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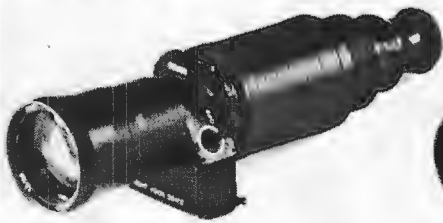
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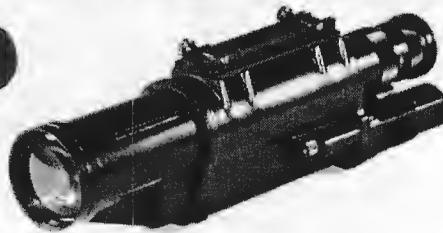
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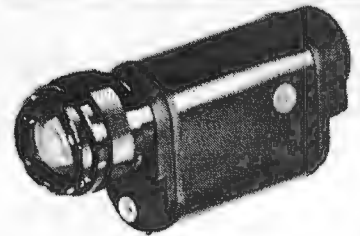
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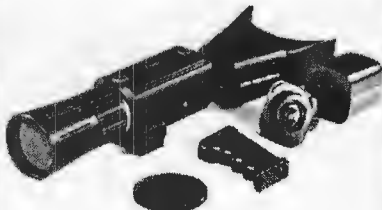
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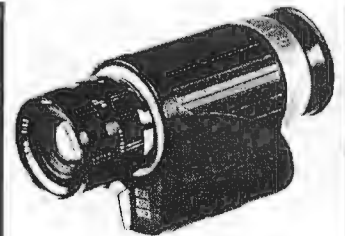


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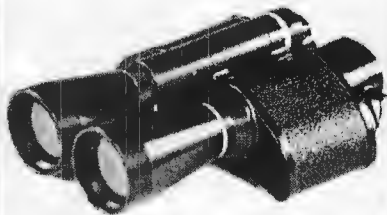


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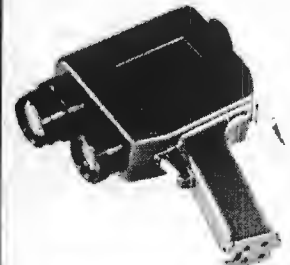


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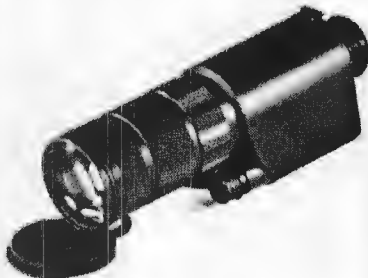


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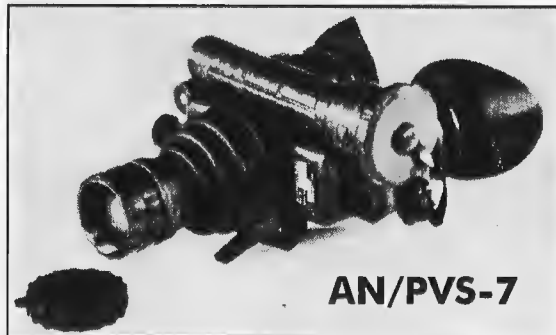
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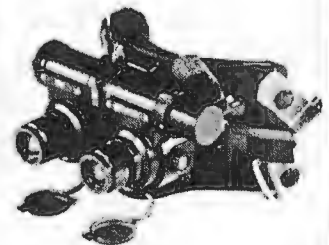
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Terrorism's Vicious Circle

by Robert K. Brown

The bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City was a damnable act of wanton murder. Only a very sick mind would suggest that the Waco massacre and the murder of Vickie Weaver somehow call for this form of retribution.

I can understand the widespread and righteous outrage at the Ruby Ridge and Waco murders — a recent CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll said 39% of people queried think the federal government "...poses an immediate threat to the rights and freedoms of ordinary citizens" — the official lies and cover-ups, and total failure to punish the culprits, but the remedy here lies in the courts of law and the halls of Congress, and at the polling booths, not in killing scores of innocent victims.

There are several aspects of this outrage with which I am not at all comfortable:

- First, the assumption by the media that non-governmental militias are somehow involved in this. Of course, the festering anger and fear caused by the government's failure to punish anyone for the outrages at Ruby Ridge and Waco or even apologize are a major factor in the growth of the militias, but it appears that the intent of the vast majority of these groups is to defend the rights of the citizens, not to attack a government that they and all of us hope will shortly come to its senses.

- Second, I am not comfortable with the idea of armed, organized paramilitary bodies not under any

type of control and in no way responsible to the citizens and the democratic elective process pushing their own political agendas. Until the situation gets to the point of prohibiting criticism of the holders of power or interfering with the holding of democratic elections there is no justification for a call to arms. The ballot box, not the cartridge box, is the way to resolve problems as proven in the recent congressional elections.

- Third and predictably, Bill Clinton, Janet Reno and others have called for legislation conferring dangerous and unconstitutional powers on the FBI and other federal law enforcement, in the name of "fighting terrorism." Giving arbitrary power to the Clinton administration as stated in the Omnibus Counterterrorism Bill (S-390 in the Senate and HR-896 in the House), by allowing it to determine who is a terrorist and which groups are terrorist without any guidelines or controls, is frightening. This will fuel the paranoid fears of those who already see in the federal government a sinister conspiracy to impose tyranny on the country.

If, as now appears, the Oklahoma City outrage was the work of three or four demented individuals operating on their own, spying on larger and more rational organizations with politically incorrect agendas, like the militias, will do little or nothing to prevent future outrages. And the price in terms of further erosion of our liberties is too high. ✕

SOLDIER OF FORTUNE (USPS 525-810, ISSN 0145-6784) is published monthly by SOLDIER OF FORTUNE Inc., 5735 Arapahoe Ave., Boulder CO 80303-1340. Second-Class Postage is paid at Boulder CO and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to SOLDIER OF FORTUNE, Subscription Department, POB 348, MT Morris IL 61054-0348 or call 1-800-877-5207. U.S. and APO-FPO subscription rate for twelve monthly issues: \$28.00. Canada add \$10.00/yr. additional postage (includes GST tax registration number: R128476249). All other countries add \$21.00 U.S. FUNDS ONLY. Single Issue Price — U.S., \$3.95; United Kingdom, £2.60; Canada, \$4.75. PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.

CONTRIBUTORS: Manuscripts, photographs or drawings are submitted at the contributor's own risk. Material should be mailed to Articles Editor, SOLDIER OF FORTUNE, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306, and cannot be returned unless accompanied by sufficient postage. Any material accepted is subject to such revision as is necessary to meet the editorial requirements of SOF. All manuscripts must be typed double-spaced. All photographs should be credited and be accurately identified. Payment will be made at rates current at time of publication. Editorial office phone number is 303-449-3750.

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SEALs' Top Secret — page 64

Photo: U.S. Navy/Milton R. Savage

FEATURES

DELTA/SEAL COMBAT CAMP

Tom Slizewski

If you could learn practical marksmanship and self-defense techniques from anyone in the world, who would you pick? If you answer Delta Force or the Navy SEALs, you'll want to check out DSTC. 30

FAKE SEALs AND PHONY FROGS

Capt. Larry Bailey

For some it takes determination and tenacity to become a SEAL, for others just a trip to the surplus store and a vivid imagination. 32

DEATH OF A WARRIOR

Sibyl MacKenzie

SOF's contributing editor for unconventional operations is killed while on combat operations in Sierra Leone. A world-class soldier and loyal friend, Robert C. MacKenzie will be missed by all who knew him. 36

NEW POWER FOR AN OLD WARHORSE

Peter G. Kokalis

A shot of testosterone and a trip to LeMag are all it takes to transform the pipsqueak M1 Carbine into the potent .45 Win-Mag MAG-1. 42

Burma: BETRAYED AND BEATEN IN BATTLE

Don Dickinson

Karen rebels face a new and unexpected foe: turncoats! The result is the fall of their HQ at Manerplaw and a serious blow to their fight for freedom from Burmese tyranny. 48

SO MANY WOUNDED, SO LITTLE TIME

John Padgett

Karens' bloody battlefield setbacks and requests from around the world stretch SOF's Refugee Relief doctors thin. 52



Combat Camp — page 30

Photo: Robert Walchli



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Photo: courtesy Don Dickinson

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Scott Schaefer

Where's a spy when you need one? Check the phone book; you can rent the same spooks our government calls on for black ops. 53

GUN GESTAPO GANG-BANGERS

James L. Pate

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CASTRO FIDDLES WHILE CUBA BURNS

Richard Emblin

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SEALs' TOP SECRET III

Dale Andradé

Marcinko trades dress whites for prison stripes and Red Cell collapses under the weight of its own facade. 64

COVER

A man of exceptional ability who fought only for causes he deemed good and just, Lt. Col. Robert C. MacKenzie, was a soldier's soldier, a consummate professional whose skills were in demand all over the world. He was killed in action earlier this year while leading a combat operation in Sierra Leone. Article on page 36. Photo: courtesy Sibyl MacKenzie



BULLETIN BOARD

SEN. SHELBY CHIDES BATF

Senator Richard C. Shelby, R-Ala., of the Senate Appropriations' Treasury, Postal Service and General Government Subcommittee took on the BATF late in March, grilling ATF Director John Magaw on case after case of BATF abuse of civil rights, chiding them for "reckless paramilitary style actions against innocent civilians," vowing the ATF "must be held accountable."

Among cases cited were *Louis Katona III*: Magaw said "no revenge" was intended when the ATF indicted Katona *after* the Katonas sued ATF over a miscarriage that resulted when ATF agents slammed Katona's pregnant wife against a wall; *Janice Hart*: Less than a week before the Waco raid, this single working mother and her two young daughters were surrounded at gunpoint in their driveway by heavily armed BATF storm troopers in Portland, Oregon. An agent slammed a car door on her 12-year-old's leg and her four-year-old complained, "My church clothes were all pulled down" after the Gestapo ransacked their home. Oops! The warrant was for Janice Harrell, *not* Hart. What a silly

mistake; *Monique Montgomery* can thank the ATF for six bullet holes and a lifetime pass for free wheelchair rides. The 21-year-old St. Louis woman was shot when ninja-suited ATF troopers stormed her bedroom at 0400 13 July 1994. Halfway asleep, she reached for a gun and was sprayed by 9mm fire. The person for whom the ATF had a warrant was not at Montgomery's home, but the gun goons wanted to charge *her* with assault (the U.S. attorney declined).



Mexican troops with L-6 grenade launchers parade in Mexico City. This caused no small controversy because the government denies any such weapons are in its arsenal. Photo: Julio Montes



Samson, Moses and the Prince of Darkness: *SOF's* Contributing Editor for Explosives and Demolitions John Donovan, left, and our publisher and guiding light Robert K. Brown, right, flank actor and gun rights spokesman Charlton Heston at a recent NRA confab. Photo: courtesy Charlton Heston

Magaw's answer to the senators? Ms. Montgomery got what she deserved. These were just "some [of the] horror stories you obviously don't want to talk about," Shelby told the ATF's Magaw and Ron Noble. The hearings are scheduled to pick up again as we go to press.

JUST CAUSE

Help Wanted: patriots, militiamen, and everyone else concerned over what happens to our freedom. The *real* battle is now joined, and the troops need your support. Major liti-

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WAR STORY

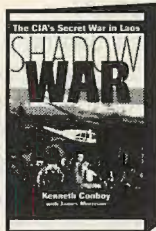
by Jim Morris

Paladin is proud to reissue what is recognized as one of the best books ever written on the U.S. Army Special Forces in the Vietnam War. Capt. Jim Morris went to Vietnam in 1964 as the Executive Officer of a Special Forces A-Team, Detachment A-424. The team's mission was to advise, train and direct the military activities of the Montagnards, primitive tribes in the highlands of central Vietnam. Together, these warriors fought a war of stealth and cunning against the North Vietnamese. Not only is **War Story** one of the most authentic portrayals of these U.S. Army guerrilla operations in Southeast Asia, it is without a doubt one of the finest books ever written on the entire spectrum of the war in Vietnam. Here's how one special operations vet put it: "**War Story** isn't just a classic Green Beret memoir - it's perhaps the finest memoir of a combat soldier to come out of the Vietnam War. Its resurrection by Paladin Press is a major literary event." (Kenn Miller, 101st Airborne LRRP, 75th Rangers; senior editor, *Behind the Lines* magazine.) 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, hardcover, 308 pp. **\$29.95**



MIA RESCUE LRRP Manhunt in the Jungle by Kregg P.J. Jorgenson

This is the exciting true story of an ambushed U.S. Army Ranger Long-Range Reconnaissance Patrol in the jungles of Cambodia and the dangerous rescue that followed. Jorgenson, who was part of the 15-man rescue force, captures the fear, pain and gut-level emotion of what happened that day and what it took from those who were involved. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, hardcover, 296 pp. **\$29.95**



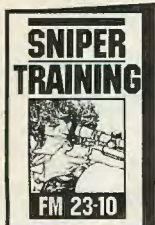
SHADOW WAR The CIA's Secret War in Laos by Kenneth Conboy

This is the first comprehensive history of the CIA's largest paramilitary operation during the cold war. It took 10 years to write and involved interviews with 650 CIA case officers, U.S. military officials, and senior Lao, Thai and North Vietnamese officers. Includes outstanding photos and maps and never-before-reported details on the secret war in Laos. 8 1/2 x 11, hardcover, photos, illus., 464 pp. **\$49.95**



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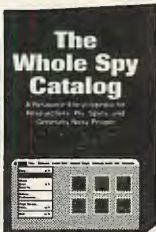
THE ULTIMATE SNIPER An Advanced Training Manual for Military and Police Snipers by Maj. John L. Plaster, USAF (Ret.)

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gation is pending against the feds for their murderous actions in the Waco massacre. The legal team at the forefront is the Cause Foundation. You've probably heard of them, or seen their ads in *SOF*, or seen their director personally take all comers at the *SOF* Convention pugil stick competition to raise funds for the suit. Trust us: *They're for real. They deserve your support.*

They desperately need your support.

Between Cause and *SOF*, no one has done more to uncover the facts about Waco, and to bring those responsible to justice. Because Cause relies heavily on *your* donations, it has been a hard fight: *Don't quit on them now!*

If we fight them with the law and the Constitution, we can win. If we

of the fight, right now — *but they can't do it alone.*

Help them to help us all: Cause Foundation, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 1235, Black Mountain, NC 28711; phone: 704-669-5189; fax: 704-669-5191.

Think about it. Then do it!

WASHINGTON GUN RALLY

The American Gun Owners Association, the Committee of 1776, Gun Owners of America, the Second Amendment Foundation and many other grassroots organizations are working together for the second annual Pro-Second Amendment Rally, to be held on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial at 1100 hours, 4 June 1995. All attendees must be sober, peaceable and *unarmed*.

Go alone or bring a bus

area. The non-profit sponsors of this event can also use a donation or three from supporters. Contact: Committee of 1776, Box 767, Powell, TN 37849; phone: 615-947-9493 or American Gun Owners Association, Box 65074, Philadelphia, PA 19155; phone: 800-2-OWN GUNS.

READ PAGE 56 FIRST

Read James L. Pate's story on page 56, then choke on this excerpt from a letter to *USA Today* by the Clinton administration's chief law-enforcement lickspittle on gun control, Dewey L. Stokes, national president of the Fraternal Order of Police, relating to the NRA's attack on the BATF. "...If the NRA is successful in its effort to maul ATF, there will be no agency to trace a gun used in a crime, to stop an interstate firearms trafficker, to [*this is the good part:*] ensure the rights of law-abiding gun owners..."

FBI PAYS \$300,000 ON SEX SUIT

The FBI has agreed to pay nearly \$300,000 to settle a lawsuit from former agent Suzanne Doucette, who claimed her 10-year career was ruined after she accused a superior of sexual harassment. Her suit alleged sexual harassment, sex discrimination and retaliation.

OBJECT CONTROL INC.?

Weapons recently used in armed robberies include: *spray toilet cleaner*

aimed at a shopkeeper in Norwich, Ontario; *a man-hole cover* wielded by a street mugger in Chicago; *a golf ball* thrown by one of three punks at a bicyclist, who fell off and was robbed in Evansville, Illinois; and *a pitchfork* used by one of two men who robbed a market in Greensboro, North Carolina. But plowshares can be beat into swords that cut both ways: A worker in a Dayton, Ohio, pizzeria used *a large spatula* and *an oven brush* to foil a robbery attempt; and a homeowner in Stark County, Ohio, used *a can of Raid bug spray* to momentarily blind a burglar.

INNOCENTS STUNG; USG PAYS \$871,000

U.S. District Judge Federico Moreno ruled in Miami that the U.S. government must pay \$871,000 to six people arrested and beaten in Honduras, after U.S. drug agents planted cocaine on their plane in 1991 as part of a botched drug sting. The three crew members and three passengers had no idea the plane was loaded with cocaine when they made a stopover in Honduras en route from Belize to Miami.

DEA officers put about 90 pounds of coke on board the Belize Air International Ltd. plane as part of an ill-advised plan to capture drug runners when the craft landed in Miami. But on the stopover in Honduras, drug dogs discovered the dope, and the six innocents were arrested and held for 12 days. During their imprisonment, they were "blindfolded, handcuffed, beaten, threatened with cattle prods and kicked, all in an attempt to make them confess to

Continued on page 87



fight them in the streets, everybody loses. Before you buy that next set of cammies, extra ammo, or the video outlining the plot between the United Nations and space aliens to enslave us, consider making that check out to Cause: They're in the thick

full, but in either case attendees are encouraged to coordinate with the sponsoring organizations to make sure they have a place to stand at the rally. In most cases the sponsors can help with information regarding lodging in the Washington, D.C.,

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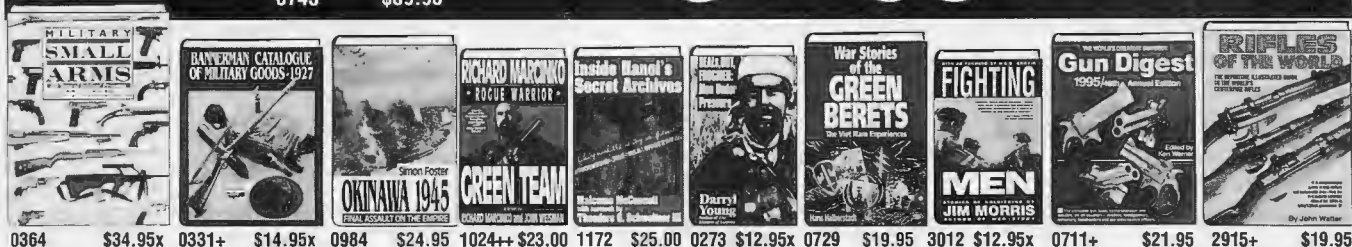
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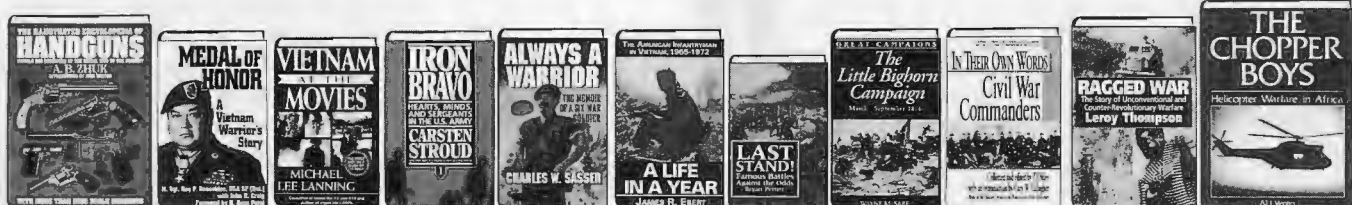
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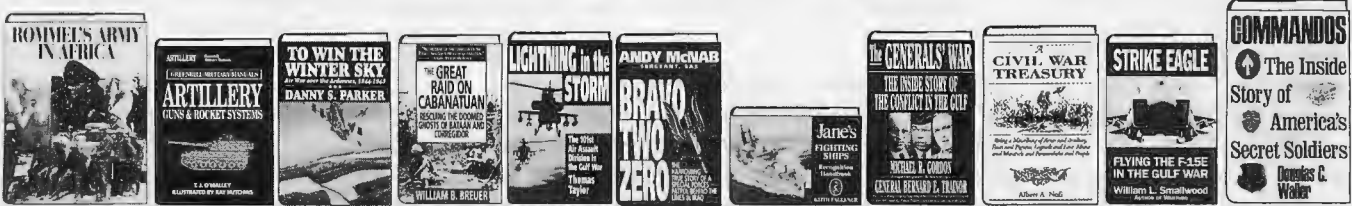
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SLICK WILLIE WATCH



THEY NEVER QUIT

Whitewater prosecutors are looking into the Clinton administration's rehiring of the wife of an important player in the investigation, Suzanna Hubbell, wife of former Associate Attorney General Webster Hubbell.

Mrs. Hubbell returned to work at the Interior Department in February, two months after her husband pleaded guilty to mail fraud and tax evasion and began supplying prosecutors with information about the Whitewater affair.

FIGHTING WORDS?

At the onset of the outrage in Oklahoma City — when the knee-jerk reaction almost universally was that it *must* have been another shot fired by the gang who bombed the World Trade Center — President Clinton nearly looked presidential when he cautioned against rushing to judgment, rightly reminding the nation that the only ones who should be condemned were those responsible, that it was inappropriate to blame innocent groups or classes on the basis of appearance or non-relevant association with the guilty parties. We agree.

But that changed as soon as it appeared the real perpetrators were domestic, and that they came from the extreme limits of a political phi-

losophy which, among other things, doesn't highly regard the current administration or federal state of affairs.

It seemed to change as fast as his spin doctor could figure out that this was the first time the

Mr. President, as usual, the last time your spin doctors twirled your compass, they left it 180 degrees off: *The violence in Oklahoma City was not caused by the vinegary rhetoric of those who oppose your*

not be a repeat of the innocent deaths at Ruby Ridge or Waco. There are professional ways to deal with those accused of breaking the law, and if federal law enforcement officials — indeed the federal government itself — want to regain our trust, we must have assurance that you and your appointees do not consider atrocities against innocent women and children as acceptable risks in attempting to collect a \$200 tax on certain weapons.

We agree it is unacceptable for our citizens to live in fear of violent death at the hands of terrorists. Oddly enough, we also consider it unacceptable that citizens — in this, once the freest nation on earth — live in fear of a violent death at the hands of government agents.

Those of us who would not resort to political violence have no option open to us but rhetoric, Mr. President. So you may expect the rhetoric to continue.

RENO EXPANDS RON BROWN PROBE

Attorney General Janet Reno has ordered Justice Department investigators to expand their investigation of Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown, to pursue evidence that he



president had a chance to stand on morally higher ground by condemning the atrocity, and then with a broad brush painting those who oppose his policies and question his moral suitability to serve as somehow causing (or at least motivating) the tragedy — or if not that, then at least being cut from the same unwholesome cloth. The premise being bandied about was that the conservative media — especially contrarian talk-show hosts — were really to blame because their anti-administration rhetoric had somehow triggered this violence.

politics.

This rhetoric you deplore is in the largest part a response to abuse and deadly violence against citizens, on the part of the government. And until such time as this problem receives the redress of a complete investigation and proper treatment of the governmental incompetence and malfeasance that has killed more innocent children than even the monstrous act in Oklahoma City, you can expect the rhetoric to continue.

Just as there must never be a repeat of the outrage in Oklahoma City, there must

Continued on page 87

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!**

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've 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 a round-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 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.

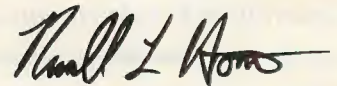
We spent months of research time, and did

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 Dept. XT-05 — 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 XT-05)

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: _____

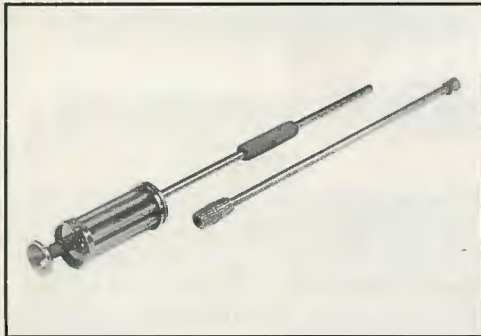
Tactical Response Solutions • 2945 S. Mooney Blvd. Dept. XT-05 • Visalia, CA 93277

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

ADVENTURE QUARTERMASTER

REPEATING BLOWGUN

Here's another one of those "why didn't somebody think of that sooner" ideas that was worth the wait: The Blomatic Eight-Shot Rapid Fire Repeater Blowgun.



Available as either a repeater magazine that will fit any .40 blowgun, or as a complete factory-assembled blowgun that incorporates the repeat-

ing mechanism, the Blomatic will shoot eight darts in less than 10 seconds! Accepts wire, broadhead or blunthead darts as well as .40 paintballs. Blowgun at \$29.95 plus \$5 shipping includes two .40 black aluminum barrels, anti-inhale mouthpiece, foam handgrip, breakdown connector, muzzle guard, 12-piece dart kit. Blomatic accessory is available to fit your blowgun for \$19.95, plus \$4 shipping. Available from P.M. Inc., Dept. SOF, 1860 Berkshire Lane N., Minneapolis, MN 55441; credit card orders: 800-882-4656.

AIR TASER

P.M. Inc. of Minneapolis, Minnesota, is offering the Air Taser, a hand-held, non-lethal self protection system that causes no long-term physical effects. Compressed air launches two penetrating probes, connected by wire, up to 15 feet to deliver an electronic signal called a "T-Wave." The T-Waves can travel through up to 2 inches of clothing and penetrate the nervous system, resulting in an instant loss of the attacker's neuromuscular control and the ability to continue an attack. Built-in backup probes give full, regular stun-gun protection. Micro ID tags expel with each firing to thwart criminal use, and make police tracking of stolen Tasers simple. The Air Taser measures a compact 8 by 1-1/2 by 2-5/8 inches. Available from P.M. Inc., Dept. SOF, 1860 Berkshire Lane N., Minneapolis, MN 55441; credit card orders: 800-882-4656. (For further information, see advertisement on page 23.)

SHARP AND EASY

If you carry a cutting tool, you should carry a Diamond Mini-Sharp sharpener. It makes a perfect pocket accessory, effective on the



hardest stainless blades, with a handle that folds easily for protected storage. The Mini-Sharp will smooth, file, hone and sharpen any hard material including carbide-tipped tools, composite materials, ceramics, glass, tool steel, etc. Available in fine (red), coarse (blue) X-coarse (black). Diamond Machining Technology Inc., Dept. SOF, 85 Hayes Memorial Drive, Marlborough, MA 01752; phone: 508-481-5944; fax: 508-485-3924.

COLT 1860 OFFICER'S MODEL



An exclusively featured deluxe version of the standard sidearm issued to Union troops during the Civil War has been recreated by Colt's. It features the rare brilliant blue finish and a traditional crossed-sabers emblem in 24 karat gold. Offered as an accessory by Stetson is a special Signature Series Officers Model hat, as well as a period-style holster, belt and buckle manufactured by Bianchi. Neat gear all

the way around. Available from Colt's Blackpowder, Dept. SOF, 110 8th St., Brooklyn, NY 11215. You can order a Colt blackpowder catalog at: 800-962-COLT; or obtain further information at: 718-499-4678. ✕

WORLD SITREP

1

UNITED STATES

Joint Chiefs Chairman Shalikashvili announces that U.S. military, lacking manpower and equipment to spare, will withdraw from international war on drugs and leave battle to law enforcement agencies.

Officials consider sending a retired U.S. general to advise Muslim-Croat alliance in their battle against Serbs.

The Washington Post reports U.S. officials discovered several boxes of classified U.S. documents in Somalia abandoned by United Nations. The White House orders a Pentagon probe of incident and several Republican senators call for end to intelligence sharing with United Nations. Sen. Snowe adds that CIA officials who had denied them access to U.S. intel had been replaced with left-wing political appointees with little regard for OPSEC.

2

RUSSIA

Russian Su-25 bomber on training mission fires air-to-ground rocket that veers off-course, missing several houses by only 200 meters and a nuclear power station by 3 miles. Tests at site have been suspended.

Chechen rebels announce first execution of a Russian pilot shot down over Shali. Russian police seize 180 pounds of gold in Siberia destined to buy weapons for Chechens.

7

HAITI

Efforts to build new police force are on verge of collapse. Vigilante mobs, hired by Aristide in a bid to restore order, are taking revenge on former police and army troops. American observers are investigating reports that Aristide hired at least 300 police outside U.S.-monitored recruiting system. Any police found on duty and not registered with the U.S. school are fired.

6

AFGHANISTAN

Militant student militia Taliban, which has quickly become a major force in Afghan politics, launches its first serious attack on government forces in Kabul but is pushed back.

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NICARAGUA

National assembly and President Chamorro reach an agreement allowing new constitutional changes to go into effect, ending efforts to force her out of office.

10

JAPAN

Aum Shinri Kyo cult spokesmen deny any involvement in nerve gas attack and accuse U.S. military of staging event. Cult has more members in Russia than Japan, believes world will end in 1997 and that only their leader, Shoko Asahara, can save them.

11

BURMA

In their first major offensive since fall of Kaw Moo Ra, Karen rebels attack army supply post at Leapoto. Rebel leader General Bo Mya steps down as military commander while retaining ceremonial post as president of Karen National Union. General Tamala Baw is named as his replacement.

16

ANGOLA

Cease-fire may be unraveling amid reports of government troops moving into U.N.-marked neutral zones. Both sides are using lull in fighting to buy and stockpile weapons in violation of U.N. agreement.

3

IRAQ

Up to 54 Iraqi tanks attack Kurdish PUK positions at Sewasoor. Kurdish PUK rebels claim Saddam's son and son-in-law escaped assassination attempts. Dissidents report 10th Saladin Armored Division, based on Iranian border, has been rebuilt. Unit was regarded as best non-Israeli division in Middle East until it was destroyed south of Kuwait City during Gulf War.

Two U.S. citizens are arrested after being mistakenly waved through a U.N. checkpoint and across Iraqi border. Both are sentenced to eight years in prison.

4

ALGERIA

Amid escalating violence, rebel GIA vows to begin killing police-women if government does not release all female prisoners. Also threatens Belgium with terrorist attacks if 12 GIA fundamentalists are not freed.

