



**U.S. GOVERNMENT OUT OF CONTROL:  
SPECIAL FORCES PARTICIPATED IN WACO RAID!**

# **SOLDIER OF FORTUNE**

MAY 1994  
# 48493

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TERMINATE WITH  
EXTREME PREJUDICE**

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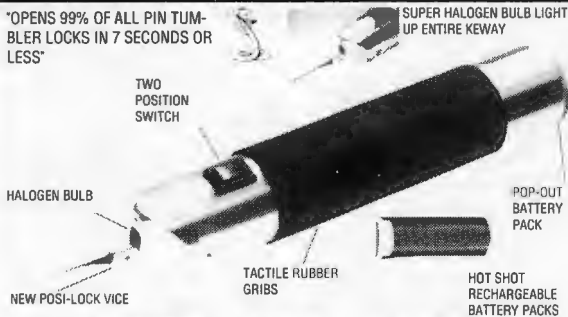
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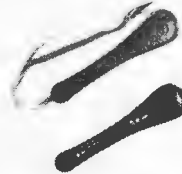
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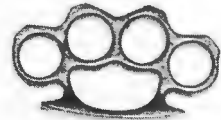
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## THE FUTURE OF GUN CONTROL IN AMERICA?

by Robert K. Brown

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### In Memoriam

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As an *SOF* reader, you know that I have long berated gun owners who refuse to become involved in actively working to defend our Second Amendment rights, or join the NRA. (For what amounts to the price of a couple boxes of ammo, signing up is a solid investment in protecting our freedom.)

Their excuses are many, but primarily it's laziness and the "My Ox Is Not Being Gored" Syndrome, i.e., the anti-gunners are not a threat to my trap/skeet shooting, small-bore competition shooting, etc...

Well, dear friends, I hope you will give these "anti-gun legislation doesn't affect me"-types a copy of the following confidential Handgun Control Inc. (HCI) document and see if they still feel the same way. This alleged internal document, leaked by an HCI volunteer, exposes the ultimate goals of diseased liberal elite anti-gunners; namely, the eventual elimination of ALL guns and ALL hunting.

Gun owners must understand the "nibbling" technique used by anti-gunners. Through political expediency, the willful use of disformation, blatant lying and subtle manipulation of an uninformed American public, the anti-gun crowd and its close ally, the left-wing media, will dramatically affect the rights of ALL gun owners.

Though Susan Whitmore, director of communications at HCI's Washington, D.C. office, categorically denies the document originated from within their organization, several of the main points are part of their "comprehensive

plan." For example, HCI openly supports requiring handgun licenses before such a weapon can be purchased (including fingerprinting), annual license fees of \$1000 for gun dealers, and bans on semiautomatic "assault" weapons and "non-sporting" ammunition.

And while Whitmore called the memo "ridiculous" and claimed HCI does not now, nor will in the future, support the banning

of all military re-enactments, of hunting on all public lands or assembly of four or more armed individuals, laws have been proposed governing these topics as well as most of the 34 other main agenda points. (Any guesses what side HCI was on when these proposed laws were being voted on?) Also keep in mind that this denial comes from an organization formed to fight handgun possession but that is now actively lobbying for controls on firearms and ammunition of all types.

Whether this "internal memo" is what it claims to be is unknown; that it's every hardcore anti-gunners' dream sheet is certain. *SOF* is publishing it as a dire warning for what the other side has in store for us if we ever let our guard down.

See "Eliminating All Private Gun Ownership in America" beginning on page 30. We have slightly shortened the text to eliminate redundancies and correct grammatical errors, otherwise it is as it was sent to us (stamped "Confidential" and on HCI letterhead stationery). ✕



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Photo: Paul McIver

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Aussie sniper trainee effectively uses concealment to hide from his selected target as he sights-in with issue Parker Hale Model 82 bolt-action sniper rifle mounting Kahles Helia 6x42mm scope. See what it takes to qualify as a sniper in the Australian army – page 36. Photo: Paul McIver

# BULLETIN BOARD

## DEATH CLOCK UPDATE

Heh, heh, you'll like this. Last December, when "wealthy New Jersey businessman and philanthropist" Robert Brennan paid out \$300,000 from his "Dehere Gun Fighters of America" to put up the "Death Clock" in New York City, we were told his altruistic reason for this was that his brother had been killed "by senseless gun violence." Wellll ... sort of: His brother was shot 25 years ago by a cop in New Jersey, after a car chase.

And where did this wealthy humanitarian get the piles of money for this altruistic gun grabber project? Heh, heh — it gets even better: Why, he was founder of the infamous bucket shop, First Jersey Securities. First Jersey has been under investigation by the SEC for some 15 years, and (surprise, surprise) Brennan is slated for trial as we go to press, with the SEC demanding a \$20 million disgorgement for his flogging garbage stocks on naive investors.

Wall Street columnist and author Joe Queenan suggests that perhaps Brennan should put up a "Widows and Orphans Clock" across the street from the "Death Clock" to keep a running tally of all the women and children who found out the day after the funeral that Dad's pension check was worth a lot less than expected because it consisted entirely of junk bonds.



The Heckler & Koch Offensive Handgun Weapon System (OHWS) is the subject of a Phase II contract with U.S. Special Operations Command, after competitive tests. The .45 ACP autoloading pistol is made by H&K; the laser sighting module is being developed by Insight Technology Inc.; the suppressor is being jointly developed by Knight's Armament and H&K. Photo: H&K

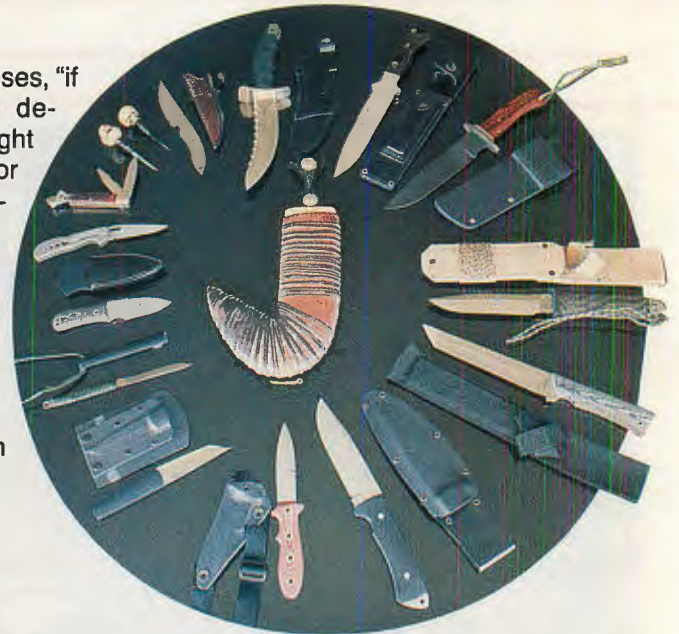
Or, Queenan proposes, "if Brennan has any decency at all, he might consider paying for 'The Who's-Kidding-Who Clock,' which would keep tabs on all the scoundrels who try, just before the feds haul them into court, to buy the public's favor with sordid PR stunts."

## WASHINGTON GUN MARCH

There's a movement afoot for a nationwide protest march on Washington, D.C., tentatively scheduled for Sunday, 3 July 1994, to show support for the 2nd Amendment. A million or so highly indignant (but unarmed, sober and orderly) demonstrators may have a healthy effect on legislators considering such garbage as H.R. 81 (repeal of the 2nd Amendment). For details contact Robert Johnson, 1920 Wells Road, Powell, TN 37849; phone: 615-947-9102.

## SCOTLAND YARD SCOLDS SANDINISTAS

Three years have passed since a gunman approached Enrique Bermudez in a parking lot and shot him in the head. The 59-year-old former contra leader died within minutes. Since that time there have been no arrests in the case, and few in the Nicaraguan police establishment are inter-



Sharp display: shown clockwise are the fine custom knives donated by their respective makers for the annual Freedom Fighters Auction at the '93 SOF convention. Starting at 12 o'clock: Al Mar Warrior, Al Mar SERE, Blade Cutlery Mod. 2, Ek SOF Ranger, J. D. Bailey Tanto, Al Polkowski custom, Tom Maringer Arabian Dagger (middle), Bud Nealy pocket Tanto, James Tukecek Neck Knife, Thomas Hermanski SEAL Boot Fighter, unidentified clip-on folder, adjustable wrench knife, Iron Butterfly, spikes with skulls, inlaid Skinner. Righteous iron, all. Proceeds went to Refugee Relief International. Our thanks to the donors. Photo: SOF staff

ested in pursuing it. Frustrated by lack of progress by the Sandinista-led police, who took a year and then handed no evidence over to the investigating judge, President Violeta Chamorro appealed to the FBI and Scotland Yard for help.

London sent detectives to Managua to review police files and make suggestions on how to pursue the case. The case still has not been investigated, and Scotland Yard's secret 33-page report has now been made public. Despite the detectives' recommendations to follow leads and reinterview several people, little, if any, action has been taken.

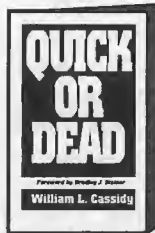
Top Nicaraguan prosecutor for criminal matters, Jose Antonio Fletes, stated that if Sandinistas are implicated, they probably would not be convicted: The judge handling the case, he notes, is a former agent of Sandinista state security.

## RED CELL: THE COMPLETE STORY

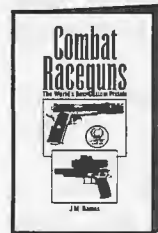
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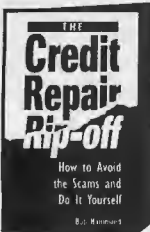
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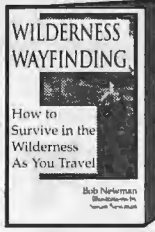
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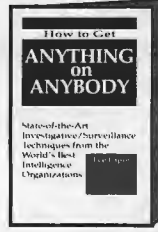
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## SPEAKING OF JUSTICE...

John Lawmaster of Tulsa, Oklahoma, has filed suit against ATF agents who trashed his home (see "Gun Gestapo" *SOF* June '92). The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver refused a request by Lawmaster's attorney to unseal the affidavit used to obtain a search warrant of Lawmaster's home. The affidavit wrongly accused Lawmaster of possessing an illegal machine gun; the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal of the 10th Circuit's refusal.

According to Lawmaster's attorney Steve Sessinghaus, suit has now been filed against agent P. Blair Ward of the ATF's Tulsa office, who led the raid, and other goons involved. Like Davy Aguilera, ATF's case agent in the monumentally disastrous Waco raid, Ward has been characterized as having graduated from the Idi Amin Academy of Police Procedure (see "Miscarriage of Justice" *SOF* April '94).

The suit alleges that Ward's wanton recklessness violated Lawmaster's 4th Amendment right

to reasonable search and seizure, and his 5th Amendment right to due process. The suit seeks more than \$50,000 in compensatory and punitive damages. A jury trial has been demanded. We wish him well.

— James L. Pate

## ACTION TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

As of this writing (February 22, 1994) — a bit over two months before the election scheduled in South Africa on April 27 — intertribal violence and terrorism, especially in the black townships, are totally out of control and are taking on the nature of a civil war. On one side are the South African Communist Party (SACP); the African National Congress (ANC), led by the Mandelas; and the even more violently radical Pan Africanist Congress (PAC). On the other side are the multiracial Freedom Party, the Volksfront (mostly white Afrikaners) and the predominantly Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP). Not a tenth of the murders are reported in the media, even inside South Africa. Almost all of

the victims are blacks, either Zulus or members of other tribes refusing to submit to SACP/ANC/PAC dominance. The killing of whites comes later.

The Freedom Party, the Volksfront and the IFP are refusing to take part in the April 27 elections. "We can recognize a trap when we see it."

Finally, the Zulus are organizing and training Self Protection Units. They are desperately short in such basic things as boots, uniforms, web equipment and, especially, medical supplies. The cost of shipping these items makes donations in kind impractical, and most of them can be bought inside South Africa, were it not for a desperate shortage of funds available to the Freedom Alliance.

Checks should be sent to: ACTSA (Action to Save South Africa), P.O. Box 226, Auckland Park 20006, Johannesburg, South Africa. Donations are not, of course, tax deductible, but for that reason all the more appreciated.

Continued on page 13

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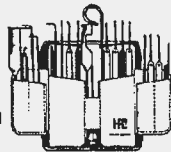
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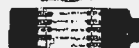


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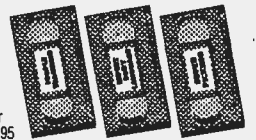
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# Secret New Fighting System Will Make Even A Black Belt Karate Master Putty In Your Hands!

If You Are Even Remotely Interested In Learning How To Physically Protect Yourself (and your loved ones) *With Complete Confidence*, Then This Will Be The Most Important Letter You Ever Read.

Very few people will ever be allowed to see the material presented here – I am being almost ridiculously selective because of the incredibly *dangerous potential* of the information revealed.

– by: Leo Costa, Jr. –

Dear Friend,

**Here is why:** I have recently discovered a “scientific” fighting system that is so effective, you will be able to *knock senseless* anyone who confronts you – no matter how skilled they are at fighting – within **1 or 2 seconds!** What’s more, this fighting system is so easy to learn, you will be able to *master* it completely, even if you have never been in a fight before in your life, or are a “klutz” at physical skills. Kids, women, even grandparents can master this system with equal ease – and be able to instantly “put away” any bully or criminal who comes after them.

This system is called **Hostile Control Systems** (or “HCS” for short). I’ve seen it in action, I’ve used it, and I tell you with all seriousness that it is simply...

## The Most Devastating Fighting System Imaginable – Yet It’s Like Nothing You’ve Seen Before!

In most cases, you’ll be able to end a fight instantly with a *single move* (that *cannot be defended against!*) no matter how “overmatched” you are in size or meanness. You do not need quick reflexes, big muscles, flexibility, or any previous fighting skills at all. Nor do you need hours of practice, because you can learn *everything* – on your own – in just a short time. And since this amazing new system is based on the way you move *naturally*, once you see how HCS works, you’ll know instinctively how to use it **forever!**

I know you’re probably skeptical right now – I certainly was at first. But let me tell you, everyone who has seen HCS in action has finally admitted that it is, ultimately, the only *truly undefeatable fighting system* ever developed. And I’m talking about people who have a lot to

lose by admitting this... for example:

\* One man, who is a U.S. military combat instructor with 3 black belts in different martial arts, was so convinced after just one month of using and teaching the “military” version of this fighting system that...

### He Ceremoniously Burned All 3 Of His Black Belts, Saying He’d Finally Found The Undefeatable Fighting System He’d Been Searching For All His Life!

\* A dentist, who was also a trained marksman, actually held an unloaded gun to my head and dared me to “get out of this situation with your fancy HCS”... and was astounded *one second later* to find himself disarmed and helpless! Yet I had *never practiced even once* the simple move I used – it just came “naturally” to me via my recent HCS knowledge!

\* My friend Russ, who is a skilled kick-boxer (and a bodybuilder weighing 230), taught his 130 lb. non-athletic wife just one HCS move, *one time*, and then tried to surprise her with a strangle hold – she reacted without thinking, nearly dislocating Russ’s thumb and putting him on the floor so easily that it actually frightened him!

\* We had a well-known local Kung Fu instructor stop by, and he *refused* to even go up against an opponent using HCS once he saw it in action – he could instantly tell he would be helpless to defend himself, or to even get a strike in before he went down!

I could go on for pages with more examples. But here’s the “clincher”: My friend Bob (6’4”, 240 lbs. and ripped) and I both tried to “get” at a guy using HCS

who maybe weighed 150 lbs. soaking wet. It was only a demonstration, but I wasn’t holding back. Now, I weighed in at about 250 myself, and I was fresh from a recent first-place finish at a California bodybuilding show... between the two of us, this little guy should have been beaten *easily*. Yet, he dropped Bob to his knees with a little “tap” to the ribs... and I’m *still* hurting (weeks later) where I got “gently” popped. We never touched him. If it had been a real fight, the squirt said he wouldn’t have been so easy on us.

### Two Moves, The “Fight” Was Over... And We Wanted No More Of That Little Guy!

It was the most amazing demonstration I’d ever experienced. And once *you* see HCS in action yourself, I’m sure you’ll be just as amazed. Here is how we came to discover HCS:

A few months ago, I was introduced to some members of the Navy SEALs, who are the “elite of the elite” of our military’s Special Forces – the guys trained to go on the most dangerous missions, to overcome the most impossible odds, and to...

### Never Lose A Fight!

Yet they use no martial arts or other “classic” fighting methods whatsoever. In fact, for the last 5 years, the SEALs have been using a special fighting system – it’s called “SCARS”, and it was developed by an ex-U.S. Army soldier with the reputation of being the most dangerous hand-to-hand combat man in the world.

The SEALs began using SCARS because they needed a fighting system that would allow them to quickly (within one or two seconds) defeat *every* enemy

they encountered, under the worst conditions imaginable: This new system would have to work even if they were exhausted, starved (their missions often had them covering hundreds of miles on foot with no food or water for days), *wounded*, carrying 80 lb. packs, and operating in ridiculously cramped spaces (such as the hallways of a submarine). And here's the kicker: It had to work *100% of the time*, no matter what.

### **If This New System Didn't Work, Good Men Would Die!**

They were simply amazed with what they found. SCARS exceeded their wildest dreams – **in over 5 years, the SEALS trained in SCARS have never been defeated in a single hand-to-hand fight!** The SCARS system has been tested *in the field* over and over again, under the most nightmarish real-life combat conditions...

### **And It Has Never Failed!**

Man, this was something I wanted to find out more about... but I couldn't. No civilian could ever learn the secrets of the SCARS system – it was strictly classified information. But I *could*, if I had the guts, meet the man who put the SCARS system together – that ex-soldier who had re-invented hand-to-hand combat from the ground up. (He's the first civilian ever contracted by the U.S. Navy to train SEALS in all aspects of combat fighting... and his SCARS system has been taught to more SEALS than any other fighting system!)

That's how I met **Jerry Peterson**. Let me tell about this guy (it's a Hollywood story in itself): He was a "front line, front line" combat soldier in Viet Nam – in the thick of the most vicious jungle fighting of the war. He stayed for two tours, and the killing he experienced made movies like "Platoon" and "Rambo" look like picnics in the park. He was a star point-man in "Charlie Company" (the 173rd Airborne), which was the most-decorated outfit in the military for that war, and which saw *more action* than any other group of soldiers... including the Green Beret.

### **Jerry Was Able To Study The "Science" Of Hand-To-Hand Combat In A Personal Way Most Men Cannot Conceive Of!**

And he learned some very interesting things – first of all, he learned quickly that the martial arts training he'd been given in boot camp was practically *worthless* in the field. Even the fighting styles of elite special forces (like the vicious Korean "Rock" units) were too fancy for the in-tight killing that occurred on the front lines.

So Jerry began to pick and choose among the various fighting styles he'd been exposed to: the street fighting of his youth, the most effective strikes from the martial arts he'd mastered as a soldier, the killer moves he saw from the Vietnamese, and the tips he learned from other grunts who had survived and *succeeded* during those long, bloody days in the field.

By the time he left the army, Jerry had developed a tested, *scientific* method of "analyzing" fighting skills. He was a "fighter's fighter", and was only interested in the parts of other fighting systems that met the strict, basic principles that he *knew* worked in the real world. He examined the psychology, the physics, and the human geometry of **sport fighting** (American boxing, wrestling, kick boxing, etc.), **street fighting** (both "consensual" barroom brawling and criminal attacks), and the "**fight or die**" combat of wartime. He analyzed the best Asian fighters in the world, from China, Japan, Korea and the Philippines... and he dissected the Europeans (where the ancient fighting systems of the Celts, the Swedes and the French are still employed with great success). For 20 years he studied, becoming, quite literally...

### **The Most Dangerous Man In The World At Hand-To-Hand Combat!**

And what he learned in those 20 years confirmed my own nagging suspicions: He saw men and kids all over the world being confused by so-called "experts" who had no real-life experience in fighting. Jerry decided that was wrong, and he began to form his *own* method of fighting. But it wasn't like so many other "new" systems out there, which are a hodge-podge of "maybe's". No. What Jerry was able to put together, based on his 20 years of strict scientific analysis, was a system that took advantage of the *universal secrets* of the best-of-the-best fighting systems – for the first time, the most super-effective psychological, physical, and human geometrical *truths* of fighting were "melted down" and...

### **Distilled Into A Basic, Simple, And Deadly System That Could Be Learned And Used With Ease By Anyone!**

That's when the SEALS found Jerry, and convinced him to develop the system they so desperately needed. (By the way, Jerry has also taught fighting systems to police department SWAT teams.)

Let me tell you, despite his brutal background, Jerry is one of the most *concerned* men I've ever met. He's seen firsthand how bad guys take advantage

of decent men and women and children, and he seriously does not like it. He *hates* the idea of his kids, or anyone else's kids, having to walk in *fear* in their own community – and it wasn't difficult to talk him into creating a new system of fighting for civilians. One that we could bring to people like you, to people like my family and friends. A system that would work with...

### **100% Effectiveness, 100% Of The Time!**

Here's what you get in the Hostile Control Systems package that Jerry has put together for you:

1. Two full-length video tapes, featuring Jerry himself and two actual **combat instructors** from the SCARS organization, that show you everything you need to know about this new system. The tapes use live action footage, multiple camera angles, and slow motion replays – so each tape is a complete lesson.
2. A special report on Street Fighting that gives you an *inside look* at what really happens in most altercations, whether it's in a beerhall, a back alley, a busy street, or a fancy restaurant. You'll come away with a lifetime worth of "street" knowledge and savvy – and you'll *never* be surprised by what happens to you in the real world again!
3. You get a heavy manual full of illustrations and detailed explanations of everything you'll see in the videos.
4. *Plus*, you get a detailed human anatomy chart, inside that manual, illustrating all the "one-strike take-down points" you'll use as targets – along with explanations of what happens when you strike each target!

This last part is very important, and it's what sets HCS apart from any other fighting system on the planet. The reactions a human being exhibits after being hit are 100% predictable – it's called **autonomics**. That's a fancy word that simply means "the automatic reactions" of human movement. Here are a few examples of what you'll learn:

- You can easily force a man into the same violent (and involuntary) reaction *every time* simply by "targeting" his solar plexus... and he'll go down into the exact floor-space you want him to! (By the way, his solar plexus is already "pin-pointed" for you by a button on his shirt!)
- A stomp on his *shoelaces* (with no more force than crushing a bug) will produce a "two-pronged" autonomic reaction that leaves him helpless and "set up" for a simple fight-ending move your grandmother could deliver.
- There are 2 "secret" ways to instantly manipulate a man with kidney punches,

both of which allow you to *end* the fight with your next decision... in your own sweet time. (It's easy to target the kidney once you understand the simple "map" of target areas we give you.)

- Forget what you see in the movies – the autonomic reaction to a groin kick is identical for every man, every time. And your *second* kick also produces a 100% predictable response (which, if you don't step clear, might soil your shoes). Even more important, he will be left helplessly open to a devastating "tap" from you that will end his fighting days for quite awhile.

I could go on for pages, but you get the idea. This "science" of autonomic reactions comes from Jerry's 20 years of studying hand-to-hand combat *in person*. Soldiers who study with Jerry often have to put what they've learned to the test *immediately*... and they come back with detailed results of the effects.

### **These Fighters Know – With As Much Certainty As A Pool Player Knows Where The Cue Ball Is Headed – What To Expect When They Deliver A Strike!**

The importance of this knowledge becomes brutally obvious when you see your standard downtown martial art studio in action. People are taught to deliver strikes up and down the body in rapid succession – face, neck, solar plexus, groin, knee, et cetera. Yet these multiple moves can almost never be used in a real-life situation... because the first strike will cause autonomic reactions that make the *next* strike *physically impossible*! Even more important...

### **Why Do You Need To Practice Multiple Strikes When Real Fighters End A Fight In 1 or 2 Seconds With One Blow!**

Black belt instructors who aren't real-life fighters simply do not have the knowledge to predict a man's physical reactions to being hit. And this creates a "mystery zone" for their students... if you can't predict how a person will react to your strikes, how can you know what to do next? I think that's ridiculous.

### **With The "Real Life" Fighting Know-how You Get From HCS, You'll Always Know What Happens Next!**

There will be no "gray areas" in your knowledge. No guessing. Not even a *shred* of self-doubt! If you ever have to use what you've learned, you will have the confidence of knowing what to expect at *each and every moment* – from the first

push or insult to the moment *you* decide to end the confrontation. I can't stress how crucial that is in the real world. It's the difference between standing there blinking and being a *victim*...

### **And Walking Away As The Victor!**

Here's what *else* you're going to learn:

- How a single "secret" statement can *end* a fight in your favor before it begins!
- How to instantly "take down" aggressors even if they surprise you!
- How to identify the basic "tough guy" gestures nearly all attackers make just *before* they deliver their first blow... split seconds before they realize they're about to act themselves! (Giving you time to *end* the situation before it actually starts!) For example:
  - A man will move his chin in a predictable way just before striking...
  - His eyes *will change* when he's reached the boiling point...
  - And you should know what's coming next when he *steps back 2 paces* or has just put his hand on your shoulder (it ain't a goodbye kiss that he's got in mind!)
- How to conquer forever the "shakes" and out-of-control anger or fear that all inexperienced fighters suffer!
- How to do ultimate damage to your targets... *without hurting your hand!*
- How to mentally *force* your attacker to open himself up to your easiest single-strike take-down moves!
- The secrets of using pain and shock to disable your opponent without causing him permanent injury.
- How to "skip" the one unforgivable mistake almost *every* inexperienced fighter makes instinctively! (Which usually gets them hurt badly!)
- Why you *never* need to use defensive blocks... and why it's a dangerous waste of time to even learn them!
- The *single most important question* you must ask yourself – and answer – in any difficult situation!
- Your body's 12 most devastating natural weapons (including your own "personal piece of steel pipe"!)
- Your best 6 "*first strikes*" (guaranteed to drop your assailant instantly)... from a seated position, standing face-to-face, when attacked from behind, when attacked by a larger aggressor (ideal for women and kids), and more!
- How to easily turn your day-to-day attitude into an "Offensive Mindset" that won't change anything about you except:
  - Your level of fear will *vanish* forever...
  - You'll become more decisive in *everything* you do, and especially when the chips are down...
  - You'll gain **enormous self-confidence** that will shine like a

searchlight in your eyes...

– You will take total and complete *control* of every situation in your life – instead of just reacting to what happens to you (like a helpless puppet whose strings are pulled by other people!).

- How to understand the "Hierarchy of Critical Decisions" that occur in every conflict. (This is a revelation to anyone who hasn't experienced a lot of fighting – with this knowledge, you can pinpoint the *exact moments* you must choose your next action... so you are always in control, always one step ahead of the other guy!)

And more, and more, and more. This package is truly the most amazing self-teaching method of real-life fighting you've ever seen. Just listen to what some very impressive people have to say about Jerry's fighting systems:

*"A mere two weeks ago I was forced into a violent confrontation with an ex-felon street gangster thug. Thanks to HCS, I won - He went back to jail and I went about my business."* James McEvoy, Phoenix, AZ

*"What really convinced me – and I've used this stuff in real fights – was the abundance of options available. I could control, scare, hurt, debilitate... it was up to me, not the other guy. Your only choice to make is: What damage do I want to do to this person? You never need to wonder: What's gonna happen next?"* Tim (Last name withheld due to security regulations), combat instructor for the SCARS Spec. Warfare Division.

*"I was skeptical of your program at first. Since training with HCS just a few weeks, I must agree the program is 'ultimate self defense'. I would like to thank you in advance for saving my life."* Steven Blackmon, Concord CA

*"I earned a first-degree black belt while training in Japan in what I thought was the most effective martial art in the world... but after seeing how fast the methods used in Hostile Control Systems can eat up even an experienced fighter like myself, I'm convinced this new system is the way to go."* Kelly Dyinge, Instructor/Owner Full Force Kickboxing

*"...I have to say that (HCS) is the most practical and realistic system around today. I always wondered how the special forces soldiers could learn practical fighting in a short period of time. If this catches on, it could put some Martial Arts schools out of business."* Mark Bratsch, Keansburg NJ

Let me stress something here – **you need this information!** It is not a luxury, not in today's world. I just saw some

video tape on T.V. of convicts in prison... you know what they were doing during their "free time" in the prison yard? Teaching each other how to sneak up and rob people, how to choke and drag off victims without sound, how to hurt and cripple and *destroy people's lives* just to satisfy their sick needs. In short, they were "going to school" to learn how to take advantage of you once they get out!

Do you want to be a victim? Do you want your loved ones to be victims? Do you want to walk around with a layer of sweaty fear on your skin all the time, knowing you're vulnerable at every street corner to being assaulted, robbed, or worse? I sure don't, and I don't believe you do, either. It's time to learn how to take care of yourself.

This information does not insult your intelligence in any way – there are no mysterious Oriental chants or religious nonsense to learn. You do your learning at your own pace, at home. You can learn *fast*, too...

**In A Matter Of Hours You'll Surpass The Fighting Skill Of Guys With 10 Years Experience In Martial Arts!**

That's because this stuff is based on **what works in real-life fights** that take place in one or two seconds. You need no previous experience in any kind of fighting whatsoever – we'll show you *everything* you'll ever need to know. You don't need

to be strong, quick, agile, or even in shape. And every move is base on the way you move *naturally* – there's no gymnastics involved, no spinning kicks, no jumping, no fancy moves of any kind.

