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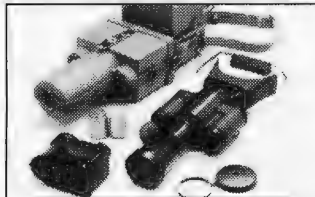
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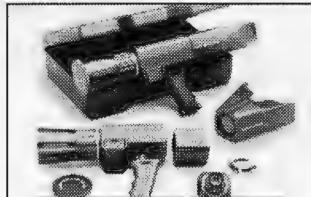
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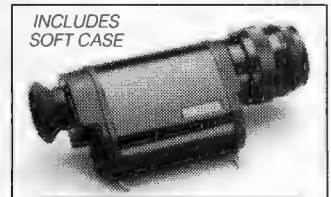
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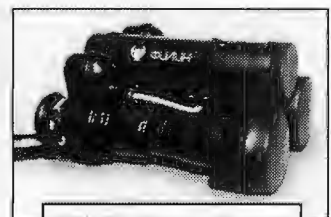
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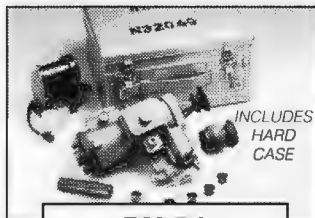
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The Second Amendment OP

by Jeff Nelson

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In our ongoing effort to keep SOF readers up to date on the gun rights issue, we're pleased to announce the first installment of a new column: The Second Amendment OP. This will be written by Jeff Nelson, nom de guerre for a long-time friend of SOF and law-abiding gun owner in the United States. Jeff commanded two Special Forces A Teams in II and III Corps in Vietnam in the early days. He commanded an airborne field artillery battery in the 173rd Airborne Brigade in 1965 and left the Army after "one too many Purple Hearts" in the late 1960s.

Since that time, he has been involved in shooting, lobbying at the state and national level, political campaigns, and breeding general hate and discontent among the anti-gun crowd and the animal rights whackos.

Two of the greatest practitioners of the art of war were Sun-tzu in ancient times, and General Karl von Clausewitz in the 19th century. Clausewitz hit the nail on the head and put the whole thing in perspective when he noted that: "War is a continuation of politics by other means."

The fight for gun rights in the legislative halls of the United States, be they city councils, state legislatures or the U.S. Congress, while masquerading as a domestic political issue, is in reality a war... *Big Time!* Believe it.

And it's a war America cannot afford to lose. We often look at a bad proposal and think that the population as a whole will join us in rejecting what is on its face bad; not the case. Not everyone can see through to the ultimate effect of a seemingly innocuous proposal. Too many people are ready to destroy a freedom to "maybe" secure additional safety.

The best way to fight any war begins with observation and intelligence, then by an effective campaign against the enemy, killing it before it can attract a following. This means early recognition. The ways are many: Read

the work of many good columnists who stand watch over our legislators. They all have value.

If there is a friendly congressman, use him or her. They all have computer terminals in their district offices that can "call up" copies of suspicious-looking bills. And all have a "bill room" that makes copies of bills available for examination by the public, with daily revisions to each bill as it passes through the process.

When a bad bill is identified, the fight (war) begins. Here it must become a military campaign, generally a guerrilla war.

Clausewitz tells us that the first principle of war is the destruction of the enemy fighting force. In this case, the enemy at hand is the bad proposal, not necessarily the legislator who introduced it. Few legislators at any level are capable of any original thought; they just want to get re-elected. Everything they do is at the request of a constituent or a group that backed them for election.

Dumb ideas are easier defeated than dumb legislators. The guy (or gal) in the seat may not be *all* dumb... they did, after all, manage to get elected. Maybe not because of any stand on guns, but instead on a new trash dump for the city or a new freeway for the state. Better to fight the dumb proposal and its shills than the majority of the electorate who put their person there to deliver what they want.

More than one dumb legislator has been beaten fiercely about the head and shoulders over a dumb gun bill, discovered religion and continued to deliver the dump or the freeway while joining our camp and carrying water for us, realizing we are a force to reckon with. Sun-tzu said: "Fight the enemy where he is weak; where the enemy is strong, run." A legislator will fight harder for survival than he will fight for a dumb bill in the face of opposition.

Food for thought. Stay tuned. ✕

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Photo: DoD

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COVER

173rd Airborne Brigade grunt cools off but keeps finger on trigger of his M16 in ‘Nam. Col. David Hackworth returned to Vietnam last July and talked with VC and NVA vets at all levels to get at the truth as to why the United States lost and what, if any, lessons we learned. Article begins on page 48. Photo: DoD

BULLETIN BOARD



Fifty years ago, teams of U.S. and Canadian engineers punched through the Alaska Highway to defend western North America from the Japanese who eventually attacked several points on the West Coast and ultimately occupied two islands in Alaska. In commemoration last year, 351st Infantry vet Morris Archambeault made the 3,800-mile Alaska/Canada trek on his WWII-vintage GI bike. Photo: courtesy Morris Archambeault

SOUTH AMERICA: MAIL DROP FOR BALKANS

The U.N. embargo on arms to the former Yugoslavia, and the ready cash available to those who can run the embargo, has caused some interesting machinations on the part of international arms merchants.

When the Russian foreign ministry received documents from Bolivia — a landlocked country not at war — relating to the purchase of eight T-72 MBTs (at a cost nearly double the annual Bolivian military budget), Ivan smelled a rat. Investi-

gation revealed that tanks were being finagled by an arms dealer for actual delivery to Croatia.

Bolivian prosecutors are also investigating bogus transactions totaling almost \$300 million in which gun runners have attempted — often successfully — to buy arms from Portugal, Bulgaria, Russia and Austria: destination, the Balkans. Not to mention massive amounts of Chinese armaments shipped through Bolivia to the former Yugoslavia. As investigations continue in Bolivia, a number of men from the Jaime Paz Zamora administration foreign ministry have been jailed, as have some foreigners.

Last year Chile's army was rocked by scandal when it was discovered the state arms company, Famae, tried to send 11 tons of arms to Croatia — part of planned shipments amounting to 30 times that.

Panama, which disbanded its army in 1989, confirmed in August that gun runners had tried to ship small arms and ammunition worth \$21 million from the former Czechoslovakia and Austria, using false papers with Panama as end user. The going rate for supplying false documentation that gets a shipment through? A 10% commission.

ROUST ROBERTI

California Voters Alliance (22647 Ventura Blvd. No. 402, Woodland Hills, CA 91364; phone: 818-884-8570) has joined the Coalition to Restore Government Integrity in an all-out petition drive to recall the Golden State's leading gun-grabbing politician and co-author of the unconstitutional Roos-Roberti "assault weapon" law. Historically, few recall petitions have succeeded — but here's one that is

doable. For one reason, there is a broadly based ground swell against Roberti from divergent political corners who are working together for his recall, and for another, the coalition has done its homework and is doing it right. California voters should contact them now for further information on how they can help. This is one we can win.

In a related development, *The Sacramento Bee* reports that "An aide to Senate President Pro Tem David Roberti said ... that Roberti would not attempt to win legislative passage this year of his bill to ban large-capacity ammunition clips [sic]." In a press conference at the



Brown-Water Coast Guard: *SOF* correspondent Rob Krott lends a hand to two USCG coxswains helping out during Mississippi River flooding this past summer. Photo: courtesy Rob Krott

Capitol, Roberti said that California SB1128 will be made into a two-year bill and will not come to a vote this session. Translation: Attorney General Lungren withdrew his support for the bill and Roberti didn't have enough votes to get it through the assembly because of the tremendous volume of calls to legislators from California gun owners.

IWO JIMA GATHERING

A memorial service and banquet commemorating the 49th anniversary of the bloodiest battle in USMC history will be held at Camp Pendleton, California, on Saturday 19 February 1994, preceded by planned activities on Friday. Men, wives and friends of the 3rd, 4th and 5th Marine Divisions, as well



Old Soldiers ... *SOF* correspondent Nick Dodich racks a few rounds of 7.62x54R through a vintage Soviet Model DP Degtyarev LMG on a range in Croatia. Photo: Nichole Lilly



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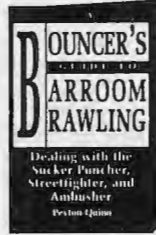
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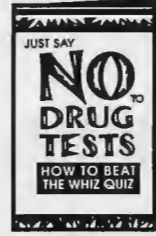


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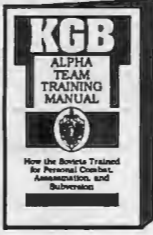


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FEDS "NOT THE GOOD GUYS"

Speaking before the Montana Trial Lawyers Association in Whitefish, Montana, defense attorney Gerry Spence, who successfully defended Idahoan Randy Weaver against charges he murdered a deputy U.S. marshal when various law-enforcement agencies laid siege to his mountain cabin, said federal prosecutors routinely manufacture evidence and tell lies to win convictions, concluding that: "These are not the good guys."

During Weaver's trial it was revealed that some photos submitted as evidence had been staged, while other evidence was improperly withheld from the defense. "I've never tried a case with the federal government in which there wasn't that problem," Spence said. "These are not the good guys. These are people who do what they believe is necessary to do to bring about a conviction." Spence noted that if he were to manufacture evidence, "I'd be disbarred." He drew a standing ovation from more than 200 lawyers and guests.

LAST BUFFALO SOLDIER DIES

Jones Morgan, thought to be the last surviving member of the Buffalo Soldiers — the black cavalry unit that fought in the Spanish-American War, has died peacefully in a Richmond, Virginia, hospital. The son of freed slaves, Morgan

was a member of the unit that joined Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders in their charge up San Juan Hill in Cuba in 1898; he was 110 at the time of his death. Congress created the black units from the ranks of U.S. Colored Troops of the Civil War. These units fought in the Indian wars, escorted wagon trains and helped keep order in western towns. According to Bill Hunter of the 24th Regiment

Association, Indians coined the soldiers' nickname in reference to their big coats, curly hair and fierce fighting style.

50 YEARS OF PROGRESS?

According to *CQ Researcher*, the top problems in public schools as identified by teachers were:

In 1940	In 1990
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—Chewing Gum	—Alcohol Abuse
—Making Noise	—Pregnancy
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Daniel Brusky of Kewaunee, Wisconsin, was winner of a Katz knife in the June 1993 *SOF* Sweepstakes. Check out the January *SOF* for info on how you can be a winner in the next sweepstakes.

AMERICAN MILITARY UNIVERSITY

Now in its third semester, American Military University of Manassas, Virginia, is a new "distance learning" institution that offers graduate courses on a variety of military topics to military, retired and civilian personnel. AMU's program offers master's-level courses in land warfare, naval warfare, military aviation and combat service support. Because of its long-distance learning approach, this new university offers GIs a chance to study their profession at any duty station.

For more information contact American Military University, Dept. SOF, Office of Admissions, 9285 Corporate Circle, Manassas, VA 22110. For a catalog and application for admissions, include \$5.

TORA, TORA, TOURIST

Although Japanese tourists to America are less than one-fifth as likely to be a victim of crime than we hapless Americans who live here (they average one victim per 1,000 travelers; we get 5.6 victims per 1,000 for robbery alone), there is a brisk business in Japan advising and equipping tourists to the United States with such essentials as bullet-proof vests, tear-gas spray and briefcases that can deliver a 40,000-volt shock and ear-splitting alarm by remote control. Jun Yamasaki, head of the Japan office of Control Risks Ltd., observed, "Life in Japan is a bit like life in a zoo, while in other countries it's more like a jungle. So when a rabbit raised in the zoo is suddenly kicked out into the wild, it is likely to be eaten."

BALKAN VETERANS

Researcher (Croatia '92, Bosnia '93 vet) seeks "mercs," "soldiers of fortune," and "volunteers" who served in the Balkans (any capacity, any side) for help with book on foreign volunteers in the Balkan war(s). Personal stories, anecdotes, info and photos (return guaranteed) appreciated. Discretion assured. Please contact Rob Krott, Box 1573, Olean, NY 14760; phone: 716-373-0017.

DELTA!

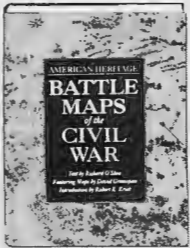
DELTA — America's Elite Counterterrorist Force is one book a lot of us have been waiting for. Previously published articles dealing with Delta Force have shown only facets, fleeting glimpses of this elite unit as it goes quietly about its efficient business — and many of those articles have been based on guesswork and speculation. But this authoritative volume by Terry Griswold and D. M. Giangreco methodically covers all the ground in a concise and readable style, with profuse color illustrations. It even includes a history/critique of various Delta ops in the Middle East and Central America, weapons and equipment unique to Delta, air assets, the making of a Delta trooper and more. Insightful, indexed, well-illustrated and highly recommended. Further information from Motorbooks International, Dept. SOF, Box 2, 729 Prospect Ave., Osceola, WI 54020. ☒

TOTAL WARFARE

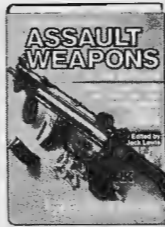


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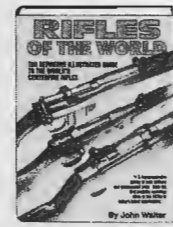


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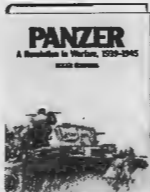
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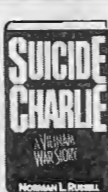
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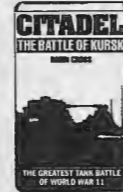
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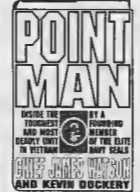
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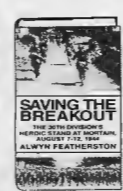
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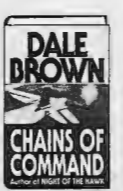
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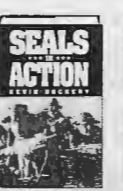
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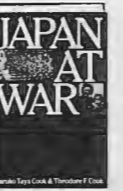
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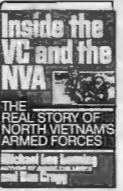
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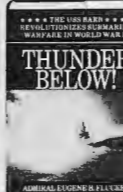
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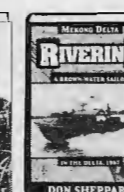
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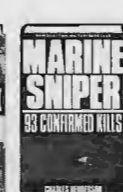
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SOF 12/93

SLICK WILLIE WATCH



DO AS WE SAY, ETC.

Didn't Ms. Rodham — the ad hoc, unofficial honchette of the task force studying the national health care issue — say something about how the American health care system is "being ripped off" by those who "profiteer?" Well, reports are that Ms. Rodham kept her stake in a financial fund that has "profiteered" by investing in more than \$1 million worth of health care stocks, with her share of the profits reported between \$5,000 and \$15,000 in dividends — from *her* profiteering. She also made capital gains. The Federal Office of Government Ethics has stated, "It might be an issue."

ASSAULT FLASHLIGHTS TO BE BANNED

President Billary Clinton has announced he would surely sign new crime-fighting legislation co-sponsored by Sens. Metzenbaum and Kennedy severely restricting the manufacture, importation, interstate commerce in and possession of *Assault Flashlights*. The senators claim these large 5-cell flashlights

have become the tool of choice among today's criminals. Gov. Jim Florio of New Jersey lent his support to the bill, saying "We've got to nip this problem in the bud," citing the rising incidence of drive-by flashings in major urban areas.

Under the proposed legislation, police would be allowed to keep their beloved Mag-Lites, Kel-Lites and Streamlights, but civilians would be restricted to flashlights containing either three AA cells or two D-cells.

"Military-style" flashlights with angled heads — especially those with belt attachments and in OD color — will be completely banned, as they have no legitimate illuminating purpose. There will be a 90-day amnesty period, during which you will be required to either turn in your assault flashlight to local authorities, or render it inoperable by removing the bulb and batteries and welding these compartments closed. It may then be registered as a "de-Watt" and transferred on a Treasury Form 7.

Sales of the compact, readily concealable "Saturday-Night Flashlights" are to be curbed by a combination of background checks and 14-day waiting periods, with the U.S. attorney general working closely with local governments who wish to ban them altogether.

Those caught in possession of

any unregistered assault flashlight will be guilty of a felony. Enforcement of this legislation will be delegated to the BATF (Bureau of Assault-Type Flashlights) — if they survive as an agency — or if they do not, to the FBI (Flashlight Battery Investigators).

— Robert Brown, Hillside, N. J.

LONG-LOST vs. ESTRANGED

Clinton's long-lost half-brother Henry Leon Ritzenthaler is a registered Republican.

POLITICALLY CORRECT SIGNS?

Jean-Pierre Maldonado sends us news from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that the highway commissioner has decreed "Slow Children" signs are to be replaced by politically correctese signs reading "Watch Children," so as not to cause affront to any kids out there with learning disabilities. Maldonado wrote the local paper to further protest the blatantly sexist signs that will remain, including "Yield," "Soft Shoulders," "Curves Ahead," the titillating "Bumps Ahead" and "Exercise Caution When Entering." While they're at it, maybe they'd better take out the "Watch For Falling Rocks" lest an obscure Indian chief be offended.

KILLED OR MISSING IN ACTION IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY IN S.E. ASIA

31 DEC 69 — 10 JAN 70 (WHILE SLICK WILLIE WAS ON A TRIP TO MOSCOW, USSR)

William Ahart, Wayne Allen, William Barnes, Larry Bartlett, Roy Bass, William Becker, Billie Bedsworth, Edgar Bishop, Thomas Blanks, Clifford Blend, Paul Blunt, Norris Borgman, Kenneth Boward, Larry Bradley, Richard Brant, James Brennan, Hubert Brinson, Howard Brown, Steven Brown, Tanner Brown, Benjamin Buchanan, Robert Burns, Gale Butcher Jr., Clair Butz, William Campbell, Bruce Carlton, Robert Carmichael, Wayne Cole, Golguis Colon Rodriguez, David Coppernoll, Herbert Crosby, Thomas Cross, Willard Croy, Michael D'Angelico, Gary Davis, John DeRoo, Monte DeVere, Dennis Debner, Gary Lee Dempsey, Richard Derosier, Richard Dicus, Warren Donahe, Gardner Dorsey, Frank Dunsmere, Gary Eicheler, Harold Eisert, Ronald Embree, Gary Ericson, William Erkes, Harry Farmer, Robert Fatica, Roger Fellers, Harlan Gammons, Raul Garcia Jr., Gary Garner, Walter Garstkiewicz, Cy Gary, Carl Gilbert, Russell Gilbrech, William Gilmore Jr., Charles Godfrey, Roy Godowns, Xavier Gomez, Terry Gorslene, Francis Graziosi, Steven Green, Roger Greenway, Larry Griffith, Jose Guersero Jr., Alfred Hall, John Hargreaves, Charles Hartung, Mickey Hawkins, Willie Hayes, Reid Henningsen, Richard Hibbler, Michael Hoff, George Holtschneider, Ronald Hopkins, Roger Howes, Patrick Hu, John Hurst, Gerald Jackson, Ronald Jenniges, David Jones, Dennis Kabara, Jerry Kays, Russel Kayser, Charles Klancke, Kenneth Klepin, Henry Klinger, Claude Knight, Roger Kvernes, Larry Lamb, Joseph Lauinger, Roger Leaser, James Lega, John Lehecka, Tedd Lewis, Donald Lewter, Reginald Lindsey, Ronnie Lindstrom, Joseph Lozano, Michael Lund, Terry Lund, Michael Lyne, Neile Mackay, Christopher Markey, Scottie Massey, Raymond May, Lenus Mead, Tom Metcalf, James Mitchell, James McCabe, Robert Ochab, Gene Olson, John Ordner, Danny Overton, Dennis Peek, Kenneth Perry, Beryl Peters, Danny J. Petersen (CMH), Ronald Pickart, Randall Ramsden, Harold Rappaport, Danny Rayborn, William Reddick, John Reilly, John Resteck Jr., John Rice, Larry Robinson, Michael Robinson, Matthew Roche, Julian Rodriguez, Craig Rogers, Rodney Rogers, LaRoy Roth, Clinton Ruckle, James Rutledge, Herman Sanchez, Jimmy Sanders, Richard Schmidt, Barney Smith, John Smith Jr., Francis Snee Jr., Felix Solis, Robert Sombati, Bernard Sowder, John Sparks, Eddie Spivey, Oliver Stamps, William Stefko, Jimmy Still, Donald Sudbrink, Manuel Tavares, Richard Thomas, Michael Vickery, Larry Villaneueva, Mark Vincent, William Waddle, Boyd Wade, Frank Walker, Willie Walker Jr., Lawrence Warf, Robert Warren, James Watson, Gene Wells, James Westphal, Raymond White III, James Whitmore, Jimmy Whitson, Dean Wilderspun, Charles Willard, Duane Williams, Richard Williams, Waldo Williams, Robert Wright, James Zumbrin, Frank Zyzdik Jr. ☒

PNEU-GUN™

Air Powered Ballistic Baton



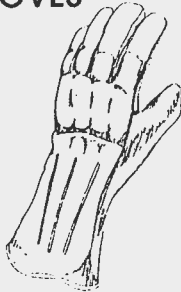
The "PNEU-GUN" (pronounced *new-gun*) is a fistful of security. It is only 14 inches long when assembled and fires out a lead pellet filled "Shotbag" at a muzzle velocity of 250-300 f.p.s. One CO2 gas cartridge supplies sufficient energy to knock down a 300 lb. assailant 20 feet away. The "PNEU-GUN" air powered ballistic baton is awesome! You have to see it in action to believe just how effective it really is. Don't confuse "PNEU-GUN" with old style "stun guns", "Un-Guns" or "Bean Bag Guns". There is no comparison in power, quality, range, effectiveness or sheer beauty of design. Keep one in your car, next to your bed or handy for that unexpected emergency. The "PNEU-GUN" air powered ballistic baton is the perfect alternative to a handgun. Legal, effective, yet safe to use.

AG1 ... "PNEU-GUN" Airgun Kit ... \$169.95

(includes Airgun, 4 Shotbags, 6 CO2 cartridges, 10 gas check, 10 white end caps, loading cartridge, instruction book)

SAP GLOVES

Made of soft, pliable, long wearing leather. Has six ounces of powdered lead carefully inserted into the fist of each glove. High quality and available in three sizes, medium, large and X-large.

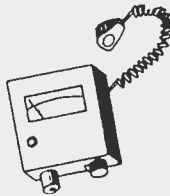


DAM ... Sap Gloves ... \$44.95

PHONE CHECK

Telephone bug detector

This unit has both a light emitting diode and a meter read out. Will tell you if your line is interrupted while in use. Will also automatically shut down the line if a bug is detected or an extension is picked up.

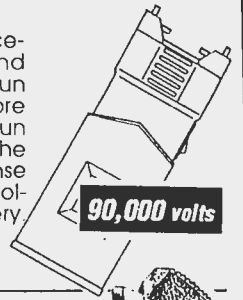


ST1 ... Phone Check ... \$79.95

NOVA XR5000 STUN GUN

This model is used by over 600 law enforcement agencies. The best quality and probably the "hardest hitting" stun gun around. The NOVA XR5000 has had more successful take-downs than all other stun guns put together. The NOVA XR5000 is the most widely accepted nonlethal defense device based on electronic pulse technology. Comes complete with NiCad battery charger, and belt clip holster.

NV1 ... XR5000 ... \$79.95



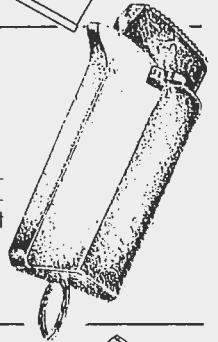
Introducing --

BODYGUARD 2000

DEFENSE PEPPER SPRAY

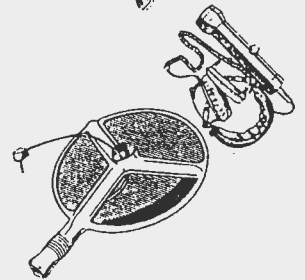
BodyGuard 2000 is the newest state-of-the-art self-protection product available. Easily controls drunks, psychotics, multiple attackers as well as drug abusers. Not a tear gas but a *natural red hot pepper*.

Formula used by police worldwide!
BSD2000 ... BG2000 Keyring ... \$17.95



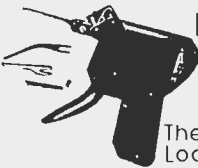
BIONIC EAR

This sound amplifier system increase sound by up to 30 db. It comes complete with headphones, wrist straps that allow hands-free use and a 12 inch parabolic booster that makes the unit more directional. Automatic safety circuit prevents sound over 95 db from reaching your ears. Also has mono output jack for recording.



SCI1 ... Bionic Ear ... \$139.95

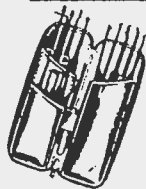
LOCK PICK GUN



The famous Lockaid tool was designed for law enforcement agencies to quickly pick pin-tumbler locks. Unlike conventional hand picks that activate only one or two cylinder pins, this tool is designed to snap all the pins at once. This tool comes complete with 3 steel needles and tension wrench.

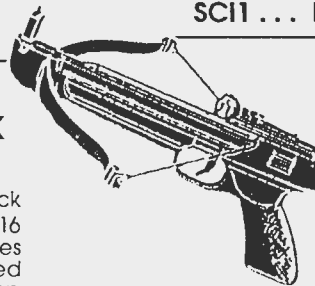
AZL15 ... LockPick Gun ... \$59.95

DELUXE LOCK PICK SET



Our top selling pick set! This set has 16 pieces and comes with a handy shirt pocket sized case. The case is made of top quality leather and is zippered. Each pick is made of hard finished spring steel. Perfect for wafer tumbler or six or seven pin tumbler locks.

AZL10 ... Pick Set ... \$39.95



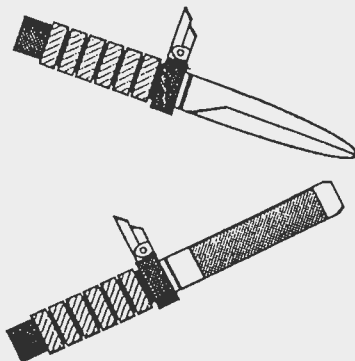
PISTOL CROSSBOW

This compact pistol version of the deadly and silent crossbow is now available. This unit has fully adjustable sights, is amazingly accurate, comes in two different versions (50 lb. draw and 80 lb. draw) and comes with three practice arrows.

PC1 ... 50 lb draw ... \$49.95
PC2 ... 80 lb draw ... \$59.95

BALLISTIC KNIFE

Congress outlawed the springs which enabled this knife to shoot its blade with deadly force. The Ballistic Knife was invented by Russia and issued to their elite "Spetsnaz" forces. This knife based on the original Soviet version which is able to fire its blade silently out of the knife handle with five times the force of a manual stab! This American made copy of far superior to the original and its unique firing ability was so effective, a federal law was made that out-laws any knife with a propelled blade.



Now you can get this knife in kit form. The handle and sheath are made of aircraft grade aluminum. The blade is tempered out of 4140 steel with a rockwell hardness of 56!

FCC1 ... Ballistic Knife ... \$139.95

ORDERING INFORMATION

By Mail: Mail coupon or separate sheet with payment or credit card information to:

SONIC TECHNOLOGY, Inc., 10105 E. Via Linda, Scottsdale, AZ 85258

By Phone: Call 1 (800) 538-0787. Have all information ready.

Sonic Technology, Inc. does not warrant that you may legally possess or carry stun guns, pepper spray, etc. By ordering you acknowledge that you are an adult and there are no legal restrictions.

SONIC TECHNOLOGY, INC. 10105 E. Via Linda, Ste. 103-261
1 (800) 538-0787 Scottsdale, AZ 85258

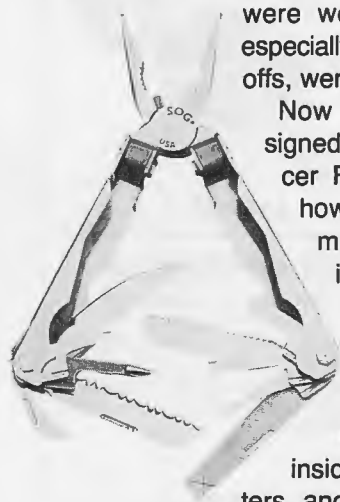
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Charge My: Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MC <input type="checkbox"/> Amex <input type="checkbox"/>			Subtotal
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Please Send New 1993/1994 32 page Catalog. \$2.00 Enclosed

ADVENTURE QUARTERMASTER

SOG'S PARATOOL

Three of our favorite things are free enterprise, competition, and Yankee ingenuity. The fourth just might be the thoughtfully conceived, well-designed, and soundly executed tools that result from the first three. Some time ago Leatherman introduced the folding, multiple-purpose plier/knife-type of tool, and it was an idea whose time had come. Everybody out there going and doing wanted one, and the segments of industry making hardware to serve those going and doing were quick to respond with competing designs. Some were worthy competitors and some, especially the Chinese/Taiwanese knock-offs, were not.



Now comes SOG's ParaTool, designed by Blackie Collins and Spencer Frazer — truly an example of how the consumer benefits from marketplace competition, and definitely worth perusal if you're in the market for a multi-purpose tool. Neither in design nor execution could we find a glitch. The capable needle-nose pliers feature a serrated inside gripping radius and wire cutters, and fold to the side allowing their

use as offset pliers in tight spots. Inside the grip are a 3-inch straight-point blade, a 3-inch serrated sheep's-foot blade, a can/bottle opener, one Phillips and three flat screwdriver blades, a fine and coarse-sided file, optional double-toothed saw (that cuts!), an awl, measuring scale in inches and centimeters, and a thumb tab lanyard ring/opener. Everything is held together by telescoping hex-head machine screws, so you can disassemble for cleaning or rearrange the components to suit your purpose, or add optional accessory components. Made in the USA from 420 stainless, with individual components appropriately heat-treated for their function. Good gear. They got it right. We like it. At your SOG dealer or contact SOG Specialty Knives, Dept. SOF, Box 1024, Edmonds, WA 98020; phone: 206-771-6230; fax: 206-771-7689.

GET A GRIP

If your hand shakes when you aim at his center of mass, let it be from adrenaline, because with the new gun-specific Grip-Master hand and finger exerciser there is no longer any excuse for a poorly conditioned multi-digit weapon-firing platform (weak gun hand). In use



as a training and rehabilitation tool by U.S. armed forces and federal and local police agencies nationwide, the Grip-Master improves control, strength, coordination

and endurance. With a suggested retail of \$17.99, the Grip-Master is available in a variety of tensions and comes with an exercise program; available through retailers and catalog houses nationwide. For further information or the dealer nearest you, contact Grip-Master, Dept. SOF, 100 A Tec St., Hicksville, NY 11801; phone: 800-752-0164.

An additional benefit of the gun-specific Grip-Master is that it looks enough like a real gun that you probably won't have to put up with Captain Bligh jokes when you're using it.

PUT THE MESSAGE IN THEIR FACE

A problem with First Amendment devices like bumper stickers and T-shirts is that there either isn't room to explain what you're saying, or the cryptic message isn't intelligible. But Aaron Zelman of JPFO, knowing one picture is worth a thousand words, is marketing the 1,010-word T-shirt illustrated here, which says it all: Guaranteed to gripe gun-grabbers by nudging the truism right in their face. T-shirt sizes S-XL are \$16.95, XXL and XXXL are \$19.50; sweatshirts M-L-XL are \$21.95, XXL and XXXL are \$24.95, all postpaid. Each also comes with a free poster and bumper sticker. They take Visa and MasterCard. Order from: JPFO, Dept. SOF, 2872 S. Wentworth Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53207. ☒



Professional Locksmithing Tools

LOCKAID

Specifically designed to pick tumbler locks. Designed over thirty years ago to aid law enforcement agencies. Consists of tension wrench, three needles and Lockaid "Gun." Prices include a copy of the book "Lock Picking Simplified."

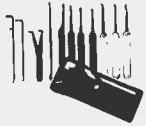
Lockaid \$69.95



PIX MODEL 13

This deluxe yet compact kit features 11 of the most commonly used tools. Comes in a slim cowhide leather case for discreet undercover operatives. As a special bonus, a 5 piece set of warded picks is included. A 16 piece set total. Also included, a copy of "Lockpicking Simplified." Receive all this at a Low price of:

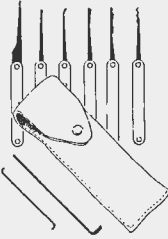
PIX 13 \$42.95



PXP 8

- Shirt Pocket Size.
- Top Grain Cowhide Leather.
- Has 8 Picks, Tension Wrenches and Broken Key Extractor.
- All Picks with Metal Handles.
- Copy of Lockpicking Simplified.

