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Two Decades of Soldier of Fortune

by Robert K. Brown

It's only appropriate, I suppose, that on the 20th anniversary of the founding of *SOF*, I find myself on the Bosnian border preparing to take an *SOF* team into Sarajevo under the murderous guns of the barbaric Serbs. Our mission is to hump Scott Air-Pacs — breathing gear for firemen — through Serb lines, over Mount Igman, and deliver them to the Sarajevo Fire Department. If we get this cargo through, a lot of people will live who would otherwise die in the fires Serb shelling routinely starts.

Our current operation sums up much of what *SOF* is and has been about over the past two decades: slashing away at tyrants both foreign and domestic and at the same time not ignoring our "humanitarian" mission to alleviate some of the world's suffering.

In the 20 years we've been fighting the good fight we've crossed swords with the "politically correct" frauds, the irrelevant twits like Rep. Charlie "I've never seen a piece of anti-gun legislation I didn't like" Schumer, the now defunct "Evil Empire," and ATF agents who've abused the public trust, among many others.

We've never backed off when it came to defending the Second Amendment, and continue to stand fast against those who would disarm law abiding Americans to enforce their ideas of safety, in particular that flaccid saxophone player in the White House who continually attempts to bamboozle the American public with his anti-gun agenda. (Hey, butter boy, was it worth losing both the Senate and

the House of Representatives for a ban on flash hiders and bayonet lugs? You dork!)

We've been on the cutting edge in exposing the FBI and ATF cover-ups of Ruby Ridge and Waco while the mainstream media picked their noses. We've labeled out-of-control ATF agents as "jackbooted thugs" and made no apologies. In so doing, we do not imply that all or even a significant number of law enforcement personnel should be so characterized.

For the past 20 years we've tromped with the good guys and bad guys through Afghanistan, Grenada, Panama, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Trinidad, Cuba, Honduras, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Israel, the Persian Gulf, Peru, Columbia, Suriname, South Africa, Rhodesia/Zimbabwe, Russia, China, and now Croatia and Bosnia in our quest to get the story first-hand.

We've been fired on and fired back. (Nothing quite as exhilarating as punching off a 107mm rocket at a Russian outpost in Afghanistan!) In so doing, we've paid a price: George Bacon KIA in Angola; Mike Echanis in Nicaragua, Lance Motley in Burma and recently Bob MacKenzie in Sierra Leone. Rest well, my friends, you've served the cause of freedom well.

Of course we couldn't have done it without you, our loyal readers. Without your continued support we would not have been able to forge the swords necessary to gut the dragons we've taken on. Stand by us for the next 20 years and we'll continue to march — sword in hand. ☩



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FEATURES

SECOND AMENDMENT TRUTHS ARE SELF-EVIDENT

John O'Renck

SOF goes to the source — the authors of the Constitution — for ammo in defense of the right to bear arms. **44**

ANARCHY IN AFGHANISTAN

Harry Blanco

Russians leave and mujahideen go on bloody rampage — even without a com-

mon enemy the jihad continues. **47**

SOF — 20 YEARS ON POINT

SOF Staff

Follow *SOF* on its 20-year patrol from Rhodesia, Afghanistan and Nicaragua to Bosnia, Cambodia and Kuwait. **50**

SWEEP TO SMOKE

Dale B. Cooper

Travel with the Marines on their daring rescue of downed American pilot

Scott O'Grady — the ultimate live-fire test of elite TRAP Teams. **52**

SPECIAL PISTOL FOR SPECIAL OPS

Peter G. Kokalis

Off-the-shelf items are not good enough for today's SpecOps. H&K wins contract to fill arms rooms of America's best. **58**

NO CHEM WAR IN GULF? —

TELL IT TO THE MARINES

Bob Newman

Official REMF denials of Iraqi chemical attacks in the Gulf ignore one critical source: the U.S. Marines gassed on the ground. **62**

BEING A MAN AMONG MEN

John W. Coleman

SOF revisits its first war along with the most effective light infantry force ever fielded: the Rhodesian Light Infantry. **66**

Exclusive Interview: "ONE TO THE GROIN, TWO TO THE HEAD"

Robert K. Brown

You've heard G. Gordon Liddy's sugar-coated recommendations on servicing ATF targets, now read what he *really* thinks about them. **72**

HIGH ALTITUDE, LOW OPENING, NO CHANCE

Dale Andradé

Desperate for new and successful infiltration

techniques into Laos, SOG reached for the sky in the Army's first combat HALO jumps. **76**

SOF EXPOSES ATF'S WARBIRDS

James L. Pate

Cover operation designed to hide ATF's ownership of OV-10 counter-insurgency aircraft is easily compromised by *SOF* reporters. Opsec? What's Opsec? **80**

AIR PIRATES RAID PORT-AU-PRINCE

Ralph Edens

Long before Clinton's Haitian invasion, American "freelancers" took matters into their own hands using *air power* in an attempt to burn down Papa Doc's palace. **84**

SEAL! D-DAY FOR X-RAY Lt. Cmdr.

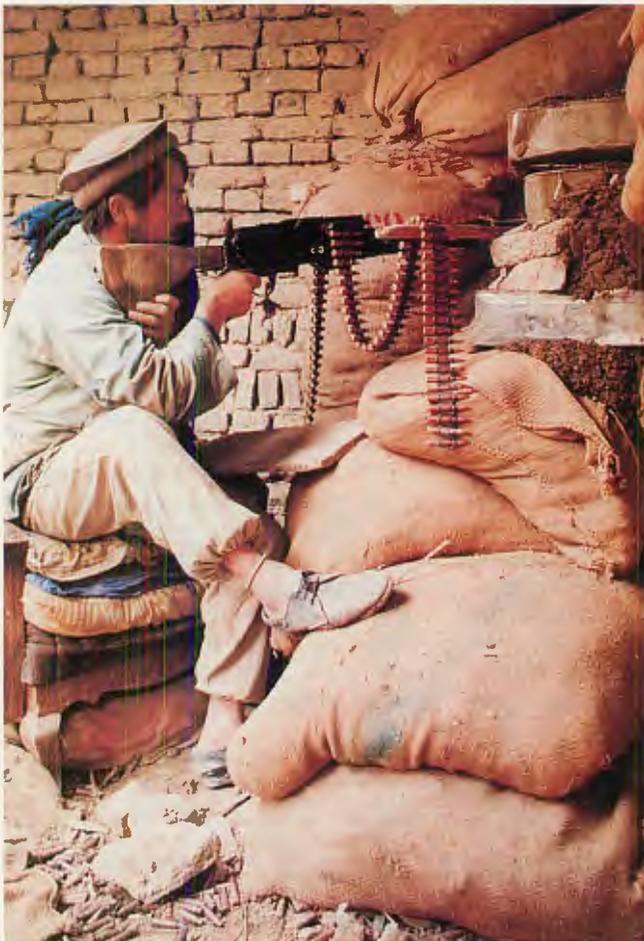
Michael J. Walsh

Hard luck SEAL platoon runs into trouble on riverine op in the Delta while Phoenix operator tries to lend a hand. **88**

WACO HEARINGS: SOMEBODY'S LYING!

James L. Pate

One of the two sides involved in the congressional Waco probe is not telling the truth. Though the hearings are supposed to sort out what really happened, posturing and contradictory statements are hampering any meaningful discovery. **92**



Afghan Anarchy—page 47

Photo: Harry Blanco



COLUMNS

- Command Guidance** 3
- Bulletin Board** 6
Who's The Militia?
- Slick Willie Watch** 10
Bill's Buddy Gets Hard Time
- Second Amendment O.P.** 12
SOF Fabricates Quote?
- FLAK** 14
Executing SOF As A Traitor
- Full Auto** 24
Removing The Crimp From Your Style
- I Was There** 30
A Company Job
- Adventure Quartermaster** 34
Train Hard, Fight Easy
- Combat Weaponcraft** 38
Personal Patrol Pack
- World SitRep** 42
- Supply Locker** 120
- Classified** 125
- Advertisers Index** 130



Sweep To Smoke — page 52
Photo: Reuters/Bettmann Archives

COVER

SOF celebrates two decades of tell-it-like-we-saw-it participatory journalism with a dual Kalashnikov victory stance by SOF contributor and former French legionnaire Paul Fanshaw. Fanshaw was serving in Calvi, Corsica, when this photo was taken just after the Legion's Kolwezi operation. At the time, we had no idea we'd be around 20 years later. Hang on for the next 20 — you ain't seen nothin' yet. Photo: Hubert Le Champion. Hand coloring: Melissa Kauffman



No Chem War? — page 62

Photo: SOF files

BULLETIN BOARD

TOLD YOU SO...

A tenet of liberal theology-mythology has fallen: Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, electrocuted in 1953 as Soviet spies, were not innocent victims of anti-communist hysteria. Decoded cable messages have proven they were working on behalf of the Soviet Union in attempting to steal atomic secrets and recruit spies from 1943 forward. Secret messages from Soviet diplomats in the United States were decoded by teams of U.S.

code-breakers, and recently released by the National Security Agency. During the Cold War, it could not be disclosed that we had broken Soviet codes. Ironically, the Soviet code name for Julius Rosenberg — we're not making this up — was "Liberal." Their code name for San Francisco? "Babylon."

PHLIGHTS OPH PHANTASY

According to James William Gibson, a sociologist at California State University, a new culture — called a true counterculture by columnist Frank

Rich — was born at the confluence of two events in 1975: the fall of Saigon and the founding of *Soldier Of Fortune* magazine. Gibson's book *Warrior Dreams: Paramilitary Culture in Post-Vietnam America* asserts that the American defeat in Vietnam gave rise to a "warrior fantasy" among some "white" American males, and this scenario led to the new phenomena of heavily armed religious groups who wanted the government out of their face (David Koresh, et al), paramilitary groups (militias, et al), and terrorist-type bombings.

I'd never disagree with a shrink, of course, 'cause he'd be just one more to dismiss this writer as crazy, but the good doctor missed a couple hundred years of American history if he thinks any of these phenomena are new. Such historical incidents as the Whisky Rebellion, the Army's forays against the Mormons in the 19th century, and the plethora of you-'n'-me Joe freelance militias formed early in World War II pale recent incidents. "Right-wing" paramilitary groups have

been a constant on the American scene ever since World War II, from the Minutemen and Counterinsurgency Council to eccentric Florida telephone execs who armed their operators with rewatted Thompsons. Sociopaths and others with an axe to grind — particularly "left-wing" anarchists — have been blowing things up around America since the invention of nitroglycerin. *What's past is prologue, Doc. Look in the attic if you want to understand what's going on downstairs.*



Soldier Of Fortune magazine and Omega Group have entered into a long-term arrangement with NNP Inc. to design and license SOF merchandise and products worldwide. Here SOF Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown displays the first SOF jacket, a top-quality leather number that looks and feels great. You can bet that anything with the SOF logo will be first quality, the best of its type and worthy of your consideration. Look for the NNP line of SOF products at the SOF convention in Las Vegas this September.



This summer SOF Special Projects Director Alex McColl was en route from Jerusalem to Amman, Jordan, with the "Wings of Peace" jump tour when he spied this American WW II vintage halftrack at a lunch stop in Bet Shan: It belongs to an IDF reserve component on active duty and is a fully operational vehicle. Production of halftracks ended a couple years before the current state of Israel was born so this track is not only older than the men driving it, it's probably older than their fathers. Photo: Alex McColl

INSET: Old halftracks never die: SOF reader Joel Gramith (left) and cohort Steve Price (holding up track) pose with Joel's OT-810 (Czech version of the German SdKfz 251), which he will be using in WW II reenactments with the Historical Reenactment Society. Photo: courtesy Joel Gramith

MARINE SPECIAL WARFARE AND ELITE UNIT TACTICS

by Bob Newman

Forward-deployed on naval ships in the world's most volatile hot spots, U.S. Marine Corps "special operations capable" units are equipped, trained and ready to bring their immense combat power to bear in today's "small wars." This book is an inside look at how modern Marines conduct warfare in such unconventional conflicts - lightning raids, hard-hitting counterterrorism ops, tense downed-pilot recoveries and other special missions. Gunnery Sergeant Bob Newman, USMC, explains how Marines employ relentless offensive actions and imaginative, bold maneuvers to dictate the terms of the battlefield, keeping the enemy reacting continually to advances, probes and attacks until he is utterly defeated. Stories from the author's combat experiences in the Gulf War and historical examples from classic Marine engagements bring these cutting-edge military concepts to life. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, softcover, photos, 184 pp. **\$20.00**



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Trans. by Lt. Michael C. Fagnon

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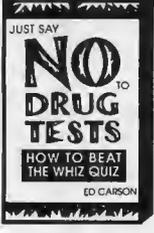
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ship: must reading if you deal in any fashion with guns or the proliferation of laws that affect them. Available in a ring binder with annual updates, *Firearms Law Deskbook* is available from Clark Boardman Callaghan, Dept. SOF, 155 Pflugsten Road, Deerfield, IL 60015; phone: 800-221-9428.

74 MILLION ROUND MISTAKE

In the wake of the galloping paranoia generated by the Oklahoma City bombing, it appears U.S. Customs dusted off a two-year-old (and incorrect) tip from a confidential informant that Eagle-Exim of Santa Clara, California, was smuggling illegal am-

munition. Without even bothering to check, federal agents got a warrant and showed up at Eagle's old address with a raiding party, busting in on a precision metalworking company who now occupied the space Eagle had left months before. When the feds finally got their addresses and warrants straight, they seized some 74 million rounds of 7.62x39 ammo, claiming it was illegally imported Chinese manufacture.

"They were wrong," said company president Don St. Pierre. "Dead

barrassing when they had the wrong address.

TRUTH HURTS SPOTLIGHT

The conspiracy mongers who churn out *The Spotlight* fishwrapper each week were not at all amused when confronted with the truth in our article "All The News That's Fit to Invent" (Aug. '95).

But what do you do when confronted with the ugly facts? If you're *The Spotlight* you make up a new series of contradictory, convoluted lies in a lame attempt to CYA.

We stopped counting after 25 verifiable fact errors, as it became clear these folks have no talent for accuracy. It's easier to count flies in the SOF lunchroom.

It didn't surprise us that few of their claims are backed by named sources, but it did take us aback when they claimed SOF was in a "frenzy" for being "scooped" on the combat arms survey story. As a monthly feature magazine we don't compete — never have — with weekly tabloids, and as a publication that has made its mark by reporting first-hand from where things are happening, we're not concerned about beating to the punch a bunch of paranoid dorks who dream up the stories while they're typing them.

Until now we thought *The Spotlight* was at least good bird-cage liner, but now we can't recommend it for that as it's to the point where you can't tell the bird shit from the bullshit.

WHO'S THE MILITIA?

Into the current militia debate, we'd like to interject, hot off the press, what *Title 10 United States Code — Armed Forces, (As Amended Through December 31, 1994)* says about who is the militia. Quoting from "Chapter 13 — The Militia, Section 311. Militia: composition and classes":

(a) *The militia of the United States consists of all able-bodied males at least 17 years of age and, except as provided in section 313 of Title 32, under 45 years of age who are, or who have made a declaration of intention to become, citizens of the United States and of female citizens of the United States who are members of the National Guard.*

(b) *The classes of the militia are — (1) the organized militia, which consists of the National Guard and the Naval Militia; and (2) the unorganized militia, which consists of the members of the militia who are not members of the National Guard or the Naval Militia.*

We're not lawyers, but taking this at face value it would seem "Acting Adjutant General of the Unorganized Militia of the United States" Linda Thompson doesn't qualify because she's a gal. Aside from being rather poorly worded, it appears this law is rife with sexist, ageist implications. We rather prefer George Mason's definition given at the Virginia Constitution ratification convention in 1788: "...I ask, *Who are the militia? They consist now of the whole people, except for a few public officers.*" ✕



wrong." Former chief federal prosecutor for the Bay area Joseph Russoniello noted, "Clearly, the service got caught up in the heat of the moment." Robert Weisberg, a teacher of law procedure at Stanford Law School observed, "This kind of thing shouldn't happen."

The soft-nose ammo, of course, was neither Chinese nor illegal. After some face-saving attempts, the feds had to give it back. Eagle-Exim promised not to sue the government for damages, although they are out some \$250,000 in lost sales and legal fees. Well, at least the feds didn't come in shooting this time — might have been em-



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SOF 10/95

SLICK WILLIE WATCH



HERE COME DA JUDGE

Daniel S. Pearson, a retired Florida appellate judge and former federal prosecutor, has been named to investigate the finances of Commerce Secretary Ron Brown. Now in private practice, Pearson, 64, was selected by a three-judge court empowered to pick such investigators.

Attorney General Janet Reno asked the court in May to select a counsel to determine if Brown improperly accepted nearly \$500,000 from a business partner, and whether he deliberately filed inaccurate financial statements and a misleading mortgage statement. Pearson has been commissioned by the court to determine if Brown committed any federal felonies; his specific mission is to investigate Brown's acceptance of money from former partner Nolanda Hill or her firm First International Inc., Brown's financial disclosure reports, and his application for a mortgage in 1993.

D'AMATO PROMISES VIGOROUSNESS

Promising that the investigation would be impartial and thorough, Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, R-N.Y., has announced hearings on the Whitewater affair involving President and Hillary Rodham Clinton. D'Amato said the hearings would begin with the issue of whether improper conduct occurred in the handling of documents in the office of White House

Deputy Counsel Vincent Foster after his gunshot death two years ago. "The Whitewater committee plans a vigorous schedule of hearings and depositions," D'Amato stated. "We expect to conduct further rounds of hearings over the remainder of this year and perhaps into next year, if necessary, to complete the committee's work."

According to sources close to the Whitewater investigation, one of several conflicts in the White House account of what happened after the death of Vince Foster will be testimony from Secret Service uniformed officer Henry O'Neill, who has told prosecutors that he saw Hillary Clinton's chief of staff, Margaret Williams, remove papers from Vince Foster's White House office suite the night of his death. Ms. Williams disputes the guard's statement, and at her instigation took, and passed, a lie detector test last fall.

BILL'S BUDDY GETS HARD TIME

Webster Hubbell, the longtime friend of President Clinton appointed to the No. 3 post at the Justice Department, has been sentenced to nearly two years in prison for bilking legal clients at the Arkansas law firm where he and Hillary Rodham Clinton were partners. Hubbell is the first former Clinton staff official sentenced to prison in the 18-month-long Whitewater investigation. Whitewater

prosecutor Kenneth Starr spoke glowingly of Hubbell's contributions to his community and country, but did not mention Hubbell's cooperation with the Whitewater investigation — or that many of Hubbell's charitable acts were paid for with stolen money. Hubbell was also ordered to repay \$135,000 of the \$482,410 he stole, and to spend three years on probation.

FIRED FOB PAID \$3,000 A MONTH

President Clinton's Arkansas pal, Dave Watkins, was his head of administration during the 1992 campaign, and followed Clinton to Washington to serve the same function at the White House. But last year when Watkins took a \$14,000 ride in a presidential helicopter to go golfing in Maryland — and it came to light — he was dunned for the \$14,000 ride. Watkins said he was checking out the course for Clinton, and according to the *New York Daily News* he tried to get other staffers to pony up, too. Watkins was ultimately sacked over the affair ... but hardly sent away hungry. *Business Week* now reports that since his firing last July, Watkins, now vice-president of a California golf-club manufacturing company, has been receiving a \$3,000 a month stipend. Fortunately, fellow taxpayers, this retainer did not come from the federal coffers, but from the Clinton cam-

paign. Why? Because his knowledge of campaign finances was supposedly needed to answer audit questions from the Federal Election Commission. Of course. If Joe Doakes knew anything, he would get a subpoena: FOBs get a retainer just in case they know something.

"ASSAULT WEAPONS" ADS: DEM STRATEGISTS UNHAPPY

According to columnist Deborah Orin, a lot of Democratic strategists think President Clinton has shot himself in the foot with his \$2.5 million ads bad-mouthing "assault weapons" and touting his uncharacteristically faithful stand against them. Democratic critics regard it as a waste of money, being run some 18 months before the election, and resent the loss of the \$2.5 million, which counts against the amount Clinton is allowed to spend in his re-election bid. "It's money right down the toilet," said one skeptical Democrat. Further, airing campaign ads so early — and having aides boast about the political dividends — makes Clinton look political and undercuts his attempts to build an above-the-fray "presidential" image. Noted Republican national chairman Haley Barbour, "Clinton claims that he is not starting the campaign — but the American people are getting used to Bill Clinton saying one thing and doing another." ✕



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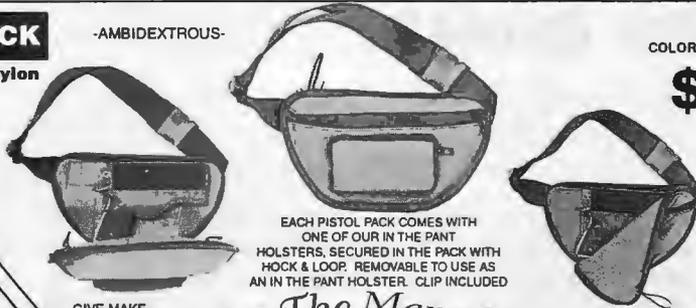
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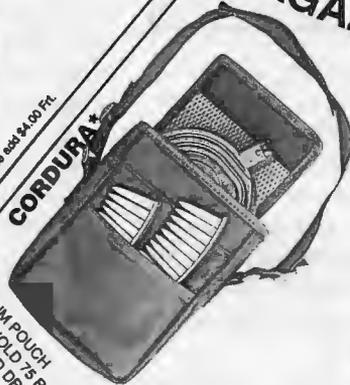
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SECOND AMENDMENT O.P.

SOF Fabricates Quote?

by SOF Staff

When other media express differing viewpoints from *SOF*, we usually think that is a healthy sign of the marketplace of ideas we both work, and it's fine with us.

Consequently, *SOF* seldom wallows in editorial imbrolios with other members of the press. But we do make exceptions, such as when a particular publication's bizarre twisting or outright fabrication of fact are so demonstrably wrong that this in itself is news (see "All The News That's Fit To Invent," *SOF* July '95). Another exception would be when a credible writer accuses *SOF* of printing "what appears to be a wholly fabricated quotation."

Our long established editorial policy is to correct any error that creeps onto our pages, and we are therefore grateful if an error is questioned, as this serves to help us address it. But in the instance at hand we have to perceive the question as an accusation of editorial irresponsibility — not an error — and we must admit to being slightly less than grateful.

The issue at hand is whether Janet Reno, while a prosecutor in South Florida, attended a B'nai B'rith meeting in 1984 where she told the assembly that, "The most effective means of fighting crime in the United States is to outlaw the possession of any type of

firearm by the civilian populace." This statement was referenced in the April 1995 *SOF* article "...Necessary To The Security Of A Free State" which dealt with citizen militias. The story was subsequently syndicated by *The New York Times*, and drew printed response from the major media, including the above "what-appears-to-be-a-wholly-fabricated-quotation" judgment from *St. Petersburg (Florida)*

story or his ass shot off, whichever comes first. In short we take pains to get, and report, the truth as we observe it. We do not research our stories from the gin mill closest to the action, and we don't fabricate "wholly" or in part.

SOF's source for this Janet Reno quote is Fred Diamond, a retired investment banker and resident of Dade County, Florida, who was present at the referenced meeting. His

... we take pains to get, and report, the truth as we observe it. We do not research our stories from the gin mill closest to the action, and we don't fabricate "wholly" or in part.

Times associate editor Martin Dyckman.

In a light vein we sometimes preface a startling, semi-humorous factoid in a column with "We're not making this up." But even when we do not use this preface, the reader may rest assured we do not — ever — make things up. In our 20-year effort to go where it's happening and get the truth independently, *SOF* has had more reporters shot out from under their cameras than we now have editorial staff. As we write this, our Publisher/Editor Bob Brown is in Sarajevo trying to get a

sworn affidavit, dated 17 June 1993, reads, in part: "Although the focus of her presentation was to discuss what her office was doing to control crime in Dade County, Janet Reno responded to questioning concerning her position on gun control.

"Janet Reno told the members of our group assembled that waiting periods were only a step, that registration was only a step, and further that *prohibition of the private ownership of firearms was the only ultimate solution to controlling crime.*"

According to Dyckman,

in response to his recent query, Janet Reno told him that "...she could not remember ever suggesting that all guns should be banned. 'I can't say I never said anything like that,' she added. 'I might have made a statement that guns are killing, but I don't recall that statement.'"

Although Ms. Reno "does not recall," a credible witness issued a sworn affidavit regarding what he *does* recall. In deciding where the truth may lie, Dyckman tells his readers to "consider the source" [i.e. *Soldier Of Fortune*]. By association Dyckman also impinges the credibility of several other publications, including the *National Review*, which used the same quote in its 29 May 1995 issue.

Apparently in Mr. Dyckman's world you can only trust the *St. Petersburg Times*. In the real world, however, you should be leery of any "journalist" who's grown so comfortable with the public officials he's supposed to be watching to write: "Having known Janet Reno for nearly 25 years, I can say with confidence that she does not say dumb things." That was the lead to Dyckman's attack on *SOF*, and we suppose if one operates under that assumption, there's little point to actually listening to what Ms. Reno says.

SOF stands by the article, and the statement attributed to Janet Reno. ✕

New, Eye-Opening, Documented
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Jerry Peterson, The One And *Only* Creator Of The Official U.S. Navy SEAL Combat System, Shows You How To Defeat *Any* Fighting Technique On Earth Compare This 'Scientific' System With Other 'Wanna-Be' Programs And You'll Instantly See Why It's Required SEAL Training!

Six years ago the Navy SEALs began using a scientific fighting system so powerful that today they're recognized as the most potent fighting force on the face of this earth.

Jerry Peterson, the creator of this system, became the first civilian ever to standardize and license a hand-to-hand fighting system to the U.S. Military. Here's how it happened and why it's important to you.

In 1989, Naval Special Warfare Command (NSWC), the group which controls all SEAL activity, was looking for ways to standardize hand-to-hand combat techniques. After an exhaustive review, they had rejected every single martial art form in the world.

They found each completely unworkable in combat-oriented fighting situations where SEALs were in full gear, carrying 100# packs, and often knee-deep in water.

Amazing Scientific System

Then a SEAL NSWC officer (with black belts in 3 martial arts) saw Jerry Peterson's scientific fighting system. What he stumbled on wasn't martial arts. In fact it was unlike anything he'd ever seen before.

The SEAL officer watched in disbelief as a class of inexperienced students threw real punches for virtually an entire hour, never repeating the same sequences. In one session he witnessed more fighting than most martial arts students see in a year.

Later, two top brass at NSWC saw the officer demonstrating moves he'd learned. But intrigue turned to doubt when they learned the originator was an ex-Army enlisted man.

Still they met with Jerry, as much out of admiration for his Vietnam record as anything (he spent 15 months as lead point for Charlie Company, the 173rd Airborne — one of the most decorated units of the war). The SEAL officers, Vietnam vets themselves, figured Jerry at least ought to understand their needs.

But they were totally unprepared for what happened next. To prove his system, Jerry Peterson and a highly-decorated SEAL Officer (and at 240, 100 pounds heavier than Jerry) went toe-to-toe — but at half speed. To the Officer's amazement he was instantly disabled and dropped to his knees.

Only then did he realize — had he not been talked out of going full speed by others who knew the awesome power of Jerry Peterson's system, his false confidence in his martial arts training and in his sheer size advantage would have left him with an arm broken as easily as a match stick!

'Blown Away' In Just Minutes

In 5 short minutes these SEAL officers — men who had seen everything in the way of brutal fighting, and who had virtually unlimited budgets to develop the SEALs into the world's best — were blown away by Jerry Peterson's *Autokinematic™* fighting system.

Following a pilot program at Command headquarters all SEALs began receiving this

training. Still, hardheaded, cocky, non-believing SEALs, many with extensive martial arts backgrounds, constantly tested Jerry:

□ SEALs are the most proficient combat swimmers in the world. Yet 40-year old Jerry (who wasn't a particularly good swimmer) "drowned" SEAL after SEAL in training. His scientific principles (this isn't a graceful art form) apply on any terrain.

□ SEALs are trained to run 20 miles in soft sand. But Jerry (who really wasn't in great shape) had them gasping just 5 minutes into his first workouts while he participated effortlessly. He used breathing techniques others had never seen (techniques he can teach you in minutes).

□ Once, Jerry challenged an entire platoon to pin him against a wall. All thought it a joke. Yet he escaped — from the grasp of 14 of the most proficient fighting men in the world (then demonstrated it was no trick — simply physics, and easily learned).

Today all SEALs use these scientific techniques and many more. Since 1989, Navy SEAL platoons go through a minimum of 40 rigorous hours of Jerry Peterson's training prior to deployment.

His system was demonstrated to Navy Admirals, a 4-Star General, and Congressional leaders — as well as the Secretary of the Navy and the U.S. Secretary of Defense!

Jerry was even called in prior to Desert Storm to brief the military on using *Neural Offensive Linguistics™* (a cornerstone of his system, it defines a mind set which eliminates all defensive thinking, allowing anyone, even you, to make instantaneously correct decisions in the midst of any hostile environment).

Devastatingly Powerful

Yet if you expect to use Jerry Peterson's military techniques in civilian situations you're going to get yourself into trouble. Military confrontations are simply not the same as civilian.

What you need to know are methods even the military is not taught.

And now, in the most recent release of his system, Jerry reveals the specific techniques you must know to control any hostile civilian situation. It's called *Jerry Peterson's Hostile Control Systems*, and used correctly, this system can make you undefeatable.

In *Hostile Control* you quickly learn (in no more than a day) how to defeat or seriously disable anyone threatening your life or the life of a loved one! You get the same devastating power the Navy SEALs use. It's just directed towards civilian confrontations.

Combat Proven

Everything in this system was proven in the most intense war lab of the past 30 years — Vietnam! But please understand.

This is not a course to impress friends at your local Karate studio. It's a professional fighting system.

You won't see Jerry Peterson or his pro-

fessional instructors on the Ultimate Fighting Challenge. This isn't sport fighting. Professional fighting has but one objective: to defeat an attacker. And to do it incredibly fast — in 20 years Jerry's longest fight lasted a mere 5 seconds!

This system is only for those who need a powerful yet amazingly simple system (simple because it's based on quickly-mastered scientific principles not a difficult art form) to protect them in life-threatening situations.

No Navy SEAL has ever lost in hand-to-hand combat when correctly applying Jerry's system! And they never will because...

His System Is Undefeatable

One more thing. Cheap imitators may try to claim they've trained Navy SEALs, but let me explain what they've actually done.

SEAL platoons have discretionary funds they use to bring in all sorts of instructors. For example, they've hired the Evelyn Wood™ company to teach speed reading.

And that's the level these cheap imitators are working at. They've gone in at an 'Evelyn Wood' level and given their program to a platoon — maybe to just 1 or 2 men. But they're not the genuine thing.

Jerry Peterson is the sole creator of the official hand-to-hand combat fighting system used by the U.S. Navy SEALs today.

Want to call these imitator's bluff? Jerry's official Naval Special Warfare course number is K-431-0096. Under the Freedom of Information Act call the Government Information Office and verify for yourself that his course, *Special Combat Aggressive Reactionary System (SCARS)* exists. You won't get details about it because it's restricted.

But ask these Navy SEAL 'wanna-be' trainers what their official government course number is. You'll find they haven't got one!

In fact, if you're in a violent confrontation and all you have is these 'wanna-be' techniques, you might just be safer pulling out a book and trying to impress the assailant with your speed reading skills!

So now you decide. Do you want more 'disguised' martial arts from cheap imitators coming in at the level of Evelyn Wood instructors?

Or will you make the decision the Navy SEALs made — and go with Jerry Peterson, the genuine developer of the official U.S. Navy SEAL combat fighting system!

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DON'T SACRIFICE TO FALSE GODS

You provided a greatly needed public service and a healthy dose of sanity in the articles in the August issue debunking the falsehoods in *The Spotlight* and the black helicopter conspiracies.

Nonetheless, we don't have to have U.N. "peacekeepers" using black helicopters to impose martial law to lose our freedoms. All that's needed to end up under martial law is a megalomaniacal president who would invoke all the executive orders on the books that give the executive branch near dictatorial powers over the U.S. economy and people. I particularly fear that one day the American public will get so sick and tired of runaway violent crime and random violence that it will elect a "man on horseback," who will declare a national emergency and impose martial law.

Such action would require the cooperation of Congress. But if you think a Republican-controlled Congress will stop erosion of our rights, think again. A "Republican" senator (John Chafee, R.I.) proposed a bill to ban private handguns completely a few years back.

What should worry SOF and its readers are

not black helicopters and the United Nations but those who would sacrifice our freedoms to the false gods of "security" and "order."

Edwin Krampitz Jr.
Drewryville, Virginia

SOME ARMY CHOPPERS ARE BLACK

If I were a constant reader of your publication (as I am), I would remember from past issues of the magazine that those

after dragging an American through the streets? I seem to recall that "Hawk" was black. If I were a follower of this magazine, I might remember this. Being that I myself am a Night Stalker, I know this for a fact!

Mr. Hulet, please do a little more research: I'd hate to be flying cross-country one day, land to take a leak and be shot as an invader. It may sound funny, but we get

and the photos of the birds in Somalia and in our *Night Stalker* articles aren't clear enough to distinguish dark olive from black.

THEY MAY BE NUTS BUT SOMETIMES THEY'RE RIGHT?

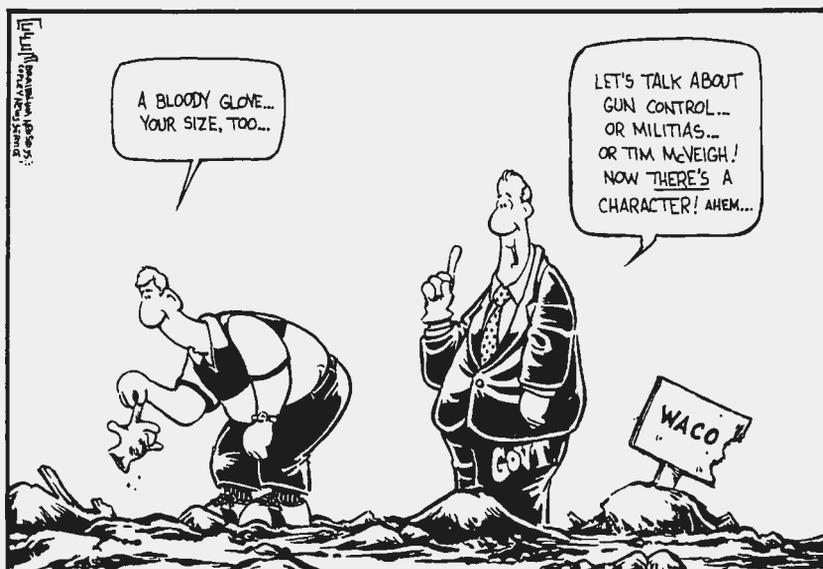
I am dismayed to see what appears to be an attempt to defame anti-big-government people in general and *The Spotlight* in particular. These people may be somewhat over the edge, but you can hardly blame them. We have been lied to and messed with by "our" government for several decades.

My point is that while *The Spotlight* and other alarmist sheets sometimes appear to be over the paranoid edge, they also have published things for years that have proven true.

There are good reasons not to believe the calming

fairly tales of officialdom. There is good reason to read and consider, not necessarily accept wholesale, what appears in *The Spotlight*. So please tread a bit more lightly on them and other paranoid organizations. They may just be our early warning radar.

Donald M. Smith
Waynesburg,
Pennsylvania



black helicopters Mr. Hulet writes about and Mrs. Thompson shows in her videos all belong to the 1/160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment. If memory serves, this unit has black Hughes 530s (OH-6s), Blackhawks and Chinooks, and trains all over the United States and the world with foreign anti-terrorist groups.

Remember the burned aircraft the Somalis were jumping up and down on

death threats all the time because we fly the conspiracy aircraft.

Name withheld
on request
Clarksville, Tennessee

Mr. Hulet never claimed that black helicopters don't exist; he, in fact, unequivocally stated that choppers of all colors certainly do exist. He could get no official confirmation that the military employs black helicopters,

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EXECUTING SOF AS A TRAITOR

We in the militia are getting accustomed to be-

magazine (August '95 issue) — and was hit with a force superior to the blast at the Murrah building in

New World Order" (page 46); "Militia members are wooden soldiers" (page 46).

ready, aim ... fire!
 "All 7,000 members of the Virginia militia"

THREATS TO FREEDOM ARE REAL

Your recent articles on militias and *The Spotlight* are a timely warning to the dangers of false information. But I would like to point out that it is not a "theory" but a fact that there are those in our government (to include members of the Department of Defense) who are working to vastly empower the United Nations.

The United Nations and the U.S. Constitution represent completely opposing views as to the source of rights and the proper role of government. Even though U.N. vehicles are not poised to attack Americans (as some "patriots" claim), their storage on

Continued on page 23



ing blasted in the mainstream media. Maybe that's why I was so caught off guard when I reached into the mailbox to greet an old friend of 10 years — *Soldier Of Fortune*

Oklahoma City. *SOF* hit us harder than Bill Clinton, Janet Reno and a two-hour segment of *60 Minutes* combined. "Far right lunatic fringe," (page 44); "There is no

World Order or U.N. threat. After canceling my subscription, I took my August issue down to the rifle range and did the proper thing: I blindfolded it, lit a cigarette for it and

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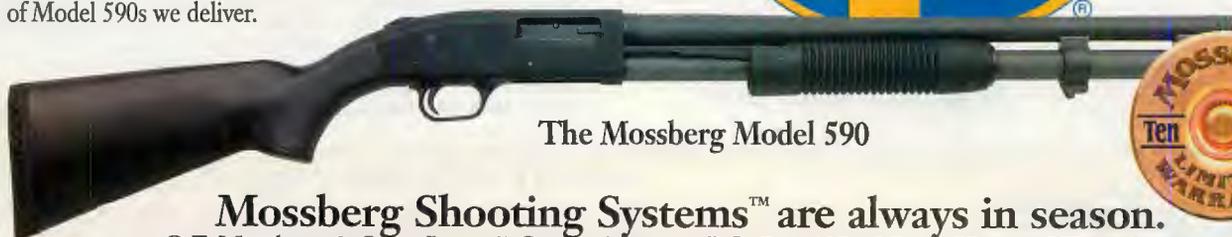
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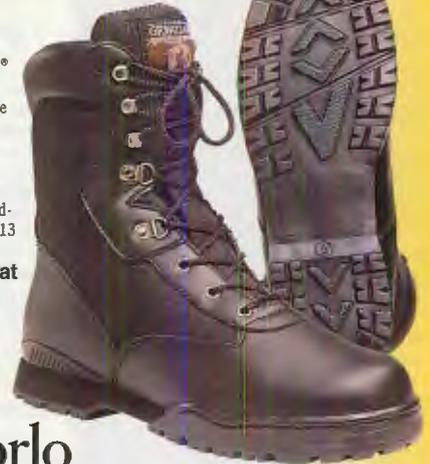
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When selecting your equivalent size, we suggest ordering the next European size higher to accommodate socks and other variables. Extra wide feet should go up a size.								
European	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
U.S.	6-6.5	7-7.5	8-8.5	9-9.5	10-10.5	11-11.5	12	13



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*NFJ0306, XXL \$74.95

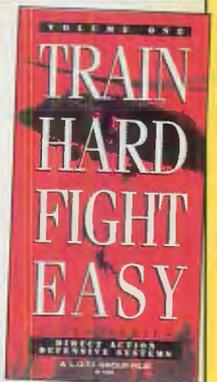
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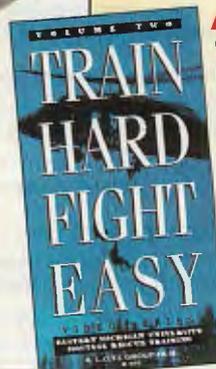


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Four roomy bellows pockets with concealed double-button, snag-proof flaps; pen slots in top pockets; waist take-up tabs; three button cuffs; concealed button front closure.

