



AMATEURS & ASSASSINS:
Feds' Bungling At Ruby Ridge Exposed

SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

JANUARY 1996
48493

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Super-Secret
Underwater
Commandos

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TRAIN ON U.S. SOIL**

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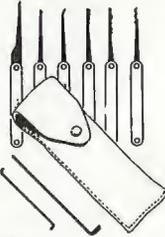
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ESP-13

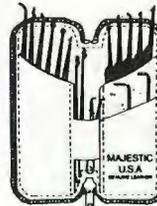
This handy new pick set is the most popular set among professional locksmiths today. This kit consists of 12 different tools housed in a handsome black leather case designed for a shirt pocket. Included in the price, you receive a 5 piece warded key set and a copy of "Lockpicking Simplified." 17 piece set total.
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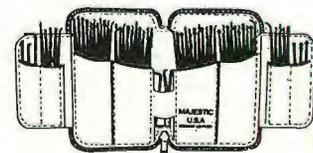
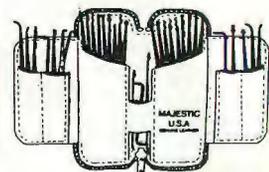
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Republicans Sell Out Over Antiterrorist Bill

by Robert K. Brown

Emerging from Constitution Hall, Ben Franklin was asked by a passerby what kind of government the Founding Fathers had come up with. Franklin replied that it was "a republic if you can keep it." He said that people who would trade freedom for security "deserve neither."

In the years since, few pieces of legislation have been proposed by Congress asking the American people to give up more of their freedom than the antiterrorist legislation first introduced by Rep. Charles Schumer and now championed by some notable House Republicans. The intent of these bills is to neutralize most of the current privacy laws and give the FBI almost unlimited ability to stick its nose into the private lives of ordinary Americans.

These bills contain no meaningful restrictions preventing the information assembled under the flag of antiterrorism from being used by the IRS to collect taxes or the BATF to collect guns. If Ruby Ridge and Waco aren't examples enough, perhaps it would be worthwhile for Congress to remember that for nearly 40 years FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover couldn't be replaced by five presidents because

he had too much information on too many people.

SOF is on the same side of this fight as the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Rifle Association, whereas far too many traditional Republican allies have sold out. Certainly we would expect liberal Democrats

to support any legislation that destroys individual liberties, but to have the same Republicans we just voted in support such measures is startling.

Most of Rep. Schumer's original bill was unfortunately

carried over by House Judiciary Chairman Henry Hyde, a senior Republican from Illinois.

Along with Hyde, this bill was cosponsored by Republicans Bill McCollum and Charles Canady of Florida, Lamar Smith of Texas, George Gekas of Pennsylvania, Martin Hoke of Ohio and Cher's ex-husband Sonny Bono of California.

Many of us have spent most of our lives fighting both terrorism and totalitarianism. Defeating politicians of both parties who would use the excuse of terrorism to impose totalitarian measures on American citizens should be the highest priority in the '96 elections. ✕



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FEATURES

YOU BUY, I'LL FLY

Al J. Venter

South African mercs fly MiGs, Hips and Hinds for their former enemies in Angola — and win. **30**

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Richard Sherrow

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is over. *SOF* peeks behind the mask of naval *Spetsnaz*. **48**

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THE COMRADES OF COMPANY C

Bill Pietrucha

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Mark H. Milstein

COVER

Although the names have changed — naval commandos, special-warfare units, naval *Spetsnaz* — they remain not only sea, air and land capable, but a formidable foe equipped with the best: minisubs, modern SDVs and specialized underwater weapons like this four-barreled dart pistol. *SOF* dives into the murky world of Russia's SEALs.



V. Valengurin/Pressens Bild



Bombast, Bomb Blosts & Baloney — page 40

Richard Sherrow

BULLETIN BOARD

SOF WOUND WONK HONORED

SOF Technical Editor Peter G. Kokalis was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of the International Wound Ballistics Association (IWBA). The IWBA was founded by the internationally recognized wound ballistics authority, Dr. Martin L. Fackler, M.D., to counter the widespread misinformation and lack of understanding concerning injuries associated with penetrating projectiles. Through the IWBA's *Wound Ballistics Review*, valid literature in this field is identified, material on this topic is critically reviewed, and scientific wound-ballistics research is presented. Membership in the IWBA costs \$40, which includes four issues of the journal. For further information, contact IWBA, P.O. Box 701, El Segundo, CA 90245; phone: 310-640-6065.

DUMPSTER FALLOUT

There has been some minor fallout since the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms was embarrassed by the potentially deadly security breach exposed by *Soldier Of Fortune* reporters using an age-old method of field-expedient data retrieval: dumpster diving.

After learning SOF had been collecting and sifting through the trash at the radio-electronics branch of the ATF's Special Operations Division (see "SOF Exposes ATF's Warbirds," Oct. '95) — a surveillance that turned up dozens of classified documents and hundreds of other sensitive papers — headquarters reissued to all ATF field offices a memo restating the bureau's policy on the proper disposal of paperwork.

Then, at a meeting of senior ATF supervisors in Chicago in early October, Gun Gestapo Director John Magaw announced that a retired, senior-level Secret Service security

specialist (one of Magaw's old buddies from his days as Secret Service director) has been retained as a contract consultant — at, no doubt, a princely sum — to conduct a top-to-bottom review of ATF security procedures. This is the typical, harebrained solution of a career bureaucrat to a simple problem: use it as an excuse to spend more money, preferably into the pocket of a crony. Common sense tells us that what's needed is to kick some slack-security idiots in the butt. But don't hold your breath — unless, of course, you're wading through an ATF trash dumpster.

—JLP

FEMFED FOLLIES...

On 26 February 1993, the day after the World Trade Center bombing, FBI agents were busy dragging evidence out of

the building and tagging it. And a zealously partisan ATF agent was just as busy as she quietly replaced the evidence tags with ATF markers. Luckily, she was stopped before any great harm was done, but her actions would have broken the chain of evidence and prevented the prosecution from using much of it. Published sources state she explained her conduct by saying she was distressed because her husband had lost his hand in an industrial accident. Some industry: Investigators reportedly learned that the agent's husband had, in reality, blown his hand off while making a bomb in their kitchen. Making bombs, of course, in the kitchen or the World Trade Center or a federal building, is against the law. You can expect to do hard time ... unless you are



Old Ford soldiers never die... many of the 8,523 M8 Greyhounds (successor to the T17 Deerhound) made at Ford's St. Paul facility during WWII still survive. This refurbished Greyhound still serves with the Guatemalan Guardia de Honor Brigade, after outfitting with new diesel engine.

Julio Montes

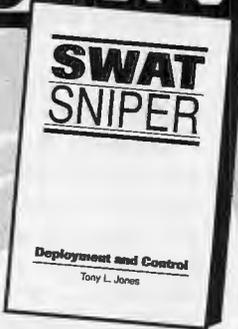


Directions to the SOF editorial offices? No, just a sign observed in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Larry Bailey

S.W.A.T. SNIPER Deployment and Control by Tony L. Jones

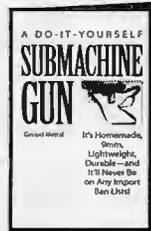
Whether you are a S.W.A.T. sniper commander, a sniper team leader or a sniper, this manual will help you prepare and organize for deployment on any mission, including hostage rescues, subject neutralizations and vehicle and building assaults. **S.W.A.T. Sniper: Deployment and Control** is the next best thing to hands-on training in such vital areas as equipment needed by sniper team members, including primary and secondary weapons, high-magnification rifle scopes and camouflage; sniper commander and sniper team leader duties, including diagramming buildings, establishing phase lines and numbering and assigning targets; sniper team duties, such as reporting intelligence, analyzing terrain and target recon; sniper team deployment concerns and tactics, including choosing and occupying firing positions and deciding when to shoot; special skills training, such as stalking within close range of adversaries and shooting accurately in high-stress situations; personnel selection and more. Every time a S.W.A.T. sniper team is engaged, lives are on the line. Author Tony Jones, a professional S.W.A.T. officer with more than 10 years of experience, will show you how to give your team the know-how and support to do the job right. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, softcover, illus., 80



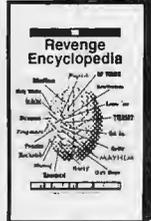
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by Bob Newman
Here is an inside look at how elite units in the U.S. Marine Corps conduct modern unconventional warfare, including raids, demolitions, counterterrorism, hostage rescues, pilot recoveries and more. Stories from the author's combat experiences in the Gulf War and historical examples of 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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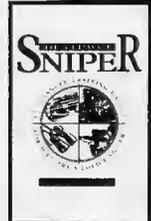
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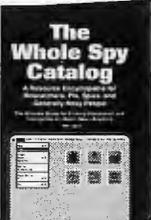
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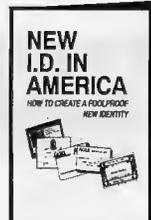
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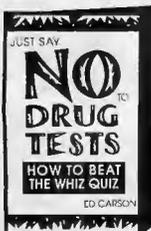
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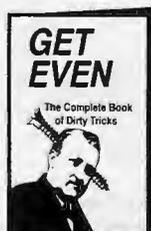
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Or, unless you are a femfed: WXIA, channel 11, in Atlanta reports possible wrongdoing by a female ATF agent, in a coverup of the 1994 murder of a 16-year-old girl. The girl was shot during the robbery of her father's jewelry store, and the chief suspect is reported to be the brother of the ATF agent in question. The suspect fled the country but reportedly has since returned. After the robbery-murder, the getaway vehicle was sold by the female ATF agent. The recovered murder weapon's serial number had been obliterated. The convening judge issued a gag order, which the TV station fought. Your Honor, is that order necessary? If these charges are true, the gagging will be entirely spontaneous.

POLITICAL PULL

One female FBI trainee has quit and another filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission over a requirement at the FBI school in Quantico, Virginia, that they be able to double-action an empty handgun 29 times in 30 seconds; agents who repeatedly fail the test are dropped from FBI training. Ms. Jessica Jurney resigned after a debate over whether she could qualify with her right or left hand (she pulled the trigger 27 times with her left and 25 with her right), saying she felt she had been labeled a potential troublemaker. Another trainee has filed a complaint with the EEOC over the trigger-pull test. "I think Quantico really has a problem with an old guard," Jurney said. What do they call this

procedure: Weapons' Abuse 101?

U.S. NAVY RETURNS TO VIETNAM?

After 22 years away, the U.S. Navy is discreetly exploring the possibility of returning to Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam, as the Military Sealift Command searches for Asian ports to berth the burgeoning fleet loaded with Army and Marine materiel prepositioned for combat. Admiral Philip Quast, chief of the Military Sealift Command, noted that supply ships berthed in Vietnam would be roughly halfway between the Persian Gulf and the Korean Peninsula — about a five-day sail to either of these most likely trouble spots. Thailand rejected a U.S. proposal to station ships there. U.S. officials have also approached various Persian

Gulf states, plus Indonesia, Brunei and Australia, Quast said. Such DoD interest in returning to Vietnam has not been favorably received by such conservative think tanks as the Heritage Foundation, a spokesman characterizing such a move as "premature."

THE MILLION-DOLLAR MEAL

The Army Institute of Medicine's Military Nutrition Research Committee has issued a 415-page report on a three-year, \$1 million study headed by Robert Nesheim, a former Quaker Oats executive. The report concludes that troops lose weight in the field — and this is a concern — because they aren't getting enough to eat. They need hotter rations, bigger portions, better ambiance and lots of

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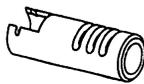
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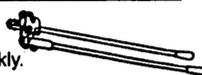
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snacks. *SOF* editors, at least the ones with reputations for eating anything slow enough to catch, may not be the best judges in things culinary, but we think if they had spent that \$1 million buying some steaks, they'd already have fattened up some of troops.

CANADIAN COMRADES

Canadians and Yanks have a long history of volunteering to help fight each other's wars even when it may not be politically correct. Just as Yanks went to Canada to sign up before Uncle Sam entered World War II because it was a just cause, more than 30,000 Canadians served in Southeast Asia when they volunteered to fight for freedom in Vietnam by enlisting in the U.S. military. And

many paid for their altruism with their lives. There are grassroots Vietnam veterans' organizations in Canada. One of the most active is the Canadian Vietnam Veterans Quebec (*Association Quebecoise Des Veterans Du Vietnam*), which has built the first Canadian Vietnam Veterans Memorial, at Melocheville, Quebec. They may be reached in care of Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 91, Beauharnois, QC, J6N 3C1, Canada. They're bros. Send 'em a few bucks and ask for a copy of their newsletter.

BIG BRITISH BROTHER

British subscribers to American gun magazines recently got a shock when the covers of plastic-bagged copies of *Guns and Weapons for Law Enforcement* coming into the

country were copied by Customs and passed along to local police. Police then passed these on to the local firearms officer, who had his firearms enquiry officer visit every subscriber to remind him that the gun on the cover (in this case a Ruger MP9 SMG) was a gun that they were not allowed to possess. What do they call this bizarre behavior: forward *thought* tracing? (Said the Brit who sent this to us: *Let's hear it for a Bill of Rights, and quick!* Said our closest gun dealer: *Unbelievable...* Said our closest editor: *God Bless America!*)

CENSOR THE SECOND AMENDMENT?

In a recent column, *Infoworld*, a paper that usually concerns itself with computer technology, noted in response to a

reader query about obscene materials available over the Internet: "If an individual or family does not want to view *Playboy*, *Guns & Ammo*, or *Soldier Of Fortune*, they do not try to force the government to shut down the publisher ... instead, they simply do not subscribe We must repudiate any attempt to censor the Internet ... to do so would start our country down the slippery slope toward abrogating the First Amendment — a danger that I, for one, find almost too scary to contemplate." And, pray tell, what would you do if the First, Third, Fourth, Fifth etc., Amendments were abrogated and you didn't have a Second Amendment protecting them? Not much. You couldn't even get on the Internet and snivel. ☒

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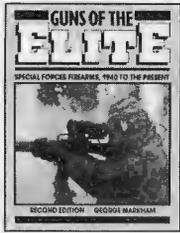
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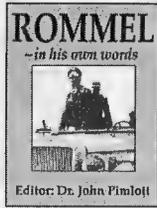


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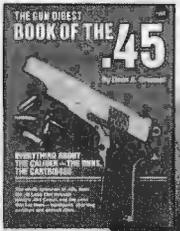
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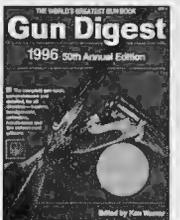


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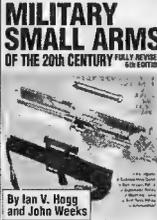


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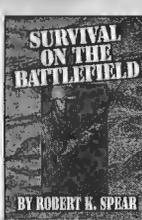
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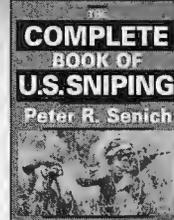
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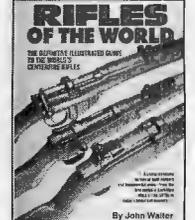
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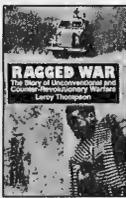
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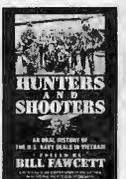
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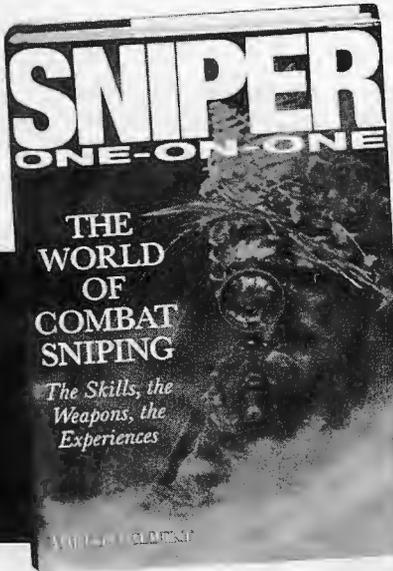
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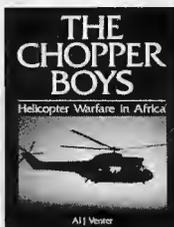
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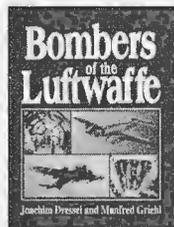
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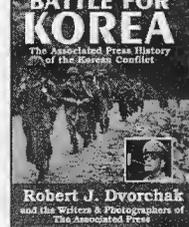
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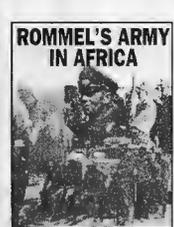
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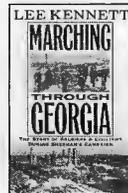
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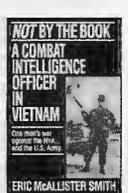
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MORE ON RENO IN FLORIDA

I just read your October '95 issue. As to your Second Amendment O.P. ["SOF Fabricates Quote?"], you are right. I remember reading the local section of the *Miami Herald*, where Janet Reno was quoted as saying that there was no reason for private citizens to own firearms. I don't remember the date, but I do remember that she was making a speech at the Coral Gables Country Club.

I worked as a court stenographer in Dade County, Florida, from 1982 to 1994, mainly in criminal courts. In more cases than I can count, regular citizens came to court to make a motion for return of property that was seized by the police when they were arrested. These motions were made after the citizens were found not guilty after a trial or after the charges were dropped because of a lack of evidence. They were routinely granted with no objection from the assistant state attorneys — except when people were asking to have their firearms returned.

The assistant state attorneys, who were under the supervision of Ms. Reno (state attorney for Dade County), repeatedly objected to the granting of those routine motions, stating that it was office policy to object to any re-

turn of a firearm, even if the charges were dropped for a lack of evidence, dismissed by a judge or did not involve the use of a firearm. I never saw the office procedures manual to prove it was office policy, but I heard many assistant state attorneys over the years make the same statement. I could

The Ruby Ridge hearings elicited the information that the initial arrest was made by agents in a Forest Service vehicle. The subsequent arrest took place with BATF agents playing helpless, stranded motorists on an icy bridge, relying on the Good Samaritan instincts of Randy and Vicki

no matter how sleazy — to direct contact with the subjects.

In the Waco matter, the BATF refused repeatedly David Koresh's offer to come to his compound and view the questionable weapons in person. The two Texas Ranger captains assigned to the investigation were appalled at this refusal.

This preference for clandestine methods, including extensive use of unreliable electronic means, has characterized federal law-enforcement investigations under Attorney General Janet Reno and the Treasury Department's Undersecretary for Enforcement Ron Noble. Nothing so characterizes the decline of morality in these organizations like this KGB-like preference for



go on for many more pages about the things that happened during Ms. Reno's administration.

Michael P. Dudley
Cohocton, New York

KGB-LIKE TACTICS CONDEMNED

Years ago the FBI conducted investigations by interviewing directly those people considered subjects or witnesses. Apparently they and the BATF cannot operate openly any more, preferring to rely on stealth and wiretapping over direct, open contact.

Weaver to maneuver the couple into a position to be physically seized and thrust down into the snow alongside the road.

Recently, in pursuit of the "good ol' boy" [racist ATF festival] videotapes held by the Gadsden, Alabama, militia, two FBI agents were caught masquerading as UPS delivery men, complete with a UPS truck. It has come to light that, for the past 2 1/2 years, all federal law-enforcement agencies prefer information gathered from informants —

any method other than open contact.

Eugene A. Barron
Longmont, Colorado

TWENTY YEAR WAIT

Twenty-plus years ago in a shop filled with guns and odd bits of military gear, I picked up a flyer for a brand-new, not yet off the presses magazine, *Soldier Of Fortune*. It looked weird. It looked rough. It had some impressive names: Nonte, Jurras, Leatherwood and Cooper. I became a charter subscriber. Promised

Jerry Peterson Reveals Never-Before-Seen "Killing" Techniques

Creator of Official U.S. Navy SEAL Combat System Releases Brutal New Gun & Knife Sections Of His Instructor Qualification Fighting Series

Can you disarm a man holding a knife to your throat? What if a car-jacker sticks a gun through your window — and your wife, girlfriend, or child is sitting beside you?

In an often brutal yet professionally direct approach, Jerry Peterson's new video series shows you how to destroy these attackers, while taking you to the ultimate level of fighting.

The culmination of a 2-year transformation from actual SCARS military archive techniques, his Instructor Qualification Series offers you the opportunity to learn what until now was exclusively taught to military Special Operations forces (SEALS, Rangers, Green Berets, etc.).

It's been called "the most brutally effective fighting system ever seen."

Before explaining more about this system, here's how Jerry Peterson, the creator of this system, became the first — and only — civilian ever to standardize, license and teach a hand-to-weapon fighting system to the United States military.

In 1989, Naval Special Warfare Command (NSWC), the group which controls all SEAL activity, was looking for ways to standardize hand-to-weapon 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 1 full 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). As Vietnam vets, the SEAL officers figured Jerry at least would understand their needs.

Easily Defeats Decorated SEAL

But they were totally unprepared for what happened. 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!

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.

Officially Required SEAL Training

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 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).

□ In Europe Jerry challenged a deployed SEAL 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 showed it was no trick — simply physics, and easily learned).

Today all SEALS use these scientific techniques and many more. Since 1989, Navy SEALS go through a minimum of 40 and up to 600 rigorous hours of Jerry Peterson's training prior to deployment (often in intense, 24-hour a day sessions).

Top Government Officials Amazed

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).

Devastating Power Gives You An Unfair Advantage

In his HCS video course Jerry Peterson introduced you to his revolutionary system.

Now, with the publication of Jerry Peterson's SCAR-HCS Hand-To-Weapon fighting system, Jerry leads you into the never-before-seen world of brutal, no-holds-barred gun, knife and club fighting — material you've never seen (unless you were in elite Special Operation forces).

You'll learn the same hand-to-weapon techniques, the same mental approaches, the same "kill" sets Jerry developed for over 200 SEAL SCARS instructors. (These SCARS instructors now teach this system to all branches of the military Spec Op forces — Army, Navy and Air Force).

You'll know how to defeat, seriously disable and, when necessary, kill anyone threatening your life or the life of a loved one or friend!

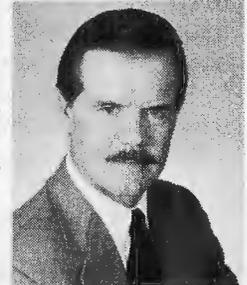
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Everything in his system was proven in the most intense war lab of the past 30 years — Vietnam!

But understand.

This is not a course to impress friends at your local Karate studio. The Instructor Qualification Series is Jerry Peterson's complete professional fighting system.

And professional fighting has but one objective: to defeat an attacker incredibly fast. In 29 years Jerry's longest fight lasted but 5 seconds!



Official SEAL SCARS-CFC
Creator Jerry Peterson

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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE 13

for a future issue was the story, "What the Hell! Let's Bomb the Palace: U.S. Soldiers of Misfortune Napalm Haiti." For 20 years I've looked for that article, and now [Oct. '95 *SOF*] you've finally published it! What will I have to look forward to now? Did you really know how far in the future you were talking about? I still have that flyer, my charter issue and every issue you have published since.

Larry D. Loper
Sugar Land, Texas

HAPPY 20TH, *SOF*

It's hard to believe that 20 years have passed since *SOF* #1. In those 20 years, *SOF* has demonstrated the highest ideals of journalism, kicked some serious ass, and never shrank from the truth. Robert K. Brown and the *SOF* staff do a first-rate job and should be proud of their efforts.

I'm proud to have con-

about anything, but only to congratulate you on 20 years of *Soldier Of Fortune*. I can't remember exactly when I started reading it; about a decade or so ago. My recollection is that I started because the liberal press was fulminating against it. I frequently use this as a guideline for action: When the liberal press badmouths it, I go for it! I subscribed to *SOF* with no expectation whatever of enjoying it — just that I thought that the liberals were giving you what our Jewish friends would call a *yenzing* without benefit of orgasm. Also, I was quite con-

haven't fired a weapon since WWII and probably won't fire any more, since I am 75. I hope that your

reading *SOF* since it first started 20 years ago. (Yes, my mother used to wonder about me. Now



writing continues as it is.
Murray C.
Zimmerman, M.D.
Whittier, California

ATF RAID VICTIM PREVAILS

Thank you for having us as guests in September at the *SOF* Convention in Las Vegas. *Soldier Of Fortune* was the first national publication to pick up on our story. [Aug. '94; "BAT 'F'-Troop Rides Again."] The articles, as written by Jim Pate, were not only positive, they were the truth. You folks scooped Night-

she thinks *SOF* is the only news source worth reading every month.) I've just won another court case against the government, with them awarding me some of the attorney's fees, and I'm appealing the civil case. I'm going to keep hammering these bastards until justice is done! With the help of *SOF* and folks like Jim Pate and Robert K. Brown, we will not fail.

Louie Katona III
Bucyrus, Ohio

FIRE OFF SOME FLAK

Send confidential documents, government secrets and your comments on how we're doing to *SOF*, c/o FLAK, PO Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306. Due to limited space we reserve the right to edit for content and brevity. Your letter will probably be shortened to fit available space. You can also E-mail us at: sfortune@usa.net. Netsurfers can visit our web page at: <http://www.stw.com/sof/sof.htm>



tributed a little and, on behalf of myself and I'm sure many others, thank *SOF* for the forum. *Dé Oppressô Libre!*

Jerry Sullivan
Shade, Ohio

I didn't write to bitch

vinced that anything as right-wing as this would be written by some ignorant buggers. To my amazement, all of the writing in *SOF* is extremely literate and grammatical. It is also a lot of fun to read, even though I

line, the CBS Evening News, the 700 Club, *Time* magazine, and other television and radio news shows, magazines and newspapers that I have been featured in. Of course, that isn't anything new for you. I've been



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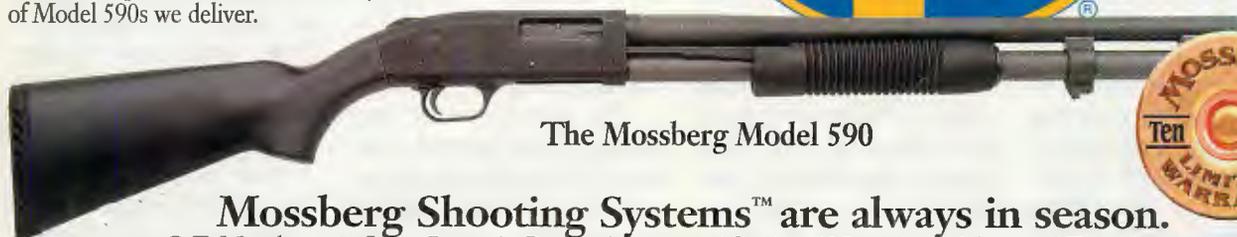
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I WAS THERE

Last Flight Of The Lucky Duck

by William R. Livingstone

To an audible groan from 350 flyers jammed at 0500 in the noisy, smoke-filled room, the briefing officer announced, "Gentlemen, at 1200 hours the 95th Bomb Group is going to bomb the oil refineries at Merseburg."

By late 1944 there was relatively little danger from the Luftwaffe; however, heavy anti-aircraft fire made Merseburg the most feared target in Germany. At first light our B-17 "big-ass bird," the Lucky Duck, roared down the runway and up into the constant English overcast. It was my first mission.

I sat on a little stool at the very front of the plane in the Plexiglas nose cone. I not only was the nose gunner, but also the "toggleier," the guy who flipped the toggle switch that dropped the bombs.

Shortly before noon I noticed a small, dark cloud directly ahead. Our pilot announced matter-of-factly over the intercom, "Flak at 12 o'clock."

The little cloud, rectangular and rapidly getting closer, was hundreds of puffs of black smoke: anti-aircraft shells exploding at our altitude and directly in our line of flight. I realized the entire 95th Bomb Group would have to fly

right through that wall of flak to get to the bomb-drop zone. Just before we actually entered the "cloud" our pilot announced, "Five minutes to bombs away." Then we were in it; black puffs of smoke were all around us.

The intercom crackled and I heard, "Pilot to

half tons lighter and I felt the release of gravity as if we had hit an air thermal. Our entire squadron immediately banked hard to starboard to escape the flak zone. We were out of it in less than 30 seconds, but I realized we were dropping away from the rest of our squadron.

called again. Still no answer. The tail gunner couldn't be seen by the closest crew members, the waist gunners, unless they crawled on their hands and knees back into the narrow tail section.

The pilot told one of our waist gunners, "Vinny, go back and see if he's all right."

"Roger," Vinny answered. He crawled back into the tail section. In about a minute he came back on the intercom and, in a strained voice, said, "Waist gunner to pilot: He's gone."

"What do you mean 'gone,' Vinny?" Vinny's voice cracked with emotion. "My God, man, he got hit by flak. He's dead!"

Our pilot came on again; with a steady voice he assured us. "Take it easy everybody. We're going to be OK."

Then again: "Attention crew. We've lost number one and number three." I quickly looked over at the number-one engine. The propeller was feathered and motionless. As I turned to look at number three, the pilot said, "They must have hit the hydraulic line. I can't feather number three. It's windmilling."

That was bad news. The windmilling propeller caused drag and further



Amid a blizzard of expertly placed flak, a B-17 Flying Fortress dumps a load of bombs on ██████ targets in Europe. Operating from bases in England, the U.S. 95th Bomb Group took a heavy toll on German industrial bases, but it paid a tremendous price: Each puff of smoke hides some 1,400 shell fragments. Escort fighters are visible, lower left.

Norm Taylor Collection

toggleier, open the bomb-bay doors." I flipped the door switch. After about 60 seconds I saw the smoke flare drop from the bomb bay of the lead plane. I put my finger on the bomb toggle switch.