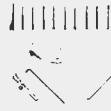
PXP 8 \$24.95



PXP 10

- Shirt Pocket Size.
- Top Grain Cowhide Leather.
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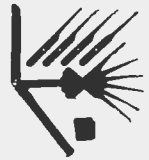
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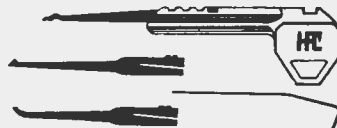
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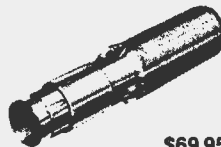
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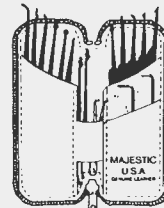
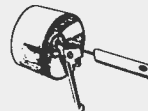


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MD16

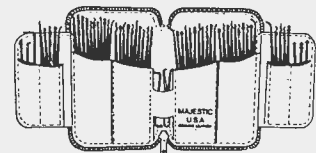
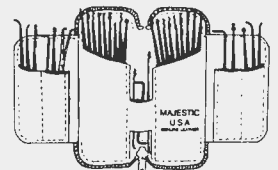
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I WAS THERE

by Isaac Staats

Hot Turkey, Hotter LZ



"The rest of the team jumped on the chopper and I fired the last claymore as a wave of NVA troops got in front of it." ... Photo: DoD

In November 1968 I was team leader (one-zero) of Spike Team Idaho. John "Bubba" Shore was my assistant. We were running top-secret missions for MACV-SOG (Military Assistance Command Vietnam — Studies and Observation Group) out of FOB-1 (Forward Observation Base) in Phu Bai, South Vietnam.

We'd been detailed to assist FOB 6 near Ho Ngoc Tao. Intelligence estimates had NVA strength across the Cambodian border at more than 100,000, and the terrain for our first target was flat as a pancake. The mission: Locate one of three NVA divisions which had disappeared.

As our team sat at the launch site in Bo Dop, a chopper landed with a Thanksgiving feast, complete with hot turkey, cranberry roll, gravy and mashed potatoes. As we finished overindulging, Air Force Hueys arrived to slip us into Cambodia.

The insertion was slick and quick. We flew into the target area at treetop, full speed. We were so close I was worried about branches hitting my feet.

Because this was an area where FOB-6 teams had been taking

serious casualties recently, the command and control chopper remained airborne a few miles away, far enough where NVA troops couldn't hear the bird but close enough for radio contact.

Special operations teams could only go 10 clicks into Cambodia. If attacked by NVA troops, we were "forbidden" from using fixed-wing assets — assets we used heavily in our Prairie Fire AO, assets which kept us alive when surrounded by hundreds of NVA troops.

Not only were the rules different in Cambodia, but instead of the dense jungle foliage of Laos, it was more like the thinly wooded central New Jersey countryside I had hunted a few years earlier. With no double canopy, we could see sunlight. And we could see straight ahead, through the trees, more than 100 yards.

During our first break, because the vegetation remained thin, I had Phouc, our point man, and Bubba put five-second fuses in two claymores — the openness of the wooded area made me hinky. Then we moved on.

Sau, my counterpart, spotted smoke and we moved toward it.

Sau said, "No VC," and we continued forward. As always, Sau's reading of the NVA was correct. We were in an NVA bivouac area, the smoke originating from a fading fire.

I started taking pictures, but Sau was nervous. His eyes were getting bigger. His speech was quicker. Heip, my interpreter, was getting nervous from talking to Sau. Sau was quick, smart, agile, and fearless. He could smell the NVA and knew how they worked.

I wanted to see if we could find a cache and suggested going further west.

Not waiting for Heip's interpretation, Sau looked at me and said, "Call helicopters now! *Beaucoup* NVA come now!"

I must have had an incredulous look on my face, because I couldn't hear anything, and I certainly didn't see any NVA troops.

Sau turned to Heip, now more than a little agitated. Before Heip said a word, I turned to Bubba, who was tail-gunner in our formation. I signaled our point man to head back to our LZ.

Heip explained: "Sau say this is enemy camp. We're *beaucoup* lucky because no VC here. But, he found hundreds of fresh footprints going there," he pointed south. As Bubba passed me, I told him to give me a claymore mine with a five-second fuse.

"De!" (Go) Sau hissed. "*De, de mou!*" (Go quickly).

We were in Cambodia. Alone. With no fixed-wing aircraft. And Sau's eyes were as wide as saucers.

As we moved forward, Sau back-pedaled, hastily covering our tracks. We had only gone a short distance when Sau hissed: "*Beaucoup* VC! *Beaucoup* VC!"

I could see pith helmets coming from the south. I radioed the C&C helicopter, told them to return with Cobra gunships and to pick us up at

Continued on page 81

COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

E-Tool CQC

by John Kary

Not since the Middle Ages have popular militias answered the call to arms with brush hooks and pitchforks, but today nearly every GI carries to war an entrenching tool. And as this author well knows, in trained hands the lowly entrenching tool is a deadly close-quarters weapon. Although often ignored in training in favor of the bayonet and knife, the E-Tool has been used to deadly effect innumerable times, and its effective use as a fighting tool is routinely taught in many foreign armies.

Author John Kary was serving with a Marine Recon unit in Vietnam when he engaged and dispatched a Viet Cong with his E-Tool in an action for which he was awarded the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

Based on my own experiences in Southeast Asia, I understand the function of the E-Tool as a part of the combat soldier's equipment and as an effective weapon of self-defense. Rather than a "how-to" or "this is the way it should be done" article, my intent here is to familiarize the individual with different weapons functions of the E-Tool and how it may be used against an enemy. As with all hand-to-hand combat skills, only through continuous practice will you become proficient in using your E-Tool for more than just a shovel.

When engaging an enemy in close quarter combat there are several principles that *must* be followed: (1) You must immediately go on the offensive; (2) You must be as aggressive as possible; (3) You must be totally ruthless; (4) You must do all of the above until your enemy is completely under your control. These principles apply no matter what the situation — armed or unarmed — carrying an M16 or carrying a pencil.

There will be moments when the combat soldier does not have his primary weapon immediately at hand. He may be writing a letter,



Many armies have traditionally regarded the E-Tool as a digging implement and weapon, and regularly train in its use. This heavy-duty version of the Soviet Spetsnaz shovel is available from Cold Steel, Dept. SOF, 2128 Knoll Drive, Unit D, Ventura, CA 93003. Photo: courtesy Cold Steel Inc.

eating chow, relieving himself, or digging a fighting hole. It is therefore imperative that he understand the need to be able to instantly use anything at hand as a weapon. For instance, he can drive a pen or pencil into the enemy's eye, under his chin, or into his throat. One can use his chow or excrement as a distraction by throwing it into the enemy's face ... or he can chop and bludgeon his enemy into the next world with his E-Tool.

The E-Tool is by no means the combat soldier's favorite piece of equipment. He usually associates it with extra weight to carry and extra labor when he gets there. Let's face it, digging fighting holes in a former tank trail is not a fun evening. But respect for this tool may change once its importance as a weapon is realized and proficiency in combative use is attained. Chances are good that if you spend much time in combat you may eventually have to rely on your E-Tool as the weapon at hand. The time to learn its combat use is *before* such an incident.

When confronted by the enemy, immediately go into a weapon-hand forward, side-on stance. An American E-Tool should be grasped just below the handle on the shaft; traditional European-style E-Tools are grasped at the mid-handle swell. If one is right-handed the weapon will be held in the right hand. With the palm facing groundward, the

serrated or sharpened edge of the E-Tool should be facing outward, away from your body. This places the cutting edge forward. Your feet will be approximately shoulder-width apart, with the right leg forward and the knees slightly flexed. Your left arm will be held across the chest to protect the vital areas of the torso, and the hand will be held curled under the chin to protect the throat.

The first strike in the sequence is an arcing motion from your left hip, across the enemy's face, ending at your right hip; the serrated edge should make contact with the enemy's face to maximize damage and trauma to that area. With the E-Tool now at the right hip, immediately turn your palm skyward. This will once again place the serrated edge forward. Once the palm is turned skyward, strike again in an arcing motion from your right hip, across the enemy's face to your left hip.

Once this strike is completed, turn the palm groundward placing the E-Tool back in its original position. Next, by pushing off with the rear leg, shuffle forward towards the enemy, thrusting the butt end of the handle up and under the enemy's chin to expose his throat: Immediately slash straight across the throat from left to right using the serrated edge of the shovel. Having

Continued on page 81

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FULL AUTO

Dressing Up Your MP5

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis

As the MP5 is the world's most prevalent submachine gun, it follows that more accessories — good, bad and ugly — are available for it than for any other weapon of this type. You can attach an after-market something-or-other to almost every part of the MP5, from muzzle to buttstock. Some of these are truly worthwhile, but unfortunately a few — such as visible laser beams — are less than worthless and could literally hasten your demise, should you be foolish enough to employ them in a gunfight. Here are a few I personally consider useful.

Polymax and Poly T

All Heckler & Koch shoulder-mounted firearms are finished at Oberndorf-Neckar in Germany with a baked enamel of unknown type over phosphate. Early on, the enamel had a dark charcoal-gray appearance, but in recent years this has evolved into basic black. Painted guns will eventually get scruffy and chipped. Refinishing an MP5, a G3 or an HK33 has always presented a dilemma. The paperwork involved in sending one of them back to Germany would be horrendous.

Exotic surface finishes derived from the aerospace industry are now available in this country that can not only match the original H&K finish, but provide far greater protection. An excellent example is the polymer finish available from Robert A. Barrkman (The Robar Companies Inc., Dept. SOF, Suite B, 21438 N. 7th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85027; phone: 602-581-2648).

Called Polymax, this finish can be applied to ordnance-grade carbon and stainless steels, aluminum alloys and even synthetic surfaces. Its application can eliminate surface blemishes and it's available in all colors, from basic black to custom matches and camou-

flage patterns such as desert, tiger stripe, woodland and urban.

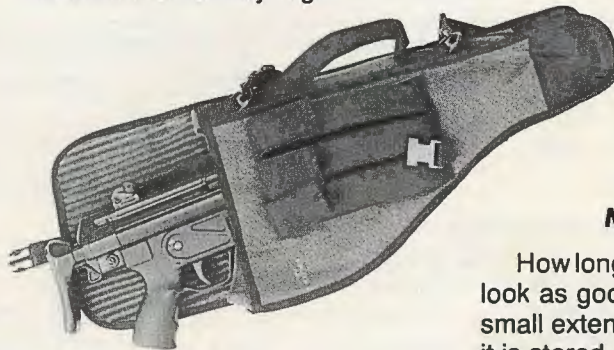
In addition to its attractive appearance, Polymax provides excellent resistance to many



Robar's Poly T not only matches the original H&K finish on this MP5K, but provides far greater protection.

corrosive chemicals, water, abrasion or impact by combining the important properties of a high degree of adhesion with a hardness superior to many of the other surface finishes commonly applied to firearms.

An enhanced formula — at this time available only in black — called Poly T can be applied by Barrkman. This finish is even more abrasion-resistant and contains Teflon (DuPont's trade name for polytetrafluoroethylene, or "PTFE"). Firearms treated by this process require little lubrication; carbon fouling can usually be removed by no more than an oily rag.



MP5 drop case, fabricated in the U.S.A. from ballistic nylon with a ribbed-cotton felt liner, improves on original design for German GSG 9 counterterrorist unit.

Poly T has twice the corrosion-resistance of Polymax. When subjected to the standard salt-spray test, which consists of placing a test item in a salt-spray cabinet of specified temperature and salinity, a Polymax coating of no greater thickness than 1 mil (0.001-inch is specified for purposes of comparative testing) will resist corrosion for 1,000 hours. Poly T doubles this with 2,000 hours of protection in this environment.

The Polymax/Poly T process involves a number of steps, as meticulous preparation of the metal surface is absolutely essential. First, the firearm is completely disassembled and then de-greased. Mechanical-surface preparation includes either aluminum-oxide blasting if the base metal is steel, or glass beading if an aluminum alloy is being treated. Next, the components are soak-cleaned, then placed into an acid activator, then phosphate-finished. The Polymax or Poly T application is by means of pressure spray. The coating is cured overnight at ambient temperature before heat-curing in an oven.

Barrkman refinished a very tired-looking MP5K for *Soldier Of Fortune* with black Poly T. The appearance is outstanding — an almost exact duplicate of the current H&K finish — and our MP5K, which is subjected to heavy use, still looks as good as new after many months of service.

MP5 Drop Cases

How long your MP5 continues to look as good as new is also to no small extent a function of the case it is stored and carried in.

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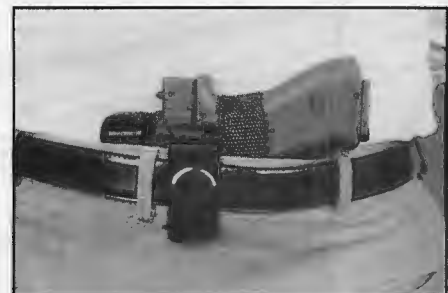
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Added firepower for the MP5 series: Modified Russian PPSH-41 drum holds 72 rounds of 9mm Parabellum.

been designed for GSG 9, the counterterrorist unit of the federal German border guard. True or not, it was a fine case, except that it was apparently designed for left-handed shooters, was not readily available and cost several hundred dollars. Bill Williamson of Bill's Guns & Supplies (Dept. SOF, Route 6, Box 316-C, Greenville, NC 27834; phone: 800-932-7661) decided to re-design the case for right-handed shooters, along with incorporating some other improvements.

As submitted to SOF for test and evaluation, Bill's MP5 drop case is fabricated from a "soft" drab-green ballistic nylon (black can also be specified, as well as a green-and-black combination) with a ribbed cotton-felt liner (a nylon liner is available at no additional charge). There is a three-cell pouch for 30-round magazines on the front side. Fully lined and padded, there is a double thickness of ballistic nylon at the muzzle end. All hardware on the case is made of black plastic. Both a black ballistic-nylon carrying handle and adjustable shoulder strap are included.

When slung on the left side, the shooter can open the full flap cover with his left hand and then reach in with his right hand to grasp the weapon's pistol grip and draw it into the firing position. A left-handed version is also available.

Drop case models for the MP5K or PDW cost only \$89.99. The MP5 A3 (retractable-stock model) drop case sells for \$149.99, complete with a carrying handle at its rear to hold the weapon's butt-stock. When fabricated for the MP5 SD A3 with a retractable A2 pouch, the cost is \$119.99. Add \$5 for

ground UPS charges.

Several federal agencies and military units are said to be taking a close look at these cases. Small wonder, as they are excellent and I can recommend them without reservations of any kind.

MP5 72-Round Drum

Firepower — for the shooter there never seems to be enough, especially if you and the rest of your SWAT team have to dance through a crackhouse during a dynamic entry. When brackets are not available, tape will do to connect two 30-round magazines together. It can be awkward, but nothing beats the feeling of knowing you've got the bullets you might need in the dark room just



Red-dot optical sights, such as the Ultra DOT, require the weapon to be shoulder-mounted and can reduce the time required to acquire a target and fire, especially if the operator employs binocular vision.

around the corner.

During World War II, the Russians brought the submachine gun to its highest tactical level on the battlefield, employing it to a greater extent than any other army. Clinging to T-34 tanks like colonies of ants, Russian soldiers sprayed the countryside ahead from the 71-round drums stuffed into their ubiquitous PPSH-41 (Pistolet Pulemet Shpagin Obr. 1941) burp guns.

Three men in each eight-man Russian infantry squad were armed with "Shpagins." While they won and the Germans lost, I still do not condone the use of shoulder-mounted automatic weapons as indiscriminate bullet hoses. Nevertheless, there are situations where a large-capacity magazine is justified.

Continued on page 71

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WORLD SITREP

1

United States

Required berthing and equipment changes to Navy warships for accommodating female Navy crew members will cost some \$500,000 per vessel. Some heavy gear and hatches must be replaced with lighter equipment; emergency breathing apparatus must be redesigned ... First warships to take women will be Spruance-class destroyers, followed by Burke-class destroyers and dock-landing ships. In 1995 three aircraft carriers will each include 400 women in crews, with another carrier converted to this pattern each year thereafter ...

In 1994, Army will begin receiving 50,000 M4 carbines, a shorter version of the M16A2 using 85% same parts, firing same ammo from same magazines ...

2

Panama

Government confirms arms dealers tried to send weapons (26,800 SMGs, 128,000 magazines, 5,000 pistols, 17 million rounds of ammo) from Austria and Czech Republic to Bosnia using Panama as bogus destination — Panama denies anyone higher than its consular official in Spain involved ...

5

Egypt

Islamic fundamentalists assassinate police general. Courts charge 65 militants with trying to overthrow government by infiltrating army ...

6

Turkey

Turkish troops fight major battle with Kurdish rebels at Yuksekova near Iranian border. Police on Cyprus seize Honduran freighter *Anne M* for attempted weapons smuggling to Kurds. Government launches new offensive against rebels on ninth anniversary of insurgency's start ...

4

9

Tadzhikistan

Tadzhik troops fighting Islamic rebels take control of key Hoborobad mountain pass; government asks neighbor Afghanistan to mediate with rebels — shells three Afghan villages used as rebel bases — formal agreement to end border fighting signed between Tadzhikistan and Kabul; Muslim guerrillas destroy only bridge linking north and south parts of country ...

10

Nagorno-Karabakh

Iran demands Armenian-Karabakh troops withdraw from occupied Azeri territory; Armenians ignore Iranian threats and surround town of Fizull — scene of heavy street fighting — capture Cebrayil after four-day battle. Turkey also warns Armenians to pull back. Armenian armor only 10km from Iran ...

13

North Korea

Government announces it will react "at once" to "the merest sign" of resumption of annual Team Spirit war games of U.S.-South Korea ...

Country sends shipment of Scud-C missiles and missile parts to Syria ...

14

Cambodia

Government launches offensive against Khmer Rouge near Thai border, overruns two hundreds of guerrillas and farm Thailand ...

3

Nicaragua

Military denies reports it is buying North Korean warships to recapture Caribbean islands of San Andres and Providencia from Colombia ...

International commission led by FBI launches investigation of May explosion of massive Salvadoran rebel arms cache outside Managua; U.S. Congress suspends aid until questions are resolved about international terrorist links with Nicaragua ...

4

France

French supertanker *Lyria* strikes nuclear submarine *Rubis* near Toulon. Greenpeace declares this "nightmare scenario," but French navy claims no radiation leak and only small oil loss ...

7

Iraq

Breaking up coup plot, Saddam arrests 210 military officers and civilians ...

8

Russia

In Nizhniy Tagil in the Urals, about 50 Muslim traders storm into city square to halt "Russian mafia" extortion of merchants. Gang members seize ultra-modern T-90 tank and counterattack — police disable tank by throwing smoke grenades through hatch ...

FBI announces it will assist Russian police fighting criminal gangs — 2,000 recent immigrants to U.S. belonged to 15 different gangs of burgeoning Russian mafia ...

8

6

10

9

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13

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12

14

11

12

Thailand

Muslim rebels in the four southern provinces stage several acts of sabotage and attack army unit, killing two, wounding 14. Rebels attack and attempt to burn down 34 schools in early August ...

11

Sri Lanka

Despite protests by human rights groups, more than 1,000 Tamil refugees sent home by India ...

Tamil boats engage navy gunboats on Jaffna Lagoon; parliament extends state of emergency ...

World SitRep is excerpted from the biweekly newsletter *For Your Eyes Only: An Open Intelligence Summary of Current Military Affairs*. Published by Tiger Publications, P.O. Box 8759, Amarillo, Texas, 79114-8759; subscriptions are \$65 per year (26 issues). Sample issue available for \$3. Those interested in reliable, up-to-date world intel are encouraged to subscribe.

SOF GLORIFIES NAZIS?

I was shocked, sickened and appalled by the article in your October 1993 SOF. I am of course referring to the Hitler birthday celebration story ("Fascist Freak Show"). How can you even consider publishing such hateful trash? I myself am a third generation survivor of Auschwitz where my people suffered like no other people have suffered before or since.

Mr. Brown, by glorifying those who would bring about a new hell on earth, a new holocaust, you have sinned against untold future generations of survivors like myself. In the name of God, in the name of my people who have suffered so terribly throughout history, I demand an apology.

Nathan Schecter
West Bloomfield Township,
Michigan

SOF often reports on topics of offensive to the politically correct (many Americans and most media), for this we offer no apology. The article Mr. Schecter is "shocked, sickened and appalled" by describes an event few reporters were privy to and we factually, albeit sarcastically, reported on it. How words like "boneheads," "real losers," "carnival sideshow" and "freaks" — used to describe the participants of this "celebration" — can be interpreted as glorifying is unclear, at least to me.

Instead of crying outrage at SOF for reporting on this event and the type of people that organize such a thing, I can only suggest Mr. Schecter's energies would be better spent working to prevent these New Age Nazis from carrying out a repeat of events half a century ago. Reporting the truth requires no apology. — RKB

TRUTH, JUSTICE & WACO

As of late I have been reading SOF on a regular basis. I have been doing so because this publication is one of the few that has not given up in its attempt to discover what happened in Waco.

I often hear words mentioned to the effect that "We'll never know what happened." I disagree. I think what happened in Waco will be determined one day. As long as one magazine, one newspaper, etc., keeps asking questions, Waco will never go away.

So don't give up the ship, never surrender and one day that which went so very wrong and slithered into the shadows for safety will be brought to light. And we will all be better off for that.

Name Withheld by Request



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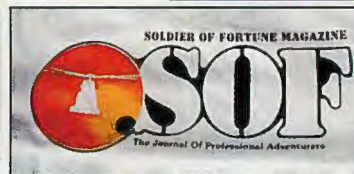
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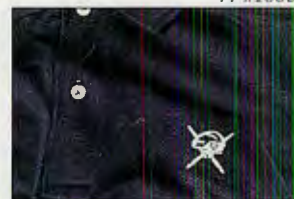
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ARMY GAYS NOT LIKE CIVILIAN GAYS

Just wanted to write to say how much I enjoyed the September '93 issue. But there's a problem with the article by James Brantley titled "AIDS Will Cost Armed Forces Billions." While the author certainly did a thorough job collecting statistics, he committed an error in his interpretation of the data. The incidence of AIDS cases in the homosexual population as a whole can't be interpreted as being indicative of the incidence of AIDS cases in a subgroup of that population.

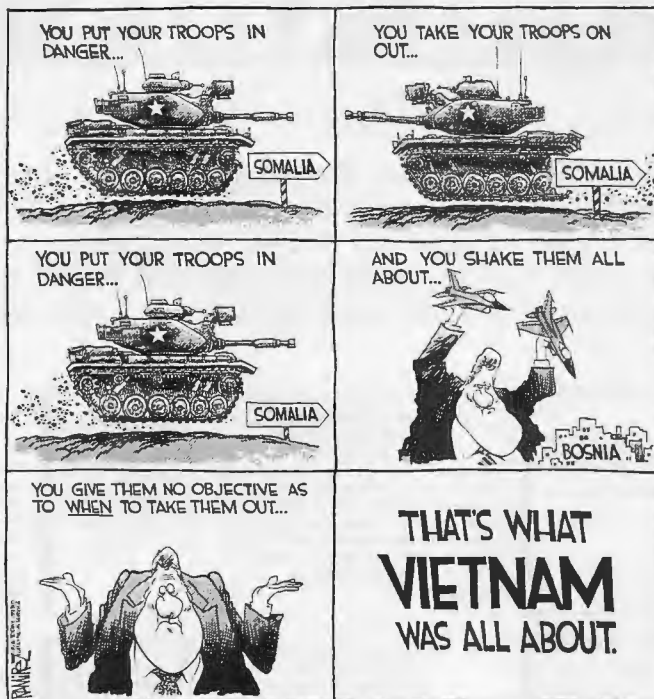
It's like drawing conclusions about the exercise habits of white male soldiers by looking at the exercise habits of white males in the general population. The subgroup of soldiers distinguishes itself by virtue of the fact that its members lead a significantly different lifestyle than the average citizen. Allowing homosexuals into the military may result in some increase in AIDS cases, but a direct correlation cannot be drawn between the rates in the civilian population and the military population. It is individual behaviors, not sexual preference that spread disease.

John A. Marmysz
San Francisco,
California

Point well-taken, SOF's article presumed that gays would continue the behavior associated with their civilian "lifestyle" once in the military. Whether this would hold true is undetermined.

ATROCITIES AND SPINELESS DIPLOMATS

I was glad to see SOF return its attention to the freedom fighters operating in the former Yugoslavia. Michael Palaich's article ("Man or Monster" SOF Aug.'93) on Yugo atrocities should be mandatory reading for all the spineless diplomats and politicians that have so thoroughly botched the Balkans'



MILITARY HOKEY POKEY

struggle against communist dictatorship.

I trust SOF will continue its hard line in support of freedom fighters

Continued on page 28

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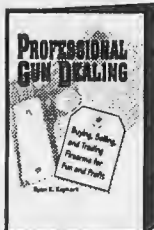
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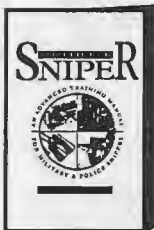
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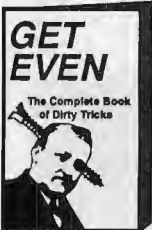
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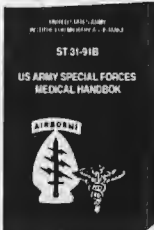
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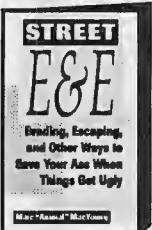
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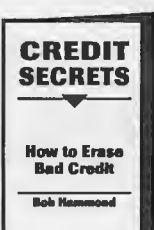
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Continued from page 24

in Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and throughout the world. Judging by events in the Balkans, this hard line is in mighty short supply.

Bill Claver
San Diego, California

WE AIN'T "THEM"

Lately I have been noticing an increasing amount of anti-cop rhetoric about gun control in your opinion pages. What troubles me about this trend is that it creates and sustains an erroneous "us and them" mindset. I am not talking about the Federal Law Abuse Bureaucrats (FLABs) that make up the leadership and much of the personnel roster of the FBI, BATF and U.S. Marshals, though even in these organizations the would-be Gestapo mentality is not universal.

The group that is getting bad-rapped is the street cop. In survey after survey gun rights groups have shown that the rank and file of law



enforcement are not the enemies of law-abiding gun owners. In short, we are not "them."

Gun-grabbing pseudo-police organizations such as the Fraternal Order of Police and the International Association of Chiefs of Police are touted by the media as the spokespeople of cops. They are not! It's another media lie, don't buy it.

I have been a cop for five years. I have been a lover of our Constitution much longer. I regularly advise law-abiding people to arm themselves for their own safety. I offer to train them in the safe operation, stor-

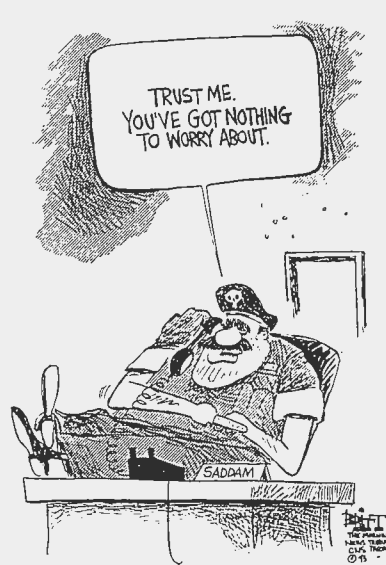
age and employment of firearms on my own time and at no cost. I encourage them to join the NRA or other gun rights groups of their preference and enter the fray. I am not unique among my law enforcement brethren. I am not and never will be a gun grabber, so how about setting the record straight?

Name Withheld by Request

SCOUTS TOO TOUGH WITH SOMALIS

After reading John Zimmerman's article ("Worst Kind of War" *SOF* Sept. '93) on his experiences in Somalia, I'm certainly glad that he has decided to improve the standard of the U.S. Army by getting out. His article shows textbook examples of unprofessional soldiering and everything that is wrong with today's military.

Too much time is spent whining and bellyaching about receiving an AAM for his combat actions. And shut up about the CIB already! A soldier's 201 file should be kept in a



drawer, not on his chest. All that crying about recognition just shows immaturity and a bad ego problem, neither of which has any place in a military operation where people are counting on you.

Zimmerman conveys an attitude replete with xenophobia and closed-mindedness in his dealings with the Somalis, good and bad. This attitude that everything different or foreign is wrong, simply doesn't fly in the Army, or anyplace else for that matter. U.S. troops in Somalia are, as always, doing a hell of a job. Luckily, Zimmerman's bad attitude

is not indicative of the vast majority of men and women serving their country, and I hope you think twice before publishing him again.

Frank P. Hildebrant
Sgt. Major, U.S. Army, Retired
Hialeah, Florida

Should John Zimmerman write up more of his combat experiences SOF would be happy to publish them. The tell-it-like-it-really-is grunt's-eye view of things has always been SOF's stock in trade, and we will continue to print same. Zimmerman's unit accomplished its assigned missions and got out alive. That's the objective!

It's easy to lock and load while sitting in an armchair and sight-in on textbook mistakes.

HELP SEND HIGGINS PACKING

SOF's postcard insert in the October issue calling for the resignation of BATF Director Steven Higgins proved a success. We received dozens of letters and requests to reprint the card. Other media, including The New York Times even jumped on the bandwagon and called for his immediate removal. Here's one letter that sums up the general sentiment:

Dear Secretary Bentsen:

As a concerned citizen I feel that I must let you know of my views on the follow-up of recent events in Waco, Texas. I strongly feel that BATF Director Steven Higgins must be replaced. The BATF, under his direction, has gone far beyond the role of a government agency designed to protect the rights of us, its law-abiding citizens.

Higgins' refusal to accept any blame in the Waco disaster and for the deaths of his agents along with other citizens (who may or may not have been guilty of crimes) is a disgrace. You, Secretary Bentsen, as his immediate supervisor should see as your duty to demand of him what any honorable man should have already done, an offer of his resignation. If he has already done so, I feel that you should accept it. To do anything less would be tantamount to condoning an individual's use of government to practice tyranny on its own citizens.

Woodrow E. Wilson
Killbuck, Ohio ✕

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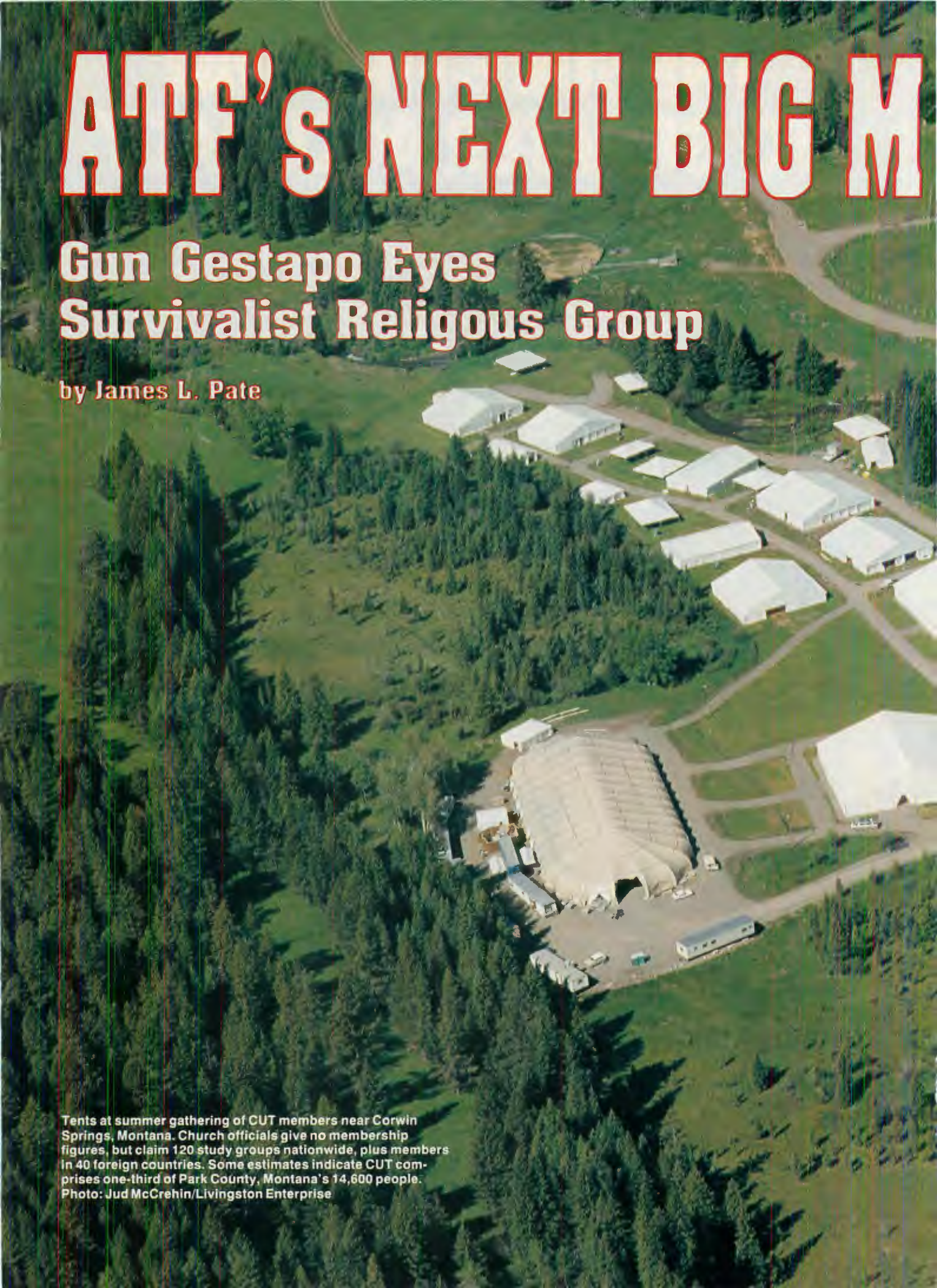
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*M.O.A. stands for Minute of Angle.
1 M.O.A. covers 1 inch at 100 yards.