Government troops learn of a meeting of 900 GIA activists near Algiers and set a trap, killing more than 800 in a week-long battle.

5

CAMBODIA

Cambodian forces capture Anlong Veng as remaining 260 Khmer Rouge defect to Phnom Penh. KR claim they have Battambang surrounded. Government insists city is in no danger and KR will soon surrender.

2

8

SIERRA LEONE

Electoral commission admits that if rebel fighting does not subside by fall, elections will not be possible. Such elections, marking return of democracy, are a key step to obtaining foreign aid.

9

GERMANY

Officials report they have nearly completed requirements under a conventional arms treaty to discard East German equipment, including 9,000 armored vehicles, 5,000 artillery pieces, 2,300 tanks, 700 aircraft and 192 ships.

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SUDAN

SPLA rebels claim they are forming a new brigade to conduct guerrilla warfare in government-held areas, including Khartoum. Lieutenant General al-Bashir warns against any attacks in northern Sudan.

16

13

VENEZUELA

Venezuelan government approves a military proposal to allow hot pursuit of Colombian rebels into Colombia. President Caldera inaugurates new military border command comprised of 4,500 troops.

14

PERU

Cease-fire with Ecuador is holding, but with troops tied up on border Shining Path rebels have been more active. Both Peru and Ecuador scramble to buy weapons on international market, indicating they may be preparing for further conflict.

17

SOMALIA

Heavy fighting breaks out in Mogadishu between Abgal and Murusade clans. Disgruntled Issa clans in northern Somalia declare all-out war against Mohamed Ibrahim Egal, who claims to be president of an independent northern Somaliland.

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

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• For name of prize winner, send SASE to July '95 Sweepstakes Winners List, c/o SOF Magazine, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306

Fighting For Respectability

by Bob Sanders

Several recent events raise questions about what, if anything, was learned from ATF's failed attempt to storm the Branch Davidian compound two years ago. Since that botched assault, there has been a total and absolute failure to take disciplinary action against anyone. That may be a clue that it is business as usual at the ATF ranch.

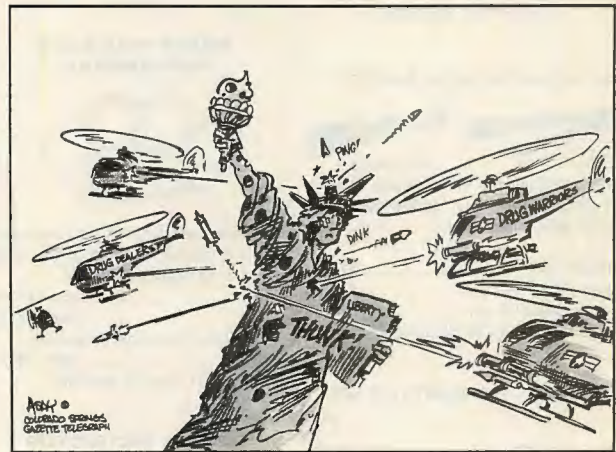
Wednesday, 22 March 1995, a pleasant spring day in the nation's capital, was uneventful for thousands of children unfortunate enough to live in public housing in the District of Columbia. There was nothing remarkable about this day for the parents of the children or the handicapped and elderly citizens who also must live in D.C.'s public housing.

In the early morning hours, unbeknownst to the residents of the Kelly Miller Apartments, more than 200 ATF agents — every agent from Baltimore to Richmond — were headed to Bolling Air Force Base. Special operations vehicles and communications equipment were moving in from remote stations.

A massive assault upon the Kelly Miller public housing project was to take place. The object of the operation was to arrest drug suspects and search for drugs and guns. A lengthy task force investigation of drug selling in the project began in August of last year. ATF, the lead agency, worked

with other agencies, including the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the District of Columbia Department of Public and Assisted Housing (DEPAH) to gather evidence for search and arrest warrants. During the lengthy pre-raid phase, ATF used such techniques as physical surveillance, electronic surveillance and undercover work by agents and confidential informers. Sources were debriefed, suspects interrogated and criminal records searched. The investigation consumed huge blocks of scarce investigative resources, and precious funds were expended for such things as travel, per diem, purchase of evidence, rewards, etc. This, at a time when most of ATF's investigative activities were cut to the bone due to budgetary constraints.

Mercifully, the attack on public housing did not occur. Pat Hynes, special agent in charge of ATF's Washington field office, called it off. It turns out that a press release with details of the raid was issued at least 12 hours before the raid was supposed to begin. Undoubtedly, Mr. Hynes acted correctly in pulling the plug on an operation that could have quickly turned sour. Moreover, he made the right decision for the right reason — safety of his troops. The decision to cancel, however, is not the point. The issue is the



By permission of Creators Syndicate and Chuck Asay.

operational plan itself.

An operation such as this requires ATF headquarters involvement at every critical stage. What Mensa candidate in headquarters thought it would be a good idea to attack a public housing project? What could he have thought about the safety of agents, the safety of the residents, the safety of innocent bystanders and passersby? How can the integrity of the investigation be protected when agents are forced to work and share information with non-professional law enforcement personnel?

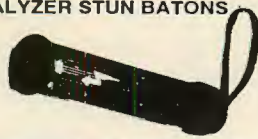
The Kelly Miller raid was to have been worked jointly with HUD and DEPAH. Safety of the agents, the residents and innocent bystanders depended entirely on the integrity of the raid plans. When the integrity of criminal investigations and operations is entrusted to these halcyons of law enforcement, it is time to seriously question the

judgment of those committing manpower. The attack on the Kelly Miller apartments was to wrap up a drug investigation, yet the enforcement of the nation's drug laws and the coordination of drug law enforcement by other federal, state and local agencies is entrusted to the DEA. The FBI and the U.S. Customs Service have collateral jurisdiction of drug enforcement. The DEA, FBI and Customs were conspicuously lacking at this raid. Does this speak louder than words about professionalism?

Further, the targets of this drug investigation were bottom feeders in the food chain of drug distribution. Correct me if I am wrong, but I seem to recollect that the drug enforcement policy of this nation is to attack the drug problem at the head.

In other words, federal policy mandates that federal resources, manpower and funds be expended to impact major traffickers,

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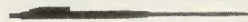
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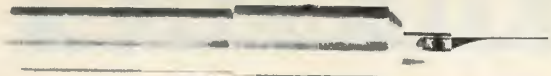
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- Pickmaster 7 & 8 pin set \$625.00
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- AP-08 (Eight pin pick) \$89.95
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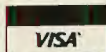
MASTER MINI-PICKS



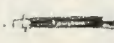
These picks with their advanced design, will open 5-pin, 6-pin, 7-pin offset left and offset right, 7-pin std., 8-pin Ace, and 8-pin Segal locks found on burglar alarms, and other high security applications. Comes with complete instructions.

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- Ace 8 (opens 7-pin offset left and right, 8-pin Ace, and 8-pin Fort) \$149.95
- Greenwald Pick (open 7-pin center) \$149.95
- Ace 8/Greenwald Combo \$279.95
- 7-pin Mini-Standard \$79.95
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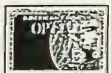


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the drug kingpins. Federal programs in turn provide support to state and local law enforcement agencies to disrupt street-level drug operations.

But the big issue is the growing trend in ATF to opt for contrived, large-scale paramilitary operations when conventional tactics are called for. What is accomplished other than making news, making publicity for the agency? Having said that, what place does publicity have and what price should an agency pay to publicize its actions? Certainly, the desire for positive press coverage is well intentioned: However, the risk of something bad happening far outweighs any potential benefit. And, there are so many things that can go wrong in law enforcement operations.

Displays of force, as was the plan for the Kelly Miller raid, invite, if not promote, confrontation. Why then, if not merely to stage an event, would ATF officials even consider doing such a thing? After all, for the federal agent, making arrests and executing search warrants is part of the job. It is what they are trained to do. Those tasks are commonplace; they are performed without notice and without incident every day. The average agent is very good at doing his job. But it is not the average agent who seeks to stage operations resembling Super Bowl half-time spectacles, complete with smoke and mirrors. It is not the average agent who puts himself and others in harm's way. It is not the average agent who is seeking publicity — the average agent avoids it.

After all, no legitimate law enforcement objectives are to be attained by creating media events, complete with press conferences before the TV cameras. Sources and methods are compromised; those arrested are rendered incapable of assisting if the fact of their arrest is made known to their cohorts. The only thing to be gained, assuming everything goes right, is for some official to appear before the television cameras, complete with tables displaying contraband. In other words, a 30-second sound bite. It is never the average agent

Continued on page 78

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I WAS THERE

Down & Dirty at Dak Pek

by Leigh F. Wade

Dak Pek was one of the oldest Special Forces camps in Vietnam, with eight years continuous operation. It sat in the northern portion of the Dak Poko river valley, occupying seven hills. Four companies of Montagnards were deeply entrenched and heavily fortified on six of the hills, and on the seventh, our 12-man "A" detachment defended with a platoon of Chinese Nung security.

Shortly after midnight on 12 April 1970, I was called from my .50-cal bunker on the corner of the inner perimeter to receive a Morse code radio message, saying that electronic surveillance had been picking up increased enemy radio transmissions around our camp and we should prepare for an attack. I notified the detachment commander, who decided our 50% stand-to was sufficient.

I went back and sat on my bunker for a while, scanning the surrounding dark valley with a then-new "starlight" scope on a sniper rifle. I saw nothing suspicious. In the center of two rings of defenses, I wasn't too worried about a ground attack. My bunker had about six feet of fortification overhead, so I wasn't too worried about rockets or mortars either. I went in the bunker and dozed off with my clothes on.

The sound of incoming artillery woke me with a start, and I rolled off the

cot and was reaching for my M16 when the bunker exploded. Unconscious a while, I awoke in hell. The bunker was destroyed. Fire burned where the .50-cal had been, and the ammo was cooking off. I was hit in various places, but didn't know how badly. I couldn't find my rifle and the demolished bunker was starting to fill with tear gas.

I crawled to the exit, up the steps to ground level, and saw a scene straight from Dante's inferno. Our American hill was burning, things were blowing up, and bullets were snapping overhead.

A crouched figure moved slowly through the smoke and thinking it was one of our troops seeking shelter, I yelled to him, "Hey! Over here!" The figure turned my way: Silhouetted against the burning team house was an AK-47. I dove back down the steps as his burst of fire ripped overhead. I landed hard and tried to crawl as far away from the gaping exit as possible, expecting him to follow up with a hand grenade as I would have done.

There was no place for me to hide but my luck held. No grenade bounced down the steps. I dug in the rubble and

found my protective mask, which probably saved my life, as I had begun to suffocate. I hungrily sucked the filtered air and continued to dig for my rifle. I found it, with one 20-round magazine, but couldn't find the harness with my other ammo and canteens.

There was still a heavy volume of automatic weapon fire outside, and I was wondering if I was the only American still alive. I found my PRC-25 radio, and heard the voice of the detachment XO talking to an incoming gunship. At least I wasn't the only one still functioning.

The XO told me on the radio that all the other Americans on the team except me had taken position in the 81mm mortar pit and were fighting NVA sappers. He told me not to try to get there because it was 50 yards over open ground and if the enemy didn't get me, the Americans would probably

shoot me by mistake.

I sat in the only corner left in the bunker, with my M16 across my lap pointed at the big hole where the machine gun used to be. I was thirsty and my wounds were starting to burn from the tear gas in them. I finally checked myself more thoroughly and found several hits from shell fragments. There was blood in my hair and a hole in my arm.

The defenders topside were shooting everything that moved and had the gunship working out. They cranked up the mortar and started blasting away at minimum range. A large unit of NVA attempted a direct assault across the open airstrip and the "Stinger" gunship, a converted C-119, cut them to pieces with its twin Bofors 40mm cannons.

We were winning and the attackers were trying to retreat: An obviously disoriented NVA appeared at the opening of my bunker only four feet in front of me. He glanced inside, didn't



"... although overrun, we had beaten them back. Bodies were everywhere ..." Illustration: courtesy U.S. Army

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94 - #5

see me, and bent over to crawl in to safety. I didn't even have to move my rifle. I shot him once and the bullet drilled him through the top of his head. It felt very good to kill the bastard, and for some reason the way it had happened amused me. "Sorry, this spot's taken," I laughed to myself.

The attack had started at 0200 and was just winding down as the sun came up. The NVA had captured and still held half the camp, but although overrun, we had beaten them back. Bodies were everywhere. Expecting another attack, the main one, we began preparing for it. The ammo had finally stopped cooking off in my bunker and I crawled over to the gaping hole. Heaving the dead NVA off the pile of rubble, I tried to stack up debris for a berm. I found my LBE and ammunition, but both canteens were dry.

Most of our Nung security platoon had died defending us. One who hadn't was the platoon leader, a wild and courageous young man who had spent the whole night walking around in the open "John-Waying" it with an M60 machine gun. He had personally killed some 20 enemy soldiers and had come through the entire fight without a scratch. He came over to my position for a while and shared his water with me. He looked at the demolished bunker and just shook his head. He couldn't imagine how I had survived.

Although all 12 members of the American A detachment were wounded, none were killed, and only a few were hurt badly enough to require medical evacuation. Before we managed to retake the camp a week later, several more were seriously wounded and one killed. But after that first night, there was really no doubt in our minds that we had won.

The Nung platoon leader received the U.S. Silver Star for his bravery that night. But his luck eventually ran out, and he was killed during another firefight several months later.

Leigh F. Wade spent five tours with Special Forces A detachments, retiring from the Army in 1992. ✕

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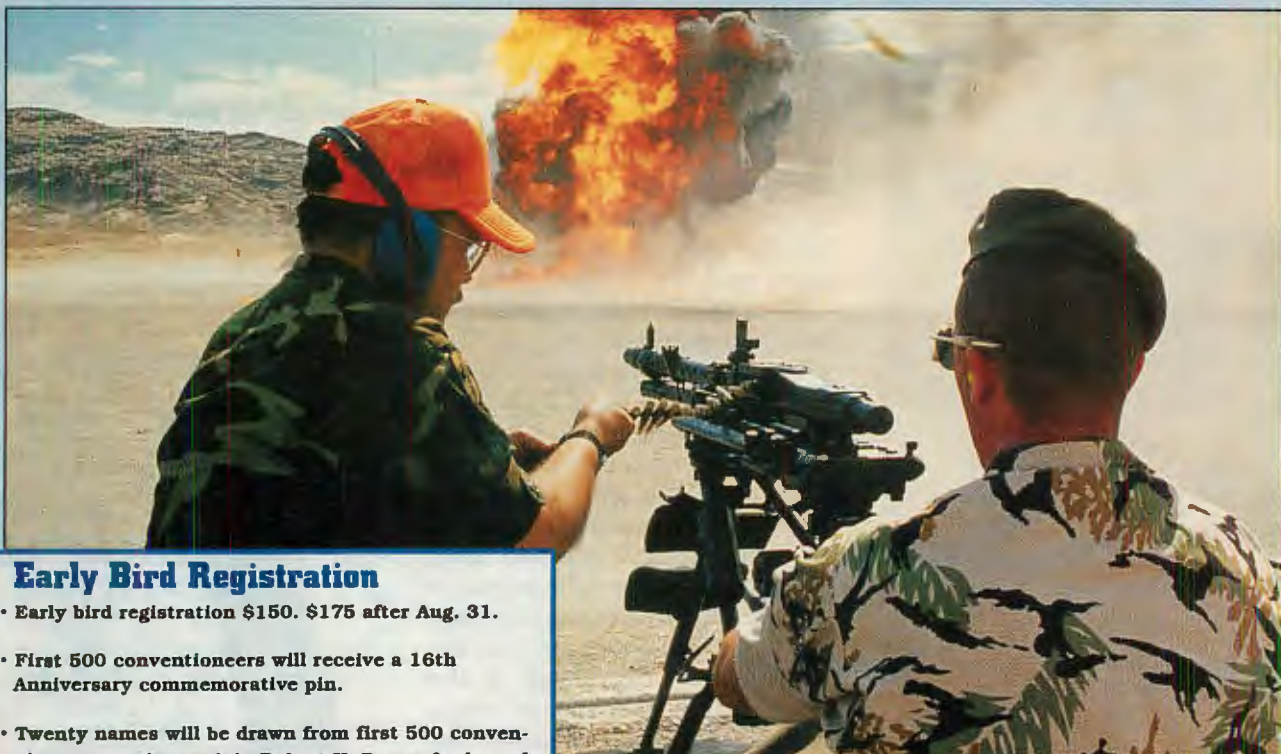
16th ANNUAL SOF CONVENTION

Sept. 27-Oct. 1 1995 SANDS HOTEL/CONVENTION CENTER LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Since 1975 *Soldier Of Fortune* has been telling it like it is and fighting the good fight to preserve the constitutional rights of all Americans. Now SOF is pulling out all the stops to celebrate its 20th Anniversary.

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- ☞ **PUGIL STICKS** — and other competitive matches. Get in shape now so you can compete for **cash prizes**. Your body will thank you — so might your wallet.
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- ☞ **THREE-GUN MATCH** — **Prestige and cash prizes** for expert shooters and those who aspire to be (see separate ad in this issue).
- ☞ **FIREPOWER DEMO** — **An awesome display of firepower** caps off an action-packed day at the range: team shoot-offs, manufacturers' new-product demos, skydiving, big guns & explosives. All day Saturday — free to conventioneers.
- ☞ **BANQUET** — Saturday night **awards ceremony** features insightful speakers and savory cuisine. Dress is casual.

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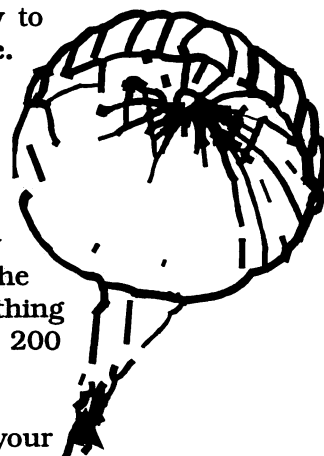
Hourly prize drawings will be held for conventioners only. Winners of the participant contests will also receive awards. Test your strength, your skill and your agility against your friends and comrades.

Events start at 1630 and continue to ??? from Wednesday, Sept. 27 to Friday, Sept. 29. **BE THERE!**



Soldier Of Fortune is offering registered conventioners the opportunity to participate in a once-in-a-lifetime experience. **Jim Wallace Skydiving Inc.** will be coming to Las Vegas on Sept. 26, 1995.

A **tandem jump** will be offered for \$200. This is the most popular method for experiencing freefall! After training, you and the certified tandem instructor will depart to more than 11,000 feet. You will be physically attached to the instructor before leaving the aircraft and together enjoy about 50 seconds of freefall! After pulling the ripcord, you will help fly the large, dual-controlled parachute and bring it in for a soft landing. It's something you will never forget! Weight limit is 200 pounds. Those weighing between 200 and 215 can jump for an extra \$25. Minimum age is 18.



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A 50% deposit is required PRIOR to Sept. 1, 1995. A minimum of 30 sign-ups are necessary in advance. If the minimum number is not met, your deposit will be refunded in full. Remember, **DON'T WAIT UNTIL CONVENTION TIME!** The show won't come off unless the minimum is reached. We accept Visa, MC, American Express and Discover.

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MILITIA AIR FORCE

I recently read your article on militias and found it very interesting and informative. Paying tribute to lawful militias is something that just cannot be done often enough. However, there is one militia-type group that is often overlooked, the volunteer men and women of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP).

Founded during WWII, on 1 December 1941, CAP members initially flew light airplanes on coastal patrols, spotting 173 enemy submarines along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and receiving credit for sinking at least two: 64 CAP members died serving in wartime operations.

Since WWII, CAP has devoted its efforts to search and rescue and assisting in humanitarian missions during local or national emergencies. CAP is always there to lend a hand. With its aerospace education program CAP promotes America's continued advancement in aviation and related sciences.

CAP is always looking for new volunteers and has units all over the United States and many overseas. As the Civil Air Patrol prepares to celebrate its 54th anniversary this December, *SOF*

should recognize these volunteer adventurers, past veterans and the current 73,000 civilian volunteers of the CAP.

David J. Albanese
Captain, CAP
Buffalo Sqd. #1
Buffalo, New York

For more information contact: CAP, National

was, literally, and spent a lot of time and energy taking supplies to the contras. His present incarceration is probably due more to these activities than for what he was actually accused of and sentenced for.

We can only hope that he will be out of jail soon, and back with his wife

true warrior in the tradition of Leonidas at Thermopylae. Unfortunately, these true heroes are considered rabble and expendable to the professional federal bureaucrats who are increasingly wearing the uniform of U.S. military officers.

As a U.S. Air Force officer, I am seeing an ethos of paperwork take over an ethos of war fighting. The fact that we were able to drop CBUs on Third World Iraqis whose GDP per capita is \$300 per year proves nothing. Our increasingly bureaucratic military awards those who put forth the most of what is called "quality culture," which is nothing more than touchy-feely encounter group B.S.

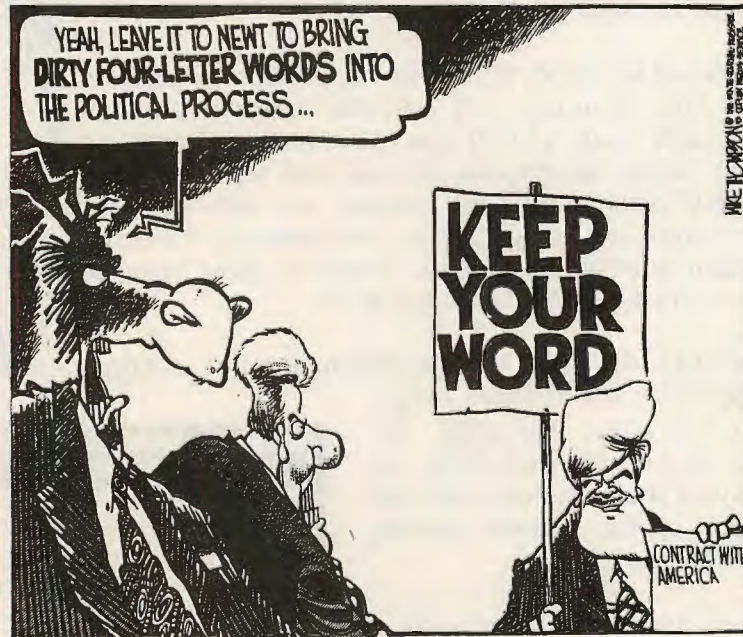
Most NCOs see through this quality culture propaganda as nothing more than a way to get professional bureaucrats promoted. Continue to tell the truth about the federal paper-pushers and let's get Gunny Hathcock the award he deserves.

Daisy Cutter
Captain, USAF

GUIDING LIGHT GONE OUT

When I was a young trooper, the guiding light was "my God, my country and my regiment." Now it is "my hide, my promotion and my career."

"My God" has been found politically incorrect and offensive to this or that group; "my country" is a nebulous postal ad-



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PRAISE FOR POSEY

Thanks for the excellent article on Tom Posey.

We had the pleasure of meeting Tom at an *SOF* convention several years ago and he impressed us as a real up-front guy with no time for bullshit. Tom put his money where his mouth

Patsy and family. Unfortunately, Tom is not the first, nor will he be the last person to serve time for his political beliefs, rather than any real crime.

Ron & Norma Kennemer
Santa Rosa, California

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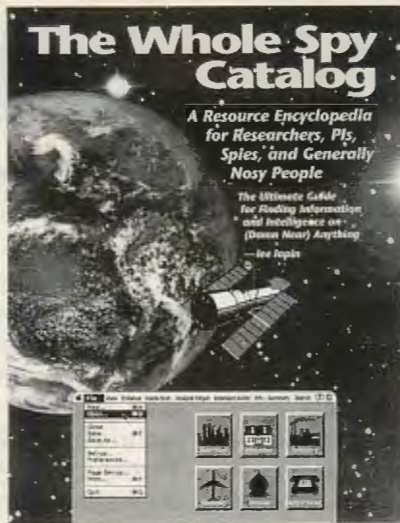
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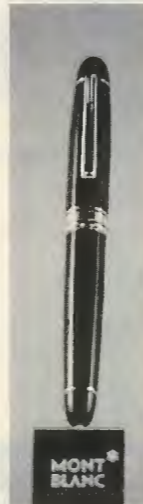


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dress made subordinate to the United Nations and the global economic community, and "my regiment" has either been fragmented into small scattered battalions and squadron-sized color-bearing units, or has been deactivated and stored in a box in the belly of the Pentagon. "Duty, honor, country" has been changed into "You threaten my career and I'll see that things are inserted into your medical records and your 201 file questioning your loyalty, integrity, discretion, morals and character." Today, CYA rules the day.

Jim Shirah
Columbus, Georgia

**AWERBUCK'S
NO AUTHORITY**

In response to Matthew Temkin's comments in your May "Flak" column, regarding my article "Un-



sighted Means Blind"
(SOF March '95):

Firstly, I have the highest regard for Colonel Applegate's experience, intellect and ability and am fully aware of his credentials. However, nowhere in my writing was any reference made to or about Col. Applegate or his article in that issue. I resent Mr. Temkin's comment that I criticized his article.

I do not make a practice of proclaiming myself an authority on anything, never have and never will, but I didn't fall off the turnip truck last week either. Perhaps Mr. Temkin might do me the common courtesy of re-reading what I wrote and not passing fallacious comments on what was never in print.

The sighted vs. unsighted fire argument will

still be going on long after we've all returned to the food chain, but Mr. Temkin may want to balance his opinions by checking documented street results.

When we are totally responsible for the terminal resting place of each and every projectile we launch downrange in Maintown, USA, we are faced with a double-edged sword: self-preservation and the law. Normally I am not this vitriolic, but I refuse to have my integrity smeared in front of SOF's readers by someone who obviously didn't correctly read or interpret what I wrote.

Louis Awerbuck
Prescott Valley, Arizona

**ARGON IS
THE ANSWER**

In reply to the letter "Seal It With Helium" in the May issue, I thought

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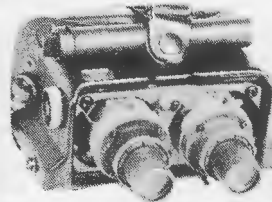
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it would be helpful to point out certain facts. To keep helium in a container is difficult, since it is the second smallest molecule in the periodic table. Also, since its partial pressure in atmosphere is so low, it mixes well with air, making it difficult to ensure that all oxygen is removed. Better gases for this purpose are the ones that welders use when attempting to exclude oxygen. These gases are argon and nitrogen. They, too, are inert, easily obtainable (at welding supply stores), and easy to handle. They are also much more effective at displacing, as opposed to mixing with, air, since they occur naturally and the air is already saturated with them.

Concerned American
Bakersfield, California

BOATS, BABES & BABIES

I recently attended a "sexual responsibilities" lecture on the ship I'm assigned to and learned some interesting statistics from a medical officer. He said that during a two-year tour one-third of all females on board will become pregnant, about half during the first three months. This figure did not include reservists or those serving less than two years, so the total number is actually higher. He also said that STDs are "rampant" among Navy personnel.

I have also personally noticed a large amount of work-related injuries, such as cracked or dislocated ribs, broken fingers and knee and ankle problems among female sailors because of the large amount of physical work

they are required to do.

Name withheld
on request
U.S. Navy

SECURITY CAN'T STOP SEALS

The first thing I read in the May '95 issue was the Dale Andradé article on Richard Marcinko's Red Cell SEALs who tested naval base security.

That Red Cell readily penetrated all naval base security at will just goes to show that you don't have real serious security at these bases or anywhere else unless everyone is carrying a gun and is trained and willing to use it. I'd guess that half the "guards" the SEALs were up against would not fall into the category of willful gun bearers and users.

I believe the Red Cell "terrorists" would have got-

ten shot down had the guards been instilled with a mind-set to shoot impostors. But all security is basically just a show of force, a deterrent, but not effective when they're up against the real thing, particularly a unit like the Navy SEALs.

Roger Fike
San Miguel, California

FIRE OFF SOME FLAK

Send confidential documents, government secrets and your comments on how we're doing to *SOF*, c/o FLAK, PO Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306.

Due to limited space we reserve the right to get straight to the point. Your letter will probably be shortened to achieve that end. You can also E-mail us at: sfortune@usa.net ✕

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Delta/SEAL

COMBAT CAMP



Elite Unit Vets Train Civilians

by Tom Slizewski

Photos by Robert Walchli

Heart racing a thousand beats a minute, I'm at the front door of a brick bungalow, mentally readying myself to cap some serious scumbags. We pop a flash-bang and begin a well-rehearsed room entry. Through the smoke I immediately double-tap a thug packing a MAC-10 — two to the chest, heart soup, *sorry 'bout that*. No time to gloat, though, as the SEAL and Delta Force

trainers following me are ratcheting up the stress level by barking conflicting orders and live-firing their weapons behind me.

I round the first corner and another hostile passes into history. Peripheral vision catches another

place of thought and I enter without thinking: *front sight, tap, tap*. Two shots between the eyes ends the threat. I imagine the last hostile dropping the child he was holding and gurgling something about calling a doctor. I make a mental note to look for the phone after I've cleaned my gun.

Damn, where did I learn to shoot like that?

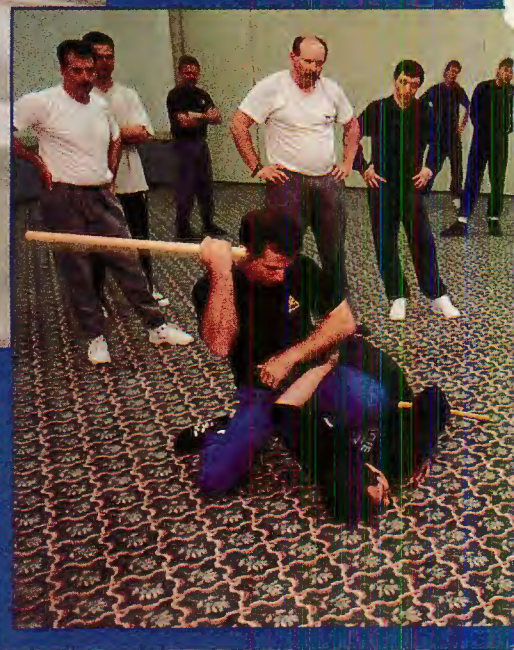


Runs through the "Fun House" were the highlight of the training. With tricky "shoot, no-shoot" targets, flash-bang entrances and hidden bad guys, it got the adrenalin pumping.