Suddenly there they were, 10 bombs dropping from the belly of the lead plane. I flipped my toggle switch. The Lucky Duck instantly was two-and-a-

The Lucky Duck had suffered two engine hits. It slowly was sinking away from the rest of the squadron, falling farther and farther behind. *Those guys are flying home to England, I thought, but where are we going?*

Our pilot came on the intercom and started calling roll. Everyone answered until he called for the tail gunner. No answer. He

cut our air speed.

By this time we had dropped to about 5,000 feet. The pilot decided to lighten the load and instructed the ball-turret gunner to drop the belly-mounted apparatus. Unfortunately, he forgot to unscrew the electric cannon plug before he disconnected the mechanism that held the turret to the plane. As a result, when the turret fell the Lucky Duck's entire electric system shorted out. We could no longer communicate on the intercom or use the radio or electrically operated guns. Worse, superchargers on the two remaining engines now were inoperative.

The plane was about 2,000 pounds lighter, but without the superchargers it sank to 2,500 feet. The Duck's air speed dropped to about 100 miles an hour.

For a while we picked up a fighter escort of P-51s, but low on fuel, they had to head back to England. Shortly before 1400, our pilot spotted a small airstrip and decided it would be better to land and be taken prisoner than to take a chance on being shot down over the front lines. Ground fighting at that time was in Belgium and Holland.

When I realized that we were going to land, I signaled the navigator that the Norden bomb sight — a highly secret device — had to be destroyed. He agreed and signaled me to go back to the escape hatch at the rear of the nose section of the plane. He unbolted the bomb sight, handed it back to me, and I dropped it out the hatch.

As I crawled back toward the front of the nose section, over the roar of the engines I heard the navigator shout, "Bill!" I looked up and he pointed back behind me. I turned my head and saw our co-pilot crouch in front of the hatch door I'd just closed. He pulled the jettison handle and the hatch flew off. He rolled out head-first into thin air.

I had no idea what was going on, or why our co-pilot had bailed out. Without having time to be scared, I crawled back to the open hatch, crouched in front of it, then rolled out into thin air. Now I could

Continued on page 78

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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE Sweepstakes

HOT ROD HANDGUNS



SOF is giving away six custom and customized pistols in this year's Hot Rod Handgun Sweepstakes. First on the giveaway list is a hard-to-find, long-slide 9mm Glock 17L fitted with a TacStar universal pistol laser and high-capacity +2 magazine (holding 19 rounds total).

* Based on newsstand price of \$4.95. No purchase necessary to win

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 1 March, 1996. No entries will be accepted after this date. Winners will be selected by random drawing on 29 March, 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 dependent 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 January/February '96 Sweepstakes Winners List, c/o SOF, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306



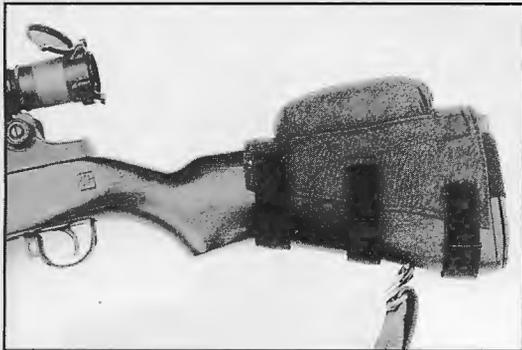
ADVENTURE QUARTERMASTER

SACC PAD

Although many battle rifles have the inherent accuracy to be worthy of scope sights, few are ergonomically right when a scope is simply mounted above or in place of the iron sights. The lace-on, leather cheek piece issued with the Garand M1C was a step in the right direction toward raising the shooter's line of sight to coincide with that of the scope — but of little use for those who fired from the starboard side of a rifle.

The SACC (Strap-on Ambidextrous Cheek Comb) raises the comb so the shooter can maintain a secure cheek weld while his eye is comfortably aligned with the scope.

The SACC mounts on the right or left side of the buttstock, quickly attaches with Velcro-type straps, and comes in three pad heights to fit a wide range of rifle/scope/shooter combinations. Made from Cordura nylon, the SACC is available in OD, black, dark brown and Real Tree camouflage. With a selection of three removable pad inserts the SACC costs



\$45.95; with only one it costs \$33.95; with a single, sewn-in pad it is only \$25.95. Add \$4.95 for postage and handling of whichever model you select. This is good, solid gear — something you'll be glad you installed with the first round you fire — and will economically interchange among your whole battery of rifles. In use with many police agencies, it currently is under evaluation within the military SpecOps community. Available from RJR Enterprises, Dept. SOF, 9 Cedar Drive, Plainview, NY 11803; phone: 516-349-7176.

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COLLECTING COUP

The first army to invade Russia following the collapse of the Soviet Union was a legion of carpetbaggers looking for cheap souvenirs. Since that time there has been exported an incredible array of the good, the busted, the semifunctional, the hazardous to your health and the cheapie, repro fakes. Finding "rare and wonderful goodies" required considerable gleaning from among what was being offered.

One company that has consistently done a good job of gleaning on behalf of the buyer is Sovietski Collection. The Soviets never



stinted on quality in production for the military, and Sovietski Collection has imported a number of high-quality surplus Soviet military items, particularly in the field of optics. To the benefit of American varmint hunters, photographers and bird-and-bikini watchers, they managed to secure the entire stock of original, variable-power (4X-20X) optical range finders, as formerly issued to Soviet SpecOps troops.

These are original Soviet issue — not "keep-on-turning-the-crank-Ivan-we'll-sell-it-for-dollars" repros. The units feature a prismatic lens system, fully coated optics, and ruggedized all-steel construction. The objective lens is 28mm. The units are serially numbered, come with an extra amber non-glare filter, a tripod adapter, two different mounting brackets and a GI carrying case. Original factory documents plus instructions in English accompany each unit. Featuring a horizontal reticle and range finder scales, these mil-spec scopes are 11-1/2 inches long fully extended, and weigh one pound. They cost \$149.95 and come with a one-year warranty. The Sovietski Collection has a very good line of quality surplus (particularly optics and timepieces), collectibles and, yes, some high-quality trinkets. Sovietski Collection, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 81347, San Diego, CA 92138-1347; phone: 800-442-0002; fax: 619-237-8010.

.....

TO SPITE THEIR FACE

A car is stolen every 20 seconds in America. (Not the heavens like *SOF* editors drive, of course, but good ones.) Anti-theft devices — all expensive — run the gamut from "clubs" to tracking devices, to bells/whistles/sirens that go off undisturbed at 0200 and goad your

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neighbors into early morning lynching parties.

Operating on the KISS (Keep It Simple, Stupid) principle, the Claw anti-theft device will stop a car thief dead in his tracks, by itself or in concert with whatever high-tech device you now have that might (or might not) work. A new iteration of the old caltrop used by saboteurs and humorists since the invention of the balloon tire, the Claw simply, discretely and quickly attaches to your tire so the thief gets a flat within a few seconds. Now, *he* has to walk home, and all it costs you is a few bucks to plug the neat holes punched in your tire. The only thing to forget during the use of this fail-proof device is to *take it off* when you get in the car, and the makers have that covered: A simple sleeve from the device transfers to your car key's shank when you install the device, to remind you to put it back in the glove box before you go. Simple, low tech, effective — we like it. Available from Grellco Inc., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 503, Cross River, NY 10528; phone 914-533-2059.

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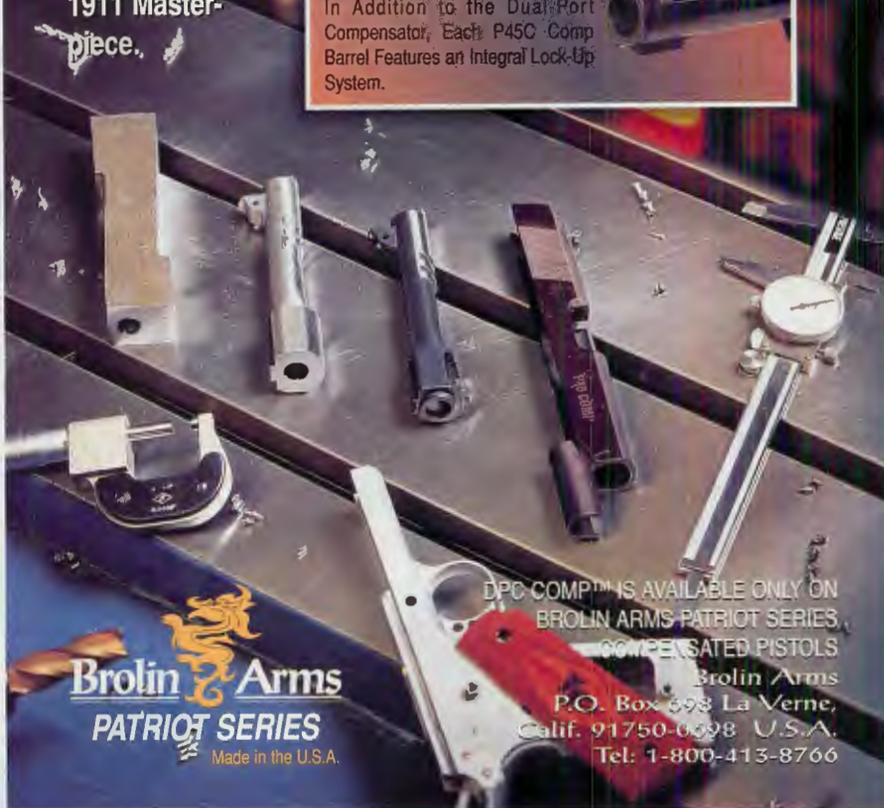
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WORLD SITREP

1

UNITED STATES

Navy reveals that Russia's *Improved Akula* ("Shark") class submarines, already at sea, are more quiet than U.S. *Improved Los Angeles*-class subs. The vaunted U.S. sonar cannot consistently track them.

Former Secretary of State Baker says U.S. threat to retaliate with nuclear or chemical weapons if Iraq used chemical or biological weapons during Gulf War, was a bluff: President Bush already had decided not to use weapons of mass destruction.

2

RUSSIA

Russian tactical helicopter fleet will be combat-ineffective within 10 years and fighter force may not be far behind. Helicopter force, for years short-changed on training and maintenance, is expected to fund Chechen War out of its existing budget — not only wiping out all funding for parts, upgrades and training, but burning out dozens of aircraft.

Government faces major problem with illegal Chinese immigration. Tens of thousands of Chinese have walked across border and established entire villages, complete with local defense militias.

Kola power station cut off electricity to Russian naval base at Murmansk for not paying its bills. When lack of electricity caused nuclear reactors to overheat, armed sailors forced plant to restore power.

6

ANGOLA

South African (SA) investigation shows that SA military helped UNITA rebels sell ivory to buy weapons. President dos Santos "declares war" on diamond smugglers who receive much of the profits from gem sales. UNITA denounces this as ploy to send troops into area now held by rebels; government plans to use new unit of 1,000 SA mercenaries for this mission.

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LIBERIA

Warlord Taylor triumphantly returns to Monrovia to take his place on new ruling council; vows to run in '96 presidential elections. Taylor invites ECOMOG peacekeeping forces to move into his headquarters stronghold of Gbarnga. Nigerian officials call for more peacekeeping troops. Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso offer peacekeepers; both secretly backed Taylor for years.

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BURMA

Karen rebels finish a 10-day congress with promise to work with the government for peace, but warn that government must address their political concerns to end war. Padaung ethnic group (an offshoot of the Karens) flees its settlements to avoid government order to move into special villages set up as tourist attractions.

12

SRI LANKA

Army launches another large operation comprising two brigades moving north from Palaly air base. Intelligence reports show that LTTE planned to rent or hijack a small plane from Colombo airport and drop bombs on parliament's building.

13

CAMBODIA

Government troops surround a group of Khmer Rouge — possibly including General Nuon Paet, wanted for murder of Western hostages last year. U.N. observers doubt the government can defeat KR in the west because road from Battambang to Pailin is inadequate to support major forces.

3

TURKEY

Kurdish sniper kills Colonel Ridvan Ozden, head of police in Madrin province. Actions continue against PKK rebels in Tunceli province and southeast Turkey.

4

COLOMBIA

General Alvaro Valencia Hurtado is relieved of command (3rd brigade, Cali) and dismissed from the army — the first Colombian general ever fired for human-rights violations.

5

EGYPT

Officials claim to have proof from Ethiopia that Sudan was behind attack on President Mubarak and that three surviving hit men are in Sudan. They demand Sudan turn them over and remove all terrorist bases from its soil.

Members of parliament who hold automatic-weapons permits for self-defense complain that Interior Minister Hassan el-Alfi's attempt to cancel them under his new "no one is above the law" policy forces them to give up their security.

8

MALTA

Parliament turns down contract to refit two U.S. Navy supply ships because its constitution prohibits American and Russian warships from entering its harbors.

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9

SPAIN

Investigators search for documents proving that Spanish CESID intelligence conducted a secret, illegal "dirty war" (using Israeli and Argentine techniques) against Basque ETA terrorist group with Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez's knowledge.

10

PANAMA

Military assumes control of former U.S. forts Davis and Espinar. Government agrees to discuss whether some U.S. forces should stay after last facilities are turned over in 2000.

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SIERRA LEONE

RUF rebels request talks with civilian groups to end civil war, then attack three towns killing 100 people, shocking the government.

15

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AFGHANISTAN

Taleban MiG forces an Afghan 727 airliner to land in Kandahar; was released two days later. A Russian plane was forced down weeks earlier.

6

12

15

SOMALIA

Aidid's forces, comprising 600 troops with 30 "technicals" (gun trucks), seize Baidoa — his first significant military move since losing Kismayu in 1993. Libya becomes first country to recognize Aidid's government; offers him military aid.

17

17

SOUTH AFRICA

Police suspect a recent murder of a military-intelligence officer was fifth in a series of professional killings related to an underground network dealing in "red mercury," the secret Russian substance that supposedly makes nuclear weapons more effective.

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 \$70 per year (26 issues), \$74.38 in Texas. Sample issue available for \$3. Those interested in reliable, up-to-date world intel are encouraged to subscribe.

SLICK WILLIE WATCH



The pitiable little republic of Haiti has never in its history known a working democracy, yet one of Slick's proudest accomplishments is that he "restored democracy" when he restored Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power. Just what sort of man Aristide is and what his return to power represents for Haiti have been questioned before in these pages.

And what Aristide and his party think and say about their chief sponsor in Washington is worth exploring.

A fascinating report by *The Washington Inquirer's* A.B. Schreiber appeared in the *Aida Parker Newsletter* and was reprinted in *The Resister*. What the restored, Haitian power elite has to say about Clinton would be incredibly bizarre if removed from context. Within the Haitian context, however, nothing is too bizarre.

In an aberrant nation where witch doctors swing more weight than blue-ribbon think tanks do in the United States, the

common folks are being given some mind-boggling explanations of how Clinton managed to beat Bush at the polls. According to Schreiber's report, Haitians are told that, acting on the counsel of a voodoo *houngan* (sorcerer) supplied by then-exiled Haitian President Aristide, Clinton did not change his underwear for the last week of the campaign. (We are not making this up.)

Bush's Barf: Voodoo Hex?

The same *houngan* also cast a "malediction" on Bush using the obligatory voodoo doll. The torment climaxed when the *houngan* induced Bush to vomit in the lap of the Japanese prime minister in front of the world's news cameras, thus publicly disgracing himself. Such reports are brought to the Haitian electorate through *Lavalassien*, a paper published by Aristide's ruling party. The stories are penned by Rev. Gerard



This editorial comment, in artifactual form, was seen hanging beneath the wing of a T-28 at the 1995 air show in Hayward, California.

Julio Montes

Jean-Juste, a priest and a member of Aristide's presidential entourage.

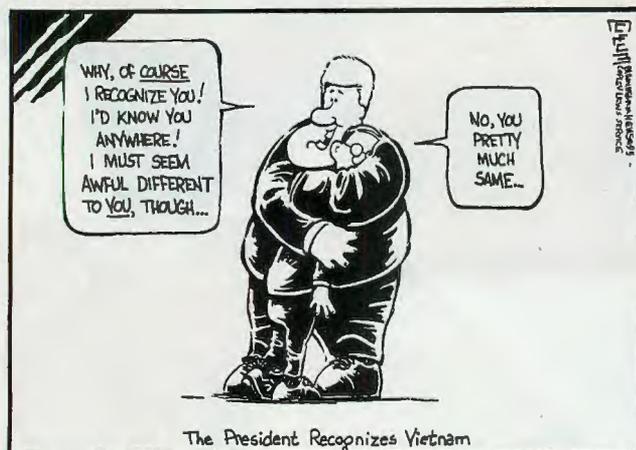
Gerard also asserts that Aristide now enjoys a permanent grip on Clinton's psyche through the influence of voodoo. Although this might bring snickers in Peoria, bear in mind that in Port-au-Prince the belief in voodoo and witchcraft among the largely illiterate citizens is very important; polls put the number of voodoo disciples as high as 85%, even among the educated. *Houngans* enjoy a status in the Haitian capital equal to psychiatrists and coke dealers in Washington, D.C.

As grotesque as they are, claims by Aristide's party about the importance of voodoo in the 1992 election and its claimed hold on Clinton are important because officials in Aristide's government accept them matter-of-factly. This voodoo scenario is a classic example of how, in a Third World country, what the populace accepts as the truth is often more important than the truth itself. In this instance, it helps explain why Aristide is able

to keep an emotional grip on the Haitian masses and why he felt he could repudiate the promises he made to hold national elections, which he gave in return for Clinton's help in regaining office.

According to stories in *Lavalassien*, Clinton campaign staffers first got the idea of using voodoo during conversations with Aristide, who then was living in luxurious exile in Washington. The plan was to learn what the future held for candidate Clinton, and to cast spells to influence the election. In return for what Gerard characterized as a "large sum of money," a *houngan* was retained by the Clinton campaign to cast such spells, and a *wanga* (malediction) was cast on Bush to ensure his defeat. And as the story goes, Clinton agreed to facilitate the program by wearing the same pair of skivvies during the last week of the election. Keep in mind this *is not* what we think is true, it merely is what Clinton's Haitian proteges say is true.

Schreiber further reports that Haitian officials now are saying that



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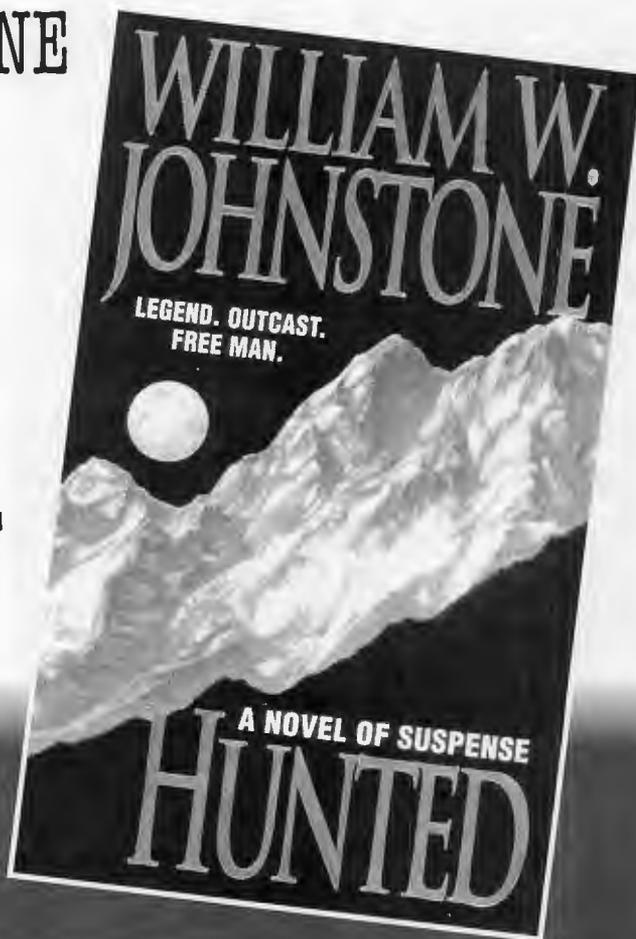
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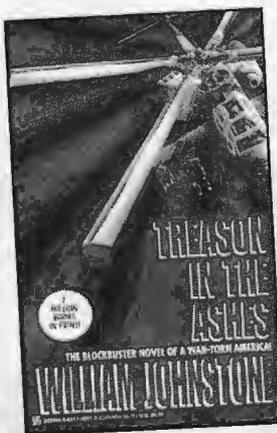
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Clinton reaffirmed his faith in voodoo during his 31 March visit, the stated purpose of which was to celebrate Haiti's supposed "return to democracy." This reaffirmation of faith, they allege, was to guarantee that Clinton would be impervious to Republican attacks and to further guarantee his re-election.

Although it was widely publicized in the Haitian press, the American press ignored Aristide's announcement earlier this year that he had renounced the Catholic church (in which he had once been a priest before he was defrocked) and was returning to the voodoo faith of his ancestors. In the days prior to Clinton's visit to Haiti, many occult preparations were laid, not only to grant Clinton power over the challenges of his presidency but also to give Aristide the power to con-

tinue to control Clinton.

One account circulating in Haiti — too incredibly bizarre to possibly be true, but accepted as true by the locals — is that in dedicating a voodoo shrine prior to Clinton's visit, Aristide "shed the blood of a newborn infant in gratitude to the gods whom he believes allowed his return to power," Schreiber's report states. In the days just before Clinton's visit this shrine became the scene of eerie, nightly voodoo ceremonies, of drums and incantations conducted by Aristide's voodoo experts as the site was further empowered and sanctified.

A number of persons in voodoo circles close to Aristide assert that Clinton's will now is permanently enslaved to that of Aristide — a zombie slave as it were — and that Clinton can never

again resist any demands made upon him by the Haitian president.

Oh really? Not for a *moment* would we question the veracity of the Haitian press, and *certainly* not that of a statesman on the order of Aristide, but we doubt that Hillary would have given Bill permission to become enslaved.

Although we cannot speak for the individual leanings of Clintonista staffers, we seriously doubt that the president has any inclinations whatsoever toward voodoo — he doesn't even like "voodoo economics." And since his early benefactor Don Tyson has been very public in his displeasure with the way this administration has turned out, and is donating tens of thousands to the campaigns of Republican presidential hopefuls, we doubt if Clinton would even be able

to get a good ol' boy price on chicken blood.

In other words, what the Haitian press and Aristide's party have to say about Clinton may not have a speck of truth in it, but it is important what they have to say because Aristide is a Clinton protege. When the Clinton administration vetted and gave U.S. diplomatic and military backing to the restoration of the Aristide regime, it did so against the better advice of those who knew this madman and what he stood for. But the intellectual arrogance of this administration knows no bounds: They know best. (They must have thought they could keep Aristide on his lithium pills.)

It will be interesting to see how the Clinton administration handles restoring a madman to power. We just hope it doesn't entail the sacrifice of U.S. troops. ✕

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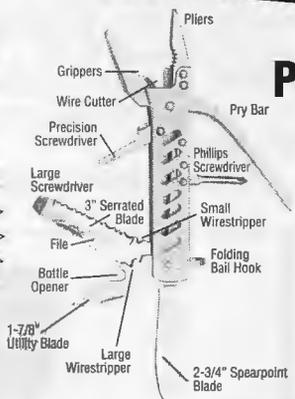
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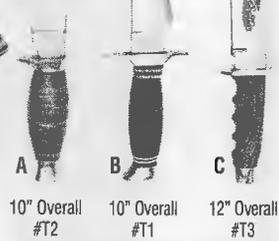
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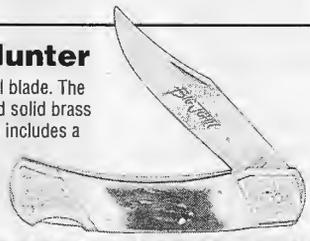
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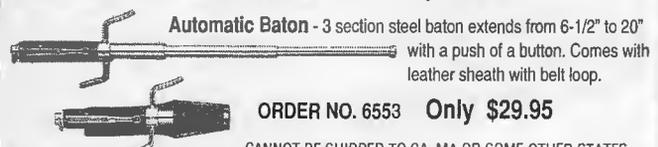
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COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

Hostiles At Gun Point

by Gabriel Suarez

Armed with your firearm, you investigate a strange noise late one night. And there he is: an intruder in *your* home.

You've remembered your training and used good tactics while confronting this threat. You were prepared to shoot him, but the circumstances did not justify it. Now you're holding the intruder at gun point. What do you do next?

A fundamental and sobering point I want to make at the outset is this: You do not point guns at people unless you are fully prepared and willing to kill them if they react aggressively.

The legal and moral issues of each situation will determine whether there is a need to shoot.

If you cannot justify whatever actions are necessary, it's best not to engage the intruder in the first place.

If the situation demands you shoot in the protection of your life, do what you must and then call the police. Hopefully, though, you will be handling a hostile at gun point

in a no-shoot scenario. In this case, there are three things you need to do.

First: Establish scene dominance (stabilize the situation).

Second: Disarm the

aggressor. In a face-to-face encounter, the one who moves first may be the one who wins. This holds true until you interject such variables as surprise, cover, distance, and darkness. This

is *your* home, your private turf; use these variables to your advantage. Doing so will impede the aggressor's ability to react to your presence, and can minimize your exposure to his weapon. And he, in turn, already will be "under the gun."

Because you are the one initiating the confrontation, you are in a position to dictate the circumstances of engagement (as opposed to being surprised and having to counterattack immediately).

This means that you can move to a covered position *before* announcing yourself. If possible, always approach from behind. Try to maximize your distance from the danger while still remaining close enough to handle the situation.

Once you are behind cover and have the muzzle of your weapon

covering the target, you can issue a verbal challenge to the hostile. Remember, this is a "no-shoot" situation; if you were in imminent danger you simply would shoot him.

But keep in mind there is no guarantee he will comply with your orders. Even if he initially complies, he may hope to turn the tables. Or he might just as soon turn and shoot at the source of the sound. In either case, your no-shoot situation has dissolved. Shoot him before he completes his turn or makes any other movement that will bring his weapon to bear on you.

But if the confrontation remains "no-shoot," just what do you say to the man in your sights? Before selecting your prose, consider the following: Talking and shooting at the same time is *very difficult*. Do not try to start a dialogue with the thug; not only would this distract you, but most crooks are poor conversationalists anyway. If he does begin to talk, order him to be silent. If he persists, you can't simply shoot him — but be ready for the move he's trying to conceal with his words.

Avoid using empty threats or colorful, gutter language. Strong voice and command presence will do more for you than foul words. Similarly, avoid the use of cowardly phrases like, "Don't



Once you have a hostile at gun point, it's vital to establish scene dominance and dictate the circumstances of the encounter.

Louis Averbuck

aggressor.

Third: Secure the aggressor.

The way to establish scene dominance is to get to a position from which you can bring effective fire on the target without exposing yourself to possible incoming fire. This means using cover. *Cover is critical*. One easily can gen-

make me shoot you." This is no time for spinelessness. Order; don't request!

There is another school of thought that advocates being "vague." It suggests phrases like "I'll take appropriate action" instead of just telling him you'll kill him if he doesn't obey. Being vague in this situation is wrong: It requires the use of too many words, and might imply you have not already decided on a firm course of action. I have seen many people held at gun point; you get much more compliance by being clear and forceful. The order you give to alter his behavior must be clear if you expect compliance.

Keep your words short and simple with hard consonants and few syllables. Make use of forceful orders — not wimpy requests. It is not, "Hold it?" It is, "Hold it!" Other good commands are "Stop!"; "Don't move!"; and, "Halt!" Do not at first use a command that orders movement. If you do, the thug probably will feign initial compliance only to take an aggressive posture while you wait for him to obey your orders.

Also consider the fact that English might not be the predominant language in some urban areas. A master's degree in linguistics is not necessary, but a few properly memorized words and phrases might be useful. Avoid slang or ambiguous language. (Remember the Louisiana case? An armed homeowner told a foreign-exchange student, who was lost and looking for a Halloween party, to "freeze." The student didn't understand — and died needlessly.)

Your next step is to disarm the aggressor if there is any weapon in evidence. It is best to do this from behind, but sometimes you cannot choose your position. If he has a gun in his belt or elsewhere, don't let his hands go near it. If he has a gun in his hands, don't order him to drop it. Have him take his finger off the trigger and place the gun on the floor s-l-o-w-l-y. This is done before anything else, even if he is facing you. Be prepared to shoot him if he starts to bring the muzzle toward you.

Continued on page 80

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South African mercenary pilots recruited by the Pretoria-based company Executive Outcomes (EO), presently also engaged in a guerrilla war in Sierra Leone, broke the impasse in the 20-year civil war in Angola in 1994.

Flying a variety of Russian aircraft for their former enemy, the Marxist MPLA government in Luanda, they succeeded in forcing the rebel leader of the Unita guerrilla movement, Jonas Savimbi, to the negotiating table. Peace accords were signed in

For much of the campaign, South African pilots — many of whom formerly had flown Mirage, Buccaneer and Impala jets and Puma and Alouette helicopters — were involved in a deadly struggle with Unita troops in the jungles, savannas, settlements, diamond workings and towns of northern Angola. Some of

has seized numerous tactical advantages. It is no secret that even today they dominate all activity in about 90% of the country.

By all accounts, the last stage of the Angolan war was a brutal, uncompromising struggle. The few South African mercenaries who were taken prisoner (there were captures on both sides) were summarily shot. Others were tortured and left to die.



Unita may control large blocks of real estate but the air belongs to Angolan government. Angolan air force MiG-23 (one of three made available to South African mercs) lands at Saurimo after a sortie against Unita rebels.

