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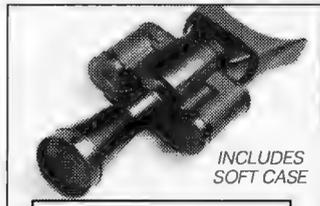
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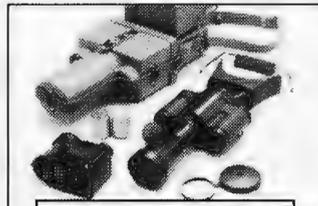
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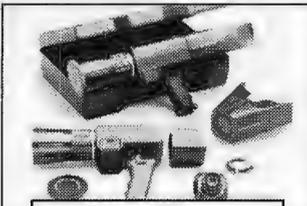
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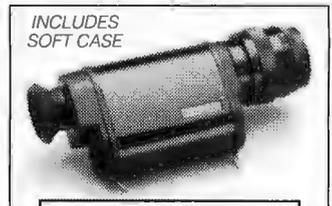
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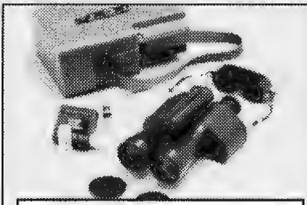
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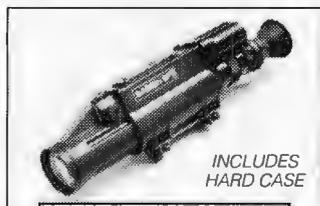
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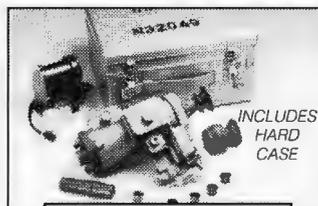
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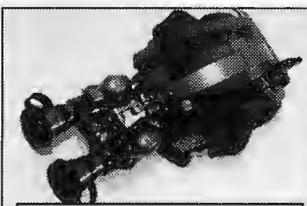
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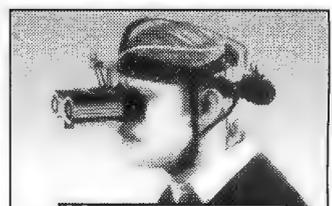
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## SHOTGUNS WITH NO "SPORTING PURPOSE"

by Robert K. Brown

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### In Memoriam

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Make no mistake: When the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) last March reclassified the Streetsweeper, Striker 12, and USAS-12 shotguns as "destructive devices," thus effectively banning them, it was staging a dress rehearsal.

In effect the bureau was practicing what it intends to do if the Feinstein Amendment becomes law.

As a result, the three domestic manufacturers of the reclassified shotguns can no longer sell their product to private American citizens, which in effect puts them out of business. Import of off-shore-produced versions was denied by ATF in the 1980s. Current owners of the guns, estimated to number about 18,000, will be notified by ATF that they have 30 days to register them under the National Firearms Act. Registration involves being fingerprinted and photographed. It also involves obtaining approval of the local police chief or sheriff — many of whom routinely turn down similar requests for automatic weapons permits. In some states, state law prohibits granting such permits. If the owner of one of the reclassified weapons fails to obtain the necessary permit, he or she must dispose of it without compensation.

If there is any lingering doubt that ATF would not target the hundreds of semiautomatic firearms falling under the Feinstein Amendment for precisely the same treatment, it should be dispelled by the following passage from an ATF internal memo on the shotgun reclassification that was leaked to *Gun Week*:

*"This ruling represents a small step in imposing rational controls over the non-sporting assault-type weapons addressed in the Feinstein bill. With the exception of these large-bore shotguns, there is currently no sporting purpose test in existing federal law governing the types of firearms that can be manufactured and sold commercially. Feinstein's bill would ban the future manufacture of these shotguns as well as a host of other rifles and handguns that also*

*provide tremendous firepower, while serving no legitimate sporting purpose."*

The shotgun reclassification, in other words, is simply a dress rehearsal for what gun grabbers in the federal government want to do with most semiautomatic arms: ban their manufacture, register their current owners, and, to the maximum extent possible, confiscate them without compensation, while letting state and local authorities take the heat.

Where did the feds get the authority to ban a whole class of firearms?

From the Gun Control Act of 1968, which the feds say gives the secretary of the treasury authority to declare shotguns with a bore of more than half an inch "destructive devices" if the secretary determines they are not "generally recognized as particularly suitable for

sporting purposes."

The "sporting purposes" test was inserted into the Gun Control Act of 1968 at the behest of major American firearms manufacturers, who sought it in order to give government a way of keeping large numbers of foreign-made firearms — most of which were military surplus — out of the United States. Politically, the Gun Control Act of 1968 may have been motivated by the assassinations of Bobby Kennedy and Martin Luther King, but the motivation for the sporting purposes test had nothing to do with maintaining public safety and public order, only with trade protectionism.

Now the chickens are coming home to roost. A case can be made that in applying the sporting purposes test to the reclassified shotguns the feds adopted an overreaching interpretation of the law, but space doesn't permit a discussion of that issue at this time. The more important question is why the sporting purposes provision, which is self-evidently at odds with the Second Amendment, has gone unchallenged, either in the courts or in the Congress.

Gun owners have "lived with" the intellectually corrupt "sporting purposes" doctrine for 26 years. The shotgun ban and the Feinstein Amendment make it clear that continuing to do so is no longer possible. ☒



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Photo: courtesy FBI

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Ranked among the world's top elite troops, German *Kampfschwimmerkommando* armed with H&K MP5SD sub-machine gun takes aim during ship-boarding exercise. These German "SEALs" will play an increasingly important role in future U.N. ops. Article begins on page 40. Photo: Eric Micheletti

# BULLETIN BOARD

## KAREN MEDICAL PROJECT

Regular readers will be familiar with Refugee Relief International (RRI), and in particular, the Karen Medical Project. RRI is not a large organization, so specializes in taking medical help to the most dangerous places, where the need is greatest. As often as funds permit, RRI deploys a team of doctors to the jungles of Burma who take in medical supplies, train indigenous personnel and, in between dodg-

for genocide by SLORC and have effectively been abandoned by the rest of the world. But you can help: Please make your check payable to Refugee Relief International (Karen Project), and send it to P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306. Every penny will help save a life.

## UNDERWORLD GOES UNDERWATER

Homemade narco-trafficker submersibles are quietly sneaking

American mainland.

"Since only one has been seized with cocaine, we have to assume they are very effective," said a DEA source involved in tracking the semi-subs. "We've received reports that there might be as many as 20 in various stages of construction, and there are three to four different types."

## FEDERAL JOBS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

...is the title of a new 262-page guide by John W. Warner Jr., which profiles more than 100 federal agencies. This ready reference for those considering a federal law enforcement career outlines each agency's mission, history and law enforcement activities. Warner is a retired assistant to the director of the Secret Service. Available from Prentice Hall for \$16, Dept. SOF, 200 Old Tappan Road, Old Tappan, NJ 07676; phone: 800-223-2336.

## AKs: SCAPEGOAT

Mikhail Kalashnikov, inventor of the famous *Avtomat Kalashnikov* assault rifle, was a guest at the recent SHOT Show in Dallas, with some pithy observations on blaming guns for crime, and on gun control proposals. Pointing to the AK (or any gun) as a problem, he said, is a tactic of politicians who cannot solve problems. Commenting on the current wave of gun control proposals in the United States, Kalashnikov said he respects and supports Americans' rights to keep firearms. "It is good to keep guns for a collection, to see what is built and for history," he said. "It is good to keep [them] for sport. It is good to keep a gun for peaceful purposes, not for aggression." Added his daughter Elena, "We can't buy guns in Russia, but the criminal always gets the gun. He always uses it and can always get it, even in Russia."



John Donovan, SOF's contributing editor for explosives and demolitions, center, with John Bearce (USMC-R) left, and John Birckelbaw (USA-R) right, at the Royal Thai Special Forces Center in Lopburi, Thailand, after friendship jump. Photo: courtesy Dr. Frank Osanka

ing hostile fire from communist SLORC forces, do everything they can to save the lives of Karen freedom fighters and their families.

Led by Dr. John Peters, an RRI medical team portaged supplies and spent two weeks with the Karens in 1992 and 1993. They plan to do it again in May 1994. The unpaid, volunteer doctors who do this, of course, have their own families to feed, mortgages to meet and so on; going to this malarial hell-hole is their "vacation." RRI desperately needs your tax-deductible donation of money and/or medical supplies (anything that doesn't have to be refrigerated or locked up) to make another load of medicine and another trek possible this spring.

Think hard and dig deep, folks. The Karens have been targeted

from Colombia through Caribbean waters with loads of drugs destined for the United States. Ingeniously built from wood and Fiberglas, these 17- to 30-foot-long underwater freighters are painted ocean blue and have no sharp edges to reflect radar. With the cargo sealed in, the crew and small marine diesel engine breathe through a 6-foot snorkel.

Built in the Colombian port cities of Barranquilla and Santa Marta, the semi-submersibles are leased to dope traffickers for \$100,000 to \$200,000 per load. A 180-horse engine gives them a range of about 600 miles, allowing them to reach the waters off Puerto Rico or Santo Domingo, where the drugs are transferred to other vessels, hidden in legitimate cargo or otherwise smuggled to the North



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## CARLOS HATHCOCK: MARINE SNIPER

War Stories and Tactical Tips from the Master Sniper

with Carlos Hathcock & John Plaster

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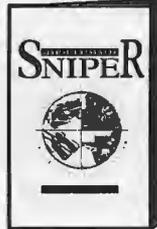
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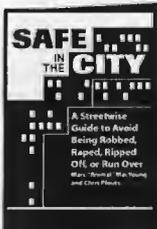
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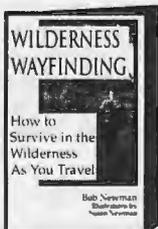
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## ISRAELI MERCS ANGER CONGO REBELS

The Congolese government, under attack for nearly a year by guerrillas supporting former dictator Denis Sassou-Nguesso, have hired former Israeli troops under a \$50 million contract with Israeli arms supplier Lavdan. Congolese Interior Minister Martin Mberri said the training-equipping contract "will permit our armed forces to have a new attitude and respond promptly to instances of social unrest... [and] revive the armed forces and the police, which are suffering from old age." Random attacks by rebels in the capital of Brazzaville resulted in more than 100 deaths last winter.

Some 60 former Israeli soldiers are deployed to points such as Aubeville, where they are training troops, police and a special presidential guard unit. The opposition has accused President Pascal Lissouba's government of "hiring mercenaries." Deployment of former Israeli soldiers has also met opposition in Israel.

## WHO'S THE PAWN HERE?

Don't hock your deer rifle a week before hunting season in California: State authorities and the BATF are requiring a 15-day wait before you can get your gun out of pawn there, regarding the placement of a gun as security against a debt as a sale to the hock shop, and getting it out of pawn as a "sale" back to you — which requires a 15-day wait. What a crock ...

## WEAVER, WACO, JURASSIC PURPLE?

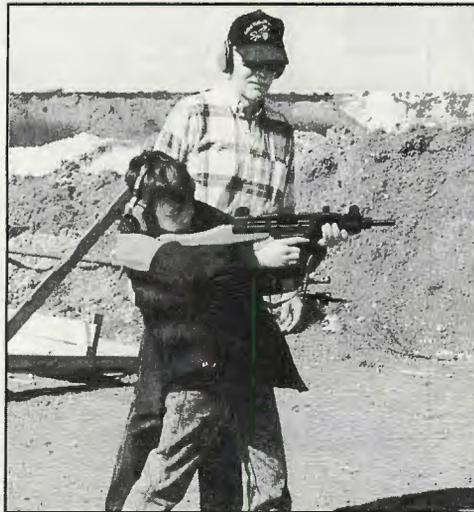
This may sound familiar: Operating on a "tip," flak-jacketed federal Treasury agents with assault rifles at the ready, plus heavily armed state and local officials, stormed the Magic Valley outlet store in Jackson, Tennessee, to seize contraband and arrest store owner David Woods. The threat to society? Alleged counterfeit purple Barney dinosaur dolls. The premise? Total bullshit. The upshot (pardon the pun)? Fortunately, none. Store-owner Woods produced invoices showing the purple dolls came from an authorized distributor, and Our Protectors

saddled up to go fight crime elsewhere. No women or kids shot in the back, no women or kids burned to death. But the only customer in the store — who assumed it was the Dalton Boys riding again — was not reassured when one of the armed intruders said, "I think this is the only customer: You take her and I'll take the door."

*I love you, you love me, we're a contraband fam-i-ly...*

## COUGHLIN QUILTS

Navy Lieutenant Commander Paula Coughlin, whose complaints



*Machine Gun News* columnist Ken Carter shares the fun of full-auto shooting with young Austin Bishop, at Vern Hester's The Bullet Hole range off Highway 90, west of San Antonio. A Class-3 dealer and narrator at *SOF's* firepower demo in Las Vegas each year, Carter loaned Austin the UZI from his personal collection. Photo: James L. Pate

of abuse and sexual harassment at the 1991 Tailhook convention triggered the Tailhook brouhaha, has resigned her commission. Most recently a chopper jock at NAS Norfolk, Coughlin said in her letter of resignation that "the physical attack on me by naval aviators at the 1991 Tailhook convention and the covert attacks on me that followed have stripped me of my ability to serve."

## SHORT-TIMER SPECIAL AGENT SUSPENDED

On the eve of his retirement from 35 years of service, FBI Special Agent In Charge Jim Ahearn of Phoenix has been suspended

with pay for candidly criticizing Attorney General Janet Reno in a front-page *The Arizona Republic* news story. Ahearn said, "...I thought [she] could do an excellent job. But she went to Washington and forgot she's the nation's prosecutor. She's become a social worker..." After the flap Ahearn commented, "This was something that needed to be said, and I said it."

## BRADY-BOBBITT BILL?

In a colorful — if demented — expression of his concern over excessive controls on private firearms ownership, Joel Gonzales of Bridgeport, Connecticut, stood on the steps of the state capitol and lopped off his "trigger finger" with a paper cutter, then handed over the severed digit and a statement. Well, have at it dude, as long as it's *your* finger. Just leave *my* finger, and *my* guns, alone.

## FREE LUNCH

If you landed in Normandy on D-Day 50 years ago, or if you were with General Patton's Third Army at the Avranches breakthrough, there are some grateful Frenchmen who would like you to be their guest. John F. Lehodey, president of Hotel Sofitel North America, plans a commemorative dinner at each of the seven Sofitel hotels in the United States, as was done 10 years ago at the 40th anniversary. They're sincere, they're great hosts, it's free and you're cordially invited to attend if you were there 50 years ago. Contact Hotel Sofitel for further information; phone: 305-264-4888, ext. 312.

## ARMY TESTS SMART MORTAR

The Army has test-fired the STRIX "fire and forget" smart 120mm mortar round at Elgin AFB, Florida. The round was successfully employed against stationary and moving M60 tanks, with and without decoys. The STRIX is made by Bofors AB and SAAB Missiles AB, of Sweden. ☒

# World Famous Street-Fighter Will Give You A FREE GUN...

## Just To Prove He Can Take It Away From You *Bare-Handed* As Easy As Candy From A Baby!

Dear Friend,

I want to send you a free gun. (It is identical in CAD-imaged specs to the standard military-issue "Red style" training gun.)

There are 2 things I want you to do when you receive it:

- (1) I want you to set the gun aside, and watch the four videos I will also send.
- (2) Then, I want you to give the gun to the toughest, biggest and most coordinated friend you have... and ask him to:

### Point The Gun At You And Squeeze The Trigger!

It is important that you choose someone who is larger than you. Preferably, he should also have some skill at fighting. *A black belt karate master would be perfect.*

Why am I asking you to do this? Because, I want to **prove** to you that what you see on these video tapes will allow you to instantly take that gun away (bare-handed) and *put him down on the ground* before he can move a muscle to squeeze the trigger! And once down, you will be able to **keep** him on the floor (and even slap him silly, if you please). You'll be in complete control.

As you will see in these tapes, you do not need strength, or special agility, or even previous skill in fighting. You will see how even a small man (5' 5", 140 pounds soaking wet) can easily disarm and take down a bodybuilder (6' 2", 240 pounds) trained in judo!

It's an astonishing fact to learn, but it is true nevertheless. What you are about to learn are the **identical** "Disarm and Disable" tactics used by elite U.S. military personnel, big city SWAT teams, and high-profile security enforcement...

### Which Have Been Kept Secret From Civilians (Like You) For Almost 20 Years!

Now, let me tell you about this gun. It is a detailed and exact replica of the "Red style" guns used by the military for training. It was designed by an American craftsman (who is now working with the military) and is hand casted, so that *all the tolerances are identical*. It has the feel, heft and balance of an authentic high-powered automatic pistol, yet is crafted from special solid polymers so it can be used for real-life training.

This gun would fool an expert who picked it up blindfolded — *only* the solid bore and the color (white) give it away as a training weapon. (The color is used for two reasons: To avoid misunder-standings with people who

do not realize it is a training gun, and to keep *you* from accidentally picking up a real gun to practice with.)

There is one important alteration to this training gun. The **trigger guard** has been strategically changed so it will not snap the finger off your training partner, as a normal trigger guard would. (Your big, tough friend wouldn't like that... though he couldn't do much about it until you shared your tapes with him.) This alteration allows you to train without "pulling punches", and speeds up your learning curve dramatically.

are *hopelessly inadequate* in surviving a *real* street-fight! (And the "false confidence" you get will cause you *desperate* trouble!)

What's more, you'll also learn how to disarm an attacker who has a knife... along with:

- \* **How to tell when your attacker is just "bluffing" with a knife... and when he's about to commit to stabbing you! (Crucial knowledge for making your best fight-ending move!)**
- \* *The single most important decision* you must come to terms with in a knife fight!

*"The release of these tapes are unparalleled—  
...it may save your life."*

Colonel Robert K. Brown, USAR (Ret.) — Founder and publisher of *Soldier of Fortune Magazine*.

Now, don't get the idea the "moves" you are about to learn are difficult, just because they have been held in secret by some of the most feared fighters in the world. *The moves are simple and natural...* yet utterly devastating when used against an armed attacker. You will be able to quickly take away your assailant's gun, and you will also learn:

- \* How to "jockey" for your best first-strike position during an attack!
- \* **How to instantly "classify" any gun (single action vs. double action)... and how to tell if a gun is in "Condition One" — military jargon for "ready to fire"!** (This "inside" weapon knowledge could give you a precious extra second in any confrontation... enough to choose your best next move!)
- \* *The most important (and toughest)* decision you **must** make in any armed confrontation... and how to make it intelligently and morally (so you never have to second-guess yourself later!)
- \* **Why the incorrect disarming techniques will actually force your attacker to fire... whether he's decided to or not!**
- \* Why a man with a gun standing just 2 feet away from you is at a disadvantage... and how to use simple "leverage" to make him regret it forever!
- \* **Why the correct way to "clear" a weapon increases your chances of not getting shot (first rule of bare-handed gun fighting) by 60%!**
- \* Why the fancy-schmancy spinning head-kick techniques most martial artists learn

- \* **How to protect your most vulnerable "targets" during a knife fight... and how to use these rapid-blood loss areas against your assailant to end the fight instantly!**

*Plus*, you'll learn the tactics of taking away a club or baseball bat from an attacker... and also:

- \* How to tell where the "sweet spot" of a club or baton is... where all the *damaging* power is located! (And how to avoid it!)
- \* Where the "safety" area of the club is: the 20% of any swing where the power of the club is wasted (and where your opportunity to *end the fight* lies)!

And, once you've disarmed your attacker and are facing him bare-handed... well, that's just child's play now. These tapes will show you:

- \* **How to use the secret of your body's natural "fulcrums" to bring anyone to their knees... using only 12 pounds of pressure and a tiny "torque" of your wrist! (Once you understand the secret, even a fighter twice your size can be dropped in a blink... with no more exertion on your part than you'd use to open a tin can!)**
- \* The one "dojo" karate trick to never use in the real world! (It's a silly, dumb thing to do... and yet it's one of the *first* things you learn as a rookie martial artist!)
- \* **How to master the strongest grip you're capable of — no matter how "weak" you think you are!**
- \* How to use simple "cat-like" tricks to force your body to fall correctly... so even if you get pushed down onto a concrete sidewalk,

you'll bounce right back up without a bruise! (Plus — how to use your body's natural "cushions" to absorb almost any shock... and avoid the common bone-breaks most people suffer when knocked down!)

\* **The devastating secrets of joint manipulation (the lazy man's method of effective fighting)!**

\* The 4 crucial moves you must make when being "held up" from behind! (Or being forced to kneel from behind... one of the more common assault techniques used by desperate criminals and hostage takers!)

**PLUS** — and this is my *favorite* part of the package — you get an entire video of street-fighting "**Dirty Tricks**"... the same sneaky moves used by professional soldiers and cops who can't afford to waste time fighting by the old "rules of the street". You'll learn:

\* The 2 psychological responses *all* top warriors "surrender" to the instant a fight is at hand... that *increases their chance of survival and victory by 400%*!

\* **How to quickly "cancel out" any size or weight advantages your opponent has!**

\* How to judge — *for yourself* — the "Escalation of Force" rule for any encounter! (So you are *instantly* in control of the fight, even if you've been totally surprised!)

\* **The secrets of "Single Finger" takedowns... using moves that are indefensible even by a larger and more experienced opponent!**

\* How to use "pain enhancement" tech to convince your assailant to stay down until the cops arrive!

\* **How just 6 pounds of pressure on a nerve can set you free from almost *any* hold!**

\* How to break away from strong-arm choke holds!

\* **The natural "guides" on your attacker's body that automatically guarantee a correct strike!**

\* How to avoid the devastating mistakes even black belts make when attempting head butts! (And how to use the professional tricks of performing head butts perfectly — one of the surest ways of bringing an opponent "down" without further action!)

\* **The amazing "filthy cat fight" trick that even urban street fighters never learn... which will allow you to control anyone who isn't bald!**

\* The 12 take-down tricks that are never taught in karate "schools"!

\* **How to avoid the horrible mistake most fighters make with groin kicks!**

\* "Short Cut" kicks you can learn and use immediately... no matter how uncoordinated or clumsy you are!

\* **How to negate (with simple pain-control moves) the common "harassment" attacks — bear hugs, full nelsons, and head locks — that are used against women!**

\* Simple controlling moves that force your *attacker* to decide if he wants to come

away with a broken arm or give up! (And how to keep him down — without serious damage — until the cops arrive!)

\* **How rookie fighters "telegraph" their moves... and not to do it yourself (and use your knowledge to gain advantages over your dumber attackers)!**

\* How to reverse the worst fighting position you could ever find yourself in!

\* **Your 5 best "first strikes" to end any fight instantly — a split second before it begins!**

\* The sneaky ways professional fighters use the element of surprise to turn around dangerous situations... even when they're the ones who've been "jumped" by an assailant unexpectedly!

\* **The simplest way to gain a "technical" advantage when you appear to be overmatched!**

And more. A *lot* more, in fact. For example, you'll get simple exercises to specifically strengthen what's weak in your "falling muscles". (The identical conditioning exercises used by professionals!) You'll learn how to train into *mastery* without breaking your partner's bones. These moves look simple (almost too simple)... but their devastating power becomes evident the first time your partner goes a fraction of an inch too far. (Don't worry, though — there are easy ways to make your practice sessions "fail safe"!)

You'll understand "Shotgun and Uzi" disarming techniques (many traveling Americans have found themselves in mega-armed terrorist situations overseas and here in the U.S.!)... **How only 4-6 pounds of pressure can snap a shinbone...** Why no professional would *ever* attempt the "spinning round house kicks" that are taught to every new karate student (and which take 2-5 years to learn correctly!)... **How to "adjust" his attitude without doing obvious harm...** A detailed "map" of anatomical targets (for example: where the thumb ends at the thigh is a *crucial* nerve point — reaction: numbing shock when kicked)... **And, the most decisive move you can make to end *any* fight instantly!**

As you can see, the secrets revealed in these amazing video tapes will give you a powerful new way of moving in the world, because...

### **You Will Never Again Walk Your Streets In Fear!**

Are you having trouble believing all this? That's okay — I'm used to people being suspicious... *at first*. But the truth is, what you are about to learn is praised by professional soldiers, and law enforcement personnel all over the country.

I have included "testimonials" with this letter from U.S. military generals, big-city police veterans and even the publisher of *Soldier of Fortune* magazine (who almost never gives endorsements). They *all* agree that this new system can be learned quickly and easily, and will work on the street under even the worst conditions imaginable.

**Here is how we came to discover these "professional warrior" bare-handed fighting secrets:** For a long time now, I have been connected to the "inside" of certain elite

military and law enforcement circles. (Including the Navy **SEALS** — the most dangerous soldiers on the planet.) My goal is to help civilians like you to understand the super-effective fighting skills that have been developed. I want my family to feel as safe and protected as possible, and I'm sure you want the same for your loved ones.

Anyway, through certain inside "contacts" (which I am **not** going to tell you about) I was approached by two of the most respected professional combat trainers in the world: **Randy Wanner** is a feared martial arts expert who for years has been training federal and state law enforcement agencies in "street survival fighting tactics". (He was also the former Martial Arts editor for *Soldier of Fortune* magazine.) His name is well-known among the elite "warriors" of modern-day combat, and he has gone toe-to-toe with street fighters from all over the world to prove his techniques are superior to anything else out there.

**Bob Taylor** (who spent 2 tours in Viet Nam with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne, MACV-SERT, and the famous 75th Rangers) is considered one of the country's most experienced experts in counter insurgency operations; state, local and federal law enforcement agencies use him frequently for training. He is also a specialist in counter-terrorism for African, South American and Central American governments.

These two guys are in demand all over the world. Their clients include the **U.S. military**, big-city **SWAT** teams, international anti-terrorist squads and top security firms in 15 foreign countries. These clients hire Bob and Randy for just one thing:

### **Their Incredible Skill In Quickly Teaching Their Unique "Bare-Handed" Disarming and Disabling Techniques For Armed Attackers!**

This new fighting system took over 20 years to develop. It was necessary because the techniques the police and the military used to use — based on centuries-old karate moves — simply were **not effective** in real combat conditions. Soldiers and officers who were supposed to be disarming their attackers were, instead, *getting shot and disabled themselves!*

Randy and Bob decided to find out what was wrong. There was only one sane way to do this. They used their connections within the military establishment to get "training" bullets for their weapons. These bullets (called "Red Jets") are almost impossible for civilians to get. They are made of wax and polymer, yet are calibrated to fire from real weapons and can blow a hole in quarter-inch plywood from 15 feet. These training bullets were necessary for Bob and Randy's research, because...

### **They Used This Live Ammunition On Each Other To Develop Their New Disarming System!**

Let me tell you — it takes some kind of guts to face a gun loaded with live ammo. Those wax bullets travel at *over 400 feet per second*... and even if they don't tear up your body like real bullets, these guys have the scars to prove getting hit with them isn't pretty. (I personally saw Bob

shred Randy's left earlobe during a demonstration of the "wrong" way to clear a gun! There was blood everywhere during the rest of the demo.) *No one else in the world has ever done this kind of live-weapon research!*

The first thing they found out, of course, was that 99% of the disarming tactics being used by soldiers and cops (and still being taught by smug karate masters who have never had to face a loaded gun in person) **DO NOT WORK!**

This has to stop. It's irresponsible. It's stupid — especially when Randy and Bob have, after 20 years of tough research, come up with simple and easy-to-learn ways that **do** work!