Though let us be clear on this: **You must take total responsibility for your actions** – this is a "use at your own risk" type of product, and you can understand why I have to say that. What we're teaching here is the most effective fighting method on the planet... used correctly, and you will be able to defeat anyone – unless they happen to be a Navy SEAL. But we can't make you invulnerable to the world – this is your best-possible defense against aggression, but it's not fool-proof. Just so long as we understand what's going on here, all right?

I'm **not** asking you to take any financial risk. I'm going to make it as simple as possible for you to try this amazing Hostile Control Systems out for yourself... without risking a dime. Here is my

**100% No-Nonsense Guarantee:**

If you aren't convinced that this system is everything I've said it is... a no-guess work, tested in real battle conditions, easy-to-learn *fast* course in turning yourself into the most formidable fighter you could ever dream of being... after *trying it out* for 3 entire months, then I insist you return the package to me, and

I will immediately send you a 100% refund of your purchase price. No questions asked, no hard time from me... and we'll still be friends. I trust your opinion, and I believe you won't take advantage of me on this "almost too-generous" guarantee.

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Sincerely,

*Leo Costa Jr.*

Leo Costa, Jr.

P.S. I almost forgot something important. We've only put together a small number of these HCS packages, so you really need to call *today* to make sure you get one reserved for you. It's a great deal, but there may not be enough packages to go around without delays. Just give us a call at **1-800-582-2083**, and make sure you get *your* package now. Thanks.

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Continued from page 8

### AIR COMMANDOS TO MEET

The 50th anniversary reunion of all Air Commandos (World War II, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama and Desert Storm) will be held at Hurlburt Field, Florida 7-9 October 1994. For update info, call or write: Air Commando Association, 25 Miracle Strip Parkway SE, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548; phone: 904-243-4601; fax: 904-243-3568.

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—Second Prize: Joseph Konchalski of Monroe, Georgia (Ruger Mini-14 rifle).

—Third Prize: Robert Todd of Kenner, Louisiana (Al Mar Knife).

—Fourth Prize: Kenton Faith of Calvert City, Kentucky (Al Mar knife).

—Fifth Prize: Jason Casselman of Ontario, Canada (Al Mar knife).



Rocky Mountain Arms (Box 329, Longmont, CO 80502).

### CONGRATS, WINNERS!

Winner of the SOF July '93 promotional sweepstakes was Richard Woehrel of Bridgewater, New Jersey, who won a Ruger .45 KP90DC pistol.

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General Harry C. Aderholt (USAF-Ret) is trying to locate Colonel Joe Price and Zorro pilots at NKP, Thailand in 1966-1967. If you have any information please phone: 904-243-0442; fax: 904-243-3568. ✉

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# I WAS THERE

by Jerry Sullivan

*January 1969 ... along the Cambodian border in the Mekong Delta ...*

The Special Forces camp at Muc Hoa could have been a set for the bar scene in *Star Wars*. All kinds of bizarre characters hung around, most armed to the teeth, with thousand-yard stares. Over the years the Army had acquired some dangerous indigenous hired hands. Relations between them and our Hoi Chan Tiger Scouts bordered on open warfare.

We'd been airlifted into the remote camp to meet our new boss. Little apparent rhyme or reason existed for what the 4th of the 39th, 9th Infantry did. Much of the time we did nothing other than take casualties to booby traps and the occasional sniper.

Morale was low and many troopers were high. Not what I'd expected and certainly not what I wanted. I was regular Army (*yeah, yeah, I know, hold the applause until the end, please*) airborne infantry. So here I was, waiting to meet the new boss and wondering what the hell I'd gotten into.

Colonel David Hackworth's reputation preceded him and anxiety levels were running high. Rumor was he stood 8 feet tall, ate Cong for breakfast, kicked ass with the very best of them, and had been in-country since about the time of the industrial revolution. The bit about his time in-country was somewhat exaggerated, but the rest was surprisingly accurate.

Some serious changes were about to take place in our AO. The colonel told us straight out: We were gonna kick some ass, take Charlie's war to him, interdict his supply operations, take him out in his own backyard. We'd ambush him by night and take him out as he slept by day. Hack told us he'd take care of our young asses, No. 1 priority; that we'd have full support for the task at hand, and that he'd be right there in the shit with us —

not orbiting in his command and control ship.

The changes were immediate and dramatic. Muc Hoa and other SF camps became forward operating bases; Navy PBRs (Patrol Boat, River) inserted us deep into Indian country; we started doing frequent helicopter insertions. Long-range recon and ambush patrols netted unexpectedly good results. No place was safe from Hack's Reconos. We busted our balls day and night, and with our successful team efforts unit morale and cohesiveness soared. We became proud young soldiers doing a bang-up job for a real warrior.

This was not, however, the beginning of a turkey shoot. We took our licks, and casualties. The entire Delta was booby-trapped, and we had some ambushes turned around on us. Mr. Charles was a

Author saddles up for eagle flight out of Dong Tam, 9th Infantry Division base, South Vietnam 1969. Photo: author's collection



worthy, experienced adversary. Operating in the Delta, often for several days at a time, was brutal. Environmental factors probably caused more casualties than Charlie. Insects and other critters worked us over night and day. Day after day after day. We were always wet and filthy.

The Delta was like one large sewer. We humped in it, ate in it, slept in it, drank its water, and fought and bled in it. Skin broke down, leaving us susceptible to infections. Flesh sloughed off, exposing open ulcers. The terribly humid heat of the day became bone-chilling cold at night. Add the inherent dangers and rigors of combat — a grunt's life in the Delta was rough.

For four more months we took it to Charlie, always on the move, trying to best him at his game. We built fire support base Danger in the heart of his AO, the first such U.S. troop presence in Dinh Tuong province. Then, on the 22nd of May, we hit the big time!

The second platoon of Claymore Company was two or three days into an ambush patrol when in the wee hours we received word that we were to force-hump to a rendezvous with other elements of the 4th Battalion. Battle Company had air-assaulted into the base camp of the Viet Cong 261A battalion, and was engaged in a major firefight. They had succeeded in flushing the VC from cover, and as they attempted to flee into the countryside, our other companies blocked retreat. Tac air, gunships and artillery pounded the area mercilessly. We were giving the 261A a beating!

We moved into a static position among the bombed-out remnants of a small farm and kept our heads down, engaging VC elements as they approached. As my scout, Fee, and I hunkered down, out of the rubble came a chicken. Of course it

*Continued on page 70*



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# COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

by Louis Awerbuck

## Countering Car-jackers

There was a time when car-jacking meant elevating your '57 Chevy to change a flat tire. These days, car-jacking can at best lead to the loss of your car, and at worst to the loss of your life. If you choose to surrender and gamble on the biggest table stakes of them all — read no further.

If, on the other hand, you choose to fight (which is also a gamble), all the worst-case situations must be taken into consideration during training. The bottom line with car-jacking is that you have to be critically aware of your surroundings, because of the disadvantageous circumstances under which you will have to commence your reaction. Due to the nature of car-jacking, it will always have to be a reactive process.

There are four primary locations where car-jacking takes place: (1) parking lots — especially those at shopping malls, offices, churches; (2) traffic intersections — typically at stop lights; (3) at home — driveway entrances or garages; and (4) gas stations. There is a fifth circumstance where people are tricked into stopping, usually to aid a supposedly helpless motorist, but this essentially falls under a different tactical category, and is discussed as such at the end of this article.

Taken in the above order, shopping malls and underground parking areas are the most dangerous — and probably most preventable — of car-jacking predicaments. The commonest victim is the lone female, such as a late-night shopper or professional (nurses and the like) coming off duty. This dilemma should not lead to a close-quarters situation, as it can be prevented by the accompaniment of a security guard to the vehicle. Needless to say, the "protector" should check around, underneath and inside the vehicle, then stand by until the potential prey is securely in the car with doors and windows locked and

engine running. There are also remote, radio-controlled pager-type alarm systems that illuminate the vehicle interior before the driver approaches the vehicle.

If no "bodyguard" is available, approach with extreme caution, *door key in hand*, and at least check both your surroundings and the vehicle interior before entering. Have some type of weapon available, even if it is only several keys protruding between your fingers: Nobody can hurt you with key-ruptured eyeballs. You may also want to consider a key-ring pepper spray device. Distasteful as this may seem, only violence controls violence under these circumstances. Obviously, if there are any suspicious signs on your approach across the parking lot, *turn around and leave*, and get help. Discretion is the better part of valor!

The traffic-light trick is usually initiated by a smack on the rear bumper by a trailing car. The good news about this scenario is that you usually have a couple of seconds to decide whether this is a criminal act or a genuine traffic accident. If you decide it's the former, and you have room to maneuver, *get your car out of there* and immediately head for the nearest law enforcement help. You will both save your neck and avoid prosecution for leaving the scene of an accident. Try to establish perpetrator and perpetrator-vehicle identification if possible. If you are boxed in by traffic, keep your doors locked and windows up and honk your horn frantically. Daylight or dark, criminals do not like attention.

Unfortunately, in dense traffic, driving out of the problem is extremely difficult and a defensive driving course from the likes of Tony Scotti or Bob Bondurant is highly recommended. Solution? Be aware of your surroundings at all times via your rear-view mirrors — and attach convex add-on mirrors to the factory standard side mirrors to enable you to keep *all* "blind" areas in your rear

vision at all times. In traffic, leave room between your car and the one you follow, so you have room to maneuver at stop lights.

The home-driveway-and-garage problem is also relatively easy to prevent. You are most vulnerable if you have to exit the vehicle to open a gate leading to the driveway, or if you have dense vegetation lining the driveway, and you are extremely vulnerable in the carport itself. The first two conditions are obvious and should be countered by electronic gate openers and judicious pruning, respectively. The garage/carport is a potential disaster area, because your defensive synapses usually shut down as you go through a mental stage of relief at having arrived home safe and sound.

Unfortunately, this safety may be illusory. Most people who live in urban "fortresses" don't take into consideration that the door leading from the carport to the inner house is often of poor construction — and *is often left unlocked* by the homeowner, merely because he/she relies on the security of closing the outer garage door.

*Scenario:* You arrive home after nightfall. As soon as you kill your headlights you are a night-blind sitting duck in your own carport. If Jocko is waiting for you, you've just become Thanksgiving dinner.

*Suggestion:* Use a remotely controlled garage door opener, always leave the light on in the garage, and *reverse* up your driveway and into the carport. Any suspicious indications — hit first gear, floor the car and get out of there. An additional bonus: your Chevy beats a knife or gun 10 times out of 10!

Gas stations are a popular car-jacking area because most people are so intent on watching the gas pump they don't observe anything else. If anybody already parked looks suspicious on your arrival — drive on. If not, use your side windows as mirrors for observation while filling up, and *don't* leave the



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keys in the ignition. If you're perverted and *like* getting into gunfights, a flammable, explosive gas pump/station is not the place to do it. Join the Marines.

The moral of this story is not to run your car until it's on empty — gas up in a populous, safe area during daylight when you *choose* to, not at a Transylvanian Texaco at midnight because your car's running on fumes.

The aforementioned "stranded motorist" ploy is a sign of the times. While the age of chivalry isn't dead, it certainly has a severe case of emphysema, resulting from many good samaritans being car-jacked and killed. Here's a clue: Even if she's stark naked and looks like a goddess, if there are any areas of cover or concealment within the proximity of the "stranded" motorist — keep on trucking. And as soon as you see a "stranded" motorist, don't let tunnel vision stop you from checking the *opposite* side of the road or highway — that's the oldest trick in the book.

Especially if you're female and alone on a lonely rural road at night, *don't* stop for pursuing red and blue rotating lights unless you are 100% positive it's a police officer. If there's any doubt, maintain your legal speed until you have reached a populated area or police station — any law enforcement officer worth his salt will accept your explanation. (This assumes, of course, that you weren't breaking the law before the red and blues started flashing.)

The bottom line of this article is that prevention is better than cure. If you have to fight reflexively after noticing a gun muzzle growing out of your ear, you're probably going to be out of luck. Safety belts, armrests and steering wheels in cars and trucks all have extremely detrimental effects on your normal high-speed, low-drag handgun drawstroke.

Tactics, as always, are what will cause you to win or lose. The law of the jungle is to live to fight another day.

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

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# SLICK WILLIE WATCH



## RETRACTION, CORRECTION, FESS-UP AND (GULP) SEMI-SUBJECT APOLOGY

Much of the material in this column is gleaned from published news items. We obviously don't have the staff to follow the Prez around waiting for him to step on his necktie. As a fringe element of the contrarian opposition, it's our job to consider the White House as an editorial free-fire zone — but it is also our intent to leave knee-capping to aspiring Olympians.

In the March 1994 issue of "Slick Willie Watch," we reprinted a story dealing with White House "Chef Bruno Bartoli" who had been hired @ \$10,000 a month plus benefits. It turns out that *this* Chef's Special is Baloney, and a goodly segment

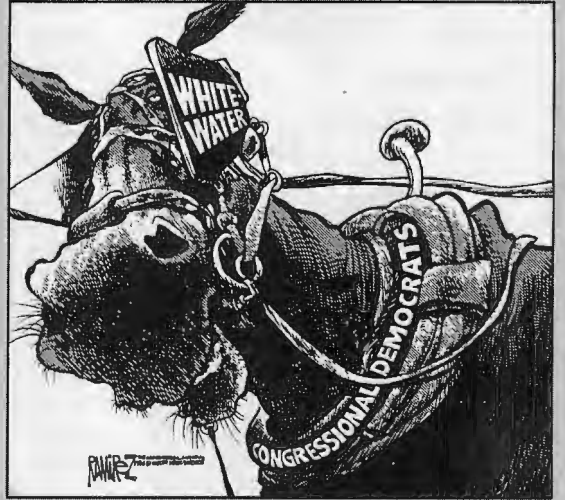
of the fourth estate — including us — bought a hoax. His "announcement" was a publicity stunt.

The White House spokesperson we contacted was unable to discuss the salary or GS rating of the *real* White House chef, but assured us it was one Pierre Chambrin, and no one we talked to there (five various media relations people) had heard of "Chef Bruno Bartoli." Pity. We were really hoping for a point of contact for Bartoli as we'd really like to talk to him.

## CONTINUING HEAVY SNOWJOBS

The two federal bu-

reaucracies guilty of criminal recklessness in the Waco disaster — the departments of Treasury and Justice — were going out of their



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way to generate good press as the trial of 11 Branch Davidians began in San Antonio. Coincidence? Maybe.

Flying all the way to China, a poker-faced Bentsen solemnly cautioned the communist government that they must polish their human rights record if they hope to be morally upright enough to horsetrade with that paragon of business ethic, our federal government. Inscrutable to a man, Chinese leaders must have snickered inwardly, diplomatic enough not to mention the U.S. government's human rights records in Idaho and Bentsen's home state of Texas. These were the sites of bloody botches begun against men with unconventional religious beliefs and no criminal convictions — Randy Weaver and David Koresh.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Janet Reno went to Dallas to prattle

about her "holistic approach to crime fighting" and her attack on crime's "underlying social problems..."

"I've become convinced that the child who watches his father batter his mother comes to accept

"Why is the attorney general talking about child care in the first place?" Reno noted rhetorically, "We have to begin to look at children as a whole ..." As opposed to looking at children as crispy little pieces?

Fortunately, not all Texans were snowed by Reno's blizzard of PR gibberish: Two brothers, Phillip and Caleb Hall, stood outside at Reno's speech, steadying a sign twice their height, with a plaintive message, "Please Don't Gas Or Burn Any More Children." —James L. Pate



violence as a way of life," said the eminent attorney general and field marshal. No disagreement there, but if that's so, what might a tyke learn from watching Reno's FBI Hostage Rescue Team "rescue" dozens of women and children in the Waco holocaust? You may ask,

### SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Of the various proposed candidates for secretary of defense, the one who makes the most sense to us is John Wayne Bobbitt. He is a former Marine; he has experience with women in combat. And he has demonstrated an ability to survive drastic cuts. Plus, there would be no nanny problem. ✕

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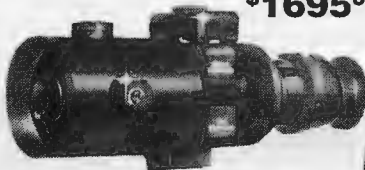


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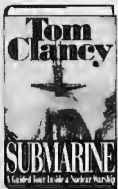
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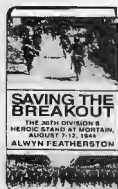
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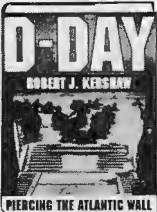
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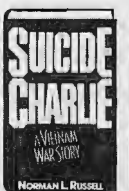
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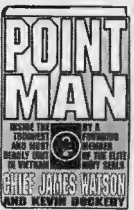
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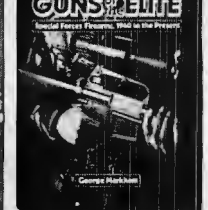
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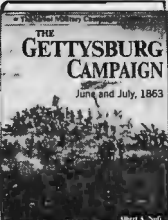
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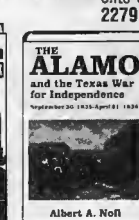
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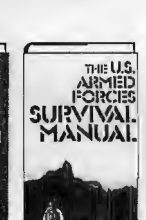
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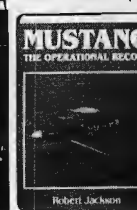
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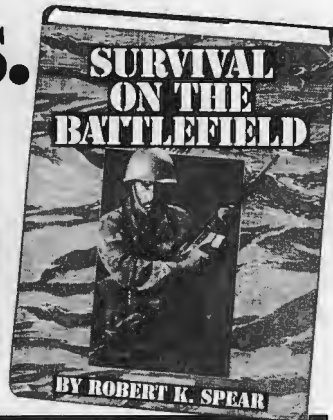


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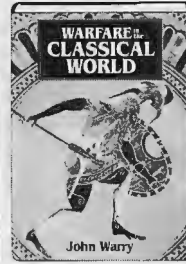
# you've got to use your head. Or hands.



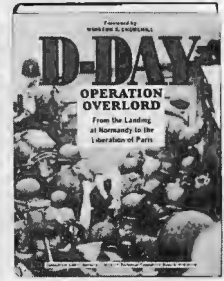
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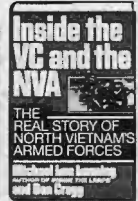
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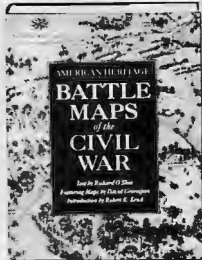
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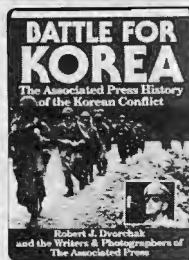
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# WORLD SITREP

1

## JAPAN

British intelligence reports reveal that Japan has assembled all materials and technology to build a nuclear bomb in as little as 90 days.

2

## VIETNAM

Clinton normalizes relations with Vietnam.

Clinton administration releases a study that dismisses two Soviet documents purporting to show the North held more prisoners than it admitted. Report suggests the two documents are probably exaggerations as the number of prisoners cited exceeds the total number of known prisoners and missing pilots. Critics charge the study set out to disprove the documents rather than objectively evaluate them.

5

## BOSNIA

The CIA is deploying a ground satellite station and two Gnat-750 unmanned long-range recon drones to Albania to monitor the situation in Bosnia. This is partly a field test and partly to have them in position if skies suddenly become unfriendly.

Serbs meet 20 Feb. deadline for withdrawal of artillery, and threatened air strikes do not take place.

6

## COLOMBIA

Marxist rebels burst into political rally by former left-wing guerrilla group that had accepted amnesty, leaving 35 dead.

10

7

## PERU

During 1993, 1,692 people were killed in guerrilla-related violence, just over half of the 3,101 killed in 1992. President Fujimori credits this to his programs to end corruption and fight the guerrillas.

Gilberto Diaz Vasquez, commander of the civil defense militias, is killed in a rebel attack on Chiclayo.

12

9

## SIERRA LEONE

Government report that RUF rebels on verge of defeat proves premature. Heavy fighting reported in western region and rebels move to only 13 km from the regional capital of Kenema. Nigerian troops supporting the government.

Government troops recapture Normoh Faama, held by the rebels since 1992, while rebel forces capture the diamond mining town of Tonga Field.

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## UNITED STATES

An unmarried female sailor gives birth to a child on the repair ship *Yellowstone*. The woman denied she was pregnant until testing positive; she then claimed she was only a few months pregnant but the baby was full-term.

Government will switch to a new procurement system, selecting contractors based on past performance rather than the lowest bidders. This was tried by McNamara in the 1960s and failed miserably.

The U.S. Senate votes to support permanent seats on the U.N. Security Council for Germany and Japan, but only if they accept the full responsibilities of that status, including deployment of peace-keeping troops.

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 6759, 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.

3

### IRAQ

Iraqi dinar falls to 190 to the dollar, the lowest level in history; Baghdad moves to take control of U.S. currency in the country.

Saudi inspectors seize the German-registered Asian Senator after finding 100 barrels of ammonium perchlorate, a component of rocket fuel, being shipped from China to Iraq.

Iraq has rebuilt most of its pre-war strength; it now has 2,500 tanks (mostly T-72s, compared with 5,500 pre-war tanks that were mostly T-55s) and 400 combat aircraft.

Shoot-out between Iraqi and Kuwaiti coast guard vessels wounds one Kuwaiti.

4

### TURKEY

Prime Minister Ciller says she is unable to deploy more troops to fight Kurdish PKK rebels because rise of Zhirinovskiy in Russia and return of Papandreou in Greece has raised "new risk factors." Second half of January saw 42 rebels, 23 civilians and one soldier killed in counterinsurgency ops.

11

8

### SOMALIA

U.N. releases eight captured aides of warlord Aidid, including chief financier Osman Atto.

U.S. Marines kill eight Somalis and wound 24 at the K4 intersection when gunmen attempt to ambush a convoy of American diplomats. Somalis claim the Marines fired first, presumably when they spotted the gunmen, without waiting to see if the gunmen intended to attack. A large crowd was present because Saudi troops were handing out free food, something they do without advising other U.N. forces.

5

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### RUSSIA

Navy will mothball three of its five aircraft carriers due to lack of funds to keep them operational.

Navy complains that railroad officials are stealing train loads of fuel en route to naval warships in the Pacific and diverting the fuel to local power plants.

Clinton becomes the first U.S. president to spend the night inside the Kremlin.

12

### BRITAIN

Issues a new Code of Conduct to its military personnel. The new code absolutely prohibits homosexual activity and adultery, and strongly discourages officer-enlisted marriages.

14

2

14

### CAMBODIA

Government moves its largest artillery (152mm howitzers) into Samrong for anticipated offensive against Khmer Rouge stronghold. Calls on Khmer Rouge troops to defect before the dry season offensive crushes them.

13

### EGYPT

Continues its operations against Muslim militants. More than 1,000 police sweep southern Cairo in January, arresting 60. Egypt contends the militants who tried to kill prime minister had a list of nine other targets, including Israeli ambassador. President Mubarak rules out any dialogue with the fundamentalists.



## CLINTON UNABLE TO LEAD THE WAY

On October 3rd 1993, Corporal James E. Smith was killed in Mogadishu, Somalia, in the battle detailed in the January '94 issue of *SOF* by Colonel Hackworth. Smith was a 21-year-old fire team leader of 1st Platoon, Bravo Company, 3rd Rangers. A few days later, his parents received a letter from the White House. Here is that letter and his father's reply to the slickster:

*Dear Mr. and Mrs. Smith:*

*Hillary and I were very sorry to learn of the loss of your son. Specialist James E. Smith's death is a great loss for our nation, as well as for us personally, and our hearts go out to you in your sorrow.*

*Our efforts in Somalia have helped bring security and stability where anarchy, famine and suffering once prevailed. You should know that your son and his fellow service men and women have preserved the lives of hundreds of thousands of Somalis. Your son's courage, and his commitment to the ideals on which America was founded, will long be remembered with pride by his fellow citizens.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

*Sincerely,  
Bill Clinton*

President Clinton:

As a warrior who was disabled in the Vietnam War and as a father of a warrior killed in action in Somalia, I cannot accept your letter of condolence for the death of my son. To accept your letter would be contrary to all the beliefs I, my son and the Rangers hold so dear, including: loyalty, courage and tenacity.

I had the honor to meet the Rangers who fought alongside my son and were with Jamie when he died. I heard of magnificent acts of courage and sacrifice. I heard

Rangers, with tears in their eyes, apologize for letting my son die or for their failure to break through and rescue the trapped Rangers. But the failure is not theirs, it is yours. Trucks and Humvees cannot replace the requested tanks,

they were hitting Aidid's forces and command structure hard. But, the United Nations was actually impeding Ranger missions by offering sanctuary to Aidid's supporters. Your willingness to allow this dangerous situation demonstrates a

lack of resolve in supporting the men you sent into battle.

My son is no longer here to "Lead the Way"; however, I am. Until you, as president and commander in chief, are either willing or able to formulate a clear foreign policy, establish specific



armored personnel carriers and Spectre gunships.

As a combat veteran I know that there are no certainties on the battlefield; however, as an infantry officer I will always speculate that significantly less casualties would have resulted if you, as commander in chief, provided the Rangers with the requested combat support — equipment with which the Rangers routinely train and for which approval should have been automatic. The Rangers were pinned down for 12 hours — long hours when they were fighting for their lives and a Delta Force medic fought to save my son. Jamie bled to death because the requested armor support was not there to break through.

Rangers pride themselves on the Ranger Creed. "Driving on to the Ranger objective," and "Surrender is not a Ranger word" are not hollow phrases to the men of the black beret. These soldiers understand the word tenacious and wanted to complete their mission. As Ranger after Ranger told me,

objectives and, most important, support the men and women in uniform, I will "Lead the Way" in insuring that you no longer send America's finest to a needless death. When you are capable of meeting these criteria, then I will accept your letter of condolence.

James H. Smith  
Captain/Infantry (Retired)

## BROKEN OATH

I would like to comment on your excellent article concerning the report of our prisoners of war being transferred to Russia during the Korean War ("Command Guidance" *SOF* Feb. '94). Most of the information in this report has been in the hands of our government since the end of the war. Colonel Caruso testified before the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs last year that there were "hundreds" of reports concerning these transfers. At the time a policy decision was made to abandon these men. The same decision was made at the end of the Vietnam War.

The following is from a verse

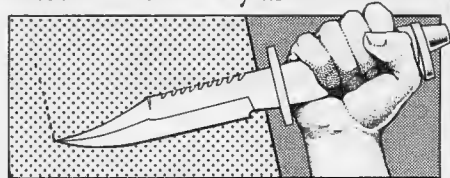
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You don't have to be in the service to appreciate a good boot. But it helps.

Thirty-mile forced marches, maneuvers in Alaska—it's familiar territory to a company that began outfitting loggers and trappers 54 years ago.

So we weren't surprised to hear a while back that some lieutenants from Fort Lewis were buying our boots and dyeing them.

"Why don't you make these in black?" they asked.



Our 1000 denier Cordura® nylon insets have ten times the tensile strength of leather. And less than half the weight.

That sounded like an order to us, so we had our full-grain



One firefighter said our Tibinsulate® insulation was so good he couldn't tell his boots were on fire.

leather tanned black inside and out (that way it doesn't show white at the seams), cut it

two inches taller at the top (so you can tuck your pants in), and added D-rings (for dress wear).

And now we're even taking orders from raw recruits. All over the country.

But you're not the only people who work with your feet.

Think of the police.

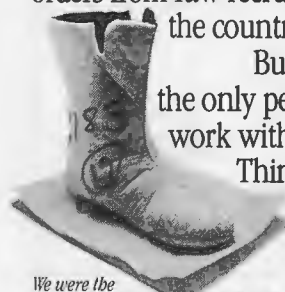
Firefighters.

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We did, and

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with components proportioned to size. And with heel wedges designed to disperse shock.

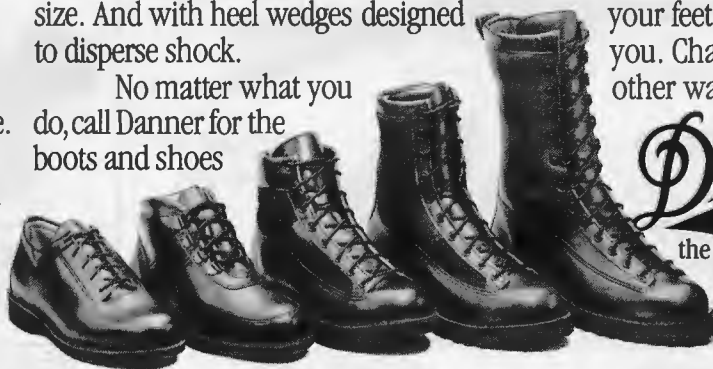
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to do it in. Because chances are it's not your feet that are killing you. Chances are it's the other way around.

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over the door at Delta Company, 6/31st, 9th Infantry in 1970, Vietnam: "I will not disgrace the soldier's arms nor abandon the comrade who stands at my side."

This sacred oath has been broken by our government, not the military. The POW issue will continue to be a black mark against the history of the United States.