**YOU BUY,
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November 1994.

Externally, Unita still is supported by numerous governments — Morocco and Zaire immediately come to mind — that traditionally have opposed the Marxist regime in Luanda. Israel also is said to have had a hand in keeping supplies flowing to the Unita rebels. More salient, however, is that as of October 1995, Unita once again was recruiting mercenaries. A return to hostilities seems likely.

This course of events has proved ironic because since the mid-70s South Africa had been Savimbi's closest ally. Many of the pilots flying against Unita in the final stages of the civil war previously had provided air support against the same Angolan government that is now paying their salaries. Veterans now fighting on opposite sides in Angola had formerly served in the same special-forces units in the South African military!

the South African pilots were now flying MiG-23 fighter bombers. Others flew Russian helicopters: Mi-17 "Hip" transports in air-mobile and search-and-rescue missions.

Curiously though, most of the high-performance aircraft sent against the Unita rebels were eclipsed in counterinsurgency and unconventional operations by a small, turboprop trainer: the two-seater, Swiss Pilatus PC-7. The PC-7s were fitted with four underwing rocket pods, which proved particularly effective against targets in the heavy jungle.

Still, though Angolan air force planes flown by EO pilots dominated the sky and the government managed to hold many of the towns in the disputed northern regions, Unita controls just about everything else and



Since their deaths never have been confirmed by either side, it has not been possible to inform their families of their fate. They simply have been listed as "missing." So far 17 EO operators are listed as killed or missing. Many more have been wounded.

SAM Targets

Unita has little air support apart from one or two French helicopters, possibly from the Zairean air force,

that are mainly used to haul supplies and evacuate casualties. However, the rebels made up for their shortcomings by acquiring a large arsenal of hand-held, surface-to-air missiles, including Russian SA-7s, -14s and -16s and, initially, American Stingers. These missiles took a steady toll.

During the last months of the war, in

delivery of eight new Mi-24 gun ships at a price believed to be around \$5 million each. When war erupted again in 1992, Unita troops destroyed almost all of them.

Mortars wrecked many precious aircraft. Attacks on airports held by the Angolan army, the *Forças Armadas Angolanas* (FAA), knocked out several American-made C-130s and Russian Antonov-12 transports. At

passengers and crew. Another incident involved a Boeing 727 flying for the Angolan government. It was hit in the starboard engine by a Russian-made SAM while flying over Malange in the central region. The pilot managed to bring it down safely, but the jet was a write-off. Before that, a Stinger or an SA-16 slammed into an An-12 preparing to land at Saurimo. The crippled aircraft crash-

landed within sight of the town. The Russian crew members were able to walk away from the wreck, but two of them were killed shortly afterward while attempting to cross a mine field.

Executive Outcomes' Mercs & MiGs Turn Tide In Angola

by Al J. Venter

Photos courtesy author

Mortars, Raids And Tactics

EO's mercenary air force has also suffered from raids. In a night attack in early 1994, on the diamond center of Saurimo, a Unita commando group slipped onto the military airfield after dark and blew up an Mi-17 helicopter with RPG fire. Another was disabled with automatic-weapons fire. An EO officer, Blackie Swart, was killed in subsequent house-clearing operations before the rebels were driven off.

Unquestionably, Unita has proven a formidable adver-

sary. It has shown itself to be a resilient guerrilla force with a depth of tactical command. Rebel cadres have the ability to maintain good discipline under fire.

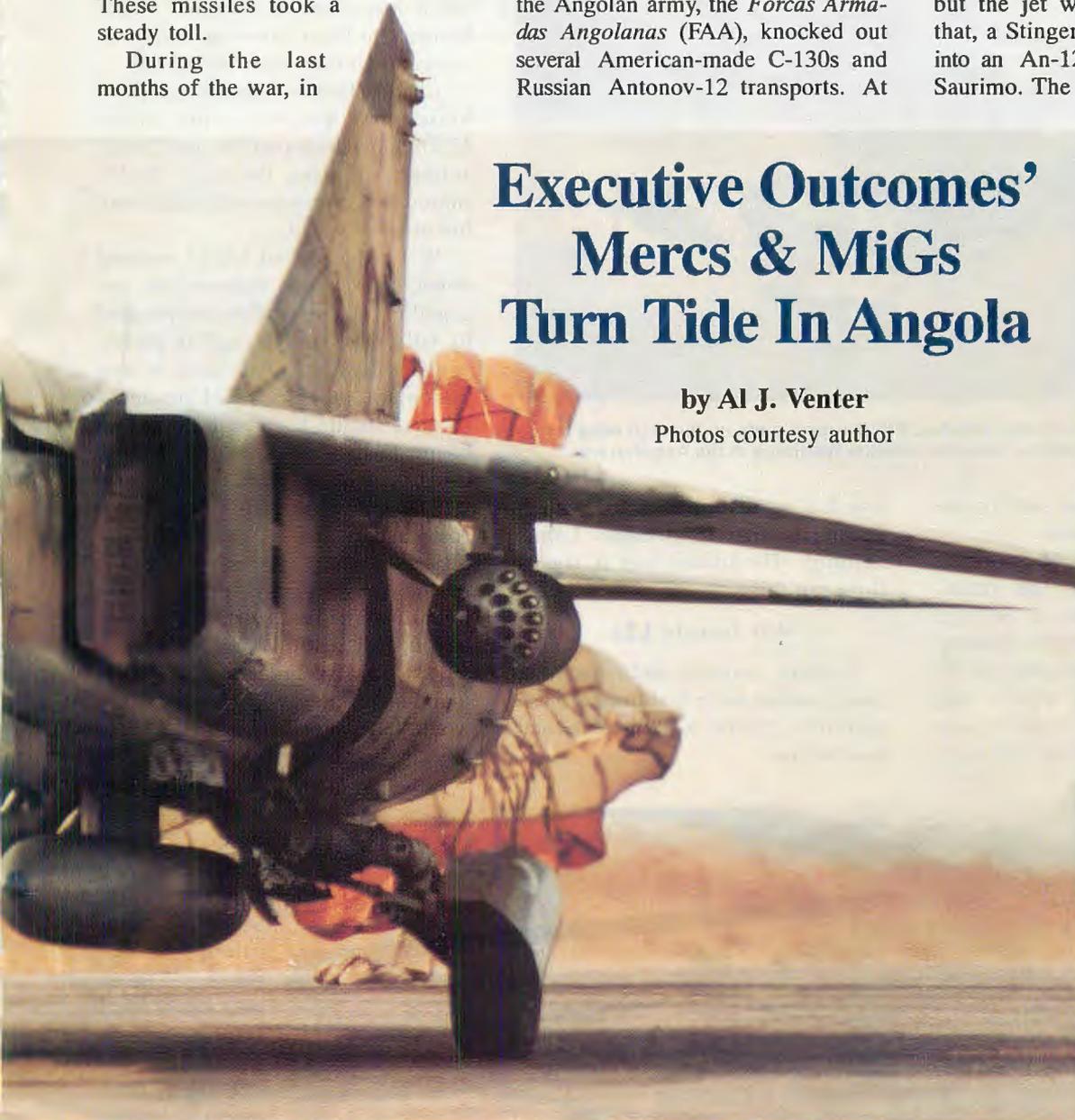
The Unita campaign throughout has been characterized by a determined and consistent harassment of government and mercenary camps, road columns and field units. They've thrown everything possible at the government troops: direct frontal attacks, ambushes, stand-off bombardments

late 1994, a Unita SA-14 gunner shot down an Angolan air force PC-7 ground-attack fighter. Although the crew survived, they were caught and presumed killed on the ground by Unita troops within sight of their rescue chopper, an Mi-17 flown by Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Walker and Carl Alberts.

Numerous Angolan government and other aircraft were destroyed or damaged by Savimbi's men during the war. In the early '90s Luanda took

at least one Ilyushin-76 transport was damaged in a rocket attack. In another incident, a Sukhoi-22 jet was hit by ground fire over Huambo after pulling out of a close-air support strike. The Angolan air force pilot was rescued.

And combat aircraft were not the only targets of antiaircraft fire. A King Air passenger plane was brought down by a missile over the diamond center of Cafunfo; shrapnel fragments killed and wounded several of the





Swiss-built Pilatus PC-7 trainers, with two SNEB rocket pods under each wing for close-support bush operations, have become the Warthogs of the Angolan war.

by artillery and mortars and an untold number of night raids.

At one stage, Savimbi's forces managed to overrun the main, Angolan oil installations at Soyo in the northwest corner of the country. Special-forces units attached to EO dislodged Unita forces after a succession of fierce battles in which both sides took casualties. The EO force

was led by a former major with 5 Reconnaissance, Commander Lafras Luitingh. He admits that it was a close-run thing.

Hot Jungle LZs

Courage, coolness and tenacity in close combat were features of these hostilities. Pilots, too, distinguished themselves.

In one incident early last year at Camaxilo, a group of about 40 Angolan soldiers under EO leadership were delivered by two Mi-17s within a few miles of a Unita stronghold that they intended to mortar. The entire operation should have taken less than 10 minutes. Unbeknownst to them, however, there was a second Unita force near the LZ.

Charlie Tate and Sonny Janecke's helicopter quickly came under 12.7mm machine-gun fire and "Juba" Joubert, piloting the lead Mi-17, sensed real problems and lifted away his original squad.

When the second Mi-17 touched down, its security element was engaged in a vicious battle complicated by tall grass, six feet high in places, which badly obstructed vision. As was customary, the four PKM machine-gunners should have been the last to board. In the confusion, the chopper lifted off without them.

The entire operation was under command of one of the senior EO officers circling overhead in a PC-7. In the subsequent enquiry, it was found that the first squad that landed had, in fact, heard voices but did not report it. Had they done so, the commander in the PC-7 immediately would have aborted the mission. It is not clear whether it was a linguistic failure or just bad communications.

Much of the EO's early work, according to another former recce commander, Colonel Duncan Rykaart, involved destroying and disrupting enemy



In EO actions in Sierra Leone, Russian Mi-24 "Hind" attack choppers have proved to be tough and deadly, mounting a variety of ordnance including (inset) a four-barreled 12.7 mm machine gun and 1,300 rounds of ammo.

command-and-control centers in regions where rebels were active. This usually was handled in association with FAA troops. Small, long-range penetration groups would be dropped by helicopter and picked up later at predesignated LZs.

Unita's economic assets in particular were targeted. Savimbi still has access to many rich diamond fields and while Unita lacks the oil money of the central government, it uses precious stones to fund its extended campaigns.

Heavily Guarded Rocks

An example of Unita's tenacity came during the



courtesy Anthony C. LoBeido

Neil Bezuidenhout (left) during happier times. He is one of the EO mercs who has met an uncertain fate after being captured by Unita troops during a behind-the-lines operation.

deployment of two four-man reconnaissance "sticks" dropped off near the Cafunfo diamond fields west of Saurimo. These diamond deposits, among the richest in the world, were held by Unita.

One stick, dropped six or seven miles from the town of Cuango, disappeared and was never heard from again. The second stick quickly became aware that a Unita unit was on its tail. They were being resolutely tracked, even at night with torches. The recce team could have managed an ambush but they were heavily outnumbered. As distances between Unita pursuers and the infiltrators shrank, the EO team radioed for chopper extraction. They were then close to the village of Sacassambia.

EO policy in these matters is clear: The men in its recce squads are highly experienced; if they ask to be taken out, it is assumed that the situation is

critical. Such a request is never taken lightly.

An Mi-17 left Saurimo, in the dark, at four the next morning. It arrived over the designated LZ before first light, but a heavy mist blanketed the terrain. That, and the lack of night-vision goggles on board, forced the crew to

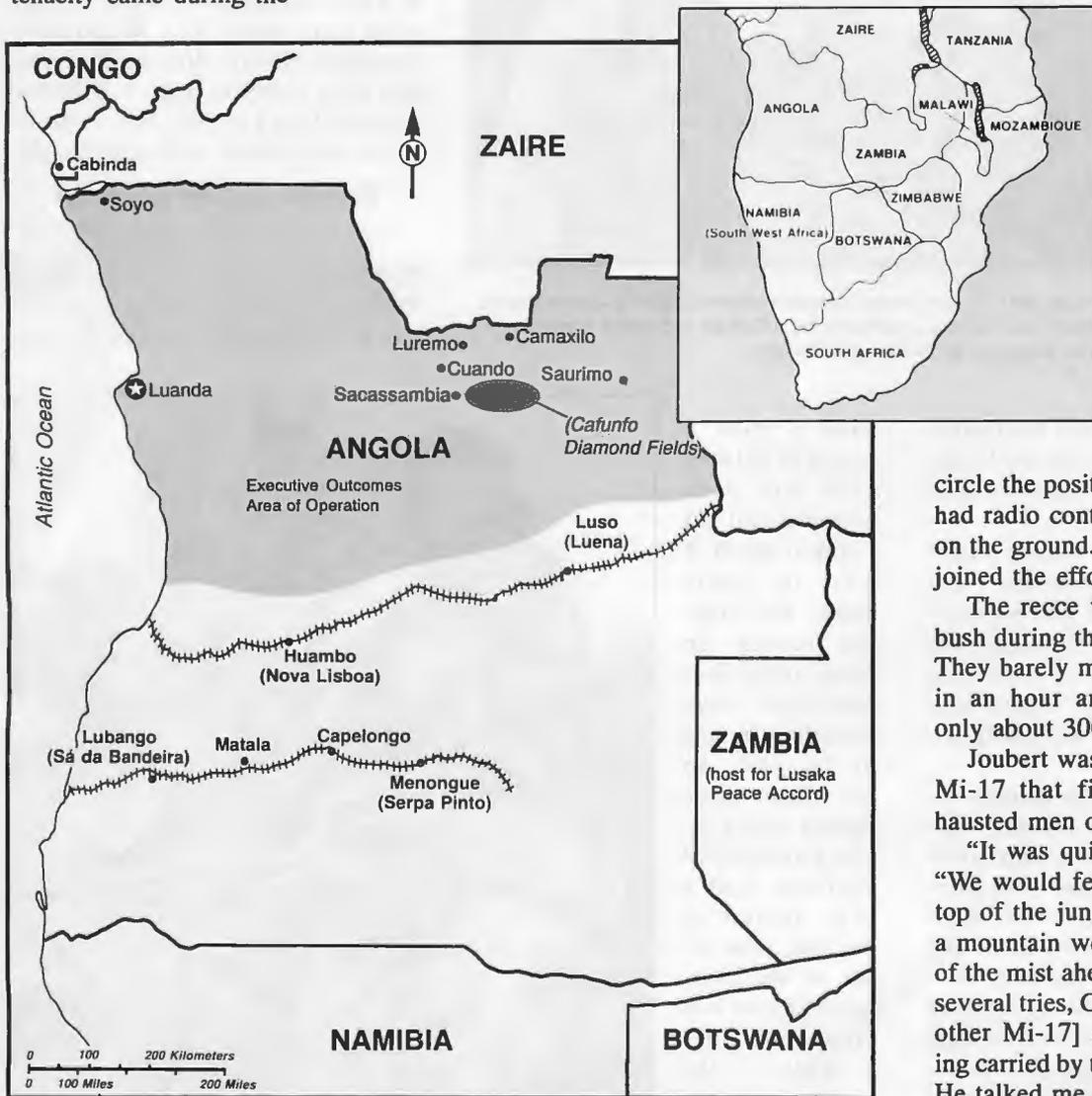
circle the position. All the while they had radio contact with the four men on the ground. A second Mi-17 soon joined the effort.

The recce team's progress in the bush during the night had been slow. They barely managed a quarter mile in an hour and Unita troops were only about 300 yards behind.

Joubert was at the controls of the Mi-17 that finally hauled the exhausted men out.

"It was quite hairy," he recalled. "We would feel our way across the top of the jungle and then suddenly a mountain would kind of grow out of the mist ahead of us. Finally, after several tries, Charlie [Tate, flying the other Mi-17] spotted the strobe being carried by the boys on the ground. He talked me down."

The hillside sloped left to right. The jungle in that area was almost



The tides of war and international politics change, but Angola's oil and diamonds continue to fuel a struggle for their control.

impenetrable. The recce team, under the command of Simon Witherspoon, had reached a small clearing, but it wasn't large enough for the rotors of the Mi-17. Joubert went ahead anyway. His rotors carved a passage through the bush — then hit a big tree.

"The blades took a lot of damage," Joubert said. "But by then we were six feet above the ground and the boys were able to get on board. It was the first time a hot extraction of

Much has been made of the four-man recce squad that disappeared. Their families have tried to trace them on both sides of the front, with no success. After the signing of the Lusaka Peace Accord, EO went to considerable lengths to find out what had happened to these men. EO officials questioned civilians as well as Unita POWs after Cafunfo had been taken. Nothing of value emerged.

Of others who had disappeared or been killed during the war, there were

that he had been in Cafunfo at the time. He added, "We had so many men on the ground that if your recce troops had stopped to relieve themselves in the bush, they would probably have pissed on one of my men hiding in the jungle."

It has been asked, repeatedly, why were the two recce teams dropped so close to a major Unita concentration. It had been obvious for some time that the Cafunfo diamond fields were Unita's biggest source of revenue; they certainly would have been well protected.

The reasons are basic: First, the Angolan army needed information about access to the region; the army with EO support was moving toward Cafunfo with a sizable strike force of BMP combat vehicles. While the EO recce team was on a non-contact assignment, they carried weapons for their own protection. Also, they had to have enough food to survive for what could have been an extended operation. To have dropped them farther away from the target would have required their carrying heavier loads — an impossibility in the thick jungle.

Painful Lesson Learned

The tragic mistake was not repeated later when a team was dropped north of Luremo, another diamond-rich town along the Cuango River to



Times change: While serving with South Africa's crack reconnaissance commandos, Major (then captain) Wynand du Toit was captured by a Cuban-led strike force in Cabinda; now he trains the Angolan army he once fought.

this nature had ever been attempted, but the situation was desperate. Unita, at the end, was only a few minutes behind."

"On lift-off, the helicopter began to shake violently. I knew that I had to land," he continued. "I flew a short distance, spotted what I thought was a clearing alongside a river and brought her down. We landed in a swamp. My tail boom was partly under water!"

Having inspected the damage — with Tate's chopper still circling overhead — and deciding that they could make it back to base about 180 miles away, Joubert and the crew set about extricating the machine from mud and water. It took awhile, but they were successful. "We had to fly back at low speed. Anything over 100 mph and the chopper would start to vibrate almost uncontrollably. We were also helped by the fact that we had a comparatively light load."

some details; a couple of EO men even had been hospitalized at Cafunfo when it was in Unita hands. But nothing turned up about these four individuals. Then, according to one of the pilots, an EO officer made contact with a senior Unita official who was with a U.N. mission in the area. The issue of the missing four men was raised.

While the Unita man remained noncommittal, he did say



Angolan soldier with Soviet PKM deploys on back of army truck; troops trained or re-trained by EO are combat worthy.



Clusters of BMP-2 combat vehicles comprise airport defense at Saurimo. They are still in place despite a ceasefire and widely used by South African mercs. AGS-17 30mm grenade launcher (inset) and automatic cannon are a good combination in the bush, where terrain allows track-layers.

Saurimo at the small town of Xinge. The command post lay just north of the strategic crossroads of Cacolo.

The Mi-17s landed two EO mortar sections a few miles to the east of Xinge. The intention was to spend the night in the area and lay an ambush and then mortar the Unita HQ. But they scarcely had touched down before movement was observed in the bush nearby. A battle erupted.

EO suffered its first casualty of the war when one of Rykaart's men, Pollie van Rooyen — formerly of 4

the north of Cafunfo.

Before the Cafunfo center was captured, Unita regularly flew C-130 and DC-6 transports carrying men as well as weapons and equipment — most of it out of Zaire — to Luremo's airstrip. The EO squad was to take up position in the jungle to the north of Luremo and try to shoot down one of the Unita supply planes that came in almost daily. They deployed with their own hand-held, Russian SAMs. But as one of the senior EO officers put it: "We were always in the wrong place at the right time. We missed them a dozen times. It was very close."

The first phase of disruption and dislocation by EO began early in 1994 in Lunda Norte province. Saurimo then came under the command of a former commanding officer of a South African re-

connaisance commando, Colonel (Angolan) Duncan Rykaart. He applied the same principles he previously had followed for years while at war *against* the government in Angola.

His first disruption effort was against a Unita HQ to the west of

Recce Commando — almost had his leg blown off. Keeping the Unita squad at bay, the EO troops mortared Xinge, called in air strikes and successfully medevaced their wounded man.

Continued on page 68



Angolan government's special-forces unit was trained by EO and has proved itself competent and capable.

courtesy Anthony C. LaBardo

It would

be as easy as A,B,C, a British gunner with the United Nations Rapid Reaction Force (RRF) in Bosnia bragged. "The Serb bastards simply provide us with a reason, we target them, and before they get a chance to say 'what the fuck,' the 105s turn 'em into spaghetti and meatballs."

Fewer words were ever as prophetic as those spoken that second Sunday in August, when *SOF* paid a visit to the RRF's gun scrapes high atop Mount Igman, overlooking Sarajevo.

Less than 10 days later, after a Bosnian Serb mortar attack left 38 civilians dead near Sarajevo's main marketplace, the RRF guns,



British 19 Regiment Royal Field Artillery tubes have put Bosnian Serbs under the gun around Sarajevo. As part of the Rapid Reaction Force, they have fired thousands of rounds in support of Operation Deliberate Force.

for numerous U.N. peacekeepers, all victims of Serb gunners targeting vehicles — U.N. or otherwise — that just happened to pass, shooting-gallery style, in front their gunsights.

The first units of the RRF were 500 French legionnaires, with 12 AMX-10RCs, and two batteries of the British army's 19 Regiment Royal Field Artillery. They arrived in mid-summer amid as much controversy as cheers.

Within days, the

RAPID, WILLING and ABLE

in support of "Operation Deliberate Force," the NATO air assault against the Bosnian Serbs, finally got their chance to serve up "pasta": In the space of a few hours they delivered more than 600 high-explosive rounds into three key, Bosnian Serb positions near the besieged capital, putting to rest the idea that the RRF was an attack dog with no teeth.

But like most of the U.N. peacekeeping operation in the former Yugoslavia, the RRF's brief history began with a muddled mandate and little clear direction from its political string-pullers.

The United Nations at first claimed the RRF was deployed to Bosnia not to protect the humanitarian truck convoys that daily grind their way along Mount Igman's muddy and rutted log-

ging trail, bringing every gram of food and supplies necessary for the 250,000 people of Sarajevo, or even to secure the road itself, but instead to "respond to Serb attacks on United Nations' installations, vehicles and personnel."

Since April, when the Bosnian

British army had deployed its dozen 105mm light guns into positions on Igman, while the legion began constructing fortifications, laying out a command-and-control system and forming se-

U.N. Reaction Force Pounds Serbs To Keep The Peace

Text & Photos by Mark H. Milstein

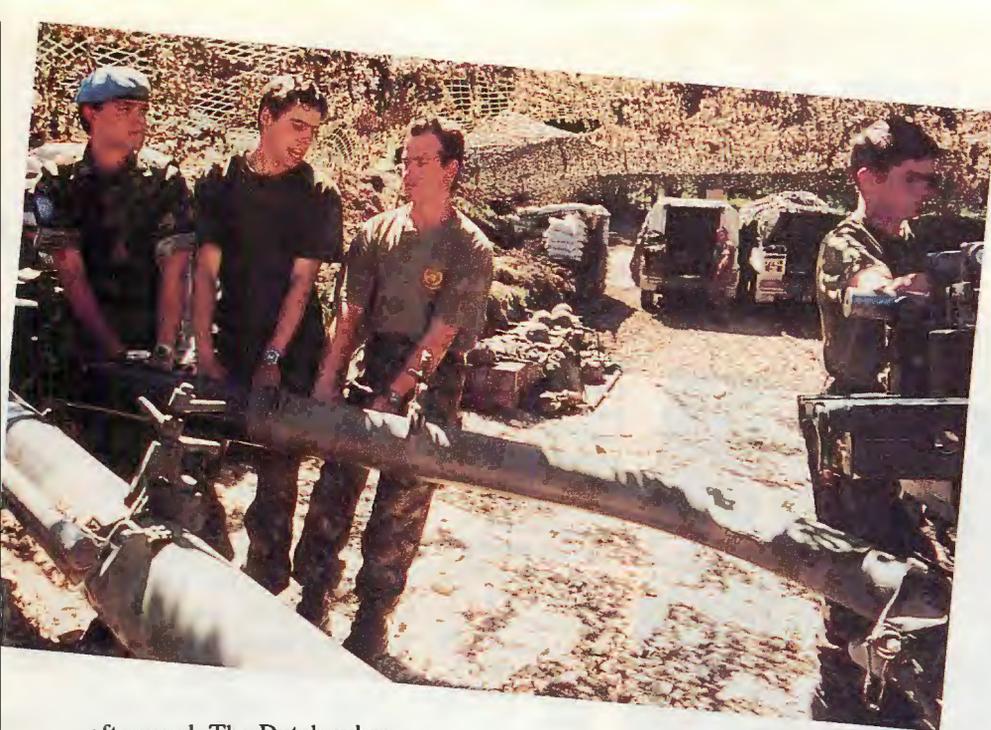
Serbs effectively shut down the U.N. airlift into Sarajevo by threatening every airplane that attempted to land at the U.N.-occupied airport, the Igman route — 40 kilometers of living hell — has become the most dangerous road in the world.

It also became a killing ground

crete perimeters around the RRF base, which sits within hiking distance of the 1984 Winter Olympics' ski-jump facilities.

Other elements of the RRF — the British army's Dorset and Devon regiments and a dozen French 120mm mortars — arrived shortly





afterward. The Dutch subsequently have sent another dozen 120mm mortars and the French have begun to deploy a number of 155mm self-propelled guns.

The RRF also has at its disposal nearly 70 British and French anti-

to gain access to the RRF artillery sites ironically failed. The RRF press and information director, smelling another *SOF* in Central America-style operation, poo-pood the idea of Publisher Robert K. Brown or anyone else associated with



tank and heavy-lift helicopters stationed 120 kilometers away in Ploce, Croatia, but to date no mission plan has been written that includes the RRF's air element in any role other than as security in the event of a full, U.N. pullout from Bosnia.

Soldier Of Fortune's first attempt

the magazine getting to see the artillery.

"Where's your merc team?" the RRF information director, with a straight face, asked Brown during their first meeting. It took another three days of wrangling to finally con-

Training is the crucial part of readiness. Gunners constantly rehearse movement and firing techniques on their 105mm towed pieces. Timing and teamwork ensure the success of "shoot and scoot" tactics.

vince the RRF that *SOF* and its staffers were harmless.

"If the car gets hit by Serb anti-aircraft fire and you're still alive, run uphill. If you don't, they'll cut you up," I silently kept repeating to myself, remembering the words British firefighter Bob

Barrett had drilled into my head just a few days earlier.

Fortunately the advice was not necessary as I tried to find a way through the Bosnian army checkpoint outside Tarcin, Bosnia, the gateway to Igman and the besieged, Bosnian capital.

"Can I see your permission papers?" the Bosnian army MP asked, referring to the ever-necessary papers, complete with large and small stamps and official-looking signatures, that allow all those possessing them to drive over Igman.

I began to mumble and rummage around for the nonexistent papers that I had in the front pouch of my bulletproof vest. "Sorry, no official papers," I half laughed, shrugging my shoulders and holding my hands out. "Only this one signed by Johnny Walker."

"Johnny Walker?" the MP asked, staring goo-goo-eyed at the one-liter bottle nestled in my Kevlar helmet. "Oh, yes, I see. Mr. Johnny Walker. Yes. Ok. What news company are you with?"

"*Soldier Of Fortune*," I answered.

"Hey, that's me," the MP said, mockingly jabbing his Kalashnikov in my face.

Not funny.

My entry secured, I quickly shoved the latest issue of *SOF* into his hand and sped away. I watched through the rearview mirror as he and his com-

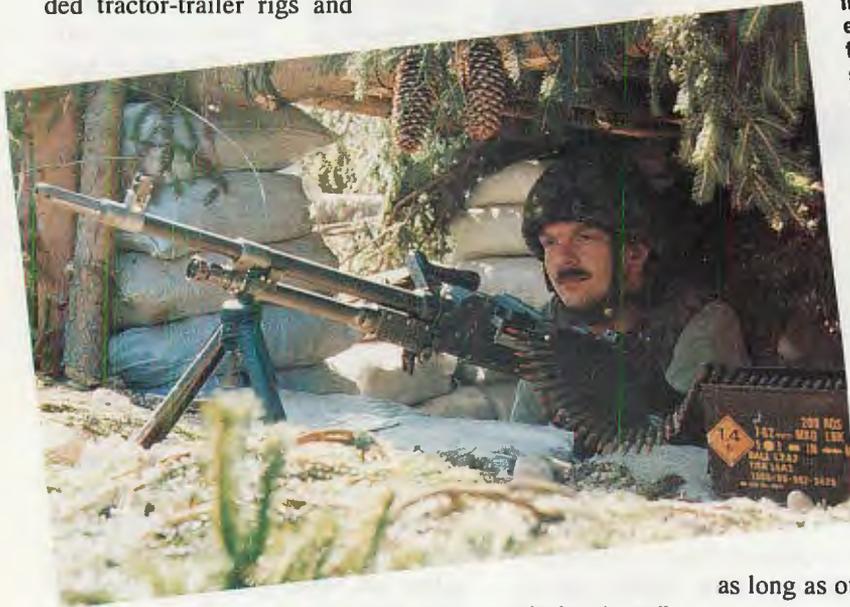
Employing techniques developed by the U.S. Army, the guns are split into two batteries of six tubes: One battery provides cover while the other remains mobile for as long as the fire mission lasts.

rades got into a tug-of-war over the bottle. So much for Muslim sobriety.

