



WHAT COPS REALLY THINK ABOUT GUN CONTROL

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- See
Page 66

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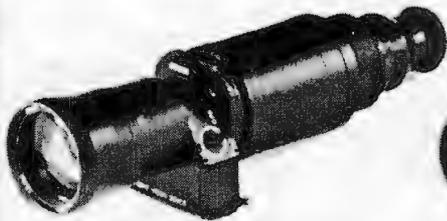
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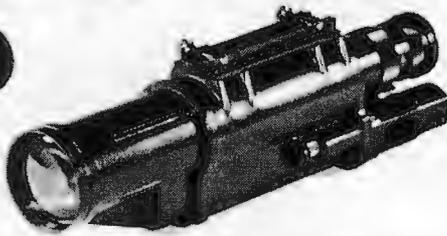
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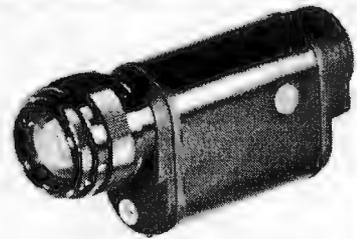
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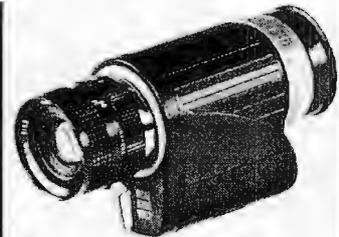


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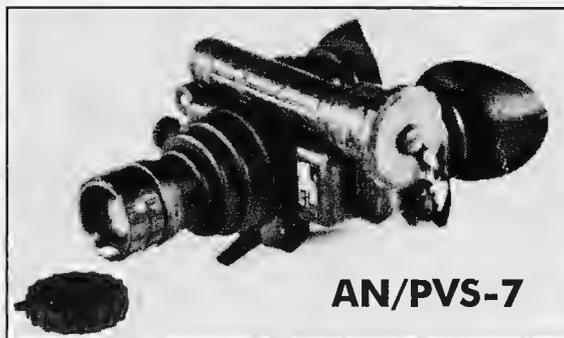
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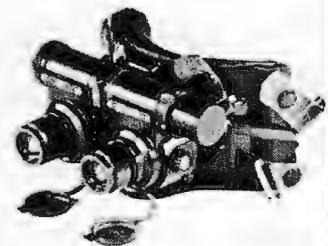
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No More Loose-Cannon Law Enforcement

by Alex McColl

Though we scored a magnificent victory in last year's elections, a number of dragons still need slaying. Abuse of power by loose-cannon law enforcement is one such dragon, one that cuts across the whole political spectrum.

The Lawmaster case, the murder of Randy Weaver's wife and the Waco Massacre are only the tip of the iceberg. This issue goes

beyond these highly publicized fiascos and touches basic Constitutional and human rights protections against unreasonable searches and seizures — including ruinous seizure of assets in anticipation of indictment — arbitrary arrest and imprisonment, among many others.

It's easy to find the causes: Police work by its nature is immensely stressful; cops often lack essential back-up from "politically correct" police chiefs, mayors and judges; and one mistake can cost an officer his freedom, family or even life. These factors have caused many rational cops to decide, "I don't need this," leaving the field to those who really get off on the Ninja suits, the ski masks, the high-speed chases, the crack-house raids and the Ramboesque battle scenes. It has bred a dangerous "us against them" mentality.

But identification of the causes does not justify the ugly results.

The first duty of all law enforcement is to protect the Constitutional and civil rights of the law-abiding citizen.

The first duty, after all, of all law enforcement is to protect the Constitutional and civil rights of the law-abiding citizen, even gun-owners, even poor minorities, even those suspected or accused of crimes. This is the difference between law enforcement and the exercise of arbitrary power, between policemen and storm troopers.

The new Congress, which has as clear a mandate for change as the voters of this country have ever given, should proceed without delay to hold thoroughgoing, impartial and searching investigative hearings

into the whole subject of abuse of power by law enforcement, especially Federal law enforcement. This would serve to identify responsible individuals and establish whatever changes in organization, statutory authority and operating procedures are needed.

There have been proposals to abolish the ATF, transferring its functions and, we hope, only its more rational personnel, to the Secret Service, the Customs Service or the FBI. From what we know, this, like 20,000 lawyers chained together at the bottom of the sea, seems like a good start. But only a start. The first step has to be a thoroughgoing, searching, fearless and impartial investigation of federal law enforcement abuse.

Now is not too soon. ✕

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Frontline Fire-Crackers — page 31

Photo: courtesy GOFRS

FEATURES

FRONTLINE FIRE-CRACKERS

Col. Alex McColl
Ex-legionnaire, along with Scottish and American volunteers, battles blazes and Bosnians to keep the home fires from burning in Sarajevo. 31

LOOSE CANNON ON TARGET

Jim Morris
Special Forces veteran uncovers Russian SpecOps/Hezbollah connection, nuclear weapons scams, and smuggles out top secret KGB video footage and exotic ordnance. His payback: FBI throws him in jail. 32

MAGNUM FORCE FROM BRAZIL

Peter G. Kokalis
Taurus builds revolvers rivaling those of Smith & Wesson. But can the South American company tame the mighty .44 Magnum with their "CP" system? 36

ARMED & ENGLISH

Peter Douglas
Is Great Britain really the crime-free, gunless Utopia anti-Second Amendment zealots paint it to be? *SOF* shatters the myth that disarming the lawful disarms the lawless. 40

ROBO-COUNTERSNIPERS

Nick Steadman
Three revolutionary devices can detect a sharpshooter's location before his round even strikes the target. Another unworkable technology or a death sentence for snipers? 44

BASIC INSTINCT

Col. Rex Applegate
If a 16% hit probability is the best cops do with aimed fire, maybe it's time to try instinctive shooting. In spite of what the current crop of gun gurus claim, it puts lead on target. 48



Loose Cannon — page 32
Photo: courtesy Keith Idema



Command Guidance 3

World SitRep 20

Bulletin Board 6
Shake 'N' Bake Commandos

FLAK 22
Instant Felony: Just Add Magazine

ATF Watch 14
Exposing Federal Abuse

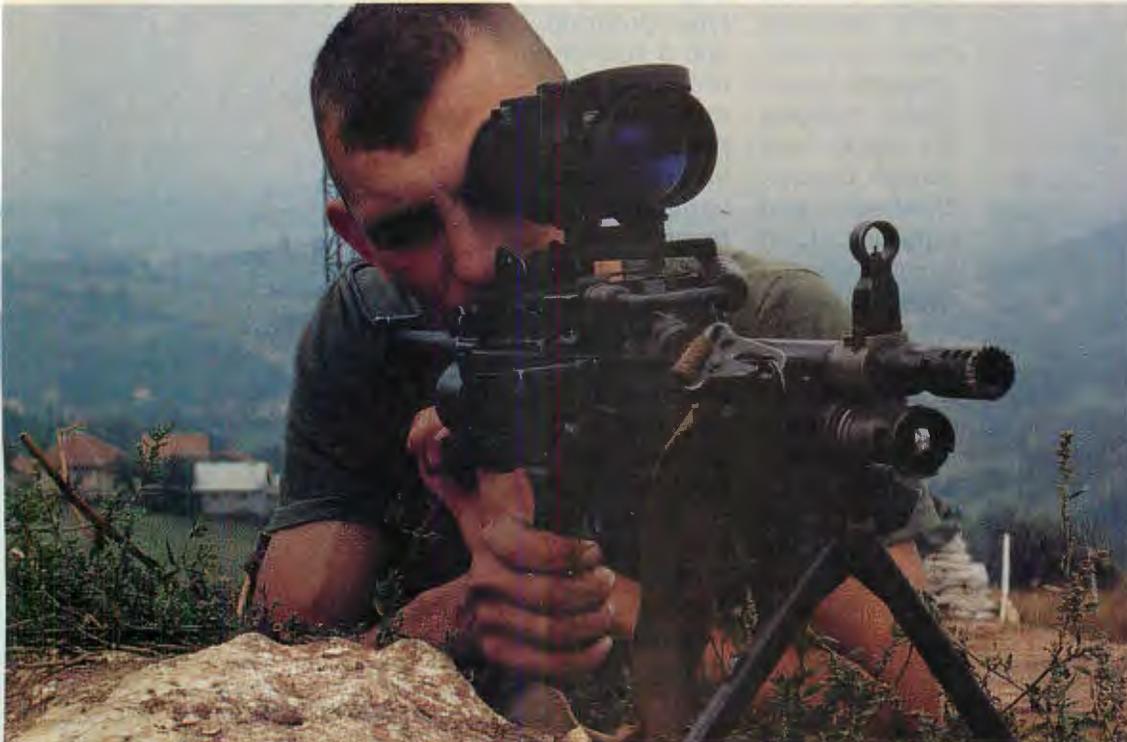
Advertisers Index 70

Combat Weaponcraft 16
Space Age Caching

Supply Locker 74

Slick Willie Watch 18
Hail & Farewell Clintonistas

Classified 78



Robo-Countersnipers — page 44

Photo: Richard Lucas

Haiti: UPHOLDING DEMOCRACY OR INSTALLING COMMUNISM?

James L. Pate
Was America's recent Haitian invasion restoring Aristide's presidency a smokescreen for a Clinton-sponsored communist coup at taxpayers' expense? Intel analyst tells what's really happening on the ground. **54**

DEATH OF A SOLDIER

Capt. Larry Bailey
SEAL patrol leader on a hazardous mission deep in "Charlie Country" pays the price for going against his better judgment. **56**

WHAT COPS REALLY THINK ABOUT GUN CONTROL

Jim Fotis
Unlike most working police officers, national police organizations always seem to back anti-gun agenda. Following the money trail shows why. **58**

COVER

Danger lurked everywhere when humping the jungles of Vietnam, and nothing more than a bad snap decision by one of your buddies could end your life. Training helped keep the numbers down, but even the Navy's elite SEALs weren't immune to "friendly fire" casualties. Story on page 56. Photo: DoD



BULLETIN BOARD

SHAKE 'N' BAKE COMMANDOS

So, you wanna become an Israeli commando in two weeks?



Well, you missed your chance, because what was billed by Israeli Sky Connection (ISC) as two weeks of Israeli com-

raeli Challenge Program."

As one of the nine participants (out of 17) who finished the first and only "commando" training class, I jumped from perfectly good aircraft, rafted the Jordan River, humped the Negev and Judean deserts, climbed and rappelled down mountains on the Lebanese border, fired mini-UZIs with instructors from one of Israel's best shooting schools and more.

Sound like fun? It was. But there was more than a little griping among our band of would-be commandos (eight of whom bailed out during various stages of the program). The point

of contention being, that contrary to what ISC advertisements implied, the program had no direct connection to the IDF. Because of this, no one earned their Israeli jump wings or naval commando wings as advertised; graduates in-



stead received ISC wings. Still, program survivors generally gave the course and its instructors high

marks, though it wasn't what anyone expected.

If you're looking for a military "Outward Bound" type program, and if spending two weeks in Israel learning and practicing martial skills sounds intriguing, this program can be recommended.

ISC is running a revamped course in late March and another later in '95. Contact ISC, Dept. SOF, 1098 S. Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling, IL 60090; phone: 1-800-514-7723. — Tom Slizewski

FEDERAL FOLLIES

Miscellaneous, ill-gotten trinkets from the personal effects of convicted spy/Soviet mole Aldrich Ames have been auctioned off by the feds in Atlanta, netting some \$36,000 which will accrue to the account of the FBI. Actually, they will probably net somewhat more than

that, thanks to the integrity of the auction house. When the feds inventoried the items, they failed



POW organizations run the gamut from scams to some entrepreneur's rice bowl, from wide-eyed and well-meaning but inept to professional, dedicated and non-profit. The POW Freedom Foundation of San Diego is from the top cut of the latter. Founded by Nat Ward, an attorney and former First Cav recon platoon leader in Vietnam, the POW Freedom Foundation is non-profit, operated entirely by volunteers and has no paid staff.

The foundation is dedicated to the freedom of American and Allied POW/MIA's through public education and awareness, and direct action — i.e. going to S.E. Asia and beating the bushes (Ward lost a leg in Vietnam, but it didn't slow him down then or now), winnowing out the frauds and fakes, and turning over the results of their volunteer work to the DIA or other governmental agencies with the required capabilities.

Notes Ward, "Since the U.S. government has taken steps to normalize relations with Vietnam, now — more than ever before — concerned Americans must demand a full accounting of our missing servicemen ... It must not be forgotten that 2,213 still remain behind ..."

Your tax-deductible donations in any amount can be sent to: *POW Freedom Foundation Inc., P.O. Box 26057, San Diego, CA 92196; phone: 619-5666-5234; fax: 619-558-8965.* An informational brochure, catalog of POW merchandise and a newsletter are available on request. Contact them: These are good people, doing good work, and getting some good results. Photo: courtesy POW Freedom Foundation Inc.

to notice that under the silk lining of a small jewelry box was a safe deposit box key and the

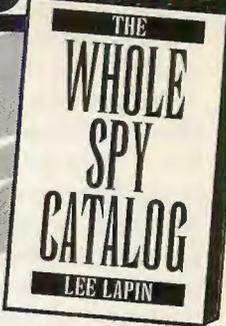


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THE WHOLE SPY CATALOG

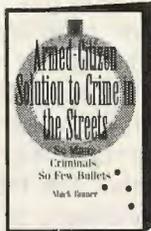
by Lee Lapin

The **Whole Spy Catalog** shows you *exactly* how to hire an ex-KGB agent, order a photograph of anyplace on earth anytime during the last 20 years, subscribe to an in-house FBI newsletter, utilize your fax to get an instant background check on anyone, find the person you can ask anything about anything for *free*, get a CIA scholarship, purchase and install the latest electronic surveillance gear and *much* more. Some of the professional secrets you will learn include the lock pick that works from 100 feet away; the \$5 phone call that locates 90 percent of the population; the free on-line source to access the Library of Congress (*five miles* of stacks); a cheap, *easy*, quick way to turn a \$45 recorder into a powerful room monitor; and what the FBI is up to at its new top-secret facility. Lee Lapin, the author of the **How to Get Anything on Anybody** series, spent two years and traveled more than 30,000 miles to interview top spies, information "procurers," detectives and surveillance experts. The results will stun you — tricks of the trade, "inside" phone numbers, ordering info and cutting-edge techniques to trace, track, surveil and investigate anyone or anything, anywhere. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, photos, illus., 430 pp. **\$44.95**



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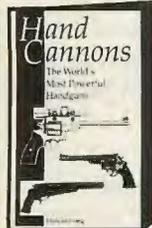


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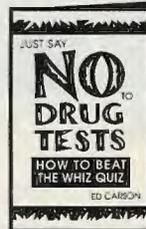
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number of a Swiss bank account, which were subsequently discovered by the auctioneers and returned to the FBI.

Meanwhile, motorist George Frisom of West Palm Beach, Florida, broke down on the highway and assisting officers ran him through the computer as a matter of course — we threadbare individuals who drive old iron are automatically suspect — and turned up a federal fugitive warrant for one George Frisom. Frisom tried to tell the deputies they had the wrong man, but federal marshals refused to provide fingerprints or a photograph to check Frisom's story, said Palm Beach County Deputy Sheriff Darleen Lapaglia. Taken into custody, Frisom was sent to a federal detention center

in Miami. The five-day nightmare finally ended when Frisom's boss convinced the marshals they must have the wrong man, as *this* George Frisom had been on the job for the last five years. Said his boss, "It was very frightening. It's the kind of thing you think of as happening in a foreign country."

EVERY OTHER VOTER A GUN OWNER

Ms. Kellyanne Fitzpatrick, senior account executive at Luntz Research Companies, noted after last November's election, "Gun owner influence and grass roots helped pull levers in every voting booth in America." Nearly one-half the voters polled had a favorable view of the

NRA, with some 25% feeling "strongly favorable." This of course, never hit the liberal "mainstream" media, which bends every effort to vilify the NRA and wouldn't want the public to know that media distortions are falling on deaf ears. Noted Fitzpatrick, "About half of the voters in line at the polls were gun owners tired of politicians who didn't listen and non-gun owners opposed to the Clinton Crime bill." When the giants in Washington rail about the fact there are gazillions of guns in America, it never seems to sink in that they belong to the body politic, *i.e., voters who will throw out any bum who wants to take these guns away.*

"With 49% of actual voters owning at least one gun, the evidence is

overwhelming that gun owners — and other Clinton Crime bill opponents — were effectively stirred into a storm front that led the Republicans to power in Washington," Fitzpatrick said.

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ings. However, the parent command of the Army's only two remaining airborne divisions, the XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, N.C., played host to a closed-door re-

mestic civil unrest."

About 40 Army and Air Force personnel, many of them military lawyers, attended the 6-8 December conference, according to the most recent issue

SOF, "was the legality of using federal armed forces in an internal security role within the United States, in concert with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies." One specific seminar discussion focused on what rules of engagement such a military mission might require.

When someone opined that such a mission would violate the Posse Comitatus Act, one Army lawyer attending the symposium responded, "Not any more, it doesn't." (*SOF* is seeking amplification and clarification of the response and will share the information as it becomes available.) Another stock answer from military lawyers, who were questioned about the constitutional and legal propriety of using U.S. troops against

civilians in the United States, was, "We know the law."

Held inside a new academic facility at the United States John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, symposium participants analyzed and discussed after-action reports from the following recent military missions: the 7th Special Forces Group in the invasion and occupation of Panama, the 10th SFG in northern Iraq, the 5th SFG in Somalia and Task Force Raleigh in Operation Restore Hope in Haiti. The common denominator in the aforementioned missions? The emphasis on disarming large local populations through wholesale gun confiscation, warrantless search-and-seizure sweeps and weapons buy-back programs.

— James L. Pate ✕



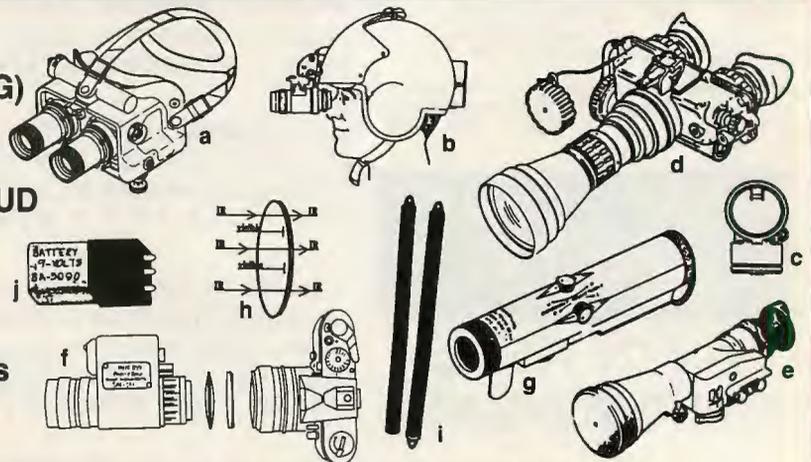
search symposium to study the potential uses of Army and Air Force assets to aid civilian law enforcement agencies in "the suppression of do-

of *The Resister*, an underground quarterly circulating in the special operations community. The predominate theme, *The Resister's* editor told

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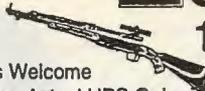
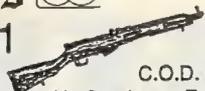


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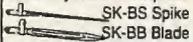
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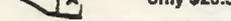


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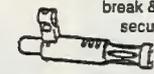
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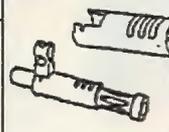
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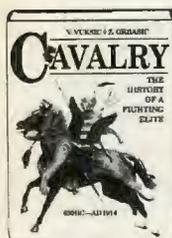
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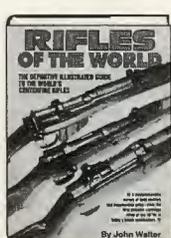
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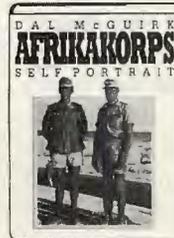
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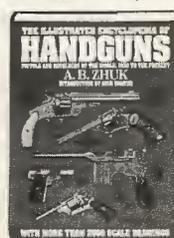
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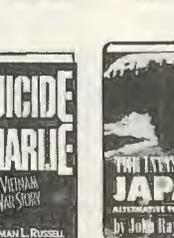
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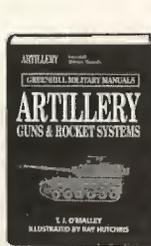
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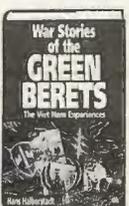
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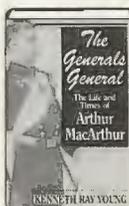
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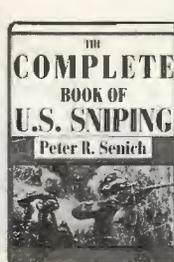


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SOF 3/95

Exposing Federal Abuse

by Bob Sanders

Gun owners perceive the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) to be out of control, the enemy, something to be feared and mistrusted. But is this perception based on reality?

If so, the reason is not to be found in the law. There is nothing ambiguous about the legislative intent of the Gun Control Act of 1968: "The purpose of this Act is to provide support to Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials in their fight against crime and violence. This Act is not intended to discourage or eliminate the private ownership or use of firearms by law-abiding citizens ..."

Yet, in spite of the current attitude toward ATF, the gun-owning public is totally supportive of law enforcement and their efforts to combat real crime — the root of which, as should be readily apparent, is the criminal. There is no other cause: not poverty, not illiteracy, not homelessness, not gun owners.

Unquestionably, a criminal who uses a gun does so in violation of gun laws. Most importantly, and this is a fact lost upon most gun control advocates, the violent criminal is not in the business of acquiring new guns. You

will not find him browsing in gun stores; he does not use his spare time hunting or in recreational shooting, nor does he spend his weekends at gun shows.

For the ATF, an agency with singular jurisdiction, the explanation for an apparent drift in focus may be simple. When the only tool you have is a hammer, all of your problems begin to look like nails. The ATF may be viewing the cause of crime as the gun and not the criminal.

sides be brought together so that any reshaping of policies, procedures and practices is done with the participation of those affected by the policy. This column will be devoted to exploring the arguments for getting from here to there. This new bimonthly forum will be used to air questions and provide information, analysis and evaluation in every other issue of *SOF*.

As for my qualifications: I'm a former ATF assistant director for criminal

cial agent with the ATF, I held every executive and managerial position within the Office of Criminal Enforcement, including that of assistant director.

I am a life member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and served on its firearms, organized crime and international committees. From 1966-68 I served in Vietnam with the U.S. Office of Public Safety as a police adviser to the national police in Vietnam, province police adviser in



The thrust of its enforcement efforts may have made a U-turn from the criminal to the firearm.

The issue, then, is whether ATF enforcement and policies need revamping. And if so, how can all

investigations and currently an attorney with a nationwide practice specializing in gun cases, criminal defense, appeals, forfeitures, license denials and revocations. In my 24-year career as a spe-

Kien Giang province and as an adviser to the II Corps national police commander in Nha Trang.

SOF and I want to determine whether the ATF

Continued on page 73

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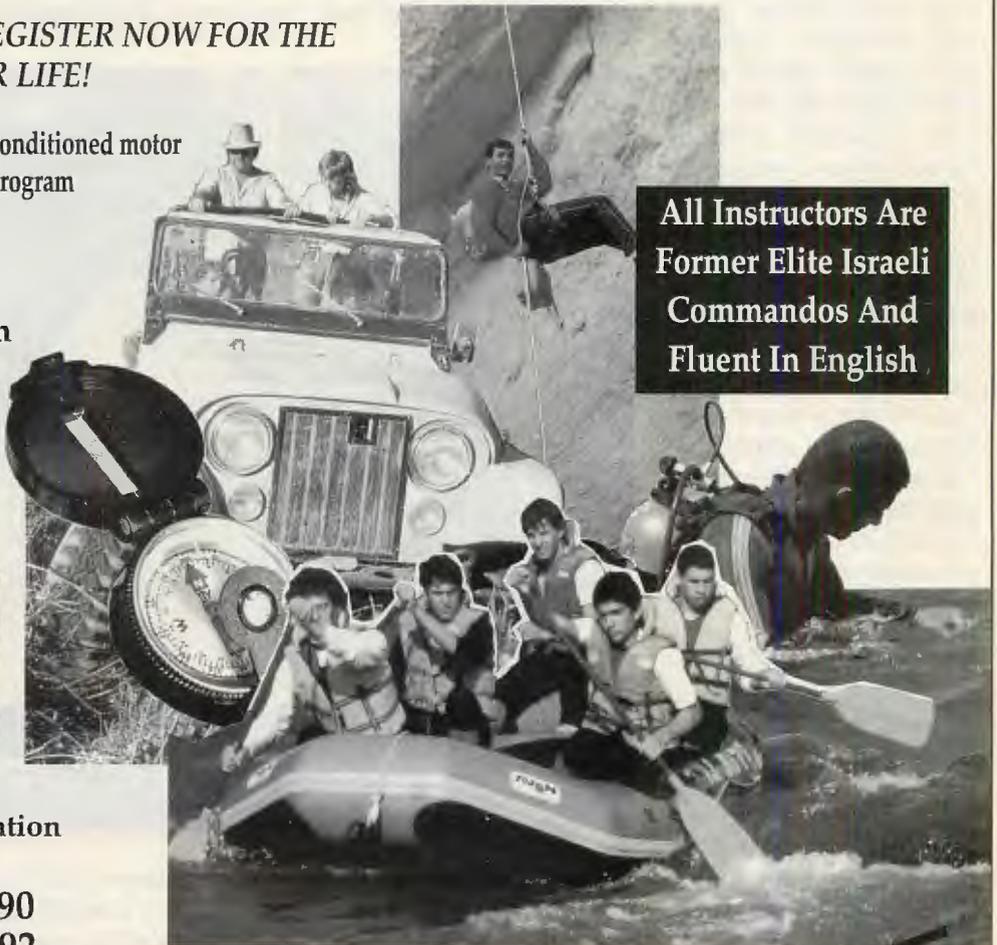
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COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

Space Age Caching

by Scott Gilmore

Thanks to the epidemic of anti-gun legislation, weapons caching has become today's hot topic in many gun-oriented magazines. The proliferation of tubes, boxes and containers suddenly on the market for this purpose certainly corroborates widening interest in this contingency practice.

While many articles have been written about site selection, security and stealth, almost none have addressed the critically important methods of locating and recovering the cache.

Tree notches, rock patterns and homemade "treasure maps" all have their places, but when the time comes, one needs to locate his stash accurately and in such a way that he is the only one able to find the hidden goodies. In appropriately remote areas, suitable landmarks are often not present.

Welcome to the wonderful world of GPS.