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Talls: S, M, L, XL

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Continued from page 16

American soil does raise legitimate questions and concern. There are a number of instances where our government has overstepped its constitutional boundaries, so let's not let down our guard due to some misinformation. Not all the info out there is bad and the threat to the freedoms recognized in our Constitution is real.

Richard W. Pearce
Parsippany,
New Jersey

REPRODUCING M60 FIXES

I will be retiring in lieu of a medical board this year. My remaining time on active duty is short, but I would like to pass on your tips to the machine gunners in my battalion. To do this I ask your permission to reproduce and use the article

"M60 Quick Fixes" (SOF May '89) for the weapons squad of my current battalion.

At the time of this writing my battalion has machine gunners involved in a shoot-off between the M240C and the M60A3. They are part of a test to decide which medium machine gun will be the new Army standard. It was recently decided, due to input from the field and recent combat experience, to keep the 7.62mm machine guns at platoon level because of their ability to hit and kill targets only distracted by the 5.56mm M249 SAW.

John E. Foley
Adams, Tennessee

SOF encourages the distribution of our articles for non-commercial purposes.

CANADIANS DIFFER FROM AMERICANS

Mike Vernon's article on the Canadian Airborne Regiment was well done, but it left out one or two points that should be addressed. For a Canadian soldier to commit a war crime while serving as a U.N. peacekeeper is, in the eyes of many Canadians, almost an act of treason. We do not have as casual a relationship with our armed forces as you do. We do not exist as a superpower, or in a military-industrial type economy. We are, for the most part, a quiet, tolerant people who vote liberal and regard socialized medicine as an intrinsic right. We are not like you, but we are your good friends.

The photographs of Master Corporal Matchee torturing a Somali youth revealed to us a breach

of faith that cannot be forgiven. Our U.N. peacekeepers are regarded as heroes and patriots of the highest order. To violate that position is a slap in the face to every Canadian. Disbanding the airborne was wrong, but the depth of our revulsion, privately and in the press, was to be expected.

Eric Newman
Morin Heights, Quebec

GIVE US 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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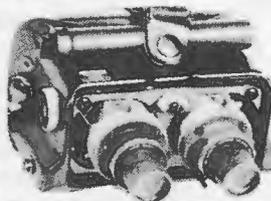
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Removing The Crimp From Your Style

Text & Photo by Peter G. Kokalis

Those who shoot fast guns must either locate inexpensive surplus ammunition or reload, or — most commonly — both, as machine guns consume considerably larger quantities of fuel than rifles or pistols. If you intend to reload using Boxer-primed military cases, you have a problem. Military cases, no matter the country of origin, almost always have primers which are staked or ring-crimped in place. And that includes such popular cartridges as .45 ACP, 5.56x45mm NATO (.223 Remington), 7.62x51mm NATO (.308 Winchester) and .30-06.

Staking is usually at three points around the primer. Frankford Arsenal used to stake-crimp .50 caliber Browning machine gun ammunition. The more common ring crimp is formed by means of a knife-rim concave die, only slightly larger than the diameter of the primer. This punch contacts the case head and curls brass over the entire circumference of the outer edge of the primer.

Very little has been written about why military small arms ammunition has crimped or staked primers. Frank Hackley (the former commanding officer of Lake City and Frankford Arsenals) of the Woodin Laboratory, a world renowned foundation devoted to the re-

search of military and police small arms cartridges under 35mm, informed me that there were several reasons for crimping or staking primers. First of all, this helps to secure the primer in the event of an oversize pocket or undersize cup, both entirely possible when mass-produced, high-speed priming and case drawing (the multiple-step process by which a small block of brass or steel is stamped into a cartridge case) is subjected to the haste and consequent drop in quality control usually associated with wartime production.

Secondly, this procedure reduces the possibility of blown primers caused by overpressure as a result of adverse storage conditions, propellant deterioration associated with aging, or excessive headspace (encountered more frequently in Browning machine guns which feature operator-adjusted headspace). I would personally add that machine-gun barrels and receivers are designed to serve as heat sinks during sustained fire in order to dissipate heat and prevent

premature ignition — “cook off.” However, when temperatures rise above 200 degrees Celsius, cook offs can occur and pressures will increase to dangerous levels. Because of the volume of fire required on the battlefield, it is difficult to design weapons that preclude the possibility of overheating. Blown primers can induce serious stoppages in auto-

Regardless of what some gun writers have said, removing a spent primer that has been staked or crimped in place is usually not difficult. The ordeal commences with the attempt to seat a new primer into a pocket that has a ring crimp surrounding it. I learned this the hard way about 30 years ago when I tried to seat primers into a substantial



Those who intend to reload using surplus military cases, which almost always have primers that are staked or ring-crimped in place, are well-advised to obtain the Dillon Super Swage 600, a tool designed specifically to remove the crimp and permit a new primer to be properly seated in the pocket.

matic weapons. In addition, crimping strengthens the head of the case, especially around the primer pocket, as the compression involved in the process helps to maintain a uniform hardness gradient in the brass. Finally, crimping assists in waterproofing the primer pocket.

batch of military .45 ACP cases without first removing the crimp. In those days, we had to painstakingly ream out the ring crimp case by case with a hand tool. With the advent of Mike Dillon's superb RL 1000 progressive

Continued on page 29

And the amazing thing is, you can learn it in one day!

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

by Dr. Russell Horine, President, *Tactical Response Solutions*

Dear Friend,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

— 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

“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...

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 Costa Jr.

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 damn 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-10 — 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,

Russell I Horine

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-10)

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

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Name: _____

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CA & VA residents add appropriate sales tax. Rush shipping available for additional charges of \$10 for "2-Day" shipping and \$15 for "Overnight" shipping. Foreign orders may require additional shipping. Please call (209) 732-5378 for more information.

Continued from page 24

reloader, this became unnecessary as the machine provided automatic primer pocket swaging. While no longer in the Dillon Precision Products Inc. (Dept. SOF, 8009 E. Dillon's Way, Scottsdale, AZ 85260; phone: 800-762-3845) catalog, the RL 1000 remains a legendary piece of equipment, still in use throughout the country (I have serial No. 037). Of Dillon's current line of progressive loaders, only the RL 1050 features automatic primer pocket swaging. However, Dillon does not recommend reloading either 7.62x51mm NATO or .30-06 with the RL 1050. Thus, those reloading .308 Winchester or .30-06 and all those using either the Square Deal "B," RL 550B or XL 650 are well-advised to obtain the Dillon Super Swage 600 if they intend to employ military surplus cartridge cases.

Priced at just under \$70, the Dillon Super Swage 600 uses no shell holders (unlike the failed primer pocket swagers of several other manufacturers). When swaging primer pockets, support should come from inside the case. Primer pocket swagers that try to use a standard shell holder for case support invariably leave a horseshoe-shaped distortion on the case head.

Dillon's Super Swage 600 utilizes a case locator rod that the empty case slips over to provide maximum support for the case and prevent damage to the case's rim. Two rods and a bushing are supplied. The unit comes with the 5.56x45mm rod installed. The larger rod is for .30 rifle caliber cases and both .38 Special and 9mm Parabellum pistol cases. A bushing that fits over the larger rod will accommodate .45 ACP cases. It takes only a few minutes to change the case locator rods and involves only removing the retaining nut in back of the swager lever, unscrewing the threaded case locator rod and installing the new one in the reverse manner. Set a case over the rod and adjust the case locator rod in or out so that the case goes freely down

Continued on page 96

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I WAS THERE

A Company Job

by Ben A. Van Etten

There are certain dates in one's life that stay etched in your memory. I can vividly remember my wedding day, where I was the day JFK was assassinated and 18 March 1972.

I was a CH-34D helicopter pilot for Air America Inc. on what started as a routine flight from Udorn, Thailand, to Pakse, Laos, where I was scheduled to remain for six days. My passengers were flight crews "dead-heading" up country for crew rotation.

I was about 10 minutes from refueling in Savannakhet, Laos, when the Air Force airborne controller (known as "King") for search and rescue (SAR) missions in Laos broadcasted a message searching for any Air America helicopter in the AO that might be available to help rescue a downed pilot.

Normally the military took care of their own SARs, but Air America made many rescues simply because we were in the area, available and fast. The Air Force was often its own worst enemy — by the time their birds were scrambled and briefed, cover provided and authentication of the downed pilot made (as if the enemy would stage a fake crash), he'd probably be captured.

I responded that I was available. After refueling, I was put in touch with "Sandy One," the on-scene commander direct-

ing the rescue operation. The downed aircraft was an OV-10 forward air controller out of Vietnam. He had been shot down over the Ho Chi Minh Trail about 40 miles east of Savannakhet. The crew was hiding on the east side of the road. A quick pickup could avert certain capture by the NVA.

I contacted Sandy One shortly after takeoff and was advised to head east to Route 23 and take up

Force] are on the way and will be making the pickup."

That was just fine with me and my crew. We didn't relish the idea of flying through all the AAA reported in the area. I heard the Jollies call Sandy with an ETA of 15 minutes.

Sandy descended toward the target to get a visual on the downed pilot. A few seconds later his wing man reported ground fire in Sandy's AO.



Rumor had it that Air America pilots earned \$10,000 each time they rescued a downed pilot. Author got his chance at the big money while flying civilian-marked CH-34 along Thai-Laotian border. Photo: courtesy DoD

an orbit, but not to — under any circumstances — cross the road. As I flew closer to the area I could hear Sandy One talking to the downed pilot over the radio. He was OK but NVA soldiers were starting to look for him.

Arriving at Route 23, I began to orbit and called Sandy with my position. I requested the coordinates of the downed airman but Sandy refused. "Besides," he said, "the Jollies [Air

The next radio transmission was from one of the Jollies reporting (in a nervous sounding voice) he had to RTB (return to base) due to a fluctuating gauge (probably his blood pressure). Number Two came back with, "I'm right behind you." He sounded relieved too.

I called Sandy again and requested the coordinates. He wanted to make another pass over the area and get back to me.

As he was making the pass Sandy Two came up again, "You're receiving fire."

Sandy One answered, "I've been hit and I'm on fire!"

I interjected at that point to turn to heading 270 before bailing out. I wanted him to head toward us and bail out on the west side of Route 23. "Negative, I'm heading south and ejecting right now!"

We didn't have a visual on him because of the smoke. As he was making his last transmission I turned on the UHF homing switch to locate his position, nosed over and descended to treetop level before crossing Route 23. The pilot we came to pick up would have to wait; we had to rescue the rescuers.

My two crew members, Captain B.J. Ruck, co-pilot, and flight mechanic Jim Nakamoto both agreed to go on with the rescue. There was no doubt this could turn into a shit sandwich in a great big hurry.

Another Air America CH-34 arrived as backup and remained in orbit west of the trail. I went in for the pickup. We were low, pulling lots of power and maintaining max air speed. The wheels were inches from the treetops. When we crossed Route 23 we were exposed much longer than I anticipated. It looked like a four-lane

Continued on page 116

Survival Sciences

Research indicates the majority of men between the ages of 18 and 49 will be faced with at least one possible life-threatening encounter within the next 20 years.

Survival Sciences is the only scientifically-based fighting system that combines power with intelligence to provide a realistic solution for life's most extreme situations. Created by hostile aggression specialists Lance Donlan and Daryl Combs, this unique fighting system focuses directly on the one question men continually ask when it comes to personal defense - "What really works in a down and dirty, anything-goes survival conflict?" At Survival Sciences, our goal of instruction is clear; to teach you how to fight in real life situations using **proven** techniques grounded in undisputable scientific fact. You won't be struck with any fancy, complicated karate moves, or worse, be left flailing blindly like all untrained and unprepared victims. Now you will learn step by step through an advanced, high quality and realistic 90-minute video, how to psychologically manipulate and physically disable any attacker **regardless of size**. In this video course you will be trained to control the four critical phases that exist in any real fighting situation. Learning powerful and **realistic** techniques, you can easily defeat any "supposed martial arts expert", boxer, wrestler or street fighter. Finally a fighting system exists that leaves nothing to chance, is easy to learn, and **really does work!**

Whether you are forced to fight standing up, on the ground or even flat on your back, Survival Sciences will train you to come out on top **every time**, no matter what it takes! In fact, we are so convinced that this is the only fighting system teaching realistic survival techniques that we are willing to prove it. Our challenge is simple - order the system today, study it for a full three months and if you don't agree that this is the most advanced, easy to learn, and effective information ever developed for fighting, return it no questions asked for a full refund, and you get to keep the Fire Foam equalizer just for taking the challenge.

Today's violence requires advanced solutions. Get yours through Survival Sciences.

"I bought your System not really believing it would be different from any other. Then I turned on the video! I still can't believe someone finally had the guts to teach this kind of hard core realistic information. I honestly had never seen anything like this before in my life. Thanks!"

C. Carillo - Thai Boxing Instructor - California

"I was attacked two weeks ago. A month after I got your course. This guy was bigger than me and managed to wrestle me to the ground. I immediately established the "top position", applied the arm bar you taught me and snapped his shoulder right out of the socket. He had no idea what I was doing. Thank you."

M. Koutahi - Arizona

Fire Foam!

With the explosive impact of liquid fire and a range of up to 10 feet, Fire Foam instantly disables any size attacker - even one under the influence of dangerous narcotics! This devastating, non-lethal, hand-held instrument will be a powerful extension of your fighting skills especially in a weapon-oriented or multiple-attacker situation. Available to the public for the first time, Fire Foam was developed for use by law enforcement personnel and is included free as a part of your Survival Sciences fighting system.



Here's some of the skills Survival Sciences will teach you. How To:

1. Arm yourself with the most crippling arsenal of ground fighting techniques ever assembled, including arm, elbow, shoulder and ankle breaks.
2. Unleash a fluid execution of the most accurate, instantly disabling strikes ever developed.
3. Increase your strength, power and aggressive capabilities 300% by triggering your body's built-in adrenaline release mechanism.
4. Escape and reverse any conceivable headlock no matter how big or how strong your attacker thinks he is.
5. Capitalize on the crucial mistakes even the so-called "experts" make.
6. An easy to apply choke that will render any attacker unconscious within less than 4 seconds.
7. Manipulate your opponent into making "the fatal mistake" with a simple submissive decoy.
8. And why traditional martial arts simply will not work in real life.

TAKE THE CHALLENGE NOW!

For the fastest service use your credit card and call toll-free 1-800-732-5344.

Yes! I have decided to gain the scientific edge on fighting and learn what really works in a real life encounter. Please rush me the 90-minute video course + my free hand-held equalizer, Fire Foam. I understand that if I am not completely convinced of the information's effectiveness, I can return the system within 90 days of receipt for a full refund, no questions asked, and I get to keep the Fire Foam. I am enclosing my full payment of \$49 (plus shipping and handling charges of \$5.95).

Enclosed is my check or money order payable to Sound Concepts. Please send my Survival Sciences training package to:

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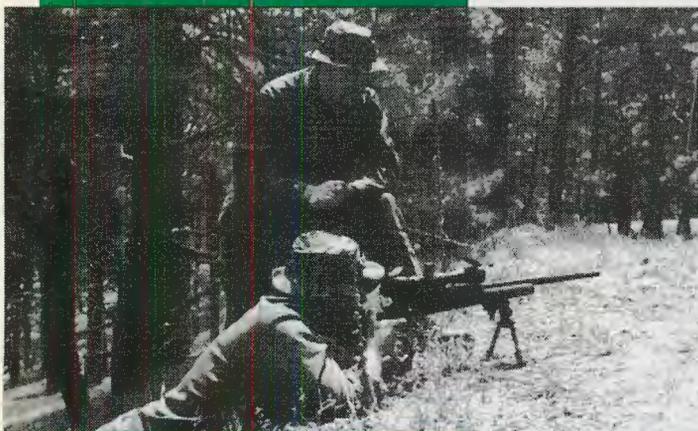
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with Carlos Hathcock

The most accomplished sniper of the Vietnam War and the founder of the U.S.M.C. sniper school tells in his own words how snipers outthink and outshoot their prey. In this entertaining and informative video, Hathcock talks about observation, target selection, shot placement and much more. Color, approx. 55 min., VHS only.

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Learn the difference between the vital jobs of elite military and police snipers through this inside look at how they train and operate. SEAL, SWAT and other top snipers reveal their tricks, display their special gear and discuss the unique traits of their tactical assignments. You'll see action footage of a modern sniper competition between the best sniper teams in the country. Color, approx. 30 min., VHS only.

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Here is the controversial story of the U.S. Navy's top-secret SEAL commando unit tasked with testing security at U.S. and NATO bases worldwide. Now for the first time you can see the shocking footage taken by Red Cell during its raids, showing stunning evidence of security lapses that allowed them to breach fences and gates, plant bombs and take Americans hostage. Color, approx. 55 min., VHS only.

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AMBUSH!

Navy SEALs in Deadly Action

The most deadly terror tactic of U.S. Navy SEALs in Vietnam was the ambush. This instructional video on the art of the ambush features all-new, never-before-seen footage from the personal archives of SEAL vets. Find out what it was like to conduct "wham and scam" ops, unconventional methods used only by SEALs, the difference between planned vs. hasty ambushes and much more. Color, approx. 60 min., VHS only.

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MANSTOPPERS

Selecting the Right Double-Action Pistol

This video will help you select the right double-action auto pistol for your personal defense needs. Technical advisors Col. Rex Applegate, Wiley Clapp, Tom Campbell and Chuck Karwan contributed to the evaluations of the latest autos from Colt, S&W, Ruger, Glock, SIG-Sauer and others. From the right caliber to the right safety, this video covers it all. Color, approx. 60 min., VHS only.

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Learn practical grappling, overpowering and arresting techniques that will get the job done. Includes strikes and holds, easy-to-hit vulnerable spots that will get your subject's attention, protecting your weapon, cuffing tricks, recognizing and avoiding counters and escapes, and more. C.J. Caracci, former member of SEAL Team Six, is your instructor. Color, approx. 105 min., VHS only.

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PRACTICAL PATROL TACTICS FOR THE 911 OFFICER

Learn vital room, hallway and stairwell clearing tactics that are often overlooked by police officers as they answer emergency calls. Covers all types of dangerous stairwells; the two methods for hallways, including handling corners and intersections; and entering, dominating and clearing rooms. Instructor C.J. Caracci's credentials include the elite counterterrorist group SEAL Team Six. Color, approx. 35 min., VHS only.

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How to Recognize and Avoid Violent Street Crime with Marc "Animal" MacYoung

This video will not teach you how to fight. It will show you how to prevent an attack by being aware of the danger signs that precede one. Learn the three stages of an impending assault and the right reaction to each. Plus, find out how your attitudes and actions warn thugs that you are not a "safe" victim and attacking you is not worth the risk. Color, approx. 50 min., VHS only.

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This action-packed, behind-the-scenes video looks into the secrets of one of the best professional paintball teams! By revealing proven individual and team tactics, concealment tricks, tournament strategies and much more, **Winning Paintball** will improve your game. Color, approx. 80 min., VHS only.

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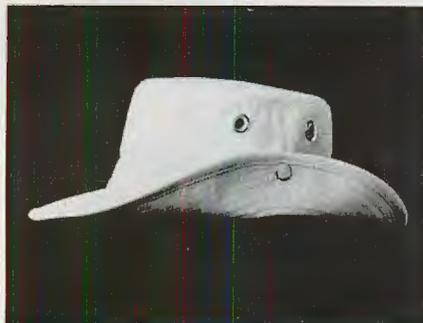
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The motion of vehicles, boats, aircraft or even your pounding heart seriously degrades ability to really see with binoculars at long range, no matter how "powerful" the binos are: The difference between *looking* and *seeing* is more a function of how steadily the instrument is held, and less the superb quality of the optics. The Zenit stabilized binoculars from Brigade Quartermasters have an integral gyroscopic stabilizer, on the same principle as gyro-stabilized compasses and big-bore gunsights, that holds the unit steady so you can see what you are looking at. Distinguished sniper expert John Plaster noted, "This optical device performs its intended purpose well ... the stabilizing feature so improves the perceived image that they outperform very high quality unstabilized binoculars at moderate to long distances. These binoculars are a good value and an impressive optical instrument ... The Zenits were a profound improvement over ordinary binoculars for viewing ground subjects from a moving aircraft ... I discovered no major shortcomings ... they *dramatically* improved the image at longer ranges (300+ yards)." Available from Brigade Quartermasters, Dept. SOF, 1025 Cobb International Blvd., Kennesaw, GA 30144-4300; phone: 800-338-4327; fax: 800-892-2999.

EIGHT-POWER SPY MONOCULAR

The original 8-X former Soviet spy monoculars, as issued to the Soviet KGB et al are now available from Fulcrum Trading, the San Diego importer of former Soviet militaria. New production from the Siberian Novosibirsk Optical and Mechanical Factory, these quality monoculars are only 3-1/2 inches long, weigh a scant four ounces and are produced to military specs. To order, or for a free catalog of similar goodies, phone 800-442-0002.



HARD PINS

Quality Machining Inc., purveyor of top-quality titanium firing pins for M1911 pistols and AR-15/M16 rifles, have done themselves one-up by now offering their firing pins with titanium nitride (TiN) hardcoating. You may be familiar with TiN coating on drills and machine tools where its super hardness (Rockwell 80c) increases tool life several fold. Its dramatic improvement on Quality Machining's already-better-than-issue titanium firing pins is enhanced further by preventing carbon fouling from sticking — and the new "QMI Gold" firing pins are priced the same as QMI's original models. These firing pins are top-quality gear offering enhanced service life and improved accuracy through faster lock times and resistance to breakage, abrasion, fouling and corrosion. Available from Brownell's, Dillon Precision, Gunsite, or direct from Quality Machining Inc., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 129, Sherwood, OR 97140; phone: 503-590-3636.





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Fill out the entry card (or coupon) and send to SOF, P.O. Box 348, Mt. Morris, IL 61054-0348, via U.S. mail with entry postmarked no later than 29 December 1995. No entries will be accepted after this date. Winners will be selected by random drawing on 8 January 1996, and will be notified by mail or telephone. No purchase necessary to enter. All prize winners must comply with Federal, State and local firearms regulations, where applicable. Judges' decisions are final. Sweepstakes open to residents of the U.S. 21 years of age or older. Prize non-transferable. Odds of winning are dependant upon total number of entries. Winners will be printed in a future issue of Soldier of Fortune.

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

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- Latest A2 Sight System - rear knob adjustment for windage and elevation (1/2" increments at 100 yards) - flip up target aperture - forged front sight for maximum strength.
- Upper Receiver is forged of 7075T6 aircraft aluminum in Mil. Spec. hard anodized finish with brass deflector molded on.
- E2 Lower Receiver is forged of 7075T6 aircraft aluminum incorporating a raised area around the magazine catch to prevent accidental magazine release and utilizing the latest Mil. Spec. push pin type takedown. Hard anodized finish - not painted like some others.
- Latest A2 buttstock which is 5/8" longer to give the correct trigger pull of 13.5".
- All XM15-E2S weapons ship with 30 round magazine*, sling and technical manual.



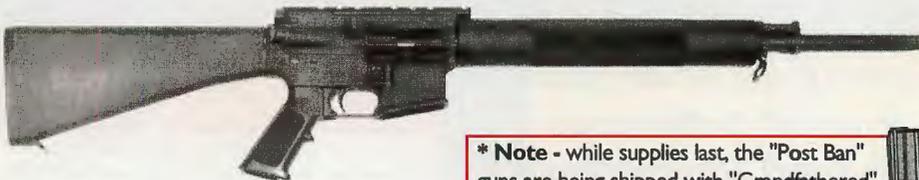
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*** Note - while supplies last, the "Post Ban" guns are being shipped with "Grandfathered" 30 Round Mil. Spec. hard anodized magazines.**

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COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

Personal Patrol Pack

Text & Photo by Jim Shults

The model 1957 butt-pack should be familiar to grunts of the last four decades.

When combined with GI suspenders, pistol belt, magazine pouches and canteens, it allows for mobility yet carries a basic load of supplies. It can carry enough spare clothing and food to keep a prudent operator going for several days in decent field and weather conditions. A logical addition allowing extended field use is a backpack carrying "first to use" items as well as comfort items. Items carried in the backpack can be used to resupply the butt-pack.

I have combined the 1957 butt-pack system with a small commercial ALICE-style pack, and this works very well. Given water, this gear has the capacity to keep you operating for about 14 days.

You will note the ammo pouches are for the M1A or M14 rifle — in my opinion the "better" rifle for an unsupported operator to have.

If you come under attack with this system on, you can jettison the backpack and continue to operate for several days from the butt-pack supplies. Here is how the system is put together:

The backpack is a mini-ALICE pack imported by Brigade Quartermasters that sells for \$39. It is a few inches shorter than

the small-size GI issue ALICE pack. I stand 5 feet 11 inches and cannot use the GI small ALICE pack and still fit the butt-pack system, but one who stands about 6 feet 3 inches could.

Our mini-ALICE pack is configured to hold two exterior canteens, two ammo pouches (80 rounds) and a two-quart bladder canteen stored in a separate pocket inside the pack. The pack also holds three pairs of socks, a wool sweater, underwear, first aid kit, one shirt, pants, and six MREs. The three outside pockets each have an MRE and toilet paper, nylon 550 cord and other small items to top them off. Additionally, I pack a 14-inch machete (serving as a knife or shovel), four small smoke canisters, flashlight, and 35-gallon garbage bags for multiple uses. The two small attached extra pockets can carry lighter items.

On the GI pistol belt are four ammo pouches holding 160 rounds, three canteens, and the butt-pack. Attached to the butt-pack are two more pouches giving another 80 rounds of ammo. Inside are 50 feet of 550 cord, three pairs of socks,



A GI butt-pack and a commercial-copy ALICE pack work in concert to give a practical carrying system for the unsupported operator.

ground cover, pocketknife, four MREs, first aid kit, camo netting, gloves, camo long-sleeve T-shirt, watch cap, eye protection, can opener, binoculars and ear plugs. Attached to the outside is a GI poncho.

The pistol belt is designed with the suspenders to be worn quite high on the body, but few troops do. However, when worn in the high position the grenade straps of the ammo pouches may be snapped into the steel rings on the suspenders, creating a tight and strong unit.

I like this system but I, too, prefer wearing the pistol belt lower, which helps make room for the ALICE pack. To take advantage of the ammo pack straps I make a loop by tying a length of 550 cord through the steel suspender rings, and clip the pouch straps to this cord loop, eliminating most pouch-wobble and acting as a backup should the metal suspender-strap fitting break.

I also run extra 550 cord from the butt-pack to the suspenders to assist in keeping things attached should the snaps

or suspenders break. This reinforcement insures I can operate without having to do field repairs should a suspension part of the system fail.

I leave suspenders clean: About the only thing I consider hanging on suspenders is the individual first aid pouch. Knives and flashlights are "sexy" but the latter can send reflection from the lens, and if I need a large knife that fast I'm probably dead. Suspenders are certainly no place to hang smoke or gas grenades unless you like the idea of a lucky hit re-

leasing toxic chemicals under your chin.

I utilize the "old" style H-pattern suspenders. The H-pattern is superior to the current military "Y" style because they do not twist around, are more stable, and allow for finer tuning of the load. These suspenders and butt-packs are available in cotton or nylon.

Using the system is simple: Expend supplies in the mini-ALICE pack first. Only then should you proceed to the items of the butt-pack and pistol belt. Obviously, items in the ALICE pack are to be used to refill the belt pack kit if and as those supplies are expended first. You want the belt gear to be constantly topped off because the ALICE pack may have to be dumped for mobility: That is the salient feature of this modular, dual-pack system.

Dividing weights and supplies for mobility is the better way to go. Weight of a pistol belt and butt-pack assembly set up and loaded as described is 33 pounds.

The mini-ALICE pack weighs in at 33 to 35 pounds, loaded. The average infantryman would not typically go into combat with nearly 300 rounds of 7.62mm ammo, since soldiers have strong resupply lines. However, unsupported operators may have to operate from their personal gear for weeks.

Contact will determine how quickly ammo is expended, but if you don't shoot you can't eliminate the enemy. Water is absolutely essential: You can do without food, and even a gun, but you will weaken quickly without water. In extreme cold or heat you can reconfigure for extra clothing or water, which will impact the amount of ammo and food you carry.

A complete pack system like this (belt, suspenders, butt-pack, mini-ALICE) will set you back \$50-\$75 depending on source and condition. Potential combat for the unsupported operator dictates light, fast and efficient movement in order to survive, shoot, move and communicate effectively. This unit works well toward that end.

Jim Shults is editor of Modern Gun magazine. ✕

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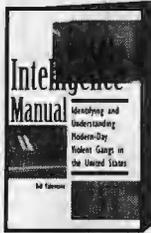
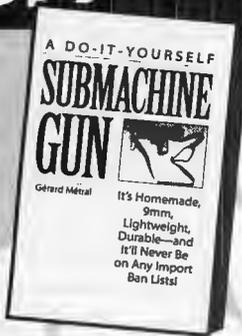
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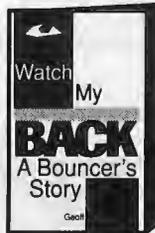
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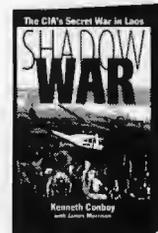
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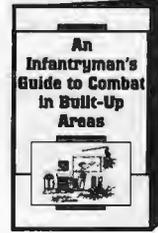
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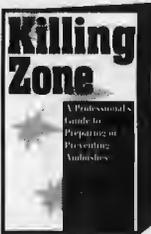
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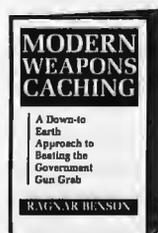
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WORLD SITREP

1

UNITED STATES

Captain Scott O'Grady may have flown into a trap set by Bosnian Serbs in retaliation for air strikes on Pale ammunition dumps. SA-6 launchers were moved 40 km from their base at Banja Luka to an area with no targets to protect, but one that was overflown several times each day by NATO planes. The missile which downed the American jet may have been fired blind — without radar guidance — but once the missile broke through the clouds, its backup infrared guidance system may have locked on to O'Grady's aircraft without giving him time to take evasive action. U.S. intelligence learned of the missile launcher move before the flight, but word did not reach the pilots.

President Clinton authorizes the transfer of \$15 million from Pentagon operations, training and maintenance funding to start support for the Quick Reaction Force in Bosnia. This method of funding does not require congressional approval.

6

GREAT BRITAIN

High Court rules that a military ban on homosexuality is legal, but predicts Parliament will change the law in the near future.

10

TURKEY

Iranian officials approve Turkish plan for joint military actions against PKK rebels along their border, but reject proposals that would allow Turkish troops to pursue rebels into Iran. Turkish commanders in Tunceli admit Kurdish civilian support for PKK rebels is a major problem.

15

SOMALIA

Delegations from both Aidid and Ali Mahdi arrive in Addis Ababa trying to claim Somalia's seat at the OAU summit. Aidid seeks to cement the support of as many groups as possible, appointing 34 cabinet ministers, including a tourism minister (there have been no tourists in 10 years) and a telecommunications minister (the entire telephone system was dismantled by looters years ago and sold for scrap).

2

RUSSIA

Russian-built, laser-guided, cannon-launched missiles in 105mm and 120mm calibers are available for export. For use in Western-built tanks only, the missiles have an 80% hit probability at 5 km.

Prime Minister Chernomyrdin takes personal charge of Chechen peace talks. Dudayev agrees to resign as president of Chechnya if Moscow recognizes the republic as an independent state.

7

ARGENTINA

Government offers \$800,000 per family to Falklanders in an attempt to convince them to accept Argentine sovereignty. The 2,000 people living on the island express little interest in the arrangement.

6

12

11

SRI LANKA

Rebels launch a 500-man amphibious raid on army supply base on Mandaithivu Island, killing 99 soldiers and 50 rebels. The rebels capture a huge stockpile of weapons and munitions.

16

13

5

7

16

SIERRA LEONE

New South African advisers report the military will be reorganized to carry the battle to the rebels. Military dictator Valentine Strasser orders the retirement of current army commander and appoints Brigadier Joy Turay. Government troops launch air-mobile assaults supported by Ukrainian-piloted gunships and destroy rebel bases near the Kole River, Jahi Koya and Kenema.

3

IRAQ

Fighting breaks out near Baghdad between a rebellious Guards tank brigade, commanded by Brigadier Turki Ismail al-Dulaimi, and other Guard units. Turki's brother, an air force general, was executed earlier over a coup attempt. Turki is killed (or commits suicide) and his brigade is crushed. Iraqi officials deny the incident happened.

4

BURMA

Police arrest two men trying to smuggle three Russian surface-to-air missiles to warlord Khun Sa. Burmese troops attack Karen-held stronghold south of Myawadi. Group of 47 Karen guerrillas attempt to assassinate leader of breakaway Buddhist faction of Karen rebels.

5

PERU

Congress triples its salary and approves amnesty for all military and police officers accused of kidnapping, murder and torture during the 15-year civil war, sparking an international outrage. President Fujimori signs the measure claiming it promotes national reconciliation.

2

8

CHINA

China demands Japan pay cash compensation to Chinese forced to work as slave labor during WWII, as well as the cost of removing buried chemical munitions.

9

BOSNIA

Muslims claim their 1st Corps liberated 150 square kilometers and killed 248 Serb soldiers by using new tactics and greater manpower. French officials accuse the United States of sending weapons and reserve officers to the Muslims and virtually running their offensive.

9

10

3

8

14

4

14

SUDAN

Sudanese government denounces a heavily attended meeting of opposition groups (including SPLA and Umma Party) in Eritrea as an attempt to destabilize Sudan. Sudan tightens security on Eritrean border and signs cooperation pact with Iraq. Egyptian troops reinforce Sudanese border after several clashes.

15

11

17

13

COLOMBIA

Colombian troops find the bodies of two U.S. missionaries kidnapped by FARC rebels more than a year ago. They were apparently executed when the rebels were trapped by government troops.

12

HAITI

Some polling stations never receive ballots and elections descend into chaos. Aristide meets with political party leaders and electoral officials to salvage elections. Clinton administration declares Haiti and Aristide have passed a key test. A class of 375 Haitian police cadets fly to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, for two months of special training.

17

VIETNAM

A translation of Robert McNamara's controversial memoir is published without legal authorization.

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.



Second Amendment

What Gun Grabbers Don't Want You

Throughout our history, SOF has never wavered in its defense of Americans' Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms.

As far back as issue No. 4 we addressed "The Future of Gun Ownership in the U.S." and predicted much of what is happening today — not because we're prescient, but because the roots of today's gun grabbing were sown decades ago. We saw it coming, we still see it coming and we continue to fight it, month after month.

This article isn't normal SOF fare, but in our anniversary month we thought we'd detail some of the reasons we so dogmatically stand up for the amendment that insures all the others.

Anti-gun politicians claim the right to arms applies only to the National Guard or, contradicting themselves, only to sporting arms — that it does not guarantee the right to self-defense, to carry a concealed weapon or to own a *militia rifle* so you can defend your freedom. Like Sen. Dianne Feinstein lecturing Justice Stephen Breyer at his Supreme Court confirmation hearings, they claim the framers of the Constitution left little guidance as to the meaning of the Second Amendment.

They lie.

The founders of our country were prolific writers and public speakers. They passionately wanted their great experiment — a more democratic government than any the world had seen — to succeed. They left us plenty whereby we might fathom their intent. In particular they felt that an armed citizenry was the cornerstone of freedom.

And their writings on the subject are clear, unequivocal and unanimous. "Firearms stand next in importance to the Constitution itself. They are the American people's liberty teeth and the keystone under independence," according to George Washington.

We face three choices: allow our most basic human right, the one which enables us to defend all other rights, to be nibbled away; work ceaselessly to counter the *gunophobes'* lies no matter how weary we grow of the struggle; or take up arms and purge these usurpers from our body politic. The third choice is as repugnant as the first is unthinkable. Sadly, we may yet be forced to it. But humanity obligates us to avoid such bloodshed if we can.

To counter the lies of the gunophobes with truth, we must know the history of the Second Amendment.

**"Firearms stand next in importance to the Constitution itself."
George Washington**

I urge you to spend a few evenings in a law school library studying the right to arms. If you lack time, or a university nearby, here is ammunition for your struggle. Because they are important to the argument, I will include comments by later observers and Supreme Courts that have touched upon the Second Amendment, as well as the words of those who gave us our democracy.

The First Law Of Nature

Sir William Blackstone's *Commentaries on the Laws of England*, 1769, was one of the primary legal references used by our Founding Fathers. Blackstone said that the right to self-defense is a God-given, absolute, inalienable right of every human being, "... justly called the primary law of nature, so it is not, neither can it be in fact, taken away by the laws of society." Our Founding Fathers often referred to the right of self-defense, including the right to defend our free-

dom against a corrupt government, as "the first law of nature," a right every human being has owned since before we were human.

As British General Thomas Gage was landing four regiments in Boston in 1769, the *New York Journal* noted the right to arms "is a natural right which the people have reserved to themselves, confirmed by the [English] Bill of Rights, to keep arms for their own defense," and, as Mr. Blackstone observed, "it is to be made use of when the sanctions of society and law are found insufficient to restrain the violence of oppression."

Feeling as they did that self-defense was the primal human right and wellspring of all human freedom, the Founding Fathers could not imagine we would allow a small elite to destroy that right. Nonetheless, John Adams clarified their intent regarding self-defense: "Arms in the hands of citizens [may] be used at individual discretion ... in private self-defense..."

Thomas Paine, political philosopher and author of *Common Sense*, continued: "... arms like laws discourage and keep the invader and the plunderer in awe, and presume order in the world... The same balance would be preserved were all the world destitute of arms ... but since some will not, others dare not lay them aside... Horrid mischief would ensue were one half the world deprived of the use of them..."

The American theory of democracy insists that government does not grant rights to the people, but that all rights are inherently owned by the people, individually and collectively. We lend certain rights to government only in the interest of peaceful coexistence. Those rights are subject to recall if government abuses them.

We also set certain rights off-limits to government. The Constitution is a fence within which government

Truths Are Self-Evident

To Know

by John O'Renick

"Before a standing army can rule, the people must be disarmed."

Noah Webster

remains. The Bill of Rights is a palisade behind which we guard rights that belonged to our ancestors before the dawn of history, telling government "Beyond this line you shall not cross." If government tries to infringe on those rights, we have every right to abolish it and start again.

The Supreme Court recognized this premise in *U.S. vs. Cruikshank*: "... The right of the people to peaceably assemble [for]... lawful purposes existed long before the adoption of the Constitution of the United States... It has always been one of the attributes of citizenship under a free government... It was not, therefore, a right granted to the people by the Constitution. The government of the United States when established found it in existence ... the right of bearing arms for a lawful purpose ... is not a right granted by the Constitution. Neither is it in any way dependent upon that instrument for its existence..."

Cruikshank is a twisty piece of litigation, yet it's plain the justices believed the right to arms predated the Constitution and that the legislature has no right to deprive any of arms.

Albert Gallatin, secretary of the Treasury under Thomas Jefferson, explained: "The whole of the Bill [of Rights] is a declaration of the rights of the people at large or as individuals... It establishes some rights

of the individual as inalienable and which consequently, no majority has a right to deprive them of."