Their discoveries have revolutionized the way modern professional warriors approach armed attackers — already, there are cops who are on record saying these new skills have saved their lives in the street!

**Why do you — as a civilian — need these skills?** Are you kidding? The whole world has gone psycho. The odds that you will be faced by an armed attacker — without a weapon of your own to rely on — are getting worse every day. This kind of advanced knowledge (even if it is easy to learn) isn't a luxury for American men anymore. The facts are staggering:

\* **M.I.T.** (the famous university) did a study uncovering the fact that **5 of every 6 twelve-year-old kids are going to be the victim of a violent crime in their lives!** That's almost *everybody*, sooner or later! (Most kids — and most adults, too — simply do not have a *clue* how to defend themselves in a tight spot. When you show a lack of confidence in yourself, you become the most attractive target for criminals there is!)

\* Jean O'Neil (of the **National Crime Prevention Council**) says that victims who are forced into an attacker's car *rarely* walk away alive! (Yet *most* people cannot mount even a feeble defense against someone forcing them through the door!)

\* And every kind of horrible crime is becoming more and more common — you are no longer safe in your home, in your car, in a restaurant, or on the street surrounded by other people! (Jerks with nothing to lose are now senselessly shooting their robbery victims even **after** they've gotten everything of value.)

What's more, new studies show that women who *fight back* are less likely to be raped. And that learning some form of self-defense is your *best bet* against a criminal population who is prepared to use force and violence on a whim.

**But there's a BIG problem here.** The way most Americans are going about getting prepared to defend themselves is simply...

### Not Going To Work!

Here are the facts, my friend: Most martial art studios are run by people who have *never been in a real fight before in their lives...* and you will probably be trained (in a *huge* class) by people who have been prematurely promoted to "black belt" just to handle the classes! These "store front" studios operate exactly like health spas — they lure in large numbers of people, and get the money

up front. It's a business.

And the garbage being sold to **women** offers only the pale illusion of self-defense: Tear gas **will not work** on a drug-crazed attacker intent on harm. You saw what police "stun guns" did to Rodney King on that famous video: Nothing. Most rape-prevention seminars ignore the most common aspect of rape: The woman is thrown to the ground *first*, and then attacked. She will seldom get an opportunity to try the fancy knee-to-the-groin trick the seminars teach — a move which, by the way, is usually taught *completely wrong!* (You may think a "ball kick" is easy, but it's actually a *low-percentage* kick, and hard to pull off. There are several better and more *devastating* things to do, as Bob and Randy will soon show you.)

Even the fancy alarms and sirens people are "arming" themselves with are worthless in most cases of attack. (They don't protect cars, they don't protect houses, and they won't "protect" you either.)

**In reality, you have only two choices:** Remain a vulnerable "potential victim" who trusts that God will protect you... or learn the **RIGHT** way to defend yourself.

It's not hard to do. In fact, it's relatively *simple*...

### Once You Understand The "Inside" Secrets!

One of Bob's favorite hobbies is to attend the big conventions of gun enthusiasts. He will challenge 20 of them to line up with their favorite weapon (unloaded, of course) and, one by one, demonstrate how he could take the gun away from them before they could pull the trigger. And then he would **do it**, bop, bop, bop, all the way down the line, never using the same move twice, never breaking a sweat, and never using any but the most *simple* skills.

Sounds like something you might want to learn for yourself, doesn't it?

Well, there's a "hitch". You see, the only way to even get any personal training from Bob or Randy was to get into their heavily-monitored seminars. But to get in, you need *2 forms of official credentials and licenses* (plus about **\$850** for the full board of instruction). Only professionals — elite soldiers, police **SWAT** teams, high-profile security agents — have been allowed to learn this life-saving stuff...

### Until Now!

Why now? Because, after about a year of intense negotiation, we convinced Bob and Randy to go into a video studio and — taking as long as they needed — produce the **first video package ever** of their most trustworthy techniques for facing an armed attacker bare-handed.

And they did just that. After weeks of filming and editing, they created the only package in existence for people (like you) outside the world of professional warriors. **Yet they pulled no punches in presenting their new fighting system!** What you get here is all their best techniques, best advice, and best training methods!

**Here's what you get in this amazing, just-released video package:**

\* **4 full-length videos** (almost 5 solid hours) — teaching you all the advanced combat techniques for instantly disarming and disabling (bare-handed) any assailant coming at you with a gun, club or knife (the most common weapons you'll see on American streets)!

\* Included is the famous "**Dirty Tricks**" video of Bob and Randy's favorite moves — really sneaky ways to manipulate and "put down" any attacker before he knows what happened... and keep him down until help arrives or you decide an "alternative" course of action! Even trained street fighters *twice your size* will go down fast — and *stay* down — with these astonishing fighting secrets!

\* **Plus**, you get your specially-made "**replica**" gun... yours **FREE** just for ordering the video tapes.

The techniques you will discover on these tapes are the *identical* ones taught to elite soldiers, **SWAT** team cops and high-security personnel...

### With One Important Difference!

In these videos, you get the incredible advantage of seeing everything via **3 separate cameras** (mounted stage left, right, and overhead)... so you get *multi-angles* and *slow-motion repetitions* of each and every move! This means you get an increased understanding... and you'll follow a faster "learning curve" than even the professionals get during a seminar!

This is no Hollywood B.S.... these are real techniques used by cops and soldiers! **And make no mistake** — this stuff should *only* be used when you are faced with what the professionals call "**Condition Red**": The point where you have **absolutely** decided that your assailant has already made the choice to harm you... *and you must act to save your life!*

That's what this tape package is all about. You, ultimately, have to take responsibility for yourself, and for your actions. We can't do that for you. Neither can we guarantee that what you learn here will make you invulnerable to harm — that would be a stupid claim, and you would be a fool to believe it. No, what you have here is an **OPTION**. You are giving yourself one more (powerful) choice in this crazed, dangerous world — the choice to not be a vulnerable victim who has no idea what to do... even though you know that certain harm is imminent!

I don't rob people. I don't like to hurt anyone, and I don't like to see other people get hurt. It sickens me that the criminal element has taken over our streets, and is invading homes with impunity. That *sucks* — and I, for one, am damned glad to have tools like these to *take back* my little piece of the world.

And I believe you feel the same way.

That's why I want you to see these tapes for yourself. Right now.

**Here's the deal:** All you need to do is call my office at **1-800-899-8153** and ask for department 12-G (that's a toll-free call and won't cost you a cent) and tell the person who answers that you want the "**Fighting Chance**" video package... along with your free replica

gun. Have your credit card ready. Or, if you prefer to pay by check or money order, simply fill out the "Priority Order Form" below and mail it with your payment to:

**Tactical Response Solutions**  
2945 South Mooney Blvd., Dept. 12-G  
Visalia, CA 93277

The cost of this incredible package is just \$97 — that includes everything (including shipping and handling charges within the continental United States)... and you have a...

**Full 3 Month Risk-Free  
Money-Back Guarantee!**

If you aren't satisfied with this package — for any reason at all — just send it back and I will rush your refund back by return mail. I trust your judgement here. I wouldn't be writing to you otherwise.

And, you get to KEEP the gun, even if you decide to return the videos! Consider it a gift, just for giving these astonishing tapes a "trial run".

**But you do need to hurry!** Even though we have many allies in the military and law enforcement "brotherhood" who support our attempts to "de-victimize" civilians, you should know there are many others who are scared to death with the idea of giving these secrets away. We have already been "stopped" by the U.S. Navy for offering another product... and the truth is, there are no guarantees this product won't be "stopped" also.

If that happens, you won't be able to get this information at any cost, anywhere. So, you see, it's very important that you order now, while you have this letter in your hands... and don't risk having these tapes withheld from you!

Sincerely,



Dr. R.L. Horine

P.S. One last thing — it's important. Please read these "testimonials" now.

**For The Fastest Service Use Your Credit Card And Call Toll-FREE  
1-800-899-8153 (Ask For Department 12-G)**

**PRIORITY ORDER FORM FOR Soldier of Fortune READERS**

**YES!** I'm ready to take responsibility for my own self-defense in this increasingly-dangerous world! Please rush me the "Fighting Chance" video package... including my FREE training gun! I understand I have a complete **100% Money Back Guarantee**: If I'm not satisfied for any reason, all I need to do is send the tapes back and you'll mail my refund back by return mail. And I get to KEEP the training gun, just for giving this astonishing package a "trial run".

→ \_\_\_\_\_ By initialing this line, I am stating that I am over 18 years of age and that I have never been convicted of a felony. I also state that I will use the information contained in this video package in a defensive situation only. I accept sole responsibility for my actions as an adult.

I prefer to pay by credit card. Please charge my:

- Visa  MasterCard  
 American Express  Discover

Enclosed is my check (payable to TRS), for \$97.

Please rush my "Fighting Chance" video to:

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Tactical Response Solutions • 2945 S. Mooney Blvd. Dept. 12-G • Visalia, CA 93277

CA & VA residents add appropriate sales tax. Rush shipping available for additional charges of \$10 for "2-Day" shipping and \$15 for "Overnight" shipping.

# Here's What Professional Military and Law Enforcement People Are Saying...

*"In my 50 years of military combat experience no one has done the hands-on research of being unarmed against a live weapon... until now! Study and master this tape. It will either save your life or save you years of imprisonment as - POW."*

**Major General John K. Singlaub, USA (Ret.)**

*"In today's violent society, everyone faces the possibility of staring down the barrel of a gun. ... Without a doubt this is the most viable and practical system of weapons disarmament in existence."*

**Colonel Fred Caristo, USA (Ret.)**

*"...The techniques presented are designed to save lives and give you the self confidence that goes hand in hand with the performance of dangerous duties."*

**Thomas J. Carter Jr.**, former DELTA force team leader

*"These guys have 'broken the code' on making these frighteningly-effective skills very simple to learn and easy to use under adverse conditions in the street."*

**Jim Stalnaker**, 26 years with the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department, (homicide, SWAT team leader), now teaching advanced "high risk" skills to U.S. military, federal, state and local agencies.

*"I can testify to the saving of two officers whose lives were saved because of (Randy and Bob's disarmament techniques)."*

**Bog Dugan**, President, Executive Security International, LTD. (Aspen, CO.)

*"The knowledge in these four videos could save your life."*

**Neil C. Livingstone**, author and expert on terrorism and national security

*"There are too many charlatans out there teaching stuff that doesn't work. This, I believe, will work on the street."*

**Greg Walker**, former Green Beret, editor of *Fighting Knives* magazine.

*"These are the best training tapes I have viewed to date. I give them two thumbs up!"*

**Al Voikides, Jr.**, President Hawk East-Cop/Stk products, manufacturers of law enforcement defensive tactics equipment.

*"My beat for 12 years was the 'war zone' of Compton — where the LA riots ignited... With this new, easier training, I would have had a fraction of the physical problems taking suspects down that I did. This is real-life information that will work in the street."*

**Steve McMorris**, who survived 7 officer-involved shootings in ten years as a Compton police officer.

*"...The joint breaking techniques on this tape alone are perhaps the most powerful fighting tools you could have on your side."*

**Phillip Morrison**, demolitions/anti-terrorist/crowd control expert, Director of Uniformed K-9 division.

*"As a Police Officer with a 21 years of experience. I have had the opportunity to review various forms of training for Law Enforcement Officers. The methods that Bob Taylor teaches are easy to learn and retain and are practical for street officers."*

**Dave Kwiatkowski**, Cleveland Police Department

*"Every law enforcement officer can enhance his or her survivability with this series."*

**Glenn P. Johnson**, Over 8 years as a law enforcement officer and K-9 Handler

*"This series of illustrated training videos are, without a doubt, among the best available today. I consider the information to be pertinent to anyone that might encounter an armed bad guy... with nothing but hands or feet for defense. It is my opinion that every active-duty law enforcement officer should have access to this video series. These videos will save lives!"*

**Dave Chatellier**, CEO of "A Place To Shoot", 20 years active military service, 13 years Civilian Special Operational Services.

by Peter G. Kokalis

The idea for the .50-caliber Browning Machine Gun (BMG) was born in 1918 in the trenches of France. "Black Jack" Pershing, commanding officer of the American Expeditionary Forces, alarmed by the increasing use of armor on vehicles, tanks and even the individual soldier, sent an urgent cable to the War Department in April 1918. Pershing requested the development of a large-caliber, heavy machine gun with a bullet weighing no less than 670 grains, a muzzle velocity of at least 2,600 fps and an effective combat range of 6,000 meters.

Winchester commenced development of the ammunition for a weapon that John M. Browning had started to design in July 1917. The Winchester prototype featured a rimmed case. Pershing rejected this and demanded a rimless case. The ammunition project was then moved to Frankford Arsenal. Their first effort centered around a semi-rimmed case based on the German 13mm antitank cartridge. This was also rejected and a rimless cartridge obtained by scaling up the .30-06 case was eventually adopted.

Browning spent slightly more than a year from conception to successful firing of his .50-caliber machine gun. He retained the simplicity of his .30-caliber gun and all of its basic operating principles. To this he added an adjustable oil buffer (to regulate the cyclic rate and absorb excess recoil energy), spade grips, and a thumb piece to actuate the trigger bar. An air-cooled aircraft version of Browning's water-cooled heavy machine gun was fired on November 12, 1918 and was adopted in 1923 as the Model 1921. In 1933 it was renamed the M2. The ground, or infantry version, of this machine gun is called the caliber .50 HB (Heavy Barrel), M2. Its cyclic rate was lowered from 850 rpm to 550 rpm. It can be immediately distinguished from the aircraft ver-



Still the world's very best heavy machine gun, John Browning's .50-caliber M2 Heavy Barrel, fired here from the sturdy M3 tripod, has been brought to the highest possible levels of performance by important modifications introduced by FN Herstal. Photo: Peter G. Kokalis

sion by its long 45-inch barrel and short ventilated barrel support. The aircraft Browning has a 36-inch barrel enclosed within a full-length ventilated jacket.

Ma Deuce, as it has been affectionately called by the generations of snuffies protected by its awesome firepower, is belt-fed (from the left side in the ground role), recoil-operated and most certainly crew-served. It fires from the closed-bolt position — a mildly surprising distinction permitted by the massive heat reservoir its barrel and receiver group provide.

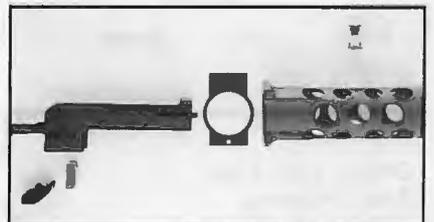
Both the weapon and its ammunition remain popular and cost-effective. The caliber .50 HB, M2 BMG is mounted on the turret of the U.S. M1 Abrams Main Battle Tank (MBT). It is still in service with the armed forces of at least 30 countries. Ammunition for this machine gun that comes close to the performance of 20mm automatic cannon rounds is now available at a fraction of their cost.

Ammunition types most commonly consist of ball, tracer, armor-piercing (AP), incendiary, armor-piercing incendiary (API) or armor-piercing incendiary tracer (APIT).

However, it was the Norwegian Raufoss Multi-purpose NM-140

round that brought Ma Deuce close to a 20mm automatic cannon in effectiveness. Publicly unveiled in 1983, this cartridge is identical to the weight, dimension and exterior ballistics performance of the U.S. M33 ball (662-grain projectile) cartridge.

But, the bullet has a hard core and is filled with RDX explosive, which delivers a combination of penetration, fragmentation and incendiary effects almost comparable to 20mm rounds. It can penetrate up to 11mm of armor plate from a distance of more than 880 yards at an angle of impact of 45 degrees, has significant fragmentation after penetrating the armor and also provides burning incendiary particles up to 15 meters behind the target plate. With



FN's M2HB QCB kit consists of a barrel extension, a ventilated barrel support with an installed guide stud and shim, an assortment of breech blocks, an accelerator and a barrel (not shown). Photo: courtesy FN Herstal

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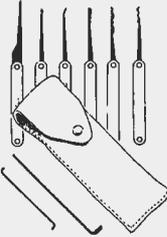
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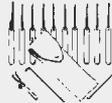
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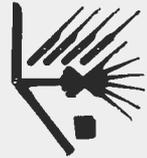
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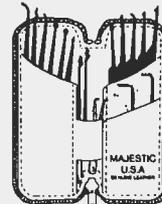
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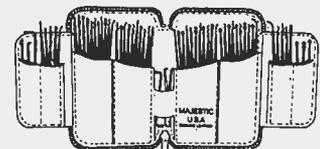
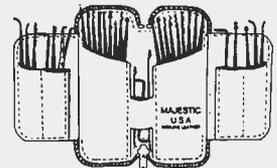


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- No rear bracket or pins- doesn't interfere with hand
- Internally threaded bushing replaces latch
- Fits all models
- Fits all stocks (no alteration required)
- Easy On and Off - no zero change
- Can be left off gun (spacer remains in gun)
- Matches gun's lines
- Alloy steel critical parts
- Locked adjustments
- Guaranteed best mount



### AK47/MAK90

(All Models - No Gunsmithing)

- Bolt & nut with threaded recesses replace pins
- Fits all models
- Fits all stocks (no alteration required)
- Rigid attachment attaches to both sides
- Matches gun's lines
- Easy On and Off - no zero change
- No interference with operation
- Can be left off gun
- Alloy steel critical parts
- Guaranteed best mount

Ask Your Dealer or Call



The Norwegian Raufoss round enhances the .50-caliber BMG's effectiveness against helicopters, low-flying aircraft, trucks and APCs. Photo: courtesy FN Herstal

this ammunition the .50-caliber (12.7x99mm) Browning machine gun gains added effectiveness against helicopters, low-flying aircraft, trucks and armored personnel carriers (APCs).

The .50-caliber BMGs and all of the .30-caliber Brownings (M1917, M1917A1, M1919A4 and M1919A6) were all provided with adjustable headspace. Headspace is that distance from the breech (bolt) face to the area of the chamber that prevents further forward movement of the cartridge case as the weapon is fired. For a rimless case, headspace is measured from the breech face to a specific point on the shoulder of the chamber, this distance varying with each caliber. Another definition of headspace for a rimless case is the distance between the face of the bolt and the base of the cartridge case, fully seated in the chamber.

Whichever definition you prefer, the important principle to understand is that if the headspace distance is too short, the bolt will not go into battery and the gun will not fire. If the headspace distance is too great, the case will set back violently and most often rupture, causing a serious stoppage at the very least and possibly damage to the gun and injury to the gunner.

Continued on page 62

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# COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

by Louis Awerbuck

## 12-Gauge Options

There seems to be no middle-of-the-road attitude toward shotguns — people either like them or dislike them. The latter is usually because of ignorance of how to manipulate the weapon, coupled with a lack of knowledge of ammunition capability and performance.

The shotgun has two advantages over most other shoulder-fired weapons — it delivers tremendous close-up power and has the ability to fire a wide variety of ammunition to suit varying tactical conditions. The basis of effective shotgun operation is a thorough knowledge of the ballistic capability of the many different loads available — and knowing what the weapon will *not* do in certain situations.

There are pros and cons to shotguns for defensive use, but there is no “one gun fits all situations” firearm. And while training with any gun is essential, it is absolutely mandatory with a shotgun. Knowledge of specific shot pattern sizes and slug trajectories at varying distances is a must and each

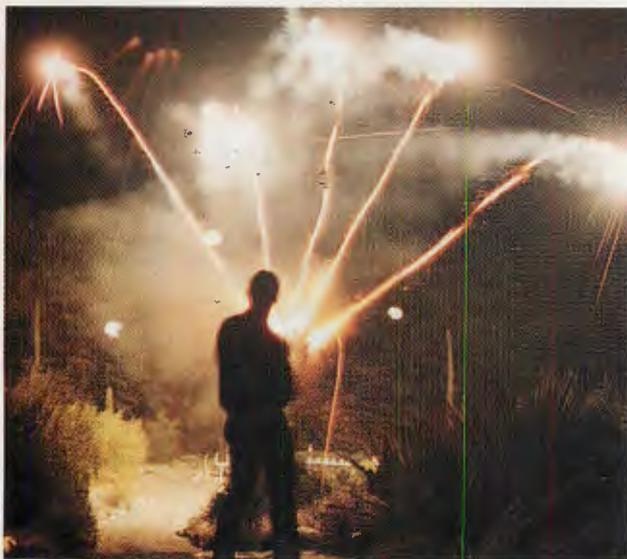
shotgun barrel will pattern differently than the next, irrespective of the nominal choke size. This, coupled with the shooter’s responsibility for the terminal resting place of every projectile, is what makes training and knowledge of the shotgun’s external and terminal ballistics so important.

There is a vast difference between wing or skeet shooting and shooting a human being, and the oft-misunderstood patterning data commonly leads to confusion in the

mind of a self-defense shooter as to the potential — or lack thereof — of his specific barrel combined with a specific shot load.

Conventional patterning is done at 40 yards. One round is fired at a large piece of paper (usually about 4-foot square). A 30-inch circle is then circumscribed around the *densest* part of the pattern. The pellet holes contained therein are then counted and a fraction taken of the total amount of pellets in that given load.

For example, if a nine-pellet 00 buckshot load were used, and six



Typical of specialty shotgun ammo available is this five-round string of Thunderflash 12-gauge rounds by Accuracy Systems, which provides diversion/distraction in a tactical situation. Photo: courtesy Accuracy Systems

of the pellets were in the 30-inch circle, you have just under 70% of the pellets hitting the target. This would conveniently give you the information that you have a full choke barrel with that manufacturer’s brand and shot size of ammunition. Unfortunately, this is, in essence, “cheating” the data. The *only* information you can achieve from this test is that you have full choke density in one area of the overall pattern where you have chosen to draw the circle.

Unless you have totally even pellet dispersal throughout the pattern (extremely rare), you could have a so-called full choke pattern containing a gap large enough for a jet to fly through.

In defensive shooting you need *all* of the pellets to impact your adversary, otherwise you will have stray pellets flying down the street — plus you may not have enough of the initial payload striking the target to get the job done. To reiterate, each and every shotgun barrel patterns differently at different distances, with different shot sizes and different brands of ammunition — guaranteed!

Winchester 00 will not pattern the same as Federal 00 in your barrel, and Remington 00 will not pattern the same as Winchester, etc. By the same token, X brand of 00 will not pattern the same as X brand of No.1 Buck, 000 — or any other shot size, for that matter. You *must* pattern your own barrel yard by yard with specific brands and shot sizes of ammunition before considering serious social work with your shotgun. Anything less is a liability both to yourself and others.

That’s the bad news. The good news is that the 12-gauge shotgun has a plethora of different ammunition types available for mission-specific situations, such as buckshot, gas, rubber pellets and slugs, lead slugs, string shot, “Avon” rounds for blowing door locks, and on and on *ad nauseam*. Obviously you can’t hump two tons of ammunition around with you, so you select the ammunition most likely to be required, considering your lifestyle or imminent mission.

A good example of the variety available in special-purpose 12-gauge rounds is the SPLLAT (Special-Purpose Low Lethality Anti-Terrorist) selection by Accuracy Systems Ordnance Corp.

*Continued on page 66*

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SOF 6/94

Text & Photos by Thomas M. Krupp

Late March 1972, aboard the USS Worden DLG-18 (a guided-missile destroyer, recommissioned in 1971 with advanced combat weapons systems). East China Sea, en route from homeport of Yokosuka, Japan, to the Gulf of Tonkin.

As we steamed south in the vicinity of Okinawa, an aircraft carrier overtook us going balls-to-the-wall. We then learned of the North Vietnamese 30 March offensive and followed the flattop at high speed. We were assigned a search and rescue station on the northern Gulf of Tonkin; an SH-3 rescue chopper was stationed aboard. Our skipper was Captain George Shick, a fine combat leader.

My morning started as an almost normal 0400 to 0800 Sunday Officer Of the Deck (OOD) watch. Arriving in the Combat Information Center (CIC) at about 0330, I found we were at modified general quarters. I was advised of air activity over the North and that we had launched our "angel." The helo had reported taking small-arms tracer fire from fishing vessels in our vicinity. The XO told me that from the signal bridge he could see the fires at Haiphong, about 50 miles away. Aircraft were reporting SAM-2 launches with great regularity. Both "Navy Red" and "Air Force Green" secure UHF channels were going absolutely nuts with traffic.

When I arrived on the bridge to relieve Lieutenant Junior Grade "Bebe" Graham, most of the enlisted watchstanders had already turned over. Bebe and I could see numerous aircraft as they headed to and returned from the coastline. He pointed out the USS *Higbee*, an aging destroyer that was our shotgun, on our beam at about five miles.

Bebe and I saw two streaks of light cross the bow of the *Higbee*. The lights disappeared, then so did the navigational lights of the *Higbee*. Bebe and I discussed this for a few seconds and decided to radio the *Higbee* and find out "WTF, over?"



Starboard side of USS Worden after she absorbed two Shrike anti-radar missiles fired by a "friendly" jinked-out jet jockey returning from a mission over Haiphong. Inset: Worden's fire control radars took hundreds of shrapnel hits — protecting all but one of the 50 men in CIC during the errant attack.

Before we could signal, the *Worden* was rocked by two almost simultaneous explosions. I remember running, in a crouch, toward the general quarters alarm: It didn't work. I then sounded the chemical alarm: It didn't work. Then I sounded the collision alarm: still no joy. The bosun mate of the watch came over and moved his mouth as if shouting — I had been temporarily deafened, but by now the entire crew was wide awake and speeding to their GQ stations.

Smoke filled the bridge and the deck was slippery with blood. Quartermaster Third Class Dewey Franklin had been writing the log. It read: 0356 *We've been hit*. A piece of shrapnel went through Dewey's hand, through the log and into the chart table.

The helmsman and lee helmsman were nowhere to be found. I took the helm and started to steer to the east. Bebe grabbed the engine order telegraph and signaled "all ahead emergency — standard" (that's, in effect, emergency half-speed to all you ground pounders.) The engineers lit off two more boilers to give us full power.

Bebe retained the deck, as I had the helm. We worried for a

second about the *Higbee*, which had been to our east. After a quick discussion, we decided not to worry about the *Higbee*; let them avoid us. After all, they had apparently seen something and didn't warn us.

The corpsmen reached the bridge and established an emergency triage station in the light locker between the bridge and

CIC. It was literally awash with blood. Bebe and I checked to see what was going on outside, then went to opposite bridge wings to check on the lookouts. No lookouts. They were either wounded and evacuated to sick bay, blown over the side or just gone.

We had lost two of our air search radars and all but one of our radio circuits — our air control channel with the chopper. The helo was relaying our situation to Command Task Force (CTF) 77 on Yankee Station. Still having no phone talker to the bridge, I used the speaker system, which the whole bridge could hear.