Our military has deployed a constellation of 21 satellites, known as the Global Positioning System (GPS), to aid in locating troops, materiel and targets. These satellites broadcast coded information 24 hours a day, feeding orbit and ephemeris information, GMT (Greenwich Mean Time) hours, attitude, health and velocity data to currently available GPS receivers.

GPS receivers nowadays are small, lightweight, and accurate to around 10 meters under mediocre conditions. Un-

der ideal conditions, however, they are expected to be capable of producing 1 meter or better accuracy. Many include such features as "way points" that are like stepping stones across a pond, time to target, distance and direction to target, and up to a 120-point memory.

For about the price of a 1911A1 and a few boxes of ammo, you too can own

whistles. These are usually the higher-priced models as well.

GPS works by receiving signals from satellites, then computing vector, time, velocity and altitude, and comparing each satellite's data to determine position on the "geoid"—a mathematical model — of the earth's surface. If you imagine a sea urchin is the antenna

as "Selective Availability," or SA. Simply put, this program slows clock time to several satellites, which confuses GPS receivers into thinking some satellites are healthy when they aren't. But since most commercially available GPS receivers utilize P-code, codeless or the L-1 and L-2 signals, the degradation has little effect on precise positioning.



Recon Trailblazer MGRS (Military Grid Reference System) by Magellan is similar to units used in Desert Storm but, in smaller package, tracks 12 satellites at once. Photo: courtesy U.S. Cavalry, Dept. SF17, 2855 Centennial Ave., Radcliff, KY 40160; phone: 800-777-7732.

der the most precise positioning technology available. Magellan, Magnavox, Trimble, Sony and Motorola all produce hand-held GPS receivers for around \$400-800, depending on model, features, size and software. Generally, the ones that track six or more satellites simultaneously are more accurate and have more bells and

whistles. Each spine is a vector from a single satellite, you can see that an incredible amount of data is collected every few seconds that can pinpoint your location anywhere you are.

Occasionally, the government may choose to degrade the accuracy of time or orbit data by enabling a program known

as "Selective Availability," or SA. Simply put, this program slows clock time to several satellites, which confuses GPS receivers into thinking some satellites are healthy when they aren't. But since most commercially available GPS receivers utilize P-code, codeless or the L-1 and L-2 signals, the degradation has little effect on precise positioning.

All of this information is worthless, however, if the foliage, cover or bunker you've chosen to cache in doesn't have an unobstructed view of the sky. If you can't see the sky, the satellites can't see your receiver.

All GPS receiver manufacturers have their own utilization method, but put simply, the receiver needs

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that are inexpensive to own and safe to display in your home. They are realistic, full size working metal models that look, feel, weigh and handle like the expensive originals. You can work the action, release the clip and dry fire these high quality models.

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W: 2.5 lbs. #01-300 \$107 PPD

M92 AUTOMATIC

This massive 9mm was chosen to replace the .45 auto. Made famous in Operation Desert Storm, this blued "non-firing" metal model actionworks like the original. Can be partially disassembled. L: 8.5" W: 3 lbs.

#22-1254.....\$102 PPD

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to be initialized at a "known" location. (Most topo maps show horizontal control stations that have published coordinates, or your local airport may have a GPS station set by NGS.) Proceed to wherever you choose to start your journey (home, an intersection on the way to the cache, or someplace that will be accessible to you when you decide to recover the cache), lock this location into the memory and go to your cache site.

Leave the receiver on and in view of the sky. Once you've arrived, set the receiver directly on top of the cache site for about 20-30 minutes to get a solid "lock" on the coordinates and store this location under some code name as a way point. Now, compare the coordinates you stored at the site with the latitude/longitude on the topo map and note any differences. Compare the coordinates given for the starting point with the latitude/longitude on the topo map and see if the difference correlates with the difference of the coordinates of the cache.

The latitude/longitude spread should be within 1-5 seconds longitude and less than 2 seconds latitude.

Now for the test: Set the unit to return you to the point of beginning (your house, the intersection, etc.) and follow its directions. How close you get to the starting point before the unit tells you that you've arrived is the accuracy you can reasonably expect under similar conditions when you decide to retrieve your hidden goodies.

One last recommendation is that you "spoo" your site by driving several sections of 5/8-inch rebar into the ground several hundred yards away from the actual cache site, to avoid detection by anyone searching for it with metal detectors or infrared. A pocketful of 20d nails are cheaper and work just as well if salt water or urine is added to the ground to aid in oxidation. This way, whoever is seeking to uncover your stash will find only bits of rusty metal. Happy caching!

Scott Gilmore, a professional surveyor, is currently field crew chief for the GPS unit of a Western state highway department. ✕

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SLICK WILLIE WATCH



TWO, FOUR, SIX, EIGHT: MY TEACHER SAID TO MASTURBATE

Slick's learning that getting his Arkansas-transplant staff and cabinet through four (and only four) years of a presidency is like carrying water in a leaky bucket. The personnel hemorrhage he has experienced through suicide [?], desertions under fire, forced resignations and outright criminal in-

title of Condom Queen and kept her in the news almost since the day she was appointed. Clinton's request for her resignation came after she responded to a question at the World AIDS Day conference in New York with the statement that masturbation is "a part of human sexuality" that is "a part of something that perhaps should be taught" in public schools.

White House Chief of

August to 10 years). The chief witness against Elders the younger died shortly thereafter in a typical Arkansas suicide — a shot to the head [yeah, right]. During a bond hearing early in the case, the surgeon general said what her son did "was not a crime" [yeah, right].

Aside from her high-profile family problems, Elders managed to boggle even the mainstream media with a litany of radical proposals as

in September 1993 when she urged drug and alcohol education in kindergarten. In December 1993, she said the government should consider legalizing drugs (to reduce the crime rate). In February 1994, she said Medicaid "had to be developed by a white, male slave owner" because it sup-

ports "healthy, uneducated people which can only be slaves."

In March 1994, she endorsed gay and lesbian adoption, saying an irrational fear of sexuality is behind anti-gay behavior. In April 1994, Elders said lesbians should be allowed to join the Girl Scouts, as she defended her earlier statements that the Boy Scouts should admit homosexuals. But her suggestion to the effect that

public schools should teach not only the best thoughts of Pliny and Socrates, but also of Onan, was the clincher.

Clinton announced that, "Dr. Elders' public statements reflecting differences with administration policy and my own convictions have made it necessary for her to tender her resignation."

Easy for you to say, Mr. President. Being from Arkansas, you should know that the culturally challenged have to be taught even the obvious. It's not very egalitarian of you, either, to simply assume every little testosterone-charged Arky has the options you have availed yourself of in public life. Are you sure you're just not fearful her advice might siphon participants from your midnight basketball program?

At last report, Elders was going back on the Arkansas payroll as a teacher and medical researcher at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. We only regret that we never had a chance to ask her, since she was never in the military, what all those medals she wore on her uniform were awarded for.

HAIL AND FAREWELL, MR. SECRETARY

Always an astute politician, Secretary of the Treasury (former senator) Lloyd Bentsen has tendered his resignation and headed for an early, but



dictments makes you wonder if he will be able to keep anybody at all in Washington through his one-term administration, short of adopting them.

The latest flap and forced resignation is that of Dr. Joycelyn Elders, Clinton's surgeon general, transplanted from her job as Arkansas state health director. Her outspoken, grotesque views on human sexuality and public sex education won her the

Staff Leon Panetta noted, "If she had not resigned, she would have been terminated ... There have been a number of statements where the president indicated he disagreed with her views, and this is just one too many." Panetta said the decision had nothing to do with either the Democrats' election losses [yeah, right] or the conviction of Elders' son for selling cocaine (sentenced in

unsullied, retirement in his home state of Texas. He will no doubt be remembered for the tolerant and grandfatherly manner in which he suffered the young fools of the Clinton administration, and the professional manner in which he joined the fleet of ships leaving the sinking rat. But not to worry, there is a glutted cadre of out-of-work Democrats out there from which Clinton can pick a successor.

HAIL AND FAREWELL, MR. GERGEN

Republican political guru David Gergen, who signed on with the Clinton administration in 1993 with an MOS of Mr. Fixit and the mission of helping Clinton focus and communicate his presidency, has left. In parting he offered some public political advice to the prez: "People say move to the left, move to the right. My own view [is], move to the center — his center ... What [people] want to hear is what his core convictions are ... what does he stand for and where does he want to take this country; what is his vision?" Probably sound advice — if he were advising someone who has a center, core convictions and a vision.

HAIL AND FAREWELL, MR. HUBBELL

Webster L. Hubbell, former mayor of Little Rock, Arkansas; former chief justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court; former ethics officer for and partner with Hillary Rodham Clinton in the Rose law firm; author of the Arkansas state ethics law; long-and-close friend of Hillary Rodham and Slick Willie Clinton; described by Attorney General Janet Reno as a "tireless crusader for doing the right thing"; appointed by Clinton as third-ranking man at the Justice Department ... *has admitted that he bilked his clients, including the federal government, out of more than \$390,000. Hubbell has copped felony pleas to one count each of income tax evasion and mail fraud, and has agreed to cooperate with Whitewater independent counsel Kenneth Starr, but will likely still do some hard time ...*

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WORLD SITREP

1

UNITED STATES

Defense Secretary Perry admits that White House is prepared to change a long-standing policy and sell sophisticated weapons to Latin America such as M60 tanks, TOW missiles and F-16 aircraft.

Army begins tightly controlling spare parts for small arms stocked in National Guard armories. Inner city gangs, unable to break into the arms rooms themselves, are stealing the less tightly controlled spare parts for their own weapons.

Presidential Directive 13, the Bush-era document that allows U.S. troops to serve under U.N. commanders, includes language allowing U.S. officers to ignore any orders that are contrary to U.S. law, militarily unsound, or outside the scope of the mission. Clinton has replaced this with Presidential Directive 25, which is classified, and even most congressmen do not know what it says.

USS *Parche* has been the dedicated SpecOps sub of the Pacific fleet since 1976. Fitted with a special crane-equipped compartment in the bow that can be opened to the sea, the ship can deploy espionage equipment and pick up downed Soviet test warheads. The vessel has earned five classified Presidential Unit Citations.

2

RUSSIA

"Pro-Moscow rebels" launch another offensive on Grozny using 30 tanks newly arrived from Ossetia. Chechen officials accuse Russian army units of participating in attacks. Russian officials deny any involvement until Chechen leaders threaten to execute 70 captured soldiers as mercenaries. Column of 60 Russian tanks moves into Chechnya and begins to surround capital, resulting in heavy fighting.

6

COLOMBIA

President Samper warns he will not allow other nations to fight an international drug war on Colombian soil, encouraging them to fight the problem in their own countries. Samper indicates he is ready to negotiate peace with remaining 10,000 Marxist rebels of the ELN, FARC and EPL groups.

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SUDAN

SPLA claims to have stopped a government offensive on four fronts. A government column moving south from Kapoeta is forced to retreat after rebel shelling sets fire to a fuel depot.

6

11

NORTH KOREA

Speculation exists that North Korea is avoiding nuclear inspections because its atomic weapons capability is less than expected. They would have a much better bargaining position if their weapons capability is thought to be greater than it actually is.

12

IRAQ

Iranian planes bomb Kurdish rebel camp inside Iraq. Two naval pilots from USS *Eisenhower* become the first American women to fly combat patrols over southern Iraq.

10

MOZAMBIQUE

Ruling Frelimo party wins 129 seats in parliament ending the threat of further war. Renamo, with 112, remains the major opposition party.

15

CAMBODIA

Army vows to avoid set-piece battles which proved disastrous in previous conflicts, and will use its special forces to attack KR bases and supply lines. Armed forces have acquired new AK47 rifles from South Africa and 90 T55 tanks from Czech Republic and Poland.

16

ANGOLA

In spite of several reports of violations, U.N. envoy believes ceasefire is holding. Namibia and Zimbabwe agree to provide peace-keeping forces.

3

SOUTH AFRICA

Military has 88,000 troops and is expected to absorb 10,000 more from the four Homeland armies, another 16-27,000 from the ANC's Spear of the Nation and another 4-6,000 from the PAC's People's Liberation Army. The resulting force of up to 131,000 must be cut to 91,000, with the army having to absorb most of the untrained and badly disciplined former rebels. The new government faces severe pressure to cut as many of the previous government's troops as possible, but cannot really hope to field an effective self-defense force without those men.

4

BOSNIA

Clinton orders U.S. forces to stop enforcing arms embargo. Although the move may have no practical effect, European officials sharply object, accusing the United States of straining NATO unity.

German magazine *Der Spiegel* reports that the Russian army has sent 4,000 railcars loaded with weapons to Serbs. Perhaps sent without the Russian government's knowledge, most weapons came from units stationed in former East Germany.

NATO launches its largest air strike in its history. Thirty-nine aircraft bomb Udbina airfield, purposely avoiding damaging Serb aircraft in hangars. The raid accomplishes little and the airfield reopens 72 hours later as Serb attacks on Bihac continue. U.N. spokesmen fear the fall of Bihac could doom entire U.N. mission in Bosnia.

5

CZECH REPUBLIC

Army converts to 155mm artillery and 5.56mm rifles to better integrate with NATO since the primary perceived threat is from Russia.

German troops conduct first military exercises on Czech soil. Exercise simulates U.N. peacekeeping operations. This is the first time German troops have ever been invited onto Czech territory.

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MEXICO

Amid continued police clashes, sub-commandante Marcos, leader of Mayan Zapatista rebels in Chiapas, states rebel forces are ready for more war if government does not institute reforms and greater democracy.

9

SOMALIA

U.S. officials are considering sending an Amphibious Readiness Group to cover a U.N. withdrawal. Fighting breaks out between rival clans in northern Somalia.

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TURKEY

Additional elite commando and mountain units patrol the Tunceli area, hunting Fingerless Zeki and his PKK guerrillas. Forces evacuate villages and destroy supply bases that provide support for the PKK.

INDIA

Pakistan withdraws an offer to discuss the formation of an independent Kashmir. Indian officials claim they have identified mercenaries from Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Egypt, Iran, Libya, Pakistan, Sudan and Yemen fighting with Kashmiri rebels.

16

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UKRAINE

Ukrainian parliament ratifies Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. After receiving \$234 million in aid from Western countries to dismantle nuclear weapons, Ukrainian president complains that is not enough to cover costs. Clinton promises another \$200 million.

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.

A MARRIAGE MADE IN ...

Robert K. Brown is dead right when he says that allies are the key to preserving the right to keep and bear arms. Here's my suggestion for an ally: the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

Why does the ACLU defend every amendment but the Second? Why does the NRA favor "tough anti-crime measures" at the expense of due process?

Big Brother is going after all our rights and he's a bigger threat than any criminal. The erosion of the Fourth Amendment is just as big a threat to gun owners as the erosion of the Second. We have to put aside our knee-jerk liberal or conservative rhetoric and realize that we hang together or we hang separately.

G. Broughton Spence III
Owings, Maryland

RARE CHANCE TO OUTLAW ANTI-GUN LAWS

Now that there has been such a tremendous, unbelievable victory for the GOP elephant over the gun-grabbing Democrat donkey and its rider, the liberal "news" media, it is of utmost importance that when the next legislative session begins anyone who cares about the Second Amendment should contact his representative.

In the new Republican-run House and Senate we can exert pressure to repeal the Brady act, the Crime bill gun bans and maybe even enact federal

legislation to outlaw all gun control laws in this country. After all, if our constitutional rights can be erased with a simple majority vote, they can also be restored with a majority vote.

J. T. Rockwell
Alameda, California

FIGHT CRIME — SHOOT BACK!

On a Thursday last October in Philadelphia, two car-jackers were shot to death by a citizen who chose not to die at the hands of his assailants. The following Sunday, two robbers were wounded by a shopkeeper who also chose not to die.

One of the car-jackers had started his day in juvenile court, to answer charges for (what else?) car-jacking! It is obvious that he and his accomplice would have spent the rest of their lives bouncing back between lenient courts and midnight basketball sessions in Mr. Clinton's socialist Utopia. The two citizens who chose to survive will be branded as vigilantes, which is unfair, since vigilantes seek out and destroy felons. All they did was exercise their rights — remember "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

The benefits to society in these incidents is obvious: no revolving-door justice, no charges of civil rights violations, no revenge upon the intended victims and their families, and no court and incarceration costs

incurred by the state.

We the People can fight crime by shooting back!

Jean-Pierre Maldonado
Harleysville,
Pennsylvania

INSTANT FELONY: JUST ADD MAGAZINE

What would happen to you if you lived in California and changed the magazine on your SKS semiautomatic rifle? James A. Dingman just found out — he was convicted of a felony.

Dingman purchased an

warned that there might be legal ramifications in changing mags.

Because the 30-round magazine was a tight fit, Dingman testified that he never removed it from his rifle. Instead, he loaded the magazine through the breech, one round at a time.

The Santa Clara PD learned that Dingman had the gun and, after looking at it, arrested him for possession of an unregistered assault rifle. After spending 29 days in jail,



SKS rifle from his local gun store. He filled out the required state and federal forms, waited 15 days and underwent the necessary background check before he took his Chinese-manufactured rifle home. A few months later he returned to the same store and purchased one 30-round magazine manufactured by USA Magazines. The store owner showed him how to remove the 10-round magazine and insert the 30-rounder. He was not

Dingman was released, pending trial. His jail time was a major cause in his losing his job.

At trial, Judge Biafore of the Santa Clara County Superior Court ruled that he did not have to follow the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *U.S. vs. Shields*, where Justice Thomas wrote that in order to be convicted of felony possession of a machine gun under federal law, the owner had to know that his rifle was capable of firing full auto.

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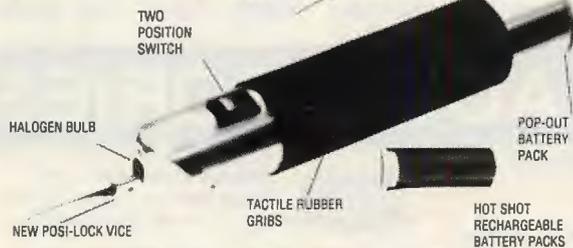
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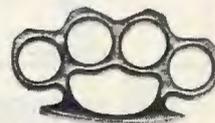
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Biafore said he didn't care if Dingman knew that by changing magazines he would make

was found guilty of possession of an unregistered assault weapon.

It was argued in court

and convict him of either an infraction or, at most, a misdemeanor.

Judge Biafore declined,

and three years' probation (a condition in which he has to submit to search and seizure, without warrant, 24 hours a day). He cannot own or even be around firearms or he will go straight to prison. Call 916-929-6000 for information on a trust being set up on Dingman's behalf.

Jeff Goodwin, attorney
Sacramento, California



HANG THE GUILTY

For the first time since December of 1968, we have an opportunity to seriously petition our Congress to investigate some of the atrocities of the BATF and the FBI's so-called "Hostage Rescue Team." We must not let this window of opportunity close without acting!

Every American who is outraged by the massacre of innocent people at Waco, Texas, the brutal

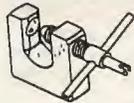
himself a felon. The only question to consider was whether the new magazine was detachable. Since it was, Dingman

that since Dingman had no criminal history and since he had never misused the firearm, the court should exercise its discre-

slamming Dingman with a felony conviction, significant fines and penalties, forfeiture of his other firearms, community service

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AK SPEED LOADER original Chinese (#G2001) \$8.95



MAK-90 FIBERFORCE STOCK The perfect alternative to the factory wood stock. Based on the DRAGUNOV design, these black Zytel stocks come with handguards. (GAK2011) \$89.99



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AG1 ... "PNEU-GUN" Airgun Kit ... \$169.95
(Includes Airgun, 4 Shotbags, 6 CO2 cartridges, 10 gas check, 10 white end caps, loading cartridge, instruction book)

SAP GLOVES

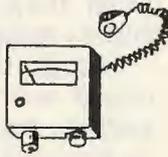
Made of soft, pliable, ling wearing leather. Has six ounces of powdered lead carefully inserted into the fist of each glove. High quality and available in three sizes, medium, large, and x-large.



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

PHONE CHECK (Telephone Bug Detector)

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



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ALASKAN MAGNUM PepperGas®

Alaskan Magnum is an effective easy to use repellent that can be carried by hikers, joggers, backpackers or by anyone that is likely to encounter a violet attack. Utilizing a 10% concentration of pepper, Alaskan Magnum is sure to knock down any attacker. Alaskan Magnum comes in a 9 oz. fogger unit that has a range of 20 feet!

PG9 ... 9 oz. Alaskan Magnum ... \$49.95

STUN GUARD (160,000 volt maxi-baton)

This baton has an awesome 160,000 volts of stopping power from two 9-volt batteries. It will intimidate most attackers without contact. The crackle and the sight of the discharge is fearsome to say the least. It is "hot" right down the shaft as well as the contact probes. A full 18 inches of stun power. The hand grip is rubberized to prevent it from being taken away from you. This baton is ideal for security guards, bouncers, bar owners, etc.



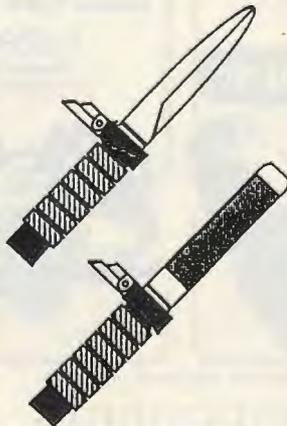
OM160 ... Maxi-Baton ... \$119.95

BALLISTIC KNIFE

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

Now you can get this knife in kit form. The handle and sheath are made of aircraft grade aluminum. The blade is tempered out of 41040 steel with a rockwell hardness of 56!

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



THUNDER BLASTER

This new high tech, electrical self-defense weapon is the stun gun you've been waiting for! Now with a full 150,000 volts of increased power! This gun utilizes two 9-volt batteries and has dual coils. It has an extremely loud electrical sound so it is an even more effective deterrent than most other stun guns. The improved ergonomic hand grip is just perfect for a firm hold. Other features include an easier to use angular trigger, an on/off safety switch, a battery power indicator light, and a built-in belt clip. This gun will visually intimidate an attacker up to 20 feet away.



TB-1 ... Thunder Blaster ... \$119.95

BIONIC EAR

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

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



TRANSMITTER (BUG DETECTOR)

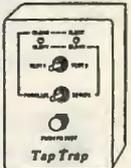
Find hidden RF transmitters (bugs) planted in your home, office, car or attached to your telephone line. This device is designed to locate the most common type of electronic bugs. Frequency range of 1 MHz to 1,000 MHz.

TD-17 ... Bug Detector \$98.00



WIRE TAP DETECTOR

The Tap Detector detects series devices with a resistance of 61 ohms or more. It will also detect parallel devices with a resistance of 65 megohms or less. This device is the best full anti-wireless tap detector for the money. Compact, only 4-1/4" x 3-1/2" x 1-1/2"; and comes with all the necessary plugs, cords, adapters, battery and illustrated instruction manual. Buy this one to sweep the phone line and the Phone Check device to make sure no more taps are put on our lines!

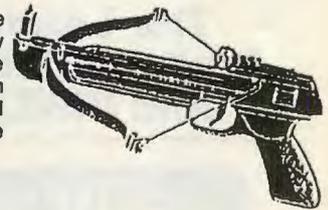


TT-17 ... Tap ... \$99.00

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

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PC2 ... 80 LB. DRAW ... \$59.95



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murder of Vicki Weaver at Ruby Ridge, Idaho, or any of the myriad other atrocities committed by the brutal thugs of the BATF and the bloodthirsty goons of the FBI's Rambo squad, should write both their representative and their senator requesting that a joint House-Senate select committee be appointed to investigate.

I do not see how anyone who loves this country, our Constitution, and the rule of law can rest until these criminals are brought to justice. Let us exonerate the innocent and hang the guilty.

Ronald D. Williams
Cheyenne, Wyoming

STRAIGHT SKINNY ON SWITZERLAND

There are many misconceptions about weapons ownership in Switzerland and SOF repeated some of them in

December's "Bulletin Board." Let me set the record straight.

Only persons serving in our national army are issued government assault rifles. However, anyone with a legal residence and no criminal record can buy any semi-automatic firearm he desires to own.

All members of the Swiss armed forces are issued a uniform and weapon which they take home and store when not on active duty. It is against the law to store your weapon in a location away from your house. If you do this and it is stolen, you are subject to a military-type court martial.

If you are found unfit for further military service, you must surrender your issue weapon when you leave. If you retire from the military, you may buy

your weapon from the arsenal after it has been converted to semiautomatic-only fire (this is at a very cheap price). Every soldier keeps one magazine of ammunition at home. This is kept in a sealed can. If the seal is broken, you can be court martialled.

Our basic rifle, the SIG-57, is currently being replaced with the SIG-90, which has burst-fire capability. Those of sergeant rank or above also carry a SIG 9mm pistol, which they are given by the arsenal when they retire from military service.

Though the weapons issued are Swiss army property, the individual is responsible for them. Everyone's gun has a serial number which is checked at every inspection to ensure that you have not replaced a

weapon that was lost, stolen or sold. Once a year the soldier must shoot at a military range and qualify with his weapon at 300 meters on iron sights. If you do not go to qualify, there is a big fine.

We very much admire your country and its liberties, and it is distressing to us that they are disappearing. You should fight, peacefully of course, but fight just the same.

Eric Mueller
Geneva, Switzerland

WE WANT YOU ... TO WRITE TO SOF

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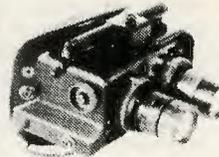
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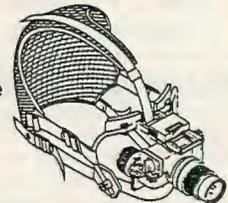
Grade I \$2450⁰⁰
Grade 2 \$2250⁰⁰



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* 2X & 3X Lens Included



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

by Dr. Russell Horine, President, Tactical Response Solutions

Dear Friend,

If you are even remotely interested in learning how to physically protect yourself (and your loved ones) *with complete confidence*, then this will be the most important letter you ever read.

Here is why: I have recently discovered a "scientific" fighting system that is so effective, you will be able to *knock senseless* anyone who confronts you — no matter how skilled they are at fighting — within **4 to 6 seconds!** What's more, this fighting system is so easy to learn, you will be able to *master it completely overnight*, even if you have never been in a fight before in your life, or are a "klutz" at physical skills. Kids, women, even grandparents can master this system with equal ease — and be able to instantly "put away" any bully or criminal who comes after them.

This system is called Explosive Metafighting Technologies (X-Tec™). I've seen it in action, I've used it, and I tell you with all seriousness that it is simply...

The Most Devastating Fighting System Imaginable — Yet It's Like Nothing You've Seen Before!