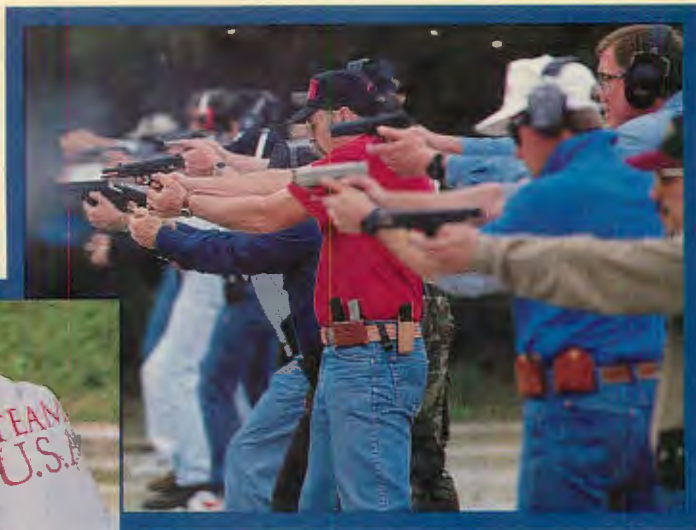
Run-and-gun stress course required applying all you'd learned in the previous days: firing from prone, kneeling, behind cover; quick magazine changes, even push-ups.

nasty; one well-placed round later it becomes clear he was packing a camera, not a Colt. No time to dwell on mistakes, though, time is short and there's still half the house to clear. Four more low-lives meet their maker before I'm facing the last doorway. Reflex has to take the



Every morning started with hand-to-hand combat. Here former SEAL Six team member and instructor Frank Cucci is demonstrating proper technique on a student: Frank is the one on top holding the stick.

This was the culminating exercise of the first Delta/SEAL Training Camp (DSTC) organized by Tactical Response Solutions (TRS), and after four intensive days of training the entire class of 29 was shooting well and feeling



well as basic sword/knife/stick fighting techniques. The classes are taught by Frank Cucci, who employs his popular SEAL Team Unarmed Combat system. Frank's watchful eye proved a major motivator during the training because if you did not kick hard enough or go for your partner's throat aggressively, he would stop by and "demonstrate" how it's

properly done — on you! There's no teacher like expe-



Approaching a downed (but perhaps not out) hostile taught students not to assume the fight is over just because the bad guy appears incapacitated.

Author bangs some gongs during DSTC stress course. Gotta love those Glock's; solid accuracy and fewer magazine changes resulted in a good time.

confident: It would be an understatement to say there was no shortage of adrenaline in Visalia, California, on this weekend.



Not Your Father's Shootin' School

I've been to shooting schools in the United States, Germany and Israel, and this one is definitely different. What sets DSTC apart is that *all* the instructors are real-deal special operators: Frank Cucci, formerly of SEAL Six, and three former Delta grunts led by Tommy Carter don't just lend their names to this endeavor or offer abstract tactical advice in the classroom. They are with you every day, every step of the way.

One of the students was right on when he compared this training to baseball fantasy camp (where you pay big dollars to learn/play baseball with major leaguers). Just as you can learn the basics of baseball at the local summer YMCA camp, you can learn

Former Delta operator Tommy Carter gives pointers on what to do in hostage situation. Many of the targets in the "Fun House" were meant to challenge your quick decision-making ability under stress.

most of what they teach in the basic course at DSTC at any competent shooting school. But, there is a distinct psychological difference between learning from an IPSC shooter and getting one-on-one time with some of the world's most elite warriors. This psychological "jack-up" is what got nearly 30 self-defense aficionados to dig deep for the \$3,375 four days of training cost.

DSTC's program is not limited to firearms and also includes hand-to-hand combat training, i.e. martial arts. For two hours each morning, starting at 0-6, you're taught various punches, holds and takedowns, as



Ed, another former Delta operator, demonstrates quick magazine changes. SpecOps instructors at DSTC didn't just lecture, they were with you every day, every step of the way.

rience and having Frank kick you, even with pads, shows you in no uncertain terms that it is worthwhile to learn how to avoid such kicks.

If there was a downside to the hand-to-hand training it was that there wasn't enough of it. Eight hours over four days is not enough to get these techniques down. Also, in unarmed

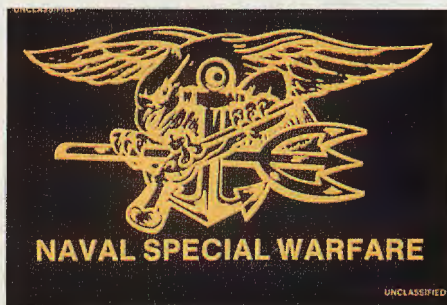
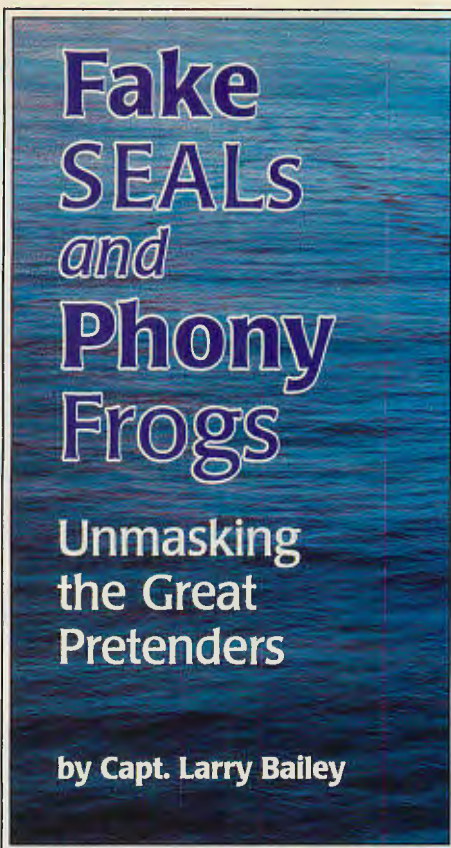
Continued on page 76

Most of us, military and civilian alike, have encountered individuals who enjoy the company of those who represent something that is unfilled in their own lives, and there is nothing inherently wrong with that. (I suspect that if we're honest, most of us would admit to harboring secret desires of our own regarding what we might have been.) However, an astounding number of these "wannabes" cross over the line and claim to be things they're not, and the SEAL community has certainly seen its share of these foolish impostors. In my 27 years as a SEAL officer I have seen literally dozens of cases of guys claiming to be SEALs, with many of those claiming to have been highly decorated in Vietnam.

Larval SEAL

My first encounter with a guy falsely claiming to be a SEAL was in 1965, when a SEAL buddy, Bill Garnett, and I were flying space-available on a Navy flight from Dallas to Norfolk. On the same plane was a young and slightly overweight sailor, a Seaman Arceneaux from Louisiana, who was wearing the old UDT-SEAL parachute insignia on his jumper. (This was before the introduction of today's SEAL breast insignia.) Thinking he was probably a West Coast frog unknown to me, an East Coaster, I asked him which UDT or SEAL team he was assigned to. When he answered, "Underwater Demolition Team 21," I knew I had a ringer, because I knew every member of that team.

The kid didn't know who I was (at the time a lieutenant assigned to SEAL Team Two), because I was travelling in civilian clothes. I took advantage of his ignorance and started to ask him some dumb questions, such as, "Who is CO of Team 21 now?" His answer to that was "Lieutenant Blais." Chief Petty Officer Tom Blais, the toughest CPO in the UDT training unit, was a great leader, but he wasn't CO of UDT-21. Bill and I peppered Seaman Arceneaux with numerous questions



SEALs are plucked from sea by Navy CH-46 Sea Knight. They also jump/rappel/fast-rope from choppers or other aircraft — but there were no SEAL combat jumps in Vietnam. Got a "SEAL" with a Vietnam combat jump story? You have a phony. Photo: DoD

about life in the teams, parachuting, and UDT training, and, to our great amusement, he was more than forthcoming in sharing his insider's knowledge.

Having been handed an opportunity for a practical joke, I convinced the plane's crew chief, a friend of ours, to confide in Arceneaux that Bill and I were claiming to be SEALs and ask him to help expose us two phonies. He did this, adding that he knew Arceneaux was authentic because he was wearing the UDT-SEAL jump wings. The poor guy turned 14 shades of purple during this conversation, and it was with obvious reluctance that he returned to his seat just forward of ours. Turning to face us, Arceneaux asked if we were really SEALs; confirming that we were, I told him to remove the jump wings and never put them on again until he earned them.

It turned out that the good seaman was en route to re-enter UDT training at Little Creek Amphibious Base (near Norfolk); he had quit training several months earlier.

Naturally, I felt compelled to inform my good friend Chief Blais about my chance encounter with one of his soon-to-be charges, and he in turn felt compelled to arrange a "welcome back" occasion for Arceneaux. With all this personal attention and hospitality, I never did understand why Arceneaux quit training again within 24 hours. It could be that facing 4,000 squat jumps was more than he could contemplate at the beginning of training.

Fantasy SEAL

The Arceneaux case was a mild one compared with others I have encountered through the years; after all, he was just a 20-year-old kid trying to pump up his self-esteem. I remember another incident that occurred in October 1979, when I was strolling down the midway of the Cape Fear Regional Fair in Fayetteville, North Carolina, and was hailed by a guy working as a shill on the arcade. Seeing the SEAL belt buckle

I was wearing, he informed me that he had been a SEAL in Vietnam and proceeded to describe how he had been shot up while under his parachute canopy during a free-fall combat jump. I didn't have the heart to tell him that there was never a SEAL combat jump during all the Vietnam years, much less a free-fall combat jump! We chatted for a few minutes, during which time he regaled me with war stories that chilled my very marrow; phony SEALs are invariably more bloodthirsty than the real thing. Not being very bloody-minded at the moment, I soon excused myself and went to consider the other sideshow freaks.

Almost A SEAL

Even the above incident seems trivial compared to a real classic case of phony-SEALism I encountered when I was CO of Naval Special Warfare Center in Coronado, California, the Navy's center for basic and advanced SEAL training. One day I received a call from a SEAL captain friend who was participating in a port security exercise in Long Beach. It transpired that he was suspicious of a Navy officer, a Captain John Burrud, who was wearing the "Budweiser" badge, the breast insignia worn by qualified SEALs (so called because of its close resemblance to the Anheuser-Busch corporate logo: Is that apt or what?). Since Burrud tap-danced around the issue of when and where he had undergone training, my buddy decided to check him out with me. Because NSWC is the repository for records of all UDT and SEAL trainees since the early '50s, I was able to determine who Burrud really was. Unlike a lot of phonies, he had actually been in UDT training in the early '60s, but he had been dropped in mid-course for medical reasons.

When a Navy captain misrepresents himself as a SEAL, it is a certainty that there will be retribution when the real SEALs find out. Such was the case with poor Burrud, who stoutly maintained to his admiral that, al-



SEAL with M79 begins a mission in the Rung Sat Special Zone, Vietnam. Early SEAL teams made use of non-standard weapons, uniforms, tactics. There is a standard ersatz SEAL story opener, however: "This ain't no shit: you ain't going to believe this, but ..." Photo: U.S. Navy

though he had not actually completed UDT training, he had a letter in his file from an Army officer that certified he had done enough cloak-and-dagger stuff while assigned to an Army unit to qualify him as a SEAL. The salty old admiral replied that he would like to see such documentation, but in the meantime, Burrud, take that blankety-blank badge off your blouse and don't put it on again. Needless to



Three SEALs rappel from a Huey to the jungle floor, to set up an ambush in 1967. Since few more than a hundred were assigned to the Pacific Fleet then — where did all the Vietnam vet "SEALs" in the gin mills come from? Photo: U.S. Navy

say, the good captain never got around to proving his status and, as far as is known, never put on the Budweiser again.

A sobering aspect to this story is the fact that Burrud, an officer in the Naval Reserve, was in real life the director of security for the Port of Long Beach, a position which, like his Navy position in a harbor-defense unit, required the highest of security clearances. Unfortunately, the admiral's rebuke was the only action that was ever taken against this officer who so blatantly abused the public trust, which is sad commentary on the Navy's willingness to turn a blind eye to officer misconduct. In fact, Burrud finally retired from the reserves with his security clearances intact, which does not reflect favorably on the Navy's vetting procedures, either.

Wished He Were A SEAL

One day in late 1987 I got a frantic call from the San Diego County Sheriff's office, wanting to know if a certain Juan Rodriguez had ever graduated from SEAL training. Seems that the guy was holed up in a building in south San Diego with a bunch of guns and was claiming to be a deadly SEAL. Naturally, the lawmen involved would take this into consideration in determining how to get the situation under control. When I checked the files and determined that this bad boy had never even enrolled in training, the peace officers lost no time in taking him into custody.

Even Phony Friends

I have asked myself a thousand times why there are so many people who claim to be what they aren't. More often now than ever I encounter guys who claim they were Special Forces or Rangers or Recon Marines or SEALs. One of the most personally perplexing cases happened in early 1992, when a good friend, Jim Adams, turned out not to have been the World War II frogman he claimed to be. What made this case so noteworthy was the fact that Jim was the curator of the UDT-SEAL Museum in Fort Pierce, Florida. He had sat in

on five years of monthly board-of-directors meetings, participated in fund-raising drives, and generally been in the middle of everything associated with the museum.

When suspicions resulted in questions, Jim came up with a World War II muster list with his name on it. What was pathetic was how he had doctored the document with "white out" and then typed in his own name *in another style of type!* I couldn't help feeling sorry for Jim, until I realized that he had used his fictitious story to get the curator's job in the first place. And, since he had total access to all the artifacts in the museum, including the hundreds not currently on display, who knows what items he might have taken for his own use? Or cash, for that matter?

Another Museum Specimen

Nor is that the only case involving a phony in the museum organization. For two years there was a guy named Art Wilson who sat with me on the board of directors of the museum association. I don't know what first excited my suspicions about him (maybe it was his wearing a SEAL-logo-bearing woolen sweater on a warm Florida day), but I began to ask him some questions. His story was that, although he was assigned to SEAL Team One during Vietnam, the job he was doing was so hush-hush that his name never appeared on an official roster. Then another member of the board mentioned to me that he also had some suspicions about the guy; that was the clincher. We immediately informed him in writing that we had suspicions about his authenticity, and would he please provide proof that he had actually been a SEAL. A second letter was sent repeating the request, but to no avail: The gentleman just vanished from the world of the frogmen and was soon replaced on the museum board of directors. I'll bet he's still wearing the woolen sweater on warm days, though.

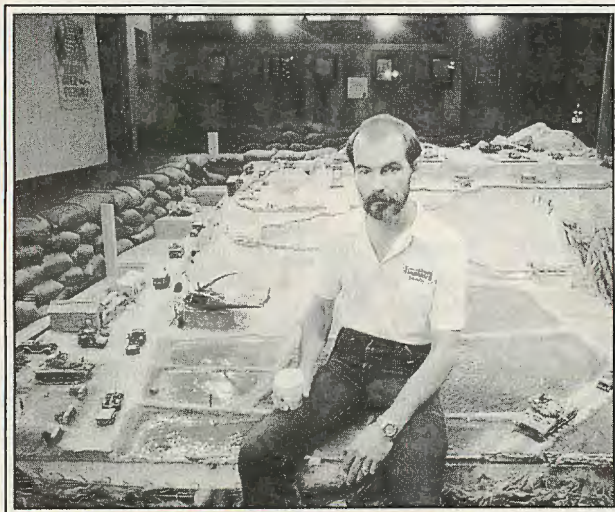
A Phony Fooling A Fraud

There was a widely reported case in Texas a few years ago that involved a reputed SEAL veteran and an alleged Special Forces veteran who had

set up a Vietnam museum in San Antonio. Turned out that the SEAL had never even been in the Navy, and the Green Beret had never been in either Special Forces or Vietnam. The irony of this situation was that the guys had done a tremendous job of establishing their museum, which proves that they could have done it without misrepresenting themselves.

Exposure Angst

One of the saddest cases I ever personally encountered was that of a U.S. Navy Supply Corps lieutenant sta-



The classic phony vet scam was when Gaylord Stevens, shown here with museum display, and Kenneth Bonner convinced each other that one was a SEAL ... and the other was former Special Forces. Both were frauds, but they got together and built one of the better Vietnam War museums, in San Antonio. Not surprisingly, Stevens had an earlier run-in with the law on counterfeiting charges. Stevens resurfaced again in Houston, calling himself a "Vietnam-era" vet (he had been in the Coast Guard, Stateside), trying to organize another Vietnam museum. Photo: SOF files

tioned aboard a replenishment ship in Subic Bay, Philippines. This officer was highly respected among his peers because of his outstanding enlisted career as a SEAL. He was held in the highest esteem by officers and enlisted alike, and, by all accounts, was a highly effective leader. A casual remark by a friend of the lieutenant's to a SEAL officer stationed in Subic Bay led to the unmasking of this particular phony. Curiosity led to questions, questions led to records checks, and records checks revealed that the officer had never even been associated with SEALs. Tragically, this poor officer, after fessing up to his

fraud, had to be institutionalized.

Reckless Striving

And speaking of screwed-up Navy officers, listen to this one. Two years ago a friend of mine on temporary duty from Washington, D.C., walked into the Officers Club on the amphibious base in Coronado, California. There he ran into a salty-looking lieutenant commander having lunch with three attractive young women. Noting that the officer was wearing the SEAL Budweiser badge and a chest full of ribbons, my friend introduced himself

to the good commander, a fellow named Larry S. Jacobs. The latter, a male nurse on recruiting duty (the three females were hot prospects), was sporting a Navy Cross, two Silver Stars, several Bronze Stars and Purple Hearts, and a bunch of other decorations from the Vietnam era. My friend, a fairly salty guy himself, quickly became suspicious of Jacobs' bona fides. Upon returning to Washington, he began to ask around about Jacobs and discovered that there were numerous discrepancies in his official personnel file. Calling Jacobs' commanding officer in California, he learned that the former was already assigned to a USMC unit deployed to Saudi Arabia to participate in Operation Desert

Storm. The CO immediately got on the line to the Marine unit in the desert and learned that, based on his ostensible credentials, Jacobs had just been selected to lead an elite medical field unit into battle.

When the Marines learned that Lt. Cmdr. Jacobs was never in Vietnam, never a SEAL, and had never been under fire, much less decorated, they put him on the next plane back to the States. When asked about his real background, Jacobs at first refused to admit anything, but, confronted with hard evidence, he broke down and confessed that his whole career had been a sham. Among other things, his record indicated that he had been assigned to

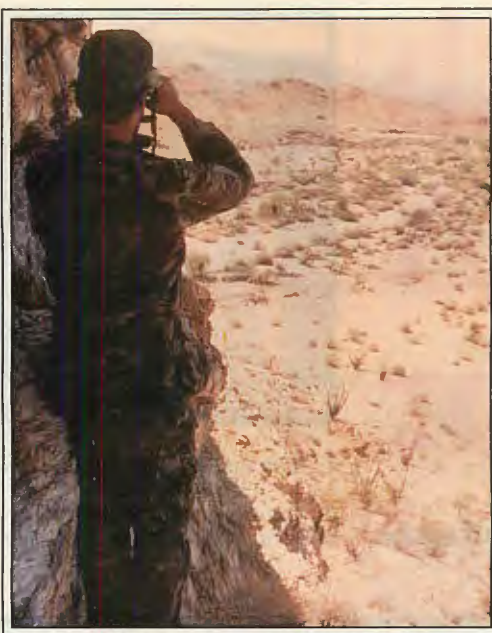
SEAL Team Six in 1973, a pretty good stunt considering that the unit wasn't commissioned until 1981. His record also indicated that he had a master's degree, which turned out to be false, as well. How Jacobs managed to enter his false credentials into his computerized personnel file in the Bureau of Naval Personnel is still a mystery to the authorities; he obviously had inside help.

This case had a tragic, if predictable, dénouement. When Jacobs was found out, he had more than 19 years of active duty in the Navy, less than one year shy of retirement. After lengthy deliberations as to how it should best handle the affair, the Navy offered Jacobs two options: (1) accept a court-martial, or (2) submit a letter of resignation. Whatever else he may have been, Jacobs wasn't stupid; he resigned with less than six months to go before retirement eligibility. If one is charitable, one hopes that Jacobs' nursing credentials enabled him to become gainfully employed, because leaving the service without his pension put him into the job market over the age of 40, not a comfortable prospect even for a nurse. The poor guy paid a tremendous price for pandering to his foolish ego.

Fooling The Fourth Estate

Another twist to this peculiar phenomenon came when Dan Rather, doing one of his inimitable person-to-person investigations on CBS' *48 Hours*, interviewed a mountain-man type in the hills of Oregon about why he was isolating himself from his fellow Americans. His story was both sad and chilling, since he claimed to be suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) as a result of having served with the SEALs in the much-maligned Phoenix program in Vietnam. Any SEAL with Vietnam experience knew immediately that the guy was a fraud, because, among other discrepancies, he told of being sent to Vietnam as an 18-year-old straight out of UDT/SEAL training to work in the Phoenix program.

This story simply didn't track. For starters, I have never known of a



The "L" in SEAL stands for *land*, and SEALs are trained to fight in deserts and mountains as well as in wet environs. Here a SEAL trains in the Southwestern U.S. desert. Oddly, phony SEALs tell few desert stories. Photo: U.S. Navy

student to graduate from UDT/SEAL training before he turned 19. Then, after graduation, the new SEALs were required to undergo several months of intensive team-oriented training prior to being deployed. Seldom did a new SEAL deploy to Vietnam in less than six months after



SEALs practice a VIP kidnap. As SpecOps operators, SEALs are as good as any — and justifiably jealous of their reputation. Pretending to be a SEAL may not be a good idea. Photo: Lt. F.C. Brown

graduation from training. Finally, while a small number of senior SEALs participated in operations in support of the Phoenix program, none were ever assigned to it.

Johnny Mountain Man had beaucoup problems, but one of them wasn't convincing Dandy Dan that he was authentic, because Rather bought his story, hook, line and sinker. That incident, in my mind, ranks right up there with Rather's hoked-up visit to Afghanistan for deceptive reporting. (Just to be on the safe side, I did a personal records check on the kid, and nobody by his name had ever matriculated into UDT/SEAL training. It's too bad nobody ever did a records check on Dan Rather.)

How To Vet A Vet

How does a non-special operator know when he is talking to an impostor? Generally, one doesn't, as the phonies usually have some knowledge of their chosen fantasies. Over the years I have developed a repertoire of questions I ask guys if I have doubts about them: I ask them which team(s) they were on, who they knew (invariably they'll claim knowing someone who doesn't exist), when they deployed to 'Nam, where they were operating, and a few other questions. (I have one sure-fire question that never fails to uncover a phony, but I think I'll keep that to myself to avoid helping some Walter Mitty-type character escape discovery.)

How many people like this are out there? I don't have any idea, but I can say that there must be thousands. I have personally encountered several dozen cases of misrepresentation, and every SEAL or SF or Recon friend I know has encountered several frauds.

I don't have any idea how many guys claim to be former SEALs in seeking employment, but I remember one case in which a Southern California police department was about to hire a young man who claimed to have been a SEAL. The personnel office called me at the center, and I was able to determine that the guy was blowing smoke. Needless to say, he

Continued on page 78

Death Of A Warrior

by Sibyl MacKenzie



Lt. Col. Robert Callen MacKenzie
(1948-1995)
(in uniform of captain, Rhodesian
SAS, circa 1977). Photo: SOF files

maintain his distance behind the leader, which carried six Gurkhas and Lieutenant Andy Myers. A truck full of Sierra Leonean soldiers and a convoy of overburdened civilian vehicles followed the two lead vehicles down the narrow road. Bandit territory officially ended at Mile 47 with its government garrison, where they would stop to make weapons safe and relax a little. Vigilance in Sierra Leone, however, is never out of place.

Ambush!

Suddenly, automatic weapons fire erupted from the right side of the road and bullets cracked through the air. The first vehicle accelerated through the kill zone and stopped. MacKenzie's vehicle

Colonel Robert MacKenzie 1948-1995



Lt. Col. Robert MacKenzie (standing, wings on hat) with some of the elite Sierra Leone Commando Unit he was training with 60 Gurkhas from Gurkha Security Guards. When killed, MacKenzie had just begun training these troops to stem the onslaught from Revolutionary United Front terrorists in Sierra Leone. Photo: Sibyl MacKenzie

Leaving Camp Charlie
on 17 February, the Gurkhas climbed aboard their trucks, chambered rounds and snapped the safeties off their new AKs. Though their main mission was to train the Sierra Leone Commando Unit, the often ambushed and only road to Freetown had to be secured if they were to hold onto their training

site 91 miles from Freetown and deep in bandit country.

Colonel Robert MacKenzie, commander of the 60 Gurkha trainers, rode in the front of his vehicle, rifle at the ready. Heavy foliage crowded the narrow road, blocking visibility into the bush. MacKenzie scanned the thicket and reminded his driver to

followed. He could see some of the civilian convoy trying to turn around, and he yelled for them to follow. Marshalling his Gurkhas and the indigenous troops, he began flanking the ambushers. Under heavy return fire, and no doubt in shock at the aggressive reaction they triggered, the bandits turned and ran. The thick bush



As terrors are wont to do, RUF bandits ambush road traffic in Sierra Leone, disrupting commerce and normal life: MacKenzie (tan beret) forms up convoy of civilian vehicles to go from Freetown to Mile 91 (top). Professionalism counts — convoy proceeds down ambush alley with armed escort, properly spaced, weapons ready (center). En route to Camp Charlie in the middle of bandit country, convoy passes earlier motorcade that was butchered in place (bottom). Attacked, MacKenzie's response was to seize initiative and execute immediate flanking maneuver against attackers: Spoor indicated three terrors shot. Convoy proceeded unharmed. Photos: Sibyl MacKenzie



completely hid their flight and inhibited tracking, but MacKenzie found three blood spoors on the ground. The convoy had taken no casualties.

Dancing and singing broke out among the civilians and word flashed through the bush to Mile 47. As they drove into town, citizens stood by

the road and clapped and yelled. The unthinkable had happened: The government fought back and routed the bandits. MacKenzie was pleased. Fifteen years in Africa had taught him it is the little folks who suffer in African wars. It was nice to fight for them. The last convoy that tried

to drive that road still lay beside it — 11 burned-out vehicles, a few bodies, scattered personal items. He was confident he and his commando unit could make a difference in Sierra Leone.

MacKenzie had arrived the end of January at the behest of Sierra Leone's leader, Chairman Valentine Strasser, and his right-hand man Major Abu Tarawali, affectionately known as ABT. A group of armed bandits/rebels known as the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) was plaguing the country. Tarawali, trained at Fort Benning, contacted GSG, the Gurkha Security

Guards, and arranged for 60 Gurkhas to train a crack unit — a unit so good, so tough that RUF rebels would give up. That's how the Sierra Leone Commando Unit (SLCU) was born, and MacKenzie was its first commander. The first group, consisting of 160 men, was hand-picked. Hopes ran high as the new outfit began to shape up. New AKs were issued and uniforms of Portuguese camouflage, cut French-style with dark green berets, had the men standing tall. MacKenzie and the Gurkhas had mythical status in the minds of the men at the outset because of an incident in early February, two weeks before routing the would-be RUF ambushers.

The earlier incident had Mike Borlace, a co-director of GSG, MacKenzie and Tarawali checking possible sites for what would become the commando unit's training base, Camp Charlie. Near Mile 91 with an escort of SLCU troops-to-be, they

PESTILENTIAL SIERRA LEONE

The most common adjective in books describing Sierra Leone is "pestilential." Doctors recommend an astonishing array of shots for travelers. It is a small country to harbor so many diseases, only 27,925 square miles located on the coast of West Africa, 500 miles north of the equator. The climate is either hot and dry or hot and wet. An estimated 4.7 million people live there, 75% by subsistence agriculture. Less than 21% are literate; life expectancy is 42 years; per capita income is \$230.

The Twilight Zone starts at Lungi Airport, cleverly situated across a broad, bridgeless estuary from Freetown, the capital. Enlightened civic planners are trying to estimate which would cost less — building a bridge or moving the airport.

Despite its people's poverty, Sierra Leone is rich in diamonds, gold, bauxite and rutile, but wealth is limited to a few corrupt politicians and their business partners. Most of the mines have been shut down by the Revolutionary United Front insurgency, cutting two-thirds of Sierra Leone's export earnings. Currently, 90% of the diamonds harvested in the country are stolen.

A former British colony, Sierra Leone achieved independence in 1961, became a republic in 1971 and a one-party state in 1978. By 1991 the government achieved a level of corruption unusual even for Africa. In 1992 Captain Valentine Strasser, 27 years old and unhappy with the direction the country was taking, proceeded to Freetown with some army friends to discuss his concerns with then-President Joe Momoh. Thinking it a military coup, Momoh hastily decamped to Guinea, leaving government in the hands of Capt. Strasser and fellow junior officers. Chairman Strasser, who has eschewed promotion and remains a captain, has been trying to run the country ever since and his efforts are largely supported by the common people.

Continued on page 85

came upon a burning village and the rebels who set it on fire. Borlace and MacKenzie immediately formed up a patrol to pursue the bandits. At first only the intrepid Tarawali would join them, so they left the frightened African troops on the road and proceeded. Finding it was scarier to be alone than it was to join their new colonel, the indigenous troops reluctantly followed. Surprised by such determined action, the bandits broke and ran, and new confidence infused the SLCU troops. They had taken no casualties and driven the bandits off. After the contact, Borlace, MacKenzie and Tarawali continued to an abandoned agricultural station and decided to situate Camp Charlie there, an island of resistance in a sea of bandits.