Daniel Wood  
Elizabeth, New Jersey

**U.S. SLEEPS WITH COMMUNIST CONCUBINE**

The U.S. government continues to betray our abandoned soldiers in Southeast Asia by: disregarding all evidence of survivors; replacing competent, experienced POW/MIA investigators with young soldiers with no field experience or intelligence training; patently writing off our guys as dead based on a single tooth; buying every blatant communist lie; rewarding Hanoi with \$3.5 million American dollars in "humanitarian aid."

The White House beatniks and international profiteers are salivat-

ing to exploit Vietnam's oil and slave labor. Bill Clinton is the last person who should close the book on Vietnam! But under Clinton, and with Ron Brown's \$700,000 love affair with Hanoi, the communist concubine will offer herself to the highest bidder. Another atrocity: Clinton's POW/MIA mouthpiece is Asst. Sec. of State Winston Lord who played a large role in the 1970 cover-up of the loss, capture and holding of U.S. Special Forces, Air Force and CIA personnel in Laos.

Diane Palmer  
Gulfport, Mississippi

**DEEP SIX THOSE POW/MIA FLAGS**

Now that the president has lifted the trade embargo on Vietnam, it's time to remove all those POW/MIA black flags that blight so many public buildings across the nation. Government buildings that fly that flag are flying it in direct contradiction of the politically correct views that Americans have never been held captive in Southeast Asia and the whole MIA mystique is a myth. The

continued display of those offensive reminders of the "war to be forgotten" is a slap in the face of our president's magnanimous acquiescence to the interests of corporate greed.

As a nation we should follow the president's example by insulting and ignoring, even more than we already have, the surviving American veterans who foolishly served in the armed forces during that unfortunate police action. We should forget and dishonor those who gave their lives and abandon the few who may, despite the pronouncements of our infallible government, still exist in the living hell of jungle captivity.

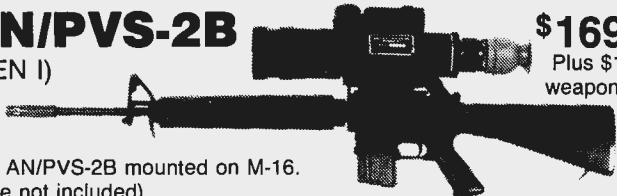
It is far more important to America that a handful of multi-national conglomerates and billionaire lobbyists increase their profit margins. In addition, corporations will reap the benefit of a new source of cheap, expendable labor, eliminating the expense of cost-intensive, lazy American workers.

Steve Carlin  
Park Forest, Illinois

# NIGHT VISION

**AN/PVS-2B**

(GEN I)



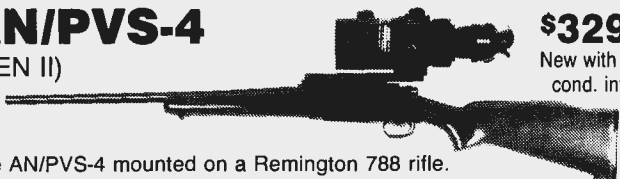
The AN/PVS-2B mounted on M-16. (Rifle not included)

**\$1695.00**

Plus \$100 for weapon mount

**AN/PVS-4**

(GEN II)

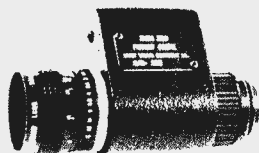


The AN/PVS-4 mounted on a Remington 788 rifle. (Rifle not included)

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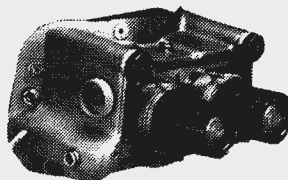


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Plus Shipping

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(GEN II)  
**AN/PVS-7B**  
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## 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.

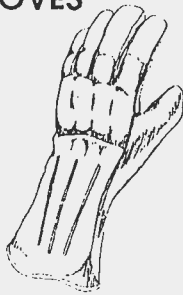
**AG1 ... "PNEU-GUN" Airgun Kit ... \$169.95**

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

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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.

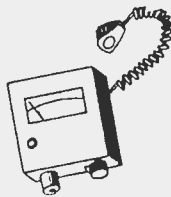
**DAM ... Sap Gloves ... \$44.95**



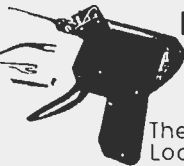
### PHONE CHECK

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**



### 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 ... Lock Pick Gun ... \$59.95**



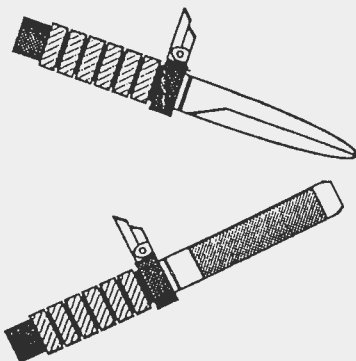
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Our top selling pick set! This set has 16 pieces and comes with a handy shirt pocket sized case. The case is made of top quality leather and is zippered. Each pick is made of hard finished spring steel. Perfect for wafer tumblers or six or seven pin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

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

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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.



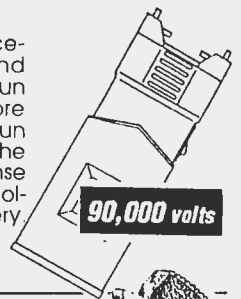
Now you can get this knife in kit form. The handle and sheath are made of aircraft grade aluminum. The blade is tempered out of 4140 steel with a rockwell hardness of 56!

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

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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**



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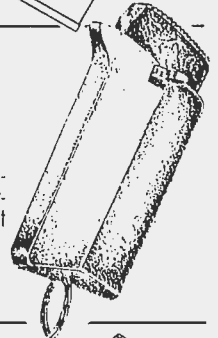
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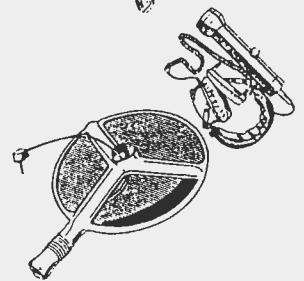
Formula used by police worldwide!

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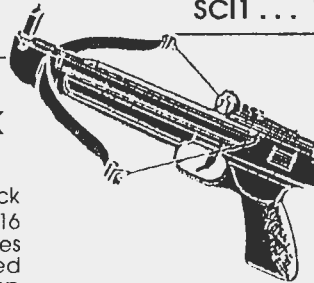


### BIONIC EAR

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.



**SC11 ... Bionic Ear ... \$139.95**



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## SOVIETS TORPEDOED USS SCORPION

In reference to your February '94 article "Run Silent, Run Deep," I was a crypto and control supervisor in 1968 and recall when the *Scorpion* missed a sub check — the place went apeshit. I think that was in July of '68, though the wreckage was not found until early fall of that year.

I was on watch when the message was received that the *Scorpion* had been found near the Azores. In fact, I took the message off the teletype and to the watch officer and was told not to disclose the receipt of the message to anyone else in the watch section. Thereafter, all messages about the *Scorpion* were classified "Top Secret."

The *Scorpion* was a "spook" (spy) boat at the time. They were "spooking" a Soviet boomer (missile boat). This was done on an ongoing schedule to identify Soviet patrol patterns/routes. As you may know, a sub is blind to the

rear and turns frequently to listen to what may be following. During one of these turns *Scorpion* was discovered and a Soviet fast attack boat fell in behind her. *Scorpion* had originally been spooking the Soviet boomer in the Med, but followed her into the Atlantic. Some type of confrontation occurred and the Soviet fast attack boat torpedoed the *Scorpion*.

There were other incidents that occurred that would cause public panic. Man, does the government tell some lies to cover their asses or what?

"Bubble Head 68"

### DEGAN GOT HIS DUE

With regard to Marshal Degan, in the February 1994 issue's "Flak" column, Sergeant Butler states "his murder can in no way be justified." I want to point out that, in essence if not in fact, a jury of Randy Weaver, Kevin Harris and Marshal Degan's peers found that Degan's death was justified. Apparently, Degan was

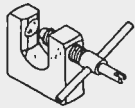
killed in self defense by Harris or was killed accidentally by his own co-conspirators.

I say co-conspirators because a cursory review of the published facts in this case indicate the original incident that initiated the sequence of events eventually leading to the justifiable killing of Degan and the murder — yes, murder — of Sam Weaver and Vicki Weaver were the result of a conspiracy to coerce Randy Weaver to perform actions that were against his will and against his own perceived self-interest and conscience; in fact, a conspiracy to deprive Randy Weaver of his privacy, his freedom to act as he chose; a conspiracy to deprive Randy Weaver of his very basic constitutional rights.

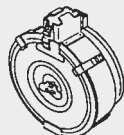
Though he may have been in the past, in this scurrilous episode, Degan was definitely not "one of the good guys."

Robert Paul Johnson  
Powell, Tennessee ☞

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**AK & SKS FRONT SIGHT TOOL** all steel, adjusts windage and elevation (#G2033) \$29.95

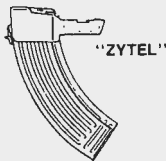


**AK COMMANDO 75RD DRUM** 7.62 x 39mm cal. These are the same drums used by assault teams world-wide. Also fits Valmet, Madi, Hungarian, etc. (#G2000) \$109.95



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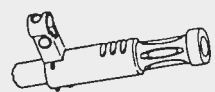
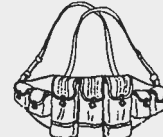
\*Detachable SKS mags are sold only for replacement on SKS's using detachable mags prior to 11/90 sec. 52(F)

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**SKS MAXI BREAK** provides excellent muzzle control, reduces flash and cuts recoil. (#G2055) \$34.95

**AK RECOIL COMPENSATOR** Based on the original Kalashnikov design, but made in the USA (#G2005) \$29.95



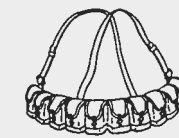
Exact copy of Russian Unit

**BEST SELLER!** **SKS & AK OWNERS MANUAL** a must for every SKS, AKS, or AK-47 owner or user. (#GB-896) \$3.95

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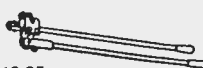


**SKS BANDOLIER CHEST POUCH** original Chinese, has 10 pockets, adjustable straps. Great for carrying ammo and stripper clips. (#G1631) \$14.95



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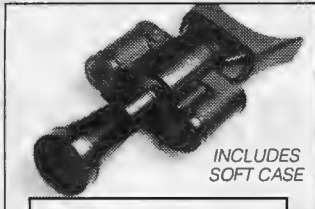
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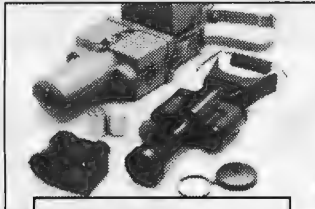
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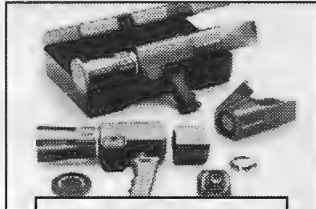


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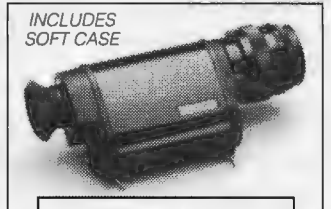
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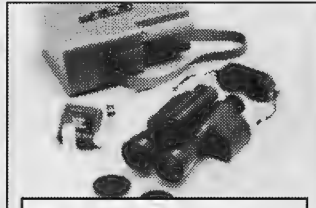
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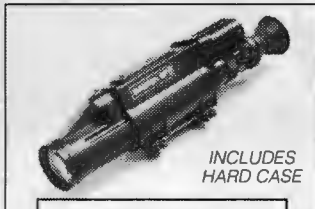
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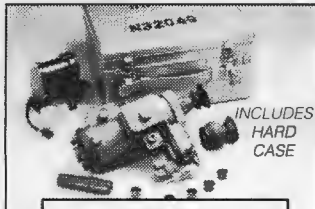


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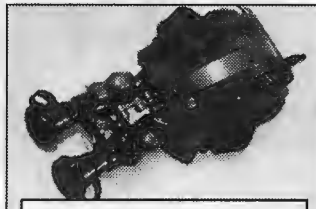
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# HANDGUN CONTROL

**ONE MILLION STRONG...working to keep handguns out of the wrong hands.**

*Notes and minutes of meeting of Friday, December 17, 1993 — rough draft proposal for internal memo and five-year plan.*

## WHAT IS PENDING NOW AND CAN BE LAW IN 1994

- Ban of all clips holding over 6 bullets
- Ban on all semiautos which can fire more than 6 bullets without reloading
- Ban on possession of parts to convert arms into military configuration
- Ban on all pump shotguns capable of being converted to more than 5 shots without reloading
- Banning of all machine guns, destructive devices, short shotguns/rifles, assault weapons, Saturday Night Specials and non-sporting ammunition
  - Arsenal licensing (for possession of multiple guns and large amounts of ammunition)
  - Elimination of the Department of Civil Marksmanship [sic], long considered a sacred cow and a dinosaur from the Cold War years (Thank you Mr. Clinton!!!)
- Ban on possession of a firearm inside a home located within 1000 feet of a schoolyard
- Ban on all realistic replicas/toy gun or non-firearms capable of being rendered realistic
- The right of victims of gun violence to sue manufacturers and dealers to be affirmed, and perhaps aided, with money from government programs
- Taxes on ammo, dealers' licenses and guns to offset the medical costs to society
- The eventual ban of all semiautomatics (regardless of when made or caliber)

## WHAT WAS ONLY A DREAM 10 YEARS AGO CAN BE REALITY AS EARLY AS THIS YEAR!

After the meeting, the following ideas were the result of a brainstorming session to guide the focus of gun

control initiatives over the next five years. These may not be politically feasible ideas for 1994, but we are confident that with continued pressure we can achieve most if not all of these goals within the next five years. The following list is condensed from our meeting in which we considered the best ideas for public safety expansion. The time is right for action.

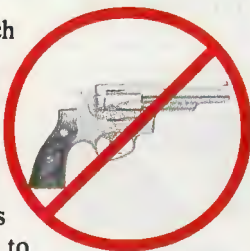
## Five-Year Plan

### 1. NATIONAL LICENSING OF

# HCI's TRUE AGENDA?

# ELIMINATING ALL PRIVATE GUN

# OWNERSHIP IN AMERICA



## ALL HANDGUN PURCHASES

This is at the top of our list, however, the political climate may be right to initiate this step immediately. Please refer to our memo outlining our ideas on how this should be executed.

**2 LICENSE FOR RIFLE AND SHOTGUNS** • We should take our cues from Great Britain. Strict licensing should be *mandatory* for all firearms, whether handguns or not.

**3 STATE LICENSES FOR OWNERSHIP OF FIREARMS** • We want to take a workable idea from Great Britain, whereas, we should require the states to issue strict licenses for possession and require the licenses to be signed by at least three public officials — the police chief, city attorney and the mayor, for example — to eliminate ownership by dangerous individuals. It is reasonable to require that all individuals must prove to the signers that they require a firearm.

**4. REDUCTION OF THE NUMBER OF GUNS TO REQUIRE AN**

**ARSENAL LICENSE** • Right now the proposed arsenal licenses which Sen. Feinstein should be pushing for, requires an "Arsenal License" for those people who feel they need more than 20 guns and 1000 rounds of ammunition. We feel that number is too generous, due to the fact that any number of guns constitutes a grave threat to the safety of the community; we suggest strongly that this license limit be reduced to possession greater than 5 guns and 250 rounds

of ammunition.

**5. ARSENAL LICENSE FEES**  
It is not unreasonable to require a yearly fee for an arsenal license to be at least \$300, with a cap of \$1000. The money collected can be used to defray the immense medical costs directly attributed to these deadly weapons.

**6. LIMITS ON ARSENAL LICENSING** • No arsenal licensing to be permitted in counties with populations of more than 200,000.

**7. REQUIREMENT OF FEDERALLY APPROVED STORAGE SAFES FOR ALL GUNS** • We should follow Great Britain's lead on this. All licensed gun owners should be required to have a storage safe which meets minimum federally mandated requirements. This step would reduce the tragic accidents that claim the lives of tens of thousands of children a year and make it more difficult for burglars to steal guns.

**8. INSPECTION LICENSE** • Another good revenue source would be

mandatory inspection licensing of all safes. Each safe would be registered with a specific serial number, and the serial numbers and types of weapons stored should be on file with federal and state authorities. Since unannounced inspections can insure that all declared weapons are being properly stored, all safe licenses should have an additional yearly fee to offset the cost of these spot inspections.

**9. BAN ON MANUFACTURING IN COUNTIES WITH A POPULATION OF MORE THAN 200,000** • Guns are being built all the time and the number of licensed manufacturers are too great to justify the threat to public safety. This is a small step to reduce the number of these shops where even machine guns are being built every day.

**10. BANNING ALL MILITARY STYLE FIREARMS** • The pending national ban on all assault weapons, based on a point system can be expanded to eventually cover any firearms with a remotely military appearance. We feel that this aggressive appearance appeals to the type of dangerous individuals who are a definite threat to public safety. We hope that this point system can eventually be expanded to high-powered air guns and "paint ball" weapons, which can inflict great damage, and with a little effort can be converted to real guns.

**11. BANNING OF ANY MACHINE GUN PARTS OR PARTS WHICH CAN BE USED IN A MACHINE GUN** • Periodicals such as *Shotgun News* particularly cater to individuals who wish to build illegal machine guns. If Sen. Feinstein's courageous section of the crime bill is successful in banning all machine gun parts except for police and military, then there would be no legitimate need for machine gun parts except to build illegal weapons.

**12. BANNING THE CARRYING OF A FIREARM ANYWHERE BUT HOME OR TARGET RANGE OR IN TRANSIT FROM ONE TO THE OTHER**

**13. BANNING REPLACEMENT PARTS EXCEPT BARREL, TRIGGER GROUP** • Thousands of people are building illegal weapons every day. We can put a dent in this by banning parts and parts kits, except those items like the barrel and trigger group, which are most likely to wear out due to use.

**14. ELIMINATION OF THE CURIO RELIC LIST** • A gun is a gun. Even an old gun can kill people. This is a loophole in the federal law which has allowed thousands of dangerous weapons to be distributed unchecked. This regulation, if enacted, would automatically eliminate the need for a curio or relic collector's license. All handguns, rifles and shotguns would fall into the same category as their modern counterparts.

**15. CONTROL OF AMMUNITION BELONGING TO CERTAIN SURPLUS FIREARMS**

**16. BAN ON HANDGUN POSSESSION**

This may be closer to reality than many of us think. Handguns are becoming increasingly unpopular and we think that within five years we can enact a total ban on possession at the federal level.

**17. BANNING OF ANY AMMO THAT FITS MILITARY GUNS (POST 1945)** • With the proliferation of high-powered weapons, including semiautomatics and automatics from World War II, we suggest following the lead of Mexico, by prohibiting the sale, manufacture, possession or transfer of any caliber fitting a military firearm in service with a recognized military force after 1945.

**18. BANNING OF ANY QUANTITY OF SMOKELESS POWDER OR BLACK POWDER WHICH WOULD CONSTITUTE MORE THAN THE EQUIVALENT OF 100 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION** With the bombing the World Trade Center, it has been made clear that we must reinforce the above proposed regulation with this additional notation. It is arguable that no one has



**20. BANNING OF HIGH POWERED AMMO OR WOUNDING AMMO** • In addition to the banning of military calibers, there is a plethora of dangerous rounds which are too high powered for sporting use. This includes the highest calibers of pistol and rifle ammunition (of note are the monster calibers for rifles and pistols, like the .50-caliber Desert Eagle Bullet). We should not forget the lessons learned with the insidious Black Talon Ammo, hollow points, Glaser killing rounds and other types of ammunition designed specifically for maiming.

**21. NATIONAL LICENSE FOR AMMUNITION** • This is an idea whose time has come. We should look at a Federal License for purchasing of ammunition of all kinds. A special form should be forwarded to a new federal office to track those who are purchasing too much ammunition. Remember that a gun is useless without ammunition.

**22. BANNING OR STRICT LICENSING OF ALL RELOADING COMPONENTS** • Ammunition regulation laws can be regularly bypassed by home loaders, creating an underground cottage industry of ammo manufacture. Possession or purchase of reloading equipment and machines should be restricted and those who wish to use specially loaded ammunition can go to a federally licensed reloader.

**23. NATIONAL REGISTRATION OF AMMUNITION OR AMMO BUYERS** • Fees collected from the national licenses should go toward establishing a nationwide database for the purchasers of ammo with a possible background check to

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any real need to have so much dangerous material on hand.

**19. BAN ON THE POSSESSION OF EXPLOSIVE POWDERS OF MORE THAN 1 KILOGRAM AT A TIME** • Gun nuts are notorious for circumventing the intent of the law, so we can reinforce the above proposed regulation with this additional notation.

eliminate felons or mental patients.

**24. REQUIREMENT OF SPECIAL STORAGE SAFE FOR AMMUNITION AND LICENSING** Like the storage safe for guns, there should be a national requirement for special safes to store ammo. These safes should be tamper-proof and fire-proof and be registered themselves so that on-the-spot inspections can



be held. Again, the costs for these inspections can be absorbed by the license fees.

#### 25. RESTRICTING GUN RANGES TO COUNTIES WITH POPULATIONS LESS THAN

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200,000

#### 26. SPECIAL LICENSING OF RANGES

27. SPECIAL RANGE TAX TO VISITORS • Additional revenue can be a surtax on ranges, requiring the collection of a minimum of \$85 per visit per person. This can be in addition to required membership fees, from which state and local governments get a sizable portion, to help defray the immense cost of gun violence.

#### 28. WAITING PERIOD FOR RENTALS ON PISTOL RANGES •

It has been suggested in the past that felons can acquire pistols and other automatic weapons without a background check by renting a gun on a target range. Deranged individuals are basically being given a license to practice hunting humans at these so-called sporting ranges. We think that a national waiting period for gun rentals is yet another idea whose time has come.

#### 29. BANNING GUN SHOWS

30. BANNING OF MILITARY REENACTMENTS • The questionable "historical" value of these events has escaped public scrutiny for too long. Many of these so-called historical events are mere excuses for gun nuts to blast the countryside with automatic weapons. What is to keep them from loading live bullets and having those stray bullets kill innocent children? How many lives will be lost due to this paramilitary training going on right under our noses? We propose the prohibition of survivalist/paramilitary, World War I, World War II and Civil War Reenactments on federal land, and hope to encourage the states to prohibit them from state and county lands as well.

#### 31. MAKING UNLAWFUL THE ASSEMBLY OF MORE THAN 4 ARMED INDIVIDUALS

**WHO ARE NOT PEACE OFFICERS OR MILITARY** • Since most hunting parties consist of four, we recognize the need to eliminate the currently legal assembly of shooters for paramilitary training on private

lands. This is just one good suggestion for our elimination of the "gun culture" from the mainstream.

#### 32. BEGIN TO CURB HUNTING ON ALL PUBLIC LANDS

Blood sports are an anathema to a civilized society; however, it has been a political reality that hunters and their ilk have too strong of a hold on Congress. We feel that the impending defeat of high-tech "assault killing machines" will open the door to restrictions.

With the diminishing number of hunters, we feel that perhaps in five years we can open up much more of our country to campers and hikers, and eliminate the threat to families out camping, by looking at more restrictions as to what parcels of land will allow hunting. This will not infringe on sportsmen's rights to hunt on private land.

#### 33. MAKING GUN OWNERS' RECORDS AND PHOTOS PUBLIC RECORD •

We would have to assemble a legal team in order to investigate the balance of the right to privacy and the right to safeguard public. We fully endorse the photographing and fingerprinting of all gun owners, however, the records are usually relegated to law enforcement only. We think that it would be a

good idea to make these records public, so that the communities can have the knowledge of who poses a danger to their community before disaster strikes. We realize that this proposal would probably be controversial, thus a long public affairs campaign would have to be initiated in order to build public support and ease the transition of such an idea. We feel that this idea has merit, and can be justified via the past publication of the names of water wasters during the drought, customers for prostitu-

tion, and deadbeat parents who are delinquent on child support

34. RANDOM POLICE CHECKS FOR WEAPONS (LIKE SOBRIETY CHECKPOINTS) • Idea was floated before in California in 1989, where some thought it would be a great deterrent to gang-related crimes for police to do sweeps for gang weapons. Right now this idea may meet some resistance; however, the political climate can become right to initiate these random vehicle stops and checks at all levels and in all types of neighborhoods.

With all that is going on, who knows what is possible in the next few years? With murders in the streets, the public fed up, and the once mighty thugs of the gun lobby whimpering in impotence, we have an opportunity to change the face of America for the better!

Previously we thought that it would take at least a century to eliminate dangerous weapons and guns from public hands, but now with allies in the White House and Congress, we can accelerate this trend, and make the barbaric NRA extinct!!! Here are some ideas to consider for the long term:

BANNING OF MILITARY ACCOUTREMENTS • Essential to the Neanderthal gun culture are the typical military clothing, camouflage, pouches, boots and other combat gear. They euphemistically refer to this as "militaria." Elimination of the future sale of these items will cripple the culture of violence well into the 21st century.

STRICTER GUIDELINES FOR VIOLENCE IN TELEVISION AND MOVIES • We may have to eventually look at an independent branch of government to determine which scenes cause more harm than good to the public and regulate the numbers of violent acts portrayed.

THE TOTAL ELIMINATION OF ARMS FROM SOCIETY • We cannot survive into the 21st century unless we remember the need to expand our wave of new thinking to the total disarmament of America. With much of the public disarmed we can become more like Great Britain, where we can also eliminate the need for much of our police to be armed. This would take a long time,



however, a concerted public relations campaign can pressure local law enforcement to give up their arms when the time comes. Weapons would be available to special units like SWAT or the military.

### CONTROL OF DANGEROUS LITERATURE

Too much irresponsible material is covered by the 1st Amendment; however, the time will come when our nation has to agree that some literature does not belong in a safe society, like instruction manuals on how to kill, or how to make homemade explosives, or nuclear bombs. We must realize that there can be such as thing as too much freedom where such literature poses a serious threat to the public safety-

1994 sounds the death knell for the bully tactics of the NRA and the culture of violence in America!! We are pressing on all fronts and much of this can become reality sooner than we expect. With the loss of power and clout of the NRA and their various smaller crony organizations, we can eliminate a 200-year-old license to murder and enter the 21st century a safer place for our children and our children's children.

### Attachment 1 - Confidential Information for use by lobbyists or senior officers ONLY!

#### I. Proposed License Fees - 1994-1995 Gun Control Proposals

These listings and the documentation used to calculate these suggested fee schedules will be made available to federal law enforcement authorities and U.S. Department of the Treasury for review, when the time is right. Additional material will be made available to key politicians when proposing any fee-related legislation. These suggestions will be instrumental in determining the nature of future gun control legislation and proposals.

#### A) Handgun License Fees:

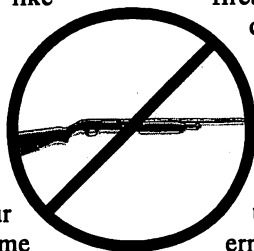
Year 1 to 2: \$50-\$75 annually.

Year 3 to 4: \$150-\$250 annually.

Year 5 to 8: \$550-\$625 annually.

#### B) Penalties for non-compliance:

- (1) failure to acquire license - \$1,000/6 months jail, revocation of ability to own;
- (2) failure to maintain license - \$5,000/12 months jail, revocation of ability to own;
- (3) failure to turn over guns for destruction after lapse of license - \$15,000/18 months



jail, revocation of ability to own.

Failure to renew license or notify issuing authority of change of status would be considered a felony. All firearms owned would be then considered contraband and confiscated. State or local authorities would be prohibited from retaining or reselling any confiscated firearms. Record of destruction to be issued to federal government not later than 60 days after confiscation.

### III. Estimate Of Fiscal Impact Of Licensing On Firearms Ownership:

	Worst Case	Best Case
Federal Handgun License:	\$50	\$625
Federal Rifle & Shotgun License:	\$30	\$148
State Gun License Fee:	\$74	\$150
Local Gun License Fee:	\$48	\$113
Arsenal License Fee:	\$300	\$1,000
Safe License Fee:	\$228	\$392
Ammunition License Fee:	\$55	\$117
Re-Loading License Fee:	\$130	\$175
Ammo Safe License Fee:	\$55	\$75
Ammo Inspection Fee:	\$588	\$678
Total Annual Cost:	\$1,558	\$3,473

This cost is not unreasonable, since it would offset considerably the estimated \$60 billion dollars in medical and social costs related to gun violence.

### IV. Reduction Of Gun Owner Population And Potential Yearly Revenue

The federal government estimates 65-75 million Americans own guns. These fees and the licensing requirements would allow us to take guns out of the hands of an estimated 30 million unsuitable or ineligible individuals. Fees for the remaining would reduce the number to about 14 million. Estimated revenue would constitute a minimum of \$21.8 trillion dollars (worst case) to an estimated \$48.6 trillion (best case) annually. Our eventual goal is to reduce the number of licensees to zero. The revenue itself can be utilized to achieve this goal.

### V. Possible Uses for the Revenue:

(A) Institute mandatory national, comprehensive educational campaign in schools (K-12) to deglamorize guns and gun ownership and tell the truth about the 2nd Amendment.

(B) A well-funded, concerted campaign to eliminate the 2nd Amendment via constitutional amendment.

(C) Provide revenue source for enforcement of new laws.

(D) Provide offsetting monetary fund for medical and legal services to victims of gun violence.

(E) Establish nationwide system of toll-free numbers for reporting violators of gun restrictions and non-licensees, a sum set aside for cash rewards for tips resulting in conviction.