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

I know you're probably skeptical right now — I certainly was at first. But let me tell you, everyone who has seen X-Tec in action has finally admitted that it is, ultimately, the only *truly undefeatable hand-to-hand fighting system* ever developed. And I'm talking about people who have a lot to *lose* by admitting this... for example:

- A young woman (with no previous fighting skills) learned just the *basics* of X-Tec before leaving for a job in Africa, and taught it to her friend. Soon after arriving, both women were cornered by 6 adult Nairobi gangsters in a park... and the ladies' simple training allowed them not only to instantly get out of trouble, but to send their attackers *running away in panic!*
- An Albuquerque man who had been passive and meek his entire life (a basic "nice guy" who wouldn't hurt a fly) spent just over three hours practicing this new system, yet had learned enough to **fight off 4 attackers** when he and his wife and kids were jumped without warning!
- A well-known local 4th degree black belt

fighter has publicly *refused* to even go up against an opponent using X-Tec — once he saw it in action he could instantly tell he would be helpless to defend himself, or to even get a strike in before he went down!

I could go on for pages with more examples. But here's the "clincher": My friend Bob (6' 4", 265 lbs. of solid muscle) and I both tried to "get" at a guy using X-Tec who *maybe* weighed 150 lbs. soaking wet. It was only a demonstration, but I wasn't holding back. Now, I weighed in at about 220 myself, fresh from a four-month bodybuilding regimen that had me in the best shape of my life... between the two of us, this little guy should have been beaten *easily*. Yet, he dropped Bob to his knees with a simple "twist" that nearly broke Bob's wrist... and I'm *still* hurting (weeks later) where I got "gently" popped. We never even made the guy flinch. If it had been a real fight, the squirt said he wouldn't have been so easy on us.

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

It was the most amazing demonstration I'd ever experienced. And once you see X-Tec in action yourself, I'm sure you'll be just as amazed.

Here is how we came to discover X-Tec: For some time now, I have had access to the *inside* of the modern military and law enforcement world (called the "industry" by some). This is the world of the Navy SEALs, federal agencies like the DEA and the FBI, big-city police SWAT teams, and even some "quasi-legal" organizations that I could never tell you about.

The secrecy surrounding this "industry" makes James Bond movies look calm... and the *real-life combat* that goes on would make Rambo faint. That's just the truth. Most of what these people do is **top secret** — including many of the fighting techniques they use. (The military "brass" has actually stepped in to **stop** us from disseminating previous fighting technology to the general public!)

Anyway, a few months ago I received a phone call from one of my inside "contacts" — who promised to introduce me to a "mystery man" who was not well-known outside the industry, but who was highly respected by *insiders* because...

He Had Never Lost A Fight... Despite Leading One Of The Most Dangerous Lives On The Planet!

This man had developed (somehow) a strange new fighting system that had absolutely **revolutionized** hand-to-hand combat among the pro-

fessional soldiers and cops who needed it. Yet, despite the deadly effectiveness of the moves, the system was astonishingly *easy to learn and simple to remember*. It requires no special skills, no physical strength or agility, and almost no practice time at all... a **perfect fighting tool** for professionals who often needed to use what they learned immediately... *yet it involves no martial arts or "classic" fighting methods whatsoever!*

This system has been taught to FBI agents, big-city police SWAT teams, and even **top-secret U.S. military units** (for "security operations" the general public never hears about). The professionals who use this system *trust it* because they knew from experience it will work **every time** under the worst conditions imaginable: It doesn't matter if they are exhausted, starving, wounded, carrying heavy packs, or operating in cramped spaces where around-house punch was impossible. The simple fact is...

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

Man, this was something I wanted to find out more about. It wouldn't be easy — the man who developed this new system was still heavily involved with highly sensitive government "work" and was (with good reason) suspicious of outsiders...

And He Had Never Trained Anyone He Hadn't Personally Hand-Picked!

That's where my own "inside contacts" really paid off... and I got to meet **Rick Reynolds**. Let me tell about this guy (it's a Hollywood story in itself): He stands 5' 10", weighs in at *maybe* 150 lbs., and looks remarkably like Barney Fife (the deputy from the "Andy Griffith Show").

Yet, before he became so well-known for his incredible fighting system, he was a "front line, front line" combat soldier in Viet Nam for 2 tours — in the thick of the most vicious jungle fighting of the war. The killing he experienced made movies like "Platoon" look like picnics in the park. He was a star special-operations man in the **75th Rangers** and "Echo Company" (the **173rd Airborne**), one of the most-decorated outfits in the military for that war. These outfits saw *more action* than any other group of soldiers... including the Green Beret! Plus, Rick's skills were so respected that he was "loaned out" for dangerous missions with the Korean ROK, the 1st Air Cavalry, and the Australian army. **This was extremely unusual and further testimony to the deadly uniqueness of Rick's combat skills.**

Often, he would find himself set down by choppers **behind enemy lines**... where he had to complete his mission and then *walk* back on his own! (He was involved in POW rescue attempts

deep in the jungles of South Vietnam as well as secret cross-border operations. Some of the most dangerous missions of the war.)

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

He actually spent an entire *year* in close combat conditions (at one point the action was so severe he couldn't afford to bathe for a month)! He was sent out on one "hands on" secret mission after another... operations so highly-classified that the U.S. has only recently (after 20 years) admitted they happened at all! Rick's experience earned him a chestful of medals, including the **Air Medal** (issued for the 52 air assaults he was involved in), the **British Commando Badge**, the **Combat Infantry Badge** (reserved for grunts with at least 30 days actual combat) and twelve others. After running missions with the Korean ROK units, he was honored with a rare invitation to train with some of the most vicious soldiers in the war!

Yet Rick had learned early on that the combat training he'd been given in boot camp was practically *worthless* in the field. If he was going to survive the daily danger he was in, he knew he would have to find *better* fighting skills. And he needed skills he could learn *immediately* — any thought of spending a lot of time with any fancy martial art was out.

So Rick began to pick and choose among the various fighting styles he'd been exposed to: the street fighting of his youth, the few effective moves he'd learned as a rookie grunt, the killer strikes the Korean ROK's shared with him, the martial art basics that actually worked... and, most important, the quick, sure moves he developed *on his own* during hand-to-hand combat he had to win... or never live to tell about.

By the time he left the Army, Rick had become, quite literally... One Of The Most Dangerous Men In The World At Hand-To-Hand Combat!

And his training didn't stop with the war. He got a job walking a police beat in Albuquerque, New Mexico... the leading U.S. city in almost every criminal statistic! (It's the crossroads of Interstate-40 and I-25, two common routes of felons from Mexico and both U.S. coasts.)

Like I said, Rick looks just like Barney Fife — lanky, skinny, with a calm, innocent boyish face. A lot of tough, hardened criminals wanted to "take the scrawny cop apart"... and they always got the surprise of their life. Rick has been shot, stabbed, had his nose broken 12 times, been run over by a car, and put in the hospital on six occasions...

Yet He Has Never Lost A Fight!

Rick doesn't overpower anyone with size (he's small), or speed (he's got average reflexes), or even skill (the style he's developed consists mostly of **single moves that will end a fight instantly**... there's absolutely nothing fancy or complicated about it)!

When he left the police work after 14 years (he had reached the office of Chief of Police), he became a bodyguard for people twice his size. Clients included **Tex Cobb** (who fought Larry Holmes for the heavyweight boxing championship), **Arnold Schwarzenegger**, and **Lou**

Ferrigno ("The Hulk" on TV). How effective are Rick's fighting methods? His waist was smaller than **Tex Cobb's** thigh... yet Rick was hired to *protect* Tex!

That tells you something, doesn't it?

All in all, Rick has spent 26 years developing his one-of-a-kind fighting system. He has "melted down" everything he learned from the battlefield and the street and...

Distilled It Into A Basic, Simple, And Deadly System That Can Now Be Learned And Used With Ease By Anyone!

Let me tell you, despite his brutal background, Rick is one of the most *concerned* men I've ever met. He's seen firsthand how bad guys take advantage of decent men and women and children, and he seriously does not like it. He *hates* the idea of his kids, or anyone else's kids, having to walk in *fear* in their own community — and it wasn't difficult to talk him into finally sharing this new system of fighting with civilians outside the "industry". A system that we could bring to people like you, to people like my family and friends. A system that would work with...

100% Effectiveness, 100% Of The Time!

Here's what you get in the X-Tec package that Rick has put together for you:

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

Listen — soldiers and police officers who study with Rick often have to put what they've learned to the test *immediately*... and they come back with detailed results of the effects.

These Fighters Know — With As Much Certainty As A Cat Stalking A Mouse — What To Do When They're Faced With A Fight!

The importance of this knowledge becomes brutally obvious when you see your standard downtown martial art studio in action. What people learn there are fancy moves that can take *up to 10 years to master*... yet it's more like **dance** than fighting. And black belt "experts" are *notorious* for looking great in the dojo, and then

getting beaten to a pulp by average street fighters in real life. Even more important...

Why Do You Need To Practice Fancy Moves When Real Fighters End A Fight In 4 to 6 Seconds With One Artless Blow!

Black belt instructors who aren't real-life fighters simply do not have the knowledge of what happens in a real fight. And this creates a "mystery zone" for their students... if you aren't *100% confident* that what you learn will work in the real world, how can you justify the time you spend learning any technique? I think that's ridiculous.

With The "Real Life" Fighting Know-how You Get From X-Tec, You'll Always Know What To Do When It's "Crunch Time"!

There will be no "gray areas" in your knowledge. No guessing. Not even a *shred* of self-doubt! If you *ever* have to use what you've learned, you will have the confidence of knowing what to expect at *each and every moment* — from the first push or insult to the moment you decide to end the confrontation. I can't stress how crucial that is in the real world. It's the difference between standing there blinking and being a *victim*...

And Walking Away As The Victor!

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

- The one **huge mistake** all inexperienced fighters make in their head that *guarantees* they will be turned into victims... and how to "parlay" it into an advantage that will give YOU an instant 200% increase in your chances of winning — *even if it's your first fight ever!*
- Why your weight, strength, speed and agility are the *least* important parts of winning a street altercation! (And why the one simple secret that is important will give you an immediate and enormous advantage over *any other fighter* you meet!)
- How to *automatically* avoid the blunders that get even nationally-ranked karate masters demolished in street fights! (It's called "Stress Shock Phenomenon", and once you've stored this knowledge in your nervous system, you'll *never* "freeze up" or panic when your adrenaline starts to flow and the dirt hits the fan! Yet there isn't a karate studio in the *country* that knows how to teach this crucial part of winning fights!) **VERY IMPORTANT!**
- Why your fist may be the absolute *worst* weapon you can use in hand-to-hand combat! (And exactly how to strike so you won't damage any part of yourself!)
- Astonishingly **easy** ways to escape any grab or hold (including a "bear hug" from behind by someone many times larger and stronger than you) and **reverse** the attack instantly (and painfully for your attacker!)
- The "voice tool" secret that will *immediately* change your attitude from calm to *dominant* in any surprise situation!
- The **2 worst things** you can do when being choked during a fight... it's what most people want to do instinctively, yet knowing just *one*

artless move from this system can free you and *end the assault at the same time!*

- *Simple fight-ending* moves that require no strength whatsoever! (I know of arthritic 80-year-old grandmothers who have knocked young male attackers senseless!)
- How to use a little-known “positioning secret” to completely **cancel out** the superior size or experience of your attacker! (Size and strength are *meaningless* when you know this secret!)
- Why a simple “mock” submissive action will *always* fool a larger opponent... and set him up for quick, easy fight-ending moves!
- How to turn everyday items in your pocket (or your wife’s purse) into vicious weapons that will (1) show you mean business, (2) instantly frighten anyone with an ounce of common sense, and (3) allow you to dominate any situation *with a single blow!*
- How to gain an immediate “**Psychological Edge**” when someone pulls a knife on you... and how to spot the 4 most common methods of knife attacks so you can **win** with a minimum of fuss and blood!

“I just saw some video tape on TV of convicts in prison... you know what they were doing during their ‘free time’ in the prison yard? Teaching each other how to sneak up and rob people, how to choke and drag off victims without sound... they were ‘going to school’ to learn how to take advantage of you once they get out!”

- Why the *one fighting secret understood only by the world’s most successful soldiers* can give you the power to determine how any fight will come out! (Not one street fighter in a thousand has a clue to this secret.)
- The almost unbelievable facts about gun-fights that you’ll never learn on CNN — yet just *knowing* them could mean the difference between surviving a gun attack and being a stone-cold victim!
- How a **3,000 year old movement secret** can give anyone blinding speed within the “non-lethal” zone against an armed attacker! (You’ve never seen this before!)
- How to conquer forever the “shakes” and out-of-control anger or fear that *all* inexperienced fighters suffer!
- The secrets of using **pain and shock** to disable your opponent without causing him permanent injury!
- Your body’s **8 most devastating natural weapons** (including your own “personal piece of steel pipe”!)
- How to easily turn your day-to-day attitude into an “**Controlled Aggression**” mindset that won’t change anything about you except:

—Your level of fear will *vanish* forever...

—You’ll become more decisive in *everything* you do, especially when the chips are down...

—You’ll gain **enormous self-confidence** that will shine like a searchlight in your eyes...

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

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

“I’ve personally seen Rick take down one huge man after another with a single move... his system is simple and easy, yet 100 times more effective than anything I learned in the 4 different security academies I attended (including the Air Force). Let me tell you, I watch the little bitty guys I go up against very closely now.” **Sam Page** (6’ 5”, 200 lbs.), private investigator and licensed bodyguard with 5 years military police and 17 years of law enforcement experience

“I’ve seen Rick’s techniques in action—they are deceptively simple, yet extremely brutal and fierce when used. I can attest that this stuff has been proven over and over again in real life fights where someone didn’t walk away.” **John**

Coffman, 4th degree black belt with 22 years of martial arts experience

“I want my entire family to learn Rick’s technique — because I absolutely believe that what they learn could save their life. I’ve already sent numerous professionals to Rick, including several federal law enforcement agents. This is the real stuff — the kind of fighting know-how that professional fighters really respect.” **Robert Taylor**, 2-tour veteran of Viet Nam with 75th Rangers, internationally-respected consultant for high-risk security and special operations (clients include African, South American and North American countries)

“Bigger and tougher guys just can’t understand how someone smaller can beat them so easily. I’ve used what Rick taught me to dramatically resolve difficult situations with a minimum of damage or force... just like that, the fight is over. This is perfect for someone who doesn’t possess strength or power; a grandmother, your children, anyone can use it effectively.” **Dave Bartram**, 21-year police veteran and retired SWAT team sergeant

“I’ve used this system, and was surprised how well it works — it was automatic, no thinking involved, and I was instantly out of trouble. I love Rick’s system so much, I’m having both my daughters (14 and 17 years old) learn it. I feel more confident with them knowing this than having them take a firearms course or drag themselves through a long martial art program.” **Clark Sanchez**, former police officer and bodyguard, former Mr. Southwestern, current judge for Mr. Olympia and Mr. Universe

bodybuilding contests, black belt and actor (“Wyatt Earp”, with Kevin Costner, “Backtrack” with Dennis Hopper, “Natural Born Killers” with Oliver Stone)

Let me stress something here — **you need this information!** It is not a luxury, not in today’s world. I just saw some video tape on TV of convicts in prison... you know what they were doing during their “free time” in the prison yard? Teaching each other how to sneak up and rob people, how to choke and drag off victims without sound, how to hurt and cripple and *destroy people’s lives* just to satisfy their sick needs. In short, they were “going to school” to learn how to take advantage of you once they get out!

Do you want to be a victim? Do you want your loved ones to be victims? Do you want to walk around with a layer of sweaty fear on your skin all the time, knowing you’re vulnerable at every street corner to being assaulted, robbed, or worse?

I sure don’t, and I don’t believe *you* do, either. It’s time to learn how to take care of yourself — and stop hoping that the police, or your friends, or your neighbors will help you out. You’re alone out there, friend. It’s an adults-only world with no rules left. It’s a jungle... and

This Explosive Fighting Technology Package Can Quickly Turn You Into One Of The Few Winners In The World!

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

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

That’s because this stuff is based on **what works in real-life fights** that take place in four to six seconds, and not in “perfect” environments where you have a lot of room and a mat under your feet. You need no previous experience in any kind of fighting whatsoever — we’ll show you *everything* you’ll ever need to know. You don’t need to be strong, quick, agile, or even in shape. And every move is based on the way you move *naturally* — there’s no gymnastics involved, no spinning kicks, no jumping, no fancy moves of any kind.

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

But I’m not asking you to take any **financial risk**. On the contrary, I’m going to make it as easy and simple as possible for you to try this amazing X-Tec fighting system out for yourself... without risking a dime. Here is my...

100% No-Nonsense Guarantee:

If you aren’t convinced — beyond a shadow of doubt — that this system is everything I’ve

**A Special Note From
— Leo Costa, Jr. —
Vice President, TRS**

Dear Friend,

We've gotten some weird reactions from some people who see this amazing new fighting system for the first time.

Most are skeptical, because it just "sounds too simple to be true." Then, of course, when they see it in action, they can't believe that something that truly is so simple can be so devastatingly effective. They're astonished when the fight is over and done with in the blink of an eye — no matter how "overmatched" one person may appear to be.

Well, let me clear something up for you here: It is simple. (This system has actually been successfully taught to people in wheelchairs!) And yet it does work, just as we say it does. That is the reason we have included the testimonials from real police officers and other military experts in this letter.

You may not believe us... you may not believe your own eyes... but you can't discount the word of men who make their living knowing...

**How To Win Every Fight, Every Time,
With Complete Confidence!**

So please do not let your naturally-doubting mind keep you from trying this amazing new fighting system out for yourself. Remember, Russ has given you his word and a ridiculously-generous Money-Back Guarantee, so you risk absolutely nothing.

It's high time the "good guys" took back the world. Call today, so you can be sure to get one of the first packages by return first-class mail in just a couple of days.

Thanks,



Leo

said it is... a no-guesswork, tested-in-real-battle-conditions, easy-to-learn-fast course in turning yourself into the most formidable fighter you could ever dream of being... *after trying it out for 3 entire months*, then I insist you return the package to me, and I will immediately send you a 100% refund of your purchase price. No questions asked, no hard time from me... and we'll still be friends. I trust your opinion, and I believe you won't take advantage of me on this "almost-too-generous" guarantee. I won't have it any other way.

That's a darn good, no-risk-on-your-part guarantee. And it means, simply, that there isn't any reason in the world for you not to try this incredible fighting system out for yourself. Within those 3

months, you're going to acquire confidence like you never imagined possible before... and you're going to learn fighting skills and know-how that will place you in the *upper 2% of the world*... including all those guys who have been slaving away at their martial art for 5 and 10 years.

**So How Much Does This
X-Tec Package Cost?**

Not very bloody much, if you understand what went into it. First of all, Rick Reynolds commands incredibly steep fees for personal instruction (and he only gives it to personally invited people!), and earns **thousands of dollars a day** when he teaches special sessions for law enforcement and military agents.

We spent months of research time, and did

weeks of filming and editing and making this package everything it should be. At first we thought of making it a very "elite" course, available only to a few people who could afford a very steep price tag. But that didn't sit right with me — I wanted to get this information out to *everyone* who deserves to get it.

So, we finally came up with a price that is fair to everyone. The cost to you for this whole package — the 2 video tapes, the manual, the special report — is just \$79. That includes shipping and handling and everything else. **IT'S EASY TO ORDER:** Call our toll-free phone number — **1-800-899-8153**, ask for **Department 22-B** — and use your credit card. That's how to get this package shipped out to you by return first-class mail — *you'll have it in a few short days!* Or, if you prefer, you can fill out the Priority Order Form below, and mail it with your check or money order to the address shown at the bottom of the order form. We'll ship your package out first-class just as soon as we receive your order.

That's all there is to it. You have my *personal guarantee* your package will live up to your expectations... or you get your money back. This is the real thing, too — it's changed my life, and the lives of my loved ones. It's a confidence-booster, and the best way I've ever experienced to put you in control of your life 100%. So call right now... you never know when you're going to need the know-how and skills you're about to learn!

Sincerely,



Dr. Russell Horine
President, TRS

P.S. I almost forgot something important. We've only put together a small number of these X-Tec packages, so you really need to call *today* to make sure you get one reserved for you. Remember, you're not risking anything by doing this, because you have a full 3-month money-back guarantee... and remember, too, that *we have been stopped before* from getting information like this out to the public! It's a great deal, but like I said, there's a very real chance it could be removed from the market forever, just like that. So give us a call now at **1-800-899-8153**, and make sure you get *your* package. Thanks.

For The Fastest Service Use Your Credit Card And Call Toll-FREE

1-800-899-8153 (Ask For Department 22-B)

Priority Order Form For SOLDIER OF FORTUNE Readers Only!

YES! I'm finally ready to take responsibility for protecting myself and my loved ones, and I can see that this amazing **X-Tec Fighting System** Video package can quickly give me the devastating knowledge and skills I need! I understand that I can try out this package for a **full 3 months**, at my own pace, and if I'm not satisfied — for any reason, or for no reason — then I can return it for a complete, prompt, and **100% refund of my purchase price**. It's a great deal, with no financial risk on my part whatsoever; thanks, Russ!

I also understand why this powerful information must be kept out of the wrong hands — therefore, I am honoring your request not to let "outsiders" in on this exclusive package.

I prefer to pay by credit card. Please charge my:
 Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Enclosed is my check (payable to TRS) for \$74.
Please rush my "X-Tec Fighting System" video package to:

Card #: _____

Name: _____

Expires: _____

Address: _____

Signature _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

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

Frontline FIRE-CRACKERS

RRI Revisits Sarajevo's Volunteer FD

by Col. Alex McColl

Never go on a recon patrol with someone who is braver than you are.

It was a dark Tuesday evening last October when Captain George Whitfield, one of two Military Liaison Officers (MLOs) with John Jordan's Global Operations Fire Rescue Services (GOFRS) volunteer fire department, and I were making a tour of Sarajevo. Our itinerary included "Sniper Alley," what's left of the Holiday Inn, a high bridge over the practice fields next to the soccer stadium (now turned into graveyards for some of the 20,000 civilians killed in the Serb bombardment), the no-man's land parts of the Dobrinja suburb and other places where, on previous trips around this battered and embattled city, one had carefully avoided going.

At least we were riding in an armored Land-Rover. I

GOFRS medics scramble to aid mother of 7-year-old Nermin Divovic: They had just given the child a candy bar when Serb snipers shot him in the head, then shot his mother in the stomach. Only the mother survived. With no end of such ignoble atrocities in sight, GOFRS does what it can — one murder, one bombing, one fire at a time. Photo: Enric Marti/AP/Wide World



had the distinct impression that George, thoroughly bored by several weeks without any excitement, was looking for some action and was, at the same time, running a check on McColl's nervous system. Fortunately I had long ago learned how to wear a mask of bored indifference during proceedings of this type. If it had not been an armored vehicle, the facade would have been a bit harder to maintain, not that light armor would have done us much good if the Serbs had hit us with 14.5mm, 20mm or some of their other larger caliber guns. Maybe the Serbs were eating dinner, or had used up their allotment of ammunition for the day, or didn't feel like shooting at a moving target after dark, so it was a quiet promenade after all.

Ordinary fire departments don't have or need MLOs, but John Jordan's operation isn't your ordinary fire department (see "Fighting Fire Under Fire," *SOF* May '94). Jordan has been involved in this assignment since 1992 and, at least at present, has the status of an arm of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) effort in Sarajevo, which is basically what keeps the city alive. Jordan and one or two others who are there on a permanent basis draw salaries of a sort; the other firemen and paramedics are unpaid volunteers on 30-day tours. When I was there, nine men and women (five Americans, two Canadians, and the two MLOs, both from Scotland) were on the team, including Jordan.

Whitfield, a graduate of the British army's Belfast bomb squad and the Foreign Legion, met Jordan during his tour in Sarajevo with the Legion's *2ème Régiment Étrangère Parachutiste* (2REP); he joined GOFRS on completion of his contract with the Legion. Trevor Gibson, the other MLO, among other things, is a veteran of the London police's equivalent of a SWAT team.

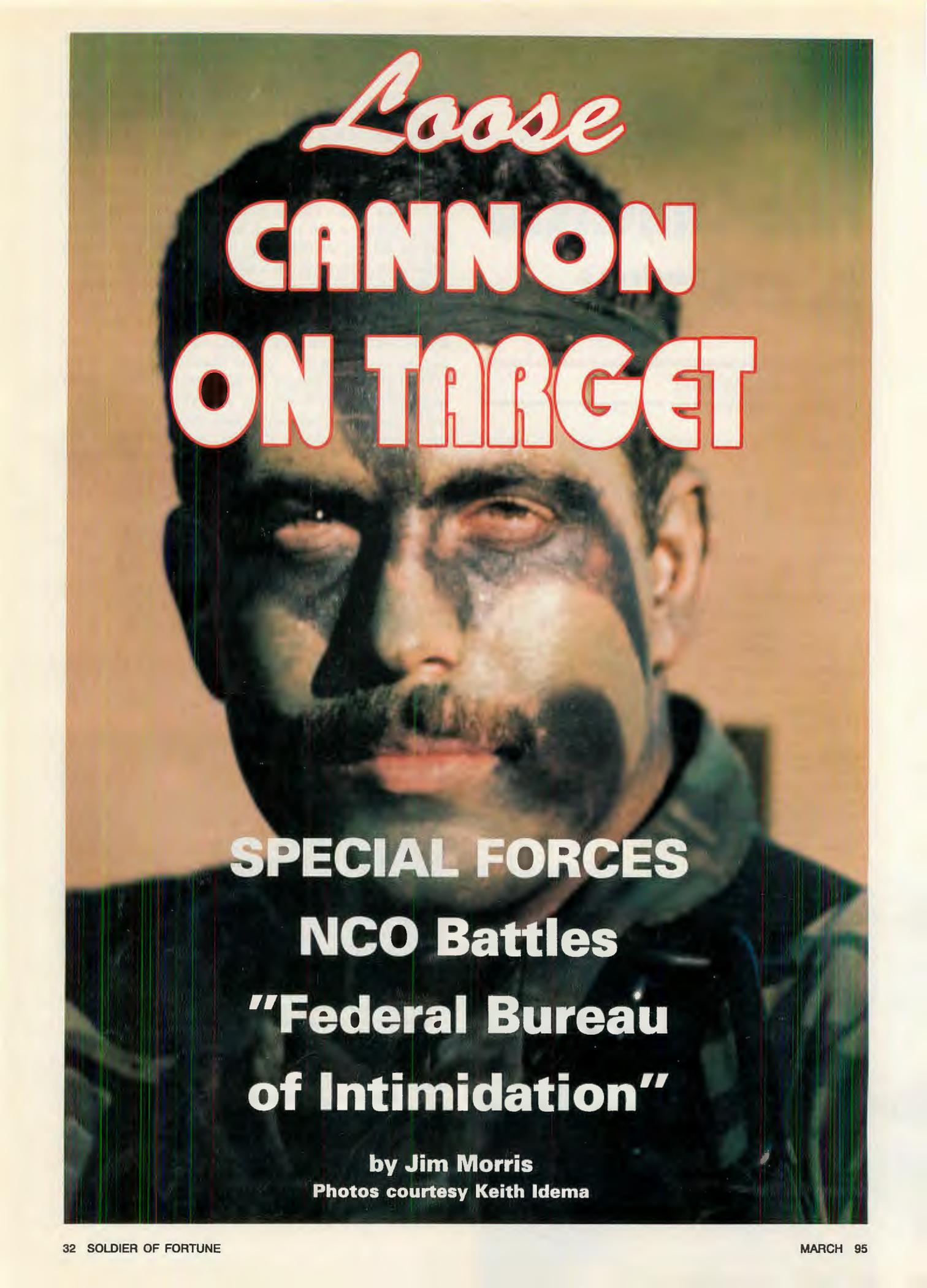
Officially, the MLOs have three functions. First, they protect the firefighters and paramedics at the scene of an incident. As Jordan puts it, it's hard to put out a fire when



Left to right, GOFRS medic/firefighters Josh Wooding, Marc Proulx and James Campbell provide advanced life support to injured man in ruins of National Library in Sarajevo. Photo: Mark Anderson

someone is stealing your fire truck or cutting your hoses. Then when the firefighters draw hostile fire, the MLOs call for the UNPROFOR reaction team, usually a French platoon in armored personnel carriers. Finally, they handle the negotiations required to get through Bosnian, U.N. and Serbian checkpoints, especially when they have to put out a fire on the "dark side," i.e., on the Serbian side of the line.

