intent on ground booby traps makes an unwary target for a snake pretty upset at life in general, ready to strike anything after hanging for a day or two. Using our knives, we became adept at severing snake heads. If the tunnel was booby-trapped, there were never more than one or two per tunnel. It wasn't like a Disneyland theme park, a thrill a minute. The VC figured a booby trap would serve its purpose."

Buried Tanks & Sewing Machines

Tunnel rat missions, an average of two per week, were rarely accomplished in a day. Ellis completed a day's work before dark, as he didn't want his men exiting at night when friendly infantry couldn't identify them. In order to insure that VC didn't enter the tunnel under exploration, Ellis sprinkled white louse powder, which the VC couldn't pass without disturbing, at the tunnel's portal and extremity.

Tunnels yielded medicine, food, ammunition, financial records, a Singer sewing machine, and even a mortar which the VC took apart to store at night. Two 40-year-old 105mm field guns were found by rats in one set of underground chambers. One company found, buried 6 feet down, an M-48 tank stolen from a South Vietnamese

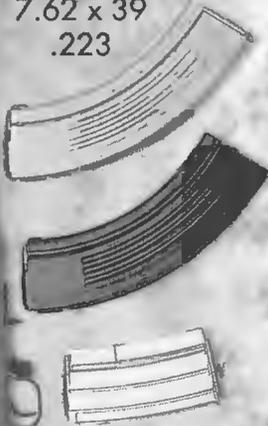
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unit north of Lai Khe. The VC used the tank as a command center.

Destroying a tunnel wasn't easy: Explosives were placed at major segments but Ellis, concerned the VC would dig out portions for reuse, packed bags of CS powder in areas adjacent to where charges had been set. When they were detonated the CS impregnated the soil, and the tunnel remained contaminated.

"A prisoner would have been of immense value, but we were never able to get a man alive ... If the military had realized the extensive use the VC made of these tunnels and mounted a concerted effort to combat them, it might have ultimately changed the tide of battle. The tunnels represented their last bastion; we had taken the war to their level," Ellis said.

Interviewed by Morley Safer on CBS' 60 Minutes in 1985, Ellis, then a major, was asked, "What kind of man does it take to be a tunnel rat?" Ellis' response of, "One long on balls and short on brains," won the approval of the other tunnel rats. Yet Ellis, now a lieutenant colonel at Headquarters Forces Command, Fort McPherson, Georgia, feels he and his men didn't hold a franchise on courage.

"I had the greatest respect for the VC. That doesn't mean I liked him, but you have to respect a person who has the ability to kill you. If you lose that respect, that's when you become careless. They were brave young men, just as ours were. When I interviewed a man to become a tunnel rat, I asked if he was afraid. The guy who tells you he's not afraid is either lying or a reckless individual. Our business underground was such that each of us had an interdependence. I wanted somebody to own up to the fact that 'yes, I'm afraid,' because when you're afraid, you're careful. Everybody experiences fear at some point ... It's only when you allow fear to rule your life, that you become a coward. If you recognize that the situation is dangerous, that you're afraid, but you can control your fear, then you're a cautious person, the kind of person I was looking for to be a tunnel rat. I guess if you overcome the paralysis that fear represents and use it to your advantage, then some people might call that — courage."

Georgia-based freelancer L. R. Dick extensively interviewed Lt. Col. Randy Ellis for this article.✕

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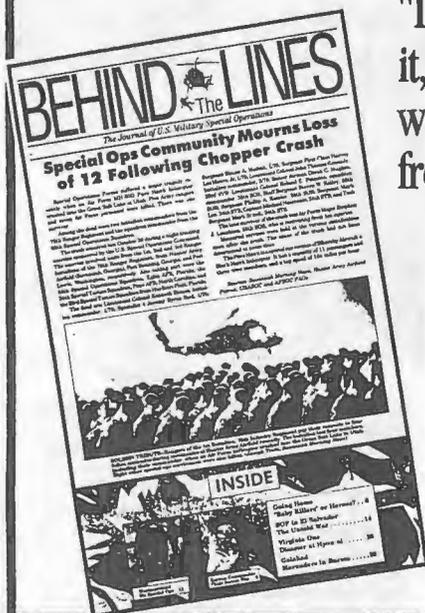
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VESTED INTERESTS

Continued from page 59

cost of body armor."