As a military base, Camp Charlie was the best available option, with good and bad points. Some 20 solid houses stood along three sides of a road network a quarter-mile square. A headquarters complex, motor pool and security gate lined the other side. Palm and mango trees dotted the base and the blazing sun shone over a central grassy field. There were but the sorry remnants of a fence, no cleared fields of fire, no defensive positions



Then-Maj. Robert MacKenzie (facing camera, right) ground-trains Bosnian troops in heliborne operations on a Soviet-built MI-8 chopper, 1994. Around the world, when a worthy cause needed help they benefited from MacKenzie's quiet competence. Photo: courtesy Sibyl MacKenzie



Who Dares Wins: Squadron Commander Capt. Robert MacKenzie, the most decorated American to serve in Rhodesia, receives the Rhodesian Silver Star in 1979, for "conspicuous gallantry and leadership in action." Photo: Rhodesian Ministry of Defense

and no gate security. These conditions were to have been addressed before MacKenzie's Gurkhas arrived, but nothing had been done. The enormously deep well was remarkably undep in water. Nonetheless, spirits remained high with the promise of water dowers and a bulldozer to clear the camp, make a rifle range and clear wreckage of the last, failed, convoy. MacKenzie returned to Camp Charlie on 18 February, bringing his wife and a long convoy of

happy civilians bound for Mile 91. With years of experience in Africa, MacKenzie was ready to deal with these problems and to commence training the SCLU.

His early successes, however, would rise to haunt him. The army high command, isolated in Freetown and unaware of the reality of Camp Charlie, was ecstatic at the repelled bandit attack and the routed ambush. They convinced themselves RUF would collapse under any organized offense and decided the time was now, while initiative and momentum were on their side. MacKenzie was peppered with demands to take the Gurkhas and win the war — forget about training SLCU, that could be done afterward. He protested that the Gurkhas' contract was for training and they were legally constrained from offensive actions. The reply came that he should then form up the SLCU and attack the RUF bandits' stronghold in the Malal Hills *without* the Gurkhas. He protested that his troops were not trained, but the demands continued, and finally the army chief of staff personally wrote to MacKenzie, ordering the attack for the 22nd or the 23rd of February. Determined to do his duty, MacKenzie agreed to investigate the possibility of attacking the Malal Hills.

Against Better Judgment

"Intelligence" (rumors) crackled over the tenuous radio link between Camp Charlie and Freetown: First it reported 150 bandits had come from the Kangari Hills to the east to reinforce the Malal Hills group, thus it was important to catch them all together. Then it was rumored this group had gone back to the Kangari Hills, so it was deemed critical to attack while the Malal Hills group was weak. "Junior," one of the bandit leaders, was reported killed when the ambush was routed — seen as a great victory. Junior was allegedly from Liberia and was part of the triumvirate of comic-opera names who reportedly ran the camp in the Malal Hills — the others were "Rambo" and "First Blood." Villagers reported seeing bandits carrying Junior's body back to camp. Finally, the argument was made that the torrential rainy season — as much in one month as Seattle has all year — would start in eight weeks, making early resolution of the bandit prob-



Waiting: In October 1985, MacKenzie (left) was in El Salvador sponsored by SOF, training long-range recon companies to fight communist terrorists. His dedication to the cause of freedom, his hatred of communism, never flagged. Photo: courtesy Sibyl MacKenzie

ROBERT C. MacKENZIE

At 17 Robert C. MacKenzie joined the U.S. Army. He had just finished high school and was awarded an appointment to the Air Force Academy. But it was 1966 and a war he didn't want to miss was raging in Vietnam. He chucked the Air Force, went down to the Army recruiting station in San Diego, California, and enlisted as an infantryman. By 1967 he was airborne, had completed the jungle operations course in Panama, and was on his way to Vietnam. On 29 May 1967 he was hit by a bullet storming Mother's Day Hill: After a year in the hospital he was permanently retired from the U.S. Army for medical disability.

All of MacKenzie's life he had wanted to be a soldier. Just because the U.S. Army declared him 70% disabled, he wasn't about to give up. In 1970 he traveled to Rhodesia and, passing the rigorous selection course, joined the Rhodesian Special Air Service (SAS). From 1970-1980 MacKenzie rose through the ranks from private to captain and SAS squadron commander. He received the Bronze Cross of Rhodesia for "gallantry and determination in action," and the Silver Cross of Rhodesia for "conspicuous gallantry and leadership in action."

Politicians ended the war in Rhodesia and in 1980 Zimbabwe was born. MacKenzie resigned from the Zimbabwe army and joined the South African Defense Force as a special forces major. In 1981 he joined the Transkei Defence Force as second-in-command, Transkei Special Forces Regiment. By 1985, after 15 years abroad, he was ready to come back to the United States.

SOF's Robert K. Brown gave MacKenzie a job as a contributing editor for unconventional operations, and MacKenzie continued his unconventional career. In Mozambique he worked in support of RENAMO, the guerrilla freedom fighters, securing the release of seven Western hostages; he trained and fought in Central America; he fought in Croatia and in Bosnia. He visited many bizarre places for SOF, contributing articles on Russia, Thailand, Suriname, Taiwan and Cambodia, to name a few. In February 1995 he went to Sierra Leone to command a training team of 60 Gurkhas, and on 24 February 1995 he was shot and killed in an assault on the Malal Hills.

For his entire career Robert MacKenzie was a professional. He fought only for causes that he deemed good, and always resisted the term "mercenary." He certainly never took the field for money alone. His style of command was to lead, and his most cherished moment was to stand up and say "follow me" and have his men follow him into battle. He was calm and capable under stress and brave in the face of danger. He was a soldier — and he died a soldier's death.

—S.M.

lem advisable.

Still resisting pressure for early action, MacKenzie gathered what intelligence he could, interviewing escapees from the bandits' camp. One, a schoolteacher whose tongue was sliced almost in half by the bandits to keep him from speaking, gave a fairly complete description of the layout and access to the camp. Another, allegedly a turned bandit, confirmed the schoolteacher's slow and painful words.

Organized reconnaissance was impossible. MacKenzie was without time, and his men were unable to go out on their own as small recon teams. After three days in Camp Charlie, MacKenzie realized just how low the level of the troops' training was: They could not walk quietly through the bush, set up or maintain observation posts, lie in ambush, or even maintain small group discipline. Most fired



When SOF sent trainers to Bosnia, MacKenzie was part of the team. Pictured here are (top, left to right) Col. Mike Peck, Col. Alex McColl, Maj. John Donovan, Peter Kokalis, and (front) Lt. Col. Robert Brown, then-Maj. Robert MacKenzie. The short-term training team rotated, but there remained a job to do and MacKenzie returned (inset) to continue training troops of the Tomislav Brigade, as adviser and second-in-command to Brig. Gen. Zeljko Glasnovic. Photo: SOF files; Inset: courtesy Sibyl MacKenzie



their weapons on automatic from the hip, with no attempt to aim. None had heard of “zeroing” rifles, and many even cut the butts off their AKs to make them look “cool.” No one could read a map, and they wore compasses as necklaces on decorative strings. They smoked pot on operations, a habit condoned by the hierarchy since pot was issued along with the rations — when there were rations.

Many men wore civvies under their uniforms: At the first incoming, they would shuck their uniforms, chuck their weapons and sneak back into camp as civilians. Six months for training would have been nice, but MacKenzie didn't have it. Against his better judgment, he agreed to formulate a plan. It came down to a flip of the coin: On one side, he knew his troops were inadequate; on the other, MacKenzie had received a direct order to attack, from the ranking army officer in the country, and he knew that a successful attack would buy him the time to train the SLCU. He had spent 10 years in the Rhodesian SAS whose motto was “Who Dares Wins,” and he decided to go for it.

Simplicity was paramount. With no leaders, MacKenzie couldn't divide his men into smaller units. So he formed them into “A” and “B” groups. A Group, with MacKenzie, Myers and Tarawali, would assault the hill from the left flank. B Group, with an indigent commander and Lt. James Maynard as observer, would move north on the right, securing the second, smaller hill south-east of the bandit stronghold and set up stop groups for fleeing bandits. Six Gurkhas would travel with A Group as command unit reinforcements and medics, but would not participate in offensive action. The attack was to commence with an air strike. Two borrowed Ni-



Sibyl and Bob MacKenzie with anticommunist UNITA forces of Dr. Jonas Savimbi, Jamba, Angola. MacKenzie spent some 15 years in Africa — almost all of it fighting terrorism or tyranny. Photo: John C. Coleman

HONOR, LOYALTY, DUTY, RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CAUSE

Military life — and combat — bring out the best and worst in men. In 20-plus years in it I met the brave and the cowardly, the professional and the wannabe, the selfless and self-serving. Rare was the individual, especially in the private sector, so dedicated to the profession of arms that all else fell second to the tenets of honor, loyalty, duty, and righteousness of cause.

That may sound archaically simple in this cluttered world, and perhaps belongs to a time when chivalry was an ironclad code. Yet Bob MacKenzie lived it every day — a 12th century knight caught in a time warp.

Bob and I came to know each other well in 1985. We'd bumped into each other occasionally in Rhodesia, but never had more than a nodding acquaintance. Bob's work with C Squadron, Special Air Service, and mine with the Rhodesian Light Infantry had the same goals but were in different orbits.

We talked for hours about honor and duty, what soldiering meant to us, what we'd learned in Vietnam and why we had served in Africa. We thought in parallel about many things: “The good and just fight” between good and bad summed up our world views and cemented our friendship. From that point, Bob became my yardstick for measuring every operator in the private sector I had occasion to meet. Few — very few — measured favorably.

Bob came to *SOF* just after I joined the staff in 1985. He was no pretentious chest-thumper, but a professional soldier in the finest sense who actually went and did, and who could write about it. MacKenzie's 40 or so articles lent credibility and respectability to *SOF*, and perhaps to the notion of private soldiering having a legitimate niche.

There were few troubled regions Bob missed during those nine years, as a trainer or combat journalist. Always, Bob maintained that dedicated point of view, a dragon slayer's point of view, of good causes worth fighting, then everything else. It surprised me at times, considering the nasty little wars and conflicts he covered, that he kept such a pure attitude. Perhaps he had philosophically risen above it, while his experience and savvy kept his military feet firmly planted. Bob wasn't naive, far from it, but he really wanted to believe in the honor and dignity of professional soldiering as he perceived it once to be — a Knight Templar on his quest.

Bob always seemed to end up back in Africa. He'll stay in Africa now, and I believe that Bob would not be unhappy to have died there rather than some other, more civilized, place.

It's tough to describe someone who, as an infantryman in Vietnam, was so

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NEW POWER FOR A

SUPER-CHARGED MAG-1: A CARBINE FOR THE '90s



Criticized by some because of what was perceived to be its pipsqueak cartridge, the .30 M1 Carbine was nonetheless popular with the troops through three wars, from World War II to Vietnam. Here a crewman keeps his .30 M1 Carbine at the ready as his U.S. helicopter transports RVN soldiers to the battlefield in the Mekong River Delta in 1962. Photo: AP/Wide World

There was never an in-between. Those who fought with it, either swore at it or swore by it. The U.S. .30 M1 Carbine has, since its inception (and even now, a half century later), generated incredibly dichotomous responses. Approximately 6 million were manufactured by 10 primary contractors from the date of

its adoption, 25 September 1941, until all government-issue production ceased in August 1945 — more than any military small arm in U.S. history up to that time.

The original dream sheet called for a weapon as handy to tote as a pistol but as “effective” as a rifle. The major specifications requested by

the U.S. Army Ordnance Department in October 1940 were 1) a weight no greater than 5 pounds, 2) chambered for a .30 caliber cartridge already developed by Winchester, 3) semiautomatic or selective-fire operation, 4) a detachable box-type magazine of varying capacities, and 5) an effective range of 300 yards.

N OLD WARHORSE

TEXT & PHOTOS BY PETER G. KOKALIS

On a second go-around of testing, the Winchester design, miraculously completed in just 34 days, was the unanimous choice of the trials board. Depending upon your point of view, the .30 M1 Carbine was fielded by American military personnel with either distinction or infamy during World War II, the Korean War and even the earliest stages of our participation in Vietnam by U.S. advisers. It will still be encountered throughout the world today and remains popular with people of short stature, such as in Southeast Asia and Latin America. During the long war in El Salvador I saw it many times in the hands of National Guard troops.

They have a strong case (no pun intended). The .30 M1 Carbine cartridge is nothing more than a rimless modification of the semi-rimmed .32 Winchester Self-Loading round, designed for small to medium game at close range. The later was introduced with a 165-grain Soft Point bullet in 1906 for the Winchester Model '05 semi-automatic rifle. Never popular, it became obsolete in 1920 when production of the rifle was terminated.

Initially using a 108-grain, cup-based, full metal jacket (as prescribed by the Hague Convention), roundnose bullet (manufactured prior to 14 February 1942), and then subsequently a 111-grain projectile without a cup

sue. Chamber pressure averages 40,000 psi for this round.

Old Dog, New Tricks

Criticism of the .30 M1 Carbine's cartridge is no longer an excuse to deride the weapon. Tim LeGendre, president of LeMAG (Dept. SOF, 201 Main St., Fenton, MI 48430; phone: 810-634-1312) converts .30 M1 Carbiners to .45 Winchester Magnum, a presumably more "powerful" (again, whatever that means), but almost equally contentious round.

Soldier Of Fortune was recently sent a MAG-1 .45 Winchester Magnum carbine for test and evaluation. It was equipped with a racy-looking Choate black synthetic stock and ventilated, sheet-metal top handguard. The GI-issue receiver was made by the Inland Manufacturing Division of General Motors Corp., by far the largest producer of the M1 Carbine, accounting for 2,632,097 of all types (M1, M1A1, M2 and T3).

With the Choate stock, the overall length is 37 inches — just an inch and a half more than with the GI stock. The barrel length remains 17.75 inches. The barrels are made by LeMAG with a beefed-up breech area. The four-groove rifling has a right-hand twist of one turn in 16 inches. Bore diameter is 0.451 inches. At 5.25 pounds, with an empty magazine, the LeMAG conversion is also close to the original in weight.

Before discussing the other modifications required to successfully convert the .30 M1 Carbine to .45 Winchester Magnum, we need to briefly examine the M1 Carbine's method of operation. This is a gas-operated, semiautomatic (the M2 version provided for full-auto fire) weapon with a rotary bolt. Instead of a conven-



GI-issue wood stock provides a more traditional appearance for the MAG-1. But, it must be glass-bedded in the recoil plate area to prevent cracking.

Supposedly designed to replace both the pistol and submachine gun, it did not.

The tempest surrounding the .30 M1 Carbine has almost always focused on its cartridge, considered to be woefully "underpowered" (whatever that means) by its detractors.

base, the .30 M1 Carbine military load departs the muzzle at about 1,970 fps. At handgun ranges it overpenetrates, while at distances beyond 100 yards, when shoulder-mounted weapons should certainly be employed, it begins to crump out and will usually underpenetrate soft tis-

tional piston system, a short-stroke, so-called "tappet" principle is used to drive the reciprocating parts rearward. Regardless of what Hollywood and the popular gun press would lead one to believe, David Marshall "Carbine" Williams was responsible for the gas tappet system and very little else. He was, in fact, a rather truculent, uncooperative and minor player only on the Winchester project team.

The gas port is about 3 inches in

let passes the gas port, gas is forced into the gas cylinder and drives the piston back. Its rearward travel is halted by the piston nut after it hits the front face of the operating slide, which starts the reciprocating parts moving to the rear.

Operating slide free-travel is about 5/16-inch, during which distance chamber pressure drops to a safe level and the operating slide accelerates to the velocity required to overcome inertia. The front face of the cam re-

it back and down, which in turn compresses the hammer spring. As the hammer is pushed down, its sear notch is caught by the nose of the sear, which is held in place by pressure from the sear spring. At this time, while the sear is holding the hammer, it is not in contact with the trigger, the rear end of which is elevated when it is pulled to the rear. This prevents automatic fire. Releasing the trigger causes the trigger spring to push the back end of the trigger down until the sear rides over it. The trigger system on our test specimen was cleaned up and an overtravel screw installed. The trigger breaks cleanly at exactly 5 pounds.

Magnum Metamorphosis

Originally, LeGendre merely opened up the GI extractor to accommodate the .45 Winchester Magnum case. After several extractor failures, he decided to stop opening up the extractor claw and instead redesigned the extractor's geometry. It now pivots through a greater arc and there have been no subsequent failures.

Aside from the barrel, the most significant alteration is to the gas system. LeGendre has installed a slightly longer piston and gas cylinder (patents pending on both). The new gas cylinder has been TIG-welded to the barrel. Swaged gas cylinders sometimes separate from the barrel. Thus, while still retaining the gas tappet system and without adding any new moving parts, the opening of the bolt is slightly delayed. This provides more momentum for unlocking, spreads out the perceived recoil im-

front of the chamber on the underside of the barrel. The gas cylinder is attached to the barrel at this point, in either an integral or swaged manner. A threaded piston nut holds the short piston, or tappet, to the gas cylinder at the rear. The piston has a stroke of only 3/16-inch. The operating slide with integral cocking handle has a U-shaped inertial block on the front end with tenons on the inside top edges which reciprocate in square grooves milled on either side of the barrel forging. A cam cut on the inside of the operating slide engages camming surfaces on the bolt's operating lug in a manner similar to the M1 Garand.

The one-piece bolt has dual opposed locking lugs, set back from the breechface, again in a manner reminiscent of the M1 Garand. The extractor, ejector (a spring-loaded "bump" type protruding through the breechface), and firing pin are also like those of the M1 Garand. Our test specimen was supplied with what is commonly referred as a "round" bolt. Many believe this change was designed to strengthen the bolt for full-auto fire with the M2 variant. I believe it was just easier to manufacture, because some milling operations were eliminated.

When a cartridge is fired, the bul-

ness on the operating slide then acts against the cam face on the bolt cam and rotates the bolt to the left to raise the right lug out of its recess in the receiver and lower the left lug below its locking shoulder. This rotation provides primary extraction. The operating slide carries the bolt rearward on its guides as the empty case is extracted and ejected.

The M1 Carbine's trigger mechanism differs radically from that of the M1 Garand rifle. As the bolt moves rearward it contacts the forward face of the hammer and rotates



Choate black synthetic stock is rugged and robust and offers the most solid firing platform for the .45 Winchester Magnum cartridge.



MAG-1 .45 Winchester Magnum Carbine is normally supplied by LeMAG with a Choate black synthetic stock.

pulse, reduces the flash signature at the chamber end of the barrel and purportedly enhances the weapon's accuracy potential to a marginal extent.

To smooth the action's operation, LeGendre changes the square grooves on either side of the barrel forging, in which the operating slide's inertial block reciprocates, to a round configuration. In order to provide for a greater forward surge on the reciprocating parts during the counter-recoil stroke, LeGendre substitutes the GI-issue recoil spring with a W.C. Wolff Co. (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 1, Newtown Square, PA 19073-0458; phone: 800-545-0077) extra-power spring (stock No. 16061) and installs a 1.25-inch spring shim, made of quarter-inch drill rod, into the recoil-spring hollow in the receiver.

LeGendre modifies GI 15- and 30-round .30 M1 Carbine detachable, box-type magazines for his MAG-1 .45 Winchester Magnum conversions. After alteration, these staggered-column magazines hold only a single line of .45 Winchester Magnum cartridges. Capacity of the 15-round magazine is reduced to six rounds, while the 30-round curved magazine will hold 13 .45 Winchester Magnum rounds. I prefer the 15-round magazine as it is of demonstrably greater reliability. LeGendre TIG-welds new and heavier catch lugs on the magazine body and closes up each feed lip by about .0002-inch.

The .30 M1 Carbine's other salient features have remained the same. The operating slide can be held to the rear by a spring-loaded catch at the rear of the slide near the retracting handle. Pull the operating slide to the rear and push down on the catch which will engage a recess in the receiver. Caution should be exercised when the operating slide is locked to the rear in this manner, as the slightest jarring will cause the

operating slide to fly forward, chambering a round if a loaded magazine is in place. There is a bolt hold-open projection on the 30-round magazine's follower. However, removing the magazine will permit



Left to right: .45 ACP military ball, .45 Winchester Magnum and .30 M1 Carbine ball.

the operating slide group to travel forward.

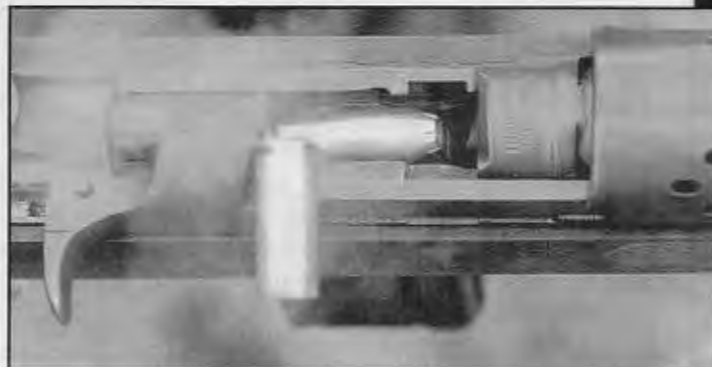
The magazine catch/release button is located on the right side of the trigger housing, just to the rear of the magazine-well. The safety lever is also on the right side of the trigger housing in front of the trigger guard. Rotating the lever forward so that it is pointing down is the *safe* position. Rotating the lever back to the rear will permit firing the weapon.

The front sight is a fixed, blade-type with protective ears. The rear sight, a peep aperture-type, can be adjusted for elevation by sliding it up or down on its ramp. This was difficult to do on our test specimen, as it had been re-Parkerized and

there apparently were phosphating salts between the peep aperture and its ramp. Elevation increments are marked for 100, 200, 250 and 300 yards. Windage zero is adjusted by turning the serrated knob on the right side of the rear sight. One click of adjustment moves the .30 M1 Carbine bullet approximately 1-inch for each 100 yards of range. There are windage gradient lines at the base of the rear sight.

The barrel on *SOF's* test specimen had been refitted with the original, and most sinister-appearing, bayonet lug. The .30 M1 Carbine's front sling swivel is attached to the left side of the barrel band. The rear sling swivel is at the front and bottom of the pistol grip on the Choate stock. On a GI stock the rear end of the sling is retained by a slot in the butt together with the GI-issue steel oil bottle.

The Choate stock is rugged and robust. It will take a licking and keep on ticking. However, it is, in my opinion, as ugly as original sin. Therefore, I chose to install a GI stock on *SOF's* MAG-1 Carbine. We selected a so-called "pot-belly" M2 buttstock, enlarged in the forearm area to provide a better gripping area for the support hand and inhibit cracking. M2 stocks were also mortised on the left side of the interior next to the magazine-well to accept the M2 fire selector components. Be advised that if you install a GI stock on the MAG-1 Carbine, you must glass-bed the recoil plate. If you don't, the stock will crack after firing no more than 10 or 12 rounds.

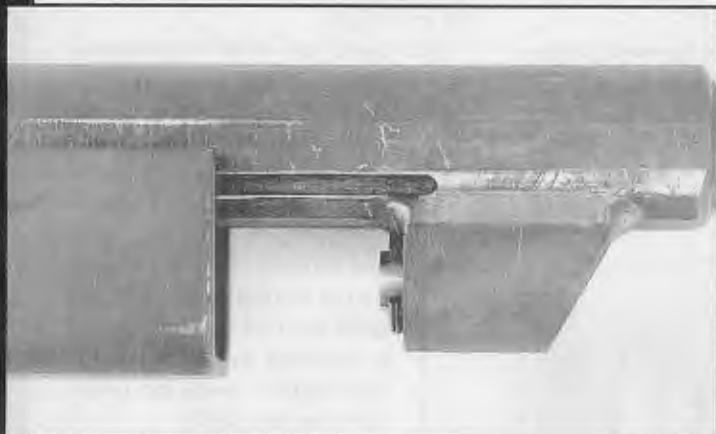


Black Hills and CorBon hollow point ammunition and handloads using the standard 230-grain FMJ roundnose projectiles functioned with exceptional reliability during *SOF's* test and evaluation of the MAG-1.

Even this is no guarantee against wood stock failure, as the .45 Winchester Magnum round has a considerably higher recoil impulse than the .30 M1 Carbine cartridge.

Big Bullets Are Better

Introduced in 1979, the .45 Winchester Magnum cartridge has ridden the same roller coaster as the bi-



LeMAG TIG-welds a new gas cylinder to the barrel which provides more momentum for unlocking, spreads out the perceived recoil impulse, reduces the flash signature at the chamber end of the barrel and purportedly enhances the weapon's accuracy potential to a marginal extent.

zarre Wildey gas-operated semiautomatic pistol for which it was designed. It is little more than an elongated .45 ACP developed by those who believed kinetic energy and high velocity determine a handgun bullet's effectiveness. Kinetic energy is a non sequitur in this equation and rarely does the highest velocity produce the best results with regard to wound ballistics.

Pushing hollow point projectiles to the highest possible velocity will most often cause them to overexpand and underpenetrate in soft tissue. Nevertheless, big bullets are better. I'd rather start with a .45 caliber expanding projectile weighing 230 grains or more than one of .30 caliber weighing only 111 grains with a non-expanding full metal jacket. Furthermore, pushing 230- to 260-grain .45 caliber bullets at greater than .45 ACP velocities will maintain their effectiveness at the greater engagement ranges permitted by a shoulder-mounted weapon.

We tested four loads through the MAG-1: 250-grain Hornady XTP JHP loaded by Black Hills Ammunition (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 3090, Rapid City, SD 57709; phone: 800-568-

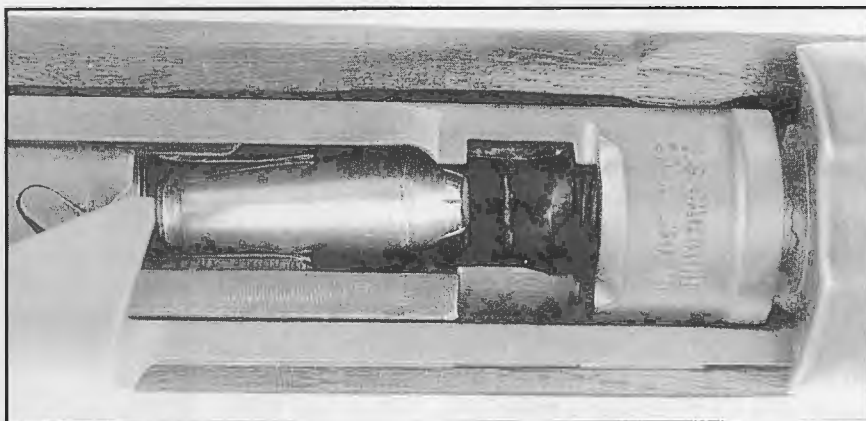
6625), 230-grain Bonded Core Hollow Point (stock No. CB45WM230BC/50) manufactured by CorBon (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 10126, Detroit, MI 48210; phone: 313-894-2373), 260-grain Hollow Soft Points (catalog No. X45WMA) produced by Olin (Dept. SOF, 427 North Shamrock, East Alton, IL 62024; phone: 618-258-2000) under the Winchester Super-X label, and handloads with the standard 230-grain FMJ bullet driven by a propellant charge weight of 30 grains of Olin 296 (a very fine granule ball powder commonly used in magnum handgun cartridges).

The ammunition was tested for velocity, accuracy and reliability of functioning through the MAG-1. We were able to assess only the Black Hills ammunition for wound ballistics performance. All velocity data were obtained by means of the highly accurate PACT MKIV Championship Timer/Chronograph with its built-in rate of fire feature. Manufactured by Practical Applied Computer Technology Inc. (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 531525, Grand Prairie, TX 75053; phone: 800-722-8462), the PACT MKIV costs only \$299.95, complete

with MK5 Professional Skyscreens. The tests were conducted with the muzzle 10 feet from the start screen. Accuracy testing was conducted from a benchrest at a distance of 25 yards using the issue iron sights.

The handloads come close to crossing the maximum line of safety, and although we detected no signs of excessive pressure, I cannot recommend this charge weight. The average recorded velocity was 1,865 fps with one round screaming downrange at 1,915 fps. At 25 yards this load will group at about 0.8-inch. At less than half this velocity when fired from a Colt Government Model 1911A1, this bullet will penetrate 26 inches of soft tissue. That borders on excessive, as we are looking for between 12 to 20 inches of penetration. Overpenetration is guaranteed when 30 grains of Olin 296 drive this FMJ bullet out of the MAG-1. Even worse is the recommendation of several "gun writers," the Hornady 230-grain FMJ truncated cone projectile. Unlike the roundnose FMJ bullet which yaws 4 to 5 degrees as it drives through living tissue, the truncated cone bullet is shoulder stabilized, does not yaw and bores like a drill through more than 50 inches of soft tissue when fired at only 855 fps. Imagine what it would do at 1,865 fps!

At the opposite extreme was the Winchester Super-X 260-grain Hollow Soft Point ammunition. The average velocity was only about 1,525 fps. With some rounds developing only about 1,500 fps, this ammunition barely generates enough impulse to function the weapon. As a conse-



LeGendre modifies GI 15- and 30-round .30 M1 Carbine detachable, box-type magazines for his MAG-1 .45 Winchester Magnum conversions. He TIG-welds new and heavier catch lugs on the magazine body and closes up each feed lip by about .0002-inch.

quence, ejection was weak, with cases usually dropping at our feet, and there were several "stove pipe" stoppages. I cannot recommend this ammunition for reliable operation of the MAG-1. Accuracy was no more than mediocre.

The most accurate ammunition we fired was the CorBon 230-grain Bonded Core Hollow Point. Averaging 1,740 fps, it will consistently shoot 0.5-inch groups at 25 yards. It has a very deep cavity surrounded by eight serrations in the jacket, which will certainly provide for maximum expansion at these high velocities.

The 250-grain Hornady XTP JHP bullet featured in the Black Hill Ammunition load has a rather shallow cavity surrounded by six serrations in the jacket. Yet, with an average, but consistent, velocity of only 1,525 fps, expansion in soft tissue is complete with all six jacket petals peeling back and completely permitting the lead core to expand into a oval shape with a short diameter of .70 caliber and a long diameter of .89 caliber. About 15% of the original bullet weight is lost to fragmentation with 210 grains remaining. Accuracy was about three-quarters of an inch.

With the rear sight adjusted to the left to the maximum extent, all of these loads still shot 1.5 to 2 inches to the right of the point of aim at 25 yards. This was corrected by simply drifting the entire rear sight assembly to the left in its dovetail on the receiver. Elevation was to point of aim with the peep aperture set at 100 yards.

