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Bosnia Bound

by Robert K. Brown

Croats, Muslims and Serbs have signed an agreement that will send as many as 20,000 American combat troops on a dubious mission that may take far too many of their lives. Unfortunately, intervening in the war in former Yugoslavia is not likely to resemble our previous involvements in other failed U.N. peacekeeping missions. Instead, this is the most potentially dangerous conflict American forces have faced since Vietnam.

Bill Clinton has always had a cowardly way of approaching such things, but the differences are significant between the war he wants to send Americans into and the war he squirmed out of 25 years ago. Unlike the president, I have been on the sharp end of both of those wars and I want to tell you the Americans carrying M16s in Bosnia will be in grave danger because they will not have the clarity of purpose nor the rules of engagement we had in Vietnam.

We were in Vietnam to kill as many communists as possible and discourage the rest — period. During Desert Storm, Stormin' Norman made it clear that unless Saddam gave up, American troops were there to kill Iraqi troops — period.

When Americans under U.N. command hit the beach in Somalia, lit up by TV camera lights, no one really knew what the hell we were doing there. As a result we were thoroughly humiliated when more than a dozen Rangers died. Instead of seeking revenge, Bill Clinton negotiated with the murderers.

If American forces had been sent into Somalia with the goal of making peace instead of trying to keep a nonexistent one, the mission could have been accomplished at far less cost. American soldiers are not peacekeepers, they are peacemakers — and to expect otherwise in Bosnia is to invite

both political and military failure.

Sixty thousand NATO troops supported by air assets could force the surrender of most of the armed antagonists and end the conflict in Bosnia, if the rules of engagement allow them to engage hostile targets at will. However, that number is not nearly enough to adequately pacify, let alone patrol the buffer zone between antagonists specified in the current language of the peace agreement.

To contribute 20,000 Americans to such an enterprise is to invite the events of Somalia on a much larger scale. Unlike the lightly armed and untrained Somalis, the Yugoslavs are intelligent and equipped with massive quantities of tanks, artillery and an almost endless supply of ammunition.

Of course there is supposed to be a peace in place prior to any American arrival. But the Yugoslavs are notorious liars who agree to everything but don't actually do anything until someone presses a muzzle to their heads. The fact of the matter is that no cease-fire has lasted longer than 29 minutes and American forces are stepping into an active and ongoing war.

Behind the scenes Clinton has committed American forces in an attempt to please the British. Instead of arming the Bosnian Muslims and allowing them to fight their own battles and pursue peace from a position of strength, the White House is risking American lives to curry favor with his Oxford schoolmates.

But then, situational ethics should come as no surprise when you consider that we have a president who thinks we are morally obligated to stop the genocide in Bosnia, yet were morally wrong to do the same in Vietnam. ✕

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Paratroopers of the 325th Airborne Battalion Combat Team rehearse house-clearing ops in a large-scale, life-like training exercise. As part of the U.S. Army's Vicenza-based Southern European Task Force Infantry Brigade — a unique, hybrid product of the post-Cold War military — they are ready for any rapid-deployment mission.



Mark H. Milstein



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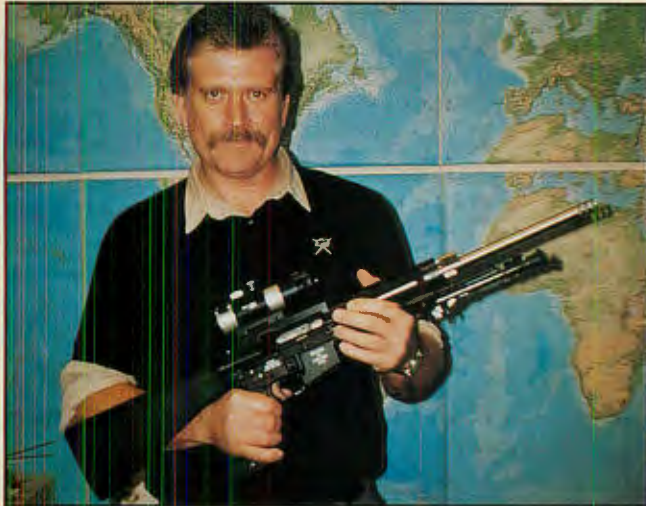
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Mark H. Milstein

BULLETIN BOARD



Marty Kufus

Johnny Rowland, host and producer of *The Shootin' Show*, stopped by the *SOF* offices recently to talk guns, interview Publisher Robert K. Brown, and talk guns. Here Rowland examines the Evans Gunsmithing Three-Gun Match Rifle, won by Jim Clark Jr., as the prize in *SOF's* Three-Gun Match at the last *SOF* Convention and Three-Gun Match in Las Vegas. The rifle and the gent in this picture are both first rate. If you haven't yet caught *The Shootin' Show*, tune in on Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 6 p.m. Eastern (5 p.m. Central, 4 p.m. Mountain) time on satellite (T-2, Channel 12), and at other times if your

cable company tapes it for rebroadcast. Now in his fourth year of broadcasting, Johnny Rowland covers the total shooting scene in an enjoyable, smooth, relaxing and no-BS format.

The success of *The Shootin' Show* is good news because it can reach millions of viewers who don't know anything about guns, shooting or Second Amendment issues except what they get in a skewed "mainstream" media report. Just as a picture is worth a thousand words, a show like Johnny's that illustrates live just what guns and shooting *are* all about is worth a thousand denials or protests from gun owners about what guns *aren't* all about.

U.S. SPECOPS: 18-MONTH BOSNIA VETERANS

In mid-November, as the State Department blasted a House of Representatives bill that would

force President Clinton to secure congressional approval before deploying U.S. troops in Bosnia, *SOF* confirmed through anonymous sources within the SpecOps community

that our own Napoleon of the Ozarks has been deploying small Green Beret teams there for at least 18 months.

Attacks by NATO warplanes against Serb positions and installations have been guided from the ground by six-man teams of the 10th Special Forces Group, using laser target designators to illuminate objectives and provide a lock-on for inbound ordnance, the sources confirmed. The secret missions are staged from a decommissioned Italian air-force base near Brindisi, Italy, on the Adriatic coast some 175 miles east-southeast of Naples.

Such target-designation missions are right up the operations alley of 10th SFG; prior to the collapse of the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact, the primary mission of the 10th was strategic reconnaissance. Had East-West hostilities broken out, 10th SFG troopers were assigned to secretly penetrate eastern Poland and the western Soviet Union, and to directly observe the main supply routes and avenues of approach for second and third-echelon Warsaw

Pact units. The same sophisticated infiltration techniques designated for such a scenario, which the sources declined to discuss, are being used to insert small teams into

hostile, Serbian-controlled territory. —JLP

LAMPLUGH FAMILY CHARGED

The other shoe has finally dropped in the case of the cat-stomping, jack-booted bums who terrorized the Harry C. Lamplugh family (see "Gun Gestapo Gang-Bangers," July '95). Harry, his wife, Theresa, and their oldest son, John, were indicted by the feds in northcentral Pennsylvania, based on an outrageous raid by the BATF in May 1994. The couple, who run one of the largest gun-show promotion businesses in the Northeast, are accused of conspiring to engage in the gun business without a license. Harry Lamplugh is also charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm. Son John, whose nearby home was simultaneously raided, was indicted on a single count of possessing an illegal sawed-off shotgun. That alleged weapon, said defense attorney Robert E. Sanders, was assembled by ATF agents from "junk" and broken gun parts found scattered throughout a garage. Sanders said civil suits against the ATF and individuals involved in the raid have not yet been filed. Stay tuned. —JLP

SPECTER: ABOLISH THE BATF

Senator Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) publicly called for the abolition of the Bu-

PALADIN PRESS

THE ONE-ROUND WAR

USMC Scout-Snipers in Vietnam

by Peter R. Senich

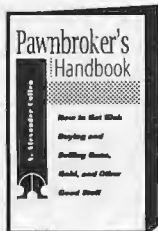
When the first Marine marksman brought down an unsuspecting enemy soldier with his telescopic-sighted rifle in 1965, it was the beginning of the end: the virtual impunity with which the Communist forces had so far operated in Southeast Asia would soon be a thing of the past. The U.S. Marine Corps Third Marine Division established the first sniper program in the Republic of Vietnam, the Army followed with its own version and their combined effort proved to be among the most successful operations of the Vietnam War. This book focuses on the Marine Corps program—the circumstances behind the training and employment of snipers, the equipment sent to Vietnam for sniper use, the transition from the Vietnam-era M700 sniping rifle to the contemporary M40A1 and the extreme effectiveness with which the Marine Corps Scout-Sniper countered the tactics of the guerrilla forces he faced in Southeast Asia. 8 1/2 x 11, hardcover, photos, illus., 384 pp. **\$59.95**



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by Bob Newman

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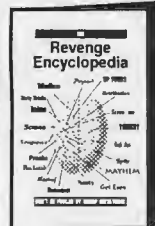


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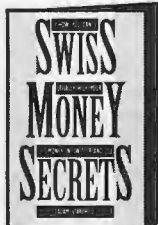


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by Bill Valentine

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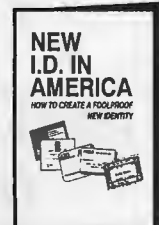


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How You Can Legally Hide Your Money in Switzerland

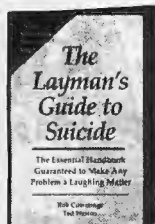
by Adam Starchild

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reau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, stating that the bureau has "outlived its usefulness." According to the *Washington Post*, Sen. Specter said the BATF "went overboard, they went to extremes" during the incidents both at Ruby Ridge, Idaho, and at Waco, Texas. Specter said the ATF functions of enforcing firearms and other criminal statutes should be transferred to the FBI, and its other functions assigned to other agencies within the Department of the Treasury.

MUST HUNT, FISH, LOOK GOOD IN CAMMIES...

From a recent "preparedness expo" in Denver a staffer brought back a flier from "The Patriot Matchmaker" — a matchmaking service for

the lovelorn who keep a freeze-dried larder and a go pack. Well, why not? If you haven't had any luck with the mail-order bride services in the back of *SOF*, try for a born-and-bred-in-the-USA model by contacting The Patriot Matchmaker, Dept. *SOF*, P.O. Box 1151, Craig, CO 81626; phone: 970-824-6506.

FAST RESULTS, GOOD RESULTS

Accountant Michael Allen of Fremont, Calif., had \$20,000 in musical equipment stolen from his van. In one frenzied day, Allen checked the legality of borrowing a gun, borrowed a gun, drove to a public range to learn to load and shoot the 9mm handgun, went home and darkened his house, stepped behind a curtain to wait and within five min-

utes he caught five suspects. They were arrested and lead to the arrest of two more suspects. Most of his stolen equipment was recovered. "The filing of the police report would not catch the suspects," Allen was quoted as saying. The Fremont police chief was reportedly not amused that Allen held the pistol to the head of one of the intruders while he waited on the police. Well, Mr. Allen, congratulations, you almost got it perfect. But remember next time to hold two to the head and one to the groin...

BETTERING THE ODDS

The Bureau of Justice Statistics has released the crime stats for 1992. According to their report *Guns And Crime*, a fifth of the victims defending themselves with a gun suf-

fered an injury. But almost half of those who defended themselves with other weapons or who had no defensive weapon at all suffered an injury. According to the report, on an average year from 1987-92 about 62,200 victims of violent crime used a gun to defend themselves (about 1% of all victims). Another 20,300 used a gun to defend their property during a theft, house burglary or motor-vehicle theft.

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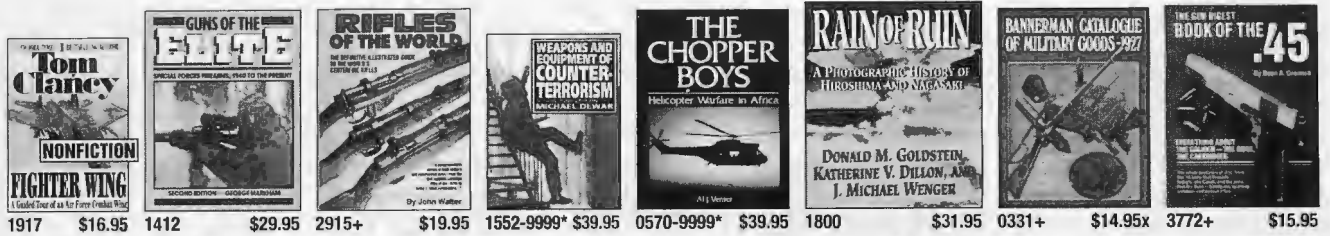
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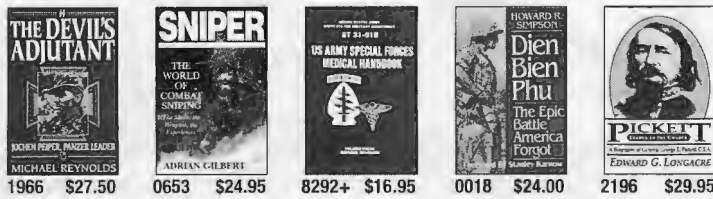
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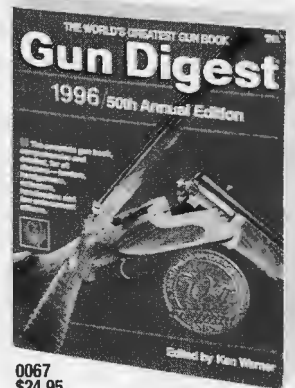
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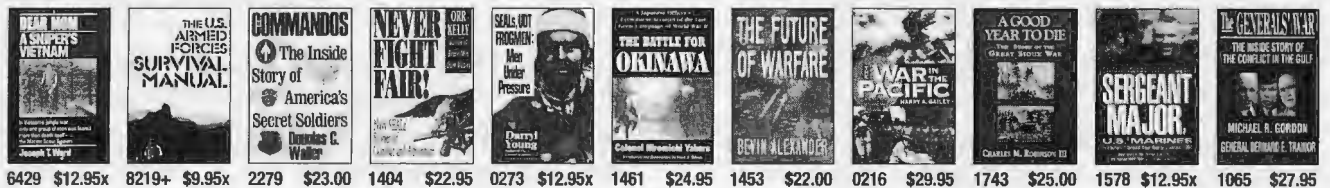


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loyal readers and compatriots, which were hustled by air — along with 2,000 free copies of each *SOF* issue — to our troops in Desert Shield/Desert Storm. The troops loved 'em.