ATF'S NEXT BIG M

Gun Gestapo Eyes Survivalist Religious Group

by James L. Pate



Tents at summer gathering of CUT members near Corwin Springs, Montana. Church officials give no membership figures, but claim 120 study groups nationwide, plus members in 40 foreign countries. Some estimates indicate CUT comprises one-third of Park County, Montana's 14,600 people. Photo: Jud McCrehin/Livingston Enterprise

ISTAKE?

**“The FBI
Doesn't Have A
Hit List And
You're Not
On It.”**

Gene Glenn, FBI

Walking his MacKenzie boat with two fly-fishing clients aboard through foot-deep shallows in the Yellowstone River near Emigrant, Montana, outfitter Garry McCutcheon paused on a foreign object felt beneath his wader boot. Possibly a cast-off tackle box or long-lost fly rod, he thought.

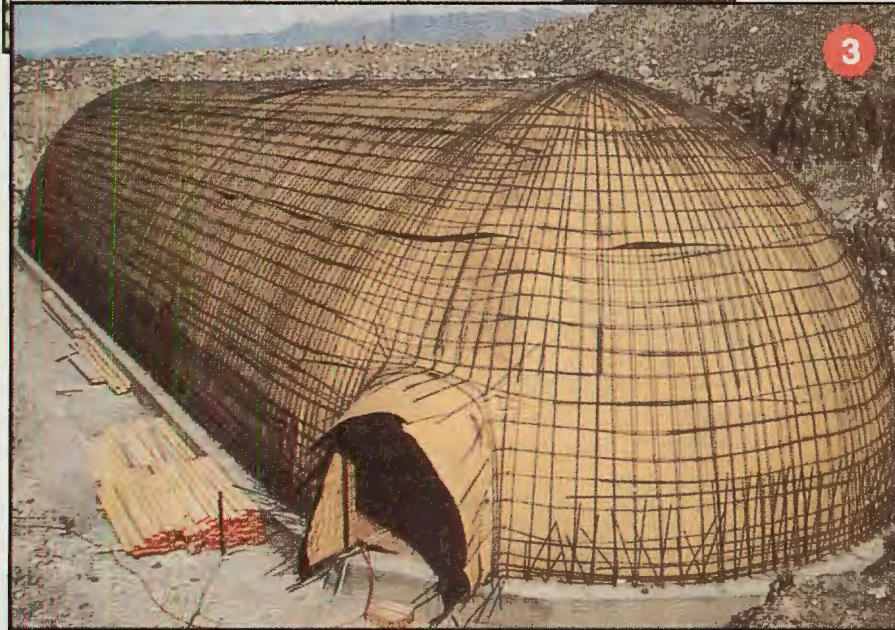
“I was really surprised when I reached down and picked it up,” McCutcheon, owner of Big Sky Flies & Guides, told *Soldier Of Fortune*. “It hadn't been there a long time, because there was very little rust. There were some numbers on it. I said, ‘Oh, shit!’ All I know is it's a serious piece of ordnance.”

McCutcheon's biggest catch on 24 August was identified by the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) as a 1953-vintage 66mm rocket, though from the photos obtained by *SOF* it appears to be a 3.5-inch (89mm) Super Bazooka round. The found munition did not include its armor-piercing HEAT warhead.

Although harmless, its discovery triggered speculation among locals about who put it in the river. The spent rocket could not be traced to a specific source, but ATF agent Randy Little speculated it was lost some 20 years



Outfitter and guide Garry McCutcheon of Emigrant, Montana, holds antitank rocket he retrieved from Yellowstone River near CUT communities in August. Photo reveals it as obsolete Korean War-era 3.5-inch (89mm) Super Bazooka rocket — though identified by ATF as 66mm training round believed used in 1970s' National Guard exercises. Photo: courtesy Garry McCutcheon



One of CUT's reinforced-concrete multi-family bomb shelters under construction in late 1980s. Photo 2 shows concrete base covered with plywood and framing in place. Photo 3 shows framing covered with burlap and hardboard then overlaid with grid of rebar and welded steel mesh. Photos: courtesy *Practical Survival* magazine

ago during National Guard training exercises in the area. He described the rocket as "fairly well-corroded." However, others who viewed it were skeptical, including McCutcheon, saying they saw little rust and did not think it had been in the river long.

For lifelong Emigrant residents such as rancher Pete Story, whose grandfather drove the first long-horned cattle from Texas into Montana's aptly named Paradise Valley, knowing *what* McCutcheon found is possibly not as disturbing as *where* it was found.

Fifty-three miles lie between Livingston, Montana, and Wyoming's northern border at Yellowstone National Park. Here the vaunted vistas

Story, whose property line lies 10 feet from where the rocket was found, and the thousands of relative newcomers belonging to an eclectic New Age religion called the Church Universal and Triumphant (CUT).

Peculiar Neighbors

The CUT, as it is usually referred to in Park County, Montana, has been the object of extensive controversy — and federal law enforcement scrutiny — since its spiritual leader Elizabeth Clare Prophet moved her international headquarters to Montana from southern California in 1986. Most of the stir has swirled around the church's massive network of elaborately equipped bomb shelters

of the Absaroka and Gallatin mountain ranges are separated by U.S. Highway 89 and the Yellowstone River. But undercurrents of mistrust eddy along this corridor of uneasy coexistence. Paradise Valley residents are divided between staunch traditionalists such as

capable of sustaining thousands of people for years, reportedly the largest such concentration in the United States.

The CUT's difficulty in getting state environmental officials to approve its massive development plans for the valley's fragile ecosystem was compounded when an immense fuel storage tank under one of the larger shelters leaked into the Yellowstone River, resulting in an expensive three-year cleanup.

Further fueling nervousness about the church was its stockpiling of military-style weapons over a 20-year period and its more recent purchase of at least two armored troop carriers. Then came the 1989 conviction of Prophet's husband, Edward L. Francis, who is CUT's vice president and business manager. Francis and another member of CUT's executive staff pleaded guilty to falsifying documents for the purchase of \$100,000 worth of otherwise legal firearms, including .50-caliber weapons. This resulted in the Internal Revenue Service revoking CUT's tax-exempt status in November 1992, a decision the church has appealed.

In documents filed this past June in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., federal investigators now allege the weapons stockpiles were an outgrowth of a 20-year-old money-laundering scheme involving a dummy land company and an organization called The Rocky Mountain Sportman's and Survival Club founded by Francis and other CUT staff members in 1973, when the church was located in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and called itself The Summit Lighthouse.

Because of this — and the fact that North Glastonbury and Golden Age Village, two of the three large church-owned, members-only subdivisions in the valley, are both a few minutes' walk from where McCutcheon fished the rocket out of the Yellowstone River — Story and other CUT critics suspect a church member is responsible for the lost antitank round. Local authorities disagree.

"There is absolutely no evidence" to tie the rocket projectile to a CUT member, Park County Sheriff Charley Johnson told *SOF*, adding it was even possible a church critic "planted" the round to further discredit CUT.

"There's no proof at this point,"

acknowledged John Keenan, a Marine Corps reserve officer and Gulf War veteran who owns a hunting and fishing lodge a few miles upriver. "But every time something like this happens now, people just naturally assume that CUT is involved. I was in Livingston the day the story broke, and everyone I saw who knows I live down here said the same thing — 'It's gotta' be church connected.' "

Rancher Story agreed. "We assume it's them," he told *SOF*. "The theory is that if it wasn't fired, it was dumped in the river after the Waco raid. They supposedly shipped out most of their guns and the armored cars after Waco started. If the police get a metal detector, there's no telling what else they might find. If one of these rockets was dumped there, a number of others might have been, too. My problem is I don't know who to be more scared of, the CUT or ATF."

The media spotlight has recently focused on CUT as a result of the ATF's bloody raid and siege on the Branch Davidian community outside Waco, Texas, but this is not the first time the Montana church has received unflattering publicity, only the most recent instance. Rumors that CUT was a target for a similarly large federal assault were persistent enough to convince *SOF*'s Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown to order a closer look.

In the wake of the Waco tragedy, rumors abounded that CUT was next. "Those of us here in Park County can hardly escape drawing comparisons," commented John Sullivan, editor/publisher of the weekday *Livingston Enterprise*. In his 4 March editorial, this frequent CUT critic warned of "the potential threats presented by the ongoing operations of the Church Universal and Triumphant."

Murray Steinman, CUT's spokesman and a church member for more than 20 years, at first agreed to talk with *SOF*. But after further consideration he declined, saying it would not serve the church well to be the subject of further comparisons to the Waco disaster, "especially to be connected with a publication such as *Soldier Of Fortune* ... I don't want that dog following me around."

"It's really unfair to compare us with [David Koresh's church]," Steinman sniffed, paraphrasing popular-culture writer Tom Wolfe, who wrote that the difference between



Car gives perspective on concrete- and steel-reinforced Quonset hut-shaped structure, reported by TV news as designed for storage of APCs purchased by Prophet's church. As shown, building is too small for such use and is actually a residence under construction, with part of home built into hillside. Photo: James L. Pate

a cult and a church is that a cult has no political power. By early September, Steinman apparently had another change of heart, prompting him to fax the following statement to *SOF*:

"We purchased the Forbes Ranch in Paradise Valley in 1981 and moved our headquarters here in 1986. In the 12 years we've been here we've had our share of difficulties, as might be expected of anyone who brought a large group of people into a rural area.

"But we have many friends in the area and we are open to visitors and media. There is a small group of vocal critics — which includes the editor of the Livingston Enterprise — that takes every opportunity to criticize the church, in most cases unfairly and inaccurately. Recently they went out of their way to portray the church as the 'next Waco.' Ironically, these 'experts' have rarely if ever visited the ranch or become acquainted with its residents.

"There is no chance that the headquarters of Church Universal and

Triumphant will be the 'next Waco.' None of the elements that led to the standoff between the federal government and the Branch Davidians exist here, starting with the fact that the FBI and ATF have no intention of attacking the church. In recent weeks, representatives of both agencies have visited our headquarters and told us flatly that we are not the next Waco.



13-star Old Glory waves over fortified observation post atop privately owned bomb shelter just outside Emigrant, Montana. Patriotism and preparedness for collapse of society are two basic characteristics of CUT members. Individuals pool funds to build dozens of neighborhood shelters, each designed to house from 20 to 80 people. Prophet's leadership reportedly has massive shelter network capable of sustaining 750 people underground for seven years. Photo: James L. Pate

Gene Glenn, special agent in charge of the FBI for Utah, Idaho and Montana, said: "The FBI doesn't have a hit list and you're not on it." Randy Little of the ATF said that "We came

ASSAULT ON A VALLEY OF DEATH?

The Church Universal and Triumphant is known to most Park County, Montana, residents as simply "the C-U-T." Because of their belief in preparing for the collapse of society and in retreating from society as a whole, their large stockpiles of weapons and their offbeat religious philosophy — along with rampant rumors that the feds are about to raid them — there have been frequent appraisals on the probability of a raid by authorities against the CUT community in light of the disastrous Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) assault this past 28 February on David Koresh's Branch Davidian community outside Waco, Texas.

Even a rudimentary understanding of tactics, maneuver and communications suggests that any massive federal assault against CUT members as a whole would be unlikely. If 100 ATF agents couldn't shoot their way into the Branch Davidian church, at least a *division* of cops — with helicopter deployment and close-air support — would be needed to mount an assault on CUT's far-flung membership living in or around four large developments spread all the way from Livingston, Montana, south to the Wyoming border and Yellowstone National Park.

It would be relatively easy, given the proper amount and deployment of explosives, to seal off the 50-mile-long corridor of U.S. Highway 89 from incoming and outgoing vehicle traffic. Despite CUT's purchase of two outdated armored personnel carriers and reports that staff members shopped around for light tanks, the extremes of surrounding topography would make armor of very limited use, for much the same reason that Soviet armor was repeatedly stymied in Afghanistan.

If the nation's social infrastructure did collapse and anarchy ensued, CUT members might have more to fear from local residents than from any federal agent. "One rancher told me he wasn't worried about the end of the world coming, because if he needed food, he had a gun and knew where to come get it — meaning our bomb shelters," one spooked church member told *Soldier Of Fortune*.

Indeed — some shelters are topped with fortified, pillbox-like structures that members claim are only observation posts. Once buttoned up in a shelter, though, those inside are much like gophers trapped down holes.

Armageddon Army

"Their whole theology is based on a belief that Western civilization will one day break down," noted John Keenan, a hunting-fishing guide who owns the Tom Miner Lodge south of Emigrant, Montana. "If it comes down to rule by the gun, they've got to close off this valley. It'd be easy to seal it off to vehicle traffic. And just by their numbers, they're the group that everyone will have to deal with. But they'll be the enemy to people who don't belong to their church.

"No organized group is going to come in and take this valley as a high-priority area," Keenan said. "If they're pointing guns at anybody, it's going to be their neighbors." He added that he is undaunted by reports of church members having armored vehicles at their disposal.

"As an old anti-armor platoon commander, I can tell you those armored vehicles wouldn't last long, especially in this restricted terrain. I'm not scared of them. Despite what I've read, I don't think CUT's people are that well-trained, not based on what I've seen."

Keenan said most valley residents avoid socializing with CUT members, partly out of a feeling that their beliefs are "too strange. Most people out here are pretty down-to-earth. If you start talking about space aliens and ascended beings, they won't have much to do with you, past asking what part of California you came here from."

As an example, Keenan cited the belief expressed to him by one young CUT member that when Mikhail Gorbachev disappeared for a few days during the Soviet Union's August 1991 coup, he was actually "beamed up to a spaceship and was receiving instructions for the final takeover of the universe."

Some residents post bumper stickers on their vehicles proclaiming themselves to be "unCUT," or against the church. "There's another connotation," Keenan said. "When you castrate a horse, you 'cut' him. These people are like sheep. They've had their brains snipped. I don't think they'd be capable of putting up much of a fight."

This, unfortunately, is what the ATF brass must have thought when they ordered a raid on David Koresh's house.

— J. L. P.

here to put to rest rumors that have mutually impacted both of our organizations.' "

Tough Targets For Assault

The church's potential to influence local and state governments is not insignificant. The CUT owns a total of about 30,000 acres in Paradise Valley, including the late Malcolm Forbes' old Royal Teton Ranch bordering Yellowstone National Park. This makes it Park County's third-largest landowner after the federal Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service, according to Kathy Schmook, author of an unpublished book about CUT and one of the church's most vocal critics.

By Schmook's estimate, CUT members may comprise one-third of Park County's estimated 14,600 residents. If one accepts her contention that Prophet has total control of the CUT flock, this makes the church a political force to be reckoned with, potentially capable of a legal takeover as happened in Antelope, Oregon, a decade ago through Indian mystic Baghwan Shree Rajneesh.

Despite CUT spokesman Steinman's refusal to discuss with *SOF* any similarities between the church and the Branch Davidians, the *Royal Teton Ranch News*, CUT's in-house newsletter that he edits, did so in a guest column run in its July 1993 issue.

Originally printed in *AWARE News*, published by the Association of World Academics for Religious Education, the column was based on a week-long visit to Prophet's church by two *AWARE* members, Drs. James R. Lewis and Evelyn Dorothy Oliver.

The doctors reported finding "both adults and children to be unusually healthy ... and well-adjusted. The leadership style was relaxed ... Prophet herself is quite personable and lives in a small trailer with her husband and adult daughter — not the opulent lifestyle usually attributed to a 'cult' leader." Any comparison between the CUT and the Branch Davidian church "is absurd," the *AWARE* column concluded.

Warranted or not, such comparisons persist. But the geographic and tactical differences involved in comparing Koresh's religious retreat with

Continued on page 78



MISSILE BASE - CHEAP!

by Don McLean

McLean's Law of Space and Occupation states that everybody has to be *someplace*. And it's true — although a Good And Moral Reason may fly from the hallway, most wars have been fought jousting for choice real estate, resources or bar space at the *SOF* Convention. Although the New World was populated by people yearning for opportunity and/or liberty, it was only possible because there was land available for the robbing or homesteading. But in these times, choice bivouacs are getting hard to find. Especially if you want extraordinary space for an extraordinary purpose.

If your favorite fantasy is to set up shop/retire/hole-up/launch a family business/found a tangential religious cult deep in the heart of Texas — and do it at a self-contained installation for less than 10 cents on the dollar — have we got a deal for you.

And we do mean *deep* in the heart of Texas. Located in the gently rolling farm country just outside Alvarado and comfortably between Dallas and Ft. Worth, this 17-acre former Nike missile site includes some 15,000 square feet of prime underground facilities divided into three separate environments of 5,000 square feet. Each module has its own water, electricity and a large-capacity 53-foot long elevator that can handle 29,000 pounds of heavy equipment, vehicles, supplies or anything else you want to take underground for use or storage. More than 50 feet square, the elevators can take a semi-truck and trailer underground.

The entire underground area is en-



Looking to the northeast by air, entrances can be seen to the 15,000 square feet of underground facilities. At right are the ordnance area and building, utilities building and test lab, and at left is the bomb shelter and residence.

Photo: courtesy L. Stevens

vironmentally controlled: Temperature and humidity are automatically regulated by thermostats and humidistats. Natural ventilation is supplemented by 5-foot centrifugal exhaust fans. Sophisticated air filtration systems are present for filtering radioactive fallout, as well as any normal pollutants, from the air.

Should you happen to be claustrophobic or not into launching the world's most sophisticated mushroom farm, above ground there exist facilities providing virtually anything you would need for a self-contained operation of any kind. The site is served by a 14,000-volt main distribution line rated at 687 KVA, which is distributed from the power building as 440V, 240V and 120V in either single or three-phase. The site is served with natural gas through a large-capacity

1-1/2 inch, 12-psig line.

The facility's own deep well provides adequate water for all purposes, including fire fighting and agriculture. Water is pumped from the deep well to a 10,500 gallon storage tank, and in turn to a large pressure tank for pressurized distribution to the buildings and strategically located fire hydrants.

Above-ground buildings include a conventional 2,000-square-foot home. But if you want to get away from the old lady, there is a huge fallout shelter with 16-inch thick concrete walls and a steel roof designed to resist explosion, tornadoes, nuclear fallout and mothers-in-law — with its own sophisticated fresh air filtration system to maintain the air at near clean-

Continued on page 73

*Soldiers of Fortune
Tread Lightly
Through
International Law*



**LETHAL
AND
LEGAL**

by Rob Krott

So you want to be a merc? Do your visions take in exotic locales, adventure and lots of cash? Just keep one name in mind before you set out ... Daniel Gearhart. Don't remember him? Time for a little history lesson, then.

Gearhart, a Vietnam veteran from Maryland, ran a classified advertisement in an early issue of *Soldier Of Fortune*. The ad drew results. He was recruited for merc work and eventually wound up in Angola working for Holden Roberto's anticommunist FNLA (Portuguese acronym for Angolan National Liberation Front) — but

Gearhart's luck soon changed.

Taken prisoner after a bloody ambush in mid-February 1976, Gearhart was charged with the "crime" of being a mercenary, as were fellow countrymen Gustav Marcello "Gus" Grillo and Gary Acker. Along with the three Americans, 10 captured British adventurers were also dealt with in an Angolan-Marxist show trial. The unlucky mercs were additionally charged with rape,



John Manx with UZI and masked Jack Thompson with Swedish Carl Gustav Model 45 SMG were members of SOF team training contras in 1985. Such "advisers" undoubtedly would have been executed by Sandinistas if captured. Photo: Topaz

theft, destroying Angolan property and engaging in combat actions against the Cuban-led FAPLA troops, the fighting arm of Angola's ruling Marxist MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) regime.

While rape and theft are legitimate concerns under any country's codes, at that time there was no law (international or Angolan) on the books prohibiting an individual from fighting as a uniformed combatant for pay.

To back their charges, the MPLA government cited resolutions of various African nations regarding employment of mercenaries. The defendants admitted they had enlisted in the armed forces of the FNLA. But the court decreed they were "irregulars" and therefore not protected by the 1949 Geneva Convention (aka The International Humanitarian Law of Armed Conflict of 12 August 1949) concerning the treatment of POWs.

Five days before the start of their trial, the 13 mercs had already been pronounced guilty by the MPLA's Director-General of Information, Dr. Luis de Almeida. "There is no doubt that the men in the dock are guilty. It is just a question of how we will punish them," he said. Four had already been selected for execution.

Daniel Francis Gearhart and three Brits: Costas Georgio

Facing page: Some European adventurers fulfill legacies of ethnic rivalry dating back centuries. These German mercs fighting for Croats in Bosnia perpetuate alliance with Croats begun two generations ago during World War II. Photo: Rob Krott

(aka Colonel Tony "Mad Dog" Callan), John Derek "Brummie" Barker and Andrew Gordon McKenzie, were each found guilty by a "people's revolutionary tribunal" and sentenced to death by firing squad. They were executed by the MPLA in Luanda, Angola's capital city, on 10 July 1976.

Callan deserved his sentence, being responsible for the murders of several Angolan civilians, some of his own Angolan soldiers and 11 British mercenaries. The other condemned men were innocent of any wrongdoing. Gus Grillo, Gary Acker and the seven remaining Brits received lengthy prison sentences in Cadeia de Sao Paulo prison in Luanda. Acker was sentenced to 16 years (he served just over seven) and Grillo received 30 years.

Murder Defined Mercs

Gearhart was executed not for his actions but for his status, proving how actual enlistment in an organized, uniformed military formation (since the FNLA was just as legitimate as FAPLA) is not a guarantee of Geneva Convention protection.

It is sad but true that Gearhart's kangaroo-court conviction and subsequent execution prompted the formal definition of mercenary as now recognized under international law. Before 1976 there wasn't one. Prior to the Angolan debacle, mercenaries were considered to be afforded the same protection as any other combatant. This is because under the auspices of international law (according to the Geneva Convention) a mercenary, if captured by the armed forces of a sovereign nation, could expect the same treatment normally accorded a prisoner of war. The 1977 Geneva Protocols (which most Western nations refused to ratify) reversed this general practice.

The Geneva Convention was drastically modified with the addition of several new protocols, one of which was Article 47 of Protocol I. It defines mercenary — basically anyone who fights in a foreign war in which his country of nationality is not an acknowledged belligerent fits this description — stating, "A mercenary shall not have the



American mercs kill time in mid-Atlantic with FN MAG 58, Argentine FMK-3 and FN FAL rifle en route to Ghana for planned 1986 anticommunist coup that never happened. These three mercs and five of their colleagues were imprisoned in Brazil — some escaped. Photo: SOF file

right to be a combatant or a prisoner of war.”

In a nutshell, mercs are no longer accorded POW status. Article 47 did not make being a mercenary a crime, it just denies a mercenary protection as a prisoner of war. The new, internationally recognized definition of a mercenary drastically changed the legal rights formally accorded mercs under international law.

It may not be logical — but, then again, laws are not

which is party to a conflict — although not accorded the more favorable treatment stipulated under the Geneva Convention — are due *humane treatment* in all circumstances, thus providing for a basic standard of treatment for anyone held (by a sovereign nation) as a result of an armed conflict. This is not all, however, as under the Geneva Convention a merc can still qualify for protection as a member of a “uniformed fighting force. ...” I was offered this type of “protection” not too long ago (in the spring of 1992).

“Give us your passports and we’ll see about getting you your Croatian army ID cards. You’ll get paid 300 Deutsche marks a month,” the colonel said. But my colleague and I didn’t want to join the Croatian army *per se*, and we certainly didn’t want to give up our passports. As Americans, we knew that if captured we’d be executed out of hand as foreign mercenaries, so an army ID card wouldn’t make much difference ... then again, nobody was taking prisoners in this war, so it all seemed rather moot.

Yugoslavia did ratify Protocol I. Serbia, as part of the newly reorganized Yugoslavia is bound — but only by international law — to respect Article 47 and, of course, Article 75, though it’s doubtful if the Serbs would respect this. And it’s highly unlikely that *Chetniks* (Serb irregulars) fighting in the so-called Serbian Krajina Republic would do more than laugh before they started cutting off precious portions of our anatomies.

Speaking with the Croat colonel, we hastily explained our misunderstanding (at that time) of the 8 USC Section 1481(a) (3) — neither of us knew this was the specific legal reference regarding expatriation for enlisting in a foreign army. The colonel was amazed. He said he’d never heard of such a thing, but it was a good enough excuse for us to hold onto our passports.

With our passports we could easily pull an E&E if



Hundreds of Americans served as volunteers with the regular Rhodesian military in the '70s and '80s. Others, like those pictured above, worked in Rhodesian ranch security or for private security firms. Photo: R. K. Brown

necessarily logical. Individual interpretation is involved in determining who is or isn’t a merc. Mercenaries are generally held in low esteem by governments worldwide. And most governments are very political and hypocritical regarding the use of mercs. For example, Nigeria, when voting on Article 47, proposed no protection whatsoever for mercs, yet had employed mercs (South African and Egyptian pilots) against the Biafrans in the late 1960s. Two of their merc MiG pilots were known as “Genocide” and “Murder.” Also, the same Angolan government that executed Gearhart and associates in the 1970s has hired South African mercs as oil complex “security forces” this year (see related article on page 56).

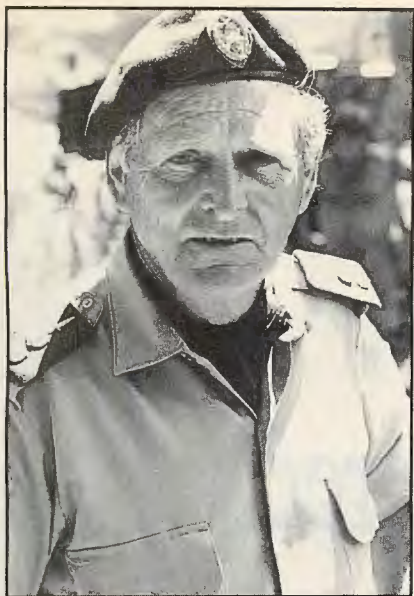
To be more specific — under Article 47, anyone who joins the armed forces of a foreign nation (whether for pay or any other reason) cannot be termed a mercenary by any country having ratified Protocol I. Again, Article 47 doesn’t make employment as a merc a crime, but it does deny mercs the same protection given POWs. Also, this article protects one from mercenary status if the person has enlisted in any military force that is party to the conflict he fights in.

While Article 47 prevents a merc from being accorded any rights due a combatant or a POW, under international law nations are required to apply the Geneva Convention as a minimum standard of law, whether that nation has signed the Geneva Convention or not.

Mercs do have some protection under Article 75 of Protocol I, which provides that persons held by a nation



Owner of Paladin Press and SF Vietnam vet Peder Lund instructs Salvadoran gunner in employment of M60 machine gun. Communist guerrilla radio broadcast in '83 warned how “any SOF mercenaries captured will be tried and executed” — typical sort of “law” one can expect at hands of many Third World guerrilla movements. Photo: SOF file



Mike Hoare, of 5 Commando in the Congo and *Wild Geese* fame, is arguably the 20th century's most famous merc. He once stated, "For a mercenary soldier to fight merely on the basis of getting paid when he completes his mission is, in my mind, madness." Photo: SOF file

needed. The Slovenian border was a few clicks away from the front at Vinkovci, Croatia, and we were in good enough shape to walk out if we had to. Small family farms dotting the countryside could supply a steady diet of fresh chickens, so we weren't worried about food.

When I later served in Bosnia for the HVO (Croatian Defense Organization, not in the official Croat army chain of command), I carried a military ID card listing my rank as "instructor." However,

uniformed HVO soldiers were routinely tortured, mutilated and executed if captured by Serbs. So much for the Geneva Convention. Also, British mercenaries with Bosnian-Muslim defense force ID cards in the employ of the Muslims were tortured and killed ... by Muslims. There is very little resembling civilized law in such conflicts when assault rifle-toting militiamen are the final authority.

Remember, only Western democracies and a few other enlightened, civilized nations pay heed to the niceties of international law. The law of land warfare only applies if the people who have gotten their hands on you want to play by the rules.

The Geneva Convention — regardless of any new protocols or which nations have ratified them — can have little importance in a combat zone when some conscript in a banana-republic Third World country is pointing an assault rifle at you. Is he going to know about Article 75? I sincerely doubt it, sports fans. What he will remember, though, is whatever propaganda he's been fed about American mercs, high pay, gangsters, foreign mercs committing atrocities and so forth. At this point you should be concentrating on mere survival, not kid-glove treatment; besides, it's not a smart move to discuss the finer points of international law when you're being forced to closely inspect the business end of an assault rifle.

A Last Cigarette?

Only a Western democracy is likely to follow the Geneva Convention or the related protocols. Obviously a merc captured by some non-signatory Western nation can expect better treatment than one captured in a Third World nation that signed the 1977 Protocols.

If captured in the Third World, you can expect to be paraded in front of TV cameras for propaganda purposes

(in much the same way as were the American POWs in North Vietnam and the unfortunate mercs in Angola), tortured, tried before a kangaroo court or military tribunal and then summarily executed if the State Department can't bail you out. Courts may follow the letter of the law, but not necessarily the spirit of the law and may even disregard laws altogether.

Most commonly, the all-inclusive charge of "crimes against humanity" may be used against you, with references to the wanton killing of their citizens (despite the fact that they were wearing uniforms, bearing equipment and launching bullets at you the whole time). You might not even get a sham trial if your presence presents a real problem. You'll simply disappear and an explanation such as "died of wounds" or "killed while attempting to escape" will be furnished to the U.S. Embassy. Or maybe they'll just stand you against the portable adobe wall and let diplomacy and international law be damned. As the man says, "You pays your money and you takes your chances."



White mercs fighting for Congolese government attack communist-backed rebel stronghold of Stanleyville (now Kisangani, Zaire) in 1964. Congo insurrection occurred before now-accepted definition of mercenary existed. Prior to 1977 captured mercs could expect POW treatment, if captors played by global rules. Photo: AP/Wide World

Another law that mercs should become familiar with is the law prohibiting recruitment and enlistment of mercenaries within the United States. Often broadly referred to as the Neutrality Act, this is found in 18, USC 959(a), which states: "Whoever, within the United States ... hires or retains another to enlist ... in the service of any foreign ... state ... as a soldier ... shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than three years or both."

There have been a few incidents involving U.S. mercs in the past few years where federal investigators have taken note of the statute for mercenary recruiting. There were the 10 white supremacists who tried to take down Dominica in the "Bayou of Pigs" fiasco in May 1981. Then there were the 14 mercs led by a former U.S. Customs Service agent, Tommy Lynn Denley, arrested en route to Suriname and the planned overthrow of Lieutenant Colonel Desi Bouterse. Also, eight U.S. mercs did time in Brazil for their part in a plotted overthrow of

Continued on page 74

Orlando Sentinel
Investigative
Reporters Uncovered
Multiple Cash Seizures,
Bankrolling,
Self-Appointed Drug Squads,
Minority Prejudice
and the
Pulitzer Prize ...
... BUT NOT THE TRUTH

by Joseph C. Goulden & Reed Irvine

Among the many awards which American journalists bestow upon one another each year, none matches the prestige of the Pulitzer Prize. A proud newspaper struts its winners before readers in full-page promotional ads and uses the prize as peer-affirmation of the validity of the work being honored.

Only rarely is there a Pulitzer stain. The most notorious recent case occurred in 1981 when, embarrassed, *The Washington Post* returned a Pulitzer award after learning that reporter Janet Cooke had made up her story about an 8-year-old heroin addict. Walter Duranty of *The New York Times* won his 1932 Pulitzer Prize for reporting which glossed over millions of starvation deaths in the Soviet Union caused by Stalin's collective-farm mania.

How reliable is the Pulitzer process in determining the basic accuracy and fairness of articles submitted for a prize? And what is done when the work proves flawed?

Once again the Pulitzer Prize has gone for flawed journalism — a series of articles in *The Orlando Sentinel* by Jeff Brazil and Steve Berry that harshly criticized a controversial drug-money seizure program in Volusia County, located on Florida's east coast in the Daytona Beach area. In three years, a team from the Volusia County Sheriff's Office seized some \$8 million in suspected drug money from motorists on Interstate 95, the main north-south highway on the Eastern Seaboard.

The *Sentinel* series relied heavily upon what has become the "new McCarthyism" of American journalism — the charge that a law enforcement policy is racist, victimizing blacks and other minorities. To "racially correct" journalists, the bare fact that enforcement affects a minority person is *ipso facto* proof that racism is the motivation. Confronted with such peculiar reasoning, the subject of a media attack is essentially helpless. Truth is submerged in a swirl of goading and inaccurate accusations.

Spurred by slanted news stories

and strident editorials in the *Sentinel*, Florida Gov. Lawton Chiles appointed a task force to investigate the racism charge. After hearings and many months of work, the panel found the *Sentinel's* charge bogus. This was in late February. Nonetheless, this past April the Pulitzer committee awarded their prize for investigative reporting to Brazil and Berry of the *Sentinel*.