At this time, the radar operator saw a surface contact pick up speed from inside the fishing fleet. We passed the info to the weapons officer, who then got permission to open fire from the skipper. The contact paralleled us at about 30 knots and then turned in toward us, directly at our beam. I passed word, "Standby for torpedo attack from Skunk Alpha." The gunners reported a hit and a secondary explosion with our World War II-era, 3-inch, .50-caliber guns. The contact went

*Continued on page 69*

# SURVEILLANCE

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\*NOTICE: Transmitter kits require simple (10 minute) final assembly.



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- Body Wire Detector \$695 (ship/ins \$10)
- Complete Basic Countermeasures Kit \$1,495 (ship/ins \$35)
- Tap Nullifier. Jams telephone taps. \$695 (ship/ins \$10)

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Includes;

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- **Israeli Instinctive Combat Shooting Method.** One hour step by step lesson. Filmed in Israel. VHS. Retail \$49.95 **Limited Offer \$29.95** (ship/ins \$3).



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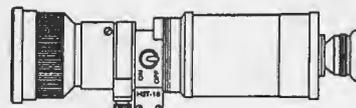


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# WORLD SITREP

1

## LIBYA

Promises withdrawal from the Aouzou Strip only after "making arrangements with Chad." Libya insists that 350 of its soldiers captured in 1987 and recruited by the CIA as an anti-Khadaffi army must be returned (where they face execution) as part of the settlement.

2

## NIGERIA

Brief skirmish with Cameroon army follows Nigerian deployment of troops into disputed (and oil-rich) Bakassi Peninsula.

France sends handful of paratroopers, two helicopter gunships and a frigate *La Vendemiaire* to Cameroon, but insists it is friends with both countries and wants them to resolve the crisis peacefully. Nigeria calls the French move a provocation but claims it is not scared because "France never won a war."

5

## NORTH KOREA

Is developing two new missiles. The Taepo Dong-1 is a two-stage missile with a projected range of 2,500km with a one-ton warhead. The Taepo Dong-2 is a two-stage missile with a range of 3,500km — long enough to reach the Philippines or the U.S. base on Guam. It is similar to the Chinese DF3, but China has denied providing any technology.

Refuses to allow inspection of nuclear sites; U.S. opts to resume Team Spirit wargames with South Korea and sends Patriot anti-missile missiles to Seoul.

6

## PHILIPPINES

Government continues trying to arrange peace talks, even allowing one Muslim leader to have 200 bodyguards if he attends. President Ramos predicts the communist rebels will collapse and the Moros will work out an autonomy deal. He orders the military to study the idea of suspending all operations against rebel groups.

14

9

## COLOMBIA

ELN rebels announce they will start kidnapping Americans for ransom as part of a war against imperialism.

U.S. Army engineers end their controversial deployment in Colombia without finishing the projects they started.

10

## AFGHANISTAN

Hekmatyar allows three aid trucks into Kabul after a personal appeal from U.N. Secretary-General Ghali.

Next day, Hekmatyar's forces fire rockets with cluster warheads into the market square where flour from aid convoy is being distributed, killing 10 and wounding 100.

2

13

## SOUTH AFRICA

Mandela vows there will be no white homeland created during his lifetime.

Twenty-one killed in Bophuthatswana (Bop) when police open fire on anti-government protesters.

Bop leader Mangope removed from power by South African troops, who take control of the "tribal homeland."

3

### IRAN

Complains to Russia about the two Kilo-class diesel submarines it purchased, claiming they have serious flaws in their electronic and radar systems. Iran suspends its order for a third submarine and asks India for technical and maintenance support.

Executes Israeli spy Fisulam Mechubad, who had been in prison for two years, in retaliation for the Hebron massacre.

4

### BOSNIA

Ten-minute exchange of machine-gun fire in Sarajevo triggered by Serbian mortar strike, indicating that at least one mortar is not under U.N. control. U.N. does not order air strikes, calling it a minor local violation.

Serb tanks fire on French positions near Bihac. French request air strikes, but authorization not received until the tanks had gotten away.

Every night 12 U.S. C-130 cargo planes, along with three German and one French C-160s, drop humanitarian supplies over Bosnia. Of the \$31 million the U.S. has spent on the airdrops, more than \$9 million has gone for the required parachutes.

7

### INDIA

Indian troops fire across cease-fire line in Kashmir, killing a child and wounding a woman.

Declares it will build a strategic railway into Kashmir, cementing its control over the rebellious province.

8

### CAMBODIA

Government troops drive Khmer Rouge out of their strongholds at Anlong Veng and Pailin. Cambodian military sources report losing six T-55 tanks during Anlong Veng campaign to German-made Armbrust and Swedish-made Carl Gustav antitank weapons.

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### YEMEN

Jordan and Oman send teams of officers to monitor cease-fire between northern and southern Yemenis, but clashes continue as more and more units move out of their garrisons to take up key positions. Southern units with tanks, heavy artillery and missiles move into Shabwah oil field (four billion barrels of oil reserves).

14

### BRITAIN

Abolished the Women's Royal Air Force on 1 April, moving the women into the regular RAF. Women's Royal Navy was disbanded last year, and there never was a Women's Army.

Disbanded RAF's 23 Fighter Squadron (Red Eagles). The unit had been in service since 1915.

Corporal Alexander Findlay received \$150,000 settlement from government for failing to treat him for stress from combat in the Falklands War.

13

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



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# SLICK WILLIE WATCH



## WHITewater TIMETABLE

For those confused over the current Whitewater scandal, here's a brief chronology of how it unfolded:

—1978: Whitewater Development Corp. formed by Clintons with friend and political ally James McDougal and his wife, to invest in land in the Ozarks.

—1984-85: The Clintons deduct on their income tax more than \$5,000 in interest payments on bank loans made for them by Whitewater; they later admit the deductions were improper, but do not repay the \$2,146 in tax savings because the "error" occurred more than three years earlier and they didn't get caught.

—1985: McDougal helps Clinton pay off \$50,000 debt from last gubernatorial campaign (money that

Clinton had loaned the campaign from his own funds). Federal investigators later question whether McDougal diverted depositors' money from his Little Rock-based Madison Guarantee Savings and Loan to help erase debt.

—1989: Failing Madison Guarantee seized by government at cost to taxpayers of \$47 million; Clinton's friend and benefactor McDougal is indicted on fraud charges, but is acquitted.

—March 1992: Clinton's convoluted ties to Whitewater and McDougal break in *The New York Times*; a day later Clinton tells reporters they lost \$25,000 in the joint venture, did nothing wrong.

—1992: Clinton's presidential campaign reports what it calls an independent report by a Denver

accounting firm that concluded Whitewater was a losing investment for the Clintons, who did nothing improper.

—Early 1993: Clintons learn that Whitewater tax returns had not been filed for previous three years; they assign job to Deputy White House Counsel Vincent Foster, an old friend from Little Rock, who files them in June 1993.

—July 1993: Foster is found dead of gunshot wound to the head, claimed to be suicide. Clinton aides immediately remove all Whitewater files from Foster's office and refuse to show them to police investigating the "suicide."

—Dec. 20, 1993: White House admits for the first time that Clinton's Whitewater files were removed from Foster's office 22 July,

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and turned over to Clinton's personal attorney David Kendall.

—Dec. 21, 1993: Hillary Clinton describes Whitewater as merely a bad real estate investment and questions why the media remains interested.

—Dec. 22, 1993: Republican Rep. Jim Leach of Iowa calls on Attorney General Reno to name a special prosecutor to investigate Whitewater: Reno later rejects the call.

—Dec. 23, 1993: White House says it is voluntarily turning over to Justice Department all documents relating to Whitewater; it later discloses it is doing so under a negotiated subpoena that effectively seals the documents in secrecy.

—Jan. 9, 1994: Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan of New York becomes first Democrat to join in asking for special prosecutor.

—Jan. 12, 1994: House and Senate Republicans ask for a special congressional committee to be established to investigate Whitewater. Shortly thereafter, Robert B. Fiske Jr. was named special counsel to investigate Whitewater.

—Mar. 4, 1994: FBI serves subpoenas on six senior Clinton administration officials, seeking testimony and documents related to Whitewater case, and for information on contacts between White House staff and Treasury officials relating to inquiry.

### WE'D LIKE TO KNOW, TOO

The farther we sink into this administration, the more we are convinced that this White House is to ethics what running into the wind with your mouth open is to nutrition. In spite of continual protests that "we did nothing wrong" (since-modified to "we did nothing illegal") now that Special Prosecutor Fiske has been assigned to peek under the slippery rocks of the Whitewater-gate affair, many researchers are offering helpful suggestions as to which rocks should be turned. New York attorney and writer Lynn Chu, writing in the March 1994 edition of *Commentary Magazine*, noted that regarding the Clintons' handing of their health-care stocks vis a

vis Hillary's position as the administration's health Czarina, "The double standard exhibited here by the press on behalf of the Clintons has been breathtaking."

Chu offers a fascinating litany of very specific issues which should be addressed by the special prosecutor. Comparing Whitewater-gate to Iran-Contra, Chu concludes, "the possible civil and criminal implications for the Clintons and their circle are far more detailed and extensive. They include (but are not limited to) various state, federal and governmental-agency ethics laws — several of criminal scope; bar ethics rules; bribery; corruption; abuse of office; solicitation; extortion; false statements; false books; failure to report taxes; tax fraud; violations of campaign-finance and public official disclosure laws; bank fraud; diversion of bank funds and embezzlement."

If the hard questions start being asked, we look for more Little Rock cronies to head on out. Are we being too optimistic, or do we perceive ships leaving a sinking rat? ✕

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#### "FLASHING" LED WARNS YOU INSTANTLY!



And, for maximum telephone security, the CSD-18 automatically analyzes a sophisticated series of electronic measurements along the telephone line and converts the analysis into an easy to follow, step by step, test procedure. No technical knowledge is required or necessary. A visual indication (via a flashing LED) immediately reveals the presence of the various types of telephone "taps" and the flashing sequence identifies the actual type of eavesdropping device.

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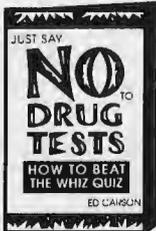
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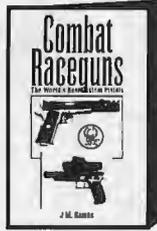
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# Second Amendment OP

by Jeff Nelson

This country is full of non-thinking do-gooders who supported or tolerated the efforts to pass the Brady Bill over the years, as an effort that would be "not too bad" and might do something about crime.

These stalwart Americans castigated those of us who took the "no compromise" stand and tried to hold the line against such worthless and burdensome restrictions. We were called all manner of names by the do-gooders and the nation's media, and told that we were an impediment to crime control. We replied that the Brady Bill would do nothing except unleash a frenzy of additional repugnant proposals. As a matter of fact, in the last years, even Sarah Brady and her chief henchmen in Congress joined in this description of the bill as a "first step."

With the ink barely dry on the Brady Bill, we have already been proven right. All manner of gun control proposals are being dumped in the hoppers of Congress and most state legislatures. This was not unexpected by those of us who have been there before.

Law enforcement chiefs across the nation, after begging the Congress to pass this law, to "give us a tool that we really need," are now crying that they are incapable of implementing it. This was brought out recently at a meeting of the executive officers and the Law and Legislative Committee of the National Sheriffs' Association in Washington, D.C. When asked how they got their butts in this sling, they weakly replied that they had only supported others: a sorry comment on the integrity of

# Comes The Feeding Frenzy

our nation's sheriffs, who supported unenforceable legislation solely to boost the efforts of some non-law enforcement group such as Sarah Brady and her fellow rabble at Handgun Control Inc. We deserve better from our law enforcement community.

The recently proposed budget by Slick Willie reveals some of his plans for the American people. He clearly states in his budget proposal that, "It is the policy of this administration to ban all semiautomatic firearms." Not "assault rifles," not high-capacity handguns ... but all semiautomatic firearms. No more seven-shot M1911A1 GI pistols, no more tube-fed semiauto .22 rifles, no more Remington 1100/11-87 shotguns (the most popular shotgun among

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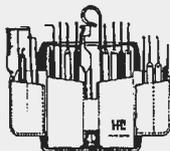
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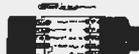


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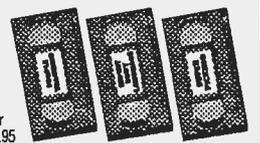
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## AYE ON LEGION

Colonel Hackworth's article "A Dirty Little Corps For Dirty Little Wars," (*SOF* March '94) recommending the creation of an American Foreign Legion was sound and well-argued. Unfortunately, given the tenor of American politics, it will never come to pass.

Any attempt to implement the creation of an AFL will be immediately attacked by the anti-American, left-leaning intelligentsia and their influential media mouthpieces as racist (using non-whites to fight America's battles), exploitative (taking advantage of impoverished eastern Europeans ...) and imperialistic (furthering American hegemony over the rest of the world).

And the U.S. Congress, that biological wonder of the modern world (535 members and not a pair of testes among them), would instantly take up the left's politically correct contention without any regard to the merits of the proposition.

Ed Rosenblum  
Brooklyn, New York

## MICKY MOUSE OUTFIT

I subscribe to Col. Hackworth's idea of an American Foreign Legion so long as it does not fall under the control of the United Nations or another group of New World Order groupies.

Certainly the branches of the military, with a few notable exceptions, are getting soft. One benchmark is that the U.S. Army is getting a new R&R facility at Walt Disney World in Florida. R&R from what? Then they have the nerve to question our intelligence and state that it won't cost the taxpayers one cent!

Now when someone says that the Army is a "Mickey Mouse" outfit, it will certainly have new meaning.

Richard A. Lord  
Brunswick, Maine

## NAY ON LEGION

In response to Hackworth's article proposing an American Foreign Legion, I can only wonder what he's been smoking. He ought to read up on the political history of mercenary and professional armies.

You cannot relieve the general citizenry of a military obligation without destroying the moral fiber of the nation. The quickest way to ruin our existing military would be to have foreign mercenaries fight all our dirty little wars.

Mercenary and career armies have been the moral suicide of every society that has relied on them. They tend to become both the private instruments of government and the tools of factions within a society used to control the government or intimidate the public. Look what "La Legion" did when De Gaulle sold out Algeria.

Our citizen military is not ideal from an operational standpoint, but is a necessary compromise between readiness and political stability. The Army of 1941, Hack's beloved Brown-Shoe Army, was in a pitiful state of readiness. Readiness has less to do with the nature of our citizen military, than with the nature of our civilian leaders. Come 1996 and a Republican president, we'll be ready to fight again.

John E. Kammeyer  
Lynwood, Washington

I cannot imagine the kind of conflict in which the president would commit an American Foreign Legion. If the conflict is so dirty that Marines, paratroops and Special Forces could not be committed, the American people would never allow the name of the United States to be sullied by sending in foreign mercenaries. It is up to the CIA to take care of these types of problems.

It is true that the United States has welcomed, under the Lodge Bill, foreign nationals to serve alongside Americans. Many Europeans served in the early years of

SF, and about 30,000 Canadians volunteered to serve during Vietnam. It is, however, wrong to say that the Vietnamese CIDG acted as a kind of foreign legion for America. The CIDG were not fighting for the greater glory of America and its empire because the men served their own country.

I quite agree that America needs some razor-sharp elite troops. But I thought the 82nd Airborne, Marines, Navy SEALs, Special Forces and Rangers had us covered. America, with only 4% of the world's population, cannot be expected to bear the burden of policing the other 96%. America is not France and the American people could find no use for an AFL.

Vincent J. Curtis  
Hamilton, Ontario

## RADICAL DIRTBAGS?

James L. Pate's coverage of the Waco scandal is excellent, but he should receive some FLAK for his characterization of MOVE as "a radical dirtbag group." He implies that bush-league fascists like Wilson Goode were justified bombing John Africa and 10 of his followers. The MOVErs may have been nutty as a handgun ban, but lack of outrage from whites, conservatives, anti-defamation groups and civil libertarians in 1985 made it that much easier for Janet Reno to get away with murder in 1993.

Angela Izzo-Peppe  
Gainesville, FL

## WACO MISSION A SUCCESS

"Executions or Mercy Killings?" (*SOF* March '94). It's true. They made no mistakes. They deployed in a military manner against American citizens; they slaughtered 80-plus people, committed acts of treason, murder and conspiracy to commit same. They've lied continually, tested the political waters for future and similar campaigns and only lost four brave, misguided, expendable and easily replaceable as-

sets; and they will get away with it.

If we understand the international socialist agenda of the power elite running this country, it's hard not to call the mission, from their point of view, a success.

If the heat gets a little high they'll throw us some yellow-livered piece-of-shit bureaucrat to quiet us down, but all-in-all, they'll get away with it. This country's in trouble guys, bad trouble, and it isn't coming from any street criminal.

Mark Schuckert

## ROGUE OR POGUE?

Having read *Rogue Warrior* and feeling the "d'jà vu" of the modern Army, I was more than a bit concerned to read "Pogue Warrior" in your March issue.

During my time in the Army, our first sergeant couldn't see beyond his own little kingdom. As a result, there was never any useful company-level training. Everything we did, we did on our own, usually without anybody's authorization. We soon learned to stop asking for combat-oriented schools, like air assault, or SRT, because not only were they always denied because of "no funds available," but we were also always instructed to take the newest version of "How to Counsel the Troops." We used our free time and personal funds to train and were the most hated team in the company; but we maintained the highest SQT and APFT scores.

I can't defend Marcinko, because I wasn't there; but after Desert Storm's policy of not allowing troops to have ammunition and requiring us to use M72 LAWs until the supply was used up, I had enough. Maybe Marcinko did piss off a lot of brass, so what! I've seen too many leaders not willing to take care of their troops, for his story not to sound true. Maybe he did embellish a bit to make the light shine on him, what author doesn't?

Marcinko makes one point abundantly clear — you can't be a good

sailor in a bad Navy. I can attest to that, as you can't be a good soldier in a bad Army, either.

Name withheld on request

## SUBTERFUGE & BIAS

Along with several of my ex-SEAL shipmates, I sent you a written request not to include my name or any action portrayed by me in any article that was intended to harm a SEAL team member. You apparently chose to ignore us because, in spite of our earnest request, Andradé's trumped up article on Marcinko's *Rogue Warrior* appeared in the March issue. This piece of garbage was a conspired effort to get back at Marcinko — I am ashamed to say — in concert



with one SEAL officer, by selectively resurrecting and surgically scrutinizing details of events that occurred up to 25 years ago.

For the record, this author is an unqualified, scum-sucking civilian leech, who actually believes that interviews gained through subterfuge then edited with bias and used for self-serving purposes will go unanswered by those of us he has used for his personal gain. He couldn't be more wrong.

With respect to you, Mr. Brown, and *SOF*, I find it particularly hard to digest the fact that you would side with the likes of Andradé. I was under the impression that those of us from SpecOps in all services carried some weight in your group. You apparently have no respect for our brotherhoods' mutual respect and camaraderie. This I would expect from Andradé; he only dreams of such things.

Along with Bill Bruhmiller, Frank Thornton and Jim Watson, all of

us used in the article, in spite of our written request not to be, hope you will print this letter as our disclaimer to Andradé's pitiful effort to hurt one of our shipmates.

Harry Humphries  
Huntington Beach, California

Dale Andradé replies:

*Harry Humphries accuses me of doing exactly what Richard Marcinko did in his book Rogue Warrior: harm "our shipmates" for "self-serving purposes" and "personal gain." Actually, none of these were my motives. I simply wanted to show that there is a counter-version to Marcinko's Vietnam memories.*

*Starkly absent from Humphries' letter is any mention that the facts presented in my article are untrue. That alone speaks volumes. But though Humphries could not find any errors, there are at least two. First, Jim Watson was not the platoon radioman, but rather the point man. Second, there were at least two other people on the roof with Ted Risher: Gordy Boyce, Marcinko's assistant platoon leader and Dennis Drady.*

*Humphries believes that my interview with him was "gained through subterfuge and edited with bias." When I phoned Humphries, I told him I was writing an article on Marcinko in Vietnam and that as part of it I wanted to tell the true story about the death of Ted Risher. All of my questions to Humphries were about what Marcinko claimed in his book as opposed to what Humphries recalled. On every occasion Humphries told me that Marcinko's version was wrong. He also said that he lamented Marcinko's falsehoods, but stood by his commander; both of these points were faithfully reproduced in my article. I regret that Humphries believes I misled him; I had no such intention.*

*The bottom line is this: Marcinko is, in the words of several former SEALs, "a major bullshitter," but he also did many important things during his career. The formation of SEAL Team Six and the Red Cell program are the two most prominent, but there were others. I give him full credit for all that. My concern is with the bullshitter part. ✕*

# JUDGMENT DAY:

by James L. Pate

Willie Nelson's T-shirt said it all: *Down with Nazi Mentality*. The timing was right, too: 2 March — Texas Independence Day. Backstage after an Austin gig, the venerable singer/songwriter congratulated several defense lawyers celebrating victory in the Branch Davidian trial in San Antonio. But their jubilation was short-lived, Willie's message unheeded.

A week later, in a move that would make any Nazi tribunal proud, U.S. District Judge Walter S. Smith Jr. issued a post-trial ruling that defense lawyers said "smacks of vindictiveness." If Lady Justice can't see, it's because Walter Smith robbed her blind. But vengeance is his, sayeth the judge.

In a cruel twist to the end of a strange and terrible saga, Smith reinstated guilty verdicts on a weapons charge against seven of the 11 defendants. Six of the seven had faced

maximum 10-year sentences. The seventh, a woman named Ruth Riddle, had been acquitted of all other charges. Now she and the others face up to 30 years in prison. If Smith's record is any indication, he will impose the maximum.

Minutes after the jury returned on 26 February, the judge threw out the convictions on that gun charge. Sputtering in frustration as he read the verdict, Smith said the jury had misunderstood his instructions. He said he dismissed the verdicts on count three because they were predicated on the murder and conspiracy charges of counts one and two, of which all defendants were acquitted.

It made sense. How could people be guilty of carrying a weapon in the commission of a crime that the jury said they did not commit? All 11 Branch Davidians were found innocent of aiding and abetting the murders of four Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents and conspiring in those murders. *The New York Times* said the acquittals were

"a resounding warning against the use of excessive force by law enforcement."

Visibly stunned by their defeat, prosecutors Ray Jahn and Bill Johnston did not object to Smith's dismissal of the count-three verdict. Meeting moments later with the press, Johnston's eyes brimmed with tears as he vowed that "these agents did not die in vain." Never mentioning the scores of innocent people who'd also died as a result of the botched ATF raid, Johnston went on "to encourage law-enforcement officers across this wonderful nation of ours, especially the ATF, to keep their chin up."

Johnston probably feels a personal responsibility to avenge the deaths of the four agents. He may be haunted by a gnawing guilt over those deaths. If he's not, he should be. Because blustering, blubbing Bill Johnston bears much responsibility for the ATF's decision to launch a military-style raid against a home where scores of women and children lived; a vain-

Posing for posterity, an unidentified federal agent strikes a study stance next to the undercover house used by FBI negotiators as the women and children of Mount Carmel burn to death in the background. Either this guy is wrapped a little tight, or his soft body armor is too snug. Boy, won't his grandchildren be proud! Photo: FBI



Defenders of freedom, the Branch Davidian defense team, from left: John Carroll, Tim Evans, Doug Tinker, Stanley Rentz, Mike DeGeurin, Richard Ferguson, Dan Cogdell, Gerry Morris, Jeff Kearney, Steve Rosen and Joe Turner. Among the best trial attorneys in Texas, it was sometimes a battle of egos in which no clear leader emerged. Much of their case was made via highly skilled cross-examination of government witnesses. Photo: James L. Pate



# THE WACO TRIAL, PART II

glorious publicity stunt that ultimately claimed the lives of almost 100 people and became the biggest disaster in U.S. law enforcement history.

As early as 4 December 1992, trial testimony reveals, Johnston was meeting with ATF leaders to discuss the best way to arrest Branch Davidian leader David Koresh on gun charges. ATF Special Agent Bill Buford, the only agent who had any experience with a raid operation of that size, suggested a low-key approach that would not risk the safety of all concerned.

Johnston balked. He gave the ATF an ultimatum: Either choose the military-style raid option other agents favored, or he would not support search and arrest warrants. (Such bravery comes easy for Johnston, whose most dangerous daily challenge is keeping his spindly fingers out of the automatic pencil trimmer.) The ATF has a proven penchant for choosing battering rams over brain power anyway. Johnston's challenge was chum in the water.

**Thumbs up:** ATF super sleuth Davy Aguilera on his way to the biggest disaster in U.S. law enforcement history. Dated and timed, this photograph is taken from a videotape showing a grinning Aguilera on his way to the Waco raid in a military helicopter. Although case agent, Aguilera had too many credibility problems to be put on the witness stand. Photo: ATF



Given the horrifying conclusion of the raid and 51-day standoff, how satisfying it must have been for Johnston and Ray Jahn, the lead prosecutor, to be the 11th-hour saviors of their own failed prosecution. On 28 February, the first anniversary of the ATF raid, they filed a motion asking Smith to reinstate the guilty verdict he had dismissed two days earlier.

"The government still does not understand that it is not above the law," said Riddle's defense attorney, Joe Turner. Especially when "the law" ceases to be an impartial instrument of social will — but is perverted by cowardly men acting under the dark robes of ersatz justice into a weapon of revenge.

How ironic that this mean-spirited travesty of justice would occur within rifle shot of the Alamo, our history's starkest symbol of unflinching bravery. Smith had a choice between the right decision — his first impulse — and the easy way out, one that would please the Justice Department and his pious neighbors in Waco. Smith, who

has far less testicular fortitude than did the Alamo's defenders, went home a safe, happy little man.

Smith's willingness to deliver the goods is not surprising. His treachery was the only way for the government to save face, salvage some sense of victory and mend ranks badly divided by the case.

"You guys are just lucky you weren't up against a real prosecutor," Smith grouched to defense attorneys while Jahn spoke to the press a few feet away. It was not the first time during trial that Smith had vented his obvious dislike for Jahn.

Such soap opera is instructive, for it casts light into the inner workings of the Justice Department as a political snake pit. In Smith's eyes, Jahn had jerked the rug out from under Smith's protege, boyish Billy Johnston. Johnston had been lead prosecutor, but was relieved because his cry-baby antics during the 51-day standoff — he complained that FBI agents "always get what they want" — didn't

"Herman the German," an unidentified member of the FBI's Hostage Rescue Team, poses jauntily next to his primary rescue device, a .308-caliber sniper rifle, outside Mount Carmel. The HRT has overseen a lot more tragedy than triumph. Instead of correcting obvious problems, though, the Justice Department is giving the HRT more men and more money. Citizens can expect more Wacos and more Idahos. Photo: FBI



sit well in Washington.

Jahn was named as lead prosecutor, thus maneuvering himself into the limelight of a major case. The only other murder case Jahn ever tried was an easy one. He successfully prosecuted the assassin of U.S. District Judge John Wood, namesake of San Antonio's futuristic federal courthouse and the only federal judge in history to be murdered in retribution for a conviction.