Paramount of those rights is the right to keep and bear arms. Samuel Adams, American statesman and the force behind the Boston Tea Party, agreed: "The Constitution shall never be construed [to authorize Congress] to prevent the people of the United States, who are peaceable citizens,

from keeping their own arms..."

Thomas Jefferson continued: "No free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms."

And William Rawle, whose commentaries on the Constitution became a standard text on the subject: "... the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. The prohibition is general. No clause in the Constitution could by any rule of construction be conceived to give the Congress a power to disarm the people."

And Justice William O. Douglas: "When a legislature undertakes to proscribe the exercise of a citizen's constitutional rights it acts lawlessly, and the citizen can take matters into his own hands and proceed on the basis that such a law is no law at all."

Proper, Natural State

Madison did not pen the Bill of Rights in a vacuum. The states, which withheld ratification of the Constitution until they were promised it would include a bill of rights, sent their own proposals for Madison to study, sum-

"To disarm the people [is] the best and most effectual way to enslave them..." George Mason

marize and include. Several states had passed their own bills of rights; Madison considered those too. Their proposals for protecting the right to arms help us understand their intent.

New Hampshire: "Congress shall never disarm any citizen, unless such as are or have been in actual rebellion."

New York: "That the people have a right to keep and bear arms; that a

well-regulated militia, including the body of the people capable of bearing arms, is the proper, natural, and safe defense of a free state."

Pennsylvania: "That the people have a right to bear arms for the defense of themselves and their own state, or the United States, or for the purpose of killing game; and no law shall be passed for disarming the people or any of them, unless for crimes committed, or real danger of public harm from individuals; and as standing armies in the time of peace are dangerous to liberty, they ought not to be kept up; and that the military shall be kept under strict subordination to and be governed by the civil power."

This proposal contains the only mention of hunting I have found in the words of the Founding Fathers, except for a letter in which Jefferson advised his nephew to eschew ball sports "which stamp no character on the mind." He felt hunting built character and taught skills needed by a militiaman. Hunting arms are protected by the Second Amendment, largely because they are also useful militia weapons — your scoped deer rifle would make a fine sniper rifle. But they are not its primary intent. A constitutional amendment to protect a right to sporting goods is ludicrous and unnecessary.

Samuel Adams' proposal for the Bill of Rights stated: "... and that the said Constitution be never construed to infringe the just liberty of the press or the rights of conscience; or to prevent the people of the United States who are peaceable citizens from keeping their own arms; or to raise standing armies, unless when necessary for the defense of the United States or of some one or more of them; or to prevent the people from

petitioning, in a peaceful and orderly manner, the federal legislature for a redress of grievances; or to subject the people to unreasonable searches or seizures of their persons, papers, or possessions."

The Pennsylvania Constitution of 1790 and the Kentucky Constitution of 1792, drafted with detailed advice from James Madison, upheld: "That the right of citizens to bear arms, in defense of themselves and the state, shall not be questioned."

The inalienable right of self-defense applies to all attackers: private and government sponsored.

The Founding Fathers saw kings across Europe use their armies to tyrannize their subjects. These same armies were often able to turn into despots themselves.

Remember Ruby Ridge, Waco and our government's use of its own citizens as unwitting lab rats to test effects of radioactivity. In light of these atrocities, what purpose does the government have in disarming the citizenry while agencies like the BATF keep their guns? George Mason, a colonial leader influential in drafting the Bill of Rights, knew as early as 1788 when he spoke at the Virginia Constitution ratification convention: "To disarm the people [is] the best and most effectual way to enslave them..."

Armed Citizens Are The Militia

Just as the inalienable right of self-defense applies to individuals, the framers of the Constitution insisted it applied collectively to society. The best model available was Switzerland, which at that time had already enjoyed two centuries of peace and freedom because all Swiss males were trained in arms, kept arms in their homes and were ready to fight on an hour's notice.

While the Swiss were well-armed, well-trained and well-disciplined — the 1790's meaning of "well-regulated" — they were a general militia composed of all capable citizens. A *select militia* — citizens first, soldiers second, but still an elite force that can be forced by government to bear arms against its people exactly

like our National Guard — was also seen as a danger to liberty. An armed society was the solution to government-sponsored oppression.

Elbridge Gerry, vice president under James Madison, understood the problem in 1789: "What, sir, is the use of a militia? It is to prevent the establishment of a standing army, the bane of liberty... Whenever govern-

"I ask you, sir, who are the Militia? They consist now of the whole people..." George Mason

ments mean to invade the rights and liberties of the people, they always attempt to destroy the militia..."

Saint George Tucker, preeminent jurist of the post-Revolution years wrote: "A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. This may be regarded as the true palladium of liberty. The right of self defense is the first law of nature; in most governments it has been the study of rulers to confine this right within the narrowest limits possible. Wherever standing armies are kept

"...the [militia is the] natural defense of a free country against sudden foreign invasions, domestic insurrections, and domestic usurpations of power by rulers..."

Justice Joseph Story

up, and the right of the people to keep and bear arms is, under any color or pretext whatsoever, prohibited, liberty, if not already annihilated, is on the bank of destruction."

"As civil rulers, not having their duty to the people duly before them, may attempt to tyrannize, and as the

military forces which shall be occasionally raised to defend our country, might pervert their power to the injury of their fellow citizens, the people are confirmed by the next article in their right to keep and bear their private arms," Tench Coxe, Pennsylvania delegate to the Continental Congress, wrote in the *Philadelphia Federal Gazette*.

Justice Joseph Story described the militia as "... the natural defense of a free country against sudden foreign invasions, domestic insurrections, and domestic usurpations of power by rulers... The right of the citizens to keep and bear arms has justly been considered as the palladium of the liberties of a republic; since it offers a strong moral check against the usurpation and arbitrary power of rulers; and will generally, even if these are successful in the first instance, enable the people to resist and triumph over them."

While the founders reluctantly decided they needed a small professional army to man garrisons on the frontier, they nonetheless believed the people should remain capable of defeating their own army. Noah Webster argued that: "Before a standing army can rule, the people must be disarmed... The supreme power in America cannot enforce unjust laws by the sword; because the whole body of the people are armed, and constitute a force superior to any band of regular troops..."

The question of whether the militia is the National Guard or not was answered by George Mason: "I ask you, sir, who are the Militia? They consist now of the whole people..."

Richard Henry Lee, delegate to the first Continental Congress and senator from Virginia,

also seemed to understand that an armed citizenship and the militia were one and the same: "... to preserve liberty, it is essential that the whole body of the people always possess arms and be taught alike, especially

Continued on page 112

Anarchy In Afghanistan

Chaos Continues With No End In Sight

Text & Photos by Harry Blanco



Pro-Rabbani Itihad gunners employ mortars with great success against Hezb rivals in eastern Kabul, breaking a six-month stalemate.



In fighting that was often too close for comfort, a furious battle raged for the five-story apartment blocks in the Microrayan area. In house-to-house fighting Dostam troops were pushed back in bloody close-up work with RPG-7s and shoulder-fired 82mm recoilless rifles.

Throughout the 1980s no one covered Afghanistan like SOF. Bob Brown humped the high deserts of the Hindu Kush on several occasions; Peter Kokalis rummaged through more muj arms bazaars than he can remember, seeking, and often finding, elusive pieces of Soviet weaponry never before seen in the West; Foreign Correspondent Lance Motley was the first and only Westerner to make it to Herat (near Iran and the last place in the world anyone with ties to The Great Satan would want to be caught); the list goes on.

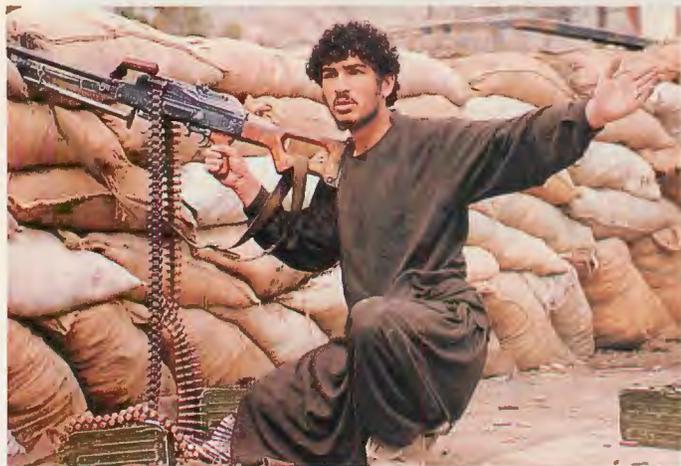
Why did we make such a commitment to a virtually unknown war in a strategically unimportant area? Because it epitomized what SOF is about: fighting the good fight against tyranny. The fact that the tyrants in this case were communist Russians and the gutsy Afghans welcomed our help in shooting the shit out of them was just icing on the cake.

Many of the muj we came to know had nerves of steel, a democratic outlook and a hatred for the commies shared only by those of us who tangled with them in Vietnam. This was our kind of fight and one we won. Well, sort of. Regrettably the war in Afghanistan didn't end when the Russians were kicked out and factional fighting rages on uncontrolled to this day.

It was a day of great military victory, but the fight wasn't over. Inside the blue-domed mausoleum of ancient Afghan King Nadir Shah, a squad of Pushtuns hammered away at the fleeing enemy with an RPK machine gun. Well, at least two of them were — another couple were nearly comatose from smoking hashish. Another squatted amid the ruins over a small fire, warming a large lump of cannabis resin for the next joint.

Just outside the mausoleum a Russian-made T-62 was also firing at the opposition. The tank contributed a touch of light comedy to the battlefield drama; every time it fired the concussion caused great lumps of plaster to fall from the mausoleum ceiling onto the heads of the machine gunners. They were too stoned to differentiate between falling plaster and incoming fire and blazed away with greater fury whenever they felt the "incoming" raining on their heads.





PKM gunner dressed for combat success. This lot was a sight — no one had a clear idea of what was going on or who was in charge.



Pro-Rabbani Afghan "Wild Bunch," complete with beards and long locks hanging out from under their turbans — a gang of pirates out for plunder.



Battlefield priorities: capturing Maranjan Hill and smoking hashish. These troops were too stoned to differentiate between falling plaster and incoming fire.

Troops loyal to Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani successfully breached the defenses of rival factions on the eastern Kabul front lines in the summer of last year. This was the first major breakthrough in nearly six months of continuous but inconclusive factional fighting in the capital since Rabbani's rivals launched a failed coup.

Lined up against Rabbani's forces were the mostly Pushtun mujahideen of his old rival, *Hezb-i-Islami* faction leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. An unlikely but convenient coalition existed between Hekmatyar's forces and the ex-communist militia of Uzbek General Abdul Rashid Dostam.

Rabbani's forces were made up of his own *Jamiat-i-Islami* Tajik faction under ex-Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Massoud (the famous jihad guerrilla commander from the Panjshir Valley), with Pushtun backing from the *Itihad-i-Islami* faction of Rasool Sayaf. To further complicate the issue, Massoud also had an independent unit of Uzbeks and the backing of mixed Kabul garrison troops under General Baba Jan, another ex-communist.

The victory actually began the day before on Saturday, in different military operations carried out by two different factions. First, in a pre-dawn operation, a pro-Rabbani Shi'ite religious faction called *Harakat-i-Islami* attacked Hekmatyar's south Kabul base, a castle called Darulaman Palace built in the 1920s intended as a future seat of Afghan government. The closest it ever came was the short tenure of Hekmatyar as prime minister.

For the previous week Harakat had Hezb under siege in Darulaman, with artillery backing from pro-Rabbani rocket batteries. They had the palace surrounded on three sides and strafed it with 23mm cannon fire, which rather hampered civilian traffic.

I was escorted by Harakat to Darulaman — they were keen to prove a victory over Hezb. We traveled by military jeep, speeding past their original front line, and were met by scores of displaced civilians fleeing the area with bundles of portable belongings.

Inside the battle-scarred palace I met the Harakat commander who led the 0300 attack. His exhausted men were sprawled on the floor surrounded by heaps of spent ammunition cases and stacks of live rounds for the two key infantry artillery weapons in Afghanistan: RPG-7s and recoilless rifles. Outside in the dust lay a dead Hezb fighter. Bloody trails where wounded were dragged from the palace were still fresh on the ground.

Among the 32 prisoners Harakat claimed to have captured that morning were five Arabs and six Pakistanis. Hezb recruited many young Pakistanis to fight in Afghanistan with a bogus offer of military training so they could then fight for what Muslim fundamental-



D-30 howitzer contributes to the first major breakthrough in nearly six months of continuous but inconclusive factional fighting in Kabul since Rabbani's rivals launched a failed coup.

ists call the "liberation" of Indian-held Kashmir.

I interviewed one of the Arab POWs, who admitted he was from North Yemen; he too claimed to have come to Afghanistan for military training. This prisoner, who had been shot three times in the battle, said he was one of a



Massoud muj appraises the bloodied face of a dead Hezb alive with feasting flies. His expression changed to a smile when he extracted a Russian F-1 hand grenade as booty.

group of nine Arabs defending the palace. He was lucky — he said his more seriously wounded Arab mate was shot dead in front of him.

The second battle took place late afternoon when the fighting in Kabul shifted to the eastern front. In concert with a massive BM-21 rocket barrage, pro-Rabbani Sukhoi Su-22 jets pounded Maranjan Hill and its adjacent anti-Rabbani stronghold, the ancient fortress Bala Hissar, guardian of the eastern approaches to Kabul.

Massoud's infantry pushed forward through the old Kabul bazaar and stormed the ramparts of this 1,000-year-old citadel, clearing Dostam's Uzbeks and a handful of Hekmatyar's men, including more Arabs. When I arrived, two dead Hezb fighters were still lying at the gates of Bala Hissar. I watched a Massoud muj appraising one of the bloodied faces alive with feasting flies. "An Arab," he spat. Then searching the Chinese-made webbing, his ex-

pression changed to a smile as he extracted a Russian F-1 hand grenade as booty.

Battle For Maranjan Hill

These two Rabbani victories were key. The fighting began Sunday morning when pro-Rabbani troops, under cover of heavy bombardment from a battery of Russian-made artillery, mostly 82mm and 120mm mortars, 122mm D-30 howitzers and BM-21 rocket launchers, stormed out of their bunkers to assault Maranjan Hill.

Maranjan is a strategic low-lying hill in the eastern Kabul suburbs which dominates the Kabul River front line. A stronghold of the anti-Rabbani alliance, its tanks and much favored truck-mounted ZU-23-2 cannon were a formidable defense. These gunners could shoot across the river into downtown Kabul, targeting the defense ministry and presidential palace, and rake residential districts inhabited by Afghan locals, journalists and foreign relief workers from the Red Cross and other aid organizations. They also provided cover for their allies based below in the former Soviet-built apartment housing complex known as the Microrayan.

But this morning they buckled.

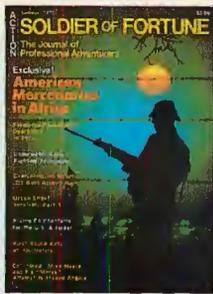
Continued on page 98



T-62 uploads in front of captured Hezb tank. Sixty prisoners and massive stocks of ammunition were captured by pro-Rabbani forces in battle for Maranjan Hill.



Massive BM-21 rocket barrages and Sukhoi Su-22 jets pounded Maranjan Hill and its adjacent anti-Rabbani stronghold, the ancient fortress Bala Hissar, overlooking the eastern approaches to Kabul.



1975



Guatemala 1976

SOF Staff



South-West Africa 1978

Al J. Venter



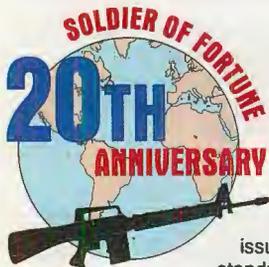
Cambodia 1981

SOF Staff



Laos 1982

SOF Staff



SOF - 20 YEARS ON POINT

1975 First issue of *SOF* hits stands. Subscription checks are kept in a shoebox under the front seat of RKB's truck until he's sure the magazine will sell — it does. Participatory journalism is born.

1976 Disaster relief group Parachute Medical Rescue Service is founded; we deploy to Guatemala to assist earthquake victims.

1977 The first of many front-line treks to embattled Rhodesia reveals a country on the brink of extinction. Largely ignored by the U.S. press, *SOF* brought its struggle to American audiences.

1978 *SOF* rides with South African cavalry against communist SWAPO in South-West Africa (Namibia). In the first of many jabs to come, a Soviet defense journal attacks us for anti-communist activities.

1979 *SOF* offers \$10,000 in gold for the return of Idi Amin (in one piece) to Uganda.

1980 *SOF* brings out first AK-74 rounds from a ravaged Afghanistan.

Over the next few years, we score many intel coups, including smuggling 5,000 AK-74 rounds out of Pakistan. We train freedom fighters in Afghanistan and Angola, and fire-up Rhodesia one last time. First *SOF* convention.

1981 *SOF* takes the first of many tramps through Cambodia and Thailand, and we begin intensive Southeast Asia POW/MIA investigative efforts. We cover the Nicaraguan contras on-site — over the next six years we supply them with tons of medical supplies and military gear.

1982 *SOF* establishes Liberty City base camp inside communist Laos to track down missing U.S. servicemen believed still held by communist Vietnam. Refugee Relief International is founded and our volunteer medical teams give hands-on assistance to war victims and front-line medics across the globe.

1983 Team of staffers hits the beaches of Grenada during Operation Urgent Fury

and uncovers secret documents overlooked by U.S. intelligence. We go to war with El Salvadoran military and trek to Liberia, Korea and Costa Rica.

1984 Still on the ground in El Salvador, *SOF* joins Paracaidista patrol and continues to supply medical training and supplies to Salvos. We report on the Karen fighters for

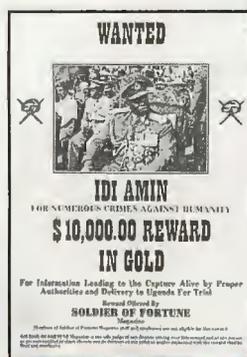
first time in Burma and push on to Suriname and Belize.



Grenada 1983

Jim Graves

1985 *SOF* training team goes inside Nicaragua with the contras; RKB offers a reward of \$1,000,000 (with assistance of Lt. Col.



Uganda 1979



Rhodesia 1977

SOF Staff



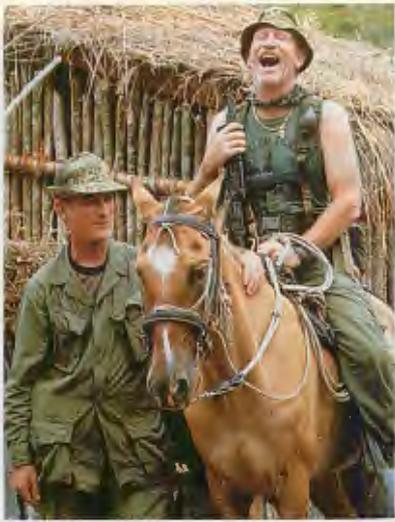
Afghanistan 1980

Calvin Geer



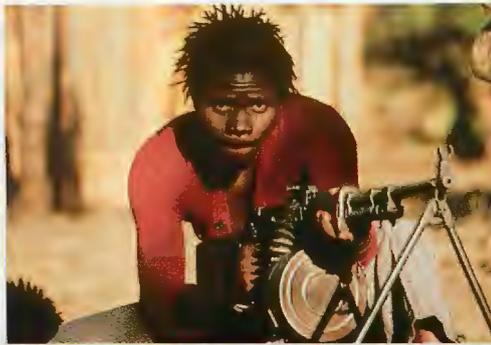
El Salvador 1984

SOF Staff



Nicaragua 1985

SOF Staff



Mozambique 1988

Jack Wheeler



Kuwait 1991

DoD



Burma 1986

Mike Winchester



1989

U.S. Navy

1989 SOF obtains top secret Delta/SEAL plan to rescue American hostages held inside Lebanon. We free an English journalist held in Mozambique.



Bosnia 1992

Patrick Chauvel

Oliver North) to first Nicaraguan pilot to defect with a Mi-24 Hind helicopter. No takers, but reports indicate part of the Sandinista air force is grounded for several weeks. We reprint CIA's guerrilla warfare psyops manual and distribute to contras. SOF staffers revisit Vietnam as tourists.

1986 SOF goes on the move with the Karen in Burma. First coverage of RENAMO — Mozambique's freedom fighters, and China's PRC. SOF exposes suspect POW/MIA identification operations at Central ID lab in Hawaii.

1987 SOF takes the first of several treks to Sri Lanka, Bolivia, Ethiopia and the Philippines. SOF journalists are only ones invited by Chinese People's Army to test and evaluate their new small arms.

1988 SOF rescues missionaries captured in Mozambique. We publish exclusive report on Soviet Spetsnaz working inside the United States.

1990 SOF heads south as we chase Noriega supporters during Operation Just Cause in Panama. SOF reporters are first Western journalists to train with Soviet paratroopers.

1991 SOF spends two months with the troops in Desert Shield/Storm. RKB becomes first journalist with Coalition forces into Kuwait City — riding on a tank! We conduct our 21st training mission to El Salvador.

1992 Balkans erupt into war and SOF sends the first of many training teams to Bosnia. A con man and a BBC producer together dupe Ross Perot into withdrawing from presidential race: SOF scoops the story.

1993 SOF is on the ground at Waco. Our in-depth coverage of ATF bungling and mismanagement of raid earns two of our reporters Mencken awards and plays a significant role in upcoming congressional hearings on Waco.

one of the darkest. We patrol downtown Mogadishu during Operation Restore Hope and detail the heroic last stand of Delta Force Medal of Honor winners.

1995 Closer to home, Oklahoma City blows up. ATF investigators expand perimeter around bomb site after SOF reporters hurry to scene and find and identify rear bumper and several other pieces of Ryder truck. We continue to "go and do," publishing our 216th issue. It's been one helluva ride!



Somalia 1994

DoD



Sri Lanka 1987

Tom Marks



Panama 1990

DoD



Waco, Texas 1993

Jerry Hoeller/SIPA



1995

Hubert Le Campion

Sweep T



CH-53E waits for orders to lift off on the first "live" TRAP mission to rescue a downed pilot. They trained for a worst-case scenario, not a downed pilot running out of the bushes to greet them. Photo: courtesy Sgt. Dave Garten, USMC



AH-1W SuperCobras and CH-53E Super Stallions move out at dawn. Although TRAP Teams prefer to operate at night, they were forced to wait for backup units from Italy. Unwilling to wait another 12 hours, they went in during daylight. Photo: courtesy Sgt. Dave Garten, USMC



SOLDIER OF FORTUNE
20TH ANNIVERSARY

The U.S. media's coverage of American military affairs and military operations has come a long way since SOF was founded in 1975. Today it's not unusual to read articles, even in the large news weeklies, of American soldiers beating the odds and getting the job done — but it wasn't always so. There was a time, particularly after Vietnam, when the press held the American fighting man in low esteem. If the military got any ink, it was generally to lay blame for something.

SOF has always taken a different approach. We know what the guys on the business end of military ops have

gone through and the dedication and expertise they bring to their jobs. Many at SOF have walked in their shoes.

That doesn't mean we look the other way when the military screws up, but it does mean we print the triumphs and not just the tragedies. We're glad that in our anniversary month we can bring you one such triumph, written by one of our regular contributors who makes it a point to go where the troops go, even if it's to hell holes like Haiti and Somalia.

Captain Thomas Hanford's aircraft still had fuel so he remained on his combat patrol over Bosnia and tried to reach Zulu on the old fre-

quency. Hanford heard some suspect clicks when suddenly Zulu came up voice, "This is Basher 52."

"Say again, understand this is Basher 52?"

"This is Basher 52. I'm alive."

"Say again, Basher 52, you are weak and unreadable, this is Basher 11."

"This is Basher 52!!!"

"Copy that, you're alive! Basher 52, sit tight ..."

Captain Scott O'Grady's survival had been in doubt until 0208 8 June when he made contact with his

Marine TRAP Team Springs Downed Flyer

wingman and set in motion a sensational chain of events. Approval for his rescue was made with lightning speed up the chain of command to Admiral Leighton Smith in London and back down to the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit in the Adriatic and Colonel Marty Berndt at 0230.

Soon it was show time for a platoon-size element of 41 Marines known as a TRAP Team (Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel). Lieutenant Colonel Chris Gunther, mission commander, and First Lieutenant Martin Wetterauer, ground security OIC, discussed what they might encounter on the ground. "We talked about two possible scenarios," Gunther said. "but we envisioned everything from having a pilot down in the trees and [having] to hoist him out, to a situation where he was literally running for his life, being chased by Serb soldiers."

There was also the unanswered question of just how close the team could get to O'Grady. "My greatest fear was that we wouldn't be able to find Captain O'Grady, that he would have either gotten run off, or scared off, and couldn't get to a place where we could pick him up," Berndt admitted.

Thanks to America's myriad intelligence gathering sources, however, Berndt had a pretty good handle on major enemy weapons systems that might pose a problem. Once the mission was established and the intel evaluated, the TRAP Team was augmented for their specific mission.

Two AH-1W SuperCobras, and four AV-8B Harrier IIs would ride shotgun with Dash-1 and Dash-2, the Super Stallions carrying the TRAP Team. Above the Marines would be 40 additional aircraft; a mix of F/A-

18D Hornet attack fighters, Air Force A-10 Warthog tank killers from Aviano Air Base, Italy, and Navy EA-6B Prowler electronic jamming aircraft from the aircraft carrier, USS *Roosevelt*. Electronic jamming EF-111s were also airborne to assist. A backup team of U.S. Army Special Forces was en route by helicopter to the area from a base in Brindisi, Italy.

In addition to the vast armada of heavily armed aircraft vectoring into holding positions over Bosnia by a NATO AWACS, there were also additional Marines standing by on deck of the USS *Kearsarge* (LHD3) in case the TRAP Team got trapped and had to battle its way out of Bosnia. "I had a Sparrow Hawk package, or reinforced rifle platoon, on deck with their weapons and ammo ready to launch if the TRAP Team got into trouble," Berndt said, "and right behind them there was a reinforced rifle company that had the capability to do the same thing."



Marines of the 24th MEU prep for live fire through elevator door on USS *Kearsarge*. The 24th is no stranger to danger — veterans of the devastating Lebanon bombing and interim stops in the Gulf War, Operation Provide Comfort and Somalia. Photo: courtesy PH2 Brett Siegel, USN

Berndt decided to go along to coordinate the search and rescue mission himself. Why would the CO of a MEU and brigadier general-select risk his life on a mission like this when there were junior officers available? "Why not? I think is the better question," Berndt responded. He thinks of himself as the cheerleader and



AH-1W SuperCobras, armed with 20mm cannon, 5-inch and 2.75-inch rockets, were part of the necessary protection package for the rescue. Photo: courtesy PH2 Brett Siegel, USN

spokesman for an outfit that does this kind of thing for a living. "And my take was that I had to be with them. It was that simple," Berndt added. He is an officer who's been shot at before and felt his men needed a steady hand at the tiller, and as calming effect, one who wouldn't lose it under fire. Those who serve with Berndt say he's a hands-on kind of CO. He wants to be where the action is.

Berndt went into Bosnia loaded for bear. "It's difficult to get a handle on the soldier who moves with a very small unit, or perhaps is a soldier/farmer," Berndt explained. That's why the TRAP Team was backed up by helicopter gunships, attack fighters and tank-killing A-10s. But Berndt wasn't worried, he had assessed the risk and felt he had sufficient force to deal with it. Gunther said the TRAP Team could have stayed on the ground in Bosnia for two hours and fought a major engagement if necessary.

TRAP Teams prefer to operate at night. This is the standard at which they train, but Berndt couldn't make that happen. The support package customized for this mission could have been on the ground before dawn, but would have to sacrifice a lot of the backup capability. And without the

backup, Berndt felt the risk was too great to manage. That's why the primary rescue package lifted off at 0500 and orbited over the *Kearsarge* for 45 minutes until backup units could fly in from Italy. No one was willing to wait another 12 hours for darkness, so the mission went forward during daylight.

hundred feet. Gunther worried the fog might cause them to abort the rescue mission. When Dash-1 and Dash-2 arrived over the LZ they had to auger in through a tiny hole in the cloud cover. The site was all but socked-in.

"The LZ was tight," Capt. Paul Fortunato said, the pilot of Dash-2. Fortunato estimated the diameter was

The rescue force covered the 87 miles to the last known location of the flyer quickly. About 5 miles from where O'Grady was hunkered down, the two Super Stallions orbited over a good-sized town in a deep valley while two SuperCobras carefully crept through dense fog up a mountainside. "The fog was a two-edged sword. While it masked our noisy approach to the pickup point, and probably prevented us from waking up townspeople in the valley below, it also made it difficult to see where we were going," Gunther said.

Basher 52, Got You In Sight

By 0612 O'Grady was talking to his rescuers but the heavy fog below them reduced visibility to a few



Air Force Capt. Scott O'Grady is escorted to safety after being saved from starvation, dehydration, hypothermia and Serb gunners by the USMC. Photo: courtesy Sgt. Dave Garten, USMC

no more than 100 feet, barely enough room to do some pedal-turns as he gently set his helicopter down. Visibility was so poor the Super Stallion set down inadvertently on a big boulder and barbed wire fence that prevented the crew chief from lowering the rear ramp so a 20-man security team could deploy. Fortunato had to lift slightly and reposition the aircraft. Dash-1, the other Super Stallion, landed across the barbed wire fence in another mini-LZ without incident.

"I have to give credit to the pilots of the Super Stallions. They did some incredible flying. When we were going in, it didn't look like there was going to be enough room to land, but they somehow squeezed the aircraft through the trees anyway," Christopher White, a security team leader, said.

Lieutenant Wetterauer and his 20-man security team scrambled down the rear ramp of Dash-1, established immediate security and headed in the direction of yellow smoke the pilot of a SuperCobra helicopter gunship dropped to mark the spot where O'Grady had fired a pencil flare to identify himself and his position. As Wetterauer and his men pushed through a thicket they found a smoking canister.

Suddenly, out of the thicket like a rabbit chased by hounds, O'Grady made a beeline for Dash-1. "Seeing him running through the brush covered in sweat with a six-day beard on his face and his pistol in his hand is a scene I'll never forget," Gunther recalled. "I said to myself, he looks good and moves pretty good for someone who's been on the ground for six days."

When Sergeant Major Angel Castro Jr. saw the man he came to save heading his way, Castro ordered everyone on board his helicopter to stay put. But Sergeant Scott Pheister had already safed his gun, climbed out of the crew chief door on the right side of the aircraft and was running to meet O'Grady.

"I remember him coming across the LZ wearing an orange survival cap, waving his Beretta and babbling," said Pheister, who was forced to physically disarm O'Grady. "I hated to hit an officer," Pheister said,

"but I hit his right wrist, and knocked the weapon out of his hand." Pheister then hustled the weakened aviator to the waiting chopper and shoved him into a seat.

"I was so anxious to get him in the bird, I just picked him up and slung him into the cargo area," Pheister said, who laughed when reminded he

been charged for the weapon if we had left it on the LZ," Pheister said.

As soon as the rescued pilot was inside the aircraft, Sgt. Maj. Angel Gomez strapped him into his seat, put a cranial (crash helmet) on his head and prepared for liftoff. "When I sat him down, he said, 'thank you,' and just kept saying, 'thank you,



Capt. Wright points to bullet hole in his aircraft; another TRAP Team member was hit in the canteen. Thanks to intel gathering sources, rescuers knew most enemy locations and were prepared for AAA. Photo: Reuters/Bettmann Archives

could have broken O'Grady's neck. "Wow," Pheister said, "I didn't even think of that. What a terrible thing to have done to a guy who had survived six days in enemy territory."

Before climbing aboard the helicopter himself, Pheister ran back to where he disarmed O'Grady and retrieved the weapon. "He'd probably

thank you,' over and over again," Gomez remembered.

O'Grady was cold, severely dehydrated and soaking wet. Hypothermia had set in and he was shaking violently. Gomez grabbed a Gore-Tex jacket from Berndt and put it on O'Grady. Once airborne, Gomez gave the flyer a canteen of water. O'Grady

took a long swig, nearly draining the canteen in one swallow.

Asked if he was hungry, he nodded again and was given an MRE. "But he could only eat five or six spoonfuls of the chicken stew," Gomez said. O'Grady's stomach had shrunk after six days of eating only grass and insects.

The flyer was still shivering and a space blanket was passed forward. Gomez also gave him a pair of gloves and ordered two young Marines to flank him to keep him as warm as possible. The temperature was about 45 degrees as winds whipped through the helicopter's two machine-gun portals.

"When he first got on the helo, he was sobbing and weeping," Lance Corporal Paul Bruce said. "It was more than just a tear or two. His chest was heaving. He was so happy to be alive. So grateful. So glad to be rescued."

SAMs In The Air!

While the flight into Bosnia was clean the trip home was not. When the primary rescue package cleared

the fog-shrouded mountains and moved into a flat, level plain stretching to the coast, the aircraft became visible and vulnerable. About two-thirds of the way home they began taking AAA and small arms fire.

"I saw a Russian-made SA-7 fired at us," co-pilot Capt. Jim Wright said. "It came corkscrewing up at us from the left side of the aircraft." Fortunato and Berndt also saw the SAM fly by. At least one other SAM was fired at the pair of Super Stallions.

The Cobra pilots who were flying at five and seven o'clock positions behind the Super Stallions had a ring-side seat for the fireworks. They spotted another smoke trail corkscrewing toward the formation, but didn't engage the Serb missilemen. Their mission was to escort O'Grady safely back to the ship. Everyone in the primary rescue package could accomplish that mission



Capt. O'Grady punched out of his flaming cockpit as it tumbled through the air. "God let me see that ejection handle, that beautiful golden handle." Photo: AFP/Bettmann Archives



TRAP Team conducts training debrief for future ops. Extensive rehearsals were ongoing since the downing of O'Grady's aircraft on 2 June. Photo: courtesy PH2 Brett Siegel, USN

best with speed and maneuverability.

Fortunato and Major William Tarbutton, who was flying the other Super Stallion, popped flares and took some violent evasive action to avoid the surface-to-air missiles and ground fire. "We flew into Bosnia at about 200 feet over pine forest," Fortunato said, "But we flew [much] ... lower on the way home."

Fortunato and Tarbutton also flew faster. On the way into Bosnia they flew at about 120 mph, but on the way back to the *Kearsarge*, they skimmed across the treetops at 175 mph hoping to avoid Serbian gunners.

"We were zigzagging around, banking hard all over the place," Bruce said, later admitting it was a terrifying ride. "The roughest helicopter ride I've ever been on." Ammo boxes were banging around and a couple of grunts barfed their brains out as Fortunato and Tarbutton twisted and turned to avoid being bracketed by AAA.

Both aircraft took a few hits from small arms fire. One of the rounds hit the leading edge of Tarbutton's blades. Another one struck Fortunato's tail rotor. And at least one more round pierced the rear ramp and ricocheted around the cargo area hitting Sgt. Maj. Gomez's canteen.

"As Captain Fortunato rocked the aircraft back and forth, I felt something slap me in the back," Gomez said, who didn't give it

another thought until Cpl. Arthur Parham handed him a spent slug. Without batting an eye, Gomez handed the bullet back to the young grunt. "Keep it as a souvenir," he bellowed, "No big deal."

Inside the choppers, Marines swayed back and forth in their seats as Fortunato and Tarbutton popped up to clear power lines and dropped back down again to hug Mother Earth in case anyone else on the ground wanted to take a shot at them.

Pheister on starboard gun received permission from Fortunato to engage two AAA sites. Pheister, who didn't fire a shot during Operation Desert Storm, ripped off a five- to 10-shot burst of caliber .50 as he passed almost level with the gun positions. "I could see tracers coming at us, but we were going so fast, they [Serbs] couldn't bring their big stuff to bear on us."

Pheister said he could see clusters of hand-held automatic weapons winking at him as he roared by. "I don't think I hit anything, but I'll bet I kept their heads down long enough for us to escape the kill zone."

"We escaped serious damage because of outstanding crew coordination," Wright said. "There was a constant flow of info from the gunners to Tuna [Fortunato's call sign] and me up front. We knew where the stuff was coming from and were able to avoid most of it."

O'Grady clenched his teeth as they made a beeline for the boat. The two Marines sitting on either side of him to keep him warm just looked at him and told him he was with Marines and that everything was going to be alright.

When Berndt turned in the jump seat between the pilot and co-pilot to check on his soon-to-be famous passenger, O'Grady looked at the MEU commander, grinned and gave him a thumbs-up.

"I knew then," Berndt said, "that he was OK." Mission accomplished.

Dale B. Cooper is a frequent SOF foreign correspondent, covering America's fighting forces in conflicts around the world including the Gulf War, Somalia, Haiti and Panama. ✕



Trapped At Altitude

When Scott O'Grady lifted his F-16C Fighting Falcon off the runway at Aviano Air Base in Italy where the 29-year-old Air Force captain was assigned to the 555th Fighter Squadron, he had no idea he was flying into a maelstrom. Climbing into the sky on the wing of his flight lead, O'Grady followed Captain Bob Wright to northern Bosnia to enforce a United Nation's mandated no-fly zone. This mission looked like the other 60,000 sorties over Bosnia, but that was about to change.

Soon there was a blinding explosion. Nobody needed to tell O'Grady what had happened — his fighter plane had been hit in the belly by a SAM. The surface-to-air-missile was probably a mobile-launched SA-6 that came up directly under the F-16 in a blind spot and blew the aircraft in two.

"The first thing I saw was the cockpit disintegrating in front of me. It's just unbelievable that I didn't die," O'Grady said after being rescued.

Miraculously, as his F-16 disintegrated, O'Grady reached for the ejection lanyard between his legs and punched out of his flaming cockpit as it tumbled through the air. "God let me see that ejection handle, that beautiful golden handle," he recalled after his rescue.

The F-16 ejection seat is designed to deploy automatically but O'Grady, whose neck and face were singed by the flames, didn't want to wait until that happened. He feared the seat had been damaged by the explosion so he manually deployed.

Wright was helpless. He watched his wingman's aircraft explode in a gigantic fireball and suppressed his shock as he marked O'Grady's position near Mrkonjic Grad, about 25 miles south of Banja Luka in an area controlled by Serb rebels. The flaming wreckage fell so quickly into the clouds, Wright was unable to see if his wingman ejected.

"I was in the parachute for an extremely long amount of time. Everybody on the ground could see me. They were standing there watching me the whole time. There was a military truck there waiting for me," O'Grady remarked about breaking through the clouds over a major city in full view of everyone.

When O'Grady hit the ground he shed his parachute and dashed toward a small clump of bushes. Crawling into the middle, he dug his face into the dirt and covered his ears with his green Nomex flight gloves so no bare skin would be visible.

Within two or three minutes Serbs were swarming all over the hillside searching for him. Some of the soldiers came within a few feet but didn't see the pilot. For the next six days, O'Grady lay motionless during the day and moved with agonizing slowness each night in search of better cover.

O'Grady says he knows how a rabbit feels as hunters beat the bushes trying to flush it into the open. At one time Serb soldiers opened fire. "They weren't shooting at bunny rabbits. Maybe they thought they saw something that was me and were trying to kill me," O'Grady said. His nerves were really tested when he was awakened a couple of days later by an artillery piece going off a few feet from where he was hiding.

The day after O'Grady was shot down, Serb military leaders, perhaps to throw cold water on NATO's search, told Western officials they were holding the pilot. And two days later, General Ronald Fogelman, Air Force chief of staff, committed a serious breach of security when he mentioned to reporters at a Pentagon reception that intermittent signals had been received from what could be the airman's emergency locator beacon.

White House officials were angered by a disclosure they considered premature and possibly dangerous to the missing pilot. Nothing more was said about signals and the world waited to hear whether Scott O'Grady was dead or alive.