Yellow Journalism Honored

In a promotional ad run just after the Pulitzer awards, the *Sentinel* boasted that its reporters had found "self-appointed drug squads" and "minority prejudice." During a June interview, Volusia County Sheriff Robert Vogel scratched his head over the "self-appointed" phrase and noted how enforcing Florida drug laws is his statutory responsibility. "Minority prejudice" remains a charge supported nowhere other than in the minds of the Pulitzer-winning journalists.

The techniques used by the five-man Volusia County "Special Enforcement Team" were developed by Vogel, who as a Florida state trooper was renowned for his intuitive ability to sniff out drug smugglers. While working as a highway patrolman from 1984 until 1988, Vogel seized 6,000 pounds of marijuana, 500 pounds of cocaine, \$85,000 cash and 13 motor vehicles, arresting 163 persons along the way.

The CBS News series *60 Minutes* broadcast a glowing segment on Vogel's skill, as did ABC-TV's *20/20*. Vogel resigned from the state patrol in 1988 to make his first run for sheriff. With fame came enemies — not only drug peddlers, but also the lawyers representing them. Forfeiture programs siphoned drug money out of dealers' pockets and

put them out of business until they could scrape together enough funds for another buy. Forfeiture also makes it difficult to cough up legal fees when arrested.

Vogel makes no secret of his hatred of drugs. Soon after taking office, he posted signs reading "Narcotics Inspection Ahead" on I-95, but the Florida Department of Transportation said these were illegal and made him take them down.

After being elected sheriff, Vogel began using his well-honed drug interdiction techniques on the 41-mile stretch of I-95 running through Volusia County, a gateway to both Disney World outside Orlando and to Daytona Beach, the mecca for motorcyclists, car racers and kids on spring break. Interstate 95 continues south into Miami, a major drug-entry port.

Smuggler's Nightmare

For about 200 man-hours weekly, members of Vogel's five-man squad parked along I-95 between 1600 and 0400 to screen traffic, alert for violators displaying what officers call "patterns of similarity" often found among drug traffickers — an expensive car with out-of-state or rental license plates driven by someone in his or her 20s to 40s who seems intent on ignoring the patrol car, looking neither right nor left, for example.

If a traffic violation is noted (speeding, following too closely, a defective light, whatever) the motorist is stopped and a more careful screening begins. The officer casually asks the driver his destination and purpose of travel. Is the driver nervous? Are his answers inconsistent? Does his body language seem suspicious — for instance, crossing his arms protectively in front of his chest? If a passenger is in the car, he or she is questioned separately and, again, casually. *Do their stories jibe?*

If the officer determines there is "probable cause" that drugs or other illicit materials are in the car, he can go through the car and its contents. If he decides to let the motorist go with a warning, he will turn as if to walk away, then stop and ask, "Are you carrying any drugs?" The answer always is no, so the officer continues, "Do you mind if I take a look?" Under law, if the motorist says OK, the search proceeds. If the driver declines,

the officer can call in a dog trained to sniff out narcotics. If the dog indicates drugs are present, the car is searched.

Under Florida law, as interpreted by the courts, money found in a car can be seized if the officer determines there is "probable cause" that it is related to drugs or other illegal activity. Officers learn the telltale signs: small-denomination bills packaged in \$1,000 rolls for ease in transactions; money stowed in cloth Crown Royal liquor bags, a favorite for dealers; money wrapped in aluminum foil and tucked under a spare tire.

Crafting The Coverage

Beginning in February 1992, *Sentinel* reporters Brazil and Berry spent more than six weeks in Vogel's office reviewing more than 250 case files and copying thousands of pages of documents. Although Vogel and persons in his office sensed an underlying hostility, nonetheless they cooperated with the reporters. According to Nancye Jones, counsel for the sheriff, "they admitted on more than one occasion that, although they disagreed with the law itself, they recognized that the Volusia County Sheriff's Office was totally following the letter of the law and was not doing anything questionable."

The two journalists' *Sentinel* series began 14 June 1992 under a front-page banner headline, "Tainted Cash or Easy Money?" — this and succeeding articles offered the following arguments:

- That the sheriff's squad "has taken tens of thousands of dollars from motorists against whom there is no evidence of wrongdoing or any criminal record ... and in virtually every case, the people stopped and stripped of their cash were either black or Hispanic." The *Sentinel's* survey found that 90% of the 262 seizure cases involved minorities.

- "In 199 of 262 cases — three out of every four — no charges were filed. Yet in only four cases did drivers get all of their money back ... Rather than go to court to defend seizures, the agency [sheriff's office] deals with the drivers, drug dealers included. Motorists can get some of their money back if they

agree not to sue the agency."

- "There are no written rules governing seizures. No higher authority outside the agency reviews results. There is no penalty for frivolous stops or seizures."

The articles were the first in a barrage of hostile *Sentinel* reportage and editorial commentary that ultimately totaled (through 3 May 1993) 56 articles, 19 editorials, five cartoons, 49 letters to the editor, plus three full-page ads touting the Pulitzer. Most of the articles stressed that 90% of the seizures were from minorities.



Dope runners' nemesis: Volusia County Sheriff Robert Vogel's I-95 highway drug-money shakedowns produced outstanding results, substantial controversy and slanted, hostile coverage. Photo: Pat Jarrell/*Florida Today*

Bogus Racism Charge

Vogel's office also reviewed the 262 cases and found that, indeed, a high percentage involved minorities — but 74%, rather than the 90% claimed by the *Sentinel*. Yet is the figure disproportionate? Florida Department of Law Enforcement statistics show that more than half of the persons arrested in the state for drug offenses are blacks. As Vogel states, however, "This in no way reflects on the majority of African-American citizens and their families. Florida citizens of all races and ethnic back-

grounds want their families and their neighborhoods to be free of drugs and violent crime."

The sheriff also took issue with the *Sentinel's* contention that since few arrests were made, this program hurts innocent persons. The *Sentinel* said the 262 seizures resulted in 63 arrests; Vogel's people looked at the same cases and counted 107 arrests — a considerable difference. Further, information about seizures is routinely given to the DEA and other police agencies.

According to Sergeant Bobby Jones, commander of Vogel's special squad, "A lot of times our information helps round out a case DEA is making elsewhere." Jones testified last year in a drug conspiracy trial in Richmond, Virginia, in which an I-95 seizure played a part. Another Volusia seizure helped get convictions on a cocaine ring operating for a decade based in Hazlehurst, Georgia; five dealers got sentences ranging from 12 years to life in prison.

Another theme of the *Sentinel* articles was that the forfeiture program is freewheeling, with uniformed officers acting on their own initiatives in seizing money. One article stated, "Chief Circuit Judge McFerrin Smith was dismayed by the *Sentinel's* findings and questioned whether the agency was more interested in curbing crime or collecting cash. 'At best, it sounds borderline, doesn't it?' he asked."

When Smith was asked about this statement, the judge replied that what he actually told reporter Brazil was, "If the situation was as you described, it would be deplorable ... but you are not telling the whole story." Smith said he also explained to Brazil that a state court must give final approval to all forfeitures, even those which are not contested. "When the articles appeared," Smith told us, "I told the *Sentinel* they were hurting my feelings by leaving me out. I'm ready to try a forfeiture case anytime, but nobody calls me."

Indeed, only one of the 262 forfeitures was tested in court — and Vogel lost, in a sense. The case involved \$265,000 taken from a man from the Washington, D.C., area who claimed he was a professional gambler. A

judge refused to allow testimony about the man's drug activities in his hometown and ordered the money returned. But the Internal Revenue Service stepped in and seized the funds.

Editors and reporters can shape articles to claim credit for themselves when none is warranted and trumpet victory when none exists. This is exactly what happened ...

Several months later, arrested in New Jersey with massive amounts of cocaine in his car, the defendant was convicted and sentenced to 40 years.

Soliciting Witnesses

In an attempt to drum up witnesses for the governor's panel, the *Sentinel* repeatedly ran a boxed appeal to locate motorists detained by Vogel's squad while driving through Volusia County.

The plea for witnesses flopped. As Vogel summarized in a 22 January letter to the Chiles panel, "Not one person from whom money was seized on I-95 appeared before the committee to complain, despite a concerted effort to encourage the attendance of any and all who felt wronged by the law or the Volusia County Sheriff's Office."

The panel knew the names of persons involved in cases where the *Sentinel* had alleged unfairness. These included a man (\$37,895 seized) who claimed to have won the Florida lottery six times in 1990 alone, in amounts of \$267,000, \$27,000, \$25,000 (three times) and \$15,000.

Inherent in a newspaper's power is the fact that it has the *de facto* "last word" in public discussions. Editors and reporters can shape articles to claim credit for themselves when none is warranted and trumpet victory when none exists. This is exactly what happened in the instance of the Vogel investigation.

On 26 February the Chiles panel issued a report that gave Vogel's forfeiture program a clean bill of health and made recommendations for minor procedural changes — ones which

Vogel had already instituted (for instance, a staff lawyer must approve seizures by patrolmen). The report essentially repudiated the *Sentinel's* series of articles.

That the panel found no evidence of racism, a core charge of the Pulitzer-winning series, was not mentioned in the *Sentinel's* coverage on the panel report. Nor did the *Sentinel* report that the panel found no violations of the law. Nonetheless, a two-column headline on the *Sentinel's* front page said, "Vogel Panel Disbands: 'He's Cleaned

Up His Act.'" The latter quotation was attributed to the panel's chief counsel, J. Hardin Peterson.

The panel's report was the culmination of an investigation for which the *Sentinel* had campaigned, both on its editorial and news pages. Given the amount of space devoted to creation of the panel, the *Sentinel* gave its actual findings remarkably short shrift.

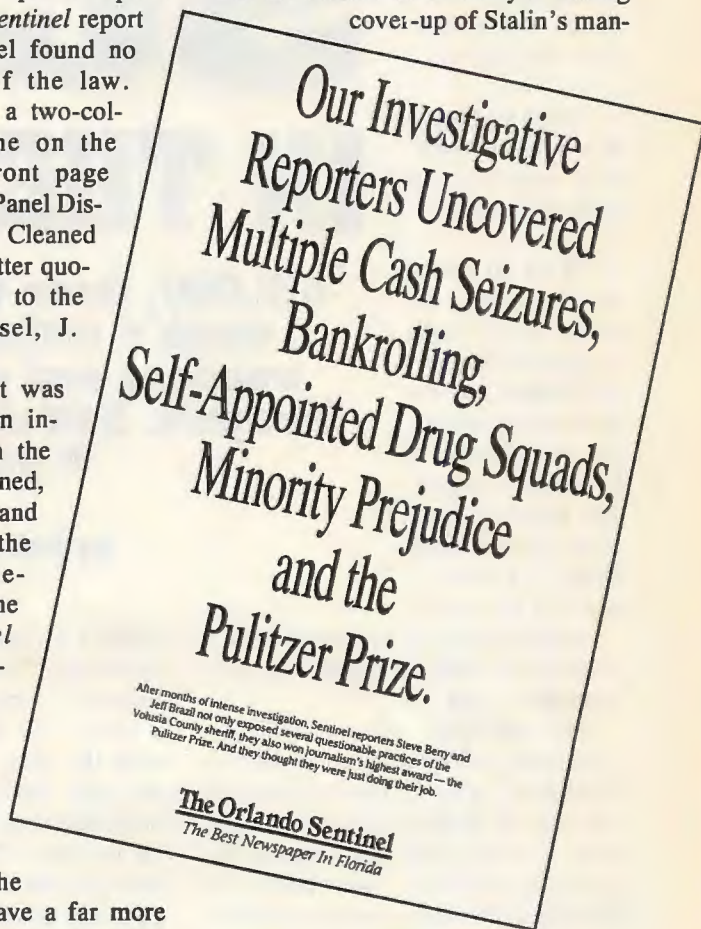
By contrast, the *Daytona Beach News-Journal*, which had also run articles critical of the forfeiture program, gave a far more accurate and objective account on the outcome of the Chiles panel. Its story was headlined, "Cash Seizure Policy Gets Panel OK." The paper quoted one panel member who said, "I haven't seen any evidence of, or ongoing systematic abuse of, minorities." Also, counsel Peterson reportedly stated, "I really don't see any basis at this point in time for the governor to chastise Sheriff Vogel for what he's done." Neither quotation appeared in the *Sentinel*.

That the Pulitzer Prize was awarded to Brazil and Berry after their stories were repudiated points up a major flaw in the award process. The Pulitzer's advisory board acts solely on the basis of articles put before it; no paper seriously seeking a prize is going to be dumb enough to tell the Pulitzer people that doubt has been

cast upon the reporting involved. This is especially true in the investigative reporting category.

What is the solution? When a paper nominates its work for the Pulitzer Prize, it should include any rebuttals made by any target of such work, or incorporate the outcome of any official inquiries into the topic.

The *Orlando Sentinel's* conduct is not as wicked as Duranty's witting cover-up of Stalin's man-



This self-congratulatory full-page advertisement ran repeatedly in *The Orlando Sentinel* after Brazil and Berry won the Pulitzer Prize for questionable "investigative reporting."

made fame or Janet Cooke's fabrication of a story about a child heroin addict. But it is a prize example of reporting tailored to fit a predetermined conclusion by omitting evidence to the contrary. It is especially reprehensible as an effort to defeat a successful attack in the war on drugs.

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"Thank you for calling Freedom Fighters. We are pleased our operation has greatly aided a humanitarian effort. At this time, withdrawal of our military units has begun. We thank all participants and volunteers for support."

— Taped Operation Save Sarajevo voice-mail response, 23 September 1993.

And so comes to a close one of the more intriguing, amateurish and unbelievable scams *Soldier Of Fortune* has encountered in its 18-year history. The perpetrators at least think it has come to a close ... more on this later.

"Operation Save Sarajevo" (OSS) is more than just intriguing, it's also incredibly inept.

The basic pitch was that OSS — conducted under the auspices of the "Freedom Fighters" from a post office box in Capitol Heights, Maryland — was recruiting veterans to conduct military operations in Serbian-controlled territory around Bosnia's besieged capital of Sarajevo, primarily to "neutralize" Serb artillery positions.

Those capable volunteers selected were to receive three weeks' refresher training and one week of combat, for which they would be paid \$10,000 along with, hopefully, a \$5,000 "victory bonus." The initial voice-mail recruiting message stated: "Wimps not needed nor wanted. Women and gays are welcome."

Accordingly, *SOF* called the OSS phone number (still in operation as we go to press — 202-973-2145). Subsequently, we spoke with George Barnes and Ron Pettiford, both representing themselves as spokesmen for the Freedom Fighters.

Barnes, who would only describe himself as a former IBM employee presently retired, admitted he had no

MERC SCAM IN THE MAKING

\$10,000, three weeks' training, one week's action, expenses paid, weapons and ammo — all to save Sarajevo. Sound too good to be true? It probably is.

by Robert K. Brown

military background, yet he was quite articulate. He told *SOF* how he thought "... more than 100 people at a time ... go in ... They're working with the local partisans ... They've not only disabled artillery, but also have taken out a few tanks." He went on to note, "The Serbs are baffled because the Freedom Fighters are guys and gals from the U.S. and some from Britain, France and Germany." (*Whoowie!*)

Barnes explained how after "... a



Ron Pettiford, chief spokesman for "Operation Save Sarajevo."
Photo: *Daily Press*, Newport News-Hampton, Virginia

ment, while all volunteers were "subjected to a number of pretty intensive interrogations."

Ron Pettiford, the second PR person *SOF* spoke with, was less glib but more windy. When asked his age, he responded, "I would love to talk about myself, but it's the operation that I'm here to speak about. I'm not going to comment on anything about myself." When *SOF* pushed the age issue, Pettiford said the matter was "really not relevant ... I will tell you that I'm in my late 20s." (*Whooo, whooo, whooo!*)

Pettiford said he was brought into the privately funded organization, backed by wealthy individuals from Texas and Fortune 500 companies who were interested in assisting the Bosnians since the United Nations and the West had failed to act, as a spokesman. Pettiford was obviously uncomfortable with the concept of combat, as he noted how the mission was to "simply disarm" artillery pieces.

SOF asked, "What do you mean, 'Disarm?' — Destroy, right?"

Pettiford replied, "Well, disabling is really what is going on ... The goal is just to neutralizeartil-

very tough one week of combat," the intrepid troopers head to London or Paris for R&R, then return to the United States. He added that as of 28 July, "four different sets of teams" had been operationally deployed. Barnes also claimed 20% of OSS personnel were women "... employed in administrative and nursing duties ... Several have actually been in on this fighting." (*Yeah, and your mother wears combat boots.*)

A retired Marine Corps colonel, according to Barnes, was in charge of recruit-

lery. For instance ... explosives on firing mechanisms." (Whew.) He stated that some OSS team members had been captured and subsequently ransomed. (Whew, again.)

Pre-mission training had been conducted at sites in Vermont and Virginia. Pettiford claimed to have visited one such site, but was unable to describe the training other than to mention how the volunteers were "... going through various maneuvers ... I did see some target shooting."

Pettiford stumbled all over himself when *SOF* asked about this "target shooting."

SOF: I have had some experience in the field of marksmanship. At what ranges were they engaging the targets?

Pettiford (RP): I'm not familiar with all of the technical aspects of shooting.

SOF: Were they engaging targets at 50, 100 or 1,000 meters?

RP: Again, I don't know all the details of how the training ...

SOF: I'm trying to get an idea of what the distance was from the shooter to the target.

RP: Well, what I saw was — again, I was only there for a very brief period.

SOF: Can you compare the distance to the length of a football field? Was it half the distance, twice the distance, or about the distance of a football field?

RP: Well, the machine-gun shooting appeared to be the distance of about, I'm guessing, 40 or 50 yards.

SOF: How far were the targets for the M16s?

RP: Those were the M16s, the machine guns. [Hmnnnnnn ...]

Pettiford said the first combat operations took place in late June; Barnes cited the first week of July. Not only would Pettiford not reveal his age, but he was reluctant to mention other media that had contacted OSS, explaining how, "It's basically a situation where we're not about to breach certain securities." This guy is a real whiz. I've seen better, believe it or not, in the Persian Gulf.

When we first heard of this op, our initial evaluation was that it was some type of recruiting scam, i.e., "Send your application — with \$50 — and we'll process it." In most cases, the only such "processing" would be a deposit of the \$50 into the scam artist's bank account. But this theory was laid to rest when we arranged for a number of highly qualified ex-SpecOps personnel to call OSS and leave their names,

FREEDOM FIGHTERS

P.O. Box 3822, Capitol Heights, M.D. — (202) 973-2145

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A vanguard of American Freedom Fighters arrived in France over the July 4th weekend after a month of intensive combat training in Virginia and Vermont.

Liason with French Foreign Legion advisors will mark the second phase of Operation Save Sarajevo, followed by the arrival of additional veteran soldiers to complete a first wave infiltration of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The highly trained mercenaries have been financed by major corporations and private citizens who are determined to stop the ongoing massacre of innocent civilians in the former Yugoslavia.

Sarajevo's Serbian gun emplacements were selected as an initial target because of the symbolic Olympic background. Subsequently, other beleaguered areas will be neutralized by disabling heavy artillery and tanks.

Although a general news blackout has again been imposed on Operation Save Sarajevo, basic information can be obtained by contacting press representative Ron Pettiford at: (202) 973-2145.

*Mr. Plunkett -
will be overseas until end of July,
Further reports on mission will be made
from London, Sincerely
RP*

Amateurish press release put out by OSS. Note in second paragraph how Foreign Legion advisers are mentioned without stating what part they might play in OSS ops. Neither Pettiford nor Barnes have responded to requests for additional information as we go to press; however, Pettiford stated that a press conference would be held in early September, which did not occur.

phone numbers and resumes. None were called back.

So then we figured perhaps the scammers had found a "mark" who swallowed their pitch; perhaps something to the effect of, "If you contribute 'x' amount, we will save Sarajevo. Of course, because of security considerations, we cannot introduce you to any of the volunteers or administrators. Nor can you visit the assembly areas," etc., etc. "But we will promise you monthly operational summaries, after-action reports," etc.

Under this second approach, a mark cannot find out how he is being had, while the voice-mail messages would simply be gimmicks reinforcing the scam.

Of course, maybe they're just trying to impress somebody's girlfriend.

Robert K. Brown is Soldier Of Fortune's Editor/Publisher. ✕



Poor-quality photo included in OSS press packet. It's obviously amateur hour, with dorks from Central Casting carrying a miscellany of weapons and no web gear. It's interesting to note how no reports of the alleged dazzling OSS operations have appeared in the press, nor are these teams known of by any of *SOF*'s contacts in Bosnia. These guys are smoking dope.

EQUAL RIGHTS EQUAL FIGHTS

No Combat Exclusion = No Draft Exclusion for Women

by James Brantley

In 1981 the case of *Rostker vs. Goldberg* came before the U.S. Supreme Court. Several men were challenging the fact that males must register for the draft while females do not. The high court upheld males-only draft registration, but the one and only justification it used was that women were "by law, and policy, exempted from combat."

But the justices' ruling is moot now that Bill Clinton has ordered women into combat training on fighter jets, bombers and attack helicopters; he has also ordered ground forces to provide justification as to why women cannot engage in ground combat. The only basis for the Supreme Court's decision exempting women from the draft has thus been removed.

As you might suspect, Clinton's move to open combat slots to women has a purpose other than invigorating our armed forces with female martial prowess, verve, élan or striking power. Just as he planned to gain greater acceptance of gays in mainstream

society through legitimizing their presence in the military, he is opening combat to women to help assure passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) when it comes before Congress and state legislatures once more. To understand this, one has to learn a little background on the ERA issue.

The ERA is a proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution. It states that "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex." Although it sounds simple, this statement brings up all sorts of complicated legal questions and throws issues like sexual harassment and job discrimination under a completely new light.

The overriding purpose of the ERA is to give women explicit constitutional protection not afforded by the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment. Its objective is to place sex discrimination within the direct context of violation of constitutional rights, the most serious sanction in the U.S. legal system.

Draft Beer, Not Women

The ERA was first proposed in 1923, but no action was taken until 1972 when it was finally passed by the U.S. Senate. To become part of the Constitution, the ERA had to be ratified in 38 state legislatures by 1982. As people took a closer look at the likely impact of the ERA on American society, resistance grew. If the amendment were ratified, women not only would have all the same rights as men, they would have the same obligations written in stone into our Constitution.

Chief among objections to the ERA was women coming under draft conscription. If the nation was ever again to draft young men against their will during a national emergency and send them into combat, the ERA would require the

SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM
Registration Form
READ PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT ON REVERSE
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

1 DATE OF BIRTH
Name of Month Day Year of Birth

2 SEX
 MALE
 FEMALE

3 SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBER

4 PRINT FULL LEGAL NAME
Last First Middle Jr., II, etc.

5 CURRENT MAILING ADDRESS
Number and Street City State or Foreign Country Apt. or Room No. Zip Code (Must be Entered)

6 PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS
Number and Street City State or Foreign Country Zip Code (Must be Entered) Apt. or Room No.

7 CURRENT TELEPHONE NUMBER
Area Code Number

8 I AFFIRM THE FOREGOING STATEMENTS ARE TRUE
Signature of Registrant
Today's Date
YOU SHOULD RECEIVE A REGISTRATION ACKNOWLEDGMENT WITHIN 90 DAYS

Postal Date Stamp
 NO
 NO
Draft Inmate

OMB APPROVAL 1540-0041

SSS FORM 1 (FEB 80) (PREVIOUS EDITIONS MAY BE USED)

same duty for young women — in equal numbers.

The draft issue became the chief argument against the ERA. Young women went into state legislature after state legislature to express their feelings about being drafted. As a result, the ERA was three states short of ratification when the 30 June 1982 deadline arrived. Feminist Jane Manbridge is candidly honest in her book *Why We Lost The ERA*, stating how “public resistance to women being subject to the draft the same as men, killed the ERA.”

It seems the American public never became suspicious as to why the strongly pacifist, anti-military feminist movement was so insistent that their sisters in the military be sent into combat — of course, the liberal press wasn't going to volunteer such information. Simply put, opening combat to women in the military was the key to making them subject to the draft. If women were already subject to the draft when the ERA again came up for approval, the argument that killed it the first time around would no longer exist.

This strategy of the feminist movement was brilliant in concept and flawless in execution. What was rejected in a fair and open debate by the American people in the '80s would be decreed by a liberal Democratic president in the '90s.

Kill Draft — Save Willie's Face

The problem Clinton faces now involves the current Selective Service System. All men are required to register for the draft at age 18 so that they can be called up in the event of a national emergency. Clinton realizes that if there is ever another court test of the males-only draft, young women will be ordered to register due to removal of the basis for the previous Supreme Court decision (female combat exclusion).

While Clinton may be satisfied with setting the stage for women to be subject to the draft — thus assuring passage of the ERA — it seems he doesn't want females to actually have to register for the draft on his watch. This would, at best, provide another major embarrassment coming right on the heels of the gays-in-the-military debacle.

To avoid this problem, Clinton has decided to issue a presidential proclamation putting a complete end to all draft registration. As of this writing, this proclamation hasn't come forth, but House Democrats managed to push through a measure in late June that would cut off funding for the Selective Service System. This would effectively close the nation's local draft boards. The excuse used in promoting the measure involved cost savings, yet the price for maintaining the entire registration system each year is only around \$6 million — a small price to pay to have a pool of recruits ready to answer a national emergency.

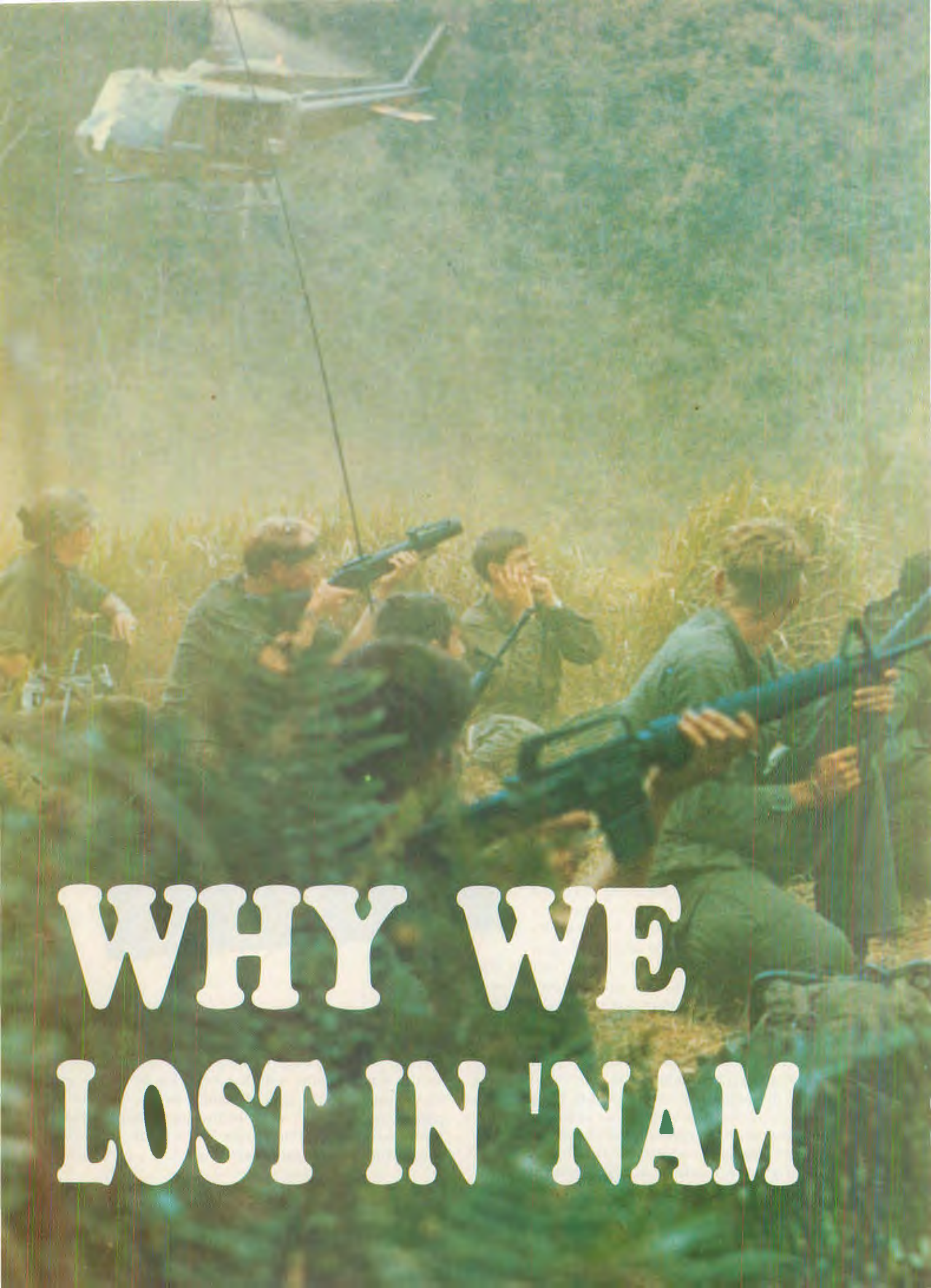
If Clinton has decided women will make good combat soldiers or draftees, one would wonder why the military is still allowed to have segregated team sports. If women can be on the combat teams protecting our national survival, why can't they be on the academy football teams that face Notre Dame? Opening combat to women, but not allowing them to play on regular male sports teams is analogous to telling women that they can never make it in the minor leagues, then assigning them to a major-league slot.

Then there is the issue of gender-norming on physical



test results. The military may have been able to avoid this issue as long as women didn't have to be relied on as combat soldiers, but now things have changed. Every soldier must have the confidence that his fellow soldiers have passed all the rigors of training he was required to pass. How soon will it be before the president issues orders integrating military team sports or directing truly equal training of all personnel? Don't hold your breath.

A 20-year U.S. Air Force veteran, James Brantley has authored numerous articles for SOF dealing with gays in the military and women in combat. ✕



WHY WE LOST IN 'NAM

Five-Tour Vietnam Vet Interviews VC and NVA Field Commanders

by Col. David Hackworth

Photos courtesy DoD

My reaction to landing at Tan Son Nhut Airport last July was much like the feeling I used to get during a helicopter assault into a hot LZ. The adrenaline pumped, my gut was drum-tight and my mouth was dry as sandpaper.

It was a white-knuckle landing. The 30-year-old Russian passenger jet didn't make things easier as it bounced and wheezed its way down the runway. But what really blew me out, once on the ground, were little guys wearing green pith helmets with red stars and NVA (North Vietnamese Army) uniforms. My head reassured me that peace had come to Vietnam and there was no reason to be rattled, but this message didn't get to my hands, which were shaking as if I had palsy. Once out of the air terminal, I settled down, caught my breath, and within a week I realized that very little had changed in South Vietnam except for the color of the flag.

The Vietnam War not only blew apart our nation and the U.S. military machine, it also destroyed Lyndon B. Johnson's presidency. Before he hung up his presidential spurs, LBJ prophetically described the Vietnam experience: "I feel like a hitchhiker caught in a Texas hail storm: I can't run, I can't hide and I can't make it go away."

However, nothing, not even George Bush's post-Desert Storm proclamation, "By God, we've kicked the Vietnam Syndrome once and for all," can make Vietnam — America's longest war and only defeat — go away. Vietnam has gripped the nation's conscience like a pit bull that won't let go until it's exacted its pound of truth. We must learn once and for all the lessons from that military disaster, so young men don't ever again bleed unnecessarily on some future battlefield.

In 1971, while in uniform in Vietnam, I sounded off to the national press. After so many years of lies, I wanted to stop the madness of filling body bags and bring the truth to the American people that the war was unwinnable, a running sore. I said, "Let's get out of Vietnam. We got into this goddamn war

with an absolute World War II mentality. ... Our brass don't understand the nature of this war."

At the end of my swan song, I also predicted that in four years the North Vietnamese flag would fly over Saigon. Four years to the month later, NVA tanks busted through the South Vietnamese presidential palace's front gate and Northern troopers raised their flag.

Since I fell on my sword — and I didn't miss that sucker; I hit it dead center on my belly button — the U.S.



Above: Gunner from 173rd Airborne Brigade, 17th Cav sends message via Ma Deuce telegraph. Firepower proved not to be the answer to the Vietnam question.

Men of Company D, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade, return sniper fire and call in gunship support during a search-and-secure mission north of Ai Lao River, 50 klicks northwest of Bong Song, March 1970. Speed of gunships and air power struck fear in enemy — until he learned and adapted to counter the threat.



Troops from 1st Battalion, 4th Marines sweep through elephant grass during operation near LZ Robin-Hill, June 1968. When Charlie couldn't hide in the grass, he would hide among the populace, and U.S. strategy played right into his hands.

military has entered into a full-scale campaign of denial regarding Vietnam. It's as if the Vietnam War didn't happen. A serious postmortem of the war has not been conducted: The military school systems, ignoring the lessons of Vietnam, virtually stopped teaching counterinsurgency for two decades.

During this period, unit training went back to preparing for the big-battle tank war in Central Europe, and unit counterinsurgency training was placed on the back burner. To further muddy the waters, a squad of senior Vietnam-era officers have rewritten the history of the Vietnam War into a distorted *Alice in Wonderland* account of what really happened. The thrust of this revisionist campaign is that the U.S. Army won on the ground but lost the war because spineless, politically motivated civilian leaders wouldn't go the distance, and the left-wing press poi-

soned the public well; other self-serving scoundrels have created additional foot lockers full of similar half-baked, inaccurate assertions.