Just as Smith has been Johnston's mentor, so did Jahn and his wife, also an assistant U.S. attorney, have a Lord Protector. Theirs was William Sessions, a former Waco lawyer who was a federal judge in Texas before becoming director of the FBI. Sessions' career began listing badly after taking the helm of the FBI. The

"I intend to write Judge Smith a letter saying I would never have voted that way if I had known it was connected to count one," one juror, 69-year-old Jeanette Felger of New Braunfels, told *The Dallas Morning News*. "I don't want to see Ruth Riddle in jail. I thought she had already been sent back to Canada."

Riddle, detained by immigration officials after her acquittal, was within hours of flying home when Smith reversed himself. She now faces up to 30 years in prison. Her other attorney, Terry Kirk, said the reversal amounts to double jeopardy: "Before the judge accepted the verdict, he — with the consent of the prosecutor — set the verdict aside."

It was the crowning farce of many inconsistencies by the government in

Why, if the Davidians wanted to "ambush" ATF agents, would Martin beg more than 25 times in the 911 call for the feds to quit shooting? The cease-fire took almost two hours because each time Lynch convinced the Davidians to quit shooting, the ATF would open fire again, seeking to press the advantage.

When it came time for final arguments, Smith allowed defense lawyers to use the issue of self-defense against law enforcement officers, the first time such an argument had been allowed in a federal court in Texas. Unfortunately, because of his many rulings against the defense, there were few facts in evidence with which to argue the issue. The jury understood anyway.

Smith also forbade the jury from hearing other interesting tape-recorded tidbits, such as references in the 911 call to government helicopters firing on the building, known as Mount Carmel. Wayne Martin: "Another chopper with more people, more guns going off. Here they come. They're firing."

### Blindfolding Justice ... And The Jury

Most disturbing, though, were sounds and conversation recorded from several FBI eavesdropping devices inside Mount Carmel. On 19 April, the day of the fire, the sounds of grumbling tank engines and clanking tracks could be heard, followed by the sound of splintering wood and crashing walls as the FBI knocked the building down and sprayed poison clouds of chemicals inside.

Also audible were men and women praying fervently, and little children — all of them now dead — crying out in terror for mom and dad. This heart-wrenching drama was occasionally drowned out by the Orwellian loud-speaker voice of FBI Special Agent Byron Sage, repeating over and over, "This is not an attack. This is not an attack."

Jurors heard none of it. Smith ruled these and other passages inadmissible because they "might prejudice the jury against the government."

Nor did jurors hear FBI surveillance tapes from 18 April, the day before the fire. That's when Branch Davidians began discussing the spread of fuel around the compound. But as



From left, Harvard-educated attorney Wayne Martin and former University of Hawaii theology professor Steve Schneider negotiate face-to-face with FBI Special Agent Byron Sage and McLennan County Sheriff Jack Harwell in front of Mount Carmel. Neither Martin nor Schneider survived. Harwell, who had dealt successfully with the Branch Davidians in the past, was not consulted prior to the ATF's raid — he was called in to get stalled FBI talks going again. As it turned out, the FBI was less inclined to talk than to take action. Photo: FBI

Waco disaster hit like a torpedo below the waterline. (A portrait of Judge Sessions was removed from the courtroom just before the Branch Davidian trial.) Sensing that their own careers and political fortunes might be in danger, the Jahns abandoned their old benefactor, fleeing down the ratlines of his sinking ship.

The personal animosity between Smith and Johnston on one side and the Jahns on the other was barely disguised at the trial. Only the chance of getting one more pound of flesh from the Branch Davidians could pull them together again. It did not sit well with jurors who talked to the press.

an eight-week trial that included testimony from 133 witnesses and more than 1,400 pieces of evidence, most of it from the prosecution.

Most evidence suggesting the Davidians acted in self-defense was excluded by the judge. In the 911 call that Harvard-educated attorney Wayne Martin made moments after the ATF raid began, Martin stated unequivocally that the Branch Davidian retreat had come under "attack," that "I have a right to defend myself. They started firing first." Martin pleaded with Lieutenant Larry Lynch of the McLennan County Sheriff's Department to "call it off."

these and other tape recordings make clear, the goal was not suicide — it was a last-ditch defensive plan. The Davidians decided that if the FBI attacked the building with tanks, they would spread fuel *to set the tanks on fire*. Which, because the FBI knew this, makes the government's decision to launch a tank attack the very next day all the more reckless. Or suspiciously calculated. The FBI also said its electronic surveillance devices inside Mount Carmel malfunctioned four minutes before the building caught fire. What an *amazing* coincidence!

What is even more amazing is that the Justice Department took so much time and spent so much money to call so many witnesses who ultimately shed so little new light on what happened during those 51 days outside Waco.

The standoff cost taxpayers an estimated \$13 million, not including the cost incurred by local public safety agencies and the Texas Rangers. By verdict time, the trial had cost another \$1.3 million, including \$85,000 in travel and \$430,000 in salaries and benefits for court personnel. Yet to be tallied, though, were the totals for air fare, lodging and meals for the 125 prosecution witnesses, and sequestering of the jury



Burnt bodies marked with small flags lie amid collapsed ceiling and charred small arms ammo in "bunker" at Mount Carmel. Photo: FBI

in a hotel during deliberations.

Another question is what happens to the tons of paperwork, video and audio recordings and thousands of photographs collected by government agents? The great bulk of records on the Waco disaster — those that haven't been shredded or "lost" — remain under government lock and key, not part of the public domain because they were not used as evidence.

For instance, the smoke from the shoot-out had barely cleared when the ATF claimed it possessed videotape evidence that would conclusively prove that peaceful, law-abiding agents were about to knock on the front door, announce they had a lawful search warrant and politely request entry when they were wantonly ambushed by blood-thirsty religious zombies.

Why would prosecutors so eager to lock up the defendants for as long as possible not introduce such evidence? The alleged ATF video, if it ever existed, has not been seen in public. (The ATF, like the FBI, later claimed that their equipment failed at a crucial moment.)

While not conclusively proven, testimony by the government's own witnesses indicates that the agents shot first: ATF Special Agents Roland Ballesteros and Eric Evers told Texas Rangers the feds fired first, even though they changed their stories by the time they got to court.

### Cop A Plea, Go To Jail

Kathryn Schroeder, a star government witness, gave testimony indicating the ATF fired first. One of 12 Branch Davidians originally charged, she pleaded guilty in exchange for a reduced sentence, which ironically, may be as long or longer than her fellow-defendants. Her duty as kitchen manager resulted in her having a room on the front side of the ground floor, four windows south of the front doors. She had taken her

two young boys, Brian and Jacob, to her room to dress them. She was changing a diaper right under the window when she noticed a commotion of men and moving vehicles at the undercover house across the road. Then she saw two pickup trucks turn and barrel up the driveway pulling cattle trailers.

After they stopped in front, "a lot of men were jumping out," Schroeder testified, "people with dark clothing;



Branch Davidian defendants Kevin Whitecliff (left), Graeme Craddock (without shirt) and unidentified man dig grave for Peter Gent, whose body is under red cover, killed by ATF snipers during Waco assault. Burial detail was conducted under watchful eyes of FBI snipers. Photo: FBI

I couldn't tell if it was blue or black. I couldn't see any emblems or badges, but I could see they had guns pointed and they were running up the walk. Almost immediately, I heard gunfire." As she rushed to finish the diaper job, she and the toddlers were sprayed by flying glass as gunfire shattered the window, "from top to bottom, at least six rounds."

Marjorie Thomas, who almost died in the fire, testified that she was in her room with four other women when "I saw my friends looking out the window... The way they were looking out the window was unusual."

Thomas' testimony is significant because her room window faced north. ATF agents in the cattle trailers approached from the west, while a sniper team in a barn covered the east, or rear side, of Mount Carmel. No agents had yet been deployed on the ground on the north side of the building.

As Thomas peered out to see what had riveted her friends' attention, "I saw three helicopters approaching. The one in front had very bright lights shining at us. It was very close. I could see a man leaning out of one side. As it came closer, I heard a sound. It was a bullet coming through

the window blinds next to me.”

Jack Zimmermann, a Houston attorney whose client, Steve Schneider, died in the fire, testified seeing incoming bullet holes in the ceiling during one of his visits inside Mount Carmel during the standoff (see “What the Feds Don’t Want You to Know About Waco,” *SOF* Oct. ’93).

During the seven weeks of testimony, most defense attorneys barely mentioned Koresh. Others sought to blame him, arguing that their client was being asked to shoulder responsibility for Koresh’s wrongs. Others, like Joe Turner of Austin, stated the belief that Koresh was mentally ill, but then blamed the government for knowing that and provoking him anyway.

“They backed a paranoid, delusional character like David Koresh into a corner, and then when he acted like a nut, they’re surprised,” Turner said.

When it came to final arguments, the facts of the case became overshadowed by highly charged, sometimes bitterly personal emotional appeals. Prosecutor Johnston stirred up a hornet’s nest at the defense table when he called defendant Paul Fatta

“a blood merchant,” Kevin Whitecliff “a sniveling coward” and the defense attorneys “a pack of hyenas.”

“Coming from you, sir, I consider it a high compliment,” retorted Dan Cogdell, whose client, Clive Doyle, was set free — from the same courtroom where he’d taken the oath of a U.S. citizen a few years earlier. Cogdell attacked “government arrogance... the belief that as long as they have a badge and a gun that they can do anything they want.

“The law does not begin and end at ATF press conferences,” said Cogdell, condemning the ATF for “acting like a bunch of GI Joes” who

raised the blue ATF flag over the ashes of Mount Carmel “like they’ve won some sort of war ... like they’ve claimed some sort of victory out of the ashes of 90 deaths.”

Defense attorney Mike DeGeurin also took a moment from his final argument to respond to Johnston’s personal attack: “It’s like my granddaddy always told me. When you’ve been kicked by an ass, you consider the source.” As for Johnston, “I can’t be concerned about the flies around my ass.”

“This shouldn’t have happened,”

DeGeurin told the jury. “You all know that. It shouldn’t have happened. We shouldn’t be trying to justify it ... It’s because they’re different and they had guns and they criticized the ATF that this plan grew ... the largest military assault on a civilian group in the history of the United States ... and the local sheriff wasn’t even involved.”

Whatever the status of David Koresh’s mental health might have been, DeGeurin said, when it

came to the preacher’s repeated warnings that the ATF is out of control, “I’m not so sure that he was that far off the mark.”

Jurors later said their finding of guilt against five clients for a lesser charge of aiding and abetting voluntary manslaughter reflected their conclusion that neither side was blameless. But in that guilty verdict, the jurors also determined that the five acted in the heat of passion and had been provoked by the ATF.

That may be a logical and just decision, but it is not a conclusion. The finding of provocation points

back to the issue of who fired first. Logic suggests that if these five men were provoked to commit a crime, then the people or group that provoked them also violated the law.

### A Universal Standard?

Justice is not done until the guilty — all of the guilty — are tried and punished. If it hopes to maintain legitimate power, our government, which routinely exempts itself from its own laws, must hold lawmen to the same standard as everyone else. The federal government’s refusal to acknowledge that it committed any wrong only further erodes its credibility and legitimacy.

Viewed in this light, the Branch Davidian trial verdict was only half-fair, at best. It is a case half-over. Now it’s time for ATF Special Agents Phil Chojnacki, Chuck Sarabyn, Ted Royster and Davy Aguilera; FBI Special Agents Jeffrey Jamar, Dick Rogers and Lon Horiuchi to answer for *their* crimes. They, too, should stand before the bar of justice to be judged by a jury of their peers.

Unfortunately, bureaucrats seldom see citizens as their equal anymore, but rather an “enemy” to be subjugated at whatever the cost of innocent lives. There can be no justice if guilty federal agents go unpunished for their crimes in Waco, Idaho and elsewhere.

Without justice, there can be no closure on these tragedies, and without closure, citizens are doomed to again endure such outrageous excesses, which gravely threaten the liberty of all law-abiding citizens. To ignore it now will hearken the day when frustrated, freedom-loving people will no longer respect the authority of their government; will no longer seek justice by peaceful means in a court of law, but will be forced to fight for it, empowered by force of arms, in the bloody streets.

The thought of such an outcome makes rational people shudder. It makes arrogant, power-mad bureaucrats sneer in contempt. But that is the way this country was born. Pray it is not how we perish.

*James L. Pate covered the Mount Carmel standoff and subsequent inferno for SOF last year, and was present for the entire trial this year. ✕*



U.S. District Judge Walter Smith, left, and his protege, Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Johnston, leave the courthouse in San Antonio before a verdict that left Johnston nearly in tears. Smith and Johnston later conspired to rob Lady Justice, reinstating guilty verdicts that Smith had dismissed. Smith blamed lackluster prosecution on Johnston’s colleague, Ray Jahn. Photo: James L. Pate

# SEEING REDS

## SOG and Soviets Mix It Up In Southeast Asia

by Isaac Staats



One of the many well-kept secrets of America's "secret war" in Laos, Cambodia and North Vietnam was the involvement of Russian personnel.

Nobody knows this more than the American Green Beret and special operations troops who ran top secret missions under the auspices of the Military Assistance Command Vietnam — Studies and Observation Group, commonly referred to simply as MACV-SOG. The majority of MACV-SOG teams ran clandestine missions into Cambodia, Laos, North Vietnam and Burma. The Air Force personnel who flew support for them were also

Special Forces spike/recon teams used CH-34 Choctaws — code-named Kingbees — for infil and exfil on many of their secret operations (left). On one such op, a Russian look-alike, probably a Mil Mi-4 (right), using accurate radio direction-finding technology attempted to slip in and kidnap a team awaiting pickup. Photos: SOF File

keenly aware of Ivan's presence.

Perhaps the most bizarre tale of Ivan's travels in Southeast Asia — all of which were denied by the USSR at the time — was when the Russians attempted to kidnap an entire MACV-SOG recon team that was running missions at the time out of Forward Operating Base 3 (FOB-3) at Khe Sahn.

The time of the incident was late 1967 or early 1968. Khe Sahn, burned into the American conscience because of the NVA siege in 1968, was home

to FOB-3, a top-secret outpost funded by the intelligence community where Americans and key indigenous troops ran six- and eight-man reconnaissance teams and larger company-sized elements called Hatchet Forces. They operated in North Vietnam, Laos or the DMZ, just a short distance north of Khe Sahn.

Pat Watkins was a team leader (one-zero) running missions out of FOB-3 at the time of the attempted kidnapping, and he talked with the

one-zero who had the close encounter with Ivan.

Watkins doesn't remember the exact circumstances that led to the recon team (at that time they were called spike teams) requesting an exfiltration from the target area, but Watkins and Sergeant Pete Boggs, also stationed at Khe Sahn at the time, both remember that the team leader requested an extraction after making contact with NVA troops. "The one-zero told FOB-3 to send the Kingbee helicopters [Vietnamese-piloted CH-34 Choctaws] to the primary LZ," Watkins told me recently.

"The radio operator told him the Kingbees would be at the LZ in 30 minutes." In approximately 15 minutes, the recon team approached the LZ and heard a helicopter sitting on site.

Surprised, the one-zero radioed FOB-3, somewhat confused. "The one-zero wanted to know how the chopper got to the LZ so quickly and FOB-3 told him the Kingbees were still one/five out, meaning they were still 15 minutes away."

### Kidnapping A Spike Team

"At that point, things got real hairy," Boggs, interviewed in 1968, recalled. "The \$64,000 question was: If that's not our Kingbee on the LZ, who the hell's helicopter is it?"

The team approached the chopper and broke cover.

What they observed was a helicopter similar to the piston-driven CH-34, with big struts on the left and right sides underneath the pilot's window. In retrospect, many believe it may have been a Russian Mil Mi-4, some of which the Russians had brought to North Vietnam. Intelligence estimates are that the Russians sent between 25 and 30 to North Vietnam and they were used for low-risk resupply operations.

As the recon team approached this odd-looking duck, they observed a Caucasian inside who appeared to wave to them, signaling them to enter the aircraft. The one-zero hesitated for two reasons: The chopper was not painted with the familiar dark green camouflage pattern and did not have the white underbelly common on most Kingbees, and the Caucasian wasn't wearing a U.S. or Vietnamese flight uniform or recognizable headgear.

Asked why the one-zero didn't open fire on the suspected Russian, Watkins said: "At first, they were dumbfounded. They thought it was the Kingbee, but it was larger and different looking. The team didn't fire on it because the one-zero knew the CIA had a sanctuary of some sort in Laos, above the DMZ river. And the Air Force and Air America were flying all sorts of oddball experimental aircraft into that location. Additionally, we learned years later, the Air Force had a major listening post of some sort in Laos which they had to fly into on occasions.

"So, the one-zero didn't know if this was some sort of an experimental aircraft. He wisely didn't fire up Ivan's stinking chopper. I mean, imagine if he had and if it had been an experimental aircraft the spooks were testing. If he had fired up a friendly there would have been hell to pay. So he erred on the side of caution."

With the spike team still watching, the mystery chopper rose up and disappeared. The Kingbee arrived a few minutes later and safely lifted the team back to Khe Sahn, where Watkins talked to the one-zero. "On this particular mission, the word was that the NVA had outstanding RDF [Radio Direction Finding] equipment. They pinpointed the team's location and sent in the chopper to try and kidnap our team."

"There were all kinds of intelligence reports and rumors galore about Ivan being out there," Watkins said. "They [U.S. intelligence and MACV-SOG brass] had a bounty on them. If we had captured a Russian, dead or alive, there would have been a nice bonus in it for someone."

### Other Brushes With Ivan

That, however, was by no means the only brush with Ivan by MACV-SOG troops:

A Marine Force Recon unit, patrolling north of "The Rockpile" in I Corp, reported sighting a large, uniformed Caucasian.

Watkins, who had three tours of duty in MACV-SOG, said a one-zero running recon out of FOB-2 in Kontum killed a Caucasian in the Hotel series of targets, among the most deadly areas of operation. "The one-zero was Maddog [Jerry Michael] Shriver. After they killed the Rus-

sian, they couldn't get to his body to retrieve it. Then the shit really hit the fan and they were lucky to get their team out of there alive," Watkins said.

In the western end of the DMZ area in South Vietnam during the summer of 1969, a one-zero, code-named Blackjack, observed a Caucasian — with several women — protected by a battalion of Chinese soldiers wearing NVA uniforms.

"We had heard reports about Russians being involved and present in the target area. We started high up on a ridgeline and came in the back door, so to speak, and observed them. They had no idea we were there. We could see him bathing and there were at least three Oriental women with him.



North Vietnamese were equipped with Soviet-designed airframes like this MiG-17. Soviets provided equipment, training and technical expertise to North Vietnam — in addition to an unknown amount of clandestine direct involvement.  
Photo: DaD

But, from where we were, it looked like the Chinese were in there thick and if we started anything we wouldn't get out of there alive. We called Batcat [the airborne battlefield command and control center for operations over Laos — code-named Prairie Fire] and they couldn't get any tac air over us."

### Russians On The Radio

Robert J. Parks, who had three tours in 'Nam with MACV-SOG running recon missions and flying covey (forward air control) as well as other varied intelligence assignments told me, "I heard Russian several times

over the radio when flying covey. There was no doubt they were there, but it was just another little aspect of the secret war that never came out. I personally never observed them, but heard them on FM and worked with at least one recon team that heard them talking at night."

Parks told me he and Sergeant First Class Glen Lane were flying south in Kingbees, returning from a Brightlight mission in North Vietnam after picking up a downed U.S. pilot, when they "were buzzed by two Soviet MiGs. Now that was weird. We couldn't tell who was flying them and, for reasons unknown to us, they didn't blow us out of the sky. Fortunately, they ignored us."



### Reds In The Mist

In November 1968, I was one-zero on Spike Team Idaho, running out of FOB-1 at Phu Bai. We were on a general reconnaissance/POW snatch in target E-8, which was far west of the A Shau Valley. We tangled with a much larger force of NVA than we could handle and ended up running for our lives for two days. The weather had socked us in so we had to wait for it to clear before we could get out of there. We set up our Rest Over Night (RON) site on top of a mountain and licked our wounds.

We had all heard about Russians and Chinese working in "neutral" Laos, along with the 40,000 North Vietnamese soldiers and construction crews, but until that night, we had not had any direct contact.

With the long antenna on the PRC-25 I had moved to the east side of our mountaintop RON site and tried to contact Lemon Tree, a radio site manned by MACV-SOG personnel. No luck. I did, however, pick up a Russian transmission. While I was trying to make sense of what was being said, assistant team leader John "Bubba" Shore came around to my side of the mountain, his eyes as wide as saucers. "You've got to see this to believe it," he told me. "I think we're in the Twilight Zone."

I continued to monitor the Russians' conversation while walking around to the west side of the mountain. Shore pointed west toward one of the huge Laotian mountains — lit up like a massive Christmas tree. From our vantage point the area appeared to be longer than several football fields.

It was after midnight. The Russians were still on our radio and soon we could hear aircraft. The lights on the side of that mountain grew more intense — brighter than Broadway — as the Russians appeared to be resupplying troops on the ground with what sounded like the Russian version of the old Gooney Bird.

For several minutes ST Idaho team members simply stood there agog, gazing at the incredibly brilliant lights, made all the brighter by the stark darkness of the cloudless jungle night.

Throughout this time, I tried to raise someone, anyone, on FM and the URC-10 emergency frequency radio. *Nothing.*

When I issued our first verbal report, the radio operator was incredulous: "You saw what?! Where?! ... The pilot was speaking what language?"

To complicate matters, the following morning, when cover arrived over our position requesting further information and details on our sighting, we learned that our map was missing several very significant mountains in this particular range, which made it

difficult to report and pinpoint the DZ used by Ivan. Then the weather closed in and by 0700 hours we couldn't even observe the stinking mountain, which meant covey couldn't get a fix on our location, thus eliminating the option of shooting an azimuth from our location to the DZ. Talk about frustration.

### Confirmed Kill

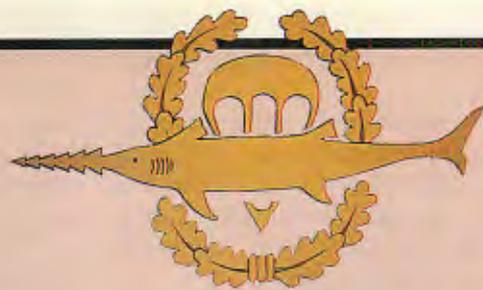
Jack S. Ballard wrote about a unique Air Force encounter with one of Ivan's choppers. According to his book *The United States Air Force in Southeast Asia — Development and Employment of Fixed-Wing Gunships 1962-1972*: "The 16th Special Operations Squadron gunships scored a notable first on a May 8 (1969) mission. At 0140 the NOD operator of aircraft 629 (call sign Bennet) detected a blurred, gray object moving across the jungle canopy at less than 1,000 feet above the terrain. He reported sighting a possible helicopter. The navigator quickly plotted the position and called Moonbeam (night airborne control) for firing clearance. While awaiting strike approval, the gunship traced the helicopter to a landing in a rectangular clearing. The NOD operator could make out several trails in the area. The FLIR (Forward-Looking InfraRed), despite degraded equipment, was able to track the helicopter during one small segment of the firing orbit. After 20 minutes, Bennet received permission to fire ... Several 20mm cannon bursts struck the clearing's perimeter and set off many small secondary explosions. The NOD operator reported seeing five rounds hit home and small explosions coming from the helicopter."

Several gunship crews had previously reported suspected helicopter sightings, but Bennet was the first gunship to claim destruction of one.

Over the last few years, particularly after the Soviet Union fell in on itself, Russian newspapers have confirmed that they had personnel in the AO. And at least one alleged Russian operator was attempting to contact his American counterparts who fought in the secret war.

*Isaac Staats served two tours with 5th Special Forces Group in Vietnam. He's now a free-lance writer based in Southern California. ✕*

**Death From The Deep:**



# Germany's

# KILLER SEALS

**Text & Photos by Eric Micheletti**



Armed with MP5 submachine guns, KSK team infils a marsh in German-made "Klepper" kayak. A trained crew can cover 100 klicks in five hours in this kayak.



**You would not** expect to see a team of German helicopters in the Mediterranean swoop down on a Persian Gulf-bound freighter, land an intervention team, then take control of the vessel and search it for contraband. But that's exactly what the elite German *Kampfschwimmerkompanie* (KSK or combat diver company) did routinely prior to the Gulf War.

As the international Coalition prepared to counterattack Saddam Hussein and the United Nations imposed an international embargo on Iraq, it fell largely on this unit to make the embargo stick, and afterward clear the international waters of explosive ordnance planted by all sides.

According to Lieutenant Helmut Erb, "By September 1990, about 90% of our divers were deployed at sea controlling the freighters sailing in the eastern Mediterranean between Cyprus, the Suez Canal and Lebanon. We went about these missions as the Royal Marines taught us — sev-

KSK combat diver deploys with belt-fed H&K 21A1 GPMG mounting a Simrad KN-250F light amplifier over the Hensoldt ZF sniper scope.

German "SEALs" stress teamwork: Here diver carries two sets of Drager LAR V scuba gear. His mate will carry *all* the explosives, etc. Though this may seem odd, rationale is that if one man is lost, the team is broken and the mission scrubbed.

eral of our teams trained at Portsmouth with them."

This foreign deployment of German combat divers is new and reflects the expanding international character of a reunited Germany, which will assume an increasingly significant role in future U.N. deployments. With this new role comes new responsibilities, such as protecting German warships in foreign harbors. The KSK views its missions as particularly important if Germany is to play the increasingly significant role planned for it.

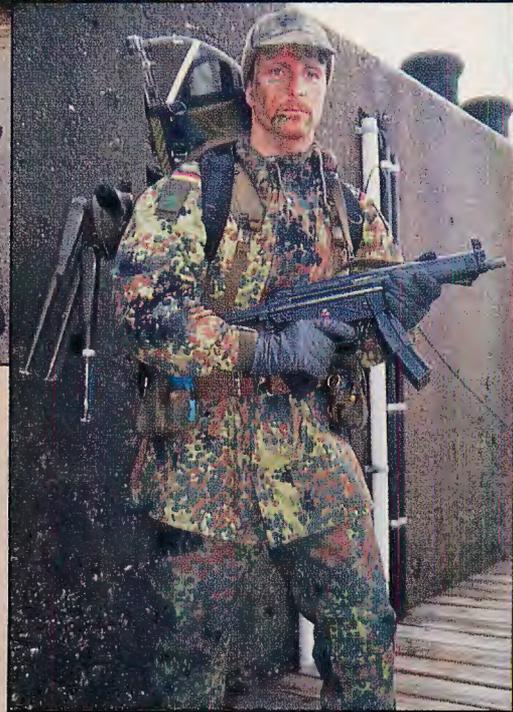
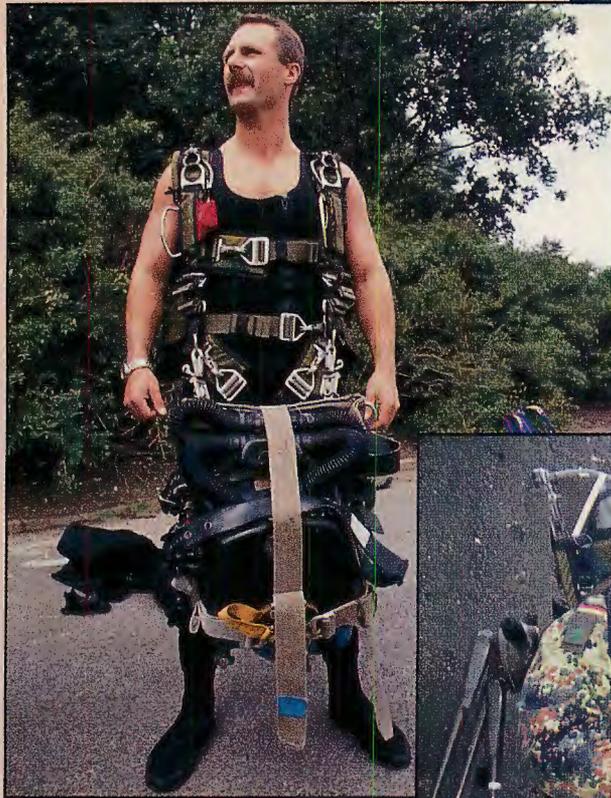
### Recce & Wreckage

The mission of Germany's combat divers first began to change in 1989. Until then, they were tasked only with recce missions in enemy harbors, especially in East Germany, securing landing sites in the wake of a counterattack by NATO amphibious forces, and attacking enemy shipping at anchorage, with missile-carrying ships and amphibious craft being priority targets.