Continued on page 61



Loose
**CANNON
ON TARGET**

**SPECIAL FORCES
NCO Battles
"Federal Bureau
of Intimidation"**

by Jim Morris
Photos courtesy Keith Idema

For this story to make any sense at all you have to understand Keith Idema. When he graduated from high school in Poughkeepsie, New York, in 1974, he'd been accepted to Harvard and several other prestigious schools. But Keith had other plans, having seen the movie *The Green Berets* when he was 12. Instead of leaving for college he enlisted in the Army with a Special Forces option.

One of his former commanding officers told me he was the best-qualified weapons man he ever worked with in the field, and the worst disciplinary problem in garrison. Retired Command Sergeant Major Al Schwarcbher, who was Keith's weapons instructor in Training Group, said, "In spite of the fact that Keith had top grades in every subject, he was about to be kicked out of the course. The company commander said it was Keith's attitude."

I've puzzled a great deal over Keith's attitude problem. We've all got attitude, every man in SF — without it we wouldn't be there. But Keith is looking for enemies. He has the worst case of Why-That-Son-Of-A-Bitch Syndrome I've ever encountered. He's quick to take offense, quick to blow his stack, quick to rant and rave. But as far as I know that's the end of it. The guy's bark is his bite. Aside from the occasional bar fight and combat, every charge of violence evaporates on examination.

This attitude problem is important, because it may be what has landed him in jail today. True, he seems to have been deliberately framed — the evidence against him is patently bogus. True, he's an actual hero who has risked his life covertly for his country many times. (He rejects the words "actual hero," saying "Heroes have a CMH." I stand corrected.) True, he's personally hand-carried enough useful intelligence from his overseas trips back to his buddies at DIA (at no cost to the U.S. government) that if he were a military intelligence unit he would have received an increase in budget and personnel.

He's a well-respected member of the SpecOps community, able to garner letters of glowing praise from retired and active duty flag officers of three services, as well as police officers of all ranks. True, he runs a business that offers significant services to that community to the tune of millions of dollars a year. But what is all that compared to the fact that Idema has pissed off several FBI agents so badly that many would lie, cheat and steal — and feel

Special Forces Sgt. 1st Class Keith Idema in El Salvador. How does the FBI reward an SF veteran, successful businessman, and intelligence operative who penetrated secret Russian terrorist groups and broke the story on nuclear smuggling? Harassment and hard time.

good about it — to put him in jail? What heinous things did our hero do to cause the Justice Department to put aside any notion of "justice," and go for flat-out revenge?

For openers, he got on the wrong side of the State Department's Lithuanian desk at a meeting at the Pentagon in 1992. Keith was just back from Eastern Europe where he had visited both Russia and Lithuania. While there, he had trained the Lithuanian *Gretznaz* and police commandos, and had brought back to the United States several top-level Lithuanian commanders. They had brought a great deal of previously unknown high-level intelligence on the KGB's secret *Ommon* unit. Keith wanted to establish himself as a go-between, bringing this kind of material back from his contacts in Eastern Europe.

Spetsnaz & Slimeballs

The meeting started cordially enough with everybody chatting amiably. Then Keith, to establish his credentials, started talking about some of the things he'd seen in Russia and Lithuania. He turned over a tape on the Soviet *Spetsnaz* and Alpha Group. Most importantly, he had actual operational footage of the *Ommon*.

The *Ommon*, which was actively involved in state-sponsored terrorism and working with both the Abu Nidal Group and *Hezbollah*, had never been photographed by U.S. intelligence. In fact, this was the first hard proof that it existed to reach the United States. He also had photos taken inside their bases

and some very exotic ordnance from Russia.

The CIA officer present asked, "We've spent millions trying to get to this stuff. Why did they just show it to you?"

"I out-drunk 'em, and then I out-shot 'em," Keith replied. "They wanted to impress me."

What the Lithuanians did, after he out-shot them on the pistol range, was schedule a second day of shooting, during which they brought in a couple of ringers: the police and army champs. The army champ became Keith's friend, General Jorgo, and was also present at the meeting.

Jorgo claims it was pretty close the second day, right up to the end. Keith claims he was way ahead all the time. Anyway, nobody disputes that Keith blew them away when the range lights were turned off and they fired the last three orders in the dark.

"Did you ever see a Rosepetal round?" asked the CIA officer, referring to a top-secret rifle round that breaks into fléchettes on impact. "Yeah," Keith said, "I shot a hundred of them, and they gave me five. I brought you



Classic tourists-in-Moscow photo, with a Keith Idema twist. You have to know the right folks to carry an assault rifle in Red Square and live to tell about it.

one." He took it out of his briefcase and passed it over.

"We've spent five years trying to get one of these, and maybe \$3 million trying to get that Ommon tape," the CIA spook mused as he turned it over and over in his hand.

During a break, the State Department's Lithuanian desk officer came up to Keith: "I say, old man, you can't just be going off training the Lithuanians on your own. That's a State Department responsibility."

Bad Attitude, Good Intel

With the diplomacy that has made him the toast of five continents, Keith replied, "I beat you to it. Besides, it's a job for Special Forces. What the fuck are you doing here anyway? I didn't invite you."

Incensed, the State Department guy warned Keith: "Lis-



Much to the dismay of the State Department, Idema traveled to Lithuania to instruct their police commandos in weapons and tactics, winning their confidence.

ten, we've got plans for that country. We've already laid out who's going to do what, and you're not getting involved. I want to know why you're even here at the Pentagon. You should take this stuff to State or the FBI. We don't want you here."

"Who is this 'we'?" Idema demanded. "I'm a civilian and I'll do whatever I want. I've seen you guys fuck up countries."

"We'll keep you out," the State Department guy warned.

"Oh, really! Watch this. Hey, Petras," he called to one of the Lithuanian commanders who had come with him, "if I tell you to throw this guy out of Lithuania, what's going to happen?"

"I am sorry," Petras replied politely. "You cannot come to my country."

Six weeks later, when the State Department's Lithuanian desk officer tried to make contact in Vilnius, he was sent back to the airport and thrown out of the country. The Lithuanians didn't want his help, and Keith had forgotten to tell Petras it was a joke.

Keith really wanted to work with the Pentagon where there were people he knew and respected, but the FBI had responsibility for counterterrorism. So he brought his Lithuanian friends to FBI headquarters, had a meeting in the deputy director's office and toured Quantico. After that, he took them on a tour of the White House.

Keith got the feeling that the FBI wasn't happy to see

him so chummy with the Lithuanian high command. He was a wild card and they wanted him out of the picture. He was more than willing to turn over all the information he had, but that was not acceptable. They wanted a list of his contacts so they could recruit them as agents. Keith refused to violate his friends' confidence by giving up their names, and they wouldn't talk to the FBI because they were scared to death of the KGB. The FBI threatened that he could give them what they wanted the easy way, or the hard way.

... Back At The Ranch

While Keith had been traveling, things were getting out of hand back at the store. He ran several businesses at that time, all interrelated. First, he trained U.S. and foreign military and police in counterterrorism techniques through a company called Counter Group Academy; he designed, manufactured and sold commando and SWAT gear, and a separate paintball equipment business through Idema Combat Systems (ICS); and he hosted huge conventions and demonstrations of the entire spectrum of SpecOps equipment under the name Special Ops Expo.

Of the three, the one with the greatest potential to turn a big profit was the expo. At least that's what Charlene Hambrick, one of Keith's employees, thought. She liked his idea so well that she formed a competing firm, the International Special Operations Convention. Four members of the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department in North Carolina — the undersheriff (her brother-in-law) and three deputies — all went to work for her.

Keith is convinced she stole his mailing and client lists, based on the fact that her mailings have his typographical errors. However, the four felonies, including possession of stolen property and embezzlement, she was charged with were all dismissed, and no one will say why. She allegedly also canceled his booking at the Cumberland County Convention Center, booked it for her company and then contacted all his clients and customers telling them that his convention was off, and her's was on.

Keith quickly called his customers and put them onto the scam. As a result, Hambrick's show was a failure. She and her partners in the Cumberland County law enforcement community lost a lot of money. There's a little ill will



Idema with prominent figures in Lithuanian "FBI" and secret service. He won their trust by out-shooting them on the range and out-drinking them at the bar.



Idema toured secret Soviet bases taken over by Lithuania, and was able to test, evaluate and obtain samples of munitions the CIA had spent five years trying to acquire.

there, especially after Keith sued them and the county in federal court for both actual and punitive damages. He received a default judgment in his favor, but can't pursue the rest of the suit — the part where he collects the money — because right now he's in jail.

At this point he had almost the entire law enforcement community of Cumberland County eager to see him die, or at least go away somewhere for a long time, and the watchdogs of professional conduct at FBI headquarters were thinking along the same lines.

Backpack Nukes And Baby Huey

Here enters another key character, Special Agent John Strong. The way Dawn Glosson, Keith's girlfriend, described Agent Strong I sort of expected a tow-headed Baby Huey, with his knuckles dragging the ground. Actually he's quite the perfect young agent; he looks good in a suit. He's sort of a cross between Val Kilmer's rebel FBI agent in the movie *Thunderheart*, and Baby Huey.

Strong and another agent were assigned to tail Keith. Problem is, Keith teaches surveillance. He quickly lost them, came up beside their geeky little government sedan, and flipped them the bird before again ditching the duo. Agent Strong struck me as a proud young man, someone who might not care to be flipped off by this asshole who was grinding him into the mat.

"I thought they were a couple of PIs," Keith said. "What do you want from me?"

At this point Keith was still trying to help the FBI and brought them a new piece of information. The Lithuanian police had busted a ring of former Soviet GRU agents who were smuggling SADMs (Special Atomic Demolition Munition, i.e., backpack nukes) out of Russia. That was the good news. The bad news was that this was the third shipment of four. Four had gone to Saddam Hussein; four more may also have gone to somebody else, like North Korea; and the remaining were unaccounted for. In Manhattan, an SADM would take out, counting secondary damage, about 80 square blocks.

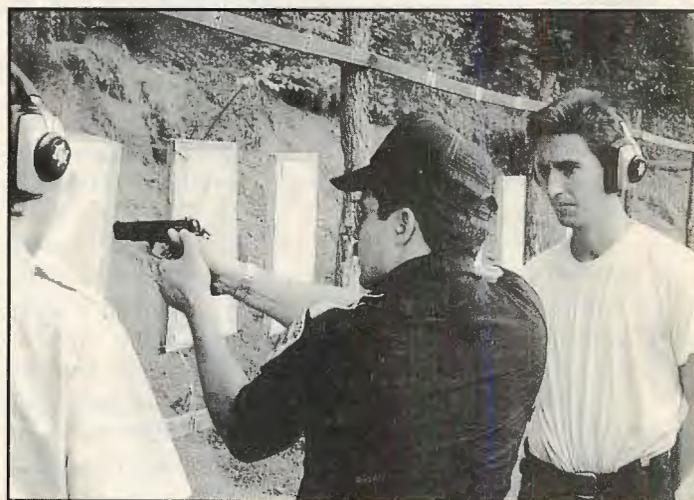
Later reports confirmed 10 to 15 shipments, including weapons-grade uranium U-235 and missile and reactor parts. The United States has no defense against these things.

Any rabid, tyrannical Third-World despot with U.N. representation could bring one in by diplomatic courier and put it in a locker at the Port Authority Bus Terminal.

They didn't want to hear it. Our current government, under the leadership of minister plenipotentiary Strobe Talbot, Bill's old roomie, is trying to become pals with the Russians. The problem is that Yeltsin has no handle on the KGB. If anything, the reverse is true. The KGB wants to stay in business and is trying to recruit or knock off the heads of the Russian Mafia and take it over. The FBI has been sent to Russia to cooperate with the local intelligence agencies, i.e., the KGB, to catch the nuke-smuggling mobsters, i.e., the KGB.

This business does not appear to be fantasy. Three independent sources confirm it: one, a fluent Russian-speaking American businessman who spent two years in Eastern Europe before he got out one step ahead of a KGB hit team; another businessman with high-level Russian government contacts, and one of America's most respected prize-winning journalists who does his own research, in-depth and carefully.

This was the last work Keith did for the FBI before they arrested him. While Keith was developing and sharing his intel, the lovely Charlene Hambrick was accusing him of gun- and dope-running to the FBI. So they and the BATF called all his customers and suppliers and busted his place, looking for evidence that he was illegally selling guns or running dope. They found no such evidence. Keith knows a lot about weapons and he sells military



In spite of its credentials, Counterr Group Academy was one of Idema's businesses that fell under the jaundiced eye of the FBI. Here Keith (center) instructs student Ron Reagan Jr. (right) in pistolcraft.

equipment, so that is at least a credible accusation. But anybody who knows him will tell you that all he knows about drugs is that he is dead set against them. The guy won't even take aspirin.

But they did uncover this nifty little wire-fraud scam. Strong interrogated four of Keith's employees, Don Valenzuela, Andrea Graves, Craig Toth and Ray Winslow. They had set up a dummy corporation, ordered \$250,000 worth of cameras (Toth was a photographer), nylon goods (Graves' husband was starting a business called Tactical

Continued on page 69

Magnum Force From Brazil

Practice, Not Porting, Path To Proficiency With New Taurus M44

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis

Since its introduction in 1956, the .44 Magnum cartridge has taken everything from jack rabbits to Cape buffalo. Although not considered by most armed professionals to be a gunfighting round, it has been used against two-legged varmints as well.

Developed by Smith & Wesson and the Remington Arms Co. with considerable impetus from the late Elmer Keith, its rimmed case is one-eighth-inch longer than the .44 Special cartridge, which in turn was introduced in 1907 by S&W for its .44 caliber "New Century Model." Keith had been pushing S&W Model 1950 .44 Hand Ejectors to the limits of their endurance for years with his 250-grain Semi-Wadcutter (Lyman Ideal SWC cast bullet No. 429421) propelled by 18.5 grains of Hercules 2400 powder.

The S&W Model 29 .44 Magnum revolver was an instant success, helped to no small degree by Clint Eastwood in the movie *Dirty Harry*. Although it kicks like a mule, sales of revolvers chambered for this cartridge have remained strong sellers for almost four decades. However, buying a .44 Magnum handgun is one thing, becoming proficient in its use is another matter, as continual practice over a long period of time is required to tame this brute.

The latest fad in attempting to control handgun recoil without pain and suffering involves "compensating" or, more precisely, porting the top of the barrel (and slide if it's a semiautomatic pistol) at the muzzle end (a concept originally introduced many years ago by Magna-Port). The Taurus M44 six-gun is a case in point, although to date compensators and muzzle brakes have mostly attracted competition shooters who fire relatively weak loads from the Isosceles position.

Rest assured that Forjas Taurus, S.A., in San Paulo, Brazil, does not manufacture mere low-priced, mediocre copies of S&W revolvers and Beretta pistols. Taurus handguns now bear no more than cosmetic similarity to their S&W and Beretta ancestors. Furthermore, the slides of their semiautomatic pistols do not crack, and quality of their revolvers is presently a notch above those manufac-

tured in Springfield, Massachusetts. Taurus firearms are distributed by Taurus International (Dept. SOF, 16175 NW 49th Ave., Miami, FL 33014-6314; phone: 305-624-1115; fax: 305-623-7506).

Magnum Mania

Soldier Of Fortune was recently sent a Taurus M44 stainless steel .44 Magnum revolver with a 4-inch barrel and integral compensator (called the "CP" system) for test and evaluation. All Taurus revolvers have mill-finished, drop-forged frames. Our test specimen was fabricated from 416 stainless steel.

The top of the frame and barrel have a glass-beaded, non-glare matte finish. The remaining surfaces on the barrel, frame and cylinder carry a moderately high-gloss polish that rivals anything produced in the United States. Except for the frame's back plate and the inside surface of the extractor rod's yoke, all visible milling marks have been removed.

The barrel is equipped with a solid rib and an integral ejector shroud, both of which extend to within 0.115 inch of the muzzle. There are four 0.15-inch-diameter (4mm) compensator ports on each side of the front sight's integral base. They are angled at about 15 degrees to converge at the bore's axis. A free-bore expansion chamber, under these ports and commencing about a quarter-inch from the muzzle and approximately an inch in length, reduces the barrel's rifling to only 3 inches. The barrel has five grooves with a right-hand twist of one turn in 18.75 inches. In 1984 Taurus stopped pinning barrels to the frames after perfecting a method of precision threading that eliminated this requirement. Overall length of this revolver is 9.38 inches. It weighs 44.75 ounces, empty.



The .44 Magnum cartridge has taken everything from jack rabbits to Cape buffalo and more than a few two-legged varmints in-between. The new compensated Taurus M44 is an attempt to tame this heavy, kicking brute.

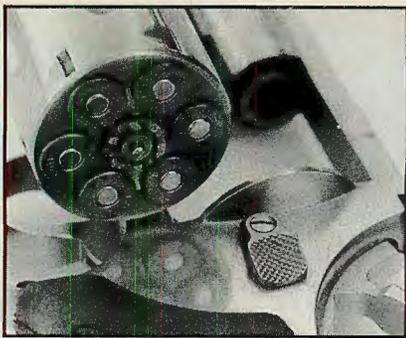
In size and weight, the M44 is close to an S&W N-frame revolver.

The question is, do ported barrels really diminish recoil? In the case of a handgun this is difficult to determine except in a qualitative manner. Recoil is an expression of Newton's

third law of motion, which is a consequence of the conservation of momentum law and definition of force as the time rate of linear momentum. As the action-reaction pair consists of equal and *opposite* forces on different bodies, during a given time interval the impulse of one body on the second is equal but opposite to the impulse of the second on the first.

A firearm's *recoil* force vector is directed rearward on a plane more or less parallel to the barrel's axis. Port-

ing the barrel and permitting propellant gases to escape in a direction normal (perpendicular) to the barrel's axis serves to drive the muzzle downward and reduce "muzzle jump" (a consequence of the handgun's grip location well below the bore's axis with the result that the rearward push generated by the accelerating bullet, expanding gases and muzzle blast tends to pivot the gun in the shooter's hand and swing the barrel upward). But these ports have little effect on



Taurus M44's cylinder holds six rounds, the chambers have no shoulder, and rotation is to the left (counter-clockwise). The checkered and dished cylinder latch is patterned after that of Smith & Wesson and must be pushed forward to swing out the cylinder.

rearward momentum, as a force at right angles to an instantaneous velocity changes the body's direction, but not its speed (a function of Newton's second law of motion). Although some may believe that muzzle jump and recoil to the rear are synonymous, they are not, even though they were activated by the same three force components.

Nevertheless, significant reduction of muzzle jump is a worthwhile attribute as it speeds target reacquisition, and the .44 Magnum round has often been justifiably criticized by armed professionals for this reason alone. However, to significantly reduce a firearm's *perceived* recoil, a system similar to that used on recoilless weapons, such as the U.S. M40 recoilless rifle, would have to be employed and that would require porting the barrel to the rear with the consequence of serious physical damage to the shooter.

There is also a potentially serious disadvantage to barrel porting. If the flash signature of a round fired using propellants without flash retardants is objectionable coming out of the muzzle, it is even more likely to at least momentarily blind the shooter when it discharges upward directly into the line of sight. A substantial number of gunfights occur at either dusk or in almost total darkness.

Compensated Bull

Only the compensator system's freebore expansion chamber could conceivably affect this revolver's rearward recoil momentum. It's possible that gas impinging against the forward edge of the counterbore might act to slightly diminish the perceived

recoil. However, in my opinion, any reduction would be marginal at best, as most of the gas escapes upward through the ports.

Cylinder-to-forcing-cone gap on our test specimen varied from 0.006 inch to 0.008 inch (0.003 inch to 0.008 inch is the generally accepted tolerance range). Fore-and-aft cylinder play was minimal, but the lateral cylinder play on our test specimen bordered on the excessive. The cylinder holds six rounds, the chambers have no shoulder, and rotation is to the left (counter-clockwise). The ejector rod does not quite permit complete ejection of the empty cases. The checkered and dished cylinder latch is patterned after that of Smith & Wesson and must be pushed forward to swing out the cylinder.

A guide-in-coil-type mainspring is set into the square-butt frame. The wide, target-type trigger is smooth and this is best for double-action work. But, a narrow and smooth trigger would be even better. Single-action trigger pull weight on our test specimen is a very crisp 3.5 pounds. It takes 10.5 pounds of pressure to trip the trigger in double-action, with no loading at the end of the stroke. The hammer spur is a deeply checkered, wide target-type.

Mounted in the frame, the floating firing pin must be struck by the now ubiquitous transfer bar, which, in turn, receives the hammer's full impact. Should the finger slip off the trigger while the hammer is falling forward, the transfer bar will drop downward, out of the hammer's path, and the firing pin will not be driven forward.

The sight system holds no surprises for U.S. revolver shooters, as they duplicate the adjustable sights found on Smith & Wesson pistols. The front sight is a serrated ramp type with a red plastic insert. After firing a few rounds, the plastic insert turns black from the soot of propellant gases escaping out the compensator ports. The rear sight is a micrometer click-type with a white-outline, open square notch and adjustable for both windage and elevation zero. Turn the windage adjustment screw clockwise to move the rear sight and the point of impact to the right.

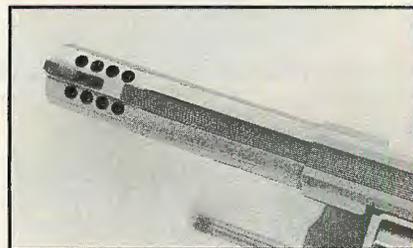
This revolver comes equipped with wrap-around rubber grip panels of the type so much in vogue now. They

have finger grooves, side panels with a pebble-grain texture and carry the Taurus escutcheons. They are supposed to moderate perceived recoil, but are a detriment to gunfighters. It is impossible to quickly readjust an incorrect grip position during the drawstroke with tacky neoprene grip panels. They are also much too thin for my large hands. If this were my revolver, I would replace them with a pair of Bear Hug laminated-wood grips.

Penetration Parameters

A wide range of .429-inch diameter bullets are available for .44 caliber handguns. Projectiles and velocities should be selected to match the intended purpose. Hunters of deer-size and larger game are probably best served by hard-cast SWCs or the heaviest expanding bullets traveling at high velocity. With proper shot placement, this combination will penetrate deeply enough to crush, cut and break through the animal's vital structures and organs.

For gunfighters, penetration remains the most important single parameter. However, we need 12 to 20 inches of penetration through the human body's soft tissue. Once we have the required penetration, the bullet that makes the biggest hole will do the most damage. Hard-cast SWC bullets will not expand and are shoulder-stabilized. This means they will exhibit absolutely no yaw in soft tissue and as a consequence, will invariably overpenetrate in human targets. If we can expand a .44 caliber hollow-point bullet weighing 225 to 260 grains to no more than twice its original diameter and significantly



M44 has four 0.15-inch-diameter (4mm) compensator ports on each side of the front sight's integral base. They are angled at about 15 degrees to converge at the bore's axis. A free-bore expansion chamber, under these ports and commencing about a quarter-inch from the muzzle and approximately an inch in length, reduces the barrel's rifling to only 3 inches.

Taurus M44 Specifications

Caliber:44 Magnum.
Operation: Six-shot revolver. Single- and double-action. Internal transfer bar safety. Floating firing pin.
Weight, empty: 44.75 ounces.
Length, overall: 9.38 inches.
Barrel: Five-groove with a right-hand twist of one turn in 18.75 inches. Full length shroud and solid rib.
Barrel length: 4 inches.
Stocks: Wrap-around, two-piece rubber grip panels with finger grooves, pebble-grain-texture side panels and Taurus escutcheons.
Finish: Stainless steel.
Price: \$480.
Manufacturer: Forjas Taurus, S.A., Dept. SOF, Av. Do Forte, 511 — CX Postal 44, Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil; phone: 051-340-2244.
U.S. distributor: Taurus International Manufacturing Inc., Dept. SOF, 16175 N.W. 49th Ave., Miami, FL 33014; phone: 305-624-1115, fax: 305-623-7506.
T&E summary: Heavy, well-made with acceptable accuracy and a reasonable price. Ported barrel reduces muzzle jump, but not recoil.



Taurus M44 features a solid rib and an integral ejector shroud, both of which extend to within 0.115 inch of the muzzle and wrap-around rubber grip panels.

increase the size of the wound track without sacrificing penetration, we're on course to effective performance. Driving such a bullet at the highest possible velocity is certain to be counterproductive, as it will invariably result in over-expansion and under-penetration. Glaser Safety Slugs and MagSafe 92-grain Defender and 115-grain Urban Defense Loads are examples of high-velocity frangible ammunition that exhibits these characteristics. They should be avoided. Gimmicks of this type all obey Fackler's Law: Bullet effectiveness varies inversely with bullet price.

With these parameters in mind, we fired a wide range of .44 Magnum ammunition through the Taurus M44.

version of the .38 Special "FBI Load": a fairly soft 230-grain Alberts (no longer in business) lead-alloy, hollow-point with a very deep cavity, pushed by 8.5 grains of Winchester's 231.

Instrumentation for the velocity tests consisted of the excellent PACT (Practical Applied Computer Technologies Inc., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 531525, Grand Prairie, TX 75053; phone: 800-722-8462) MKIV Championship Timer with its built-in chronograph mode, together with PACT MK5 Professional Skyscreens. All shots were fired at a distance of 10 feet from the start screen and the ambient temperature at the time of SOF's test and evaluation was 85 degrees Fahrenheit.