Pursuing the adage, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it," I went back to Vietnam and spent three weeks talking to former enemy soldiers from Four-Star General Tran Van Tra to Private Nguyen Van An, to see how they saw the war, to sort out the true skinny and to pass this knowledge onto the troops, past, present and future.

These conversations reinforced what I had learned during five tours with infantry in Vietnam and had written about in the 1968

Vietnam Primer, which was based on my own experience and the interviews I had in 1967. I interviewed more than 100 NVA and VC (Viet Cong) leaders from squad to battalion level while they were cooling their heels in American POW camps.

These interviews shaped the tactics I subsequently employed with my recondo Hardcore Battalion (9th Division, 4/39th Infantry). Based upon this insight, the Hardcore stole a page from North Vietnamese commander Gen. Vo Ngyuen Giap's little book on guerrilla warfare. Over six months, the men in my mostly draftee shake-and-bake battalion out-guerrillaed the guerrilla, killed more than 2,500 VC and cleared a chunk of the Mekong Delta from VC Main Force. Our losses were 25 U.S. KIA.

During my return trip I rented a car, hired an interpreter and drove to My Tho, a major city in the Mekong

Delta, where I met retired Brigadier General Bay Cao. Cao fought from 1945 to 1975, rising from a guerrilla soldier to vice commanding officer of Military Region 8, an AO in the delta about the size of Rhode Island. I spent two years hunting in his AO as an adviser to the South Vietnamese army and as a commander of U.S. conventional and special forces deployed along the Cambodian border.

I found Bay Cao to be a shy and unassuming man. He lives in a peasant's hut without running water or electricity on the outskirts of the city, unlike the northern fat cats who now live in the same Saigon villas once occupied by corrupt South Vietnamese generals. Cao is 74 years old, but still walks soldier straight, looks you dead in the eye and has a wonderful sense of humor. He's a real nationalist believer in the cause of the revolution and a true patriot.

Cao welcomed me with open arms and chuckled when I told him about my background. He said that in 1969 he barely escaped a Hardcore Battalion ambush. He was moving by sampan in daylight and was less than 300 yards from one of my ambushes when "local people warned me [of the ambush] by beating on the water with paddles." That's how war goes: We could have talked earlier under far different circumstances.

Bright Lies

Cao repeatedly stressed that in guerrilla warfare it is essential the guerrilla have the people on their side because the people provide food, intelligence, recruits and labor. He emphasized the Mao dictum that people are to the guerrilla what water is to a fish: Remove the water and the fish dies.



Marine engineers sweep road ahead of USMC tank as it advances toward Khe Sanh, April 1968. More than 60% of U.S. casualties in Vietnam were from mines and booby traps, yet even today little training is conducted to deal with this threat.

He said that one of Gen. William C. Westmoreland's (the initial U.S. military commander in Vietnam and the war's primary architect) biggest mistakes was to abandon the South Vietnamese people by fighting his big-battle war in the hinterland and along the borders of Laos and Cambodia. He smiled and said, "Westmoreland took the Viet Cong bait.

The strategy Westmoreland used was written in Hanoi." When asked about Westmoreland's 1967 claim that "We are prevailing," Bay Cao said that was a "big laugh," and a "bright lie."

After the three-division Operation Attleboro in 1967, a much-acclaimed U.S. victory Bay Cao saw as a U.S. defeat, he was certain that the VC could win on the battlefield. Of the Tet Offensive one year later, Cao said, "We

knew that we had won on your home front, too. The Tet campaign broke the U.S. public's fighting spirit."

He was right. After Tet, the U.S. started pulling out of Vietnam under the covering myth of the "Vietnamization Program," a shell game that allowed U.S. forces to cut and run and turned the war back over to an "improved" South Vietnamese military machine. About the same time Cao saw light at the end of the tunnel that his side could win, I reached the same conclusion.

I told a shocked Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Harold K. Johnson, that unless we developed a strategy and workable tactics, we would lose the war. Good Gen. Johnson was obviously not moved by my message, for only a few months later, after the Tet 1968 Offensive, he told the American people, "We are definitely winning." His judgment was clouded by statements by Westmoreland, who believed his own post-Tet inflated body count of 37,000 enemy dead

and chanted that it was a great U.S. victory. Only a few months before the Tet Offensive, Westmoreland had declared that, "The enemy's hopes are bankrupt," and that he was on the ropes.

The American people could not square how the enemy could be on the ropes one minute and deliver a surprise king-hit punch the next.



Then-Maj. Hackworth (left) with Lt. John D. Howard (center) and Capt. Don Chapman (right) of 327th Parachute Infantry, Vietnam, take a break 7 February 1966. Photo: author's collection

Westmoreland's PR deception angered the American public and the vast majority became generally turned off to the war.

Bay Cao said, "Our first step against the U.S. was to get experience [how the U.S. fought]. Our second step was to develop tactics to counter your mobility and machines, and the final step was to wear you down. We were patient. We were prepared to fight a long and protracted war. You were not. We studied your tactics, monitored your radios. Americans talked much on radio. Too much. Give us much intelligence. We even knew when your B-52 bombing attacks would come. ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) spies tell us. We have spies everywhere. Spies are the most important soldier in war."

He continued: "We always knew your plans. You told us. First come your helicopters. Then your air strikes and then your troops. Our aim was not to stand and fight, but to run away, unless we thought we could win tac-

tically or, as in Tet, we could win a great psychological victory."

Next, I visited Cai Be District where my Hardcore Battalion had spent a number of months conducting operations in the muddy delta rice paddies, trying to avoid nasty wall-to-wall booby traps while tracking down "the Cong." Ironically, almost where my command bunker was at a fire base named "Danger," I located retired VC Colonel Le Nguc Diep, who commanded the 261 B Main Force Battalion. The 261 B was a tough unit my battalion had come up against a bunch of times.

Diep had commanded this unit for four years and another infantry battalion later for two more years before he became a regimental commander. He was an old pro, and when he checked out of the net he had 45 years of almost nonstop combat — 30 years mainly in the delta against the French, South Vietnamese and Americans, and 15 years in Cambodia fighting the Khmer Rouge — under his pistol belt.

U.S. Taught VC Tactics

He said, "The U.S. taught us tactics and we won the war. Our school was the battlefield. Few of your commanders stay long enough to understand how to fight." He emphasized that Americans were too dependent on their machines and firepower, and they did not understand the importance of the people side of war.

It was in My Hiep village near Cai Be where I met former Captain Vo Van Dut. Dut had spent eight years as a VC soldier, and when the war ended he was a company commander in the 261 A Main Force Battalion. My battalion had been belly-to-belly with the 261 A Battalion during a number of stiff fights, and it turned out that he respected my unit as much as I respected his. As we walked over an old killing field, I told Dut that the ground and conditions in the delta, as in most of Vietnam, favored his side and that we were like fish out of water.

He laughed and said, "Yes, your army acted like the British fish during your own war for independence. America lost here because its commanders didn't understand the people's cause, the terrain or the nature of the war."

Dut's view mirrored mine. The U.S. military in Vietnam hit the Vietnamese with more mortar and artillery shells and three times the bomb tonnage than were used against both Japan and Germany in all of World War II. Westmoreland, a former artillery man, believed firepower and technology would do the trick and that his strategy of attrition — the same stratagem used in the Civil War — would wear the enemy down. This technique had done the job in all of our other wars, why not Vietnam, went his thinking.

While in My Hiep, I also met Col. Le Lam and Col. Dang Viet Mai. Lam and Mai had almost 15 years as battalion commanders between them. The average U.S. battalion and brigade commander in Vietnam served a six-month tour. Lam and Mai were like pro football team coaches playing the ultimate Super Bowl season after season, while U.S. commanders, in comparison, were pink-

**Many of our light
infantry leaders suffer
from that common
Army disease: CRS
(Can't Remember Shit)
concerning the bitter,
down-and-dirty lessons
of Vietnam.**

checked math teachers filling in for our pro coaches who were killed by careerism. To become a general, the players punched a six-month battalion command ticket — and America lost the game.

Mai, Lam, a dozen other former VC soldiers and I visited old battlefields and discussed tactics, techniques and operations with the enthusiasm of young leaders at infantry school. There didn't seem to be any bitterness or anger. They didn't hate me, nor I them. We accepted that back then we were soldiers just following orders.

I asked Mai and Lam about the VC/NVA tactic of "hugging the belt." They said this technique was devel-

oped during the war with the French and was designed to fight at close range to avoid French — and later enormous amounts of U.S. — firepower. Most of our fights in Vietnam centered around breaking the hug, pulling back the wounded and then pummeling the entrenched enemy. This scene was played again and again throughout the war and almost always at its end a U.S. general declared we had won. The World War II standard of who held the ground at the end of the fight was used to claim victory. But in Vietnam, real estate had no value. The real objective was not turf, but people's allegiance to a good government and a just cause.

I asked Lam how his people could take the punishment U.S. firepower laid on them throughout the war. He replied, "We tried always to fight when on defensive from strong bunkers, deep trenches and prepared positions. Your bombs and rockets were not effective unless make direct hit."

Our bombs, rockets and shells obviously made one hell of a lot of direct hits: Three million Vietnamese died during the war.

During the war, Pentagon brass believed the Vietnam conflict was purely military, not political, and that firepower and technological superiority would break the will of opposition leaders like Lam and Mai.

General Giap, the commander of the North Vietnamese army said, "In war there are the two factors — human beings and weapons. Ultimately, though, human beings are the decisive factor." Our brass didn't understand this. They were too busy re-fighting World War II. Generals have a history of fighting tomorrow's war with yesterday's strategy and tactics. Nor did the American war leaders at the top understand what made the tough, resourceful and idealistic VC and NVA tick, or how corrupt, spiritless, and third-rate the army of South Vietnam was.

Ironically, those of us in the trenches understood Giap's "human factor." Most grunts held the Viet-

namese opponent in the highest esteem. He was an underdog fighting a giant who never gave up and never asked for quarter. In a word, he was a stud with one hell of a lot of fire in his belly. On the other hand, the average grunt hated our ARVN allies. We'd seen them "search and avoid" too often, while making the motions of fighting a war.

Know Thyself

From 1965 to 1973, U.S. units made the same mistakes again and again, frequently on the same ground. The average CO had never read the words of the ancient Chinese military philosopher, Sun-tzu, who wrote: "If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle."

I did not find one former VC leader I interviewed who hadn't studied Sun-tzu backwards and forwards. Bay Cao, at 74, could recite complete passages from Sun-tzu's writings. None knew who Karl von Clausewitz was. Yet every top American military leader who bopped through Fort Benning had cut his teeth on this German thinker who codified the principles of conventional warfare: different strokes for different folks. But what worked well for conventional troops on the plains of Europe in the 18th and 19th centuries didn't work at all in a hit-and-run jungle war against an irregular force in the 1960s and 1970s. The VC were not stuck to European rules of war written by an aristocratic staff officer.

The Vietnamese had their own winning principles of war that they forged in the heat of battle. Throughout the war, the insurgents played the tune and U.S. forces danced. They had the initiative. The VC's goal was to fight only on their terms, their time, their terrain and the ground of their choosing. When they got trapped and couldn't hightail it, they just kept low and fought like hell.

"How could you stand up against a super power that could fire more artillery rounds in one battle than your side used in one year?" I asked. Mai responded, "At first your helicopters and aircraft hard to fight. They go

fast. Much rocket, bomb and artillery fire scare our fighters. But we learn. We set ambushes. We know you run out of aircraft and bombs before we run out of spirit," Lam said. "Yes, we were weaker materially, but our spirit and will were stronger than yours. Our war was just, yours was not. Your infantry soldiers knew this, as did the American people."

Lam was right, with 1993 perfect 20/20 hindsight. But in 1965, when LBJ first stuck us in the Southeast Asian quagmire, Vietnam was a powerful new Cold War drug: easy to start, hard to stop.

Our politicians got the monkey on our back and by the time they woke up and realized it was a bad, unwinnable war, the monkey became King Kong and we were hooked big time.

During 30 years of war, using spirit, cunning and determination, the Vietnamese light infantry

force whipped three great military powers: the Japanese, the French and, in the end, the United States. Lam explained, "Why we fight hard and never give up is because to the Vietnamese people nothing is more precious than our freedom and independence. It was worth dying for."

Twenty years ago, the last U.S. combat unit pulled out of Vietnam and turned the war over to the Saigon generals. Two years later, that army collapsed like a tin shack on the beach after being struck by an NVA hurricane. "Vietnamization" predictably failed to stand up to NVA pressure. The South Vietnamese came totally unglued when U.S. air support was withdrawn. The NVA and VC ate the ARVN's lunch in fight after fight, until the final 1975 campaign affirmed that the misadventure was at last over.

Since the fall of Saigon, the U.S. military has stuck its head in the sand and denied the whole Vietnam experience. This sets the stage for disaster. Future wars will not include tank brigades charging across the desert, but will be low-intensity fights with

irregular forces. Since the Berlin Wall came tumbling down, we do not have a New World Order, but rather a New World Disorder, with irregular warfare such as we are seeing in the Balkans, Somalia and Peru becoming once more the main event. It is imperative that our forces be ready for such counterinsurgency campaigns.

In January 1990, retired Lieutenant General Hank Emerson ("The Gunfighter") and I were invited by Pacific Command to brief commanders and staff on our counterinsurgency experiences. Both Emerson and I were



Army firebase in the highlands: Well-sited artillery from these M102 105mm howitzers could provide fire support to a radius of 15 klicks with RAP ammo. We fired more arty, dropped more bombs in Vietnam than in all of WWII ... but it didn't work.

amazed at how our top USMC and Army leaders there had forgotten the lessons of Vietnam. We explained simple tactics and techniques that were common in Vietnam, and this knowledge was received as if it was the first sermon from the mount. It was like reinventing the wheel.

Emerson and I feel that the American experience in Vietnam has been either disregarded, written off, or perhaps totally lost. Ironically, this is exactly what U.S. leaders did with the French experience in Indochina. When asked why he ignored the long French experience in Vietnam, Westmoreland reportedly replied, "The French haven't won a war since Napoleon. What can we learn from them?" How many lives would have been saved had our brass not been so arrogant and unprofessional?

My observations of light infantry units such as the 82nd Airborne Division during Desert Shield/Storm, the USMC and U.S. Army 10th Mountain Division units in Somalia, and tagging along with grunts from the 7th and 25th Light Divisions during training exercises, have convinced

me that many of our light infantry leaders down at the bottom and Army brass up at the top suffer from that common Army disease: CRS (Can't Remember Shit) concerning the bitter, down-and-dirty lessons of Vietnam.

Doing It By The [Wrong] Book

A few years ago I accompanied a 25th Division rifle company during a counterinsurgency exercise. In the final phase, the company launched a determined attack on a bunker-line held by the "enemy." I asked the skipper later, "What the fuck are you doing attacking a fixed position in a counterinsurgency environment?" "It's how the problem is written, sir," was his reply. The bright young captain was doing his Fort Benning "find 'em, fix 'em, fight 'em and destroy 'em" thing, which was what was required to take Berlin, but which fills body bags in an unconventional war.

Attacking bunkers in Vietnam was responsible for the lion's share of the names on the Wall. Throughout the war, from the 173rd Airborne Brigade's wild assaults in 1965 against machine gun bunkers in War Zone C to the 101st Airborne Division's insane 1969 assault against fortified positions on Hamburger Hill, "Hey diddle, diddle, right up the middle" was the name of the game. Rifle companies bled and bled many times over the years, taking fortified objectives which they were frequently lured into attacking. This lack of intelligent tactics played right into the enemy's hands. Throughout the war, the enemy acted and we reacted on their turf, at their time, to their beat. You can't win a football game — or a war — by reacting or using the wrong tactics.

In all of the post-Vietnam counterinsurgency exercises I have observed over the past four years, I have seen little use of mine and booby-trap training integrated into the operations. I'm not sure if a mine/booby-trap training device has been fielded. Generals have computers, but grunts no training devices; sounds like Vietnam all over again. In Vietnam, more than 60% of all U.S. casualties came from these nasty little mothers. When we

Continued on page 84

SF'S DARKEST DAYS

by Lt. Col. R. B. Anderson

Photos by DoD



SEALs hit the beach swimming; specialized power delivery systems are also used for infil/exfil.

The tides of fortune for American SpecOps tend to ebb and flow with the nation's need. In times past, we have been well-served by SpecOps units formed or dramatically expanded to fill a need. But no more; modern war moves too fast, and odds are good that the SpecOps people available for use will be the only men we have trained and equipped when the balloon goes up. For this reason, fortunes of the SpecOps community have improved somewhat. In addition, SpecOps troops and tactics are of particular use in the rapid response, limited-scope or low-intensity conflicts typical of current military activity.

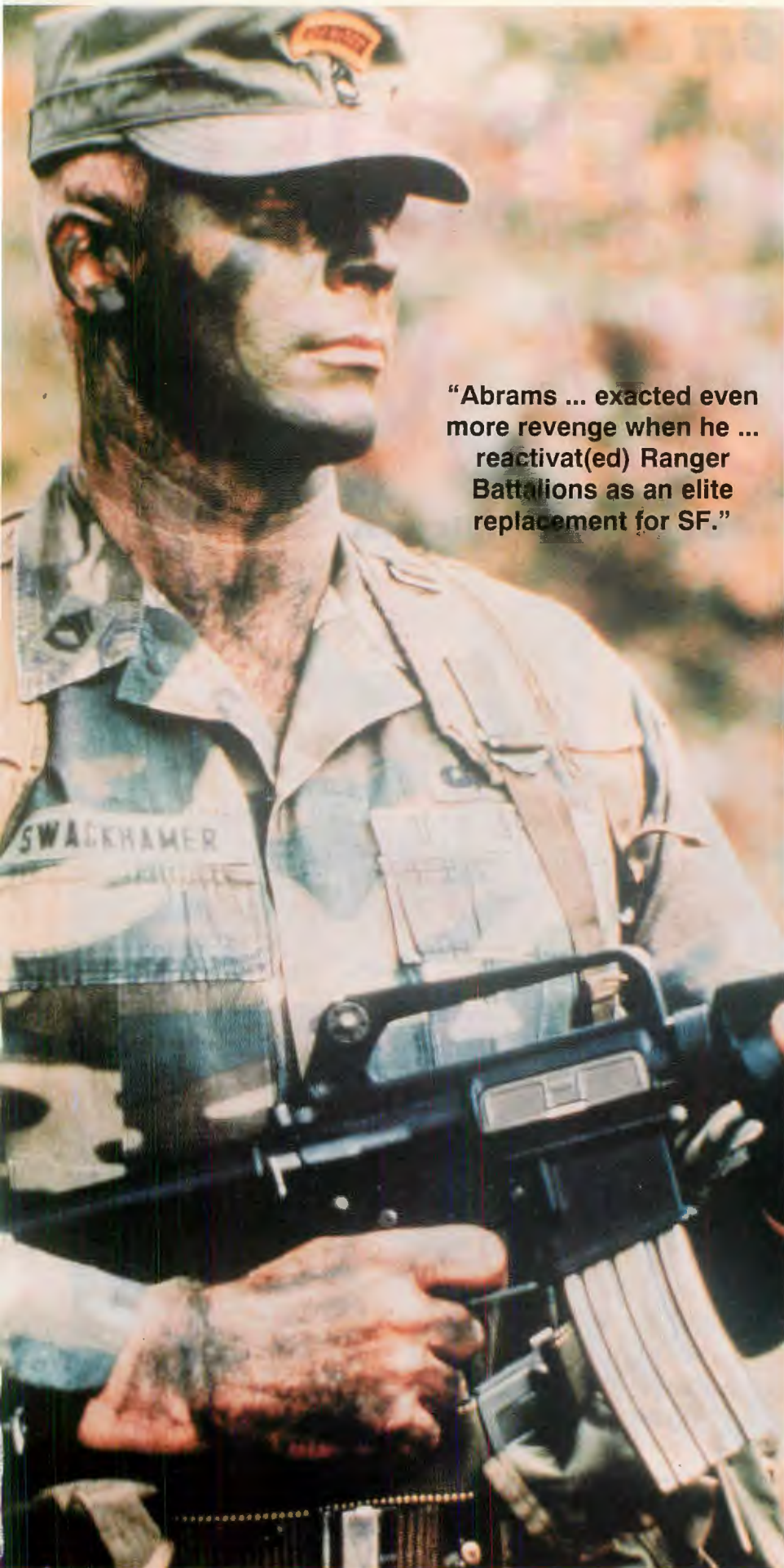
Due to space limitations, we were unable to include this informal resume of America's Ranger, SF and SEAL assets in Lieutenant Colonel Anderson's article last issue (see "Gurus of Guerrilla Warfare," Nov. '93). Because of its insight, it is presented here as a separate article.

The only thing today's Rangers have in common with their famous predecessors is the name. Historically, Rangers operated in small elements, maintained a low profile, blended with the local population, and were masters of unconventional warfare (like Special Forces). Modern Rangers operate in large groups, are conspicuous (in addition to trademark whitewall haircuts), seek publicity, and are masters of conventional infantry tactics. The Rangers in Vietnam (I was one) borrowed SF tactics and used them with great success.

General Creighton Abrams was responsible for bringing Rangers to the fore. Abrams was deputy commander of MACV/SOG from June 1967 to July 1968, when he succeeded Gen. William Westmoreland as the concurrent commander of MACV/SOG and USARV, a post he held until June 1972. Abrams was extremely embarrassed when the media discovered that some SF soldiers had assassinated a Vietnamese double agent. Abrams kicked the 5th Group out of Vietnam and exacted even more revenge when he became Army chief of staff in October 1972 and served until September 1974, reactivating Ranger Battalions as an elite replacement for SF. Although Gen. Abrams nearly succeeded in destroying SF, the Rangers never completely filled the niche. In fact, during the first several years, the precise role of Abrams' new infantry toy was undecided.

The Rangers finally locked in on airfield seizure. It

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“Abrams ... exacted even more revenge when he ... reactivat(ed) Ranger Battalions as an elite replacement for SF.”

THE RANGER WAY VS. THE SF WAY

A story making the rounds in the SpecOps community is about the Army chief of staff who asked his sergeant major, who was both Ranger and Special Forces qualified, which organization he would recommend to form a new counterterrorist unit. The sergeant major responded to the general's question with this parable:

If there were a hijacked Delta 747 being held by terrorists along with its passengers and crew, and a counterterrorist unit formed either by the Rangers or Special Forces were given the rescue/recovery mission, this is what you could expect to happen:

Ranger Option

Forces/Equipment Committed: If the Rangers went in, they would send a Ranger company of 120 men with standard Army issue equipment.

Mission Preparation: The Ranger company first sergeant would conduct a haircut and boots inspection.

Infiltration Technique: They would insist on double-timing, in company formation, wearing their combat equipment, and singing Jody cadence all the way to the site of the hijacked aircraft.

Actions in the Objective Area: Once they arrived, the Ranger company would establish their objective rally point, put out security elements, and conduct a leader's recon, reapply their face camouflage, and conduct final preparations for actions on the objective.

Results of Operation: The rescue/recovery operation would be completed within the hour, all of the terrorists and most of the passengers would have been killed, the Rangers would have sustained light casualties and the Delta 747 probably would be worthless to anyone except a scrap dealer.

SF Option

Forces/Equipment Committed: If Special Forces went in, they would only send a 12-man team (all SF units are divisible by 12 for some arcane historical reason), however, due to the exotic nature of their equipment the SF team would cost the same amount to deploy as the Ranger company.

Mission Preparation: The SF team sergeant would request relaxed grooming standards (long hair and beards) for the team.

Infiltration Technique: The team would insist on separate travel orders with max per diem, and each would get to the site of the hijacking by his own means. At least one-third of the team would insist on jumping in.

Actions in the Objective Area: Once they arrived, the SF team would cache their military uniforms, establish a team room, use their illegal team fund to stock the unauthorized team

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IMPROVISE OR DIE:

SOF DEBRIEFS ANGOLA MERC

Edited by Robert K. Brown



Between 1.5 million to 2 million troops of varied quality have turned Angola into Africa's bloodiest battleground over the past 18 years, with no end in sight. To maintain and upgrade arms purchases, MPLA government has literally sold out much of its future oil and diamond production. Photo: SOF file

While on a hunting trip to South Africa last May, I followed the press reports of escalating fighting in Angola between the socialist MPLA government and Dr. Jonas Savimbi's Unita forces. U.N.-supervised elections were held in late 1992, but Savimbi refused to accept their results, claiming they were rigged.

As a result, Unita initiated a countrywide offensive and within weeks controlled some 70% of Angola. The end of the Cold War resulted in the pullout of foreign advisers and sponsors for both Unita and the MPLA — the Soviet Union and Cuba had supported the formerly communist MPLA, while South Africa had assisted Unita. Therefore it was not surprising when the South African press started carrying reports of local white mercenaries fighting for both sides in Angola; however, facts were few.

Through Soldier Of Fortune's "old-boy network," I was contacted in South Africa by one professional who had accepted a security job from the MPLA in Angola. At least he was told it would be a simple security job. It did not turn out to be quite so "simple."

To preclude my source from being thrown in some South African slam or having one of his mates, disgruntled by his conversation with SOF, beat him about the head and shoulders with a pick handle — or worse — I will simply note that he has some experience with the South African Defense Force and that he left the MPLA's operational area early on. His story follows:

Around 15 February, I was contacted by an old army mate who asked me if I wanted a piece of a security operation in Angola, working for the ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA). I was out of work and broke, so I decided, *Why not?*

In Pretoria, we went to the home of Lani Kellar, a former colonel in the South African Defense Force (SADF), where we signed a contract. The contracts were for 30 days with no death benefits nor medical insurance. Team members got 500 rand per day (about \$150 U.S.); corporals got 600 rand, section leaders got 750 rand and team leaders 900 rand, all figured daily. Half the salary was paid in advance, with the remainder to be

paid on completion of the contract.

We were on our way the next day. The mission was fairly vague, in fact, damn vague. We were to go in and seize an oil installation somewhere in Angola and secure it so that it could be put back into production. Government troops would be brought in to provide additional security.

Some of us flew by commercial airliner from Jan Smuts International Airport in South Africa to Namibia. Then we hopped aboard small planes headed for our assembly area at Cabo Ledo, an MPLA military air base about 60 klicks south of Luanda. Other team members arrived by small planes directly from Grand Central Airport near Johannesburg.

Shoddy Style

Within three days all 54 personnel had arrived. Our officer in charge of the operation was Buks Buys, a former captain in the South African special forces. I don't know what part he played in the operation, as he made no contribution that I could see.

It was now about 24 February. Once again were briefed on our mission: to seize an oil installation and secure it. We were issued weapons — AK-47s and RPK or PKM light machine guns — and we zeroed them. Those that had no experience with AKs were given a quick familiarization course. We also got some

very basic instruction in first aid — so much for training.

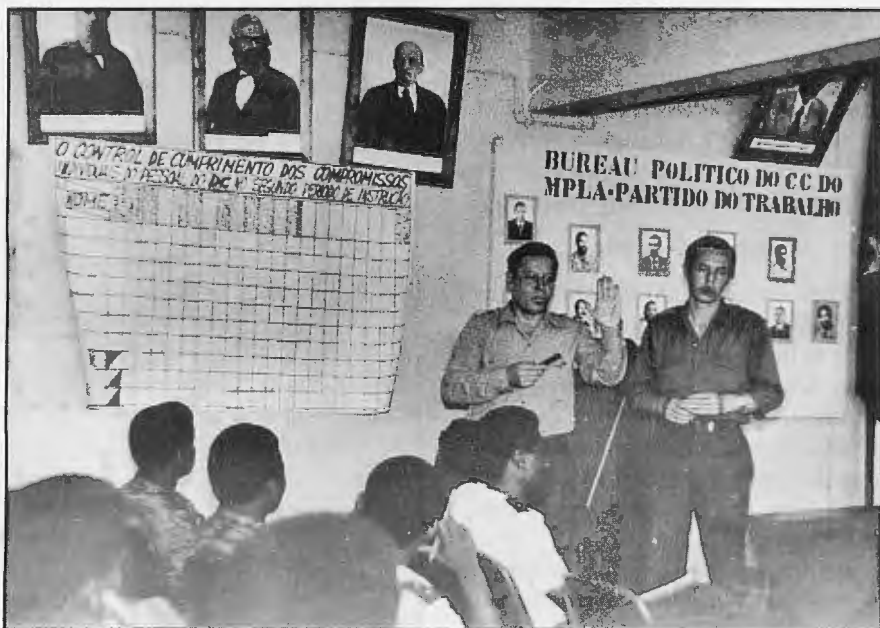
We were organized into three 18-man teams. Each team commander had been responsible for enlisting members of his particular unit. I was less than impressed by the quality of our personnel. Some of them had never held an AK before; many had no serious military training. Of those that had such training, many were out of shape. They could still kick a door down in an urban situation and shoot somebody, but they sure as hell weren't fit to run through the bush.

A lot of unqualified individuals were selected due to expediency. One was an air force technician who had never been to a shooting range. It's hard to round up good personnel having the necessary skills and experience in the course of a day or two.

Early on 28 February, we loaded onto civilian-model Mi-18s and choppered to the target area, landing about 0700 near several large oil-storage tanks about six klicks to the south of the Soyo oil complex, located on the Atlantic coast by the mouth of the Congo River, just south of Zaire's narrow coastal corridor. Angola's government loses something like \$12.5 million per day when its oil is out of production, so you don't have to be too bright to understand why they might decide to get it back into production as soon as possible.

We were told before lifting off that

Soviet instructors once provided MPLA troops with communist indoctrination and arms training. Since Angolan President dos Santos' "renunciation" of Marxism and the Cold War's end, the Angolan conflict has become simply a struggle between two tribes. Photo: SOF file





Dr. Jonas Savimbi, Unita's charismatic leader, refused to accept results of U.N.-supervised elections that gave narrow margin of victory to MPLA — Savimbi said process was rigged, then rekindled combat. Photo: SOF file

In this initial punch-up, two of our blokes got wounded: one in the hand and one in the foot. It's also important to note that it was neither our intent nor our mission to get involved in a major punch-up with Unita. We were basically protecting ourselves.

After about an hour, our three teams regrouped to decide what we should do, meeting in an oil-facility headquarters area. We hadn't expected to become engaged in heavy combat/defensive operations. Buys, our OIC, was nowhere to be found. So our three team leaders decided to establish a 200-meter defensive position to the south, behind the MPLA line.

Because of the incredibly dense bush, our two-man foxholes were only 5 to 10 meters apart from one another. By 2100 we were dug in and had posted sentries. At about midnight, Unita hit our lines. We thought

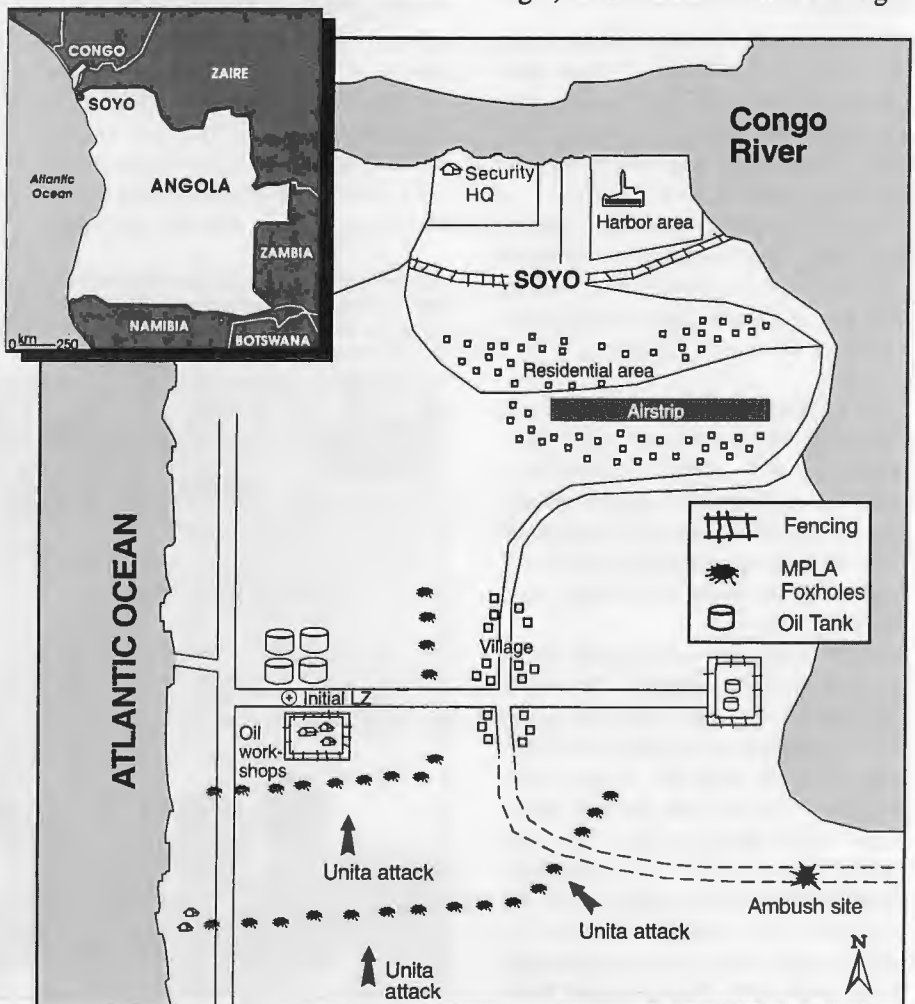
all we had to do was chase a group of six Unita troops off the LZ and that a battalion of government forces would arrive by barge a few hours later. We were to help them establish a defensive perimeter to secure the area and serve as advisers — we'd only be there 48 hours or so until ships could come in to remove heavy equipment and oil rigs. Piece of cake, huh? *Riiight!*

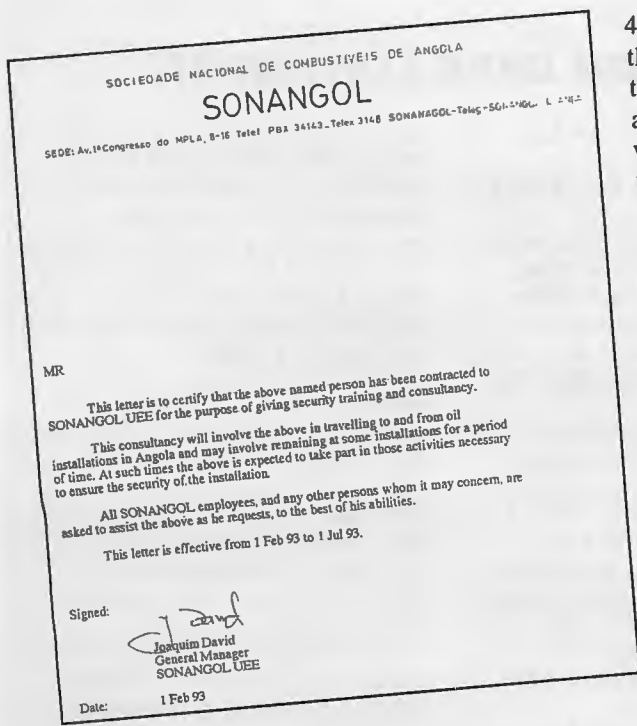
The operation started out according to plan. We inserted, drove off a half-dozen or so Unita troops with a few bursts of fire after they shot at us from about 300 yards. At about 1200, a 300-man MPLA battalion arrived, disembarking from a barge. We emplaced them in a hasty perimeter.