With sunrise still an hour away, and feeling sure that my Lada Niva jeep could hold its own, I went into four-wheel drive and headed up the Igman road. Back and forth, up and across the deadly switchbacks, I passed at least three burned and shredded tractor-trailer rigs and

commonly known as ‘shoot and scoot,’” Major Simon Davies explained. The commander of the 25/170 gun battery continued: “Our guns are split up into two batteries of six guns each; one provides cover while the others remain highly mobile, going from one firing position to another for

honest with you,” Davies went on. “Our choices for our primary gun positions and many of the secondary positions came not from NATO or the U.N., but from the Bosnian Serbs themselves. We basically took over the old gun sites they used to target Sarajevo from, and put our own guns there to target the Serbs’ new gun sites.”



In a war with ever-changing front lines, site security becomes crucial. British gun positions therefore are heavily guarded by sentries to rule out any chance of a successful Serb ground attack to take out the guns.

a French APC, all impaled on tree stumps and dangling off the side of the mountain.

At the second Bosnian army checkpoint, I rated a few hard stares but no requests for more “papers” or “official stamps” — just a lone request by an elderly, Bosnian army soldier for a ride into Sarajevo.

“Sorry, Ivan,” I mockingly replied to the old man. “No ride this time. See ya.”

At the outer perimeter of the RRF security zone, I was met by British army Captain Ed Dawes, a public-information officer, and his driver, who escorted me back to their Spartan, little hideaway in the lobby of the gutted and shrapnel-scarred Hotel Igman.

After a quick briefing, explaining the rules of engagement and the journalistic code of ethics I needed to observe when photographing and writing about RRF forces, Capt. Dawes and I drove over to meet the men of the 25/170 Battery Royal Artillery.

“We employ an American artillery technique

as long as our fire

mission lasts.”

As its name implies, the Rapid Reaction Force relies on speed. After less than a week on the ground, the RRF’s gun crews already had prepped enough secure battery positions from which to engage just about every major Bosnian Serb target logged into their computers for years to come.

“I have to be completely

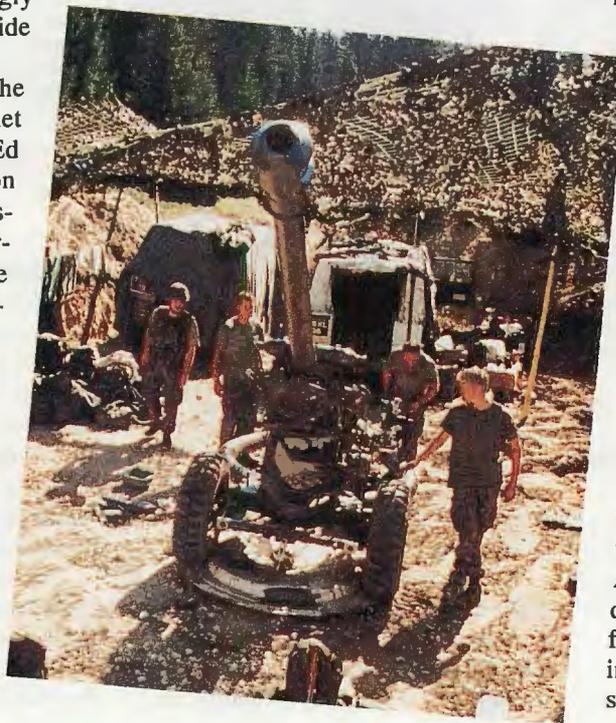
Those tactics came in mighty handy less than 24 hours before my visit: A U.N. forward observation post was nearly flattened by 12 Serb mortars. For only the second time since its deployment the RRF retaliated with its own mortar fire, silencing the Serbs with five 120mm rounds.

The first RRF firing incident occurred just after its arrival in Bosnia, when two French officers were killed by Serb fire as they drove down the Igman trail near the now infamous “Break-down Ridge,” the spot on the road closest to Serb gun positions. In response, the French fired 90 120mm mortar shells into the suspected Serb gun positions.

The French Foreign Legion has long been on record saying it viewed the U.N.’s white color scheme as the “color of defeat.” The former U.N. Protection Force commander, Lieutenant General Sir Michael Rose, concurred when he stated that he too did not fight wars from white-painted vehicles. So it came as no surprise to

see, on the day of my arrival, RRF gun crews busy painting their guns and vehicles, covering the U.N.’s white with the green cammo colors of a fighting army.

“It’s as much psychological as it is anything else,” Davies continued. “We are a professional army, trained to use our guns in as an effective manner as we possibly can. Although the color of our guns doesn’t affect the mechanics of any fire operation we might be involved in, the men of the 19 Regiment now see themselves as a fighting force,



Primary gun positions and many of the secondary positions came from the Bosnian Serbs themselves. The Brits took over the old gun sites Serbs had used to shell Sarajevo.

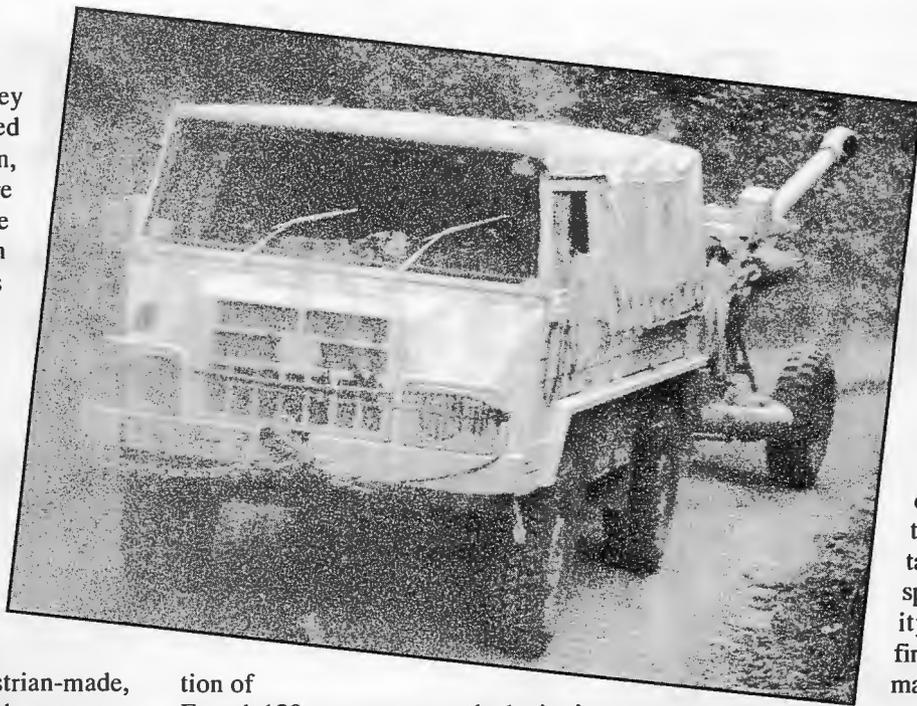
not potential hostages.”

Training is a crucial key to keeping any well-oiled fighting force fit for action, and the RRF gunners are no different than anyone else on that matter. With Davies at the helm of his still-white British Warrior tank, three gun crews were given orders to move into position.

Like clockwork, the seven members of “Number Three Gun” pulled their 105mm light gun off its lazy susan pinion and pulled the one-ton artillery piece back onto the trailer hitch of its Austrian-made, Steyr towing vehicle. Each gun rates two vehicles: one to tow and carry ammo, the other to carry the bulk of its crew, communications gear and supplies.

Two other gun crews beside us were busy doing the same.

Within eight minutes of Davies’ orders, the first 105s were being prepped at their forward gun sites, their crews download-



Each gun rates two vehicles: one to tow and carry ammo and the other to carry the bulk of its crew, communications gear and supplies.

tion of French 120mm mortars or the legion’s AMX tanks, would also be on station,” Davies said. “After firing two or three rounds, the guns would be moved. We never worry about running out of positions to fire from.”

Davies said that he and his fellow commanders are acutely aware of how sophisticated the less than spit and

edge over them when it comes to training and tactics. It’s our speed and ability to project fire at will that makes them respect us.”

Gone are the days when U.N. commanders almost had to have a special OK from U.N. Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali to return even small-arms fire. Today, the chain of command has been shortened and the rules of engagement clarified so that ev-

After less than a week on the ground, RRF gun crews prepped enough secure battery positions from which to engage just about every major Bosnian Serb target logged into their computers.

everyone, from the commanders in the field to the soldier at the loneliest checkpoint, knows what they can or cannot do without higher authorization.

British Lieutenant Colonel Dick Applegate, commander of the 19 Regiment, explained: “Let’s say a U.N. position comes under hostile fire and the senior officer on site calls in counterbattery fire. A provision for artillery or mortars is made. The request comes directly to me, I pass it along to the British brigadier who then passes it along to the British

general who gives the order. The general then calls U.N. commander General Rupert Smith who gives the final OK, and an order comes back to the RRF’s command-and-control center to commence firing.”

By then, Applegate continued, the guns or mortars that were requested already have arrived at their forward

Continued on page 70



polish Bosnian Serb army actually is.

“First rule: Never underestimate your enemy,” Davies said. “The Serbs might look stupid, but they have pretty sophisticated artillery-tracking computers and intelligence-gathering systems. We know that they know exactly where we are, our strengths and our weaknesses. But we have the

ing target coordinates and getting ready to fire.

“If this were an actual, full-scale fire mission,” Davies explained, “all of the guns of the designated mobile battery would already be at their sites and ready to engage.

“Other guns, perhaps a combina-

BOMBAST, BOMB BLASTS & BALONEY



SOF Explodes OKC Bombing Conspiracies

Text & Photos by Richard Sherrow



The headline screamed at me in the check-out lane of the grocery store: *THE WACO CONNECTION — Terror Plot Revealed In Bar Hours Before Killer Blast*. It was emblazoned across the front page of that paragon of journalistic integrity, the *National Enquirer*.

It seems that the *Enquirer's* source, "a militia insider," was privy to a meeting of "Waco fanatics" in the Waco, Texas, Holiday Inn bar the night of 19 April 1995, when they detailed their secret revenge plot for the Mount Carmel holocaust two years earlier. The militia "eyewitness" recalled overhearing, "Tomorrow, God will have his vengeance on the ATF."

Wow, this was heavy stuff. Only one problem: I was in that very bar that very night, sipping beer and munching popcorn with *SOF* writer James L. Pate, Branch Davidian David Thibodeau and some other good folks. We closed down the place. The whole night, we heard no secret plot being discussed around us. Sorry *Enquirer*, no cigar.

Not to be outdone, a week later that beacon of virtual unreality, *The Spotlight*, unleashed its latest government conspiracy story: *FEDS FIB ON OKLAHOMA CITY BOMB SAYS EX-HIGH LEVEL FBI OFFICIAL: No Simple Fertilizer Bomb Caused Blast in Oklahoma*.

Spotlight editors must have reeled in ecstasy when presented with ex-FBI honcho Ted Gunderson's detailed description of the super-secret ninja bomb he claims is responsible for the destruction of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. Dubbed the "Electrohydrodynamic Gaseous Fuel Device," a.k.a. the "Barometric Bomb," this Twilight Zone concoction is as bizarre in its description as it is scientifically unsound.

This story — but the latest in a long litany of conspiratorial conundrums routinely appearing in *The Spotlight* — soon became required reading nationwide among conspiracy groupies. As might be expected, the tale grew with each retelling, even to the point of the obligatory black helicopter being seen, by at least two "witnesses," hovering over the doomed federal building moments before the blast.

When any juicy conspiracy theory is subjected to the glaring light of scrutiny, there always are those who have made up their minds and will ignore bothersome facts. But here's a dose of reality anyway.

ANFO Chemistry Considered

Gunderson claims that his "facts" were provided to him by none other than the inventor of this nefarious device. In the glib words of his unnamed source, "ammonia [sic] nitrate has too much moisture to be effective...." Yet in his diagram of the so-called Barometric Bomb, he lists "Aqueous Amonium [sic] Nitrate" as the primary filler. *Aqueous* anything refers to a water-based solution. (Am I missing something here?) It gets better.

He goes on to state that even if someone knew what he was doing it would be "almost impossible to prepare it (the ammonium nitrate) with home mixing equipment" given the requirements for a 300-foot-tall "prill tower" and "huge process [sic] equipment." Well, no kidding. It does take a lot of equipment and a tall prill tower — to *manufacture* ammonium nitrate prill. But the fertilizer-grade ammonium nitrate one can buy at the garden shop already has been *manufactured*. All it takes

This remaining portion of the Murrah building was reduced to rubble with a few hundred pounds of properly placed explosives, and virtually no debris was blown from the area. Author found truck parts such as this transaxle gear (inset) blocks away — the result of a massive outward explosion, not multiple smaller charges placed internally.



The gist of Gen. Partin's theory is that properly located, multiple blasts would have been necessary to cause the devastation in Oklahoma City — that a rental truck wouldn't have carried enough to do the job. *SOF* investigators Pate and Sherrow found the truck's bumper 2-1/2 blocks from the blast site; this hardly suggests the blast was from cleverly placed, multiple charges.

to whip up an ANFO (ammonium nitrate/fuel oil) bomb is the elbow grease and time to mix up the raw materials.

Perhaps one of Gunderson's most laughable statements is, "The chances of a large quantity such as 4,800 pounds [of ammonium nitrate] detonating is slim." Nonsense. Does the name "Texas City" ring a bell? In 1947 two ships loaded with 9 million pounds of fertilizer-grade ammonium nitrate (and no fuel oil) caught fire and exploded in that Gulf coast port, killing 510 people and nearly leveling the town.

I personally worked on *Project Dice Throw* at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, in November 1976. Our initial shot consisted of 630 tons (1,260,000 pounds) of ANFO. For something that had a "slim chance of detonating," it left a hell of a hole in the ground. A side note: Ten minutes after the blast I took my explosive-ordnance disposal (EOD) team into the area to do a hazard assessment, and guess



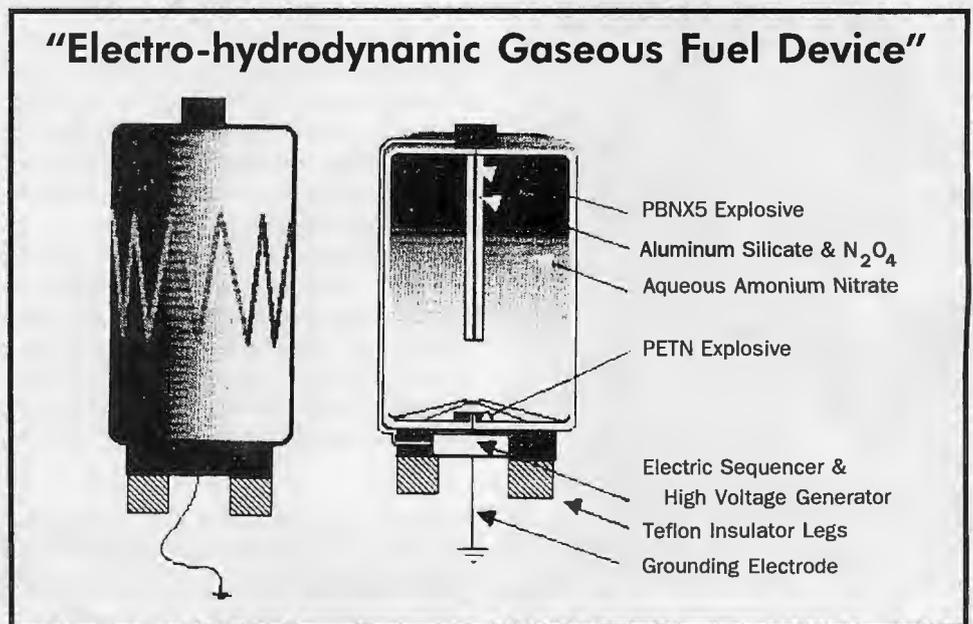
Defying proven physical laws, the nine-pound "Gunderson Device" being promoted by some conspiracy theorists barely would have blown up the truck itself, let alone the Murrah building. But the 4,800 pounds of ANFO that probably were used rendered uninhabitable some 70 buildings — such as this one — within a several-block area.

what? There were no "toxic nitric acid fumes" poisoning the air. So another persistent myth goes down in flames: Although nitric acid is used in the manufacture of ammonium nitrate, AN does not produce nitric acid when it explodes. Whoops again, guys. Funny thing: Depending on the conditions and environs of an AN explosion, some nitrous oxide (laughing gas) may be produced.

The BS about the "Barometric

Bomb" goes on and on in *The Spotlight's* report. (In short, it has even less credibility than Linda Thompson's flame-throwing tanks.) In an attempt to make this crock credible, Gunderson issues a challenge to "all the 'Bomb Experts' who doubt the verosity [sic] of this device" to research his "technical information."

I have 30 years in the business, and some credentials: expert witness in explosives, improvised explosive devices and arson in federal and state courts in nearly a third of this country; a multi-alumnus of the EOD



The "Gunderson Device": Top-secret, leading-edge technology, or the toys-in-the-attic product of a hoaxer with a vivid imagination and a graphics package on his PC? Such frauds can gather strength like a tsunami until they break up on the shoreline of science. Unfortunately, by then they can have a life of their own.

School at Indian Head, Maryland; and a charter developer and instructor of the Hazardous Devices School at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama. I felt qualified to take up this challenge.

The 'Gunderson Device'

"Electro-hydrodynamic Gaseous Fuel Device" (a.k.a. "Barometric Bomb") — the name itself is an immediate red flag to anyone with a passing knowledge of the basics of improvised explosive devices. Let's

break down the name: electric-water pressure-gas device, or, air-pressure bomb. Say what? Going back to "Bombs Basic 101," we have hydrostatic fuzes, which are found in depth bombs; they function by the increase of water pressure as the bomb sinks toward its submarine target, or detonates from the pressure wave of another underwater explosion. There is also the barometric fuze that functions by air pressure (same idea, different medium). "Barometric Bomb,"

though a nifty-sounding name, makes no sense.

Not content with one titillating title, Gunderson also refers to this dream machine as an "A-Nutronic [sic] device" that is only 9 inches long and a mere 2 inches in diameter. Perhaps he was trying to imply some far-out connection to a neutron bomb. Neutron weapons achieve their killing power not from their blast effect, but through a massive flux of neutron energy — which definitely did not occur in downtown Oklahoma City. It's an absolute fact that nothing anywhere near the tiny size described by Gunderson — except for a genuine nuclear device — could come close to causing the damage that occurred there. His "device" came from the mind of someone who has watched too many episodes of *Star Trek*. Neutron I've heard of, but "nutron"? Sorry Ted, your spelling is as bad as your science.

Speaking of correctness, let's examine some of the materials that make up this so-called "device." Only one of the explosives listed in this "bomb" sounds familiar: PETN (pentaerythrite tetranitrate). As for some of the others listed in the report, such as "PBNX5" and "PBNX5 Type 2" — there ain't no such animals. Could it be the storyteller got confused trying to spell PBX (plastic-bonded RDX, a.k.a. plastic-bonded explosive)? Even if this is the case, his brain trolley again jumps the track: In his density table he lists the two so-called PBNX5 explosives as having respective densities of 3.8 and 4.8 — a far cry from 1.71, the actual density of PBX. He erred again by assigning 1.00 as the density of "amonium" [sic] nitrate instead of the actual density of 1.725 for ammonium nitrate. Then he mentions "PDTN," another non-existent explosive. At first glance it seems he misspelled PETN, but this is hardly the case because he then comes up with a name for this mystery explosive, calling it "pentadirythri-tetra-nitrate." And lastly, we find aluminum silicate tossed into this enigmatic mix. An inert material, aluminum silicate reduces explosive power, it doesn't enhance it.

As for the "device" itself, *The Spotlight's* diagram looks like a cross

COVER-UPS

Theories of two blasts or secret ninja bombs aside, are the feds really being honest about the Oklahoma City bomb? With the public's nose sensitized by revelations at the Waco and Ruby Ridge hearings, the disturbing stench of a cover-up is wafting over that state capital as more facts are unearthed.

Do the feds know something they aren't telling? Did they have knowledge of the impending events in Oklahoma City and, as many are speculating, did they fumble the ball? Mounting evidence points to just that.

As James L. Pate reported in *"Bloody April"* (SOF August '95), an employee of the U.S. Public Health Service said a bomb threat had been received "a day or two" prior by the Housing and Urban Development office, located in the Murrah building. When confronted with this at a 20 April news conference, FBI Special Agent in Charge (now Deputy Director) Weldon Kennedy denied it. Since that time however, many significant discrepancies have appeared and questions arisen:

- An OKC Fire Department employee reported "very serious and credible" threats against the Murrah building, and other OKC targets, being ignored. Original 911 phone calls to the OKCFD were found to have been "recorded over" when requested by defense attorneys of the bombing suspects.

- Were a number of ATF agents out of the office that morning because they had been out all the previous night on an undercover "sting" operation?

- How many ATF personnel actually were assigned to the OKC office? On 19 April, an ATF spokesman told *The Daily Oklahoman* newspaper the ATF had 20 employees assigned there. Five weeks later, ATF Director John McGaw began an interview with CNN claiming the number was 15, but at the end of the interview he changed that number to 17. Still later, sources close to the investigation tell us ATF spokesman Lester Martz again has revised these figures, now claiming that three were in Ponca City, Oklahoma, for a trial; two were in the federal courthouse across the street in OKC; one was in an elevator in the Murrah building at the time of the blast; one was on the phone in the ATF office; and five were out all night on "surveillance." (Interestingly, we are told that information on this surveillance op since has "disappeared.")

- Was the ATF, DEA or any other agency illegally storing explosives in the Murrah building, as investigators close to the case have speculated in conversations with SOF? State Representative Charles Key considers this a possibility, and called for an independent investigation.

- Is the FBI keeping quiet about motel records and eyewitness accounts that indicate key suspect Timothy McVeigh was in Dayton, Ohio, at the same time he was allegedly committing an armed robbery in Arkansas?

- Why are federal agents still staking out Eldon Elliot's Ryder truck rental business in Junction City, Kansas, turning away any visitors who don't have "business" there?

These and many more questions require candid answers. As more develops in this case, SOF will be there getting those answers. Stay tuned.

— RLS

Continued on page 72

TERMINAL

The debate between advocates of bolt-action sniper weapon systems and those who prefer highly tuned semiautomatic rifles continues without



Heavy, match-grade barrels are installed completely free floating in a McMillan stock. Harris

Model L Series S bipod is provided. A pivoting, or hinged, base type, it weighs only 14 ounces.

any end in sight. Turn-bolt enthusiasts insist that semiautomatic systems are just not capable of the accuracy required by the MENS (Mission Essential Need Statement) for extremely long-range shooting. Semiauto buffs maintain that they can come close to or match the accuracy of any bolt-action rifle and that on the battlefield rapid follow-up shots are required more often than not. In the United States, a semiautomatic sniping system almost al-

ways involves some version or another of the M14.

Semiauto sniper enthusiasts have been recently presented with an intriguing alternative to the M14/M21, one that has already sparked considerable interest in the special-operations community but is little known outside this exclusive loop. Arms Tech Ltd. (Dept. SOF, 5133 N. Central Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85012; fax: 602-225-9946) has developed a highly sophisticated sniper weapon system based on a heavily modified FN BAR

semiautomatic sporting rifle. The initial offering, directed to the military and law-enforcement markets, is chambered for the .300 Winchester Magnum cartridge, which has recently been the subject of some controversy in military sniping circles. At some point in the future Arms Tech intends to offer what they call the "Super Match Interdiction Rifle" in .308 Winchester (7.62x51mm NATO) and .243 Winchester (a popular 6mm light deer rifle round which is nothing more or less than the .308 Winchester case necked down) as well.

The Super Match Interdiction Rifle weighs 13.25 pounds, empty. Overall length is 47 inches. Heavy, match-grade 416 stainless-steel barrels from three different makers are available: Schneider, Rock 5R and Douglas Airgage Premium. These 26-inch barrels add considerable weight to the system. All have six-groove rifling with a right-hand twist of one turn in 12 inches. They are all installed completely free floating in a McMillan synthetic stock and are threaded at

the muzzle to accept a sound suppressor. The cap provided to protect the muzzle threads has a recessed crown and is machined to such close tolerance that the cap-to-barrel interface on *Soldier Of Fortune's* test specimen is almost invisible. Because these stainless-steel barrels are not as hard as the recessed bolt face, the locking lug recesses, integral on the FN factory barrels, have been replaced with a heat-treated, carbon-steel proprietary shank on the barrels used for the Super Match Interdiction Rifle. The stainless-steel barrels are blackened with a



Many believe that on the battlefield rapid follow-up shots are required more often than not. The semiautomatic, gas-operated Super Match Interdiction Rifle provides snipers with that capability.

SOLUTION

chrome sulfide process by Robar (Dept. SOF, 21438 N. 7th Ave., Suite B, Phoenix, AZ 85027; phone: 602-581-2648, fax: 602-582-0059).

Also heavily modified with proprietary alterations, for which there are patents pending, is the original FN BAR action itself. The extraction system has been improved for increased strength and enhanced reliability. The means by which an operator can remove a loaded round from the chamber, awkward at best on the FN BAR, has been dramatically improved. To enhance cold weather operation, the bolt's retracting handle has been lengthened. The gas system has been significantly improved as well. The bolt is lapped for smoother operation and the trigger mechanism tuned to provide a somewhat lighter pull weight and crisper let-off. The magazine well's catch/release system (integral with a hinged floorplate attached to the steel receiver) was redesigned and is now similar to that of the Kalashnikov. The detachable box magazine holds three rounds, but a staggered-column 10-round magazine has reached prototype status and will go into production series shortly.

Stocked For Success

All of this rests in a slightly modified version of the famous McMillan (McMillan Fiberglass Stocks, Dept. SOF, 21421 N. 14th Ave., Suite B, Phoenix, AZ 85027; phone: 602-582-9635, fax: 602-581-3825) A2 stock. McMillan deepened the stock's belly to conform with the BAR receiver and reconfigured the tang area to match the BAR's receiver tang.

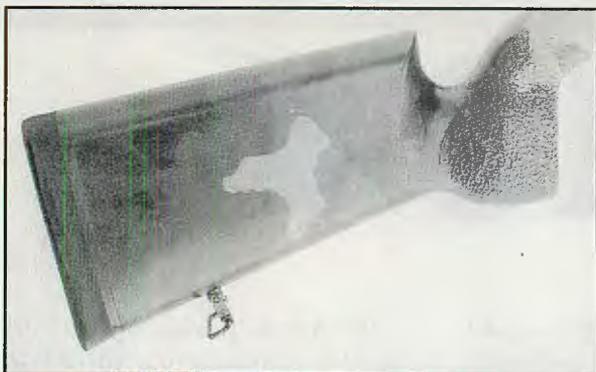
The outer shell of McMillan's A2 stock is made by a hand-laminated, pressure-cured process. It is laminated from about 130 pieces of 8-ounce fiberglass cloth, giving a finished shell-wall thickness of six to 12 layers. The thickness is greater in high-stress areas on the stock and less in other areas to reduce the overall weight. The interior is filled with different fiberglass compounds consisting of engineering-grade epoxy resins, chopped fiberglass strands, micro-balloons and other materials. No polyesters or phenolics (both less expensive than epoxy resins) are used. There are no hollow spaces. All of McMillan's tactical stocks are filled solid. Inletting for the barreled action is done on CNC machinery to tolerances approximating a 0.001-inch. This yields a completed stock that is stable in environmental conditions ranging from -60 degrees F to 240 degrees F and is totally water impervious. The rifle actions are bedded into the stock with a powdered metal-filled epoxy compound.

The A2 stock was originally designed at the request of a federal law-enforcement agency and a U.S. military organization. It represents a high point in the application of human engineering to stock design. Both the width of the forearm and the angle of the pistol grip (8-9 degrees off vertical) were determined by using experienced shooters pretending to hold a rifle in the prone position. Finishes available include black, gray and desert, woodland and urban camouflage patterns. The stock is equipped with QD-type sling swivels. This is the tactical rifle stock against which all pretenders must be measured. A Pachmayr Decelerator butt pad has been added to help counter the .300 Winchester Magnum's usually stout recoil.

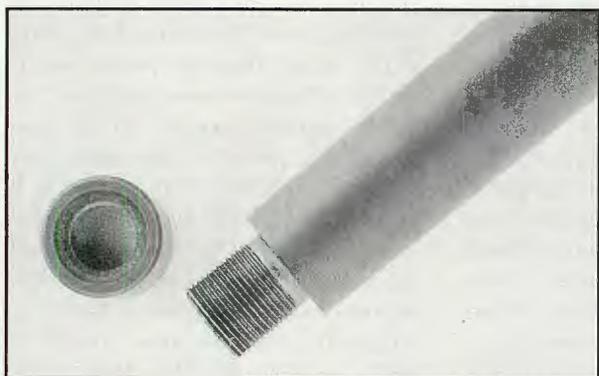
Whenever possible, a sniper rifle should be fired from a bipod (although this is contrary to Marine Corps doctrine) behind cover and concealment. The Super Match Interdiction Rifle turned over to us for test and evaluation was equipped with a Harris (Har-



Super Match Interdiction Rifle provides accuracy potential that compares favorably with the best bolt-action sniper weapon systems and surprisingly mild perceived recoil for a caliber .300 Winchester Magnum rifle.



The McMillan A2 stock represents a high point in the application of human engineering to stock design and was designed at the request of a federal law-enforcement agency and a U.S. military organization.



Super Match Interdiction Rifle barrels are threaded at the muzzle to accept a sound suppressor. The cap provided to protect the muzzle threads has a recessed crown.

ris Engineering Inc., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 33, Barlow, KY 42024; phone: 502-334-3633, fax: 502-334-3000) Model L Series S bipod, which weighs 14 ounces. This is the pivoting, or hinged, base model.