OK folks, it's time to do it again: Winter in the Balkans isn't a fun time in the best occasion, and our troops are going to be doing a thankless job under trying circumstances. Troop morale on this operation, especially this winter, is going to be an important consideration. It's imperative the troops know they have America's full support; it's important the troops have off-duty activities to remind them of home. Sending them books can help in both areas.

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around — it's time to do it again. And don't worry about sending too many:

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Send your paperbacks (be generous) to: Books For The Troops, c/o *SOF*, Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306.

(If you're one of the folks, like Kevin Harris of Ferndale, Wash., who last time organized community events in support of the troops and can come up with tons of books, give us a call at 303-449-3750 and we'll coordinate the most efficient way to get them to us.)



channels will be able to quickly spirit them to the troops who need them. Donors will be acknowledged in *SOF* if they desire. You *SOF* readers really came through for the troops on the last go-

like scratching your favorite hound, there ain't no such thing as too much. (The extra books that still rolled in after the boys came home from the Gulf War we sent on to an American military hospital

ELECTION TIME

In case you like to follow democracy in action and you missed it, Saddam Hussein won reelection by a comfortable 99.95% of the Iraqi vote. The other 0.05% must have been members of his family who bugged out to Jordan. ☒

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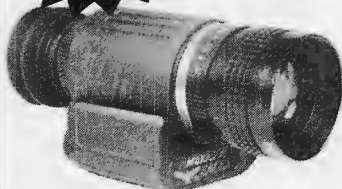
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Jerry Peterson Reveals Never-Before-Seen "Killing" Techniques

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 fight-

ing, 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!

Guaranteed To Work In Your Most Nightmarish Hostile Situation

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

But this isn't a course to impress friends at your 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!

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

No Navy SEAL has **ever** lost in hand-to-hand combat when correctly applying Jerry's system! And they never will (nor will you) because ... his system is undefeatable!

This Totally Integrated System Enables You To Destroy Any Attacker — With Absolutely No Fear Or Hesitation!

Cheap imitators advertise fighter after fighter after fighter — a hodgepodge of unrelated, non-scientific moves. Now they even **lie**, hoping to con you into believing SEALS would lose to these guys. But they know. No one beats a Peterson-trained SEAL.

These 'wanna-bes' teach one move if an attacker swings a fist at you, another if he's got a knife.

But Jerry Peterson's scientific system teaches you why you **MUST** use the exact same techniques — **with a weapon or without!** What everyone else teaches is wrong. Just ask the SEALS!

The imitators claim they've trained Navy SEALS. But Jerry Peterson is the **sole creator** of the **official** hand-to-hand and hand-to-weapon combat fighting system used by the SEALS today.

He's the only civilian with a Naval Special Warfare course number (*SCARS-CFC# K-431-0096*) plus a new \$2.5 million military facility predicated solely on his SCARS training.

The Navy SEAL 'wanna-be' trainers? They've got nothing — no official status, no course number.

Free Special Report Reveals GUN And KNIFE Fighting Secrets

Jerry Peterson's system is brutal. It has to be. Yet it's surprisingly easy to learn. It requires **NO** athletic ability, **NO** speed, **NO** conditioning.

And because his videos offer an unprecedented 3 camera angles (including a new overhead shot), you can learn this scientific system in just days; specific techniques often in just minutes.

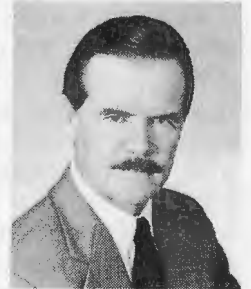
Jerry has created a **Free special report** revealing the amazing details about his *scientific* weapons fighting system — the system which has made the Navy SEALS an **undefeatable** fighting force.

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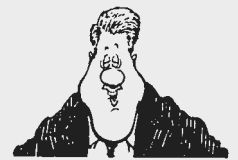
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Official SEAL SCARS-CFC
Creator Jerry Peterson

SLICK WILLIE WATCH



ONE YEAR, \$3 BILLION LATER...

One year and \$3 billion after restoring the flawed Aristide regime to Haiti, aside from good strokes by GIs in public works and nation-building, it's business as usual as far as "Restoring Democracy." It's still a one-party country where powerful despots rule by terror. But now, in the palace we have our despot.

As Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) observed, "Credible evidence points to political killings and death squads being run by members of the Haitian government." The future of anti-Aristide Haitians — or any Haitians able to partake in an anti-Aristide movement once international powers leave next year — was foreshadowed last March by the death of anti-Aristide lawyer Mireille Durocher Bertin, gunned down in Port-au-Prince. (One Eddie Moises was arrested and released; he told a press conference

that Republicans in Washington really did it, then paid him to admit guilt — looks like he reads from the same script as White House staffers.)

Administration downplaying of political murders have slacked since the International Civilian Mission, a human-rights monitor, issued a report on 20-some assassinations following Aristide's restoration. The assassination of Gen. Henri Max Mayard (probably targeted because he was young, black and capable of leading other blacks in a civil war) finally has White House staffers admitting that Aristide's palace hoodlums are "just too close for comfort" to this and other killings. Mayard should have seen the handwriting on the wall when he was reassigned as military attache to Ecuador — where Haiti has no embassy.

Clinton administration officials continue to insist that political violence in

Haiti is not as bad as under the old junta. That's a questionable assertion. The death toll is at 21 to date and counting; it's obvious that at considerable risk and expense the Clintonistas merely traded one bloodthirsty crew for another.

That's not good enough.

TRIAL OPENS FOR FORMER STAFFER

Former White House travel office Director Billy Dale is at trial as we go to press for allegedly embezzling \$68,000, according to Justice Department prosecutor Raymond Hulser. Defense attorney Steven Tabackman said Dale and his employees used all of the money to pay for travel costs of the news media. Prosecutor Hulser says that Dale deposited 55 checks worth \$54,000 in his own account, and that from February to April 1995 Dale stole another \$14,000 in cash. Dale's lawyer alleges that White House records, which would prove Dale's innocence, have disappeared.

MAYBE IT WAS DIAL-A-PRAYER

The 10 November 1995 edition of the *Wall Street Journal* ran a short story mentioning the number (202-628-7087) that showed up on phone records from the Rodham house in Little Rock immediately after Vince Foster's death. The number, it seems, is "out of service at this time" and according to Atlantic Bell hasn't been in service for

years. Yeah right.

WSJ solicited input from readers on what this number represented, since neither White House family members nor staffers were forthcoming. The response was fairly evenly divided on whether the number was a tone-activated sterile forwarding number, or a garden variety federal security "anonymous" phone number. One thing's for sure: Since the *WSJ* article, we'll bet it's been one of the busiest numbers in the country.

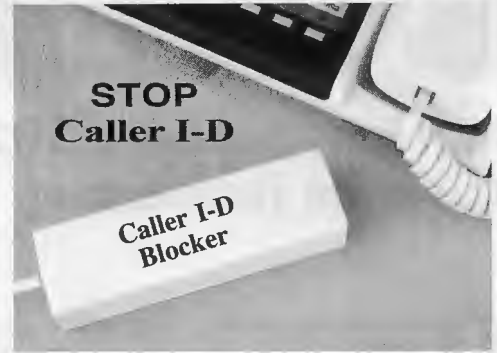
HANDWRITING EXPERTS: FOSTER NOTE A FAKE

According to handwriting expert Ronald Rice, consultant to the Massachusetts attorney general's office, White House aide Vincent Foster's torn-up suicide note is "basically the work of a mediocre to poor forger. ... In my opinion the thing stinks to high heaven. It's a poor attempt at duplication." Working from authenticated Foster handwriting samples, Rice noted several obvious inconsistencies, and many letters and words formed with hesitant, shaky strokes.

Rice and Oxford University manuscript expert Reginald Alton were hired to independently compare a photo of Foster's note with 10 authenticated samples of Foster's writing. Alton also judged the note to be a hoax, saying it was the work of a "moderate forger, not necessarily a pro, somebody who could forge a check." ✕



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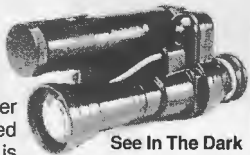
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Machinegunnery 101: Lessons Relearned

Text & Photo by Peter G. Kokalis

The United States Marine Corps recently adopted a superb new machine gun. Called the M240G, it is the ground version of the M240 coaxial (meaning that it moves in conjunction with the tank's main gun) machine gun mounted on U.S. main battle tanks. This, in turn, is the coaxial version of the well-known and highly regarded FN MAG (Mitrailleuse A Gaz: gas-operated machine gun) 58 GPMG. The project that culminated in the adoption of the M240G originated at the USMC Ground Weapons Division in Quantico, Virginia, about four years ago using FN MAG 58 hardware and some new features applied to the M240. It was concluded that this combination would constitute an excellent replacement

for the M60 GPMG, which did not perform well during Desert Storm.

One of the M240G's new features is a "Picatinny" scope rail which is integral to the top cover casting. This is, in essence, a Weaver-type rail that was redesigned at Picatinny Arsenal. But, is mounting an optical sight on a belt-fed machine gun a wise decision?

The Marines think so,

especially since they intend to deploy the M240G almost exclusively from a tripod. To that end, they have developed a new lightweight version of the M122 tripod (nothing more or less than the M2 tripod used with .30 caliber Browning air-cooled machine guns during World

War II and the Korean War — the nomenclature was changed to M122 when a new pintle system was adopted for the M60). Onto this will be placed the newly adopted LTM-M122 flex mount — a lightened version of the FN soft mount as already used with the M240E1 mounted on the LAV (with the 200-round ammunition box deleted). This mount has a spring-buffered as-

sembly to which the gun is attached. By this means, recoil is further diminished and the accuracy potential and hit probability at longer ranges are enhanced. The gun's components also are subjected to less mechanical stress. Mounts of this type were designed by the Ger-

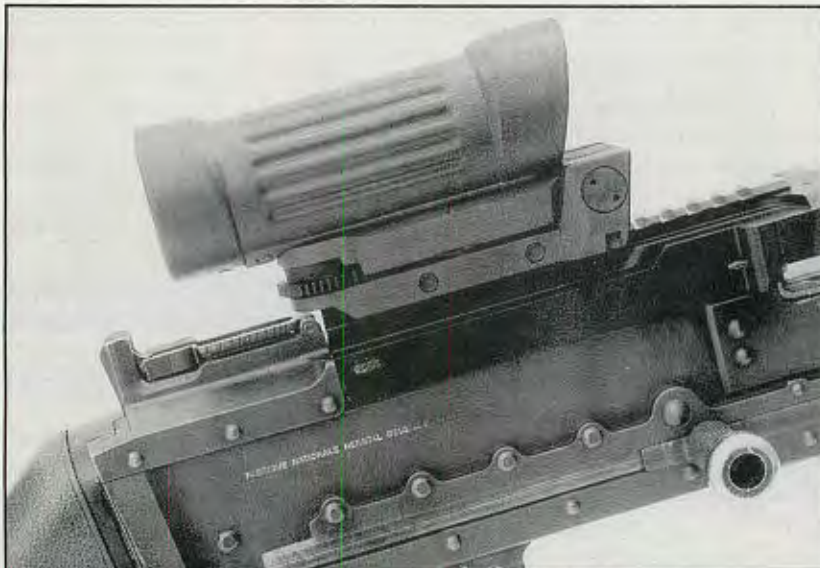
fortunately, in the last quarter century it has been all too often deployed as a *point-target* weapon, like the rifle, shotgun and pistol.

When a machine gun is fired in bursts, no matter how sturdy the tripod or how many sandbags have been placed on its

legs, all of the bullets do not follow the same trajectory like some sort laser beam. This is a function of vibrations induced by varying tolerances between the gun and the cradle and between the cradle (or flex mount) and the tripod itself. In addition, each cartridge will have enough of a difference in propellant and projectile weight and configuration, no matter how minuscule, to produce a slightly different trajec-

tory. Furthermore, shifting winds and other nonhomogeneous atmospheric conditions will also spread the trajectories in a burst group.

This group of trajectories formed by a single burst is called the *cone of fire* by machine gunners. When this cone of fire strikes the ground it forms an elliptical pattern referred to as the *beaten zone*. As the range to the



USMC M240G GPMG with a Canadian Elcan scope attached to the "Picatinny" scope rail on its top cover. Belt-fed machine guns are area-target weapons intended to be used in support of the infantry. Attempts to turn them into point-target sharpshooter's tools are ill-advised.