In the early morning hours of 8 June, six days after he was shot down, O'Grady made radio contact with Capt. Thomas Hanford, an F-16 pilot from his squadron. "I'm alive. Help!" O'Grady radioed. To make sure the voice was that of O'Grady, Hanford asked him to identify the squadron in which he served in Korea; a question designed to ensure the



Continued on page 102



H&K Will Arm America's Elite

by Peter G. Kokalis

Photos: courtesy Steve Galloway, Heckler & Koch Inc.

No other consumer magazine can hold a candle to SOF when it comes to no-B.S., detailed technical weapons articles; or coverage of military and paramilitary small arms in general; or the inside line on the arcane, esoteric underworld of firearms rarely explored by the mainstream gun rags.

For more than 20 years SOF has racked up countless weapons coups, from being the first Westerners invited to China to test their new small arms, to being allowed to dig through the Salvadoran army's captured weapons room. Add in the exclusives we've gotten in South Africa, Russia, Bosnia and other places, and you can see why we're proud of our achievements in this area.

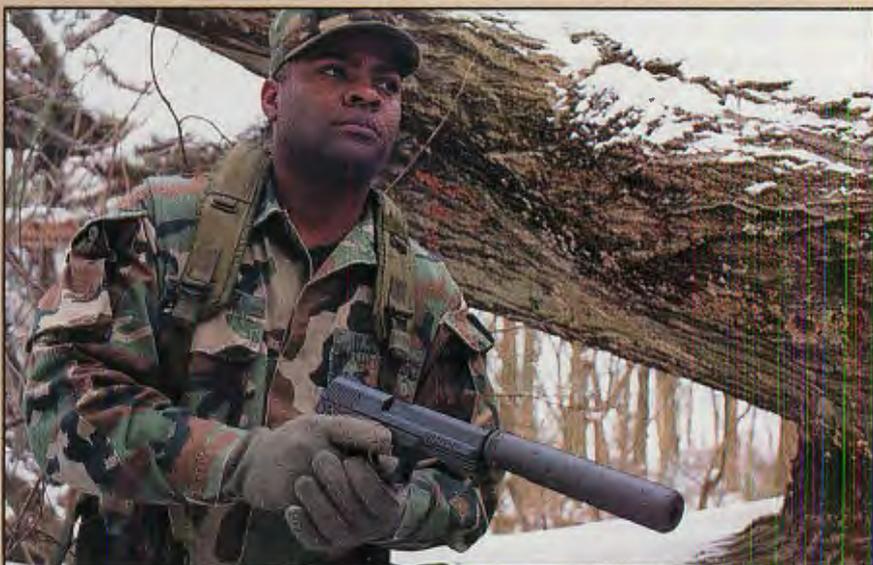
And though we spend a good deal of time out of country, we don't ignore developments in our own backyard. When not on the battlefield we keep our eye on the American consumer and surplus

gun markets, reporting only on the more interesting items. The following piece is an update on the SpecOps pistol first detailed in our June '93 issue.

Amid diminishing defense dollars, the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM — the umbrella organization for the Navy



A \$1.4 million Phase II contract has been awarded to Heckler & Koch Inc. for the SOF Offensive Handgun and Suppressor Caliber .45 ACP. The suppressor submitted for Phase II testing was designed by Doug Olson of Knight's Armament Co. and differs significantly from the Phase I Colt OHWS entry.



An interesting feature of the Phase II sound suppressor is its ability to be loosened and indexed to 10 different positions permitting the operator to move the shot group obtained with the suppressor in place to within 2 inches of the unsuppressed shot group.



H&K SOCOM Phase II pistol fieldstripped. The handgun is to a large extent based upon their USP and operates by means of short-recoil with breech locking, based on a linkless modified Browning system (ejection port barrel-locking block).

SEALs, Army Ranger Battalions and Special Forces, Air Force Special Operations and several other unspecified clandestine operations groups) still has enough leverage to generally obtain the often exotic equipment they need to perform the high risk missions assigned to them.

On 28 August 1991, USSOCOM awarded both Colt and Heckler & Koch with Phase I development contracts (see "Hot Rod Hybrid Handguns," June '93) for what was then called the Special Operations Forces (SOF) Offensive Handgun Weapon System (OHWS). Promoted primarily by the SEALs, the contracts came out of the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Crane, Indiana.

In general, the OHWS consisted of a caliber .45 ACP semiautomatic pistol with some very special attributes, a detachable flash-and-sound suppressor and a Laser Aiming Module (LAM). During Phase II of the project, minimum sound-level reduction of the suppressor was specified at 28 dB (decibels) with the unit dry and 35 dB with the unit filled with no more than 5 cc of water, coupled with a 75% reduction in the flash signature.

After extensive, winner-take-all testing, a \$1.4 million Phase II Engineering and Manufacturing Development

contract was awarded January 1994 to Heckler & Koch Inc. (Dept. SOF, 21480 Pacific Blvd., Sterling, VA 22170-8903; phone: 703-450-1900) for the pistol and suppressor, which are now referred to as the SOF Offensive Handgun and Suppressor Caliber .45 ACP. Heckler & Koch then selected Knight's Armament Co. of Vero Beach, Florida, as subcontractor for the suppressor. The suppressor submitted for Phase II testing was designed by Doug Olson of Knight's Armament Co. and differs significantly from the "can" Olson designed

for the Phase I Colt OHWS entry. Final development and production of the LAM will be a separate contract in Phase III.

Heckler & Koch's SOF Offensive Handgun is to a large extent based upon their USP (Universal Self-Loading Pistol). It operates by means of short-recoil with breech locking, based on a linkless modified Browning system (ejection port barrel-locking block). Weight of the pistol, with an empty magazine, is 2.66 pounds (1.21 kg). The pistol with a full magazine of 12 rounds of .45 ACP ball ammunition, together with the sound suppressor, weighs 4.22 pounds (1.91 kg). The length of the pistol is 9.65 inches (245 mm). The Knight suppressor is almost an inch longer than the Phase I H&K suppressor. With the suppressor attached, the overall length of the system is now 16.56 inches (421 mm). Height is 5.9 inches (150 mm), and at its widest point this pistol measures 1.53 inches (38.8 mm).

Both single- and double-action modes are provided; the ambidextrous manual safety lever permits carrying in "condition one" (a round in the chamber, hammer cocked and safety on). Trigger pull weight in single-action is 4.85 pounds (2.2 kg). This increases to 12.13 pounds (5.5 kg) in double-action. A separate decocking lever has been provided to silently lower the cocked hammer. Both the



The weapon is designed to fire a minimum of 30,000 rounds of +P ammunition (5,000 with the suppressor in place), without any major parts failure or replacement. The slide and frame were designed for a minimum of 60,000 rounds.

magazine catch/release, which is ambidextrous, and the slide release lever are located in conventional positions that permit manipulation without adjustment of the firing grip. There are three safety features: 1) the safety lever, 2) a firing pin block, and 3) the disconnecter.

The fixed partridge type sights are adjustable for elevation and windage zero. They employ a three-dot system with self-luminous tritium inserts.

The H&K Offensive Handgun was designed to fire a minimum of 30,000 rounds of +P ammunition (5,000 with the suppressor in place), without any major parts failure or replacement. The slide and frame were designed for a minimum of 60,000 rounds. These are project requirements.

Heckler & Koch's Phase II Offensive Handgun differs from their original Phase I entry in the following important areas. First of all, the slide lock was removed. This feature was originally stipulated for two reasons: to eliminate the noise associated with the reciprocating slide and to prevent a shell casing from ejecting to the ground and being left behind. However, with the suppressor in place the sound pressure level generated is still 132 dB and this effectively masks the slide noise. Furthermore, the very real possibility that the operator will require an immediate second shot overrides the importance of a tidy operational area.

It was originally required that the barrel, 5.87 inches (149 mm) in length, have lands-and-grooves-type rifling with a right-hand twist (by coincidence, of course, the direction of twist of Colt handguns). This has been changed to Heckler & Koch's well-known polygonal rifling with a left-hand twist. Polygonal rifling provides a better gas seal, more consistent velocities, superior accuracy,

ease of maintenance and increased service life.

To further enhance the accuracy potential, Heckler & Koch brought the locking block to tighter tolerances with the slide, without compromising the pistol's reliability. In addition, an O-ring now interfaces between the slide and barrel. This O-ring has withstood 30,000 rounds without failure. All of this has resulted in 5-round groups as tight as 0.45-inch (i.e., a single hole) and a group average of 1.3 inches of extreme spread at 25 meters from a test fixture designed by Heckler & Koch.

The safety lever has been made 0.15-inch wider to permit the opera-

onto a metal projection on the hammer.

A flared trigger guard of the type found on the H&K USP has been added. It protects the magazine catch/release when the pistol is holstered. The magazine has also been improved to enhance reliability.

The mechanical recoil-reduction system, also found on the USP, that buffers unlocking of the barrel and consists of a heavy, captive coil spring around the guide rod, remains as before. It reduces measured recoil forces by as much as 30% and significantly diminishes perceived recoil. Also unchanged is the hooked locking block at the end of the guide rod that stops

the barrel's rearward travel during the latter part of the recoil stroke. Newly added is another feature from the USP: a captured recoil spring held to the guide rod with a C-clip. It makes the pistol easier to disassemble and reassemble.

A new black, corrosion-resistant maritime coating, called "KTL" replaces the original salt-spray resistant finish on the one-piece machine steel slide and other compo-

nents. Used by the German navy, "KTL" has passed through the stringent Phase II salt fog tests with flying colors.

The barrel threads on the H&K Offensive Handgun have been moved outward toward the muzzle by about 1 mm to obtain a second bearing surface in back of the threads for the Knight sound suppressor. This second bearing surface and an O-ring in the suppressor prevent the suppressor from rotating during firing sequences, but still permit it to be detached within the stipulated 15 seconds without special tools. H&K's original coupler piston system was modified to ac-



Heckler & Koch's Phase II Offensive Handgun differs from their original Phase I entry. The slide lock has been removed and the safety lever is 0.15-inch wider to permit the operator to obtain a better purchase with gloves. The hammer has been changed to a hollow spur, which will deform if impacted upon during a drop test and thus prevent a primer indent.

tor to obtain a better purchase with gloves. It is at this location that the pistol has its greatest width.

H&K's Phase I Offensive Handgun had a lanyard loop molded into the polymer frame. This has been modified to a separate grip extension insert with lanyard loop which holds the hammer strut and spring in place.

The hammer on the original H&K Phase I pistol had a problem passing the drop test. This has been changed to a hollow spur, which will deform if impacted upon during a drop test and thus prevent a primer indent. The spur itself is dovetailed into the hammer and is therefore replaceable. H&K is currently testing another alternative with a hard rubber spur molded

Continued on page 114

16th Annual SOLDIER OF FORTUNE CONVENTION

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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 of publishing.



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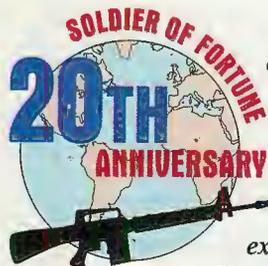
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No Chem War In Gulf? — *Tell It To The Marines*

TEXT & PHOTOS BY BOB NEWMAN



Marine gunner with M60E3 GPMG tries out new chocolate-chip cammo and MOPP gear. Today many American troops are afflicted with Gulf War syndrome, and we still don't know whether protective measures were inadequate to protect our soldiers or whether some of the protective measures were actually harmful.



Twenty years ago SOF was the first magazine to give grunts a forum to write their combat experiences as they experienced them.

No reporter to “interpret” the truth, no censorship from REMFs higher up the chain of command, just hard-hitting, first-person accounts that have often proven there’s more to the story than the mass media and government want us to know. This was true in Vietnam,

Grenada, Panama and particularly the Gulf War.

Our writers often aren’t academics, professional authors or investigative reporters, they’re people who participated in the event they’re writing about. Twenty years ago this was a foreign concept to journalists, and even today the mainstream media generally prefer to get their stories by looking at the war from the rooftop of the local Hilton rather than riding shotgun in the lead vehicle heading for the FEBA.

Bob Newman’s Marine combat experience in Kuwait is a good example

of our type of journalism: To know the truth about chemical and biological agents in the theater you had to be there in a combat role. Newman was, and he shares his little bit of the war with us. The fact that the word from the ground doesn’t jibe with the official government line shouldn’t surprise SOF readers.

Our Marine infantry company trudged through the northern Saudi Arabian desert, festooned with massive ALICE packs and “782” gear, carrying assorted weapons of war. Our squad automatic weapons,



Marines burn debris and dead animals found outside of Kuwait City. Did these animals die as a result of Iraqi biological or chemical weapons? Why won't our government tell us the extent of their use?

M16A2 rifles, M60E3 machine guns, 9mm pistols, shoulder-fired multi-purpose assault weapons and 60mm mortars were silhouetted against the distant horizon as the winter sun struggled to illuminate the barren landscape of the ancient desert. A light mist fell from the pale gray clouds overhead, and I shrugged to adjust my pack.

We had moved all night by vehicle to this location near the "elbow" of Kuwait, the crook in the Kuwait-Saudi border that runs approximately from Umm Hujul up to a point west of Al Abdaliyah. We were now humping to our defensive position just below the border. I noticed that the usually flat desert floor ahead was overlaid with sand "mogs," and I casually wondered why. In a few minutes I would find out.

Our route of march took us directly through these mounds of sand, which was in fact a huge animal graveyard. The carcasses of camels, sheep, goats and dogs by the hundreds were being exposed by the constantly blowing, shifting desert sands that had until recently hidden this ghastly scene. In the predawn light of the overcast desert we were halfway through the graveyard before we realized what we were walking through. I wondered what had killed all these animals and how they had come to be buried here. It momentarily bore on my mind that intelligence said the Iraqis were planning

to use chemical and biological warfare against us in the coming days, and I wondered if what we were walking through was somehow connected. We trudged on.

Later that day we were told to stay clear of the animal graveyard because intelligence suspected that it might be the result of biological weapons, anthrax in particular. Medical personnel could be seen from our position in MOPP 4 (mission-oriented protective posture), which means full chemical/biological protective gear, stringing bright yellow tape between engineer stakes that were forming the border of the graveyard. In our case, the warning was a little too late.

So concerned with Saddam's chemical and biological warfare abilities and intentions were the brass that we began to be issued assorted pills and were given various inoculations to help stave off the effects of nerve gas such as sarin, known to be one of Saddam's favorites. Little did we know that these pills and shots had not been fully tested, and after we took them, the word eventually came down to not take any more pills because there may be a "problem" with them. Again, a little too late.



An NBC placard at Camp 15 outside of Al Jubayl warns Marines to beware — of everything. Who knew what the Butcher of Baghdad might employ?

Burned By Mustard Gas

Two weeks later I sat atop an amphibious assault vehicle or "Amtrac" a few miles below the border, watching as the towering flames from the remains of the Al Wafrah oil field lit up the night. The following morning my company would assault through the minefields and obstacle belts, while the inky black smoke from hundreds of mutilated, burning oil wells



An Iraqi T-62 tank lies in death, victim of an 8th Marines TOW missile.

coated our skin, uniforms and gear with a fine, slick sheen. Just as we were crossing through the berm — that massive wall of sand along the border — the radio crackled with excited orders to quickly go to MOPP: An Amtrac near us had struck a mustard gas mine and two of the crewmen were wounded, blisters from the mustard gas appearing on their exposed arms almost instantly. This is in direct contradiction to the official government line that no chemical weapons were encountered (though this incident is part of the official Marine Corps history).

The Iraqis were shelling the charging Marine assault forces with arty and mortars, and crater analysis performed by some Marines with chemical detection equipment showed that blister agents and nerve agents were present. The German-made Fuchs (Fox) chemical detection vehicles were detecting both types of agents as well — and this is not a detection system known to make mistakes. Later that morning anthrax was positively identified in an Army lab from a sample taken from a dead sheep.

Shortly after noon on our first day in the attack the smoke was so thick that we could barely see the vehicles beside us, and as the wind shifted back and forth to reveal Iraqi positions ahead, the air was rent with the fiery red signature of the Amtrac's .50 caliber machine guns raking trenches, bunkers and various armored vehicles holding Iraqis bent on martyrdom. Combined anti-armor teams (CAATs) would join the fray, ripping vehicles (Soviet-made T-55s and T-62s, BMPs, BTRs and French-made Panhard scout cars) to shreds. Secondary explosions within Iraqi armored vehicles, caused by their own



All that remained of the "ice-cube tray" after the 8th Marines got done with it.

ammunition cooking off, turned them into wheeled and tracked pressure cookers. A TOW missile launched to my right front, and I could trace its flight as it jinked and maneuvered toward a distant Iraqi T-62 MBT that I couldn't see from my position. Soon a flash up ahead told me the tank had been hit, and I watched the turret pop up into the air and disappear again as it fell to earth. This was the first time I had ever seen a tank struck with a TOW missile and I was amazed at its power. We rolled through the remains of an Iraqi artillery position that had just been pulverized by an effective mix of Marine arty and air power, and I could see hundreds of shells littering the sand, strewn about the wreckage of the howitzers. Again, I wondered if any of those shells con-



An Iraqi ammunition truck put out of action by 1st Battalion, 8th Marines, in the final moments of the war. Note rocket hole in door.

tained chemical agents.

Shortly after darkness my unit, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, attached to the 8th Marines and assaulted the "ice-cube tray," a large building complex covering many acres of desert. Securing the objective, the battalion settled in for the night in a defensive perimeter that put 1st Battalion, 8th Marines and one tank company along our border at a road intersection. All was fairly quiet until 0230 when

1/8 and the tank company on our flank were counterattacked by an Iraqi force consisting of numerous tanks, armored personnel carriers and infantry fighting vehicles, as well as dismounted infantry attempting a double envelopment from the northwest and northeast. A horrendous firefight ensued, and Iraqi artillery that hadn't been accurate at all up to this point suddenly became effective, wounding five Marines. The 10th Marines opened up with counterbattery fire and destroyed the Iraqi artillery as Marine tanks and CAATs maneuvered to engage the armored assault, sometimes firing them up at ranges less than 100 meters.

A couple of hours before dawn the Iraqis suddenly fell silent, but a crafty Marine captain suspected they were simply reorganizing and falling back, prompting him to repeat three of the artillery missions he had just fired, which caught the Iraqis completely unprepared and vulnerable. The results were impressive and broke the Iraqis' fighting spirit; those surviving surrendered in the morning. All of the prisoners who we took that night and those taken by 1/8 the next morning had with them chemical protection gear.

The next day we were again in the attack: This time the

regiment's objective was to pass through Phase Line Bear, which was the highway leading out of Kuwait City, and take division objective 4, an Iraqi barracks and compound. The Army's Tiger Brigade, a tank unit equipped with state-of-the-art M1A1 Abrams tanks, was to seize division objective 2, the high ground known as Mutlaa Ridge that overlooked the six-lane highway the fleeing Iraqis were using to escape back to Iraq. This area was already being attacked by Marine air, which had been hitting Iraqi vehicles all morning and had rendered the road impossibly blocked with destroyed vehicles. Shortly after this occurred the Tiger Brigade showed up on the Iraqis' flank and engaged them, literally wiping out hundreds of vehicles caught in the murderous crossfire and killing countless enemy. This road would become variously known as the Highway of Death, Carnage Valley, and the Highway to Hell.

As the 8th Marines moved closer and closer to their objective, 2/4 maneuvered around another minefield and began taking increased fire from tanks and other armored vehicles, which they quickly blew to bits. They were then ordered to seize the United Agricultural Research Facility near Al Jahrah, which they did by forcing a brigade from Iraq's 3rd Armored Division to retreat. The 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marines was also involved in securing this large complex, and a tank platoon was called in to help engage Iraqi armor. As one Marine tank moved past a burning Iraqi tank, a secondary explosion within the burning tank killed one of the Marine tankers. The 3/23 then closed with 1/8 and began taking rounds from a dairy farm in the form of sniper fire and rockets. The Marines quickly engaged them, killing several Iraqis and destroying an ammunition truck.

As dawn broke, Fox Company 2/4 began a detailed inspection of the complex it had captured and quickly realized that it was sitting on a powder keg. The warren of bunkers it had taken was filled with all manner of ordnance, ranging from Sagger missiles, grenades, and small arms ammunition to SA-7 Grail surface-to-air missiles, rocket-propelled grenade rounds and artillery shells. A multi-



The infamous Highway to Hell outside of Kuwait City, killing field for Iraqis trying to beat feet to Baghdad with war plunder.

Gulf War Syndrome

Although the U.S. government, specifically the Pentagon, continues to deny that Iraq used any chemical or biological weapons during the Gulf War, documents from various units in that war tell a very different story. Nerve and blister agents were repeatedly detected by high-tech German-made Fuchs chemical detection vehicles, and Marines performing chemical detection duties with other dependable gear also detected chemical agents on the battlefield. Marines were wounded in the minefields as a result of Iraqi mustard gas mines. Army nuclear-biological-chemical (NBC) specialists made positive identification on at least one anthrax-ridden sheep carcass. Other Coalition forces reported positive detection of chemical agents, as well.

The pills and shots received to supposedly help defend against chemical attack were given to Marines and later recalled, but by then the Marines had already swallowed the pills.

Some units, such as 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, were constantly submerged in dense oil smoke from late February through April 1991, sometimes being inundated for days on end until the wind shifted. Numerous toxins were present in the smoke, which at times was so thick you couldn't see your hand in front of your face at high noon. Orders were sent down to stop all unnecessary physical activity during these times, and a special medical team was sent out to our unit (and others) to determine any ill effects. I never heard the results.

Gulf War syndrome's exact cause is still unknown and may be a result of a variety of things, such as the combination of the oil smoke, residual blister, nerve and biological agents, insecticides applied to our skin and uniforms, and interaction between the pills and inoculations received. The symptoms include aches and pains in joints and muscles, short-term memory loss, rashes and other problems. Even some families of Gulf War vets have become sick, indicating that it may somehow be contagious. It took the military almost four years to get a handle on my illness, and I am currently still in remission.

Despite the government's insistence that no chemical or biological weapons were used, Washington does have a system in place to recognize, deal with and track Gulf War syndrome, which the government obviously doesn't want to go the way of the Agent Orange debacle. Why the government continues to deny responsibility is clear: It doesn't want to get stuck with the medical bills of sick and possibly dying Gulf War vets. In light of this, the Texas-based law firm of Spagnoletti & Associates is suing more than 30 manufacturers of chemical and biological warfare material on behalf of the vets. You can contact them by phone: 713-653-5600.

To get on the government's Gulf War Registry, call the Defense Management Data Center; phone: 800-796-9699.

The latest Department of Defense and CIA intel reports say that Saddam is rapidly rebuilding his chemical and biological warfare capabilities, including the development of sarin, mustard, chlorine and anthrax, among other nasties. It appears to only be a matter of time before U.S. forces again find themselves over there.

— B.N.

Continued on page 98

Being A Man Among Men



In the hills and plains of southern Africa, Rhodesians fought alone against a communist insurgency that was supported from sanctuaries in Mozambique and Zambia.



Author (center) listens in on radio transmissions while ParaDak (jump-rigged C-47 Dakota) takes his strike force on mission against terrors.

Soldier Of Fortune Editor Fires Up Terts In SOF's First War

by John W. Coleman
Photos courtesy author



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Isolated by politics and geography, Rhodesia lay surrounded by hostile governments supportive of communist insurgents and terrorists; controlling foreign-trained and armed insurgents infiltrating from Mozambique fell largely to the Rhodesian Light Infantry.

Rhodesia will always be closely linked with SOF. It was, after all, our first on-the-ground war and the first place we could practice our brand of journalism. SOF Vol. 1 No. 1 even contained an article on how to become a mercenary in Rhodesia and featured a memorable photo of an African Rhodesian whose head had been blown away by terrorists when he failed to cooperate with his "lib-

erators." The liberal press was unhappy about the photo and article, since they'd painted the Rhodesian war as a struggle by a racist white minority government to hold onto power against the will of the benevolent black majority.

The fact that Rhodesia actively recruited foreigners did not earn it any PR points in the eyes of the world, but did serve to attract professional

fighting men. And though these professional soldiers helped make the Rhodesian army one of the most effective counter guerrilla forces ever fielded, the press focused on the mercenary angle and printed stories of alleged atrocities that resulted in an "election" the Rhodesian government couldn't hope to win.

Bob Brown was in the AO numerous times and SOF published the other side of the story, but in the end truth took a back seat to propaganda. One good thing came out of it though; we became acquainted with many Americans fighting for Rhodesia — soldier/authors whose names would become well known to regular SOF readers: Robert MacKenzie, Mike Williams, Ken Gaudet and former SOF Managing Editor John Coleman (who penned the following piece), among others.

The "Lovers" of Three Commando, 1st Battalion, Rhodesian Light Infantry, had enjoyed good success during their six-week bush trip, racking up 60 terrorist kills and numerous captures by the third week, without injuries except some massive hangovers.

I was acting as the commando sergeant major, commanding the parachutist contingent of our fire force, and life was going well for me. All our para jumps had resulted in successful contacts with the terts, and we'd yet to spend a night away from our secure base at Grand Reef airfield. Neither had we missed an opportunity to sample the evening delights found in Umtali, only a few miles down the road.

I had become friendly with quite a few local Rhodesians, managed to establish a line of credit at the more popular watering holes, and even found a never-ending poker game which didn't include "cheat the foreign army chap" in its rules.

Being a foreigner in the Rhodesian army wasn't half bad. If you kept your mouth shut, played by their rules, and didn't intimate you were from the CIA — which some Yanks had a penchant for doing — then you generally got along just fine.

Unfortunately, too many foreigners came down to Rhodesia acting the hero, and this left a bad taste in everyone's mouth. When newly arrived Americans were posted to Three Commando, my first words of advice were to forget they ever heard of Vietnam, don't talk politics, and never preface a sentence with "this is how we did it in the U.S. Army." The Rhodesians didn't want to hear about it, and had a good handle on just how to fight their own brand of war.

Op At The Kraal

Our commando was up before first light one morning and grabbed a quick cup of tea before flying out to where a Selous Scout OP had spotted approximately 12 to 15 terts moving into an African kraal at last light the night before. We hoped they'd still be in place by the time our fire force hit the area at daybreak.

The scout reported much noise from the kraal for most of the night, and his guess was the gooks were enjoying a little R&R with local girls before moving on the next day: a reasonably common occurrence, and woe the village that didn't supply the women, willingly or not.

Inserted by helicopter, our four-man "stops" covered any avenues of escape the terrorists might take once the fire force arrived. Should an unlucky gook find one of our stops while fleeing the area, he got no farther. If the terts decided to hold their ground, they faced the onslaught of our airborne sweepline plus devastating cannon fire from the overhead K-Car's (command aircraft) 20 mike mike. Their only other alternative was surrender, but because of the massive propagandizing they received before entering Rhodesia, few terrorists took that option. Most took their chances in a shoot-out, rather than surrender

to us "foreign butchers."

We rumbled down the airstrip in our jump-rigged C-47 Dakota that morning and I listened over the spare headphones as choppers closed on the village where the terts were holding up. The scout had noticed no unusual activity. I heard the OC announce the K-Car was pulling over the target area for a look, and for the troop-carrying G-Cars (French-made Alouette choppers) to go into their standard circular orbit around the suspected terrorist position.

Now the crunch: If there were gooks in the village, nine times out



Four-man stop group exits G-Car (French-built Alouette) to bottle up insurgents; once these groups were deployed, the paras would jump in and sweep targets into set ambushes.

of 10 they'd break and run when our choppers popped up out of nowhere. For that one other instance, however, the K-Car could expect long bursts of fire from the communist weapons the terts carried.

This time nothing happened. There was no response whatsoever. Normally there'd be a mad dash by the African nannies to hunt down stray children or grab frantic chickens, or at least you'd see a couple of Kaffir dogs running like hell from the loud *whop-whop* of the choppers.

The scout OP couldn't provide any further information about the village. The last time he heard anything from the kraal was around 0300, when it was definitely occupied by merry-making terrorists and their captives.

Our OC, Major Snelgar, opted for a closer look and had the G-Cars set their stop groups down. If all remained quiet, the stops would sweep through the African huts to determine just what was going on. Either the terts were holding the locals as hostages, or the gooks had slipped out during the night taking the entire village with them to act as porters, guides or new ZANLA "recruits." It had happened before, and in some cases the entire group would be moved across the border into Mozambique for political indoctrination.

There was, however, a scout watching the village, and they just didn't let 50-odd Africans with their chickens, goats and dogs slip by unnoticed. Something was up.

Terts Break Cover

Since it was no longer necessary to keep the element of surprise, our ParaDak (Dakota) moved in closer so we'd be ready to jump. I could see the K-Car circling the kraal and the other troop carriers dipping into the tree line to drop off their four troopers.

Suddenly, puffs of black smoke shot from the K-Car, followed by bright flashes of 20mm HE shells impacting around the village.

"They're breaking ... they're running now!" Snelgar's voice burst over my headphones. "There's about 15 of them bombshelling like crazy. Get the paras on the ground ASAP!"

Suddenly the dispatcher (jumpmaster) was shouting "GO, GO, GO!" while literally shoving the first man out the door. In a blur of action I watched the entire port side vanish out the open jump door, then I too was hurtling into empty space. When my fire force equipment was safely dangling on its nylon cord 20 feet below me, I took a quick look at the terrain we would be fighting through.

Easy ground, I thought, surveying the flat, thinly bushed veldt. There were a few dry streambeds running near the kraal — obvious choices for stop-group positions. Beyond were only sparse klompies of thorn and scrub brush, and these

would provide no sanctuary for fleeing terrorists. It was nearly ideal fire force country, and held none of the terrors of thickly overgrown rivers, mountainous rock piles, or dark



History will judge the Rhodesian Light Infantry as one of the most effective light infantry forces ever formed. Here, MAG gunner and rifleman sweep the bush for terrs.

and forbidding caves we'd battled through before.

The OC immediately formed us into an extended-line formation facing west, toward the village. We would sweep the village first, clearing the huts of locals or terrs, then proceed with clearing operations until we linked up with the stop groups located on the far side of the kraal.

While the troops adjusted their kit, I briefed them on what the OC advised of the situation. Snelgar and the K-Car crew had seen no activity in the village until the first two G-Cars set their stop groups down. It appeared the terrs hoped we'd just go away, but when our intentions became clear, they probably realized that staying in the isolated huts was not smart.

Fifteen terrorists had burst from the huts and started running toward the north and west, the only directions offering cover and concealment. The K-Car crew-chief let rip with a long burst of 20mm fire at the scattering gooks, taking two down. These two were no longer visible from the air. Snelgar felt they were wounded and lying under cover.

Stop Two, to the northwest of the kraal along a dry streambed, bagged

two terrs running past their position. The rest of the gooks apparently went to ground under the thick klompies of bush. We were to move the sweepline on a general northwest heading, and adjustments in direction would be made from the K-Car circling overhead.

Every eye was fixed on the village; any suspicious movement would be met with a hail of fire from our FNs and MAGs. The rule for combat survival was to shoot first and ask questions later.

The sweep moved to within 50 feet of the kraal with nothing to report. There was radio silence from the K-Car circling overhead, the four stop groups on the other side, and the remaining G-Car maintaining its wide orbit. The other three Gs had been sent back to Grand Reef for refueling and would remain there until called. There still had to be locals hiding and we wanted them moved out before we began clearing. Contrary to the

international press propaganda effort, we on fire force did our best to leave civilians alone whenever possible. I learned in Vietnam that locals generally did their best to avoid war and would usually only get involved when coerced by one side or the other. There were of course hard-core political converts who actively aided and abetted the terrorist cause, but our mission on fire force was to close with and destroy armed terrorist bands infiltrating Rhodesian territory from

Mozambique. The sweep was halted in a small depression offering some protection from potential gunfire from the village. I called for Trooper Hardesty in Banana Three. Hardesty

could speak most Rhodesian African dialects without fault.

Sorting Out The Civvies

"Micky, I want you to tell everyone in that kraal *they have all of two minutes to clear their asses out of there* before we burn the place down. I want 'em to come out of there with their hands up and gather in the center of the kraal where we can see everybody. Make sure they know that anyone, and I mean anyone, left inside the huts is liable to be killed."

His 18-year-old face grinned back at me from under the black camouflage cream we always wore in the bush. "Sure, Colour. Anything you want me to tell those wounded gooks in there?" he asked.

I grinned back. "Yeah. Tell 'em that Josh Nkomo sent us." These were Robert Mugabe's ZANLA troops we had bottled up, and there was no love lost between the Mugabe and Nkomo factions.

Hardesty shouted my message toward the village, waited a moment, then repeated it again. "Give it to them again, Mick," I said. "This time tell them they've got 30 seconds before we open up." There was no way I was going to walk my troops into an unsecured village without at least



Fire force was a nerve-wracking, high-risk occupation: but the rate of contact was excellent — and the kill ratio even better.

doing a little recce by fire. I only hoped the civilians were long gone and hiding in the veldt, waiting for both us and the terrs to take the war somewhere else.



The fire force AO varied from arid plains to mountainous terrain, but the main consideration was that Rhodesia was largely surrounded by a porous, hostile border.

Hardesty was halfway through my second message when a flurry of African nannies, children, old men and dogs stumbled out of the huts. Sixteen fire force guns covered them and they were scared shitless. Without doubt they figured we were going to gun them down en masse, a legacy from their terrorist "guests" the night before.

A long burst of AK fire sent us diving for cover. I heard screams



Fire force operations were often conducted against targets painstakingly identified by Selous Scouts, often along the border with Mozambique.

from the civilians to our front, and saw two of them keel over while the rest scattered off toward our position.

"Hold your fire!" I yelled to the swepline while the panic-stricken natives ran through our positions and out toward our DZ. One of the Africans hit by the AK fire lay moaning, and the other was unnaturally still. I had no idea why that gook had chosen to open up on the locals, but it worked to our advantage. We now knew there was at least one armed terrorist somewhere in the village.

I had 15 troopers stranded in the open at least 50 feet from cover. Facing us was at least one armed terr, probably more, in or around the kraal. He could see us, and I had no intention of exposing my men to his AK fire.

I quickly worked out a three-pronged effort involving the K-Car's 20mm cannon, Banana Three and Four's firepower as a fire support group, and my stick with Banana Two to act as the maneuver element. On my signal, the 20mm would send a long burst of fire into the village complex, the HE rounds throwing the terrorists off balance. Simultaneously, the two MAGs and six FNs from Bananas Three and Four would open up onto likely enemy positions, and would maintain a high rate of fire until my two sticks were able to dash forward and take up firing positions on the southern side of the kraal. If we made it that far, I would evaluate the situation and make new plans.

The kraal became a frenzy of flying dust and shrapnel, highlighted by the bright flashes of cannon shells impacting on the sun-baked earth. The guns from the support group increased the din as they systematically sprayed areas where the terts might be hiding, their deadly 7.62mm rounds slamming into the

huts and cutting holes in the surrounding bush.

As the last cannon shell from the 12-round burst exploded near a grain bin in the center of the village, I took off running toward the left side of the huts, followed closely by my seven men. I dove behind the second hut with my machine gunner, George McDermott, right behind me.

"Look out, John!" he screamed, and immediately cut loose with a volley of 7.62mm machine-gun fire toward our rear. I pushed off and rolled to my left, and the area I vacated was stitched with AK fire. Up ahead by the next hut, two troopies from Banana Two were shooting it out with another terr at close range, and there was now machine-gun fire coming from the north. I'd walked us into a regular hornet's nest filled with terrorists, and the only way out was to literally shoot our way through.

George was still firing bursts into the bushes behind us while I yanked an M962 frag grenade out of my jacket webbing and sent the armed grenade flying toward the gook's position. We were danger-close to the exploding fragments and both George and I knew it, but there was no alternative except to take another AK burst.

There was a sharp *bang-crump* of the grenade detonating, and suddenly a terrorist in blue denim stood straight up. The frag had gone off behind him and had torn up his backside: Nerve impulses caused him to jump up, and McDermott laid him back down with a burst from his MAG.

I took a quick glance at the holes in the mud hut made by the terrorist's gunfire, and then at George who had just finished reloading a new belt into his gun. He looked up with a weary smile and said, "John, just what the fuck are we doing out here? These buggers are getting too bloody serious about all this, you know?" His Scot's burr got thicker when he was tense, and he now sounded like he was only a day out of Glasgow. I took a deep breath and shook my head. I had been seriously wounded by rifle fire earlier in the war, yet here I was doing the same thing all over again. Some people never learn, I guess.

"Hey, Meescham," I called to the

trooper closest to me. "What've you got going up there? Where's Prinsloo?"

The Assault

Lance Corporal Devin Prinsloo, a national serviceman pulling his last few days of obligatory call up, stuck his head around the curved side of the mud-walled hut. His 19-year-old face was streaked with sweat and camo cream, and he looked tired. "We've got it sorted out, Colour," he said. "Ran into one of those wounded buggers the K-Car nailed earlier on. He tried to chuck a stick grenade at us, but the blokes revved him before

protection from any small arms fire, so I decided to hold our position and establish a fire support group.

When we opened up, I wanted Banana Three and Four to assault up from their location in the open field and try to clear the area of the terr gunner. Prior to their move, however, I'd have all of my riflemen throw hand grenades toward the gook's position to put him off balance and cover the assault team's rush.

Six nearly simultaneous but distinct explosions from our grenades were our signal to open fire into the brush cover across the way, and eight guns raked the opposite side of the

have to walk right into him before you knew exactly where he was. It was a nerve-wracking business, and it accounted for two-thirds of our heavy booze-ups back in camp.

The mini swepline to our front suddenly froze in place, then slowly dropped down into a kneeling position. It was uncanny how they all moved in unison as though attached to a common string. After a couple of bush trips together, this kind of reaction became instinctive: to act as one man and therefore come out alive as a team.

I watched Trevor and his gunner slowly inch forward, weapons ready.



The workhorse of the Rhodesian forces was the RAF Alouette, which served as the backbone of fire force deployment (G-Car) and as an airborne control station (K-Car) for the fire force commander. Here an Alouette lands on a rocky knoll near Domboshawa.

he yanked the string. "Can't see anything else right now, but we took a little fire from some kind of machine gun across the village. It's hard to say whether the gook's in a hut or lurking in the bushes," the stick commander finished.

I nodded and had a look at our positions. My other two troopers were behind the first hut closest to our para drop zone, George and I behind the second, and Prinsloo and his stick were under cover of the third. The thickly walled huts gave us decent

kraal with a withering barrage of 7.62mm fire.

Banana Three and Four, under command of Corporal Trevor Norris, had now slowed down to normal fire force sweeping pace: slow and cautious. The bush around the village was fairly tall and thick, and could easily conceal two or three armed terrors. This was one of the worst phases of fire force, knowing there was an armed man hiding somewhere up front waiting to kill you, and also knowing you were probably going to

The MAG gunner cut loose with a burst from his gun, followed immediately by Norris with his FN: They had come across a dead terr armed with a PPSH 41 submachine gun, but were taking no chances. They saw a patch of blue cloth in the green scrub, and that was enough to warrant a few bursts of gunfire.

The village was again quiet except for the occasional metallic click of a trooper checking his rifle. Norris

Continued on page 104

Since SOF's inception we've prided ourselves on getting the other side of the story. We've learned that when the liberal press starts singing the same tune it's time to get suspicious.

That's a large part of the reason we've spent considerable resources

Liddy. For a few weeks it was open season on the G-man. You couldn't avoid the hateful articles and editorial cartoons, so we decided to do something few other publications bothered to do — we talked to him one-on-one and asked what really happened. This interview was conducted last July.

hand. These draconian anti-gun laws and excesses by the BATF were driving people to seriously consider these kinds of actions, which would be unwarranted.