The pivoting base provides the shooter with the ability to level the reticle pattern when firing from uneven terrain. The base can be rotated approximately 20 degrees in either direction. The legs, constructed from aluminum tubing, have a friction lock which permits adjustment of the command height (the distance from the bore's axis to the ground) from 9 to 13 inches. The Harris bipod is not an object of great beauty, but it works, is reasonably priced and provides a

firm shooting platform.

One of the Super Match Interdiction Rifle's unique features is the Arms Tech Ltd. Omega scope mount. This two-piece, scope-to-rifle interface is made of aircraft aluminum (except for special applications, such as those involving the .50 cal. BMG round, when it is fabricated from steel). The upper portion of the mount dovetails longitudinally with the bottom section, which is attached to the receiver. The machining tolerance between the two surfaces is two-tenths of one thousandths of an inch. This permits the optical sights to be repeatedly removed and reinstalled without loss of zero. There is a single quick-release throw lever that locks the two sections in place. A notch on the throw lever engages a locking stud on the underside of the mount's lower section. The four scope rings are integral with the top portion of the mount to increase strength and stability. Numbers on the left side of the mount from -16 to +16 are in 1/8-inch increments and are used to predetermine the eye relief desired by the operator, who can instantly change between day and night optical devices. The Omega scope mount is also available for attachment to the Knight's Armament SR25 sniper rifle, M16A3 flat top and Remington 700 bolt-action. The upper section can be obtained to mate with the Leupold Mark 4 series scope, Litton's Ranger night vision scope and with a more generic Weaver-type base.

Magnum Size Controversy

Introduced in 1963 for their Model 70 bolt-action rifle, the .300 Winchester Magnum cartridge is at its best on the game fields against heavy animals, such as eland, kudu or gemsbuck, where heavy bullets are required at long ranges. In recent years it has been proposed as a countersniper round and a great deal of experimentation was conducted by certain special operations groups. Controversy has centered around the fact that no full metal jacket .30 caliber bullet is as yet available in the 190- to 220-grain weight category desired by long-range snipers. Sierra's 190-, 200- and 220-grain Matchking BTHP bullets can provide superb accuracy, but they are hollow points. Even though they were not designed to expand, there still remain proscrip-

Match Interdiction Rifle Specifications

Caliber:	.300 Winchester Magnum (also 7.62x51mm NATO and .243 Winchester).
Operation:	Gas operated. Locked breech with rotary bolt. Fires from the closed-bolt position.
Feed:	3- or 10-round, staggered-column, detachable box-type magazines.
Weight, empty:	13.25 pounds.
Length, overall:	47 inches.
Barrel length:	26 inches.
Barrel:	Heavy, match-grade blackened 416 stainless steel manufactured by Schneider, Rock or Douglas Airgase Premium. Six-groove with a right-hand twist of one turn in 12 inches. Muzzle cap with recessed crown to protect sound suppressor threads.
Sights:	Leupold Mark 4 M3-10X scope and Arms Tech Omega quick-release mount. All of the Leupold Mark 4 series and Litton's Ranger night-vision scopes also available.
Finish:	Robar's chrome sulfide stainless-steel blackening process.
Furniture:	Modified version of McMillan A2 synthetic stock.
Manufacturer:	Arms Tech Ltd., Dept. SOF, 5133 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85012; fax: 602-225-9946.
T&E summary:	Accuracy potential compares favorably with the best bolt-action sniper weapon systems. Surprisingly mild perceived recoil. Superb McMillan tactical stock. Leupold Mark 4 series scopes outperform all others. Deep cryogenic stress relief significantly extends barrel life.

tions against their use by the military. Others have complained that the perceived recoil generated by this round is beyond the tolerance of most soldiers and law-enforcement personnel when firing over extended periods of time. Most importantly, a number of sniping authorities, including retired USMC Lieutenant Colonel Norm Chandler of Iron Brigade Armory, have been outspoken in criticizing the barrel life obtained with this cartridge. Chandler and others maintain that the .300 Winchester Magnum is significantly overbore and that this results in a barrel life of only 1,000 to 1,200 rounds. This is in comparison to the 7.62x51mm NATO cartridge which commonly has a barrel life of 5,000 rounds and more.

However, this latter objection may soon prove to be a moot point at best, as a consequence of a process called deep cryogenic stress relief, which until recently was known only to precision high-power shooters. The accuracy potential of a rifle barrel is dependent, along with other factors, upon the concept of residual stress. These stresses are present in any piece of cast or forged steel and more are introduced when a barrel is machined, bored, formed and heat treated. As these stresses are uneven, when a barrel is heated or cooled it will warp off the bore's axis. This phenomenon, called "warping an arc" can significantly increase the group dispersion down range.

Relief of these stresses can take place if the barrel is brought to an equal

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The Sniper's Optic

In the United States the Leupold (Leupold & Stevens, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 688, Beaverton, OR 97075; phone: 503-646-9171, fax: 503-526-1475) Mark 4 series reigns supreme with police agencies and within the special-operations community. Justifiably so, as this is the flagship in Leupold's product line and represents the highest possible quality in a production-series optical sight.

All Mark 4 scopes feature 30mm diameter main tubes that are machined from a solid piece of 6061-T aircraft aluminum. A 30mm tube with one-eighth-inch wall thickness still has almost 30% more cross-sectional area inside the tube than most 1-inch tubes with their thinner walls. Once this additional area is available, the erector tube inside the scope body (which carries all lenses except the ocular and objective lenses) and its lenses can be increased in size to transmit more light and thus yield greater resolution and a brighter image. Furthermore, this heavy 30mm housing is more shock-resistant than any 1-inch tube.

All lenses are coated on all internal and external surfaces with Multicoat 4, Leupold's exclusive multicoating process. This, in addition to a computer-designed optical system, results in edge-to-edge sharpness, precise resolution, minimal distortion and optimum low-light visibility. All Mark 4 scopes are tested for water resistance in a reduced-pressure, hot-water immersion tank before leaving the factory and are completely waterproof.

The Super Match Interdiction Rifle SOF tested was equipped with a Leupold Mark 4 M3-10X scope. This fixed 10-power scope had a 3/4-minute Mil Dot reticle pattern (Duplex and Target Dot reticle patterns are also available in the Mark 4 series).

Mil-dots were developed by the USMC in the late 1970s to assist Marine Corps snipers in estimating distances. It is now the standard reticle pattern with all branches of the U.S. armed forces. The term "mil-dot" comes from "mil" — a unit of angular measurement used in artillery and machine gunnery and equal to 1/6400 of a complete revolution — and the fact that the dots are spaced in 1-mil increments on the crosshairs. It should be made clear that the dots themselves are not measured in mil increments, but rather in increments of MOA. Premier Reticles (who make these reticles for Leupold & Stevens) uses wire (or "mechanical") crosshairs onto which the dots are applied wet. Because of this, the dots cannot be made circular and are thus oval-shaped (with the long axis oriented in the vertical position on the vertical crosshair and in the horizontal position on the horizontal crosshair). In this particular instance, the dots are actually a 1/4 mil in length (slightly longer than 3/4 MOA). In any event, the distance between the dots is 3/4 mil and the center-to-center distance between them is exactly 1 mil as is the distance from the top (or bottom) of one dot to the top (or bottom) of the dot above or below (or to the right or left). There are also four thick posts at the edges of the field of view.

The formula for using the mil-dot system:

$$\frac{\text{Height or width of target (in yards)} \times 1,000}{\text{Height or width of target (in mils)}} = \text{Distance (in yards)}$$

The Mark 4 M3-10X scope has an elevation adjustment system that is used as a BDC (Bullet Drop Compensator). The dial is calibrated for bullet drop increments from 100 to 1,000 meters in 100-meter increments, all in less than one complete revolution of the adjustment knob. Elevation adjustment resolution is in one-minute clicks on the Mark 4 M3-10X scope and in 1/4-minute clicks on the Mark 4 M1 scopes.



Leupold Mark 4 M3-10X scope attached to Super Match Interdiction Rifle by means of the sophisticated Arms Tech Ltd. Omega mount, which is machined to extremely close tolerances to permit repeated removal and reinstallation of optical sights without loss of zero.

BDC dials are provided with the Mark 4 M3-10X scope for the following bullets: Federal 308M with 168-grain Sierra BTHP; 7.62x51mm NATO M118 Match with 173-grain FMJ; 220-grain .300 Winchester Magnum; 180-grain .30-06; and 55-grain 5.56x45mm. The scope is also provided with a sunshade and Butler Creek flip-up lens covers.

Windage adjustments have 1/2-minute clicks. This adjustment dial can be reset to zero once the scope is sighted in on the rifle. There is a third adjustment knob on the left side of the Mark 4 series scopes. This is for eliminating parallax, and these scopes can

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RED SEAL

A close-up photograph of a Soviet Naval Commando in a small inflatable boat on the water. The commando is wearing a tan, textured hood and a dark, possibly waterproof, mask. They are holding a machine gun, which is pointed towards the right. The water is blue and slightly rippled. The background shows the side of the inflatable boat, which is dark green or black. The overall scene is set outdoors on a body of water.

Soviet Naval Commandos Shadowed In Secrecy

by John B. Dwyer
Photos by V. Volongurin/Pressans Bild

Russian "SEALs" can target enemy nuclear-weapons facilities, ports, command-and-control centers, ships, submarine bases, ammo facilities and radar sites. Another probable mission: cutting or tapping underwater communication cables.

The Soviet Union always placed a high value on Naval Special Warfare (NSW) troops and was among the first countries to form mission-specific waterborne commandos.

The Baltic Sea fleet formed a reconnaissance detachment as early as 1939-40, according to retired U.S. Army Major James F. Gebhardt, who, with twice Hero Of The Soviet Union and naval-scout veteran Viktor Leonov, authored *Blood on the Shores*. During the Soviet-Finnish War of that period, detachment personnel on skis raided Finnish rear areas from their base at the Soviet fortress of Kronshtadt.

Also assigned to fleet intelligence sections were specially trained divers from EPRON, the underwater salvage and rescue service. These Soviet frogmen conducted pre-assault recons and demolition raids. The smallest men of the group even were trained to exit the torpedo tubes of submarines.

A month after Germany invaded

Russia in June 1941, Captain (3rd rank) P.A. Vizgin, Northern Fleet intelligence-section chief, was tasked by the fleet's commander, Admiral A.G. Golokov, to form a ground-recon detachment to obtain vital intelligence for operations and perform other waterborne missions as required.

On 5 July 1941 the fleet organized the first detachment of *morskiye razvedchiki* (naval scouts), forerunners of current Russian naval commandos. Similar detachments also were formed in the Baltic, Black Sea and Pacific fleets, and the Azov Sea and Amur, Danube and Dnepr river flotillas. All remained under the command and control of their respective fleet or flotilla intelligence sections.

Personnel were recruited from fleet and flotilla sports teams, submariners, commercial fishing fleets and army units. Training for the first Soviet "SEAL" teams was rigorous. It included instruction in demolitions,

land navigation, parachuting, sniping, unarmed combat and foreign weapons. These men had to master insertions and extractions using rubber boats, small craft and submarines. Because they were required to operate ashore for periods of time, detachment personnel also learned how to drive vehicles of all types.

Tough training was vital because the missions assigned to the *morskiye razvedchiki* included highly dangerous raids, recons, intel-gathering, prisoner snatches, organization of behind-the-lines partisan activity, and even low-level assassinations.

These units were organized to be self-sufficient. They had their own cooks, medics, language experts and political officers. Women also were recruited to serve as medics, commo officers, intel agents and language specialists. In size, the units ranged from 25 to 40-man platoons, and 70 to 140-man reinforced companies.

From 1941 through war's end, na-

When presidents Bush and Gorbachev met on Malta in 1989, NSW forces manned an underwater perimeter around the ships with shoot-to-kill orders. Some sources indicate their presence on Russian vessels during the Gulf War.



val scouts — also called ground-recon detachments, recon/diversionary groups and special-purpose detachments — operated not only from naval vessels, but also employed skis and airborne insertions independent of, and in support of, naval infantry whenever their unique skills were required by their respective fleet.

The predecessors of modern Soviet SEALs truly were sea, air and land capable. American SEALs' fore-runners — Scouts and Raiders, Naval Combat Demolition Units and Underwater Demolition Teams — were very capable in their missions of pre-assault recon, obstacle demolition, small-craft expertise, training of counterpart units, intel-gathering and working with guerrilla units behind the lines, but they were not airborne qualified.

Also during World War II, the Soviets were developing a capability later perfected by their successor

units: minisubmarines. In 1939 the M-400 midget submarine, a sub/torpedo-boat hybrid, was produced. Able to remain submerged for extended periods of time, the M-400 also could skim the surface at high speeds.

Spetsnaz's SEALs

From 1957 to 1962, the Soviets reinvented their special-assignment troops, the *Voiska Spetsial'noye Naznacheniya*. At that same time, the memoirs of several recon-detachment veterans appeared in print. Articles published in the Soviet journal *Morskoy Sbornik* (Naval Proceedings), indicated that decorated, WWII naval-scout veterans were actively involved in forming new naval teams for *Spetsnaz*. Viktor Leonov, who appeared in the uni-

form of an army colonel in the early '60s, helped select personnel for ground Spetsnaz troops and assisted in establishing training programs. The next step in the evolution of Soviet SEALs had been taken.

All Spetsnaz units were controlled by the Soviet General Staff's Main Intelligence Directorate, the GRU (*Glavnoye Razvedyvatel'noye*



Russian naval commandos have a long history, dating back to 1939. Although cloaked in secrecy, their intensive training and unique equipment suggest clandestine missions that rival their American counterparts. (Right) The APS underwater assault rifle fires a 5.66mm dart. The weapon can be fired in and out of the water either on full-auto or semiautomatic.



Upravleniye). Likewise, naval Spetsnaz were also subordinate to Department 3, Soviet Naval Headquarters, Intelligence Directorate. Naval Spetsnaz brigades were assigned to the four Soviet fleets, and each consisted of a headquarters company, minisubmarine group, parachute battalion, two or three combat-swimmer battalions, a signals company and support elements. Normally, brigade personnel would operate in small, five to 12-man teams led by an officer or senior NCO.

Naval Spetsnaz missions included intelligence gathering, target recon, agent insertion and extraction, maritime sabotage, the mining of ports and harbors, diversionary attacks and agent recruitment. The latter was confirmed in 1986 when (according to Soviet defector Victor Suvorov) naval Spetsnaz officer and Olympic rowing silver medalist Valentin Yerikalin was caught recruiting agents in Istanbul.

Unit personnel probably were graduates of one of the state-sponsored underwater training programs whose best athletes were steered towards Spetsnaz service. Spetsnaz had priority over other elite forces when it came to recruitment; many selectees already had been chosen for service in the Soviet naval infantry (*morskaya pekhota*), the marines.

Rigorous intermediate training thinned the ranks. Formal training included courses in unarmed combat, silent-killing techniques, weapons, diving, demolition, parachuting, maritime sabotage, target surveillance and selection, foreign languages, and survival behind enemy lines. Physical training was stressed throughout the program. Selected personnel were trained for diving and minisub operations.

Advanced training was just as thorough and included the use of various Kalashnikov rifles, suppressed pistols, Dragunov SVD sniper rifles, knives, hand grenades, grenade launchers, plastic explosives, directional mines, and surface-to-air missiles. Parachute training began with static-line jumps and progressed to HALO operations. Minisub Spetsnaz personnel are believed also to have trained in the operation of remotely piloted submersibles. Sources state that, like their U.S. counterparts, they also worked with dolphins for

certain maritime operations.

Upon completion of the training courses, realistic exercises were conducted in accurately detailed mockups of U.S. and Western military facilities. Enemy nuclear-weapons facilities were a prime target for Spetsnaz, as were ports, command-and-control centers, warships, submarine bases, commo facilities and radar sites. Another probable mission included cutting or tapping underwater communication cables: In wartime such a mission would have allowed the Soviets to monitor tactical communications, introduce bogus messages, or stop all cable transmissions.

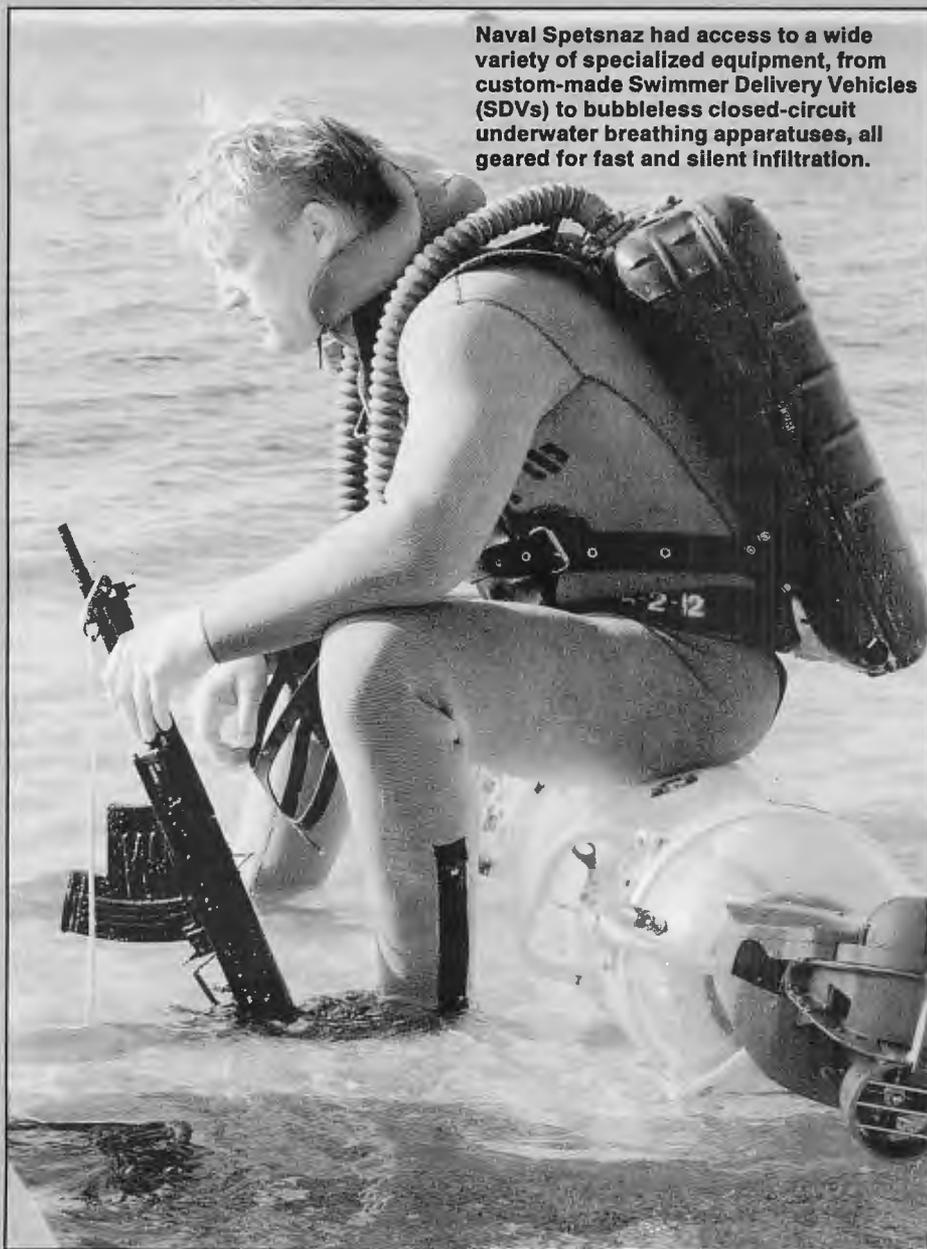
Naval Spetsnaz utilized the full range of operational platforms: submarines, surface craft, fixed wing and rotary aircraft (especially the naval

variant of the Mi-24 helicopter) and hydrofoils. For clandestine access to territorial waters, indigenous fishing vessels and merchant ships were employed. And to disguise their identities, personnel wore Soviet naval-infantry uniforms and the elite black beret. Minisub crews wore the standard Soviet submariner's uniform.

Devil In The Deep Blue Sea

Much has been written about Soviet Spetsnaz forces. Some of it is authoritative, some of it highly questionable. Yet very little has been written about *naval* Spetsnaz units. What has been printed mostly concerns minisub penetrations of Western territorial waters.

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Naval Spetsnaz had access to a wide variety of specialized equipment, from custom-made Swimmer Delivery Vehicles (SDVs) to bubbleless closed-circuit underwater breathing apparatuses, all geared for fast and silent infiltration.

H&R's Dedicated Slug Gun Offers Rifle Accuracy

Text & Photos by Galen Geer

BIG-B

Some might call this gun ugly. Others would say that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. My first impression was that someone wanted to recreate the military's M79 grenade launcher as a slug gun. In any case, the H&R 1871 12-bore Ultra Slug Gun performs as its makers claim, like a rifle.

H&R 1871 Inc. is today's successor to the Harrington & Richardson Firearms Company, part of The New England Firearms Company. For the past eight years they have marketed a successful series of break-top, single-shot rifles and shotguns. The H&R Handi-Rifles and single-shot shotguns have become well known as reliable, moderately priced hunting and recreational arms of exceptional quality.

Marketing Director Robin Sharpless pointed out that the company doesn't really have any competition: No one else is tooled up to build low-cost, quality single-shot rifles. "We've got it to ourselves and we like it that way," Sharpless told me at the last SHOT Show.

My interest in H&R 1871 rifles and shotguns primarily is as a hunter. I enjoy hunting with a single-shot rifle because it forces me to think and carefully plan my shots. Last year on the *SOF* Safari I took a springbok and a warthog with an H&R 1871 Handi-Rifle in .270. And last January at the SHOT Show, Sharpless showed me their newest slug gun, which he promised would deliver less than 3-inch groups at 100 yards. I was skeptical, and while I was looking over the gun, *SOF* Publisher

Robert K. Brown happened by.

"Let's take one out and test it," Brown suggested. Several weeks later both the gun and several dozen boxes of 12-gauge slugs had been assembled. From Simmons optics I received a 4x32 ProHunter scope. (Frankly, I didn't think the scope would stand up to the punishment we had planned for it, but it did. A test of "slug scopes" five years ago turned into a disaster when half of the scopes failed.)

The idea of testing H&R's gun was appealing — except for sitting at a bench hammering my shoulder with the recoil from box after box of 12-gauge slugs. But southern Colorado police officer Allen Cooper, a range safety officer, academy in-

structor, SWAT-team member, all-around good guy and shooting enthusiast, thinks that kind of abuse is fun. So he volunteered.

We met at The GunShop, in Canon City, Colorado, and drove to the nearby police range. After zeroing the slug gun at 50 yards, we went back to the 100-yard bench and set up. We were interested only in Sharpless' claim that the H&R 1871 Ultra Slug would shoot 3-inch groups.



With more than a dozen 12-gauge loadings ready, police officer Allen Cooper prepares to test the H&R 1871 Ultra Slug for accuracy.



The H&R is an accurate gun, more accurate than some of the ammo available today. To maximize its accuracy, however, you need to find the right ammo/gun combination and keep the bore clean.

Model 980 Ultra Slug Gun

- Action:..... Break top, lever release, positive ejection.
Barrel:..... Fully rifled, bull barrel; weight of barrel assembly: 4 3/4 pounds.
Caliber:..... 12 gauge, 3-inch chamber
Stock:..... Monte Carlo, American hardwood, with sling swivel.
Forend:..... Semi-beavertail, American hardwood, with sling swivel.
Sights:..... None; scope mount is included.
Length of pull:.. 14 1/2 inches.
Drop at comb:.. 1 1/4 inches.
Drop at heel:.... 1 1/8 inches.
Weight without scope:..... 9 pounds.
Overall evaluation:..... Awesome, accurate, affordable.

ORE BRUISER

For our test we decided on three shots for group, of each type of slug we had. We had 13 different slug types and loads. Allen started with Federal's 2 3/4-inch, 450-grain, rifled hollow-point slugs. At 100 yards his first group out of the Ultra Slug was 2 3/4

inches. To keep things fair he cleaned the bore of the gun before the next round, which used the Winchester Super-X 2 3/4-inch, one-ounce slugs. Allen's first two shots were less than a quarter-inch apart, but his third was a flyer landing nearly 2 inches from

the first two, for an overall group of just over 3 inches. He put the flyer down to barrel fouling. After cleaning the barrel he switched to Federal's 547-grain, 3-inch magnum slugs.

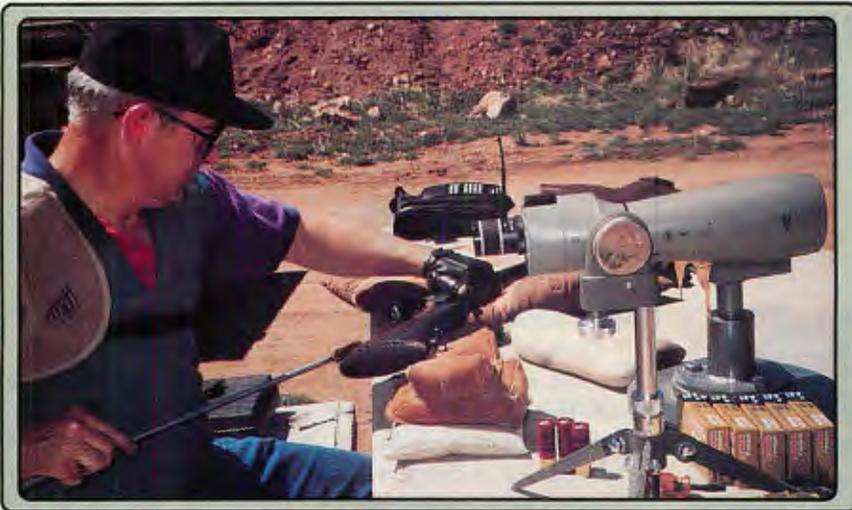
"Holy shit!" was Allen's reaction to the first big Federal. The recoil bit him severely; I was glad *he* had volunteered. Allen's first shot was 2 inches to the left of center. His next shot was nearly 6 inches higher and his third shot was 7 inches higher. The 3-inch shells kicked like a mule and seemed highly inaccurate. But Allen was intrigued: His first shot had hit where he aimed. He cleaned the barrel, let the gun rest and fired again. This time the shot was back to the first shot, less than an inch off.

"I think the barrel gets fouled and throws them off," Allen said. We decided to check each shot for signs that barrel fouling was affecting accuracy. His next batch was of the 547-grain Federal slugs in 2 3/4-inch. We couldn't get an accurate reading from this load because the group was more than 10 inches across.

The fifth batch he fired for group was Federal's 2 3/4-inch, 438-grain rifled slugs. After three rounds the group was less than 2 1/2 inches across.

Number six in the shooting was Winchester's 2 3/4-inch, one-ounce Super-X Hollow Point Rifled slugs. The first two shots were within an inch of each other, but the third shot flew 4 1/2 inches to the right of them. Frustrated, Allen cleaned the bore and fired a fourth shot. It was within a half-inch of the second shot.

After six boxes of slugs, Allen rapidly was approaching an assessment of the H&R 1871



The biggest problem Cooper found wasn't the gun itself, but the detritus left by each round fired. All ammunition tested left large amounts of debris in the bore, which affected accuracy.



The H&R 1871 Ultra Slug gun is solid, safe, and economical. And the Simmons 4x32 ProHunter scope is a good match for it as it stood up to dozens of boxes of slugs fired in our tests.

Continued on page 77

It's not often that paratroopers, who train to kill people and blow up things, get involved in peacemaking between historic rivals. And journalists usually do not participate personally in news events — especially when it means stepping out of a perfectly good airplane. But that's exactly what happened during the "Wings of Peace" jump tour, held this past June in Israel and Jordan.

Organized by Steve Hartov and Sam Katz of Airborne Operations Group (200 E. 10th St., Suite 475, New York,



PARACHUTES FOR PEACE

SOF Joins Historic Jump In Jordan

by Alex McColl Photos courtesy author



(Left to right) Steve Hartov, Brig. Levanon, Lt. Col. Shaul Dori, and Sam Katz pose on the Jordanian drop zone. Hartov and Dori were the first IDF soldiers to jump from a Jordanian C-130 onto a Jordanian DZ.

NY 10003; phone and fax: 201-986-0120), with the assistance of Israeli airborne Lieutenant Colonel Shaul Dori, the tour was a unique experience.

When the State of Israel and the Kingdom of Jordan finally signed a peace treaty after 47 years of hostility, Hartov and Katz decided to celebrate by organizing a tour that included jumps with the airborne forces of both nations. Given the complexity of politico-military affairs in the Middle East, pulling this tour off

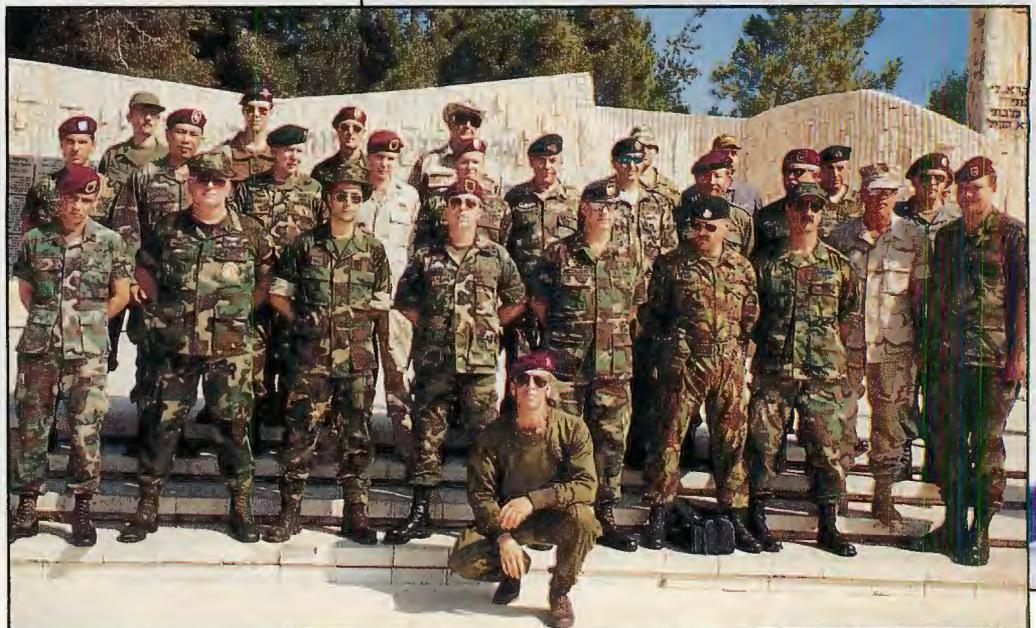


was a remarkable accomplishment.