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man in World War II for the MG34 and MG42 GPMGs. To a considerable degree, they overcome the lightweight GPMG's disadvantages as a long-range, sustained-fire support weapon.

However, all of this, in my opinion, begs the question. The machine gun is an *area-target* weapon. It always has and always will be. Un-

target increases, the elliptical shape of the beaten zone becomes shorter and wider. The slope of the ground also affects the shape of the beaten zone. When firing onto slopes, the beaten zone becomes shorter, but retains the same width. When firing onto ground that slopes away from the gun, the beaten zone will become longer.

The machine gun is deployed most effectively when this set of parameters is appropriately applied to the target. Thus, *enfilade* fire, in which the long axis of the elliptical beaten zone coincides with the long axis of the column of enemy troops, is the most desirable class of fire because it makes maximum use of the bullets striking within the beaten zone.

In years past the principal tasks of belt-fed machine guns were 1) to cover the deployment of the infantry during its advance to the first firing position, 2) to support the attack of the infantry, 3) to support the infantry in continuing the attack after the enemy's main position had been captured and 4) to assist in consolidation of the unit's position after the limit of the advance was reached.

In more modern times, just before and during the Vietnam War, when the tactical concept of *fire and maneuver* came to prevail, the unit's machine guns, upon contact with the enemy, were charged with the responsibility to 1) return fire, 2) suppress the enemy's fire and 3) gain fire superiority.

Throughout, it always has been the rifleman's responsibility to fire at point (individual) targets. Using a machine gun for this purpose is not only an inefficient expenditure of ammunition, but an improper application of this weapon system's salient characteristics.

But, inexorably, from one military generation to the next, the science of machinegunnery slowly was lost. With no one to teach them otherwise, we now have a generation of machine gunners who can do little more than point the gun at individual targets and pull the trigger.

Also remember that the M240G GPMG, M249 SAW and most other

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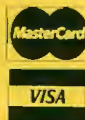
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Continued on page 86

WORLD SITREP

1

UNITED STATES

Due to bad press over previous cruise-missile attack, White House places new restrictions on their use in Bosnia, insisting on approving each missile and target in advance. General Jouwan, U.S. commander in Europe, wants to equip Russian commanders assigned to Bosnia operations with terminals to receive U.S. satellite intel during peace mission.

Army cancels its \$35 million backpack Laser Countermeasures project following Pentagon policy set by Defense Secretary Perry against blinding weapons. The weapon system was so heavy, soldiers could not carry any other required gear.

Clinton decides to keep all three nuclear labs — Los Alamos, Sandia and Lawrence Livermore — open, ending speculation on consolidation.

2

RUSSIA

Ag minister forecasts worst wheat harvest in 30 years and no money exists for imports. Communists win 20 of 24 seats on local council in Volgograd, sending shockwaves across nation.

President Yeltsin vows never to allow NATO to base nuclear weapons in Central European nations that join the alliance. Sunken sub *Komsomolyets* sealed with hundreds of tons of concrete — reactor and nuclear torpedoes are reportedly "safe" for 30 years.

Chechen rebel leader Shamil Basayev vows more attacks on Russian forces there and claims to have "nuclear materials" with which to poison Moscow.

15

7

CHINA

Chinese officials assure neighbors China never would attack them but warns against dealing with Taiwan. But also vow to invade Taiwan if the island tries to declare independence; U.S. government said this was "not helpful."

France signs new arms-sale agreement with Taiwan, outraging China.

1

8

SINGAPORE

Government buys its first submarine: a used, 1,200-ton Swedish diesel ship for future use as a trainer for crews of more modern subs.

13

9

CAMBODIA

Army begins a one-year training operation with the United States, which sent 120 troops there in what might lead to larger military programs.

14

SOMALIA

As armed factions continue battles for turf, U.S. Senate releases a report on the October '93 mission against Aidid that killed 18 U.S. soldiers and wounded 75: Then-General Powell had pressed Clinton's top aides to either strengthen U.S. forces in Somalia or change policy altogether; Washington rejected requests by frontline units for armor, artillery and AC-130 gunship. Washington infighting, over how critical the report would be of the White House, delayed its release for months.

12

SRI LANKA

Responding to government's offensive, Tamil Tiger rebels blow up two huge, oil-storage sites, killing 25 and destroying 90,000 tons of crude oil, 40,000 tons of diesel and 15,000 tons of kerosene.

13

MEXICO

Federal government loses control of mountainous area north of Acapulco where drug barons, heavily armed gangs and private militias have become a law unto themselves. Mexico will receive 12 old but flyable UH-1H helicopters from the United States for counterdrug ops; another dozen will be used as hangar queens.

3

ISRAEL

Israeli army reservist with ties to right-wing extremists guns down Prime Minister Rabin, war hero and elder statesman, in Tel Aviv. Successor Peres and PLO's Arafat vow to continue peace process.

4

IRAQ

U.N. inspector reports Baghdad lied about scope of unconventional arsenal, concealing far more powerful weapons such as botulism and anthrax warheads and may still be hiding long-range SSMs. Iraq denies this. Kuwait demands \$7.5 billion from Iraq for environmental damage in Gulf War.

5

LIBYA

Government continues expelling tens of thousands of Palestinian workers in protest of PLO accords with Israel.

6

AUSTRALIA

Officials consider purchasing U.S. Tomahawk cruise missiles. Election campaign revolves around issue of whether Australian defense policy should be designed to counter Asian aggression.

10

JAPAN

After huge protests on Okinawa, U.S. defense secretary offers to consider any Japanese government proposals on reduction of U.S. forces there.

Ten Japanese jets confront four Russian fighters skirting the edge of air space off Hokkaido. After three-hour probe, the Russians return to Siberia.

Aum Shinri Kyo leader reportedly confesses to ordering 1995 poison-gas attacks in Tokyo; press reports cult planned aerial spraying of LSD on Japanese cities.

2

NORTH KOREA

North Korean colonel defects to the South, says North's war plans call for priority targeting of U.S. troops in any future war to provoke American anti-war backlash. Small team of North Korean frogmen unsuccessfully attempts first known infiltration of South since 1992.

11

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GERMANY

Berlin tells Paris it would consider French offer of a European "nuclear shield" only if the strategic-defense plan does not disrupt U.S.-German relations. France offers the coverage in a campaign to get America out of European politics.

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BRITAIN

European Court of Human Rights formally condemns the 1988 killing of three IRA terrorists in Gibraltar by British special ops. Britain rejects the ruling.

Defense Ministry clears book *Immediate Action*, about SAS ops, for publication after sensitive passages are removed.

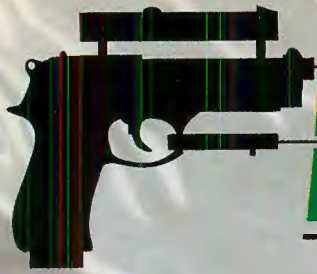
16

SWEDEN

Air force is fitting airbags into JAS-39 Gryphon fighters to protect pilots from glass shards during bail-out.

6

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.



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

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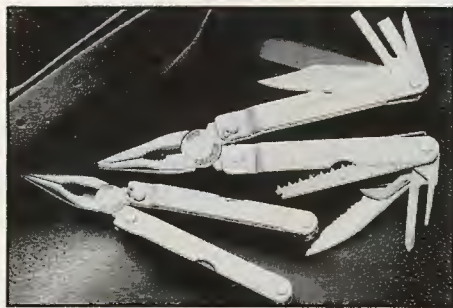


With the many high-quality, compact .380 pistols now available, that caliber is fast becoming one of the most common for concealed-carry and back-up weapons.

The tradeoff for this concealability is that the .380 is not a powerhouse round, so those who use it need the best ammunition available — and the selection to this point has not been impressive. Good news: Black Hills now has .380s loaded with 90-grain XTP hollow points that step out at 1,000 feet per second. Ask for it at your local dealer. If he doesn't carry Black Hills ammo, call 605-348-5150 for the dealer nearest you, or write to Black Hills Ammunition, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 3090, Rapid City, SD 57709.

ONE SUPER TOOL

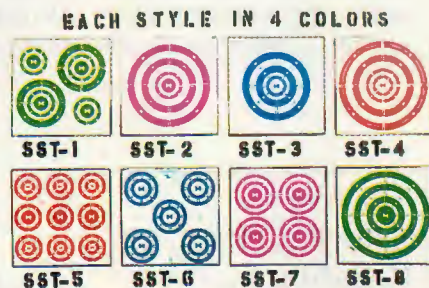
To those who work in the mud, aloft, under fire or otherwise in the field, Leatherman is a household word, as Tim Leatherman's "Pocket Survival Tool" started a virtual subindustry of imitators and knockoffs. Some competing designs are worthy specimens while some imported junk is not worthy even as fishing weights. Leave it to Leatherman to finally provide some real competition for himself with the new Leatherman Super Tool. Many user's reaction to the news that Leatherman has improved this tool is "How?" Anyone who has used a Leatherman tool will recognize it at a distance; it's when you pick it up that you notice the improvements. It's heavier. The blades lock open. It's slightly longer. The original was plenty



good enough for the girls we go out with, but the Super Tool is better in every working respect and well worth the small price in weight. All stainless steel: pliers, bottle opener, file, Phillips and square-bar screwdrivers, wire cutters, clip-point and serrated knives, awl and usable 9-inch rule. Guaranteed for 25 years. With a leather sheath, it's probably the best compact-tool investment we hands-on types can make. Available from U.S. Cavalry, Dept. SOF, 2855 Centennial Ave., Radcliff, KY 40160-9000.

SURE SHOT TARGETS

Using glare-free fluorescent colors on high-quality white paper, the new Sure Shot targets for sport and law-enforcement training help the shooter's target acquisition and save time on the range, as all hits may be seen clearly. The targets are compatible with all sights, scopes and other training aids, and come in eight styles with four colors available for each style.



Sure Shot also offers an innovative and anatomically correct silhouette target for law-enforcement and military training that details where the vital areas are, so the trainee learns correct shot placement for maximum effect. For further information, contact Sure Shot Targets, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 845, Patchogue, NY 11772-4109; phone: 800-224-1245.

SHOCKING BRIEFS

If you carry valuables in your brief case (and if you don't, why then do you bother to carry it at all?) it is in danger of being stolen, either when you set it down or when some mugger rips it from your hand. CCS International Ltd., one of the old hands in the new field of high-tech security and surveillance gear, is marketing a device that not only protects your attache case from theft, it gives *karma* a little helping hand.

The SB-100 Security Briefcase is armed with 100,000 volts, a motion detector and an audio alarm,

plus a remote control that allows you to turn it off when you carry it but activate it to zap a thief who grabs it from your hand. And not just the handle is electrified: The whole perimeter of the case is hot. If the thief's screams do not pinpoint your property in a crowd, the piercing alarm will. This pearl of pro-active protection will provide security and entertainment on the wrong side of town, if the case is in your hands or not. Contact CCS International Ltd.; Dept. SOF; 360 Madison Ave., 6th floor; New York City, NY 10017; phone: 800-685-6374. On the continent, contact CCS London at 171-408-1287.

Staffers tested this unit on pheasants among the corn rows as we went to press and were suitably impressed with its capabilities and ergonomics. Noted one, "This would have been a real help on recon patrols." Whether the game you seek wears fur, feathers or cammies, this is a unit worth considering. Comes in black or camouflage at \$74.95 from Silver Creek Industries, Inc., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 1988, Manitowoc, WI 54221; phone: 800-533-3277; fax 414-684-6267.



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What binoculars are to your eyes, the Bionic Ear Scout is to your ears. This high-fidelity stereo amplifier greatly enhances your ability to detect, locate and home in on faint or distant sounds because it is sensitive and in stereo, just like your natural hearing. Your ears are protected from the unit's 30-decibel sound amplification by unique circuitry that blocks amplification of gun blasts and loud sounds, while the full muff design provides added protection. For those a little weak in one ear, the Bionic Ear Scout has independent adjustments of the amplification from each wind-resistant stereo microphone. It is a useful tool for undetected reconnaissance.