More than 1,000 rounds were fired. All of the four different bullet configurations fed with complete reliability. As modified, there are too many sharp edges on the magazines and they are somewhat difficult to remove from the magazine-well. Perceived recoil is, of course, greater than that of the .30 M1 Carbine cartridge, but nothing an experienced shooter cannot endure.

All in all, this is a most successful and satisfying conversion of one of America's most popular military small arms, removing forever its pipsqueak appellation for the mantra of a big boomer. Lightweight and compact, the MAG-1 has just the right envelope and ballistic package

MAG-1 Carbine Specifications

Caliber:45 Winchester Magnum.
Operation:	Gas-operated with a short stroke tappet, semiautomatic firing from the closed-bolt position, breech-locked with rotary bolt.
Feed:	6- and 13-round, single-column, detachable box-type made from 15- and 30-round .30 M1 Carbine magazines, respectively.
Weight, empty:	5.25 pounds with 15-round magazine.
Length, overall:	37 inches with Choate stock.
Barrel length:	17.75 inches.
Barrel:	Four grooves with a right-hand twist of one turn in 16 inches, 0.451-inch bore diameter.
Sights:	Fixed, blade-type front sight with protective ears; peep aperture-type rear sight, can be adjusted for elevation by sliding it up or down on its ramp. Elevation increments are marked for 100, 200, 250 and 300 yards. Windage zero adjusted by turning the serrated knob on the right side of the rear sight.
Finish:	Parkerized (phosphate).
Furniture:	Choate black synthetic stock and ventilated, sheet-metal top handguard. GI-issue wood stock can be installed if the recoil plate is glass-bedded.
Conversion manufacturer:	LeMAG, Dept. SOF, 201 Main St., Fenton, MI 48430; phone: 810-634-1312.
Price:	Conversion of a customer-supplied .30 M1 Carbine, \$380; trigger job complete with an overtravel screw, \$85; re-Parkerizing, \$105; scope mount, \$35.
T&E summary:	Reliable conversion to a heavier caliber. Lightweight and compact envelope. Excellent brush gun for deer-sized animals with legitimate self-defense applications.



MAG-1 .45 Winchester Magnum Carbine, fieldstripped.

to make a dandy brush gun for deer-sized animals and more than enough punch to take out the vermin that infest the asphalt jungle. Furthermore, any weapon fired from a shoulder mount will provide far greater hit probability, at longer ranges as well, than a handgun.

Conversion of a customer-supplied

.30 M1 Carbine costs \$380. The Choate stock, complete with a ventilated top handguard cost \$71. A trigger job complete with an overtravel screw installed will set you back \$85. If you want everything re-Parkerized, that costs \$105. A scope mount that accepts Weaver-type rings is available for \$35. ✕

BURMA

Betrayed And Beaten In Battle

Victorious government forces were led into a torched Manerplaw by several hundred former KNLA troops who had defected to Rangoon's side less than two months before.

Karens on the Ropes After Fall of Manerplaw

by **Don Dickinson**
Photos courtesy author

Operation Pyi Zanh (Hero of the Masses) showed that this time the Burmese were not just fighting hard but fighting smart. Instead of using the tried-and-failed tactics of the past — massed troops and sheer firepower — the Burmese employed a new ally to infiltrate

Karen defenses: traitors!

The result: Victorious government forces marched into Manerplaw led by several hundred former Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) troops that had defected to Rangoon's side some two months before.

Observers were stunned by the

speed with which the Karen National Union's (KNU) headquarters fell and equally dazed by the news that Karen soldiers were deserting the KNLA. All this contrasted sharply with a previous attack on Manerplaw in 1992 when the KNLA managed to hold on in the face of an overwhelming Bur-



Capt. Saw Bee (center, left) and author (center, right) pause in front of KNLA headquarters building during the last night of Manerplaw's existence as Karen HQ.



Overwhelming Burmese manpower and betrayal by elements within the KNU made Karen defensive positions around Manerplaw untenable, forcing constant fallbacks.

mese onslaught. But it may have been this successful defense that set the stage for Manerplaw's fall in 1995, because it was a victory that chewed up precious soldiers and supplies. True, Burmese forces also suffered heavily in 1992, but unlike the KNLA they were able to replace their losses

from a large pool of manpower and go another round.

In addition to irreplaceable losses in Karen cadre, internal political wounds inflicted during the '92 victory remained unhealed, spawning lingering discontent among KNLA field commanders and troops alike. These men felt their sacrifices in the trenches had not been matched by care or concern among the political leadership. Soldiers became increasingly frustrated by having to fight under a narrow-minded and aging leadership they felt was grinding them up in self-defeating conventional warfare. This bitter wedge between the leaders and the led spread to the long-suffering Karen villagers who had al-

ways shouldered a heavy burden in the war against the government.

Mutiny In The Ranks

The KNU leadership made belated attempts throughout 1993 and 1994 to get back in touch with its people, but it was too little too late. By early December 1994, several hundred Buddhist KNLA troops were in open revolt against the Christian-led KNU, forming a break-away faction called the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA). For both the KNU and the mutineers there was no going back. While the vast majority of KNLA soldiers remained loyal to their president, General Bo Mya and the Karen struggle, the roughly 400 dissidents became politically embarrassing and militarily dangerous.

On one hand, if the insurgents were allowed to continue with their activities, the KNU faced further erosion of control over its troops and popular support. On the other hand, if the Christian-led KNU cracked down, it risked a backlash from its mainly Buddhist soldiers and supporters. While negotiations with the mutineers were going nowhere, Burmese government forces were massing for major operations against Manerplaw.

"Never look too small to [underestimate] the enemy; he is not stupid," a combat-hardened KNLA officer told me. And the Burmese army certainly wasn't stupid when it recognized that the KNU's internal problems were reducing its field strength and that it was fertile for



Karen fighters from the myriad defensive strongpoints around Manerplaw assemble in the village for a last-ditch defense prior to command decision to abandon it.



Karen armed with M16/M203 mans Naw Dae line southwest of Manerplaw, where government forces conducted a massive river crossing and encircled Karen defenders.



KNLA officer with Chinese Type 56 rocket launcher and soldier armed with 5.56x45mm Ultimax 100 Mark III SAW scout for rapidly advancing Burmese units.

exploitation.

Government forces immediately occupied strategic heights overlooking much of the Salween River west of Manerplaw once Karen soldiers abandoned their positions to join the revolt. The Burmese quickly followed with probing attacks on the southern defenses of Manerplaw at Naw Tha and raided the All Burma Students Democratic Front headquarters at Dagwin, north of Manerplaw on the Salween 15 December 1994.

In addition to Burmese government moves, the two centers of the rebellion — at the Salween-Moei River junction, a choke-point around the main supply route between Manerplaw and other KNU zones to the north, and in the Hlaingbwe District southwest of Manerplaw — were potential staging areas for operations aimed at breaching defense

lines and posed clear strategic liabilities to the KNU.

On 3 January the leadership decided to attack the insurgents, driving them out of the Themwetha monastery, a key piece of real estate. But aside from shelling, little fighting actually took place between the two Karen forces as the DKBA withdrew after their ammunition stockpile, stored above ground in the main chapel of the monastery, went up in one massive thunderclap.

On The Ground

I arrived at the monastery two days later, only a few hours after the KNLA had regained control. At the foot of the hill stood the charred remnants of the main chapel. Parts of two walls and steps leading nowhere testified to the catastrophic explosion that had ripped the building apart. In the floor were entrances to deep underground compartments used to store more arms and ammunition.

The only structure untouched by the shelling was the hilltop pagoda — regarded as a sacred object by Buddhist Karens and therefore spared by the KNLA. Walking up the hill past the monastery, I was met by a stream of jubilant Karen soldiers running past us with recovered weapons, munitions, cats, dogs and large pieces of furniture. The only DKBA left behind was a hastily buried corpse. The rest had pulled out and joined the Burmese, dug-in just a few kilometers away.

The KNLA troops laughed and joked while they could — they knew that in the weeks ahead there would be little to cheer about. No one particularly wanted to think about what would happen when the government offensive started. Over the next few weeks it became obvious that Karen positions at Manerplaw were growing increasingly untenable. With the Burmese army staring down at them from the heights above, the KNLA made only limited gains to the south before being pushed back. The same thing was happening on the vulnerable southwestern flank where the Burmese and DKBA were effectively teamed up.

In mid-January the Burmese began their advance on Manerplaw with at least 10,000 men from the north, south and west. On each front the DKBA were employed to maximum advantage with their intimate knowledge of the terrain and KNLA positions.

By 21 January the combined Burmese-DKBA forces had captured Kalawaloo, an important hill position on the western flank of the Naw Tha defense line. They forced the

KNLA out not by assaulting the hill itself, but by surrounding the defenders and cutting off their water supply. This loss unhinged Manerplaw's southern defenses.

On the night of 22 January the Burmese began crossing the Salween by motorized rubber assault boats, landing forces of one or two platoons each (30-60 men) at multiple points along the east bank of the river. With the DKBA leading the way, they easily slipped through the

thinly held KNLA lines. And with the bulk of their forces tied down facing the onslaught from the south, the KNLA simply didn't have enough men to deal effectively with this new threat. Perhaps sensing this, the Burmese boldly pushed more troops across the Salween — even in daylight.

One hapless DKBA soldier was captured during the river crossing. The KNLA tied him to a post. Wearing his fresh green Burmese army uniform with DKBA shoulder patches, he showed more resignation than fear at his fate. Too much had hap-

pened to expect any mercy, and things would have been no different if the



Manerplaw was virtually surrounded when KNLA chose to destroy the village rather than defend it.



Constant shelling could be heard to the south of this recoilless rifle position on 24 January. The KNLA was forced to abandon the southern Naw Tha line and man its last defensive positions at Klodare.



In 1992 the Karens were forced to defend Manerplaw to save the resistance; in 1995 they had to destroy and abandon the village in order to survive.

roles had been reversed: A few days later, the only thing left of the prisoner was his shirt.

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So Many Wounded, So Little Time

Text & Photos by John Padgett

When KNU headquarters at Manerplaw fell to the Burmese in late January, a team of Refugee Relief International Inc. (RRI) volunteers headed to the area to render assistance. RRI's director of operations, John Padgett, PA-C, reports:

The meeting in Bangkok with the Karens' southern front representative was anything but clandestine. We were in a hotel coffee shop hiding in plain sight. His English was non-existent so we spoke in Thai. Unlike some of the Karen leadership who seem to have consumed too many meals in the rear, our contact had the slim, weathered look of a guerrilla. I liked him at once.

"The SLORC [Burmese State Law and Order Restoration Committee] are attacking all along the border area at most of our major camps," he told us. "There is heavy fighting, and we need help."

As much as we wanted to help the Karen in the south, we had told the northern units we were en route. I explained our commitments, but promised if time allowed we would do what we could for him. He repeated his pleas for training, technical assistance and supplies.

The Thais did not take kindly to Burmese shelling or cross-border operations by the Karen and had sealed the border area. No one was going in or out. This applied to the Karen and



Using hand-held lights, Karen practitioners attend a young mine victim. Land mines remain a serious public health problem, though artillery fire and Burmese ground actions are taking a heavy toll.



RRI team, (left to right): author, Greg Carpenter, Dave Mohler and Jim Portt board a dragon boat outside Karen capital of Manerplaw prior to its fall.

any big-nosed Americans who might be trying to reach Karen camps or medical facilities.

Upon our arrival at one of the safe houses that the Karen established in Mae Sot, we met one of their leaders.

He had disturbing news. The jungle hospital where we had done so many successful surgeries and amputations had been destroyed. Many nearby villages had been pounded by SLORC air strikes and artillery.

We were relieved to learn that the medical staff had been successfully evacuated, and the patients were safe. They managed to cache most of the durable equipment, including the X-ray machine, instruments and a generator. But after a few weeks' exposure to the elements, it is doubtful that much remains in serviceable condition.

The staff luckily secured the medical logbooks which listed the names of RRI and other foreign professionals who rendered humanitarian assistance to the Karen over the last few years. If this had fallen into SLORC hands there could have been negative consequences for all involved.

Since we could not get to our former zone of interest in the north, we attempted to enter the refugee camps set up along the border. The Buddhist splinter faction was probing the camps after dark and several sustained firefights had occurred.

The Thai were not inclined to let anyone through, but a visit to the local district headquarters sorted that out and we

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Spies For Hire

Ex-Spooks Offer Civilians A Private CIA

by Scott Schaefer

Photos courtesy CTC

When the telephone on Fred Rustmann's bedside table jarred him awake at 0300, he grabbed it on the second ring. Waking up instantly alert and ready to go is a trait he developed during 24 years with the CIA.

The American businessman on the other end of the line quickly outlined his problem: A Latin American government recently changed hands and the new, leftist-oriented leadership was attacking American foreign business activities in general and his com-

pany in particular — stirring up public sentiment against Americans. The government was threatening to throw his senior representative in jail if a crowd of irate citizens didn't kill him first. He wanted his man out of the

country fast; but authorities had taken his passport and wouldn't let him leave. The company needed help of a very special nature. Such an assignment was routine for Rustmann during his tours as a CIA station chief. While no longer routine, this type of assignment is still "business as usual" now that he has retired from government service and is running CTC International Group Ltd. — a Florida-based international intelligence/security firm staffed entirely by former members

had a cooperative "contact." At the same time, a small plane was winging its way south from the United States. By close-of-business on the second day, the executive was safely back home.

Concerned that the new government would take additional sanctions against his company and its personnel — especially in light of his employee's flight from the country — the CEO turned again to CTC for assistance. Using contacts developed over long years of CIA service, CTC operatives were able to use agents in country to stop harassment of company personnel and they soon resumed operations.

The CEO counted himself fortunate to have at his disposal a resource that could do for his company what the CIA does for the U.S. government. Many other corporate leaders have had occasion to feel the same way.

Rent A Spook

CTC takes its name from the CIA's Counter-Terrorism Center (Rustmann commanded the center's overseas station prior to his retirement). The company maintains a low profile and runs just like what it is: a miniature CIA with representatives in London, Paris, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Bangkok, Addis Ababa, Cyprus, Mexico and elsewhere. All dealings with CTC are conducted through the firm's corporate headquarters in Florida (Suite 220, Dept. SOF, 330 Clematis St., West Palm Beach, Florida 33401).

The "can-do" attitude of the CIA, from which its employees are drawn, is readily apparent. While it can do,



Brad Robinson (left) and Fred Rustmann (right) of CTC conduct a private exfiltration. CTC offers the same level of competence and wide-ranging resources available to the U.S. government.

pany in particular — stirring up public sentiment against Americans. The government was threatening to throw his senior representative in jail if a crowd of irate citizens didn't kill him first. He wanted his man out of the

of the CIA.

By close-of-business the day of the phone call, the American businessman had been smuggled out of the country on a fishing boat and was en route to a remote island where CTC

INTERNATIONAL
CTC
GROUP LIMITED

and has done, about everything possible in the world of business intelligence, its principal activities fall into five main areas:

- Providing risk analysis for basic corporate decisions.
- Finding international partners for American businesses.
- Conducting targeted intelligence collection to obtain specific information needed by clients.
- Conducting counterintelligence to protect clients from the loss of proprietary information and ensuring the safety of corporate personnel.
- Conducting special operations such as exfiltration of threatened executives, the release of hostages or the return of children kidnapped and taken out of the country by a parent without legal custody.

Each type of assignment requires skills CTC operatives developed at the CIA such as computer research, hostile area operations, contact interviews, and information extraction and evaluation.

Clients receive periodic progress reports and an end-of-assignment wrap-up written by operatives who are highly educated and experienced in producing intelligence packages for American and foreign leaders.

"Providing risk analysis information is usually the mundane part of

our business, although it occasionally gets exciting," Rustmann said, "but without this type of information a business can't be effective internationally." Risk analysis information is a collection of basic information about a country's economic, political and cultural data — a rundown on local business practices and the interplay between government and business. It also includes advice on criminal and, if applicable, insurgent/terrorist activities and how to deal with them.

"Risk analysis is the foundation that any business must lay prior to getting involved overseas," Rustmann insists. "It gives a company the information it needs to determine whether or not to expand into a given country and, if so, how to do it effectively."

Do Your Homework

Far too many businesses fail to address this area in their planning and pay a price for their neglect. According to Rustmann, a U.S. truck-exporting company expanded operations into a Middle East country without doing its homework. Once it had gotten in too far to gracefully back out, it discovered its major competitor was the brother-in-law of the ruler of the country. No one would buy a truck from any company that the brother-in-law did not control. The result was a costly failure for an American company and several "former" company executives. CTC could have easily alerted the company to the situation prior to investing in its expansion effort.

Rustmann explained that much of the risk analysis in-

telligence collection is done by contacting sources via computer modem, telephone and fax. However, he continued, "When necessary, we send experienced operatives to the area and



Rustmann, here in northern Cyprus, provides the networks, contacts and skills honed from 24 years in the CIA. All CTC personnel carry similar credentials.

do whatever is necessary to ensure that our clients get the data they need in order to make good decisions." This is especially true when the client is considering moving into an area with a significant criminal, terrorist or insurgency problem.

In servicing the needs of one Fortune 500 client interested in prospecting for oil in Ethiopia, Rustmann called upon contacts he made there in the '80s. The resultant risk assessment indicated that while the new Ethiopian government was friendly toward U.S. companies, insurgent groups operating in the Ogaden region — where the major oil reserves are located — could seriously affect drilling operations.

Alerted to the insurgent threat, the oil company needed more information before it would consider making a large investment in the strife-torn Ogaden. The company asked if CTC could arrange for protection for its teams and equipment.

Rustmann flew to Ethiopia and secretly met with an old CTC client: the infamous Sebhat Nega, founder and leader of the guerrilla army (TPLF) that drove Ethiopian strongman Mengistu Haile-Mariam



Robinson, playing "spy" in Paris, is part of the CTC team: a miniature CIA with representatives in London, Paris, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Bangkok, Addis Ababa, Cyprus, Mexico and elsewhere.

into exile. Rustmann had originally met Sebhat Nega shortly after TPLF tanks entered the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa. The guerrilla leader asked the former CIA station chief to help locate several government officials who had fled the country after helping themselves to the government's treasury. CTC quickly provided the information Sebhat Nega wanted and earned the guerrilla chief's gratitude as well as a nice fee.

So, when Rustmann approached Sebhat Nega with a personal request for a TPLF security force for the oil company's exploration teams, he readily agreed. Thanks in large part to Sebhat's personal intervention, the oil company explored the Ogaden successfully for two years without a single serious terrorist or security incident. CTC had again demonstrated its ability to deliver.

Friend Or Foe?

CTC's "bread and butter" activities are the diligent investigations it conducts. In many foreign countries, information on individuals and companies is not as readily available as it is in the United States. People are able to represent themselves and their businesses in ways that are difficult to verify. Americans who take on foreign associates often run the danger of becoming victims of fraud or, in a worst-case scenario, being used in criminal activities such as money laundering.

"The smart businessman," CTA associate Brad Robinson drives home in lectures, "has an expert check out his contacts before he gets into bed with them." A leading cosmetics firm found this out the hard way in 1993 when it entered into a partnership with a British cosmetics firm without doing its homework.

At first the partnership worked well, but when a story alleging possible stock manipulation and shady dealings appeared in *Forbes*, the company's stock plummeted in a matter of weeks. The founder of the American parent company lost nearly \$20 million in stock options, and the entire management team, including the former CEO, were indicted by the SEC. The CEO claimed he was simply a victim and hired CTC to investigate the British firm.

CTC quickly found that the British company had been involved in

several shady deals over the years, and had actually been convicted of counterfeiting brand-name perfumes. "The moral of this story," Robinson said, "is that the CEO would never have entered into a business partnership with the British firm had he known in advance about the convictions, and today he would be \$20 million richer and not facing a possible prison term."

According to Robinson, the quickest, easiest and most economical way for a company to find a reliable foreign partner is to ask CTC. "All they need to do is provide us with a profile of what they are looking for in a business partner." CTC will sift through the large pool of possible companies and present the client with a list of five or six solid leads, all vetted to ensure they are reliable and above board. "It is a service," Robinson proclaimed, "that we believe is unique with CTC. We have found viable and safe partners for a very large high-tech corporation and a number of smaller companies. It's real smart business, and basically a no-brainer for the parent company. We do all the work for them, and they benefit immediately from the expansion."

What The CIA Won't Tell You

Rustmann believes that targeted intelligence collection is another area in which CTC has a unique service to offer. "We are not ex-cops," he explained. "While ex-cops do well on criminal-type investigations, especially in the United States, we have the expertise to get what our clients want internationally ... which is a whole other ballgame." As Rustmann pointed out, "We know the local languages and customs and we have the

high-level, influential contacts in business and government from our Agency days. We get the job done, done right and done fast."

Exactly what is targeted intelligence? It's information that a company needs to increase its market share in a foreign country. This includes narrowly focused market research, which can sometimes border on industrial espionage. "We provide our clients with the competitive edge," Rustmann explained.

Rustmann pointed out that the intelligence services of foreign governments (notably the French, Japanese and Russian) are heavily involved in



CTC can call on a stable of ex-CIA professionals, such as this "all-female commando team," to conduct private black ops.

business intelligence, including classic industrial espionage. The French intelligence service was recently caught bugging a Concorde flight between New York and Paris in order to listen in on conversations of American businessmen. The French intelligence officers hoped to discover negotiating strategies the Americans planned to use against their French counterparts.

Additionally, several of the Air France stewards and stewardesses were unmasked as French intelligence officers placed on the flights to collect intelligence through conversations with Americans. Co-opting hotel

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Gun Gestapo Gang-Bangers



SWAT-suited federal agents descending on tranquil domestic settings is becoming more and more common — must we now also expect the abuse of spouses and murder of defenseless baby animals? Photo: Eric Micheletti

Lamplugh Raid a New Low in BATF Terror Tactics

by James L. Pate

Staring through steamy windows into the shadowy dusk outside her rural home, Theresa L. Lamplugh felt inexplicably spooked. A petite, athletic blonde, Lamplugh thought she saw a man crouched behind the shrubs outside, peering into her hot-tub room. Pulling a towel around her as she sat upright on the edge of the churning whirlpool, she called out nervously to her husband.

Harry C. Lamplugh (pronounced

LAMP-loo) came and looked. Probably just a deer, Harry reassured her. Wild game is plentiful around their north-central Pennsylvania home. As it turned out, though, the Lamplughs were the prey that night. They realized the next morning that a man *had* been peeping at Terry Lamplugh.

That realization came not gradually, like the spring dawn, but with the sudden terror of a vicious pit bull snapping its chain in mid-lunge. The

Lamplughs remember the moment well, because it was the last time they felt safe in their own home. It was 0830, on 25 May 1994. About 15 or 20 “gang-bangers” as Harry calls them, descended on their home with weapons drawn, screaming obscenities and threatening their lives.

Seven hours later, the Lamplugh house looked like a gang rumble had indeed gone down. Greasy boxes, half-eaten pizza slices and aluminum

beverage cans — the intruders stopped for lunch in the middle of their mayhem — were tossed on the floor. Disassembled tampons lay scattered in the bathroom. Terry's lingerie drawers were ransacked and dumped. Antique furniture and valu-

coffee, and his wife was in the bathroom, when the phalanx of agents entered from the front and rear. The invaders included ATF special agents Donna J. Slusser, John R. Seiler, Scott R. Endy, Tim Wilson, Gregory O. Wright, John Garside, Keith Rossman

they didn't have to show him one until they left. He asked if he was under arrest and they said no. Yet the Lamplughs were held all day at gunpoint in their nightclothes, much of the time at the breakfast table by a nervous young agent with a sub-

machine gun pointed at their heads. They were not allowed to call their attorney or answer the phone, and could get up to go to the bathroom only under armed guard.

Only at

one point during the day-long ordeal did Harry Lamplugh get any inkling of what the intruders might be looking for, when one agent asked him about the location of an alleged machine gun. Lamplugh told the agent he'd never owned a full-automatic weapon; that he had once

The ATF's new Firearms Tracing Center in West Virginia is "de facto gun registration." No one outside the ATF really knows what they're doing at that center.

able statuary were broken. Cigarette butts had been flipped carelessly on the carpet, scorching it. Harry's vials of cancer medication — hundreds of dollars' worth — were poured out and crushed underfoot. Two of Terry's beloved cats ate part of the chemical mixture, then died in yowling agony. As a final parting gesture, a kitten was stomped to death in the front yard as the Lamplughs watched.

What gang of thugs would terrorize a home so? It was those foul-mouthed, trigger-happy storm troopers of the BATF. The Lamplughs, owners of the Borderline Gun Collectors Association, are typical of many legitimate, family-owned businesses in the firearms industry being persecuted by the ATF, while real criminals go unpunished.

Mob Squad

Six carloads of ATF agents, accompanied by at least two members of the Internal Revenue Service and two troopers from the Pennsylvania State Police, converged suddenly on the Lamplugh residence. The couple's oldest son John, who lives a few miles away, had just finished turkey hunting on his dad's property and was stowing a shotgun in a truck when agents surrounded him, brandishing weapons. Harry Lamplugh said he believes if the agents had arrived a few moments earlier and seen John holding a weapon, they would have shot his son.

Harry Lamplugh was in his pajama bottoms, drinking a cup of

and Kathy Barton. Also present were Ned Tyler and Barry Bittenbender of the IRS, and troopers Green and Corrigan of the local state police office. All were armed, but only two wore clearly marked uniforms. When Lamplugh realized they were law enforcement agents, he asked for a search warrant.

"Shut the fuck up, you motherfucker!" shouted ATF agent Seiler. "You want more trouble than you've already got?"

Meanwhile, over at John Lamplugh's home, the youngest brother, Bronson, a college student, was just getting up when agents burst in. He was searched at gunpoint and interrogated about why he had more than \$500 in cash in his possession. The incident so upset him that Bronson took a leave of absence from college and seldom visits home anymore.

Back at the parents' home, the outrages continued. Fearing for their lives, the couple cooperated, voluntarily opening combination safes, lock boxes and gun cabinets. Harry asked repeatedly to see a search warrant. Agents said



Raid survivors: Terry Lamplugh cradles pet cat while she describes how two others died gruesome deaths after eating prescription medication invading agents crushed underfoot in her bathroom; how ATF Special Agent Donna Slusser stomped a baby kitten to death before Terry's eyes; and how a scruffy-looking stranger warned her not to mess with the ATF and left a dead cat with a broken neck in her vehicle. This, in addition to subjecting the Lamplugh couple to hours of vulgar obscenities and death threats. Photo: James L. Pate

owned a Vietnam commemorative, gold-inlaid semiauto Thompson, but it had been sold.

All the while, the agents continued to make what the Lamplugh's attorney, Robert E. Sanders, characterized in one federal court document

coat pocket. She could have the money back, the grinning agent sneered, if she could rattle off the serial numbers for the bills. Finding candy bars on the Lamplugh's dresser, agents ate them, tossing the wrappers. Harry Lamplugh had ordered a

eral times, kicking it into the nearby shrubbery. The kitten died from ruptured organs, a veterinarian autopsy revealed.

Inside, all sorts of jewelry and valuable watches were taken, some still new-in-the-box — some of which did not show up on the ATF's seized property list. Personal mail was opened and taken, along with miscellaneous paperwork, including certificates of authenticity for firearms and other valuable collectibles, pet registrations, vehicle titles, insurance policies, wills, a marriage license, birth and baptismal certificates, adoption papers, Harry's military service record (he's a Vietnam vet) and vital medical documents, including Harry's emergency card from the Faulk Cancer Center. The card, critical to his survival because his cancer treatments leave him incapable of fighting off otherwise routine infections and viruses, authorizes specialized emergency treatment.

Aftermath Of An Atrocity

Also seized were 61 firearms with an appraised value of \$15,016, plus more than \$20,000 in cash. Agents additionally confiscated records for the Borderline Gun Collectors Association, the largest gun show promotion business in the northeastern United States. Without this paperwork, it has been extremely difficult for the Lamplugh's to pursue their livelihood. Seized business records included names and addresses of about 70,000 past and present members, from all 50 states and several foreign countries, as well as names and phone numbers of more than 600 advertising contacts and all contracts for future gun shows through the year 2000.

Sanders, a retired head of ATF's law enforcement operations who now specializes in gun law, thinks the IRS may have been the primary agency pushing for the raid, and the ATF helped out because the IRS could not develop probable cause. Sanders feels allegations of an illegal weapon were trumped up as an excuse for probable cause for ATF. The whole raid and seizures amount to "a fishing expedition," he said.

"The first objective was for all these financial records, so the IRS can attempt to make some kind of a case against Lamplugh," Sanders told *SOF*. "The second objective was ob-



The Lamplugh's display lists of items seized and property damaged when the ATF raided their residence in May 1994. The Gun Gestapo took more than \$20,000 in cash, much of it earmarked for medical expenses and a new truck, part of it because the Lamplugh's could not recite the serial numbers. Other items seized were personal family documents, such as birth, baptismal, and adoption records, prescriptions and military records. Other items, such as new Rolex watches, were mysteriously absent from property lists turned in after the raid. Photo: James L. Pate

as "outrageous and extremely offensive remarks."

These Are The Good Guys?

At one point, the motion for return of property alleges, ATF Special Agent Seiler, referring to Lamplugh's business as a gun show promoter, wisecracked, "We don't mind you selling guns to niggers because they are only killing each other."

The eldest Lamplugh son, John, was finally told he was free to go. He asked for the currency — \$2,000 — that had been removed from his wallet and vehicle. "You'll have to fuckin' prove it's yours," IRS agent Bittenbender snapped. John Lamplugh left, poorer but wiser about the caliber of "public servants" his tax dollars employ.

Inside, the depredations continued. An agent removed \$30 in cash and a grocery list from Terry Lamplugh's

new truck, which he was scheduled to pick up that morning. The paperwork and \$10,000 in cash were in an envelope on the dresser. It was all confiscated.

Bittenbender found \$1,500 Terry Lamplugh had squirreled away in her pantyhoose drawer, money she was saving for cosmetic surgery. When she complained it wasn't right for him to keep the money, he threatened her: "We'll see how cooperative you are when we throw you in a cell full of lesbians."