•**Re-enactments:** The OTA report states that "re-enactments are a uniquely valuable, ethical tool for investigating the safety guaranteed by the existing NIJ standard, and for assessing alternative tests. In particular, they could provide the data required to estimate whether the 44mm BFS limit is more stringent than required ..."

The OTA report also notes that NIJ's "drop test" — specified to check the consistency of the clay backing material — "does not assure that backface signatures produced in different backing materials behind similar armors by similar bullets impacting at similar velocities will be the same."

•**Wet-Testing:** Antiballistic fiber loses up to half of its ballistic resistance when wet; full resistance usually returns when the garment dries. NIJ critics claim the requirement that vests be waterproof is unnecessary in most cases and makes the garment so much hotter to wear it is less likely to be worn.

Fackler wrote that the OTA felt that testing vests while wet, rather than being a mandatory part of the test, would best be left to the discretion of the vest purchaser. "If any department felt a need for such testing (which doubles the cost), it could be requested," concluded Fackler. Fackler, Davis and others have charged that a waterproofing requirement has actually cost officers lives because the excessive heat retention results in decisions not to wear vests.

Boyd countered that "The OTA report makes no recommendation with regard to wet-testing. It just says that 'revising the NIJ standard to allow armor to be tested wet or dry would allow purchasers to choose armor ... considering local and personal factors, such as climate and type of duty.'"

"If the NIJ test were amended to make wet-testing optional," the OTA report said, "we do not know how much greater the risk an officer would face wearing dry-certified armor ... There is no compelling evidence that requiring wet-testing [would] cost more lives than it saves ..."

The repeated charge that NIJ's standard is unnecessarily strict may be endlessly debated, the OTA report indicates, noting that at what level of pro-

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tection the standards should be set is a political, not scientific, decision.

Despite this, "We have heard from reliable sources that the FBI no longer supports the NIJ standard," Davis, the president of Second Chance, said at a government-industry conference. "The International Association of Chiefs of Police has also voted not to support the NIJ. The U.S. Army does not support the NIJ standard.

"Any bullet can be stopped, any standard can be met; the penalty is a loss of comfort, the result is dead cops," said Davis, NIJ's most vitriolic critic. "The major, fatal flaw ... is that thickness and stiffness are rewarded while comfort is punished.

"The NIJ has used one of the oldest tricks in politics, which is to create an artificial 'crisis' and then offer a pseudo-solution which benefits the people who offer it by giving them more money and more power," Davis said. "It's just one more example of NIJ's incompetence.

"These are the same people who created the Relative Incapacitation Index, which stated that a 9mm hollow-point was six times better than a .45 for stopping a man, that a round-nosed lead .38 is a better man-stopper than a .45," he complained. "The FBI had the blood of six brave agents, dead and wounded, splattered all over a Miami street when their 9mm hollow-points failed and their NIJ-approved, water-proofed body armor wasn't worn."

Davis cited another NIJ test standard program, one for handguns and shotguns: "Every weapon used by law enforcement failed the standard established by NIJ," said Davis. "What does that tell you about their technical competence? Should we continue to spend \$24 million per year to fund an organization staffed by people whose egos are more important than police lives? Or should the NIJ be abolished?"

One thing seems certain in the controversy. Critics like Fackler, Davis and others (only one major manufacturer, Point Blank, has sided with NIJ) will continue to shoot holes in the NIJ body armor standard, calling its scientific methodology "a crap shoot."

And, although claiming they are willing to be convinced, bureaucrats at NIJ yield no ground.

James L. Pate is a former SOF staffer and frequent contributor on a variety of topics: For Pate's story on ammunition designed to defeat soft body armor, see page 28, this issue.

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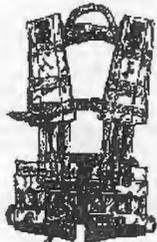
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NO GUTS

Continued from page 54

long term. For simple reasons of economic survival, Croat leaders see themselves forced to take some type of offensive military action, as diplomacy has not succeeded.