SCOPECOAT

Guns you take to the field usually are pretty rugged; their scopes may or may not be. Although scopes have come a long way, they still are the part of the system you try to protect from bumps, nicks and scratches. Even taking them out of your gun safe for cleaning or fondling, or carrying them around in a

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CELLSAFE

Cellular telephones are a real boon to those who must, or want to, keep in touch but who seldom are at the end of a phone wire. The specter of a nosy, little old lady, or business competitor, with a scanner listening in keeps a lot of cellular phones off the air. Now comes Cellsafe Inc., a company founded to address the issue of cellular-phone privacy. Cellsafe has developed a scrambler that precludes the casual eavesdropper from understanding the encrypted conversation on a scanner. Cellsafe also has a scrambler for land lines, and a high-end telephone-encryption device that provides the ultimate in cellular security for those requiring the absolute maximum privacy in commo between mobile or base phones — even for encrypted conference calls. As such pricey devices go, the Cellsafe units are very economical, starting at \$150. Contact Fred Martino at Cellsafe, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 221, Pittsburg, KS 66743; phone: 800-218-4949. ✕

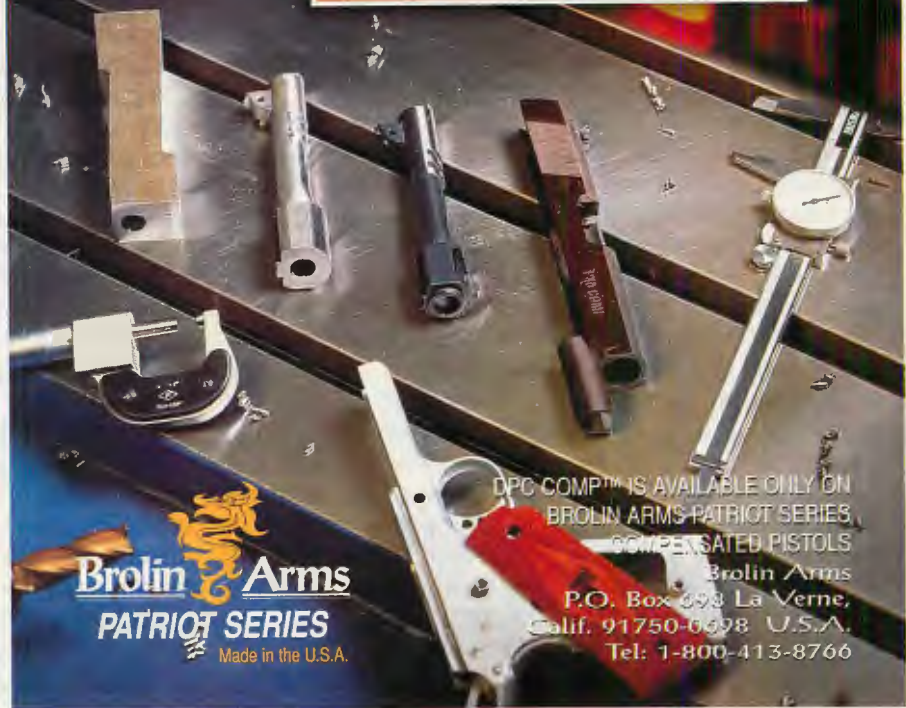
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PRAISE FOR PATE

I must compliment the reporting of James L. Pate. It is quite obvious that he really does his homework, and is head and shoulders above the "established media." I have read everything he has written on Waco and the ATF. It is no wonder the "mainstream media" do not use any information that comes to light in *SOF* — it makes them look like they don't have a clue.

Only once did I see any reference to *SOF*, and that was by Tim Russert on "Meet The Press" in a TV interview with Defense Secretary Perry. Perry didn't look very comfortable when Russert pulled out a copy of *SOF* and asked pointblank if the military was involved in training the ATF for the raid at Waco. All Perry could do was sit there and say yes.

I really trust Pate's reporting; it's just the thing the American people need to pull them out of a bad case of terminal apathy.

James E. Adams
Tooele, Utah

LETTER FROM A FRENCH PRISON

Colonel Brown, I have received your letter of 19 October 1995. I thank you for it. However, prison rules do not permit reading a paramilitary magazine, so there is no point in sending me one [*Soldier Of Fortune*].

Morale and health are good. I will be in touch

with you as soon as I have regained my freedom.

Bob Denard
Paris

AND ONE FROM LEBANON

As a faithful reader to *SOF* since '84, have I not the right to know what happened? As a freedom fighter since the '70s and still in this crazy Middle East, I can't understand why our *friends* forgot all about us.

Guys, didn't you ask yourselves where are those Lebanese forces (Christian militias) that stood there for 20 years, and still are, in the name of freedom, at the edge of the Middle East? We are here to stay!

Friends, *SOF* was our best Western ally, the real supporter who gave but never asked for anything in return. We lost lots of friends in battles and still are being persecuted and beaten and ... you know the rest.

More than 5,000 of my friends lost their lives, and there will be more; our leader is in prison and so are many others, for our beliefs won't change. Justice will prevail.

Name Withheld
by Request
Beirut

CANADIAN AIRBORNE FAN

It was encouraging to see a magazine of *Soldier Of Fortune's* prestige print Mike Vernon's clear and honest expose of events

leading up to the unwarranted disbanding of the Canadian Airborne Regiment [Aug. '95; "Bad Boys Or Bad Press?"].

As a concerned Canadian, I was deeply shocked and saddened by the disbandment of Canada's finest unit. The decision to disband was made within a matter of days, against top military advisers' advice, and without completion of inquiry, parliamentary debate or due process of law for the rights of the 670 innocent and professional soldiers of the Airborne Regiment. Needless to say, the actions of a few individuals and an inflammatory response by unscrupulous media should not be allowed to destroy and defame an entire regiment and its proud history.

The significance and achievement of the Airborne Regiment was reinforced at the closing ceremony by the presence of the many proud, decorated veterans in the crowds and the 80 Ameri-

can Green Berets who jumped with the Canadian soldiers in a mass parachute drop.

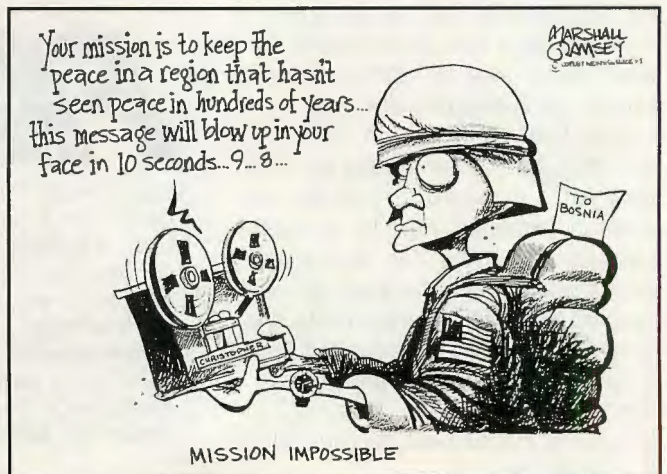
Any former airborne soldiers from any allied country who would like to take a stand against the unjust and unnecessary disbandment of the Canadian Airborne are welcome to join the Canadian Airborne Forces Association by writing to 116-110 Eugenie St. West, Windsor, Ontario, Canada N8X 4Y6; fax: 519-966-3392. Please give details of service to become a member.

Jennie Michelle
Berkeley
Windsor, Ontario

NATIVE AMERICAN VIEW

In the Feb. '95 *SOF*, the article "Time Bomb On U.S. Border," by Col. Rex Applegate, states: "Indian populations in Yucatan, Tabasco, Chiapas, Oaxaca, Guerrero and Veracruz have his-

Continued on page 27



Every fight is Bam-BAM and you're done!

“All Your Fancy Fighting Skills Won't Earn You An Extra Second Against This Devastating New Natural Streetfighting System!”

Why are black belts, boxers, Ju Jitsu wrestlers... and especially those silly macho “military” guys who *claim* to be so tough... scared to death when faced with this amazingly simple new fighting secrets?

Dear Friend,

My name is Bob Pierce... and I have *serious* “inside” knowledge about every “new” fighting system that’s ever been “hyped” in this magazine. I have *financed* the marketing for many of these systems... I’m well-known in all the important military, martial art and military circles. (My contacts include former Navy Seal and Army Special Forces, plus guys who train SEALS, FBI and CIA agents, big city SWAT police, and special “black bag” operatives the government doesn’t want you to know about.)

I don’t seek these men out. These hotshots come to me... often *begging* for a chance to show me their “stuff”.

Well, let me tell you something. You need to hear this: Almost *all* those super-hyped fighting systems are...

Pure Over-Rated Garbage!

Real fighting... especially the vicious, no-rules attacks and fights you’re every likely to see in the street... has *changed forever!* Almost *everything* you know is obsolete, and I don’t care how long you’ve been training or who you’ve trained with.

Worse... if you are ever forced to actually use anything you’ve learned — and if you’re like 99% of the guys out there trying to put together a few “guaranteed” skills to protect yourself and your family — you will likely get hurt if you attempt to use any *fancy stuff* against an experienced streetfighter or mugger.

Every fighting system I’ve seen is just too *damned complicated* to master in a reasonable time (and they’re just *lying* to you if they say different)! Those military guys are the *worst* too... anyone who *knows* the SEALS and Army “elite” special forces work knows these soldiers use *weapons* to fight with... NOT their hands! Hand-to-hand streetfighting is the *least important skill* they need or seek... and they learn a few “basic” hand-to-hand skills almost as an *afterthought!*

The truth is, when these “elite” soldiers are pitted against an experienced, world-class streetfighter...

They Lose!

I’d almost *given up* trying to find an *honestly* simple fighting system that was easy to master (not just “learn”)... and that I could *count on* if I was forced to defend myself.

And then I stumbled on something... I think

you’ll find it interesting, also.

Let me tell you a *very short story* that may be the most important one you ever hear in your life: Just outside of Tulsa, Oklahoma, there’s a beat-up warehouse where certain “unusual” types of people like to gather. If you’re a stranger out here, you’re not just unwelcome...

You’re Meat!

And it’s very easy to tell if you’re not one of the “in” group: These guys shave their heads and tattoo *swastikas* on their scalp. They’re permanently pumped with a steroid-and-amphetamine rage. They wear jack boots, carry chains, knives and baseball bats... and they never, *ever* fight fair. All fights are three, four, or a *dozen* to one.

They’re Skinhead Neo-Nazi’s... probably the most *vicious* and *dangerous* punks roaming America. (Compared with Skinheads, an inner-city Compton gang of Crips or Bloods look almost like *Boy Scouts*.) Skinheads never need a *reason* for violence — just being alone and close enough to jump will make you an instant victim.

These Sick Jerks Actually Enjoy Hurting And Humiliating People!

Anyway, on this particular night an ordinary-looking man named Chris Clugston made the mistake of driving out to this isolated warehouse. He thought he was going to see a band play music, maybe find a nice girl to dance with, have some fun on a hot summer night. He didn’t have much money on him — after paying the “cover” to get inside and ordering a beer, all he had left was *one little nickel* in his pocket. Remember that — a single nickel. Not even enough to leave as a tip at the makeshift bar.

Chris didn’t know what to make of all the skinheads giving him the “evil eye”. He thought they just had really bad haircuts and silly taste in clothes. He felt no fear... in fact, as he passed a table of them, he reached out and good-naturedly rubbed one of them on the scalp. “Nice haircut, fella,” he said.

Three skinheads stood up and quickly cornered him. The band played on.

Now, you have to get this scene right to understand the *importance* of what happened next: The *smallest* of the three Skinheads coming at Chris was his same size; the others were taller, more muscular, heavier. They were reaching for objects in their pockets (it was too dark to see clearly) smiling with relish for the stomping they expected to hand out. No

one in the warehouse had the slightest urge to help or stop the fight. There was nowhere for Chris to escape.

In less than a second, he suddenly realized he was about to be jumped by three experienced streetfighters... and if he didn’t do something right *NOW*...

His Life Wasn't Worth Much More Than That Nickel In His Pocket!

Well, what would *you* have done? You know, in your heart, you run the risk every day of being in the same situation... cornered by punks who want to do you (and your *family*, too, if they’re nearby) *serious harm!* It’s not even connected to robbery anymore — they don’t want your nickel, they want the thrill of stomping your face into hamburger.

It could be in a parking lot downtown, in a movie theatre, outside your local Seven-Eleven...

Or In The Cool Darkness Of Your Own Bedroom, Late At Night!

Have you *seriously* thought about what will happen to *you* during real-life crunch time... where *your* life (and that of your loved ones) aren’t worth a plugged nickel?

Back in that lonely Tulsa warehouse, Chris didn’t have *time* to think. He didn’t *need* to... in a *blink*, he turned that nasty situation around 180 degrees... and those three Skinheads, *even though they were poised and ready to attack*, found themselves suddenly thrust into a world of pain and confusion. But Chris didn’t use anything that even *remotely* resembles karate, or Judo, or Tai Kwan Do, or even boxing or wrestling. No. Instead...

Chris Did Something These Experienced Fighters Had Never Seen Before... And Hope They Never See Again!

There were other Skinheads in that old warehouse that night... *but they didn’t bother Chris!* Not after they saw what he did (with an absolutely *chilling* calm and sense of confidence) to those three streetfighters who cornered him! There was something in his eyes... something the *first* 3 punks missed in the dim light... that now warned the rest of them away.

The fight didn’t take three seconds... because while two of the Skinheads went down hard *immediately*, the third broke and ran, and

Chris couldn't catch him! These guys have been spotted around Tulsa occasionally since then, and they're still "jumpy". There isn't a *flicker* of that punk fire left in their eyes. Even the guy that got away (thanks to his reflexes of sheer, pants-wetting FEAR) won't go near anyone who even vaguely *looks* like Chris anymore.

The people who saw what Chris Clugston did that night all report the same thing: It was like nothing they'd seen before... the quick moves looked *too easy and simple* to have actually worked...

And Yet The Results Were Instant And Devastating Beyond Belief!

What Chris (the most normal-looking and *likable* guy you'll ever meet) used is the *strangest* fighting technique imaginable — unlike anything you have ever seen before... and yet (for guys like you and me) it is absolutely the most *ruthless and effective fighting style ever devised!*

- Hard-core streetfighters end up being *bullied* by people half their size using this system!
- Trained boxers *can't land a punch!*
- Wrestlers the size of *Jabba the Hut* get tossed into walls like puppies by women!
- Karate black-belts *never get a chance to strike...* and any *defensive* move they make only gets them hurt more seriously!
- Even the *highest-level* "elite" training in the U.S. military won't help a soldier last beyond a *few seconds* in hand-to-hand combat against this new, utterly-*unique* fighting system!