Additional revenue sources listed:  
 Gun Related Activities: Range License: \$12,100 annually; Range Tax: \$85 per person, per visit; Gun Dealer License: \$600 annually; Title 1 Gun Manufacturing License: \$6,000 annually; Title 2 Gun Manufacturing License: \$13,400 annually.

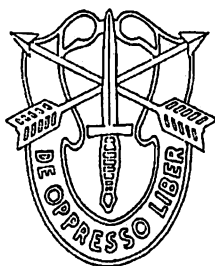
Revenue calculations concerning the above fees will depend on how the numbers of gun ranges, gun range visitors, gun dealers and gun manufacturers are affected by increased fees. It is not unreasonable to predict a 40% drop by the end of the first year, another 35% drop the year after that.

### VI. Legal action and possible new revenue sources

Pending issues to be given at the appropriate time to the LCAV office for investigation as to feasibility, implementation and public reaction. At no time should these suggestions be made public before we can ascertain the current public reaction and provide the results of these studies to the LCAV attorneys.

There are some ideas which are ahead of their time and would only be feasible through a concerted PR campaign over time. A PR campaign includes press releases, press conferences, direct lobbying and constant pressure via the national media. We must change the way America thinks in regards to guns and gunowners in order to achieve a safe society for our children in the upcoming century. We realize that one cannot implement every good idea overnight, however, the following proposals have been forwarded for investigation as to possible enactment within

Continued on page 75



# Special Forces Involved In Waco Raid!

Text & Photo by James L. Pate

**George Washington** cautioned future generations against a standing army in peacetime. To Washington, the lesson of history was that if the military has no other enemy, it will eventually turn on the citizens by whose authority it exists.

The specter raised 200 years ago by Washington may, at last, be coming to haunt us.

As the social fabric of our nation frays, and traditions that have cloaked us in domestic security for generations gradually unravel, one of the patchwork solutions proposed is an increased military involvement in civilian law enforcement.

President Clinton was recently asked to muster troops to help beleaguered police in Washington, D.C. Drowning in a flood of illegal immigrants, the Border Patrol is moving closer to routine involvement of U.S. troops along the Mexican border.

But no issue has drawn the military into civilian law enforcement like "the war on drugs." Under that banner, the government has begun an orgy of seizures that make mockery of the supposed sanctity of private property and constitutional guarantees of reasonable search and seizure, and due process of law. Citizens are given assurances we must surrender a liberty here and a constitutional right there to regain domestic security.

While sifting the foul ashes of Waco, where power gone mad backed Lady Liberty into a corner and shot her in the head, *Soldier Of Fortune* has learned the "drug issue" may be more of a ruse than a reason for this march down the slippery slope toward martial law.

As the Waco trial slowly unfolded in federal court in San Antonio, testimony by Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) agents — the gestapo of G-men — reluctantly revealed that ATF's raid training was

led by Army Special Forces. Reporters ran for the phones, and Army spokesmen confirmed involvement of Green Berets in training some 80 ATF agents, as part of final preparations for the bloody raid on the Branch Davidian's religious compound.

*SOF's* investigation, the results of which were shared with the *New York Daily News*, indicates Green Beret training for the ATF was far more involved than the Army will admit. Despite contrary claims, *SOF* learned through several interviews within the SpecOps community and Pentagon that Green Beret trainers violated their group's policy, and possibly federal law, with the type and scope of instruction provided the ATF.

Further increasing the official sensitivity over this ignominious incident are allegations that four Green Berets donned civvies and watched while their ATF protégés charged into the biggest disaster of American law-enforcement history.

Most disturbing, though, were revelations the training mission was not a rogue operation, but part of a sanctioned, ongoing program to more involve the military in civilian law enforcement, from federal agents down to Deputy Barney Fife.

The move began in 1989, when Congress approved a defense authorization bill directing the Pentagon to train and assist "to the maximum extent possible" civilian police engaged in drug interdiction. The law was partly a response to Defense Secretary Dick Cheney's earlier designation of drug trafficking as a national security threat. After the bill passed, Cheney announced activation of Joint Task Force Six [JTF-6] at Fort Bliss, Texas.

"JTF-6 support is intended to serve as a force multiplier to law enforcement agencies," states JTF-6's *Op-*

*erational Support Planning Guide*, obtained by *SOF*. It has "the potential to enhance [law enforcement] effectiveness or release significant resources to focus on [drug] interdiction/seizure actions... using a total force approach."

Located near JTF-6 headquarters is its civilian counterpart, Operation Alliance — a Justice Department entity accepting applications from civilian law enforcement agencies for military assistance in drug operations.

Although JTF-6's stated mission is drug interdiction, "the bottom line is that Operation Alliance will lie to JTF-6 [about drug allegations] in a heartbeat," said one DoD source familiar with the program. "The requesting agency, such as ATF, will tell Operation Alliance there's a drug angle — with a nudge and a wink — just to get what they want. And many times, JTF-6 doesn't even care."

The question of drugs in ATF's Waco investigation was raised early on. During ATF-FBI press conferences early in the 51-day standoff, four different press organizations, including *SOF* and *The New York Times*, asked: Was there suspicion of illegal drugs? Each time, the answer was no.

Two weeks later, when asked how ATF got permission to use National Guard helicopters, the story changed. Texas law requires evidence of illegal drugs before its aircraft are made available to federal agents. ATF spokesman David Troy, who later resigned when accused of lying about other aspects of the raid, suddenly recalled "evidence" of methamphetamine labs at Mount Carmel. Troy's claim was "made up out of whole cloth," said one ATF source in Texas.

In the subsequent trial, not one shred of evidence of illegal drugs was

introduced. Conversely, in a society where drugs are common, it is notable that toxicology tests on the remains of 81 Davidians who died in the 19 April holocaust revealed *not one body with a trace of illegal drugs.*

Even when drugs are involved in civilian law enforcement operations seeking military assistance, the law is murky on how far the military can go.

The JTF-6 planning guide states military forces "are precluded by the Posse Comitatus Act from performing search, seizure, arrest or other similar law enforcement activities." It then outlines which types of assistance it can and cannot provide, but notes ominously that "no list of military support capabilities is ever all-inclusive..."

Under "Political Sensitivities," the guidebook advises "employment of military force in such a way as to avoid any potential confrontation with the civilian populace ... Many operations are inherently sensitive and involve various risks which may be heightened by the release of information to the public."

Sources interviewed by *SOF* said both Operation Alliance and JTF-6 keep legal staffs busy, primarily finding legal loopholes to allow further military involvement in civilian law enforcement. The JTF-6 handbook acknowledges that in a roundabout fashion:

"Innovative approaches to providing new and more effective support to [law enforcement agencies] are constantly sought," the operational planning guide says, "and legal and policy barriers to the application of military capabilities are gradually being eliminated ... Pending legislative actions may soon alleviate some of these restrictions..."

Houston attorney Mike DeGeurin, defending one Davidian, got everyone's attention when he asked a government witness if he recognized any of five names that DeGeurin implied were present when Mount Carmel was raided.

Fort Bragg's personnel locator service confirmed that the five men listed



**Hargrove MOUT (Military Ops in Urban Terrain) facility at Ft. Hood, where Green Berets trained BATF agents before their disastrous raid near Waco. Military investigators are now looking into allegations that ATF training violated SF policy and/or federal law.**

XO); and battalion members Sergeant First Class Chris Dunn, Sgt. 1st Class Greg Handy, Staff Sergeant Jon F. Wilson and SSgt. Cordell W. Ackley.

*SOF* sources indicate the Mobile Training Team (MTT) meeting ATF's Waco raid contingent at Fort Hood also included Captain Clyde Moore (designated team commander), SSgt. Michael J. Dooney, SSgt. Steven M. Fitts, SSgt. Jay C. Burkhardt and SSgt. Robert R. Moreland — all of Company B, 3rd Battalion, 3rd SFG.

The 10 were among a company of Green Berets deployed in January 1993 from Fort Bragg to McGregor Range, New Mexico, a remote part of Fort Bliss. The Bragg-based troops were assigned a 90-day stint with the Rapid Support Unit (RSU) which responds to short-fuse requirements generated by JTF-6.

Once a civilian agency like ATF requests military assistance from Operation Alliance, the request goes to JTF-6, which has legal and public-affairs support. If the request passes muster, JTF-6 issues a mission order to the RSU, which assigns men to the task. Before deployment, however, a green light must come from Forces Command (FORSCOM). Then, the MTT deploys to a training site to meet the civilian lawmen it will train.

Mission JT002E resulted in an operational detachment from 3rd Battalion, 3rd SFG, deploying to Fort Hood to train ATF. On 16 February

by DeGeurin in court are members of the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group, headquartered at Fort Bragg as part of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command: Major Mark Petree (3rd Battalion

1993, Handy, Dunn and Ackley left Fort Bliss for Fort Hood to survey training sites. Next day, they met with Hood's range control office to secure use of Hargrove MOUT (Military Operations Urban Terrain) Training Center. They also met with ATF agents Kenneth King and Bill Buford, team leaders of Special Response Units assigned to execute forced entries through second-floor windows at Mount Carmel.

(King and Buford were both gravely wounded in the Waco raid; with Buford and another of his team probably hit by misdirected fire from ATF agent Keith Constantine, trial testimony indicated. Three members of their SRU teams — Conway C. LeBleu, Todd W. McKeehan and Robert J. Williams — were killed.)

Handy, Dunn and Ackley returned to McGregor Range 19 February. The entire detachment returned to Hood 22 February. Dunn and Wilson, two of the Green Berets who would later watch the disastrous ATF raid at Mount Carmel, went to meet ATF point-of-contact, agent Kris Mayfield.

The Green Berets and the approximately 80 ATF agents who would ultimately arrive were billeted in the bottom floor of Building 4424, the top floor of Building 4426, and Building 4462, Fort Hood sources said.

The following day, some Green Berets went with Mayfield to the Hargrove MOUT site and took measurements to

build a front-door mock-up of Mount Carmel. Mayfield accompanied Dooney, Burkhardt and Wilson to McCoy's Building Supply in Killeen for materials.

By 24 February, all ATF personnel, including raid leaders Charles Sarabyn, Phil Chojnacki (both now fired) and Ted Royster arrived. XO Petree flew commercial to Killeen, where

he was met by two members of the detachment. It was a mystery why a major would come to super-

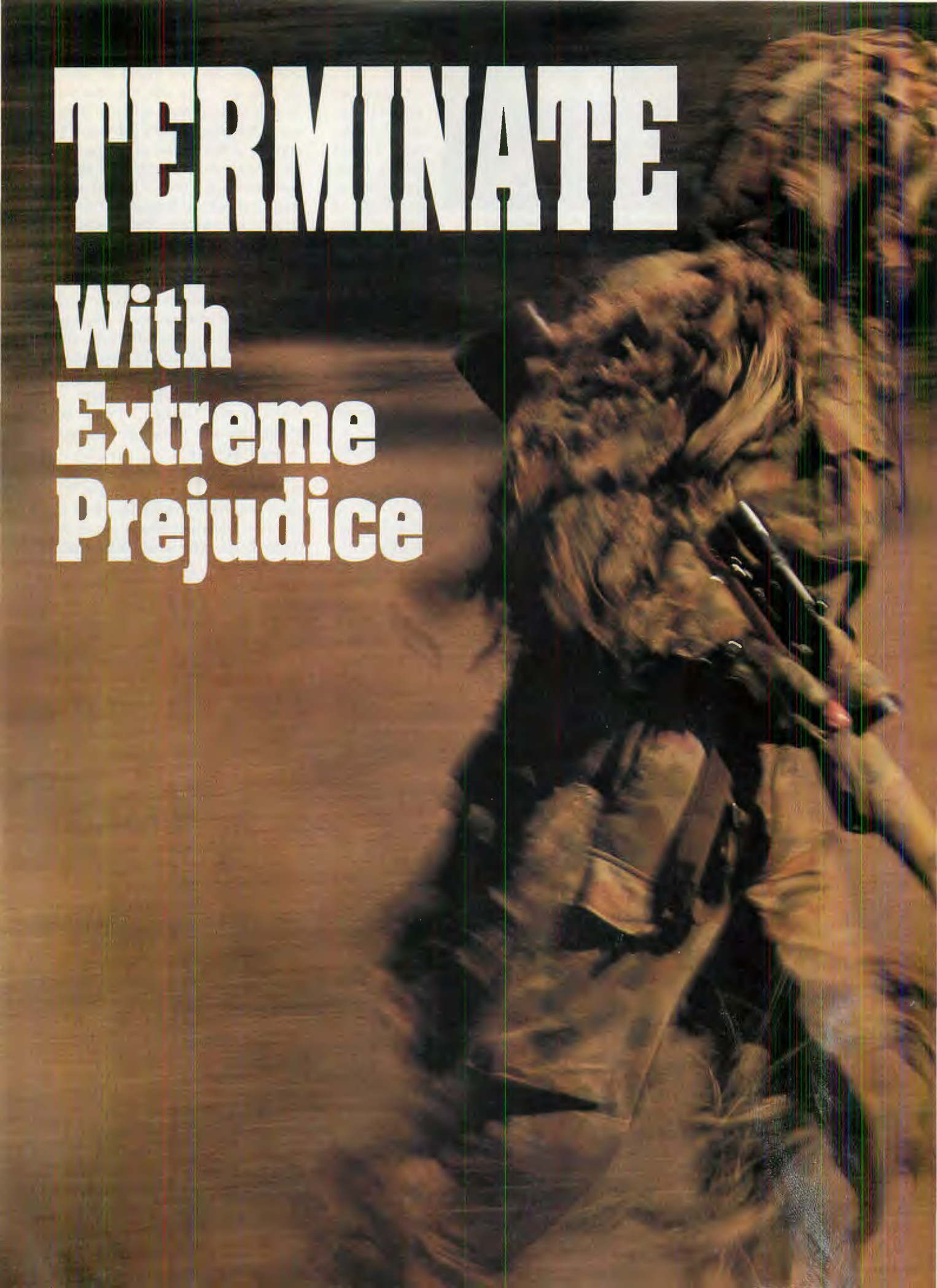


**Joint Task Force Six logo, the multi-agency rent-a-troop instrument designed to provide military resources to civilian law enforcement in the war on drugs.**

*Continued on page 75*

# TERMINATE

With  
Extreme  
Prejudice





Practice range features man-size targets at varying ranges. Color-coding allows instructors to test trainees range gauging skills.



6x42 Kahles Helia ZF 69 telescopic sight with cross-hair reticle pattern is the standard issue scope for Australian army snipers.

*Snipers are one of the most maligned of all military occupations. Because they operate alone or in pairs, and are usually under direct command of the commanding officer, they are simultaneously glorified and resented by their own infantry. To the enemy, their work is considered cowardly, criminal and murderous, even in times of war.*

*Part of the malice snipers attract is due to their ability to take down anyone, regardless of rank. Evidently, during the American Revolution — the war that gave birth to sniping — an English sniper took a bead on the back of an American general's head. Because the general had his back turned, the Englishman let chivalry prevail and didn't pull the trigger. That general was George Washington.*

**Cameron “Yogi Bear” Innes is 19 years old.** If it wasn't for the huge brown knife strapped to his waist, the camouflaged uniform and the high-powered rifle in his hands, Yogi could be your average teenager. But Yogi isn't

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## **Aussie Snipers Take Aim Down Under**

**by Todd Cole**

**Photos by Paul McIver**



**Left and Top: Every Aussie sniper individualizes his "yowie" suit and scoped Parker Hale Model 82 rifle to his own specs.**



**Sniper trainee uses his non-standard issue Rambo knife to clear brush for sniper hide. Maintaining concealment while spotting a concealed enemy are fundamental sniper tactics.**

your average teenager, he's a trainee sniper in the Australian army. And he's being trained to stalk and kill men from distances up to 1000 meters. He's just shot a bull's-eye at 800 meters — a remarkable shot in anyone's book and struts around like he's just won the lottery, full of bluster and disbelief. One of the instructors, Warrant Officer Sugg, bets him a rum and coke he can't do it again. Yogi lays down on the computerized firing range and squeezes off another shot. He stands up and says to Sugg, "So do you want that in a middie or a schooner?"

The average age of a sniper trainee in the Australian army is 21 and these men are a select group. To simply attempt the sniper course they have undergone a pre-selection at their battalion, often outdoing 20 or more candidates. Now they compete among 20 other candidates in a six-week intensive course with a failure rate often approaching 50% to become a sniper. Why?

"Most of them want the badge, the crossed rifles of a sniper, on their uniform," explained Sugg.

"Being a sniper is a stepping stone to the Special Air Service," noted

**During concealment exercise this sniper trainee awaits opportunity to "shoot" his instructor with a blank and thereby "win" the round.**



one trainee who refused to give his name.

"I'd like to be in the Special Police Group when I get out. I figure this will help," added another.

"I'm doing it for myself — for the challenge," said a man who is doing the course for the second time.

Their reasons are as individual as they are — and individual they are. Their operating uniforms, called "yowie" suits (Ghillie suits in the United States), are custom-made by each individual by sewing AUSpat camo — the camouflage uniform worn by the Australian army and designed specifically for the Australian bush — with torn hessian.

The yowie suit's purpose is to



**Trainee practices stalking. Described by participants as playing cat and mouse — except the mouse has a gun.**

break up the outline of the sniper from his prey. But seen all together, they are fashion statements. Leather gangland-style mittens, baseball caps (camouflaged, of course), and unique camouflage makeup all work to personalize each trainee.

But hold on, isn't this the army? Isn't "self" a four-letter word?

"A sniper must be able to operate

effectively by himself, so we don't discourage a certain amount of individuality. In fact that's the hardest part of the training," said Sugg. "These guys have been trained to operate as part of a big team for a couple of years. We have to partly remove that instinct and get them to think for themselves before they become effective as snipers."

The most individual part of the sniper is his weapon. The Australian army uses Parker Hale Model 82 7.62x51mm bolt-action rifles — a target rifle by design — mounting a 6x42 Kahles Helia ZF 69 telescopic sight with a cross-hair reticle pattern. It is an old weapon, first introduced in 1979, that has a hard time handling the rigorous conditions

imposed on it by sniping.

But soon, the sniping cell is told, the bureaucratic wheels will grind into motion and they will have a more practical weapon. Trials begin this year.

One interesting idea being considered is the introduction of a .50-caliber sniper rifle. The Parker Hale is to the .50 caliber, what a Chinese arm burn is to a kick in the nuts. One of the primary advantages of a .50-caliber bullet, which is a derivative of the round used by the Browning heavy machine gun, is that it has a flat, even trajectory. A .50-caliber rifle can hit a target at 1500 meters accurately, while the Parker Hale can only reach 800 meters with effective accuracy. A rifle with such distance would be ideal for dominating areas of open bushy plains, with only moderate cover — like much of the terrain in Australia.

The .50-caliber round is the size of two rolls of nickels stacked on top of each other and can penetrate the armor of most armored personnel carriers. What it does to the human body doesn't need describing.

But for the time being, trainee snipers carry the standard issue Parker Hale — not that it looks issue after each individual has personalized his weapon.

### How To Eliminate The Target

The first five weeks at sniper school are a repetitive grind to learn the six basic skills of sniping. First they practice camouflage and concealment. They conceal themselves in the bush in a given area and an instructor sits a distance away and tries to locate them with binoculars. If he can't, they can shoot him with a blank. If he still can't see them, they shoot again and then identify a number card, just to prove they aren't cheating. If they get the number correct, they've won.

Second, they judge distance from 100 to 1000 meters — self explanatory really, but a lot more difficult than it sounds. This is important for setting the range on their sights. One hundred meters off in judging distance over 500 meters and you're 10 centimeters off your target — a miss if you're aiming at someone's head.

Third, they practice observation. Objects are placed in a given arc and the snipers scour the landscape for them with a telescope. Sound easy? It's not. Pens are put in trees. Camouflage can-

teens are hidden in deep, long grass. "A sniper must learn to look for the unusual," said one of the instructors. "This is paramount because a great portion of their time is spent watching and gathering information."

Then they hone the navigation skills learned in the infantry. Should the day come when these guys are shooting for real on the two-way range, they must know where their target is and where they are. Later

It works the other way too. "Occasionally, some guy looks hopeless all the way through and then, on the day, he pulls it out of the bag. It's unusual, but some people handle pressure better than others."

The pressure shows. Ideally, a sniper must be a non-smoker. But when these trainee snipers come back from a two-hour stalk, most of them light-up, and then light another off the burning butt as they stand around



Sniper and spotter practice on target range. Monitor shows exact location of hits.

they must stalk the instructors. Stalking is essentially the culmination of all the skills into one exercise. It's really a game of cat and mouse, but the mouse has a gun.

The trainees are told to locate and eliminate a target — an instructor. If the failure rate of the stalks that I saw is any indication — about 80% — this is a very difficult exercise.

Lastly, shooting is practiced. Surprisingly, this skill is held as the least difficult to achieve. There's a saying that goes: All snipers are good shots, but all good shots are not snipers.

### One Moment Of Truth

After five and a half weeks of this, the snipers are tested for the coveted crossed rifles badge. It all comes down to one moment of truth, much like it would in reality.

"We've seen guys come in and do great all the way through the course," said Sugg, "and on the big day they fuck up big time. It's the pressure. But that's a part of the job."

in solemn deliberation.

Many snipers are from the country and have grown up with guns and the bush. Yet it's not unusual for a city bloke whose only hunting experience has been in nightclubs to excel on the course.

It's difficult to distill the essential personal attribute down to one quality. The army toes the party line citing intelligence, field-craft, fitness ... blah ... blah ... blah. But it was one of the soldiers in the back of an army truck bouncing along a road in the middle of nowhere at 0800 who gave the best indication of what it really takes to be a sniper. He was 19; the night before he'd been "socializing" until 0200.

So what's it take to be a sniper? "I don't know," he said looking off into the middle distance, "but whatever it is, I'm going to find it. If not this year, then the next. I'll find it."

*Todd Cole is a senior editor at the Australian edition of Penthouse magazine. Paul McIver is a freelance photo journalist. ✕*



# JUDGMENT DAY: THE WACO TRIAL

by James L. Pate

**The 51-day debacle** outside Waco, Texas, last year began and ended with unbelievable violence. Many saw it as a battle between good and evil. But which was which? That was the question a U.S. District Court jury in San Antonio began deliberating in February.

It started one Sunday morning with a hellish gunfight in a cold winter rain. Zealous devotees of a self-styled messiah shot it out with the decidedly secular, but no less ardent forces of earthly rule. Killed in the crossfire were six true believers of an apocalyptic sect that call themselves Branch Davidians and four agents serving the supposedly omnipotent U.S. Department of the Treasury. They fought toe to toe on the line between interpreting God's law and rendering unto Caesar a federal firearms tax.

The tragedy ended with even greater drama, on a spring Monday about high noon. Prairie wildflowers were crushed by tanks that assailed the walls of the religious refuge and belched poisonous clouds of gas inside. Fire broke out; clouds of smoke from the raging pyre reached hundreds of feet heavenward, consuming at least 81 people, most of them women and children — sooty smoke that blackened the integrity of a government which holds itself up as a beacon of integrity in a world darkened by oppression.

A 10-count indictment charged 12 surviving Davidians with federal firearms violations, conspiracy to kill the four Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) agents who died in the raid, and with their actual murders.

To find any defendant guilty of conspiracy, jurors must unanimously decide beyond a reasonable doubt four factors: (1) Two or more defendants agreed to murder the ATF agents; (2) the defendant knew the agreement was unlawful and willingly participated; (3) at least one conspirator committed at least one of six "overt acts" listed in the indictment; and (4) there was premeditation.

Three defendants not present at the raid — Paul Fatta, Woodrow Kendrick and Norman Allison — could be found guilty of conspiracy if the jury found they were responsible beyond a reasonable doubt for any substantive offense committed by a co-conspirator: for example, making available a firearm, knowing it would be used for a criminal act.

Jury selection set a tone for the rest of the trial, namely one of public intimidation, which implied the government had much to hide. U.S. District Judge Walter S. Smith Jr., himself just cleared by Justice Department investigators of an allegation he gave perjured testimony against a

political opponent in a civil trial three years ago, ruled that jurors' identities would remain secret.

One San Antonio resident who objected, insisting she be admitted to a public trial in a public building, was arrested by U.S. marshals. Kelley Shannon, an Associated Press reporter, witnessed the arrest and remarked casually that "it is a public building." A marshal who overheard her comment forced Shannon to leave, plus a *Houston Chronicle* reporter who happened to be nearby. John Lumpkin, Texas bureau chief for AP, filed a protest with the judge, complaining that "from the beginning, federal authorities have ... inhibit(ed) the free flow of information."

During trial, Smith, an imperious, ill-tempered man with baggy eyes and a perpetually flushed face, ran the courtroom like a petty dictator. While Smith, marshals and prosecutors routinely chewed gum and sucked hard candy, such treats were taboo for others. Whispering to each other via microphones hidden in their shirt sleeves, courtroom marshals were ever vigilant against gum-chewers and slouchers. Another AP reporter, Jean Pagel, was made to spit out her Juicy Fruit, and Dick J. Reavis, of *Texas Monthly*, was threatened with expulsion for "undignified posture." Another reporter, believed (incorrectly) to have stiffed San Antonio on a parking ticket, was handcuffed exiting the courtroom.

In the opening day-and-a-half of testimony — so monotonous it threatened to put jurors to sleep and thinned



the ranks of reporters from as far away as Europe and Australia — prosecutors introduced more than 200 firearms. These included 48 automatic weapons, mostly AR-15s and AK-47s, alleged to have been illegally converted.

Davidian leader David Koresh did not survive to face an earthly judgment. Of his 12 disciples originally charged, only one turned state's evidence. But star government witness Kathryn Schroeder was not the Judas that many — including prosecutors — had expected. She threaded her way through two days of testimony without seriously incriminating any of the 11 remaining defendants. Like

tory, some of it plainly helpful to the defense. Notable by their absence as witnesses were ATF agents Davy Aguilera, who headed the original investigation, and Phil Chojnacki and Chuck Sarabyn, who commanded the botched raid and were ultimately suspended for lying about their mistakes. Nor was testimony heard from FBI agents Jeffrey Jamar, in charge of the standoff, or Dick Rogers, former head of the Hostage Rescue Team, whose precipitous action resulted in the final inferno.

Convincing testimony was heard that some Davidians discussed an act of collective suicide during the first week of the siege, a plan called off. Compelling evidence also shows some Davidians spread fuel around Mount Carmel on the final day. But that same evidence — conversations picked up by FBI eavesdropping devices — suggested that this final act was not suicidal, but a desperate defensive tactic aimed at setting the government tanks ablaze.

Unlike the government, which rallied a lackluster presentation by finishing with a flourish of electronic surveillance evidence, the defense surprised spectators with a disappointing anticlimax. The 16 defense attorneys rested their case after calling only eight witnesses.

Strained by weeks of successfully countering everything the government threw at them, the unity of the defense team unraveled as their day in court approached. Meeting with clients in the Bexar County Jail the night before they were to begin presenting their case, the defense team split along several lines. Some wanted to rest, others wanted a protracted defense. Norman Allison, against whom there was little evidence, wanted to personally deny charges against himself. Livingston Fagan, identified in court by ATF agent Eric Evers as the man who'd shot Evers, felt he had nothing to lose by testifying.

To the dismay of several colleagues, Allison's attorney, Tim Evans, said he intended to have his client testify. Allison, a British rap-music artist in Texas visiting a friend, Derek Lovelock, was not a Branch Davidian, but a hapless traveler in the wrong place at the wrong time. He had been sleeping in the Mag Bag, an automotive garage four miles from Mount Carmel. Allison surrendered to ATF agents in the woods behind the complex, hours after the shoot-out. An agent testified the .22-caliber pistol found in Allison's pocket, zipped in a leather pouch, was unfired. Moments before walking into court, Evans changed his mind and decided not to call Allison, calling it "the most difficult decision I've had to make..."

The decision to call it quits after a day-and-a-half of defense testimony "was the effect of a group trial wherein none of the defendants could safely take the stand without endangering one of the other defendants," one unidentified defense attorney told *The New York Times*. "We could not present our ... position, which [was] not that bad."

The defense team did put before the four-man, eight-woman jury several key facts: ATF's case agent, Davy Aguilera, who made himself most useful during the trial by running the prosecution's overhead projector, had refused an opportunity to meet with Koresh seven months before the raid. Koresh had voluntarily provided information for firearms records being examined by the ATF on 4 August 1992. The defense also countered government claims the raid was necessary because Koresh allegedly would not leave Mount Carmel, by presenting testimony



Protesters outside federal building in San Antonio, first day of Davidian trial. Photo: Rick Hunter

In a stunning defeat for the Justice Department, jurors in the Waco case acquitted all 11 Branch Davidian defendants of murder and conspiracy charges, which carry a mandatory life sentence without parole. These charges were the linchpin of the government's shaky case. Four defendants — Norman Allison, Ruth Riddle, Woodrow Kendrick and Clive Doyle — were acquitted of all charges. At press time, prosecutors had filed a motion to reinstate charges against Riddle, effectively blocking her return to Canada.

Five Branch Davidians — Livingston Fagan, Brad Branch, Jaime Castillo, Kevin Whitecliff and Renos Avraam — were found guilty of aiding and abetting voluntary manslaughter. To reach that verdict, jurors had to find that the five were provoked by federal agents and reacted in the heat of passion. Paul Fatta was found guilty of two federal firearms charges related to the illegal conversion of machine guns. Finally, Graeme Craddock was found guilty of possessing a hand grenade.

several other prosecution witnesses, including two ATF agents and two other Branch Davidians, she provided testimony indicating that ATF agents fired first (and recklessly), forcing Davidians to defend themselves.