Test loads included three loads from Black Hills Ammunition (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 3090, Rapid City, SD 57709-3090; phone: 605-348-5150, fax: 605-348-9827): 240-grain SWC and 300-grain Hornady XTP Jacketed Hollow Point (JHP) hunting loads and 240-grain Hornady XTP JHP for self defense. Also tested was the out-of-production Super Vel 180-grain JHP and my own reloads consisting of Lyman No. 429421 SWC, cast hard and light from Linotype metal, weighing 236 grains and propelled by 22.5 grains of H110; Lyman No. 429215, a gas-check SWC, also cast from Linotype metal, weighing 210 grains and a powder charge weight of 24.5 grains of H110; and what might be euphemistically called the .44 Magnum

The Super Vel load, which screamed out of the muzzle at 1,580 fps, was the least desirable. It's an example of the type of ineffective, ultra-high-velocity handgun ammunition developed as a result of the flawed Relative Incapacitation Index which is based upon the unproven assumption that incapacitation of a human target is directly proportional to temporary tissue stretch. All of the cast solids: the Black Hills 240-grain SWC (965 fps) and the 236-grain (1,210 fps) and 215-grain (1,310 fps) SWC reloads are more wisely directed toward hunting game, as is the Black Hills 300-grain Hornady XTP JHP (1,075 fps). For gunfighting I would select either the Black Hills 240-grain Hornady XTP JHP (1,140 fps) or a lead-alloy, hollow-point similar to the one tested, which departed from the muzzle at a relatively mild 980 fps.

Perpetual Practice

A Smith & Wesson M29-2 with a 4-inch barrel was used for control, and surprisingly, the Taurus M44, with only 3 inches of rifling, generated mildly greater velocities than the M29-2 — ranging from an insignificant difference that would fall within the standard deviation of the load up to 50 fps (in the case of the reloads consisting of the 236-grain Lyman No. 429421 SWC, propelled by 22.5 grains of H110).

Accuracy, with most of the loads tested, was acceptable for either hunting (at 25 yards groups averaged 2 to 3 inches from a solid sitting position) or gunfighting (at 7 yards 1.5-inch groups were the norm from offhand using the Weaver position). Furthermore, the compensated Taurus M44 performs in a satisfactory manner to noticeably reduce muzzle jump when compared to a 4-inch S&W Model 29-2. However, you cannot buy your way into proficiency with a handgun chambered for the .44 Magnum cartridge. With heavy bullets pushed to the highest possible velocities they kick like hell and continuous practice is required to tame them, not a series of holes on top of the barrel. I could personally detect very little difference, if any, between the S&W M29-2 and the M44 with regard to perceived recoil. Be that as it may, I like the Taurus M44 revolver. Heavy and well-made, it carries a suggested retail price of only \$480. ✕



Armed & English

Shattering the Myth of the Unarmed Bobby

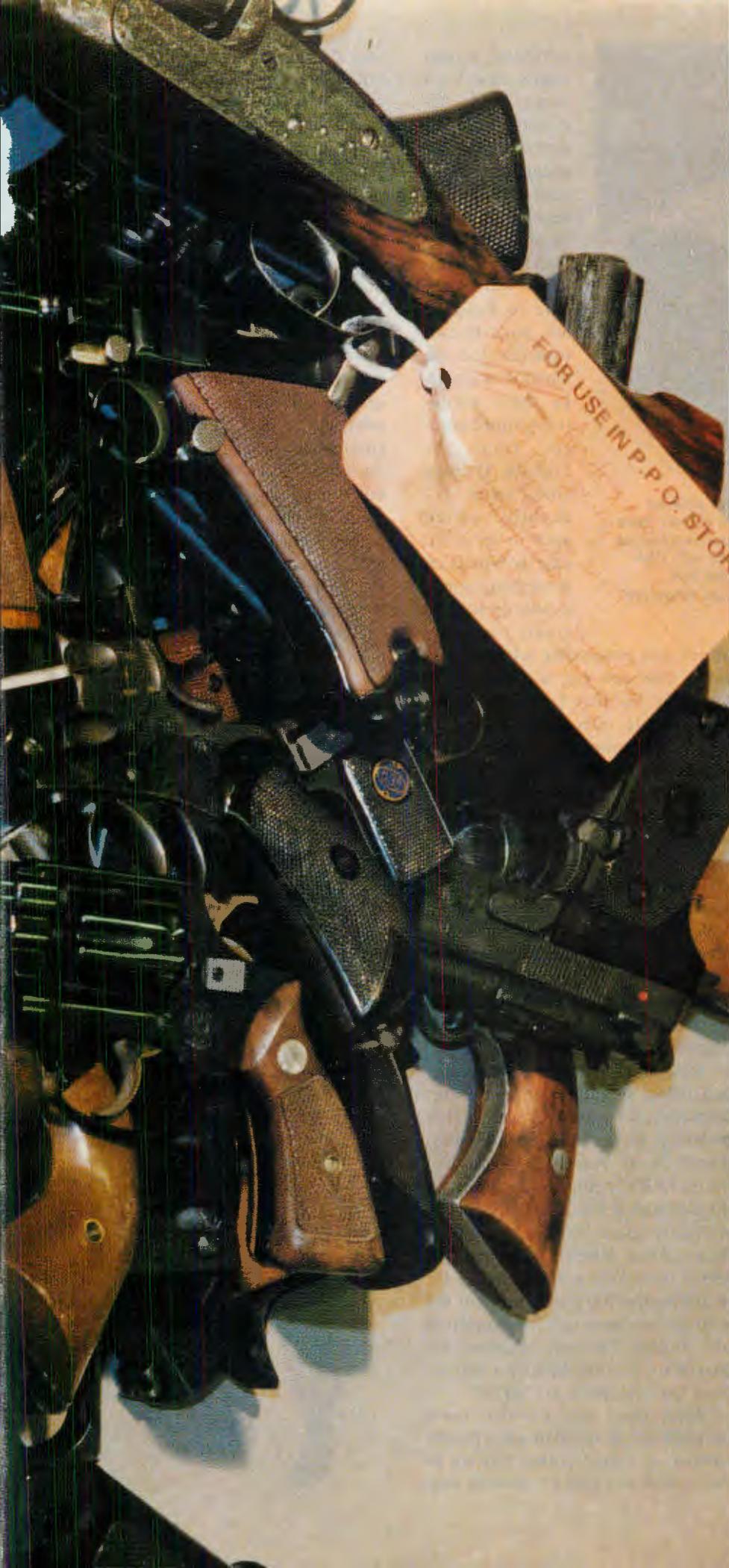
by Peter Douglas

Photos courtesy New Scotland Yard

In the debate on gun control, strict British gun laws are often cited in support of the idea. The suggestion is that since rigid limitations on gun ownership in Britain have kept the incidence of firearms crime at a relatively low level there, the same would apply in the United States. There are, however, many misconceptions about both gun crime and policing in Britain. The common image of a land policed by bobbies armed only with whistles and truncheons is far from reality.

Those against gun control point out that draconian gun laws in Britain have not prevented the criminal element from acquiring and using illegal firearms, and that murder rates among white Americans, guns and all, are less than in Britain. Their fear is that stricter gun control in America would target the wrong people, effectively disarming law-abiding citizens rather than criminals. So, to set the record straight, what is the level of armed threat confronted by the British police? Is it on the increase, and how do they deal with it?

Not surprisingly, of the 43 regional police forces in Britain, it is the Metropolitan Police Force (the Met) in London who face the highest level of gun crime. Contrary to popular belief, however, the issuing of firearms to Met officers is not a recent response to rising gun crime. The Metropolitan Police have had firearms available to them since their formation in



1829 — although the legislature did not get around to drawing up formal regulations governing the use of those arms until 1894.

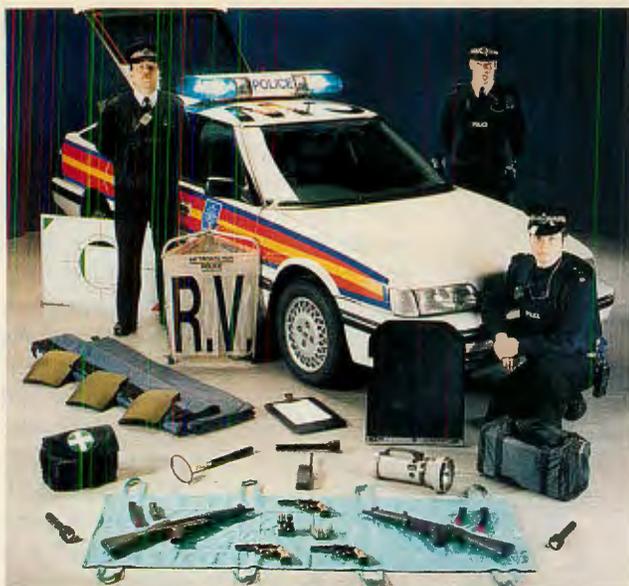
Until 1936, any Met officer on night duty was entitled to carry a firearm if he wished: It was a matter of personal inclination. However, there was virtually no formal police training in the use of firearms until 1966, when a catalytic change occurred: An incident in which three unarmed Metropolitan policemen were shot and killed generated a shock wave that led directly to the creation of a full-time police firearms training unit. Surprisingly, this was not due so much to the original shooting incident, as it was to the chaotic nature of the subsequent armed search for the culprits.

Units that took part in the operation were largely inexperienced in the use of firearms. Some officers were issued weapons of a type they had never seen before. Others were so lacking in confidence that they preferred not to risk loading the weapon at all (keeping the gun in one pocket and the ammunition safely in another!).

Although the killers were finally apprehended, it was clear that the police had made some potentially fatal errors along the way. It was to ensure that these mistakes should not be repeated that the Metropolitan police commissioner established a special section to train officers in the use of firearms and to develop tactics for coping with armed crime. Lacking suitably qualified staff within their own ranks, the Met passed responsibility for this unit to the Civil Defense and War Duties Training Unit, which formed the first 10-man training team.

From this embryonic beginning the new Metropolitan Police Firearms Training Unit began to expand to cope with the training needs of both new and existing units authorized to bear

News flash: Though private handgun ownership is all but impossible in Britain, criminals continue to disobey the law and carry guns. Here's a typical week's harvest of contraband guns in London. Guns run gamut from .455 revolvers purchased by England from Colt and S&W in WWI, through Fegyarev/Ortgies/Luger/Walther/Colt pistols, to sawed-off shotguns and chopped AR-15s and obsolete British revolvers — even a smattering of antiques by Nagant, Colt and Webley, and a few die-cast "counterfeit" guns.



In spite of anti-gun rhetoric, U.K. cops have not policed unarmed the last 20 years. Those that did, and still do, have firepower available in the form of Armed Response Vehicles (pictured), which carry a three-man team armed with H&K MP5s, S&W revolvers, flak vests, bomb blankets and assorted other first aid and tactical gear. Typical response time in London is 10 minutes.

arms — units such as the Diplomatic Protection Group, Specialist Escort Group, Regional Crime Squad and the “Flying Squad” (which refers to their mobility and has nothing whatsoever to do with aeronautics).

With the creation of a full-time training unit came an increasing awareness of tactical needs and a growing demand for better training. Inevitably, the expansion of specialist firearms units was shadowed by an increasing media interest. As images of *armed* police at incidents were more exciting than images of non-armed police, photographing armed officers became something of a media pastime.

This resulted in a distorted public image of the number of armed police officers. To counter this misconception, an order was issued, in the mid-1970s, that police weapons should remain “concealed.” The downside of this policy was that if an armed officer needed his weapon in a hurry, he was handicapped by the fact that it was probably locked safely in the trunk of his car! Such practices also increased the chances of accidents when weapons were retrieved and loaded in public. Nonetheless, due to the resistance of the British public to the idea of armed police, it was not until 1994 that the “weapons concealment order” was revoked.

By 1975 the need for permanently

assigned armed teams had been recognized. Although these already existed for specialized tasks such as protecting royalty, the Met forces dealing with major incidents were only able to field ad hoc units thrown together for the duration of a case. In these situations, armed officers from the Firearms Training Unit were frequently called upon to serve. To ease the burden on the training teams, it was decided to create a new

armed unit responsible for such missions. This new unit was soon field-tested by the IRA in the Balcombe Street siege (December 1975), in which three armed IRA members held a married couple hostage in their home for several days. The Met operation was successfully concluded when the IRA surrendered to the armed police units.

In the early '90s, the Met branch responsible both for firearms training and deploying the armed units was reorganized. The increasing workload had made it impossible to fully satisfy training needs without interruption unless the dedicated armed-response teams expanded.

Today there are six response teams in London, all authorized to use firearms without the need to secure higher authority. Each of these units is supported by an Armed Response Vehicle (ARV) containing another three-person team. An additional six ARVs are on standby during daylight hours, when demand is higher. Together these units are responsible for patrolling the 700 square miles of the metropolitan area and its population of 7 million. The new, improved organization is controlled by a department known simply as “SO19.”

While these measures may seem insignificant in comparison with the number of armed police officers to be found in any major American city,

they do indicate that levels of armed crime in Britain have increased in spite of a near complete gun ban. Nonetheless, the arming of British policemen remains a controversial issue. Following the recent revocation of the “concealment order” in May 1994, armed Met officers are allowed to wear their weapons openly. This has revitalized media interest, creating the impression that there has been a significant rise in the number of armed police.

Indeed, from the original 10 officers assigned to firearms training teams in 1967, the number of officers now assigned to SO19 has increased to almost 300, in measured response to the perceived level of threat. On the other hand, more effective deployment of these highly trained SO19 units has enabled a decrease in armed police overall.

“The response time of the Armed Response Vehicles in London is down to *about* 10 minutes. As long as that meets the need, there will not be calls for [all] the police to be fully armed.”

Regarding the degree of armed crime faced by British police today, Superintendent Michael Waldren,

Does this look like Brit cops go in unarmed? Met “SWAT” team member ready for anything, armed with H&K MP5, folding-stock pump shotgun, Glock pistol, flak vest, riot helmet and gas mask.



head of SO19, told *SOF*, "These days some sort of raid will occur and some idiot will produce a gun and start firing at the ceiling. Now this is a relatively new thing and it tells you that perhaps there are a few more guns out there than we thought; but if you actually tried to put a figure to it you would be very brave ... it just tells you that there is a little bit of an increase ... the idea that you would actually come across guns on something like a drugs raid just wouldn't have happened 20 years ago. You just wouldn't even consider it. Now you are starting to get firearms being carried."

In fact, one of the reasons why it



Above: Met's tactical weapons include H&K MP5SD, to be used only on police commissioner's directions; MP5 semiautomatic carbine and MP5K with three-round burst mechanism.

Right: Remington 870 12-gauge with extended magazine, LIAI 66mm Air Burst grenade launcher, and L67 Baton Gun with plastic projectile provide suitable weapons for medium range or non-lethal use.

ures are available for the Met (1993), there were 1,001 operational call outs. Of these, 588 involved the armed teams, 371 saw the deployment of ARVs and a further 42 required rifle support. The majority of these call outs were resolved peacefully — as illustrated by the limited number of occasions on which SO19 units actually fired their weapons: Having come under fire on 23 occasions, during 1,001 call outs, SO19 units returned fire just three times. This is in comparison to 1,193 shots fired during the same period by the New York City police force. However, to view this in context, it should be pointed out that the New York police had to contend with many more incoming rounds than the 23 fired at the Met in London.

In short, while gun crime exists in Britain, a statistical breakdown reveals it to be on a very low level — a far cry from the threat posed by armed crime in America. In the 165 years since



is so difficult to evaluate the true level of armed crimes in Britain is because anecdotal evidence suggests that a large percentage of such incidents actually take place in the context of dealings within the criminal community. In particular, as the superintendent pointed out: "...we are turning up guns when we do drug raids. The reason they give for having these guns is to protect the goods from other dealers who may try and take over." Of course a drug dealer who loses his stash to an armed competitor is unlikely to report the matter to the police.

Gun crimes that find their way onto police reports are thought to represent only the tip of the iceberg, the majority remaining unreported and undetected.

During the last year for which fig-

the Metropolitan Police were formed, only 26 police officers have been killed in London. That's roughly one every 6-1/2 years — although the mathematics are ruffled by five of those officers being killed in the last four years. The Met considers it too early to tell if this is a trend or merely a glitch.

If the British situation is to be cited as an example, it is important to realize that the question of gun ownership is as much a cultural issue as a statistical one. By comparison, mainland Europe (which shares closer parallels to American gun culture) has a long history of almost unceasing frontier wars and border skirmishes (continuing to the present in the former Yugoslavia). Similarly, it was in the context of almost constant frontier

warfare and rebellion against a tyrannical mother country that the right for citizens to bear arms was originally enshrined in the Second Amendment of the American Constitution.

It should be pointed out that in the one region of the British Isles where high levels of gun crime are endemic — Northern Ireland — the police are fully armed.

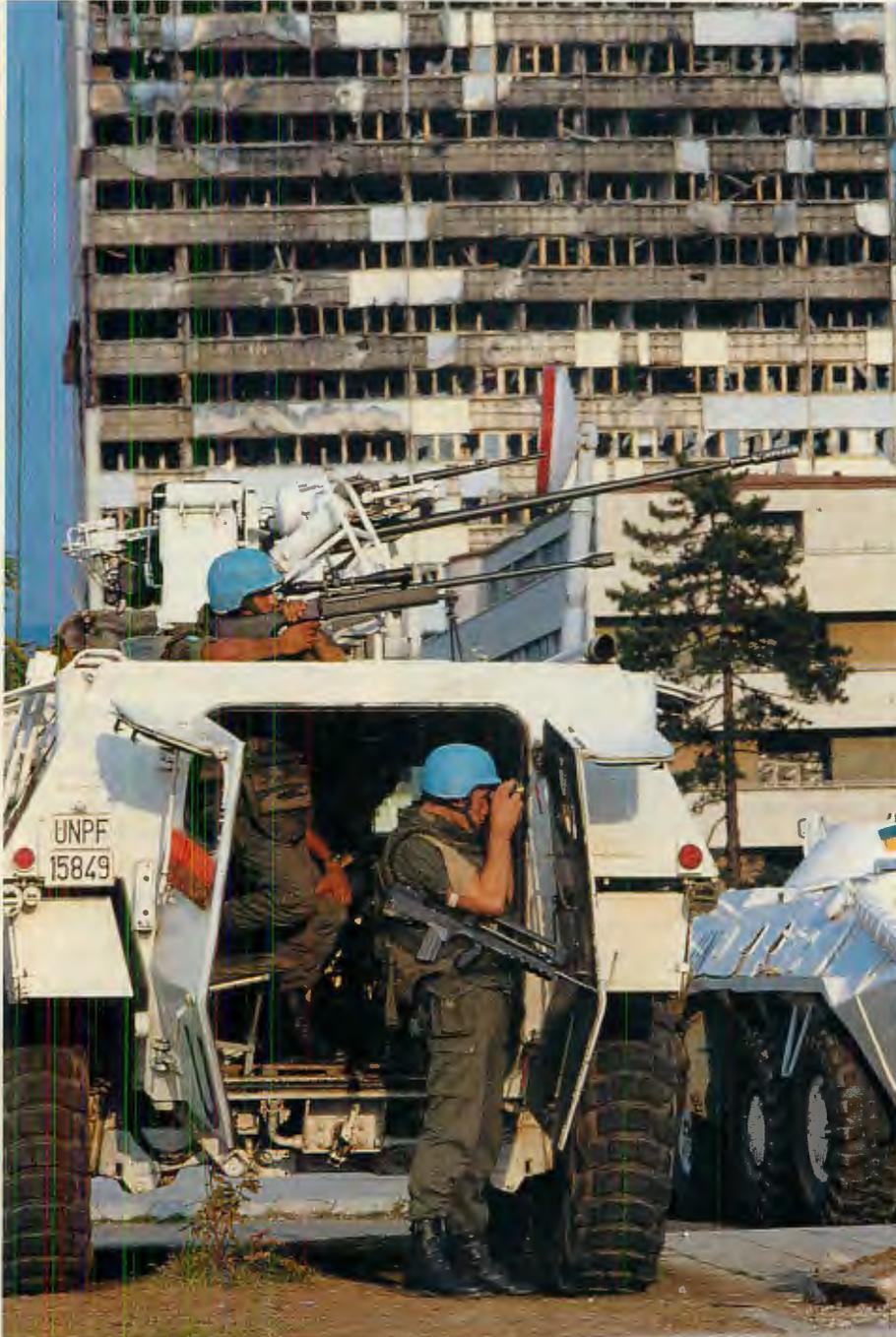
Overall, the threat of gun crime on mainland Britain simply cannot be compared to that which exists elsewhere. The likelihood that law-abiding British citizens might require arms for self-defense is still remote. However there is no evidence to support the claims of the U.S. gun control lobby, that legislation in Britain prevents the illegal use of firearms by criminals.

It must be said that, despite Britain's strict gun control laws, criminals are still able to procure guns and have displayed an increasing willingness to use them — and any shortage of British guns for criminal purposes would not appear to be a deterrent for those bent on violence, when one compares the murder/100,000 population rate in Britain of 7.4, to that for the ethnically similar segment of the American population of only 5.1. In short, the imaginary utopia of the gun-control strategist does not exist.

On this basis, and given the huge volume of weapons already in circulation in American society, U.S. gun control legislation could not hope to control the *criminal* carriage and use of firearms. It would serve only to deprive law-abiding citizens of their legal right to bear arms for self-defense. Perhaps President John F. Kennedy best illustrated the point, in his inaugural address on 20 January 1961, when he stated, "Only when our arms are sufficient beyond doubt, can we be certain that they will never be employed." Whether you're discussing nations or individuals, this basic truth of self-defense remains unaltered.

Photojournalist Peter Douglas lives in England and has worked as combat reporter for a number of international publications. He is a frequent contributor to SOF. ✕

ROBO-COUNTTE



Key to countersniper operations is to quickly locate your target. French countersnipers from 8th RPIMA use Harris McMillan Gunworks M-87 series .50-caliber rifles, FA MAS rifles and VAB armored personnel carriers to engage targets in Sniper Alley, Sarajevo. Photo: Richard Lucas

Armed with a well-maintained M1 Garand rifle, the Haitian took up position inside what qualifies as a high-rise in Port-au-Prince. Being careful not to be seen from outside, he climbed on a stack of boxes to better observe the street below while still remaining hidden in the shadows. Knowing that one random shot fired unseen from a distance would be difficult to locate, the sniper was determined to shoot and scoot.

Two Bradleys were parked in the street. An American officer was talking to several civilians while eight U.S. soldiers manned the vehicles and set up security. The Haitian quickly lined up his sights on the officer's head and squeezed the trigger.

Before his round impacted the building behind the officer, the Lifeguard system picked up the bullet's path, alerted the countersniper team and showed the point of origin on a small TV screen. The NCOIC noted the location from Lifeguard, checked his range card and gave his sniper the window location, estimated range and wind conditions.

The Haitian watched incredulously as the Bradley gunner traversed the turret. Was this a coincidence, or voodoo? Just as the American countersniper fired a single round from his Barrett M82A1, the Bradley gunner let off a burst into the window. Scratch one Haitian sniper.

BDI: Sniper's Nightmare

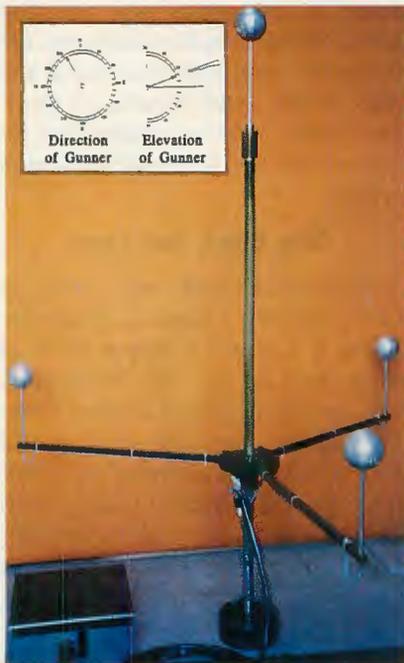
As the above scenario illustrates, if you can quickly locate a sniper, dealing with him is not a problem: Finding him is the trick. To this end, British and American scientists have been working independently on technology that would allow rapid location of enemy snipers.

For the last 25 years, British forces in Northern Ireland have had to cope

RSNIPERS

by Nick Steadman

New Technology Can Detect, Dispatch Unseen Enemies



Bullet Direction Indicator uses four spherical sensing heads to compute location of sniper from shock wave produced by passing projectile. Bullet origin is given by an azimuth indicator and elevation scale. Photo: courtesy GD Associates

with snipers while going about their daily security duties. A year after the 1976 withdrawal of the ARIES man-portable radar device, a vehicle borne radar system called CLARIBEL was introduced. This system detected muzzle blast to assist in sniper location but left much to be desired.

Now a newer technical solution has surfaced in the United Kingdom. And even if this turns out to be too

late for Northern Ireland, it may be of use for peacekeeping elsewhere. The Bullet Direction Indicator (BDI) hails from GD Associates, a small company based in the pleasant Surrey village of Bramley, only a few miles south of Bisley Camp, where generations of British army marksmen have battled it out in the annual service rifle championships.

Though now applied to bullet detection, the underlying technology for BDI was first utilized for the British civil defense program. Back in 1992, GD Associates patented a Direction-Finding Blast Gauge (DFBG) designed to indicate the position of an enemy gun or the source of a distant explosion by ascertaining the direction of the associated shock wave. Accuracy is within one degree in elevation or azimuth, and by linking

several systems an observer can also elicit the coordinates of the weapon or explosion.

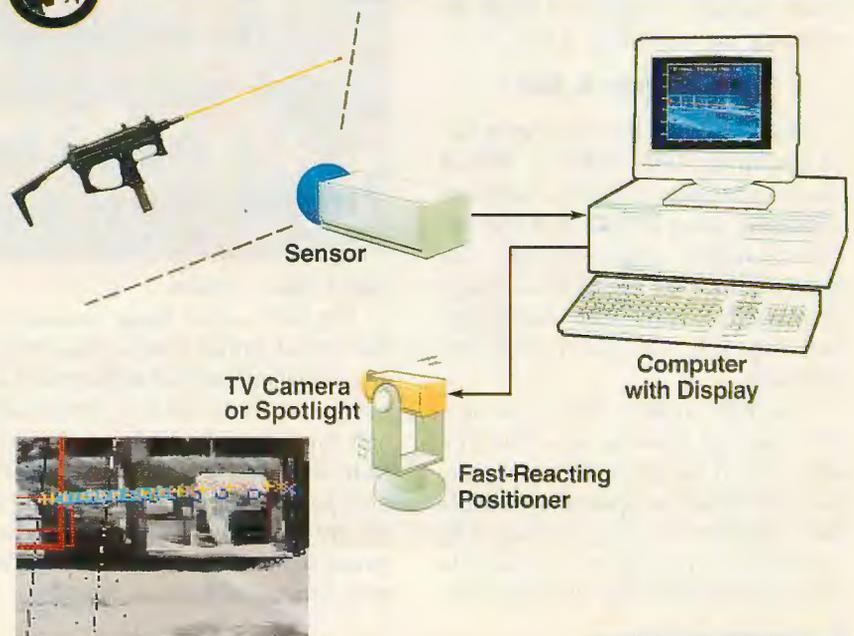
The DFBG comprises four acoustic sensors mounted on a spherical head. When a shock wave arrives at the sensing head, the time at which it is detected by each of the four sensors is stored, then translated by a computer or calculator into composite elevation and azimuth indications of source direction. All this happens within a second; the azimuth reading is shown by a compass arrow and the elevation in a separate readout.