I never, *never* want to feel what it's like to be on the *other end* of this amazing stuff! Nevertheless, once you see how it's done, you'll see that this new fighting system is:

- Incredibly easy to master in short time! (People who have only been *shown* these moves — and never actually *done* them — have nevertheless had tremendous success in "crunch time"... with *devastating results* for their attackers!)
- So simple you can actually "learn it and forget it"... and yet it will be there for you whenever you need it! (There are only 6 components to the *entire* system... *less* to remember than most karate schools have for *one fancy kick!*) In fact, you can learn more intense fighting skills in one short hour than you'd learn in a month of "formal" martial arts!
- And yet these fighting secrets require no special strength, speed or coordination to get started! (*Everything* you need, Chris can teach you in about the time it takes to eat a big meal!)

I knew this was something you'd want to know about right away. This new system — Chris calls it "Combat JKD" — is *nothing* like those complicated "official" fighting systems... you know, the kind of "altered self-defense" used by guys in uniforms (who do all *their* fighting with automatic weapons in desert battlegrounds and jungles, and almost *never* hand-to-hand on pavement or on a porch or from inside a car... where *you'll* be needing the best skills you can get!). No. This is a *completely different way of fighting in the street*, where *you'll* likely be if you ever need help.

I think what Chris has is just perfect for guys like you and me. Perfect because you don't need to train much... you can use what you

learn immediately... and (because it's so incredibly simple)...

You Will Face Any "Situation" With A Steel-Eyed Calm Confidence You've Never Experienced Before!

In fact, this "Combat JKD" Chris teaches is so different that the results of *real encounters* I've discovered by his students (so far he's only taught about two dozen people) are almost too amazing to be real. For example:

- A young man named Mike Farrell (who *maybe* weighs 160 pounds soaking wet) begged Chris to teach him his fighting secrets after Mike was jumped and beaten senseless by a gang of 20 black guys in a Denny's parking lot. Mike wasn't what you'd call a "good student"... but he learned enough so that, when a 230-lb. truck driver tried to take him down, Mike instinctively reacted with a *single, indefensible* move that sent the monster flying (literally, feet, body, hands off the ground!) backwards and into a steel door. People inside later said it sounded like a canon going off. *There was no need for any other action* — one quick move and the "fight" was over. "Hey," Mike told me, "this stuff really works!"

- A bouncer called "C.C" in a Mid-West bar was pushed outside by 3 drunks who didn't like being told to quiet down. Ordinarily, even an experienced bouncer would have had trouble in that situation, but in this case C.C. mangled the first drunk so quickly, and with such *off-hand viciousness and authority*, that the other two ran off. (A lot of would-be fighters run when faced with the terrible certainty of Chris's new fighting methods!)

- Recently, at a local "hip" hangout, a couple of steroid-pumped fraternity boys decided that because they were young, privileged and beefy and this one scraggly-looking guy *wasn't*, he deserved to be beat up. *Wrong* — the frat boys picked on one of Chris's students... and now they don't talk so loud anymore, don't strut like roosters. Two jerks, two simple moves (that didn't look like much, and certainly didn't cause Chris's student to break a sweat)... equals one fight *over with* in a couple of seconds!

- Perhaps *more relevant*, however, than all the stories I could tell you... is this: When Chris recently trained alongside a group of U.S. military Special Forces soldiers... I can't use their names (security reasons), but they represented the top schools of the Army, Navy... he received the *highest compliment* ever paid to a civilian by these hard-ass soldiers. One of the super-elite "18-Zulu" Group sergeants took the others aside (after watching Chris train for a bit) and told these top soldiers to never, *ever* mess with this guy... because...

All Their Fancy Hand-To-Hand Combat Training Wouldn't Earn Them An Extra Second In A Real, Balls-Out Fight With Chris!

I know what you're thinking — if this "Combat JKD" is so great...

Why Is It Still Such An Astonishing Secret!

The answer's easy. It's *not* secret — this new fighting system simply did not exist until a few

short years ago... and the few people who do know about it are in no hurry to share their unique, viciously-effective secrets!

Chris Clugston — as far as I know — is the *ONLY man in the world* who was in a position to take modern fighting methods... and create new "twists" to them that are so innovative... so amazingly natural (you'll never feel awkward or have trouble learning *any* of it)... and so *instantly devastating*... that what he wound up with is an *entirely NEW way to fight*. *None* of his methods would be allowed in the boxing ring, or in a karate match, or in *any* kind of fight...

Where The "Rules" Say You Must At Least Give The Other Guy A Chance To Hit You Back!

This is the most honestly brutal, *bam-BAM*-and-you're-*done* kind of fighting you could ever imagine... and the best part is, it's *especially* easy for "non-fighting" types of people to master quickly!

That's because Chris Clugston spent a *lifetime* searching where no one thought to look for the simplest fighting secrets of the world. Here's the story:

- Streetfighting has been his overriding passion since he was 12 years old. (He earned black belts in 5 different martial arts before he was 20!) He even learned 7 languages so he could travel the world and uncover new styles of fighting and techniques *that hadn't reached the U.S. yet!*
- In East Germany, he worked his way inside the *most elite scientific-research organizations in the world*. The Soviets have training systems for hand-to-hand combat that are *light-years* ahead of us... with amazing techniques...

That Actually "Imprint" Brutally-Effective Fighting Skills Directly Into Your Nervous System!

- It's like *loading a computer with raw data...* so, *without conscious effort*, you can "download" amazingly advanced skills straight into your body's muscles and nerves in an incredibly short time! The result is a *shortcut* in your "learning curve" — which means you can learn in *hours* what others need *years* to master!

- Chris fought professionally for over 8 years (*twice* as long the average pro)... becoming one of the world's most *accomplished* fighters! (He was Number One World Rated in Shoot Boxing for 1991-1992... American Kickboxing Colorado Champ for 2 years... as well as Maximum Total Light Heavy Champ, *despite* fighting in a higher weight class!)

He also won over 50 vicious, no-rules streetfights during this time. This is how he realized how *stupid* it is to master any martial art style that has *rules* (no kicking in boxing, no strangling in wrestling, no head-punches in karate... and ridiculous time-limits in all of them!). The *real* world of streetfighting *has no rules!* Even the most brutal-looking "official" fighting systems can actually get you *killed* in the street... and the "confidence" you get from years of dedication to any formal training...

Is A Total Sham!

- And then, about a decade ago, Chris was invited to "try out" with perhaps the most secretive group of people in the U.S. — a small,

almost fanatical "fringe" bunch of fighters who had developed a combat-oriented system that emphasized simple moves... and brutally-quick endings to every fight. (This is about as far from "sport" fighting as you can get!) *No one* gets into this "secret society" without a personal invitation... and the initiation rites are too astonishing to even talk about here.

Nevertheless, this "over-the-top" fighting style was what Chris had been searching for! But because of his travels... his Soviet training... and all his professional insights... plus all the "official" martial art know-how he had... Chris brought something NEW to the table that even these hyper-secret fighters didn't understand.

What Chris discovered was this: Even the most cutting-edge fighting styles (like the ones used by the military) were still shackled with moves based on centuries-old situations involving fencing, stick-fighting and ritualized combat! These systems, though seemingly "modernized", still use only about 75% of your maximum fighting ability!

So he really had no choice. He was forced to create an entirely NEW fighting system... one that took the simplest moves of the best styles... and "blended" them with the scientific insights of the last few years to make...

A Natural, Utterly-Simple Fighting System That Can Defeat Any Other Fighter Instantly!

Of course, using this new system is not going to make you any friends. Everyone, it seems, hates Chris — martial artists hate him because he shows their formality up as total B.S.... boxers and wrestlers hate him because all their neat skills vanish before the onslaught his new style throws at them... the military guys hate him because they're embarrassed that a civilian "aced them out" on the advanced Soviet fighting technology (which they still don't understand)... and other streetfighters hate him because they can't strut their stuff around him.

No one argues with Chris anymore. Not elite military soldiers... not thick, muscled boxers... not murderous street-gang fighters. Because Chris doesn't like to "talk", he likes to "walk". He only has one thing to say to anyone who challenges him:

"Let's Go Outside And Fight Right Now!"

And, for the last few years, *no one's* had the guts to do that. He has an OPEN CHALLENGE out to anyone who thinks they've got a better system. Come on out and scrap with me, he says. They refuse. Chris Clugston's "Combat JKD" has changed streetfighting forever.

You will understand why when you see — for yourself — just what this amazing new system is all about. It's the chance of a lifetime for anyone interested in learning fighting skills that immediately "catapult" you in the highest levels of the fighting world, practically overnight!

This is what's in it for you: Chris has instructed me to give you an opportunity unparalleled in history. He wants you to see his new "Combat JKD" system in action... in a complete, "uncensored" form that most of the world will never even hear about... learn the

basic (simple) moves yourself... see how it "fits" on you, and if you like it... and do it all without having to risk a nickel of your own money!

He's doing this because, finally, he's fed up with all the "hype" and hysteria out there about the "military-oriented" fighting systems now flooding the market. He knows his new stuff will make those Navy and Army-sponsored systems look silly... with less fuss, less learning time, and more power than anyone would believe. He wants to show you... so there will be no doubt in your mind whatsoever... that "Combat JKD" has changed fighting forever. And all the secrets of it can all be yours... as soon as you want it!

Here's how it works: A few weeks ago, Chris submitted himself to a grueling week-long video session, where he revealed — on tape — all the most closely-held secrets of his new fighting system. It's the best I've ever seen.

Now, I've been producing self-defense tapes for several years now — including ones by the guys who train the U.S. Navy SEALs, Army RANGERS, big-city police SWAT teams, and even agents in the FBI and CIA. I've used the same film crew for most of these videos. They've seen the BEST... but they were totally unprepared for what Chris had to show them. My crew couldn't get enough. (They even stayed after-hours — without pay — just to get a few personal tips from Chris!) I've never seen such intense interest by jaded, "seen that, done that" cameramen and sound guys before!

Most of the crew were NOT avid karate or self-defense fans themselves... but when they saw Chris in action they all told me, at the same time...

This Was, Finally, The Simple Yet Utterly Effective "Lazy Man's" Answer For 100% Self-Defense They'd Been Looking For!

They saw — as you will, too — that what Chris teaches can be mastered in the shortest time humanly possible... and yet obviously has exactly the kind of vicious fight-ending skills a "normal" man could ever hope for.

You'll see what I'm talking about. Even if you only "scan" these videos once, you'll be changed forever! There are nearly 4 hours of tape here, on two power-packed video cassettes. It's information that was completely unavailable just a few weeks ago, to anyone except the few "insiders" who knew Chris personally. Yet, with the advantages of slow-motion, rewinding and multiple camera angles (we used a state-of-the-art recording studio down in San Diego)... you actually get a better and more complete education, in a shorter time, than any of Chris's personal students!

You'll get it cheaper, too. Chris only takes a few students on every year, and they pay outrageous fees to get their personal education in "Combat JKD". It's an enormous risk, financially, for him to offer his secrets so inexpensively to you... but, frankly, he's so angry at all the bogus fighting information out there, he doesn't care about his high fees anymore. This is now a matter of pride... as a man, you can easily understand where Chris is coming from.