As the agents left, the Lamplugh's clutched each other and stared out the window, terrified, the husband said, that if they went in the yard, they'd be shot. As they watched in horror, Special Agent Donna J. Slusser paused in the yard by a Manx kitten, which bounded playfully at her feet. Slusser looked back at the Lamplugh's, then turned and stomped the pet sev-

viously to seize all the names and addresses of the people who participate in the gun shows, who belong to the association and who attend gun shows. I can't think of any good purpose for this. All of these people are exercising a legitimate constitutional right to assemble, to speak with people who have common interests. I can't think of any legitimate reason why ATF would want that kind of information. This is the very type of thing that the 1968 Gun Control Act went overboard to prevent. ATF is not supposed to keep records of any firearms transactions."

Sign Of Things To Come?

Aside from its vulgar and barbaric aspects, the Lamplugh case is illustrative of an apparent trend in ATF cases in other key respects.

First, as in the John Lawmaster case (see "Gun Gestapo Terrorizes Tulsa," *SOF* June '92,) the Lamplugh search warrant affidavit remained sealed 11 months after the raid, ostensibly to protect a confidential source, but more likely to hide the fact that the flimsiest pretexts were used to meet probable cause. In the Lamplugh case, when Sanders filed a motion to unseal the affidavit, *his motion* was then sealed by the court. "I was never notified by the court that my motion was sealed," he said.

Sealing warrant affidavits is "routinely abused," Sanders said. "There should be a real need ... Generally, prior to the execution of a search warrant, there's a good purpose, to prevent the destruction of evidence before they get there with a warrant. After a warrant is served, the reason they always give is to protect their source. But that's not a good reason. That doesn't override the constitutional guarantee to know your accuser."

Second, as in the Louie Katona case (see "Miscarriage of Justice," *SOF* April '94, and "BAT-F Troop Rides Again," *SOF* Aug. '94), extensive amounts of property were seized without criminal charges being filed. In the Lamplugh case, much of that property is apparently unrelated to anything in the search warrant. In all such cases, if the owner doesn't have a \$2,500 bond to file with the feds to fight the forfeiture, he loses the property, no questions asked.

Third, in the case of gun dealers

and gun show promoters such as Lamplugh, the search is a convenient excuse to copy records that the 1968 Gun Control Act clearly states are the property of the owner. It's all part of an apparently illegal campaign by ATF to compile a computerized database of gun owners, gun buyers and gun dealers in a de facto gun registration effort, all the while conveniently ignoring the fact that criminals almost never buy or sell guns legally.

The ATF's new Firearms Tracing Center in West Virginia is "de facto gun registration," Sanders said. "No one outside the ATF really knows what they're doing at that center. The only thing that they can be doing is entering all of the information that is obtained from business records ... That is de facto gun registration."

Doesn't this violate the privacy of law-abiding gun owners? *SOF* asked Sanders.

"Of course," he said. "The people whose names they're taking are people who've done nothing except comply with the law."

This type of activity, in general,

extent that ATF more often ignores real criminals, to try to turn law-abiding gun owners into criminal statistics.

Sander's assessment for the immediate future is chilling.

"I think citizens are helpless," he said, matter-of-factly. "It's going to take congressional action. It's going to take strong oversight and massive changes in ATF management."

Meanwhile, the Lamplughs wage their personal war against injustice by surviving, trying to keep their business going so they can continue to generate the money needed to wage their legal battle. Harry has been called twice to a federal grand jury; Terry once. Both have been forced to submit fingerprints, sit for photographs and submit handwriting samples. As of this writing in April, neither have been charged.

No Honor Among Thieves

As always, ATF investigators continue to play dirty. At least four grand jury witnesses — they asked their names not be used — told *SOF* their statements read to the grand jury were



Harry Lamplugh has had to post his property because of repeated intrusions since the ATF raided his home a year ago. Sick with cancer and disgusted with his government, he said he won't give up his fight for justice. "The ATF hopes I'll die before I get my day in court. I'm going to beat cancer just to spite them. I feel better than ever." Photo: James L. Pate

and cases like those of the Lamplughs, Katona, Lawmaster and scores of others, bolsters the longstanding criticism that ATF has an institutional bias against private gun ownership, to the

not the same statements they gave ATF agents about the Lamplugh case. One witness who gave permission to

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On a Friday night in downtown Havana, Beatrice takes her first steps toward capitalism. Dressed in tight jeans and a black lace camisole, she strolls the breezy ocean boardwalk known as *el malecon* (the couch), looking for company. Tonight, this pretty 18-year-old hopes she'll get lucky. Checking over her shoulder for the secret police, she casually wanders up to this chain-smoking

is nothing to do." Boredom and the quest for quick dollars have driven almost 65,000 young people, boys and girls, onto the streets of Havana to return this city to what it once was — "The Brothel of the Americas."

During the '50s, Cuba was the Caribbean playground for all sorts of questionable men, mostly wealthy Americans, for whom Havana meant gambling, Hemingway

Castro Fiddles While Cuba Burns

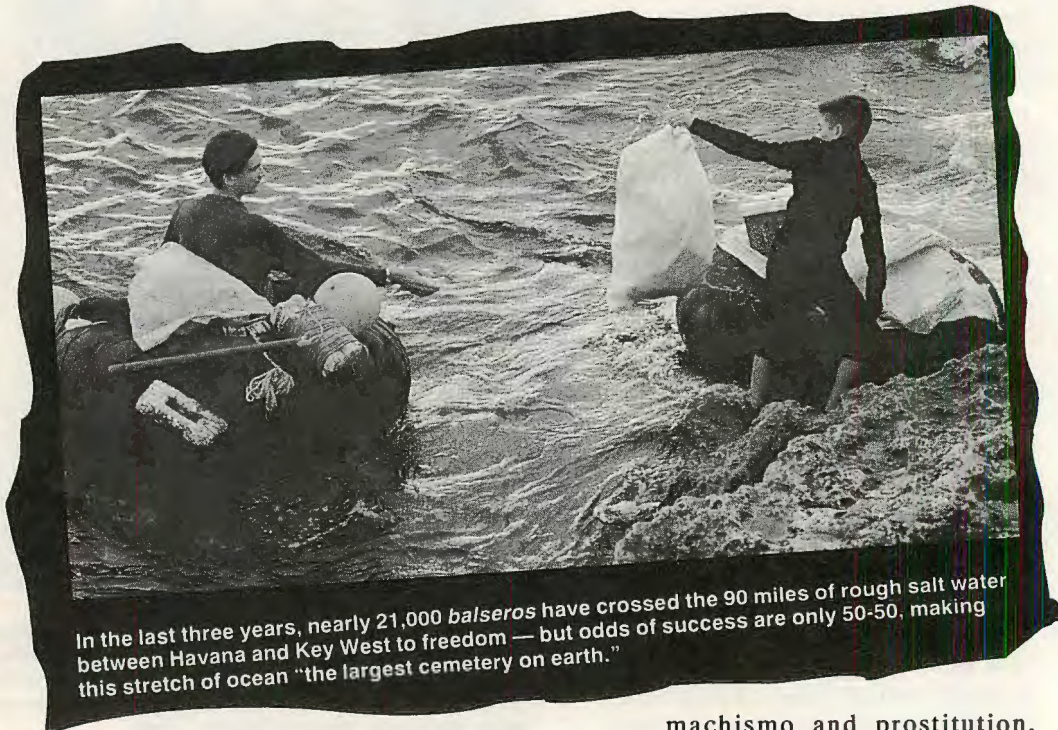
Hookers and Hard Times Overtake the Revolution

Text & Photos by Richard Emblin

foreign journalist and whispers what she hopes will be a good come on, "Hello, Yankee, can I have a light?"

Staring into her deep brown eyes, I pull out that powerful icon of liberty — a pack of Marlboros — and offer her more than just a light, a cigarette too. As a thanks for my unsuspecting act of generosity, she offers me a kiss. I decline, but ask if she would accompany me to the old Hilton — the Havana Libre — for a rum and coke and the chance to discuss the ills of communism, and she accepts.

Walking the dark and dingy streets of "new" Havana, Beatrice admits she is from a new generation of young Cuban women who like to go out with "Yankee" men. This was the fastest date I'd ever had. "There's nothing a Cuban man can give me," she explained. "Besides, there



In the last three years, nearly 21,000 *balseros* have crossed the 90 miles of rough salt water between Havana and Key West to freedom — but odds of success are only 50-50, making this stretch of ocean "the largest cemetery on earth."

machismo and prostitution.

When Fidel Castro took control on New Year's Eve, 1958, he pledged he would rid the island of the scourge of capitalism and return a sense of dignity to the Cuban people, including its women. There is little of that promised "dignity" left. Prostitution is worse now than 37 years ago when Fulgencio Batista fled into exile.

Despite that it still is illegal to prostitute oneself, Cuban government authorities and law-enforcement types turn a blind eye. It has become so widespread that mothers sell their daughters, and even their sons, to tourists who have made Havana a sex capital like Bangkok.



Socialist propaganda never quits: In a crumbling [redacted], shiny new sign opposite American interests section proclaims, "Mr. Imperialist, we have no fear of you."

Tourists poured in at the rate of almost 550,000 last year, bringing U.S. \$450 million in revenues. The goal of the official Cuban tourism agency, Cubanacan, is to push the level toward U.S. \$1.4 billion in 1995.

Ironically, there is little to show for that money. Only the resorts have steady electricity and satellite-pumped CNN and MTV. Minimum wage hovers around U.S. \$4 a month — 450 Cuban pesos, which will buy a bar of soap or two cans of imported Coke. Government-authorized shops in "tourist zones" and restaurants accept only dollars, creating a form of apartheid where Cubans are relegated to the slums and streets to search for dwindling supplies, while Canadians (115,000 visited last year) or Mexicans are greeted with sumptuous buffets. All-inclusive vacation packages run as low as \$499 a week plus airfare. Of course, teenage escorts are extra, and represent the sordid style of capitalism Fidel Castro is trying to introduce. For Eammon Donnelly, Irish manager of the new Varadero hotel, "This is the new Cuba, the Cuba of tomorrow." A Cuba strictly for foreigners, of course.

Chronic fuel shortages have idled autos and farm machines. Gas stations are flooded only with clunky Chinese bicycles as *Habaneros* queue up to air their tires. The greatest traffic hazard in Havana is the more than 600,000 bicycles recently donated by the PRC. Old communist rhetoric, as scarce these days as food in the supermarkets, has been replaced by a black-market

subculture of capitalism between the have and have-not *Habaneros*.

As a meager attempt to ease discontent, the regime allocates each family coupons, which they cash in bi-weekly for basics such as their allotted 12 eggs, one chicken, bread and the occasional vegetable. "If I try to feed my family for a month with the ration book, we'd all be dead," observed a disgruntled shopper in one of Cuba's endless queues. But Cubans have not lost their sense of humor: "Why are Cuban eggs like a missile? ... 5,4,3,2,1,0!"

Far south of Disney World is Fidel's world, where the favorite Cuban pastime is escapism. Like other young people I met, Beatrice just wanted to touch the illusion of wealth that foreigners represent, when she bumped into me down by the sea. Within minutes she would step where many a Cuban girl has dreamed of — past the thug at the door and into the neo-Stalinist lobby of the run-down Havana Libre.

Soon we were ordering Cuba libres that cost more than her father earned in a month as a biotechnician, and trying to ignore the glances of the bar man — yet another government informant trying to look like Tom Cruise with a cocktail mixer. On my last sip of rum, Beatrice popped the question.



Urban renewal, Castro-style: When parts of a building collapse, the rubble is packed off to use somewhere else. Virtually only new construction is for tourist facilities.

"Can I spend the night with you?" I flinched. "You don't have to pay," she pressed. "Then why do you want to do it?" "Maybe I can stay afterward and watch the Disney channel?" Dumbstruck, I led her back out onto the dark street and said I'd see her again. It was 0200 hours and I was lying.

Communism is pathetic, I thought, when girls prostitute themselves, not for money, but to grasp at bits of lost childhood innocence. I recalled the prophetic words of

Enrique, an unemployed historian, "This is going to be a country ruled by prostitutes and waiters." Considering that less than 10% of Cubans have access to dollars, Enrique's predictions are coming true. The daily struggle just to survive flavors every aspect of life with bitterness and disillusionment. But the greatest defeat to their self-esteem, I would learn, is knowing that there is no way out.

Many have tried, and will keep trying as long as Cuba stumbles down the path of socialist economic ruin. Almost 21,000 *balseros* (rafters) have made it Stateside during the last three years by crossing 90 miles of treacherous sea between Havana and Key West. Although the tide of refugees has diminished since the massive September exodus, the tragedy is that for every Cuban saved, another dies at sea. According to Jorge Lares, of the Miami-based Brothers to the Rescue, these 90 miles of clear blue have become "the largest cemetery on earth" and, in effect, the world's last wall.

The Last Wall

Five years ago I stood at the Berlin Wall and watched it collapse. It is a scene forever etched on my mind. The inhumanity of the communist system was best seen in the blank stares of East Berliners as they crossed the norman's land. In Cuba, the scenario is as dramatic, but even more tragic for those who remain behind. Although thousands have put to sea, many cannot because of families and children. "I can't leave," says Alfredo, pointing to his young daughter. "We've tried to get visas, but those are only for Fidel's friends." Leaving Cuba is a painful subject for Alfredo, who changes the conversation to sports, a safer topic.

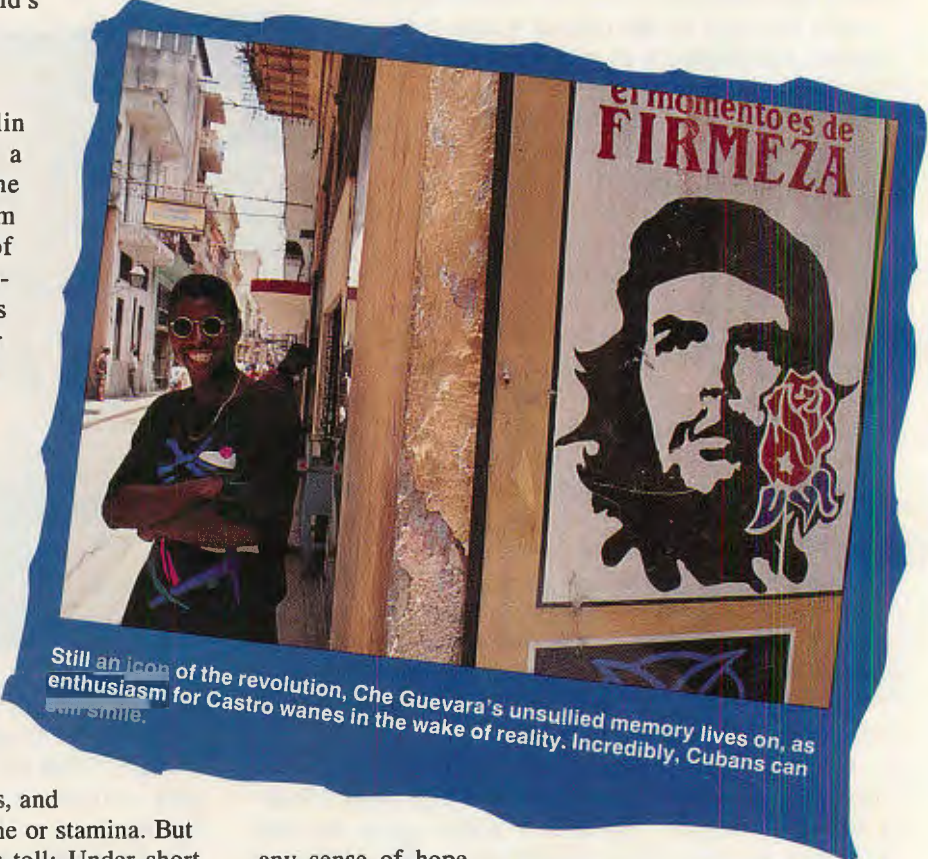
Although Alfredo was a Cuban hero, he is prisoner of the system. During the heyday of Castro's revolution, he ran the cross-Cuba marathon of more than 1000 kilometers, and won. No one has yet challenged his time or stamina. But years of communism have taken their toll: Under shortages of food and medicine, Alfredo is a weaker and slimmer version of his former self. Like many, he is embarrassed by his shrinking waistline. His only trophy to

past glory is a faded black-and-white picture hanging on the wall of his cramped apartment, showing him shaking hands with Fidel. However, the picture no longer fills him with pride — it's the standard print of revolutionary Ernesto "Che" Guevara next to it, that does.

"Here was the real visionary," says Alfredo. "The other is just a criminal." As I examined these relics of bygone Cuban glory, Alfredo's resentment erupted again. "But, according to Fidel, the real criminals are *us*, because we want to leave." Alfredo's dreams of leaving have branded him a "dissident" — a label not easily shaken in Cuba. He is forced to find work as a lowly crafter of wooden trinkets in the Havana flea market. This, after an illustrious 17-year career as the official architect of Castro's skyscrapers. As the time came to say goodbye, Alfredo walked me to the door with tears swelling in his eyes. "Can I call you 'friend'?" he asked. "Of course, Alfredo, I'd be honored," I replied. "Goodbye, friend," he said as tears streamed down his weathered face. Grabbing my hand in a final act of solidarity, he muttered the only words capable of restoring



"Hello, Yanqui, can I have a light?" With critical shortages of food, fuel and materials, Cuban economy now relies on oldest transportation, oldest methods — and oldest profession.



Still an icon of the revolution, Che Guevara's unsullied memory lives on, as enthusiasm for Castro wanes in the wake of reality. Incredibly, Cubans can still smile.

any sense of hope.

"Yanqui. Yanqui. Yanqui."

Despite the fact that seven U.S. presidents have tried to topple Castro with a trade embargo and Americans are

still forbidden from doing business with Cuba, anti-U.S. sentiment is uncommon, existing only as part of Castro's elaborate propaganda machine to control his own people. A billboard in downtown Havana, facing the U.S. interests section, claims "Mr. Imperialist, we have no fear of you" but looks more archaic than the pathetic Gulag-style building it shields. The hundreds of underground air-raid shelters that crisscross Havana are bolted up and rusting, despite Castro's continuing obsession with an "imminent invasion" of Cuba.

Most Cubans regard 36 years of high level communist party corruption and Castro's fatal alliance with the Soviets, not the U.S. embargo, as the cause of their troubles. "Ever since we decided to become an outpost for the Soviets we were doomed," says Colonel Eric Smitts, a seven-year veteran of Cuban involvement in Angola. "Angola was our Vietnam," he said.

Costly Meddling

Cuba's intervention in world hot spots, from Ethiopia to Nicaragua to Angola during the 1980s, largely helped drive this island of 11 million toward bankruptcy. Exorbitant military expenditures — almost \$2.5 billion annually during the 1980s — were balanced by a \$3.5 billion annual commitment from the Soviets to purchase Cuban sugar at subsidized prices, plus another \$5 billion annual aid in Siberian crude oil, Hungarian cars and East German medicines. In effect, Cuba was a complete puppet of the Soviets, including foreign policy and Third-World involvement.

abroad, and now with the Cold War gone they continue to sacrifice in what Castro has declared a "Special Period in Time of Peace."

After participating in assaults on more than 18 villages in Angola, as part of the 25,000 Cuban troops deployed there, Aurelio now drives tourists around

a sweltering Havana. "Things were better off there," he says parking the air-conditioned Mitsubishi van at yet another of Hemingway's watering holes. Having spent time in Angola I would judge Aurelio's comments as hardly an endorsement of that revolution, but a reflection of the nostalgia many Cubans harbor for the "good old days" when they were a world player, with one of the best trained armies in Latin America, at the center of the Cold War.

With the Cold War and the Soviets gone, Cuba's army is virtually impotent. Even the throngs of KGB agents stationed in Havana

during the last decade now find themselves posted in foreign embassies or passing their days at that last bastion of communist inefficiency — the Havana International Press Center. The deepening economic crisis also affects morale of the military, which now spends its time trying to quash minor outbreaks of popular discontent and civil disorder that become increasingly common as food resources dwindle — and threaten to boil over to the ruling classes, accelerating Fidel's exit. But as long as Fidel remains closely allied to the Cuban army, there is little possibility of a coup.

Domestic squabbles aside, the White House remains firm in maintaining the embargo. But there are no tough plans on the table

to bring down Fidel, since Clinton doesn't want to be seen meddling in the internal affairs of the island, thus creating an excuse for others in the region to rail against "Yanqui imperialism." With 10,000 rafters camping at the U.S. Guantanamo Naval Base, and thou-



Dictator-for-life Fidel Castro brands any Cuban wanting to get out from his socialist economy a "dissident." Still, thousands are willing to gamble their lives in risky escape attempts.



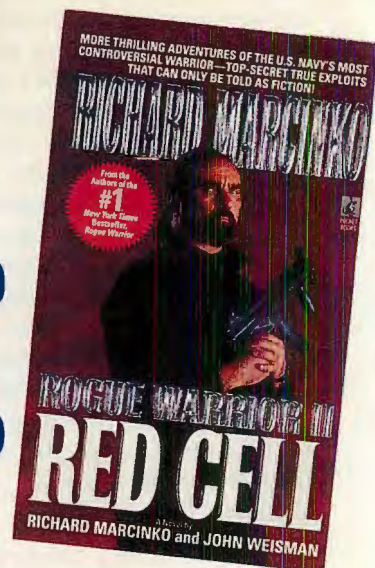
Skinny kids play on Havana's seawall while Habanero optimistically fishes for his dinner. Even without hope, life goes on.

This symbiotic relationship proved disastrous when the Soviet Union collapsed, leaving the bearded revolutionary alone on the world stage. For two decades, Cubans sacrificed to support Castro's dirty little wars

Continued on page 70

SEALS'

TOP SECRET III



Marcinko Jailed, Red Cell Collapses

by Dale Andradé

Photos courtesy author

Richard Marcinko extended his SpecOps tenure with the command of Red Cell, a band of U.S. Navy SEAL “terrorists” charged with testing security at American naval installations around the world. However, under Marcinko’s command Red Cell began resembling a private commando force out to embarrass the Navy. When the civilian security manager at Seal Beach challenged Marcinko, a standard security exercise turned into a personal vendetta involving borderline physical torture and criminal activity. The final part of our SEAL saga chronicles the aftermath of the Seal Beach exercise (CB-10 detailed in last month’s issue) and the end of Red Cell.

For most Red Cell members, the Seal Beach exercise was just another in a long list of successes against Navy security. Except for the handful of SEALs involved in the kidnapping of Ron Sheridan there had been nothing out of the ordinary. But the tension raised by that single

incident permeated everything. One SEAL recalled that although nobody mentioned the Sheridan kidnapping it was an unspoken presence at the post-exercise briefing.



These Marines hold a Red Cell SEAL at bay. Although they were unsuccessful here, Marcinko’s terrorists often used such incidents as a ruse, masking the real objective.

Another important factor was overlooked in the briefing: The exercise had changed complexion mid-stride. In the beginning it had been geared toward a domestic terrorist threat, but by the end it had switched to something that transcended even international terrorism. Few homegrown anti-nuke terrorist wannabes are capable of coordinating four simultaneous strikes, spread out over a one-week period, aimed at a base and its weapons-carrying barges, nor are they trained in the infiltration techniques used regularly by the SEALs.

What brought on the changes? Some Red Cell participants say that Marcinko’s continuing problems with the Navy establishment caused him to lose sight of the real Red Cell objective. But even if Marcinko did not realize that there would be consequences for Sheridan’s kidnapping and other excesses during the exercise, most of the other Red Cell SEALs knew that things would never be the same.

Trouble descended on Red Cell in the form of the Naval Investigative Service. Agents showed up at Essex Corp. headquarters in Alexandria, Vir-



Red Cell was originally geared toward a domestic terrorist threat, but it switched to something that transcended even international terrorism. Few homegrown anti-nuke terrorist wannabes are trained in the infiltration techniques used regularly by the SEALs.

ginia, and took away all Seal Beach exercise videos as evidence. Word of Sheridan's manhandling spread like wildfire throughout the Navy, and the special warfare community was outraged.

Although it was true that Sheridan was really just another captive in Red Cell's long list of hostages, Marcinko chose to lie to NIS during questioning. According to Captain William Hamilton, Marcinko's boss at OP-06D, "When asked about the incident, Marcinko denied anything happened. But NIS had seen the tapes and they had talked to some of the players. So the next thing you know we had a federal case."

As far as NIS was concerned that should have been enough to bring the matter before a court martial. "We flat out caught him lying to us," one NIS agent close to the case said. Marcinko countered with a claim that NIS had erased part of his taped interview.

In the end, the Navy decided to mete out "non-judicial punishment." In this case it would be in the form of an Admiral's Mast, a formal inquiry presided over by Navy officers who would determine the appropriate action. The Admiral's Mast found that Marcinko deserved a formal reprimand, which was placed in his personnel file. Duke Leonard, Frank Phillips and a handful of others also received letters of reprimand. Only Phillips eventually left the Navy.

Red Cell's excesses at Seal Beach lay dormant for almost a year until

Sheridan breathed life back into the allegations. Not satisfied with the results of the Admiral's Mast, Sheridan hired attorney Carl Pearlston to bring a civil suit against the Navy.

"This was an unusual case," Pearlston recalled. "I never realized that Navy commandos were involved in such things and that

they routinely kidnapped and attacked civilians." Pearlston figured there was enough merit in the case to warrant bringing three counts against Red Cell for a total of \$11.2 million, plus an additional \$295.70 for "special damages."

In response, Marcinko had Essex put together a video on various hostage barricade situations to show that what had happened to Sheridan was standard procedure. It showed everything from the wife of a base commander bound and gagged to a victim laid out on the floor getting the water torture.

Marcinko Abandons Ship

Pearlston was not certain he could win in court. The discovery process turned up little besides the videotape and the SEALs were difficult to track down. With the help of a private investigator, Pearlston was able to locate Frank Phillips, who, after leaving the Navy, had moved to a small town in West Virginia. The rest of the SEALs managed to stay out of Pearlston's way.

A break in the case came from an unexpected corner. Just as it seemed there would be no lucrative settlement for Sheridan, Pearlston got a call from Marcinko's lawyer. He wanted to make a deal. In return for immunity from a civil suit, Marcinko absolved himself of responsibility by blaming others.

"Everybody was floored when Marcinko came out and said he was not to blame," one former SEAL said. "We all thought it would be like the SEAL Team Six days when Dick made all the trouble go away." But not this time. In return for dismissal of the charges against him, Marcinko offered to provide information on Essex and its role in Red Cell exercises.

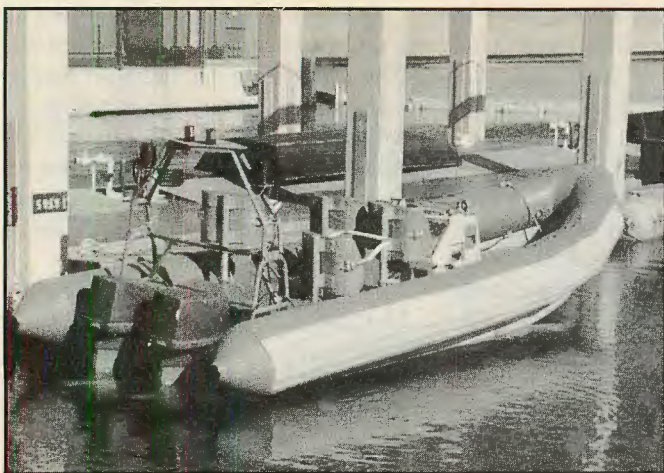
It was the break Pearlston had been looking for. "At that point in time, it made our case." Pearlston flew to Washington to take Marcinko's deposition, the sole piece of solid evidence in the case.

Marcinko alleged that Essex civilian contractors were ultimately responsible for stopping the exercise. "In every one of the actual security exercises in which I have participated, Essex has had the role of 'controller' of the operation," Marcinko claimed in a court deposition. He even went so far as to blame Essex for *starting* the interrogation by declaring, "If Essex had not been there to tape the interrogation, then the interrogation would not have taken place."

Essex did not agree. According to Martin Every, the man in charge of the Red Cell video project, the written contract with the Navy did not



U.S. Marines usually formed the first line of defense against Red Cell attacks. A limited number of leathernecks guarding a limitless number of targets repeatedly gave Red Cell the edge.



Red Cell had access to a huge inventory of equipment and resources such as these rigid inflatable boats. However, investigations by NIS revealed procurement improprieties that landed Marcinko in the brig.

name Essex as the game controller. To do so would defeat the purpose of having Essex cameramen along on exercises. "The cameras were supposed to be invisible," Every said. "For them to have had the power to stop an exercise would have negated their neutral role." Still, Marcinko argued that Essex had the power to stop the exercise at any time if it believed anyone was in danger.

But Sheridan's lawyers were going for the deep pockets of Essex. Pearlston was sufficiently satisfied with Marcinko's accusations that he included the Essex contractors in the suit. In the end, however, the Essex Corp. gold mine proved to be a dry hole. Sheridan settled out of court for some \$30,000 from Essex and, according to Pearlston, "peanuts from Red Cell." Although the Navy would not disclose how much it paid, Pearlston recalled that it was around \$1,000 for each of the seven SEALs named in the suit.

Despite the relatively small settlement, Marcinko did real damage to Red Cell by selling out Essex. The close relationship that had been formed between the active-duty SEALs with Red Cell and the former SEALs working at Essex would never be the same. "It was wrong for Marcinko to get us involved in the Seal Beach thing," Every said. "I don't know why he picked on Essex. We made him look awfully good." Essex Corp. continued to work with Red Cell, but as Every recalled, "We never quite got out from under it."

The Seal Beach incident was the

beginning of the end for Marcinko's vaunted anti-terrorist program and his dream of again rising to the top of the Navy's secret counterterrorism forces. Never again was Red Cell permitted to run roughshod over Navy bases worldwide. In the future there would be rules.

Relieved Of Command

Marcinko's world came crashing down around him in April 1986, partly as a result of the incident at Seal Beach. The carriers of his doom were NIS agents who informed Marcinko that as of that moment he was under investigation for possible criminal activities. Marcinko was relieved of command of Red Cell.