The feds ultimately spent six weeks calling 125 witnesses, dozens of them gun and surplus dealers, not one of whom provided a single shred of evidence about an illegal purchase. At every opportunity, though, prosecutors implied something sinister about paying for purchases with cash. Much of the government testimony was contradic-



ATF agent Roland Ballesteros, left, was assigned to be "first through the door" during raid at Mount Carmel. Photo: Rick Hunter

he made business trips into Waco and elsewhere in the days just before ATF stormed the complex. Finally, there was strong evidence — part of it from a key government witness — that the Davidians' home was fired on from helicopters.

*Texas Ranger Captain David A. Byrnes:* He was in charge of the Texas Rangers

who processed the scene after the fire. Actions by the FBI during the 51-day siege were "obviously altering outside evidence ... I disagreed with that." (According to a Justice Department report citing Byrnes, "the Rangers' relationship with the FBI command post deteriorated rapidly. Numerous Rangers complained to him that FBI agent Jamar and others in the command post treated them rudely. The Rangers eventually pulled out of what they considered a hostile atmosphere ... Captain Byrnes said the incidents with Jamar and the FBI at Waco severely strained the relationship between the FBI and the Texas Department of Public Safety. He added that ... hard feelings would linger.")

On the witness stand, Byrnes also acknowledged the exclusion of ATF agents from the scene because "there had been some concern that people would think there had been a cover-up ... if the ATF was down there," and that ATF agents "might salt the scene" with bogus evidence. He acknowledged on cross-examination there were "a couple of hours" between the fire and when the Texas Rangers took control of the scene, during which time FBI and ATF agents "could have had access."

*Texas Ranger Sergeant Fred*

*Cummings:* Cummings inadvertently revealed that half of Mount Carmel's double front-door was missing — the half that had been publicly identified by one defense attorney as a key piece of evidence because the "spray pattern" of entry holes confirmed Koresh's assertion that one agent fired a burst of machine gun fire at him as he tried to talk to agents. Cummings also told defense attorney Jeff Kearney that "trash" was loaded into a dumpster by FBI agents even as the Rangers continued to process the scene for evidence.

*FBI agent James Cadigan:* The Davidians had completed 22 sound suppressors, according to evidence processed by Cadigan at the FBI's firearms laboratory. He acknowledged that of all the burned machine guns he examined, he could not say any of them had been used

against agents in the raid — or had ever been fired at all. He said 22 AR-15s, 20 AK-47s, two H&K SP-89s and two MAC-11s had been modified for full-auto fire.

*ATF agent Roland Ballesteros:* ATF's policy on knock-and-announce search warrants is that agents must knock and wait "a reasonable amount of time" to be permitted entry. Ballesteros testified, "The contingency plan was that if we received gunfire, we were to leave," but also testified on direct examination that he was told if he heard gunfire, "don't react to that." Assigned to "be the first one through that front door," he testified he heard shooting before he got there, but said he heard the first shots "to my left," where agents were piling out of two cattle trailers. The front of the building was to his right.

Ballesteros said he saw Koresh standing in the open door as he charged through the front gate with a Winchester 12-gauge pump shotgun at the ready, and that Koresh and two other people standing next to Koresh did not have weapons visible. "I looked up and yelled, 'Police! Lay down!' I yelled it pretty loudly. I yelled, 'Search warrant!' a couple of times. I kept running toward the front door. [Koresh] responded, 'What's going on?' I yelled, 'Search warrant! Lay down!'"

In cross-examination, Ballesteros admitted that in his statement to Texas Rangers 10 days after the raid, and in a preliminary hearing last fall, he made no mention of anyone yelling anything about police or a search warrant. His

first two accounts of the raid indicated his belief that the first shots were fired by ATF, probably by a team assigned to shoot dogs. (In an example of the contradictory testimony given by government witnesses, a three-man ATF team had been assigned to "neutralize" a bitch with four pups. At least one dog was found dead — and two different agents took credit for the kill. But dog-team members said they never shot a canine.)

Ballesteros said his front-door entry was rehearsed "two or three times" at Fort Hood. "No, we did not" practice a peaceful entry, he

said. "I was just instructed to enter that front door ... We'd hoped they'd surrender. Hopefully, they'd see who we were and do as we said ... [Sarabyn] did tell us, 'They know we're coming, let's hurry.' I did not worry about the loss of surprise. My adrenaline was pumping..."

Insisting the agents were "ambushed," Ballesteros was asked if he did not think it would be odd for Koresh to open the front door unarmed and initiate dialogue if people inside were already shooting. "No, it wouldn't be odd," he replied.

*ATF agent Eric Evers:* He was the second government witness to change his story about who fired first. Like Ballesteros, Evers told Texas Rangers in a tape-recorded statement made right after the shooting that the first shots he heard came from a member of the dog team.



ATF agent Davy Aguilera, left, who headed ATF's investigation leading to Waco raid, had so many credibility problems Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Johnston, right, didn't dare call him as witness. Photo: James L. Pate



U.S. District Judge Walter Smith Jr. of Waco, left, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Johnston, at U.S. courthouse in San Antonio. Smith ran the courtroom like Ferdinand Marcos ran the Philippines; his disdain for the defense team was thinly disguised. Photo: James L. Pate

in the wrist and right shoulder, he said he saw defendant Livingston Fagan shoot him as he rounded the north rear corner of Mount Carmel. On cross-examination, though, he admitted that he looked up after being hit and saw "a black male." In two subsequent statements, he did not claim to be able to identify the person who shot him. It was only after Fagan — one of 15 black males living at Mount Carmel, but the only one to exit during the stand-off — was seen on CNN that he was able to accuse Fagan.

It was during Evers' testimony that the first of several failures by the prosecution to turn over to defense attorneys key evidence came to light. A photo lineup shown to Evers — one the defense had not been shown — was handed over in court by Texas Ranger Sgt. Ray Cano, with the remark that "right is right." On the photo spread, next to Fagan's picture, Evers had written and initialed the comment that he was "unsure

In court, though, he testified the Davidians "ambushed" the ATF. Evers also admitted that Sarabyn warned that the Davidians knew the ATF was coming and that they had to hurry. Although he claimed to be surprised to see news media present at the raid site, he admitted the code word for going ahead with the raid was "Show time!"

Evers' testimony was important for two key reasons. Wounded

if I.D. is from TV or memory."

**ATF agent Dan Curtis:** Testified he could hear rounds fired by ATF snipers whickering overhead during the gunfight. He wept as he described the death of fellow agent Steve Willis, who was crouched behind the truck, facing the building when "I saw him jerk forward." The testimony suggests Willis may have been struck from the rear by ATF sniper fire.

**ATF agent Kris Mayfield:** One of several ATF agents who admitted he "had very little ammunition left" after the raid. He saw ATF agent Robert Williams killed as Williams faced the building, crouched behind an old safe: "His head jerked backward and he fell to the ground on his back." Mayfield's wife is an ATF agent, who was also on the raid.

**ATF agent Samuel Cohen:** Before he could get out of the trailer, Cohen said he heard fire from an MP-5 submachine gun and 9mm pistols — weapons carried by ATF agents. As he exited the rear of the trailer,

a .223 bullet struck his side arm. He told Texas Rangers after the raid that the first thing he saw on exiting the cattle trailer was the backs of ATF agents already shooting. Like other agents, Cohen said he could hear incoming ATF sniper fire overhead.

**ATF agent Kenny King:** King, who had never drawn or fired his weapon at a hostile target during 21 years in the ATF, was leader of one of two teams assigned to force their way into Mount Carmel through second-story windows. "Immediately after exiting the trailer, I heard gunfire," King testified. King said he headed for the side of Mount Carmel with his team and a ladder. Once on the roof, two members of King's entry team — Conway LeBleu and Todd McKeehan — were killed. King was shot six times. Three bullets are still in his body. He nearly died after rolling off the roof, unseen for more than two hours, pleading into his radio for help. "I was determined I was not going to die there," he said, "laying there" listening to blood from McKeehan's head drip off the roof "like rain." A white-haired



Houston attorney Mike DeGeurin, who defended Davidian Paul Fatta (not present during Mount Carmel raid) on charges he conspired with leader David Koresh to buy guns and convert them to full-auto for confrontation with feds. DeGeurin's brother, Dick DeGuerin, was Koresh's attorney until Koresh died in fire ending 51-day siege. Photo: James L. Pate

Rented building of Mag Bag, David Koresh's auto repair business, deliberately wrecked by ATF agents in Bradley fighting vehicle. Building's owner, banker Gary Welch, stood by with keys in hand, begging agents not to destroy his property. When he objected, he was arrested. Photo: James L. Pate



Continued on page 76

**Will Election Trigger  
Racial and Tribal  
Warfare?**



Photo: Henner Frankfeld/WYT PIX

# **SOUTH AFRICA'S BLACK HORIZON**

**by Al J. Venter**

**South Africa** is making history. Its all-white political establishment is about to be swept into oblivion by a general election that even optimistic observers fear will throw the country into ravaging turmoil. The outcome could be full-scale civil war, comparable perhaps to Bosnia — or even worse, because its impetus could be fueled by black-white racial hatred.

There are optimists, of course. Good potential exists in a country regarded, even by its detractors, as the most powerful economic power in Africa and one that has been blessed with a plethora of natural resources.

But that would disregard the fact that everyday violence in South Africa equals, or even surpasses, that of Yugoslavia on a bad day. Or that unemployment is nudging 50%, or that the majority of blacks in South Africa do not understand the basics of democracy, or even the vote.

Couple this witches' brew with a level of racial hatred that, as the Human Rights Commission stated in issuing its latest casualty figures, left 4,364 dead in political violence last year, and at least 14,000 people dead as a result of political differences since President F.W. de Klerk began dismantling apartheid four years ago, and the future looks bleak.

The scenario began with the release of Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress (ANC), who is expected to be the

next president. Even the most sanguine observer would expect an ANC election victory, but Mandela and his followers do not have it all. The ANC is opposed by most South African whites, some 5 million strong and almost all armed, and by a majority of the 6 million Zulus.

Together, these are a minority in a community of about 35 million souls, but one with powerful clout, largely because whites still dominate the armed forces and South African Police, and history has shown that the Zulu nation is not one to trifle with. Add to that the fact white South Africans have recently emerged from a two-decade guerrilla war and have much military experience behind them.

Issues have become even more serious since de Klerk was warned in a meeting with his chiefs of staff in late January that if the violence continues to escalate, the army and the police "cannot and will not be expected to stand idly by." If this "threat" is not construed as a warning of some form of military rule, short of an outright *coup d'etat*, then one might well ask: What more does it need? Certainly, more effective rule of law is the most pressing need of South Africa, and is foremost in the minds of the majority of its citizens, black or white.

In recent months, numerous international observers have visited South Africa and the parallels with Bosnia and Georgia, or the violence in Afghanistan and Armenia has not been lost on them.

Similar circumstances prevail: the breakup of an established political system; ethnic dominance by one group that is better armed and equipped over another; real or imagined political grievances and, of course, the devastating racial issue that permeates all levels of society including schools, hospitals and social services as well as urban, regional and national government.

Outside the debating chamber, blacks and whites simply do not listen to each other. You need no better illustration to comprehend this hostility than to drive on the country's roads. Blacks and whites compete for space and distance at the wheel of their cars, with a vengeance that has resulted in South Africa having the highest road accident death rate in the world; *more than 700*

*killed during the last December holidays alone!*

Numerous factors have contributed to the breakdown of the political system in South Africa. Certainly, the South African government itself has played a crucial role in creating a climate of instability, at a time when strong action would have been a more appropriate answer to the nation's ills. In short, government in South Africa has lacked a coherent direction or genuine impact.

Decisions at cabinet level vary according to the moment. Increases on fuel or food taxes are made one day and withdrawn the next. Huge financial scams involving government departments are unraveled weekly — hardly the climate to inspire confidence, which is one reason why de Klerk (often compared to Gorbachev), though popular abroad, is reviled by many of every shade of the political spectrum at home.

Internal security is another example. Consistently, Mandela's ANC has berated security forces either for, or for not, taking a more active part in limiting violence, depending on the mood or circumstances. Each time a brutality occurs, ANC spokespeople lash out at the police or army, depending upon who may be present or in the area at the time. If the police were not in the area where a particularly horrific event, such as a multiple township shooting, occurred, they are accused of partiality, or of "inability or unwillingness" to react. If they *were* present, the cry goes out for them to be removed immediately. As one observer noted, the ANC speaks with many tongues, and evidences a lack of coordination at the highest levels.

A case in point is the ANC march on Bisho, the capital of Ciskei, in the eastern cape, scene of much recent violence. A year ago, the Ciskei army opened fire on marchers. There were numerous casualties, including some deaths. South African security forces had been warned by the ANC before

the event that the march had nothing to do with them, so they let the column of protesters pass. Once the shooting started there were bitter re-priminations about the "lack of police or army protection." Simply put, it is a no-win situation.

Another example is the internal security unit *Koevoet* that had previously seen brilliant service in the war against Swapo in South West Africa/Namibia. A peace treaty having been signed (and Namibia newly independent), *Koevoet* was relocated to South Africa and deployed in a bid to limit township violence. They were remarkably effective: Tough, well-



Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party supporters with traditional weapons, poised for battle in Johannesburg suburb of Soweto, during black-on-black violence between Zulu and Xhosa. Photo: AP/ Wide World

trained and disciplined, the unit brokered little nonsense from various dissident factions. Typically, their very presence limited violence.

This was not good enough for the ANC. Backed by South Africa's English newspapers, Mandela and his associates campaigned hard to have *Koevoet* elements withdrawn from the townships and disbanded. President de Klerk conceded: *Koevoet* became history and the level of violence, in areas where the unit had been active, spiralled.

It would be simplistic to define the current violence in South Africa in tribal terms. Basically though, the thrust of the "struggle" is linked to strong differences between the Inkatha Freedom Party — IFP (which is a Zulu, tribally orientated movement) and the ANC (which has always had its origins among the Xhosa people of the eastern cape).

While the ANC commands support from elements within all racial groups and tribal allegiances, its main strength lies in the Transkei,

Mandela's "homeland." In fact, the ANC's strongest military backing comes from General Bantu Holomisa, the Transkei military leader. Many of its office holders are Xhosas, although the ANC also has many followers who are of European, Asian and Zulu extraction. There are ANC card carriers in every one of South Africa's other tribes.

While that situation holds at present, critical observers are asking: What about tomorrow? The ANC has succeeded, brilliantly, in acting as an anti-South African catalyst for dozens of movements and organizations who have been, or still are, opposed to the South African government. But to most it has been an alliance of convenience. Judging by the fact that Mandela is no longer in prison and that universal suffrage elections are imminent, this "alliance" has been very successful.

But the coalition ignores one paramount constraint and one which is

Anyone who has observed recent developments is also aware that tribalism (ergo, tribal warfare) is the single biggest catastrophe facing independent black African states at the present time — from South Africa to the Sahara.

Currently, there is an ongoing tribal war in Burundi that has left several hundred thousand dead, and produced half a million refugees. Internal warfare is ongoing in Liberia, where the brutality has been even more severe. Most young people have never heard of Biafra, but that Nigerian civil war — between the Ibo tribes of the east, the western-region Yorubas and the Moslem Hausas of the north, ended with roughly 1 million dead, give or take a couple hundred thousand, many of them children.

Similarly, tribal conflicts have occurred elsewhere in Africa: in Uganda, Zaire, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Angola, Cameroon, Togo, Ghana, Niger, Sudan, Rwanda,



Traditionally armed ANC supporters march through Soweto to attend commemoration ceremony for signing of Freedom Charter, considered cornerstone in struggle against white domination. Photo: AP/Wide World

the Central African Republic, Guinea (Conakry) and Equatorial Guinea. The list goes on. One may well ask, "What will make South Africa different after the elections? After the Xhosa have taken over?"

The answer, in a word: nothing. The Zulu nation, led by King

peculiar to Africa. It is accepted in Africa and abroad that most black people on the continent agree to the premise: "If your enemy is my enemy, then we are friends." But that only holds as long as the mutual enemy is active.

After South African elections in April, however, there will be no effective white government or white-dominated National Party in power or dictating policy, racial or otherwise. There will be only tribal factions and vested political interests, largely dominated by a Xhosa-led ANC. As we have seen elsewhere on this turbulent continent, the tribe comes before party, friendship, and often even ahead of family.

Goodwill Zwelethini and the head of the Inkatha Freedom Party, Dr. Mangosuthu Buthelezi, lead a proudly individualistic community that has always regarded the Xhosas and their associates with unbridled and undisguised contempt. A century ago, the only good Xhosa, according to Zulu tradition, was a dead one.

There is, of course, one other option for Zululand: unilateral direct independence, or secession from a united South Africa. King Zwelethini and Dr. Buthelezi may well represent the only black leadership who could count on the support of Zulus and Afrikaners. Such a breakout is a likely event within a year of the elections.

Meanwhile, everyone in the coun-

try is aware that de Klerk has worked a deal with Mandela to "reshape" South Africa. The old order will be replaced. In a succession of meetings — some of them secret — the two have planned a future order in the country that will guarantee jobs and positions for cronies and party members, and generally create a political establishment that, in a broad sense, is attractive enough to entrenched whites to garner their support. After all, it is the whites who voted on the issue — but both de Klerk and Mandela effectively ignored the main player, the Zulu nation.

The Zulus, guarding their own interests, want none of it. The new dispensation intends to abolish tribal traditions, homelands, figureheads and political leaders. It is not beyond the realm of possibility that it could put a Xhosa in charge of Zululand's ultimate destiny. This is why the Zulu leaders are skeptical, and they say so.

In 20 years, when some academic analyzes the history of these developments, he will reach an astonishing conclusion: that in planning for the future of South Africa, it was dangerous to ignore any major participant. It is even more absurd when one considers that Zulus are South Africa's largest tribe. Like the whites, Buthelezi fears a Xhosa-dominated South African government. Like many whites he also resists not so much the changes that abolished apartheid, but he is totally opposed to the socialist political mores and principals advanced by the ANC — a system likely to ignore private enterprise, emasculate big business (and the mines) and carve up centuries-old territorial boundaries and tribal traditions. They tried that in Nigeria in the early '70s, and we saw what happened.

It is interesting that much original ANC policy emanated from a group of hardline Marxists who had embraced ANC tenets to achieve their aims of creating a socialist South Africa. Some of these people, like Joe Slovo (who is likely to hold a cabinet post in the new government), were born in Eastern Europe. Before the changes in the Soviet Union, Slovo would spend part of each year in Moscow. He was "their man" in southern Africa.

And then there is the "right wing" bogey, an issue that remains current even though the radical Pan Africanist

Congress (PAC) and ANC associates have been the ones responsible for mass murders in churches and bars, and the ambushing of civilian buses on the country's highways.

Like many Western countries, South Africa has its lunatic fringe — groups of anti-semitic, neo-Nazi racists prancing about in khaki uniforms and saluting Hitlerite images. We have the same sort of thing with the British National Front and America's Ku Klux Klan. The only difference is that in South Africa, the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB) and related groups are ridiculously visible. The leader of the AWB is an alcoholic equestrian who keeps falling off his horse. As far as media copy goes, he's an easy and ridiculous cheap "touch." The trouble is, international TV and newspaper reporters tend to color many whites of South African extraction with the same brush: a bunch of semiliterate, pot-bellied, racist yahoos.

There is a great danger with this kind of caricature. It tends to lend the impression that those white South Africans who are demanding their "place in the sun" in the "New South Africa" are a cluster of ineffectual half-wits with little or no direction among them, who would be unable to look after their own interests if conditions in the country really deteriorated. No cognizance is taken of the fact that hundreds of families have been murdered in a bid to drive them off their land and that even more police have been killed.

Or that these "misfits," during the 21-year guerrilla war in South West Africa and Angola, kept the might of surrogate Cuban and Soviet forces at bay. Year after year they stymied just about every communist-bloc strategy for total military control of these embattled countries.

This was done in the face of billions of dollars' worth of investment in combloc weapons by Angola, as well as tens of thousands of Cuban troops, Soviet and East German advisers, coupled with a U.N.-imposed arms-trade and oil embargo against South Africa. The odds had not been stacked more heavily against any other country in any war this century, yet they prevailed.

Clearly, for white South Africa to take up arms to defend its real or imagined "rights" would be the final

catastrophe of the 20th century. A scenario of black forces pitted against white would loose a fire storm that could take a century to contain. The result would be South Africa — the powerhouse of Africa and one of the major economic factors of the southern hemisphere — being swept irrevocably into a vortex of carnage. Only a wasteland would result.

While black South Africans have a clear advantage in numbers, so, in turn, do whites have the preponderance of arms and expertise. The result, clearly, is another no-win situation for everyone. If anyone imagines that the United Nations might step in and bring a semblance of sanity to a crazy situation, then I suggest they think again: The United Nations can't even handle Somalia, a mere side-show by comparison.

Strangely, M a n d e l a touched on this issue on the afternoon of 30 January 1994, while addressing a crowd of supporters at the black township of Khuma. He referred to the "30-year guerrilla war" waged by the ANC in its bid for freedom, saying (the ANC) "knows how to fight."

Mandela and other black leaders have made this allusion repeatedly. There have been many claims about the military "ability" of the ANC. Yet no one in South Africa or abroad has had the courage to question this or related statements.

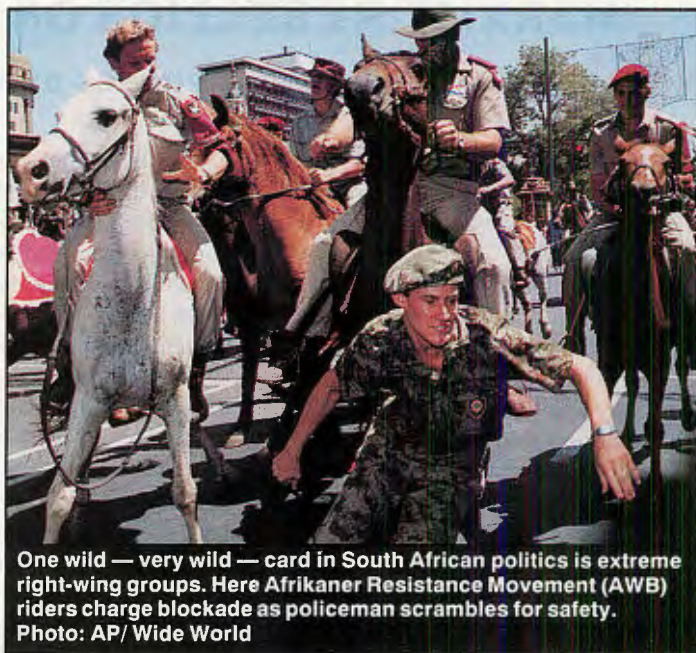
One might well ask: what military ability? In which wars have the ANC — or the PAC — been involved? What battles?

While in exile, the ANC did prove brilliant proponents of laying car bombs in front of supermarkets and limpet mines in post offices crowded with innocent women and children. They and the PAC have also been

remarkably successful at bombing bars full of innocent civilians, assassinating their political adversaries and executing dissidents, a crime of which the IFP is also guilty.

But when it comes to a full-blown conflict one needs to examine the record more carefully. War would be a disaster for everyone in the country. Many ANC cadres and PAC hot-heads advocate a military conflict as the final, intractable showdown. The loudest proponents of such actions, of course, are usually those with the least exposure to military matters.

The analogy definitely does not apply to the white community. Almost to a man, this society has seen military activity of some sort or an-



One wild — very wild — card in South African politics is extreme right-wing groups. Here Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) riders charge blockade as policeman scrambles for safety. Photo: AP/Wide World

other. Many South Africans, English and Afrikaners, would react as a cohesive, disciplined and well-trained force if they believed there was simply no other recourse and that there was nothing to lose, since they were going to lose everything anyway. Irrational black demands would hasten that process.

The first shot of such a conflict would be dangerously easy. In contrast, once started, to end it all would be almost impossible.

The images of Yugoslavia loom larger.

*Al Venter is SOF's contributing editor for Africa, and author and producer of numerous books and documentary videos on African issues. ✕*



# MAYHEM IN MEXICO

## MARXIST REBELLION ON AMERICA'S DOORSTEP

TEXT & PHOTOS BY ROBERT WALCHLI

**W**edged in the back of a Mexican federal police helicopter while flying over a free-fire zone in the southern state of Chiapas, I knew we were in trouble when both pilots of our Vietnam-era Huey began pointing in different directions and yelling at each other in unintelligible Spanish. Alternately tapping the fuel gauge and studying the photocopied Rand-McNally road map, it was obvious they had absolutely no idea where we were.

Earlier the same week, with celebrations welcoming the New Year barely having subsided, a ragtag band of armed peasants calling themselves the "Zapatista National Liberation Army" (EZLN) after Emiliano Zapata, legendary hero of Mexico's 1910 revolution, surprised the world by occupying the mountain tourist center of San Cristóbal de las Casas. Armed with a "declaration of war," Marxist rhetoric and a motley collection of weapons, the Zapatistas seemed to have stepped from a textbook on Latin American insurgency.

Led by a hooded figure known only as "Commandante Marcos," the rebels met little resistance as they marched into San Cristóbal only an hour and a half into the new year. The duty officer at the nearby Rancho Nuevo military base received word of gunfire and explosions, but blaming it on leftover New Year's celebrants, merely logged the call.

By 0230 hours the rebels had attacked the San Cristóbal police station, and lead elements marched into the city square and seized the Palacio Municipal. Other units blasted trees down across the Pan-American highway, severing the region's outside ties.

As bleary-eyed tourists greeted the dawn that Saturday, hundreds of armed rebels were ransacking government offices and a few shops fronting the town square: in particular, a pharmacy (medical supplies) and appliance store (TVs?). Another

detail broke through the heavy steel doors of a warehouse, scooping up 500 pounds of dynamite.

Armed with aging Thompsons, .30 M1 Carbines and leftovers from the insurgencies in Guatemala and El Salvador, the rebels temporarily set up a command post in the town hall. But by nightfall the approximately 500 rebel troops occupying the town began pulling out, torching city hall and commandeering numerous vehicles. The main body headed for the military barracks and federal prison

Armored troops in Panhard ERC 90 F1 Lynx recon vehicle move into town in a show of force. Armored columns stretching the length of small mountain towns are a tanker's nightmare — fortunately EZLN showed no anti-armor capability.



at Rancho Nuevo, six miles away. They successfully attacked the prison — where guards decided they had urgent business elsewhere — and released 179 prisoners, some of whom joined the rebellion.

A pitched battle the following day cost the rebels at least 10 dead when, flush with success, they attacked the heavily defended army barracks. Five government soldiers and one Red Cross worker were also reported killed in the attack. Another 14 rebels died when their VW van ran into an armored relief column.

While all this was happening, separate elements of the EZLN, wearing the traditional red bandanas and mismatched military uniforms synonymous with Central American revolutionaries, stormed the towns of Ocosingo, Altamirano and Las Margaritas. Three policemen in Las Margaritas were shot defending the town against a rebel contingent of some 200.

Another unit kidnapped the former governor of Chiapas, Absalon Dominguez, from his ranch near Comitán de Dominguez. Apparently acting as point element in a pre-planned retrograde, the same unit then secured the village of Guadalupe Tepeyac, only 800 meters from the Guatemalan border.

After being repulsed at the Rancho Nuevo barracks, the main body of rebels headed by road to reinforce Ocosingo. Securing the nearby towns of Huixtán and Oxchuc, the Zapatistas soon controlled the entire 40-mile-long Ocosingo Valley.



Armed with license-built G3 rifle, Mexican infantryman guards building beneath rebel slogan. Some such graffiti spelled out G's intentions: *Gone to Rancho Nuevo, Tuxtla and Mexico City.*

Vowing a fight to the finish, the main rebel force, now approximately 800 strong, held Ocosingo through Sunday, skirmishing with Mexican government paratroops and mechanized infantry sent from Palanque. By early Monday morning, however, overwhelming government forces began arriving. Armored convoys clogged the roads as helicopter gunships roared overhead. Soon the estimated 3,000 government troops began overrunning guerrilla positions, with 25 rebels and 30 soldiers reported KIA in Sunday's fighting. By Monday the rebels were in full-scale retreat.