Look — here's just a "taste" of what you're about to learn:

- How to use the billion-dollar secret training technology developed by the Soviets (which put their athletes light-years ahead of anyone else) to put your fighting coordination and speed "over the top"... even if you haven't got an athletic bone in your body! ■■ Why you should never use your fist in a real street fight! (Even trained fighters make this crucial mistake... and risk serious injury that's 100% avoidable!) There's a better way to do more damage, quicker, with no risk of hurting yourself at all ■■ A "lazy man's" training technique that's so simple, you can master devastating moves while watching TV! ■■ How to "expand" your 5 senses so you see everything happening around you, all the time — it's like having eyes in the back of your head! (This trick can save you enormous amounts of danger and trouble... and make you virtually undefeatable in any head-to-head fight!) ■■ Secret "2-minute" training techniques (that's all it takes!) that are guaranteed to make you look ridiculous... but which will pump up your fighting ability (and confidence) 1,000% almost overnight! ■■ New (and simple) exercises that actually install animal quickness and viciousness directly into your muscles and nerves... leaving it locked there until you need to spring it loose! (Go from calm to frightening in a split second, whenever you choose... or whenever you're threatened!) ■■ The "energy conservation" rules of fighting almost every street fighter breaks... leaving you a devastating opening 10 seconds into any fight no one else will see! ■■ How to use the "two second" stalking test to see how trained your opponent is... and what he's trained in! (Crucial information to end the fight when you choose!) ■■ The hyper-advanced new fighting stance that negates all others... putting you in a position to keep boxers, wrestlers, and even the dirtiest fighters on the planet off-balance until you decide to strike! (They'll never get "settled" enough to hit you!) ■■ How to never again feel uncontrollable emotion (or even sweaty palms) in a tight situation... and how to channel all your adrenaline into purposeful energy that will charge you up like a bomb! ■■ Why your best fighting moves will come completely naturally... forget all that martial art nonsense about needing to train for years to do complicated moves! (The best fighters in the world use only a few simple moves... and routinely knock around karate dudes like they were children!) ■■ How to use the devastating "pop up" push taken from the way tigers hunt in the wild... so effective a 90-lb. woman can use it to send a Sumo wrestler tumbling! ■■ What to watch when you're eight feet apart (it's NOT his eyes — a terrible mistake most fighters make that gets them hurt)... and what to watch inside the two feet "crunch time" zone... to keep you a precious step ahead of even superbly-trained fighters! ■■ The number one "Dirty Trick" of fighters who want to decisively end a fight as soon as possible! ■■ A ridiculously-simple two-finger takedown that will instantly bring any opponent, of any size and weight, to his knees! ■■ Leverage secrets (known only by students of Clugston's) that multiply every

pound of your weight ten times, giving you "Godzilla" advantages against even a much heavier opponent! ■■ How to correctly use the "scissor choke" — which 99 of 100 fighters do so incorrectly it actually puts them at risk (instead of providing the fight-ending *certainty* you can have doing it right!) ■■ A 1,000-year-old move (which all but a handful of martial artists never learn about) that will end the fight **instantly** once you get to the ground... even faster than the most *famous* ju-jitsu move! ■■ How to handle worst-case scenarios: when you're surprised, caught in completely undesirable places, outnumbered... and *worse!* ■■ How to easily and *effectively* destroy your opponent's "wheels"... and why the *standard* karate knee kicks are doomed to fail 7 of 8 times (leaving you exposed and ready to go *down!*) Chris's understanding of "knee take down" fighting is *unsurpassed* by any other fighter on the planet... and he can show you how to *never* be without this fight-ending "out"! ■■ How to master the unbelievably-devastating secrets of the "Axe Kick"! ■■ Instant arm-locks that disable your opponent and let you decide what's next! (Including how to master the *most painful and effective arm lock* a human can suffer!) ■■ The secret of correct head butts — it's *not* what you've seen the military guys doing! (If you ever use the *wrong* method, you'll *split your head open...* **proof** most of those military guys have *never* been in a real hand-to-hand fight!) ■■ The one take-down move you will have open to you *every time* a attacker strikes... so simple, so easy to remember, it's like walking around with a cocked and loaded gun! ■■ The "can't lose" kick that does incredible damage *even when you miss completely!* (One of many "fail safe" moves Chris teaches!) ■■ Head-on moves that will *separate you from the boys* in the first second of the fight! (And send even the craziest attacker *running!*) ■■ How an untrained fighter tips himself off! ■■ Your single best "one answer" move in *any* confrontation — if you never learn anything else from Chris, *this* move will assure you survive almost any one-on-one fight you get into... even with trained fighters! (*And it's so simple you don't even have to practice it very much!*)

And more... including details so "sensitive" I wouldn't dare list them here for you!

PLUS... you get a very special FREE bonus that Chris wants you to have and KEEP as his

gift. It's a hour-long video he shot about knife-fighting — and, just like everything else he teaches, it's unlike anything you've ever seen before. Chris has been in knife fights... and he learned crucial new information that no other knife-fighter on the planet even has a clue about! No one wants to get in a knife fight... because your chances of surviving without getting cut are not good. But the knife has become such a common "tool" of the criminal attackers, *you absolutely need this advanced look at fighting with knives...* including bare-hands against a knife, and knife-against-knife.

The hyper-advanced fighting skills you learn from Chris have *already helped other people just like you...* in the most dangerous, out-of-control situations you're ever likely to face in the street! You can't walk around in a suit of armor, bristling with guns and knives and hoping you "look" threatening enough to avoid trouble. However, with Chris's help...

You Can Have A "Built In" Protection Device More Powerful Than Guns and Knives... Your Own "Inner Bodyguard" Trained To Devastate Anyone Who Attacks You!

People who have experienced Chris's training methods report a **deep and permanent change in their lives.** It's as if Chris has helped *install another person* inside you... a stronger, more *vicious* and unafraid warrior who won't hesitate a second to eliminate (with all the force necessary) any danger to you!

This is not like the training terrorists go through, however — that turns them into savage beasts that cannot be absorbed back into civilization again. Far from it... Chris's training techniques leave you normal and centered (much like a fighting master should be)... your same old lovable self...

Until The Time You NEED To Unleash That Brutal Warrior Inside You!

It's not even a conscious process! Imagine having little *danger-sensing antennae* (like a Geiger counter) inside you that leap into action even before you consciously understand you are in trouble!

Imagine having the *inner peace and confidence* to be relaxed anywhere in the world... **knowing your training and mastery has placed you**

among the most viciously-effective fighters on the planet if trouble occurs!

You can't *buy* that kind of confidence for any amount of money...

But You CAN Earn It... With Chris's Help!

So how much is Chris's video course going for? It's cheap — *less than you'd pay for two lousy lessons at the local karate school...* less than a big meal for two at a fancy restaurant... less, even, than a decent pair of cowboy boots! Ask anyone who has trained with Chris... they'll tell you how foolish it is to quibble over a few dollars when the result is *learning the most effective fighting skills on the planet!*

Here's what you need to do now: Call **1-800-294-9602** and tell the operator you want to order Chris Clugston's "Combat JKD" video course, Dept. CG-15. It's important to tell them that code, too — *don't forget!* You can use your credit card. The price for this amazing 2-video tape package (plus your FREE bonus tape on knife fighting!) is just \$97 plus \$4.50 shipping and handling. (Total: \$101.50) Or, if you prefer to pay by check or money order (payable to Underground Streetfighters Association), simply fill out the Priority Order Form and send it with your payment to the USA offices at 1565 N. Hillman—356, Tulare, CA 93274. Either way, your tapes will be rushed out to you by return mail as soon as we receive your order.

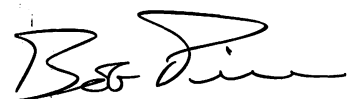
But remember — you get Chris's **personal guarantee on this:** Watch the tapes, at your own pace, in your own home, and learn everything he has... for a full 3 months without risk. Treat the tapes as hard as you like — they're yours for the entire 3 months. If, at the end of that time, you aren't **100% convinced** you've just been training in the most advanced fighting skills you could ever have, simply return the 2 tapes and Chris will see that you get an *immediate refund* of your purchase price. No questions asked. No nonsense... and Chris will still consider you a friend. He respects you enough to let you decide for yourself.

But — even if you decide to return the tapes for a refund, you can still KEEP the bonus tape on Knife-Fighting (worth the price of the entire package just by itself!)... as Chris's gift to you, just for giving his videos a look.

That's more than fair... and if you're *serious* about learning fighting skills you can use, wherever you find yourself in trouble... *this is a must-have course!* So far, only a handful of "insider" students (with deep pockets) have gotten this kind of acute attention from Chris.

Here's your chance... if you believe you've got what it takes... to become a master of that same secret fighting technique. **Call now.**

Sincerely,



Robert Pierce
President,
Underground Streetfighters Assoc.

Priority Order Form for SOLDIER OF FORTUNE Readers Only!

For fastest service use your credit card and call **Toll-FREE**

1-800-294-9602 (Dept. CG-15)

YES! This sounds *exactly* like the kind of fighting system I've been searching for — easy to learn, simple to execute... and so *brutally-effective* that my confidence levels will soar beyond anything I've ever dreamed! Plus, I have nothing to lose by ordering now — with your **100% Money-Back No-Risk Guarantee**, I get a *full 3 months* to use these videos as my own... and if I'm not *completely and utterly satisfied*, all I have to do is return them for a total refund of my purchase price! That's a great deal. So please *rush* me the 2-video set (*over 3 hours of intense fighting secrets!*)... plus my **FREE bonus tape** on knife-fighting (which I get to KEEP as a gift even if I decide later to return the rest of the set)! Here is my address and how I wish to pay:

I prefer to pay with my credit card; Please charge my: Enclosed is my Check or Money Order
 Visa MasterCard AmEx Discover (Make payable to Underground Streetfighter's Association)

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Continued from page 22

torically harbored violent potential. Mexico's crucial petroleum and petrochemical operations are mostly in Veracruz and Tabasco. Any insurgency threatening [operations] creates serious priority problems, given the army's limited resources and immediate reserves."

I am totally against this statement as it prompts U.S. military support for the Mexican military. Let's get the hell out of Mexico, seal the borders and leave

— except every now and then a worm appears in the Applebasket.

Harold L. Dale
Blanding, Utah

MORE ON "LOST COMMANDOS"

I would like to congratulate your magazine for bringing to the attention of your readers the plight of the Lost Commandos (Sept. '95; "Op 34 Alpha: The Lost Commandos"). There are, however, some facts regarding the comandos that need to be clarified. I encourage your

generals included, chose to abandon the comandos as POWs. Not a single high-level officer ever sought to have them released from captivity. No one spoke up regarding the Paris Peace Talks, no one raised the issue with any of the subsequent administrations or investigations into POWs. Also, no one came forward to the committee I served on, the Senate Select Committee on Prisoners of War.

The American people should ask why America abandoned these men.

John C. Mattes
Miami

U.S. TROOPS, U.N. FLAG

I am a U.S. Army NCO with the 902nd MI Group (out of Fort Jackson, South Carolina) currently attached to the 1st Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment in Haiti. We just received your Sept. '95 issue — outstanding as usual — and noted the letter written by a Special Forces soldier here in Haiti ("SF Under U.N. Command").

I have passed the SF compound on many occasions and noticed that the U.S. flag that once flew there was missing. I was unaware that they were ordered to take it down because they didn't have a U.N. flag to fly with it. I have another flag incident for you.

When the U.S. embassy personnel were killed in a vehicle accident in Bosnia, we lowered the U.S. flag and cavalry flag, but to my amazement, the U.N. flag was still at full staff! The U.N. flag was raised above the U.S. flag — why was that possible? We were told that we were not allowed to lower the U.N. flag for our fallen

U.S. citizens.

Also, like the SF member, I believe that the U.S. soldier should also receive the \$87 a day like all other U.N. soldiers.

Name Withheld
by Request

PARK SERVICE AND POW GROUPS

I would like to comment on the article in your Nov. '95 issue, "Free Speech Firefight." Author Steve Hirsch wrote of the dilemma faced by the half-dozen or so vendors who have chosen the Vietnam Memorial to set up base camp. He wrote that the Park Service wants to ban the sale of T-shirts on the Mall because "sales cause 'discordant commercialism' and create a 'flea market' atmosphere. ..." Well, as a 36-year resident of the Washington area, I can say, in all candor, that's right.

Hirsch alluded to the Service wanting to shut the vendors down as a means of severing badly needed funds by POW/MIA groups. I truly don't think that's the objective. The reader must be cognizant of the fact that the Mall stretches from the Lincoln Memorial to the Capitol. On the opposite end of the Mall you will find the "vendors from hell" hawking any and every tacky thing they can make a buck off. The crap they're pushing is by no means tied to POW/MIA activities.

The parasites desecrating our national monuments must go. As for the legitimate POW/MIA groups at the other end of the Mall, some form of an accord must be reached between their cause and the Park Service.

Matthew P. Kelly
Vienna, Virginia ✕



Mexico's Indians alone. These Indians have been pushed, abused, murdered, their property stolen, etc., and they are merely trying to exist on a small plot of land. It seems that almost everywhere on this globe the poor people are always the ones made to suffer.

I am a Navajo Native American living in Utah. I really like the way Col. Applegate neatly put the above paragraph in, then outlines the bad effects (i.e., a war waiting to happen) to the Mexican government and listed our U.S. interests there as to promote U.S. military action (support) in the event of chaos (war) in Mexico against the Indians.

I read your magazine often and support most of your writers' contributions

readers to obtain the just-published, definitive history of the Lost Commandos, entitled *Secret Army, Secret War* by Sedgwick Tourison, published by the Naval Institute Press. In that book, Tourison lays out the full history of the comandos.

Another thing I encourage your readers to do is obtain copies of the MACSOG documentation study, which is the newly declassified documents that outline what happened to these men. Those documents clearly indicate that the comandos, despite opinions by others, were contract employees of the U.S. government.

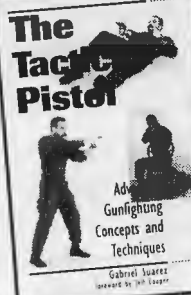
The MACSOG documents also clearly indicate that U.S. officials,

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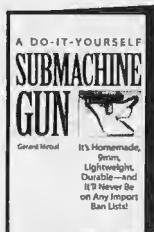
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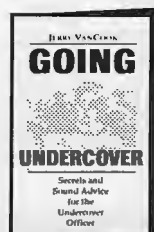
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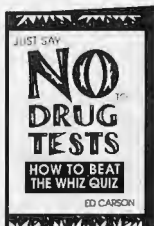
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I WAS THERE

Tiny Nukes

by Irving H. Blifford

There are reports that since Desert Storm there has been renewed interest in "tiny nukes," but the development of less-than-5-kiloton bombs is presently prohibited by Congress. Years ago, as a civilian scientist at the Naval Research Laboratory, I was part of the survey team assessing air radiation levels after the test of a tiny nuke.

Operation Buster/Jangle in the fall of 1951 was the first to involve troop maneuvers. There were concerns about exposure of personnel in all of the tests but it was the final two that were the big unknowns, as they were to be exploded at ground level. With lots of dirt being thrown skyward it was an opportunity to *check* a new instrument for detecting radioactivity in the air under simulated combat conditions. (I had set up similar equipment in Micronesia for the Greenhouse tests.)