The NIS investigation had actually been going on since 1983 when the Navy received reports from New Zealand that Marcinko had brandished a pistol during a drinking binge in an Auckland bar. But the investigation soon found much more. Since Marcinko left SEAL Team Six in July 1983, he had allegedly been involved in at least two schemes to defraud the U.S. government. The first involved making travel claims for a hotel called Mariner's Rest, where SEALs would often stay during temporary duty in the Washington, D.C., area. There was nothing wrong with that on the surface, but it seemed that in reality Mariner's Rest was a cabin cruiser berthed on the Potomac River, owned by a friend of Marcinko's, and the rooms were free to SEALs.

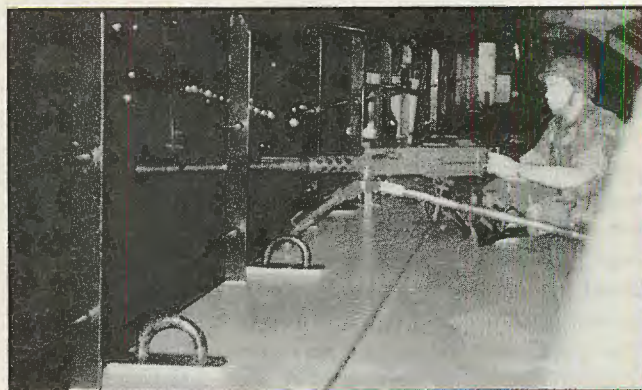
A second scheme involved a contract for special "flash-bang" stun grenades used by counter-terrorist teams. But the company involved failed to produce the grenades, and it was later determined that the contract for \$346,000 was generously padded. The government brought charges against Marcinko. He was found guilty, stripped of his new captain's rank and sentenced to prison.

Marcinko was replaced by Commander Rick Woolard, a hard-charging SEAL with a solid career behind him. What Woolard did not have was a reputation for drunkenness and tactlessness, and most SEALs breathed a sigh of relief when he stepped into the job.

One of the first exercises under Woolard's command was at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. In June 1986 the SEALs hijacked a bus full of Navy personnel, drove it onto the base and made a stand against a concerted attack by base security aided by the Honolulu Police SWAT Team. But it was only a diversion. The real objective was a submarine unloading nuclear fuel. Red Cell blew the dry-dock gates and set charges on the sub.

But these successes could not hide dramatic changes in Red Cell's rules of engagement. On one hand the new rules prevented someone like Marcinko from abusing the system; on the other hand they gutted the realism and made the exercises less valuable.

One of the first changes came on 30 April 1987 when Red Cell became an unclassified program. This was done, in the words of a directive sent to the office of the Chief of Na-



U.S. Marine keeps a .50 caliber vigil against "terrorist" attacks. Although Red Cell's prey was bound by rules of engagement, Marcinko often chose to ignore them.

val Operations in Washington, because "secret classification of tapes inhibits distribution and quick dissemination to fleet-wide audience." The program's formal title — Naval Security Coordination Team — was also revived while the Red Cell name was downplayed. The Navy was trying to make as many changes as possible to distance itself from the image of Dick Marcinko.

Another major change came that summer when Red Cell was split up and transferred from the CNO's office to the Atlantic and Pacific fleets. Each coast would have 13 men under control of the fleet commanders. The argument against the move was that taking Red Cell from the high office of the CNO diluted its power by making it a slave to the special interests of the fleet commands.

The timing could not have been worse for Red Cell. Beginning in September 1987 the commander of the Atlantic Fleet was none other than Admiral Paul Butcher, the same officer who had harried the team as its overlord at OP-06. It seems likely that he had a hand in having part of the program transferred to him so he could use his more powerful position to hasten the demise of Red Cell, though this could not be confirmed.

Red Cell Scuttled

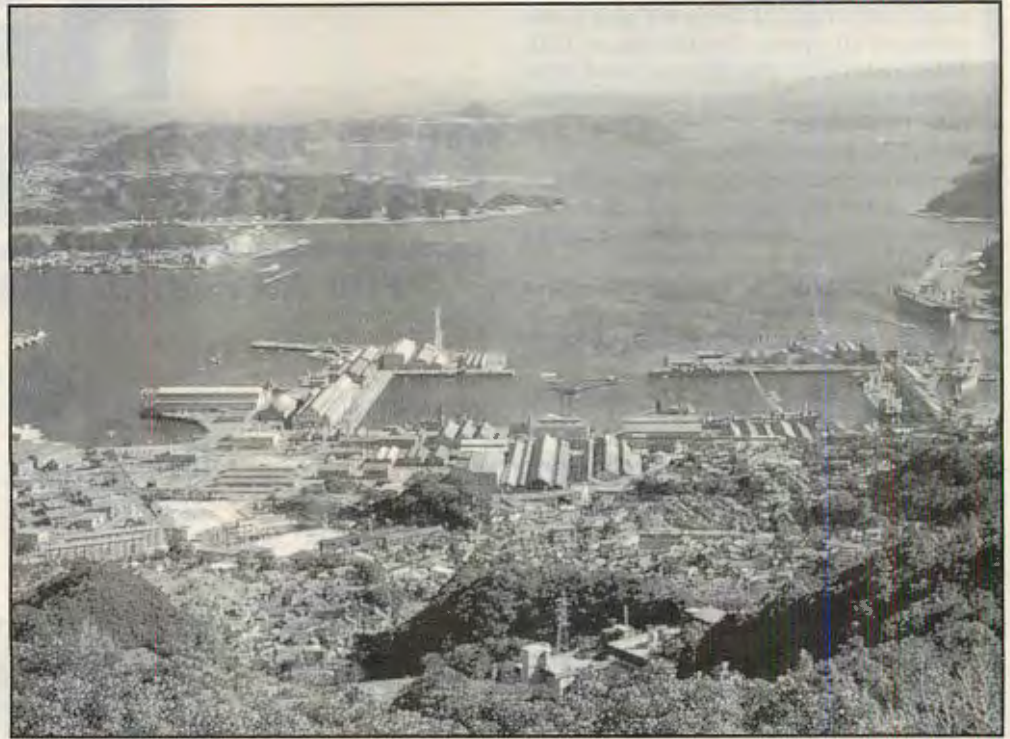
Within the confines of the new administrative system, the Red Cell SEALs tried to keep the exercises as realistic as possible. In February 1987 Red Cell probed the Polaris Missile Facility at Charleston, South Carolina, ambushing an actual trident missile being transported by convoy to the site. The SEALs took out the lead trucks, then fired simulated tracer rounds at the missile's fuel canister. During the same exercise, the SEALs breached the supposedly impenetrable fences and sophisticated sensors surrounding the reinforced igloos housing nuclear warheads, and blew down the doors. It did not take much imagination to see what might have happened if real terror-

ists had been behind the act.

Winging across the country to California, Red Cell then targeted the naval station at Long Beach. This exercise was truly unique: The SEALs rented a helicopter at nearby John Wayne Airport, then flew it out to the huge shipyard and simulated a suicide crash into the bridge of the battleship *Iowa*. About a month later, at

at will, and in late 1989 it was reduced largely to performing table-top simulations at bases in lieu of live exercises.

Another measure taken by Atlantic Fleet command to reel in Red Cell involved canceling the Essex video contract and replacing it with Navy cameramen. There were problems from the start. The closeness of the



Sasebo Bay was one of Red Cell's playgrounds. SEALs "destroyed" most of the fuel storage depot crucial for U.S. forces in Korea.

King's Bay, Georgia, Red Cell used rigid inflatable boats to attack submarines, firing wire-guided missiles to destroy their targets.

In June 1987 Red Cell participated in Kennel Guard '87, a series of exercises designed to evaluate security at Subic Bay in the Philippines. Although there were stringent rules of engagement, Red Cell managed to show its old spirit. On one occasion, the SEALs commandeered an ambulance and sped through the front gate despite the fact emergency vehicles had been placed off-limits. Thinking there was a real emergency, Marine guards waved the ambulance through without a second thought. Dick Marcinko would have been proud.

But flamboyant exercises were becoming less frequent. By 1988 Red Cell was increasingly limited in its ability to test naval installations

old days was lost, as were the former SEALs who made up the Essex camera crews. Many of the Navy cameramen could not physically keep up with the SEALs during exercises, and they had other demands on their time. In the minds of many in the Navy hierarchy, photo ops with admirals at formal functions rated higher than tagging along on Red Cell missions.

Red Cell had become a relic. A sound idea with great promise for strengthening the Navy's anti-terrorism capabilities, the program was denigrated by high-ranking officers who hated losing to a bunch of SEALs. Many of their criticisms were legitimate. Exercises cost between \$200,000 and \$500,000 each and they tied up base resources and personnel from five to 12 days. When Red Cell struck, the base was virtually closed down for the duration.

Another part of the reason for Red Cell's lack of popularity among Navy brass was the traditional animosity between the "blue water Navy" and the SEALs. According to some officers in charge of security at a handful of installations on the East Coast, the admirals would rather have total control over how their budget was spent on security than allow Red Cell to dictate to them. All these arguments were buoyed by the unfortunate selection of Marcinko as Red Cell's first commander. Running exercises which disrupt base routine and result in kidnappings and other stressful terrorist simulations require diplomacy and tact, neither of which Marcinko possessed.

All arguments became moot, however. On 30 September 1992 Red Cell was disbanded. The handful of SEALs still attached to the unit went back to their original SEAL teams, discarding their expertise as "terrorists." In the end, the Little Creek SEAL diving center was awarded the Red Cell building and a few leftover desks and chairs, and the rest of the equipment was dispersed among the other SEAL teams. However, even among the SEALs, few were sad to see Red Cell go. Many regarded it as a drain on skilled personnel badly needed elsewhere, and a last bastion of the bad old days when Marcinko ran his team like a band of pirates.

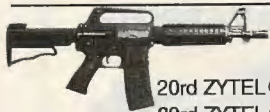
According to sources in the special warfare community, the Navy retained only six SEALs — three on each coast — to serve as advisers to naval security officers at all installations around the world. Their job was to travel to various bases — but only at request of the base commander — and lecture security personnel on techniques and tactics. There were no more live exercises. However, other sources say that if the Navy used *any* SEALs in that capacity after the death of Red Cell, they did not do so for long. Since 1993, they report, SEALs have not been involved at all in testing base security.

Most disturbing is the fact that the Navy has apparently not taken steps to improve security at many of the bases penetrated by the SEALs. In an otherwise smarmy interview on *60 Minutes*, Marcinko himself showed how easy it still was to approach state-of-the-art nuclear submarines. In 1991 he took a CBS camera crew on a

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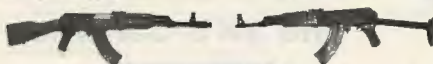
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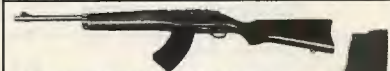
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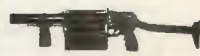
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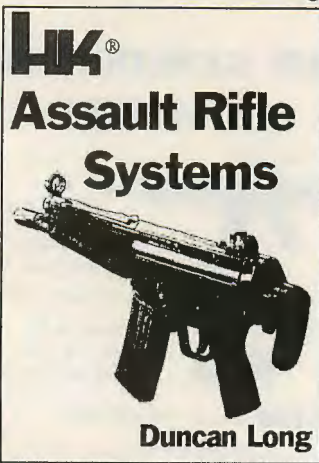
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chartered boat into supposedly restricted waters near New London, Connecticut, without being challenged.

Other sources confirm that little has been done to enhance security. Although the Navy refuses to say what it is doing to fill the gap left by the demise of Red Cell, a former SEAL points out, "As of today, we can still walk onto bases we penetrated years ago. Their security people have not fixed any of the problems. And if we can do it, so can the terrorists."

Dale Andradé is a frequent contributor to SOF on SpecOps topics and a noted author. Exclusive Essex footage can be seen on the video Red Cell, available from Paladin Press (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 1307, Boulder, CO 80306; phone: 800-392-2400). ✕

CUBA

Continued from page 63

sands of American troops in Haiti, Clinton has inadvertently granted the 68-year-old Castro additional time to handle the crisis at home — time the aging dictator desperately needs, if he is to depart on his own terms.

Crisis

However, the oft-predicted exit of Fidel may be years away. Despite mounting discontent with the 36-year-old dictatorship, many Cubans still harbor a deep respect for the man once described as the last revolutionary. "Say what they will, Fidel is Fidel!" said one American journalist covering the Cuban beat poolside. "The enigma is part of the problem, here." The enigma is that for many Cubans, Fidel remains a larger-than-life figure — a legend no one dares destroy and a man who, in spite of his abominable human-rights record, continues to command respect "as a symbol against injustice and poverty," he concluded.

Even if the regime crumbles, few Cubans would discredit Castro's record of instituting free medical coverage and universal education for everyone on the island — or challenge it. At one point Cuba had the best health care in all of Latin

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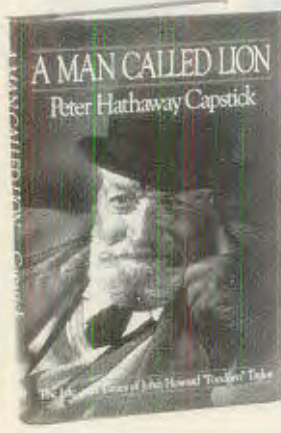
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America and was the vanguard of important scientific research against hepatitis and measles, but everyone knows the revolution is spent. What good is one doctor for every 130 people, without an aspirin in sight? Or schools filled with children, each rationed one pencil a year? In the words of one Habanero, "The problem of Cuba is not democracy. It's food."

As the crisis deepens, Cuba's future looks bleak with or without Fidel. Some Cubans fear that in the future the million or so Cuban-Americans will return to impose their capitalist system upon die-hard old timers. After more than 30 years of socialism, many fear losing their homes, shops and land to former brothers claiming what was once theirs.

While Fidel shows no sign of letting go, word on the street in Miami and around the world continues to be of the impending "change" in Cuba. But talk is cheap and even though Fidel's daughter Juanita pronounces from her South Florida hideout that "Cubans abroad and those in Cuba all want change," few can predict the measure of blood which may spill over Cuba in the years to come.

A Nero-like Fidel recently visited France on invitation from UNESCO, and was warmly greeted by Socialist French President Francois Mitterrand. Castro toured the wine country and was received with all the trappings of a state visit. On his return the ever-posturing icon of a failed ideology launched into a characteristic tirade against the "hate-filled reactionaries and fascists" [i.e., Jesse Helms] seeking to stiffen sanctions against Cuba. The more Cuba changes, the more Castro stays the same.

Were his side trips in Europe planned to scope out a suitable exile? Was he satisfying himself that the Soviet collapse is not a CIA hoax? Or was he merely promoting the tourism that is Cuba's one last hope for economic survival?

Like the existence of his retirement schedule, with Fidel it's hard to tell.

Frequent contributor Richard Emblin is director of the Bogota- and Toronto-based El Dorado Communications. ✕

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GUN GESTAPO

Continued from page 59

use his name, Tommy Griffith, said ATF agents tried to intimidate him prior to his testimony to change his statement, and tried to coach him on what to say.

"Mr. Seiler didn't want to show me his identification card," Griffith said. "He told me he was the one who stuck a machine gun in Harry's mouth. Scott Endy served me my subpoena. They told me perjury was a federal offense, that if I stuck with my story that I could go to jail ... I wasn't telling them what they wanted to hear — which was the truth — so they were trying to intimidate me. Endy wanted me and him and the United States attorney to sit down and discuss my testimony before going into the grand jury. I told them the only people I was talking to were the ones on the grand jury."

Even if the worst is over — and the Lamplughs aren't sure that it is — they continue to live in fear of the terror tactics still wielded anony-

mously against them. They're not sure who the perpetrators are, but they have a pretty good idea. Much of the harassment has been over the phone. One caller told Terry Lamplugh that she has "really nice pantyhose, but you don't have any tits." Right after an appearance on the G. Gordon Liddy show, an 0300 call warned them, "Don't fuck with the feds. You people have to learn to button your lips or else you're dead."

The telephone threats are easy to cope with compared to knowing Terry Lamplugh has been stalked and harassed by people she is certain are either federal agents or their informants. She found one man in her yard, rummaging through her sports car. When she faced him with a handgun, the man left and she followed. The prowler drove up next to a white Ford Bronco with U.S. government plates, and then the two drove off together.

The most terrifying incident, though, happened 11 October 1994, almost five months after the raid. Terry was running errands, and as she returned to her van, she noticed a scruffy-looking man who, she said, appeared to be drunk. She drove on

to the drug store and hospital to get cancer medicine for Harry. When she came out, she saw the same seedy man, leaning against a wall smoking a cigarette. When she opened the door and started to get in, the man suddenly appeared at her elbow.

"Don't fuck with the bureau," he growled softly in her ear as she whirled around, startled. He spun on his heel, she said, and called over his shoulder as he hurried away, "Check out what's in your van."

She jumped inside, slammed and locked the door and began to scream and tremble with rage. Then she steeled herself, deciding it was only another case of cheap intimidation. She could take it; she couldn't wait to get home to tell Harry. She was just about there, bumping up the rutted dirt road when, as she wheeled into the driveway, her grocery bags overturned. Tumbling limply out on to the floor next to her bucket seat was a dead black cat with a broken neck.

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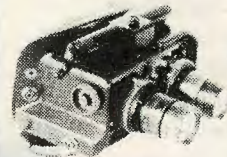
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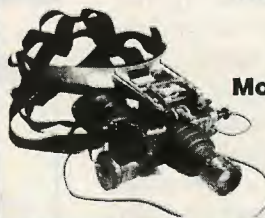
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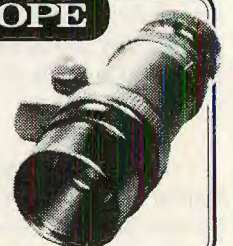
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MANERPLAW

Continued from page 51

On the evening of 23 January I accompanied Captain Saw Bee and his men up to the Naw Dae defense line west of Manerplaw overlooking the river crossings. Our short walk in the dark nearly proved fatal when we started up the wrong road and came close to walking into a Burmese camp. Earlier that day, the KNLA had lost a truck on the same trail when they drove into an ambush.

We quickly reversed course and bumped into a group of men blocking the way. We stared at each other wondering if they were friend or foe. After a couple of very long minutes, we were able to identify ourselves as KNLA and make our way to the western defenses.

At Naw Dae, incoming artillery fire occasionally flew over our heads and we could hear the faint hum of boat engines as the Burmese continued crossing the Salween. Occasionally the Karens attempted harassing mortar fire against the river crossing,

but the beachhead was secure.

Through most of the next day constant shelling could be heard to the south. The KNLA were forced to abandon the southern Naw Tha line and man the last defensive positions at Klodare along a spine of hills. This day-long action saw the heaviest casualties of the final days of Manerplaw: Most of the KNLA's roughly 30 killed and 80 wounded occurred at Klodare.

But the most troubling problem was an enemy that filtered in all around us, inevitably popping up somewhere in the rear. One Burmese group made their way up Bawnawle Mountain overlooking Manerplaw and began calling in accurate artillery fire.

While waiting for the unavoidable attack, Saw Bee raised a Burmese soldier on his radio: "You people [the KNU] are destroying the country. You don't realize that the government is doing good things for everyone," the Burmese soldier said.

"Good things? Like using slave labor to build railways and to porter supplies for the army? Like raping the women porters?" Saw

Bee shot back.

"I've never seen such things," replied the soldier, somewhat defensively.

"Well, then, you must have a penis stuck in your eyes!" came a sharp rebuke from another Karen officer, amid laughter.

We weren't attacked that night, but confusion mounted. Someone misunderstood an order from Manerplaw and ordered a general withdrawal. Luckily the matter was sorted out and we were able to re-occupy our positions before the enemy realized our snafu.

Bug Out!


The next morning, 26 January, we again received orders to pull back — this time for real. As expected the Burmese army and DKBA had advanced to the Moei River just south of the Salween-Moei junction, tightening the noose around Manerplaw. It was now obvious that the KNLA could do no more than fight delaying actions back to the border. Manerplaw was in serious jeopardy — would the KNLA risk dying in place defending it, or abandon the indefensible and

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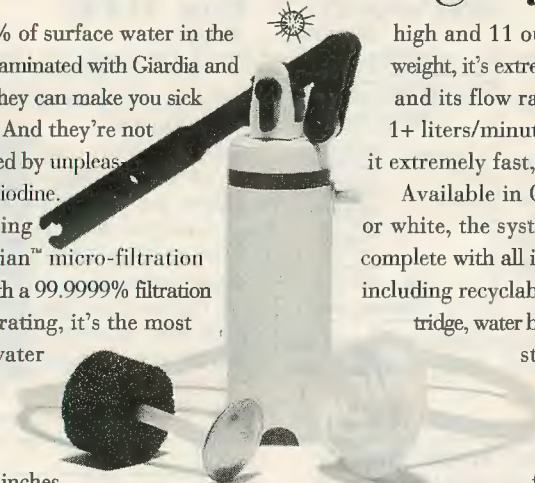
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surrounded village?

We grabbed our rucks and joined the long line of men walking down the dusty road for the last time to Manerplaw. An hour later our column paused at Camp Makar nestled in the hills above Manerplaw. Most of the camp had already been torched by Karen soldiers to deny the Burmese its use. Seeing the mess hall aflame reminded me of a time when we drank with our friends at a graduation party for newly trained KNLA soldiers a year ago. My nostalgia was interrupted by a mortar round and we moved on.

We deployed along a stream just north of Makar and a few hundred meters behind another unit. There was no panic or rush even though the Burmese were nearly upon us. Everyone seemed calm as we ate a meal and bathed in the stream while watching incoming artillery fly overhead.

The Burmese army and DKBA caught up with us late in the afternoon. For about half an hour there was a heavy exchange of small arms and heavy weapons fire as the Burmese slammed into our lines. The attackers were close enough we could hear their leaders shouting orders. We all kept our eyes on the woods in front expecting the Burmese to break through and hit us next.

But again the attackers followed the same pattern of moving up, meeting resistance and then pulling back to look for another way in. Maybe they were giving us a chance to leave without a heavy engagement. After all, soldiers on the other side wanted to live to see Manerplaw too.

In the midst of all this my brother Dave arrived. He had reached Manerplaw two days earlier but couldn't find transportation to my location. He had passed the time with KNLA officers back at the command post watching the incoming artillery and sipping Wild Turkey whisky.

Not much later a column of black smoke rose up behind our position and a reddish-orange glow lit the sky — Manerplaw was burning. After dark we received final orders to pull back to the village. Every structure on the route back was either in flames or ashes.

We reached Manerplaw around 2100 and marched onto the Saw Ba U Gyi field in front of the burning KNLA training center. All troops had

assembled here for further instructions, gathering in small groups, quietly talking among themselves and waiting.

One group of officers was seated around Colonel Lawadee, operations commander for the Manerplaw area. Turning to us he said in English, "I have been in Manerplaw since I was a young boy. I build Manerplaw. Now I burn Manerplaw. This is like the fall of Rome. But we will build a new Rome," he said with a roaring laugh — there would be no final stand.

Instead of dejected, dispirited troops I saw only men who looked relieved to be alive and still in good humor. For the soldiers, Manerplaw had become an albatross around their necks. It represented many of the things they felt had gone wrong with the Karen struggle. Lawadee and his field commanders had wisely decided to live to fight another day instead of futilely perishing while defending a mistake.

We took a last walk around with Saw Bee and two of his men. We walked past General Bo Mya's White House and the general headquarters building — nothing but flame and cinders. Only the church and the monastery were left standing. As we circled the parade ground one building remained untouched: the information office. I must admit I took more than a little satisfaction in helping set it alight.

After torching the Karen women's organization tea shop, jail and nearby barracks, we rejoined Lawadee. He was laughing madly, running barefoot past the inferno that engulfed the jail to set fire to the cook house. With the last remaining structures ablaze, we piled into an old truck and headed down to the Moei River. Two final explosions shook the village. The last remaining troops blew up Lawadee's command post and the nearby statue of Saw Ba U Gyi — the first leader of the Karen struggle. By 2300 we were on the boats taking us slowly out of harm's way.

In 1992 the Karens were forced to defend Manerplaw to save the resistance; in 1995 they had to destroy it if the resistance was to survive.

Canadian Don Dickinson was born in Thailand and now practices medicine at a refugee camp on the Thai border. ☒

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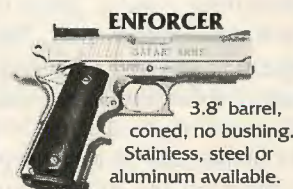
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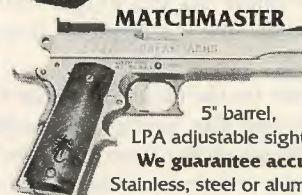
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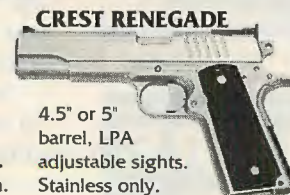
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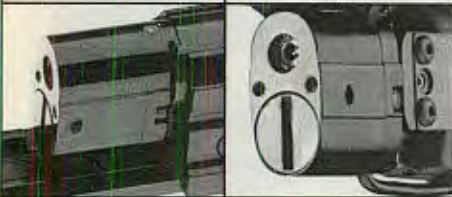
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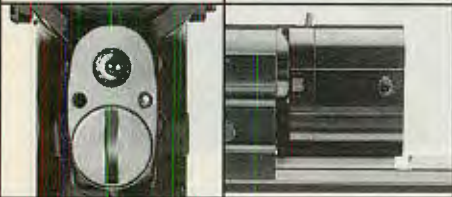
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DELTA/SEAL

Continued from page 31

combat there are no magic answers; to become truly proficient requires major dedication on the part of the user: Fitness, technique, mind-set all have to be honed and maintained. Pretty good ain't good enough if you're going to fight someone empty-handed. Thankfully, each class was videotaped and every student got a copy of the tape to practice his newly learned moves on his own.

These early morning hand-to-hand sessions were an excellent complement to the firearms instruction since they jarred you awake and got the blood pumping for the day's shooting. Unlike the recent Israeli training course I attended, at DSTC the timetable was carved in stone. If your weary body didn't make it to the bus pick-up point by 0915, you were either hiking or hitchhiking — as several students found out.

Home On The Range

Range training encompassed the spectrum of practical pistolcraft from the basics of presentation, grip, stance, sight alignment, sight picture, rapid reloading, and malfunction drills to more advanced topics like double-tapping, engaging multiple targets, firing on the move, firing from behind cover and more. Students demonstrated what they had learned on the third afternoon when everyone went through a timed, and videotaped, run-and-gun exercise. During this, one guy shot himself in the ass while reholstering. This wasn't due to lack of safety procedures or any fault of the instructors; fact is, if you want real-world training, you're going to have to push the envelope a bit. The pupil in question suffered no permanent damage, finished the course, and was the first one at the daily safety briefing to support the idea of keeping your finger off the trigger until you've made the decision to shoot something.

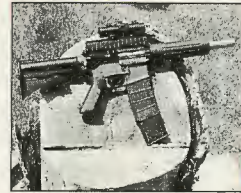
We were on the range for seven to 10 hours each day having the basics drilled into us; after a short "hygiene" break there was an evening activity. The most amusing of these was a

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Congratulations to you and your staff on a great show. We are already looking forward to 1995.

Sincerely,
Benchmade Knife Co. Inc.

My company has exhibited at every *Soldier of Fortune* Convention since the very beginning. Each year the quality of the exhibits and the number of attendees and visitors has increased. The current shows and exhibitions being held at the Sands Hotel, due to increased public demand, have been particularly valuable to our business and sales. I would expect this year would be even better and am looking forward to it.

Regards,
Col. Rex Applegate

The *Soldier of Fortune* Expo has always supported some very interesting firearms competitions and exhibitions. The 3-Gun International Tactical Matches and Firearms demonstrations are just a few of the Expo highlights. It is through their programs and hard work that we all continue to enjoy these unique sporting events.

Sincerely,
Sturm, Ruger & Company

The Expo is held at The Sands Convention Center Sept. 29-Oct 1. For more info on the 1995 SOF Expo call 1-800-800-7630 or write to: SOF '95 Expo P.O. Box 693 Boulder, CO 80306.

lecture by a California shrink who talked about the "heart of a warrior" and how he could instill it into anyone with his seven-step program. The class listened to this psychobabble, nodded occasionally and even played along while the good doctor made us imagine our own deaths at the hands of muggers — then we attacked.

While this type of B.S. might play at a gathering of the local Handgun Control Inc. affiliate, the people who attended Delta/SEAL Training Camp were a shrewder lot than that. After the lecture, the entire class descended on Dr. Psychobabble and after an hour of rebuttal, much of which would not be mistaken for academic discourse, he left in a hurry. One of my classmates summed up the result of DSTC Class 1 vs. Dr. Warrior Heart: "He had to go to his room to hug his Teddy bear."

You gotta love these guys.

Dr. Warrior Heart won't be back and his lecture was the only minor blip on a well-conceived and executed course of study in the fine art of practical pistolcraft. The basic class offers a rock solid foundation on which to build your skills and is taught by men who've been there and done what they're teaching you to do. As you would imagine, these guys have other training commitments that make it difficult to gather them all together for the long weekends this instruction requires, therefore classes are held at irregular intervals. According to Russ Horine, president of TRS, "There's a waiting list to take the basic course." Interested parties should call TRS at 800-899-8153 for current scheduling information.

"Selection is an ongoing process," the DSTC instructors often said, and these simple words stuck with me because they are equally true when competing for top gun honors at a shooting school, for a slot on an elite unit and in life in general. So, if you decide to increase your odds of being "selected" to live a long and healthy life and, by need or desire, opt to carry, do yourself a favor and check out the Delta/SEAL Training Camp.

Tom Slizewski is Executive Editor of SOF. ✕

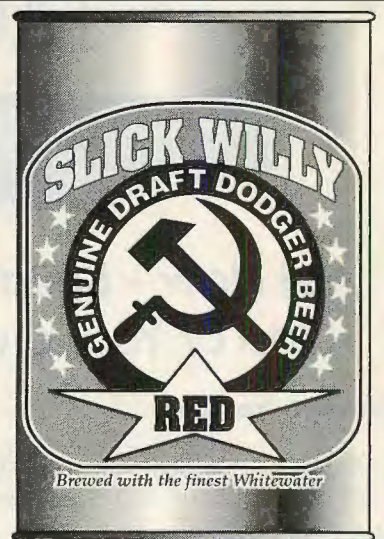
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FAKE SEALS

Continued from page 35

wasn't hired, and the police department became sensitive to the issue.