Gunships and aircraft strafed the retreating rebels, but the weather soon

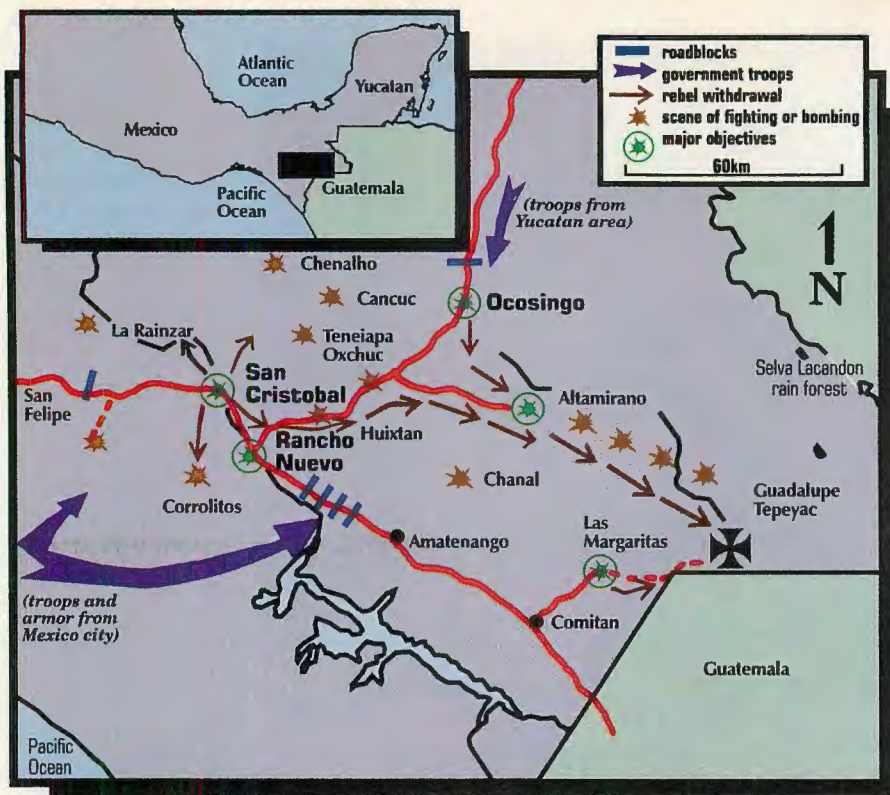
turned overcast and grounded all aircraft, giving the Zapatistas two days to make good their escape. The main body of G's retreated through the rain forest toward the previously secured village of Guadalupe Tepeyac, but numerous smaller bands were absorbed by the towns and villages surrounding San Cristóbal and Ocosingo, as rebels simply returned to their homes and farms in the highland villages to lay low. Reports of armed men in the countryside shooting at aircraft prompted the army to saturate the area with ground troops.

The army blocked all roads. Checkpoints were everywhere. House-to-house searches were conducted for weapons. Over the next several days skirmishes were reported in the smaller communities of San Felipe, Chanal, Teopisca,

Cancun and San Andreas. Aerial bombing near several villages drove hundreds of refugees into shelters in San Cristóbal.

Stranded in the middle were hundreds of tourists visiting the area's quaint Mayan villages and nearby ruins. By attacking San Cristóbal, which hosts more than 1.2 million visitors each year, the Zapatistas gained immediate and extensive international media attention.

But that doesn't mean it was easy to get to San Cristóbal once the shooting started. As soon as I heard what was going down, I caught the next flight to Mexico, where I linked up with Frederico Martin of the Mexi-



Zapatista rebels managed to briefly control 40-mile-long Ocosingo valley in southern Mexican state of Chiapas, before Mexican forces drove them into rain forest along mountainous border with Guatemala. Map: Kristine Anderson

can newspaper *La Reforma*, and we painted the requisite "TV-Prensa" on his car. Everybody in the war zone, including the guerrillas, paint their cars with "prensa" signs. So everyone still shoots at you, but it looks macho.

"*Journalista Americano muy importante*," I told the 16-year-old MP at the first roadblock, waving my impressive collection of press cards in his face. He responded by shoving his MP5 in mine.

"*Sube su manos!*" (Get your

hands up.)

These guys are a little paranoid, I thought as I carefully placed my hands on my head. We managed to convince the kid's sergeant that we really weren't Zapatista reinforcements, and they let us pass.

Several hours and checkpoints later, we were roadblock experts: There were two types. At one, they'd wave us through; at the other, they'd tear the car apart looking for anything illegal to pin on us, or steal. The trick was telling which kind was which. We figured out real quick that when the teenage guards racked a round into their FNs or H&Ks it meant "Stop!" It got to where we didn't bother repacking our stuff and just threw it all in the backseat. They never did find the dive knife I had strapped to my left calf.

By the time we arrived in San Cristóbal the Zapatistas had pulled back into the hills and the army was in control of the central city area. Signs reading "*Viva la EZLN*," were painted everywhere. On one building, the Zapatistas had outlined their intentions, "*Gone to Rancho Nuevo, Tuxtla and Mexico City.*"

The town square was cordoned off

Soldier with H&K rifle mounting 40mm grenade launcher stands guard in Ocosingo, scene of heavy fighting.

and ringed with armor of various types. Soldiers from the 83rd Infantry (mech) were setting up a perimeter, mounting 40mm automatic grenade launchers and .50-caliber machine guns in windows overlooking avenues of approach to the fire-ravaged Palacio Municipal, which the army was now using as a headquarters. The Zapatistas would have been crazy to try retaking the town.

### No Subversive Press Allowed

Later, we watched as several airplanes and helicopter gunships blew the hell out of something or somebody on a mountainside about three



Soldiers man defensive position near Rancho Nuevo. NCO in foreground has H&K MP5; his troops have G3 rifles, license-built in Mexico.

miles outside of Tenejapa. Trying to get closer, we pointed our car in the direction of the action and made good progress until we rounded a bend in the road and nearly hit an armored recon vehicle engaging unseen targets on a forested ridge a mile downrange.

From the car it looked like they were killing a lot of trees and not much else, but we jumped out with our cameras, and immediately found ourselves staring down the barrel of a .50-cal. machine gun.

Our impressive press credentials failed to impress, and since it was obvious the track commander didn't want us around to photograph any accidental shelling of some poor campesino's shack, we decided to try our luck elsewhere. Five clicks outside of San Cristóbal we hit another roadblock. "*El camino esta cerrado*," said a burly airborne officer, informing us that due to the media's "subversive campaign to discredit and embarrass the Mexican army," and

citing an accidental gunshot attack on a press vehicle the day before, we were persona non grata and expressly excluded from the war zone for our "protection."

So much for freedom of the press. This, we discovered, was the beginning of a series of incidents over the next few days in which the press and human rights observers, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, would be sanctioned and refused access to contested areas — often at gunpoint and under threat of arrest. The intimidation got so bad that photographers for major news organizations gave up in disgust and walked out on assignments, while American newspapers pulled their people out in frustration. I can't blame them, but they played right into the government's hands, allowing the authorities to successfully repress potentially embarrassing news — such as when a number of dead rebels (between eight and 10) were found by reporters Monday afternoon, hands tied behind their backs with gunshot wounds to the head.

The Monsignor Ruiz, bishop of San Cristóbal, publicly accused the army of executing prisoners, and reports of other army excesses were reported by the local AP press office. Ruiz, an ardent supporter of Indian rights, pointed out that a young Venezuelan scientist, who was working on a project for the Smithsonian Institution, had been arrested and interrogated for eight hours because he "looked"

Young men move about their business under the cover of white flags: This was not a good time to wear a red do-rag.



like Zapatista Commandante Marcos. Of course, nobody had ever seen Marcos without his hood, and he could easily have been sitting in a cafe having the laugh of his life as 15,000 troops scoured the countryside looking for him.

From what I gathered on the ground, the uprising is a classic peasant rebellion by a people fed up with centuries of oppression and discrimination, who see no future as their jungle habitat is raped by clear-cut logging and slash-and-burn agriculture. Discontent in the highlands of Chiapas state, home to hundreds of thousands of Indian descendants of the Maya, has been building for years, but reports of guerrillas were dismissed as narco-traffickers and bandits.

Meanwhile from a flourishing base of discontent deep within the impregnable Selva Lacandon rain forest, the Zapatista army was born. There, bordered by the towering volcanoes of Guatemala to the south, the Pan-American Highway to the west and the Rio Usumacinta to the east, a cadre of mostly young guerrillas was being trained, and a revolution formed under the noses of Mexican authorities.



Patrol, armed with G3 rifles, forms up. As army made initial sweeps, G's retreated to smaller villages, mountains and the depths of the rain forest.

As early as May 1991, reports circulated at high levels of government detailing unusual activity and sightings of armed bands in the Selva Lacandon. It was two years before any official inquiry was undertaken. Federal police began their investigation in Ocosingo, jailing 10 campesinos and two Guatemalans for the murder of a soldier. Satisfied they had foiled the revolution, they returned to Mexico City: The Zapatistas kept on training. Last November, Mexico's minister of the interior answered rumors with a media statement that, "In Chiapas, there are no guerrillas."

The 1910 goal of Emiliano Zapata, the popular revolutionary hero whose name they have borrowed, was to restore lands appropriated from the landowners to the dispossessed indigenous communities. He did not plan to take the capital nor introduce socialism. Leading the stated demands of current "Zapatistas" are land reform, better living conditions and democracy for impoverished indigenous Indians, followed by schools, medical clinics and opposition to NAFTA and growing foreign influence — in particular an end to U.S. training of Mexican military troops.

Along with the elusive Commandante Marcos, the Zapatista leadership appears to be professional, urban guerrillas with university educations. They are similar in profile to those in Central America or Peru. Some of them are probably veterans of these guerrilla movements who command arsenals no longer needed in their failed revolutions at home.

Although the indigenous people re-

cruited have suffered enough abuse to make them listen to revolutionary leaders, this is not a spontaneous, reactive uprising, but a carefully orchestrated campaign with an agenda beyond local agrarian reform. Commandante Marcos, who claims he takes orders from the Indian "High Command," admits to being from Mexico City, having come to Chiapas in 1988 after becoming disillusioned with Mexico's ruling PRI political party. (Which was accused of fixing the Presidential elections to maintain their 64 year grip on the country.)

The Indians, tired of watching their children die of preventable disease, of outside corporations raping their rainforest for lumber and of not having

stretched for blocks, all waiting for food. With stores closed since the fighting began, this was the first time many people had left their homes since New Year's Day.

The brother of a local restaurateur summed up the action: "It was bad, the Zapatistas ransacked several homes near the town square. I hope the army kills all the damn Zapatista sons of bitches," he told me, adding there were still rebel bodies lying in the marketplace.

His attitude seemed prevalent among the townspeople. A root cause of the uprising is the traditional racism directed against indigenous Indians. Several people commented that they felt the rebels were just good-

food and supplies, so the army had been ordered into the highlands — but the army didn't count on running into the independent Chamulans.

Direct descendants of the original Maya, Chamulans hate *everybody*: They hate the government, the Zapatistas, even the tourists who come to view their colorful market days. Arriving in town just minutes ahead of the convoy, we were confronted with the most incredible spectacle of the war.

Dressed in ceremonial robes and carrying brass-handled fighting sticks and machetes, the Chamulan "army" — about 40 elders and headmen — was marching in formation toward the crossroads to engage the Mexican army. Other groups were blockading the road into town with dump trucks. With my driver telling me I would be killed by the superstitious Chamulans, I took a few surreptitious photos. Apparently he was telling the truth: I later learned two German tourists taking pictures in the square had been murdered by enraged Indians.

I told you, Chamulans hate everybody.

A local explained the obvious: "We don't want the army here, and if they try driving tanks into our town, there will be bloodshed." *Yeah, I thought, yours, if you try fighting tanks with sticks and machetes.*

The army decided not to push the issue, at least not without orders from higher command, so they just set up a defensive position at the crossroads. The troops were still there days later, so I guess the Chamulans won. They're little people, but they've got some big *cojones*.

Ultimately, 17,000 troops were committed to quelling the rebellion. More than 100 pieces of armor and dozens of helicopters and planes were deployed. Though no stranger to violence due to frequent clashes with drug traffickers and dissident peasants, in Chiapas the Mexican army was out of its league going up against a mobile band who knew the terrain and enjoyed support in many of the villages.

By no means, however, did the Zapatistas enjoy overwhelming popular support: Many villages were neutral, or against the rebels. In occupied towns, feelings ran mostly



Chamulan "army" marches to engage the Mexican federal forces. It was a draw.

any political voice were ripe for revolutionary recruiters — they simply had nothing left to lose, but their lives. And in Chiapas, life is cheap.

So, though they fight to resolve concrete grievances concerning political oppression and social/economic inequity, they are guided and goaded by a cadre of liberation theology advocates who preach violence. They are being used, in other words, by those who have a larger agenda.

When I finally reached Ocosingo on Tuesday, the army was in total control. Signs of the previous day's battle, which ended while I'd been battling roadblocks, were still apparent. Heavily armed soldiers peered from the second-story balconies of burned-out buildings, and armored convoys cruised the surrounding countryside. A queue of women

for-nothings who wanted government handouts. "Let them go get a job," said the proprietor of one store — but I saw no Indians working in her establishment.

At the market, light infantry, covered by armored vehicles mounting everything from .50-cal. Brownings to 90mm cannons, were just finishing policing up bodies and loading them on a truck. Spying my cameras, several soldiers on guard duty intercepted me, their FN FALs at the ready.

"No photos! Fuerase!" — Get out of here!

I continued to chase reports of guerrillas in the hills, trying to outmaneuver the army's blockading of main roads. One day I raced an armored column toward the indigenous town of Chamula. Scuttlebutt was the rebels were coming in at night for

Continued on page 70

# Fighting FIRE Under FIRE

## Yanks Dodge Bullets And Backdrafts To Save Sarajevo

Text & Photos by Mark H. Milstein

It's doubtful John Jordan even heard the gut-wrenching whine of the Serb-fired 155mm shell that crushed the dilapidated house on the edge of Sarajevo and buried 6-year-old Elvir Adzamija and two other children under tons of concrete and wood.

However, Jordan — a seven-year U.S. Marine Corps veteran and Rhode Island volunteer firefighter — did hear the garbled, frantic calls for help radioed by New York paramedic Jim Schrang, busy digging bare-handed through the house's rubble in search of life.

The high-pitched crackle of Kalashnikov fire filled the cab of their Ford pickup as Jordan and fellow American fireman Captain Robert Triozzi both instinctively tightened fire-helmet chin straps and raced down Sarajevo's sniper-infested streets toward what they hoped would be just another routine rescue.

Routine, that is, for Bosnia's capital city — under siege for two years now — where some 10,000 civilians have lost their lives to sniper fire and shelling, where food is rationed by the gram, where electricity, water or gas might appear once a month and where firefighting under fire translates into a one-in-five chance of becoming a war casualty.

After watching videotape of firemen being hit by sniper and mortar fire during a two-alarm blaze at the city's arts academy, "I could no longer just sit back and watch these

guys fight fires without any equipment, in jeans and T-shirts," the 37-year-old Jordan told *SOF* recently from behind his cluttered desk in Sarajevo's main firehouse.

After long talks with his girlfriend Beth Hoban, Jordan decided one morning to take action. Armed with a sense of injustice and a will to help at any price, he visited Bosnia's mission to the United Nations and talked them into issuing him an I.D. card, then left his \$50,000-a-year construction job to walk into a city he described as "looking like something out of the first scene of *The Terminator*."

"No one knew who I was, and here I am going to the firehouse asking if I could help," Jordan said. "They looked at me like I was crazy." After nearly three weeks making contacts in Sarajevo, Jordan returned home to begin an exhaustive search for someone willing to give him 300 quality firefighters' suits on credit. He eventually located Globe Firefighters Suits of Pittsfield, New Hampshire, which

shipped him the uniforms at half-price — around \$77,500 — with no money down. Only one problem now stood between Jordan and helping out Sarajevo's firemen: getting the 4,000 pounds of NoMex suits into Bosnia.



Capt. Robert Triozzi in front of French VAB armored personnel carrier mounting Browning .50-caliber machine gun. This APC belongs to the French rapid reaction team, which provides covering fire/intimidation value allowing American and Bosnian firefighters to extinguish blazes without being gunned down in the street.

Enter the U.S. Air Force, which — after some skillful massaging and assistance from Rhode Island Sen. Claiborne Pell — agreed to ship Jordan's two-ton goodwill package free of charge. "There were big smiles all around when I came back to Sarajevo with all the uniforms," Jordan recalled.

Jordan's loyalty and doggedness soon earned him the respect of Sarajevo's fire department. But for

John Jordan digs through rubble looking for buried child. He heads up Global Operations Fire/Rescue Services and along with other American volunteers is making a big difference in Sarajevo.



Jordan, helping out Sarajevo's firefighters ultimately meant confronting deep inner emotions, as well as stretching his mental and physical skills to their limits while being pushed to the brink of bankruptcy.

"The first months were really tough," Jordan recalled with a heavy sigh. "We were losing trucks and men almost on a daily basis.

There was never enough fuel, and Beth and I were living on savings, a few small donations and our credit cards. Except for not having lost a fireman in some time, none of our other problems have gone away."

It would take months of persistence — along with the results of a stinging Serb tank barrage on a French marine compound — to get the United Nations to finally acknowledge Jordan's importance.

"The French had just taken up position at the old Olympic stadium site, when the Serbs dumped about 70 tank shells into their motor pool," Jordan said. "The place was a mess. Ve-



what arguably will be remembered as his greatest gift to the Sarajevo fire department — guaranteed U.N. military protection. Instead of firemen being passive targets for Serb snipers and gunners, Jordan now had the ability to call in elements of the French army's rapid reaction team, a newly formed unit designed

to extricate — with return fire if necessary — U.N. personnel pinned down by hostile forces.

Less than a week after receiving the U.N.'s security pledge, Jordan got his first chance to test the speed and resolve of a

United Nations that had finally realized what many already knew: Without Sarajevo's fire department and its determined American volunteers, the city would burn to the ground under the weight of incendiary shells and drown in its own blood.

A call to put out a smoky apartment fire near the old Olympic village seemed routine enough at first glance — in a city counting itself lucky if less than 100 shells land in its tight confines on a given day — but as Jordan recalled, events transpiring between the first burst of hostile fire and the French rapid reaction team's arrival finally proved the new U.N. security system had begun to work.

Within minutes

hicles were on fire.

"We responded, dismantled the .50s off of the burning APCs, took out the ammo, all the while under attack; it didn't matter that for all these months the U.N. didn't want to know who we were. It was a fire — we responded, that's all. We did our job."

Jordan's heroics that afternoon eventually translated into

after Jordan and a handful of firefighters geared up to enter the apartment building, Serb gunners in the hills overlooking Sarajevo trained an antiaircraft gun their way, forcing the firemen to take cover behind a low concrete wall. Five tense, critical minutes passed, with Jordan and

Firefighter/mechanic attempts to repair antiquated fire truck recently damaged by mortar fire. Note various bullet holes and pockmarks from negotiating Sarajevo's mean streets.



his men unable to stretch their hoses from the pumper truck to the fire — then starting to burn its way into a second apartment. Using his radio handle, "Voodoo One," Jordan was able to make contact with the reaction force and get a team sent to his location.

"Shooting at the local firemen ... we consider it not an act of war, but a criminal action," Jordan said. "We're just not going to have it. If you want to shoot them, you're going to have to shoot through us [American firefighters, paramedics and UNPROFOR troops], and most Serbs aren't willing to do that. Especially if the French show up with their own big guns. Whether the French will shoot back hasn't become an issue yet. Because, so far, every time they've responded, the [hostile] fire has gone off like a switch."

Jordan continued: "We make two calls when we come under fire. One is to the UNMOs [United Nations Military Observers], the other is to the reaction team. The reaction force does the physical act of coming out. The UNMOs, since they are very familiar with where the guns are, know who's doing the shooting.

"These UNMOs are pretty sharp. They generally know who the commander is. And since they have radio contact with each commander, they'll



American Jim Schrang and Bosnian firefighter dive for cover as they come under Serb machine-gun fire while answering a "routine" call.

literally call up and say, 'We've got some of our people under fire, we've determined there's no military target there and your boys are just shooting firemen. So, knock it off.' That has worked."

Since the first days of the war, a dozen Sarajevo firefighters have lost



their lives and nearly 50 men have been wounded trying to put out more than 1,900 major structural fires. "Half of the guys here who are wounded will never return to duty again," Jordan observed. "We're talking traumatic amputations ... I think I did a count a while back, and 60% of our injuries are from antiaircraft fire. It seems that the 20-millimeter, triple-barrelled piece of shit mounted on a flatbed truck is the weapon of choice against firemen."

The 20mm M55 towed antiaircraft gun was manufactured for many years in Yugoslavia under license from Hispano-Suiza and proved to be an effective weapon against slow, low-flying aircraft. Against firefighters and their non-armored equipment, it has proven devastating.

"The number of trucks we can field varies on a daily basis," Jordan said. "Before the war, they had 58 vehicles. We had 22 pumpers. Now, every day we've got to scrounge for parts. Every day something breaks down or gets shot up. Right now we've got 11 decent fire engines of varying sizes. We've got two more trucks that have been donated from New Jersey and Wisconsin. But any one of these trucks could go tomorrow. We need windshields, filters, hoses, belts and the wherewithal to buy them. We are under siege here."

Jordan's financial situation was supposed to have eased when the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] took his effort under its aegis, but yards of red tape and bureaucratic incompetence have thus far prevented his operation from getting out of debt.

"I was up in Zagreb [Croatia, site of UNPROFOR headquarters] talking with this guy about getting a vehicle down here," Jordan said. "And some woman, who I think I said hello to once, comes by and says, 'Oh, you're under us [the UNHCR's Department of Social Services].' I'm thinking, well, it's nice to be under someone who's being nice. But it hasn't turned out well."

The U.S. volunteer firefighters were earmarked for a \$200,000 UNHCR budget, covering everything from salaries to fuel. However, an omission on the complex U.N. funding application nearly left Jordan and his girlfriend homeless. "Beth and I had flown to Zagreb and filled out the necessary paperwork," Jordan said. "We explained to them that Beth had her house riding on this, that we were overdrawn on our credit cards, our donations had dried up and we desperately needed the money to pay back our debts. They said, 'Sure, alright, everything on the application is correct,' and we'd shortly get our money. Well, weeks went by, and nothing. I finally went back up to Zagreb to find out what was wrong, and this girl says to me, 'Oh, you made a mistake on the application and Geneva returned it a few weeks ago.'

"I thought I would kill her," Jordan continued. "This was the same girl who asked me to take a food package to her family in Sarajevo. I said, 'What? You talked to me a dozen times in the past six weeks and didn't tell me the paperwork

had been returned, knowing full-well I was bankrupt, my girlfriend was going to lose her house and all you cared about was getting some stinking food package to your family?' — That's what I'm up against."

That and the brutal reality of the firefighting business in Sarajevo. I was there when Jordan and Triozzi arrived at the collapsed house cited at the beginning of this article. It was pure chaos.

Schrag, a half-dozen firemen and 20 neighborhood men were clawing through a tangled web of steel rods and broken cement in a frantic effort to find the three children known buried there. As the designated incident commander, Triozzi immediately jumped into the breach and began coordinating rescue efforts.

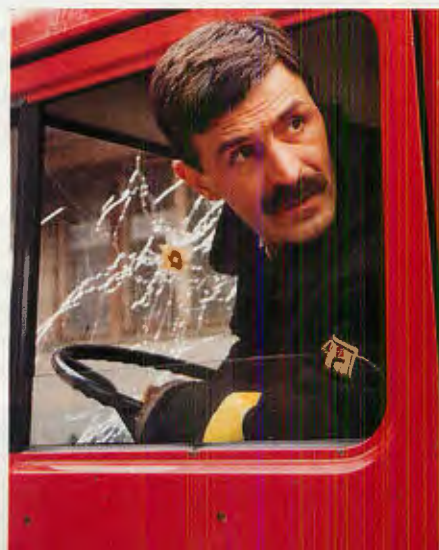
Light machine-gun fire echoed off the nearby hills. Jordan, meanwhile, was on the U.N. radio net trying to draw elements of the rapid reaction team to the scene and requested a crane from the French engineer battalion. Dozens of onlookers, reporters, Russian army engineers and U.N. personnel crowded around the rubble.

Finally, after nearly an hour of digging, Triozzi came upon Elvir Adzamija's shattered body. It was too late for Schrag to begin resuscitation efforts, but with two more children trapped beneath the debris, there was little time for tears.

Hours passed. As darkness came the rescuers began openly wondering how much time it would take to find the remaining children. The large white U.N. crane had finally arrived. With the help of a translator, Triozzi directed the French soldiers on what exactly must be done to lift the larg-

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Sniper strikes are a constant threat for Sarajevo's firefighters as evinced by the shattered windshield of this pumper truck.





# BELLY

## **HALF-PINT WHEELGUNS FOR BACKUP AND PERSONAL DEFENSE**

**TEXT & PHOTOS  
BY PETER G. KOKALIS**

**Revolvers are a long sight** from moribund. They still have their aficionados and lethal applications — but no one can deny that they will rarely be found strapped onto the equipment belt of a police officer. Semiautomatic pistols, first in 9mm Parabellum and more recently in .40 S&W (Glock now sells two .40 S&W pistols for every 9mm), have pushed them off the belt and into ankle holsters and other concealment locations on the body.

Small-framed revolvers, usually chambered for the .38 Special cartridge, and with barrel lengths of mostly 2 inches (up to a maximum of 3 inches) are commonly known as “snub noses” or “belly guns.” They remain popular in law enforcement circles and with armed professionals, primarily as concealed “backups” to more serious ordnance. However, never forget that a belly gun you’ve slipped into your pocket is far more potent than the M1911A1 you left on top of the nightstand.

Let’s examine the top choices in this genre and the holsters, modifications, grips and ammunition that most professional gun handlers add to these half-pint wheelguns to enhance their hit probability and lethality. There are a number of excellent alternatives.

The epitome of the belly-gun type is the Smith & Wesson J-frame series. Designed as a five-shot .38 Special with the greatest emphasis on reduced weight and size, the first of this series, the so-called Chief’s Special Model 36, was introduced in 1950. While it still remains popular in blued-steel, stainless-steel and alloy-frame models, in my opinion, the concealed-hammer Centennial and Bodyguard models are the very best of the J-frames.

In 1952, during Smith & Wesson’s centennial year, they announced two new J-frame revolvers, each with a fully concealed hammer — thus combining the salient feature of the old Safety Model, introduced in 1887, with the two-year-old J-frame. Called the “Centennial” Model, the aluminum alloy-frame “Airweight” version (later called the Model 42) was the first to be produced. After the first 37 specimens were fabricated with aluminum-alloy cylinders (with a total weight of only 11.25 ounces), subsequent Centennial Airweights were equipped with steel cylinders and barrels for safety reasons, which increased the weight to 13 ounces. The all-steel version, known as the Model 40, followed shortly thereafter and weighed about 24 ounces. The Centennial revolvers were available with either a blued or nicked finish and were equipped with 2-inch barrels.

These revolvers were also fitted with a grip-safety on the frame’s backstrap. Many users contravened this dubious feature by pinning the safety lever in the depressed position.

# GUN INS & OUTS

Belly guns, in this instance the S&W Model 640 stainless steel Centennial, remain popular in law enforcement circles and with armed professionals, primarily as concealed "backups" to more serious ordnance.



Smith & Wesson's best belly guns, from top to bottom: M649 stainless steel Bodyguard and M38 Airweight factory-nickel Bodyguard, both with Craig Spegel "Boot Grips;" M642 Airweight Centennial and M640 stainless steel Centennial, both with Herrett's Detective stocks.



This round-butt Colt Detective Special with hammer shroud was manufactured in 1954 and rejuvenated 40 years later with Robar's NP3 process.

Because the hammer was concealed within the frame, the Centennial revolvers could be fired double-action only — an acceptable tradeoff for loss of an exposed hammer which all too often served only to snag on clothing during the drawstroke. Designed for close-range contact, those employing snub-nosed revolvers should, in theory, rarely require the enhanced accuracy potential provided by single-action operation.

### Sans Hammer Cult

During the 24 years of the series' production, sales of the Centennial revolvers were no more than mediocre. As a consequence, they were deleted from Smith & Wesson's catalog in 1974. Immediately after production ceased, a cult developed around the "hammerless Centennials" and prices for mint specimens began to escalate in an asymptotic manner — what people can't have, they want.

In 1990, Smith & Wesson reintroduced this so-called hammerless revolver as the Model 640, which blended the features of the previous Centennials, sans the grip-safety, with stainless steel construction.

The Model 640 weighs 20 ounces, empty, with an overall length of 6.25 inches. The frame is a mill-finished drop-forging. The barrel, frame and cylinder surfaces carry a moderately high-gloss polish. As with all J-frame revolvers, the cylinder holds five rounds and rotation is to the left (as it is with all S&W revolvers). The short ejector rod, which is not covered with a shroud, does not permit complete ejection of the empty cases. The cylinder latch is that of the entire S&W series and must be pushed forward to swing out the cylinder. The 2-inch barrel has five grooves with a right-hand twist of

one turn in 18.75 inches.

The sight system is simple and appropriate for the projected use of a snub-nosed revolver. A large square notch cut into the top strap complements a long, serrated ramp-type front sight blade. Both are fixed and neither have been

covered with any type of white or red dots or squares — an apparently never-ending and meaningless fetish. The front sight blade on the Model 640 is one-tenth-inch wide. The Model 640 is equipped with a smooth and narrow trigger. This is the preferred type for double-action shooting because it maximizes the trigger finger's sensory perception during the firing stroke. Wide target-type and even narrow-grooved triggers should be avoided on combat revolvers.

This model was shortly followed by the Model 642, a version with a lightweight, clear-anodized frame and a stainless-steel barrel and cylinder. Within two years this model was dropped. S&W claims that the steel and aluminum alloy finishes did not match closely enough to meet their standards.

There followed an almost confusing array of variants: the Model 940 chambered for the 9mm Parabellum cartridge, the Model 632 for the .32 H&R Magnum round and 3-inch types in both .38 Special and 9mm — with some available in blued, stainless steel or with factory satin nickel finish and aluminum alloy frames. My favorite remains the Model 640 with a 2-inch barrel.