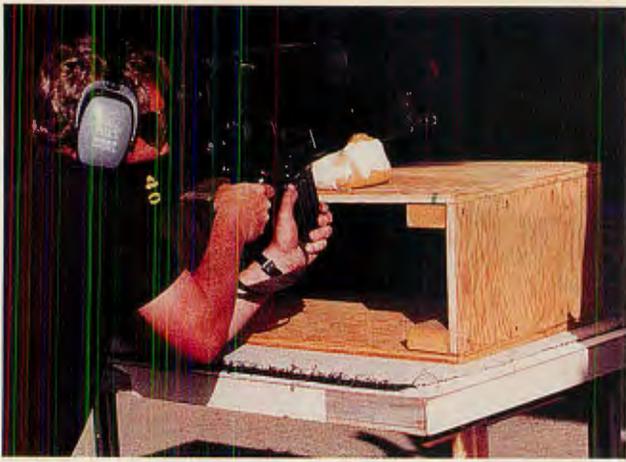
Having initially made a blast gauge with a 2-inch diameter head, GD Associates were then approached by the British Home Office Emergency Planning Research Group (the British equivalent of FEMA), which commissioned a much larger 8-inch unit

Lifeguard installation schematic shows camera utilized to photograph sniper. Sniper location is depicted on screen by red box with bullet path highlighted. Shown Ruger MP9 SMG is not a typical countersniper tool. Photo: courtesy Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory



Lifeguard





Lifeguard sensor mounted on a 5.56x45mm HK33 rifle. Still a long way from miniaturization, sensor is the conical projection in front of the "black box." Photo: courtesy Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

for nuclear blast detection. This full-size device was exhaustively tested in the United Kingdom and the United States using large charges of high explosives. Trials with up to three tons of HE were conducted in Britain, and a much larger test was subsequently conducted at White Sands Missile Range in the United States. However, after 28 DFBGs had been made for the Home Office, the peace dividend took its toll and the government requirement was shelved. If anyone wants them, they're all sitting in a depot somewhere.

Of course, GD Associates is always receptive to other applications. Their own literature suggests a wide range of possibilities, including detecting heavy weapons in Bosnia and policing cease-fire violations around the world. Strategically placed DFBGs could be used to enforce arms limitation treaties, or perhaps even to detect stealth aircraft, though this might be stretching the technology a bit.

Justice From A Box

That's as far as the story went until Christmas 1993, when a British colonel stationed in Bosnia requested something along DFBG lines specifically to handle small arms fire. Using the principles of the blast gauge as a starting point, GD Associates came up with the Bullet Direction Indicator.

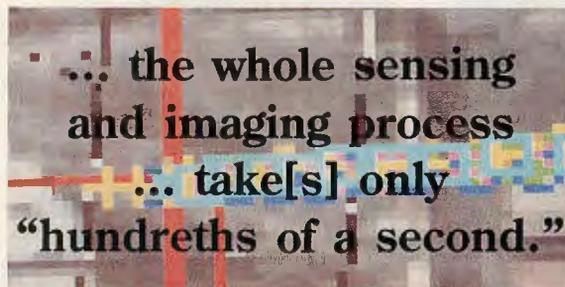
The BDI utilizes four spherical blast gauging heads in an aerial-type array, one at the tip of the aerial pole, the other three on spokes symmetrically positioned around its base. The sonic boom of a supersonic bullet is sensed by the heads, and the four

readings are combined by an online laptop computer to give azimuth and elevation indications of source location, on a compass rose with a separate elevation/depression dial. Not only is the BDI fully passive, but it also offers virtually automatic operation. Data on up to 20 shots can be stored in the onboard memory

for later analysis. Though designed only to detect supersonic projectiles, GD believes the BDI might also be able to cope with transonic velocities.

In its final form, the BDI will have its own onboard computer and will probably be powered from a 12-volt NiCad battery pack; AA batteries are used at present. GD's existing system is 39 inches across with sensors extended. However, final weight and size data can't yet be specified.

Buoyed by the success of its first prototype, GD Associates subsequently produced a much smaller man-portable version of the BDI about 2 feet long, and set out to promote the idea to the Ministry of Defense. At first, while there was obvious enthusiasm among the military, this was not echoed by the government — although more recently the Ministry has begun to



take a closer interest.

The BDI is now being considered for several British army applications, and a new operational requirement is being drafted. So far it is envisioned only for static and vehicle installations: Defensive posts in Northern Ireland are one possibility (though this might yet dry up), as well as the Warrior armored combat vehicles widely used for peacekeeping missions in Bosnia.

As yet there is no hand-held requirement, though this could follow if the larger systems prove their worth. At present, in order for the BDI to adequately analyze the shock wave, bullets must evidently pass within 15-25 meters of the sensors — GD Associates still has more experiments to conduct in order to ascertain the actual maximum distance which varies with caliber. However, since all this means that users still have to be virtually in the line of fire to detect a shot, it could help explain a certain lack of enthusiasm for hand-held detectors. We may have to accept that someone might still have a close call before a technological fix can be deployed.

Interest in the BDI also extends well beyond Britain. France has sent a representative to the trials at the British School of Infantry. And the South African police, who have lost some 300 officers to small arms fire in the last year, have also visited GD Associates. There is currently an urgent South African operational requirement for a sniper detection system.

One Shot, You Lose

Meanwhile, 5000 miles away in California, the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory began work in early 1993 on the same basic problem, but has proposed a rather different solution. The motivation in this case was another school-yard shooting, and the market initially envisioned was law enforcement. Livermore's Lifeguard Countersniper System, first demonstrated in April 1994, is merely one example of a host of new projects the National Laboratories have gotten into with the down-scaling of the Department of Energy's nuclear weapons effort.

The National Laboratories don't manufacture commercial lines, but merely develop prototypes to a point where they are ready to be taken up by industry for production and marketing. In this case, Livermore is said to have spent \$750,000 on Lifeguard and is now looking for firms willing to bring the idea to the marketplace. However, as one might perhaps expect of a government agency, Livermore is pro-

viding considerably less about its proposals than GD Associates, a private company. But to be fair, the laboratory's patents are still pending, which may help explain the reticence.

Lifeguard uses a single sensor, which can be mounted on a tripod or even directly on a weapon system. Laboratory staff declined to divulge what type of sensor is used, but one expert suggests it is probably infrared. And on that basis we believe it will probably cope with projectiles at all common velocities. The laboratory merely says the sensor "identifies a speeding bullet via its unique signals." This information is processed by a special computer system and transformed on a linked video monitor into a digitized image showing the bullet track right back to its

front of the firer, the potential for rapid and effective countersniper fire would appear to be excellent. However, absent any proof to the contrary, the sensor system appears to cover only a field of about 160 degrees to its immediate front, whereas the British BDI has 360-degree coverage.

According to press reports, project director Tom Karr estimates the size of the Lifeguard sensing unit could eventually be reduced to the size of a pair of binoculars or video camera, with the computer in a backpack. Presumably the video screen would also have to be integrated with the sensor unit.

Automated Counterfire

Possibilities for system augmenta-

tion, Livermore anticipates it could be permanently installed for surveillance of school yards or mounted in police helicopters, and could also be employed for protection of VIPs and the security of large gatherings. The laboratory confirms that one East Coast metro police department is already toying with the Lifeguard concept for use in high crime areas, and another somewhere in Southern California is interested in mobile applications.

But while applauding most attempts at crime prevention and suppression, the school-yard surveillance angle is a touch Orwellian. While crime is still rampant and the role of the armed services in flux, some military/law enforcement cross-fertilization is inevitable. But we should be wary of creeping militarization of police equipment and tactics. One Waco is enough for a lifetime.

On the military front, Lifeguard's potential in peacekeeping operations such as Bosnia and now Haiti needs little amplification. In these scenarios, it could be weapon-mounted, installed in vehicles or even on helicopters to locate the source of hostile ground fire.

Details have more recently emerged of AAI Corp.'s PDCue, another detection system based on acoustic sensing of shock waves produced by projectiles. Hand-held and vehicle-borne applications are being considered for the U.S. Army's 21st Century Land Warrior program.

Given the European and Commonwealth interest in the British BDI, it is probably fair to assume that the British and American efforts in this field are not yet paralleled elsewhere. So GD Associates, Lawrence Livermore Laboratory and AAI Corp. would appear to have a head start in this important field. Only time and practical experience will tell which approach proves the more effective. But one thing's for sure, on the military side at least — the body count from deliberate sniping at troops on peacekeeping missions is still rising, and thus requires urgent attention. Any system that saves even some of these lives has our vote.

Nick Steadman is a British-based independent correspondent specializing in small arms-related subjects. He is also a regular contributor to Fighting Firearms magazine. ✕



Various weapons used to test Lifeguard system included rifles from left to right: HK33 with Lifeguard sensor, Remington 7400, pump action shotgun, HK21A1, another HK33, MP5 SD3 and two handguns: HK P7 and a revolver. Photo: courtesy Lawrence Livermore Laboratory

point of origin, marked by a small, red rectangle.

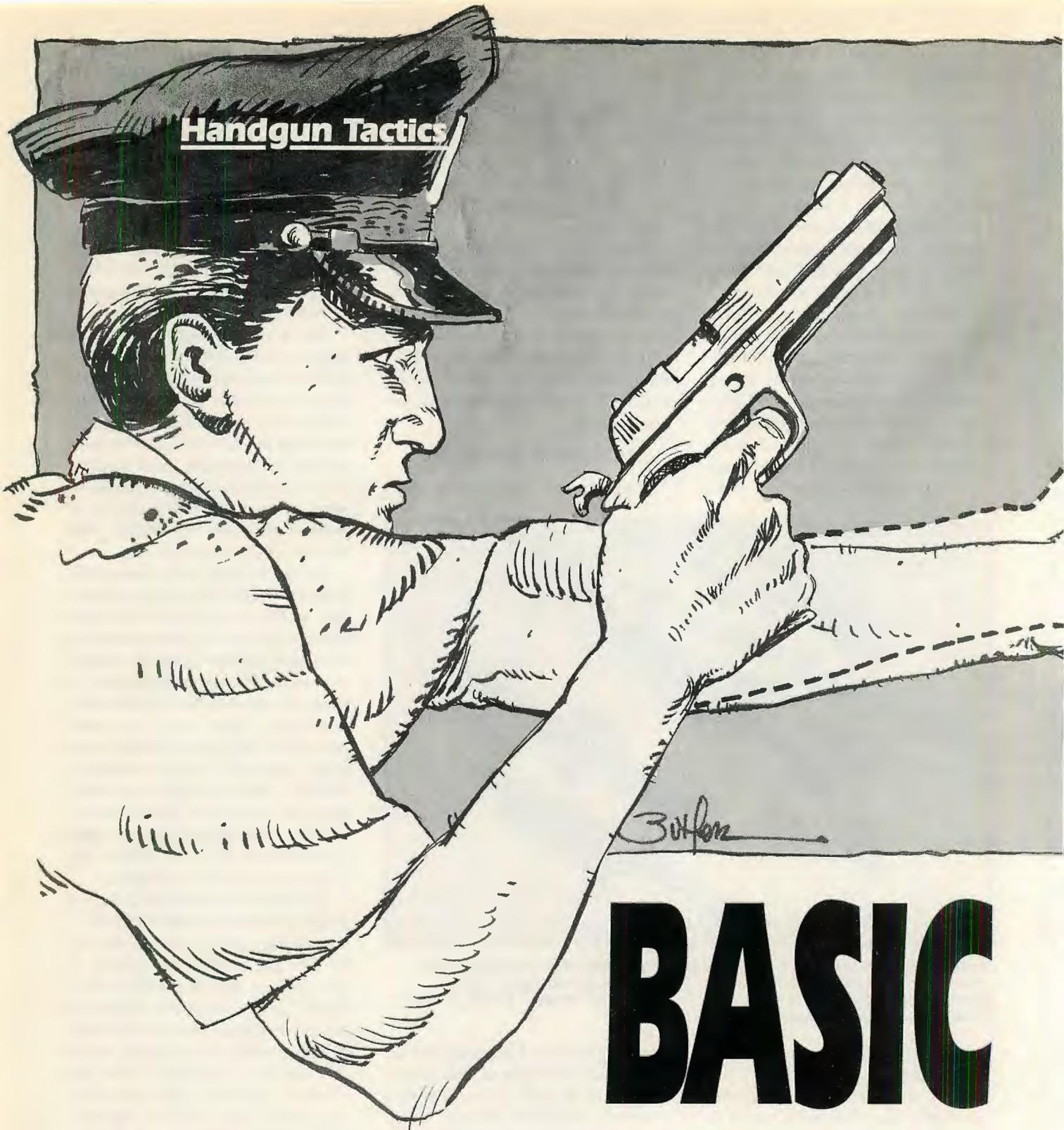
Four sensor scans — all carried out within just a few milliseconds — are required to capture the bullet path, and the whole sensing and imaging process is said to take only "hundredths of a second." In other words, the source of the shot could be pinpointed even before the round has struck its intended target. Press reports say the system has been tested to ranges in excess of 200 yards, and that it might have a potential beyond twice that distance.

With Lifeguard actually mounted on a weapon scanning the area in

tion suggested by Livermore include connection to a video or still-camera to identify the firer — or even to a remotely controlled weapon which could be used to automatically shoot back with conventional or "non-lethal" ammunition. However, there are reservations about this last point, particularly in the context of police operations where automated gunfire without human intervention might seriously endanger the public. It's bad enough having a sniper holed up halfway down Main Street without "robocop" strafing the general area with return fire.

In keeping with Lifeguard's origi-

Handgun Tactics



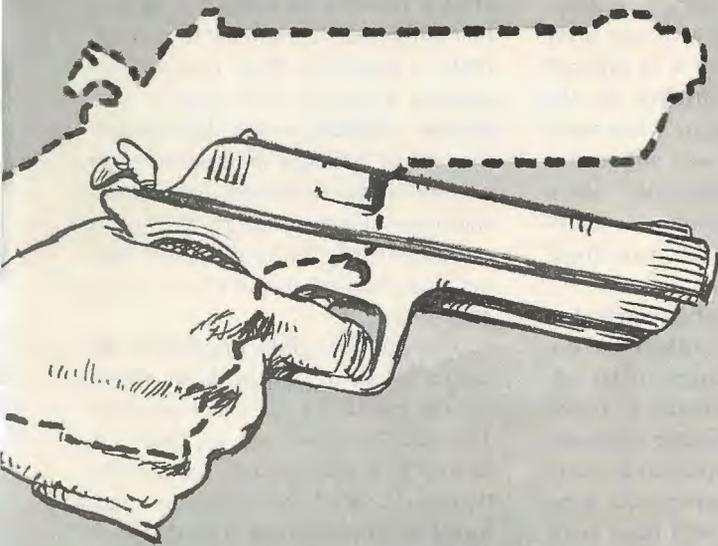
BASIC

The FBI regularly issues two publications, *Killed in the Line of Duty* and *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted*. The New York City Police Department annually publishes a detailed analysis entitled, *The Firearms Discharge — Assault Report*. An objective study of these reports leads one to conclude that, generally, police are not adequately trained with handguns for current conditions on the “street.” In this era of escalating armed violence, major changes need to be made in the way most law enforcement personnel are trained to shoot.

Prior to World War II, the military and police communities erroneously used one-handed bull’s-eye shooting on

paper targets in training men for handgun combat. In contrast, because of the type of fighting experienced in World War II, selected units of the Allies were specifically trained for offensive close combat use of handguns using instinctive pointing methods. In the decades since World War II, police have only progressed halfway. Most police departments still only train in two-handed, aimed fire.

These two-handed techniques have also been overstressed, and over-sold. More practical ranges, training, ammunition, and scenarios have been introduced, but there is a growing awareness of a need for more “practical” handgun training.



tions, the firefight is over in less than three seconds, before the officer has even had time to take an aimed shot.

Officers may be male or female, of all shapes and sizes, varying physical conditions and emotional make-ups, and from different ethnic backgrounds. They come mostly from urban areas where firearms are not a traditional way of life. Many police firearms instructors fall into the "gun bug" category and emphasize only two-handed, aimed handgun training, more appropriate in the competitive sport of combat handgun shooting. It is safe, however, to estimate that more than 95% of police officers consider their handguns as just part of their impedimenta, like handcuffs or citation books.

Political pressures are so great in some departments, and "shoot and no shoot" regulations so restrictive, that officers may hesitate to shoot even when their lives are endangered. In some departments too much emphasis is being placed on firearm retention and weak-hand shooting at expense of effective hits in likely real-life scenarios.

The September 1992 FBI report *Officers Killed in the Line of Duty* states that, "Most departments continue to train using traditional target practice," and that "...in life or death situations law enforcement officers may reduce the likelihood of fatal injury, if proper training has been in-

INSTINCT

Point Shooting Not Dead Yet

by Col. Rex Applegate
Illustrations by Ralph Butler

Thou Shalt Not Shove Thy Gun: The "forceful shove" where the weapon is kept in a raised ready position, and the gun "shoved" toward the target to be fired when it comes on line usually puts the bullet in the ground 15-20 feet from the shooter. Although the *intended* firing position is as in dotted lines, the gun remains in motion and the *actual* firing position has the muzzle depressed.

Officers are becoming increasingly engaged in gunfights at close ranges, under poor or no-light conditions, and where surprise, combat tension, blinding muzzle flash, distracting noise, and other events occur while the perpetrator is shooting back. In many daylight close-range situa-

cluded." The report also suggests, "Perhaps additional night firearms training is needed," but there is no suggestion of exactly what kind.

The 1992 edition of the FBI's *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted* covers a 10-year period (1983 to 1992), showing 650 police officers were killed with firearms. Some 500 were killed with handguns, 94 with rifles, and 56 with shotguns. Distances involved were 367 shootings at 5 feet or less, 127 at 6 to 10 feet, 77 at 11 to 20 feet and 79 at 20 feet and greater. Some 62% of the officers were killed between 1800 hours and 0600 hours.

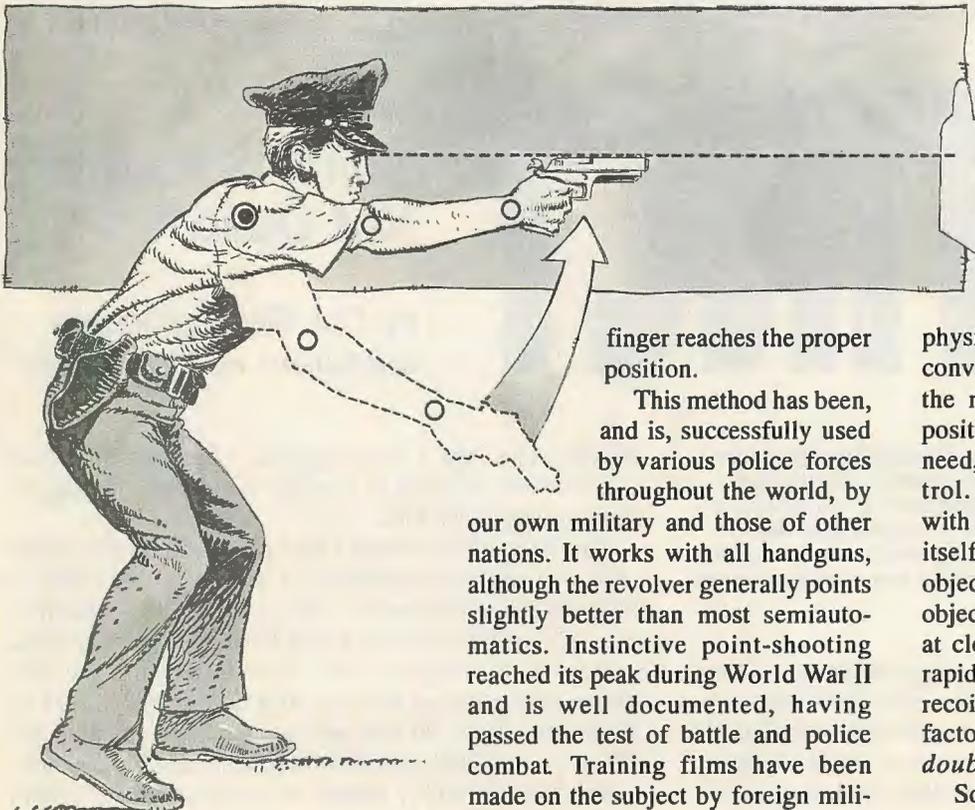
The New York City reports are in much greater detail,

including types of guns, accidental discharges, number of shots fired by officers and perpetrators, ranges, time, light conditions, and whether officers were killed or wounded. This is invaluable data because the New York force numbers 31,000, and the incidents and officers are representative of other major urban, and smaller, departments.

Average NYPD data from 1991 through 1993 cover approximately 1,000 shooting incidents: 52% took place in the dark, 50% at ranges less than 21 feet, with four being the average number of shots fired by officers. There were three times more outside shooting incidents than indoor. Over the three-year period, NYPD officers fired a yearly average of 1,095 shots double-action (mostly revolvers) vs. 37 shots single-action. Most shots were from a standing position. The average hit potential was only 16%.

Current training is mostly based

"Instinctive" shooting starts from a relaxed carry position at approximately 40 degrees, with elbow and wrist relaxed until raised to firing position. With rigidly locked arm and elbow, pivoting from shoulder, the weapon is raised and fired from an instinctive crouch, pulling the trigger when the weapon comes between eyes and target: No sights are used. Feet are in natural position, allowing steps forward, or pivoting for oblique shots.



finger reaches the proper position.

This method has been, and is, successfully used by various police forces throughout the world, by our own military and those of other nations. It works with all handguns, although the revolver generally points slightly better than most semiautomatics. Instinctive point-shooting reached its peak during World War II and is well documented, having passed the test of battle and police combat. Training films have been made on the subject by foreign mili-

tary services. In 1944, during World War II, the Army authorized a training film covering the technique called *Combat Shooting With Handguns*.

Instinctive pointing has also been called *instinctive shooting*, *point shoulder shooting*, or *point shooting*. This method generally involves shooting from an aggressive forward crouch with the feet in a natural position, enabling a natural and easy forward step, or any other movement involving changes of direction. The crouch position is based on the fact that when men are subject to gunfire, real or potential, they instinctively assume a crouch and thereby also present a smaller target. The instinctive finger pointing method can also be used at more limited ranges from stationary standing, sitting, and kneeling positions, without the recommended changes in the foot or body position.

The gun is tightly gripped in the master hand, usually with the finger off the trigger in the carry position. The arm, at the time of firing, is moved in a lifting, pump handle motion to eye level. No sights are used. Firing is simultaneous with the point that the gun hand blocks out the line of sight between the eyes and target. The gun-arm wrist and elbow are locked to achieve the necessary straight arm position, pivoting from the shoulder joint at time of raising the weapon and firing.

Quick Head Shots

The almost convulsive grip is based on an instinctive condition that happens to the shooter under combat tension, when sweaty palms, rapid breathing and extreme physical exertion also take place. The convulsive grip plus the simplicity of the movement from ready to firing position eliminates the necessity, or need, for separate trigger finger control. The trigger pressure is increased with the entire hand. Firearm recoil, itself, is not an accuracy factor. The object is to hit a torso or head-sized object as fast as possible, instinctively, at close range. The gun is generally rapidly fired twice, allowing muzzle recoil to create a better hit dispersion factor. This is sometimes called a *double tap*.

Some makes and models of hand-



Footwork for oblique shots is important: When necessary to fire in a direction other than your course of travel, pivot on one foot to face the target.

guns point better than others, especially when grasped in a hard, compulsive, combat-induced grip. Generally all handguns will point well for most shooters when raised to the eye level in the recommended straight-arm, shoulder-pivot manner. However, there may have to be minor adaptations made by the individual shooter for his particular gun, easily achieved during training. In some cases, a grip adapter helps.

While pinpoint accuracy can better be achieved with the two-handed hold for aimed shots, the one-handed hold provides adequate combat accuracy for close quarter shooting at night, under limited time factors, combat stress and other conditions.

The single-handed carry in the instinctive method is superior at close quarters for a number of valid reasons. The gun-free hand is useful to hold a flashlight, open a door, fend off an attacker, maintain balance, feel along walls or up stairs, help conduct silent movement, and to maintain contact with other officers in dark conditions. It is also much easier to shoot objects above eye level and around obstacles with less body exposure. The quick draw, firing sequence from an instinctive combat crouch or up-

right position is also much easier.

Instinctive pointing is the most tactically efficient method known to teach firing a handgun without the use of sights. There is a tendency among many instructors to add their own bells and whistles to this system, which is OK as long as basic principles are followed. Training methods in this technique are a perfect example of the old Army KISS (Keep It Simple Stupid) principle. The myth that special shooting abilities and excessive practice are needed to shoot without sights is not true. Best of all, instinctive pointing can be taught to shooters in moderate training time and they will retain the skill without need for constant retraining.

Instinctive-pointing shooting specifies "raising" the handgun to eye level from the 45-degree carry position and is advocated when there is room enough between the shooter and his adversary to do so. This is true when the shooter already has his gun in his hand and also when he draws it from his holster.

Many military and police trainers specify that shooters hold their weapons in the "raised pistol ready position" before and between commands. This is done for both safety and control reasons. As a result of this training, and lacking any other instruction, many officers carry the gun in this manner when anticipating firing during threat situations. This results in the officer forcefully "shoving" the weapon toward the adversary at the time of firing. When the gun arm is being forcefully and fully extended and the hand holding the firearm comes to an abrupt halt, this, combined with a tight grip and loose wrist, causes the gun barrel to point downward. This effect varies depending on the type of handgun, but vitally affects accuracy, even at close ranges.

There are times when the use of the raised pistol carry is necessary for safety or tactical reasons, but always carrying the handgun in the ready, raised pistol state should be discouraged. This vital point should

be covered in any close-quarters handgun training program. Every police range devoted to combat shooting should post a sign reading, "Thou shalt not shove thy handgun."