One example of how UNPROFOR timidity leads to actual hostilities was the so-called Maslenica bridge incident. Croatian territory is still geographically split into two separate parts, stemming from the 1991 Serb territorial expansion at the Maslenica channel, some 30km northeast of the coastal city of Zadar. Since the Serbs' partitioning of Croatia, its southern communities' foreign trade or assistance must generally come across the Adriatic, a hindrance seriously undermining the regional economy.

In response to this, the southeastern Croats initiated a limited offensive in January 1993 in order to retake control of the Maslenica channel and rebuild the bridge destroyed there in 1991. Serbs responded by breaking into UNPROFOR-controlled facilities at gunpoint and seizing all heavy weaponry. Suddenly, UNPROFOR troops could do nothing but escape to save their own lives. The Croats justified their Maslenica operation for simple reasons of survival — they were forced to do it because UNPROFOR didn't.

Croatians and Bosnians concede that UNPROFOR presence has stopped much of the killing. They agree that the United Nations is performing an important humanitarian function, respecting the U.N. soldiers who risk their lives to help. But they see no progress nor long-term solution possible considering the rules of engagement U.N. forces must currently operate under, i.e., "to use force to the minimum extent necessary, and normally only in self-defense."

According to Nikica Valentice, the Croatian prime minister, there are three options for continued UNPROFOR deployment. "The first option, the termination of their mandate, would result in all-out war. The second, the continuation of UNPROFOR's mandate under current terms, would again yield no results." Valentice pointed to the third option as the only useful one — a stronger U.N. mandate of actively enforcing terms of the original Vance

Continued on page 77

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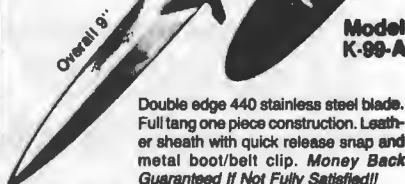
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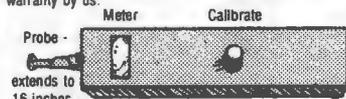
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plan — using force when necessary.

Currently, the inadequate "humanitarian" UNPROFOR mandate continues to generate further theoretical and moral dilemmas for the United Nations. Recently, UNPROFOR troops found themselves in delicate situations at Srebrenica, Zepa, Knin and numerous other places where they have had to save Croatian or Muslim civilians' lives by escorting them to safe areas. This highly laudable project has in fact assisted the Serb policy of ethnic cleansing, although there is no doubt about the first priority of saving human lives.

Such problems are encountered on a daily basis during UNPROFOR's deployment to the former Yugoslavia. To be effective and stop the slaughter, peacekeeping troops need an active mandate allowing them to force implementation of the United Nations' will. The passive role of observing and negotiating has proven insufficient and humiliating for UNPROFOR, preserving all the fruits of aggression and chaos for the "Nazis of the '90s," while sowing the seeds for a major Balkan war.

Since Yugoslavia's breakup, SOF Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown has twice been in the AO. ✕

GIANT WATER BOMB

Continued from page 54

engineers were inspecting the dam's wreckage and planning for prevention against a total collapse of its damaged wall.

The engineers' most urgent task was to stop erosion from cracks in the facility's core or from water which could flow over the dam's crest, a danger momentarily offset by two large craters in the structure. At the same time, they started evacuation of some 3,000 inhabitants living in a high-risk area below the dam.

By 0800 the next day, an all-out effort to fill the two craters was underway. More than 3,000 cubic meters of quarry rock and gravel trucked 18 miles overnight had been dumped into the holes before noon. After this, a few soldiers and civilians went under the dam to open a regulating gate for lowering water levels.

Two weeks later, people living below the dam could return to their homes. A major catastrophe had been avoided due to the blasts concurring with a reservoir water level too low (by 10 feet) to swiftly wash away the structure, combined with the Croats' quick response.

The 200-foot dam is a 32-year-old structure of the clay core, rock-fill type. At normal operating capacity, it can retain 541 million cubic meters of water. Below the dam, a 120,000-megawatt power plant serves as a prime component of the regional power grid. Water from the reservoir is used for household and agricultural purposes by more than 1 million consumers. Along with other dams and hydroelectric plants on the Cetina River, the Perucko facility helps supply utilities to dozens of Adriatic islands.