And so, I thought I could reach a wider audience with my 260-odd stations. I sent copies of the editorial to some friends of mine on the Hill. I

"One To The Groin,



investigating the POW/MIA issue, why we unceasingly support the right to bear arms, why we aided the contras and the government in El Salvador. These are all areas where the press has been both one-sided and wrong.

On a smaller scale, but much closer to home, is the recent media hatchet job performed on G. Gordon

RKB: Gordon, let's start by discussing the allegations and general attitude of the media toward you and the remarks they've made about your alleged "one shot to the groin, two to the head" comment. I haven't seen many people defending you. Has the media distorted or taken out of context your remarks about how to deal with the BATF?

GL: Well, yes, but that's nothing new. I mean, that's sort of a standard tactic of the mainstream media. What

actually happened was back in 1994 I saw an editorial in *Modern Gun* by Jim Shults. He was making his readership aware of the fact that there were some people, veterans of the Phoenix Program and others, who were so incensed at the abuses of the general public by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms that they were actually advocating people going out and hunting down BATF agents and killing them as if they were Viet Cong.

RKB: This was in Shults' editorial back in 1994?

GL: Yes, and of course he was concerned about this and warned that things were getting out of

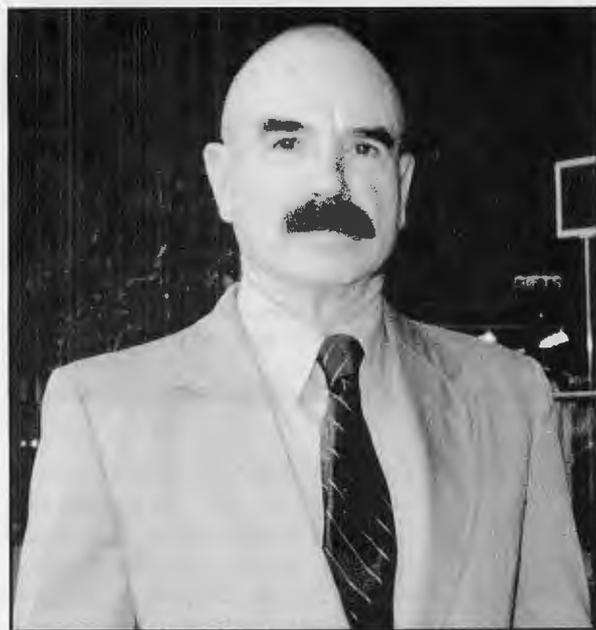
said on the air this is how bad things were getting and it's unwarranted to go out and pro-actively hunt people down to kill them.

But, I said, I can foresee circumstances when these totally out-of-control BATF people come in the middle of the night, smash your door down without any notice whatsoever and come in shooting. Then, you have a choice. You can either let yourself get killed or you can defend yourself and shoot back. I said, of course if you're going to shoot back and whack these sons of bitches, remember that they're wearing flak jackets, head shots, etc. And that was August 1994. And then along came...

RKB: Let me interrupt. At that point did you hear any criticism?

GL: No. None at all. But we are aware of the fact that the White House monitors the program. In the wake of the Oklahoma bombing, when President Clinton was seeking to exploit it politically by smearing all of his opponents with an implied association with the bombers, the White House went on the attack.

They also dug up the fact that when I came back from the Fourth of July holiday in 1994, I had been shooting with friends and family. We ran out of targets and I had drawn some stick figures, the kind you use to identify for illiterates the men's and the ladies' room, and labeled one "Bill" and one "Hillary" and I shot at those. But as one who back in Watergate days remembers seeing professionally prepared targets superimposed on my face, it seemed to me that the big sissy really was squealing when he



UPI/Bettmann

G. Gordon Liddy responds to President Clinton's orchestrated media blitz on him and sets the record straight on his comments about shooting BATF agents.

shouldn't have been.

RKB: I know you came under attack from a multitude of media, but can you give me examples of who specifically attacked you?

GL: As best as we can determine, the White House had these remarks from the previous year and put them out to their media friends in sort of a

forcement officer, any law enforcement officer, tells you to move your car, stand on this side of the sidewalk, or don't go in there, there is a presumption of regularity. He doesn't have to explain why to each individual. You're supposed to move. And if you object later on, you can get an explanation from the department.

The only thing one can criticize is the charge that the BATF were a bunch of jackbooted thugs. Jackboots come above the knee; they are combat-booted thugs. That's what they are.

RKB: The NRA came under tremendous criticism over this ad. It's interesting when it first came out no-

Two To The Head"

simultaneous assault. The upshot of it was that, as they typically do, they went too far. The White House was angry with all talk radio simply because they have politically opposed the president for a substantial period of time. But they made the mistake, if you will, of attacking only me by name. That is why I was given the Freedom of Speech Award by my peers, the National Association of Talk Radio Hosts, simply because I was the only one who was named.

RKB: In other words, you're saying the White House attacked you, personally?

GL: Well, no, President Clinton did. Mine was the only name he used. He didn't mention Rush or anybody else, he mentioned me. And so my peers gave me an award because I was the only one specifically named by President Clinton.

RKB: I see. Gordon, can you point to anybody in the media that accommodated the president?

GL: Just the usual suspects, you know: all three major networks, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, and their editorial cartoonists. But, you have to remember, Bob, that they've been yelling at me like that for almost 25 years now. I'm used to it. Doesn't bother me.

RKB: Has anybody attempted to put things in context and take your side?

GL: Yes. The Washington Times newspaper and Samuel Francis, a columnist, has. But, again, it's just something that I expect. At any event, I have pointed out that if a law en-

The G-Man Returns Fire

by Robert K. Brown

Similarly when a law enforcement officer from any jurisdiction knocks on the door and behaves as he is supposed to and says, "We are the police, we have a warrant for the search of the house," you're supposed to open the door, stand aside and let them search. We're not talking about that. We're talking about the BATF, which has been notorious for this kind of conduct for years, for decades. My view is the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms should be disarmed. It will not do to transfer them into other agencies because when you pour dirty water into clean water, you get dirty water. And that's what I've been talking about.

RKB: I think it's interesting to note that about the same time you were under attack, the NRA came under a lot of fire for their controversial ad that ran...

GL: But, see, it was accurate in my view. In the first place, what they did was repeat what a very liberal, democratic, powerful committee chairman had said and he was right.

body paid any attention to it either. It was only after the tragedy in Oklahoma City...

GL: Which had nothing to do with the NRA. And by the way, had nothing to do, so far as anybody has been able to determine, with militias or anything else. It looks as if it were probably fewer people than you can number on one hand who did this.

Now, it's true enough that a couple of them apparently tried to join a militia and were rejected. But it has nothing to do with the militias, it's got nothing to do with the NRA, it's got nothing to do with me, it's got nothing to do with you or the people who buy Soldier Of Fortune magazine. The White House and the mainstream media would like people to believe it does.

The militia movement has done absolutely nothing to warrant hearings into their activities. And I would point out, that the first individual militia we heard about in the history of our country was the Minutemen. They fired on the British at Concord. And what were the British trying to do? They were trying to seize firearms. This is a battle that's been going on ever since.

RKB: Well, I have speculated that this media blitz against you and others has been an opportunity for the left to exact retribution against gun owners and talk show hosts for defeating the Democrats in the election.

GL: Right. Bill Clinton himself attributed to the actions of the NRA and gun owners of this country, the loss of at least 20 congressmen in the 1994 elections. They also thought

those of us in talk radio had something to do with that. So if it is possible to smear us with the Oklahoma bombing, they would do so. The press avidly cooperated in that smear attempt. But they're going to end up with egg on their faces when they find out who actually did the bombing, that it had nothing to do with the militia movement, nothing to do with the NRA and nothing to do with talk radio. As I have said, I will be happy to wait for the trial and if any of the persons who are convicted say, "We did it because we thought Gordon Liddy told us to on his radio show," then I'll apologize. But I don't think we're going to find that that was their

RKB: Aren't they saying this is going to extend the mandate of the armed forces to cooperate with law enforcement in crimes that include chemical and biological...

GL: Chemical, biological and nuclear warfare and what have you. The problem is that there are plenty of experts on that who are not in the military. The whole Manhattan program was run by civilians. You already have the abuse of the one exception they've made to date — the drug war — because the president signed a paper that said drug abuse is a national security problem. That is very damaging to the military. The military justly enjoys the

mind-set, completely different training. I've been a military officer and I've been an FBI agent and I know the difference.

RKB: The expansion of the military's role isn't the only frightening aspect of the bill. Elaborate on the wire-tapping provisions.

GL: Well, right now, if they think Bob Brown is involved in a conspiracy to impersonate a human being, they have to go to a magistrate and persuade him there is probable cause to believe that this is going on and that if one listens in on a wire tap, one will learn of the fruits of a crime and so on and so forth. Then, armed with that, you put on this tap. As soon as

someone calls and they are not talking about that subject, you're supposed to hang up. Well, you know that doesn't happen. It gets abused. Now, what they want to do is to be able to tap any phone they think you might be using. It's very, very dangerous. It's extraordinarily intrusive.

RKB: Stop right there. Just how can this be abused, Gordon?

GL: Oh, boy! You should ask me how it cannot be abused. You're talking to somebody who knows something about wire tapping. Let's say they think that Joe Smith is a subscriber to SOF magazine, well, you might be calling him.

They want to be able to tap his phone in hopes of getting you. It's a bad business.

RKB: One reason abuses occur is that there is no oversight system for many federal agencies. A friend of mine I've known for many years, who is still an active FBI agent, feels one of the major problems is that there is no mechanism set up to deal with high level FBI administrators who step out of line. This is far more widespread than just the FBI or ATF. There's a multitude of examples out there, some of which we've covered



Media blitz against Liddy was well-planned and used remarks nearly a year old in an attempt to link president's detractors to the Oklahoma bombing.

motivation.

RKB: Part of the fallout of the bombing has been added push for the anti-terrorism bill. What are your concerns about this legislation?

GL: Very dangerous. This happens every time a prominent person is assassinated or what have you. The leftists and the press lay it at the feet of those who own firearms and use it as an excuse for draconian legislation. Now they want to get into something that I think is particularly dangerous: having the armed forces involved with law enforcement.

very high regard of the American people. To jeopardize that so they can be put into the same basket with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, which is roundly hated by the American people, will be a disaster for the military. They're not trained to be law enforcement officers and if you train them to get into the habit of saying "Halt, federal officer" before they shoot somebody, they're going to be out in the trenches in the middle of a war someplace yelling, "Halt, federal officer." It's a very dangerous business. It's completely different

in *SOF*, where they just cover each other's ass and nothing's ever done. This leads to the abuses we've seen.

GL: Yeah. The only way you can deal with that, I think, is to have a very, very strong leader. J. Edgar Hoover had everybody under him accountable. But of course how do you keep J. Edgar Hoover in line? That can only be done through an oversight committee. Congress has got to use its oversight powers correctly — not just lip service, but really look into things. In the past they were remiss a lot of times because they feared J. Edgar Hoover. Today they are remiss because we have a very political FBI director, Louis Freeh. And he gets away with things because he is willing to go up and testify in favor of this law or that. That used to be absolutely unheard of. I mean that was considered a political question and the bureau would never enter into it: never think of it. But, he does and that's not good.

RKB: I guess that is where congressional hearings come in — our last resort. Just having hearings is fine, but they need to have an objective and a purpose over and above simply exposing wrongdoings. Others have suggested that what the Waco hearings need to result in is the appointment of a permanent special prosecutor to deal with federal law enforcement abuse.

GL: Yeah, well, that would be an excellent idea. But I think with respect to *BATF*, we're going to have to go further. I think hearings should be directed as to whether or not it should be dissolved and its functions spread out among other federal law enforcement agencies which are not afflicted with the terminal corruption that afflicts the *BATF*.

RKB: What do you think specifically needs to be addressed in the Waco hearings?

GL: Oh, boy! There's a whole bunch of things. First of all, we need to subpoena the records of the cellular telephone calls from the site of that atrocity back to Washington. They fired two *BATF* people. Those agents brought a lawsuit that wasn't going anywhere until they subpoenaed the cellular phone records. Then rather than yield to that subpoena, the *BATF* put both of those people right back to work with back pay and the whole nine yards. And, what one hears in

this town, I don't know whether it's true or not, is that those telephone calls went right back to Ron Noble, the undersecretary of the Treasury for law enforcement.

RKB: A man who could not even 10 years ago get a job with immigra-

GL: What I think should happen is the focus must be on the tactics and actions of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and on the FBI's hostage rescue team. And it must not be limited to the incidents at Waco and Ruby Ridge. They should

Wisconsin National Guard PAO



The military justly enjoys the very high regard of the American people. To jeopardize that so they can be put into the same basket with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, which is roundly hated by the American people, will be a disaster for the military.

tion services.

GL: That's right. We need to look into why *Delta Force* was down there. My understanding is that the *BATF* lied to the military by asserting falsely that David Koresh was running a methamphetamine laboratory in that place. We need to look into and subpoena the application for the search warrant in the first place because at the trial there was evidence adduced that it was bogus — based on false information. The whole case was built, apparently, on false evidence. We are aware at Ruby Ridge, the federal judge himself denounced the *FBI* for falsification of evidence.

RKB: What else needs to be addressed?

subpoena all the recent victims of the *BATF*: the woman who was slammed against the wall and lost her baby. The Lamplughs, where they went in, they took their money, took their property, trashed the man's cancer medicine and on the way out, stomped to death the cat! These people had done nothing wrong.

Then I want to get Lon Horiuchi up there. Here's a man who boasts how he can put a bullet into a quarter at 200 meters, yet says it was an accident that he put one right through the head of a woman standing there holding her baby. I think the American people should listen to the testimony of the people in that cabin as

Continued on page 111



SOLDIER OF FORTUNE
20TH ANNIVERSARY

America's contemptible treatment of the grunts who fought in Vietnam was one of the primary catalysts for starting Soldier Of Fortune magazine. In 1975 Vietnam vets had no voice in the media; civilians weren't interested in the incredible ordeals many vets had lived through, and didn't understand that bonds forged in the crucible of combat are the strongest bonds of all.

Enter SOF. The magazine gave



By 1970, cross-border operations had become so dangerous that SOG scrambled for new ideas. One technique was high-altitude, low-opening freefall jumps. Here members of the first HALO team conduct training jump over Vietnam. Photo: courtesy Sam Hernandez

HIGH Altitude Low Opening, No Chance

SOG Freefalls Into Laos & Cambodia by Kenneth Conboy & Dale Andradé

vets a voice, a place where their heroics were written about, where people spoke their language, a publication that covered the topics near and dear to them: firearms, expanding communism, U.S. military operations, the job market for combat veterans, etc.

Things have changed drastically in 20 years: Vietnam service is now chic — other publications routinely publish Vietnam war stories and the existence of hundreds of competing media means that when anything happens, someone's there to cover it. Still, SOF manages to be unique. Two decades of contacts, a reputation for truth, and reporters who know the topics they're writing about have enabled us to continue to bring you articles you won't see anywhere else.

The following piece, for example, researched and written by Kenneth Conboy and former Senior Editor Dale Andradé, demonstrates that there are still many facets of the Vietnam War that have yet to come to light.

A reconnaissance team from the top secret Studies and Observations Group (SOG) helicoptered into a North Vietnamese staging area in Cambodia. Waiting

enemy gunners shot them off both their LZs. The next day the same team walked into Laos, only to run into another enemy force and was extracted under heavy fire. Another recon team in the same area bumped into an enemy force and two U.S. team members were killed during a running firefight. Running cross-border operations was always dangerous, but by early 1970, the beginning of the U.S. military's twilight in Vietnam, they were getting worse. Nowhere was this more true than along the Ho Chi Minh Trail, where Command and Control North (CCN) — the Da Nang-based SOG reconnaissance and exploitation force responsible for southern Laos — faced thick North Vietnamese patrols and unprecedented anti-aircraft fire. Several grid squares were rendered all but impossible for helicopter insertions.

SOG groped for new methods of running the North Vietnamese gauntlet. Sergeant Major Billy Waugh — a SOG operative known for daring and unorthodox schemes — raised the possibility of parachuting into the hottest real estate the Ho Chi Minh Trail had to offer using a high-altitude, low-opening (HALO) freefall jump.

Waugh found an ally in Special Forces Colonel Dan

Shungel. In February 1970, Shungel took command of SOG Ground Studies Group, known as Op 35, which was responsible for reconnaissance into Laos and Cambodia. Shungel had become a freefall enthusiast at Fort Bragg, and he quickly bought into Waugh's scheme.

That summer Shungel employed a trio of skydivers to quietly flesh out Waugh's concept. The first, Ray Henson, was an experienced HALO jumper. The second, Tony Appleton, had amassed a considerable number of freefalls. The only one with a previous SOG tour, Melvin Hill, was Shungel's HALO instructor.

Shungel's three parachutists were shunted off to temporary assignments until Op 35 was granted formal approval to begin the HALO program. For Hill and Henson that meant desk slots. Appleton went to Ban Me Thuot to join Waugh, and was assigned to Recon Team (RT) Plane, arguably the best team in Command and Control South (CCS).

About a month later, Shungel and Waugh were given the green light to create their HALO team. Appleton, Henson and Hill transferred to the Op 35 training compound inside Camp Long Thanh, east of Saigon. Then the search began for indigenous HALO volunteers. Appleton brought four, stripping RT Plane of its best Rhade Montagnards. They were joined, at the insistence of the Liaison Service, by three ethnic Vietnamese volunteers.

Finally, Sergeants First Class Cliff Newman and Sam Hernandez were added. Newman, team leader of CCN's RT Virginia, was widely rated as one of the best recon team leaders in Da Nang. Hernandez, RT Virginia's assistant team leader, had considerable hours running missions

shot himself in the foot and was sent packing. All but one of the Vietnamese dropped out. Most tragic of all was Tony Appleton, who took his own life over family problems. RT Florida returned to Long Thanh and practiced ground operations and night HALO jumps. CCN made final preparations for RT Florida's freefall. The team was reduced to six: Hill, Newman, Hernandez, two Rhade and a Vietnamese warrant officer named Thao. From these six, Hill was chosen by his peers as the team leader.

Scroungers To The Rescue

Florida's premier jump would be the first combat HALO in the history of the U.S. Army, so SOG wanted the best equipment possible. Unfortunately, there was not much in inventory. Master Sergeant Frank Norberry, one of the most respected freefall instructors at Fort Bragg, was dispatched to lend his expertise. Together with freefall specialist, Harry Denny, he created the Norden light — an illumination device rigged from a light wand and fixed to the back of the main parachute pack tray. This was to be used by Newman, so his teammates could focus on the light and remain in tight formation. A second Norden light was attached to the top of Newman's canopy.

More improvisation followed. The parachutes themselves were standard T-10 canopies modified with gores cut into the sides to improve maneuverability. For timing devices — which automatically deploy the main chute at a designated altitude — SOG used Czech-made KAP IIIs, far more reliable than the U.S.-issue alternative. Also procured was Tierra Spray, a green fluorescent mixture that, when coated on a freefall team, would allow them to see each other in the darkness. Finally, the CIA loaned a homing beacon to Newman; each team member would carry a special radio receiver, allowing them to converge on Newman on the ground.

By the third week in November, RT Florida was ready. But intelligence sources began to suspect the mission was already compromised. A radio intercept revealed the North Vietnamese not only knew of the mission and drop zone coordinates, but also the names of everyone in RT Florida.

Op 35 was forced to change drop zones. The new target was 40 kilometers south of Khe Sanh, 15 kilometers inside Laos, sparsely

populated and well-known for dense anti-aircraft fire. And if there were any doubts about North Vietnamese vigilance, they were dispelled when Hill made a visual reconnaissance of the area in an OV-10, only to have the windshield shot out of the plane.

At 0200 on 28 November, six Florida members boarded a C-130E. Norberry, recovering from malaria, came out of bed to act as jumpmaster. Heading north, the aircraft rose to 17,000 feet and crossed into Laos. Five minutes from drop time the team did its equipment check and found the light on Hill's altimeter had burned out — he would not know when to pull his chute. Improvising, Hill tried dousing the front of his body with Tierra Spray, but could not

At Camp Long Thanh in the spring of 1971, SOG developed special procedures, training and equipment for military freefall jumps. Photo: courtesy Fred Wunderlich



with Project Delta — a strategic reconnaissance operation in the northern half of South Vietnam.

With selection complete, training was set to begin. Because SOG did not have a HALO school of its own and wanted to keep its training secret, SOG requested that instruction take place on Okinawa under the auspices of the 1st Special Forces Group. Approval came immediately, and on 16 October the SOG parachutists were ready to begin. Shungel dubbed the team RT Florida after his home state.

On Okinawa, training took a toll on the freefallers. The Montagnard point man landed in the water on his first jump and promptly quit. The Montagnard team leader

get enough illumination to read his altimeter.

Unwilling to abort the mission, the team moved to the edge of the tail ramp. Employing Combat Skyspot — a navigational system using ground-based radars — the C-130 crew came up on the drop zone. With a hand signal from Norberry, RT Florida stepped into the night.

As he had practiced so many times before, Newman pressed a hand-held switch to activate the Norden light on his pack tray. However, the team hit rain clouds and lost sight of each other. Hill, who could not see his altimeter, knew that the first of two cloud layers ended at 4,000 feet, at which time he began counting before pulling the ripcord. But he opened his chute too soon and drifted from the rest of the team. On the ground, problems mounted. The drop zone was buried under 6 inches of water, and when Newman set up his homing device it shorted out. Worse, the Combat Skyspot navigational system, supposedly highly accurate, put the team a dozen kilometers off target.

Separated on the ground in enemy territory with poor weather closing in and without maps, Florida's members focused on staying alive. Climbing an adjacent hill, Newman ran into Tiak, one of the Rhade Montagnards on the team, and the two tried to raise a Covey forward air controller (FAC). The other Rhade, No Nie, managed to link up with the Vietnamese warrant officer. Hill and Hernandez were both alone.

A search was immediately launched for the missing team. Since they did not know the team landed off-target, it took three days before a Covey made visual contact with Newman. The team members were glad to see the friendly aircraft, but it alerted the North Vietnamese to their presence. Enemy patrols approached, forcing RT Florida to call in repeated air strikes.

Two days of poor weather kept rescue aircraft on the ground. Finally a pair of CH-53 helicopters attempted exfiltration. While retrieving Hill on a jungle penetrator, he was hit in the right shin with a spent round, but the other lifts were completed without incident.

Although RT Florida had accomplished nothing, SOG concluded that "as a method of entry this technique was considered proven as a means of entering [Laos] undetected since an active enemy search was not made to locate the team." Better yet, no one was killed, so Shungel and

Waugh continued to expand their pet project. By the beginning of 1971, Norberry, Denny, Newman, Hill and a handful of other HALO specialists established a freefall course at Long Thanh.

After a dozen more students were trained in late spring, the decision was made to form a second HALO team of just four Americans. Because of previous problems trying

to assemble on the ground, each member would be equipped with two radios so he could continue the mission independently. Chosen as team leader was Captain Larry Manes, a freefall instructor at Long Thanh who headed CCN's recon company. Two others, Specialist Noel Gast and Sergeant John "Spider" Trantanella, were from HALO-



Rhade Montagnards participated in HALO training on Okinawa in 1970. In an effort to keep the training secret, SOG operated under the auspices of the 1st Special Forces Group. Photo: courtesy Sam Hernandez

qualified RT Idaho. A fourth, Robert Castillo, was from RT New Jersey.

"Half-Assed Gast"

During the predawn hours of 7 May, Manes' team boarded a C-130E. By this time, restrictions leveled against SOG prevented Americans from entering Laos, so their target was a new North Vietnamese supply trail just inside the South Vietnamese border midway between A Shau and Khe Sanh.

At 20,000 feet the team jumped in pairs. Manes and Gast, each with a Norden light and covered in Tierra Spray, exited first. Murphy's Law quickly intervened. Castillo's parachute tangled. By the time he unwound the lines, he had drifted far from the rest of the team. More serious, one of the M14 anti-personnel mines in Gast's rucksack armed itself. Landing hard on his back, the toe-popper detonated and blew off part of his buttocks (earning himself the nickname "Half-Assed Gast"). Trantanella, too, injured himself on landing.

Nearby, Manes settled in a streambed. After hearing choppers fly overhead at first light, he waited two more hours before breaking radio silence to contact a Covey. Told that Gast and Trantanella had been extracted, Manes was asked if he needed directions to link up with Castillo. Not wanting to attract more attention with orbiting aircraft, he opted to continue the mission on his own. With the enemy apparently unaware of their presence, Manes and Castillo stayed put and watched the road for four

Madison Strohleln became trapped in a tree after a HALO jump in 1971; a Bright Light rescue mission located the tree, found his map, night vision device and rifle with a bullet scar gouged in the stock. Bullet holes riddled the tree and his parachute had been removed. Strohleln's fate has never been determined. Photo: courtesy Fred Wunderlich



more days before being exfiltrated without incident.

Once again SOG considered the HALO mission a partial success and began planning a third freefall. This time, however, some important lessons had been learned. First, jumps should occur no more than two hours before daybreak — shortening the time injured parachutists would have to wait for rescue. Second, having team members operate alone was far more realistic than attempting to assemble on the ground.

Third Time's A Charm?

As selection commenced for the third team, Andre Smith and Jesse Campbell — both running recon in CCN — were quick to grab the slots. Sergeant Madison Strohlein — who had operated in CCS — also landed a berth. Heading them would be Billy Waugh, now sergeant major for CCN's recon company.

Assembled at Long Thanh, the four parachutists continued night practice jumps. On one of their final jumps, the team landed hard. Strohlein bruised his heel but elected to remain on the team. Smith seriously injured his back and was forced to drop out. Replacing him was Sgt. 1st Class James Bath, an experienced HALO instructor who had served multiple SOG tours.

Declared mission-ready, the team was given its target: westernmost Quang Nam Province, 6 kilometers from the Laotian border. The Air Force had produced photographs of the vicinity that showed campfires. SOG, told to investigate, had choppered in a recon team — only to exfiltrate them 45 minutes later under fierce enemy resistance.

In the hope that a HALO team would have a better chance of infiltrating undetected, Waugh's men planned to stage from Da Nang aboard a C-130 that flew a supply shuttle every night. However, after two false starts, the team stood down for a week and a half.

During the predawn hours of 22 June the team tried again. As the C-130 neared the border at 19,500 feet they

blinked his Norden light to signal the rest of the team. But when he pulled the ripcord, the shock of his body weight and heavy gear ripped out a panel and pulled out the wire leading to the Norden light.

Looking up through the hole formed by the missing panel, Bath could see the other jumpers drifting apart as they searched for him. Bath could do nothing; his damaged chute would not respond when he pulled the steering toggles. Falling fast, he debated whether he should deploy his reserve. Bath elected to stay with his main canopy and slammed into a tree. Wearing only jungle fatigues and a soft horse-skin helmet (special tree-jumping uniforms were



The first Vietnamese and Rhade HALO students on Okinawa. The training took a heavy toll on students — all but one of the Vietnamese fell out. Photo: courtesy Sam Hernandez

no longer in the SOG inventory), he severely injured his left leg and suffered cuts across his face.

In his words: "I took out a metascope [night-vision device] and looked around; all I could see were green leaves, so I figured I was safe for the time. I then took out a small emergency radio and tried to raise the other team members. There was no answer from Waugh or Campbell, but Strohlein answered right away."

Separated from Bath by a small karst formation, Strohlein radioed that he too was hung up in a tree and had suffered a broken left arm. He was unable to remove himself from his harness or slide to the ground.

By daybreak, FAC planes were overhead trying to find the two injured team members. Bath was able to give them a precise fix and a Huey darted in and snatched him from danger. But Strohlein, confused by the multitude of small planes in the vicinity, had trouble relaying his exact location. He remained on the air until 1100 hours, then reported North Vietnamese moving in. After that, transmissions ceased. The remaining two members each called in air strikes before they were picked up.

The following day a Bright Light rescue mission was inserted for Strohlein. Locating the tree where Strohlein had been suspended, they found his map and metascope. They also found his rifle with a bullet scar gouged in the stock. Bullet holes riddled the tree and the parachute had been removed. No blood was found. Strohlein's fate has never been determined.

CCN had its fill of freefall operations, but others in

Continued on page 109

Members of RT Florida, U.S. Army's first combat HALO jump team (left to right): Melvin Hill, Sam Hernandez, Cliff Newman, Tiak, Thao and No Nie. Photo: courtesy Sam Hernandez



got the final green light and Bath, the assemblyman, stepped into the void. Once clear of the slip-stream he turned on the Norden light fixed to his pack tray. The other three jumpers fell into a tight formation as they passed through a layer of rain clouds.

Approaching the altitude to deploy his chute, Bath

SOF EXPOSES ATF's WARBIRDS

by James L. Pate



It's not just in recent years that ATF has been overzealously pursuing law-abiding gun owners. SOF has been covering their abuses almost as long as we've been around, with our first piece, titled "America's Gestapo In Action," running in November of 1978. That article detailed a raid on a San Jose, California, gun and coin show where ATF blocked the exits to the convention center and individually interrogated each exhibitor.

Seventeen years after that article appeared the American public is starting to take seriously the indignities and abuses ATF regularly dishes out to the citizens it supposedly serves. Their botched operations at Waco and Ruby Ridge have finally brought the renegade agency into the public and congressional eye, something we've been pushing for years.

In light of their egregious failures resulting in the deaths of dozens of Americans, SOF was alarmed to learn that ATF acquired counterinsurgency aircraft. As reported in last month's "ATF Watch" column, the ATF purchased 22 OV-10 Broncos from the Marine Corps; that worries us. Equally worrisome is the fact that ATF is dabbling in phony companies and bizarre transfer schemes à la the CIA. However, their attempts at playing spy appear as inept as their attempts at playing storm trooper.

Operational security has become a top priority for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Director John Magaw testified during recent congressional oversight hearings on the Waco massacre. Opsec, as it is called by security professionals, became a matter of particular concern because of the leaks to the news media that were ultimately blamed by ATF management for the deaths of four agents in the 28 February 1993 raid.

"I am absolutely convinced that the reason four people died is that there was no security," U.S. Rep. Louise Slaughter, a New York Democrat who participated in the House of Representatives hearings on Waco, said on 28 July.

Sensitivity about security failures at Waco led the ATF to cancel at the last second a sweeping raid on a District of Columbia housing project on 21 March 1995. Scores of ATF and other federal agents, pulled out of offices from Baltimore, Maryland, to Richmond, Virginia, were staging for a large-scale early morning sweep of the project for gun/drug dealers, when one of the agents heard a news broadcast about their long-planned raid as he was driving in, and the mission had to be aborted.

The increased anxiety over security is caused in no small part by extreme outrage among many citizens over the ATF's reckless conduct in the Waco raid. Among the ATF's most nagging fears is that agents or

bureau offices may be targeted for acts of violent retribution.

Indeed, newspapers reported the arrest of militia members in Michigan who were caught by police with the names, addresses and license plate numbers of ATF agents, indicating the T-men were being followed. And federal prosecutors allege that accused Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh was motivated by his outrage over Waco, and chose his target, in part, because the destroyed federal building housed a large ATF office.

More recently, ATF headquarters received a telefax declaring war on the bureau and offering a \$10,000 reward for each dead agent. "This war is for all tax-paying patriots against you spineless, yellow-bellied, police state Nazi Gestapo," the fax said, according to *The Washington Post*. "...We will hunt you down and kill you with devious pleasure one by one."



Close-up of the extended nose and AN/AAS-37 FLIR/LASER turret on the upgraded OV-10D. The OV-10D also has uprated engines and ordnance-mounting features and capabilities that enhance its military capability. Photo: Norman Taylor

So when the ATF decided to acquire its own fledgling squadron of military aircraft, 22 OV-10D Broncos, headquarters decided to register the airplanes under the name of a phony corporation, reminiscent of one of the CIA's covert corporate covers, the "Air America" operation of Vietnam War mystique.

ATF spokesman John C. Killorin confirmed to *Soldier Of Fortune* on 24 July what the magazine had already reported, that "American Warbirds Inc." is an operational cover for the OV-10Ds being refurbished for an ATF

air force (see "ATF Watch: ATF's Shadow Air Force," Sept. '95).

Opsec Concerns

Citing increased sensitivity about operational security, Killorin described the American Warbirds ruse as "a blind that tends to explain that airplane. If a criminal, or anyone else, became suspicious and wrote a letter to the address listed for American Warbirds, they would get nice letter back" advising that the company restores and demonstrates military combat aircraft in a manner Killorin compared to the Confederate Air Force. "Of course, we'll be changing the [cover] name in the near future," he said, citing *SOF's* exposure of the operation. The Federal Aviation Administration lists American Warbirds as a corporation headquartered at 5-1 Metropolitan Court, in a business and light industrial park located on a cul-de-sac in Gaithersburg, Maryland, a suburb of Washington, D.C. Despite this attempt to conceal the ATF's ownership of the counterinsurgency attack aircraft, though, bureau managers failed to take basic steps to allay suspicions of the curious, and thus ensure the success of the cover.

For instance, American Warbirds is not listed by the local phone company. Nor is it listed with local tax



Agile, capable, field-maintainable, the OV-10 proved itself an excellent close-support combat craft from Vietnam to the Gulf War. Top photo of "155477" shows original OV-10A configuration at roll-out during 1969 Paris air show. Bottom photo is of same plane modified to OV-10D specs, over Ohio in 1980. Photos: Norman Taylor Collection

assessors, or registered to do business in Maryland, a legal requirement that is easily verified by telephone. It is the only occupied address in that business park for which no name is listed on the park directory. Worst of all, though, this thinly veiled corporate "cover" would lead anyone — including potential terrorists and other criminals — directly into the middle of one of the ATF's most sensitive facilities.

The address for American Warbirds is actually that of ATF's radio branch, a part of the bureau's Special Operations Division, an office that handles the acquisition, record-keeping, main-

combat-capable airplanes, and whether the bumbling agency might abuse its air assets. Moreover, the effort to conceal them raises questions about the bureau's real intent, especially in light of the unsolved embezzlement of \$1.5 million from the ATF air force budget.

Terrorist Treasures In The Trash

Most important, though, is that during the routine pursuit of this story, *SOF* uncovered negligent or sloppy security procedures that could jeopardize ATF covert operations nationwide, putting the lives of ATF



Surplus OV-10s, without military features such as ordnance-mounting hardpoints and FLIR as on ATF planes, have been procured by other federal and local agencies, such as this fire-spotting Bronco belonging to the California Department of Fire. Photo: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

tenance, repair, modification and distribution of all ATF cellular telephones, radios, classified secure communications and covert surveillance gear.

Thus, ATF's effort to provide greater operational security for one operation, its fledgling air force, drew unwanted attention to a more vital and sensitive operation, its communications and covert electronics shop. Such amateur-hour ruses raise questions about the real necessity for ATF to have so many

agents and their families in potential danger.

Assisted by a security consultant, *SOF* undertook a surveillance operation on the Gaithersburg facility, to determine if it was connected to American Warbirds Inc. or the OV-10Ds purchases by the ATF. *SOF*'s surveillance also uncovered major security lapses that not only confirmed (through aviation office phone bills) ATF's ownership of the air operation, but revealed sensitive information about the make, manufacture, wiring diagrams and frequencies of ATF's covert radio and surveillance electronics equipment nationwide.

The most obvious security breach detected was the improper disposal of records, all classified "Secret" or "Top Secret," pertaining to Secure Telephone Units, or STU-III phones, used for discussing classified information. Each unit costs about \$30,000, a military source said, excluding installation and maintenance. The classified documents pulled from the Gaithersburg dumpster include the serial numbers of individual units, the



Front door of "American Warbirds" shows only an office building with the shades drawn. Behind this crude front for covert air-ops, however, lies a very sensitive BATF special operations and electronics installation. Photo: James L. Pate

names and locations of agents to which the units are assigned; code names and PINs (personal identity numbers), as well as the dial numbers for each unit. A number of technical manuals, including wiring diagrams for various devices, were also found. Some discarded corre-

spondence indicated the office employed not only a phony company name, but a fake address as well. Some aviation-related mail was addressed to 501 Metropolitan Grove, a nearby street which has no such number.

These and hundreds of other documents were voluntarily turned back over to the feds. They included scores of intelligence phone messages, ATF phone bills, shipping receipts, purchase orders and radio frequency zone maps for various ATF operations around the country. Also recovered from the trash were travel orders for agents and family members, overtime pay forms and copies of applications for leave time.

Risking The Rank And File

SOF magazine recovered personal mail, checking account carbons, social security numbers for agents and other employees, lists of home addresses and phone numbers of past and present personnel — with spouses names noted in parentheses. There were profile sheets with the names of agents' children, undercover radio call signs and operative code names. With no more than this, any terrorist or gangster would be able to assemble highly detailed dossiers on key agents and offices.

For example, personal phone messages with information about a female employee's marriage to Bernard, where the flowers were sent, the date and location of the wedding, as well as the names of the bride's and groom's parents, were retrieved. One agent discarded a cut-up credit card that was valid for another year. One note made reference to an internal affairs investigation. A 29 June 1995 memo announced a vacancy for "Criminal Investigator (Pilot) GS-1811-13," apparently soliciting applicants to fly the newly acquired OV-10s.

Finally, three copies of a detailed floor plan of the communications and electronics surveillance facility in Gaithersburg were obtained. The plans included the locations of secure storage areas and repair benches, and the names of each agent and clerk, written in his or her work space. Such information would be invaluable to a terrorist, or to a gangster planning a black bag job on the facility.

In case a letter of introduction were needed to penetrate an ATF operation, Gaithersburg personnel also helpfully tossed blank ATF stationery and a stack of postage-paid official envelopes in the trash, too.

"The thing that really upsets me is that [this] so clearly demonstrates the careless disregard for the welfare of the rank and file agents by management," said Richard L. Sherrow, a



Entrance to business-park home of American Warbirds lists no name for the 5-1 address, which in itself would arouse idle curiosity — then suspicion and eventual exposure of sensitive activities. Photo: James L. Pate

former investigator for ATF's bomb and explosives branch and an *SOF* contributor.

Security Hemorrhage

"This is the type of sloppiness and incompetence that puts the lives of innocent, hard-working undercover street agents in serious danger," said Sherrow after reviewing some of the internal ATF documents, shaking his head at the carelessness, and at one point remarking on the apparent promotion of a former colleague on the West Coast whose name and other personal information was contained in one document discarded at the Gaithersburg office. "Not just the agents' lives, but the lives of their wives and children. It is the type of security lapse that should be a firing offense. It demonstrates gross negligence," Sherrow concluded.

Robert E. Sanders, a retired deputy director for enforcement at ATF and Washington-based attorney who regularly handles cases involving the Classified Information Procedures Act, agreed. "Security breaches on this scale demonstrate not so much a security leak as a security hemorrhage," Sanders told *SOF*. "The first concern of managers entrusted with responsi-

bility for criminal investigations should be the safety of the special agent and his or her family. One must never forget the special agent deals directly with criminals, from the investigation to the arrest to the search of the home or office, to testifying against them at trial.