In 1955, three years after introduction of the Centennial Airweight, the Model 38 Bodyguard Airweight was placed in S&W's catalog. It was developed for law enforcement personnel who perceived a

requirement for a concealable revolver with a protected hammer that would not snag on clothing, but could still be cocked for single-action firing. In no small measure this was also undoubtedly a response to the hammer shroud Colt introduced in 1950 for their Detective Special model.

In 1959 the Bodyguard was made available with a steel frame and catalogued as the Model 49. Both the Model 38 and 49 are still available with either blued or factory nickel finishes. A stainless steel version, called the Model 649, is also available. I frequently carry a nickeled Model 38 or a stainless steel Model 649. Although I have never had occasion to fire these revolvers single-action, the thought that they are capable of being fired in this more deliberate manner is a mildly comforting placebo.

### Maiden Belly Special

Introduced in 1927, Colt's Detective Special is the first of the modern belly guns. Through most of its production history, the Detective Special could be instantly distinguished by its completely exposed ejector rod. Its one advantage over the S&W J-frame series was a six-shot cylinder — an increase of 20% with very little increase in size or weight.

When chambered for the .38 Special cartridge, the six-groove barrel has a left-hand twist of one turn in 16 inches. Cylinder rotation is to the right (the direction opposite that of S&W revolvers — important to remember when reloading under stress with the Bianchi Speed Strip). The Colt cylinder latch must be pulled back to swing out the cylinder.

Over the years the Detective Special was offered in full range of .32 and



Charter Arms .44 Special Bulldog with bobbed hammer, barrel cut back to 1.75 inches and Tyler T-Grip installed.

.38 rimmed cartridges. There were both square and round-butt versions. The sights were almost always a halfmoon blade with a square notch in the frame just forward of the hammer as a rear sight. A serrated ramp was added to the front sight blade in 1948.

The lightweight version was the Cobra, which was introduced in 1950. The Aircrewman Model is rarer than a Walker Dragoon. It had an alloy cylinder and the entire lot of 1,189 revolvers were returned by the Air Force to Colt and destroyed. The Agent Model was similar to the Cobra, but featured a shortened and squared-off butt.

In the early 1970s, a completely shrouded ejector rod was offered as an option on the Detective Special. Within a short time it became a standard feature on the entire series. In 1984 the Commando Special was added to the line. It was nothing more than a Detective Special with fully-shrouded ejector rod, rubber grips and a phosphate ("Parkerized") finish. By the end of the 1980s, the entire Detective Special series was dropped from production. However, Colt has recently announced the revival of the Detective Special. How many, if any, will be produced, is a function of Colt's shaky financial status. Be that as it may, there were close to half a million of all variants produced and they're out there if you want one.

I have a round-butt Detective Special that was manufactured in 1954. It has an incredibly smooth double-action trigger pull. I had the trigger grooves removed and a Colt hammer shroud installed. The Robar Companies Inc. (Dept. SOF, 21438 N. 7th Ave., Suite B, Phoenix, AZ 85027; phone: 602-581-2648; fax: 602-582-0059) then applied their excellent NP3 process to the entire revolver.

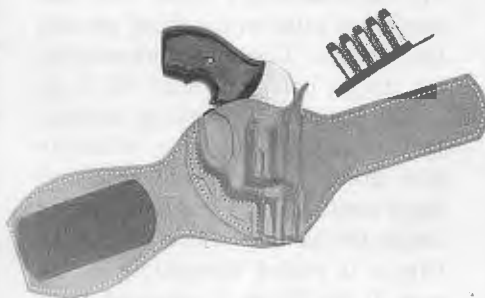
NP3 is a surface treatment for metals and metal alloys that provides the appearance of satin electroless nickel by combining submicron particles of PTFE (polytetrafluoroethylene, i.e., Teflon) with autocatalytically applied nickel/phosphorus. The result is a very accurate, dry-lubricated, low-friction surface that is extremely resistant to wear. The PTFE is evenly distributed and locked into the nickel phosphorus matrix, so when wear occurs, fresh particles of PTFE are exposed to keep the surface lubricated. No lubricants of any kind are re-

quired, and powder residue and carbon fouling can be easily removed with a dry cloth.

The Colt Detective Special round-butt frame and factory grip panels fit my large hand perfectly. Unfortunately, the grips issued with S&W J-frame revolvers, until recently, exactly matched the contour of the bantam-sized round-butt frame and just would not do. Here also, there are a number of excellent alternatives.

### Custom Stockyard

Keep in mind, however, a set of grips that direct the bore's axis into alignment with the arm, fill the void between the trigger guard and the frame's front strap, and drop down below the frame to adequately conform to the dimensions of the hand, will, by definition, increase the overall package. The increase in envelope can be minimized if the grips are custom-made to the specific



**Milt Spark's excellent Ankle Concealment Rig consists of a contoured leg strap, lined with sheepskin wool, and a holster hand-molded to the weapon it is meant to carry.**

shooter's hand and are, thus, no larger than necessary.

Herrett's Stocks Inc. (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 741, Twin Falls, Idaho 83303-0741, phone: 1-800-635-9334) has been producing made-to-measure handgun stocks for over 40 years. I purchased my first set of stocks (for a Clark-customized Ruger bull-barrel .22 LR target pistol) from Steve Herrett more than 30 years ago.

Almost all (98%) of Herrett's stocks are made from American black walnut, noted for its strength, beauty and resiliency. A precise hand diagram is required to order stocks from Herrett's. I use their Detective stocks with skip checkering on my S&W Model 640, and without checkering on my Airweight Model 642. De-

signed to assist in the concealment of small-frame revolvers, Herrett's even requires information about the manner in which the weapon will be carried when hand-crafting a set of Detective stocks for your revolver.

However, the really hot grips for J-frames are those made by Craig Spegel (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 108, Bay City, OR 97107; phone: 503-377-2697). His handmade cocobolo "Boot Grips" for round-butt J-, K-, L- and N-frame S&Ws are an outstanding example of equipment designed by an end user. Spegel, an IPSC competitor and Oregon combat master, specializes in custom grips that enhance control and natural aiming in as compact an envelope as possible.

The revolver's back strap is left exposed, so no extra trigger reach has been added. A slight, ambidextrous palm swell and comfortable finger grooves give a much firmer support than the usual factory grips. Unlike Herrett's Detective stocks, these grips do not extend below the frame's butt, so in most cases the little finger of the firing hand will extend below the grips. That's the tradeoff for increasing concealability. However, I have fired thousands of rounds with J-frame Smiths wrapped in Spegel's Boot Grips and have never experienced any problem with control or loss of accuracy, and they are light years ahead of the standard factory grips. They cost \$55 (plus \$3 shipping and \$5 extra for old model Centennials with a grip safety). More professional gun handlers carry J-frames with Spegel's Butt Grips than any other type. They are, at this time, so dominant in these circles as to almost constitute a fetish.

In fact, Smith & Wesson now issues synthetic Boot Grips with all of their Centennial-series revolvers. Injection-molded from Craig Spegel's original Boot Grip design, they are made by, and also available from, Michaels of Oregon Co. (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 13010, Portland, OR 97213; phone: 503-255-6890). Steel-reinforced and molded from a tough, durable, specially formulated elastomer called Santoprene, they are lightweight and much firmer than ordinary rubber grips. This latter characteristic is important. As normally encountered, so-called neoprene rubber grip panels will absorb recoil better than any other material you can at-



Bruce Nelson's well-known No. 10 Summer Special remains the hallmark among inside-the-pants holsters.

tach to the frame of a handgun. But, if you should grip the weapon incorrectly during commencement of the drawstroke, their adhesive qualities do not permit rapid readjustment, with potentially fatal consequences. I have tried Michaels' Boot Grips and they are not subject to this criticism.

I can also recommend one other type of custom stock for J-frame revolvers. Bear Hug Grips Inc. (Dept. SOF, 17230 County Road 338, Buena Vista, CO 81211; phone: 800-232-7710) has designed their Coyote grip panels for all S&W round-butt J-frame revolvers. Made from StaminaWood — a resin-impregnated, hardwood laminate — they are available in walnut, rosewood, ebony, mesquite and cocobolo and cost \$49.95 (plus \$4 shipping). I think the mesquite grips are especially attractive; however, more importantly they redirect the bore's axis into alignment with the firing arm and fill the void between the trigger guard and the frame's front strap to reduce the tendency of these small frame revolvers to roll violently upward in recoil.

### Belt Vs. Belly

When equipped with round butts and 3-inch barrels, N-frame giants, such as the models 629 (.44 Magnum), 657 (.41 Magnum) and 624 (.44 Special) are significantly reduced in size. However, I own all of the above and they are still belt guns, not belly guns by any stretch of the imagi-

nation. Just imagine one of these brutes in an ankle holster strapped to your leg.

There is, however, one .44 Special revolver that qualifies as a legitimate belly gun. Eight years ago I obtained a Charter Arms .44 Special Bulldog. At that time it was available with a 2.5-inch bull barrel in a blued finish. Today it is manufactured by Charco Inc. (Dept. SOF, 26 Beaver St., Ansonia, CT 06401; phone 203-735-4686) and available only in a factory nickel finish with a 3-inch barrel.

Its five-shot cylinder rotates to the right (in the Colt manner) in a frame of high strength chrome-moly steel. There is no side-plate. Only the trigger guard is fabricated from an aluminum alloy. The coil-type main-spring provides maximum strength and longevity. An almost unbreakable beryllium copper firing pin can be dry-fired into infinity. When the hammer is cocked, firing either single or double-action, a small steel bar moves up between the firing pin and the hammer. Continued pressure on the trigger holds this steel bar in its raised position. The falling hammer then strikes the steel bar, which in turn strikes the firing pin, discharging a cartridge. The bar is not raised unless the hammer is cocked and the trigger is pulled completely to the rear. If the finger is removed from the trigger while the hammer is falling forward, the bar will drop downward and ignition will not take place.

I had the 2.5-inch barrel cut back (from the rear) to 1.75 inches. The front sight's ramp angle was altered and reserrated. The forcing cone angle was recut to maintain a cylinder-to-forcing cone gap of .005-inch (.003- to .008-inch is the usual range). These alterations dropped the weight from 19 ounces, empty, to only 17 ounces.

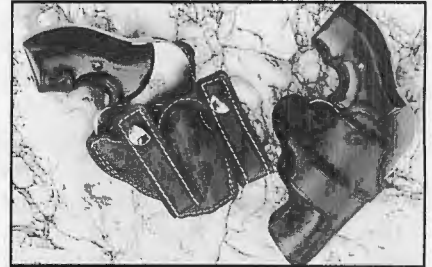
The double-action pull weight was reduced to a smooth 9 pounds with a crisp single-action pull weight of 3.25 pounds. The case-hardened hammer was bobbed with serrations cut to permit cocking for single-action firing, if required.

To all of this I added Charter Arms A17 unchecked walnut grip panels and a cast aluminum, black-anodized Tyler T-Grip (size No. 1) for \$7.50. Melvin Tyler Manufacturing (Dept. SOF, 1326 W. Britton Road, Oklahoma City, OK 73114; phone: 405-

842-8044) has been making this fine little accessory ever since 1940, and it has improved the qualification scores of many thousands of police officers during the years when service sidearms were still mostly wheelguns.

Chic Gaylord, a legendary figure in gunfighting circles — whose holsters are still highly prized and often copied — was convinced that in a holster, a 3-inch belly gun hugs the body far more effectively than a 2-inch snub nose. A coterie of pistoleros still adhere to this concept, preferring also the longer sight radius and superior balance of a 3-inch barrel on a small-frame revolver.

In my opinion, this has been best executed in the Ruger SP101 revolver chambered for the .38 Special cartridge. Made of 400 series stainless steel, the SP101 has an attractive



Safariland's synthetic holsters to a large extent look like leather, but wear like iron. Their inside-the-pants types include the Inside The Belt II (left) and the J Hook (right).

brushed stain finish. Its 3-inch barrel has five-groove rifling with a right-hand twist of one turn in 18.75 inches. The sights are conventional for this type of revolver: a serrated ramped front blade and an open, square-notch rear sight on the frame directly in front of the hammer. My specimen (Model KSP-183) is equipped with one-piece black Monsanto Santoprene with walnut side panels that permit the grip to be shifted during the drawstroke, if necessary.

Unbreakable coil springs are used throughout the SP101. The transfer bar trigger mechanism is coupled with a floating firing pin. When the five-shot cylinder (which rotates to left) is in the firing position, it's securely locked to the frame in two places — at the rear by the traditional cylinder pin, and at the front of the crane by a large, spring-loaded latch. Developed by Ruger, this mechanism ensures proper cylinder and barrel alignment.

It, together with the SP101's massive frame, certifies the Ruger revolver as the strongest ever built, with a tradeoff of slightly increased bulk.

I sent this revolver to Weigand Inc. (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 239, Mountain Top, PA 18707; phone: 717-474-9804, fax: 717-474-9987) to be transformed by their "Tame the Beast" package (most often performed on .357 Magnum Ruger revolvers). The most salient feature of the custom modifications performed on the revolver was porting the top of the barrel with five nozzles. These tapered holes are calibrated using a formula that calculates propulsion thrust by means of a ratio between the available gas pressure and the size of the nozzles. The smallest nozzles are closest to the frame. While muzzle velocity is decreased only 50 to 65 fps, muzzle flip is reduced about 75%. There is a significant flash signature generated by barrel porting of the Hybra-port type. In my experience, however, the flash initiates well above the front sight and does not disturb the shooter's sight picture.

Because of the reduction in muzzle rise, Weigand lowered the front sight about .03-inch to raise the point of impact. Next, all of the action's moving components were carefully matched, altered and polished. Factory springs were not altered or replaced. Thus both the double- and single-action pull weights remain as before. The trigger was polished and rounded to provide a smoother surface for the finger during double-action firing.

The hammer was bobbed, but can be manually cocked by carefully rotating it rearward by means of the trigger until it can be grasped by the thumb of the firing hand. A double-action-only option is available.

The entire revolver was refinished by extra-fine glass-beading at low pressure to produce a frosty, no-glare surface. Some of the pin heads were polished to break up the dull finish. Price of the package is \$225, and S&W revolvers can be modified in the same manner. The package is not set in concrete and modifications can be added or deleted to suit the customer's specifications. I am very satisfied with this Weigand-modified SP101 and carry it frequently.

None of these revolvers, as issued or modified, respond to the problem of acquiring the target in subdued-light environments. No one installs better self-luminous sights on revolvers than Innovative Weaponry Inc. (IWI, Dept. SOF, 337 Eubank N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87123; phone: 1-800-334-3573). Their "BAR-DOT" night sights consist of a single green dot installed on the front sight blade and a horizontal green bar installed on the frame just under the rear



Ruger SP101 .38 Special with 3-inch barrel. Hybra-ported barrel, bobbed hammer and custom tuning by Weigand Inc.

sight notch. In the case of S&W Models 38 and 49 Bodyguard, IWI notches the hammer spur so the rear tritium sight bar is not blocked from view. These tritium-phosphormicrospheres are lightweight, insensitive to temperature variations and are always on. Decay of tritium H3 within the radioluminescent capsules creates soft beta rays that are converted to visible light when they strike the phosphor particles coating the inside of the glass microspheres. Tritium's half-life (the time required to reduce the illumination by 50%) is about 12.5 years, with a functional life exceeding 15 years. I know of no better method for delivering accurate fire at night and in low-light conditions than self-luminous sights, with the exception of cost-prohibitive passive night vision equipment — and those made by IWI are the very best, bar none.

### Bullet Abuse

The most important factor in this equation has yet to be mentioned. Nothing is more vital than the projectile your belly gun sends downrange. For all of its popularity, no cartridge has been subjected to greater abuse or more derision than the .38 Special. All of this tongue lashing would have been more justified had it been directed at the only bullet that was for so long the standard .38 Special loading with law enforcement agencies in the country.

The 158-grain .38 Special Lead Round Nose (LRN) bullet differs very little from that used in the .38 Smith & Wesson cartridge designed by Daniel Baird Wesson for the Model No. 2 Smith & Wesson single-action revolver, which was introduced in March of 1876.

Traveling at about 790 fps out of a 4-inch barrel, it does not expand, but will usually yaw 180 degrees in soft tissue and end its travel base-forward. Where the bullet yaw is at its maximum, 60 to 120 degrees, the height of the permanent cavity will

*Continued on page 66*



Gun Mate belt pack holster made by Michaels of Oregon is much smaller than most fanny-pack types and attaches directly to the belt.

# Foreign VENDETTA



Militiaman in Bosnia prepares to fire 81mm mortar at Serb hilltop positions; 60mm mortar sits unused in background.

## Bosnian Commander Crosses Legionnaires — Pays Ultimate Price

by Mark H. Milstein

Photos by Eric Micheletti

The weather report for the area around the Olympic bobsled run on Mount Trebevic was particularly dismal that Saturday morning in October — heavy lead, with intermittent artillery showers.

Lightly armed units from the much-vaunted Bosnian army's 10th Mountain Brigade were again working their way up Trebevic's steep, rocky slopes — inching their way to a break in the trees where they could set up positions to snipe and launch their 60mm M-57 mortars at a series of Serb redoubts 600 meters away.

Down the mountain, at the rear of the 10th's old-town Sarajevo headquarters, a small battery of 81mm M-31 and 120mm UBM-52 mortars was

blasting away at two well-known Serb artillery positions nestled along the road that cuts across the 5,000-foot-high mountain.

For three United Nations Military Observers (UNMOs) stationed by the Serb positions as part of their deployment in the former Yugoslavia, the incoming fire was becoming too dangerous and they radioed for an armored escort back to Sarajevo. Within 30 minutes two Renault Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs) and six legionnaires from the 2nd Foreign Legion Infantry Regiment (2 REI) arrived to accompany the UNMOs back across Bosnian-held territory.

But, as the APCs were crossing an open area, the two-vehicle convoy was set upon by heavily armed elements of the 10th, who threatened to fire at the lead vehicle with an RPG. The vehicles stopped and the militiamen pulled the observers and legionnaires from the APCs and drove off

with the two vehicles.

What occurred next is still a matter of much debate, but the end results are clear. The six legionnaires, shy two APCs, their weapons and two Browning .50-caliber machine guns, finally made it back to their barracks at UNPROFOR headquarters in Sarajevo.

### Legionnaires Robbed At Gunpoint

There, according to sources within the Foreign Legion, grumbling over the events eventually led to talk of unilateral action against the 10th and its leader, Musan Topalovic, who fights under the nom de guerre of Caco (pronounced ZAHT-so).

Topalovic — an ex-folk guitarist turned ultra-nationalist — first made headlines in the press earlier this year through his rather unorthodox methods of dealing with Bosnian draft dodgers and others he considered slackers and subhumans. As part of his efforts to bolster Sarajevo's defenses against the Serb aggressors, Topalovic ordered his troops to patrol Sarajevo's center and old town in search of those not in uniform.

When found, those unfortunate enough not to be able to produce the required papers were marched off to the front



lines of Mount Trebevic, given a shovel or pick and told to dig trenches until ordered to stop. Often those ordered to "dig for victory" became easy targets for Serb snipers hiding in the woods, many times less than 50 meters away.

Topalovic also found members of the foreign press and civilian employees of the United Nations prime targets for his campaign to provide topnotch



Bosnian militiaman armed with Yugo 7.62x39mm M59/66A1 rifle stands watch along supply road outside of Sarajevo.

# egion

Kevlar wear for his troops. Hundreds of bulletproof vests and flak jackets were robbed over the past year at gunpoint from those who made contact with elements of the 10th.

While Topalovic was suspected of being on a short leash that led directly back to the Bosnian presidency, the specter of a Foreign Legion-led lynch mob prowling the streets of Sarajevo in search of revenge may have been the event that triggered the end of his usefulness. As word of a possible revenge raid

on radio Sarajevo comparing his orders to actions against the population by the Nazi forces that occupied the city during World War II. But U.N. officers said that accepting the theft would have signaled to the gangs that U.N. troops and equipment were fair game.

## A Vendetta Is Born

"What we had at the legion barracks that afternoon was classic," said one Irish-born legionnaire who asked not to be identified. "My mates were at the breaking point because they had to surrender their weapons and vehicles to the Bosnians, and the rest of us wanted to destroy this guy [Topalovic] once and for all.

"Some of the officers were all for it," he contin-

Browning being returned the next day.

"Most of the legionnaires involved in the incident were still talking about finding this guy Caco, but our officers had their orders not to allow things to get out of hand," the legionnaire told me. "All of our escort duties were suspended that day, and we were ordered to stay put at the PTT [Post Telegraph and Telephone]."

As legionnaires' tempers flared to the boiling point, the Bosnian president — made aware of the legion's intentions to hunt down one of their top military commanders and exact some sort of revenge — decided to pull the plug on Caco and ordered his arrest.

On the following Monday evening, members of the Bosnian army general staff were called to a special meeting and a crack assault unit was assembled to carry out Topalovic's capture. Named along with Topalovic was Ramiz "Celo" Delalic, commander of the 9th Mountain Brigade and a close ally.

The 150-man special Bosnian army assault team — made up of members of the presidential guard, military police, the Bosnian army 101st Motorized Brigade and a newly formed special ops unit, each identified with a white armband — was assembled early on Tuesday morning near the city's center. The team came armed to the teeth with a wide array of weapons, including Yugo M59/66A1 (an SKS derivative) and Kalashnikov assault rifles, Yugo M53 (a replica of the German WWII MG-42) GPMGs, a 75mm recoilless rifle and a three-barrelled 20mm M-55 anti-aircraft gun mounted on the back of a

flatbed truck.

Sead, a Sarajevo policeman who manned a barricade less than 100 meters from Caco's fortress, described the assault to me. "One of the special army



Bosnian emblem worn by both Croats and Muslims early in the conflict, now largely replaced by insignia of various warlords and subfactions.

unit commanders called to Caco and Celo on the telephone and asked them to surrender," Sead recalled. "But they said they would rather die than give up, because for them there was no life after something like this.

## Bosnian Vs. Bosnian

"We could hear gunfire from across the river in old town, and from radio traffic knew our teams were killing a lot of Caco's soldiers," he said. "Many wouldn't give up. Then, all of a sudden, our units began using the 20mm gun on Caco's headquarters.

"The fire continued for a few minutes while about 15 of our soldiers started running toward the side of Caco's building," Sead went on. "Our soldiers started to launch grenades from their rifles, and Caco's men returned fire. A lot of our men were hit. When our commanders learned there were hostages in the buildings they decided not to use more heavy weapons; instead, we had to use tight rifle fire and grenades to get them."

Sead said the Serbs on



Anatomy of a bad move: Bosnian 10th Mountain Brigade troops robbed French legionnaires — at gunpoint — of two French Renault VAB armored personnel carriers, similar to the one pictured. Photo: Mark H. Milstein

began to slowly filter up through the U.N. chain of command, reports of the ambush and theft quickly found the ear of General Jean Cot, the overall U.N. commander. Within hours, Cot was airborne to Sarajevo, and while en route ordered the suspension of a wide range of U.N. activity in the city.

The French general's action set off a storm of protest, with commentators

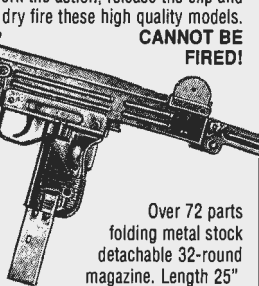
ued. "They were out of their minds over the thing. They didn't like being here in the first place. We can't even operate like we were trained to. We are legionnaires, not peace-keepers. But some other officers from the U.N. command came down and told us to sit tight until something could be worked out." That something resulted in the vehicles, five of the six FAMAS rifles and one



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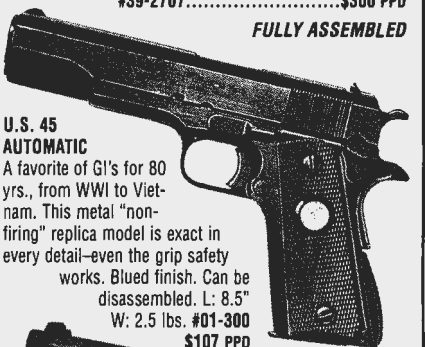
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Mount Trebevic "must be laughing" watching all of this. Indeed, Serb artillery and sniper fire grew heavier by the minute as Bosnian went up against Bosnian. Sead claimed nearly 500 of Caco's troops gave up rather than fight as the morning progressed, eventually leaving the renegade leader alone in a basement bunker with six of his closest aides and his sickly mother.

As swarms of pro-government Bosnian special forces swept through the upper floors of the fortress in search of Caco, Celso, and their commanders, legionnaires talked bitterly among themselves about not having been given first crack at capturing Topalovic.

"We were a bit frustrated," one British-born legionnaire said. "He [Caco] was ours. We owned him. Believe me, if we had come knocking on his door there would have been no bullshit about it. The legion would have done the job right."

When the smoke cleared later that afternoon, more than 50 soldiers on both sides lay dead on the cool, wet streets of Sarajevo, and both Caco and Celso were on their way to a Bosnian military prison near U.N. headquarters.

Caco, however, never made it to his cell. In conflicting reports that became more muddled by the hour, the special police unit charged with taking both renegade leaders to prison claimed Caco was shot while attempting to escape.

Others I spoke with said Caco died from two point-blank pistol shots — one to the mouth, the other to his abdomen — fired by the commander of the interior ministry police unit charged with his capture.

Caco's mother, the source added, killed herself with an overdose of sleeping pills shortly after finding members of the special police unit responsible for his death kicking the crumpled body of her son as it lay on the blood-caked floor of his bunker.

"It was damn close," said a senior ranking military official attached to the U.S. Embassy in Zagreb, Croatia. "The information we got out of Sarajevo had a near break between the legion and the U.N. command chain over this flap. I would not have been surprised if they had gotten Topalovic first."

*Mark Milstein is a foreign correspondent for Atlantic News Service and frequent contributor to SOF. ✉*

# FIREFIGHTERS

*Continued from page 55*

est concrete slabs off the ruins' barely visible foundation.

Jordan had gotten someone to string a single 100-watt light bulb from a nearby house to the site. With the aid of three Sarajevo firemen, he crawled into a vise-like opening in the blocks of broken masonry. He could hardly see anything. Without a generator for high-powered rescue lights, Jordan relied on the light bulb, his flashlight and the uncanny ability to sniff out life that comes with being a fireman.

Triozi directed the crane to lift two more slabs of concrete from the ruins — nothing. But shortly thereafter, he and another fireman uncovered the second child, an 8-year-old boy, still alive. Schrang immediately moved to keep the child's barely functioning life signs going.

Less than an hour later, a 10-year-old girl was found. Again, it was too late for Schrang to do anything but take her crumpled body to the city's overflowing morgue. Yet for all the rescuers, saving one life that night meant their efforts were not in vain.

"This intervention was important," Jordan said. "For the first time since I arrived in November 1992, all the elements I had worked so hard to coordinate came together. The response team came, the engineers showed up — people from UNHCR, the Red Cross, the whole works. I guess I could do a little crowing tonight. Our efforts paid off, and we saved a life."

Anyone wishing to contribute to John Jordan's Fire/Rescue Services effort can contact Col. Alex McCoil at Refugee Relief International; phone: 303-449-3750; fax: 303-444-5617. *Every penny given for this cause will reach Sarajevo's firefighters.*

While some donations for Jordan's effort have begun trickling through the RRI office, McCoil notes that essential firefighting equipment is urgently needed, including:

- Small diesel generators in the 3- to 5-kilowatt range
- Space heaters that can plug into generators (to prevent freezing of pumper and tanker trucks)
- Flashlights powered by "D"-type batteries

# Professional Locksmithing Tools

## LOCKAID

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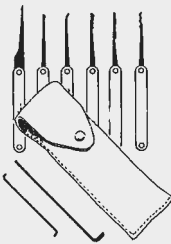
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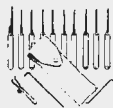
PXP 8 \$24.95



## PXP 10

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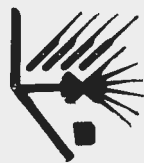
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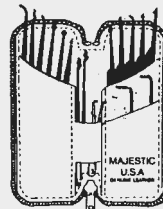
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This unique design is ideal when low profile is required or to keep on your keyring for emergencies. Contains a tension wrench, three picks and the "Key Pick." Key Ring Pick Set \$27.95



## MD16

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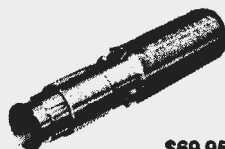
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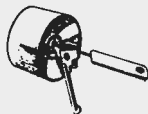


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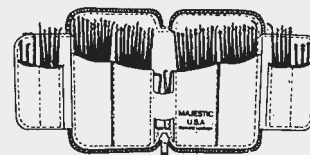
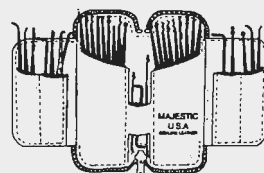
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## MD32

Hip Pocket Size, Top Grain Cowhide Leather, Zippered Case, has 32 picks, Tension Wrenches, Broken Key Extractor.

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## MD60

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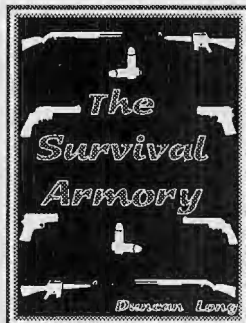


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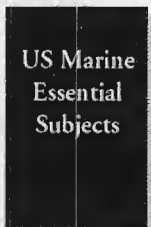
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## BELLY GUNS

Continued from page 61

increase to about 0.70 inch (the length of the projectile). Otherwise the wound track is no larger than the bullet's diameter (.357-8 inch). This load has a reputation for overpenetration and it will usually pass through about 21 inches of soft tissue.