Even in a war characterized by brutality toward civilians, the intended consequences of the Serbs' Perucko strategy are mind-boggling. That these ramifications were fully known is irrefutable, as the Serbs possessed a top-secret study on the subject completed while Croatia was still part of Yugoslavia. (This study formed the basis for the worst-case scenario described at this article's beginning.) The UNPROFOR command, whose primary job is to protect civilians, must have also had a good idea of the disaster potential from a blown Perucko dam. Yet in months of "controlling" the facility, they chose to not even pull the Serbs' detonators — Why?

— R. C. M. ✕

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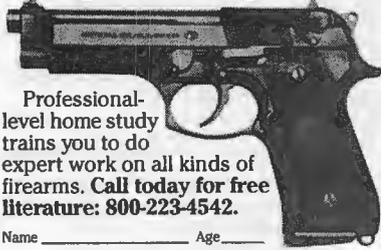
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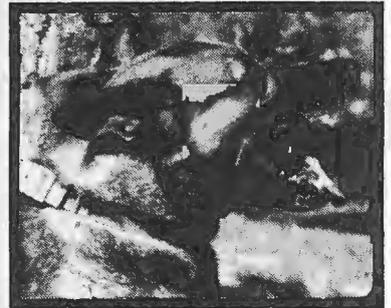
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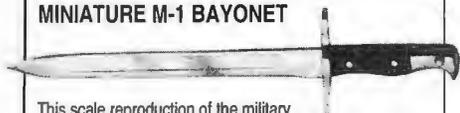
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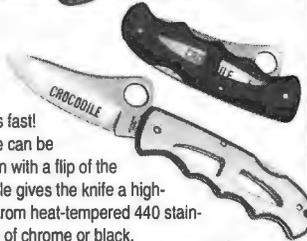
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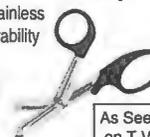
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You'll Never Have A Broken "HEART"

... We guarantee it!

(Don't you wish everyone did?)



STEEL HEART™
by the BUSSE COMBAT KNIFE CO.

Specifications	
Blade Length	6 1/2"
Overall Length	12"
Blade Thickness	1/4"
Steel	ATS-34
Handle	Linen Micarta
Sheath	Nylon Web
Hardness	58-60 Rc
Handle Bolts	304SS

OWN THE FINEST HANDMADE COMBAT KNIFE IN THE WORLD FOR LESS THEN YOU'D PAY FOR A FACTORY KNIFE!

YOU GET THE DEALER PRICE!

✓ Check Levine's Guide To Knives Edition 2 you will see that the longer version of the STEEL HEART, the *Busse Jungle Assault* with 9" blade sells for \$485.00

STEEL HEART Retail \$375.00
YOUR DEALER PRICE \$187.00

✓ CHECK THESE FEATURES

- ✓ "One Piece" Integral Construction.
- ✓ ATS-34 "Cutlery's Super Steel"
STEEL HEARTS receive more than 80 hrs. of tempering in an exclusive process which increases edge holding up to 400% and allows for easy sharpening and greater shock resistance.
- ✓ Our Handles are permanently bolted on and are guaranteed to stay that way forever.
- ✓ Fastening holes for Removable D-Guard.
- ✓ Armor piercing point offers enormous point strength. Slight point drop from center maximizes thrusting and slashing power.



"We don't just cover workmanship and materials." We cover any and all MAJOR damage you may cause to your knife during your lifetime. We don't cut corners when we make your

knife, so we don't have to cut corners when we guarantee it. We've been making combat knives exclusively since 1983.

They are *HAND MADE in the USA.*

We don't have a "slick" company name to HIDE behind....We have the *Busse* family name to STAND behind. Our name is on the blade....our reputation is on the line.

**You damage it - We FIX it
FREE Period!**

Jerry Busse, President

P.S. See us at the '93 S.O.F. Convention
Booth #509

TO ORDER

Send Check or Money Order to:
BUSSE COMBAT KNIFE CO.
11651 - 12
WAUSEON, OH. 43567

\$187.00
\$4.95 S&H
Ohio Residents
add 6% sales tax

OR CALL

24 Hrs. 1-(800) 860-3622
Other Info. Call or Fax (419) 923-6471
MC & VISA Accepted / Brochure \$3.00

30 DAY NO RISK MONEY BACK GUARANTEE