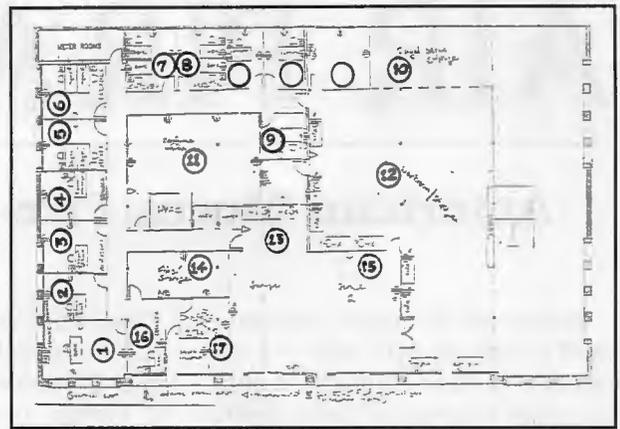
"It is axiomatic that the criminal doesn't blame himself for being in jail, but blames his antagonist; the special agent," Sanders said. "Many of these criminals are vicious animals for whom taking a human life is not a major decision. Many of these criminals eventually get out of jail — often sooner than later — and they may seek revenge. It would be horrible if any revenge plot was aided by the careless disclosure of sensitive information about agents, their spouses, where the kids go to school, where the family grocery shops or takes the dry cleaning."

In analyzing the latest apparent security failure by the ATF, Sanders offered two possible explanations "both of which point to major management deficiencies. The most likely reason is that this is yet another symptom of poor management. Management is responsible to ensure that all employ-

nal statutes, even for mere negligence. Section 793(f) of Title 18 makes it unlawful for a person who is entrusted with a document of any kind relating to national security and allows, through gross negligence the loss, destruction or unauthorized disclosure of its information. It is a crime to merely know that such an event has occurred and not report it. The penalty can be up to 10 years in prison."

SOF Publisher Robert K. Brown, through legal counsel, turned over ATF's abandoned classified documents to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to ensure compliance with federal law, and in hope that the security breach will be investigated and corrected.

The ATF, already under scrutiny by several committees on both sides of Capitol Hill, may yet have to answer congressional questions about



Pssst meeester! Wanna plan a burglary? Black-bag job? Hostage taking? Arson? Here's a map of where you'll find everything at the BATF's top-secret secure-commo covert-air force installation. Floor plan: courtesy ATF dumpster



Neat piles of sensitive documents as sorted by SOF's security consultant were abandoned to ATF's trash bin. A potential prize of intelligence for any bad guys, documents were returned to feds by SOF's attorney. Photo: James L. Pate

ees with security clearances are cognizant of and strictly adhere to national defense procedures... It is also the management's responsibility to ... ensure compliance.

"The other explanation for such a security lapse, provided that management has scrupulously discharged its responsibilities, is misconduct or criminal negligence by the agent or employee," he said. "This particular instance may be in violation of crimi-

its security procedures and its use of covert operations. More certain, according to *The Washington Times*, is a probe into why ATF needs a combat-capable aircraft, one used in Vietnam to deliver automatic cannon, heavy machine gun, rocket and missile attacks in close support of ground troops. It is designed primarily as a counter-insurgency attack aircraft, and is also used for aerial surveillance and tracking.

"Warbirds" For War?

"It's an excellent surveillance aircraft," Killorin noted. He said only seven would be operational — five less than the figure quoted by confi-

dential *SOF* sources.

ATF spokeswoman Susan McCarron told *The Washington Times* that the bureau's OV-10s had been stripped of their combat armament, which includes 20mm cannons. Military configurations also include forward-looking infrared radar (FLIR), ground-tracking radar, laser range finders and target designators. Sources who have inspected three of the ATF's OV-10s report that the firearms bureau's planes have retained almost all the military extras except actual ordnance. Killorin disputed that. He noted, for instance, that the ejecting seats have been removed. Next thing you know, ATF will make its pilots buy their own parachutes.

Under the ATF's attempt to hide ownership of the aircraft, they were transferred from the Department of Defense to the General Services Administration. At least some of the ATF OV-10s were transferred by GSA to a phony New Jersey corporation called Mid-Air Salvage Inc., which lists the address of a new townhouse in Franklin Park, New Jersey. Mid-Air Salvage transferred title to American Warbirds on the same day in October 1994. One FAA title document noted that the aircraft was "sold by Mid-Air Salvage with an illegible signature showing title of 'owner.' F.A.A. should have requested a bill of sale from Mid-Air Salvage, signed by someone with a corporate or managerial title."

Several calls to GSA for verification and further information on the

Continued on page 117

AIR PIRATES RAID

American Mercs Fire-Bomb Papa Doc's Palace

Strange and Byzantine plots have found a home at SOF since the beginning. On close examination most turn out to be someone's pipe dream, but a few of these schemes actually come off, and always with unpredictable results.

There was the time we had to "bail out" a handful of American mercs locked up in a Brazilian jail after they'd botched an attempted invasion of Ghana. Then there was the time our staffers rigged a propane bomb to drop on Desi Bouterse in Suriname. Once we even hired hundreds of Laotian resistance fighters to aid in our hunt for American POW/MIAs in Southeast Asia. And the list goes on.

The great thing about this is that SOF readers get a monthly ringside seat to many of these bizarre undertakings, usually from a first-person perspective. While we usually have to wait until these events are no longer news (prevailing lawsuits and criminal trials, etc.), they still make for great reading. This article proves the point; though this never-before-published story about former SOF staffer Ralph Edens' tour as a

"bombadier" on a one-plane mission to nail Papa Doc's palace is more than 25 years old, it's classic SOF.

Perhaps in the near future we'll even get to find out why Robert K. Brown owns several Kevlar-hulled attack boats and a gold mine in New Guinea.



Much of 1968 and early 1969 witnessed a flurry of activity in the Haitian communities of Miami, New York and Montreal, as funds were raised for the

purchase of arms and equipment to overthrow the cruel and despotic Duvalier regime in Port-au-Prince. Although originally popularly elected, Duvalier had quickly become "president for life" and a madman who was universally acknowledged as a rat of the worst order. His abuse of the people he ruled was only equalled later by Idi Amin.

Enlisting Haitians willing to mount an insurrection against "Papa Doc" was not difficult, as his base of support was limited to family and the *Tonton Macoutes*, the praetorian thugs he used to keep the Haitian people cowed. Likewise, finding pro

bono cadre willing to assist solely for the benefit of mankind was not difficult. We'd even managed to set up an extensive Haitian training camp in a remote section of the Florida Everglades.

However, the accidental shooting death of recruit Gerald Baker during live-fire exercises at this facility created untoward official interest in current Haitian exile activities and we were forced to scatter and lay low.

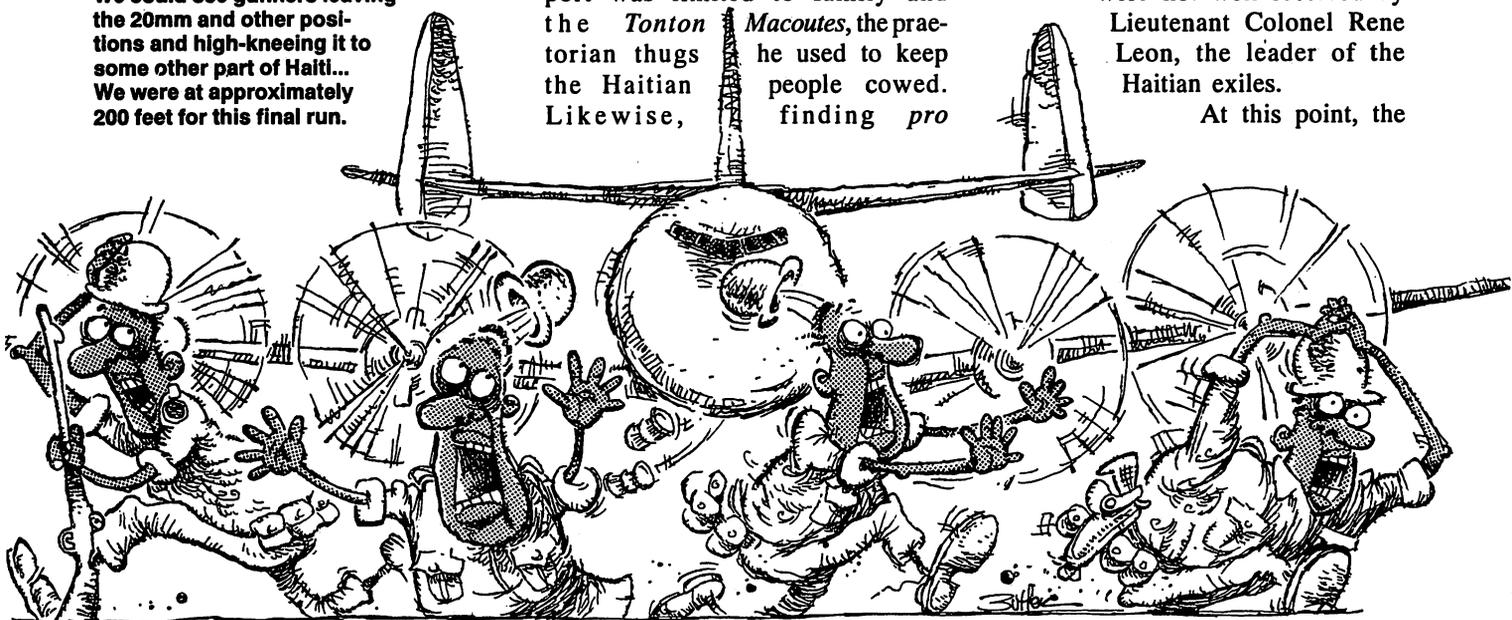
Still, the movers and shakers of our particular part of the budding Haitian rebellion could not sit idly by while we had the resources to do something, and volunteers and cadre to do it with. Our training up to this point had been oriented toward sea-borne infantry invasions and possibly airborne invasions backed up by air-lifted infantry.

After the stand-down following the death at the training site, a series of meetings in the Miami area discussed and reevaluated possible scenarios. Time, of course, can be helpful or harmful; in this case I had the feeling that events were rushing us into a situation where we would have to use or lose whatever advantage that exact point in time held. My concerns

were not well received by Lieutenant Colonel Rene Leon, the leader of the Haitian exiles.

At this point, the

We could see gunners leaving the 20mm and other positions and high-kneeing it to some other part of Haiti... We were at approximately 200 feet for this final run.



PORT-AU-PRINCE

by Ralph Edens

Illustrations by Ralph Butler

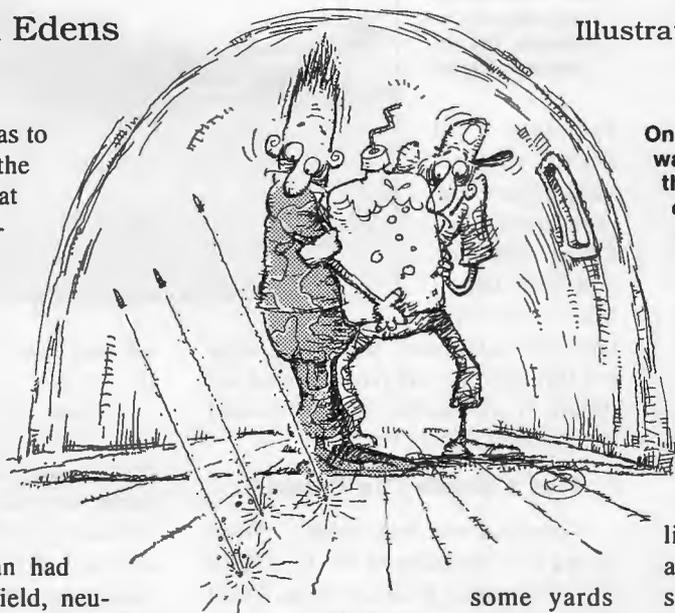
part of the plan that I was to be responsible for — the seizure of the airfield at Cap-Haïtien — was losing its focus in a head-long rush to seize whatever the moment offered. The additional troops that were to jump with me were no longer being mentioned and the necessary means to get us there were also not being discussed. The plan had been to jump on the field, neutralize the garrison there and prepare to receive reinforcements. Once our forces were consolidated, we would drive on the palace in Port-au-Prince.

Bombing the palace at some point was also mentioned. How can you have a revolution, if you don't bomb the palace? The presidential palace and the military barracks immediately adjacent to the palace grounds were the targets of choice. Any collateral damage to the surrounding slums could be viewed as urban renewal.

Bug Out For Bahamas

The official interest aroused by Baker's death necessitated the movement of our equipment and some of our personnel to South Caicos Island, a British possession at the extreme southeastern end of the Bahama chain. It had been chosen for its adequate airstrip, its small population and its proximity to Haiti. From here we would launch the efforts that would force Duvalier out and lay the groundwork necessary for a free Haiti.

Timing of our arrival was indeed fortunate, with absolutely no authorities on duty at the airport. The whole thing could have ended there had anyone been on hand to greet and inspect us, as we were carrying almost all of our arms and equipment. We took advantage of the momentary and opportune isolation to unload and cache our equipment in the bushes



On board we also had a glass five-gallon water bottle, filled with flammable liquid, that Marty and I had rigged with a vial of yellow phosphorus, into a "junior" giant Molotov cocktail.

aircraft was identified as Jim Carlin. Along with the flight engineer, the flight mechanic and Col. Leon, our motley crew had grown to a total of 10 men.

New "Plans"

I listened aghast as Col. Leon outlined the new twists in the campaign against Duvalier. After hearing his sitrep I did not see the possibility of going forth with the previously planned airborne scenario. Also, relations with the local authority in South Caicos was quickly making our current situation untenable, with the locals moving to get us off the island as soon as possible.

Upon learning this we made plans for immediate departure and on arrival at the airport I became fully aware the chief of police and probably everyone on the island knew we were not *really* there to charter for skindiving adventures (our cover

some yards off the runway, then proceeded to the only "town" and checked into the Admiral's Arms Hotel to await further developments.

For several days we waited with no information forthcoming, haunted by the feeling that we were being watched. One of the police chief's men even mentioned there was talk of getting us off the island.

One day upon returning from Grand Turk — the closest place that afforded a phone link to Miami or New York — Marty Casey and I ob-

A scant hour's drive from Miami, Haitian training camp was built in the Everglades. Although terrain was unlike Haiti, facilities included a mock city and live-fire ranges. Photo: SOF files



served a huge plane at the airport, a Lockheed Super Constellation. Marty and I exchanged glances, but did not think that this aircraft might have anything to do with our operation against Haiti. Boy, were we wrong.

Arriving back at the hotel, we met co-pilot Howard Davis and three men I did not know. After a short briefing and introductions, the captain of the

story). Some of the locals actually helped gather and load the Super Connie with our equipment that had been cached earlier. It was late evening when our loading was completed and we departed. We had not

been briefed on what the latest plan was. Our quick departure had not, at least in my mind, even made it obvious what our current options, if any, were.

I knew we were flying north, but little more. After some time we landed at Great Exuma in the Bahamas, and took on fuel. Here there was a desperate consultation between Col. Leon, Jim Carlin, Howard Davis, Marty Casey and myself. Checking equipment were Canadian Bill Dempsey, Ed Kolby and Haitian exile Charlie Smith; the two remaining crew members were in the cockpit area. Marty and I, having been on South Caicos for some time, were not aware of what had happened to put us in this situation. And it was an odd situation; we were now sitting on a runway on a British-controlled island with 10 individuals, 50 33-gallon drums of JP-4 plus arms and equipment that would, if found, create quite a flap among Her Majesty's military and police forces.

Our hurried consultation conjured no particularly viable option: Returning to the United States with that cargo on board was out of the question, dumping/caching it on Exuma was also not practical. During this

For decades, the Lockheed Super Constellation served as a workhorse for military and civilian applications ... and some applications in-between. Photo: Norman Taylor



exchange I asked, rhetorically, where the parachutes were. Davis said they had been left in Miami, and further that additional personnel were not forthcoming and our expected addition of air-landed infantry would not be available as well.

"Let's Bomb The Palace"

Colonel Leon then asked, "What do we do?" Because of the limited or singular options available to us, I said almost off-handedly, "We have the drums, let's bomb the palace." There was a pause and we all looked at each other. It may not have been an inspired idea strategically, tactically or practically, but no one objected. And there were no other plans.

We took off from Exuma with no difficulty; the flashing blue and red lights of the local gendarmes appeared at the end of the runway as we taxied away, which meant we probably left the police pondering many unanswered questions as our bastard bomber gained

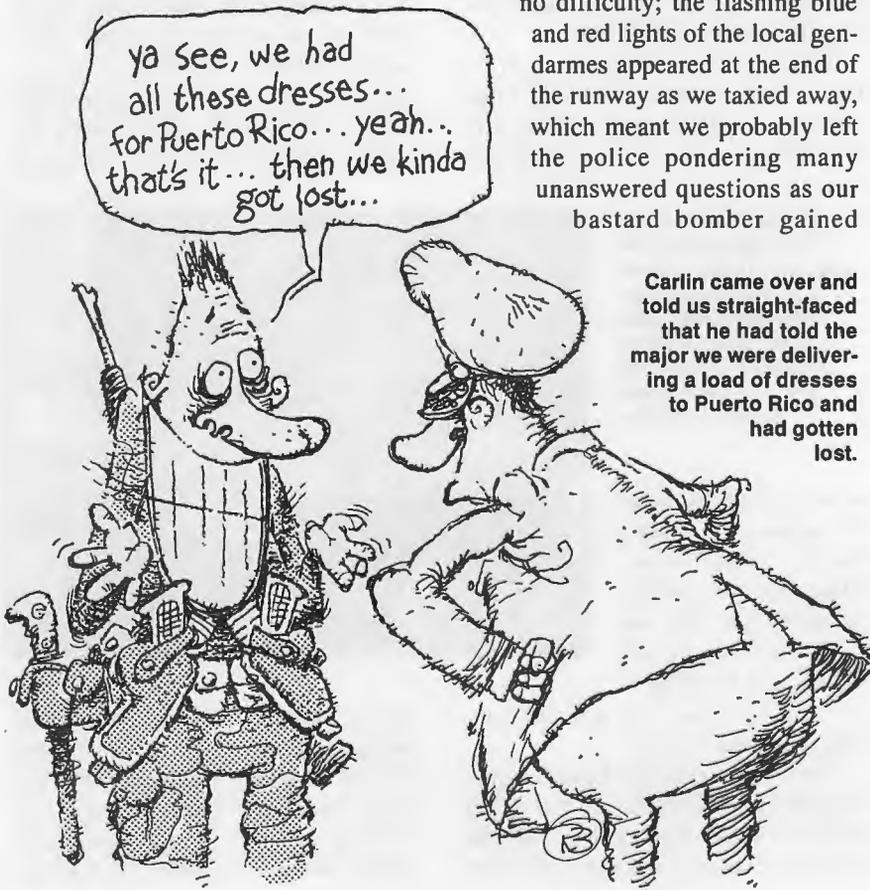
altitude and began a slow turn to the south.

It was late in the evening — or early in the morning, depending on one's own assessment of the hour — but by any accounting it was the latter hours of what had been a long day and we were tired. But we had many details to attend to before reaching our rendezvous with history. To transform the 33-gallon drums of JP-4 into giant Molotov cocktails, we had available in our equipment inventory a number of 30-second mini-flares. We attached two to a barrel directly across from each other on the top rim of the drum, secured them, then tied the two igniters with a common nylon string so that pulling in the middle would ignite both mini-flares, and impact with the ground would create a spectacular fire bomb.

When we finished the job on the Molotovs, each of us checked our individual equipment for any last-minute additions, adjustments or changes, and took a minute for the individual introspection that everyone going into a hostile situation experiences.

Captain Carlin gave us ample warning of our ETA, and we started to maneuver some of the giant Molotov cocktails closer to the freight rollers on board. We also fashioned lifelines to secure ourselves when pushing the drums out the rear-door "bomb bay."

I remember the morning (approximately 1000 hours local time) 4 June 1969 as being beautiful and clear. On our initial approach, with the bay to our immediate right and the hills and mountains on our left, our descent was gradual, and we continued on southward, past the main portion of



downtown Port-au-Prince and our target. We continued south until we flew over radio towers beyond the city. We then turned right and right again and were flying back northward. We continued our descent until, according to Carlin, we were at approximately 400 feet. As we flew over the southern end of the palace grounds, Casey and Smith began pushing the giant cocktails out. After a few went out, I noticed that on at least two of the drums Smith had not pulled the nylon cord that would ignite the mini-flares. I went to the door and told Smith to go back and help Dempsey and Kolby load the drums onto the rollers and push them to the door.

Molotov Cocktail Hour

I wrapped the lifeline around myself as we made the turn toward the mountains and back south again before turning north for our second bombing run, descending to approximately 300 feet for this pass. We could see the fires that the previous pass had caused — and the ominous sight of almost everyone on the ground firing at us. It was then that we took some heavy hits from one of the machine-gun emplacements around the palace. The sound was like someone hitting the aluminum skin of the aircraft with a large hammer. I instinctively went horizontal, but later thought how foolish that was. The best position was vertical, as it presented a smaller target profile to fire coming from below.

On board we also had a glass five-gallon water bottle, filled with flammable liquid, that Marty and I had

rigged with a vial of yellow phosphorus into a “junior” giant Molotov cocktail. The phosphorus was the remainder of a lot that Casey and I had experimented with in attempting to fashion anti-personnel grenades for use by the Haitians.

On this second pass we put the five-gallon Molotov cocktail out near

fire. Davis (the co-pilot) was standing in the cockpit door yelling “no, no, no!” Marty and I thought he was saying “go, go, go!” and we redoubled our efforts to push our deadly cargo out the door. It was also on this second pass that most of the damage was done to civilian areas, because as we were



Until death of trainee Gerald Baker brought attention — and several layers of official inquiry — to camp, training had focused on preparing for a waterborne/airborne/air mobile invasion. Photo: SOF files

turning we continued to bomb.

As we made our last turn north for our third bomb run we

the end of the run, and I watched transfixed as the deadly device zig-zagged its way to impact on the northern end of the boundary of the presidential palace grounds. This second pass was the one in which we took the hardest pounding, and it was toward the end, before turning to position ourselves for the third and final run, that a 20mm round went through the pilot’s side of the cockpit and hit a fire extinguisher. It exploded and temporarily knocked the flight engineer unconscious, releasing a large cloud of white smoke.

From our view at the back of the aircraft, we thought the plane was on

were somewhat unsure of the situation, but we could see gunners leaving the 20mm and other positions and high-kneeing it to some other part of Haiti. We learned from sources later that sporadic AAA fire continued into the air an hour after we were gone.

Why three runs? The decision was obviously made by Carlin after weighing the relative ineffectiveness of the ground fire, and of course considering that with the damage that had already been inflicted on the aircraft, what was to lose?

We were at approximately 200 feet for this final run: I don’t know how large we looked to those on the ground, but I can assure you it felt like every gun firing at us was firing at me personally. We finished the run and our over-the-shoulder target assessment indicated that we had put 28 of the 33-gallon Molotov cocktails and the five-gallon “junior” version over the palace, barracks and areas that were in close proximity to the palace grounds. Information obtained later indicated that two of the Molotov cocktails actually impacted on the palace, one on the extreme southern end and one on the front portico with negligible damage. Most damage occurred in the shanty areas

Continued on page 114

Men at arms: Husky trainee in foreground carries diminutive .22RF Bronco single-shot. Man in rear has .30 carbine — always a popular weapon with exiles of the 1960s. Papa Doc’s troops of the era were armed mostly with castoff U.S. Garands. Photo: SOF files





by Lt. Cmdr. Michael J. Walsh
and Greg Walker

Photos courtesy
Lt. Cmdr. Michael J. Walsh

Hundreds of military books are published each year and most leave us yawning, mainly because the majority offer little that's new or half as exciting as what you find every month in SOF.

*There are notable exceptions, however. Every so often we run across a particularly worthwhile manuscript and we endeavor to give it wider exposure. In the late 1970s, SOF was the first place you could read about classics like Bradley Earl Ayers' *The War That Never Was*, Jim Morris' *War Story*, and many others frowned on at the time by the politically correct. More recently we've hyped up particularly worthwhile works like Gen. Harold Moore and Joe Galloway's *We Were Soldiers Once ...* And Young and Kregg Jorgenson's *Acceptable Loss*. This month we're printing a chapter from a dynamite new book covering the highlights of 26-year specops veteran Mike Walsh's life. It's simply titled *SEAL!* If you like hard-hitting action with just the right dose of offbeat humor you gotta check it out.*

Three-quarters of the way through my tour at My Tho I took some R&R and visited with X-Ray platoon at Ben Tre. I had a few friends there and visits with other platoons were rare enough as it was. Like us, they were located beside a main river, and since it was only a 30-minute flight by helo from Dong Tam, I decided to drop in and pay my respects. When visiting other SEAL platoons in Vietnam it was understood you

Tre would become a major turning point in my professional life. It was here I made the decisions that formed my career path for the remainder of my time in the Navy.

Mike Collins was the platoon commander, and Ed Jones was the chief warrant officer. They'd done a tour together at Can Tho with Phoenix. Their activities there were regional in nature, and whenever those of us assigned to the program gathered in



"We don't need no stinkin' badges!" Both the VC and NVA called SEALs "the men with green faces" because of the heavy camouflage they wore on operations. Here author (kneeling, far left) poses with his squad-size element of Victor platoon, reinforced by two South Vietnamese SEALs in Dong Tam, Vietnam, 1971.

brought along your combat gear. More than likely you'd find yourself on a combat operation before any socializing took place, kind of a weird way of welcoming you aboard. It also allowed your peers to see what you were made of and what level of operator you were.

The SEAL community, like all other special operations forces, is a small one. Word got around, both good and bad. If offered a chance to run with a squad from X-Ray platoon I'd jump on it. To beg off would have indicated a serious problem in my attitude, and I had no such problem when it came to war fighting. Ben

the city for business, Mike and Ed had their hands full. All Phoenix matters were handled before lunch, and we spent the rest of the day and night terrorizing the town as only SEALs could terrorize a town.

I recall one such meeting where six or seven of us were trying to check into the hotel in town. The young Vietnamese desk clerk was nasty, which just provoked us even more to give her a hard time. When she'd confirmed we were with the PRU she'd said, "No more rooms for you PRU guys" as if we'd accept this and go away. Bill (not his real name) took his briefcase and smashed it hard into

FOR X-RAY

Phoenix Operator's Luck Runs Out At Ben Tre

the desk's polished surface. The young woman appeared to go into shock at the violence of the act, and stood there beginning to tremble. We understood her reaction, as we'd each seen it a hundred times or more when the "men with green faces" appeared from nowhere to capture and kill their enemies. Bill began undressing in the lobby. No one said anything, our faces deadpan as he slipped his clothes off. Finally he was nude and both Vietnamese and American guests were fleeing the lobby in a panic. High-ranking U.S. officers strolled past us, ignoring Bill as they tried to go about their business. Our teammate then opened his briefcase, took out a change of clothes, and began dressing. The desk clerk got the message,

and rooms suddenly became available. I guess you just have to know how to talk to people.

That same evening the hotel was raided by both Vietnamese and U.S. military police. We heard later that "someone" had been spotted on the establishment's roof test-firing a silenced Smith & Wesson M-76 submachine gun at the stray cats living in Ben Sum Ouy alley, next to the hotel. Apparently a few stray rounds had found their way through the windows of a whorehouse across the street and the residents and guests were complaining. We felt the atmosphere created by too many cops in one place was not at all restful so we "checked out" on the run. Naturally the MPs figured we'd come down the

In 1970, everyone in the Navy SEAL business was preoccupied with going back and forth to Vietnam — nothing else mattered. In-country, the stress from "a day at the office" often took its toll.

elevator and leave by the front door, so they posted all their manpower in the lobby to await our arrival. Wrong! As was always our practice we did the unexpected and left by the rear stairwell, knowing how predictable the cops could be. By the way, the M-76 was a great little weapon.

150% Casualties

I thought the world of Mike and Ed, especially Ed. We'd attended training together in the Cuyamaca Mountains where the instructors, for some reason, had given my teammate a bad time. I never knew why, as he wasn't a troublemaker, although he was somewhat outspoken. Ed was black, and a good man in every respect. It became my habit to confide in him, and I could count on him to shoot straight with me in return. Jones would tell you the things you didn't want — but needed — to hear about yourself. He was a sea daddy, the kind of man every young sailor needs to show him the ropes. I've tried to pass along much of what Ed Jones taught me since those early days of training, as a tribute to one truly remarkable SEAL.

X-Ray platoon suffered more than 150% casualties during their tour at Ben Tre. This meant more than half the men were wounded at least twice, and some were killed. No one in X-Ray platoon went unscathed during that tour. When I was operating at Soc Trang the X-Ray platoon was



The Navy's elite: Not-Ready-For-Prime-Time Slayers, SEAL Team One Blues Brothers, prepare for a daylight mission in Dong Tam, Vietnam, 1971.



Awaiting treatment after a B-40 rocket attack on X-Ray platoon — Walsh took shrapnel in the back of the head, back, buttocks, and legs and lost his left eardrum, but he lived to tell about it. Others were not so lucky.

ambushed while inserting. Frank Bomar and a man named Ritter were killed by direct AK fire moments after stepping ashore. The VC had correctly predicted the most likely insertion point for a SEAL operation, and they had planted a submerged 500-pound command-detonated mine in the river meant to blow any small craft to bits. As the SEAL squad prepared to come ashore the mine was fired but failed to detonate. Despite this, the VC opened up with everything they had and Ritter took four AK rounds across the chest. He was



Author's snatches of high-level enemy officers inspired fear (and retaliatory measures) from his foes — the Viet Cong placed a bounty worth thousands of dollars on his head. Here Chinese Nung mercenaries assigned to embassy in Chau Doc ride atop Walsh's "urban Cadillac," pulling double duty as personal bodyguards during dangerous days of Phoenix. One Nung merc stood guard every night outside room where Walsh slept.

dead before he hit the ground. Bomar was hit by a single round in the right femoral artery. The bullet severed the artery and 60 seconds later he bled to death. Not a good day for the good guys.

I was in Can Tho re-enlisting for another four years of Navy life when the bodies were brought in, and it was a sobering reminder we were not invincible. Either X-Ray platoon was really hurting the gooks, or they'd become too predictable in their operations. It turned out the latter was the case and the VC were hitting back ... hard. It cost us two good men, but the men in the platoon learned their lesson.

Now I was in Ben Tre, seeing good friends and getting the chance to see how they operated. My first concern was how they were gathering and evaluating their intelligence.

Ed and I disagreed over their modus operandi, but this didn't affect our friendship in the least. On my first evening in town we launched an operation using an MSSC, or Medium SEAL Support Craft, to patrol the main river. I noted almost right away that the map being used to navigate was inaccurate, but no one in the platoon seemed to give this much thought. Their tactics were flawed, and by the time we reached the infiltration point I knew we'd been compromised long ago. Regardless, the platoon boss gave the order to go in and so we did. The objective was a dry hole ... although I wasn't at all surprised.

It was obvious why they were having problems. Sometimes it's more difficult to recognize one's shortcomings when you're so close to the subject and perhaps

personally involved. This might have been the case with X-Ray platoon. Doc Barnes, my radio man and near constant companion, was along for the ride to Ben Tre and was picking up the same vibes. We decided to concentrate on the platoon's intelligence guys in an effort to upgrade their capability. The next operation was going to be a rough one, and we decided to go along and see it through.



While working as a Provincial Reconnaissance Unit adviser in Phoenix — and on all tours — Walsh opted for VC uniform, often right down to the sandals and AK-47. In battle, Walsh's short stature and VC dress gave him the edge more than once. As an adviser, Walsh relied heavily on interpreters — here he relaxes with the best and most courageous of them, "Fuzzy," who saved his bacon more than once.

History Repeats Itself

X-Ray had found themselves a *Chieu Hoi* who claimed he knew a VC demolition factory located some distance

from Ben Tre. The target was said to be situated on the upper reaches of a secondary river. The VC informer said he was unable to find the factory at night because he couldn't navigate. "Yeah, right," I told myself. Barnes and I, with our combat senses, could smell this one beginning to stink immediately. A VC who couldn't travel through the jungle at night? I'd never met one, nor had any other SEAL I knew. I was invited to interrogate the *Chieu Hoi*, as the intelligence guys had been students of mine during their training at SBI just months earlier. It was a psychological advantage I exploited to the max. This was one *Chieu Hoi* I didn't trust one iota, but in the end, my feelings made no difference.

Mike Collins listened to what I had to say, then listened to his own men, then ordered us to insert the next afternoon. "Here we go again," I told Barnes. I hoped history would not repeat itself where X-Ray's luck was concerned.

We could not have asked for a prettier day in which to operate. The sun was bright, winds were low, and

the water was calm. Clint Majors, a recent graduate of both BUD/S and SBI, was running point. I thought a lot of him and still do. Our selected insertion point was a mystery to me. It offered no distinguishing feature whatsoever. Normally, this is a good thing; it means the bad guys probably won't set up on it waiting for Navy SEALs. But this time around I was getting that little feeling that told me this was going to be a bad day. We were going in over a riverbank roughly 10 feet high, and its 45-degree slope would have been a real nightmare under the best of conditions.

The take-charge attitude I'd been slowly fostering as a SEAL took over. "Clint," I yelled, "get over that hump as soon as you can! I'll send an automatic weapon to back you up!"

Ed Jones flashed me an angry look. "Who's running this operation?" he asked as we neared the riverbank.

"You are, Ed," I responded, "but an automatic weapon makes sense, doesn't it?"

Jones motioned for the automatic-weapon man to move forward so he could scamper up behind Clint once



Walsh kept his water canteens filled with gasoline to set fires while on patrol, so he always took advantage of recent rainfall.

we touched shore. Ed knew I'd been working with Majors as a point man, so he didn't give me too much smoke for offering the advice. I think Clint was secretly happy with the suggestion, as it would have been pretty lonely on the other side of the massive mud wall with just a rifle as backup.

The patrol scrambled onto the bank

quickly as our boat nestled up to it as firmly as was possible. No contact meant we could get on the trail immediately, and within a short time we'd located the objective: a small cluster of hootches, all of which appeared to be deserted. I asked Ed to set out security while Clint and I moved forward to check the huts. "Watch out for booby traps," I warned Majors. Our Chieu Hoi was wandering around, and I motioned him to get down beside

Jones. He didn't move — at least not right away. With a fierce shove I sent him headfirst into the ground, his face sliding across the coarse earth until he stopped just inches from where Ed was positioned.

Looks Like The Alamo

Clint and I entered the empty compound. We found strong evidence the place had once been used as a demolition factory by the VC. Vast amounts of various explosives and their components were still present. We moved everyone into place once we were certain there were no enemy troops about, and we began gathering up what we could. I told the Chieu Hoi I was on the verge of cutting him up like a Texas steer. Ed restrained me, but the agent was convinced he would die at any second. Fear of me would keep him honest, I hoped.

Once our rucks were full, we burned and destroyed everything else. We recalled the boat, and the driver told us he'd just passed a squad-sized bunker on his way in. "Looks like the Alamo," he offered. After a quick conference we decided to locate the bunker and blow it in place using some of the captured demolitions. Might as well make a clean sweep of it so the operation wouldn't be a total loss.



Wearing a VC uniform, NVA hat, and carrying a Stoner (instead of trademark AK-47), author as point man for SEAL Team One's Charlie platoon heads out aboard LCPL on the Co Chien River in 1968 to "pay back" a tax collector.

We reinserted from the river near the bunker's position. After checking it for booby traps and snakes, we entered. I was always concerned about snakes, as the enemy often wired them up as living booby traps. If you missed one and he bit you, well, it was a bad way to die. More than once I used a small stick to swat at entrances just to see what might swat back. The hand of God was upon me, as never was I hit by

one of these foul creatures.

The bunker was huge inside. There were firing ports, cooking areas, and sleeping quarters. Oh, for another claymore pillow trick! But the idea was to blow the entire complex, so that was what we did, using a time fuse and as much explosive as possible. The whole thing went up like a textbook problem. They'd built it well, but we blew it better. Time to go home and have a few beers over this one.

Continued on page 107



In the Delta region of South Vietnam, a typical SEAL extraction like this one for Victor platoon involved walking through mud — lots of mud — to link up with the boat.

by James L. Pate



Articles on Waco have been a nearly constant part of these pages since the attack on the Branch Davidian compound on 28 February 1993. Since the June '93 issue, and in almost every subsequent magazine after the disastrous raid and following inferno, we've reported on the depths of deception the involved agencies have sunk to cover up their mistakes: from ATF to Treasury to the FBI to the U.S. Army.

We believe Waco was one of the defining moments of our time and have therefore fanatically attempted to get behind the veil of lies put up by the government. The bombing of the Murrah building in Oklahoma City and a congressional inquiry support our stand that this issue goes far deeper than a botched law enforcement operation.

We will continue to research and publish new information on Waco until a satisfactory accounting has been made.

"The days of a couple of agents ... walking up to somebody's front door and knocking ... in three-piece suits to execute a warrant ... is [sic] over."

— Deputy U.S. Marshal Victor G. Oboyski Jr.

Thus did Vic Oboyski, a federal marshal for almost 25 years, condemn Sergeant Joe Friday's calm, deadpan civility to the trash heap of history. The kinder, gentler days of *Dragnet* are no more, according to Oboyski's might-makes-right vision of Future Cop, a chilling declaration

that bodes ill for the health of civil liberties in America. There will be considerably less liberty, and damned little civility, if Oboyski's law enforcement philosophy becomes the standard.

Maybe it already has. After all, federal lawmen rolled more armor against innocent women and children at Waco than the Clinton administration would allow to avert the slaughter of 18 U.S. servicemen in Somalia by blood-thirsty hoodlums who dragged the naked, battered bodies of their victims through Mogadishu's filthy streets. The FBI gassed the huddled masses of the Branch Davidian religious retreat with a toxic chemical forbidden for military use against enemy troops in war.

More than any of about 100

Although critics repeatedly criticized the Waco hearings for supposedly turning up no new information, some newly revealed documents from the executive branch painted a picture of a concerted cover-up effort by Treasury and Justice officials, including the destruction of primary records and specific orders, to stonewall any investigation that might benefit attorneys defending the 11 Branch Davidians who were ultimately tried for their role in the botched Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms raid of 28 February 1993.

An Incident

The hearings also produced an amusing round of finger-pointing by present and former ATF and Department of Treasury officials, who accused each other of lying — in addition to allegations of perjury and obstruction of justice, and evidence that the final armor-and-gas attack of 19 April had received final approval by President Bill Clinton.

Neither Oboyski nor any of the other witnesses who defended the federal government's conduct at Waco referred to the 51-day event there as a tragedy, much less a massacre or a disaster. It was simply minimized as the Waco "incident," as if the unnecessary and hideous deaths of more than 90 people — including four Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents — were "incidental," defined by

Webster's as "happening as a result of or in connection with something more important; casual."

Oboyski was also typical among defenders of the federal faith when he assigned total blame to someone conveniently unavailable for comment; someone, indeed, no longer eligible for interview by the Bureau of Census — one David Koresh, the allegedly pedophilic pied piper and gun-loving guitarist of Waco infamy,



AP/Wide World

Special Forces Lt. Col. Philip Lindley, left, testifies during second day of congressional hearings into the 1993 tragedy at Waco. Republicans charged the ATF with inventing a meth lab scenario to draw in military. President Clinton said this was no grounds for "war against police." To Lindley's right are Brig. Gen. Michael Huffman; Assistant Secretary of Defense H. Allen Holmes; and former commander of Joint Task Force Six, Maj. Gen. John M. Pickler.

witnesses called to give sworn testimony in July's joint subcommittee hearing about the Waco tragedy in the U.S. House of Representatives, Oboyski succinctly summed up the government's justification of its actions. His was not just the opinion of one federal agent. Oboyski is the president of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, a group of more than 10,000 federal cops from 51 separate agencies.

still revered by Branch Davidians as a messiah figure, reviled by government worshipers as a demon incarnate. Oboyski would not even afford Koresh the dignity of using the dead man's legal name.