The Germans spent decades rehearsing for these missions which would have been (and still would be) carried out from submarines. The 205- and 206-Class submarines operated by the German navy are small and well-suited for clandestine insertions. After inching along the seabed, the submarines release the teams through the torpedo tubes (a technique learned from the French), and the divers swim to their target and back while the submarine lurks on the ocean floor.

This method is preferred to parachute and helicopter insertion as it provides greater stealth and reduces the possibility of radar detection — a considerable asset when operating over flat terrain such as the Baltic coast. The KSK's previous recce and sabotage missions could take them as far as 5km behind enemy lines to hit strategic objectives like coastal radars, antiaircraft missile sites and anti-submarine helicopter bases.

According to Erb, "Had a war with the Warsaw Pact broken out, the enemy's major thrust would have been directed at northern Germany and Denmark. Our job would have been to assist the Danes and help with the evacuation of Allied troops. Needless to say, we would have had to carry out recce missions on the Danish beaches to ensure that they were clear of mines laid by the Soviet



KSK Milan gunner also carries H&K MP5 with double magazines. Original charter specified the KSK would get the best in weapons and gear — and they do.

navy's Spetsnaz and their allies."

"What makes our force unique is that we choose from among the best techniques and tactics used by our allies," said Captain Jorg Barnard, second-in-command of the KSK since February 1993. "We board ships the way we were taught by the Royal Marines. Since we often fight in marshes similar to those encountered in Vietnam, we supplement our skills through an exchange program with the Americans. Every year since 1975, some of our officers and NCOs have trained with SEAL Team 2 at Norfolk.

"Our cooperation with the French dates back to 1957 when two of our divers attended a course at the French combat diver school in Toulon. We've learned a lot from them, particularly how to attack ships and raid harbor installations. They're the best in this field.

"The British SBS taught us everything about kayaks and stealth — as well as selecting the appropriate explosives to demolish any objective. We get around, training in the Baltic Sea off the German coast as well as in the English Channel, Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea."



Ordnance-clearing divers race across the Baltic Sea in Rapid Inflatable Boat (RIB) under power of two 140-HP engines. Used mostly for anti-terrorist operations, the RIBs can carry a substantial complement of men and equipment.



The KSK's wartime organization amounts to four officers: the company commander, his second-in-command, and two platoon leaders, each in charge of a 15-man platoon subdivided into three teams of five divers. In peacetime, the company fields three officers: The CO and two officers, each commanding a platoon of 28 men, with one of the two officers designated as second-in-command. The platoons alternate weeks on readiness status. It takes about three hours to muster the unit and fly it fully equipped by helicopter to where the divers board C-130 Hercules aircraft for the mission at hand. The two platoons can be operational within 48 hours.

The combat and ordnance-clearing diver group is subdivided into one combat, one ordnance-clearing and one training company, which includes a specialist demolition platoon. The unit totals 250 men: 11 officers, 119 NCOs, 108 junior NCOs and 12 sailors. The men are on average 25 years old, with the oldest being 45 and the youngest 20.

KSK divers are chosen from among career sailors who have served at least four years with the *Bundesmarine*. Officers must have served for eight years. Candidates wishing to serve with the KSK file an application with command and, if accepted, spend two days at the navy's specialized institute in Kiel for a thorough medical check. Next comes a battery of psychological tests before the applicants' physical stamina is assessed in a swimming pool during one 5km (freestyle) and one 1km (crawl) timed swim. Finally, they must hold their breaths for 45 seconds and swim a distance of 25 meters underwater: About 80% of applicants don't make it past this stage.

The first part of training and selection is the same for both combat and ordnance-clearing divers; once this phase is completed a candidate will enter one of the units, on advice from the selection panel and instructors.

The first training phase lasts four weeks. During this time, the trainees will be taught the basics of diving, followed by an introduction to underwater swimming with scuba gear. Diving medicine and physics are also part of the curriculum. In the second phase, students are trained to use oxygen and closed-circuit scuba gear before proceeding to the next phase, which lasts four weeks and is devoted to diving with both compressed air and oxygen

KSK team trains for helicopter insertion from UH-1 Huey. Divers eclectically cross-train in other combat specialties such as mountaineering, EOD, commo, MOUT operations, etc.

rebreather gear. The future divers are now confident and familiar with the element in which they will operate: They can hold their breaths for two minutes underwater, walk along the floor of the pool for 75 meters and swim 50 meters underwater. Trainees who have been through this phase of training no longer panic when thrown into the pool with bound feet and hands.

The combat course that follows runs for eight weeks and includes a three-week airborne course at the Altenstadt parachute school, followed by commando/ranger training at Schogau. Trainees learn to drive cross-country vehicles and are coached in all facets of infantry combat. Then the real diving training starts. Trainees first learn to fit their equipment on the ground, then on board the ships, rubber assault boats and helicopters they will use on operations. The trainees can now all swim more than 100 meters in three minutes and deep dive in the Baltic Sea to depths of about 30 meters.

### On The Attack

The offensive part of the program begins with trainees learning to raid enemy harbors. Two nights a week, in any season and in any weather, the future combat divers attack shipping in harbors, starting with their own base at Eckernförde. Later they take on larger objectives such as the navy bases at Flensburg and Kiel. Every Friday, before setting off for a well-earned rest, trainees do a three-hour march in full combat gear.

When the final week of training is over, the men are at peak physical shape. I talked with Chief Petty Officer Wolfgang Wegsheider, an old hand who graduated with Class 20 and has been serving for 20 years with the KSK, including a two-year spell with SEAL Team 6, the super-

secret U.S. unit specializing in anti-terrorist activity. Wegscheider gave us a glimpse of KSK's "Hell Week": "Operating in two-man teams tied together with a buddy line, the trainees swim across the 30km stretch between Eckernförde and Olpenitz. Full equipment, weighing some 50kg, is carried in watertight bags. The duration of the swim depends on the tide and usually involves a 25-hour stint in the water. Cramping is the main problem, but the trainees can handle it. The teams keep close together during the test and help each other along. Besides, the men are well-motivated: They will be on leave after completing the test."

Both combat and mine-clearing divers must then complete a two-week course in maritime navigation, explosives training, mine and booby-trap laying, as well as identification of matériel used by other forces. This course is run by the ordnance/demolition platoon comprising a lieutenant and seven NCOs.

Once a year, this platoon holds a two-month course on the identification and location and removal of mines, booby traps, explosive shells and other ordnance. The course site at the Eckernförde base boasts a splendid classroom where hundreds of explosive instruments are displayed, from anti-personnel to anti-shiping devices weighing several tons. The Germans recovered large quantities of Warsaw Pact equipment when East and West Germany were reunited and have shared this bounty with their Western allies. Every three years, graduates attend a three-week refresher course to keep up with the latest developments and techniques.

The stringent screening and selection process takes its toll. When it's all over, a mere 5% of the initial batch of applicants has made it through. Each successful candidate is now presented with his "fish," the combat diver qualification badge, which has the man's own personal number. They are justly proud to join the ranks of this small, elite force — only about 300 students have graduated since the course was initiated. The new *Kampfschwimmer* is now commissioned with the company and will continue to further his combat diver proficiency.

The more advanced training entails even more special-

ized courses: deep recce at Weingarten, a spell with the *Gebirgsjager* (mountain rifles), as well as schooling in communications, first aid, aircraft guidance and foreign matériel identification. The famous anti-terrorist unit GSG-9 of the *Bundesgrenzschutz* (border guard) will train the divers in the additional skills of speed shooting, deployment in confined spaces and terrorist psychology.

All combat divers are free-fall qualified. During the first two years spent within the unit, divers will jump static-line and proceed to free-fall qualification before obtaining their instructor rating.

The precursors to the present KSK were the combat divers of World War II, who began as orphans of a *Kriegsmarine* that did not appreciate their potential. Because of this, much of the early development of German combat divers was done under the auspices of the *Abwehr* (counterintelligence), whose missions of sabotage behind enemy lines could exploit such capabilities. Collaboration with their Italian allies and the perseverance of visionaries within the *Kriegsmarine* resulted in a very capable force, but one which was formed too late to have any great effect during the war.

In 1959, when it was decided to reinstitute *Kampfschwimmer* companies, the West Germans decided to glean the best traits of their NATO allies — and this has resulted in the KSK being able to select the best from tried-and-true tactics, training and technology. The original charter of the new KSK also specifies that they will receive the best available equipment to fulfill their missions.

Recent developments on the international scene have shown that Germany is willing to play an increasingly larger part in U.N. peace-keeping and humanitarian interventions. As the *Bundesmarine*'s role becomes more important, so will the commitment of German special forces.

In this context, the role of highly trained troops like the

KSK will become more significant.

For years Western warships have had a complement of Royal Marines, SEALs or French marine commandos in addition to their crews. Now, as German naval forces deploy to hostile waters, they too will have the capability and security afforded by such a force.

Eric Micheletti is editor of the French military magazine RAIDS. ✕

## COMMUNIST COUNTERPARTS

As soon as the Berlin Wall toppled into the dustbin of history, *Kampfschwimmer* officers rushed to the Kulungsborn base (near the town of Rostock) to become acquainted with their East German peers from *Kampfschwimmerkommando*. And though they had been provided with fairly accurate intelligence by NATO, the West Germans could not believe their eyes: It was a "living museum of diving history."

*Kampfschwimmerkommando* divers' training and equipment had not been updated for years, forcing the East Germans to stick with the antiquated Soviet techniques of the 1950s. Only once in the unit's existence was an officer sent abroad for a refresher course: He spent two weeks in Leningrad and one week in Cuba.

When interviewed, East German divers told of the status differences existing between ranks in the former *Nationale Volksarmee*. For example, the officers' training and selection process lasted six weeks, while for NCOs it took six months.

The East Germans also complained about the long hours spent in readiness and said that they used to be kept on "red alert" as often as three times a month, to ward off any offensive move by NATO. This went on for years. Inevitably, this tension eroded the morale of these men whose wartime assignment would have been to raid West German and Danish harbors on the Baltic coast.

The East Germans managed to purchase some equipment in the West, but mostly had to make-do with diving gear that remained practically unchanged since World War II.

After German reunification, *Kampfschwimmerkommando* divers were given a chance to be commissioned with the *Bundesmarine*, providing that they passed the admission tests: Only one of the 15 applicants made it.

— E.R.

# WHO KILLED VINCE FOSTER?

## — Bizarre Suicide Or Well-Planned Murder? —

BY MICHAEL KITCHEN

**O**n the afternoon of 20 July 1993, Vincent W. Foster Jr. left the White House around 1300 hours and began driving aimlessly around Washington, D.C. A few hours later he turned into Fort Marcy Park, a small, secluded Civil War memorial in Arlington, Virginia. There he apparently placed the barrel of his 1913 Colt .38 in his mouth like a straw and pulled the trigger.

The shot was not heard at a construction site only 100 yards away, but the echo of that shot in the press caused White House insiders to immediately don flak jackets and kevlar helmets.

Foster, deputy White House council at the time of his death, had been a friend of Hillary and Bill Clinton's since their rise through the ranks of Arkansas' political machine. Foster was one of the "Rose Five" that Hillary brought with her to rule the United States. The clique included: Vincent Foster, deputy White House council; Bernard Nussbaum, council to the president; Webster Hubbel, assistant attorney general; William Kennedy, associate White House counsel; and Hillary herself.

Foster, while at Rose lawfirm, handled Bill and Hillary's dealings in the Whitewater land scandal. But if anyone thought that Foster's death would close the book on the Clintons' illicit financial dealings, they were wrong.

Instead, Foster's death could be

the keystone to possible criminal indictments against Hillary, Hubbel and Nussbaum. Two of the three

opened after he was found dead — in respect to what went on in the White House."



Portrait of Vincent W. Foster Jr. taken when he assumed job of deputy White House legal counsel. Questions outnumber answers in Foster's suspicious "suicide" last July. Government blocking release of autopsy report and bizarre circumstances surrounding Foster's death point to a cover-up. **PHOTO: Reuters/Bettmann**

have already been subpoenaed by Whitewater independent investigator Robert Fiske. Roderick Lankler, assigned by Fiske to review Foster's death, said, "The purpose of our investigation is to find out how he died and why he died if it's relevant

to the Whitewater investigation. It is also our purpose to find out what hap-

pened after he was found dead — in respect to what went on in the White House."

There are plenty of questions Lankler needs to ask. Unfortunately, Foster took many answers with him to the grave. Most of these questions regarding Whitewater could likely be answered by Hillary and Nussbaum, but they continue to deny any knowledge.

### Rifled Office

Which makes it all the more suspicious that hours after Foster's death Nussbaum, Margaret Williams (Hillary's chief-of-staff), and Patsy Thomasson (another Arkansas crony) entered Foster's office (probably on Hillary's orders) to rifle the files and remove documents relating to Whitewater. The three even tried to get into Foster's safe but could not find the combination. *New York Post* writer Christopher Ruddy reported on 9 March 1994 that early in the morning hours of July 21st a "senior White House aide" finally opened Foster's safe and removed additional

files relating to the Clintons and Whitewater.

The Park Police (who had jurisdiction over the death) were told by Nussbaum that Foster's office would be sealed. When investigators showed up to inspect the office, the Secret Service had not sealed it and Nussbaum would not allow them to enter. Finally given access to the office, the six agents (two FBI, two Park Police and two Justice Depart-

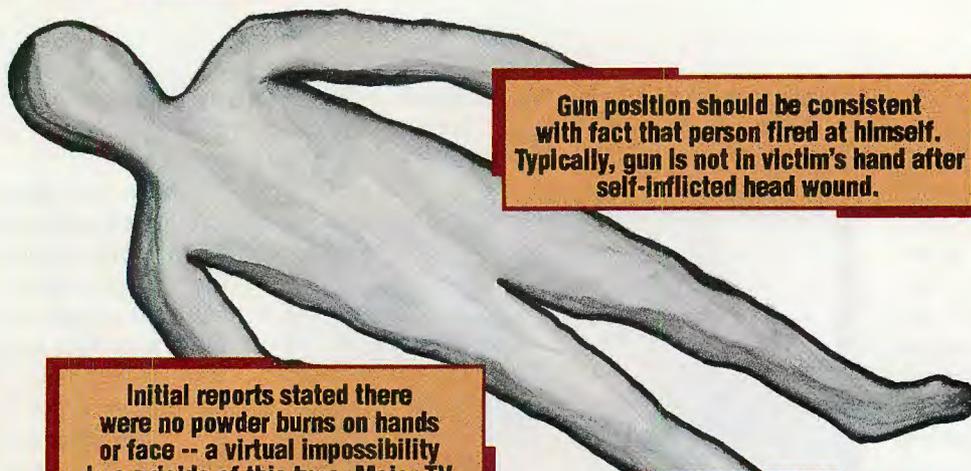
Peter Markland searched through Foster's briefcase on 21 July 1993 but found nothing useful. On 26 July a helpful White House assistant claims she "found" a torn-up suicide note in the same briefcase. In effect, a police officer searching for that very note did not notice it torn into 28 pieces and inside the briefcase but a "helpful" White House staffer

led and misrepresented its knowledge and role and covered up a prior investigation. The Usher's Office plotted to have excessive costs incurred, taking advantage of Kaki and HRC [Hillary Rodham Clinton]. The public will never believe the innocence of the Clintons and their loyal staff. The WSJ [Wall Street Journal] editors lie without consequence. I

## Inconsistent Suicide

Gun usually has blood on it. Eyewitness who viewed gun said it appeared clean.

Area should be examined for signs of a struggle. No indications of a struggle were verified.



Gun position should be consistent with fact that person fired at himself. Typically, gun is not in victim's hand after self-inflicted head wound.

Initial reports stated there were no powder burns on hands or face -- a virtual impossibility in a suicide of this type. Major TV network later claimed powder burns were found on one hand.

Scene not consistent with mouth entry wound and head exit wound. Blood typically is splattered on face, shirt and pools around body.

was not meant for the job or the spotlight of public life in Washington. Here ruining people is considered sport."

The TV program "The Other Side of the Story," presented by Accuracy In Media, said this about the suspicious note:

"The incredibly thin-skinned simpleton who wrote the note bears little resemblance to the tough, experienced litigator that Foster was known to be. It is a very curious form of depression, indeed, which can turn an intelligent, educated, middle-aged man noted for the quality of his legal writings into what appears to be a troubled teenage girl scribbling in her diary."

ment lawyers) were forced to sit, like children, in chairs, with their backs to the wall 15 feet from Foster's desk. The agents watched as Nussbaum continued to rifle through and take papers from the office. At one point an FBI agent stood up to stretch and Nussbaum screamed at him, saying he was trying to see the documents. While papers were being selectively removed the agents were told, "We can't show you this; this is personal."

Personal papers and documents are exactly what investigators use to help determine why a person commits suicide. One agent said, "I thought they all should have been arrested for obstruction of justice."

When finally allowed to inspect Foster's office, Park Police officer

found what the police overlooked. It could happen.

### Invisible Note

The text of the note was released 15 days later by the "we have nothing to hide" White House:

*"I made mistakes from ignorance, inexperience and overwork. I did not knowingly violate any law or standard of conduct. No one in the White House, to my knowledge, violated any law or standard of conduct, including any action in the travel office. There was no intent to benefit any individual or specific group. The FBI lied in their report to the AG [Attorney General]. The press is covering up the illegal benefits they received from the travel staff. The GOP has*

Did Foster write this suicide note? Was the note ever put through fingerprint analysis? If the note was indeed written and torn up by Foster, then his fingerprints would be all over the paper, unless he was wearing gloves in July. Was he so utterly loyal to Hillary that he would not even give mention to his own family? No "Tell my wife I'm sorry," or "Tell the children that I love them." The whole tone of the note is paranoia of any scrutiny of the Clinton administration — basically stating that they never have, never will and have never known anybody who has ever done anything remotely unethical. The "note" is most likely chaff and smoke hastily written by one of the remaining Rose "Four."

The gun that Foster used was a 1911 or 1913 Colt .38. There were two cartridges in the cylinder. This supposed "collector's piece" was made from parts of several different revolvers. There were no serial numbers and the gun is untraceable. Guns like this are sometimes referred to as "throw-downs." Nobody in Foster's immediate family can identify the pistol as having ever belonged to Vince.

### Mystery Gun

Where did he get the gun? With the most restrictive firearms laws in the nation, he did not buy a handgun in Washington, D.C. Chances are that he did not buy it on the black market. Did he leave the White House, go home and pick up the pistol? "Hi honey, I'm home. I forgot to take my pistol, in case I decide to off myself today. See you later." The last three to four hours of his life remain unaccounted for, but he did not go to his home. Did he keep the gun in his briefcase? The Secret Service doesn't care if you happen to be "best buddies" with the president — they and the metal detectors will not let anybody carry a pistol into the White House.

Did he keep the gun in his car for self-defense? This begs the question: Why would a highly paid lawyer carry an antique handgun? Since no one in his family can identify the pistol, it wasn't that he was sentimental about the Colt. Chances are, if Foster were going to carry a piece for self-defense, he would have gone out and bought a newer revolver or automatic. And why was it loaded with only two rounds? Not a very good load-out for self-defense. Were the two cartridge cases ever fingerprinted to see if Foster had touched them? Where did the Colt come from and where did Foster keep it on the day he died? These two questions could hold the key to this mystery.

The gunshot that killed Foster was fired sometime between 1500 and 1800 hours. A housing development and a manned construction site were only about 100 yards from where the shot was fired. No one reported hearing a gunshot.

Reporter Mike McAlary of the *New York Daily News* mistakenly reported that Foster's head acted as a sort of silencer — hence no one heard the

shot. However, a majority of the sound from a firing revolver comes from between the cylinder and breech (Hollywood hasn't figured this little fact out). If a pistol were fired, someone the length of a football field away should have heard something.

There are too many unanswered questions and bizarre twists to keep



this story on the shelf and dismiss it as a simple suicide as do the mainstream press.

Why were investigators at the scene so quick to pronounce this incidence a suicide? It seems premature to find one of the top White House staffers dead — Foster's White House credentials were in his suit coat, left on the seat of his car — with no apparent reason to kill himself and immediately call it a suicide. Investigators did not even check the area around Foster's body to determine if there had been a struggle or if anyone else had been around Foster's body.

### Maze of Unanswered Questions

Why was no effort made to find the slug?

The Park Police were given jurisdiction on the case. Federal park rangers are not the first, or even second, police agency one thinks of when bringing in an investigator to look at a dead body.

*The Wall Street Journal* has sued the Park Police for not turning over the autopsy and information about the

crime scene in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. If there is nothing to hide about Foster's death, why are the Park Police stalling? Who has ordered the Park Police not to release the information?

When Foster's office was searched by the Park Police, they did not find a desk calendar or appointment book.

The White House is not releasing Foster's phone logs. Why?

During the week of 1 February 1994, employees of the Rose law firm told *The Washington Times* that they had shredded "...a lot of papers and the process took quite a long time." Did a Clinton insider (or even Hillary herself) call back to Little Rock and order all the Whitewater/Foster documents shredded?

Why didn't the people around Foster notice the kind of depression that might lead to suicide? What problems in someone else's life could cause a man to kill himself? What kind of "spotlight of public life" was Foster under? Why would an experi-

enced lawyer who spent his life fixing other people's problems uncharacteristically give up before a solution was found?

Why would Foster write a suicide note to try to clear the president with the general public? Did Foster leave a real note that was removed from his office by Nussbaum?

Clinton admitted speaking with Foster for half an hour the night before his death. What did Foster and Bill Clinton discuss that evening?

What information did Foster have or receive in the days before 20 July 1993 that would cause him to want to commit suicide? Who else did he talk to in the 48 hours preceding his death?

As American citizens we have the right to answers to these questions.

*A former Navy flight officer, Michael Kitchen is currently a freelance writer based in Virginia.* ✕

Foster was close friends with both Bill and Hillary Clinton and painted a rosy picture of the Clinton administration in a suicide note conveniently found by White House staffer after investigators searched his personal effects and came up empty handed. Photo: Reuters/Bettmann

# SIG'S PER



Several decades ago, the famous Swiss firm *Schweizerische Industrie-Gesellschaft* (SIG) collaborated with the German firm *J.P. Sauer und Sohn* to produce a series of military and police pistols. The pistols were designed by SIG at Neuhausen Rhinefalls and manufactured at the Sauer works, which moved from Suhl to Eckernförde, Thuringia in 1951. The marriage allowed SIG to slide around the stringent Swiss regulations controlling military small arms exports and provided Sauer with a vehicle to re-enter the lucrative (in that time frame) field of military armaments.

During World War II, Sauer produced K98k rifles of highly regarded quality, the legendary Luftwaffe drilling and the unusual 38H ("H" for hammer fire) pistol (caliber 7.65mm/.32 ACP). This clever hammer-type

pistol was provided with a lever on the left side of the frame for both cocking and uncocking the hammer. As a result, the pistol could be fired either double-action or single-action at any time by manipulation of the lever only.

SIG is equally noted, not only for its lavish-quality P210 pistol (collector-grade specimens now fetch \$2,000 and more in the United States), but for 125 years of robust, although over-engineered, infantry rifles and some rather peculiar machine-gun designs. These latter deficiencies were no doubt a consequence of the lack of experienced user input, as Switzerland was last at war in 1814.

In 1975, the Swiss armed forces adopted the SIG-Sauer P220 as the *Pistole 75* in 9mm Parabellum. This pistol, chambered in either 9mm Parabellum, 7.65 Parabellum (.30

**SIGARMS' caliber .40 S&W P229 pistol is a robust design with some excellent qualities.**

Luger), .45 ACP or .38 Super was marketed in the United States by Browning of Morgan, Utah, under the name BDA (Browning Double-Action) and for a short time only by Hawes National Corp. of Van Nuys, California. Eventually the pistol was imported by Interarms under the SIG-Sauer designation.

In 1978, the SIG-Sauer P225 was introduced. Slightly smaller and lighter than the P220, it carries one less round in the magazine (eight instead of nine). The magazine catch/release was relocated from the heel of the butt to the left side of the frame at the rear of the trigger guard. The grip portion of the frame was reshaped. And, an automatic firing pin

# FECT PAIR

## P229/P230 Make For A Dynamic Duo

Text & Photos  
by Peter G. Kokalis



SIGARMS' P230 .380 ACP pistol (bottom) complements the P229 .40 S&W pistol (top) as they are both double-action types with hammer-drop levers and no manual safeties.

lock, which can only be deactivated by intentionally pulling the trigger, was installed to optimize safety. This combination of a locked firing pin and positive hammer rebound into a safety intercept notch prevents accidental discharge of a chambered round, even if the pistol is dropped with the hammer cocked, half-cocked or down. Designed as a police service pistol, the P225 was one of three

standardized by the West German government, where it is known as the P6. The other two were the Walther P5 (a compact and redesigned version of the P38 and the Heckler & Koch PSP [P7]).

The P226 was conceived in 1980 specifically as SIG's candidate in the U.S. XM9 trials. It differs from the P220 in magazine capacity (15 rounds), the location of the magazine catch/release and the shape of its grips. It was entered into the XM9 trials by the Saco Defense Systems Division of Maremont Corp. of Saco,

Maine. For a number of reasons, some still controversial, it lost and the Berreta 92F was adopted as the M9.

In 1988, the P228, in essence a P225 with increased magazine capacity (13 rounds), was introduced. It was recently adopted by the U.S. armed forces as the M11 for issue where a compact design is desirable. All SIG-Sauer pistols are now imported by SIGARMS Inc. (Dept. SOF, Corporate Park, Industrial Drive, Exeter, NH 03833; phone: 603-772-2302, fax: 603-772-9082), a company not noted for any courtesies extended to firearms writers or publications.