Bonus Gunplay

Then around 1600 the shit hit the fan. Unita started probing our positions to the south and east with heavy small-arms fire, which was not very effective. Now keep in mind, the bush in this region is just as dense as I assume it was in some areas of Vietnam. You couldn't see more than 15 or 20 meters.

We helped the government troops improve their defensive positions, but it wasn't our job to do the fighting.





the MPLA troops were in front of us, but they had disappeared to who knows where.

These MPLA troops were a sorry lot — they had been dragooned off the streets of Luanda [Angola's capital city] and given all of 40 days' training. Each one carried only one magazine, with loose rounds in their pockets. They simply held their AKs over their heads, firing full-auto — they suffered around 25 wounded and 10 to 15 KIA in this attack.

The firing tapered off at about 0100. The next morning we reorganized the MPLA defensive lines and started resupplying them with rations, water and ammo. Concurrently, more troops and supplies were brought in by chopper. Unita sporadically fired us up with small arms throughout the day. They dumped four or five 82mm rounds per hour on us with no effect, as they had no forward-observer capability. They could only aim at the oil storage tanks and hope they hit something.

By the third day, our unit's morale was low. Most of them had never had infantry training and fewer still had combat experience. Their attitude was, "Fuck this, we're not doing this anymore. This wasn't part of our contract." And in a way, they were right. We weren't told we would be getting into this kind of shit.

In hindsight, I figure that initially our employers may well have planned to have us occupy the area for only

48 hours, then changed their minds to try get the facility producing again since we'd met with such little resistance at first.

To make matters worse, we were having problems with the inexperienced MPLA troops, a bunch of 18-year-old kids with no discipline. For instance, when we moved supplies up the road to their commanders who would then pass rations, ammo and water down to the ends of their lines, close-up troops would consume all

the water and rations without passing them down the lines. Soon we had troops wandering back from the far lines because they were hungry and thirsty. God, what a mess — it was chaos.

About 1600 on the fourth day, we moved back to our headquarters and concentrated on resupply and securing the main installation. Morale of our unit continued to deteriorate. They were saying, "This is shit. We're not staying any longer."

Unita troops excel at unconventional warfare, yet are disadvantaged due to lack of air power, resulting in substantial losses this summer.
 Photo: SOF file



Our team leaders replied, "We have to work with guys that want to work together. We can't work with this type of attitude. We'll get you on the resupply choppers and you can go back to Cabo Ledo." Thirty men left.

We later heard how the returnees demanded their entire salaries from our employers. They were told, "But you didn't fulfill your contract — you were there only four days."

"If you don't give us all our money now, we will go to the papers and tell them the whole story," the quitters replied. Sonangol, the Angolan oil company that apparently funded our operation, decided it could not take such a risk because the South African government was very sensitive about articles related to Soyo already appearing in the press.

Meanwhile, on our 10th or 11th day in Angola, we moved from the oil installation into Soyo, a town of about 4,000 people. It had a large airstrip, which would let us bring in C-130s. We were still having problems with the MPLA troops distributing rations to their buddies, but things had become relatively calm — only a few minor firefights. Still, because they were taking casualties, the MPLA had moved their lines back twice. It was decided they had to be moved back up, because if Unita broke through they would overrun the oil installation.

Ambush & Escape

Our teams had to kick the MPLA troops in the ass to get them to move back up. In the course of so doing, our column was ambushed. We lost Phil Smit, a Rhodesian war vet who also served with South Africa's 4 Reconnaissance Regiment; a South African, Frank Taljaard, was also killed.

Four of the white security force had been walking point when we were hit; the MPLA troops simply would not attack through the ambush. On the next day, a Sunday, there was heavy fighting to the east of us.

One day later, Unita forces broke through, but they did not follow up, probably because they ran out of ammo and supplies. Our teams decided to escape and evade. We weren't capable of taking on the whole Unita force and, furthermore, our contract didn't call for it.

MERC MARKET BOOMING ON DARK CONTINENT

Mercenary recruiting has increased tenfold in southern Africa over the past two months. Many former special forces personnel — who not long ago waged war for several years against the Angolan government — are being recruited by Angola's ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (known by the Portuguese acronym MPLA) in the capital city of Luanda to fight against Dr. Jonas Savimbi's Unita movement, their former allies.

These recruits are now leaving South Africa by air charter flights at the rate of about 10 to 20 every two days, or roughly 200 per month. Indications are that FAPLA (Armed Forces of Angola) — the MPLA's military wing — intends to establish a 600-man-strong, totally white South African brigade in Angola within the next few months.

Many of the men already in Angola are being pushed into action against Unita forces in a huge campaign moving eastwards from the Atlantic coast toward Unita's capital of Huambo, located some 300 miles inland in south-central Angola. These mercs will also be used to bolster government forces in central Angola's besieged city of Kuito, where heavy street-fighting has been raging for months.

In early September, Savimbi bolstered his forces with several dozen armored cars believed supplied by Morocco. Ironically there are also South Africans presently fighting for Unita.

South African helicopter pilots are among those who have been recruited by the MPLA; some are highly decorated veterans of the Angolan war. All are being rushed into hasty conversion

courses on newly acquired Russian-supplied Mi-35s, the upgraded version of the Mi-25 Hind helicopter.

Soviet-manufactured fixed-wing and transport aircraft have also recently arrived in Angola, along with scores of Russian aircrews, technicians and advisers, all hired commercially as mercs to fight the Unita "rebels."

Apart from the 600-strong South African brigade, weapons and aviation specialists are also being recruited in South Africa by the Luanda regime. The South African government is well-aware that an Angolan recruiting process is taking place within its borders; officials in the administrative capital of Pretoria are not happy with this development.

Recruiting mercenaries for foreign wars is now illegal in South Africa so, technically, those responsible could be arrested, charged and jailed. But no action is being taken, largely because Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) favors strong support for the embattled MPLA government of President Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

South African ANC sources have indicated they would rather have the 600 or so special forces personnel stuck away in Angola working for FAPLA when South Africa's elections take place this spring. Most such Angolan war veterans are, in any event, opposed to the ANC (and its associates in the South African communist party). In the event of a breakdown of law and order in South Africa, such veterans might well be found working with right-wing resistance groups. Neither Pretoria nor the ANC wants this to happen.

Ironically, South Africa's govern-

ment now supports the formerly Marxist Angolan regime fighting against a man who was Pretoria's powerful ally for more than 20 years. Certainly this gives credence to the belief that no one in South Africa's government really has any political direction mapped out for the country's future.

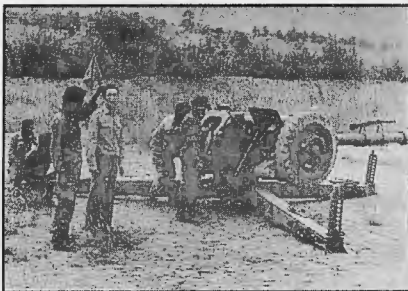
It is clear Angola's new South African battalion is having some effect on the civil war. In September, Savimbi asked U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to arrange an immediate cease-fire. The offer was rejected outright by Luanda due to military gains FAPLA has been making against the rebel army since July.

The MPLA has achieved total air dominance in the war, helping to push Unita forces out of several urban strongpoints they once held. At this rate it is not unlikely that, with the new merc battalion in the field, Savimbi could be ejected from all Angolan cities by this year's end.

The outcome then will likely be that Unita will revert to what it does best — guerrilla warfare. Savimbi is a master of bush war tactics; even in the Portuguese colonial period he proved a difficult and elusive adversary. And, should Unita once again disappear into Angola's wilderness, it will not really matter how many South African brigades the MPLA brings into the fight. It will take years to bring Unita to the conference table once again.

By then Angola's economic, financial and military resources will have been stripped bare; almost all of Luanda's oil and diamond production is now being bartered off for years to come in payment for arms purchases on the international market.

— Al J. Venter



Ivan in the bush: Soviet instructor supervises FAPLA artillery crew on combloc 122mm towed howitzer during MPLA's salad days. Note SKS rifle attached to barrel as spotting device. Withdrawal of Russians, Cubans and Eastern Bloc personnel after Moscow's collapse seriously downgraded the MPLA's combat capability. Photo: SOF file

The E&E plan was simple: Seize a small fishing trawler and head for the sea. We had been told there would be a ship five clicks off the coast if the shit hit the fan. There was a ship out there, but our teams never established radio contact with it. However, when the time to boogie came, we instead boarded a 60-foot boat owned by Texaco Inc., which happened to be there by chance to pick

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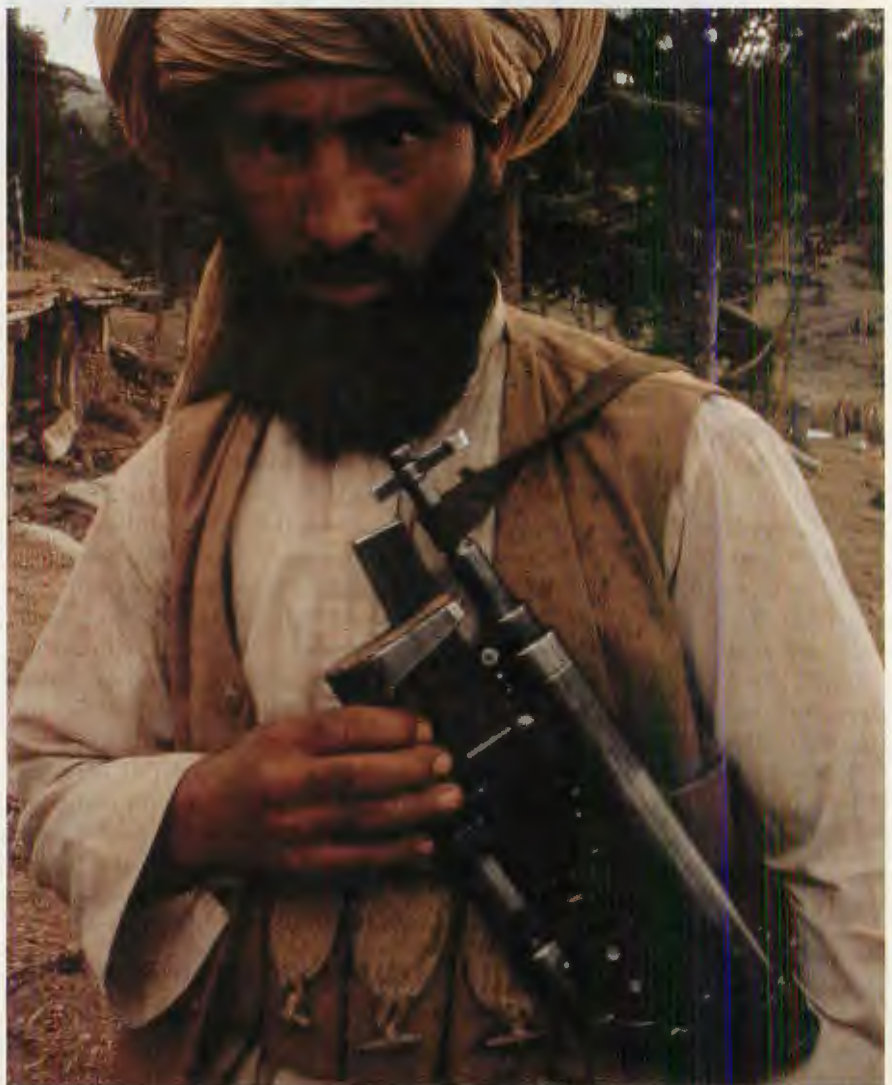
TERRORIST HORNET'S NEST

Afghanistan Becomes Mecca For Muslim Fanatics

Afghanistan is a place where the first law of the Gospel of Justice and Revenge is, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, and a village for a village.

Between December 1979 and February 1989, the Soviet expeditionary force of 175,000 men destroyed thousands of villages, rubble the major cities, wrecked the country's infrastructure and, out of a pre-war population of only 15 million, killed 1.5 million and drove another 6 million out of their homes and across the frontiers into desperate poverty in refugee camps in Iran and Pakistan.

Yet, not once during their long war against the Soviets did Afghanistan's warriors, the mujahideen, ever consider terrorism as a defensible alternative. Inside Afghanistan the war



Muslim fundamentalist with rarely seen 9mm Hotchkiss Universal SMG. Today Afghanistan is an armed camp in which terrorist fanatics are increasingly gaining influence. Photo: SOF staff

by **Jim Ezell**



Weapons of every type can be found in abundance in Afghanistan and the arms bazaars of neighboring Pakistan, making it an ideal environment for training and equipping terrorists. Photo: R. K. Brown

was savage and unrelenting — but outside Afghanistan, no Soviet had reason to fear.

Ironically, in news report after news report, Afghanistan is now becoming linked to terrorism. When it was learned that two of the followers of the blind Egyptian Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman, who detonated explosives beneath the World Trade Center in New York City, were veterans of the fighting in Afghanistan, it set off flutters of discomfort among Afghans and Westerners who had come to think of the Afghans as their friends.

A terrorist attack involving two Afghan vets is not significant, and it would end there if that were the only incident. But from various sources in Southwest Asia, *Soldier Of Fortune* has learned that there are currently some 8,000 to 10,000 "Arabs," including an unknown but significant number from major terrorist organizations, operating from two major bases and several smaller

bases, inside Afghanistan.

After more than nine years of war with the Soviet Union, a four-year struggle to oust the socialist regime Moscow left in power, followed by a year of bloody squabbling among the victorious mujahideen groups for control of Kabul, Afghanistan desperately needs peace. However, with an unknown number of terrorists, whose ultimate loyalty is to Palestinian terrorist leaders like Abu Nidal, George Habish or Abu Bisel (all of whom look to Abdel-Rahman for enlightenment and direction) at loose ends in the Hindu Kush, it is clear Afghanistan is on the verge of being sucked into the cauldron of terrorism.

Holy War, Unholy Bedfellows

The Afghans refer to their not-so-welcome guests as "Arabs" but by that they mean fundamentalist Muslims from Lebanon, Egypt, Libya, Iraq, Sudan, Syria, Kashmir and the Gulf states.

Volunteer Muslim fighters had trickled into Pakistan and onto the war from the beginning, but in the late 1980s they started coming by the thousands and between 1987 and 1992 Pakistan officially recorded more than 6,000. The actual numbers are undoubtedly higher — some estimates are as high as 26,000 — given the spotty nature of Pakistan's record-keeping and the fact that it has been relatively easy for "Arabs" to enter Pakistan without visas.

Initially the seven major resistance groups in Afghanistan, made up primarily of Sunni Muslims from the Pathan, Tadjik and Uzbek tribes, welcomed the "Arabs," albeit with some apprehension on the part of those more familiar with world events. The Afghan resistance leaders accepted the "Arabs" — including known terrorists — because a basic principal of a *jihad* or holy war (which the Afghan war officially was), is that all good Muslims — from whatever nation — have a right and duty to participate.

As the trickle turned into a flood, Western journalists traveling inside Afghanistan with the mujahideen since 1987 began to have increasingly hostile encounters with the "Arabs" and more and more of the forward-thinking Afghan commanders began to doubt the wisdom of their open-arms policy. For one thing, Afghans thought the "Arabs" were too reckless and too eager to die, and some questioned their worth on the battlefield.

Itinerant Terrorists

Nonetheless the flow continued because the "Arabs" had powerful backers in the Middle East who provided funds to the Afghan resistance leaders for their continued hospitality — either out of solidarity with the "Arab" aims or in order to get them out of their own neighborhood.

The "Arabs," almost all of them fundamentalists and many of them Shia (the smaller and more radical branch of Islam centered in Iran), also had a powerful backer in Qazi Husin Ahmed, head of the fundamentalist Jamiat-i-Islami party in Pakistan. Afghans, who tend not to be squeamish about such things, describe Ahmed as "ruthless and evil."

Peshawar-based and a former senator in the Pakistani government,



Muj with Dashika 12.7mm machine gun defend infiltration route through Khyber Pass during Afghan war with Soviet Union. Mountainous terrain along border with Pakistan is ideal territory for terrorist bases as they are hard to detect and hard to seize. Photo: Mike Winchester

Ahmed has enormous influence with Pakistan's army and Inter Service Intelligence (ISI) because the ranks of both organizations include many members of Jamiat-i-Islami. This also encouraged the Afghans to make the "Arabs" welcome, as Pakistan's army and the ISI had a stranglehold on the weapons pipeline running from the United States and Saudi Arabia to the front.

In the late 1980s the Afghan war jumped over the border into Peshawar, Pakistan (the sanctuary headquarters for the Afghan resistance), as bombing incidents and assassinations became increasingly common. Initially the rise in terrorism in Peshawar, usually but not always directed at the Afghans, was attributed to the Khad (Afghan government security force). But prominent Afghan commanders are now reevaluating Khad responsibility: There were some terrorist attacks which with 20/20 hindsight are perhaps better laid at the door of the

"Arabs" and their mentors, who from the onset had a private agenda beyond ousting the Soviets.

Afghans are now saying that Ahmed used the services of some of the terrorists to strike against those members of the Afghan resistance he deemed not sufficiently fundamental, in his long-running struggle with other Pakistani leaders in the North-West Frontier (principally Khan Abdul Wali Khan, head of the left-leaning Awami National Party), and in gun-running activities to the separatist guerrillas in Kashmir.

Jihad's Radical Agenda

Afghan leaders say that while President Najibullah was desperately scrambling to hang on to power in Kabul after the Soviet withdrawal, the "Arabs" brought heavy earth-moving equipment across the frontier and hollowed enormous tunnel complexes at Shamshad Mountain (west of the Khyber Pass and just off the Peshawar/Jalalabad road). Pre-

sumably the complexes were dug either for future defense against aerial attack from Kabul, or because the leaders of the "Arabs" didn't want American spy satellites observing day-to-day activity around Shamshad. One Afghan who has seen but not been inside the tunnels at Shamshad reports that they are large enough to drive a truck into, and he suspects they run for miles.

A second major base was established southwest of Peshawar and some distance into Afghanistan in the village of Baghar, close to the district capital of Urgan. The Baghar camp was under the protection of Mavlani Arsala Rahmani, a prominent Wazir tribal leader in the Urgan/Gardez area. The Baghar camp was host to "Arabs," Kashmiris and fundamentalist Pakistanis.

After Najibullah was forced from the presidential palace into sanctuary in the U.N. mission in Kabul, the

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Worth the Wait?

H&K'S UNIVERSAL SELF-LOADING PISTOL

One Platform, 10 Variants Equals Volkshandgun for the '90s

**Text & Photos by
Peter G. Kokalis**

In spite of its innovative technology and superb quality, Heckler & Koch's P7 "squeeze-cocker" pistol was never an overwhelming success in the United States. Introduced in the late 1970s as the PSP (*Polizei-Selbstladepestole*, or Self-Loading Police Pistol), the P7 series was just too expensive for most U.S. law enforcement agencies and individual consumers. A pity, as I often carry a .40 S&W P7M10 and it is an excellent handgun.

Design work commenced in September 1989 on a new family of H&K pistols principally focused on the U.S. market. In addition to the qualities usually associated with H&K firearms — reliability, durability, safety, accuracy, advanced materials and innovative features — the new design was to stress a competitive price structure and, consequently, a conventional method of operation. In November 1989 I was informed the design would include a polymer frame. An attempt to copy Glock? — Hardly.

Back in the late 1960s, H&K introduced the P9S pistol, which featured, like most of its shoulder-mounted weapons, a delayed-blowback, roller-locking system of operation. This pistol's "frame" was composed of two components: a plas-

H&K's USP was designed for law enforcement and civilian users to exceed the strictest NATO milspec standards. Photo: courtesy H&K



tic trigger-guard/front-strap and a sheet-metal receiver. A one-piece plastic grip was held to the rear of the receiver by two screws positioned through the backstrap.

Furthermore, the H&K VP70 caliber 9mm Parabellum machine pistol and its semiauto equivalent, the VP70Z — both designed during the same time frame as the P9S — had frames made entirely of plastic, although they were reinforced with steel at appropriate points. Both the P9S and VP70 appeared more than a decade before Gaston Glock's pistol was ever even conceived. H&K's G11 rifle, its CAWS (12-gauge Close Assault Weapon System) and both the MP5/10 and MP5/40 submachine guns also make extensive use of polymer components.

In an unusual reversal of the normal course of military small arms development, H&K's entry in the OHWS (Offensive Handgun Weapon System) requested by the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) was an outgrowth of the commercial project that led to the Universal Self-Loading Pistol (USP), formally introduced in January 1993.

Eclipsing Milspec Tests

As H&K was awarded a Phase I development contract for the special operations forces' OHWS (see "Hot Rod Hybrid Handguns," *SOF* June '93) on 28 August 1991, its USP prototypes were fortunate enough to be included in the rigorous milspec testing that H&K performed on its OHWS prototypes.

The USP method of operation is short recoil, locked breech. The quite conventional locking system is a modification of the Browning dropping-barrel method as encountered on the SIG-Sauer P226, the Ruger P85 and on some others. A large, rectangular lug over the barrel's chamber engages the slide's ejection port in the locked position. When a cartridge is fired, chamber pressure drives the cartridge case back against the breech face.

Locked together, the slide and barrel recoil rearward for about 3mm, after which a shaped lug on the underside of the chamber engages the hooked locking block at the end of the steel recoil-spring guide rod (which is held in place



With a competitive price and conventional method of operation, H&K's new USP provides innovation through the availability of every possible fire mode and control function a user might specify.

by the slide-stop lever's axis pin) to lower the rear end of the barrel and disengage it from the slide.

The locking surface on the front top of the barrel's locking lug is tapered with a forward slope. This tapered surface produces a camming action, which enables the USP to enhance its reliability in high-dust environments or after extensive firing has introduced severe fouling into the system.

From the beginning, the envelope was designed to accommodate the .40 S&W cartridge (USP40) and is presently available chambered for this round and also for the popular 9mm Parabellum cartridge (USP9). Both models are approved for high-pressure +P and +P+ ammunition, which should surely satisfy those who believe in magic bullets.

Eventually a larger USP package will be fielded to handle both .45 ACP and 10mm loadings. A compact variant in this series is also anticipated. The specimen provided to *Soldier Of Fortune* for test and evaluation was chambered for the .40 S&W cartridge, which is rapidly overtaking the 9mm Parabellum round in popularity within the U.S. law enforcement community.

Dimensions are essentially identical for both the USP40 and the USP9. Overall length is 7.64 inches

(194mm). At its widest point on the frame, the width is 1.26 inches (32mm). The height is 5.35 inches (136mm). The weight, empty but with a magazine, is 29.62 ounces for the USP40 and 28.46 ounces for the USP9.

First-Class Envelope

Length of the USP barrels — cold-hammer-forged from high-grade chromium steel — is 4.13 inches (105mm). They have six lands and grooves with a constant right-hand twist. Rate of twist for the .40 S&W-caliber barrel is one turn in 14.96 inches (380mm) and one turn in 9.84 inches (250mm) for the 9mm barrel. The rifling is not of the polygonal type, as provided on a number of the other H&K firearms. While not excessively large, the USP as currently offered is by no means a compressed envelope. In dimensions, it generally compares favorably with other service-size semiauto pistols.

The injection-molded, two-piece polymer frame has been reinforced with a 15% microscopic glass-fiber content. There are four steel guide rails on the frame for the slide, in a manner reminiscent of the Glock.

The grip's front and rear straps are deeply cross-checked with pointed tips, while the grip side panels have a rough, stippled texture and feature the H&K escutcheon.

The grip angle (defined as the angle between the front leading edge of the grips and a line drawn normal to the bore's axis) is 17 degrees, ex-



Both Black Hills and Winchester Black Talon .40 S&W 180-grain JHP ammunition provide the necessary expansion and penetration for effective performance in this "cocked and locked" variant 9 of the USP which has no de-cocking mechanism, but can be fired either single- or double-action.

actly matching that of the Colt M1911A1 Government Model. A step at the heel of the frame holds a polymer pin to attach a lanyard loop. This anachronism will delight my friend and colleague Wylie Clapp of *Shooting Times*, who often employs this feature traveling cross-country on horseback.

Injection-molded polyamides are super industrial-strength synthetics well-known for their resistance to high temperatures, corrosion, wear, chemicals and radiation. Lighter than steel, they have a higher tensile strength than aluminum.

The spring-loaded steel slide-stop lever is mounted on the left side of the frame and can be easily manipulated with the thumb of the firing hand by a right-handed shooter. When the last round has been fired, a shelf on the magazine follower forces a projection on the slide-stop lever upward to hold the slide in the rearward position. The slide-stop lever also serves as a dismounting lever to separate the frame and slide groups.

Laser Drawbacks

Grooves cut parallel to the bore's axis on each side of the frame in front of the trigger guard provide mounting points for a Laser Aiming Module (LAM); this was probably taken from H&K's OHWS. As I have stated many times in the past,

I am opposed to the employment of visible laser-aiming devices on small arms. Operators invariably seek out the dot and instinctively react to place it on the target with no regard for the proper shooting stance or training, which has mandated that they bring the handgun up to eye level in the Weaver position.

Under stress, we do what we have trained to do. If we shoot correctly in daylight, but become accustomed to sloppy techniques that will nevertheless result in hits when a laser is employed in subdued light, then under the intense stress of contact with the enemy we will be forced to decide between two alternative firing techniques. There simply isn't time for decision-making like this in a gun-



There is a hooked locking block at the end of the USP's recoil-spring guide rod that stops the barrel's rearward travel during the latter part of the recoil stroke. Forward of this is a mechanical recoil-reduction system that buffers unlocking of the barrel and consists of a heavy, captive coil spring around the guide rod.

fight. Furthermore, it has been demonstrated that laser sights actually impede response time, as the shooter must slow down and take whatever time is required to locate the red dot on his target.

However, infrared (IR) laser beams and the night-vision goggles required to employ them do have some valid applications for clandestine operations. H&K can provide you with a laser toy and wireless switch that attaches to the USP for \$229. A small flashlight mounted on these grooves would make more sense. H&K has a tactical light under development that will be available soon. This is a more secure system for attaching accessories than the usual trigger-guard mounting.

The trigger guard is large enough to accommodate gloved operation in cold weather. The front of the trigger guard is squared-off with horizontal serrations, even though few armed professionals place the index finger of the support hand in this area. Furthermore, in this instance, the trigger guard is so long as to make the use of this useless fetish even more awkward. The bottom of the trigger guard is flared to protect the ambidextrous magazine catch/release and prevent accidentally dumping a magazine on the ground at an inappropriate time.

To release a magazine, the catch/release must be pressed down instead of inward; this takes a little getting used to for those of us trained on the M1911A1 series. Magazines, either empty or full, fall freely away when the catch/release is depressed. The magazine catch/release is somewhat difficult to reach with the thumb without shifting the firing grip. I find that the trigger finger is better positioned for this purpose. Half-moon-shaped, "tear away" notches have been molded into the grip on each side at the bottom to assist removal of a jammed magazine. There is no magazine safety and the USP can be fired without a magazine in place.

The staggered-column detachable box-type USP magazines have a capacity of 13 rounds in .40 S&W and 15 rounds in 9mm Parabellum. Magazine bodies are made of polymer with their top thirds internally reinforced with stainless steel. There are numbered indicator holes at the rear of a magazine body, while the magazine lips are rounded for easier loading.

The magazine floorplate, its locking plate and the follower are also made of polymer. Unlike those of the MP5, USP magazines are easy to disassemble.

The trigger and frame-mounted safety mechanisms provide one of the USP's most unusual and interesting features. Ten variations of fire modes and control functions are available.

Fire Mode Variants

Variant 1 has a safety lever mounted on the left side of the frame for right-handed operators. Rotating the safety lever upward prevents firing, whether the hammer is cocked (as in "condition 1," with a round in the chamber, the hammer cocked and the safety on) or uncocked. This variant permits "cocked and locked" carry. When the safety lever is in the horizontal position, the pistol can be fired whether the hammer is cocked (single-action mode) or uncocked (double-action). Rotating the lever below the horizontal position will drop the hammer (if it was cocked). The lever is spring-loaded; when released it will spring back to the horizontal position, permitting the first round to be fired double-action.

Variant 2 is identical in operation as the above, except that a mirror-image safety lever is mounted on the right side of the frame for left-handed shooters. Note that all odd-numbered variants are for right-handed operators while all even-numbered variants are for southpaws.

Variants 3 and 4 have no "safe" position and the lever is employed only to de-cock the hammer. The pistol can be fired in either the single-action or double-action mode, but cannot be carried "cocked and locked."

Variants 5 and 6 permit double-action fire only, but when rotated upward, the lever locks the trigger mechanism in the "safe" position. Variant 7 has a "bobbed" hammer, no safety lever and can be fired double-action only. Variant 8 is identical to Variant 7, but comes equipped with self-luminous tritium sights and is currently being evaluated by the U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service (INS).

Variants 9 and 10 are equipped with a safety lever per-

mitting "cocked and locked" carry, but no de-cocking function — *SOF* was provided with a Variant 9 USP for test and evaluation. These last two USP variants are the ones I would personally select. It's important to emphasize that, unlike variants 1 and 2, if the operator pushes down on the safety lever as he comes off the target in a high-stress environment, there is no possibility that he will go past the "safe" position and activate a de-cocker mechanism to inadvertently drop the hammer. Also, let's not forget that the variant 9 or 10 USP is not just another M1911A1 clone. Although most of us will never use it, the double-action mechanism is there if ever required, i.e., for a second strike on a hard primer.

All of these various fire modes

Heckler & Koch's USP, fieldstripped.



USP40 & USP9 SPECIFICATIONS

- Caliber:**40 S&W (USP40) and 9mm Parabellum (USP9).
- Operation:** Locked breech, short recoil, semiautomatic, frame-mounted fire modes and control functions with options that permit combinations of "cocked and locked" carry, manual safety, double-action/single-action, de-cocking and double-action-only with right- or left-hand controls.
- Weight, empty** USP40: 29.62 ounces;
with magazine: USP9: 28.46 ounces.
- Length, overall: ..** 7.64 inches (194mm).
- Width:** 1.26 inches (32mm) at the grips.
- Height:** 5.35 inches (136mm).
- Barrel:** Six-groove with a constant right-hand twist. Rate of twist: USP40 - 1:14.96 inches (380mm); USP9 - 1:9.84 inches (250mm); cold-hammer-forged from high-grade chromium steel.
- Barrel length:** 4.13 inches (105mm).
- Feed mechanism:** Staggered column, single-position feed, detachable box-type magazine with 13-round capacity (.40 S&W) and 15-round capacity (9mm).
- Sights:** Fixed, high profile; front: blade-type, 0.135-inch thick with single white plastic plug; rear: open square-notch, 0.135-inch wide with a white plug on each side of the notch. Self-luminous tritium night sights also available (\$59).
- Finish:** Black polymer frame; slide finished with a nitro-gas-carburized and matte-black oxidized process; internal components treated with low-friction Dow Corning "Molykote" process.
- Price:** \$624, complete with two magazines and lockable plastic storage box. \$20 extra for left-hand controls; extra magazines \$27 each.
- Manufacturer:** Heckler & Koch GmbH, Dept. SOF, Postfach 1329, D-7238 Oberndorf/N., Federal Republic of Germany.
- Distributor:** Heckler & Koch Inc., Dept. SOF, 21480 Pacific Blvd., Sterling, VA 20166-8903; phone: 703-450-1900; fax: 703-450-8160.
- T&E summary:** Conventional method of operation. Competitively priced. Passed extensive milspec testing prior to introduction. Many desirable features. Fire mode and control-function options provide alternatives to satisfy all conceivable user specifications.

and control functions are determined by a notched detent plate inside the frame, to which the safety lever, if present, is attached. These detent plates and their corresponding safety levers can be removed and installed in a matter of minutes by Heckler & Koch-certified armorers only. While the user can specify the variant he wants, it is not intended that individuals endlessly experiment with the different variants, so parts will be not be provided for this purpose.