"Responsibility for the horrific end of the stand-off rests with Vernon Howell [Koresh], not the FBI or the attorney general," Oboyski opined. "Vernon Howell was a criminal, a child abuser, a cop killer and a coward... It may never be known if the apocalyptic end that Vernon Howell preached about so often could have been prevented, but to blame anyone other than Howell for the eventual outcome is wrong."

Then Oboyski, himself a member of a cult of badge flippers, preached his own prophecy of social Armageddon: "I do not believe that the Branch Davidian episode was a mere aberration," Oboyski said. "I believe it was a harbinger of things to come... Waco. The L.A. riots. The World Trade Center bombing and the killing of CIA employees in Virginia are the sounds of warning bells going off."

So ask not for whom the bell tolls... *Et tu, Oboyski?* Indeed, he was a ringer, part of the well-orchestrated political posturing and damage diversion conducted by U.S. Rep. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., congressional choir leader of the liberal left and President Clinton's point man in the Democratic Party's parade to promote socialism and pooh-pooh personal liberty. One must give the maestro his devil's due, however. Schumer's masterful subversion of the Waco hearings kept the Republican majority off balance and fuzzied the focus of inquiry, blurring boundaries in the blame game.

A Maestro Grabs The Baton

So successfully did Schumer set the tone, at least in the first half of 10 days of testimony, that many marveled at why the Republicans did not assert their new, hard-won majority status. Democrats put Republicans on the defensive by accusing GOP members of being anti-law enforcement. Did the joint subcommittee co-chairmen, Bill Zeliff of New Hampshire and Bill McCollum of Florida, know what that gavel was for? Schumer's clowning constantly upstaged the Republican role of ringmaster in what, at times, seemed like a three-ring version of *The Twilight Zone*.

First there were the Republican panel members, who spent half of their time allotted for questioning witnesses making rambling, touchy-feely apologies about why all this was necessary, while the remainder tossed powder-puff questions to executive branch officials who, unlike the GOP panel members, were obviously well prepared. "The congressmen didn't really get interested in the hearings until three days before they started," one staffer said.

With Noble, former ATF Director Steve Higgins and former Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen on one end of the witness table, and Chojnacki, Sarabyn and Hartnett on the other, each side accused the other of lying. Somebody obviously was. No one was charged with perjury.

Then there were the Democrats. It was eerie. Although the Dems are historically political foes of the military and police establishments, and the erstwhile champions of civil liberties and almost any religious or sexual fringe group one can name, they sat solidly in favor of Mom, apple pie, the missionary position and a Bradley tank in every police department motor pool. Strangest of all, Schumer's most able lieutenant, U.S. Rep. Tom Lantos, D-Calif., a Hungarian Jew who survived the Nazi death camp at Buchenwald, suggested a greater involvement of the military in civilian law enforcement that was too much even for Major General John M. Pickler, former commander of Joint Task Force Six.

Citing Jonestown, the World Trade Center bombing and the gas attacks on Japanese subways, Lantos asked Pickler, "Don't you think your [the military's] involvement in civilian law enforcement needs to be broadened?"

"I believe our current politics ... are appropriate," an apparently puzzled Pickler answered.

Wants More Of The Same?

Endorsing Lantos' suggestion that a paramilitary police state might not be a bad idea, U.S. Rep. Melvin Watt, a dyed-in-the-wool liberal Democrat from North Carolina's gerrymandered black district that snakes along Interstate 85 from Charlotte to Greens-

boro, denounced the Waco hearings as "a massive waste of taxpayer money, designed for a political objective."

That objective, according to Schumer and his minions, was the repeal of the Brady Law and the assault weapons ban, and the abolition of the ATF. The villain, they claimed, was the National Rifle Association, which conducted its own sifting of evidence and ultimately retained Failure Analysis Associates of Menlo

Park, California, to analyze the effects of the FBI's armor and CS gas attack. Failure Analysis is the highly respected engineering research firm that solved the explosion of the space shuttle *Challenger*, and debunked the staged NBC *Dateline* reports on exploding, side-mounted gasoline tanks on General Motors pickup trucks.

Schumer attacked the NRA as an "extremist" group of "paranoid" members whose involvement "tainted" the hearings. *The Washington Post* jumped into the NRA-bashing fray, publishing stories that paint the firearms bureau as being unfairly victimized by a ruthless, unscrupulous gun lobby. One can safely assume, then, that Schumer has never used "research" paid for and provided by Handgun Control Inc., or any other anti-gun lobbying group to bolster his efforts at passage of increasingly restrictive gun control legislation.

The NRA was not the only whipping boy for the Democrats. *Soldier Of Fortune's* story about the illegal training provided by Green Berets to the ATF just prior to its disastrous raid (see "No Peace Without Justice," May '95) was attacked as being inaccurate after Major Mark Petree and others denied the magazine's allegations. Holding aloft a copy of the *SOF* article like it was a decomposing rat that died of the plague, Schumer said that "This type of magazine ... is not known for its veracity."

Interesting, then, that three of the

hearings witnesses — former ATFers Robert E. Sanders, Richard L. Sherrow and Dick J. Reavis, author of *The Ashes of Waco: An Investigation* — have all published articles in *SOF*. Reavis called for the release of all government records pertaining to the Waco raid. Reavis pointed out that of the 80 or so statements by ATF agents taken by Texas Ranger investigators, only 20 have been released and the rest remain secret. He called coverage of the Waco story “a major failure of the press in this country.”

Representative Henry Hyde, the Illinois Republican who chairs the Judiciary Committee, declared that “The *Soldier Of Fortune* article contains a lot of nonsense. All any of us want is the truth. And we’re getting it.”

Especially from the Army, right?

Good Soldiers Don't Ask Questions

“None of us had any reason to doubt the existence of a methamphetamine lab” at Mount Carmel, Maj. Gen. Pickler said, referring to an unsubstantiated allegation by ATF that Koresh was running a meth lab. “We do not question civilian intelligence... We do not routinely question the veracity” of drug allegations by civilians law enforcement agencies — a case nexus required by law to obtain JTF-6 training.

Two of the four Green Beret trainers whom *SOF* alleges were present at the ATF raid in Waco — Sergeant First Class Chris Dunn and Staff Sergeant Robert Moreland — were at the hearings and denied under oath that they participated in the raid. *SOF* rechecked with its confidential sources, two of whom were members of the training team and another who witnessed a conversation in which Dunn and Moreland allegedly acknowledged their presence at Mount Carmel by expressing the fear that they had been filmed afterward by a television cameraman. The magazine stands by its allegations that they were there.

The attack on the NRA by Democrats continued throughout the hearings. White House spokesman Michael McCurry said the objectivity of the House subcommittee investigation had been “subverted when a very extreme organization, like the National Rifle Association, comes in and basically hijacks these hearings by paying for investiga-

tors, placing them in the center of the fact-finding process.”

The hearing co-chairmen, Zeliff and McCollum, denied that the NRA had exerted any undue influence and complained that the Clinton administration had undertaken its own “damage control campaign on Waco.”

“It has become apparent after three days of hearings that a massive damage control plan has been put into action by members of the White House staff and senior officials at both the departments of Treasury and Justice,” the co-chairmen wrote in a letter to Clinton. “According to *The Washington Post*, the White House staff has assembled a damage control team and retained the services of Mr. John Podesta, a public relations specialist and former White House official who has represented Handgun Control Inc...”

Prior to the start of the Waco hearings, Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin sent a letter to the news media in which he expressed the “fear [that] some may try to use these hearings to serve another agenda: to erode support for federal firearms laws ... by undermining public confidence in the men and women who enforce those laws... This issue is about law and order, and standing with our police and our federal law enforcement officials against those who would take away our right to live in safety.”

Damage Control: Some Worked, Some Didn't

Rubin's letter was not the only Clinton administration effort to portray critics of ATF and FBI conduct at Waco in a bad light. U.S. Rep. Bill Brewster, an Oklahoma Democrat, said he “was called by a very high-up official in the administration [who] started asking me not to ask any questions that would make the administration look bad. I couldn't believe it... I told him I would ask my questions as I saw fit.” Brewster, who said he was offended by the call, later identified the caller as Treasury Secretary Rubin.

Several newly disclosed documents indicate that the effort to cover up the truth of what happened at Waco began early on. A memo from Under Secretary of Treasury Ron Noble, dated 9 April 1993, advised that “Justice [Department] wants ... to be sure that the Treasury does not interfere... Justice's worry is that any official

government statement which criticizes ATF will be used by the defense in charging that fault lies with the government and not Koresh.

“At this morning's meeting with Justice, we heard that Web Hubbell, Associate Attorney General (designate) [since fired and recently convicted of defrauding clients when in private practice] is so concerned about the potential impact of our review on the criminal case that he planned to raise it directly with the president,” Noble's memo said.

In his testimony, Hubbell denied that Clinton was in any way involved in approving the FBI's final solution, the armor and CS gas attack of 19 April. However, telephone logs and confidential sources indicate that Clinton — and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton — were intimately involved in the decision-making process leading up to approval of the final FBI raid.

Robert M. McNamara, an assistant counsel with the Treasury Department, reiterated these Justice Department concerns in a memo of the same date. “Justice prosecutors in Washington and in Waco said that any words which could be interpreted as being critical of ATF must be avoided, since it would play into the defense attorneys' hands and aid ... the defense attorneys in making ATF the issue.”

Three Monkeys: Jencks, Brady, Giglio

In another memo dated 14 April 1993, McNamara again cautioned Treasury officials that their investigation into ATF conduct at the Waco raid should be limited. “DOJ does not want Treasury to conduct *any* interviews or have discussions with *any* participants who may be potential witnesses [emphasis included]; the prosecutors do not want us to generate additional Jencks, Brady or Giglio material or oral statements which could be used for impeachment” of government witnesses.

The Jencks reference applies to written statements made or written prior to the Branch Davidian trial of January-February 1994. For instance, ATF special agents Eric Evers, Roland Ballesteros and three others told Texas Rangers in initial statements that ATF agents fired the first shots that pre-

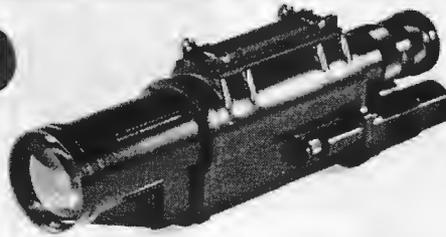
Continued on page 118

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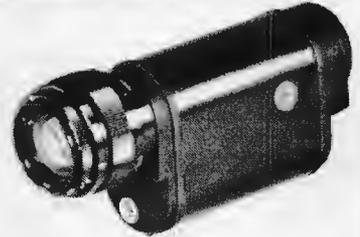
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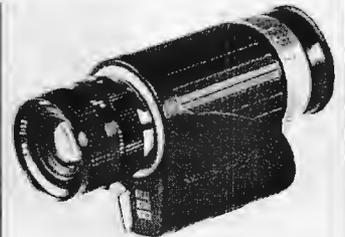


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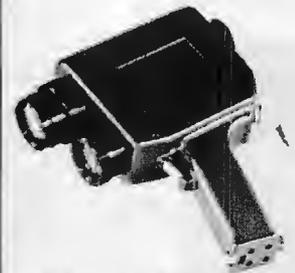


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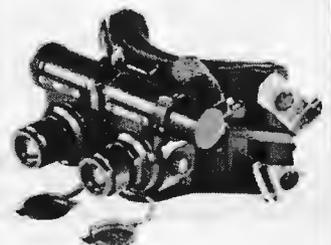
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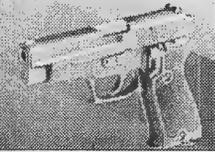
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Continued from page 29

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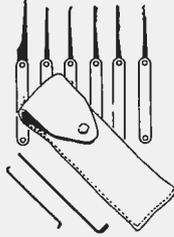
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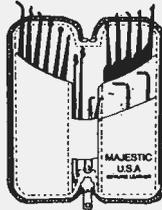
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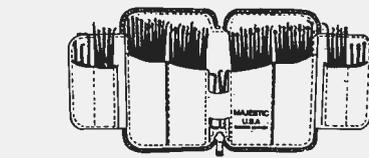
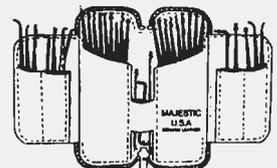


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NO CHEM WAR IN GULF?

Continued from page 65

shot rocket launcher truck had been destroyed just outside the complex as well. Throughout the complex, Iraqi gas masks were scattered helter-skelter.

It was clear that Fox Company couldn't stay long in this extremely dangerous area, and it relocated to a safer region several hundred meters deeper into the compound. Soon, EOD units showed up to clear the bunkers. Whether they held chemical munitions is unknown.

This action brought to a successful close the Marines' combat engagement in Kuwait, but the casualties of these battles continue. As we go to press, Iraq has finally disclosed to U.N. inspectors that large quantities of the offensive germ warfare agents *clostridium botulinum* and *bacillus anthracis* were produced at its al-Hakam site in 1989 and 1990.

Widely published outdoor writer and columnist Bob Newman is a Marine veteran of the Gulf War — and a victim of Gulf War syndrome. ✕

AFGHANISTAN

Continued from page 49

By the time I arrived at the front lines the usual Afghan anarchy was evident. No one had a clear idea of what was going on or who was in charge. Heavy weapons and small-arms fire was thick and fighters were dashing in all directions. Tanks and BMPs clattered across bridges over the Kabul River. Shrapnel whizzed overhead as a salvo of incoming mortar rounds exploded in the maidan (parade ground). RPG rockets detonated everywhere.

My taxi driver understandably refused to drive across the Kabul River, and my interpreter, Ismael, and I had to get down to the bunker by the bridge where pro-Rabbani troops were dug-in with a Russian-made 73mm SPG-9 recoilless rifle. At that moment there was a great commotion a couple of clicks north where we saw Baba Jan's tanks cross another bridge and enter Microrayan, followed by heavily armed infantry units of Massoud's *zarbati* or "shock troops."

In front of us, groups of Sayaf's

Itihad Pushtuns were racing out from their front-line positions in a mosque to our right. Ismael and I dashed forward to join them. "Maranjan has fallen, by the grace of God!" they yelled excitedly.

This lot was a sight. Most wore only leather sandals and some had no footwear at all. Others weren't even armed. All had beards and long locks springing out from under their turbans. Like a gang of pirates out for plunder, they shot forward down the road between the derelict Olympic Stadium and the maidan yelling "Allahu akbar!" — God is most great.

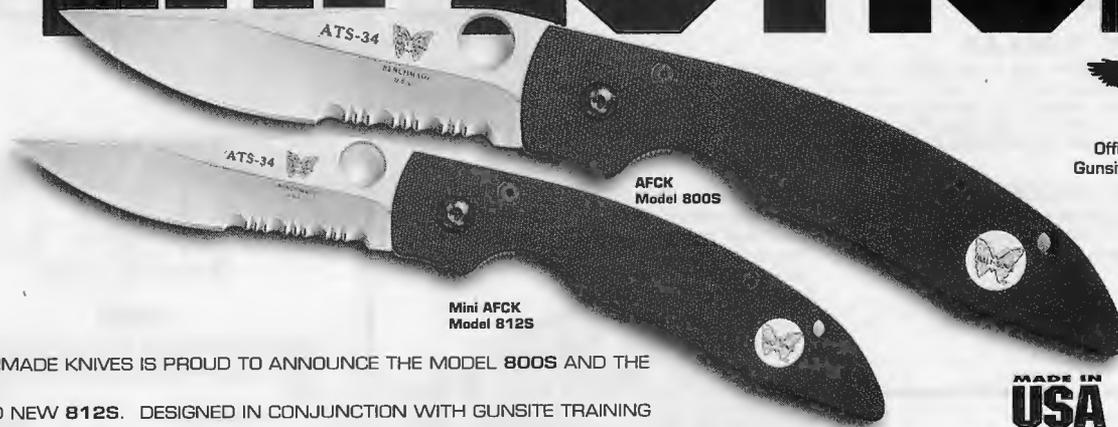
"Who occupies Maranjan now?" I demanded. No one actually knew.

"Can you establish radio contact with Maranjan?" I wondered. They laughed in reply.

It wasn't clear if Maranjan had fallen at all. But our blood was up when we reached a fork in the road. One path led up to Maranjan and the other into the back of Microrayan housing estate. The Itihad lads couldn't make up their minds what to do.

We could see a furious battle in Microrayan. In house-to-house fighting Dostam troops were pushed back,

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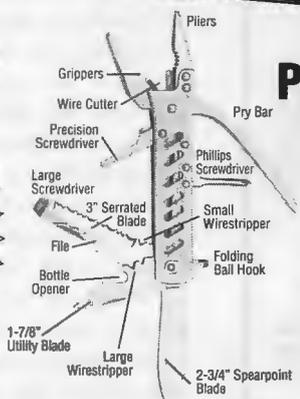
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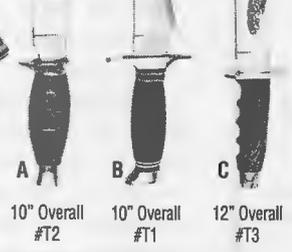
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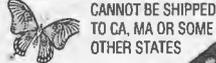


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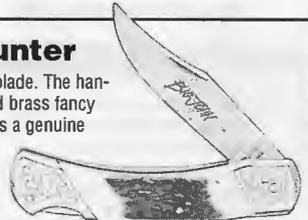
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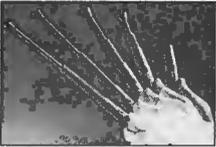
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but it was no rout. It was bloody close-up work with RPG-7s and shoulder-fired 82mm recoilless rifles. Bullets were popping, cracking and ricocheting. The Itihad weighed the likelihood of handsome loot against the chance of getting wounded. They chose to ignore Microrayan and go for Maranjan.

On the double we took off up the hill. I noticed on top of the archway at the main guardhouse was a large portrait of Dostam. Still intact, it was an indication that we were not far behind the first wave of pro-Rabbani attackers. An hour or so later when we came off Maranjan, this portrait was shot to ribbons, symbolic of the defeat Rabbani's coalition rivals had suffered in east Kabul.

But Maranjan was still under mortar and rocket fire. For cover and the view over the far eastern suburbs still held by Hezb and Dostam forces, Ismael and I made for Nadir Shah's mausoleum. We could see the fighters running through the narrow streets as the hashish-smoking Itihad RPK gunners fired down at them.

We made our way past the "Martyrs Graveyard" for communists who had died in the jihad. Incoming fire blasted some of the graves open, exposing skulls and various bones but there were no fresh bodies to be seen from the battle. That surprised me, but you couldn't ignore the evidence of the struggle.

The bunker complex had been savaged by incoming artillery fire and one Dostam BMP-1 had its turret blown off. An intact T-62 had been captured, as had 60 prisoners and massive stocks of ammunition. Scattered about and ground under by tank treads was all manner of live ammunition that nobody bothered to clean up.

From the top of Maranjan we could actually look down on the Microrayan housing estate and watch the ongoing mopping up operations. Soon after, Baba Jan himself appeared on the hill. He was clean-shaven, well-groomed, and his boots were polished — a stark contrast to the mujahideen. He asked me incredulously: "What are you doing here?" Other journalists didn't show until much later.

Bloody Retaliation

Baba Jan confidently remarked that the next target for the pro-Rabbani forces would be Hekmatyar's

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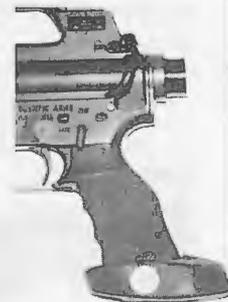


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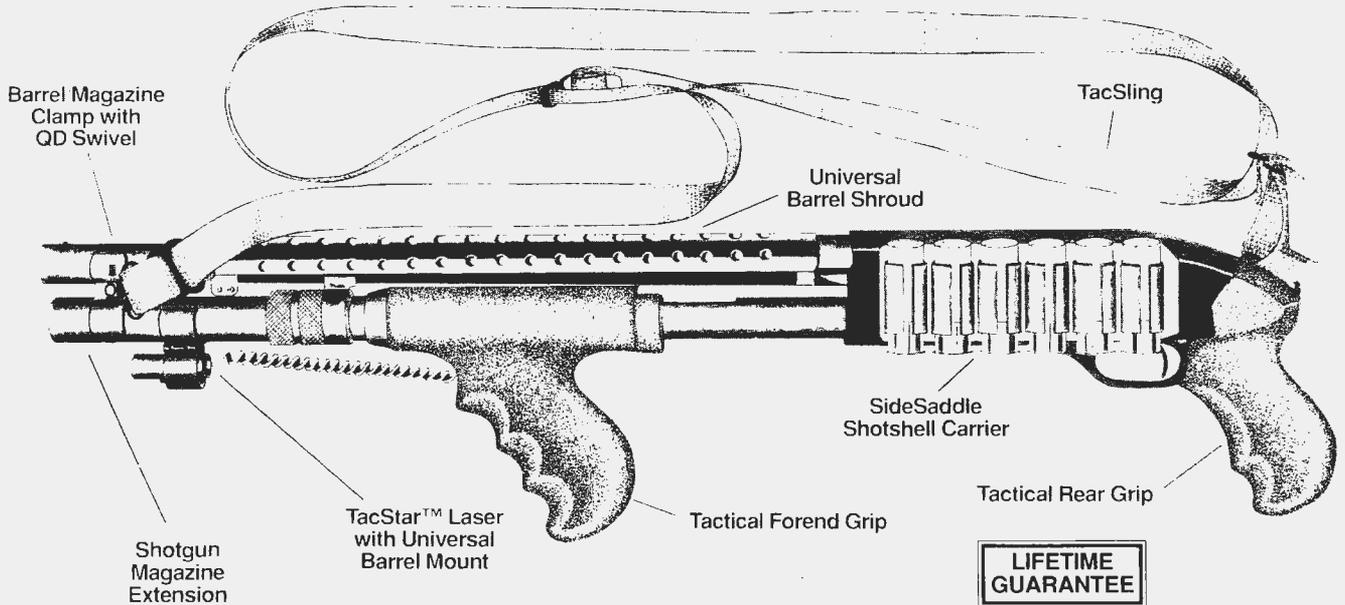
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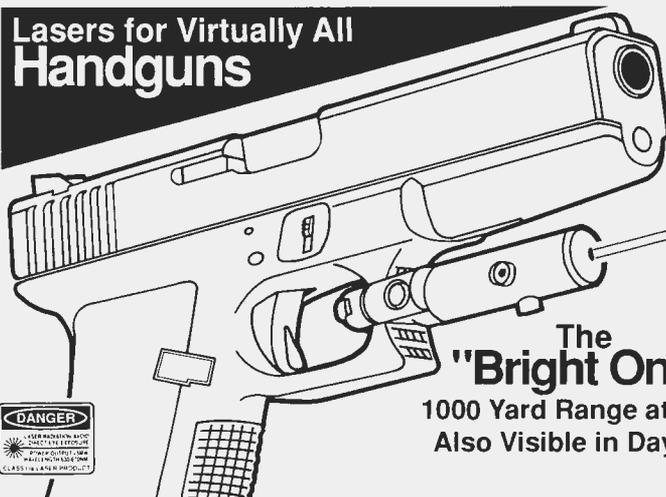




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Continued from page 57

message was not a Serb trick.

O'Grady answered correctly and Hanford notified his superiors he had made contact with the missing pilot. The information was relayed to an AWACS high above and then to Admiral Leighton Smith in London, who in turn notified Colonel Martin Berndt, commanding officer of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit in the Adriatic. When Leighton asked Berndt what he thought, the reply was: "I think we can get him."

Since his rescue, O'Grady has been reluctant to describe the moments leading up to the SAM hit. How high were you flying? "Shouldn't say." Did you see the missile that hit you? "No comment."

But through the eyes of senior Air Force officers at the Pentagon and a battle-tested F-16 squadron commander who not only dodged SAMs in Vietnam, but also SA-6s in Iraq, we have been able to piece together what probably happened on that fateful mission over Bosnia. The officers who provided this likely scenario asked not to be identified.

Wright and O'Grady were most likely cruising along at about 300

Charasyab headquarters, some 20 kilometers to the south. This was overly optimistic, for as the euphoria of this victory waned over succeeding days, it was discovered that Hezb had not been pushed completely off Maranjan Hill — the northern tip and a fair slice of the eastern face were still under Hekmatyar's control. A no-man's land existed in-between. Hezbi-Islami was particularly incensed at news reports describing the total capture of Maranjan; indeed they continued a stiff resistance and the remainder did not fall for another eight months.

Yet the significance of this Sunday's operation was to break the six-month-long stalemate on the eastern front line, and to break Hekmatyar's deadly grip on Kabul. In the overall two-day operation in which Darulaman Palace, Bala Hissar and Maranjan Hill fell, the victorious forces loyal to President Rabbani claimed to have captured 700 POWs and 20 tanks, as well as inflicting a heavy blow to the morale of their rivals.

Monday morning as I was finishing breakfast, an Su-22 from one of Dostam's northern Afghanistan

airbases unloaded perhaps six bombs on a residential neighborhood, including a direct hit on a crowded pharmacy, killing and wounding 40. It was a charnel-house. Some dismembered corpses carried away in ammunition crates were barely recognizable as human remains.

In the afternoon I was scouting around Bala Hissar rather warily as there was a heavy trade in artillery bombardment. Out of the blue screamed a Dostam jet and in its wake the deadly swish of an opening 250-kilogram cluster bomb. The bomblets carpeted the perimeter defense of Bala Hissar and I beat a hasty retreat.

Counting myself lucky, I returned to the car where I found my driver in mild shock. An incoming 122mm rocket had blasted shrapnel through the car door on the driver's side while he was sheltered nearby in a bunker.

The fight for Kabul was not over.

Harry Blanco is an old Afghan hand who has covered the muj since the Russian occupation. He has frequently written for SOF under a nom de plume. He now resides in Kabul. ✕

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knots when the SAM site acquired them. Deny Flight missions over Bosnia are about two hours in duration. Flying at 300 knots enables aircrews to complete their missions without having to refuel over enemy territory.

But there's a danger of flying that slow. If a SAM is launched against an aircraft, it takes at least 400 knots airspeed to execute a rolling 9-G turn required to defeat the missile. At 300 knots a pilot will only be able to pull three to four Gs, not enough to give an incoming SAM an angle or problem it can't solve.

SA-6s like the one that blew O'Grady out of the sky are difficult to defeat — especially when a pilot is trapped at altitude and has little or no maneuvering room. Both pilots have publicly said they were flying at a "medium altitude" which translates to 10,000 to 25,000 feet.

There was a heavy overcast that made it impossible for them to see the SAM launch. But a veteran F-16 pilot says unclassified information on the shootdown indicates Wright and O'Grady knew the SAM site was looking at them. One of the sources reports O'Grady had an indication of a launch. Even if they couldn't detect the SAM visually, both pilots should have heard a high-pitched squeal in

their headsets warning them to check their RWRs (radar warning receivers) to see from which quadrant the missile was coming.

Sources say one of the mistakes young pilots make is hugging cloud cover during CAP (combat air patrol) missions so they can duck into the clouds and hide if necessary. That is fine if you are dealing with enemy fighters. But flying close to the clouds in missile country makes you easy prey for a SAM. You have no altitude in which to maneuver when the missile comes roaring through the cloud cover. A senior F-16 pilot says the Serbs may have lulled the Americans to sleep by "spoofing them," turning their SAM sites on and off.

Legislative critics want to know why the F-16s went in unescorted by planes that could take out surface-to-air missile sites. After O'Grady was shot down, future F-16 flights were escorted into the no-fly zones over Bosnia.

Rep. Jim Saxton, R-N.J., released a report shortly after the shootdown indicating the U.S. military knew as early as 1993 that the region where O'Grady's aircraft was shot down was well-defended by Bosnian-Serb missile batteries. Saxton's report speculates the Serb military placed their main

concentration of air defenses around the Banja Luka air base.

General John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said after the 2 June shootdown that the military had no knowledge or suspicion of SAMs in the area. Yet Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said the military was well aware of the Banja Luka facility where the Serbs service surface-to-air missile systems. However, he said, "The F-16 that Captain O'Grady was flying on June 2 was shot down outside the known threat envelope of the Banja Luka SAMs."

While the debate continues over whether or not we knew SAMs were in the area, the fact remains that a surface-to-air missile is an awesome weapon. "Pilots get used to AAA. They figure they're invincible," a veteran of the air war against Vietnam and Iraq said. "And you love to see a MiG because you can shoot it down. But there's something about a SAM. It's blood curdling — a machine that's after your life."

We'll probably never know if Scott O'Grady saw the SAM that hit his F-16, or for that matter whether he tried to defeat it. But on the ground he did everything right and survived. And survival is the name of the game. —D.B.C. ✕

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MAN AMONG MEN

Continued from page 71

had just started to spread his troops out in order to sweep through the final few meters of bush when a denim-clad figure jumped up to his front and started running like hell away from the line of troopers. It caught us all by surprise, and the terr was probably 25 feet away before the first trooper reacted with a double tap from his FN. He missed.

The rest of Norris' sweepline opened up with two MAGs and the five other FNs, and Prinsloo's stick on my left also cut loose. It was amazing, but the galloping terr was rapidly increasing his distance, apparently untouched by the hail of bullets following him. When he was about 50 meters away, the twin Brownings from the overhead chopper also joined in, creating geysers of dust that obscured our vision.

"Stop One, this is K-Car. You've got a gook running right toward your position. He's in blue and gapping like hell so stand by for him!" shouted the OC over the radio.

Norris had moved his seven men up to the edge of the heavy bush near the kraal, and they stood staring toward the direction in which the gook had run. Still mindful of the uncleared mud huts in the village, I stood and walked over to join their group while George McDermott covered my rear with his gun.

"Nice going, guys," I said to the disgruntled looking bunch of camouflaged bush troops. "They teach you how to shoot like that in Training Troop?" It was one of those things which happened on occasion, when fate smiled on the terrorists. At any rate, the odds were that Stop One, located to the north and directly in line with the gook's escape route, would bag him in short order.

Weapons Cache

We took it slow and easy as there were only eight living quarters to clear and three storage bins that could possibly hide a person. During his search of the second hut, Corporal Norris sent word over for me to join him.

"Hey, Colour," he said, standing inside the dim, smoke-filled hut. "Have a look at this." He pointed to

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an area covered by a large grass mat and I lifted a corner with the toe of my boot. Two dozen Chinese stick grenades lay in neat rows in a six-inch depression. A more detailed search revealed about a thousand 7.62x39mm rounds hidden in the thatched roof and in various containers scattered around the hootch. The troopies searching through the storage bins also began to turn up communist ammunition in bandoleers.

This is what I called actively aiding the terts. The Selous Scout OP had only been in the area for a few days and hadn't seen any other terrorist movement, but their intelligence had indicated this area was indeed a link in the terrorist supply chain from Mozambique. My thoughts turned to the gook who had sprinted away from the swepline and I hoped Stop One had been able to take him as a prisoner. He could explain a lot about what was happening in this particular kraal.

"Stop One, this is Banana One. How do you read?" I radioed to Cpl. Hugh McCall, the stick commander. "I know why you're calling, Colour," he answered back. "Wherever that gook went it sure wasn't by us... How the hell did you guys miss with all that racket you were making?"

Trevor Norris, now standing next to me, picked up the conversation. "Hey, McCall," he radioed back. "We were giving you a chance to get in the war and you blew it. Stay awake out there next time, OK?" Trevor's wide grin belied the seriousness of his voice, and I knew McCall would be sending him a long-distance flip off.

Norris and Prinsloo quickly sorted out the area, ensuring that all the bodies were well away from the kraal line before we torched the buildings. When the area had been cleared and our troops moved well away, Norris and I began lighting the thatched roofs with our cigarette lighters. As I torched the first hut, I was overcome with a damned unpleasant sense of deja vu. I had done this sort of thing in Vietnam; didn't like it then, and enjoyed it even less now. Maybe I was getting soft in my old age, or perhaps I was just starting to see things in a different perspective.

With the African kraal burning fiercely behind us, I spread the 16-man swepline out into an extended

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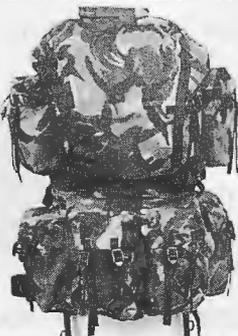
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line formation facing northwest and toward the area where the terrors had fled. There were still a probable 10 terrors located somewhere between my sweepline and the four stop groups positioned about 500 meters to our front

As we cautiously approached the first green mass of tangled foliage, I instructed Hardesty, my interpreter, to call for the terrors to surrender. The gooks hadn't a chance in hell of getting away, and intelligence from a live terror captive was much more productive than another dead body. It certainly made our job on fire force much less nerve wracking when they gave up without a fight.

There was no response, verbal or otherwise, to Hardesty's command, and it now became a matter of clearing by fire. I had the four MAG gunners in the sweepline lay down a few bursts of converging fire into the thick bush to our front. Again, there was no indication of a terrorist presence, and no movement at all except for the settling dust and falling leaves churned up by the machine gun fire.

The sweep slowly moved forward,

every man tense and ready to cut loose. The morning Rhodesian sun was already starting to cook us in our camouflaged jump suits and black face cream, but the sweat dripping from our bodies wasn't caused only by heat: We knew there might be a gook with suicidal tendencies waiting 15 feet away, ready to take a few of us with him before the rest of the sweepline fired him up.

Booby Traps And Body Count

Trooper McClellan on the extreme left of the sweep was the first to see a booted foot sticking out from behind the bush, and he immediately let fly a quick four rounds from his FN. The rest of us joined in, and the blast from 16 weapons was deafening even in the open veldt. The echoes of gunfire died and we continued our slow walk up to the terror's position. Whether the initial bursts of MAG fire had killed him prior to our last deluge wasn't certain, but the terror was certainly dead. Dressed in olive green pants with a Portuguese camouflage jacket, he was riddled with at least 15 bullet holes. Overkill or not, the gook never had a chance to fire his SKS.

Unless you actually saw a terrorist fall when you shot him, searching the remains became quite a risky business. Norris slowly unraveled the long parachute cord he had attached to the terrorist's body, and was working his way up to join us. The rest of his stick was now under cover, having taken the gook's weapon and other visible equipment along with them, and in a moment Trevor was ready to pull the body over. Cautiously taking up the slack, he and his gunner increased their pull as the body began to move. Grunting with exertion against the weight of the body, the two had the terror half turned over when the loud *POP* of a grenade detonating cap sent us digging into the dirt for cover.

Shouts of "Grenade!" from along the line were instantly drowned out by the ripping explosion from under the terror's already lifeless body. The gook's half turned position shielded us from the brunt of the blast. There was no need for a further look at the inert form lying 20 feet away, any kit or equipment he might have had on him would now be useless.

I passed the word to take a quick



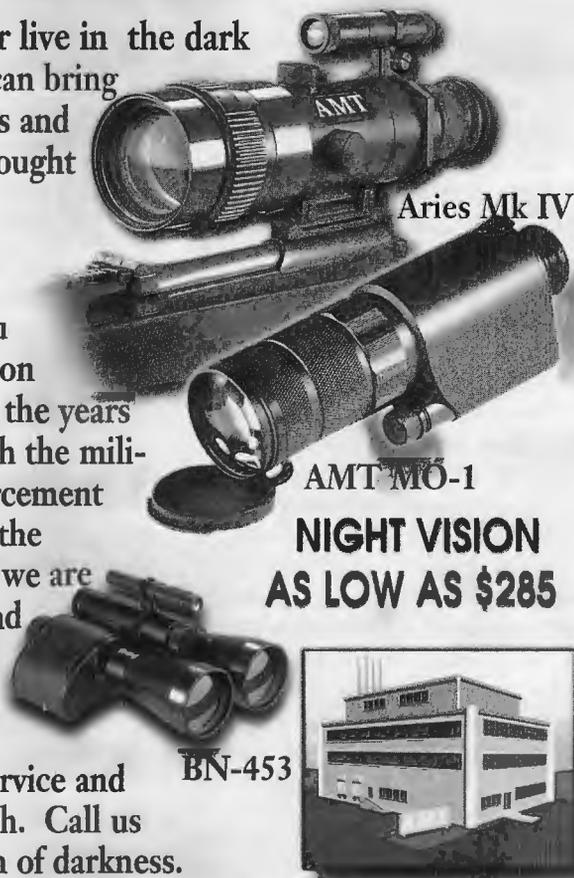
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smoke break. Gratefully, the sweep-line slumped to the ground and unhooked their webbing, and I noticed with satisfaction that every third man turned to face the direction we had approached from; a precaution in case we had missed a hidden terr along the way.

It had been a busy day so far. We had killed a total of five terrors — two by Stop Two early in the contact and three from our sweepline — and had recovered or destroyed a fair amount of their kit. That left another possible 10 terrors still lurking, including the galloping gook who had evaded not only our sweep but Stop One also. But, this group would no doubt go on the terrorist inactive role for some time after their encounter with our fire force.

The Selous Scout observation post would remain in the area to monitor the situation, though by now the terrors were probably halfway back to Mozambique and still running.

Former SOF Managing Editor John W. Coleman is a decorated veteran of anti-communist wars in Vietnam and Rhodesia. ✕

D-DAY FOR X-RAY

Continued from page 91

As we were leaving I noticed the boat was so heavily loaded now that we were having problems getting under way. Just as we seemed to be picking up some speed Doc Barnes saw a man stand upon the shore and fire a B-40 rocket right at us. Doc was just yelling a warning when the round struck us in the flank. We came to an immediate stop, dead in the water, a sitting duck for the second rocket, which was already on its way. I watched it strike the river's surface, ricocheting off the water and heading into the jungle rather than our crippled vessel. When it exploded, the shrapnel came back at us, zipping and cutting through the air with deadly intent.

I was at the bow, watching the port side as security when all this took place. The first blast lifted me off the deck, blowing my weapon clean away. There went my precious Stoner into the river. I was heading that way myself, but a radio cable wrapped itself around my throat as I flew past it, keeping me out of the

water but not doing anything for my attitude. Shock was setting in from the unexpected attack, the fury of the blast that had nearly killed me, and from nearly strangling to death while flopping around the deck like a hooked fish. Clawing my way to a more secure position on the boat I looked at the horror the B-40 attack had brought us.

Thick, acrid, clinging smoke filled the boat's guts. The driver was peppered with bits of B-40 steel, his torso and crotch bleeding profusely. Bodies were strewn all over the back deck, so many packed so tightly together you'd step on someone no matter how careful you tried to be. Then I saw McCarthy. His entire right cheek had been blown off his butt, and what was left was actually cooking! He was conscious, and that blew me away as I looked into his pain-filled eyes. Ed Jones managed to grab the big .50 and began emptying its lethal load into the VC position. They actually ran! It was their worst mistake, because we would have been history had they stayed and kept up their fire. The ambush had been a good one; they just didn't follow through

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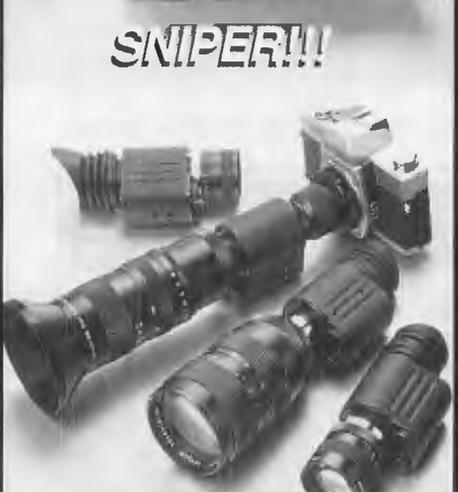
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as a well-trained force would have. As the coxswain got the vessel moving again I yelled over at McCarthy, trying to beat the growing sound of the straining engines as they picked up speed. "Mac, can you hear me?" I asked the wounded SEAL.