Many Shots, Few Hits

There are numerous police incidents where an incredible number of shots have been fired at close range with few or no hits. The design of the handgun, a loose wrist, a faulty or loose grip, and combat tension, plus "shoving," are all factors affecting combat inaccuracy. This results in what is known as the "spray and pray" type of close quarters shooting.

In 1991, NYPD reported that three officers fired a total of 45 shots in a hostage situation, with only one hit on the perpetrator — at 7 feet. In 1992, six officers fired 28 shots, hitting the perpetrator only twice at a range of 5 feet. In a 1993 incident, five police officers fired 30 times at approximately 50 feet and the perpetrator escaped. In another incident,



Merely swinging the gun toward the target invariably causes the muzzle to travel past — and miss — the target.

four officers fired 21 shots at a distance of 7-15 yards at a perpetrator who suffered no apparent injuries and escaped. Such incidents are not peculiar to NYPD; they occur daily throughout U.S. law enforcement.

Shooting with the gun-arm elbow resting against the side, or hip, is a

Continued on page 67

NO POINT TO AIMLESS FIRING

by Bill Burris

Many of the issues raised in the accompanying article are contrary to my experience.

Early in his critique of current training, the author states that "More dead and wounded cops have been the result, not more dead criminals." The fact is that the number of officers killed has been in steady decline in recent years, and this is not because society has become less violent — it has more to do with improved tactics, training and protective equipment.

An important point to professional police trainers is that we're not focused on anything like "kill ratios." As a law enforcement professional, your goal in a gunfight is to stop the fight through the rapid incapacitation of your opponent, using means which may or may not kill them. The short form is that when your opponent falls in a heap, unable to continue the fight, you have won.

Contrary to the assertion that "the majority of law enforcement departments, large and small, still train only in two-handed, aimed fire," departments and academies that I am familiar with do a great deal of one-handed shooting, using both the strong and opposite hands. This is to promote the ability to fight while partially incapacitated, and as a means of enhancing marksmanship skills. A shooter who develops the self control to fire a pistol accurately with one hand, will usually find two-handed shooting easier.

The author states, "In many daylight close-range situations, the firefight is over in less than three seconds, before the officer has even had *time* to take an aimed shot." The idea that you cannot draw and fire an aimed shot in three seconds or less is incorrect. I routinely train civilians in their 50s and 60s to do exactly that, on a moving target.

Most of the instructors I deal with are advocates of aimed fire whenever possible, and about the only time it is not possible is at contact distance, where raising the pistol to eye level would facilitate loss of control of the gun to your opponent. In that case we teach the "Retention Draw" (an improvement over the "Speed Rock") as the opening step to effectively fighting your way out of the "hole" (contact distance). This is followed up, whenever possible, by controlled withdrawal and lateral movement procedures, all the while delivering (now) aimed fire.

The critical factor in choosing to use non-aimed fire is your proximity to your opponent. Unless you're within about two arms' length distance, you're better off aiming. The author mentions FBI officer-killed stats, and the fact that more than half those killed were within 5 feet of their attacker. Fighting in "the hole" is an area that needs more attention in most agencies. We've been pushing hard to address this for the past several years.

When I first entered law enforcement, "instinct" shooting was very much in vogue. We trained in it extensively. An unfortunate incident involving a person hiding in a closet with a shotgun proved to me, in a most convincing fashion, that "instinctive" shooting can fail you at very close ranges — even about 6 feet. Constant practice of aimed fire will result in a reflex memory which will achieve a "flash sight picture" so that even if you are not consciously aiming, you still achieve aimed fire when you bring the gun to eye level. This works because you don't

confuse your reflexes by practicing unaimed fire when fighting outside of the "hole."

The author states "... in some departments [regulations] are so restrictive, that many officers hesitate to pull the trigger, even when their lives are at stake." Officers are hesitant to shoot, not so much because of department regulations, but rather the gauntlet society chooses to put officers through following a shooting. An officer will spend the next year wondering: *Will I be fired? Will I be sued [yes]? Will I face criminal charges from a politician/prosecutor? Will the federal government prosecute me for violation of civil rights? Will I be bankrupted or incarcerated? Will I lose my family? Is my life over?* Add to this that most officers are not anxious to take a human life as an end in itself, and you have some idea of the very realistic concerns we face regarding the consequences of shooting. Even though our officers are very aware of these issues, we stress one thing over and over again, that there is something worse than all of this — being dead. We have not detected any hesitation to shoot when it was required.

Regarding the reality of "small hands," there are only two solutions that will produce satisfactory results: Use of an Isosceles stance will allow small hands to wrap around a pistol grip so that a sufficient amount of the index finger is in contact with the trigger — to allow a steady compression straight to the rear until a round is fired. Small hands and very muscular upper body physiques are two conditions that tend to favor the Isosceles stance. A more satisfactory solution is to select a pistol to fit the hand that must use it, a concept that often boggles the bureaucratic mentality. Officers should be given a list of acceptable pistols, and purchase their own.

There are a bewildering array of topics that must be addressed by law enforcement firearms instructors. Some are court mandated, as in the federal court case *Popov vs. City of Margate*. It stipulates that police firearms training must occur more than twice a year; it must include training regarding the law and shooting decision-making; it must include differentiating between "shoot" and "no-shoot" targets, moving targets, and "night fire." Success in meeting these goals, as well as others, depends upon the efficiency of the instructor, and the time allocated by police administrators.

In his conclusion, the author states, "There is also a mind-set ... that resists ... that anyone should deliberately be trained to use a handgun for lethal purposes." This is far removed from my experience as a firearms trainer. Training we conduct is for the clearly stated purpose of preparing for the officer's next gunfight. All training (including mere qualifications) requires use of applicable combat techniques. We are never simply shooting a piece of paper; we are rehearsing a fight. This is, I believe, the common attitude among instructors.

Bill Burris is chief firearms instructor for some 600 personnel of the Pierce County, Washington, Sheriff's Department; president of the Washington State Firearms Instructor Association and founder of the firearms training company Delta International. He is a frequent contributor to SOF. ☞



Responsible for having trained thousands of police and civilian defensive shooters in state-of-the-art techniques and tactics, Burris regards "instinct" or "point" shooting as obsolete, ineffective, and no faster than trained-instinct "flash sight picture" approach.

Photo: courtesy Bill Burris

"UNSIGHTED" MEANS BLIND

by Louis Awerbuck

Opinions are like handguns at an IPSC match: Everybody has one and the wide variations are usually tailored to fit the individual's experience.

One of the most contentious subjects, which evokes more opinions than any other, is the sighted vs. unsighted fire argument. But as with many other bones of contention such as ballistics and tactics, proponents of various ideologies often may not pay enough heed to the real-world situations where ideas are put into practice.

Most any idea can be "proved" or "disproved" on a training range, but many is the time when the ideologue bases his ideas on a false premise, then tends to unconsciously set up a result that proves his initial premise.

Unless in an out-and-out military firefight, anyone who launches projectiles downrange is totally responsible for the terminal resting place of said projectiles. This, coupled with the fact that missing your target isn't exactly conducive to longevity, is where any perceived benefit to unsighted fire begins to break down.

Does this mean unsighted fire should never be utilized? No. Does this mean sighted fire should be discarded? Absolutely not.

What it does mean is that unsighted fire should be used *only* for *extremely* close-quarters operations — literally within arm's length. This has a dual-purpose objective: First, it keeps the pistol out of an assailant's reach, and secondly, it allows the delivery of fast, albeit imprecise, body shots. Anything outside arm's length should be conducted with sighted fire, using Colonel Cooper's "flash sight picture" for relatively close work, and using refined sight alignment for distance.

An alternate technique to this is Jim Cirillo's system, whereby he relies on a weapon's "symmetry." In other words, if a revolver cylinder is elliptical in shape to the shooter's eye, or a semiauto slide is off line with the perfect rectangle of the visible rear portion of the weapon, the pistol is obviously not aligned with the desired point of bullet impact.

An extremely beneficial modification to either of these systems is Steve Wickert's YFA/P Pistol Ghost Ring Sight, which allows extremely fast and precise sight alignment.

Unfortunately, in the shooting-range vs. real-world arena, the plot thickens. You can't use sight alignment if it's too dark to see your sights, but neither do you — in a law-enforcement or citizen deadly force defensive situation — lay down a hail of bullets hoping you'll get lucky.

Again, answerability for where the bullets terminate rears its ugly head, and if you don't have shot placement you're going to lose Round One. Is there a Golden Answer?

Carry a pistol that has tritium inserts in the sights (front and rear). With this system you can deliver surgical rounds when it's too dark to see standard sights. If it's

too dark to identify your target, nothing will help, because *you have no business shooting without target identification*. Here a flashlight is an absolute prerequisite, whether or not you choose to use sighted or unsighted fire.

Proponents of "point" or "instinct" shooting say it's faster. Wrong. Reaction time is reaction time. At arm's length, torso-to-torso, a locked-in, unsighted, weapon-retention firing technique works — but at 6 feet or more on a *three-dimensional, moving, raving fruitcake* you will miss. As reflected in gunfight documentation for the last 50 years, it doesn't work and it never will. When are we ever going to learn? Ten minutes on a firing range working three-dimensional bobbing, weaving targets at 10 feet is all it takes to learn humility — and to start thinking about an insurance policy.

The assumption/premise of point-shooting is that the target will be facing square-on to the shooter and at the same height as the shooter. Often in situations outside arm's length, in a civilian or law enforcement situation, the assailant is not facing straight on or is prone, hiding in a cabinet or attic, etc. If he closes distance — and distance can be closed at the rate of about 20 feet *per second* — you'd better use the sights on the weapon — and tactics. The crux of the matter is that you don't have an 18-inch wide piece of cardboard to shoot at. The upper torso on a big person can shrink to about 6 inches of vital area to hit with a simple body twist such as when he/she reaches for a pistol or knife, or when your enemy lines up on you with a shoulder weapon.

Emptying a Glock down Main Street, U.S.A., isn't going to solve your problem unless you're hitting. And you have to be ready for follow-up shots — oftentimes perfect hits don't immediately stop the threat. Point shooting doesn't work on a moving target, shooting on the move, or when the village lunatic is using your baby for a body shield. These days it's a

daily occurrence to read about 10-20 round gunfights at 6 feet, with both parties missing — and it's attributable to only a few factors: sphincter pressure, "spray and pray" (point shooting), poor light (no sight picture) and the lack of intelligence to walk away from the fight if and when you have the chance to avoid it.

Weapon manufacturers are penny-pinchers. They wouldn't spend the extra per-unit money fitting sights to guns if they weren't essential in a for-real gunfight.

Pistol ghost-ring sights are available from WPM, Dept. SOF, 4980 N. Badger, Prescott Valley, AZ 86314; phone: 602-775-3193. Tritium sight inserts are available from IWI, Dept. SOF, 337 Eubank N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87123; phone: 5050-296-4645.

Louis Awerbuck is director of Yavapai Firearms Academy, Ltd., Prescott Valley, Arizona, and a frequent contributor to SOF's "Combat Weaponcraft" column. ☒



Awerbuck regards unsighted fire as usually dangerous, seldom useful — recommends fast-acquisition sights such as the YFA/P Pistol Ghost Ring Sight with tritium inserts as useful anytime, and as fast as "instinct" shooting. Photo: Louis Awerbuck

Haiti:

Upholding Democracy or Installing Communism?



Shoppers thronged the Haitian village market. Jammed under a maze-like warren of lashed-together scraps of cardboard, salvaged lumber, castoff pieces of sheet metal and palm thatch, the crowd launched a screaming stampede as the powerful rotor blast of a hovering U.S. Army Blackhawk helicopter collapsed the rickety shelter. Many were trapped, but none seriously injured, as the civil affairs soldiers dropped thousands of propaganda leaflets into the swirling chaos below.

Hello, we're from the federal government and we're here to help you.

The incident, which occurred several weeks after the 18 September intervention of U.S. troops in Haiti, illustrates how the United States, in an ostensible effort to help the Hai-

tian people, may ultimately do more harm than good.

Not so, according to James F. Dobbins, the State Department's Haiti coordinator. Speaking in early Decem-

Back of handbill (above) informs Haitians in Creole, "I am an American [who has] come here to reestablish democracy in this country. Remain calm. Do not oppose our military operation. I am an American [who is] doing everything possible to finish our work here."

ber he said. "But if the administration's definition of success is the establishment of a second communist government in the Caribbean, then the Haiti operation may well become an unqualified triumph."

The Clinton administration "deployed the United States military to install and insure the success of a communist government in Haiti, all the while turning away political refugees from the 'worker's paradise' known as Cuba," said the intelligence official, who agreed to the interview only on the condition of anonymity. "And the U.S. State Department was actively involved in insuring the success of all this."

The career analyst said he was speaking out because he "and many others in my line of work" are angry that the State Department and the Clinton administration "are deliberately ignoring the truth about who Jean-Bertrand Aristide is, about who supports him and what they want to do in Haiti. And in that effort, our work and our sources have been compromised."

For instance, the analyst said, "In-



"Police aide" of the 25th Company, under the Haitian armed forces command. The junta's reign of terror — and their job insurance — was enforced by multiple layers of armed authority, from the army, to police, police aides and attachés.

ber at a meeting in Baltimore, Dobbins said the United States military intervention in Haiti "so far has been more successful than any of us could have dreamed."

That depends on your definition of success, a Department of Defense intelligence analyst who spent almost three months in Haiti told *Soldier Of Fortune* in an exclusive interview. "As many more people are becoming painfully aware, President Bill Clinton's administration is long on symbolism and short on substance,"



Under Haitian law, virtually all arms were permissible to own for defense of one's home, even under the junta — but thugs used the U.S. Army as surrogates to round them up, and once the owner was thus defenseless, rob him and his home.

by James L. Pate



In simple terms and graphics, handbill urges Haitians to plant, nurture and reap the benefits of democracy. Democracy according to whom? Aristide?

telligence reports that were sent forward from people at the field level were altered as they passed up the chain of command ... so sanitized that they were rendered politically correct ... altered to the point that the very people who were collecting the information were discredited because their data contradicted the political whims of the moment."

Spokesmen for the Defense and State Departments denied that any "pertinent data" from intelligence reports have been altered or ignored, characterizing the allegations as "poppycock." But the Defense Department analyst insists that the effort is continuing, designed to maintain support for Aristide and his political umbrella organization, known as *Lavalas*, and to shield Aristide from any negative publicity.

"After about three weeks of submitting intelligence reports on ... the fact that many of the politically violent incidents were directly attributable to the *Lavalas* and their sub-organizations, the sources that were generating information for those reports — for the most part objective third parties who had no political interest at all — were publicly exposed," the analyst told *SOF*. "In other words, somebody



As colorful as the country's past, Haitian currency is worth about 6.5 U.S. cents per gourde. Whether it will be worth anything at all if a communist government is established remains to be seen.

in the U.S. chain of command leaked their identities, because they were publicly denounced in communist publications and in radio propaganda broadcasts and in anonymous letters to the G-2 [intelligence branch] of the 10th Mountain Division."

As the theater command, the 10th Mountain Division was in a position to review all intelligence reports and analyses. After receiving such anonymous accusations, the 10th's commanders ordered investigations — for alleged human rights abuses — of these very people who'd tried to help the U.S. military, the source said.

"I know the information that went forward went through the intel chain to the State Department, because the State Department, in conjunction with the 10th Mountain Division G-2, insisted that the people who were helping us be investigated," he said. "It was a deliberate attempt to quash any intelligence contrary to what the official political position was. This was going on all over Haiti. Several intel people stopped forwarding more sensitive intel information after Aristide got back. Not only were they afraid of compromising their sources, but they were subject to getting unbelievable heat from their own chain of command because their sources were telling them something the command did not want to hear, information contradicting the official view.

"I know of one field-grade officer who had his career threatened for reporting intelligence that was contrary to the politically correct view held by the chain of command," the source told *SOF*. "In comparing raw intel reports analyzed by the JSOTF J-2 [Joint Special Op-

erations Task Force intelligence branch, the joint Army, Navy, Air Force special operations combined command], it became obvious that JSOTF J-2 had massaged or discredited the intel reports from the field level prior to their being forwarded up the chain of command."

It was not the first time the State Department's Clintonistas had chosen to ignore what they did not want to hear about Aristide. In late summer, Ambassador William Swing invited U.S. citizens living in Haiti, most of them business people and

church officials involved in mission work, to the U.S. Embassy to express their opinions on the option of having U.S. military forces intervene in Haiti to reinstall Aristide.

"People who were there told me the sentiment was heavily against" U.S. military intervention on Aristide's behalf "because everyone down there knows Aristide is a communist ... Those sentiments were not what [Swing] wanted to hear, so he dismissed them. He didn't want to hear any more."

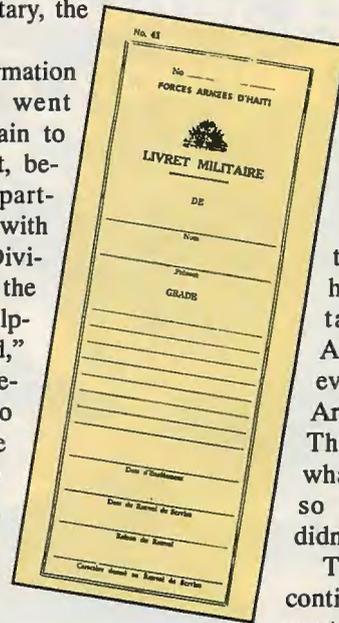
The contradictory signals continued up until the very moment of the invasion, the Defense Department source said.

"Up to the point of the invasion, which was supposed to go off on September 18th, the consistent theme of the intel reports on Haitians and how to deal with them was that Haitians were liars; that they were lazy, stupid and incompetent; they couldn't be trusted; that there was nothing too small to steal, nothing too big to ask for," he said.

At the last minute, former President Jimmy Carter, who's never met a left-wing dictator he didn't like, engineered a peaceful intervention. And the intel picture suddenly changed drastically, the source said.

"When the invasion had been called off, a new set of refugee debriefings were given," he said. "Official documents issued by the command ... now said that the Haitian people were hardworking, industrious, honest, trustworthy, wise. If you

Continued on page 69



Haitian army paybook: The colonel in the slot equivalent to head of DEA draws less than a U.S. recruit, yet he just paid off three of his superiors U.S. \$5,000 each to retain his job. This is Aristide's "housecleaning"?

DEATH OF A SOLDIER

Fates SEALED
by Friendly Fire

by Capt. Larry Bailey

Photos courtesy DoD

War, as recounted in the average personal memoir, is most frequently depicted in combinations of heroic actions, cowardly misdeeds and triumphs of the human spirit. It ain't always so. The fact is, much of war is not dramatic — it's just sad, as I learned firsthand in Vietnam.

In April 1967 my platoon of SEAL Team Two (assigned to the IV Corps area in the southern-most part of South Vietnam) was making great strides in carrying the war to the enemy on his own turf. As we gained confidence in our ability to operate within Viet Cong territory, we began to conduct missions farther away from our base at Can Tho, on the Bassac River. SEAL platoons at that time were organized into two squads of six men; each was led by one of the two officers in the platoon. Thus it was that my squad, Three Alpha (3A), planned a particularly tricky opera-

tion much deeper in enemy territory than had ever been attempted.

According to what intelligence we could gather, the VC were staging major crossings of men and materiel across the Bassac River from a village on the banks of a large canal that emptied into the Bassac. Working with personnel from Task Force 116 (the River Patrol Force) and HAL-3 (the Navy helicopter attack squadron), we devised a plan to infiltrate the area and set up a night ambush on the banks of the canal.

After final coordination with other units in the area, and after developing a detailed patrol leader's order, I briefed 3A the morning of the operation. In the afternoon we rigged equipment and test-fired weapons from the barge where our gear was stored. We reviewed and rehearsed everything from hand signals to line of march: point man, squad

Jungle patrols, dangerous during daylight, take on especially sinister dimensions after dark when adrenaline, tension, uncertainty and confusion sometimes combine to yield tragic results.

leader, radioman, interpreter (Sergeant Hoang of the Vietnamese regional forces), grenadier, machine gunner and rear security (RS).

We normally included an additional squad member — a young Vietnamese Regional Force corporal named Truong, who dearly loved to patrol with the SEALs. He was an intelligent young soldier with a wife and kid or two in a nearby village, and we were usually glad to take him along. However, he couldn't speak English, and that could be a big problem. I had briefed the squad that he would not participate in the evening's ambush in the belief that, because of the difficulty of the operation, all patrol members had to speak English.

As we finished test-firing our weapons, a clearly distraught Truong came aboard the barge and sat down beside Jim Harmon (RS) and began to weep. I asked Sgt. Hoang what the problem was, and he said that Truong had "lost face" by not being included in the patrol. I went over to Truong and, through Hoang, tried to explain the difficulty of the mission and why he should not participate. Nothing worked; he only became more disconsolate. It was so touching that the radioman, Freddy Kirk, said, "Come on Lieutenant, let's take him. He'll be OK." Harmon said that he would take him under his wing at the rear of the patrol and make sure that Truong "got the word" throughout the operation.

Against Better Judgment

It was at this point that a well-conceived and well-planned mission began to fall apart. Against my better judgment I consented to Truong's participation. Hoang briefed him on the details, and we all went back to our quarters to grab a couple hours of sleep, run through the pre-mission checklists, camouflage faces and attend to all the other details.

I don't mind admitting that we were all a bit more nervous than usual since we were heading deeper into "Charlie Country" than any SEAL squad had ever been before. To get to the objective area we boarded the two river patrol boats (PBRs) assigned in



The entire patrol was a bit more nervous than usual since they were heading deeper into "Charlie Country" than any SEAL squad had ever been before.

support of the operation and traveled 20 miles downriver from Can Tho to just offshore the target area. After maneuvering to mask the purpose of our presence in the vicinity, the boats eased their bows onto the riverbank, dropped off an apprehensive SEAL patrol and left us on our own.

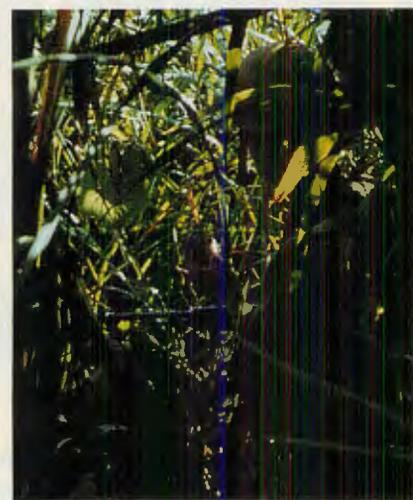
Once over the side and following standard SEAL operating procedures, we laid up near the riverbank for a few minutes to get our bearings and listen for any hint of the VC. We could hear the unmistakable sounds of sampans banging together. Just as our intelligence had indicated, there was a VC river crossing under way.

After determining that our insertion had been undetected, we began a dog-leg approach of approximately one kilometer to the ambush position. Upon arrival at a "rally point" (a pre-selected emergency rendezvous area) 20 meters or so short of the ambush site, I mustered the squad and discovered that Truong and the RS were missing. After positioning everybody else along the canal bank, I went in search of the missing pair.

After stumbling around in elephant grass in hostile territory for 15 minutes or so, fearful of being shot by both the VC and my well-armed and very alert men, I found my missing SEALs and brought them back to the rally point. I briefed Harmon exactly where he and Truong were to go, where everyone else was located and what everyone else was doing. I then went to my own position alongside my radioman and the patrol waited.

A couple of hours later, as I was observing the area to our rear, I saw two armed figures silhouetted against the moon. Thinking they might be my own men, I pointed them out to the radioman for his opinion. He practically yelled in a 20-meter whisper, "Mr. Bailey, It's Truong and Harmon." At that instant both figures dropped to the ground. This was not the first time my radioman had whispered too loudly on patrol, and I was more than a little taken aback by his violation of patrol procedures. We were now faced with the very real possibility that our position was compromised.

We all held our breaths until the situation returned to normal. Some time later, I saw the same two figures get up and start moving toward our right flank. I again pointed them out to the radioman, once more he shouted that it was Truong and the



Stumbling around in elephant grass in hostile territory, fearful of being shot by both the VC and friendly, well-armed and very anxious SEALs, the author searched for his missing squad members.

RS, and once again the two shadowy figures dropped to the ground. The fact that the two hit the deck had me worried. Why would the RS leave the rally point and then hide when he heard his name? When the same sequence of events happened a third time, and when I tried and failed to identify the individuals, I fired a full-auto burst from my M16 at the shadow nearest me — only about 8 feet away.

At that point the RS started shout-

Continued on page 60

What COPS Really THINK About GUN Control

by Jim Fotis



Fotis speaks out against the Crime Bill on G. Gordon Liddy's national radio talk show. LEAA places emphasis on building coalitions and using media to present the truth about law enforcement and gun control. Photo: courtesy author

Second Amendment supporters are sick and tired of seeing national law enforcement groups, represented by anti-gun spokesmen, back whatever new gun-ban legislation is proposed by the Clinton administration or New York Rep. Charles Schumer.

As financially dependent political lapdogs who disregard the opinions of their own members, the leaders of these national law enforcement groups regularly appear for anti-gun photo opportunities, press statements, and congressional sound bites. They always sing the same, well-rehearsed refrain, be it for the Brady Law or the recently passed "Clinton Crime Bill" with its so-called "assault weap-

ons" ban. And they routinely ignore the truth and facts compiled by local police departments that contradict their assertions.

The names and faces of key spokesmen may change. But the ever-present, silent, stern-jawed, uniformed officers forming the photo op's backdrop never varies. Each event is a carefully orchestrated bid to chip away the rights of gun owners with our own tax dollars — a lot of tax dollars. The mainstream media never asks these rank-and-file officers' opinions. Chiefs know better — they know that a vast majority of their officers are pro-gun. Why should the anti-gun chiefs take a chance on an ad-libbed, off-the-cuff, sincere, pro-

Second Amendment comment from the rank-and-file which dispels their lies?

The recent series of legislative victories for the opponents of private firearms ownership was no fluke. Many years of patient, deliberate work went into the anti-gun game plan formulated more than a decade ago. It was also the result of millions of tax dollars quietly slipped — by anti-Second Amendment politicians and the Clinton administration — into the pockets of select national law enforcement organizations.

In a nutshell, here's how it happened: As the Carter administration came to an end, Handgun Control Inc. (HCI) tried a last-ditch attempt to impose a Washington, D.C.-style freeze on handgun ownership in California. Law enforcement said "no" to this referendum loud and clear. Their opinion was heard around the entire state. The referendum and HCI suffered a sound thrashing at the polls. HCI never forgot that lesson.

Gun ban organizations started to listen to perennial advocates of civil disarmament such as former New York City Police Commissioner Patrick Murphy. Murphy never earned the respect of the rank-and-file, but he was a master of political gamesmanship. Once he moved (Murphy critics prefer "fled" after the Serpico corruption scandals hit) from New York to Washington, D.C., Murphy helped spawn police non-profit organizations with a distinct anti-gun agenda.