There were 33 of us in the tour group, mostly Americans but also Austrians, Canadians, Swiss and one each from Britain, Italy and New Zealand. We flew into Ben Gurion Airport, outside Tel Aviv, on Saturday, 24 June, and boarded a chartered bus to Jerusalem. Preliminary briefings were conducted that night at our hotel by Israeli Defense Force (IDF) airborne personnel. The following day consisted of a quick but thorough tour of Jerusalem and Bethlehem, then a party that evening with the IDF jump school's staff.

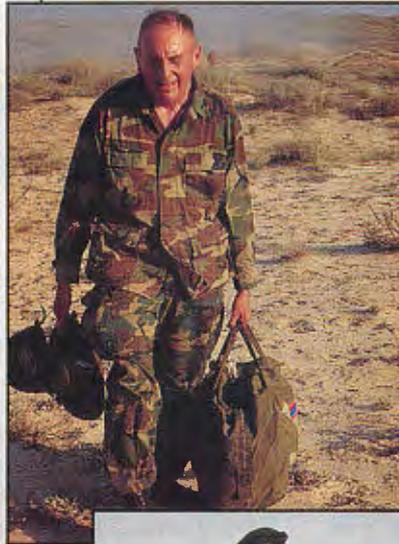
Monday brought the requisite (and abbreviated) ground school, followed by a tour of the parachute-rigging de-

"Wings Of Peace" jumpers pose in front of a monument to Israeli paratroopers. Airborne Operations Group is planning another drop, inviting Jordanians to jump onto an Israeli DZ.





partment. Then, what we all were waiting for: putting our knees in the breeze in a static-line jump with IDF paratroopers at Palmachim. A traditional airborne "prop blast" dinner followed. But since it had been a long and warm day, no one felt up to partying too hard. Besides, there was another jump to make.



Up to this point, it was just another jump tour for foreign airborne veterans — albeit a very well-run tour. That changed on Tuesday, 27 June, when we rode a bus east across the border to Amman, Jordan. In addition to Hartov and



Katz, we "tourists" also were accompanied by Dori of the IDF airborne and IDF reserve Brigadier Gideon Levanon. It was surprising and gratifying to see the amicable and even cordial relations between these Israelis and the assorted Jordanians we encountered: officials, shopkeepers, tour guides, bus drivers and hotel personnel.

Colonel McColl walks off the DZs at both legs of the Israeli/Jordanian friendship jump: Palmachim, Israel (top), and Sahel Daba, Jordan (bottom).

On Wednesday, history was made.

On the technical

side, it was an uneventful, training mission: just another jump from a C-130 Hercules transport by paratroopers using MC1-1 canopies and landing on a rocky, desert drop zone. But in the context of Middle East politics, it was significant. It was the first time IDF soldiers had parachuted from a Jordanian aircraft onto a Jordanian DZ.

We were greeted on the DZ by Prince Abdullah, a brigadier and commander of the Royal Jordanian Special Forces — and son of King Hussein. *SOF* was there as representatives of two former, bitter enemies cemented a peace the only way paratroopers know how. I stood in formation as the prince pinned Jordanian jump wings on Hartov and Dori. The camaraderie of airborne soldiers once again had transcended national lines.

Hartov now is organizing "Wings Of Peace II" for late May 1996. This will be a big event occurring during the 50th anniversary of Jordan's independence; Jordanians, including Prince Abdullah, have been invited to jump in Israel.

Alex McColl is SOF's special-projects director, director of RRI and jumps out of aircraft more than he should. ✕

Amateurs & Assassins II

Government Atrocities End In Tragedy At Ruby Ridge

by James L. Pate

Photos: AP/Wide World

This is the second part in Soldier Of Fortune's coverage of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee hearings on the tragedy inflicted by the federal government on the Randy Weaver family. As promised, the following is an account of the initial firefight of 21 August 1992; the assassination the next day of Vicki Weaver by FBI sniper Lon Horiuchi; and the subsequent 10-day standoff.

Only two tins of home-canned venison remained in the Weaver family's cupboard on 21 Au-

gust 1992. Striker, their large yellow Labrador, began barking that Friday morning. Game, perhaps. Armed with a 12-gauge pump shotgun, Randy Weaver emerged from his home, followed by his 14-year-old son, Sammy, who carried a Ruger Mini-14. They were accompanied by a family friend, Kevin Harris, 24, who'd come up the mountain above Ruby Creek a week earlier to visit. Harris had Weaver's .30-06 autoloading rifle.

Wild animals are abundant in the alpine woods around Naples, Idaho. The family routinely carried weap-

old Sara, when a moose ambled by the house and up the mountain.

Unknown to the three intrepid hunters, there were other predators lurking in the forest that day: six deputy federal marshals, their faces smeared in camouflage greasepaint and dressed in black, unmarked BDUs. They were equipped with radios and night-vision equipment and heavily armed with automatic weapons, including a sound-suppressed 9mm submachine gun. The team, split into two groups of three, were part of a U.S. Marshals Service special-operations unit tasked with making high-risk arrests.

Although unaware that federal marshals were hidden nearby, Randy Weaver knew he was a wanted man. Daughter Sara had found a surveillance-video transmitter on the same hill, overlooking the Weaver home, where three of the deputy marshals now were watching. But because no one had approached Weaver directly and tried to arrest him, Weaver later said, he assumed that the presence of the camera meant the marshals did not intend to arrest him on his 20-acre, mountain-top property.

The marshals never once made a face-to-face approach to Weaver to arrest him, Deputy Marshal Arthur Roderick later would testify, because "the safety of the Weaver children was our primary concern. So we at-



With a three-dimensional topo display of Ruby Ridge in the foreground, Randy Weaver holds the door to his cabin while testifying 4 September 1995 before the Senate judicial subcommittee. Bullet hole in window was from .308 round that killed his wife Vicki as she stood in doorway holding their 10-month-old baby.

gust 1992. But in the high country of northern Idaho's Selkirk Mountains, 35 miles south of the Canadian border, the growing season was all but over. Cold weather was nigh. The family needed meat.

ons; besides deer and elk, potentially dangerous predators abound: cougar, grizzly bear and bobcat. Three weeks earlier, Harris, a frequent visitor, had been sitting on the kitchen porch with the oldest Weaver daughter, 16-year-

tempted over an 18-month period to find ways to resolve the situation peacefully.”

Randy Weaver’s foray into the woods on that August day was at least the second time his need to feed his family would lead him to a run-in with the law. Weaver was targeted by the feds because of his unpopular and controversial beliefs about race, politics and religion. In 1989, “tempted in a weak moment when my family needed money,” he was entrapped, convinced by an ATF informant to shorten two shotgun barrels to an illegal length.

The case agent, ATF Special Agent Herb Byerly, had lied to the U.S. Attorney’s office about Weaver. The agent fabricated a lengthy, detailed criminal history that included fraudulent statements that Weaver grew marijuana, was a bank robber and had committed murder. In fact, Weaver had *no* criminal history. But the lies about the Weaver case were magnified and multiplied each step of the way, from the ATF to the U.S. Attorney to the U.S. Marshals Service and, finally, the FBI (see “Amateurs and Assassins,” *SOF* Dec. ’95). And along the way, federal agents committed crimes that made a mockery of the U.S. Constitution.

The tragedy unfolded with a desperate man trying to put food on his family’s table.

Most Dangerous Game

Hoping that Striker had scented a deer or an elk, Weaver directed his son, Sammy, to go with Harris and follow the dog down the logging trail. Randy took a shorter trail that would intersect the logging road down in the woods at a “Y” intersection, where he hoped to intercept the game as the dog chased it toward him.

The three marshals hidden on the rocky knob overlooking the Weaver home from the north immediately radioed their three fellow agents in the woods below, notifying them that they were being approached. Those three — Roderick, William F. Degan and Larry Cooper — immediately began running down the mountain, they later said, hoping to escape undetected. They did not have a copy of an arrest warrant for Weaver and had gone up only for surveillance, they said. Their orders for the day directed them to avoid contact with the Weavers.

Bill Degan, a Marine Corps reservist and Gulf War veteran, and Larry Cooper were close friends. They joined the Marshals Service at the same time and went through the training academy together. “This was to be Bill’s last field assignment,” wife Karen Degan wrote in a letter to U.S. Senator Arlen Specter, who chaired the September hearings. “I was fearful each time he ... headed off to a special mission. I couldn’t wait for him to stop. We had talked about it, as husbands and wives do. Our discussion of this last mission was different.

“The night before Bill left, we went to a party for my sister-in-law’s birthday,” she continued. “While we

neously, Striker was catching up to the three feds, who could hear Sammy, followed by Harris, romping downhill close behind.

The big dog ran past Degan, wagging his tail. Striker began playfully circling Cooper, who had the sound-suppressed 9mm submachine gun.

Striker “was just trying to play with him,” recalled Harris, who later chose to testify against the advice of his attorney, who fears his client may be indicted on state charges in Idaho. “That’s the only thing I remember thinking, is getting that dog away from the guy.”

Then Randy’s voice was heard, shouting for Harris and Sammy to come home. As Striker walked past



Randy Weaver points to bullet hole in window of his cabin door while discussing the 1992 raid on his wilderness cabin with (from left) Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pennsylvania) and attorneys Gary Gilman and Gerry Spence.

danced to the last slow song, he told me, ‘Whatever might happen in Idaho, just remember how much I love you.’... I remember saying something like, ‘Come on, you’re talking like someone’s going to get killed out there.’ He responded, ‘No one’s going to get killed.’”

First Fire on Ruby Ridge

With Roderick leading the way, the three panting marshals had about reached the “Y” when Roderick looked uphill to his left and saw Randy Weaver. Seeing the three men in camouflage and armed with automatic weapons, Weaver shouted a curse, turned and fled out of sight toward his cabin. Almost simulta-

neously, Striker was catching up to the three feds, who could hear Sammy, followed by Harris, romping downhill close behind. Cooper and then Roderick, his back now to the deputy marshals, Roderick fired his M16. The bullet struck the dog in the rear, splintering his spine as it sped forward. Striker collapsed, yelping.

Sammy, who’d just turned 14, was stunned. “You shot my dog, you son of a bitch!” he blurted out. *Bang! Bang!* Sammy fired twice with his Mini-14 at the camouflaged men, who were partially hidden in a brushy depression.

Hearing the shots, Weaver fired two warning shots from his shotgun into the air. “I’m coming, Dad,” Sammy yelled. The boy wheeled to his left. A volley of automatic weapons’ fire rang out.

A 9mm round from Cooper's weapon nearly severed Sammy's left arm at the elbow. "Oh, shit!" Sammy screamed as he stumbled. Another burst. A second round hit Sammy in mid-back, pierced his heart and exited his chest. He pitched face first into the dirt, dead.

Seeing Sammy drop, Harris fired three shots from the hip with the .30-06, then dove sideways for cover. Degan, who'd fired at least seven rounds from his M16, groaned. "Coop, I need you."

Cooper moved to Degan. "He was lying on his side, his arm in the sling of his rifle," Cooper would recall. "He was conscious, but he did not respond. ... I tried unsuccessfully to locate the entry wound. ... Within moments, I sensed that I was losing him. I reached for the artery on his neck to feel for a pulse and his pulse stopped beating under my fingertips."

Harris never has denied shooting Degan, who was hit in the chest. Harris said he acted in self-defense, because "I could see puffs of smoke and shell cases flying around, so I assumed that they were shooting at me." In fact, Cooper later claimed he had wounded Harris, who actually was unhurt in this initial shootout.

Cooper and Roderick testified at Harris' trial, in which Harris won acquittal, that the shootout began when Cooper stood up, identified himself as a federal agent and Harris fired the first shot. Cooper also said at the congressional hearings that the 9mm bullet that killed Sammy Weaver had been fired by Sammy's father — a spurious claim that only the most jaded, federal sycophants believed.

There was considerable credible evidence contradicting the claims of Cooper and Roderick. Fellow Deputy Marshal Tom Norris, who heard the shooting from nearby, said the first shot fired was that of a .223-caliber weapon, not the deeper and more distinctive report of a bigger-bore .30-06. Further, when Roderick talked late that night with Captain David Neal of the Idaho State Police, Roderick acknowledged firing the first shot and killing the dog. Cooper's repeated

denial that he killed Sammy is disputed by noted wound-ballistics expert Dr. Martin Fackler, who testified at the trial that Cooper's weapon killed the boy.

"We Were All Going To Be Killed..."

As the echoes of gunfire receded into the distance, the three marshals atop the observation post began moving toward the source of the noise. Cooper and Roderick remained crouched in the bushes with Degan's body.

Harris initially retreated back the way he had come, then circled back to the scene to check Sammy's body. He said he called out to the marshals that he was checking on Sammy, then laid his rifle down and rolled the

lost it. I grabbed Sam's Mini-14 and started shooting in the air. We thought we were all going to be killed at that point. I didn't even care." Vicki Weaver and her daughters began screaming and moaning. Randy shouted profane supplications heavenward.

Although Roderick and Cooper later would deny that they knew then that Sammy was dead, the boy's body was not on its back, as Harris had left it, when Randy and Vicki got down the hill, almost a half mile from the cabin.

"We found him right in front" of where Degan's body lay and Roderick and Cooper were hiding, Weaver said, weeping uncontrollably as he testified. "They knew they'd killed him.



FBI snipers are sworn in 14 September, prior to testifying before Senate subcommittee. From left are Roger Love, Mark Tilton, Christopher Whitcomb, Dale Monroe, Edward Wegner Jr., Warren Bamford, Jerome Baker, and Christopher Curran. Weaver's cabin door is in foreground.

slightly built boy off his stomach onto his back. If Cooper and Roderick had wanted to — if they were there — they could have walked out then and arrested Harris, who was momentarily unarmed. They did not. Some investigators believe the pair temporarily fled in panic.

Picking up both his and Sammy's rifles, Harris walked back up to the cabin and told Sammy's parents that their son was dead.

"We just went berserk," Randy Weaver later said. "All of us. We just

He'd been turned back over from when Kevin checked him. I believe their medic had checked him. I was cussing and screaming and yelling and holding him in my arms."

"I could hear them [Weavers] from where I was," Harris said. "I could hear them scream, Vicki screaming and wailing and Randy yelling and shouting, from where I was, up at the cabin ... with the girls."

Harris met the Weaver couple halfway up as they struggled to return to the cabin with Sammy's body. Fol-

lowing biblical scripture, they undressed him, washed his body, wrapped it in clean white linen and laid it out in a shed about 35 yards from the cabin. (The FBI later would claim no one in the federal government knew of the boy's death until a few days later, when they found Sammy in the shed. But records show

was mobilized. As HRT commander Dick Rogers flew westward on a U.S. Air Force jet, he formulated what were to become controversial rules of engagement for his five sniper teams. As initially drafted, the situation report called not only for the arrests of Kevin Harris and Randy Weaver, but also included the name

on-sight order for Harris and Randy Weaver. It violated not only the rules for the use of deadly force for all civilians and law-enforcement personnel, it violated the Constitution, a Justice Department report subsequently said.

"I had never heard of rules of engagement that permitted what was allowed" at the Weaver cabin, said FBI negotiator Fred Lanceley, who described them as "the most severe" of more than 300 hostage situations in which he had been involved. Lanceley flew out with Rogers and the HRT, and was with them when they staged at a National Guard armory in Bonner's Ferry, a few miles from Naples. At that briefing, Lanceley testified, Rogers advised everyone that "this will not be a long siege."

Lanceley wasn't the only one shocked by the rules of engagement. So were some of the FBI snipers. Special Agent Greg Sexton said he was told he could shoot on sight any armed adult male. "I

wanted to make sure my team did not interpret [the rules of engagement] as such," Sexton later said.

"You've got to be kidding," Special Agent Donald Kusulas said when he heard Rogers' shooting rules. "That's crazy, that's ridiculous," said Special Agent Peter King. "We all knew these rules were inappropriate and we weren't going to follow them," he later recalled.

In The Sniper's Sight

However, special agents Lon Horiuchi and his partner, Dale Monroe, had no problems with the rules of engagement. They eagerly anticipated their deployment to the mountain.

"My conclusion at the end of this briefing was that there were to be no negotiations," Lanceley recalled. "I rode to the forward command post with Rogers and two or three of his men. I said, 'Dick, if I understand you right, there are to be no negotiations. If that is true, I'm going to try to work with your intelligence men, and that's where I'll be if you need



The subcommittee's chairman, Sen. Arlen Specter (right), talks with U.S. Marshals prior to their giving testimony on 15 September. From left are Larry Cooper, Arthur Roderick, David Hunt, Joseph Thomas, Lawrence Berger (general counsel to the Federation of Law Enforcement Officers Association), and Francis Norris.

that Jeffrey Howard, who then worked at Justice Department headquarters in Washington, knew of Sammy's death less than 24 hours after it happened.)

Disinformation

As the deadly day waned into twilight, Harris and the Weavers began hearing sirens up and down the valley below. Tuning in the radio, they heard the first news reports, which were based on statements from federal officials who claimed Randy Weaver and Kevin Harris teamed up to "ambush" the three deputy marshals. One report said they did so from a truck. The marshals later claimed they were pinned down for hours by constant fire from the cabin. The cabin actually was almost a half-mile distant and between the two of them, Harris and Sammy Weaver fired only five shots. By contrast, Degan fired seven rounds from his gun, and Cooper and Roderick each fired about a half dozen.

The FBI's Hostage Rescue Team

of Vicki Weaver, who was not wanted for any crime. Item A in Rogers' rules of engagement stated that "if any adult in the compound is observed with a weapon, deadly force can and should be employed to neutralize the individual."

These rules of engagement are at the center of a criminal investigation against Rogers and several other agents, including former Assistant Director Larry Potts. On-site commander Eugene Glenn said Potts approved the final version. A precise determination is impossible because someone at headquarters shredded key documents before they could be secured by investigators. Wording subsequently was added, providing that Item A must include the phrase "after the surrender announcement is made. ..." Item B still stipulated that "if any adult male is observed prior to the announcement, deadly force can and should be employed, if the shot can be taken without endangering any children."

This amounted to a shoot-to-kill-

me.' And he said, 'Good,' and that was it."

Up in the cabin, Harris and the Weaver family hunkered down and waited. They packed four backpacks with survival gear, one each for Randy, Kevin, Vicki and Sara. Her 14-year-old sister, Rachel, would carry Elisheba, 10-months-old, if they decided to flee. But they decided to wait.

"I knew they'd ... come up and ... start saying, 'okay, you guys ... put away your guns and come out with your hands up,'" Harris would recall. "That's what I was waiting for ... I didn't know there was anybody out there watching. I thought they'd get a bullhorn or something and say we had to surrender. That's what I was waiting for. I never once imagined ... that they would just start shooting."

But that is exactly what the FBI did.

Late that afternoon, "the [remaining leashed] dogs were acting real strange, sort of whining," Randy Weaver recalled. "It was real quiet."

Holding a rifle, he left the cabin, followed by Sara, who also grabbed a gun, and Kevin, who had the .30-06. They stood on the rocks, overlooking the road up to the cabin. Then Randy decided he wanted to check on Sammy's body. Kevin said he'd grab some flashlight batteries stored in another outbuilding.

"They're out!" Special Agent Dale Monroe heard someone say as he sat with sniper Lon Horiuchi. Armed with an M16, it was Monroe's job to act as spotter and cover Horiuchi with the M16, in case a person with hostile intent came up from behind. "I looked through my scope ... I saw three individuals. They were all carrying rifles," he testified. As Randy reached up to bend back a nail holding the

shed door shut, a shot rang out, hitting Weaver in the armpit.

"I've been shot," Randy yelled to Kevin and Sara, who were getting the batteries. Weaver began running for the cabin door, followed by Sara, then Kevin. Vicki Weaver, holding Elisheba, ran to the door, opened it and shouted to the hills, "You bastards!"

"When Randy and Sara got to the door," Harris said, "they kind of slowed ... to go through the door. I

tured a lung, causing it to collapse.

"Vicki screamed and dropped to a kneeling position, still holding the baby against her body," Randy said. "She was like a washrag then. She was gone. I pulled her out of the doorway and laid her beside the table. She was gone."

Everyone began screaming. Randy tried to get a tourniquet on Kevin's arm. "Just let me die," Kevin cried.

Tragedy Concealed

Rogers and the rest of the HRT members hid the fact of Vicki Weaver's death for several days from everyone, including other FBI agents. Lanceley had no idea of her death the next morning when he asked, over a bullhorn, "Good morning, Mrs. Weaver. How are you this morning? We had hot pancakes for breakfast. What did you have?"

Huddled on the kitchen floor with his daughters and his wife's hideous remains, Randy Weaver screamed from the cabin that they had killed his wife. The FBI hid this fact from the public for almost another week.

"We all felt like we were all dead,

that we'd all be killed, that it was just a matter of time," Randy Weaver said. "They sent up a negotiation robot with a phone set and a double-barreled shotgun built in, aimed at the phone. I had no doubt that whoever grabbed that phone was dead meat. I told the negotiators right from the start that they'd murdered my son and my wife. They could hear us. They were bragging about later on hearing the baby crying and us coughing. I felt like we were a bunch of guinea pigs trapped down a hole, being played with by some cat. By this time, I didn't want to negotiate with



Shown here with sister Nioaka Threlkeld (right) and his mother Barbara Pierce (left), Kevin Harris leaves the Federal Courthouse in Boise, Idaho, on 8 July 1993, after being cleared of all charges in the shooting death of Deputy Marshal Bill Degan. Against his lawyer's advice, Harris volunteered to testify in September 1995 at the U.S. Senate's special hearings.

slowed way down so I wouldn't run over them."

Another shot rang out.

"I wasn't looking back," Harris said. "I was looking right at Vicki."

FBI Special Agent Horiuchi had fired. His .308-caliber bullet pierced the door's window glass and blue gingham curtain, entered Vicki's neck, severed her carotid artery then exited, ripping away most of the left side of her jaw and half of her face and showering her children with blood, brains and bits of skull. The bullet then pierced Harris' left arm, entered the side of his chest and punc-

anybody.”

“I didn’t even know the FBI was there until after Vicki was dead,” Weaver said. “That night, they came up in armored personnel carriers with loudspeakers, and that’s the first time I knew who they were.”

As hundreds of reporters and citizens from across the nation gathered at a government roadblock at the bottom of the mountain outside Naples, the FBI knew the world was watching. They decided to negotiate. Ultimately, three non-agents were allowed to approach the cabin and speak directly to the terrified people huddled inside: family friend

Jackie Brown, retired police officer Jack McLamb and retired Green Beret officer James “Bo” Gritz. It is to the credit of these three people — not anybody in government — that the siege ended without further



U.S. Deputy Marshal Larry Cooper testified on 15 September that he never fired at Weaver’s son Sammy — and that Weaver himself is responsible for the death. Photo at left is of slain Deputy Marshal William Degan.

bloodshed.

Brown recalled that before she went in the cabin the first time, “Dick Rogers ... motioned me over [and] told me ... that if I did not mind how long I was in the cabin — he didn’t

give me an exact time limit, so I had no idea what he considered too long — that he would have no choice but to assume one of two things: I had been taken hostage, or I had joined them; and it would leave him no choice but to ‘take’ the cabin. I took that as a threat

Mr. Degan for no more reason than he called out to me. I want to say this as clearly as I possibly can, so there is absolutely no mistake in anyone’s mind: What Mr. Roderick and Mr. Cooper say is false. I would not have been anywhere near those woods if I had known that all those men with assault rifles and silent submachine guns ... were out there.”

One of the first people Gritz talked to when he arrived on the mountain, he said, was a Red Cross supervisor, Ed Pharr. Pharr told him he’d been present for the HRT briefing at the National Guard armory in Bonner’s Ferry.

“Ed Pharr sought me out and said: ‘Bo, I was horrified when I was watching the HRT load their magazines. I heard them saying that no one was coming out alive. After they shot Vicki on Saturday, they put up a sign proclaiming Camp Vicki to be their headquarters.’ He said they didn’t take the sign down until the day I arrived,” Gritz recalled.

It took some time before Weaver trusted Gritz enough to allow him to enter the cabin. But communication and negotiation were immediate.

Continued on page 84



Senate Judiciary subcommittee chairman Specter (left) talks with retired Special Forces Col. Bo Gritz before his testimony on 20 September. Gritz played a pivotal role in avoiding further bloodshed and ending the siege on Ruby Ridge. He testified that federal law-enforcement agents “seem to be above the law, because they commit crimes that ordinary people would be prosecuted for.”

Cradling an improvised satchel charge, the scruffy-dressed terrorist crawled silently across sand and through underbrush to his target: a five-ton U.S. Army truck parked along the disputed border separating the republics of Cortina and Acadia. He heaved his bomb into the back of the truck, then sprinted away — right into the arms of a soldier from the NATO peacekeeping force.

As the trooper ordered the culprit to kneel, the charge in the truck exploded, sending flame and shrapnel into the air in one of the few successful attempts to re-ignite the border conflict between the two republics on the island of Aragon.

Fortunately, no one was hurt in the explosion, and the number of ca-

sualties on all sides was light throughout the operation. Braving 102-degree heat, humidity, snakes and snipers, troops from NATO's Partnership for Peace successfully kept the smoldering border conflict from escalating into a full-scale war.

The NATO peacekeeping force was acting as the military component of the United Nations Observer Mission in Aragon (UNOMA), which first was authorized in January 1995. They relieved a United States-led multinational force that had conducted peacekeeping operations there since August 1994.

Under the Partnership for Peace, troops from the United States, along with fellow NATO members Canada and the United Kingdom, had joined

forces under U.N. auspices with their counterparts — and one-time enemies — from the former Warsaw Pact countries of Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Units from Albania, Slovenia, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, and the former Soviet republics of the Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, also joined in the exercise.

While the situation was not unlike a dozen or more conflicts currently festering or blazing around the world, the island of Aragon is different: It actually is in the middle of Fort Polk, Louisiana, the site of the Army's Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC). The conflict between the fictional Cortina and Acadia was part of *Co-*



NATO peacekeepers capture a "terrorist" who bombed U.S. Army truck along the troubled border between the fictional republics of Cortina and Acadia.

operative Nugget '95 (CN95), an exercise scheduled by NATO's Allied Command Atlantic and hosted on behalf of the United States by the U.S. Atlantic Command.

The goal of CN95 and other Partnership for Peace exercises is to foster compatibility between these forces through hands-on practice, at the platoon and company level, of combined peacekeeping and humanitarian-relief tactics, techniques and communications procedures. The program also assists the military forces of partner nations in emerging from the Cold War as positive, non-political and defense-oriented elements of their societies.

Cooperative Nugget '95 was the sixth military exercise to be con-

ducted as part of NATO's Partnership for Peace program. It was the first to be conducted in the United States.

It also was a historic event for former Warsaw Pact and former Soviet troops to train on U.S. soil. Most of the troops from armies behind the former Iron Curtain never thought they would see America, let alone as soldiers.

"If someone had told me five years ago that I would be training *with* American soldiers in the United States, I would have told them they were crazy," said a Lithuanian platoon commander, Lieutenant Raimondas Ivanauskas. Ivanauskas already had first-hand experience in U.N. peacekeeping operations as a member of the mission in Croatia in

the Sinai, and contributed a medical unit to the multinational forces of Operation Desert Storm.

The Real World

The three-week exercise comprised two weeks of joint training and rehearsal and a week of realistic exercises in the field. And realism was accomplished not only by the weather and terrain of central Louisiana. Role players recruited from among civilians, retired military and military spouses contributed to the training by living in the field in "villages," "towns," and "refugee centers." The actors portrayed the civilian population, good and bad, partisan and non-partisan, which would be a part of any real-world scenario of



M/Cpl. Paul Howe

The Comrades of Company C

Why Did Former ComBloc Troops Train At Fort Polk?

by Bill Pietrucha

1994 and early 1995.

His comments were echoed by other soldiers from behind the former Iron Curtain. First Lieutenant Rozsa, of the Hungarian contingent, expressed wonderment at being in the United States and training with its troops. "It is a different way of peacekeeping than what we are used to," Rozsa said, adding that he previously had trained with Scandinavian units. "Our goal is to incorporate what we are learning from this exercise into our training back home, to be able to join in peacekeeping operations anywhere in the world we are needed."

Earlier this year, Hungary sent peacekeeping troops to Cyprus and

peacekeeping.

There was the unexpected, too. During the second day of field exercises, a car bomb "exploded" at a checkpoint manned by U.S. and British troops. This threat was nothing new to the Brits: Some recently had been redeployed from peacekeeping operations in Northern Ireland.

This exercise tested the soldiers' capacities not only for effectively treating the mock casualties, but also provided the challenge of crowd control in a chaotic situation.

Another mission was to conduct a convoy to provide food and other supplies to needy "refugees." The exercise was designed to simulate



Photo: DoD

It's the same in any man's army: hurry up and wait. Multinational peacekeeping trainees wait to board C-130 during *Cooperative Nugget '95*.