That's not effective performance, but there is an excellent and well-proven alternative. Federal Cartridge Co. (Dept. SOF, 900 Ehlen Drive, Anoka, MN 55303, phone 612-421-0646) is one of several manufacturers who produce a version of the so-called "FBI load." Federal's load No. 38G is a 158-grain SemiWadCutter (SWC) Lead Hollow Point (LHP) loaded to +P velocity.

From a 4-inch barrel this ammunition will average approximately 880 fps. Average velocity from 2-inch barrels is 830 fps — only 50 fps less, still moving out and not enough of a drop to alter the round's wound ballistics potential. This bullet will expand to .59 caliber and penetrate about 12.5 inches of soft tissue. Both expansion and penetration are adequate and this load, which recoils sharply, can be recommended without serious reservations for those packing revolvers in this caliber.

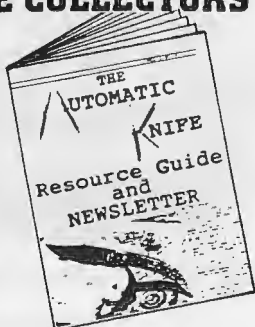
We could load this bullet into a .357 Magnum case, which is one-tenth-inch longer than the .38 Special case, and drive it at considerably higher velocities. However, its important to remember that if we drive a hollow-point bullet at too high a



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velocity, it will inevitably overexpand and reduce the penetration to an unacceptable depth. It may also fragment to an undesirable extent. There's a correct velocity for every expanding handgun projectile, and it is not the highest velocity possible. The velocity window for effective hollow-point bullet performance is actually very narrow.

Introduced in 1935 by Smith & Wesson and developed by Winchester (with input from Douglas B. Wesson of S&W and renowned reloading authority, Philip B. Sharpe), the .357 Magnum cartridge was conceived as a hunting round, a purpose for which it will sometimes suffice. Non-expanding, heavy bullets driven at high velocity provide the deep penetration required to drop large and often dangerous game animals. In fact, all three of the original bullets introduced with this cartridge were 158-grain solids driven at an astounding 1,450 fps: a round nose, metal point; a solid lead SWC; and a conical, metal-piercing bullet. It was undoubtedly this latter projectile that Dick Tracy employed to crack engine blocks.

With the possible exception of comic strips, .357 Magnum revolvers should never have been applied to law enforcement environments. They are unnecessarily heavy and their propellant charges invariably drive hollow point bullets at velocities which cause them to overexpand and underpenetrate. With properly designed hollow point projectiles, .38 Special velocities are adequate. If you want to increase handgun performance against human targets, then you need to increase the diameter of the bullet, not its velocity.

Federal's bullet seems to be a bit softer than the other makes of 158-grain SWC LHPs. While this assures expansion, and is thus preferred loading, it will cause moderate leading after no more than a box of 50. Bore leading in handgun barrels is best removed by means of a Lewis Lead Remover kit which can be obtained from Brownells Inc. (Dept. SOF, Route 2, Box 1, Montezuma, IA, phone: 515-623-5401).

I prefer the flat Bianchi Speed Strip for carrying an extra five rounds in the pocket, but these lead-alloy bullets deform easily and should be stowed, if possible, where they

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problem" --that communist ideals will "absolutely" be instituted in the U.S.

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\*White House now loaded with Marxist activists. Examples: Bill's Education, Arts, Humanities and Labor leader was an officer in Castro's Venceremos Brigade. Bill's closest friend & advisor (a "Eurocommunist" who long conspired to elect a Socialist President) is now molding Bill's agenda. Plus, proof that U.S./ USSR Communist Parties campaigned for & support Bill.

\*Includes photocopies of Secret FBI papers & 333 footnoted documentations- which have *literally* caused Clinton supporters to break down and cry!

**RECOMMENDED BY SOF** (Oct. 93 SOF, p. 10), this profusely documented intelligence report is terrifying liberals nationwide. Written by an ex-Intelligence officer, it reveals:

\*Bill & Hillary were *both* trained by communists--which Bill insists is "no

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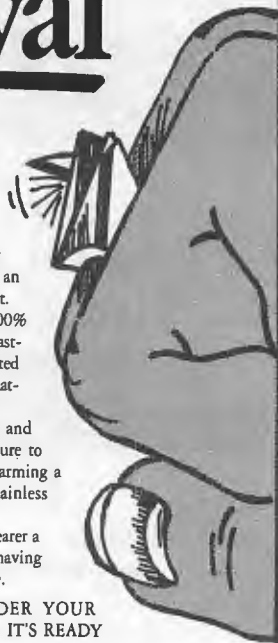
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I usually carry .44 Special loads developed by Black Hills Ammunition (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 3090, Rapid City, SD 57709; phone: 800-568-6625; fax: 605-348-9827). They use a 240-grain SWC bullet cast from a hard lead alloy (92% lead, 6% antimony and 2% tin). Driven by a moderate charge of a fast-burning propellant (appropriate for short handgun barrels), this projectile will reach almost 700 fps in the 1.75-inch barrel of my modified Bulldog. This bullet does not expand, but it generates only mild recoil and penetrates deeply while making a .44-caliber hole.

Skeeter Skelton's favorite handloads for this caliber were the Lyman-Keith No. 429421 SWC bullet over either 7.5 grains of Hercules Unique or 17.5 grains of Hercules 2400. Both are stout loads, but the Bulldog can handle 7.5 grains of Unique, if the shooter can.

#### Stuff Not Into Lousy Leather

Nothing will compromise a small revolver's concealment potential or presentation into the firing position more quickly than stuffing it into a poorly designed holster. Or worse yet — as some gunwriters have suggested — no holster at all. For example, some of these armchair commandos have stated that because the Centennial's hammer mechanism is concealed within the frame, it is ideally suited to — and was in fact designed for — carrying loose in a coat pocket and, if the situation required, firing from that location. The fact that some brain-dead couch potato may have actually pulled off such a stunt without managing to set himself on fire doesn't make it any less ludicrous. In the real world, combat handguns should be fired from the Weaver position with emphasis on the flash front-sight picture. For those who have been properly trained for such confrontations no further elaboration is necessary. Others should seek

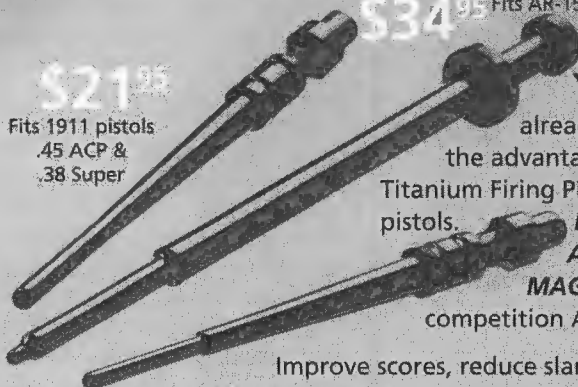
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Small revolvers are best concealed by inside-the-pants or ankle holsters. In 1967, Bruce Nelson (Dept. SOF, Combat Leather, P.O. Box 8691 CRB, Tucson, AZ 85738, catalog \$3) designed his justifiably well-known No. 10 Summer Special. By now, a much copied design (both acknowledged and otherwise), it corrected problems inherent at the time in inside-the-pants types. A metal-lined top band permits reholstering with ease. The belt retaining strap is secured by a one-way "pull the dot" snap. Fabricated from thin leather and precision hand molded (as are all Nelson's holsters), the Summer Special minimizes bulk inside the pants while its "rough out" texture allows the leather to adhere to clothing for position stability. This is normally a strong-side holster, but it can be fabricated with the retaining strap in the vertical position and thus the holster can, in this instance, be worn cross-draw also.

Safariland's (Dept. SOF, 3120 E. Mission Blvd., Ontario, CA 91761; phone: 800-347-1200, fax: 800-366-1669) synthetic holsters to a large extent look like leather, but wear like iron. I have experience with two of their inside-the-pants type holsters that I can recommend highly, the J Hook (catalog No. 027) and the Inside The Belt II (catalog No. 21).

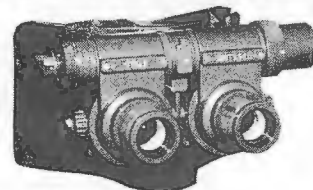
My favorite ankle holster is made by Milt Sparks Holsters Inc. (Dept. SOF, 605 East 44th, No. 2, Boise, ID 83714; phone/fax: 208-377-5577; catalog \$3), a small custom shop that has been highly regarded by such notables as Jeff Copper, Ken Hackathorn and the late Elmer Keith and Mel Tappan. Milt Sparks Ankle Concealment Rig consists of a firm, contoured leg strap to prevent shifting, which is lined with dense sheepskin wool that conforms to your ankle with use. The holster itself is meticulously hand-molded from top-quality cowhide to the weapon it is meant to carry to provide excellent retention without the use of safety straps. After 23 years, and now under the direction of Tony Kanaley, they are still doing it right. I use their ankle holster several times a week and it is the most comfortable I have ever worn.

Fanny pack holsters are now so ubiquitous that they actually focus

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attention on that fact that you are packing a rod. I have recently been experimenting with the Gun Mate belt pack holster made by Michaels of Oregon. Much smaller than a fanny pack, it attaches to your belt and can be worn either strongside or in the crossdraw position. The handgun is held in a rear compartment sealed by a Velcro-type flap. The front compartment can be used for a wallet, handcuffs or other items. Both compartments are sealed by a double-pull zipper. A small front pocket with a Velcro-type flap will hold keys and other small items. Don't expect a "par" time drawstroke from this rig, but it provides excellent concealment.

These are the belly guns and the associated equipment most often carried by armed professionals. Don't expect me to select one of each for you. That's up to you. To one degree or another I have used everything mentioned. I've discussed nothing that is without merit. The losers have been left out of this article. You can read about how great they are in the popular gun press. ✕

**MEXICO MAYHEM**

*Continued from page 52*

against the rebels and the townspeople were happy to see the army, abuses notwithstanding.

Although claiming some 2,000 rebels, from all appearances the Zapatistas numbered about 1,000 trained, operational troops, many poorly armed, with little ammunition. One dead rebel was found armed only with a hand-carved wooden rifle, a bayonet strapped to the end — even though the rebels had good radio communications and many wore military style uniforms and combat boots.

The Mexican army, on the other hand, was very well-equipped. Mexico makes its own uniforms and LBE except for U.S. combat packs and helmets. Individual weapons were either H&K G3s, with M16s in evidence among the *federales* and a smattering of FN FALs. The predominant sidearm was the Beretta M92, with local police carrying assorted .38 revolvers.

As we go to press the rebels are holed up in Guadalupe Tepeyac. A

cease-fire has been declared and accepted by all parties. Mexican President Salinas has offered a general pardon and amnesty to all rebels who lay down their arms. Commandante Marcos replied to this by stating, to the press, "Pardon us from what? For not dying of hunger? For not keeping quiet in our misery?" Clearly, the two sides have a long way to go to resolve their differences. To that end, a peace commission has been appointed, consisting of special commissioner Manuel Camacho Solis and Bishop Ruiz. Preliminary dialogue addressing the guerrillas' demands is underway.

The government has met several of the Zapatista conditions by halting random bombing of the Selva Lacandon and recognizing the Zapatistas' right to exist — but stopped short of withdrawing government troops. Former Chiapas Governor Absalon Dominguez was released in mid-February.

The official casualty figures were about 124 rebels killed and 100-300 wounded; 178 were arrested on suspicion of involvement but all save 30 have been released. Additionally, 50 soldiers were reported killed and one Mexican journalist was shot.

Let us hope the Mexican government defuses the situation by addressing the legitimate grievances of the Indians. If they do not, continued fighting is inevitable as more Indians will take sides with the Marxist Zapatistas, seeing no other way to address the injustices they are subject to.

I wish I could report "and they all lived happily ever after," but the jury is still out on Chiapas, and the EZLN still has 500 pounds of stolen dynamite stashed somewhere.

*Robert Walchli is a California-based photojournalist and frequent photo contributor. This is his first article in SOF. ✕*

**I WAS THERE**

*Continued from page 14*

was a VC chicken, so we popped/plucked/boiled him in a steel pot, and voila: hot chow! Best chop chop in days.

Word came up to the point that a resupply chopper was inbound.

Soon came the *whop-whop-whop* of a slick, approaching low and hot. We popped smoke and as the ship flared for landing, Fee and I broke cover and headed for our resupply. We were about 10 meters from the Huey when *kaboom!* I felt myself tumbling, enshrouded in a cloud of acrid black smoke. Ah shit, I knew I was hit, but what about my *numba one* scout, Fee? As the smoke cleared and I regained some senses, I became aware of my friend Fee holding me, softly crying, "Sully, Sully ..." We had become tight and it hurt him deeply that I was hit, while right beside me he was unscathed. Fee helped me sit up, and I checked myself for damage. My right leg was shattered, the jungle boot blown nearly off my foot.

Hot frag and debris had peppered me. Soon Doc Anderson was applying compresses and I was placed into the supply slick for evacuation. I had only a brief opportunity to make one last connection with a few of the brothers ... a quick touch ... a word of encouragement ... see you back at base ... be back in a week or two ... But as the Huey powered up for takeoff, as I watched the best friends I'd ever known fade from view on my last hot departure from that terrible yet beautiful place, I knew it would be a long time, if ever, before we would meet again.

What I did not know was that after 25 years I still would miss that camaraderie, that sense of brotherhood, the love that only the fires of war can forge.

The 4th of the 39th had put it on the 261A big time, just like it was supposed to be done. We took four wounded, while killing more than 100 VC. Their base camp and combat effectiveness had been destroyed. Colonel Hackworth would later refer to that fight as the most satisfying operation of his career. In his five months of command, he had crystallized our once ragtag outfit into an effective counterinsurgency force.

It was my last combat operation. After 20 months of hospitals, surgeries and various repairs, I was retired in grade E4, but I had been at the top with the 4th/39th! ✕

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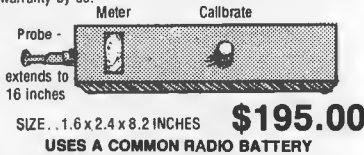
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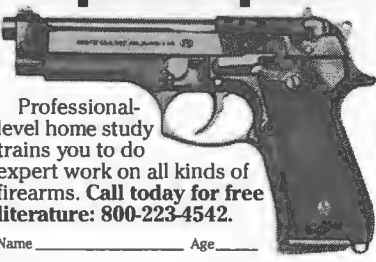
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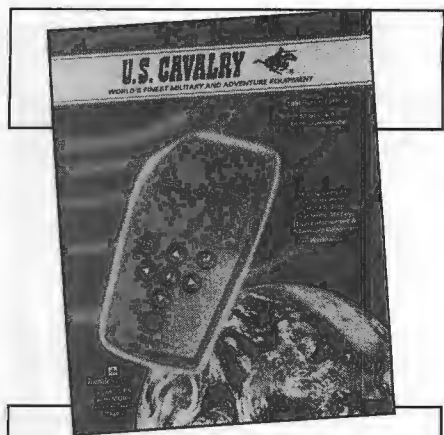
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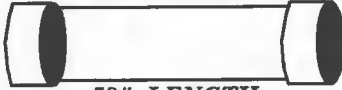

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FREE INFORMATION

## HANDGUN CONTROL

Continued from page 33

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**Legal Point 1:** Making possible the suing of owners of guns, as a group, for monetary compensation for victims of gun violence:

Once gun owners in America have been identified through a verifiable source, i.e., the pending national computer registry, it would be possible to seek further compensation for victims of gun violence through legal means. As a group, gun nuts would constitute an identifiable entity for class-action suits and other legal actions for compensation to victims of gun violence.

**Legal Point 2:** Suing gun organizations under the RICO [Racketeer Influenced, Corrupt Organization] statute:

It would be expected that gun groups and lobbying groups such as the NRA would encourage non-compliance. Thus nationally recognized groups will be technically "organizing to break the law." Once this can be proven, these groups will be vulnerable to lawsuits based on the RICO statute and drained of their financial resources through repeated legal action.

**Legal Point 3:** Suing the makers of toy-replica guns, toy weapons and violent entertainment:

One of the purveyors of violence to society, companies which profit from violence would eventually be identified and made legally responsible for the violent acts inspired by their products. A study would have to be created to link these companies to those actions taken as a result of their products. Threat of legal action would convince many manufacturers and distributors that other nonviolence-related toys would be more worthwhile. Lawsuits against makers of violent entertainment and violence-related recreational materials and toys, would make them fiscally accountable for the cost to society in-

curred as a result of their merchandise. Items could include: violent video games, television shows, movies, videotapes, water guns, super soakers, electronic noise guns, replica guns, toy weapons like swords, batons, martial arts items.

Tort law as we know it may not have to undergo a change in order to facilitate these actions. As many people know, it is not necessary to actually win in order to affect change, since the constant threat of legal action will induce change in the way people do business. People all know that the real fiscal effect of repeated legal actions can bankrupt a peddler of violence just as well as winning a large settlement. ✕

## SF IN WACO

Continued from page 35

wise a training team already commanded by a captain.

Communications training began 25 February, while Handy, Dooney and Ackley built the door mock-up, and a

replica of Mount Carmel's front fence. A training schedule for the next day was developed, including live-firing.

Safety considerations forced the Green Beret trainers to get permission from Fort Hood Range Control for the ATF to train with flash-bang grenades.

Agents Buford and King put their forced entry teams through the mock-up several times on the 27th, at least once with two Green Berets acting as Davidians. Although the Army now denies it, sources tell *SOF* training included room-clearing, fire-and-maneuver and building takedown — subjects forbidden by SF policy for instruction to civilian lawmen, according to copies of the policy obtained by *SOF*.

No knock-and-announce entries were rehearsed, nor was a peaceful entry. Other SF trainers worked with ATF agents on the range, where AR-15s, MP-5 SMGs and the ATF's M24 sniper rifles were fired. Sniper rifles were zeroed for 260 meters, the approximate distance from the ATF's undercover house to Mount Carmel.

Agent King would later give testimony about that training, which was misleading — at best. King said under oath that Green Berets were “not involved in the rehearsals” for the raid, that the commandos merely stood by as “observers ... They offered some advice. One was a captain and there were a couple of enlisted personnel.”

Agent Buford acknowledged in testimony that “a detachment from one of the Special Forces units” assisted in ATF's Fort Hood training. “They were there to assist us primarily to make sure our communications system worked.”

Radio communications for the paramilitary-style operation broke down almost immediately, according to a Treasury Department investigative report and testimony from ATF agent Roland Ballesteros, assigned as first agent through the door.

Asked specifically what limits military participation in civilian law enforcement operations, Buford testified “I'm not sure where that line is drawn. I took what they had to offer and utilized it ... They mentioned the fact that they'd like to accompany us, but said they couldn't ...”

According to military sources interviewed by *SOF*, much of the out-

of-bounds training by Green Berets occurred after normal hours, in the barracks. This included Close-Quarter-Battle (CQB) and MOUT topics.

“Individually, they were pretty good at CQB,” said one troop familiar with the operation. “But as a 10-man team goes, they didn't click as well. And when you got three 10-man teams going at once, it was a real problem ... One thing we stressed and stressed was not to try an operation like they were planning during daylight hours. It would be suicide ... All of our guys were pissed off at having to be there under those circumstances.”

On 27 February, ATF agents left for their staging area near Waco. The Special Forces MTT cleaned up their gear and prepared to depart.

Or, *most* of them did.

Flight logs for two helicopters picking up the MTT at Fort Hood confirm four Green Berets did not depart with the rest. Two UH-60 Blackhawks assigned to the 160th Special Operation Aviation Regiment in Fort Stewart, Georgia — part of the secretive Task Force 160 — picked up six Green Berets and a load of gear at 2000 27 February at the MOUT facility. They flew to McGregor Range. Logs indicate the Blackhawks arrived before midnight, being temporarily grounded en route by rain.

Dunn, Wilson, Ackley and Moreland remained behind, *SOF* sources say, to observe the next morning's ATF raid. What they saw upset and scared them.

The Army strongly disputes their presence at Mount Carmel: “There were no Special Forces personnel present when the ATF conducted their raid on the Branch Davidian compound,” said Lieutenant Colonel Ken McGraw, a spokesman for the Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg. McGraw referred further questions to the U.S. Special Operations Command in Florida.

An Army spokesman in Florida, Lt. Col. Chuck Merlo, confirmed a Green Beret training detachment from Fort Bragg provided assistance to ATF in the days before the raid, but emphasized “none of our people were at the raid.”

“What we did do was set up some ranges at Fort Hood,” near Waco, and “assisted them in setting up and sight-

ing in their weapons, and provided some medical training,” Merlo said.

The Army refused to grant interviews with any members of the MTT. The ATF has also declined comment. But troops — and many people in ATF — remain outraged by what happened.

“Some of the ATF agents at Fort Hood, especially some of the older agents, privately questioned the wisdom of this whole goat-chain,” one Army source said. “Not only did they think the raid was unnecessary, but they felt the legality of that raid was vague, at best, especially after what happened at Fort Hood.

“Waco is the crowning fiasco of what a big lie JTF-6 is,” he said. “If one follows the philosophical premise of Operation Alliance and JTF-6 to a logical conclusion, Special Forces is being groomed to accept, unquestioned, a role in internal security operations against citizens of this country.”

“Are we worried about being found out?” asked another. “Of course we're worried. First there'll be denial. Then there'll be a search for the guilty parties. That's already started. The Army engaged in a cover-up on this from the moment the news hit the fan about that [ATF] raid. We have been ready to be subpoenaed since this happened. We've been prepared for it. We've been expecting it.” ✕

---

## WACO TRIAL

*Continued from page 43*

woman in the jury box began to cry.

*Watch for Part Two of SOF's detailed coverage of the Branch Davidian trial, including the verdict and what it means, in next month's issue. Part Two includes confirmation of friendly fire casualties among the ATF raiding party and testimony from the government's own witnesses that indicates gunfire from helicopters, and more evidence that ATF fired the first shots. Plus verbatim dialogue from the 911 call and FBI eavesdropping devices.*

Jim Pate covered the Mount Carmel standoff and subsequent inferno for *SOF* last year, and was present for the entire trial. ✕

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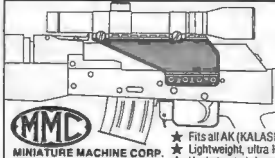
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# PARTING SHOT

Just Duel It

by Steve McCue

Now that capital punishment, that politically correct euphemism for execution, has made a stunning comeback in American society, it's time we reviewed some of the other past traditions for controlling the aggressiveness of unruly citizens.

Some have proposed that public executions would impress the reality of death on the cretin consciousness of would-be criminals. Others hold that TV already makes death all too popular and common, and think a public execution channel would draw fewer viewers than C-Span. Personally, I can't speak to punishments and deterrents; I was so bad at spanking my kids they usually laughed when threatened. But I can propose a long-forgotten custom that might have real appeal to a nation hungry for just retribution as a good deterrent.

Dueling, that lost art, could once again fit comfortably into the fabric of modern America. I'm not talking about those dumb Western shoot-outs in Deadwood or Durango. I mean classy, formal dueling, with a glove across the face, at the crack of dawn with seconds, etc. For those who think it's inconceivable to envision such a revival, let me just ask: Did you ever think high school Home-Ec teachers would hand out condoms on Friday night and urge kids to have a good and/or safe time?

The possibilities are endless: Teddy Kennedy calling out Rush Limbaugh. Bill Clinton calling out ... Well, he could have Hillary handle it.

Dueling could bring fairness back to homicide. Gangs could pick their best shots, take over Yankee Stadium and televise the event. Feral carloads of punks protecting their turf with UZIs — a distinct public hazard — wouldn't be necessary. Plus, cops could become heroes by teaching dueling in gyms much as they now teach boxing through the Police Athletic League.

Even though the country has a proud history of dueling — with President Jackson a veteran survivor of several, and our first secretary of the treasury being killed by a potential presidential candidate (Aaron Burr shot Alexander Hamilton) — I would bring the practice up-to-date. Women would be afforded equal opportunity with a special affirmative action program to encourage intergender dueling. Actually, such a program may not be necessary.

Dueling could be offered as an alternative to divorce courts. The results would be so much clearer to the surviving kids, and the tykes wouldn't have to worry about which parent to choose to live with. Problems with child support would be resolved, since the departed parent's life insurance would take care of the kids and send them to the college of their choice. Property division would be simple: Winner takes all.

As with any innovation, there would be some

segments of society that would not do as well under the dueling system. Lawyers would tend to lose control of adversarial cases, but what they lost in civil cases could be made up in building an entire new body of dueling case law. After all, what happens if one party is only maimed in the duel? Whose "deep pockets" would maintain life for a disabled dueler? What about stray shots that nail a spectator? I don't know what the personal liability section of my homeowner's policy says about dueling, but I do know it covers me if I sock some guy in the snoot, so it ought to cover me if I shoot someone in a duel, too. I believe it wouldn't take long before attorneys of all sorts would be earning just as much, if not more, than they did before dueling was reinstated.

I would put *some* limits on dueling: Weapons must be government inspected and carry caution labels stating that dueling could be dangerous to your health. Also, pregnant women and children under 16 (save members of a gang with written parental consent) would be barred from the activity, as would the visually impaired.

Dueling should be discouraged between siblings and in fact *any* blood relatives: Normal murder would still suffice to resolve intrafamily disputes. As I said before, dueling ought to be encouraged among the married. Also, admission charges should not be allowed — after all we wouldn't want a real good shot going 'round calling out everybody in town: Professional pistoleros would do to judicial duels what lawyers have done to trial courts. Also, dueling should not be allowed on holidays or prior to church services on Sunday. Wagering would only be allowed on Native American reservations and Donald Trump would not be allowed to participate except as a dueler himself. Provoking speech and gestures, such as "Make my day" or the Rockefeller salute would be disallowed and a penalty of one free shot levied against the perpetrator.

There would be some exceptions regarding charging for admission. If any politicians (to include zoning and school board members) are involved in a duel, admission should be charged and the revenues applied to reducing the deficit, whether it be local, state or federal. In an instance where both politicians get off a lucky shot, their combined insurance assets would go to government debt reduction. Also, on the international scale, heads of state who quarrel would be encouraged to duel before declaring war. In fact, the U.N. charter should be amended to assure that such contests take place — no stand-ins accepted.

Details that need to be orchestrated are legion: the regulation of dueling weapons, life insurance considerations, the effect on any national health plan and so on. Eventually it would all work out, I'm sure. ✕

**The possibilities are endless: Ted Kennedy calling out Rush Limbaugh. Bill Clinton calling out ... Well, he could have Hillary handle it.**

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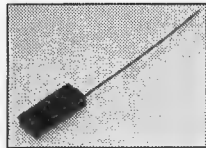
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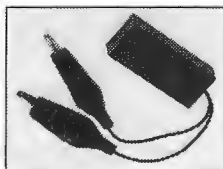
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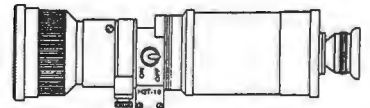


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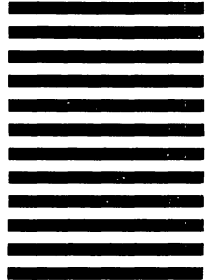
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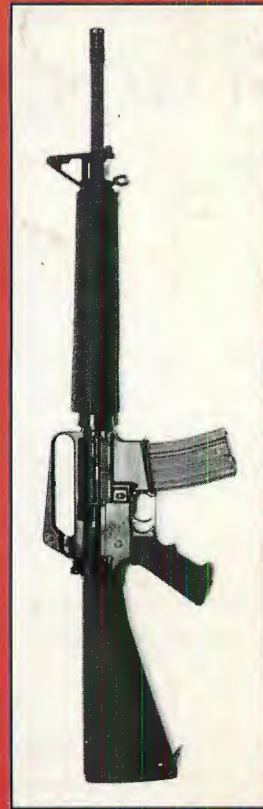


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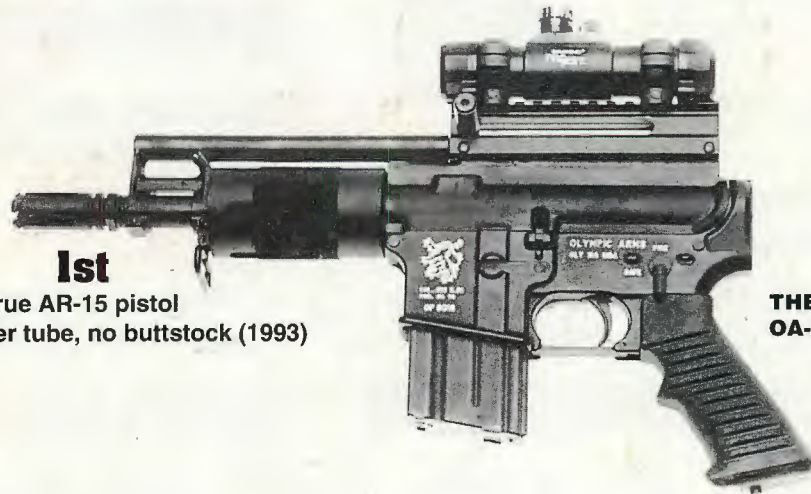
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