Continued on page 62



LEAA Executive Director James Fotis blasts the Crime Bill and weapons ban in front of U.S. Capitol with Sheriff Richard Mack (left, in uniform), who successfully sued the U.S. government in opposition to the Brady Bill. Photo: courtesy author



Vote In the NRA Board Of Directors Election!

Once again, I'm endorsing a slate of candidates running for the Board of Directors of the National Rifle Association. Why? Because I'm an independent thinking curmudgeon who has never totally endorsed the recommendations of the nominating committee, even when I served on said committee three years ago. I'm endorsing a number of individuals who are running for the Board by petition simply because I disagree with the nominating committee's recommendations.

I've been on the Board for some 10 years and have worked with and personally know most of the individuals I'm supporting. They are all eminent in their particular fields of expertise, have demonstrated the ability to best guide the NRA in these perilous times and most effectively promote what I consider to be the main objective of the NRA — to protect our Second Amendment rights. These still are perilous times. Though we won a magnificent victory on 8 November, we cannot rest on our laurels; we cannot expect the swine and charlatans who represent the anti-gun lobby to fold up their tents and crawl quietly back into the sewers.

If you are eligible to vote in the Board elections, you will receive a ballot in your copy of the *American Rifleman* or the *American Hunter*, which you should receive in the latter part of February. For further information on the individuals I'm supporting, consult the biographies in the ballot issue. In any case, if you are seriously interested in protecting your gun rights and the future effectiveness of the NRA, do yourself a favor and vote!

I am endorsing the following individuals for the Board of Directors of the National Rifle Association:

1. Lt. Col. Rex Applegate
2. Michael Baker
3. Daniel Bechtel
4. Michael Beko
5. David Boehm
6. Leland Bull
7. Sue Caplan
8. James Carlson
9. Warren Cheek
10. Ronin Colman
11. Robert Corbin
12. Sen. Larry Craig
13. Sandra Froman
14. Marion Hammer
15. Samuel Hillenburg
16. Cameron Hopkins
17. Russell Howard
18. Susan Howard
19. T.J. Johnston
20. Phillip Journey
21. Herbert Lanford
22. John Milius
23. Joe Nava
24. Richard Riley
25. Harold Schroeder
26. Glen Voorhees
27. Dave Workman

Lt. Col. Robert K. Brown, USAR (Ret.)
Editor/Publisher, Soldier Of Fortune Magazine
Member of the NRA Board of Directors

VOTE!

VOTE!

VOTE!

DEATH OF A SOLDIER

Continued from page 57

ing, and I began to realize that I had made the worst mistake possible: I had shot my own man. Leaping to the prostrate form before me, it was obvious that Truong was badly wounded. I immediately gave him mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, but upon hearing bubbles come out his stomach every time he was ventilated, we realized it was hopeless. Hoang was the first to state what nobody wanted to know: "Dai Uy (Lieutenant), I think Truong die." Indeed he had.

Funeral Barge

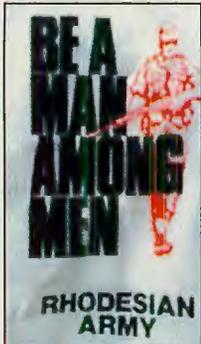
The longest journey of my life began on that clear, muggy night in the Mekong Delta over 27 years ago when I picked up Truong's bullet-ridden body and carried it to the edge of the Bassac. One of the waiting PBR's put its bow onto the mudbank and I placed my burden aboard. Another boat pulled in and loaded the remaining members of Squad 3A and took us home.

The next day Hoang and I transported Truong's body in an Army helicopter to the little town where his wife worked as a seamstress. There we delivered the body and over \$300 the squad had collected. It seemed so inadequate at the time, but even today I can't think of anything we could have done differently given the circumstances in which we played our parts.

And how did the incident affect me? I think that I dealt with it fairly well; I rarely think about it anymore. Rationalizing that I had fully considered all the information available to me and had made a simple, if tragic, error in judgment, I also realized that if one of several events had not occurred, Truong would not have died. By that I mean if: (1) the radioman had not asked me to let Truong come along; (2) the RS had not insisted that he would be responsible for Truong "getting the word"; (3) I had not had a change of heart about Truong's participation; (4) the RS and Truong had not gotten lost; (5) the RS and Truong had remained at the rally point after I told them where to position themselves in the ambush; (6) the RS hadn't inexplicably vio-

lated patrol discipline by moving around within an ambush area; or finally, (7) the radioman's loud stage-whispers hadn't prompted the RS and Truong to "hit the deck" on three occasions, leading me to think that they were VC, the outcome may have been different. Absent any of the above, I would not have had to bury Truong. However, they happened and at the end of the day, it was my 11 .223-caliber rounds and nobody else's that put an end to the life of Cpl. Truong, regional forces of the army of the Republic of Vietnam.

Over the ensuing years I have done a million mental rewinds and replays of that unhappy night, asking myself how the scenario could have been altered so as to have kept Truong in this world. I always come up with the same answer: I should have stuck with my original decision not to include him in the patrol. It's kind of funny to say it, but maybe, just maybe, I was meant to be taught a lesson that night, a lesson about having confidence in my own judgment. Any way you cut it though, it was one I would have rather learned some other way.

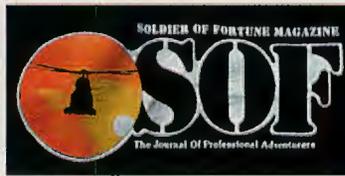


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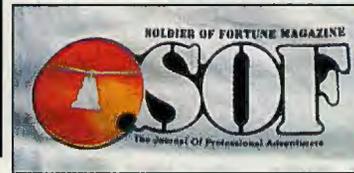
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Wherever you are Truong, I wish you well. You were truly a soldier, and I was proud to have served with you; I'm just sorry things turned out the way they did.

Navy SEAL Captain Larry Bailey retired after 28 years of service and is now a freelance writer, consultant on military affairs and frequent contributor to SOF. ✕

FIRE-CRACKERS

Continued from page 31

MLOs always carry M92 9mm pistols. Other weapons at the firehouse include an MP5 submachine gun, a semiauto AR-15, and John Jordan's personal weapon, a 12-gauge Mossberg riot gun with bayonet — an industrial-strength intimidator that really gets everyone's attention.

The GOFRS fire department is the only U.N. activity in Sarajevo that isn't behind a wall, barbed wire and guards. It's right there on the main street in a one-story building that used

to be a produce market. The team has put in a lot of effort between fires making the fire station a more bearable place from which to live and operate. It is also very much a "we the people" operation, with locals dropping in at all hours with any nature of problem or minor injury, or just to chat. Since this includes the local Bosnian cops, Jordan's people are kept well informed of what's going on locally.

The team's activities are not limited to putting out fires and providing paramedic services. GOFRS has been a conduit for collection and distribution of large amounts of firefighting gear (turn-out suits, boots, helmets, etc.) and medical supplies for the numerous fire stations in Sarajevo. Making deliveries to these stations sometimes includes going through Serb checkpoints and other interesting proceedings.

There is a new U.S. Embassy being established in Sarajevo. At one point, for about a week when the old security element had left and its replacement arrived, GOFRS was the embassy security — not the traditional assignment for firefighters and paramedics.

It is also a pleasant surprise to see

a team with men from three different nations, living in crowded quarters that are far from grand hotel standards and under the tensions and pressures of a besieged Sarajevo, pulling together and getting the job done. Would that Sarajevans of the same nationality but differing ethnicity could learn from them.

When I last talked with Jordan, their UNHCR funding was to run out on 31 December 1994, with no assurance of renewal. GOFRS has accomplished a great deal with a lot of well-directed enthusiasm and limited support. Jordan is exploring possible alternate sources of funding, which may or may not turn up. If you're interested in helping this worthwhile effort with donations of money or medical/firefighting supplies, or by going to Sarajevo and working, get in touch with them at: Global Operations Fire Rescue Services, Attn: Beth Hoban, 900 Second St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002; phone: (202) 289-1010; fax: (202) 289-1020. Donations to GOFRS are tax deductible.

Alex McColl is SOF's Special Projects Director, and honcho of RRI. ✕

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LEAA

Continued from page 58

His first, the Police Foundation, begat a host of clones, including the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF). Throughout the non-profit scene and in departments across the nation, Murphy protégés flourished. Their names are legend as anti-gun activists: Joe McNamara, Brendan Behan, Robert DiGrazia, Tony Bouza — each of whom came from the same anti-gun cesspool and carried their anti-gun agendas across the country from police department to police department. National organizations that had, up to that time, been either pro-Second Amendment or neutral on the issue, like the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the National Sheriffs Association (NSA) and the National Fraternal Order of Police (NFOP), found that their leadership and policies following Murphy's led directly to an endless source of federal cash.

Already this year PERF, IACP, NSA and the Police Foundation hauled in \$4.4 million in Justice Department grants to "study" community policing. In 1993, Department of Justice dollars flowed just as freely. IACP raked in more than \$630,000. NSA cheerfully pocketed \$516,943. PERF netted \$447,343. The Police Foundation accepted a more modest \$221,634. All of it was paid for by you, me and every other taxpayer in this country — without a word to say about it.

Add it up and you get a feel for the economic clout the Washington politicians wield in shaping public policy against our constitutional rights and with our own tax dollars. Every federal dollar dumped into these coffers is quite legal. Each has a perfectly rational explanation. It is merely "political coincidence" that the same police groups that scurried to do Mr. Clinton's bidding just happen to be the same ones awarded the huge federal grants. Sure, and the Swiss navy just launched its newest aircraft carrier to patrol its coastal waters.

Real law enforcement is not the enemy of private gun ownership. To prove this to yourself, all it takes is asking the uniformed men and women

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who were pressed into service as silent sentinels for more gun control at every Brady/Clinton Crime bill press conference. Many vehemently disagreed with the liberal gun grabbers, but they went unheard. All were muzzled and many were forced to participate in this charade via the use of threats and intimidation. A suit is now pending against the Arlington County, Virginia, police chief and department by one of its own officers on just this point. LEAA is proud to have been involved in the case since day one.

LEAA — the nation's largest coalition of law enforcement officers, crime victims *and* concerned citizens — gives voice to the nation's pro-Second Amendment law enforcement community. We fought long and hard against the Brady Act and the Clinton Crime bill. We brought together officers and police organizations, representing more than 100,000 law enforcement professionals from across America, to stand shoulder to shoulder and publicly oppose the Clinton Crime bill.

We fought equally hard to pass a real, street-smart, do-the-job-right crime bill. We came within a handful of votes of success. Had we the resources (as in hundreds of thousands of federal tax dollar grants), manpower and time, we could have enlisted a majority of NFOP locals as well as chapters of every police union and benevolent group in the nation against the Clinton Crime bill — and the outcome would have been vastly different.

If we are to defeat the anti-American, anti-liberty, anti-gun agenda we need a comprehensive effort by everyone who cares about protecting our constitutional rights. Since it began operations three years ago, LEAA has been working to be the catalyst to bring together law enforcement, crime victims and *all* citizens who care about the Second Amendment in the fight to build an unstoppable law enforcement-based organization truly representative of its members and second to none.

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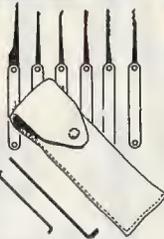
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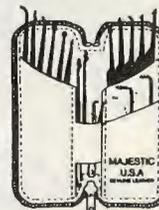
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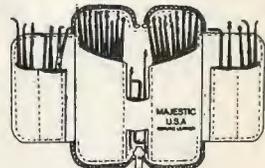
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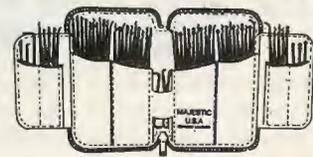
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BASIC INSTINCT

Continued from page 51

poor alternative to the instinctive pointing, straight-arm shoulder-pivot method. If the officer and criminal are almost in body contact, or if it is impossible to raise the weapon to eye level to fire, this type of firing may be the only expedient. However, it does not take much practice to jam the muzzle into the criminal's body during a struggle.

Today, most departments are equipping with double-action semi-automatic, high-capacity handguns. Generally, the gun issued must fit all hands, regardless of stature and hand size. Many times this results in some women, and members of the force from certain ethnic groups with small hands, having difficulty reaching and using the trigger. This situation, when not covered by a special issue of small-grip handguns, can be a serious one. Using the two-handed hold for aimed and unaimed shooting for this category of shooters is one solution, even though it is not entirely satisfactory in all close-quarter, no-sight situations.

Single-handed, aimed shooting at bull's-eyes was the basis for which most semiautomatics were originally designed. For example, the Colt M1911 semiautomatic was designed at a time when the military was converting from revolvers and was trained to shoot at paper targets in preparation for combat. Law enforcement agencies using revolvers at that period also trained on bull's-eyes.

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Factory designers of handguns are still placing undue emphasis on shooting aimed shots at bull's-eyes. Guns are designed on the basis of what will sell. The law-enforcement market has for many decades been considered secondary to the sporting market. Although this market is changing, the guns police now carry have not basically been designed with enough consideration to close combat shooting. In most semiautomatic production models, the grip-frame/barrel relationship is as close to a right angle as practical, as gun designers prefer to insure fewer malfunctions. Tradition and appearance also have a great influence on gun design.

Anyone who has picked up a Luger knows it "points" better than most semiautos, because of the grip angle in relationship to the barrel. The best-pointing U.S. manufactured handgun of all time was the Whitney Wolverine .22 semiautomatic. It was called the "Buck Rogers" gun at the time of its manufacture in the 1950s. Ahead of its time, it also featured a cast aluminum frame.

The best all-around police hand-

gun has yet to be designed. It should be suitable for aimed and unaimed shooting and should incorporate a grip-to-barrel angle relationship similar to the Whitney or Luger.

The U.S. Army and other armed services are now engaged in handgun training that is almost exclusively designed around the two-handed aiming system (FM 23-35). Since World War II, one-handed close-quarter instinctive firing training has been overlooked, or discarded. However, the "wheel is turning," and some branches of the armed services are once again beginning to review and adopt the hard lessons learned in extensive handgun combat during World War II, when the handgun was considered an "offensive" combat weapon. Terminology properly describing police close-quarter, non-aimed shooting is varied. It is best to call it what it actually is — "combat shooting." No other nomenclature really applies after the first shot is fired, even though political correctness may call for a milder term such as "defensive" in police circles.

This writer recently attended a training conference composed of ex-

perienced SWAT officers. One of the subjects was entitled "Advanced Tactical Handgun Shooting." The speaker was very definite in his opinion on the all-around superiority of the Weaver stance for all police situations. During some lively and skeptical discourse, an older officer stood up and asked, "Why do you think this is the best method of teaching police to shoot?" The instructor replied, "Because 50 of the world's greatest combat shooters use this method in handgun competitions."

Many police administrators and instructors may not be aware of the instinctive firing technique. Others are locked in and will not want to change established routines and training, claiming it is unsafe, not possible to train large groups, too time-consuming, etc.

Strong anti-gun sentiments, held by some political authorities overseeing police, inhibit police combat handgun training. There is also a mind-set prevailing among some police, the NRA and civilian training academies that resists, subconsciously or otherwise, the fact that anyone should deliberately be

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word, if you listen closely to what they're saying. All you have to do is read his speeches."

The intelligence analyst said that the State Department, the U.S. military command and the leaders of Aristide's political support organizations have been successful in manipulating the news media, which in turn has orchestrated public opinion to view Aristide's return to power as a good deed.

The most stunning propaganda coup by the leftists was the bombing of a Haitian demonstration — a political gathering known in Haiti as a *manifestation* — supposedly carried out by Aristide's opponents. In reality, the analyst said, the explosion was orchestrated by Aristide's own people. It happened near the Port-au-Prince city hall about 10 days after U.S. troops landed. Five Haitians were killed and 47 wounded.

Inadvertent Aiding

"They were passing by a warehouse and someone threw a grenade or a bomb into the crowd," the intelligence source told *SOF*. "Immediately, U.S. troops opened the warehouse to search it. They shot off the locks, they searched the warehouse and then they left it open, enabling the crowd to go in and loot private property ... The news portrayed the capture of the man who supposedly was responsible, but they never actually caught the person who threw the explosive device. They caught one guy who was a painter in the warehouse. There was no way he could have thrown it because there was no opening in the warehouse to throw it from. It was thrown from the roof. Whoever actually threw it escaped.

"The Haitians actually believed that U.S. troops opened that warehouse so they could loot it. The next day is when they looted the Stop-N-Shop and other businesses in the warehouse district. As a matter of fact, if you watch the CNN videotape of that event, you will see U.S. MPs helping people in and out of the building who were going in to steal and bringing out armloads of loot.

"After being down there for a couple of months, a lot of the Haitian military and some of the more well-placed sources ... learned that the explosive device was actually thrown by a member of the Lavalas [Aris-

ADVERTISERS INDEX

A.M.C. Sales, Inc.	71
Acme Publishing	15
Adco	17, Cover 4
Amazing Concepts	70
Automatic Knife Resource Guide	64
Benchmade Knife Company	8
Blade Rigger	67
Brigade Quartermaster	61
Carolina Ordnance	9
Cause Foundation	72
Classic Arms	11
Collector's Armoury	17
Cor-Bon Bullet Company	64
Crown Specialty	24
Delta Press	67
Doubleday Military Book Club	12-13
Elite Forces	70
Excalibur Enterprises	10
Facets Advertising	60
G-Jo Institute	62
Intelligence Incorporated	68
JTR Labs	19
LA Law Enforcers	71
London Bridge Trading Co.	19
Michigan Body Armor	72
Moore Technical Industries	73
National ID Center	69
North American Tarp	71
Olympic Arms	62
Optimum Training Systems	27-30
Paladin Press	7
Quality Machining Inc.	64
Self Defense Supply	Cover 3
Shotgun News	63
SOF Sweepstakes	66
SOF California Residents	71
Sonic Technology	25
Southern Ordnance	23
S.T.A.N.O.	26
Steve Arnold's Gunroom	65
U.S. General Technology	Cover 2

SUPPLY LOCKER

Advice/Security Call	75
American Eagle	77
C.H. Worldwide	76
Cutlery Shoppe	77
Cutting Edge Enterprise	75
David Steele Ent Inc.	76
Dewey Research Center	74
Eden Press	77
First Witness Video	74
Global School Of Investigation	76
Greene Military	77
Gun Parts Corporation	74
Hitek	75
Hurricane International	76
JTR Labs	76
M.O.R.O. International	76
Matthews Police Supply	77
Outlaw Skydiving Team	74
Politically Incorrect Graphics	75
Professional Career Development	75, 77
Red Out	74
S & K Products	74, 77
U.S. Cavalry	75
USI Corporation	75
Westbury Sales Co.	74
WW2 Products	76

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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE MAGAZINE

tide's popular movement]. It apparently was thrown by Lavalas supporters into their own crowd in order to incite a U.S. reaction against the Haitian army and the FRAPH," the Front for the Advancement and Progress of Haiti.

Pressed to qualify the reliability of such sources, our source said he'd rate the information "as C-3: usually reliable, usually accurate ... I believe it's true, based on other incidents that occurred while I was there."

"The entire movement seems to be composed of a loose coalition of labor movement organizations, which are all controlled by the communists in Haiti; the unemployed, vagrants; peasant organizations; criminals, squatters, with a healthy leavening of high school and college students," he said. "It's managed at the low levels by educators and political opportunists of the left wing.

Canadian Connections

"Some of the organizations allied with the Lavalas ... have a strong Canadian connection. Many of the Catholic priests who run most of the extreme left-wing organizations that are aligned with Lavalas, are from Canada, or have Canadian ties. There appears to be a major support mechanism for the Lavalas that originates out of Quebec and New York City. New York City has a big Haitian population. There's at least one publication, *Haiti Progress*, that originates from New York. *Haiti Progress* is so far left, so decidedly pro-communist, they are even critical of Aristide. Since late October, there's been a marked increase in the amount of graffiti and political sentiments, both from the Catholic church and the organizations, that are pro-communist, even pro-Castro."

The analyst stated that the manifestations are mostly organized by the pro-Aristide priests. "Manifestation is just another word for a street demonstration. But they talk about it like it's a religious experience. In point of fact, most of them are. Before most of the major manifestations, there will be a church mass held locally for the priest to get them all fired up and then turn them loose into the streets. That's the way most of them start.

"These priests are preaching liberation theology, which is the

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same cynical exploitation of religion, poverty and ignorance that communists were noted for throughout Central America in the 1980s. And we fell for it one more time. They make a good show of acting like priests. But their philosophy and behind-the-scenes political activity is strictly communist. Their cover is liberation theology, which is precisely what got Aristide excommunicated from the Catholic Church in 1989. He's [now] no more a priest than I am."

Despite claims by U.S. government officials that our troops were not engaged in the confiscation of privately owned firearms in Haiti, the Defense Department analyst told *SOF* that the Lavalas would use phony accusations to play U.S. troops as pawns in disarming anti-Aristide Haitians.

Inadvertent Abetting

"In a lot of cases ... an accusation would be made, the U.S. Army would look for guns and then leave. And that night, the person who had been accused would have their house robbed," he said. "In many cases, the criminal elements in Haiti were using U.S. military forces to case places

that they wanted to rob. They'd make an anonymous accusation about guns, watch while the place was turned upside down to see if there was anything worth stealing and whether there were any guns with which a homeowner could defend his property — and they'd come back at night and take what they wanted.

"The worst thing about the gun confiscation issue is how well and how enthusiastically the United States forces took to it. It's really frightening to think about it because, in some cases, I'm sure some commander in the United States would say, 'We have to go search houses for guns' and there wouldn't be any questions about the validity or legality of it. What our soldiers didn't realize — and I did realize, because I studied Haitian legal codes — is that it is perfectly legal to own virtually any weapon in Haiti you want to own, if you are a law-abiding citizen ... The majority of gun laws in Haiti applied to home defense. But the press rigorously ignored the fact."

The drug pipeline between Haiti and New York City likely will remain intact, the intelligence analyst



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predicts, primarily because many of the same people in the Haitian government will remain there, loyal only to their own opportunity. For example, he said, a certain lieutenant colonel who heads the Haitian equivalent of the Drug Enforcement Administration recently paid \$5,000 in U.S. currency to each of his five superiors in the Haitian government to retain his position. What does his job pay officially?

"Probably about 2,000 gourds [pronounced GUES] a month," the analyst said. "In American dollars, at the current exchange rate, about 130 bucks."

Parliamentary elections originally scheduled for December, considered essential by Washington to the success of the U.S. mission, were delayed when Aristide failed to appoint an electoral council and implement other required procedures necessary for voting. The delay makes elections prior to the March '95 pullout of the U.S. command an impossibility, raising speculation that Aristide is deliberately dragging his feet, hoping to have a freer hand with the U.S. military out of the way. This is perhaps what prompted Clinton to federalize

on 30 December two Army National Guard units — the 19th and 20th Special Forces Groups. Plans as we go to press call for teams from these two Green Beret units to rotate in and out of Haiti for the next two years.

Former staffer Jim Pate is a frequent contributor to SOF's campaign against government stupidity, corruption and dishonesty. ✕

ATF WATCH

Continued from page 14

is adhering to the spirit of the federal firearms laws. To that end, we'd like to hear your firsthand accounts of the ATF's abuses of authority in enforcement of the law. We want to hear from all who have had unpleasant contacts with the ATF — not only the severe cases that make headlines, but from everyone who has had any confrontation with them.

This information will be critical in providing feedback to law-abid-

ing gun dealers and gun owners about questionable policies, procedures, enforcement trends and practices within the bureau. This will provide us with the total picture, not just anecdotes. Together, I hope we can prevent others from becoming the anti-heroes in future ATF horror stories. And to get the total picture, I need to solicit not only stories about ATF abuses, but also about the professional work of ATF agents in solving real crimes and bringing real criminals to justice.

We want to begin a dialogue with the Department of the Treasury and ATF management — the honest, dedicated professionals in the ATF — to identify the internal forces and personalities that impede them from doing the right things. Only with the power of such knowledge can we inform and influence those in elected and appointed positions to correct poor management.

Naturally, I will guarantee confidentiality and ensure anonymity for those who participate. You can reach me at: ATF Watch, P.O. Box 667, Ben Franklin Station, Washington, D.C. 20044-0667. ✕

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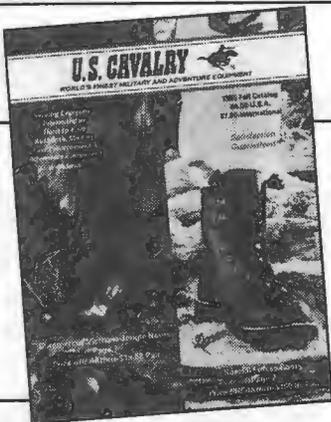


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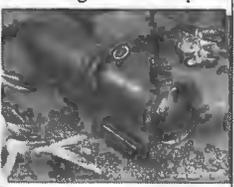
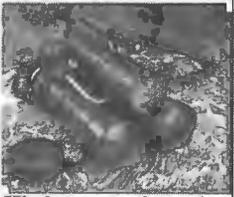
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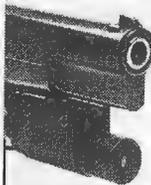
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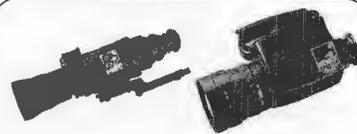
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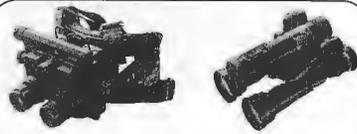
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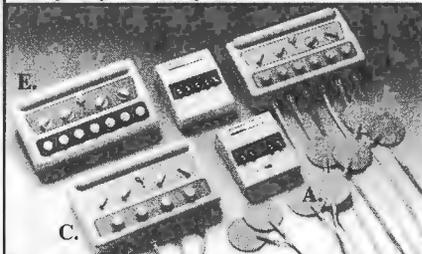
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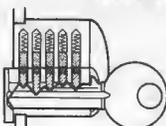


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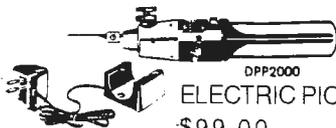
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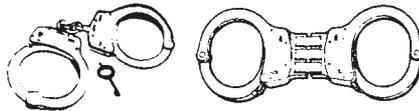
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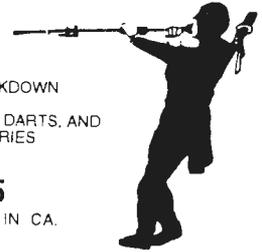
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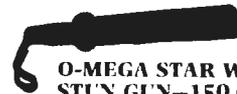


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