Amateur Impostor

In October of 1990, I was approached at a Washington reception by a co-worker, who told me that I just had to meet a former SEAL officer, one John Kendall, whom she had known for some time. I went to meet the gentleman, whose obvious softness immediately took me aback. (While some older SEALs tend to corpulence, I like to think most avoid looking like they just crawled out of a bag of marshmallows.) A few questions revealed that John not only had never been a SEAL, but that he knew little about them.

The significance of this case was in the guy's using his purported SEAL background to convince a major Washington think-tank to hire him as a consultant on security matters. I confess that I did my patriotic duty

and informed a friend in that organization of this case of misrepresentation, and his contract was not renewed. (I found out several weeks later that his fiancée also learned what he had done. If love was what motivated him to claim to be a SEAL, I could have told him that being a SEAL never helped me all that much.)

Why do they do it? I can't begin to answer that question, but it's a fact that since time immemorial people have been claiming to be things they aren't, and I guess that phony SEALs/SF/Recons, etc., are just more of the same. And there are even some special operations people who claim to be badder than they really were.

People, like things, ain't always what they seem, so next time you run into some bad dude whose war stories curl your flattop, check him out: There's a better-than-even chance he's a fraud.

A frequent contributor to SOF, Navy SEAL Captain Larry Bailey retired after 27 years of service and is now a freelance writer and consultant on military affairs. ✕

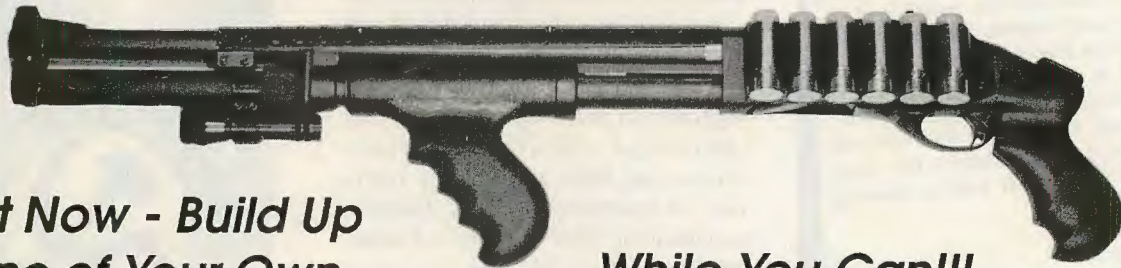
ATF WATCH

Continued from page 21

who appears before the camera. Could it be that the ATF officials have become blinded to the real difference between effective law enforcement and publicity? Could they believe that a press conference is worth the risk of sending their troops off to situations where armed confrontation is a serious threat?

It is as if ATF recognizes that it has an image problem with the gun-owning public, but that it is all a misunderstanding. If only it can throw the lightning bolt; make the one big case or give the appearance that it has made the one big case; if only it can hold the one big press conference, the record can be set right. ATF can explain everything. The feelings of hate, fear and loathing will miraculously disappear and the gun-owning public will clutch ATF to its breast and announce its undying adoration.

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Bob Sanders, Esq., is a former ATF assistant director for criminal investigations who now specializes in firearms law. You can reach him at: ATF Watch, P.O. Box 667, Ben Franklin Station, Washington D.C. 20044-0667. ✕

SPIES FOR HIRE

Continued from page 55

managers and staff by the French DST (France's FBI) to provide access to the hotel rooms of American businessmen has been going on for years. "Once they're inside," Rustmann warned, "they copy documents, extract information from laptop computers, and bug the room.

"The DCI (director of the CIA) has stated that he will not provide the same service for U.S. businesses that the French intelligence service is providing to the French business com-

munity," Rustmann commented, "and that puts American businesses at a disadvantage." CTC, however, believes American companies need access to the same type of expertise as foreign businesses and is willing to provide it.

Rustmann illustrated a classic example of targeted intelligence collection carried out by CTC. A Middle Eastern country was about to award a massive telecommunications contract to a European firm despite the fact that an American company's bid was lower and the American equipment was superior.

The company hired CTC to find out why. "As you might have guessed," Rustmann explained, "the reason was that the European firm had paid *baksheesh* (bribe money) to Middle Eastern contacts." The American firm, armed with the evidence of the pay-off provided by CTC, appealed to the White House for help. President Bush threatened to reduce foreign aid to the country if the U.S. firm did not receive fair treatment. Half of the contract was awarded to the American firm and half to the European firm.

Investigations into the loss of proprietary information (processes, patents, copyrights, pirated products, etc.) is another area in which CTC is active. "It takes a spy to catch a spy," CTC associate Robinson proclaimed. Robinson pointed out that, in this era of downsizing, many disgruntled or former employees are potential sources of information for competitors.

Private SpecOps

With professional foreign intelligence officers going after American business secrets, traditional security measures designed to ferret out the criminal element are frequently ineffective. Experienced former CIA officers, however, having similar training and experience as their foreign counterparts — and a familiarity with their specific methods of operation — know what to look for. "We examine our client from the standpoint of how we'd obtain his secrets if we were tasked to do so and, once we've determined how we'd do it, we start looking for the signature of the French or the Japanese or whatever," Robinson said.

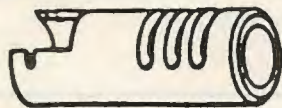
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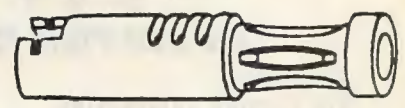
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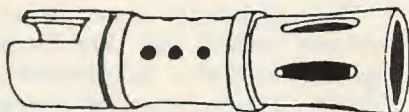
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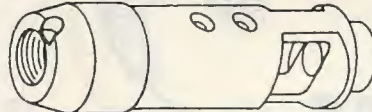
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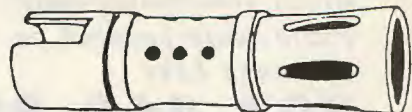
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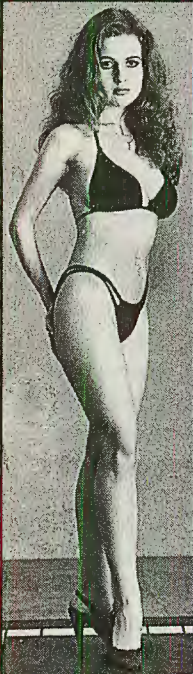
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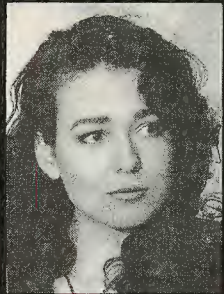
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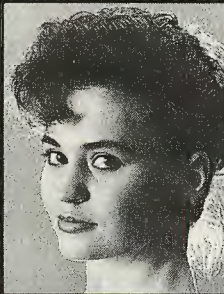
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The CTC operatives certainly have the training and experience to make good on Robinson's claims. As CIA case officers, all CTC operatives have spent more than two years in formal intelligence training courses and an average of 18 years overseas perfecting the craft of developing intelligence sources, contacts and collecting, evaluating and reporting information in every corner of the globe.

"It's in the area of special operations that things sometimes get hairy," Rustmann said. For security reasons Rustmann won't go into details, but CTC does rescue children of divorce when the parent not awarded custody kidnaps the child or children and takes them overseas to avoid the U.S. court system. "We go into the country, conduct surveillance to determine how to best handle the rescue, then bring them out," Rustmann explained.

In one case, CTC operatives flew to a Central American country to reunite two children with their mother. The ex-CIA agents snatched the children who were being held illegally by their father at the beach. An aircraft rendezvoused with the children, mother and CTC operatives at an isolated airstrip and whisked them away. "It was smooth," Rustmann stated, "not only was no one hurt, but the children weren't even frightened."

"We're pros. There is nothing more to be said."

Scott Schaefer retired from the CIA as an operations officer, and currently resides in Colorado as a director of public safety. ✕

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SO MANY WOUNDED

Continued from page 52

were on our way.

The border camps seemed to have sufficient medical care. The French organization *Medicin Sans Frontieres* (MSF) had signed an agreement with the Thai interior ministry to provide medical coverage. In Domplak'la camp, for example, we found only four surgical cases and a dozen or so medical cases that needed our assistance. The combat injuries had been evacuated to nearby cities in

Thailand for care.

The border camps and northern Karen, in spite of the loss of their jungle hospital, were doing well. We decided our efforts and limited time would be better spent in the south where the Karen did not have the benefit of the MSF teams.

We met once again with our southern Karen contact. The border situation was still very tight, he informed us, but we would try to get to the main dispensary the next day. Failing that, the Karen would send over all the medics they could spare for training. They had heard good things about our courses from their northern colleagues.

The next day we traveled to another Karen safe house close to the border and awaited clearance from our friends to cross. In the meantime, we treated several malaria cases and worked on sanitation procedures at the safe house.

The Karen still could not pass us through Thai lines, which were now supplemented with patrolling helicopters. We prepared our medic classes, but the Karen had the same problem with Thai security as did we and could not reach us. The only students available were a field doctor and our original Karen contact. Both were eager to learn to use our equipment and grateful for the supplies.

While in the area, we learned of further Burmese military activity, this time against their old nemesis Khun Sa and his Muang Tai Army (MTA). Khun Sa is a powerful and influential warlord in northeast Burma, the world's most productive opium growing region, and allied with the Shan people who inhabit the area. He is arguably the most powerful drug lord in the world, with a mercenary army of some 15,000. His influence reaches far beyond Burma and local politicians have no desire to appear on his feces list.

Every year the Burmese government decides to show Americans, who pour drug-suppression money into the area, that they are serious about eradicating the scourge. They then send their army to harass Khun Sa with predictable results.

The Burmese opened their offensive by bombarding Khun Sa's stronghold: the Thai border town of Mae Sai. Ten infantry battalions joined the attack but soon bogged down. In one

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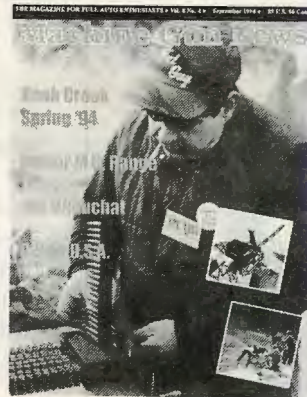
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fight, the MTA let the Burmese trail them into a valley and shut the back door, killing more than 100. The MTA managed to circle around and blow the main bridge on the Burmese supply route. For good measure, they then destroyed the airstrip at Tachilek. The Burmese, feeling they had shown their resolve, withdrew.

In past years RRI teams provided direct assistance to the Karen as surgeons and teachers, and have personally saved dozens of lives. Their training and guidance have certainly improved the quality of life for thousands more. These unpaid volunteers have as their mission to personally take aid to the victims of armed conflict, eliminating the middle man.

This year the situation on the ground prevented us from providing as much direct support as we have in the past. We were, however, able to identify an area that urgently needed assistance, and provide help to the friends of democracy at a time when they desperately needed it. We plan to continue.

RRI continues to receive requests for assistance not only from the Karen, but from throughout the world. The charity is composed entirely of volunteers and needs your donations of cash or non-controlled, non-perishable medical equipment and supplies. A receipt can be sent for cash donations and for estimated fair-market value of equipment received. Items such as military surplus battle-dressings, bandaging or splinting material, aid bags, blankets and instruments are urgently requested (RRI, SOF Warehouse, 5735 Arapahoe, Boulder, CO 80303). ☒

DEATH OF A WARRIOR

Continued from page 41

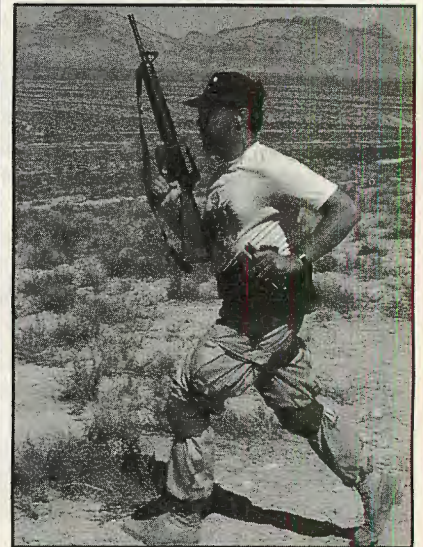
gerian jets were to drop cluster bombs on the bandit hill, inflicting damage and scattering the bandits into the stop groups. Since the bush was incredibly thick, the stop groups would set up on available trails.

By 0900 on 23 February, the men were ready to go. A tardy breakfast was consumed and ammunition was checked and issued as necessary. MacKenzie mustered his men and tried to instill a sense of cohesion, of

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purpose, of valor. He reminded them the bandits burned villages and tortured civilians, preyed upon the poorest and most defenseless, and would bring years of chaos and suffering to Sierra Leone if not stopped. Then the men boarded two trucks and two Land-Rovers, and drove to the next day's attack position. If all went well, they would be in the field three days.

The Wheels Fall Off

When the wheels fall off, they fall off fastest in Africa. At 1500 on the 23rd an Mi-24 helicopter, flown by a Russian pilot tasked with bringing the Nigerian commander to communicate with the Nigerian bombers, hovered over the central field at Camp Charlie. The pilot lowered his chopper to within feet of the ground, then suddenly changed his mind and went back up, circled the camp once and flew back to Freetown. To the dismay of all, he made no attempt to land — near the camp, on the road, or even near the town of Mile 91. He just left, with no further communication. Attempts to radio HQ for an explanation failed. At 0800 on the morning of the 24th the Nigerian jets bombed the wrong hill. Alerted by bombs dropping uselessly into the unoccupied bush, the bandits were ready for A Group as it approached their stronghold.

Tarawali, MacKenzie and Myers were leading when they walked into the ambush. MacKenzie always led from the front. On the back of his Kevlar helmet was sewn a "Follow Me" patch that had served him in so many wars — Vietnam, Rhodesia, El Salvador, Bosnia. He wasn't wearing his helmet on the 24th, though; he wore the dark green beret of the SLCU. But he was leading his men as he always did — by example, from the front.

Tarawali was killed in the first volley, and four other SLCU troops wounded. An attempt was made to carry Tarawali's body and the four wounded out, but at that point heavy fire came down on the group. No one could see their assailants, who were completely concealed by the dense bush, but the bullets flew thick and deadly. A Gurkha in the group somewhat behind was wounded, and the other Gurkhas

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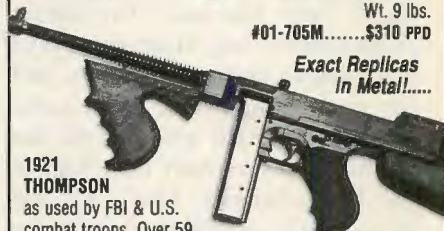
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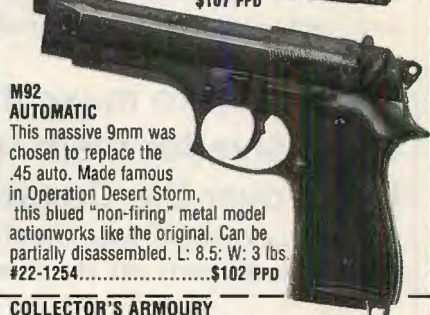
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turned their attention to treating him and carrying him back. At that point MacKenzie, who was still up front returning fire, ordered everyone to retreat. Another volley of lead rained down and broke the spirit of the SLCU group. They dropped Tarawali and the four wounded men and fled in a panic, actually trampling the Gurkhas in their haste. MacKenzie yelled again that everyone should retreat and the Gurkhas picked themselves up and regrouped around their wounded man, preparing to carry him out. The senior Gurkha medic saw MacKenzie take two rounds through his legs and one through his back. MacKenzie dropped his rifle and fell to the ground as Myers bent over him to give him assistance. That is the last anyone saw of either. Intercepts from bandit radio revealed that they had taken MacKenzie and Tarawali's bodies, but there were no reports about Myers.

At this writing the Gurkhas remain in Camp Charlie, led by their own stalwart officers, with Lt. Maynard as their GSG contact while replacements are found for Mac-

Kenzie and Myers. Maynard and B Group saw no action on the 24th. They marched up, secured their hill and put out stop groups until they were radioed to return. Maynard returned to Camp Charlie to find the entire command structure either missing or inoperative through confusion and lack of initiative. He did an excellent job of taking charge, sending patrols to look for the missing men, organizing a helicopter search, trying to gather information on casualties. After two weeks with no information, Myers was presumed dead. Despite the tragedy, no one wants to quit. The cause is good and the fight far from hopeless. Given time, the Gurkhas could surely fashion a functioning unit useful to the Sierra Leone government in its struggle with the bandits. There are, however, many questions to be answered, and the situation remains fluid.

Some days before his death Col. Robert MacKenzie wrote the following quotation in his personal diary:

It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the

strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena ... who strives ... who spends himself and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.

— Teddy Roosevelt

Of Col. Robert MacKenzie, Lt. Andy Myers and Maj. Abu Tarawali one can only say:

*Oh stay with company and mirth
And daylight and the air;
Too full already is the grave
Of fellows that were good
and brave
And died because they were.*

(A.E. Housman, "Epitaph on an Army of Mercenaries" XXXVIII)

Often a contributor to the pages of SOF, Sibyl MacKenzie was with Col. Robert MacKenzie at Camp Charlie in Sierra Leone at the time of his last combat operation. ❧



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SIERRA LEONE

Continued from page 38

Strasser's National Provisional Ruling Council suspended the 1991 constitution, ruling by decree of the Supreme Council of State. He has called for a new constitution, promising elections late this year. The country has been struggling to gain equilibrium. After a good start, with a reduction in corruption and financial reform, efforts have flagged under increased RUF bandit attacks. Even though RUF rebels are estimated to number only 1,000, they have the initiative and element of surprise. Big companies, foreign nationals, and aid workers pulled back to overcrowded Freetown, or left altogether. With its economic base dysfunctional, the government is in danger of bankruptcy.

A large part of Strasser's problem is his army. With 13,000 names on the rolls and probably only 10,000 men, Strasser can only count on the loyalty of about 1,000. Loyal troops are largely holed up in Freetown, leaving the roads and countryside easy prey for bandits. Regional commanders have their own fiefdoms

and arrangements with the RUF rebels. Most patiently straddle the fence, waiting to see whether Strasser's government will fall, while cultivating ties with those likely to be in power next.

With ties to Charles Taylor in Liberia, RUF has recently stepped up its activities. Formed around 1991, the RUF was at first disorganized, seemingly more a band of brigands than a political group. Then, in late 1994, RUF seemed to achieve a new unity and purpose. Foday Sankoh, leader of RUF and a protege of Taylor, has refuted reports of his own death and reestablished his presence on the radio, announcing his political ambitions, but remaining a shadowy figure. Several splinter groups also formed and announced political goals. Attacks by the rebels became better coordinated and communications seemed to improve among the various groups.

RUF recently began kidnapping foreign nationals as hostages to get international press. Among the 17 held were seven Catholic nuns whom RUF offered to trade for a satellite telephone and a generator — a unique offer that went begging. Despite Sankoh's reemergence, RUF political aspirations, other than to topple the current government and

take over themselves, are unclear.

The fate of Sierra Leone hangs by a thread. The army is poorly trained and motivated and ill-able to guard national resources. Freetown, a city rife with rumors, has a nervous edge. If Strasser can rally his forces to reopen the mines and guarantee transport for raw materials, he has a chance of remaining in power. Many of the mines, however, have been seriously damaged and looted in rebel attacks, and the mine owners are hesitant to pour capital into repairs until the political situation is stable. Perhaps the advent of the rainy season in June will buy some time for Strasser and his government. —S.M.

HONOR, DUTY ...

Continued from page 41

wounded by NVA gunfire that Uncle Sam judged him 70% disabled, who then served 10 years in Rhodesia's elite SAS, five with the South Africans, then in the Transkei with their special forces, then into every little skirmish of the era. He was

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extremely selective about the causes and people for whom he worked, and money never was the driving factor. Adventure, slaying that elusive dragon, living up to the warrior tradition — those were the things that drove him.

I will miss Bob MacKenzie very much. We shared the Rhodesia experience as only a handful of Yanks did. We shared that wonderful and noble love of the "cause," and although mine has flint-hardened into



During a lighter moment in 1987, MacKenzie (left) and SOF publisher Bob Brown, on a junket to Suriname to check out an insurrection there. Photo: SOF files

cynicism, Bob kept looking for the right battle with the right cause at the right time — Agincourt in the 1990s. I will miss his intelligence and ability to see directly to the heart of a matter, his dry humor, his forthrightness, and his courage.

There is an empty spot in my life, because I'll never see him again. Wonderful memories will have to suffice. Those will always be with me, and that part of Bob MacKenzie still lives. I hope a memorial is made to Bob, something his son Ian can look at and touch, and through which eventually Ian's kids can get an inkling of the man and soldier Bob MacKenzie was. There's a clock at the SAS lines in Hereford, with the names of SAS operators whose time ran out. This, I hope, would be Bob's memorial for he would stand in fine company.

More than 400 years ago another adventurer, Sir Richard Grenville, fell in battle while commanding the ship *Revenge* against the Spanish fleet. His words would probably be Bob's in

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spirit, those last few moments in Sierra Leone: "Here I die ... with a joyful and quiet mind, for I have ended my life as a true soldier ought to do, that hath fought for his country, Queen, religion, and honour: whereby my soul most joyfully departeth out of this body; and shall leave behind it, an everlasting fame of a valiant and true soldier, that hath done his duty, as he was bound to do."

Those of you who knew Bob are the lucky ones. In a world of much bluster and "there I was," you met the real thing: an honest-to-God professional soldier. There were never many to begin with, and there's one fewer now. Too bad for the profession of arms, too bad for all of us.

— John C. Coleman, former SOF executive editor

Closing Tribute

Bob MacKenzie — [was] an outstanding soldier — a man I was very proud to be associated with as a soldier and a friend. America can be justly proud of Bob's achievements: We Rhodesians most certainly are.

—Lt. Col. Ron Reid-Daly, CLM, DMM, MBE, commanding officer Selous Scouts Regiment, Rhodesian Army ✕

BULLETIN BOARD

Continued from page 8

a crime which they had not committed," the lawsuit claimed. "The incarceration of the plaintiffs was directly caused by the action of the U.S. government," Judge Moreno said.

VIETNAM REENACTMENT

A Vietnam battle is planned for 17-18 June 1995 near Colorado Springs, Colorado, with 1967-era weapons and uniforms. Units looking for recruits include the 3/506, 101st Airborne and 9th Infantry Division — and VC and NVA units. If interested in U.S. units, contact Dean Byrne; phone: 719-392-1300. For VC/NVA units call Tom Hastings; phone: 303-576-0761.

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SLICK WILLIE WATCH

Continued from page 10

illegally concealed his investment in a trouble-plagued, low-income apartment complex in suburban Maryland.

Other investigations will probably involve Brown's business partner Nolanda Hill. Although Hill and Brown "co-owned" a firm called First International Communications Corp., Brown put no money into the company; yet, when it went broke, Hill arranged for Brown to be paid \$412,000. Another Hill company, Corridor Broadcasting, actually paid the bills for the "inert" First International, and soon thereafter, Corridor defaulted on federally guaranteed loans, costing taxpayers \$34 million. Despite the fact the two companies shared office space, Brown says he had no ties to Corridor — the sort of telecom company Brown's Commerce Department helps regulate. Hill, also an executive of the Texas Jasas Corp., in 1994 ordered Jasas to pay \$72,000 to the tiny Polish American Trade and Service Association: The association promptly sent a check for \$71,500 to a lawyer retained by Hill to pay off \$190,000 of Brown's debts. A question that begs answering in this facet of the Brown investigation is, how did Brown repay Hill for such striking and odd largess?

HELP WANTED

As we go to press, Dr. Henry Foster remains unconfirmed as Clinton's surgeon general, and the president vows to go to the mat for Foster; and Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., threatens to block a vote. Primarily at issue, aside from partisan politics, are Foster's contradictory statements regarding the number of abortions he has performed. ✕

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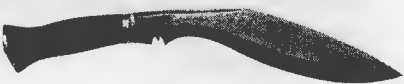
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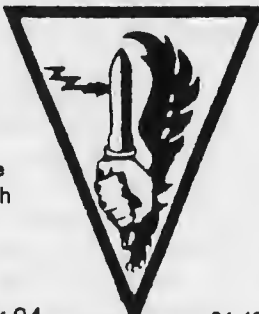
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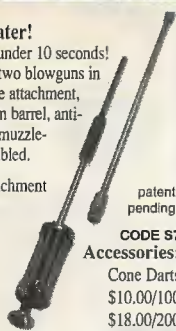
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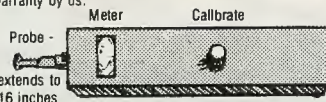
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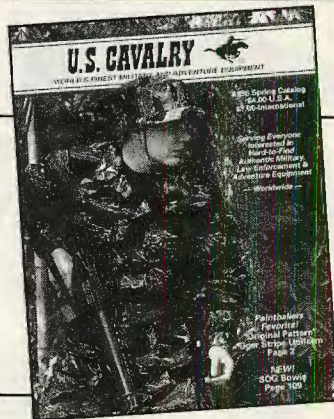


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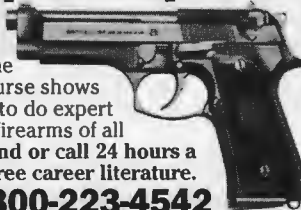
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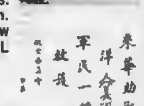
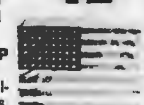
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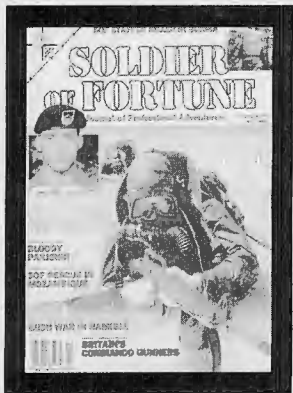
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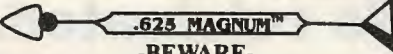
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PARTING SHOT

Band of Brothers

by Jerry Sullivan

It wasn't by chance that I was in New Orleans on 9 November 1994, swilling strong Cajun coffee and reading about the revolution that took place at the polls the day before. I'd flown down to get a head start on the 1994 reunion of Colonel David Hackworth's "Band of Brothers."

I was off to a great start, having already met David "Doc" Anderson, whom I'd last seen heading off for R&R in 1969 before I was wounded. And I had plans to link up with Kenneth Scott, a man from Trinidad whose green card netted him 14 months in 'Nam and four purple hearts. All were common men of uncommon character; real heroes by anybody's definition.

Scott and I were invited by retired Marine Sergeant Cindy Pickett to attend a USMC hangar party in celebration of the Corps' 219th birthday. The party was hosted by Major General James Livingston and 25 of his fellow Marines: All wore America's highest award — the Medal of Honor. I was proud to be in the presence of such men. Hell, for a brief moment I even wished I had joined the Marines back in '68.

By contrast, the politically correct, draft-dodg-

ing, anti-veteran White House crowd and their cohorts in Congress snubbed the national convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. But whereas we were ass-deep in festivities, all they could do was lick their wounds and watch their liberal agenda vaporize. The media and their socialist bed-buddies reeled under the roar of the American voter who shook the very foundation of our government.

... their liberal agenda vaporize[d] ... Bill and Hillary hung their heads and wept. We celebrated.

Bill and Hillary hung their heads and wept. We celebrated.

By the end of the week, many of the Band of Brothers were slowing down and the emotions of men sharing a common bond began to break through. Surrounded by loved and trusted friends — gentle warriors all — we watched with a sense of vindication as big names fell from Capitol Hill. What made it even sweeter were visions of those in Washington, who for years looked down

their noses on the likes of us, looking for jobs once their bullshit trips collapsed around them.

The next day was Veteran's Day and Hack's birthday — the man really was born to be a warrior. There is not a man among the Band of Brothers who would not give it all for him, no questions asked. We met at the Super Dome for a rededication ceremony of the Vietnam Veteran's

proud and full of hope.

Three old Vietnamese, two *mamasans* and a *papasans*, were along the parade route planting flowers and trimming bushes. I'm not sure they understood what was going on; they looked rather perplexed. But when Scott said in perfect Vietnamese, "Hello, you're beautiful and we love you," great smiles spread across their faces lighting their tired eyes. Somehow, that seemed to make it all worthwhile.

The weekend marked the end of our gathering. A final party offered us an occasion for farewells and promised reunions: "Take care, brother. Keep in touch. Hey, I'll be down to Tennessee in the spring to do some fishing."

Something great and profound happened that second week in November, not only in my life but nationwide. In New Orleans the Band of Brothers, U.S. Marine Corps and others all welcomed us home, honored our sacrifices and rekindled a fire within. The American voters demanded back their heritage, traditions and rights. We bloodlessly told our government the same thing we fought for in Vietnam: Get out of our lives and let us be free to live our dreams. ✕

Memorial.

I then joined Col. Jack Kilcrease's Military Order of the Purple Heart and, with Brother Scott at the wheel, rode the streets of New Orleans in the largest Veteran's Day parade in the city's history. Tens of thousands lined the streets, waved flags, saluted vets, passed out flowers and yelled their thanks. This was the America I went to war for — the America I grew up believing in. This was the America I knew as a youngster,

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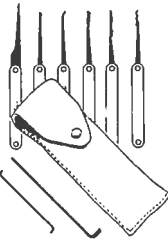
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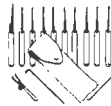
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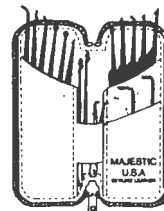
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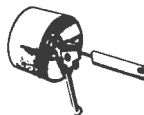


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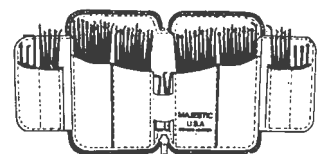
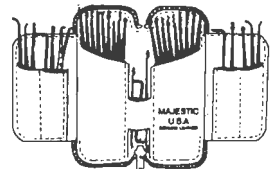
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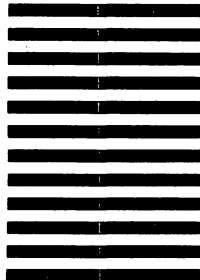
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