Trigger Happy

Trigger pull weights on our test specimen were 9.75 pounds in double-action and a surprisingly light 3.75 pounds in single-action. The smooth, ungrooved trigger is also an injection-molded polymer component. It is connected to a sheet-metal trigger bar — inside the frame on the right side — that governs rotation of the hammer.

The fixed sheet-metal ejector is mounted in front of the hammer mechanism on the left side. The hammer mechanism also contains the lever that rotates upward at the moment of firing to depress the spring-loaded firing-pin safety in the slide and permits the striker to travel forward. There is also a passive disconnect safety. All of the metal surfaces are treated with "HE" (Hostile Environment) finishes. The exterior of the slide, a milled forging from 42 Cr Mo 4 steel, has been subjected to a proprietary nitro-gas-carburized and matte-black-oxidized process that is extremely hard (rated 732 HV1 Vickers) and highly corrosion-resistant. This finish is also applied to the H&K G3SG1 sniper rifle.

Internal components are treated with a unique Dow Corning "Molykote" process that has low-friction qualities. Heckler & Koch weapons issued to German navy *Kampfschwimmer* (combat swimmers) are also provided with this finish.

There is no barrel bushing; the barrel passes through a hole bored into the front of the slide. The spring-loaded extractor, installed in a slot on the right side of the slide, pivots around its retaining roll pin in the conventional manner.

Both the front and rear sights are installed by friction-fit only into dovetails milled into the slide. The sight radius is 6.2 inches. The unprotected



All of the various fire modes and control functions available for the USP series are determined by a notched detent plate inside the frame, to which the safety lever, if present, is attached.

front sight blade is 0.135-inch in width and has a cylindrical white-plastic plug inserted into a hole bored through its entire length. The open square-notch rear sight is also 0.135-inch in width and has two white-plastic plugs, one on each side of the open notch. Under stress, however, these colored dots will not be noticed.

Effective By Night

A far better alternative is to order tritium night sights installed on the USP either directly from Heckler & Koch Inc. (Dept. SOF, 21480 Pacific Blvd., Sterling, VA 20166-8903; phone: 703-450-1900) at a cost of \$59, or have them installed by Innovative Weaponry Inc. (Dept. SOF, 337 Eubank N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87123; phone: 800-334-3573) who provides them to H&K.

Innovative Weaponry has designed a multicolor night-sight system that focuses attention on the front sight, speeding target acquisition by a considerable margin. Most tritium self-luminous sights glow green simply because this color is highest on the night-visibility spectrum; however, operator alignment of three green dots in subdued light can be confusing, as this detracts from emphasis on the front sight and retards target acquisition.

The largest IWI self-luminous dot is installed in the front sight and it is green. The two smaller (by .008-inch)

dots in the rear sight are yellow or orange (or subdued green). In use, I have found that the eyes instinctively focus on the green front dot with a strong 3-dimensional triangulation effect that helps to funnel the shooter's vision directly onto the target. This feature has been installed on my H&K P7M10 and I can personally recommend IWI's multicolor sight system highly and without reservations of any kind.

The conventional coil-type recoil spring rides on a somewhat unusual heavy-steel, full-length guide rod. We retrofitted our USP with a new improved guide-rod assembly provided to us, which can be distinguished from the original only by an incipient groove ringing the rod toward the front end. As previously mentioned, there is a hooked steel locking block at the end of the recoil-spring guide rod that stops the barrel's rearward travel during the latter part of the recoil stroke.

Forward of this is a mechanical recoil-reduction system that buffers unlocking of the barrel and consists of a heavy, captive coil spring around the guide rod. It is insensitive to ammunition variances, requires no special maintenance and supposedly has an indefinite service life. Heckler & Koch claims a 30% reduction in recoil forces through using this device. The company states that this unit reduces the peak force acting upon the USP grip to less than 300 Newtons

(66 pounds) and that peak-force shock on competing .40 S&W polymer and steel-framed pistols is more than 5,000 Newtons (1,102 pounds). This sounds, and is supposed to be, very impressive. However, neither I nor any member of the *SOF* staff who fired this handgun could detect any qualitative difference in perceived recoil or muzzle jump between the USP and any other caliber .40 S&W pistol of similar size and weight.

Personally, I believe that the shooter himself can control the effects of handgun recoil — by using the proper stance and grip tension — better than any of these buffering devices, of which there seem to be an endless number. Still, H&K also claims longer service life and reduced stress on components as a consequence of the mechanical recoil reduction system — this is probably true.

Testing conducted on the USP exceeded the strict NATO AC-225 Military Specification Standards. During these tests, a bullet was deliberately lodged in the barrel. Another bullet was then fired into the obstructing

10,000 rounds without a single stoppage. Endurance firing of test samples has exceeded 20,000 rounds of .40 S&W ammunition without any parts failures. Milspec environmental tests were conducted under low temperature (minus 44 degrees Fahrenheit), at high temperature (153 F) and in mud, rain, under water immersion and in salt spray.

Accuracy testing with several brands of ammunition demonstrated that the USP is superior to competing models manufactured in the United States. Safety testing exceeded the ANSI/SAAMI requirements, including dropping a USP with a primed cartridge in the chamber and decocked hammer onto a variety of surfaces without its discharging. German police tests were also successfully performed, consisting of repeated drop tests from 6 feet — hammer first — onto a steel-backed concrete slab.

Furthermore, the USP9 is a finalist in Germany's P90 trials, which will result in the adoption of a new handgun for their rapid reaction forces.

In light of this, the "results" of any "tests" conducted by *SOF* or by any gun magazine take on diminished value, to say the least. At this time, I have personally fired more than 1,000 rounds through the USP and have not experienced any stoppages. It is more than accurate enough for its intended purposes. Perceived recoil is moderate, slightly less than comparable envelopes chambered for the .45 ACP cartridge

and slightly more than 9mm Parabellum pistols of similar size — exactly what we would expect from the .40 S&W cartridge.

A high level of human engineering has been applied to the USP design. Only those with short, stubby

fingers might find the trigger somewhat difficult to reach. If you really slam a loaded magazine into the magazine-well with exceptional force, the slide will override the hold-open projection on the slide-stop lever and jump forward into battery. But this is trivia (you shouldn't be shooting the pistol "dry" anyway — at Gunsite Training Center, this would cost you a round of drinks).

Foremost Loads For USP

Most .40 S&W ammunition we have tested is effective and it appears that major ammunition manufacturers are starting to produce handgun bullets of a proper design.

Newest and most exciting is Winchester's Black Talon. The lead core of the bullet is locked into place with a reverse-tapered jacket. The Black Talon's jacket wraps completely around the bullet's nose and into the cavity, providing the most reliable functioning of any hollow point to date. Retaining virtually 100% of its original weight, this design allows excellent penetration and expansion, even through barriers such as heavy cloth, wallboard, plywood or glass. Typically, caliber .40 S&W Black Talon bullets will penetrate 14 to 15 inches of soft tissue while expanding up to about .68 caliber.

Black Hills (Dept. *SOF*, P.O. Box 3090, Rapid City, SD 57709; phone 605-348-5150) .40 S&W ammunition, when loaded with Hornady's 180-grain Jacketed Hollow Point (JHP) XTP bullet, is also an excellent performer. Muzzle velocity is about 925 feet per second (fps). Expansion is stellate-shaped with the points averaging .68 caliber and the flats at about .64 caliber. There is no fragmentation and this bullet will penetrate more than 14 inches of soft tissue.

There are a total of 56 components in the USP; fieldstripping procedures parallel those for handguns with this method of operation — Remove the magazine and clear the weapon by jacking the slide and inspecting the chamber to make sure it is empty. Retract the slide rearward until the slide stop's axis pin is aligned with the disassembly notch on the left side of the slide. Push the axis pin to the left from the right side

Continued on page 71



Right-side view of the H&K USP shows the large, rectangular lug over the barrel's chamber that engages the slide's ejection port in the locked position. Note groove on frame forward of trigger guard used for attaching accessories such as a laser sight. "Tear away" notches at the bottom of the grip assist removal of a jammed magazine. Photo: courtesy H&K

projectile. Both bullets cleared the barrel, resulting only in a barely noticeable bulge. Subsequent accuracy tests on this barrel produced group dispersion of less than 2.5 inches at 25 meters.

One USP test gun fired more than

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and withdraw it completely. Slide the slide group forward and separate it from the frame. Remove the recoil spring, guide rod assembly and barrel from the slide.

USP magazines are disassembled in the conventional manner. Reassemble in the reverse manner, making sure that the angled locking surfaces on both the underside of the barrel and rear end of the recoil-spring guide rod are properly aligned.

Competitors Take Cover

With the introduction of the USP, Heckler & Koch has signaled its intention to take a significant share of the substantial U.S. law enforcement and commercial defensive-handgun markets. By providing the option of five different fire-mode and control-function variants, with left-hand operation available on four of them, H&K has neatly sidestepped the unending arguments of "cocked and locked" vs. double-action only, manual safeties vs. de-cockers, and double-action vs. single-action, as the user can specify whatever he wants. Two calibers and the further option of tritium self-luminous sights expand the USP's alternatives to an even greater extent.

Already tested to tough milspec standards, the USP arrives fully developed as a complete system. In light of the variety of envelopes and calibers to follow from a maker whose name literally permeates with a justified reputation for high quality, H&K's competition have sufficient reason for major consternation.

Suggested retail price of the USP is \$624 (add \$20 for left-hand operation) in either caliber, complete with two magazines and a sturdy, lockable plastic storage box. Additional magazines are \$27 each. ✕

FULL AUTO

Continued from page 21

C&S Metall-Werkes (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 1156, St. Charles, MO 63302; phone: 314-723-5002; fax: 314-828-4226) have taken the 71-round, caliber 7.62x25mm PPSH-41 drum and converted it into a 72-round, caliber 9mm Parabellum drum called the Mark I for the MP5 series.



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The quality of the drum sent to SOF for test and evaluation is flawless, as is the operation. This drum weighs 2.75 pounds, empty, and 5 pounds when fully loaded. It is no longer than the standard, curved 30-round MP5 magazine. The width, i.e., the diameter of the drum, is 5.85 inches. It consists of the top 3 inches of an MP5 magazine that has been TIG-welded to a highly modified PPSH-41 drum. After assembly of the conversion, the drum is refinished by a black-oxide process.

Loading the drum is no more difficult than loading any other PPSH-41 drum. If a quarter-million illiterate Russian soldiers could master the technique, so can you. Complete instructions accompany the drum, so there is no need to repeat them here.

Our test specimen worked without problems of any kind. Spring-loaded drums that must be wound (in this instance eight clicks, or two complete revolutions) each time they are loaded generally provide more constant stripping pressure from the first to the last rounds than do large-capacity magazines with compressed coil springs driving a follower.

While obviously heavier than the standard 30-round MP5 magazine (which should be loaded with only 29 cartridges), the balance point of the weapon does not seem to change very much with the Mark I drum in place. It is somewhat more difficult to assume the correct position on the forearm of the weapon with the support arm, but there never has been a free lunch in these matters. The price is \$299, which includes shipping charges.

A drab-green pouch with shoulder strap is also available to fit this drum for \$29. Fabricated from ballistic nylon by Eagle Industries, it's fully padded and matches the high quality of the Mark I drum.

Ultra DOT

It doesn't matter how much firepower is available if you can't hit the target. Red dots projected by a visible laser beam are worse than worthless. Not only do they encourage improper firing stances, but the operator has to spend so much time locating the dot on the

target that before he can get a shot off, the gunfight is most likely to have already ended — in his opponent's favor. Avoid these expensive toys like the plague.

However, red dots in an optical sight that require the weapon to be shoulder-mounted can reduce time required to acquire the target and fire, especially if the operator employs binocular vision. The Ultra DOT sight features an illuminated red dot similar in concept to that of the Swedish Aimpoint. Distributed by Action Arms Ltd. (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 9573, Philadelphia, PA 19124; phone: 800-995-4867), it is the smallest (5.1 inches in overall length) and lightest (4 ounces) sight of this type.

Powered by a small lithium battery, the intensity of the red dot can be adjusted by a potentiometer on the left side of the scope tube. Its adjustment knob, which can be rotated in either direction, permits settings from "0" (off) to "11" in intensity. Bright daylight conditions require the "11" setting, unless you employ the polarizing filter that is also provided along with a sunshade and two mounting rings for attachment to a Weaver-type base.

Elevation and windage adjustment knobs, on the top and right of the scope tube, respectively, allow the unit to be zeroed in the conventional manner. Each mark on the adjustment dials will move the point of impact 1/2-inch at 100 yards. Battery life varies from 20 to 4,000 hours, depending upon the settings most often employed. Lithium batteries of this type can be stored for up to five years.

Two models are available. The original version has a 25mm (1-inch) tube and costs \$139, coming complete with a rubber eyecup in addition to the accessories mentioned above. A new model with a 30mm tube and a rubber guard on the ocular costs \$179. Both models are available with either a black- or silver-anodized finish. A black-anodized base with a Weaver-type rail is available for attaching the Ultra DOT to an MP5 for \$79.

The dot normally supplied is 4 MOA (minutes of arc) in diameter. Which means that at 100 yards it will cover an area 4 inches in

diameter (or 2 inches in diameter at 50 yards — the maximum distance at which the MP5 will usually be used to engage human targets). The 30mm model is also available with a 10 MOA dot.

I believe the 30mm version with 10 MOA dot-size is best suited for the Close Quarters Battle (CQB) in which the MP5 series will mostly be deployed by law enforcement or military personnel. Although none of these red-dot optical sights are built to meet milspec, in my experience the Ultra DOT is the sturdiest of the lot and will survive anything short of criminal abuse. ✕

MISSILE BASE

Continued from page 35

room conditions in case you are bothered by both relatives *and* allergies.

There is also a capacious test lab building with high bay doors at each end, which is wired for all conventional power, even 400 Hz. Should you tire of testing things, there is an

entire ordnance area — surrounded by an 18-foot earth berm in case you like to tinker with flat-primer handloads — that includes a dedicated ordnance building with rail hoists inside and outside, and outside lighting for night activities.

The entire facility, of course, is fenced, with some 5,700 square feet of 7-foot government-spec chain link fencing. Guard houses are located at access points, enabling door-shakers to log visitors in and out: With proper planning, your mother-in-law may not even get in. There is a complete dog kennel, should you want to have roaming pot-lickers maintain 24-hour surveillance or keep the rabbits out of your victual patch.

This is a real can-do installation, ready to go to work. About all that remains is to plant the flowers and wire it for stereo. Built to government specs, current replacement cost would be more than \$20 million — but having served its purpose as a Nike site, it's now available as an incredible bargain to someone of means and imagination.

Interested parties wanting more information can contact L. Stevens, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 1088, Cedar

Hill, TX 75104-1088; phone: 702-795-1844; fax: 817-572-4541. They tell us that parties examining the property thus far have been intrigued by its potential for mushroom farming, record storage, wine aging, or as a truck terminal, manufacturing facility or technological research center — and even for hazardous waste processing. As zoning is rural, you could pretty much do whatever you want. Most any activity legal anywhere else would be permissible here.

Located in fertile farm country, the land on site which is not under concrete is tillable — and adjacent property is also for sale. Another advantage of this site and its zoning is that rural zoning equals low property taxes. There is a fixed-wing airstrip about a mile away, and the site itself has potential for its own strip. Alvarado is a town just shy of 5,000 souls, with a school, stores, post office and all the usual amenities of any small central Texas town.

For sale from a private party, this facility's previous occupants had a high-tech government-contract research establishment. What are your bright ideas? Opportunity knocks. ✕

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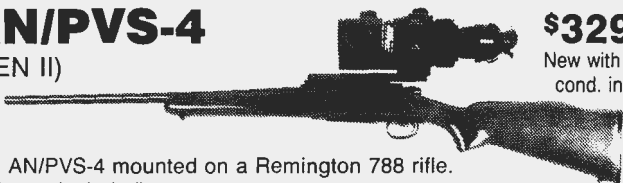
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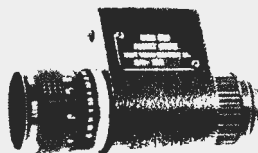
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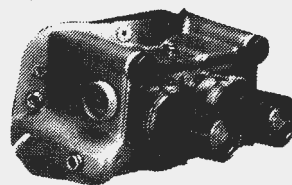
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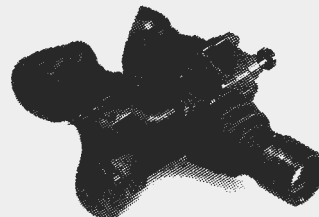
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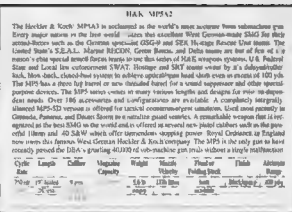
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LETHAL AND LEGAL

Continued from page 39

Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings' regime in Ghana (see "Soldiers Of Misfortune," *SOF* April '87.)

While we're discussing U.S. laws, the previously mentioned (and much misunderstood) 8 USC 1481(a) (3) states that any U.S. citizen entering a foreign army without prior approval (in writing) from both the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense will forfeit his U.S. citizenship. The U.S. Supreme Court, however, has decided that this is unconstitutional, ruling that an act of Congress (i.e., the U.S. Code) cannot divest a U.S. citizen of his citizenship.

Congressmen, despite what they might think, cannot make a change to the U.S. Constitution unless they pass an amendment. Congress has additionally ruled that enlistment in a foreign army is not a clear enough declaration of intent to voluntarily renounce U.S. citizenship. No American citizen, to date, has been divested of his citizenship because of 8 USC 1481(a) (3). However, the misconception of automatic loss of citizenship prevented Col. Mike Hoare from accepting Americans into 5 Commando in the Congo, though at least one American (Major Mike Williams) served with this unit.

So, if you're planning on some freelance military adventures, keep the laws in mind. And also keep in mind the story of Homer Lee "Animal" Phillips Jr. — *who?*

Phillips (who graduated from a "merc school") was one of the 14 mercs who pleaded guilty in the Suriname fiasco. As reported in *Newsweek's* 3 November 1986 issue, "... his friends say he is getting much hotter dates as a convicted mercenary than he ever did when he was just a body-and-fender man in Harrisburg, Missouri" — a testimonial on how serving as a merc might supposedly endanger your citizenship, but it's sure-fire guaranteed to improve your love life.

A former Special Forces officer and platoon leader in the 1/17th Infantry (Mech.), Rob Krott is a frequent SOF contributor who has worked in Somalia, Eastern Europe, Central America, Korea and Kenya. ✕

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SF's DARKEST DAYS

Continued from page 55

didn't matter that the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions had prior claim — airfield seizures are now the hal- lowed "Ranger Mission." Abrams also wanted a force that would out- stormtrooper the Marine Corps and he succeeded. The Rangers have even shorter hair and more mind-melding discipline than the Corps (at one point this included an SOP for boot-lac- ing), while selection is more rigorous and Spartan.

The Rangers are another big-bud- get unit and are exempt from the post-support details other soldiers endure. They provide little of their own logistics and some theater com- manders feel Rangers are not worth the support required to sustain them during exercises. Their command- ers are all conventional infantry- men, and they have a unique con- trol relationship that allows them to keep their distance from (and be- ing tainted by) SF. The Army uses Ranger assignments to "SpecOp

qualify" conventional officers who later become commanders of SpecOp forces. General Wayne "Ranger" Downing, current com- mander in chief of Special Opera- tions Command (SOCOM), is from the "Ranger Mafia."

Another example of conventional control is the recent Army an- nouncement that Major General J. T. Scott would leave the 2nd Infan- try Division, accept a promotion to lieutenant general and assume com- mand of Army Special Operations Command.

Surviving The Abrams Era

In the early years, SF attracted many of the Army's best, bravest, and brightest. The Abrams years started the "Dark Ages of SpecOps," and SF wasn't the place to be if you valued your career. Many good sol- diers joined SF anyway, but the quan- tity of quality wasn't what it had been. Unfortunately, the SF qualification course standards were lowered to the point that almost anyone could gradu- ate. The SpecOps revival brought a return to quality and standards, so currently the attrition rate at the SF

selection course is 50% to 60%. How- ever, the effects of the lean years won't disappear overnight: One jus- tification currently given for not pro- moting SF colonels to generals is be- cause the quality in the conventional ranks is higher.

The early SEALs also had a repu- tation for being extraordinarily brave, with a Marine-like eagerness to ac- cept casualties, but unable to navi- gate on land. Modern SEALs are still extraordinarily brave, have a better attitude about making the other guy die for his country and still have prob- lems on land. Misadventures (that re- main classified) during the Grenada invasion and Operation Just Cause in Panama gave the SEALs a couple of black eyes that weren't deserved at the sailor level. There is a tendency during operations for SpecOps lead- ers to say, "Play me boss, we can do anything" — but sometimes lead- ers bite off missions that the troops can't chew.

In Panama, we once again learned the hard way that SpecOps forces work well in small elements, but that those small elements don't always work well together as a bigger force.

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Lieutenant Colonel R. B. Anderson retired in July from his final assignment at SOC Pacific. A frequent contributor, Anderson enlisted in the Army in 1967, served with Rangers in Vietnam and at SOC Central during Desert Shield/Storm. ✕

TERRORIST NEST

Continued from page 63

famous Khost-based mujahideen guerrilla commander Jallaluddin Haqani tried to end the participation of the "Arabs" in Afghanistan's affairs. Jallaluddin convened an *umallah* (a council of religious leaders) who announced that the jihad was over since a mujahideen leader, Professor Sibghatullah Mojaddidi, was now in control in Kabul.

With the authority of the *umallah* to back him up, Jallaluddin (who has enormous power and influence in Gardez and Paktia and Paktika provinces) told Rahmani to shut down the camp at Baghar and invite the "Arabs" to move on. Essentially the same pattern held in southern Afghanistan, especially around Kandahar, where the

88-year-old but still ferocious Haji Baba (who as a young brigand headed the *Pagie Louch*, or "bare feet," Afghanistan's most famous band of caravan robbers) did essentially the same.

Enemy Of God

The "Arabs" from Baghar and the south initially went to areas under the control of Professor Abd-I-Rab Rasoul Sayaf, leader of the fundamentalist guerrilla group Ittehad Islami, or to join their brethren at Shamshad, under the protection of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezb-i-Islami, the most fundamentalist of all the major groups.

In the initial carving up of power after Najibullah's fall, Mojaddidi had been granted two months in the presidential palace and his successor was Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani of the religiously conservative but not fundamentalist Jamiat-i-Islami party. Afghanistan's Jamiat is a distinctly different animal from Pakistan's Jamiat.

Rabbani appointed as defense minister his most famous military commander, Ahmed Shah Massoud,

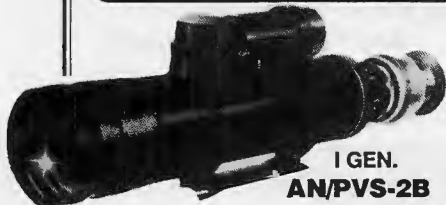
who had held the Panjshir Valley against intense Soviet offensives during the war and who was principally responsible for the fall of Kabul. Massoud was openly opposed to the influence of the Pakistanis, "Arabs" and Iranians in Afghanistan and quickly made agreements with Sayaf and Afghanistan's Wahabbi (fundamentalists) to remove the welcome mat. The "Arabs" were soon referring to Massoud as "an enemy of God."

Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman visited Peshawar in 1988 and came back again in 1990 for an extended stay. Abdel-Rahman is closely associated with Egypt's Al Jama 'a al Islamiyya, an organization which openly boasts of attacks on Western tourists in Egypt and which was implicated in the assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. In Peshawar Abdel-Rahman found and converted thousands to his agenda.

This was not a welcome development in the Middle East, particularly in Egypt. Afghan sources told *SOF* that international pressure on Pakistan led to that nation moving against the "Arab" stragglers in the

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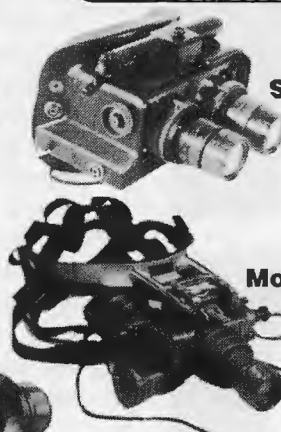


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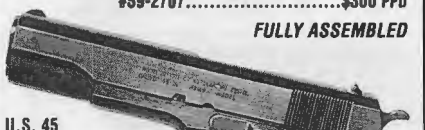


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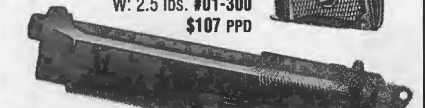
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Peshawar area, who were asked to decamp for Afghanistan.

Unfortunately for Kabul, as Pakistan moved against the "Arabs" in the North-West Frontier and the provincial mujahideen commanders started moving the scattered "Arabs" out of the provinces, the squabbling for power in Kabul escalated from occasional gun battles to rocket and artillery exchanges. Most of the dislocated "Arabs" were moved into a camp at Charasia, just into the mountains south of Kabul, by Hekmatyar. The majority of nightly rocket barrages that hit Kabul over the last year originated south and west of the city.

With the aid of his "Arabs" and some assistance from the Afghan fundamentalist forces (Hazara tribesmen of central Afghanistan loyal to Abdul Ali Mazari of Hezb-i-Wahdat), Hekmatyar was able to prevent any semblance of normality in Kabul, further preventing the formation of a stable government. The constant barrage of artillery, rockets, kidnappings and assassinations had the added effect of driving out some of the more moderate commanders.

In March 1993, at Islamabad, Pakistan, Prince Faisal at-Turki (special envoy from Saudi Arabia) and Nawaz Sharif (Pakistan's prime minister) forced the contending forces in Kabul to fashion a new government coalition. The Saudis even forced the Afghan leaders to fly to Saudi Arabia to swear on the Koran to uphold the provisions of the "Islamabad Accord."

Under the Islamabad Accord, Rabbani was to continue as president but Hekmatyar was named prime minister. Each was to serve for 18 months. Rabbani was to control the army and interior ministry (i.e., secret police), but Hekmatyar was allowed to unilaterally name some key cabinet members and was supposed to convene an all-party military council of commanders to name new defense and interior ministers.

Piecrust Promises

Before the ink was dry, Hekmatyar started dragging his feet on convening the council of commanders, so Massoud returned to his power base in the Panjshir Valley. Despite yet another accord ("Jalalabad," signed in June), the post of defense minister has not been filled; there is no recognized national army; all sides are still

armed to the teeth and the "Arabs" are digging in deeper.

In July, Hekmatyar announced that if Abdel-Rahman were deported from the United States he would offer him sanctuary in Afghanistan. In August Abdel-Rahman announced he would give up his residency in the United States and subject himself to deportation, if he were allowed to go to the destination of his choice: Not surprisingly, that destination was Afghanistan. But that particular emigration has since been delayed by federal indictments against Abdel-Rahman, who remains in custody at this writing.

With Hekmatyar as prime minister, Abdel-Rahman as a prospective honored guest, and 10,000 trained and battle-tested "Arabs" ready for mischief, Afghanistan's prospects for peace are bleak.

Jim Ezell is a Western journalist with extensive time on the ground in Afghanistan prior to the defeat and withdrawal of Soviet forces. ✕

ATF'S NEXT MISTAKE?

Continued from page 34

the sprawling CUT properties would rule out the type of 100-man, full-frontal assault by which the ATF failed so miserably outside Waco (see sidebar).

Are "Cults" Enemies?

In examining the Church Universal and Triumphant, one has to strive for a balance between critics' claims of it as being a "totalist cult" (in which Prophet manipulates her legion of followers to enhance her own power) and the historic persecution by mainstream denominations against religions fundamentally different from their own. Christianity, after all, began as a cult.

New England's Puritans, regarded in Europe as cultists, escaped persecution by coming to America, only to persecute others. Ugly colonial manifestations of this phenomenon included the Salem witch trials.

Were it not for a blizzard that stranded his army on California's Donner Pass, U.S. Army General George Crook might have carried out his orders to march eastward into Utah

and wipe out the Mormons, whose polygamous beliefs shocked and angered other citizens. The federal government's genocidal oppression of native American religions a century ago is also well-documented.

Soldier Of Fortune interviewed several CUT members, both in person and by phone. All declined to be identified, either because of Steinman's decision against official church participation in this article or due to a reluctance to be possibly revealed to former colleagues or family members who do not belong to the church. All are "communicants" living in "free enterprise zones" — the private subdivisions — or retirees, or persons with jobs or businesses who work out in the general community. None of these sources are church staff members such as Steinman, who is employed full-time by CUT with his food and lodging provided by the church.

Although CUT membership is most heavily concentrated in Paradise Valley, the church also includes some 120 smaller assemblies around the United States and claims followers in 40 foreign countries. According to sources interviewed by *SOF*, fellow CUT members include former professional entertainers and others from all walks of life.

Cosmic Honor Guard

One member mentioned in the course of interviews was Dr. Barbara Looby, appointed by the governor to sit on the Montana State Board of Psychology; she chaired the board last year. Others include an Australian rock star, an FBI agent, a retired U.N. official and a retired Secret Service agent.

State court records from a trial in which three men were acquitted of kidnapping an area CUT member for "deprogramming" in Boise, Idaho, indicated the FBI agent and retired Secret Service agent, who were not named, had visited Paradise Valley to provide firearms and tactical training to members of Prophet's security force, known as the Cosmic Honor Guard.

The Cult Awareness Network, an organization most often involved in deprogramming, "is like the KKK for members of non-mainstream religions," complained one CUT member interviewed by *SOF*, a former law

officer for a major metropolitan police department. "All I've ever wanted in this life is to find the truth. I don't care what the truth is. I just want to know it. I came here because I'm interested in truth, not religion."

Prophet's religious philosophy is an eclectic, unorthodox smorgasbord of mainstream faiths, combining Buddhist, Hindu, Catholic and Jewish beliefs. These include Cabala, an occult philosophy of certain Jewish rabbis from the Middle Ages based on mystical, secretive interpretations of the Scriptures. There is heavy emphasis on civic activism, belief in reincarnation, karma and extraterrestrial beings, plus a smattering of astrology.

The CUT canon is expressed in language sounding to the uninitiated as if it were lifted from a *Star Trek* script. Prophet, often called "Guru Ma," claims to have lived in earlier incarnations as the ancient Egyptian queen Nefertiti and also as Guinevere, wife of King Arthur and mistress of Sir Lancelot. Prophet passes along to her flock the spiritual guidance she says is given her from the "ascended beings," who include Jesus, Mohammed, Buddha, several Catholic saints and 18th-century alchemist/con-man Saint-Germain, plus such lesser-known spiritual masters as "K-17," head of the Cosmic Secret Service.

Thought Control & Survivalism

Church rituals include "decreeing," described by members as a form of spiritual meditation. Critics see the practice as something more sinister.

"It's a high-speed, repetitive chant," according to Schmook, whose deal to publish a book critical of CUT fell apart when her co-author — Prophet's then-estranged daughter — had a reconciliation with her mother and threatened to sue. "There are hundreds of different decrees — things like 'I am the violet flame, release me,' said over and over, ad infinitum.

"Supposedly, it's helping you balance your karma," Schmook said. "Psychologists describe it as a thought-blocking process [that] puts you in a euphoric state, an 'alpha state.' It makes you highly suggestive."

Steinman told *Enterprise* reporter Karin Ronnow that Schmook's assertion of decreeing as a key element in

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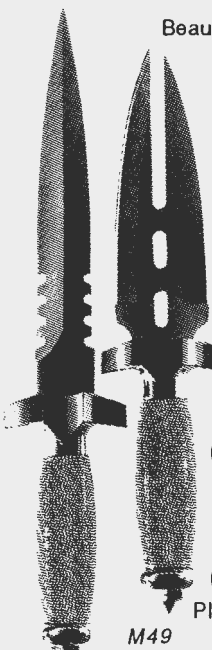
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the church's "thought-control, mind-reform process" isn't true. He said Schmook's claim relies on psychological theories that are not universally accepted.

CUT members with whom *SOF* spoke seemed bright, outgoing and not noticeably obsessed with religion. Most are well-spoken and some come from successful careers in various professions and businesses, many of the latter located in Park County. The most prominent CUT member-run business is *The Montana Pioneer*, a monthly tabloid featuring a breezy, artistic format that focuses on the arts, sports, the outdoors and other current local topics — in many cases steering clear of CUT-related stories that might be front-page fare for the *Enterprise*.