Photo: DoD

U.S., Canadian and British troops joined forces at Fort Polk with troops from the former Warsaw Pact countries of Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, the Czech Republic and Slovakia as well as Albania, Slovenia, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

problems a peacekeeping force might face while distributing survival items to the local civilians — à la Somalia.

The multinational force secured a distribution site, but was ordered *not* to distribute food. The soldiers then had to face hostile refugees when they arrived for their daily ration.

"Why can't I get any food?" shouted Tom Chance, a JRTC civilian role player. "I'm hungry — I want some food *now!* If you're not going to give us any food, then we'll just go inside and get it for ourselves." He

began waving a stick as more refugees joined the throng edging toward the distribution center. Slovenian Second Lieutenant Alez Gavez tried to calm the refugees while denying them access to the distribution center. Lt. Davorin Osojnik, a Slovenian interpreter, stepped up to help Gavez. Just then, on the other side of the large tent, a bandit tried to slip through the perimeter. Guards stopped him and removed him from the site.

Despite the language barriers between some of the troops, the multinational force reacted like a well-oiled machine: Its members prevented the refugees from entering the distribution site without resorting to gunfire.

"This is good training for us," Gavez said. "In Slovenia I see this type of situation on television all the time and I think about how I would act. I make up my mind to follow orders and respect how the civilian refugee feels."

"Today I learned it is not as easy as it looks," he added. "The experience we gain here makes this training good. Doing things we know with people from other cultures makes CN95 a real challenge."

Language Barrier

The language barrier proved not to be such a problem after all. With translators and linguists provided by U.S. Army special-operations units and interpreters accompanying each of the foreign troop contingents, the troops quickly were able to understand each other.

In the multinational Company C, the troops got along well. As an American platoon drove along a deeply rutted road to the base camp, they swerved slightly into the



Not all contact with locals in a peacekeeping or aid scenario will be amicable. Here, Hungarian soldiers learn how to handle argumentative civilians at a border checkpoint.

Bill Pietrucho

brush to make way for their fellow Company C soldiers, Lithuanians, traveling the other way.

Both platoons were exhausted as the long, hard day of training neared its end. Nonetheless, when the two

platoons crossed paths their soldiers shouted the traditional infantry greeting, "Hooah!"

All of the foreign troops, however, weren't entirely "foreign." Even before the Republic of Estonia joined NATO's Partnership for Peace program in 1994, one former American soldier already had decided to assist the new republic his own way.

Now an active-duty lieutenant in the Estonian Kaitseliit (the Estonian home defense, comparable to the National Guard in America), Paul Intrek Rajamae-Volmer returned to the United States along with his fellow Estonian soldiers.

Estonia became a republic in August 1991 and had no army independent of the then-Soviet army. Rajamae-Volmer, born in 1969 in Dayton, Ohio, had been a military-police officer in the U.S. Army. He moved to Estonia in 1993 to join its newly formed military. His grandparents had emigrated to the United States from there

Continued on page 71



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Bill Pietrucho

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TERMINAL SOLUTION

Continued from page 47

temperature — both surface and core — and then cycled through a wide range of temperatures. If the rate of temperature change is maintained at a slow enough pace, thermal compression and expansion occur evenly from the core to the surface and internal stresses are released, resulting in a homogeneously stabilized barrel. The process by which this is accomplished takes more than several days as the barrel is taken by precise computer control to -310 degrees F, held for up to 60 hours, then raised to 310 degrees F and slowly brought back to room temperature. Due to recent technical developments, the deep cryogenic tempering process is now relatively inexpensive (about \$50 per barrel). Furthermore, modern computer control has brought the process to a consistency not possible in the past.

Barrels subjected to this process develop a more uniform, refined micro structure with far greater density as a consequence of carbide fillers precipitated during the process. These carbides fill interstices in the steel, leaving a much denser, more coherent structure with far greater wear resistance. Thus, in addition to increasing accuracy, deep cryogenic stress relief can provide barrels with an exceptional increase in durability, with barrel life extended by as much as 300%. All Super Match Interdiction Rifles feature barrels that have been subjected to deep cryogenic stress relief.

It obviously makes a difference as this semiautomatic system is capable of superb accuracy. While Arms Tech insists the rifle will shoot anywhere from 0.25 MOA to 0.75 MOA, the best group fired during *SOF's* test and evaluation was 0.7 MOA and these were reloads assembled with Federal brass, IMR 4350 propellant and Finnish Lapua 190-grain BTHP bullets. Few bolt-action systems will provide better performance than this, especially with heat risers bouncing off the floor of the lower Sonoran desert in the middle of the summer.

Most surprising was the low perceived recoil generated by the Super Match Interdiction Rifle. It was not much more than that of 7.62x51mm

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NATO sniper systems in the same weight class. Surely the McMillan stock and Pachmayr Decelerator butt pad are partially responsible for the diminished recoil. However, I believe that the rifle's gas system bleeds off excess gases that would otherwise magnify the recoil impulse. In any event, this is one .300 Winchester Magnum rifle that's a pleasure to shoot.

Much of our shooting and all of the velocity tests were conducted with Hornady factory ammunition loaded with a 190-grain Boat Tail Spire Point Interlock bullet (catalog #8220). Its average velocity was about 2,860 fps. No matter what some self-styled experts may say, this is not too slow for long-range work. Instrumentation for the velocity tests consisted of the excellent PACT (Practical Applied Computer Technologies Inc., P.O. Box 531525, Grand Prairie, TX 75053; phone: 800-722-8462) MkIV Championship Timer with its built-in chronographic mode, together with PACT Mk5 Professional Skyscreens. All shots were fired at a distance of 10 feet from the start screen and the ambient temperature at the time of *SOF's* test and evaluation was 93 degrees F.

Special-operations units have already field-tested the Super Match Interdiction Rifle in combat environments and reportedly are pleased with its performance. Those concerned about accurately engaging rapidly moving, multiple targets at distances out to 1,000 meters will find that the Arms Tech Ltd. system meets these specifications and then some.

Method Of Operation

The Super Match Interdiction Rifle is gas-operated, locked-breech and fires from the closed-bolt position. It operates in exactly the same manner as the FN BAR sporting rifle of which it is a heavily modified version. After the bullet passes a gas port in the barrel, 9.25 inches from the chamber, expanding propellant gases move through the port into the gas cylinder where they impinge on the piston to unlock the action. The piston travels 0.59 inches and pushes the bolt carrier against the recoil spring by means of two side bars. When in battery, the multiple-rotary bolt is locked into recesses at the rear of the barrel.

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To lock or unlock, the bolt must be rotated about 60 degrees, in this instance a longitudinal distance of 0.59 inches, the exact distance the bolt travels rearward. The bolt carrier continues rearward with enough momentum to extract and eject the empty case.

During the counter-recoil stroke, the bolt group strips the top round out of the magazine and chambers it as the bolt rotates into battery. Gas flow is regulated by a cap at the front end of the gas cylinder. Excess gas pressure is bled off between the forearm and the barrel. There is a hold-open mechanism that keeps the bolt group to the rear after the last shot has been fired.

The trigger housing contains the trigger, sear, disconnect, hammer and the accompanying springs. Unique to this rifle is the use of two hammer springs. When the trigger is pulled, the disconnect pushes the sear forward to drop the hammer on the spring-loaded firing pin. The hammer is recocked by the bolt group during the system's recoil stroke. At that time the disconnect is also disengaged from its bent on the sear.

There is a crossbolt-type safety at the rear of the trigger guard. Pushing the crossbolt to the right blocks the

trigger. Pressing it to the left exposes a red ring and permits the rifle to be fired.

— P.G.K.

THE SNIPER'S OPTIC

Continued from page 47

be set parallax-free at any distance from 15 meters to infinity when the shooter is in the firing position. It has limiting stops with the two extreme positions symbolized by the infinity mark and the largest of a series of dots. Parallax occurs when the primary image of an objective lens does not coincide with the reticle.

The ocular can be focused by backing the eyepiece away from the lockring and then screwing it in or out until the reticle pattern is sharp and crisp. The M3 comes with screw-on caps for its three adjustment knobs, which have a lower profile than the large, over-sized so-called "ergonomic" knobs of the Mark 4 M1 (both fixed 10X or 16X magnifications are available) scopes. Optimum eye relief of the Mark 4 M3-10X is 3.4 inches. At 100 yards the field of view is 11 feet.

— P.G.K. ✕

YOU BUY, I'LL FLY

Continued from page 35

Van Rooyen, a big, robust man, was in great pain but never uttered a sound throughout the attack and extraction. He was air-lifted back to South Africa within a few hours of being brought back to Saurimo. His leg was saved.

It is a primary, EO policy that the organization maintain a first-rate, casualty-evacuation program. Aircraft are on round-the-clock standby for this purpose in Angola and Sierra Leone.

Combat SAR

One of the most dramatic events of the last stage of the war was the shoot-down — probably by an SA-14 — in July 1994, of PC-7 pilot Lourens Bosch.

After the SAM found its mark, Bosch crash-landed his PC-7 in thick jungle, wrecking the small aircraft. He managed to navigate himself and his back-seater, an observer, through the bush back to the road, then me-



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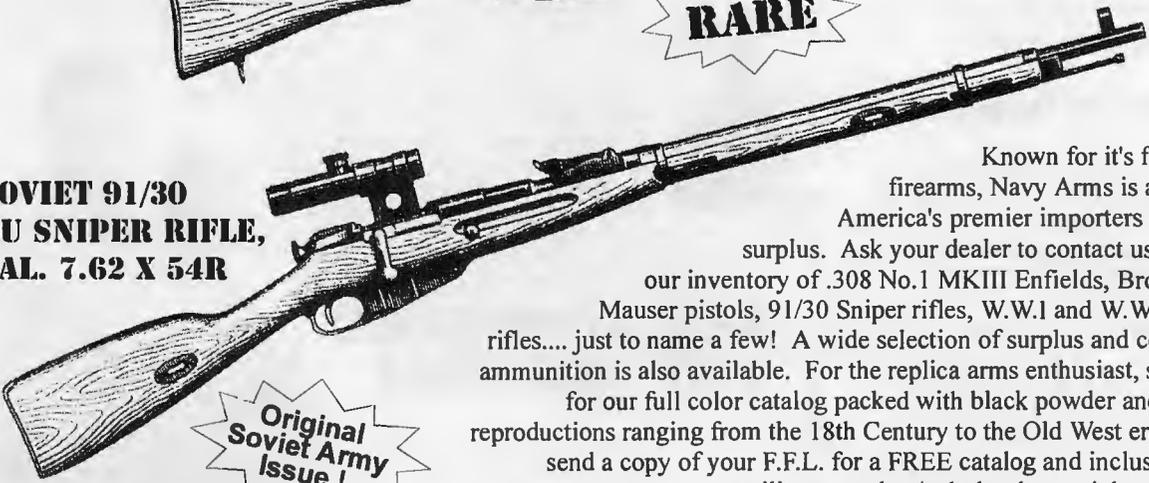
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thodically direct the approach of the rescue Mi-17. Later, reports spoke of some 5,000 Unita troops being deployed in the wooded area. Clearly, the pilot was working against impossible odds. Using a tiny VHF Bendix King radio, Bosch transmitted a message, that the area was (in Afrikaans) *vrot met die vyand*: rotten with enemy.

Undeterred, he set about finding an adequate LZ where the approaching helicopter, flown by Carl Alberts with Arthur Walker as co-pilot, would be able to pick them up. By now Unita forces had encircled the area.

The situation might have been different, Walker later recalled, had his crew gunners been on board. But because this was an uplift and there were weight and other considerations (not least that it was dangerous in the extreme), the Mi-17 went in with only its two pilots and their Angolan tech, Tino Lunes, on board. They normally would also have carried a search-and-rescue team, but this, too, was regarded as superfluous.

"The last two clicks were like a hell-run," Walker recalled. "We were

taking fire from the ground along the entire distance: 12.7mm, RPG-7 and even 14.5mm on a few occasions. There was also a great volume of AK fire. We were in contact with Bosch all the time and eventually he told us that he had us visual. Being the professional he was, he directed us spot-on to his position."

What happened next is not entirely clear. For a start, because of incoming fire, Alberts brought the helicopter down at a very high rate of descent. As he flared, the entire area suddenly was enveloped in billowing dust — an unexpected problem in the otherwise overgrown terrain.

Communications with the Angolan tech on board, who knew little English, also became a problem. As they neared the ground, tail down, the pilots felt the Mi-17 shudder. They thought they had been hit. Moments later the helicopter started to vibrate violently.

Upon landing, Walker shouted to Lunes to lead the two men on board. But they were nowhere to be seen. He ordered the tech to look for them. Already the first detachment of Unita

troops could be seen running through the jungle toward them. They were then about 250 yards away.

Lunes was away only a few moments before he reported back that the two airmen weren't there. The EO pilots now were being shot at. Alberts no longer could wait. He lifted off quickly, but there was almost no rudder; the Mi-17 nearly was uncontrollable. For a while Walker believed the chopper would shake itself to pieces.

As the helicopter rose above the LZ, the crew spotted a body in the jungle below. It was lying face down with a bloody slash across its head, neck and back. There was no mistaking Bosch's blue flying jacket. Of his observer, nothing was seen.

By now the Mi-17 had emerged clear of the firing zone. Because the two South Africans believed the helicopter would disintegrate, Alberts put a short distance between themselves and their attackers and headed for a clearing on the far side of a river about three or four miles away. They put down and inspected the damage. At a glance they could tell that the

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tail rudder had hit something solid: One of the blades was severely bent. The air crew did what they could and set off for Saurimo, more than an hour's flying time to the east. It was slow and scary, Walker recalled, but they managed to land safely.

The next day, Colonel Roelf van Heerden (who later would command EO operations in the diamond fields of Sierra Leone) sent two BMP-2s from Cafunfo — then under army control — to find out whether the two flyers had been killed or captured. Nothing conclusive was found, only bits of flesh in the trees and jeep tracks. Later Unita radio intercepts spoke of a capture. Since then there has been no word about the observer's fate.

Walker knew Bosch well and flew with him on occasion. Bosch, he said, was "brave, competent and resourceful" — one of the best. Flying either a PC-7 or a MiG-23, Bosch would recce a target himself and then decide on the best option.

"It was that kind of war," said Walker.

Al Venter is well known to regular SOF readers as a long-time contributor and contributing editor on Africa. He now resides in Chino, Washington.

RAPID, WILLING

Continued from page 39

sites, the coordinates of the selected targets dialed in, and the only thing preventing them from firing is the final order itself. "It all happens pretty bloody fast," he emphasized.

With the three crews of the 25/170 Battery Royal Artillery nearly finished rehitching the guns for the ride back to their primary pits, Applegate gave his final words on the RRF mission.

"I love my job here," Applegate said. "I'm getting a chance to rewrite the books, using artillery for the first time in a peacekeeping mission. The Serbs would be making a terrible mistake in believing we won't fire back when put to the test. We will."

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storage facilities and artillery and mortar positions. Due to their firing techniques and support from French 155mm SP guns and Dutch 120mm mortars, the British gunners received minimal return fire and suffered no casualties.

Mark H. Milstein is SOF's senior foreign correspondent based in Budapest, Hungary, and has covered the Middle East, the Balkans and Chechnya. ✕

COMPANY C

Continued from page 65

during World War II.

"I looked at all the possibilities on how I could assist Estonia, and that was the best location where I felt I would be able to assist," he said, adding that it initially was difficult to make the transition. But Rajamae-Volmer overcame early difficulties; further, he became impressed with the motivation and dedication of Estonian soldiers.

"Leaders can put them through a lot, keep them for long hours, and they really don't complain," he said. "As long as they know why they're doing it, they're willing to do anything for the independence of Estonia, and to assist in keeping other people free."

One of Rajamae-Volmer's fellow soldiers from a country within the former Soviet Union had a different tale to tell.

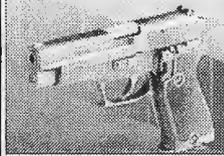
"I grew up during the Cold War, when America was the enemy," said Capt. Stanislav Kholodkor, a 12-year veteran of the former Soviet army and native of Kyrgyzstan. Kholodkor commands a special-forces unit that was selected by his government to attend the training at Fort Polk. Some of the soldiers in his unit are conscripts who must serve 18 months.

Kholodkor said he does not let politics interfere with being a soldier. "If I was a good soldier during communism, I can be a good soldier now," he said. Exercises like CN95, Kholodkor said, help improve relations between the participating countries and might have a positive effect on world affairs.

"The best thing is that we're not running and shooting and fighting," he remarked. "It's the warmth, the

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happiness and brotherhood. As an officer, I would like these relations to continue into the future. I have heard a lot about American Special Forces and I would like my platoon to take part in more American training."

"This will make things better and better," Kholodkor said, adding that he hoped soldiers will have only one mission in the future: "to prevent wars."

The Russians Are Coming?

But not everyone shared these feelings of brotherhood. Local militia members, concerned about a one-world government, were skeptical of having foreign troops in Louisiana.

To allay these concerns, Fort Polk issued a book about the Partnership for Peace exercise that noted: "Some may have heard rumors that Fort Polk is under U.N. command or part of some one-world order plot. This is not true."

Tom Parker, coordinator for the Louisiana militia, covered the exercise for his Louisiana public-access television show, "Freedom Forum." He remarked: "The Partnership for

Peace is forging a hammer. My concern is whether this hammer will be used as a tool for peace or as a weapon to smash our individual freedoms."

General John M. Shalikashvili, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, has addressed some of these fears. He stressed that "what is important to understand is that the Partnership for Peace is not a partnership against someone. It is a partnership to draw us all together, to work together."

Exercises such as CN95, he said, "are checking out whether we're getting closer and closer together in the way we conduct our procedures."

"When armies from different nations get together," Shalikashvili said, "it's extraordinarily helpful if over time we have had these patterns of cooperation, opportunities where we get together, whether that's in our schools, whether that's in conferences, whether that's in exercises such as this, whether it's simply to get together and drink coffee together and get to know each other."

The Partnership for Peace, he said, "isn't just about exercises, it's about

the much larger issue of learning to live and work together and think the same way and understand each other clearly."

"You cannot wish away things that might go wrong in the world," he cautioned. "Humanitarian disasters will happen whether we like it or not. Peace will be broken and crises will arise that someone has to deal with. And if we do not wish to be the one who has to do it by himself all the time, then it is to our advantage to work with as many nations who can share the burden."

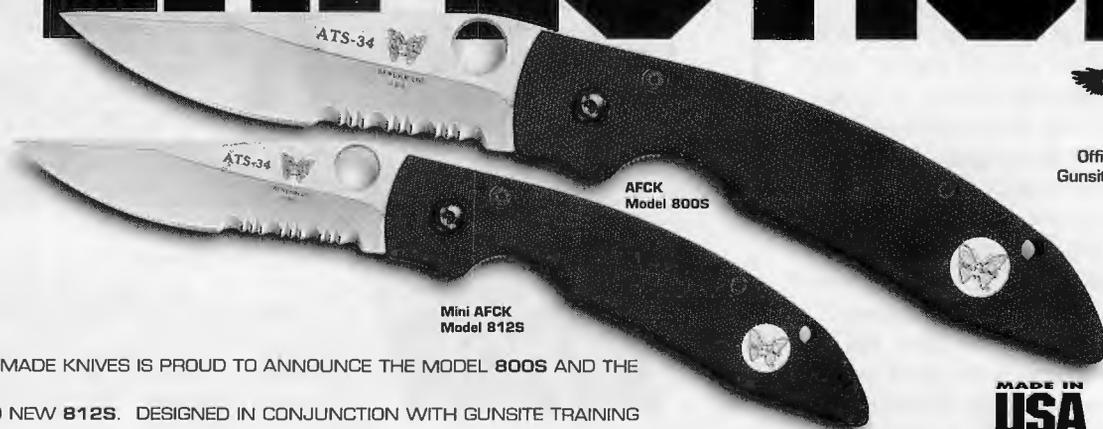
Freelancer Bill Pietrucha was formerly business correspondent for We/Mbl, a Hearst-Izvestia joint-venture newspaper published in Russia and the United States, and associate editor of Defense News. ✕

BOMBAST

Continued from page 43

between a flashlight battery and a funky Fuel-Air Explosive (FAE) bomb. The description of how the

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p.s.i. are quite capable of causing failure of such columns (pressures as low as 8 p.s.i. will overturn loaded rail cars). Having had extensive experience in blowing very large (3- and 4-foot thick) reinforced concrete structures, I also take exception to the general's descriptions of the signature of contact explosives on such targets.

One of the key items of analysis apparently overlooked by both Partin and Gunderson is collateral damage. If you only stare at the trees you'll never see the forest.

In assessing any explosion scene it is imperative that damage to structures surrounding the target be carefully examined before any conclusions are reached. Accordingly, one of the first things I did upon arrival in Oklahoma City was to take a long walk with *SOF's* Pate through a 20-block area around the Murrah building, examining and photographing blast damage and speaking to many witnesses. It soon was apparent that almost no one had taken the time to do what we were doing.

Another crucial phenomenon associated with explosions — especially very large ones — which was completely overlooked by both Partin and Gunderson, is the negative blast-pressure wave. During an explosive detonation, large quantities of expanding gases are forced outward in the form of a positive-pressure wave. This creates a vacuum behind them. As the pressure of this wave dissipates, a negative-pressure wave is formed by gases (and debris) being sucked into this vacuum. This negative wave often is powerful enough to cause additional damage, in some cases finishing off what had just been weakened by the positive wave.

Basic laws of physics, as they relate to explosions, also must be considered; for instance, the effect of *focusing*. As the shock wave moves from the point of detonation, it may be directed or channeled by terrain, buildings or building interiors. Because of this, the localized energy/destructive force may increase or decrease proportionally. If the shock wave is deflected by an object, anything behind that object may be shielded from blast effects. Likewise, shock waves that strike a strong structure may reflect off that object, causing damage "around corners."



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Finally, neither Gunderson nor Partin gave any credit to a very powerful factor, something that contributes immensely to the loss of life in earthquakes, something architects give great consideration to when designing buildings, something explosives engineers study when preparing to demolish those buildings. It is a force that affects almost everything we do: gravity.

From the day the Murrah building was erected, the relentless force of gravity was trying to bring it down. On April 19, the force of gravity got the chance it needed when the explosion kicked out the supports from beneath the building. Gravity took over and the blast-weakened structure literally pulled itself down. John Donovan, *SOF's* contributing editor for explosives and demolitions (whose profession is blasting such buildings into neat piles of scoopable rubble), observed: "Such buildings are designed to withstand pressure from above. Even a relatively weak blast from below can destroy the structural relationship between floors and supporting members, allowing the floors to pancake down — as happened in Oklahoma City."

In summary, unless all factors associated with an explosion are fully considered and very carefully evaluated, any "findings" are inconclusive. And speculations based on pseudoscience, skewed science or no science at all can do no more than cripple the pursuit of fact.

Seismic Records

It is common knowledge that the OKC blast was recorded by at least two seismographs; copies of the seismograms have been making the rounds by mail and fax for months. Some of them are pretty clear, some are downright unreadable, and others show clear signs of tampering. In the case of the latter, any tampering probably was in a lame attempt to bolster the "two-bomb theory." Was there one explosion or two? Basically, the jury's still out. In an attempt to get definitive answers, I interviewed Dr. Thomas L. Holzer of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in Menlo Park, California, and Dr. R.L. Brown of the Oklahoma Geological Survey (OGS) located in Norman.

Both graciously shared with me a plenitude of information, at times

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making me feel as if I were getting a crash course in seismology. I found both of these men to be honest and open minded.

A key thing to remember is that both of these men are scientists. When talking to scientists, you have to ask specific questions and then *listen*. But human nature being what it is, people often hear only what they want to hear, especially if it seems to support a preselected scenario. In this case, many of the conspiracy buffs only heard enough to convince them that Dr. Brown was positive there were two explosions, therefore he must be right, while Dr. Holzer felt there was only one blast, so he must be part of the cover-up.

So who is right? We'll just have to wait and see. Both of these men were expressing preliminary conclusions based on the data available at the time. And since that data showed some admittedly anomalous signatures, no absolutely conclusive determination could be reached with any degree of scientific certainty. The bottom line: The OGS and the USGS each came up with the data they have,

based on the information available to them. Much of what I told these scientists about explosive behavior was new and interesting to them. When more information relating to explosive behavior becomes available to them, they likely will factor it into their calculations. But until they have everything they need to work with, we'll just have to wait.

Soon after the OKC blast, reports of another bomb found in the rubble set off a panicked evacuation of rescue personnel. On interviewing a member of the Oklahoma City police department's bomb squad, we determined that in fact the item found was a dummy TOW anti-tank missile that had been on display in the Marine Corps' recruiting office on the sixth floor. Unfamiliar with military ordnance, the police had called in the Army's 61st Explosive Ordnance Disposal team from Fort Sill, Oklahoma. The soldiers identified the missile as an inert trainer. But the failure of the news media to follow up on this simply fed the rumors.

And perhaps the most germane question of all: Would a single truck

bomb of approximately 5,000 pounds of ANFO be capable of destroying so much of that building?

Based on years of hands-on experience, I can say there is no doubt in my mind that a large ANFO bomb would be capable of destroying that building. *SOF's* demo expert, Donovan, noted: "For perspective, consider that the German V-1 and V-2 missiles that devastated London carried only 1,650 pounds of an explosive not dissimilar in brisance and yield. In other words, would three V-2s simultaneously striking the first floor of the Murrah building do such damage? Of course they would."

For the past two years we have been working under a cloud of conspiracy-theory fallout from the Waco debacle that has proved to be a royal pain to attorneys and investigators trying to get to the bottom of things. Now, the same has started with the Oklahoma City bombing.

When I testified during the House of Representatives' hearings on Waco, I saw firsthand how out-of-control conspiracy theories confused that issue, allowing congressional whiner

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Charlie Schumer and his buddies in federal law enforcement to come out the winners.

If the government did screw up in OKC, then sticking to the facts and relying on scientific methodology will be the *only* way to get to the bottom of it. Ask yourself this question: Who ultimately benefits the most from such way-out, conspiratorial fantasies? Answer: Those *hiding* any facts ultimately are the ones who would benefit from these clouds of scientifically impossible theories and unfounded conspiracy scenarios manufactured for reasons of political self-protection, misguided patriotism — or tabloids' profit.

Frequent SOF contributor and veteran EOD man Richard Sherrow was in Oklahoma City the day after the blast. ✕

BIG-BORE BRUISER

Continued from page 53

Ultra Slug gun. However, he wanted to be sure so he reached for a seventh

box, of Federal 450-grain Hydra-Shock Premium Sabot Slugs. He fired one and we marked it on the target. His first shot was 1 1/2 inches to the left of the center mark. The second was 1 inch to the left, and his third shot was in the same hole as the first. Just to be sure, he fired a fourth shot. It was 1 inch to the left of the first shot. When he cleaned the bore he pulled out the least amount yet of plastic residue, unburned powder, and other debris.

The eighth round of shooting was with Remington's 3-inch Slugger ammo. After marking the first shot, Allen fired the second slug which hit 2 inches to the right. His third shot was 6 inches to the right of the first. When he cleaned the bore he found it to be badly fouled with lead.

Spray And Pray

The ninth and tenth boxes of ammunition were the 2 3/4-inch Remington Sluggers. It was obvious the gun didn't like those slugs. Both groups were strictly spray and pray.

Allen reached for the next box, for round 11: Remington 2 3/4-inch

Copper Solid Sabots. Allen's first shot was 3 1/2 inches high. His second shot was 4 1/2 inches high, only 1 inch off. His third shot was 2 1/2 inches high. The overall group was only 3 inches across and all three shots were centered. He was back to rifle-like accuracy with a 3-inch group at 100 yards.

The Remington 3-inch Copper Solid was used for group 12; the first shot was 3 1/2 inches high and 2 inches left. The second Copper Solid hit 5 1/2 inches high and 2 inches left. The third shot hit 4 1/4 inches high and 2 inches left, splitting the group for a 2-inch, 100-yard group. Both batches of Copper Solid Sabot slugs however, left the barrel fouled with plastic.

The last test group was Brenneke slugs. The first shot hit 2 1/2 inches to the left and half an inch low. The second shot was 1 1/2 inches high and 1 inch left. The third shot was 2 1/2 inches high and 1 inch left. Once again the group size was under 3 inches overall.

After the last round, I asked Allen what he thought of H&R's slug gun.

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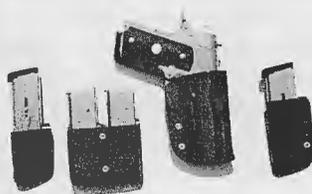


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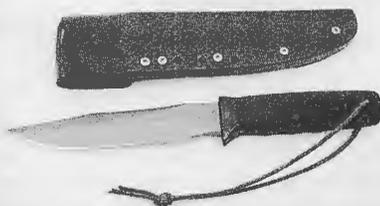
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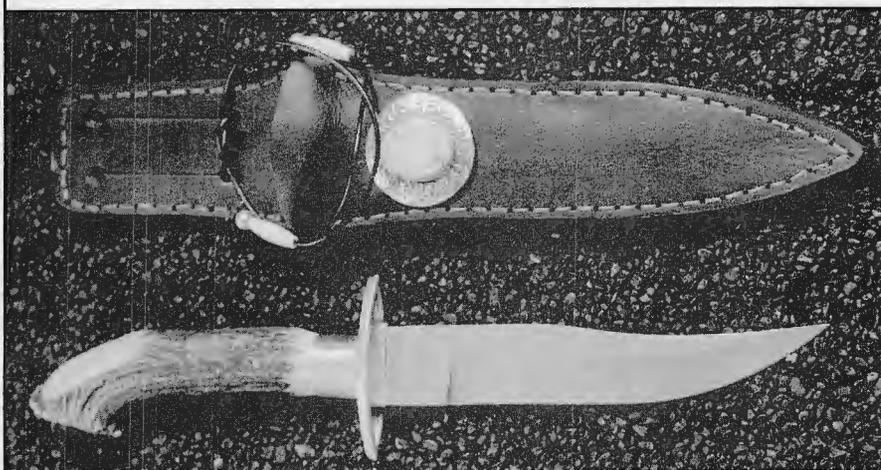
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His only complaint was that the front swivel is not well placed for a gun that is designed to handle such heavy loads.