In 1991, I and a few others were shown a prototype of the SIG-Sauer series chambered for the .40 S&W cartridge. Several manufacturers rushed to introduce pistols chambered for the .40 S&W. This proved to be a mistake, as this round amplified the forces working against the reciprocating parts more than anticipated and increased the slide velocity by a considerable margin. Heckler & Koch spent several years developing a design that could withstand these additional forces. Less than two years ago H&K introduced the .40 S&W P7M10 and even more recently the USP chambered for that round. Both of these pistols feature heavy, massive slides designed to absorb the increased recoil forces and reduce the slide velocity.

### Stainless Steel Forged

SIGARMS introduced their .40 S&W pistol, called the P229, during this same delayed time frame. Slides of previous models in this series were heavy-gauge steel stampings with the breech block as a separate component pinned in place and an electron-beam-welded muzzle bushing. To increase its strength substantially, the P229's slide is a machined stainless steel forging (with a black-oxide finish), manufactured in the United States. Other components continue to be manufactured in Germany.

All of the above SIGARMS pistols operate by the locked-breech, short-recoil method pioneered by John M. Browning. The single locking lug milled above the barrel's chamber uses the slide's ejection port as its locking recess. This precludes cutting recesses into the slide's interior and risking a compromise of its structural integrity. After ignition of the primer and propellant charge, the slide and barrel recoil rearward together about 0.12 inches until a cam slot milled into the lug on the barrel's



P230 (top) has both a hammer-drop lever and a disassembly lever in approximately the same location as those of the P229 (bottom). P230 has no slide-stop lever and the magazine catch/release has been moved to the heel of the grip-frame in back of the magazine-well.

underside contacts a steel locking block in the alloy frame, which draws the barrel downward, unlocking it from the front lip of the ejection port. By this time pressures have dropped to a safe level. The rear end of the locking block serves as a cartridge guide directly below the barrel's integral feed ramp. The front contour of the cam slot on the barrel's underside lug has been cut square to direct counter-recoiling forces up and forward into the barrel itself. The cam slot on early Browning High Power pistols was cut round and resulted in eventual fracture of the lug as the unlocking forces were propagated downward into the weakest portion of the lug.

### Chunky Package

While the P229 is more compact than so-called "service" pistols, it was not designed for stuffing in an ankle holster. The weight, empty, is 31.5 ounces. Overall length is 7.08 inches (180mm) with a barrel length of 3.86 inches (98mm). The six-groove barrel has a twist of one turn in 15 inches (380mm). Overall height is 5.35 inches (136mm) and the width (at the top of the grip panels) is 1.46 inches (37mm). None of these dimensions are excessive, but, nonetheless the P229 is a chunky package.

The frame is made from a black-anodized aluminum alloy. Both the front strap and the front of the trigger guard carry fine horizontal serrations. Gratefully, the front of the trigger guard is rounded and not squared-off or recurved to conform to this cur-

surface.

All of the P229's operating controls are located on the left side of the frame. Southpaws need not apply. The hammer-drop (or "decocking") lever is positioned between the slide-stop lever and the magazine catch/release button. Thumbing downward on the hammer-drop lever takes the sear out of register with the full-cock hammer notch. As the hammer-drop lever is released, hammer spring pressure drops the hammer which is then caught by the sear engaging the safety intercept notch, which is the hammer's rest position when the hammer spring is not compressed. During and after operation of the hammer-drop lever, the firing pin remains constantly blocked. No other manually operated safety is provided, as the P229 can be discharged only if the trigger is pulled. The hammer-drop lever is spring-loaded and returns to the double-action fire position after it's released. There is no magazine safety.

It is intended that the first shot will be fired double-action. Subsequent shots will be fired single-action. When the trigger is pulled in the double-action mode, a trigger bar, engaging the double-action notch, cocks the hammer. In the final phase of movement the trigger bar pivots the safety lever which frees the firing pin's movement and rotates the sear. At the final instant, the trigger bar disengages from the double-action notch by camming against the hammer pivot pin. This trips the hammer which strikes the firing pin to ignite

rent totally useless fetish. At 15 degrees, the P229's grip-to-frame angle (the angle between the front leading edge of the front strap and a line perpendicular to the bore's axis) is very close to the classic 17 degrees of the Colt M1911A1 Government Model. Unlike the SIG P210, the slide rides on rails located on the frame's outer

the primer. If the slide does not go fully forward into battery, contact between the firing pin lock and safety lever does not occur and firing pin movement is prevented. In this unlocked state, the slide also cams down the trigger bar and interrupts subsequent trigger function. As the slide recoils rearward, it rolls back the hammer so the next shot can be fired in the single-action mode.

After the last shot has been fired, a shelf on the magazine follower pushes the spring-loaded, slide-stop lever upward to hold the slide assembly to the rear. The slide-stop, disassembly and hammer-drop levers and fixed ejector are all sheet-metal stampings. The sheet-metal ejector is held to the frame by a roll pin that also retains the sear spring. The hammer, trigger and magazine catch/release button are investment castings.

When the magazine catch/release is depressed, the staggered-column,



Galco's Miami Classic shoulder rig can be adjusted so that it's properly balanced and will not shift while worn. It was worn by Don Johnson on the "Miami Vice" TV series.

single-position-feed, detachable box-type magazines fall freely away, whether loaded or unloaded. Magazine capacity is 12 rounds. The magazine body is a punch-welded, sheet-metal stamping. Both the follower and the floorplate are plastic. Disassembly of the magazine follows conventional procedures. Three indicator holes at the rear of the magazine body are placed at the 5-, 10-

## P229 SPECIFICATIONS

- Caliber:** ..... .40 S&W.  
**Operation:** ..... Locked-breech, short-recoil, semiautomatic, double-action/single-action with hammer-drop lever and no manual safety.
- Weight, empty with magazine:** ... 31.5 ounces.  
**Length, overall:** ... 7.08 inches (180mm).  
**Width:** ..... 1.46 inches (37mm) at the top of the grip panels.  
**Height:** ..... 5.35 inches (136mm).  
**Barrel:** ..... Six-groove with a twist of one turn in 15 inches (380mm).  
**Barrel length:** ..... 3.86 inches (98mm).  
**Feed mechanism:** ..... Staggered-column, single-position-feed detachable box-type magazine with 12-round capacity.  
**Sights:** ..... Multicolor self-luminous tritium sights installed by IWI. Large, green front dot on dovetailed front blade and two yellow dots on dovetailed open square-notch rear sight.  
**Finish:** ..... Black-anodized aluminum-alloy frame. Selected components custom hard-chromed.  
**Price:** ..... \$875, complete with two magazines and plastic storage box with combination padlock.  
**Manufacturer/Importer:** ..... SIGARMS Inc., Dept. SOF, Corporate Park, Industrial Drive, Exeter, NH 03833; phone: 603-772-2302, fax: 603-772-9082.  
**Custom pistolsmith:** ..... TJ's Custom Gunworks, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 69, Ontario, CA 91762 USA; phone: 909-923-4422.  
**Hard chrome finish:** ..... Checkmate Custom Gun Refinishing, Dept. SOF, 370 Champion Drive, Brooksville, FL 34601; phone: 904-799-5774.  
**Tritium Sights:** .... Innovative Weaponry Inc., Dept. SOF, 337 Eubank N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87123; phone: 800-334-3573.  
**Holsters:** ..... Galco International Ltd., Dept. SOF, 2019 W. Quail Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85027; phone: 602-258-8295, fax: 602-582-6854.  
**T&E summary:** .... Massive slide designed to absorb the additional forces associated with the .40 S&W cartridge. Exhibits excellent human engineering. Reliable. Expensive.



P229, fieldstripped.

and 12-round positions.

The injection-molded black plastic, two-piece, wrap-around grip panels have deep stippling over most of their surface and feel very comfortable. A pin at the heel will accommodate a lanyard and my friend at *Shooting Times*, Wiley Clapp, will surely rejoice over this 19th century atavism.

Both the barrel and slide carry serial numbers to match that of the frame, in the European manner. Weighing close to 10 ounces without the barrel and recoil spring with its guide rod, the massive slide assembly was mill-finished and polished to a degree rarely observed today. The wide and deep cocking serrations are more than ample. Prick marks inside the slide indicate that it was tested for hardness. Both the extractor and firing pin are spring-loaded. The extractor also serves as a tactile loaded-chamber indicator. The recoil spring is of the multi-strand type. Springs of this type last longer and offer better performance under adverse conditions. The full-length guide rod is made from steel tubing.

The sights provided are no more

than adequate. A forward sloping ramp-type, 0.125-inch wide with a white circular dot, is dovetailed to the front of the slide. An open square-notch rear sight, with a single white square dot, is also dovetail-fitted to the slide. Sight radius is about 5.8 inches. Unfortunately, these sights do not respond to the problem of acquiring the target in subdued-light environments. No one installs better self-luminous sights on handguns than Innovative Weaponry Inc. (IWI, Dept. SOF, 337 Eubank N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87123; phone: 800-334-3573). I prefer their multicolor night sight system that focuses attention on the front sight and speeds target acquisition by a considerable margin. Most tritium self-luminous sights glow green, simply because this color is highest on the night visibility spectrum. However, operator alignment of three green dots in subdued light can be confusing; this detracts from emphasis on the front sight and retards target acquisition.

The largest self-luminous dot is installed in the front sight and it is green. The two smaller dots in the rear sight are either yellow or orange. In use, I have found that the eyes instinctively focus on the green front dot with a strong three-dimensional triangulation effect that helps to funnel the shooter's vision directly onto the target.

### Self-Luminating Accuracy

These tritium-phosphor microspheres are lightweight, insensitive to temperature variations and are always on. Decay of tritium H3 within the radio luminescent capsules creates soft beta rays that are converted to visible light when they strike the phosphor particles that coat the inside of the glass micro sphere. 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.

Armed professionals justifiably demand performance beyond merely adequate from their equipment. While all of the SIGARMS pistols will operate in a satisfactory manner right out of the factory box, they can be

## P230 SPECIFICATIONS

- Caliber:** ..... .380 ACP (9mm Kurz).  
**Operation:** ..... Unlocked, pure blowback, semiautomatic, double-action/single-action with hammer-drop lever and no manual safety.
- Weight, empty with magazine:** . 17.6 ounces.  
**Length, overall:** . 6.6 inches (168mm).  
**Width:** ..... 1.2 inches (31mm) at the grip panels.  
**Height:** ..... 4.7 inches (119mm).  
**Barrel:** ..... Six-groove with a twist of one turn in 9.8 inches (250mm).  
**Barrel length:** ... 3.6 inches (92mm).  
**Feed mechanism:** ..... Single-column, detachable box-type magazine with seven-round capacity.  
**Sights:** ..... Multicolor self-luminous tritium sights installed by IWI. Large, green front dot on dovetailed front blade and two yellow dots on dovetailed open square-notch rear sight.  
**Finish:** ..... Black-anodized aluminum-alloy frame. Selected components custom hard-chromed.  
**Price:** ..... \$510 with two magazines.  
**T&E summary:** .. Ultimate .380 ACP pocket pistol. Lightweight. Exhibits superb human engineering. Reliable. Expensive.



pushed to an even higher lever of reliability. No individual pistolsmith has worked on more SIG-Sauer handguns than Tony Jimakas (TJ's Custom Gunworks, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 69, Ontario, CA 91762 USA; phone: 909-923-4422; price list \$1). TJ is a leading authority on SIGs and we sent him our P229 with instructions to forget about cosmetics and concentrate on work that would improve the pistol's reliability.

TJ provided his Level One deluxe package, which includes an action job that consists of throating the barrel, polishing both the barrel's feed ramp and the locking block's cartridge guide, and deburring and polishing the slide's interior surfaces and most of the internal components in the frame assembly. The trigger was

crisp pull-weight of 3 pounds.

Subsequent to this work, the slide, trigger, magazine catch/release button, hammer-drop lever, slide-stop lever, disassembly lever and hammer were sent to Checkmate Custom Gun Refinishing (Dept. SOF, 370 Champion Drive, Brooksville, FL 34601; phone: 904-799-5774) for hard-chroming. They used a combination of both matte (glass beaded) and brush (a moderate polish stainless steel effect) techniques to provide a true hard-chrome surface finish that looks attractive and will resist holster wear. They did an excellent job and I can recommend them highly.

When these components were returned to TJ, he gave them a final fitting and added a set of four of his stainless steel hex-head grip panel

given a round radius and polished. Fitting and polishing the extractor included adjustment with the correct tension to prevent breakage, undercutting the extractor hook for an improved bite on the case's extractor groove and rounding off the top of the extractor to prevent damage if a brain-dead operator drops a round into the chamber and lets the slide fly forward into battery. TJ also rounded off the P229's trigger draw bar to prevent galling of the aluminum-alloy frame. He also deburred and polished all five angles of the barrel's exterior to improve cycling. The double-action trigger pull weight was reduced to 9.5 pounds. Tony lightened the foretravel and creep in the single-action mode to provide a

screws (\$9.95), available for all SIG-Sauer pistols. A real touch of class, they are also not as easily marred as the slot-head screws issued with the pistol.

Fieldstripping the P229 presents no problems. Remove the magazine and inspect the chamber to make certain it is unloaded. Retract the slide and lock it rearward with the slide-stop lever. Rotate the disassembly lever, located on the left side of the frame, downward 90 degrees. Retract the slide assembly just enough so that the slide-stop lever drops down. Draw the slide assembly forward until it separates from the frame rails. Remove the recoil spring and guide rod. Drop the barrel out of the slide. Remove the grip panels. Disassemble the magazine. No further disassembly is required or recommended. Reassemble in the reverse order. Be careful not to over-tighten the grip panel screws.

### Pocket Piece

Armed professionals most often carry two handguns, a primary weapon and a smaller backup. SIGARMS' P230 caliber .380 ACP (9mm Kurz) pistol is an almost perfect complement to the P229. The alloy-frame variant is preferred by more professional gun handlers than any other pistol in this caliber.

If you are going to carry a .380 ACP pistol, the only legitimate justification is a compact and lightweight envelope, otherwise you are better served with a more potent cartridge. Empty, the alloy-frame P230 and its magazine weigh only 17.6 ounces. A version with a stainless steel frame is also available, but it weighs almost as much as a caliber .45 ACP Colt Lightweight Officers Model. Overall length of the P230 is 6.6 inches (168mm) with a 3.6-inch (92mm) barrel. Overall height is 4.7 inches (119mm), and width at the grip panels is 1.2 inches (31mm).

Method of operation is conventional for this caliber: unlocked, pure blowback. As a consequence, the six-groove barrel (with a twist of one turn in 9.8 inches — 250mm) is pinned to the frame.

The aluminum-alloy frame has been matte-black-anodized. The trigger guard is rounded. Grip-to-frame angle is 15 degrees. Particular attention has been paid to the injection-

molded, black plastic wrap-around grip panels, which exhibit a high level of human engineering with gentle thumb swells on each side and modest checkering only where needed. The frame's tang is swept back far enough to prevent hammer-bite even when the web of the hand is pushed firmly up into it while firing from the Weaver position. The magazine catch/release lever is at the heel of the grip-frame in back of the magazine-well — the customary European location. Tactical or speed reloading is not part of the practiced drill with small backup pistols, so this is not bothersome.

The seven-round, single-column, detachable box-type magazine has a finger-extension floorplate made of black plastic that is large enough to accommodate almost any size hand. Altogether, this is an exceptionally comfortable pistol to grip and fire. The sheet-metal magazine body has marked indicator holes for rounds "2" through "7" and a sheet-metal follower. The floorplate is somewhat difficult to remove as it is held in place by the end of the follower spring in a manner identical to that of the Czech Vz52 pistol.

Another control missing from the left side of the frame is a slide-stop lever. It has been replaced by an internal (i.e., covered by the slide assembly) spring-loaded slide catch lever, which is driven upward by the magazine follower to hold the slide rearward after the last shot has been fired. To release the slide after the empty magazine has been removed and/or a loaded magazine has been inserted, retract the slide slightly to the rear and then permit it to fly forward into battery.

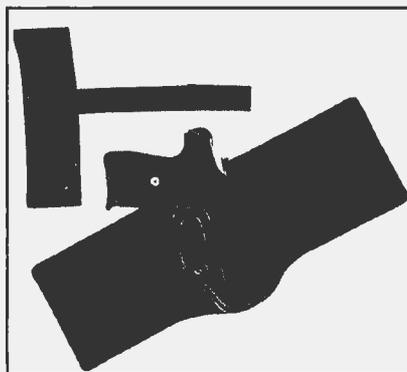
As this is a double-action system, there is a spring-loaded hammer-drop lever of substantially the same type and in the same location as that of the P229. The firing pin lock is also of the same type. When the trigger reaches its rearmost position, the trigger's draw bar drives a sheet-metal bar in the frame upward to push, in turn, the spring-loaded firing pin lock in the slide up, permitting the firing pin to travel forward when struck by the hammer.

The P230's spring-loaded extractor also serves as a tactile loaded-chamber indicator. A red dot on the extractor appears when it is forced

outward by a loaded round.

To bring this pistol as close to our P229 in as many ways as possible, we had Tony Jimakas perform essentially the same modifications as he did on the P229. He adjusted the trigger pull weights to 6.75 pounds for the double-action mode and 2.5 pounds when fired single-action.

We also had Checkmate Custom Gun Refinishing both matte and brush hard chrome the same components that they treated on the P229 wherever possible. Because the front sight of this pistol is an integral portion of the slide, IWI had to remove it and mill a dovetail to accept a self-luminous green-dot front sight that would match the yellow double-dot sight they installed at the rear. That completed, we had a pair of SIGs that not only looked alike, but were double-action types with hammer-drop le-



**Galco's Ankle Glove hand-molded holster is attached to a wide neoprene band padded by sheepskin for added comfort. Note reinforced thumb break and tension screw.**

vers and no manual safeties.

The P230 has a disassembly lever of the same type and in the same location as that of the P229. Disassembly procedures, however, are somewhat different. Remove the magazine and make certain that the chamber is clear. Without retracting the slide to the rear, rotate the disassembly lever downward 90 degrees. Draw the slide rearward until you can lift it up and off of the frame. Then push it forward to separate it from the barrel. Slide the recoil spring off the barrel. Finally, remove the grip panels and reassemble in the reverse order.

Pistols of this quality deserve to be stuffed into the very best leather. Galco International Ltd. (Dept. SOF, 2019 W. Quail Ave., Phoe-

nix, AZ 85027; phone: 602-258-8295, fax: 602-582-6854) provided us with holsters for both.

If designed correctly, shoulder holsters have legitimate applications for concealed carry. Their greatest attribute, in my opinion, is that they take the load off your hip. And, that's important for those who tote a major-caliber handgun eight to 10 hours a day. All too often, however, the weight of the weapon will cause the holster to slowly drop downward and to the rear.

## **Harnessed In Saddle Leather**

Galco's Miami Classic features a flexalon swivel plate that permits all four points of the harness to pivot independently. This means it can be adjusted to fit individuals of all sizes. In addition, together with the two-cell magazine pouch also included, it can be adjusted so that it's properly balanced and will not shift while worn. Constructed of premium saddle leather and available either right- or left-handed in natural tan or black, it has covered snaps to prevent scratching of the pistol and a reinforced thumb break. Semiauto pistol models have a tension screw. A swivel tab on the bottom of the magazine pouch will accept an optional cuff case or tie-down. This is an excellent shoulder rig and it was worn by Don Johnson on the "Miami Vice" TV series. We chose this holster for our P229.

Galco's Ankle Glove model was selected for the P230. This hand-molded premium saddle leather holster is attached to a wide neoprene band padded by sheepskin for added comfort. It can be worn with or without the calf strap provided. Available in black only, it has a reinforced thumb break and tension screw. There's no free lunch, and while ankle holsters offer maximum concealment, don't expect record-breaking drawstrokes.

I cannot say that I was ever an advocate of the .40 S&W cartridge. While superior to the 9mm Parabellum, it falls short of the .45 ACP. Once we've obtained the required penetration — at least 12 inches through soft tissue — the bullet that makes the biggest hole will do the most damage.

Although it's a pity that Winches-

**Continued on page 62**

**Plodding silently through** the darkness of the Mozambican veldt, their leader collected forked sticks of arm-length as the 12-foot border fence began to materialize in the gloom ahead. The column of nocturnal porters was bent under loads of war-worn AKs, tightly bound with rags to prevent noise, which had been purchased in Mozambique for \$50 each: They would bring as high as \$600 apiece from several varied factions on the other side of the border in South Africa.

One man pried up the bottom of the wildlife fence, and the leader slithered through, crawling into the concertina, propping it open with the forked sticks to make a sort of tunnel through which everyone hastily crawled. Making the tunnel pushed parts of the concertina against the electrified wires running through the fence, setting off the alarm in the nearest South African Defense Force (SADF) outpost. The group then went over or under the second game fence and sprinted to the road, where they rendezvoused with vehicles that would smuggle the contraband arms to market. Some of the porters ran down the hill toward the paved road and, hopefully, to jobs on a South African farm, or whatever.

The United States is not alone in its problem of sharing a long, porous border with a poor neighbor. South Africa's north-eastern province of Transvaal has similar problems along its borders with Mozambique and Swaziland, with this difference: The major smuggling problem is guns, not drugs.

The human dimension is similar. Fifteen years of socialism and civil war have left Mozambique in very sorry straits: no food, no jobs and a ruined economy. In May 1993 *SOF* Publisher Robert K. Brown and I were on the South African border at Komatipoort. On the Mozambican side were miles and miles of dry, sage-colored low veldt: no roads, no farms — nothing. On the South African side were miles and miles of prosperous-looking orange, banana and sugar-cane plantations.

The year before, South Africa had sent back some 62,000 illegal Mozambicans, most of whom had come over the border seeking jobs to support themselves and their families. Even the South African Police (SAP) and army have a hard time getting too angry with poor Mozambican blacks who have gone under the fence looking for a way to support themselves and their families.

The gunrunning is another matter. For years the African National Congress (ANC) was preaching the line, "No education without liberation" and encouraging young blacks to boycott the best public school system in sub-Saharan Africa. The result is a whole generation of young

Africans who are illiterate, uneducated and unemployable — and very susceptible to revolutionary propaganda, the distinction between political terrorism and brigandage being pretty well lost. Combine this with the conflicts in the black townships between the ANC and the Zulus, the anti-white propaganda of the radical Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC), and the prospect of an armed power struggle after the elections in South Africa, and you can see why the South African authorities are concerned and alarmed over the flow of illegal arms.

### **Mozambican Death Merchants**

As a result of the civil war in Mozambique there are about 1.5 million AKs floating around, sans entry on anyone's property books. Our sources within the SAP report that you can buy an AK in Mozambique and resell it inside South Africa for more than \$500 profit. The ANC, the PAC, Inkatha (the Zulu political organization) and "crime syndicates and ordinary criminals" are all involved in the gunrunning.

Most of the border between Transvaal and Mozambique

# **GUNS THROUGH THE WIRE**

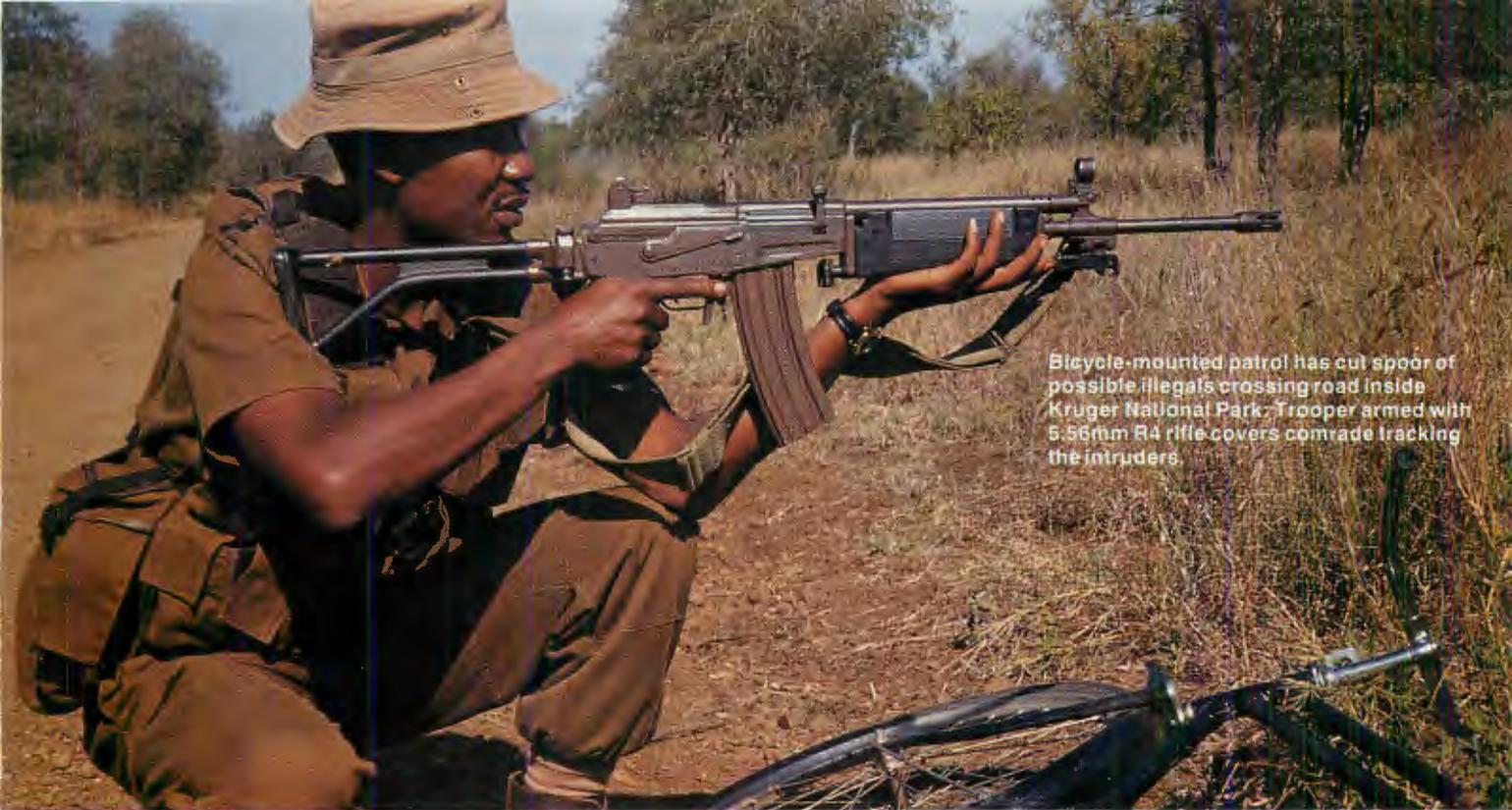
## **Stick-Toting Gunrunners Defy Transvaal's Border Watch**

**Text & Photos by Col. Alex McColl**

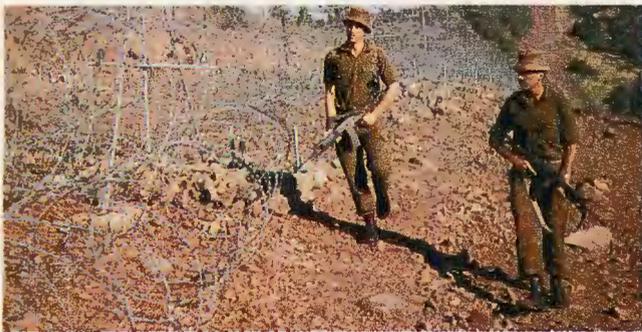
is the eastern boundary of the Kruger National Park (KNP). The KNP is about 370km (230 miles) from north to south and ranges from 40 to 96km (25 to 60 miles) from east to west. This vast area is theoretically set aside for wildlife, with the park staff and visitors keeping to the roads and established rest camps.