The Nevada Proving Ground was then under construction. The test personnel represented the usual crowd: civilian field-engineer types, scientists and military — mostly fairly senior scientific officers — plus a sprinkling of construction workers and security-force riders in full cowboy regalia.

We made a number of dry runs across the

desert in an Army 4x4 with the new instrument, pulling a trailer and generator for electrical power. On the test day, AEC (now ERDA) people suited us up with booties over heavy shoes, cotton gloves, and caps sealed to our coveralls. We had respirators and dark goggles. Something we did not have was any illusion about being protected from radiation: The elaborate preparations merely were to keep radioactive dust from contaminating our clothing.

We comprised four Navy civilians, the three engineers who designed the instruments, two observers, and our AEC "radiological monitor" who was to keep us from getting too much radiation. The latter made it clear that *he* didn't intend to get any more than absolutely necessary. We were told that we could not exceed a certain dosage, but would have to make our own call based on conditions. We carried the usual film badges, Geiger counters and quartz-fiber electrometers to measure accumulated radiation.

The official account recalls that "SUGAR was finally fired at nine o'clock on the morning of 19 November 1951. The 1.2-kiloton explosion formed a typical fireball, then a cloud that extended 11,000 feet into the air." Immediately after the ex-

plosion we could see a dense, circular curtain of dust from the desert floor to cloud level.

As we came within a couple of miles of ground zero, we could see a helicopter in the distance. Its crew had extended a cable down to the crater. Suddenly they broke off, coming toward us and landing. We drove over to the chopper and they told us the crater was pretty hot; seeing us headed that way they had come down to warn us. They accidentally had lost airspeed and come too close to the ground, receiving more than their maximum dosage. They were returning without completing their mission.

Our instruments indicated we were OK so we decided to go ahead. We took air samples every 100 yards or so and were surprised by the low radioactivity. The dense cloud of dust from the explosion had disappeared.

At about half a mile we proceeded on foot. It was very quiet and there was no one else in sight. Except for our Geiger counters there was nothing to indicate any danger or the potential for a horrible death from the nuclear radiation that we knew was streaming invisibly out of the crater in front of us.

As we got closer we noticed that the ground was covered with irregu-

lar, green globs of glass that crunched under our feet. We threw a few of them into our vehicle for souvenirs.

Standing in a large open water tank (a few feet of water makes a good radiation shield), my Geiger counter didn't change its reading at all, indicating we were receiving a lot of radiation from the sky. It was coming at us, not only directly from the crater, but seemingly from all directions. If the radiation had been visible we would have appeared to be in the glow of a large fire just ahead of us.

We came to some dogs in little boxes on stilts. They were happy to see us and we were pleased to see some living creatures, but we could imagine that their momentary happiness was temporary. They had been exposed to a tremendous blast of radiation and were no doubt done for.

By that time our instruments told us that we could not stay much longer nor proceed much farther toward the crater. Radiation was running close to one-half roentgen per hour. We had been assigned 2-3 roentgens as our maximum. It had been three hours and we had accomplished our mission of measuring the radioactivity in the air.

At the decontamination unit we removed all

clothing and protective gear and took showers, after which we were gone over by instruments. One of our party had to scrub a second time before we were released.

The explosion excavated a crater 21 feet deep by 90 feet in diameter, throwing up 50,000 cubic feet of soil. In previous aerial tests radiation at ground zero had run about 100 roentgens per hour, but this crater was radiating at 7,500 roentgens per hour. It would have been impossible to approach the lip of the crater and get out without accumulating a fatal dose of radiation.

The Uncle test later was exploded at a depth of 17 feet, blowing up almost a million cubic feet of earth, leaving a hole in the desert floor more than 50 feet deep. Immediately after the test, the radiation level at the crater was intense and about the same as for Sugar.

I talked later with some of the members of our team who also participated in Uncle, who told me there was much more dust in the air after the second test. They said that their respirators had leaked and some of the team had received radiation burns around their mouths and nostrils.

Does my experience provide anything worth remembering in the event that the unthinkable becomes reality?

It seems likely that within the crater area everything will be vaporized. There will be a small danger from radioactive dust. Although it can be imagined that there might be survivors in the rubble near the crater it will be impossible to get to them without suffering a fatal dose of radiation. Without radiation survey instruments the only safe thing to do will be to remain at least a half mile away, possibly for several weeks — or more.

Now retired, Irving H. Blifford's career as a scientist included tours with the Naval Research Center, the USAF Cambridge Research Center, Ford Aerospace, and the National Center for Atmospheric Research. ☒

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It is probably unlikely any of us have been confronted with an issue that forced us to take a stand, voice our convictions and realize that our decision may cost us our livelihood. Army Specialist Michael New faces just such a decision and the stakes will be determined in a court-martial. Massing before him are his adversaries: the United Nations and

leader, platoon leader, company commander and battalion commander to alter his uniform, New agreed to deploy with his unit but held steadfast in his refusal to wear a U.N. uniform. He was subsequently offered non-judicial punishment under Article 15, Uniform Code of Military Justice. Although such administrative action does not create a legal record, it

ample; *Webster's* dictionary defines it as the emblem used by the Nazi Germany party and the symbol of anti-Semitism. The flag of the United States of America has served as the symbol of freedom.

Is there significance, therefore, in the symbolic gesture whereby American fighting men are being ordered to wear the U.N. headgear and orga-

GREEN TEAM OR BLUE TEAM

Specialist New: A Prisoner Of Conscience?

by Guy Cunningham

sadly, the United States Army. Based on the strength of New's convictions, he may very well turn out to be one of America's true heroes and consummate patriots.

His crime is disobeying a direct order to wear headgear and a shoulder patch signifying his unit's consortium with the United Nations. The headgear consists of a blue baseball cap with the U.N. insignia; the U.N. patch is to be sewn on the uniform's upper right shoulder by participating members of the 3rd Infantry Division. Anyone who has served in the Army knows the significance that particular portion of the uniform holds. It is reserved for one patch only: the division patch under which the soldier served in combat.

When New was notified that his unit should prep for deployment to Macedonia to relieve an American detachment already participating in the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force, he informed his company commander he did not want to wear the U.N. shoulder patch or headgear. Further, if ordered to do so, he would refuse to deploy with his unit thus disobeying an order.

New explained his reasoning by commenting on the oath he took to defend the Constitution of the United States: "I cannot find anything in there about the United Nations. I did not join the United Nations. I am not a United Nations citizen or a U.N. soldier. I am an American and an American soldier."

When finally directed by his squad

also does not resolve the issue: New could still be ordered to wear U.N. insignia.

His remaining course of action was to refuse the Article 15 and request a trial by court-martial. Although this carries much greater risk if found guilty (comparable to a federal conviction in a civilian court), it also affords an open hearing and

nizational emblem? Is it happenstance that the only position on the American fighting men's uniform chosen to bear the U.N. emblem was the right shoulder — reserved by uniform regulation to proudly display the division in which a man served in combat? Remember, a patch there shows that he has faced death in the service of his country and thus earned the justified respect of his fellow countrymen for his sacrifice.

There is a final question remaining unanswered: Why did it take an E-4 to bring this issue to light? If the response by the chain of command down to New was a statement along the lines of "the significance of this mandate never occurred to us," then this suggests ineptitude. If the response by the chain of command acknowledges their understanding of their order, then this order represents

another step toward the progressive pogrom of the American fighting man's identity.

And a final condition may certainly be present. Several in the chain of command, as the order descended to the lowest element, could have very well recognized the significance of the mandate but lacked the conscience, conviction and courage to boldly question it.

The court-martial of Spec. New goes far deeper than the immediate charge of disobeying the order of his superiors. Michael New contends that based upon the moral foundation of



courtesy Michael New Defense Fund

Based on the strength of New's convictions, he may very well turn out to be one of America's true heroes and consummate patriots. His crime is disobeying a direct order to wear U.N. headgear and shoulder insignia.

public record.

Aside from the troubles of one soldier refusing to wear a U.N. uniform, a larger question remains: What does a U.N. patch on an American uniform mean? Symbolism plays a major role in any society, stirring deep-seated emotions associated with events, identifying individuals and groups, or organizations and ideological movements. On the one hand a symbol can be the source of unifying power, while on the other hand, the same symbol may strike a paralyzing fear in the hearts of many. The swastika is a good ex-



Master Sgt. Michael J. Haggerty, U.S. Air Force

Rapid response team trains in Macedonia. House Speaker Gingrich noted: "You cannot ask soldiers to train to be hostages. You cannot ask soldiers to drive around in white vehicles. You cannot ask soldiers to wear blue helmets because in that process they cease to be soldiers."

the armed forces in order to defend the United States, not the United nations. Therefore, in order to resolve this situation, I am introducing legislation that prevents any member of the United States armed forces from being required to wear, as part of their military uniform, any insignia of the

this country, the concept of sovereignty articulated in our founding documents, the American fighting man's oath and the distinction between this nation and others, the order he was given was unlawful.

In fact, New has gained a number of congressional supporters. Senator Bob Dole noted in a 1994 fund-raising letter, "What's more, we need to stand shoulder to shoulder against any Democrat attempt to disarm the military, surrender our sovereignty, and/or force U.S. soldiers to fight and die under U.N. command and in U.N. uniform."

House Speaker Newt Gingrich seemed to echo those sentiments in a speech at the Center for Strategic and

International Studies on 9 July 1995: "It [the United Nations] has a military force model which is a total disaster. ... You cannot ask soldiers to train to be hostages. You cannot ask soldiers to drive around in white vehicles. You cannot ask soldiers to wear blue helmets because in that process they cease to be soldiers."

Republican Sen. Larry Craig of Idaho issued the following statement on 31 October 1995: "The men and women who have chosen to serve this nation and the American people should not be put in a position which forces them to bear allegiance to any nation or organization other than the United States of America. Michael New made the decision to serve in

United Nations."

Not only New, but in fact all members of the armed forces are on trial. We should all ask ourselves: In a court room, before a jury of our peers, do we have the presence of sufficient conscience, conviction and courage, beyond any reasonable shadow of a doubt, to stand by our beliefs? Michael New does.

Sitting in the comfort and surrounding conveniences of your home, taking a stand can be easy — there are few consequences. And if you have a grandson, brother or friend faced with a similar dilemma, the stakes are higher but it is still not "my ox getting gored." The evidence is overwhelming that America has witnessed the emergence of one man, a true patriot, who had the conscience, conviction and courage to refuse the easy out. He refused for all the right reasons. Our voices should inspire him and the U.S. fighting man to victory.

A legal fund has been set up: The Michael G. New Defense Fund, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 1136, Crestwood, Kentucky, 40014. Contributions are not tax deductible.

Guy Cunningham wrote the "Combat Arms Survey." His Master's thesis delineated for the first time the relationship of loyalties and combat unit cohesion of U.S. troops serving under the United Nations. ❧



New's reasoning behind his refusal to don a U.N. uniform is based on the oath he took upon entering the Army. "I cannot find anything in there about the United Nations. I did not join the United Nations. I am not a United Nations citizen or a U.N. soldier. I am an American and an American soldier."

Master Sgt. Michael J. Haggerty, U.S. Air Force

It is 1999. The island nation of Taiwan renounces its 50-year quixotic claim as the legitimate political seat of China and concurrently declares itself the independent Republic of Taiwan. On the mainland, the People's Republic of China is outraged, swiftly implementing a submarine blockade that quickly would strangle Taiwan's lifeblood of trade. In the United States, Congress is swamped with phone calls from frightened constituents: If the blockade of America's sixth-largest trading partner continues, some 2.5 million Americans will lose their jobs. World leaders urge caution on all sides. Taiwan vows it will not be subjugated.

The U.S. government issues an ultimatum: Beijing must withdraw the blockade or face sanctions. When the ultimatum is ignored, an angry Washington revokes the visas of 20,000 Chinese students, and expels 2,000

Experts Project: If War With China ... We Lose

by Susan Katz Keating

This is not the pirated plot of a new Tom Clancy novel. The blockade-of-Taiwan scenario, with varying spin-offs, is currently the most frequently rehearsed war game at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. It is but one of many projections that even now is keeping U.S. military planners awake nights, as they anticipate a return to a bipolar political world, this time featuring the United States vs. the People's Republic of China.

As the war-game scenario indicates, the strategists believe that this time we may not get off as lightly as we did with the former Soviet Union, when a decades-old rivalry withered away without so much as a shot fired in anger. By the early part of the next century,

some experts posit, it is conceivable that the United States could go to war with Red China.



F. C. Brown

The Great Wall, as it now appears north of Beijing, has for centuries symbolized a China interested in defending its borders, but whose territorial interests stopped there. Recent military developments such as China's growing blue-water navy, ICBMs targeting North America and in-flight refueling capabilities for strategic bomber forces imply that China's interests now range beyond its borders.

FIRESTORM 2005

Chinese diplomats and businessmen. Tensions escalate. A U.S. P-3 Orion surveillance aircraft, making a routine sweep around Taiwan, is shot down by China. The United States demands an apology; none is forthcoming. As international tempers flare, U.S. warships move into the East China Sea. One of the ships is "locked on" by a Chinese missile and the captain makes the decision he has trained for: He launches a pre-emptive strike.