Supposedly independent of church control, the *Pioneer* does on occasion run articles verbatim from the church newsletter. Its classifieds include "For Sale" ads offering property in church-owned subdivisions and offers to sell spaces in privately financed neighborhood bomb shelters with names like "Helmet of Salva-

tion," "USS Liberty," "The Green Barn," "Chalice Well" and "Buddha's Bunkhouse."

"It's the largest survivalist cult in the world," Schmook said. "It's a political group hiding behind the tax-free veneer of a church. Elizabeth [Prophet] has a \$30,000 computer in her bunker to track incoming warheads. They picked this area, in part, because of loose land-use laws and the lack of a strong political organization.

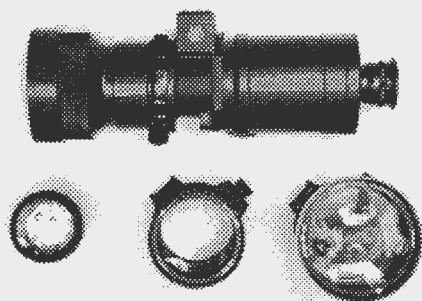
"Right now, they are breaking the county's social services system," Schmook said. "A lot of them are on welfare." She cited a five-night stint in March 1990 when members buttoned up in their bomb shelters expecting a nuclear attack. Based on this belief at the time, many members ran up their credit cards and otherwise went heavily into debt, never expecting to make repayment, she said. (CUT members say this was only a drill.) "They're going to blow up at some point," Schmook warned.

As an elected official, Sheriff Johnson is more reserved: "Local and state governments might look like they've been had for not hav-

ing had substantial subdivision laws. By the same token, that's the reason a lot of people moved here, including the people voicing concern about the CUT."

Johnson said he sees the church as "a closed society. When Waco popped up, it was the first time I'd ever talked to Murray Steinman directly. He came in and said the deal in Waco had them kind of nervous. You could see him kind of twitching. He wanted suggestions. I tried to impress on him that we don't need walls and secretiveness, we need open lines of communication. That has generally been the case since then.

"If they wanted a confrontation, they've certainly had the opportunities," the sheriff said. "They've always avoided it with us. And for all the screaming and jumping up and down, we have not affected what they're doing. So why should they even consider greater extremes? They're doing what they want to do, what they feel they have to do. There's been times when other people in the county felt kind of cheated. But then, that's kind of our problem, isn't it?"



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A frequent contributor and former SOF Associate Editor, James L. Pate has authored numerous articles over the past year on the ATF's questionable law-enforcement policies and the Waco tragedy. ✕

COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

Continued from page 15

completed this slash, immediately turn the palm skyward and slash from the right, across the throat to the left — once again cutting with the serrated edge to maximize damage. After completing this strike, retract the weapon by bringing the forearm to your right hip, leaving the palm facing skyward. The tip of the E-Tool will now be pointing toward the enemy. Again, shuffle forward and thrust the point of the weapon into the enemy's neck, penetrating the throat and crushing the larynx.

In addition, depending on the circumstances and the configuration

of your E-Tool, many elements of standard bayonet drill may be effectively used with an E-Tool or other shovel-type implements.

So the next time you pick up your E-Tool to dig a fighting hole, warm up first with a couple of striking sequences. It may prevent the next pile of dirt your E-Tool picks up being used to cover your body.

John Kary is founder and chief instructor of American Combatives, located in Westbury, New York, and the head instructor of CQC for the 2nd Battalion, 25th Marines, Scout Sniper Unit. Available for seminars, Kary can be reached at: (516) 333-7878. ✕

I WAS THERE

Continued from page 14

the primary LZ, ASAP! C&C said they'd have assets on site in 10 minutes.

I fired my M79 in the NVA's direction, two high bursts, which

slowed them down for a few seconds. I yelled to Bubba to move out. The race for life was on.

Sau hissed to Heip and pointed north. *Damn, there were pith helmets and NVA uniforms coming at us from the north, too — at a dead run.* The elements from the south were from the division which had left the base camp, and the NVA from the north were moving into it!

Sau and I placed the first claymore behind a tree and ran. The NVA were now running and shooting wildly.

We sprinted to catch up as the claymore exploded. The NVA kept on charging. Sau quickly placed his five-second claymore in front of a tree and ran. We sprinted toward our team as the second claymore detonated. We felt the backblast as we ran.

At the LZ, Heip placed another claymore toward the charging NVA. To the north, Bubba rigged a claymore with a contact detonator on a trip wire. As the tide of pith helmets flowed toward us, Bubba and I opened fire with our M79s, and Sau and Heip opened up full-auto with their CAR-15s.

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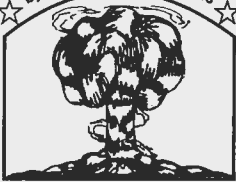
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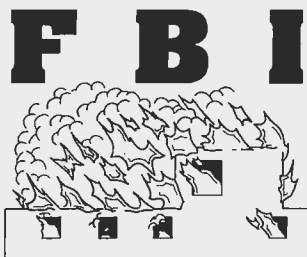
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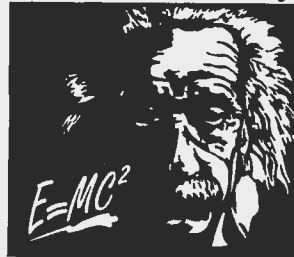


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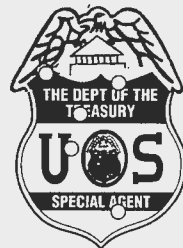


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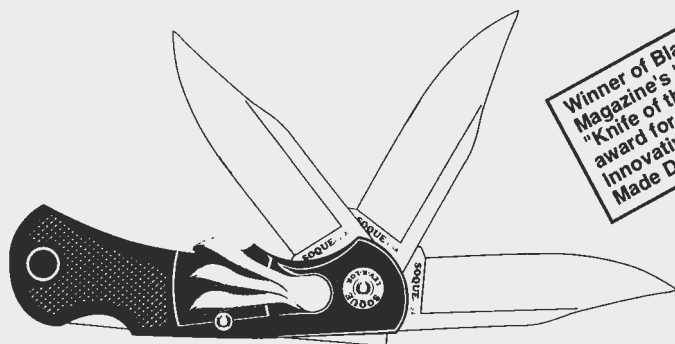
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More NVA emerged from the smoke and tripped Bubba's claymore. The rest of the team jumped on the chopper and I fired the last claymore as a wave of NVA troops got in front of it. The blast gave me a few seconds to make the Huey.

As we pulled out of the LZ, several NVA burst from the woods, surprised to see the chopper. One NVA tried to stop, his boots kicking up clumps of mud as he tried to bring up his AK from port-arms.

I watched the mud kicking upward toward the rotors as the doorgunner and I hit him in the chest with a burst, stopping him suddenly — so suddenly he reminded me of a cartoon character whose head and feet moved forward while his chest and stomach were slammed with lead, driving him back into the woods.

When we landed at Bo Dop at 1400, the Air Force pilots invited us for Thanksgiving dinner. We were starved. The narrow escape from Cambodia was sobering. If the Air Force had delayed a few more minutes ...

As we rolled out of the mess hall, one of the SF launch site people said we had to get back to FOB 6 ASAP for debriefing.

I reported directly to the CO, who said, "Give me a thumbnail description of what happened, so I can send that to Saigon, then we can eat our Thanksgiving dinner and do the detailed report afterward. That makes it two Thanksgiving dinners and one mission. Not bad for a day's work,"

"Make that *three* dinners," I laughed.

Bubba and I ate the third dinner. But this time we passed on the second helping and thanked God for the U.S. Air Force. ✕

PARTING SHOT

Continued from page 98

Not a word about "healing."

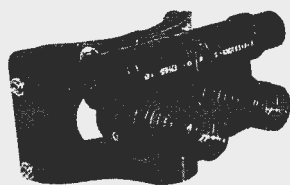
Another favorite media word was "courage," as in, "Don't you think it took courage for Bill Clinton to come here today?"

"If standing around in a suit and tie and getting booed for a couple of

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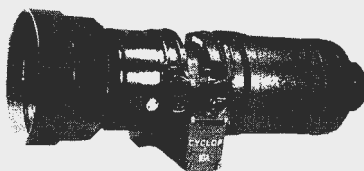
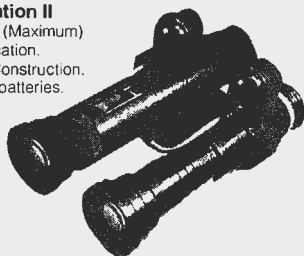


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minutes, then going home to the White House is 'courage,' " said Jack, "then what's the word for going to Vietnam and getting shot at for 365 days?"

We were amateurs at protest, and it showed. The White House had seized all the tactical advantages before we even arrived. Up on Firebase Clinton we had been pushed out of sight of most of the TV cameras. We had no press spokesman, no press releases to hand out, no binoculars or walkie-talkies, no organization — nothing except our bodies, some of them brutally wounded in Vietnam; our memories and our determination that this was *our* day, *our* Wall and that Bill Clinton's presence there was a national disgrace.

I talked to dozens of veterans and found no disagreement about Clinton. None of us had voted for him, but he *had* been elected by the American people, and with that went the title of commander in chief. We had no objection to his going to West Point to speak at the cadets' commencement. And we had no objection to his going to Arlington National Cemetery earlier that day to honor the dead of other wars. None of us would have come to Washington to protest either of those things.

Slick Willie Go Home

But not here. This was the monument to our generation's great fault line, the fault line that has grown wider over 25 years — between those who went and those who didn't; between those who served and those who chickened out.

And there was a second consensus among the veterans up on the hillside at LZ Slick Willie: None of us would have come to Washington had Clinton received a medical deferment for a bad knee or back, or joined the National Guard like Dan Quayle, or found some other legally proper, if morally dubious, way to stay at Oxford. What set us off was his in-your-face "I loathe the military" letter in 1969 — back then, we *were* the military — and our unshakable perception that he lied to the Arkansas ROTC program in

1969 and lied again to the American people in the 1992 campaign about what he had said and done to dishonorably evade his duty to his country while we were fighting in Vietnam. There wasn't anyone on the hillside who believed it was possible to "forget" you got an induction notice in that troubled year.

So today was payback, for a lot of things. Our most popular signs were "Vietnam Veterans Loathe Clinton" and "Coward" and "Draft Dodger" and "You Dishonor the Dead by Appearing Here." About 1245 we fell into a loose formation. We stood on our hillside, kept away from our Wall by the ugly snow fence, until 1300 when the band played "Hail to the Chief" and we had our first chance to boo.

We came to attention, did a reasonably smart about-face (it was surprising how well we remembered that maneuver) and turned our backs on him. "Where was Bill?" we chanted, and "Off our Wall," and "Come up here!" — an invitation he did not accept. We did another about-face to salute the flag as the military band played "The Star-Spangled Banner."

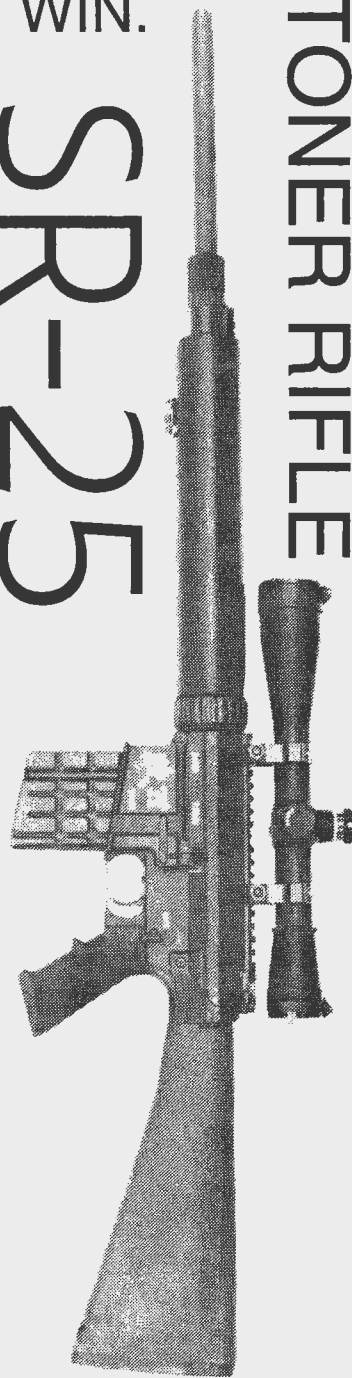
We listened respectfully and attentively to all the official speakers, booing only when they stated that they welcomed Clinton to our Wall. General Colin Powell — a man whom we respect enormously — introduced Clinton. He spoke to us about welcoming the president in the stern tones of a high school principal trying to calm an unruly, out-of-control assembly, and suddenly the feeling ran over us — Yes! Perfect! High school!

The Clinton White House had made a serious mistake in keeping us so far back in the trees — we were too far away to feel the overwhelming, somber grief that the Wall calls up from your heart when you're close by. We'd been pushed back so far that it was high school again, a year or two before we were drafted, and we were free to be the unruly boys from shop class, the hoods, the louts, the greasers, the troublemakers, booing that smarmy kid up on the platform who always stayed out of trouble with the teachers and ran for class president and won, but we knew you couldn't

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count on him in a pinch. And there was Gen. Powell, who could do nothing except frown and lecture to us, like a principal scowling at earlier years' graduates who had come back and were shouting insults and smoking on the front lawn, against all the rules, in the middle of a solemn ceremony — but who grudgingly realized that there wasn't anything he could do to stop us; we had graduated and were beyond his power. We were raunchy, insolent American high school kids again, reveling in our few moments of recaptured innocence.

We booed our lungs out as Clinton himself rose to speak, our anger at him mixed with the sheer lighthearted joy of rebellion and of hearing our strong voices blend together. We came to attention again and turned our backs on him in unison, even more smartly than in our first about-face. We sang "God Bless America" at the tops of our lungs and drowned out his words. We booed him until our throats were hoarse, half-angry and half-proud of our solidarity and the sheer volume of the noise we made.

For me, and for everyone else I spoke to that day, it was our first demonstration. We were 25 years behind the times, and for the first time a lot of us began to understand the sheer emotional joy of solidarity and brotherhood in just standing together on a hillside and shouting. It helped us understand why demonstrations had been so popular in the '60s; no matter how solemn your cause — they're fun, a terrific emotional release. Sometimes you have to sit down and solemnly debate and think through your position on things and perhaps write an essay; sometimes you just have to stand up on a hillside with your brothers and shout like a soccer hooligan.

When Clinton left, we fell out and walked slowly away. I threw my white plastic bag in the first trash can I saw and I wore my boonie hat as I walked from the Wall, past the State Department and through the streets of Washington to the Metro station, and I wore it on the Metro all the way to Union Station, and I wore it as I walked through the station in Washington and all the way home on the train. I got some

curious stares, but that was fine. For the first time in my life, it felt good to be publicly recognized as a Vietnam veteran.

David Clayton Carrad is a corporate lawyer in Delaware. He served with the U.S. Army in Vietnam in 1968-69. ✕

WHY WE LOST IN 'NAM

Continued from page 53

get into another hot counterinsurgency fight, our forces will find mines and booby traps galore. They're the have-nots' cheap weapons of choice; look at Mogadishu, Belfast and Cairo.

Of Ants And Hammers

Somalia in autumn 1993 is a classic example of our brass not having any memory of the U.S. combat force's eight bloody years in Vietnam. An insurgent force gets ugly and kills 24 U.N. soldiers. Spectre AC-130 aircraft and helicopter gunships are brought in to blow gang leader Gen. Mohamed Farah Aidid and his hoodlums away — again, the high-tech/firepower solution which didn't work in Vietnam. When that fails and it is realized that magic machines bringing havoc from the sky cannot win against a determined irregular hit-and-run opponent fighting in his own backyard, the 3rd Battalion 75th Rangers and elements of the elite Delta Force are brought in to hunt down Aidid and gang.

Somebody in the Pentagon finally got it right — though a bit late — and dialed up the hard-learned Vietnam lesson that to fight a guerrilla it takes another guerrilla. Rangers, Green Berets and a few maverick line units were the only forces in Vietnam that got it right and consistently whipped the VC at their own game. Our Rangers are the best guerrilla-busters we have, and they will do the job in Somalia.

Since the Vietnam War's tragic end, there has been a concentrated effort to rewrite the history of the war. Westmoreland, principal fall guy for the defeat, and retired Col. Harry G. Summers, a staff-officer type who in 30 years commissioned service

never commanded a combat unit, have been the key revisionist cheerleaders. Both basically contend that U.S. forces "won all the battles, but lost the war." I asked Bay Cao what he thought about the former U.S. Army officers who now preach, "We won all the battles in Vietnam." Bay Cao said, "If they won all the battles, why did they always want to bring in more troops?"

Westmoreland has a thing about the press. He damns the media for lying to the America people and breaking their national will to hang in there and to fight on. In a recent paper entitled *War and the Media*, Westmoreland writes that journalists in Vietnam were "... abusive, arrogant, and hypocritical. Many reporters have become smug and excessively sensitive. Politicians, businessmen and bureaucrats fear the media and handle them with kid gloves and well they might since their power and influence on public opinion is awesome."

Shifting The Blame

To saddle the media for the loss of Vietnam is like blaming the wagon for running away with the horses. Public opinion against the war began long before the Tet campaign of 1968. As the casualty figures rose, the people turned against the war. Tet, with its 2,500 American dead, was the beginning of the end for the U.S. commitment. After Tet, the American people demanded we get out *my pronto*.

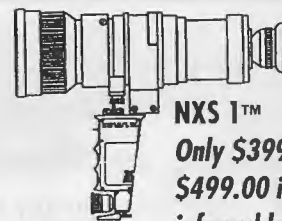
Throughout the war, the media was simply reflecting public opinion and reporting what it saw on the battlefield, not acting on its own subversive and unpatriotic agenda. They were there with the grunts. Both knew the truth; most generals did not. Westmoreland lost the war because he fought it badly and didn't have the guts to stand tall against the politicians who tied his hands. He didn't lose the war because the media wasn't on his side.

Westmoreland and Summers rightly blame the boys in the White House and the porkers around their troughs on Capitol Hill for stuffing up the war. They tied the hands of the military chief with their hare-brained "limited war" concept. A brand new second lieutenant knows that war cannot be fought with half

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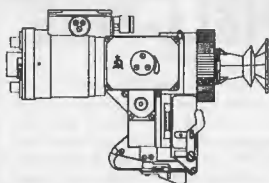


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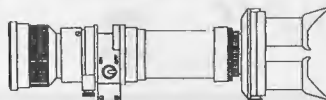


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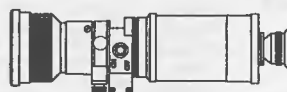
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measures. If a nation employs the military solution, there must not be any neat little end-game rules restricting the use of military force. Yes, the politicians were at fault, but the big brass with their lack of moral courage were the main offenders.

During the war, not one senior officer protested or resigned over the limits and restrictions civilian leadership placed upon the military — limits which prevented our bringing the full weight of our force upon the enemy. In addition, no general had the balls to sound off against Westmoreland's lack of a strategic game plan. All went along to get along.

It was obvious during the Gulf War that leaders like Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf and Gen. Colin Powell understood the larger lessons of the Vietnam conflict: Don't get involved unless it's vital to U.S. national interests. If you fight, go in all the way with no limitations and have a strategy superior to the enemy's. But few of the grunt's bloody lessons have been remembered, even though they are recorded in the thousands of books written by infantrymen since the Vietnam War.

On Army time and with maximum Army support, Summers, a major apologist for the U.S. generals who ran the war, wrote an officially sanctioned little Army-printed green book, *On Strategy*, which deals with the larger lessons. It was hailed in the 1980s as a major work on Vietnam by most military journals and the Pentagon brass. More objective reviewers have not been so kind. Professor Joe P. Dunn, of Converse College, wrote that it was, "a mediocre study," with "superficial analysis and shoddy scholarship."

Summers' central argument is: "On the battlefield itself, the Army was unbeatable. In engagement after engagement the forces of the Viet Cong and of the North Vietnamese Army were thrown back with terrible losses." But former staff weenie Summers' Pentagon-approved version of who won doesn't track with my experience or any of the grunts who carried M16s out in the bush. Of course, Summers, who recently wrote that he served, "almost four decades as an infantryman" but whose enlisted and officer service records reveal that he

has a total of less than one year with infantry troops at battalion level or below in those 40 years of mostly clerktpe service, wouldn't know.

In another 50 years, all of us who actually fought down where it was nitty and gritty and know the truth will be dead, and Summers' "major work" on the Vietnam War could become the accepted primer on the Vietnam experience, just as Clausewitz's writings are accepted as doctrine by most Western military men.

The Vietnam War, rather than World War II or the recent Gulf experience, will be the pattern for the future. We must learn from the U.S. experience in Vietnam, so that in the future we don't fight another conventional war against an unconventional opponent and repeat the failures of Vietnam.

America's most decorated living veteran, Col. David Hackworth, served 25 years in the U.S. Army, and in 1989 authored the international best-seller About Face. He continues his career as a military journalist and analyst, and is a frequent contributor to SOF. ✕

ANGOLA MERC

Continued from page 60

up some equipment.

The boat captain said he didn't want to get involved in "... anything political." Our team said we just wanted a ride out to an offshore oil rig where we could stay until we saw how the situation developed. The boat captain reluctantly agreed and we spent the night on an oil rig.

The next day our team contacted civilian contract employees in Soyo by radio and learned that the situation was stable. Four of the team members took a Zodiac back to recon the situation. The Texaco boat transported other team members back to Luanda, where they were bussed back to Cabo Ledo, then returned to South Africa as their contracts were up. Another group of new team members flew into Soyo as replacements.

The follow-up team was of higher caliber, probably because there had been more time to be selective in recruiting. This group stayed through-

out their 30-day contract, then left. In late May, Unita forces at Soyo broke through the MPLA lines, slaughtering the estimated 1,500 to 2,000 defenders.

I guess the moral of my story is, "Don't believe your employers, don't be surprised by anything, and be prepared for everything."

Robert K. Brown is Soldier Of Fortune's Editor/Publisher. ✕

RANGER VS. SF

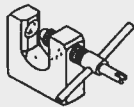
Continued from page 55

room bar, check out the situation by talking to the locals, and have a team meeting to discuss the merits of the terrorist's cause.

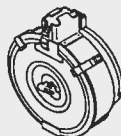
Results of the Operation: The rescue/recovery operation would take two weeks to complete and by that time all of the terrorists would have been killed (and would have left signed confessions), most of the passengers would be ruined psychologically for the remainder of their lives, and all of the women passengers would be pregnant. The Delta 747 would essentially be unharmed, the team would have taken no casualties but would have used up, lost, or stolen all the high speed equipment issued to them.

- R. B. A.

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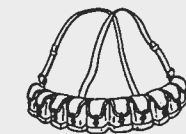


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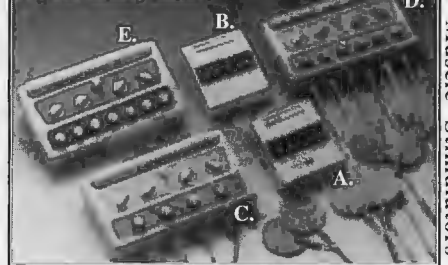
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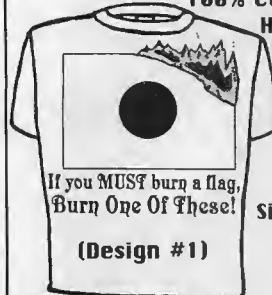
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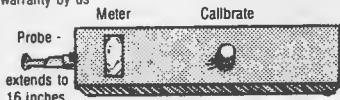
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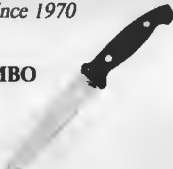
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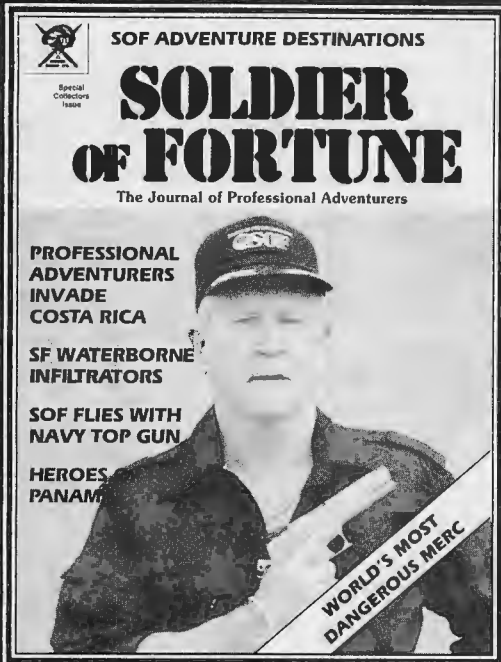
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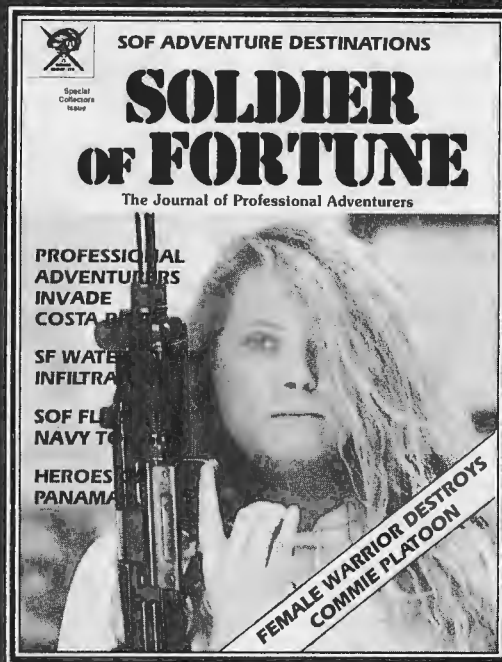
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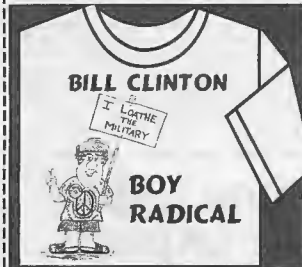
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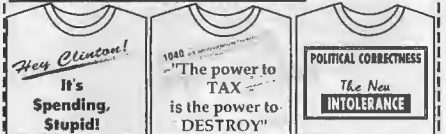
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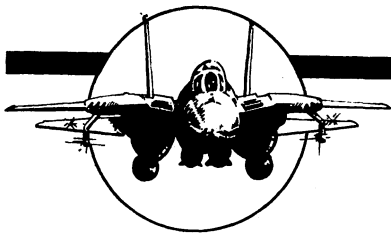
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PARTING SHOT

HILL 1969

by David Clayton Carrad

On Memorial Day this year I got up and caught the 0822 train to Washington, D.C., headed for the Vietnam War Memorial to join the protest against Bill Clinton's presence there.

In my right hand I carried a small, white plastic bag. Inside the bag was my "boonie" hat — the shapeless, unofficial camouflage hat I wore in the jungles of Vietnam 25 years ago. The night before, I had found the hat in an old suitcase in the basement and decorated it with my medals (nothing extraordinary — almost everyone who served there got the same ones I did) and my unit patches and old insignia. Without the boonie hat, there was no way you could have guessed I was a Vietnam veteran. I've been told I look a lot like other paunchy, middle-aged corporate lawyers and I was dressed accordingly, in a conservative blue blazer, white shirt, and club tie.

Anonymous Vet

And that's exactly what I wanted on the train to Washington: anonymity. I returned from Vietnam in mid-1969 and entered Harvard Law School. The atmosphere in Cambridge in the fall of 1969 was not a friendly one for returning veterans; in a very short time I acquired a lifetime supply of angry words, spittle, and hostile glances. Although I was proud to have served, I quickly learned the basic survival skill for Vietnam veterans: Keep quiet about it, leave it off your resume, turn the other cheek.

I kept the boonie hat concealed in the plastic bag all the way to Washington, as I walked through Union Station and on the Washington Metro as I rode to the subway station nearest the Wall. It was only when I came up the escalator out of the subway that for the first time I saw enough other veterans wearing similar hats, or T-shirts, or old bits and scraps of uniforms, to feel comfortable. I paused at the top of the escalator to put on my boonie hat and joined the growing stream of veterans headed for the Wall.

It was my third trip there — and it had taken me years to get up the strength to go there for the first time. I knew exactly what Army nurse Lieutenant Colonel Janis Nark was talking about later that day when she mentioned "tree vets," those who came to the Wall and were so overwhelmed by its towering black presence when they got up close that they had to back off into the tree line for a while, to get some distance from the names, the cold black granite that looms over you, and wait for hours, sometimes years, before they could find it within themselves to get up close. I'd been through that on my first two visits, both times coming by myself, at dawn, when no one else was there.

This time, I was in for an unpleasant surprise: The Clinton White House had ordered the Wall circled with an ugly wooden snow fence that kept us — *the veterans!*

— 500 yards away. You could go inside through the airport-style security detectors — but not if you were carrying a protest sign. Our hastily organized rally was kept back behind the fence — "halfway into the next bloody time zone," as Terry, another veteran, put it.

Terry's gray hair was neatly trimmed. He was wearing khaki shorts and a faded black and white T-shirt. If you knew the crossed arrow-and-dagger insignia and the motto (*De Oppresso Liber*), you'd know him for the Special Forces captain he had been in Vietnam in 1966-1967, but otherwise he looked exactly like the investment banker he had been since his discharge in 1968. He'd come all the way from London. We shook hands, and Terry introduced me to his high school friend Jack, a medic in Qui Nhon in 1967-1968 and a career FDA bureaucrat in Washington since then.

We wandered around on the sunny hillside above the Wall where the Clinton forces had confined us, seeking out people from our old units. We weren't bothered by the press — corporate lawyers, London investment bankers, and Washington civil servants don't fit their notions of what Vietnam veterans ought to look like. Instead, newsmen were busy seeking out the motorcycle-club members and two field-jacketed brothers from Iowa who looked startlingly like ZZ Top with gargantuan hangovers. Fred and his brother had heard Clinton was coming to our Wall and had driven straight through for two days just for the opportunity to stand up and turn their backs when he spoke. They were delighted to see the other 1,998 (my own completely unofficial estimate) Vietnam veterans gathered on the hillside when they arrived.

"But don't you think your protest is contrary to the spirit of the Wall?" one of the TV reporters was asking Fred. "After all, this Wall is for *healing* the wounds of Vietnam." I heard several reporters trying to bury us in the mush of that word.

Not About Healing, Stupid

Terry stepped forward to Fred's aid. "That's a myth," he said. "Why don't you go down and film the inscription on the Wall and show it on television tonight? That's why we're here, and why Clinton shouldn't be. This Wall was built to honor everyone who served in Vietnam, which most emphatically does not include Mr. Clinton."

I checked later, and Terry was right. The inscription read:

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Continued on page 82



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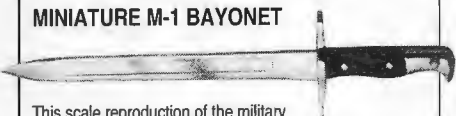
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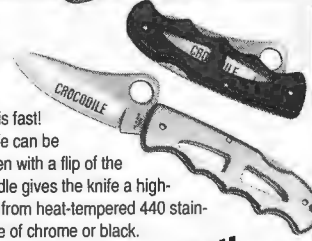
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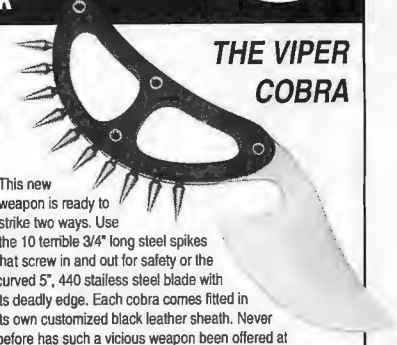
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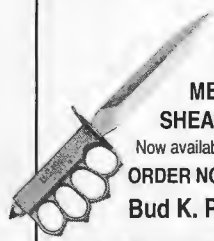
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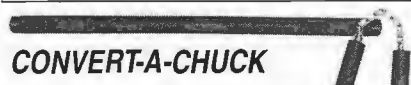


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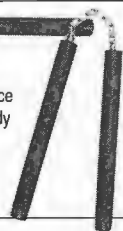


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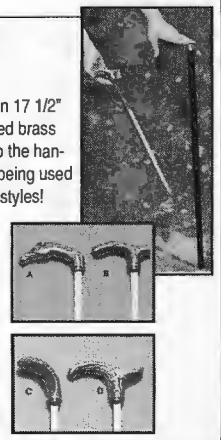
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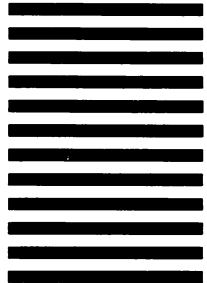
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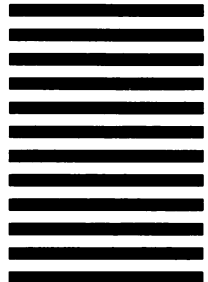
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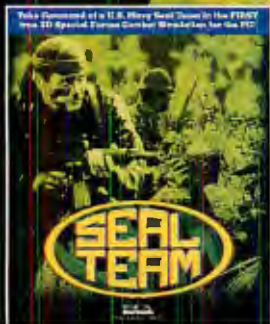


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