Between the southeast corner of the KNP and the north-eastern corner of Swaziland is another 60km (38 miles) of border. Since the farms, jobs and tantalizing prosperity of the Transvaal and its road net come almost up to the border here, this is the area of choice for most of the intending border crossers.

Swaziland is an independent country. Its boundary with Mozambique and its 200-mile border with South Africa are both extremely porous. In all, there are some 470



Bicycle-mounted patrol has cut spur of possible illegals crossing road inside Kruger National Park. Trooper armed with 5.56mm R4 rifle covers comrade tracking the intruders.



South African Defense Force combat engineers, armed with 5.56mm R4 rifles, patrol the Norex Line near Komatipoort.



Warning sign on fence of Norex Line near Komatipoort, Transvaal. Current in electrified fence has been reduced to non-lethal levels — just enough to trigger alarm in nearest SADF monitoring post.

miles of border to be watched, no part of which includes a significant natural barrier.

The South African response to this problem employs a combination of active-duty and reserve-component military, SAP and National Park Board resources. On the military side a headquarters called 33 Group, based at Nelspruit, has overall command of the border effort, as well as responsibility for the military side of internal security in a significant section of the eastern part of Transvaal.

The unit responsible for border protection in the KNP amounts to an understrength light infantry battalion, commanded by Colonel Brian Regan. He has four companies of active-duty troops, plus a fifth "commando" (reserve) company composed of KNP park rangers. The park rangers are responsible for preventing poaching, protecting wildlife and kindred activities, including laying and executing ambushes for poachers. A park ranger is also a commando soldier: When he encounters gunrunners or illegal border crossers, he calls Regan's headquarters on his radio, assumes his military role and acts accordingly.

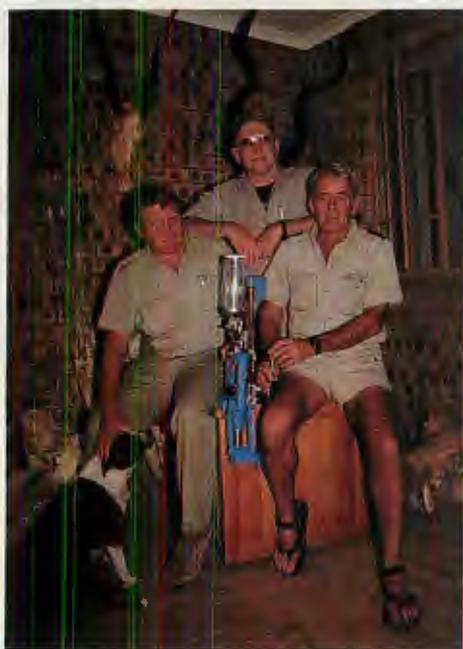
KNP ranger recruits get six weeks of training including rifle marksmanship, field craft, animal traits and tracking. Rangers are recruited from the local rural population and are

integrated into the Citizen Force on graduation.

Four rifle companies with a rather scant issue of light vehicles are spread thinly across some 230 miles of border in the African bush. The border itself is marked by a "game fence," i.e., a wire fence about 12-feet high with a line of barbed wire along the top — no real barrier to anyone who can climb, dig or work a pair of wire cutters. The general method is to patrol on the roads paralleling the border, looking for indications of people having moved across the road. When clues are found, tracking skills are applied to find and apprehend whomever made the tracks.

Tourists in the KNP are required to stay in their vehicles and on the roads, so anyone afoot off the roads is subject to detention. Regan estimates his people intercept about half of the illegal immigrants and firearms coming into the park. One of two things happens to illegal immigrants not running guns: The official, formal procedure is to turn them over to the SAP, who puts them back across the border at Komatipoort on the South African side, opposite the adjacent village of Ressano Garcia in Mozambique, at the southern end of the KNP.

*Continued on page 68*



# BRINGING LIGHT TO THE DARK CONTINENT

**SOF Helps RSA Nab Poachers**

**by Galen Geer      Photos by SOF Staff**



**Top:** Poachers are winning war on African wildlife. **Center:** Robert K. Brown with Dr. Jeremy Anderson, director of Kangwane Parks, and Peter Hitchins, Sr., Warden of Songimvelo Game Reserve, with the multistage reloading press donated to the training school by Dillon reloading. **Above Left:** Game scouts waiting their turn to fire laser-equipped R-4 rifles at the Gold Fields Training Camp. **Above Right:** SOF Outdoor Editor Galen Geer watches impact area while Gold Fields Training Officer Clive Poultney fires a laser-equipped R-4.

The poacher was cornered after a running gun battle and had thrown away his AK-47 when ordered to surrender by the patrol of game scouts and conservation officers in Natal province, South Africa. The scouts thought the poacher was now unarmed. They were wrong — he carried another gun in a pocket, which he pulled and began firing. One scout was killed — so was the poacher.

**There are two ways to deal with** poachers: Jail them or kill them. South African game scouts are usually faced with doing the latter as few poachers give up without a fight. But trying to kill poachers is chancy because they are often better armed than the game scouts.

The good guys in this fight need to get the upper hand if they are to win the war. One approach is to gain a technological edge in surveillance and sighting equipment. To that end *Soldier Of Fortune* has been organizing donations of modern equipment and conducting training for South African conservation groups as part of our 1994 "War On Poachers" program. In April 1993 we made our first delivery of such gear and held a training program at the Gold Fields Training Center, located on the Songimvelo Game Reserve (see "Stalking Poachers," *SOF*, Feb. '93).

*SOF*'s Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown and the staff of *Shooting Sports Retailer* magazine strongly support efforts to get equipment and training to South Africa's outgunned conservation officers. Additionally, Heinz Thummel, founder and president of Laser Devices (an *SOF* advertiser and convention exhibitor), generously donated a number of his laser sights and mounts to the cause.

Prior to April '93, none of South Africa's conservation officers were familiar with laser sights, so they needed training on every aspect of these instruments. I was tasked with organizing donations and developing a training program adaptable to Gold Fields' existing game-scout instruction. Drawing upon my experience, the tactical laser training would include ambush, patrolling and house-clearing operations.

I met with Thummel at the 1992 *SOF* Convention. Volunteering to provide on-site technical training at Gold Fields was Bob Ardle of Cherryville, Pennsylvania, one of Thummel's top retailers and an expert on lasers. We needed to ensure that Gold Fields' officers received a maximum amount of training within a limited amount of time, to include live-fire exercises.

Clive Poultney, Gold Fields' training officer, agreed to set up a live-fire jungle lane in advance and arrange designated practice areas for room-clearing operations, ambush drills and patrols.

### Zero In — Engage Target

Training of scouts and officers commenced soon after our arrival at Gold Fields. Ardle began with a meticulous explanation of a laser sight's function. These anti-poaching fighters needed to know what made such instruments function and their ranges and intensities, along with details of practical laser repair.

Once Ardle was satisfied that the officers understood the basic principles, he launched into instruction on installation and zeroing of laser sights on their R4 rifles. A characteristic of laser sights is that each one must be zeroed to the optimum range for the individual shooter; range should be based on what the laser-equipped weapon is going to be used for. One pistol shooter's zero range may be 10 yards, while a rifle shooter's may be 50 or even 100 yards.

In the past, zeroing of a laser has been a long, laborious process performed at night or, at best, in late-afternoon subdued light when a laser could be seen downrange. From a shooter's viewpoint, bright midday sunlight will wipe out a laser dot on a typical target. Thummel has solved this problem by developing a daylight laser target for zeroing or practice in bright sunlight. Until Thummel developed his daylight target, the only way to use a laser sight on a sunny afternoon was to employ special eyeglasses.

We took two rifles out of the classroom and fitted them with blank adaptors, requiring each officer and game scout to fire a half-dozen blank rounds at the laser targets for sighting. This gave each officer a better idea of what to expect at the range. Zeroing and firing for familiarization took up most of an afternoon; we took a break before beginning the room-clearing operations phase of training.

One problem with a laser-sighted weapon in a confined space is that too many laser dots waving around will confuse an entry team. The only way to drive this point home to prevent mistakes in a tactical situation is through a series of room-clearing drills wherein each officer handles

a laser-equipped weapon in one exercise and is subsequently on the "receiving" end during the next.

As evening fell at Gold Fields, our room-clearing lessons were immediate and spectacular. I divided the officers into two teams, rotating until each man had handled a laser on entry and also played the role of poacher. The entry teams learned to limit the number of lasers used; then, playing "bad guys," they saw firsthand how intimidating a laser-equipped firearm can be.

### Jungle Tactics, Tomorrow's Technology

Our second morning at Gold Fields began with a classroom review of the laser room-clearing training. Officers were encouraged to exchange ideas and viewpoints to plan for future laser drills after our departure.

We next detailed tactics of ambush and patrolling with laser-sighted weapons. South African conservation groups have been in the business of combating poachers for many years; rather than imposing our practices onto these officers, we reviewed their techniques, incorporating the laser-equipped weapon into these proven tactics.

A dry-fire review of patrolling and ambush techniques using a laser preceded a visit to the range for a live-fire exercise. Poultney had set up a 15-target jungle lane. From close range to more than 20 meters' distance, offic-

### 1993 WAR ON POACHERS SUPPORTERS

**Bushnell Division, Bausch & Lomb Inc.** — Binoculars for Gold Fields Training Center officers and game scouts

**Dillon Precision Reloading** — Multistage reloading press; 8mm reloading dies

**Laser Devices** — Laser sights and mounts donated to five South African conservation groups and to Gold Fields

**Winchester-Orin Corp.** — Blank 5.56mm ammo to Gold Fields

**Robert Ardle** — Blank adaptors and blank 5.56 ammo to Gold Fields

— G. G.

Continued on page 65

# ANATOMY OF AN

**Grabbing his 9mm SIG-Sauer, drug kingpin Pablo Escobar** hurtled his 230 pounds up the marble stairs to the back of the house, plunging barefoot through a small open window onto the red-tiled roof of the house next door. In desperation, he blindly fired 13 rounds in the direction of his pursuers, but it was too late: A sniper at the open window let three rounds fly, hitting the King of Cocaine in the back of his head, right ear and neck. A second sniper, crouched at the window with his colleague, fired twice more, hitting Escobar in the right hip and leg.

Escobar's beefy form smashed to the red clay tiles, legs tangled and broken from the .223 rounds. The curly black hair atop his crumpled frame was soaked in blood, his beard matted to the terra cotta of the roof tiles. The monster of Medellin was down for good. It was 1450 in the afternoon. A decade of terror ended in a firefight lasting less than 15 minutes. The nightmare that had cost Colombia and her people thousands of innocent lives was over.

Colombia is a land of "magic realism" where the fantastic and the real are often indistinguishable. What appears as an ordinary event or as reality somehow becomes unreal, mystical to outsiders, such as

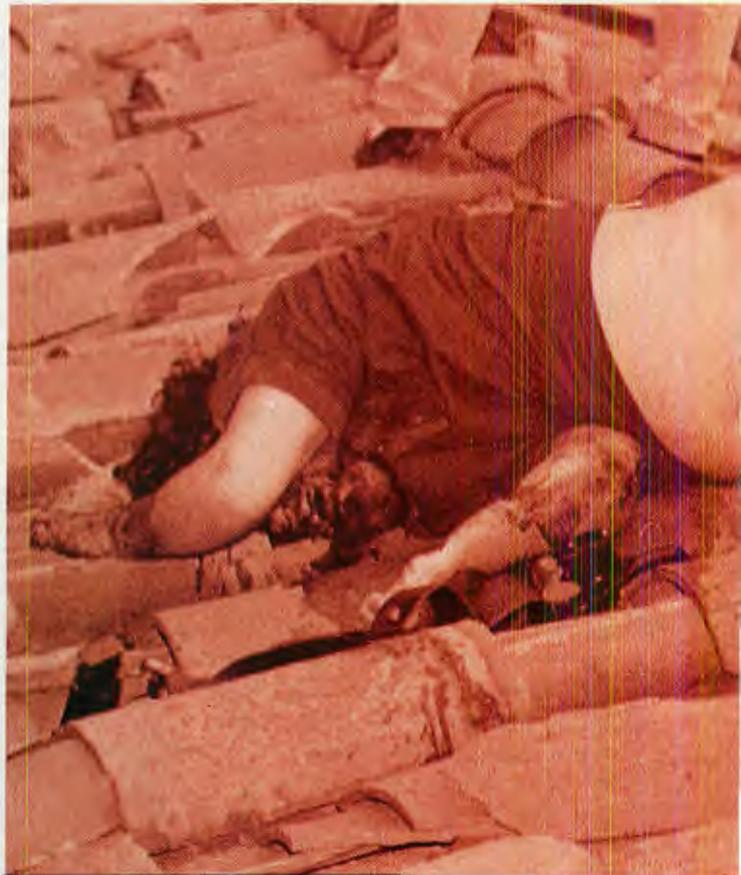
the real life and death of Pablo Escobar Gaviria, who almost single-handedly held the world hostage with cocaine.

At the time of his death, Escobar the man, and Escobar the legend, had become indistinguishable. There was a feeling that the man no longer mattered, that Escobar the legend was invincible — he had challenged the establishment and



Reaping the violence he had sown, cocaine king Pablo Escobar will kill or corrupt no more. Post-autopsy photo courtesy Office of the Attorney General, Bogota, Colombia.

won. He had waged war for more than a decade and personally orchestrated the killings of politicians, supreme court judges, lawyers, attorneys general — even the daughter of a president, presidential candidates themselves, journalists, hundreds of police and thousands of innocent ci-



World's most wanted criminal lies in pool of blood on roof next door to his Medellin hideout. Thousands of troops and technicians were ready to strike when he got careless — a phone call proved his demise. Photo: Gamma-Liaison

vilians who were caught in the blasts of his deadly car bombs.

Escobar transformed a country famed for premium

coffee, prize emeralds and beautiful women into a snake pit of narcos and money launderers. Colombia's reputation became synonymous with its greatest outlaw. The mere mention of his name struck a chord of fear in the national consciousness, yet as much as he was hated, he was secretly admired. Admired because he was not only above the law, he *was* the law.

Thousands of troops could not find him in Medellin, a city the size of Pittsburgh. Escobar was everywhere and nowhere. He was rumored to be in Panama, Brazil, even France, although he never actually left the safety of his

# ASSASSINATION

Text & Photos  
by Ian Hill



hometown, Medellin. The more the army searched, the less they found. A \$7 million (U.S.) bounty by the Colombian government and Interpol had no takers. Betrayal meant death. And after Escobar's dramatic escape from his luxurious jail in 1992, no "prison" was secure enough to hold him and no government clean enough to deny his bribes.

At 1455 hours 2 December 1993, Defense Minister Rafael Pardo was working in his office, having spent most of the morning lobbying Congress to pass his new security bill. Pardo took a moment to gaze through his office window on the bright, sun-washed patio below. His two phones

rang simultaneously: Picking up line one, he recognized the voice of the sub-director of the National Police, General Octavio Vargas Silva: "Escobar is dead," he said. "They have just called me from Medellin to hand me the news." With these words Pardo's afternoon peace was shattered. "Is it confirmed?" returned the minister. "All we need now are the fingerprints," the general replied.

At the same time, 600 miles northwest of Bogota where Pardo was receiving the news, six gunmen stood atop a tile roof in a middle-class suburb of Medellin staring at the blood-soaked body of the world's most hunted criminal. In the quiet neighborhood of "Las Americas," the news of Escobar's death was spreading like wild fire. Neighbors stormed out of their homes and a crowd gathered in the backyard of what appeared to be a vacant house.

In Medellin, the "City of the Eternal Spring," the temperature averages 72 degrees Fahrenheit year round.

is day, a tropical downpour was thering in the sky: The humidity was stifling and many of the white-collar residents were indoors when bullets ricocheted through the two-story house that had been Escobar's hideout for the last two weeks. Ironically, it was in quiet neighborhoods like this people settled specifically to escape the narcos and drug violence that plagued other parts of the world's most violent city. Little did they realize that Public Enemy No. 1 was in their very midst.

Escobar had just finished eating a modest lunch of pasta soup and the regional dish of kidney beans, rice and fried meat, when he made a fatal mistake. He decided to call his wife, Maria Victoria, his son Juan Pablo and daughter Manuela. The series of



While his bodyguard "The Lemon" engaged riflemen at the front door, Escobar bolted up these stairs and through the window onto the roof of the house next door, where seconds later he was felled by five rounds from the Bloque snipers' Galils.

phone calls that Escobar placed from his hideout in Medellin to his family in Bogota were his undoing.

In the final weeks before his death, the Escobar family — wife, son and daughter — had been forced to flee Medellin after continuing threats on their lives by the shadowy *PEPES* (People Persecuted by Pablo Escobar) group. *PEPES* was a clandestine network of Escobar's enemies, and he had many. Most visible were angry members of the Medellin city police who had seen their associates slain by Escobar's hit men, and rival Cali cartel drug lords who were financing the movement.

PEPES was orchestrated under the paramilitary leadership of Fidel Castano Gil, a powerful rancher known as “Rambo” who had been a close friend of Escobar, but who had become embittered by the drug lord’s killing of powerful Medellin cartel insiders such as the Moncada and Galeano brothers. The brothers were callously executed for supposedly renegeing on \$100 million compensation, due for being allowed to operate under the cartel’s name. Toward the end of his life Escobar was largely not a cocaine trafficker, but rather a broker whose chief task was to collect royalties from other dealers, to market the product with which his name was identified. The Moncada and Galeano brothers were loyal traffickers inside the cartel and Escobar’s ruthless revenge on them began to turn the dangerous Medellin cartel in on itself. Escobar became his own worst enemy.

### Total Annihilation

Because PEPES worked “for the total annihilation of Pablo Escobar, his underlings, collaborators and property,” the drug lord’s family felt the heat. The PEPES organization began to dismantle the cartel by blowing up the drug lord’s abundant and prized real estate, including his mother’s farm. Escobar’s top henchmen were systematically wiped out and anyone with ties to the drug lord, such as his lawyers, were brutally killed. Some 40 insiders of the cartel, including his own top assassins, were gunned down during the first months of 1993, leaving Escobar isolated in what would become the last phase of the “drug war” being waged on the streets of Medellin. “Rambo” threatened that anything associated with Escobar was no longer sacred. Not even the life of his eight-year-old daughter, Manuela.

Aside from reprisals from PEPES, Escobar faced another threat: In September 1992, Colombian President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo sanctioned, under supervision of the National Police and Ministry of Defense, an elite body of 3,000 men known as the *Bloque de Busqueda* or “Search Block.” The Bloque de Busqueda’s sole mission was to dismantle the Medellin cartel and capture, dead or alive, its ringleader, Pablo Escobar Gaviria. The Bloque was designed to

operate freely without constant supervision of the commanding powers. It began successfully to infiltrate the cartel by doling out more than \$1 million to informers, and promising light prison terms and government protection to turn insiders. The Bloque carried out more than 8,000 military operations in the city of Medellin and the surrounding state of Antioquia in its 449 days of existence, culminating with the death of the cocaine czar.

The Bloque was no ordinary force: Its troopers were paid well above the average salary for a Colombian soldier. Many received U.S. training in anti-terrorist tactics. The Bloque’s highly trained troopers systematically weeded out more than 200 of the cartel’s hired *sicarios* or hit men. Most of the cartel’s “military wing” headed by “Tyson” — aka Brances Munoz Mosquera, a killer responsible for several car bombs in Bogota — died in shoot-outs with the Bloque. Although for months at a time the Bloque had no leads on Escobar’s whereabouts, the elite team was waging a war of psychological pressure and the coordinated manhunt was inching ever closer toward the core of the cartel. On several occasions they had broken into one of the more than 1,000 homes at the disposal of the drug fugitive, only to find they were minutes behind him.

One of the ways the Search Block knew they were on a hot trail was by what they found in his hideouts. Escobar consoled his loneliness on the run by reading certain books on his favorite theme, which, not surprisingly, had to do with the drug war. When the Bloque arrived on the scene, they often found Tom Clancy’s action novel *Clear and Present Danger*, which Escobar had underlined from cover to cover with personal notes on ways to avoid getting caught in this day of high technology. The entire *Godfather* trilogy and videos of *Scarface* and *New Jack City* were in his private collection. Pornographic

videos featuring the same theme of lesbianism were confiscated in the raids. Over time, the Bloque was able to establish a pattern that pointed to Escobar’s presence in the city, and his loneliness and paranoia of getting caught.

With the dirty war of the PEPES and the psychological pressure employed by the Bloque de Busqueda, the Escobars soon had enough. They decided to run. It was clear that Escobar was in trouble long before he met his end, when 10 months earlier his family tried to sneak out of Colombia, stateside. This placed the family at the center of a diplomatic flap when the U.S. Embassy revoked their visas after they had been issued by U.S. consular authorities in Bogota. The Escobar incident was

an embarrassment for U.S. Ambassador Morris Busby, as the family was holding legitimate visas. After lobbying nearly all the foreign governments throughout the Americas — from Argentina to Costa Rica —



Escobar walked from this living room to the bedroom to call his family one more time, as Bloque operators surrounded the house.

to accept the Escobars, it was clear that this was a family no one wanted.

The breaking point came on 28 November 1993 when the Escobars boarded a Lufthansa jet for Frankfurt in a hush of secrecy. Escobar had been harboring a possible deal with the Colombian government to surrender if a foreign country could be found to house his fugitive family; but even as the Escobars crossed the Atlantic, it was evident that German authorities would deny them entry. Tired and jet-lagged, the family was shuffled into the transit lounge to catch the next 12-hour flight back to Colombia and confront their destiny. When Escobar learned of Germany’s highly publicized rejection, he decided to risk contacting his family.

On that fateful Thursday, 2 December 1993, Escobar picked up the phone to greet his wife and kids who had returned exhausted from Germany the day before, having spent almost a week in transit. With his family back

on Colombian soil, it was evident Escobar was not going to surrender. Maria Victoria Henao, his wife, petitioned the attorney general's office for political asylum in a luxury hotel in the center of Bogota. She was granted her wish, as well as official protection against the threat of retaliation by the PEPES, as a sign of "good faith" by



Attorney General Gustavo de Greiff. A trap was being set.

As the Escobars settled into their luxury suite on the 29th floor of the *Residencias Tequendama* (a hotel administered, ironically, by the Colombian armed forces), 30 floors below in the basement, a team of phone tappers and 15 voice specialists from the National Police, with help of the DEA, were tracing incoming calls. There was no doubt that Escobar would call his family after the disappointing episode with the German authorities, despite the risk to his personal security. Escobar was a devoted father to his cocky 16-year-old son, Juan Pablo, and great love, eight-year-old Manuelita Escobar.

### Bagging "Papa"

Finishing lunch around 1315 hours, Escobar picked up his cordless phone, slouched back in a gaudy pink sofa and dialed the hotel, suite 2901. At first he tried to pass himself off as a journalist, but in vain, as the hotel receptionist had been given specific orders not to put calls through from the media. At 1327 hours Escobar finally got the receptionist on the line again and put it to her bluntly: "Tell them [the family] that Papa is calling

from Medellin." Little did he suspect that the DEA and police were listening. This call cost him his life.

Escobar spoke for two minutes and 25 seconds with his son concerning a possibility that Salvadoran President Alfredo Christiani, who was on an official visit in Bogota, might offer them asylum in his country. Meanwhile, a police cadet working in the basement of the Bloque's headquarters in Medellin received orders from the "voice team" in Bogota to trace the call from "Papa" using a radiometric triangulator. The signal came from the suburb known as Las Americas.

Although the radiometric triangulator had been in use by the Bloque de Busqueda for the previous 14 months, it had pinpointed signals to within only four square kilometers, despite the use of powerful ground-to-air radars. This time, however, the signal was very precise. A computer in the basement of the hotel already had a digitized recording of Escobar's voice. When the voice frequencies were matched by the team of 15 specialists and Escobar's identity confirmed, the young cadet on duty immediately alerted his commanding officer.

Armed with Galils, 17 top guns of the Bloque de Busqueda were immediately dispatched to raid a two-story house situated between 79A Street and 45D Avenue. Escobar, meanwhile, called his family again. The day before was his birthday and he wanted to tell his daughter, Manuela, how much he loved her. It was 1430 hours.

At 1435 a cream-colored truck, with an antenna for tracing the calls, rolled into the neighborhood trying to locate the exact house from which the signal was coming. The elite soldiers crouched in the back of three armored vehicles, following at a distance to avoid suspicion. As the van drove up the road, the driver spotted a house with a "For Sale" sign on the metal garage door. It looked suspicious. Taking a chance, he ordered the troops behind to dismount and surround the area.

The men broke into three details, taking alternate routes to cover the house from all sides, as three troopers stepped onto the weedy patch of grass at the front of the house. Inside were Escobar and his only bodyguard, a rookie named Alvaro de Jesus Agudelo, alias "The Lemon." Escobar

was just strolling into the bedroom to make another call to the hotel. As Escobar removed his shoes to lie on the bed, "Lemon" heard something outside. "Wait! I hear strange noises," he said. Heading to the window to look, he saw three boys of the Bloque charging the front door. Reaching for his 9mm pistol, he ran outdoors to confront the troops, leaving the possibility open for Escobar to escape through the back window. Within seconds, "The Lemon" fell in a hail of lead.

### "We've Killed Pablo!"

As the last echoes of the fire that felled Escobar rattled across the rooftops of the enclave, six of the 17 troops present jumped onto the roof to examine their trophy. A throng of neighbors was gathering in the street below. One trooper in a festive mood reached under his olive-green jacket for a flask filled with Chivas Regal. Waving to the shell-shocked retirees below, he yelled, "We've killed Pablo! We've killed Pablo!"

"Killed who?" shouted a taxi driver on the street below. "Pablo," returned the soldier. "Stop lying," was the cabby's response. In this country where anything can happen, fact was having a hard time convincing fantasy.

Back in the presidential palace, Defense Minister Rafael Pardo had just received the good news from General Vargas. Wanting to be the first to tell the president, he stormed into Gaviria's office. It was 1500 hours. "We must wait 10 minutes until the fingerprints are confirmed," he told the president, before they could release the news. But keeping the news secret was to no avail. A local journalist working for RCN radio happened to be close by and suspected something big. It was then that he filed his news flash, regarding the "death of a leading trafficker." Soon the red-tiled roof in Las Americas was teeming with police, special agents, forensic experts, detectives and representatives of all leading Colombian security agencies. At 1510 President Gaviria received confirmation of the fingerprints and the media broke the news to the world that Pablo Escobar Gaviria, aged 44, was dead.