"Yeah," he slurred back groggily, "what happened?"

"All your grenades exploded, and you don't have an ass anymore," I explained to him as I crawled over to where he lay. "Hold still," I begged him. "Let me get the rest of your equipment off."

"OK, Mike," he whispered back. "Just don't throw what's left of my butt away!"

Mac's grenades had been detonated in low order, meaning an incomplete detonation took place due to the B-40 rocket, which sympathetically set off the man's explosives when it struck and exploded near him. All the smoke grenades had gone off, filling the boat with their colored vapors. As we raced downriver toward safety, the smoke cleared and I could see the extent of the damage. Missing legs greeted me. Our Vietnamese interpreter had lost his legs, and I began looking for the Chieu Hoi. The rocket had struck the boat precisely where he'd been standing. Its shrapnel had gone through him and into the back of my head and neck. He'd taken the brunt of the explosion, lucky for me.

Death To Traitors

I found him lying against the inside wall of the boat. I picked him up, looking directly into his face. As he lay there dying, his eyes opened and he gave me a smile. He'd known about the ambush, and he'd led us into it with the knowledge he might have to be sacrificed. Pulling my Gerber fighting knife from its sheath, I buried it deep in the hollow between his throat and his shoulder. He'd die, all right, by my hand, for what had just occurred. Dropping the dead traitor back to the bloodstained deck I began tending to Mac. The boat was roaring along at full speed, and I was slipping into secondary shock. It was also my job to act as a backup corpsman but my world was swimming so badly that when I tried to inject morphine into Mac, I hit myself in the hand before realizing it. Ed Jones worked his way over to

me and took care of Mac's pain with a quick shot even as I passed out next to my two teammates.

The coxswain radioed our condition and situation to our sister squad, which was waiting for us on the pier. I awoke before we landed, and still remember vividly the looks on their faces. Mac was first off, then everyone who was missing a limb. Walking wounded like me came last. I wanted a cup of coffee, for some odd reason. The platoon's leading petty officer was Lou DiCroce. Lou found me some coffee and then began doing what he could for the others. Army medics began tagging us, and it took two helos to get us all to the hospital. DiCroce came up to see me off, dinging me with the usual SEAL humor about getting wounded and having to leave the party. I remember pointing at him and jokingly saying, "You're next, Lou." Four days later the boat he and Mike Collins were riding in was hit with rifle and grenade fire. Collins was killed, and Lou hit seriously in the head. He survived and is disabled today, but he's still got that sense of humor about him.

These two events brought an end to X-Ray platoon, perhaps the most hard-luck platoon to have served in the war.

On the flight to the hospital I began looking at the wounded men around me. Even though I was hurting, I'd been lucky. In my mind I began turning over the events that had brought us here. Were I one of the seriously wounded or maimed, my career would be over now. What skills did I have to survive back in the world? Sure, I had some photography background, but what good would that really do me? I took another look around. These guys were missing legs and other parts of their bodies. They were staring off into space, pondering — as was I — their fate. No one was talking; no one wanted to.

The future became more focused for me. The operation had been badly considered and flawed in its execution. During its entire duration up until we were ambushed, I'd been chomping at the bit to correct all the little things I noticed being done wrong. Good men, yes. Good leaders, sure. But this didn't translate as a good operation if everyone wasn't working together as a team. I decided

then and there I wanted more control over my fate and the fate of my men. Yes, my men. No more victims, no more being a victim myself. Even as my head was throbbing and the back of my neck was driving me nuts, even with the now-dried blood of both Mac and the dead Chieu Hoi encrusted on my hands, I knew what had to be done.

I was going to become a commissioned officer, no matter what it took.

Lieutenant Commander Michael J. Walsh spent 26 years as a special operations warrior. He's currently a senior counterterrorism instructor for a major defense contractor in Louisiana. SEAL! is his first book.

Greg Walker is a former Green Beret with 18 years of special operations experience. He is executive editor of Fighting Knives magazine and editor-in-chief of Behind the Lines.

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HIGH ALTITUDE

Continued from page 79

SOG hadn't. Intelligence sources identified a suspected North Vietnamese headquarters and prison camp near the communist-held Cambodian border town of Kratie. Colonel Roger Pezzelle, who now commanded Op 35, wanted to launch a reconnaissance mission but lacked suitable long-range helicopters, and tight restrictions prohibited American troops from entering Cambodia. Launching a HALO mission solved the first problem, and forming a team consisting of one South Vietnamese and three Montagnards solved the second.

After midnight on 9 October, the four indigenous commandos boarded a C-130E. As during the previous freefall mission, the crew mimicked the flight path and schedule of a routine supply shuttle. With Pezzelle aboard as an observer, the team jumped from 10,000 feet.

Maintaining a tight assembly, the parachutists steered toward their drop

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zone. Seconds before landing, however, a figure entered the clearing to relieve himself. Startled by the silent jumpers falling from the sky, the man shouted for help. Enemy soldiers immediately converged on the site and the team darted for the darkened brush. Though separated into three groups and on the run for a day, all four commandos were successfully extracted.

Not to be outdone, SOG's Command and Control Central (CCC) was preparing a HALO of its own. Far more ambitious than any of the previous missions, CCC planned a jump of 10 men: five Americans and five South Vietnamese. Forming the core was RT Washington, a mixed Montagnard team re-formed after being annihilated in December 1970. From Washington came Staff Sergeants Robert McNier and Howard Sugar, plus three Sedang Montagnards, one Bnar and one Jarai. Joining them were three more Americans from the CCC recon company: Richard Gross, Charles Behler and Mark Gentry.

Taken to Long Thanh for two weeks of training, the augmented

team began parachuting from helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft. Two dozen practice jumps later, they were able to exit a C-130 at 25,000 feet with 110 pounds of equipment and land within 50 meters of each other.

With the team mission-ready by early October 1971, CCC had to generate a target. Given the hazards CCC had encountered jumping into jungle canopy, CCC dictated its drop zone would be flat and open. Looking at the map for enemy-infested areas that fit the description, planners decided on the Ia Drang Valley. The mission itself, apart from further testing the HALO concept, was a general area reconnaissance.

After two weather aborts, the team boarded a C-130E on 11 October. As the aircraft lowered its tail ramp at 13,500 feet, the 10 men continued to breathe off oxygen consoles until one minute before jump time. At the command of the jumpmaster, they shuffled to the end of the ramp and stepped into space. All members wore a Norden light to aid in midair assembly. But Murphy's Law still intervened: As Mark Gentry left the plane his rucksack ripped loose, causing

him to spin away from the rest of the team.

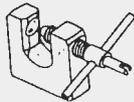
By the time the 10 jumpers touched ground, they were divided into three groups. The largest, consisting of McNier, Behler and three Montagnards, assembled in an open area. Sugar, Gross and two Montagnards gathered in a second field.

Alone, Gentry managed to land in a tree. His survival radio was pre-programmed to the frequency of beacons carried by Behler and Gross, but neither appeared to be working. He had better luck raising an orbiting FAC, but the plane was not carrying a night-vision device and could not identify Gentry's position. Worse, Gentry could hear Vietnamese voices from the jungle around him. Holding up in the bush until morning, he managed to again contact the FAC.

"The Covey finally got a fix on me and told me to move northeast to link up with Behler and McNier," Gentry recalled. "I came across their chutes and gear along the way. Continuing northeast I arrived at a river and could hear voices. I thought it might be some of the [Montagnards]

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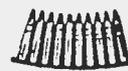


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from our team, but it turned out they were local communist troops. They saw me and started yelling."

As Gentry took to the jungle, the enemy followed close behind. Seeking refuge near a stream, they traded shots while Gentry tried to raise the FAC. When one finally answered, he called for tactical air strikes — only to be told that the coordinates were too close to Sugar and Gross.

Gentry again took to the bush. Coming to an open meadow, he dashed to the shelter of a bomb crater and relayed an emergency extraction request. Four enemy soldiers approached but, unable to cross the exposed terrain, settled for taking potshots. Gentry fired off the last of his ammunition and was picked up at 1000 hours without further incident. The same chopper also retrieved Sugar, Gross and two of the Montagnards; the rest of the team was recovered that afternoon.

The CCC operation came to a close and with it SOG's flirtation with HALOs. Concluding that "as an alternative method of insertion, parachute insertions have created a new threat that enemy [lines of communi-

cation] security forces must be prepared to counter," SOG headquarters shifted emphasis toward static line jumps from low altitudes. Further airborne operations all but ceased when SOG was deactivated on 31 March 1972. Left with a fraction of the logistical support once available to SOG, South Vietnam's Liaison Service had few means to carry on the more exotic infiltration techniques developed by its U.S. counterparts.

Kenneth Conboy is a former deputy director of the Washington-based Asian Studies Center. His new book, Shadow War: CIA's Secret War In Laos, is available from Paladin Press.

Dale Andradé is currently a specs historian and frequent contributor to SOF. ✕

ONE TO THE GROIN

Continued from page 75

that woman lay for days, dead, while the FBI called in saying, "We had pancakes for breakfast, Mrs. Weaver, what did you have?" These people need to be subpoenaed in the full

light of publicity, on C-Span, and tell their story to the American people. The American people are going to be horrified at what is being done by the BATF. There's all kinds of stuff like that that's got to come to the attention of the American people. And I think the disgust and the revulsion of the American people for these people will see to it that they are never involved in law enforcement again.

RKB: Those are just the recent cases.

GL: *I can remember when I first joined the Treasury as an official in 1969, one of the first things we had to deal with was an atrocity by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, involving a man named Kenyon Ballew. That chap was a black powder firearms enthusiast. That's all he had, all he was interested in. BATF went spying on him and looked inside his house through a window or something and saw he had some old World War II hand-grenade casings. These were being sold widely throughout the country as paperweights at the time.*

They said to themselves, "Well, we



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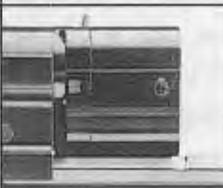
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know he's a black powder enthusiast, he must have black powder in there." They theorized he could pour black powder in these casings and reactivate the hand grenades. These would then become destructive devices.

And so they got a search warrant and raided Kenyon Ballew's house. Well, he had several doorways on the ground floor. One of them he didn't use and had furniture up against it. The BATF didn't know that.

When they raided the house, Ballew was upstairs in his bathtub. They came smashing with a ram downstairs through that wrong door. Of course, they couldn't get through it right away and I guess they thought he was putting up resistance. At any rate, he hears all this ruckus, doesn't know what it is, gets out of the tub buck-ass naked, and grabs the only weapon he has: a black powder revolver.

By this time they're in the house. He runs downstairs to see what's going on, has the revolver in his hand with the muzzle pointed at the floor, and they shoot him down! This has been going on, as I say, for decades.

RKB: Gordon, some people have suggested that we may not get what we want out of the Waco hearings. There is a burden of truth in a trial that would not apply to a hearing. What concerns me is the method of interrogation. Having watched the POW/MIA hearings, we know that the questions are prepared by the staff. They may be good questions but then because the senator in this particular case does not have the frame of reference the staffers have, we simply don't get the proper follow up questions.

GL: Bob, one of the ways we're going to know whether we're getting real hearings or whether we're just getting lip service is whether we have top flight staff lawyers doing most of the questioning.

RKB: Is this going to be a problem? You have a better feel for this here in Washington than I do.

GL: There's almost a consensus here that what we're going to see is something designed to satisfy the uninitiated — we've had hearings and all is fine. You know, we'll make a few changes here and there and everything will be hunky dory again. That's what we're all worried about.

RKB: What we are hoping, Gor-

don, is that these hearings will be the first step in holding these people accountable.

GL: Well, I would be delighted if that were true. I hope that you're right.

RKB: Gordon, that pretty much wraps it up. Any closing remarks?

GL: No, just don't worry about the fact that the president, the lefties and the press are yelling at Gordon Liddy. They've been yelling at Gordon Liddy for almost a quarter of a century now. Gordon Liddy's doing fine and let me put it this way: Right after election day in 1996, I will still be a radio talk show host and I predict Bill Clinton will be one other unemployed Arkansas politician — if he's lucky! Because if he's unlucky, he's going to jail.

G. Gordon Liddy will be the keynote speaker at this year's SOF convention in Las Vegas, 27 September to 1 October, 1995. Call 303-449-3750 for convention information. ✕

SECOND AMENDMENT

Continued from page 46

when young, how to use them."

The 1939 Supreme Court case *U.S. vs. Miller* echoed our Founding Fathers' intent: "The signification attributed to the term militia appears from the debates in the convention, the history and legislation of colonies and states, and the writings of approved commentators. These show plainly enough that the militia comprised all males physically capable of acting in concert for the common defense... And further, that ordinarily when called for service these men were expected to appear bearing arms supplied by themselves and of the kind in common use at the time."

And so, the militia rifles banned by Clinton's Crime bill, as well as short-barreled shotguns so useful in trench warfare and home defense banned by the National Firearms Act of 1934, are the arms most protected by the Second Amendment. Study the Uniform Militia Act of 1792. It is a mandate that citizens keep the best military-type weapons they can afford, ready to defend freedom on short notice.

Another Supreme Court case, *Presser vs. Illinois*, recognized the

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arms-bearing population as the militia: "... all citizens capable of bearing arms constitute the reserve militia... The States cannot, even laying [the Second Amendment] out of view, prohibit the people from keeping and bearing arms, so as to deprive the United States of their rightful resource for maintaining the public security..."

The Right To Revolution

Put bluntly, the right to defend against tyranny is the right to revolution. Cowards will cringe at that thought, as do the quislings trying to destroy that right. Revolution is always a miserable prospect; it was just as difficult for the patriots to leave their jobs and families as it would be for us to leave ours.

But their sacrifice brought a new dawn of freedom to their families. If we are men, we too must be prepared to make that sacrifice. Being prepared for revolution is the best deterrent against it. Allowing ourselves to be disarmed is the surest way to make revolution unavoidable.

Patrick Henry agreed: "Guard with jealous attention the public liberty. Suspect everyone who approaches that jewel. Unfortunately, nothing will preserve it but downright force. Whenever you give up that force, you are ruined... The great object is that every man be armed... Everyone who is able may have a gun."

"They that can give up essential liberty to gain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety," Benjamin Franklin replied.

Two other patriots concurred. Alexander Hamilton: "If the representatives of the people betray their constituents, there is then no recourse left but in the exertion of that original right of self-defense which is paramount to all positive forms of government..."

And Thomas Jefferson: "what country can preserve its liberties, if its rulers are not warned ... that this people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms... The tree of Liberty must be refreshed from time to time, with the blood of patriots and tyrants."

This is just a sampling of the ammunition you might use to understand and defend the Second Amendment. Next time you hear Bill Clinton say it doesn't harm the Constitution to

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John O'Renck is a patriot and scholar who has contributed a vast amount of research on the Second Amendment and the right to bear arms. ✕

SPECOPS PISTOL

Continued from page 60

cept the Knight suppressor. This suppressor weighs only 1 pound, a one-third reduction in weight over the 1.5-pound Phase I H&K sound suppressor. Made from stainless steel, the suppressor is 7.56 inches (192 mm) in overall length with an outside diameter of 1.38 inches (35 mm).

An interesting feature of this sound suppressor is its ability to be loosened and then indexed to 10 different positions. This permits the operator to move the shot group obtained with the suppressor in

place to within 2 inches of the unsuppressed shot group.

If all of the above is approved for production, the Phase III contract is to be awarded sometime in 1995. Max potential value for production quantities of 7,500 pistols and 1,950 sound suppressors is estimated at \$15.8 million.

Personally, I feel certain that Heckler & Koch will be granted the Phase III contract. Both their pistol and Knight's suppressor are outstanding designs.

As we go to press, Heckler & Koch announced it was awarded the \$4.5 million Phase III contract for an initial production order of 1,950 .45 caliber pistols and 10,140 magazines. The pistol has been officially classified as the MK23 MOD 0, USSOCOM Pistol, Semi-Automatic, Cal. 45. Under the terms of the Phase III order, first production pistols and magazines are to be delivered to the Navy on 1 May 1996. A maximum of 7,500 pistols, 52,500 magazines and 1,950 suppressors may be procured, with a full potential contract value of \$12.1 million. ✕

AIR PIRATES

Continued from page 87

that surround the palace. There were numerous fires that altered the landscape, and some 24 deaths were attributed to the fire-bombing, according to our internal Haitian sources.

Dresses For Puerto Rico

Continuing on a northerly direction after completion of the last bombing run, we still had 22 of the giant Molotov cocktails on board, so we continued to pull the flares and push them out on targets of opportunity that we passed on the way to take a look-see at Cap-Haïtien. Well before our expected arrival in the Cap-Haïtien area we had expended our load of destruction, so we continued on a more northwesterly heading and could see in the distance that trucks and other obstacles had been placed on the runway at Cap-Haïtien to thwart a possible air mobile landing.

Everyone on the aircraft was coming down from an adrenaline high and no one was aware of how the

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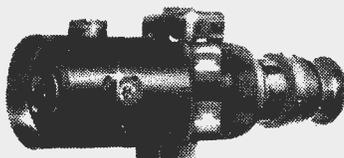
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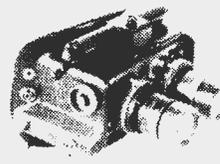
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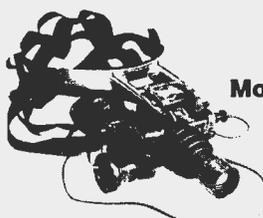
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aircraft was holding up. Later we found that we had been hit approximately 32 times including a round that hit and exploded in the battery well of the port inboard engine, creating a ragged hole almost 10 inches across. Some of the hits had destroyed portions of our radio-navigation equipment and Carlin was flying mostly by dead-reckoning.

Soon we were flying through a large rain squall and saw no possible places to put the plane down. We were informed from the cockpit to prepare for a sea landing, which we did. We were very low when we finally broke through the squall line, and there before our eyes was this big, beautiful runway. All the while an insistent voice called and informed us that we could not land there unless we were declaring an emergency. Even if that had been our intention, we could not radio an emergency because our bullet-riddled radio was receiving but not transmitting.

We made a smooth landing and taxied up to an apron area and stopped engines. Almost immediately we were met by a U.S. Air Force major, and several other USAF personnel.

We deplaned and were standing under and around the aircraft checking the battle damage we had sustained.

Carlin and Davis were in conversation with the major and after a few minutes, Carlin came over and told us straight-faced that he had told the major we were delivering a load of dresses to Puerto Rico and had gotten lost. He said the major did not comment on this assertion, but apparently he was not blind to the clearly visible battle damage. Unbeknownst to us, there had been an alert in the Bahamas area that a civilian aircraft thought to be a "Super Connie" with red identification lettering had bombed Port-au-Prince earlier that morning.

Where we had landed was the USAF installation at Freeport, Bahamas, and the good major did not want us on his base. He even offered to drain the fuel from some small piston-engine aircraft to get us enough fuel to take off and get away from his base. But alas that was not to be. We only had enough fuel on board for five minutes flying and the additional fuel would not have gotten us much farther.

We started walking into the local town but didn't get far before being met by some of the island police. They welcomed us and invited us to share their hospitality but informed us that we could not stray from the immediate confines of the police area. Our situation was obviously the subject of official discussion, as within a day or so we were escorted to the airport and put on an Eastern Airlines flight non-stop to Miami. Arriving in Miami we were met by members of the U.S. Customs Service, who informed us individually and collectively that we were being held on suspicion of violation of U.S. neutrality laws.

During questioning by Customs, I took the opportunity to palm a little Minolta camera and expose the film I had taken of the bombing runs. When the agent saw what happened, he grabbed the camera and said, "That wasn't very smart." I suppose it depends from what perspective you view the events.

After our days in court and the ensuing appeals process, we reported to the minimum security slam at Elgin Air Force Base around the middle of

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1971. Bill Dempsey was deported to Canada, which has no neutrality laws, so he was literally home free. The rest of us were cut loose after time served and 75 days. I still have no idea who or what was responsible for the sentence reduction.

And Papa Doc? He eventually died of terminal meanness. And in Haiti, the more things "change," the more they stay the same.

After decades of involvement in the Miami expatriate scene, Ralph Edens is now a registered nurse in Colorado. ✕

I WAS THERE

Continued from page 30

highway and took about 15 seconds to cross. The pucker factor was red-lined, but we never heard a shot. Once we were back over the trees we breathed a bit easier.

Looking ahead through the smoke and haze we could see the fire bellowing from Sandy's wreckage. I turned a few degrees left, figuring the plane probably flew on

for a few seconds after the pilot ejected.

About that time Sandy called on his survival radio that he could hear us and we were headed straight for him. I spotted his orange parachute and noted with some dismay that he was hanging about 50 feet up in a tree.

I settled into a low hover for a hoist pickup using the jungle penetrator. Jim operated the hoist, B.J. had his UZI on his lap watching out the left side and I maintained the hover. That UZI was our entire arsenal and wouldn't do much good against a squad of pissed off NVA.

The pilot looked up at us with a big grin as Jim worked the hoist to lower the penetrator. It was a bit early for celebration — our hoist had only one speed: slow. We expected the bad guys to come running out of the jungle with guns blazing at any time.

Jim came up on the intercom and advised me that our grinning pilot couldn't reach the penetrator. Jim was trying to swing it to him but because of the dense foliage it

just wasn't happening. About that time we heard the first round explode above us. I'm not sure if Charlie was shooting at us or our cover, but it was all the incentive we needed. We retrieved the hoist and the pilot rappelled to the ground, unhooked his survival pack and moved to an open area.

We moved over him again and lowered the penetrator. He hooked up and we began extraction just as a second explosion went off overhead. To add to our concerns, our 30-minute low fuel light had been on for approximately 20 minutes. We finally got the pilot into the aircraft and figured that we'd been hovering there for 34 minutes. Luck was with us: We hadn't ran out of fuel and the bad guys hadn't hit us.

It was time to head out. King advised us not to recross that area but we were too low on fuel to play it safe. If we were going to run out of gas, the west side of the road was our best option.

I radioed for a drum of fuel ASAP and crossed Route 23 without incident to rendezvous with

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

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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.

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The SOF Convention and Expo has proven to be one of the most professionally run conventions we have attended since the start of our company almost fifteen years ago. The SOF staff is extremely courteous and constantly at work to make sure that everything is running smooth for the exhibitors as well as the customers. It is perhaps this extra effort that makes the SOF Convention and Expo the "GOTTA BE THERE" of the military/survivalist shows.

Sincerely,
Busse Combat Knife Co.

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.

the other chopper. We hand-pumped 55 gallons of gas into what must have been an empty tank.

While refueling we all felt pretty good about saving at least one downed pilot and still being alive. Being the nice guy I am, I decided to have a little fun with him. There was a rumor going around the Air Force that Air America crews received a \$10,000 bonus whenever they recovered a downed airman. Of course, it was just a rumor.

I told the pilot we wouldn't be taking him directly back to his base but would be going on to Pakse. At that point anything I said would have been fine with him. I explained that he was worth \$10,000 to me and my crew so we wanted to make sure we turned him over to the right person to get credit for the bonus. He bought it all, hook, line and sinker.

The OV-10 crew was successfully picked up a day or two later. After landing, the author was summoned to the briefing room. In next month's issue see how Van Etten spent the afternoon of 18 March 1972. ✕

ATF'S WARBIRDS

Continued from page 83

transfer of ATF aircraft between dummy corporations went in an ultimate circle, with several officials denying any knowledge of the transactions.

At least two of the ATF's OV-10 Broncos were painted in July at Business Jet Designs Inc., in Shawnee, Oklahoma. According to various sources, including two pilots who photographed the aircraft and inspected them inside and out, the airplanes are being painted dark blue with red and white trim. The Times quoted Michael Pruitt, a company foreman, as confirming that the OV-10s, each registered to American Warbirds Inc., belong to ATF. Pruitt reportedly said one more Bronco "was on the way." The company expected to paint at least 12 of the OV-10s, the newspaper reported, at a cost of about \$20,000 each.

Which raises a question. If ATF is paying \$240,000 for new Bronco paint jobs, how is it going to change



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the registration without paying for yet another round of paint jobs. Many of the current wing numbers are known — a few of them published in last month's *SOF*, others published in recent books on the OV-10. Will the ATF pay for more paint jobs? Or better yet, why not just leave them as they are, save the money and register them to the ATF?

Spokesman Killorin did not have any answers. Nor will ATF discuss the still unsolved embezzlement of \$1.5 million from its aviation operation — more than a third the aviation division's budget for a five-year period. A suspect in the alleged embezzlement — former ATF Special Agent William Marshall Reece — was publicly identified more than a year ago. He had retired with full pay and benefits only a few months earlier, in October 1993.

"Reece is the subject of a criminal investigation into one of the largest internal thefts in ATF history," *The Washington Post* reported in its edition of 9 July 1994. The case "highlights a weak system of accounting controls that the agency has been attempting to overhaul."

Reece, who is suspect in the falsification of expense vouchers for aviation services that allegedly were never performed, has vigorously avoided interviews. He reportedly owns and operates a charter fishing business near Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and spends leisure time at the secluded home of a female friend near Calabash, North Carolina. When a local television reporter from Washington, D.C., surprised Reece with a camera crew at the woman's home, he bolted for a pickup truck and roared off in a cloud of dust.

A Treasury Department audit sent to ATF Director Magaw "found no evidence of fraud," but acknowledged that accounting procedures are "susceptible to fraud, waste and abuse." Magaw has declined to discuss the case, except to say that unspecified corrective measures in accounting procedures have been implemented. The problem arose when the chief and deputy chief of ATF's special operations division, which also oversees the Gaithersburg operation, allowed Reece full control of his departmental budget, without any oversight.

Treasury investigators who asked

for flight logs and aviation reports were delayed by Reece while he reportedly "had to re-create documents or obtain them from other ATF offices," the audit report states. In addition, the report documents the payments of thousands of dollars for services, although the hours charged on invoices were "not verified to any supporting documents."

The ATF's failure to resolve the case or punish anyone for the alleged theft, plus its apparent eagerness to hide the activities of its aviation program, raises serious questions about the bureau's lack of accountability for personal misconduct and financial mismanagement. It is an overall lack of accountability that dogs the bureau's reputation on many fronts. The ATF's inability to maintain rudimentary security for basic day-to-day operations, or to ensure the safety of its own street agents, may be due in part to management's preoccupation with the secrecy, behind which are cloaked the ongoing crimes and incompetency inside America's most troubled and out-of-control law enforcement agency.

This article is part of a continuing series on the BATF by award-winning investigative reporter and former staffer James L. Pate. ✕

WACO HEARINGS

Continued from page 94

capitated a gun fight at Mount Carmel. All agents subsequently retracted those statements, but defense attorneys were able to obtain copies of the Ranger statements under the Jencks ruling. The Brady rule requires that prosecutors turn over to defense attorneys any and all evidence that suggests innocence on the part of a defendant, is of an exculpatory nature, or impeaches government conduct. The Giglio rule requires the disclosure of plea bargains and other pre-trial deals.

"DOJ does not want us to make any findings or draw any conclusions from what we review; the prosecutors are concerned that anything, even preliminary, could be grist for the defense mill," McNamara's 14 April memo to Noble states. "DOJ does not want us to generate gratuitous expert witness' materials; the pros-

ecutors are concerned that these people ... could play into defense hands (e.g. Weaver)." The last is a reference to the Randy Weaver trial, in which the FBI and Justice Department were fined \$10,000 for concealing evidence and staging photographs.

Noble denied in sworn testimony that he had any contact with ATF agents in Waco on the day of the raid. In his own testimony, former Assistant ATF Director Dan Hartnett accused Noble of obstructing justice by inserting after the fact the issue of the element of surprise. Hartnett's testimony attacked the veracity of the Treasury Department report on Waco, claiming that he and ATF special agents Phil Chojnacki and Chuck Sarabyn were scapegoated.

This issue attained prominence when Chojnacki and Sarabyn, who had been fired from ATF, were rehired in a secret deal that included back pay and their attorneys' fees.

"That report was filled with distortions, omissions, and in some cases things that were simply untrue," Hartnett said. "I believe it was for political reasons. The politics of the situation became more important than

the people involved."

With Noble, former ATF Director Steve Higgins and former Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen on one end of the witness table, and Chojnacki, Sarabyn and Hartnett on the other, each side accused the other of lying. Somebody obviously was. No one was charged with perjury.

Chojnacki, in an interview with Treasury investigators on 17 November 1993, "was asked about any calls that he made to headquarters after it was decided to proceed with the raid. Chojnacki stated that he made no such call. When shown the log indicating that he had made a call to headquarters, Chojnacki stated that if the log indicated that he made a call, he must have, but he does not remember," Robert L. Cockrell noted in a Treasury Department investigative memo.

Rumors indicate that Chojnacki and Sarabyn got their jobs back only by agreeing to keep quiet about the complicity of superiors in ATF and Treasury in approving the raid, even after it was known that the element of surprise had been lost.

Finally, in a memo to Bentsen four days before the final raid and deadly

fire, former Assistant Treasury Secretary Robert Altman [who resigned under pressure a year ago, accused of misleading Congress during testimony about the Whitewater affair] advised that "Ron Noble informed me that the attorney general is weighing a request from the FBI to use an advanced form of tear gas on the compound in Waco... The FBI apparently has concluded that the outlook for a negotiated end to the stand-off is poor. They don't believe it is worth waiting. If the attorney general approves the request, the gas would be used and, hopefully, the Davidians would be forced to leave the compound. The gas would not be followed by an assault.

"My rough guess," Altman's memo concludes, "is that she won't approve the FBI's request. The risks of a tragedy are there. And, if the FBI waits indefinitely, Mr. Koresh eventually will concede."

Writer James L. Pate was at the Waco siege, the Waco trials, and the recent Waco congressional hearings. His award-winning coverage will continue next issue. ✕

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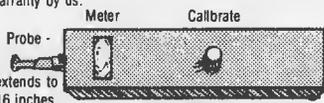
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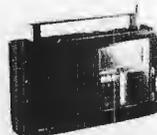
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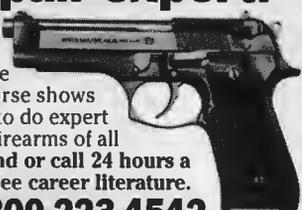
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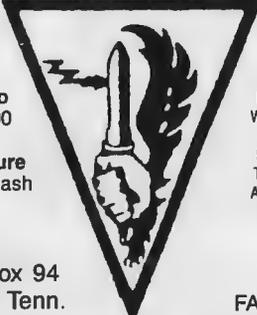
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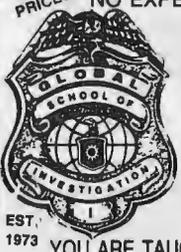
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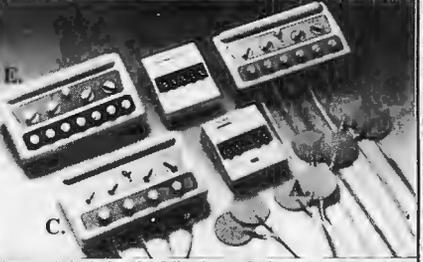
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H.R. 218
Co-Sponsor Goal



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SUNDAY - 0930 HRS—"Now we'll see how tough you are, cop. I'm gonna make you bleed in front of your own family."

The Law Enforcement Alliance of America (LEAA) has written the "1995 Community Protection Initiative", H.R. 218, that would allow qualified off-duty and retired law enforcement professionals to carry concealed firearms nationwide. Introduced by California Congressman Randy "Duke" Cunningham, H.R. 218 already has 76 Congressional co-sponsors and with you as part of LEAA's national grassroots campaign -- it will become law!

H.R. 218 provides a wide range of benefits:

- Provides officers the means to defend themselves and their families from the hardened, often vindictive and violent criminals they have previously arrested.
- Puts thousands of additional equipped, trained and certified officers on the streets at *no additional cost to taxpayers*.
- Gives qualified off-duty and retired law enforcement officers the means to help prevent crime in our communities.
- If an officer is sufficiently trained and trustworthy to carry a firearm on duty, why should this taxpayer-financed training be wasted when an officer is off-duty or retired in good standing?
- Provides a clear, uniform nationwide rule to replace the bewildering variety of local laws that create confusion and uncertainty as to whether an officer may or may not carry.

Take These 2 Simple Steps to Help Pass H.R. 218:

STEP 1: Immediately contact your U.S. Representative urging them to co-sponsor H.R. 218. Use the points above in your letter and include any off-duty (or retired) incidents you know of where a firearm was used — or was needed.

IMPORTANT: Send LEAA a copy of your letter so that we can also **hand-deliver YOUR letter to YOUR Representative—and keep the pressure on until H.R. 218 becomes law!**

STEP 2: JOIN LEAA! When we walk into *your* Representative's office, we need to be able to say *you* are a member of LEAA, and that *you* want H.R. 218 passed! By joining LEAA, you will help pass tough, street-smart legislation which will protect the rights of police officers and crime victims, keep violent criminals off our streets, and protect law-abiding Americans' 2nd Amendment rights.

Questions? Call LEAA toll-free at 1-800-766-8578

(please detach or photocopy application)

218 Co-Sponsors Needed to Pass H.R. 218
LEAA's Goal: 218 Co-Sponsors -- A Majority of U.S. Representatives

Have You written Your letter yet?

June '95
76 co-sponsors

Mar. '95
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Jan. '95
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Please list other groups you are a member of:

- I have used a firearm in self-defense:
 - off-duty or civilian use (A1).
 - discharged a weapon in the line of duty (S1).
- I have personally been a victim of violent crime (W1).
- I have a family member or friend has been a victim of violent crime (W2).
- Send me information on LEAA's cost-free Legislative Task Force.

LEAA is recognized by the U. S. Treasury Dept. as a non-profit organization under IRS Code Section 501 (c) (4). Due to LEAA's legislative activities, contributions and gifts to LEAA are not tax-deductible.

The information requested on this form is very important for LEAA to maximize its impact with lawmakers, so please fill out completely, whether active or retired. All information will remain confidential. Please allow 6-8 weeks for processing of membership.

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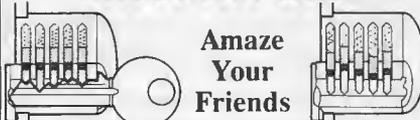
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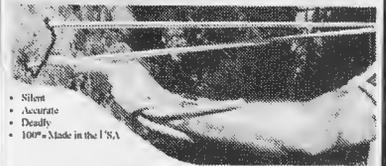
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ATN Corp.	106	Lifefinder	115	Wilson's Gun Shop	15
Ace Case Company	11	Moore Technical Industries	103		
American Innovations	Cover 2	Mossberg	17	SUPPLY LOCKER	
Automatic Knife Resource Guide	96	NNP, Inc.	22	Cambridge Ergogenic Institute	120, 122
B-Square	112	National ID Center	107	Cutlery Shoppe	121, 122
B-West Outdoor Specialists	105	N. American Integrated Technologies	108	DRG Enterprises (Galli Realty)	123
Beacon Telesystems	109	Olympic Arms	109	David Steele Ent. Inc.	122
Benchmade Knife Company	98	Optimum Training Systems	25-28	Eden Press	121
Brigade Quartermaster	18-21	Paladin Press	7, 32-33, 40-41	First Amendment Products	123
Bud K Worldwide	99	Quality Machining Inc.	105	First Witness Video	120
Bushmaster Firearms	36	REF Instruments	117	Global School of Investigation	122
Busse Combat Knife Co.	Cover 4	SOF Anniversary Knife	119	Greene Military	120
Carolina Ordnance	118	SOF Convention	61	Gun Parts Corporation	122
Cold Steel	37	SOF Exhibitor	117	Hitek International	121
Collector's Armoury	113	SOF Russian Edition	113	Hurricane International	121
Cor-Bon Bullet Co.	39	SOF Sweepstakes	35	JTR Labs	121
Crown Specialty	110	Silver Creek Industries	29	Lile Handmade Knives	123
Delta Press	96	Sound Concepts	31	LA Law Enforcers	121
Dillon Precision	Cover 3	Southern Ordnance	100	M.O.R.O. International	122
Direct Action Video	13	Stano	114	Matthews Police Supply	123
Doubleday Military Book Club	9	Steve Arnold's Gunroom	97	Professional Career Development	122
Eagle Arms	82	Stock Options	100	S & K Products	120, 123
Elite Force Inc.	118	Survival Radio	16	Silvermans	120
European Connections	104	Sweetwater Inc.	29	Special Operations Group	122
Excalibur Enterprises	23	Tacstar	101	United States Assoc. of Police	123
Galco Interantional	111	Tiffin Family Knife Co.	116	USI Corporation	120
Intelligence Incorporated	102	U.S. General Technology	95	WW2 Products	121

Firepower, Time & Money

If you're not reloading, you're wasting your money. If you're not reloading on a progressive, you're wasting your time. And if you're not reloading on a Dillon progressive, you're wasting both your time and your money.

There is no longer any question that Dillon machines are superior to all others, nor is there a question that Dillon's "no questions asked" lifetime warranty is the most generous in the industry.

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Square Deal 'B'



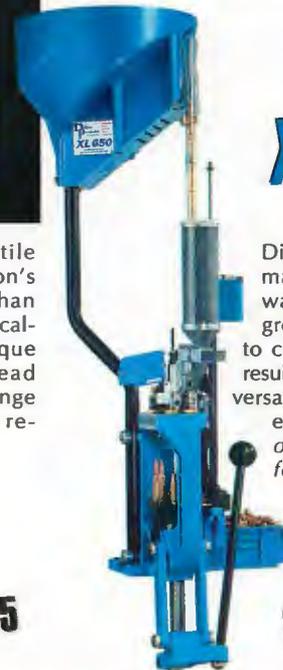
The **Square Deal B** arrives complete with a pre-adjusted carbide die set, ready to load the pistol caliber of your choice – all you need to do is determine the powder charge you want, set the automatic powder measure accordingly and select the bullet seating depth.

\$227⁹⁵



The World's Most Versatile Progressive Reloader, Dillon's **RL 550B** will load more than 120 different rifle and pistol calibers, and our unique removable toolhead allows you to change calibers without re-adjusting your dies.

\$298⁹⁵

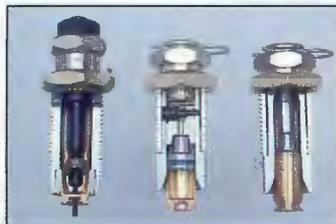


XL 650

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.38/.357	#14400
10mm/.40 S&W	#14398
.41 Mag.	#14402
.44 Spl./Mag.	#14403
.45 ACP	#14404
.45 Colt	#14405

Dillon's New Dynamic Dies feature a generous lead-in radius designed specifically for progressive loading; hex adjustment surfaces instead of knurling, allowing you use a wrench instead of Vise Grips to adjust your dies; a heavy, headed decap pin that won't pull out and isn't easily bent; and a separate crimp die that won't interfere with proper bullet seating. These features make Dillon dies stand out from all the rest, and now we've incorporated new features that make them even easier to use.

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State-of-the-Art Case Preparation Equipment from Dillon



A.

B.



C.

D.

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	.357 Mag.	#15163
	.40 S&W	#15164
	10mm	#15162
	.44 Mag.	#15165
	.45 ACP	#15166
	.45 Colt	#15167

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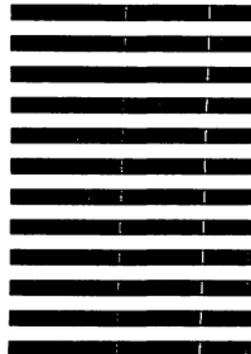
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