"It's an accurate gun — more accurate than some of the ammunition that is available today," Allen said. "I don't know if it is an inherent characteristic of slug guns that they foul the bore so easily, but if it is, then this explains why people complain about accuracy. The more fouling left behind by the ammunition, the lower the accuracy seemed to become."

I was sure Allen would carry around some serious bruises from firing slugs from the bench. Two days later I asked him how his shoulder felt. "Fine," he replied. He showed me that he had a very small bruise and he felt that was from the Federal 3-inch magnum loads. He praised the slug gun.

"That gun is built to keep the recoil down and it does," Allen said.

When we were through with the test, I was convinced that H&R 1871 has built what they set out to build: a slug gun capable of producing rifle-like accuracy at 100 yards. The gun isn't pretty, but for small-town police departments with low budgets that want an accurate 12-gauge slug gun, or deer hunters who must hunt with slugs, the Ultra Slug is a good investment.

To get the most out of the gun, however, it must be tested with different slug loads until the right one is found. Every gun is a little bit different. Finding the right slug might take some time, but once the perfect combination is found the firepower and accuracy become awesome.

For more information on the Ultra Slug gun, contact Robin Sharpless at H&R 1871 Inc., Dept. SOF, Industrial Row, Gardner, MA 01440; phone: 508-632-9393; fax: 508-632-2300.

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Galen Geer is SOF's contributing editor for Outdoor Affairs. ✕

I WAS THERE

Continued from page 17

see what had happened.

Falling head first, I looked up toward my feet: I could see the Lucky Duck, perhaps only 100

yards away, nosing down at a 45-degree angle. The starboard wing trailed flames that stretched back to the tail assembly. Beyond the plane I saw the belly of a Focke-Wulf 190 fighter as it pulled out of what must have been at least a second attack on our plane. The crew that had successfully completed 17 combat missions now dropped out of their beloved Lucky Duck like peas out of a pod.

I'm plenty clear of the plane, I thought, so there's no reason to count to 10 like they'd taught us in gunnery school. I yanked the aluminum handle on the front of the chest pack. The chute trailed above me as I continued to fall head first. It quickly blossomed open with a loud pop. The sudden stop whipped me around with a violent jerk.

Everything went quiet, and for the first time in seven hours I was breathing air that didn't smell like hydraulic fluid.

With an almost morbid fascination I watched that magnificent hunk of machinery called the Flying Fortress as it angled ever steeper toward the earth. Within 30 seconds from the time I bailed out, it went into a hedgerow and exploded in a great ball of flame.

Within a couple of minutes I hit the ground hard: feet, butt, head. I stood up, collapsed my chute, and saw I was standing in a large plowed field. There was no cover in sight. Our crew was strung out on the ground less than a 100 yards apart. My down-wind crew mate yelled to me that the man beyond him, the first to land, was hurt. It was the co-pilot; he had broken his leg.

We were trying to figure out what to do about the co-pilot. Then we spotted a cloud of dust rising behind a small camouflage-painted panel truck coming fast in our direction, bouncing right across the plowed field. Someone said, "That's it. We've had it."

The truck came to a stop 30 feet from us and a dozen German Wehrmacht soldiers spilled out of the back door, each carrying a rifle. They shouted, "Hands *oben!* Hands *oben!*" There was no misunderstanding here.

After a quick search the soldiers had us put the co-pilot in the



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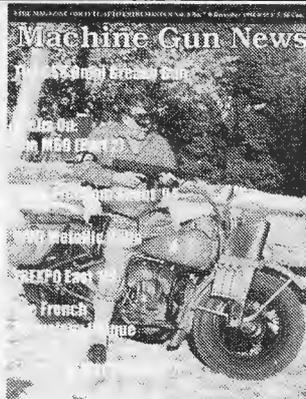
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back of the truck and gather up our parachutes. They marched us down a country road. After about three miles we came to a small, Wehrmacht garrison where we officially started what would be a six-month tour as POWs.

That night, miserably billeted in a cold, damp stable, we talked about our fate and the last day of the not-so-Lucky Duck. ✕

COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

Continued from page 29

When the weapon is on the floor, have him step away from it. Then order him to face away from you. (If he does not comply, you will have an important decision to make.) Once he is turned away have him raise his hands with his arms straight up. It is the hands that can kill. *Always watch the hands.*

Your final step is to secure him. Unless you have handcuffs and know how to use them (or have a partner to assist you), this might mean simply ordering the intruder into an awkward, prone position that will be difficult for him to move out of. Then you can call the police. But where is the phone — can you reach it without compromising scene dominance? Think these things through beforehand.

If calling the police is your course of action, be careful of what you say. Don't forget to tell the dispatcher that you are armed and holding a prisoner at gun point. Give them a clear description of yourself and of your captive. This will help prevent confusion when the "blue suits" arrive.

Another point: How will you let the police in when they arrive to take custody of your prisoner? Figure that one out now, not later. When the police arrive, be discreet with your weapon: It is best not to greet some nervous cops while waving a pistol about.

Here is another consideration: When you challenge the intruder, he might flee. Whether you shoot him or not is a personal decision with legal ramifications. Your choice will depend a lot on the local laws and the particulars of your situation. It might not be acceptable,

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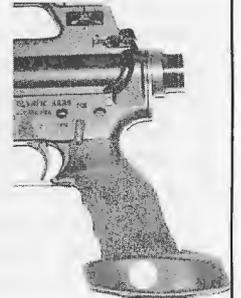
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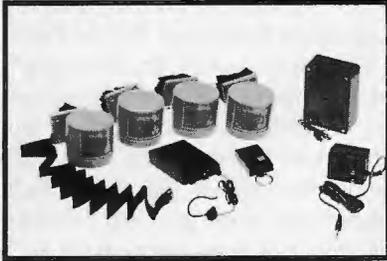
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for example, to shoot a young gang member who is making off with your car stereo. On the other hand, the same subject fleeing from your dark and open doorway some night as you pull into your driveway may present a very different situation indeed, especially if the status of family members within is unknown.

Study the laws in your area. Take notice of your particular environment and possible situations in which you most likely would have to fight. Keep these things strongly in mind and develop a good tactical plan, and then follow it if you hear something go "bump" in the night.

Gabriel Suarez is a full-time police officer in Southern California. He offers training at the Front Sight Firearms Training Institute, PO Box 2619, Aptos, CA 95001. ✕

RED SEAL

Continued from page 51

The well-known and documented cases involve penetration of Swedish and Norwegian territorial waters in the '70s and '80s. The most notable event, the so-called "whiskey on the rocks" incident, occurred on 27 October 1981 when a Soviet Whiskey-class submarine (Whiskey-137) ran aground inside a military security zone near Sweden's Karlskrona naval base on the Baltic Sea. It was obvious, despite Soviet denials, that the 137 was engaged in espionage activities. It was no fluke that its presence coincided with sea trials for Sweden's new Torpedo-42.

During the previous month, tracks believed to have been made by bottom-crawling minisubs were discovered under Swedish territorial waters. Photos of the tracks later verified their presence. A year later the Swedish Submarine Defense Commission reported 40 violations involving two kinds of minisubs: bottom crawlers and true midget submarines or swimmer-delivery vehicles (SDVs).

All available information indicated the minisubs were transported, launched and recovered by Soviet India-class transport submarines bottomed somewhere in the middle of the Stockholm archipelago. It is pre-

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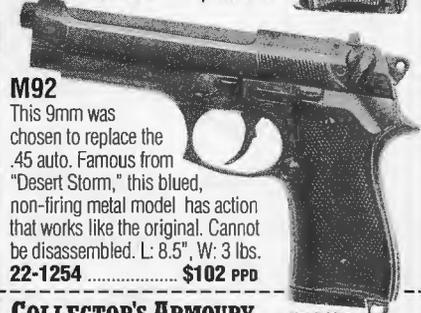
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sumed that the minisubs were 20 to 50 feet long and carried anywhere from three to seven crewmen, undoubtedly naval Spetsnaz. Mission objectives might have included target surveillance, the testing of port defenses, insertion or extraction of agents, mine practice, or diversionary operations. Some evidence was left behind: Plastic-wrapped containers of trotyl explosives, bearing Cyrillic lettering, were found in waters near Stockholm.

Norway also apparently was the target of submarine incursions. From 1969 to 1982 there were 226 possible sightings, 122 of which were classified as certain. Finnish marines discovered diving equipment of Soviet origin near Aland Island.

Reports of similar incursions off Japan, Alaska and the U.S. west coast, however, must be viewed with skepticism. No doubt the Soviets enjoyed the free publicity portraying Spetsnaz forces, naval and otherwise, all over the globe performing daring feats of spying, infiltration and penetration.

While no open-source material on naval Spetsnaz addresses the subject,

their operational scenarios were expected to include close combat with their Western counterparts, especially the U.S. Navy's SEALs. That effort has been mirrored by the U.S. Naval Special Warfare Command. Without doubt, both sides practiced underwater combat and developed effective tactics and weapons for subsurface warfare.

Beached SEALs

With the breakup of the Soviet Union, fundamental changes occurred in the military. Powerful warships now lay at anchor; once-busy shipyards sit idle; and docked, nuclear submarines cannot pay their electric bills. Many assets were divvied up among the breakaway republics: Russia lost the huge Nikolayev shipyards to the Ukraine, although it retained control of important naval bases at Kaliningrad and Baltiysk on the Baltic Sea. Even the Russian SEALs were not immune to the downscaling.

According to reliable sources, Russia's various fleets still have organic NSW forces. Although no longer known as Spetsnaz, they still

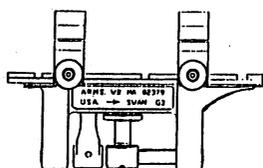
are controlled by the GRU. It is estimated that only one full-strength NSW brigade now exists — based at Ochakov on the Black Sea. During a wartime scenario the under-strength brigades based at Severomorsk, Primorsk, and on Russian Island near Vladivostok would be assigned to fleets as required. The two most important Russian NSW brigades are those in the Baltic and Pacific fleets.

The former naval Spetsnaz garrison at Liepaya has been closed and now is under Latvian control. But before the Russians left, the commander-in-chief of the Baltic Fleet ordered the clean-up of old ammunition that had been deep-sixed off a jetty. As reported in a Russian military journal under the headline, "Podvodniye Sapyory" ("Underwater Sappers"), frogmen cleared 27,717 units of ordnance between July 7 and Aug. 17, 1990. Under the command of a Capt. (2nd rank) Nechaev, divers found machine-gun and mortar rounds, artillery shells, fuzes, and 16 units of "ammunition of a model not established."

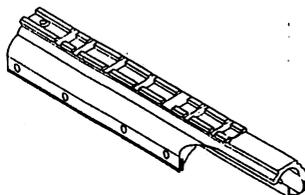
Clearly, Russian NSW forces no

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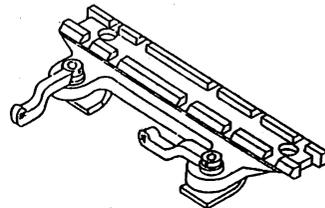
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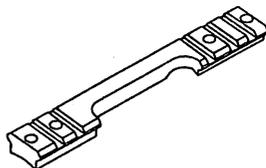
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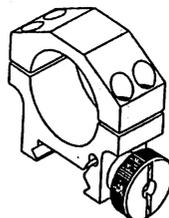
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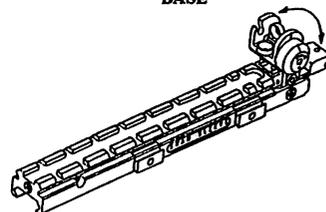
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longer maintain the operational tempo they once did. This in turn undoubtedly impacts on capabilities and readiness. So far as is known, Russian SEAL-type units now call themselves "antidiversion units." (According to one source, units give themselves marine-animal names. One reportedly is the "morskoi kotik" — fur seal — unit.) Russian SEAL missions still include sabotage, reconnaissance, counterterrorism, minefield protection and anti-combat-swimmer operations. No longer as robust in terms of support and resources as their Spetsnaz predecessors, today's Russian SEALs likely are now reduced to one or two well-trained, active-duty units. With their elite status, these units undoubtedly still attract sufficiently high-caliber recruits.

The brigades apparently comprise three or four combat-swimmer battalions and an airborne-qualified battalion; also, a minisub section and a long-range reconnaissance company which utilize the R-1 and R-2 SDVs (one- and two-man swimmer-delivery vehicles) and improved Una-class MD-LUO midget submarines. This

minisub can carry up to six combat swimmers and four R-1 SDVs. Mine-laying and maritime-sabotage missions also can be conducted from this platform.

The Piranha minisubmarine, commissioned in 1988, also can carry, launch and recover combat swimmers and SDVs, plus fire torpedoes, lay mines and conduct covert surveillance. Most standard Russian submarines can be used as platforms for combat-swimmer operations. R-1 SDVs can be launched through the torpedo tubes of Sava-class submarines.

Frogmen's Small Arms

Russian SEALs have a number of weapons designed specifically for underwater use.

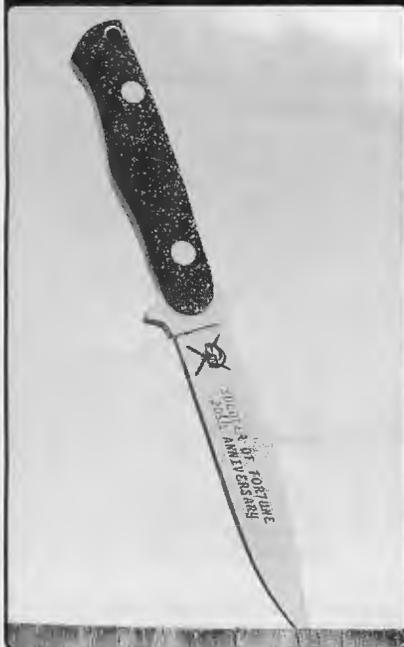
One is the four-barrelled SPP-1 underwater pistol whose 4.5mm cartridge fires a 115mm-long dart from its double-action firing mechanism. The SPP-1's holster carries three four-round clips. The dart can penetrate a heated suit or a 5mm-thick facemask. Lethal effects vary at different depths; ashore, the lethal range is 50 meters.

The APS underwater assault rifle uses a 5.66mm MPS cartridge to propel a 120mm-long dart. As with the SPP-1, lethality depends on water depth. At a depth of 40 meters the dart can penetrate a heated diving suit or a face mask. Out of water the lethal range reportedly is 100 meters. The APS magazine holds 26 rounds and the rifle can be operated on full-auto or single-shot modes.

Both of these underwater weapons are manufactured by the Research Institute Of Precise Machines (RIPM) located at Klimovsk, 20 miles south of Moscow. RIPM also manufactures other weapons used by Russian SEALs and other special forces. These include the A-91 miniature assault rifle, whose 9x38mm round allegedly can penetrate 30 layers of Kevlar; the BA and BV suppressed assault rifles; and the PSS suppressed automatic pistol.

Russia's special-assignment combat swimmers, like their American counterparts, have bubbleless closed-circuit underwater breathing apparatuses, SDVs and rubber raiding craft in their equipment inventory.

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In light of the continuing unrest within the former Soviet Union and the known use of army special forces against Chechen rebels, it can be deduced that NSW forces could be employed in similar littoral regions. In speculating on any NSW mission it should be remembered that although naval special-warfare forces remain under fleet command, the GRU intelligence directorate wields overall control.

Russian SEALs still could be used to keep tabs on U.S. forces in the Pacific and elsewhere. They can perform other special tasks, such as VIP security: When presidents Bush and Gorbachev met at Malta in 1989, Russian NSW troops reportedly maintained an underwater perimeter around the ships — with shoot-to-kill orders. Sources also indicate their presence on Russian vessels during the Gulf War. And U.S. Navy specwar sources state that Russian NSW units can be landed and recovered by submarine, surface ships, SDVs, intelligence-gathering ships, merchant ships and small fishing boats.

While not as fully manned or

trained as before, Russian SEAL units remain a viable, elite force capable of executing a variety of missions. And although the United States and Russia no longer are enemies, the latter refuses to divulge any information about its NSW forces, preferring to maintain the old secrecy barrier — perhaps with good reason.

John B. Dwyer is a special-warfare writer, historian and author of Scouts and Raiders: The Navy's First Special Warfare Commandos published by Praeger, 1993. ✕

AMATEURS & ASSASSINS II

Continued from page 61

"Weaver was concerned ... that the FBI had killed his wife and was keeping it a secret," Gritz testified. "It was at dusk when I left the top of the hill. ... Dick Rogers accompanied me back down to where the HRT had their forward command post. Dick Rogers said to me, 'Bo, we targeted Vicki Weaver because she was profiled by the psychiatrist as the mater-

nal head of the family who would kill her children before allowing them to surrender.' I didn't solicit the comment from Dick Rogers. He made it voluntarily.

"When I got to the bottom of the hill," Gritz continued, FBI site commander Eugene Glenn (later scapegoated by FBI headquarters for the Weaver tragedy) asked, "'Bo, what are we going to do about Vicki Weaver?'"

"I said to him, 'We cannot continue to keep it a secret.' He did not respond at that time, 'Gosh, we haven't been keeping it a secret.' I mentioned that her parents were there and they had a right to the truth. He said, 'Well, can I be the one to tell them?' And we assembled the family members and told them that Vicki Weaver had been killed," Gritz said.

On her first visit into the cabin, Jackie Brown had cleaned up the blood and gore of Vicki's murder. Gritz made it his initial priority to convince Weaver to allow Vicki's body, which had begun to putrefy after a week on the kitchen floor, to be removed. Weaver agreed.

B.G.W.

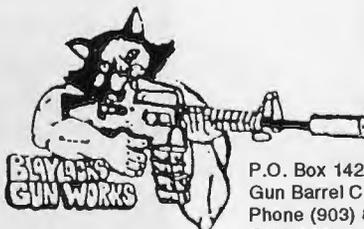
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It was a traumatic moment for Kusulas, King, Sexton and other agents on the mountain who — like most good citizens — were shocked and outraged.

As her body was borne through the door and over to an armored personnel carrier, Gritz recalled, "I saw FBI agents dressed in Ghillie suits and camouflage, tears running down their faces. They suddenly realized, I think, that Vicki Weaver was not some kind of an evil person, but that she was a mom and she was dead and she was leaving that cabin with her little girls screaming in despair behind her."

That done, Gritz then convinced Kevin Harris to surrender and get medical care. Harris was flown to Spokane, Washington, where his hospital room was put under heavy guard.

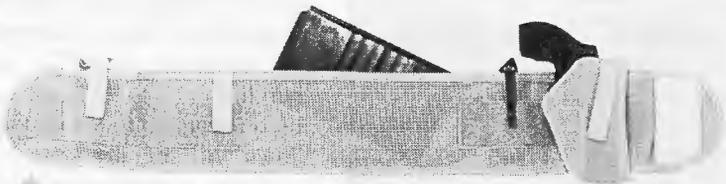
"We had made good progress, I thought," Gritz said. "On Sunday [30 August] I had gone back up to negotiate more with Randall. I was told by Dick Rogers that 'tomorrow, if you don't get them all out, we're taking them out.' I really couldn't imagine why the acceleration. It put a lot of pressure on me.

"I advised Dick Rogers that I would not leave the family under those circumstances ... if I couldn't get them to come out," Gritz recalled. "And he said, rather sarcastically, 'Well, Colonel, you do what you have to do. I'm telling you if you don't get them to come out, and if it looks like they're not coming out, we're taking them out.'"

Gritz's account was echoed by a Justice Department follow-up report. It cited "much evidence that a negotiation strategy was not the highest priority of the FBI crisis management team. ... The management team favored a tactical strategy over a negotiation strategy. ..."

"By 'tactical strategy,'" Senator Herbert Kohl wryly observed after reading that portion of the Justice Department's report, "we understand to mean that it would more or less be an armed assault."

Small wonder, then, that essentially the same bloody results were achieved in Idaho and in Waco, Texas, eight months later, by the same HRT, commanded by the same FBI agent, Dick Rogers, who both times spurned patience and negotiation over strong-armed, ham-fisted force. Rogers' plan in Idaho called for essentially the



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same scenario that later ended so tragically in Waco: Surround the target with tanks and APCs, saturate the building with toxic chemicals and, if no one came out, knock the building down with military armor.

Gritz, himself a highly decorated veteran of Army special operations in Vietnam and a former member of Delta Force under its founder, Col. Charlie Beckwith, agreed with Kohl's stinging assessment.

"We're not talking about Efreim Zimbalist, Jr. here," Gritz said sarcastically, referring to the actor who portrayed a polite, quietly professional FBI agent in a '60s TV show.

HRT commander "Dick Rogers did not want to be denied his kills in this instance," Gritz said. "I really do not believe he wanted to see them come out in one piece."

The Thin Line ... Of Camouflage?

Gritz then explained the crux of the problem of using military troops and tactics in training civilian law-enforcement officers. He also explained the folly of having troops trained in military tactics deployed for police functions, as often was the case in Vietnam; and, conversely, the danger of using police trained in military tactics, using military equipment, to deal with civilians, especially women and children.

The Army's counterterrorism team, "Delta Force, trains the HRT," Gritz testified. "The HRT could very well deal with international terrorists. But they don't deal well, sir, with family siege-type situations, with a commando attitude, dressed in Kevlar and camouflage, with machine guns. ... Delta Force is not appropriate to train people who are going to deal with American citizens, innocent children and families."

Asked if he was equating the FBI's HRT with the Army's Delta Force, Gritz replied in the affirmative. The HRT team functions as "an American Delta Force here in the United States."

The most intriguing aspect of Gritz's testimony — and a claim made to *Soldier Of Fortune* several months ago by a law-enforcement source in Idaho — is his belief that the FBI still is covering up a key aspect of the second shooting incident, when Randy Weaver was wounded and

Vicki Weaver then was killed by a second shot that also wounded Harris. Gritz believes those shots were not both fired by FBI sniper Horiuchi. He believes another person, possibly Horiuchi's spotter, Monroe, fired the first shot that hit Weaver. Gritz said he also believes Horiuchi meant to shoot Vicki Weaver through the kitchen door.

Gritz, who in a long special-operations career — including extensive service in Vietnam — has seen many gunshot wounds inflicted with the .223-caliber ammunition used in the M16, and with the .308-caliber, the common sniper round.

"I examined Randy Weaver's wound," he said. "I looked at Weaver's wound and said, 'You have been shot with a .223.' To me, it was very obvious ... Randy was shot with a .223 ... and Vicki was definitely shot with a .308."

Gritz and others (including this writer) believe that Horiuchi was aiming at the kitchen door, waiting for Vicki to emerge, not "leading" Harris as the sniper later claimed. From Horiuchi's position, it would have been impossible to lead Harris, as the distance between the shed where Randy was shot and the cabin door was obscured by rocks and trees.

Also, the fact that Horiuchi missed his mark on the first shot — the base of Randy Weaver's neck — is very suspicious. Missing a 220-yard shot by a foot, while using a 10-power scope, is curious — especially for someone supposedly capable of quarter-dollar-sized shot groups at that range. Missing by that much with a .223 round fired from an M16 with iron sights is not as unusual. Given Rogers' concern that Vicki needed to be "eliminated from the equation," the speculation is that the HRT commander hoped to lure her from the cabin by shooting her husband.

Equal Law For Law Enforcement?

One fact is certain: The government helicopter Randy Weaver supposedly aimed at — the ostensible reason given for shooting him — was nowhere near. Even the helicopter pilot confirmed this. Other suspicious facts remain unexplained by the government.

As in Waco, the HRT quickly destroyed ballistic evidence. The shed,

in which the first shot lodged after Weaver was struck, was removed from the site by FBI agents. Horiuchi's rifle was not taken into custody and secured as evidence, as is common procedure even in a small-town police department. Nor were the weapons of Roderick and Cooper seized as evidence. The FBI agents who took over the scene did not even bother to interview them.

"Unless the people who are responsible for those decisions ... are identified and punished, you're going to see more" tragedies like Ruby Ridge and Waco, Gritz told the Senate panel.

"I find it heart-sickening," a tearful Jackie Brown told the Senate panel, "especially being the daughter of a World War II veteran, and having family members and friends who gave their lives in every war since then, to suddenly wake up one morning and feel like everything I've been taught about the goodness of my government is a lie; that I can't trust authorities, that I can't trust my government."

"There's no excuse for what happened" at the Weaver home, she cried. "I am not here to ask you to support Randy Weaver or Kevin Harris. I am here to ask you to support right versus wrong. What happened up there was wrong. I pray that this all won't be just talk, because myself and many Americans are waiting to see action."

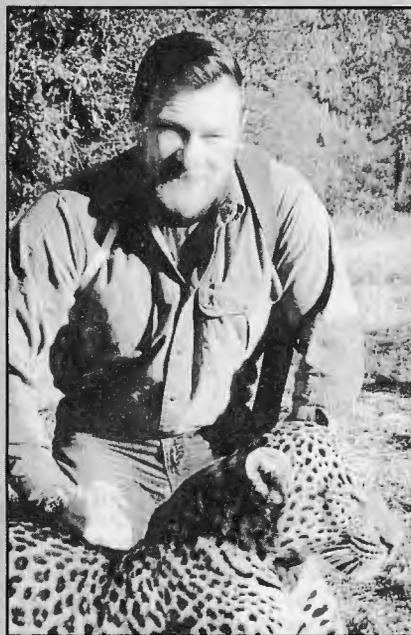
Such impassioned pleas from civilian witnesses must have struck a chord with the subcommittee. Sen. Specter asked Gritz to conclude with advice on "how to strengthen the confidence of the American people in the American government."

"Right now," Gritz replied, federal agents "seem to be above the law, because they commit crimes that ordinary people would be prosecuted for. Instead, there are lies and cover-up. People are interested in seeing justice equal under the law, with no one above the law. ... If every American knew that every other American was equal under the law, including those who carry guns and wear badges, then it would put the militia back in the closet where it belongs."

Frequent contributor James L. Pate was a recipient of the H.L. Mencken award, for his SOF articles exposing federal malfeasance. ✕

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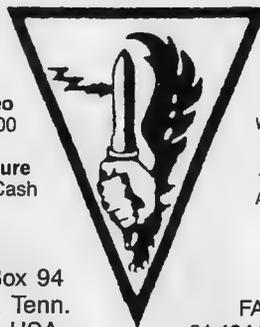
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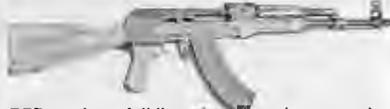
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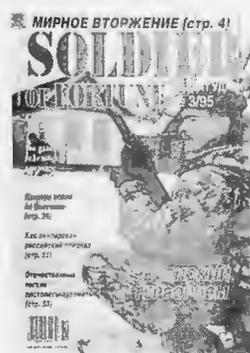
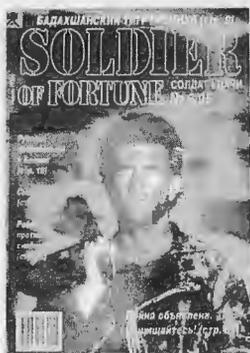
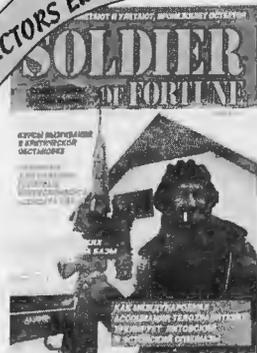
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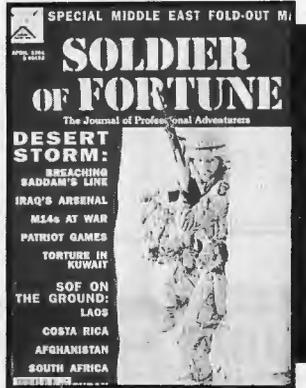
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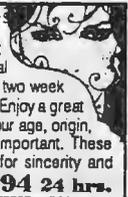
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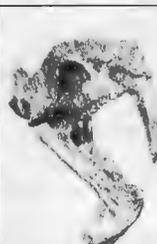
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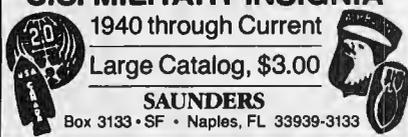
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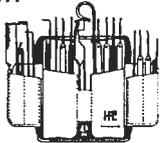
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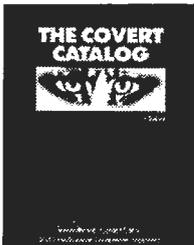


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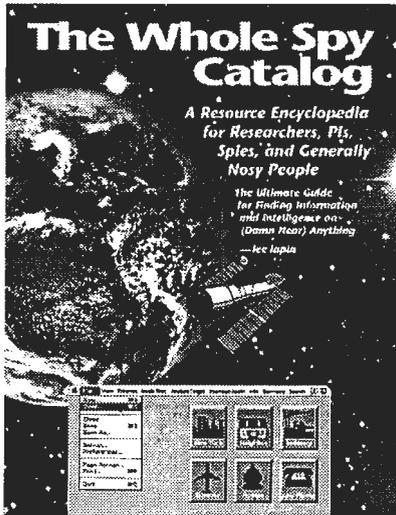
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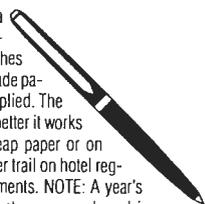
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