*Ian Hill is a British journalist based in Bogota. He was the first foreign journalist in Medellin on the day of Escobar's assassination. ✕*

## SIG'S PERFECT PAIR

Continued from page 53

ter caved in to the current anti-gun feeding frenzy and will no longer provide its excellent Black Talon ammunition to the public, *SOF* has evaluated the terminal effects of a wide array of .40 S&W ammunition and most of the 180-grain loads are effective.

Hornady's and Black Hills' .40 S&W ammunition, when loaded with the Hornady 180-grain Jacketed Hollow Point (JHP) XTP bullet, turn in the best performance. Velocity ranges from 950 to 975 fps for the Hornady loads and 850 to 890 fps for the Black Hills ammo. Expansion is stellate-shaped, with the points averaging .68 caliber and the flats about .64 caliber. There is no fragmentation and this bullet will penetrate about 14.2 inches of soft tissue.

Caliber .380 ACP ammunition is not noted for effective wound ballistics performance. This is to no small degree a function of the bullets that have been available for this round.

Round-nosed, FMJ projectiles weighing only 95 grains are traditional for this cartridge. There are now several more effective alternatives.

Hornady Custom .380 ACP ammunition (No. 9010) features a 90-grain JHP XTP serrated-jacket bullet. Federal catalogs two different 90-grain JHP's in this caliber: a Hydra-Shok with a post in the center of the cavity (No. P380HS1) and a more conventional hollow-point (No. 380BP). I think the Hydra-Shok concept is a scam; however, both Federal's other hollow-point and the Hornady round bring the .380 ACP cartridge to its maximum potential.

None of the ammunition fired through both the P229 and P230 pistols produced any stoppages. The P229 proved to be exceptionally accurate. The perceived recoil generated by the .40 S&W cartridge is noticeably less than that of the .45 ACP, no matter what the armchair wimps from the popular gun press say. Both of these handguns are of high quality. However, both require modifications to meet the specifications of professional gun handlers — as do almost all pistols manufactured

today. SIGARMS' P229 is robust design with some excellent qualities. Although double-action pistols with hammer-drop levers and no manual safeties now prevail, whenever possible, I still remain committed to locked and cocked types. Without a doubt, the P230 is the best of all the .380 ACP pocket pistols. Such quality does not come without its price: Suggested retail for the P229, complete with two magazines and a plastic storage box with combination padlock is \$875; the P230 costs \$510 with two magazines. ✕

## FULL AUTO

Continued from page 15

Every time the barrel is screwed into the receiver of the caliber .50 HB, M2 BMG the headspace must be adjusted with a "Go"/"No Go" headspace gage, which is inserted in the T-slot between the breech face and the rear of the barrel with the firing pin retracted and the barrel extension separated

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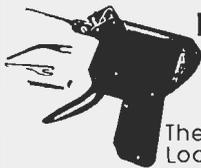
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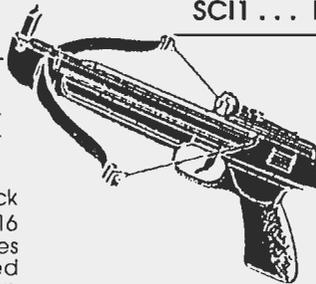
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## PISTOL CROSSBOW

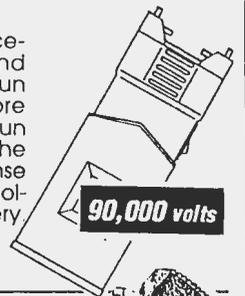
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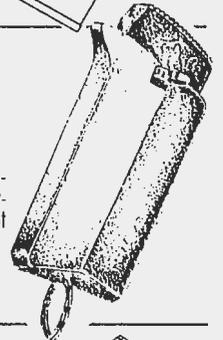
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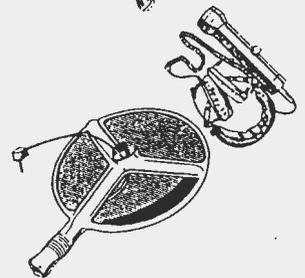
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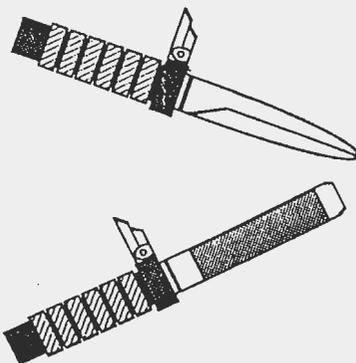
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from the trunnion block by a 1/16-inch gap. Headspace is altered by screwing the barrel in or out.

When John Browning provided for both adjustable headspace and timing (adjustment of the gun so that firing takes place when the recoiling parts are in the correct position for firing), metallurgy and quality control procedures were still in their infancy. Parts wore quickly and cartridge dimensions could vary considerably from lot to lot. In that time frame, these adjustments were beneficial features. Today, this is no longer true.

FN Nouvelle Herstal SA (Dept. SOF, rue Voie de Liege, 33-B 4040 Herstal, Belgium; phone: 32-41-40-81-11; fax: 32-41-40-86-79) can provide either complete weapons or kits to convert existing .50-caliber BMGs into what they call the M2HB-QCB. This system provides the gun with a quick-change barrel and fixed headspace. These are important modifications that bring an already excellent and battle-proven weapon up to the highest levels of current technology. A quick-change barrel system significantly reduces exposure to enemy fire since this weapon is most often carried by ground troops, with the barrel separate from the receiver group, and must frequently be assembled while the gun crew is taking incoming fire. Furthermore, most of the stoppages I have witnessed in the field with both tripod-mounted and turret-mounted M2HBs were the result of head-space incorrectly adjusted by the operator.

The conversion kit consists of a new barrel (standard M2HB barrels can be factory-modified to make them compatible with the QCB system) and barrel extension, a barrel guide (ventilated barrel support) with an installed guide stud and shim, an assortment of breech locks and a new accelerator developed to improve the gun's performance.

Both the barrel (at the chamber end) and barrel extension have interrupted threads. Once this kit has been installed, to change the barrel it is required only to push the cocking handle to the down position, and, using the barrel's carrying handle, rotate the barrel 1/16th of a turn (until the carrying handle is upper-dead-center). Then, just pull



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the barrel out of the receiver. To reinstall a barrel simply reverse the procedure.

Headspace is determined by using breech locks of different thicknesses in the barrel extension. A thicker breech lock will move the breech face forward and reduce headspace. The factory specifications call for a minimum thickness of 0.202 inch and a maximum of 0.204 inch. The service ranges are between 0.202 inch and 0.210 inch.

An option strongly recommended by FN is fixed timing. Other options include an adjustable front sight and a pivoting manual safety that locks the trigger. In addition to a blank firing device, a combined recoil booster is available for training purposes that permits automatic operation with blank cartridges having brass or plastic cases. In addition, this device allows the use of plastic-bullet training ammunition because the barrel muzzle plug is eliminated.

FN .50-caliber BMG barrels are available with either chromed bores or a combination chromed and stellite-lined bore.

These FN products are represented in the United States by FN Sales North America (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 24257, Columbia, SC 29224; phone: 803-736-0522; fax: 803-736-9949).

## DARK CONTINENT

Continued from page 57

ers with laser-equipped rifles coped with brush while firing from various angles to engage targets.

Once the evening shadows were long enough to provide good visibility of laser dots onto standard silhouette targets, each shooter was told to load two magazines, one with five rounds and another with 10. There were 15 targets on Poultney's jungle lane course; the object was to locate each target before walking past it, place a laser dot onto the target, then fire into it.

Our intent was to demonstrate the quick reaction time and accuracy of laser-equipped firearms, but we also wanted to show how quickly a laser

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sight can be lost in thick vegetation. Poultney's course design was difficult. At least two targets were missed by every officer. By the end of the lane, each officer had gained a healthy respect for the laser and what it could do for him in similar scenarios.

We were now ready for ambush training. Again the officers were divided into two teams: the "game scouts," carrying one laser-equipped rifle and three standard R4s; and the "poachers," armed with an R4 and several old bolt-action 8mm rifles.

A game-scout team would set up an ambush, then the poachers would walk into it; teams rotated after each drill to allow each officer to handle a laser weapon. In addition, allowing each team to set up their own ambushes provided flexibility. The exercise's purpose involved demonstrating how laser sights could be used to engage a group of poachers with either immediate killing shots or as psychological weaponry to prevent a firefight.

It is one thing to tell a shooter that improper use of a laser can get him killed — it is something else again to

let a "bad guy" see the laser beam through the tall grass leading back to the shooter's position. When a time comes for that conservation officer to plan an ambush, he is not going to place his laser-sighted rifle in a position where it becomes a liability.

On our final morning at Gold Fields we reviewed the training program and how effective lasers will be for future anti-poaching operations. Officer Trevor Scheepers from the Natal parks board, who had recently been in a firefight in which a game scout was killed, lamented that the new technology came too late to help that scout.

"The fight was in the last light of day. If we'd had a laser-equipped rifle, we could have either shot the poacher or at least convinced him to surrender rather than fight," Scheepers noted, "but it is too late now. Our man is dead."

Along with firearms industry donations, *SOF's* and *Shooting Sports Retailer's* hands-on support of anti-poaching operations will help South Africa's conservation officers and game scouts avoid such losses in the future, while convincing others that

poaching is not a healthy business in which to engage. ✕

## COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

Continued from page 16

(Dept. SOF, Box 41454, Phoenix, AZ 85080; phone: 800-782-7352; fax: 602-258-8367). Special-purpose rounds available from Accuracy Systems include: *Shok Lock* — frangible metal/ceramic slug in a plastic obturator jacket for blasting locks and hinges from doors; *Dust Off* — as above but without ceramic binder, for increased safety; *Starflash Muzzle Blast* — a diversion/distraction round producing a brilliant blast of sparklets from the muzzle to beyond 30 meters; *Thunderflash* — a non-fragmenting exploding projectile available in ranges of 50, 75, 100 and 150 meters; *Starflash* — similar to Thunderflash, but includes brilliant white sparklets; *Tear Gas Muzzle Blast* — produces a cloud of tear

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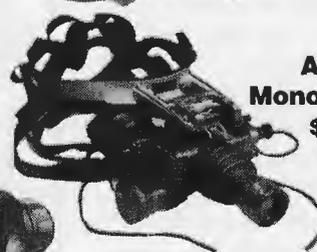
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gas from the muzzle out to 5-10 meters; *Bursting Tear Gas* — fires a CS-1 projectile to approximately 50 meters, which ejects a cloud of tear gas and may be used indoors; *Stingshot* — soft rubber projectiles available as "00" (18 .32-caliber pellets), "Triple Ball" (three .69-caliber round balls) and "Rubber Rocket" with a single-finned projectile; *Stingbag* — cloth bag filled with small lead shot, for applications requiring less-than-lethal force; *Obscurant Smoke* — muzzle-blast type rounds producing a thick cloud of opaque white smoke to approximately 5 meters, providing instant concealment in tactical operations.

For the average "everyday" potential conflict, however, most people select either buckshot or a combination of buckshot and slugs. Slugs are more or less the same, with the Brenneke probably king of the hill. While the Sabot (an hour-glass-shaped bullet encapsulated by two plastic "shoes") has become popular in recent years, it is lighter and it reduces a 12-gauge (.72-caliber) gun down to .50-caliber.

Buckshot gets the popular vote in 00 and — for some obscure reason — No. 4s. While No. 4s generally have a reasonably regular pattern density (and overall pattern size seems to open almost predictably and consistently relative to target distance), they have a poor track record for penetration from 15 yards out. 00 buck is extremely popular and generally gets the job done, but selection of this cartridge seems to be more on "I use it because everybody else does" syndrome than on any other basis. There are many other loads available, such as 0 (12 pellets, similar caliber) and 000 (eight pellets, slightly larger caliber).

The bottom line, again, is to pattern your barrel until you find the heaviest shot that will stay in the tightest overall pattern diameter. Magnum rounds have more pellets, usually don't pattern well and are slower travelling than a standard round, but are popular with law enforcement special teams.

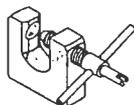
Birdshot is popular for indoor use, but as noted in prior *SOF* articles, birdshot may as well be a

slug at 6 feet if you're concerned about over-penetration — it merely dissipates in a shorter distance compared to buckshot. Shotgun projectiles, even though ballistically impressive, are less of an over-penetration threat than a handgun, subgun or rifle bullet. While one heavy buckshot pellet can kill at 60 yards if the victim is hit in a vital area such as an eye or through an open mouth, it does not compare in lethality to even a .22 bullet, which is dangerous for more than a mile.

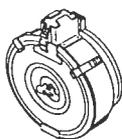
One final advantage to the shotgun is its inherent capability — in able hands — to shoot inside 5 inches at 100 yards with slugs through a smoothbore barrel. While rifle shooters may scoff at this "mundane" grouping potential, most people can't shoot that tight with a scoped rifle using match ammo — and bear in mind that with "generic" .72-caliber bullets you can shoot a 5-inch "clover leaf" with six rounds.

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

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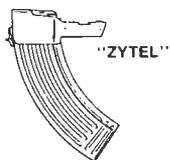


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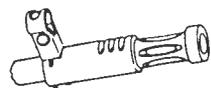
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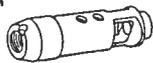
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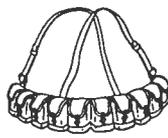


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**THROUGH THE WIRE**

Continued from page 55

If the individual came from somewhere far to the north, he or she has a long walk home. So there is an informal procedure whereby the individual is trucked by the SADF (South African Defense Force) across the KNP to one of several border-crossing points on the Mozambique border. Either way, just as with illegals on the U.S. border with Mexico, many are back within days. Since the SADF provides food and some medical treatment for illegals while in custody, which is expensive, they try to move them out as quickly as possible. Gun-runners and poachers are turned over to the SAP for prosecution.

The 38 miles of border between the southeastern corner of the KNP and Swaziland is the so-called Norex Line. Here the jobs, road net and general prosperity of Transvaal come enticingly near the Mozambique border, so the South African government has built an elaborate barrier along the boundary. Just inside the actual border with Mozambique there is a game fence, basically to keep out animals and children. A few yards behind this is a structure of many rolls of concertina wire and electrified wires on insulators, and behind that another game fence on the South African side. Every kilometer or so along the wire stands a small post manned by SADF engineers who monitor the wire.

When illegals or smugglers use forked sticks to defeat the fence, this, of course, triggers the alarm in the nearest SADF outpost, where engineers alert the infantry patrols operating on the South African side. The actual fence-crossing takes about three minutes, so even if the infantry patrol, as our source put it, "runs like athletes" they may or may not catch the border crossers, especially since most crossings take place between 2200 and 0400. There is a marvelous irony in the fact that this very elaborate, state-of-the-art barrier can be defeated by a poor, illiterate Mozambican with a handful of forked sticks, and in such a short time.

To provide a degree of backup for these rather porous arrangements on the border itself, the SADF and police

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operate a system of roving roadblocks. To counter this, gunrunners commonly run a "ghost vehicle" a kilometer ahead of the vehicle carrying contraband. If the ghost vehicle finds a roadblock it calls back a warning. When the SADF and police have information identifying the ghost vehicle they keep roadblocks out of sight until it has passed. Sympathetic blacks, not involved with smuggling, commonly broadcast roadblock locations by CB radio: Even commercial radio stations in Swaziland announce the locations of roadblocks. To counter this, the SADF and police use vehicle or helicopter mobile roadblocks that move in, set up for an hour, then relocate.

Arms smugglers commonly carry the weapons in specially modified fuel tanks on their vehicles, equipped with filters to prevent gunk on the weapons from ruining the engine.

Both the SADF and police operate intelligence nets in support of anti-gunrunning operations. Most arms smugglers are non-political, money-hungry crooks who have no compunction about ratting on their competitors.

SADF manpower for these operations comprises mostly full-time soldiers, but "commando" personnel in the area are subject to being called up when civil disturbances are expected and police need backup.

To what extent this system might be applied to controlling the southern border of the United States is a question that deserves some serious professional thought.

*Col. Alex McColl is SOF Contributing Editor for Military Affairs. ✕*

## I WAS THERE

*Continued from page 18*

dead in the water and was soon left astern.

The Gulf of Tonkin had many radar ghosts and this contact was evaluated later by offship analysts as being a ghost. The Gulf of Tonkin incident itself may have involved such ghosts. I just don't know.

We arrived in the vicinity of a carrier and were told to mill around smartly until they figured out what to do with us. By now, we had one dead with a piece of fuse in the back

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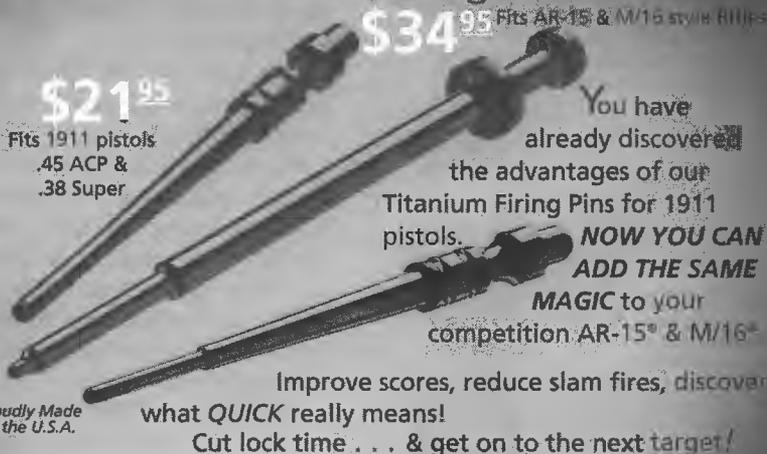
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of his skull and 11 wounded. We had settled down enough to go to the normal watch and I was the OOD on the bridge. After being relieved, I went down to breakfast in the wardroom. This was virtually the first time I had not been in the dark or under red lights since the attack. A steward commented on the blood on my shirt. I had taken a piece of shrapnel in the ear lobe and not even known it! Later I found numerous bruises on my back.

While the honchos tried to figure out what to do with us, we started to clean up. One of my electronic warfare techs found a piece of fuse with U.S. markings and a serial number on it. We were stunned! *How had the North Vietnamese gotten our missiles?*

They hadn't! Some jet jock was so screwed up after jinking over Haiphong, he thought our radar was a North Vietnamese SAM site 50 miles at sea. The skipper was not pleased! He took a helo over to see the CTF-77 commander and soon we were off to Subic Bay for repairs. We counted hundreds of shrapnel holes in our search radars. Our SPS-10 radar had half its feed horn blown off but still worked like a champ. Two huge missile fire control radars had also taken hundreds of hits, but in so doing had protected all but one of the 50 or so people in CIC from injury. The deck above CIC had more than 200 holes in it.

Several months later, while in port in Yokosuka, one of the seemingly thousands of Air Force colonels stationed at HQ, U.S. Forces, Japan, visited the ship with his family on a personal tour. He later flippantly relayed to one of his escorts that it had been a disoriented Air Force F-105 pilot who fired two Shrike Anti-Radiation Missiles (ARMs) at us.

This case of "friendly fire" mirrored one that damaged an Australian destroyer in 1967. I can attest to the efficacy of ARM missiles, and ever since that incident have had a bias against USAF jet jockeys who act like God's gift to the military. I still wonder if that pilot has problems sleeping at night ... ☒

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## PARTING SHOT

Continued from page 82

ment who abandoned our comrades and lied to us. I'm also still saddened and shamed about the way we abandoned the people of South Vietnam to the cruelty and revenge of old enemies. Even fools like Jane Fonda now realize the NVA weren't liberators. The only way we can now help our old allies is to break Uncle Ho's style of communism with an invasion of capitalism and bring prosperity back to the Paris of the Orient.

The pressure of financial interests has now made the "normalization" of our relations with Vietnam a *fait accompli*.

With the new opportunities for travel and commerce comes the possibility of unfettered investigations.

For the time being, we can expect that if there are any MIAs still alive, they will continue to rot. We can expect "Operation Full Accounting" to recover more remains, expect more revelations about the cover-up, and expect more unconfirmed sightings. It is even possible that someday we'll have some poor survivor paraded across our TV screens. Some lucky agency will sell his story and give him part of the money and in American fashion, we can say, "He's rich now. Everything's OK." But don't expect one MIA to know much about the other missing, and don't expect to have the whole, sordid, full accounting about MIAs: not soon — maybe never. Our government thinks we're better off not knowing — maybe the knowing would inflame our helpless disgust and turn our stomachs even worse.

In other words, the possibility of resolving the MIA issue now exists, but the initiative will probably have to be taken by individuals and groups, since the government that abandoned these men has a vested interest in the problem just "going away."

*A frequent contributor, Lt. Col. R. B. Anderson retired last year after a career in Army SpecOps. ✕*

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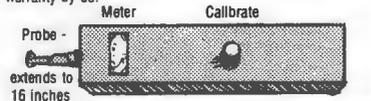
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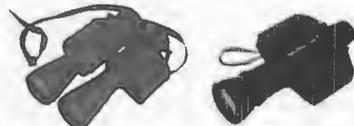
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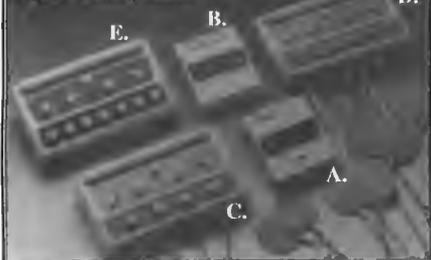
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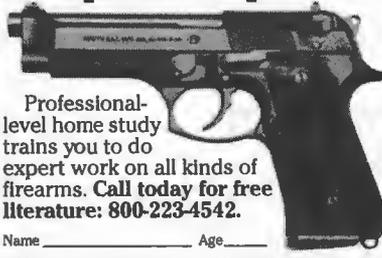
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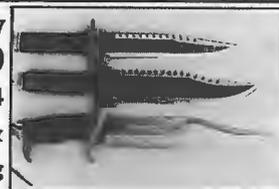
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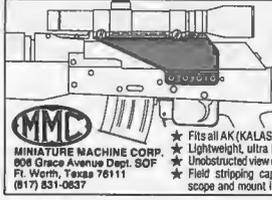
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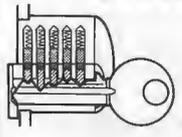
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# PARTING SHOT

by R. B. Anderson

## Trading With The Enemy

JFK, Elvis, Marilyn Monroe and MIAs — people that America can't keep out of its consciousness. The "what ifs" of destroyed possibilities fascinate us and we keep coming back to them in almost cyclic patterns. Every month brings a new revelation or sighting, from the serious to the ridiculous. But one of our forevermore icons differs from the others — *MIAs may yet live*.

Vietnam is a bad memory America can't forget and MIAs are our festering guilt. Men who nobly served us are men we ignobly ignored as we tucked tail. No matter how we viewed the purpose of war, we all share the outrage and the shame of leaving POWs behind. Our "lost boys" may still be suffering in captivity and that holds us spellbound and attacks our collective conscience. Somehow, if we could find them, it would help make things right.

Wouldn't it?

After decades of official denial, several years ago we began somewhat earnestly searching for our MIAs. Unfortunately, this "highest priority mission" isn't a high priority mission and the trail has been cold for 20 years. Only one thing seems certain: When North Vietnam supposedly returned all the POWs in 1973, there were still live American captives in Southeast Asia and we knew it. Life expectancy is low in the region and by now many of these men must have died of "natural causes" caused by poor diet and lack of medical care. The prisoners no longer hold any value for their captors — in fact, they would be an embarrassment. They have likely been killed.

But what if? What if someone has survived? What if we discover his whereabouts? Someday, possibly soon, a guy like me (Special Forces) may walk through a rice paddy and put his hand on the shoulder of a middle-aged occidental and say, "It's time to go home." But what if he doesn't want to go?

The man has been gone now for more than 20 years and has had to

adjust to his situation. He has long since been broken by his interrogators. The serviceman's Code of Conduct is almost impossible to fulfill under torture, and he was made to give much more than name, rank, service number and date of birth. He may feel guilt. He may feel that he betrayed his former country and he has every reason to feel that his former country betrayed him. If he's lucky, he has been "reeducated," given a degree of liberty, and permitted to perform productive labor. Long ago, he gave up

### **Don't expect the NVA to suddenly become honest about the men it held for bargaining chips.**

any hope of rescue. To keep sane, he may repress memories of the "old country." He has learned a new language and new habits. Why would he not now identify with the culture and people around him? He has probably discovered ways to feel comfortable in his niche. He has certainly adapted to it. He could even be married and have children.

The MIA may not want to leave "home" to return to a country that left him behind, but no matter. The Special Forces commander is not going take "no" for an answer. He can't. He will have orders. But even more, no one in uniform would ever come back and say, "We found an MIA but we didn't bring him home. We left him (again)." Besides, the victim may be brainwashed and bringing him back against his will could be in his best interests. He'll come back, bound if necessary. But there may not be space on the helicopter for his family, or even time to collect them.

Once back, then what? How will our MIA feel about being uprooted? How will a man who fears he is a traitor react to an overwhelming hero's welcome? How will a person

who left the United States in 1967 adjust to the America of 1994? Will he be psychologically prepared for the ill-mannered assault of a horde of media interrogators? How will politicians use him? How will "handlers" sell him? What will his return do to his remarried wife, her husband, and his grown children? Interesting, very interesting. That's why we never lose our fascination for MIAs. It's something to think about. It's a drama that could be playing on a TV near you. Just don't expect a happy ending.

The victim may be overjoyed at being rescued, or be horrified at being recaptured. That depends on many factors. But by no means should we stop the search. We should do everything in our power to find our missing in action or discover what became of them. We owe them and their families. Big time.

Don't expect the NVA to suddenly become honest about the men it held for bargaining chips. The only way we are likely to discover the whole truth about our MIAs' fates anytime remotely soon is to have a bunch of Americans running around Vietnam unrestrained. That, of course, means opening up a closed country. That can only be done by buying our way in with trade and tourism. When there is a flood of American businessmen, veterans and other tourists developing and poking around Vietnam, there will be sufficient cover and freedom of movement for reporters (including *SOF's*), free-lance investigators, and intelligence types to find enough pieces to the MIA puzzle to give us a picture of what really happened.

Dealing with our former enemy sounds like "selling out" to some veterans but at this point, I'd deal with the devil to help MIAs. Yes, they kept our comrades and lied to us but I never expected compassion or integrity from the NVA. I'm much more angry at our govern-

*Continued on page 71.*

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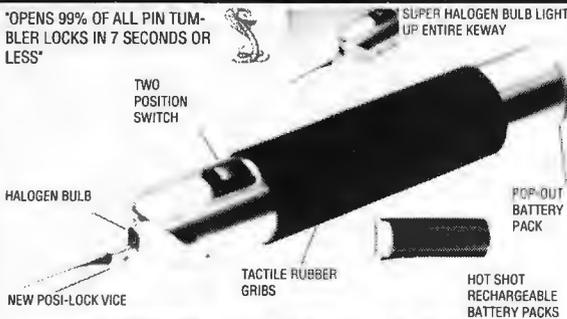
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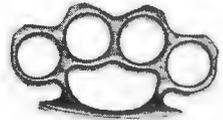
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