Over the course of the next few days, all hell breaks loose....



courtesy F. C. Brown

With mainland China in the background, Taiwan soldier stands guard in camouflaged bunker on island of Quemoy (Kin-men). Dispute over the status of Taiwan is a likely trigger to any war scenario.

"Some of us on the Hill have been absolutely screaming that this is a reality," says one Senate staffer who spoke to *SOF* on condition that his name not be used for publication. "There is a large contingent of policy makers who believe otherwise, but the fact is, China is more than just an ascendant power. It is a potential enemy." It all depends on how belligerent the Chinese leadership becomes, the staffer says. At present, the portents are worrisome indeed.

Over the past several months, Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng has made clear he views the United States with growing animosity, heightened by a series of perceived insults from the Clinton administration. The worst of these was Clinton's decision to grant a U.S. visa to the president of Taiwan, followed by Clinton's refusal to invite the PRC head of state Jiang Zemin to Washington for an official state visit.

Prime Minister Li has accused Washington of causing difficulties in relations between the two superpowers; more ominously, Li has coupled those complaints with repeated warnings that China has undergone "earthshaking changes," and no longer will put up with being bullied and downtrodden.

Target, Trigger: Taiwan

In a chest-thumping speech at annual National Day ceremonies mark-



Author's collection

With a range in excess of 2,600 miles, these Chinese-built Hong-6 bombers can project Beijing's will far beyond its borders. Specialized models include dedicated maritime strike bombers and cruise-missile carriers. They also have been exported to Iraq.

ing the 1 October 1949 establishment of the People's Republic of China, Li again made the oft-stated claim that has captured the attention of the American war-gamers: Beijing intends to retake Taiwan.

In years gone by, China certainly has endured its share of humiliating setbacks. It was invaded by Japan in World War II. It backed off from conflict in the face of fierce resistance

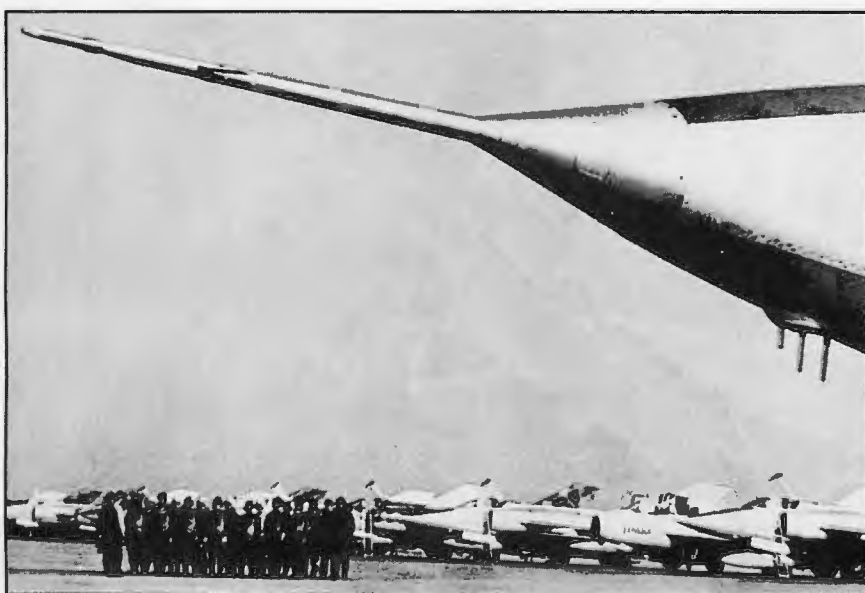
from Vietnam in 1979.

More recently, China has been dismissed by the international community as being militarily inept. China-watchers have pointed out that even though the Asian giant is unbelievably rich in manpower, its military capabilities are hampered by poor technology and an inability to mobilize. Charles W. Freeman Jr., a former U.S. assistant defense secretary and a diplomat knowledgeable on China, has said publicly there is no serious "China threat."

But, as stated by Li in his National Day speech, China has unquestionably undergone "earthshaking changes." The most significant of these means we no longer can automatically use the words "impoverished" and "communist China" in conjunction with one another. The PRC currently enjoys a 9% sustained economic-growth rate, which means there now is plenty of cash for the Beijing government to throw around.

The largess has not been frittered away on such things as public works, day-care centers, or "Piss Confucius" art displays. Rather, in the past six years, the PRC leadership has used the economic boon to fund a whopping 140% increase in military spending.

"That level of defense spending is unknown heretofore," says Nicholas



Author's collection

PLA air crews for MiG-19 (scoop nose) and Shenyan F-1 (side engine) fighters assemble before mission. No longer merely building license-built Russian designs, China's aircraft industry exports military jets to countries such as Pakistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq, Zimbabwe, Sudan and Tanzania. Work now progresses on an F-16 clone.

Eftimiades, a Defense Intelligence Agency analyst and author of *Chinese Intelligence Operations*. "The Reagan-era buildup was nothing compared to this. Nothing."

A minuscule portion of the newly allocated defense yuan has gone toward beefing up the 3 million-man People's Liberation Army with three or four divisions of rapid-reaction forces. The overwhelming bulk of expenditures has gone toward increased force projection.

"They're being very ambitious," the Senate staffer says. "They're putting a lot of money into big-ticket items," echoes Eftimiades.

Hoarding Hard-Line Hardware

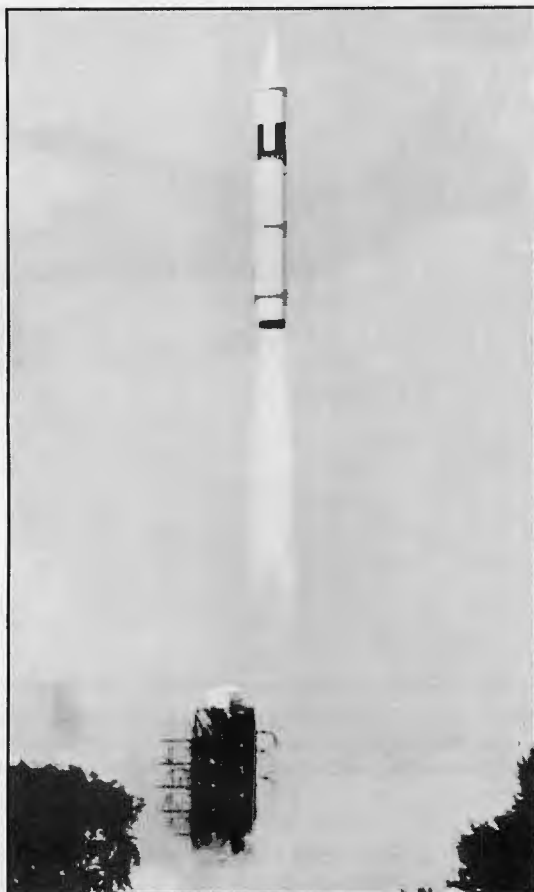
Recent purchases include the following.

- Submarines: Previously restricted to patrolling beneath the seas in a fleet of outdated Romeo-class submarines, China has obtained four Russian-built, Kilo-class submarines, considered some of the best diesel-powered subs in the world.

- Aircraft: In the last year alone, China has made a quantum leap in its air-force capability. Previous air-defense and long-range, maritime strike aircraft dated from the 1950s and '60s. Now, China has acquired 26 of Russia's most advanced fighter jets, the Su-27. Beijing hopes to build an additional 300 of the planes in its own factories. China also is hard at work on a homegrown copy of a U.S. F-16 presented to China by Pakistan.

- Missiles: In fulfillment of several years' worth of dire predictions from Western observers who have trumpeted China's development and subsequent testing of a thermonuclear device, Beijing has indeed produced a long-range intercontinental missile — a mobile weapon capable of targeting Europe or California.

Other acquisitions are the result of what seems to be a spending spree at a Moscow liquidation warehouse: hangars-full of MiG-31 long-range interceptors; A-50 airborne warning



Chinese scientists launch a test ICBM. China's new ICBMs with nuclear warheads now target North America. Since we no longer target China, is there a "defensive" military requirement for this?

Author's collection

and control aircraft; long-range early warning radar systems; plus some 440 T-72M main battle tanks.



PLA crew receives launch order for SAM-2. Such portable AA defenses go with PLA to protect high-priority targets such as newly acquired, sophisticated heavy weapons.

Author's collection

More ominous still, particularly in terms of a blockade scenario, is that China is in the process of transforming its primarily coastal navy into a first-rate, blue-water sea power.

Timely Or Terrifying?

Some observers point out that China merely is making long-overdue improvements to a ramshackle military. Freeman, the former U.S. assistant defense secretary, has stated that Chinese forces are geared only toward defending the country's vast interior and are ill-equipped to fight at the nation's borders or beyond. Others view the situation far differently.

"When a nation as large and powerful as China makes a 140% increase in military spending over a six-year period, yes, that is a threatening sign," says Eftimiades. But equally significant, he says, is that China has made a bold turnaround in its defense posture. "Their doctrine used to be defensive in nature, but is now expanding outward. We have seen a reversal in doctrine and in allocation of money in how they will conduct war."

This turnaround has been a long time in the making. The need to streamline and reorganize the military was recognized in China 20 years ago, when senior party member Deng Xiaoping derided the Chinese army as "bloated, lax, conceited, extravagant and inert."

Reforms slowly got underway with the opening of military schools and officer training schools, and a shifting of emphasis from mainly political to mostly military education for soldiers. In 1988, China reintroduced a system of military rank, which had been abandoned during the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution. Changes have continued, culminating with the unprecedented level of spending on the military.

Some experts argue, though, that even if China is indeed restructuring its military and engaging in runaway defense spending, there is no cause for alarm. China merely is implementing a long-overdue program to bring its military on a par with modern world armies. Indeed, even with its upgrades, the Chinese army is no match for the technologically superior West.

But that may not matter. "Some people have pointed out correctly how far China has to go in terms of hardware in order to challenge the United States or launch an invasion of Taiwan," says Ross H. Munro, coordinator of the Asia Program at the Foreign Policy Research Institute in Philadelphia. "These assertions are correct in the very narrow sense of an all-out military confrontation. But that's not how things work in China. It's almost beside the point that China doesn't have adequate hardware." According to Munro, China frequently relies on opportunity to advance its expansionist agenda. "They see an opportunity and they seize it. They strike at places that cannot resist."

WAR GAMES AND WARMONGERS

Except for militarily insignificant skirmishes such as the Boxer rebellion, the only time Americans fought the Chinese toe to toe was during the Korean War, when Mao sent hundreds of thousands of Red Chinese troops to aid their communist North Korean allies. Chairman Mao's military largess, however, had as much to do with keeping some of his standing army occupied as it had to do with aiding fellow revolutionary Kim. The Chinese were woefully shy of logistics in Korea, and although tough fighters and used to hardships, they were less than completely motivated. Enough turned coat that the Allies were able to outfit sizable fighting forces of Chinese who fought for the U.N. cause.

The salient feature of Chinese communist soldiers in Korea, however, was primarily their numbers, and the extravagant manner in which their leaders would expend them in a military effort.

People are still China's greatest resource. China has a population of some 1.2 billion, with the world's largest army: some 3.2 million men under arms. And today it has what is probably the world's fastest growing military budget, while other super powers are reining in military spending. Fueled by an economy that is solid and steadily growing, the Chinese military establishment is now not merely a force to be reckoned with because of its dimensions. It is increasingly better equipped and trained at lower echelons, and dramatically more effective and well equipped with the types of sophisticated heavy weapons a super power would use to project force, to impose its will not only on its contiguous neighbors but to any global point it feels it has a vested interest.

Winston Lord, the assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, told a congressional committee last summer: "We cannot predict what kind of power China will be in the 21st Century. God forbid, we may have to turn with others to a policy of containment. I would hope not." Containment of more than a billion people? If China's territorial ambitions develop along the lines of establishing a "Greater East Asian Co-prosperity Sphere" then, good luck!

The announced figures for China's defense budget may well be but the tip of the iceberg. The announced figures do not even include weapons procurement, which would probably bring real numbers to around \$20 billion. Further, when this figure is then rationalized to what it will actually buy in the Chinese economy, it is equivalent to a \$100 billion defense budget in the West.

The computer simulations of a Sino-American confrontation in Asia alluded to in the text are particularly interesting because, based on the most accurate predictions of where each military power will be in 2010 — guess what — the *Chinese won!* And that was not a fluke. The simulations at the U.S. Naval War College were conducted in 1994 and 1995, with the same results. According to Nicholas Kristof of *The New York Times*, the Central Intelligence Agency recently conducted its own simulations of such a scenario set in the year 2005 ... and China handily won that "war" also.

Of course, even with the use of the most sophisticated computer projections, and predicated on the best data bases our government can access, such "war-game" simulations are still a best-educated-guess scenario. But consider how well the starving Chinese did in Korea, how well the communists did in Vietnam, and that China has the United States targeted with nukes and is developing biological weapons. As for weighing the relative pugnacity of the potential adversaries, note that although the United States no longer targets China with its nukes, Beijing has refused to show the same courtesy.

China's export of sophisticated missiles and other heavy military armament to Southwest Asia is already rankling Western powers, but there are no indications that China shows the least hesitancy toward more of the same. Already moving and posturing far beyond its traditional sphere of influence, China may well be poised to make the transition from muscle-flexing to saber-rattling.

If that happens, we may well live in interesting times.

— D.M.

"They will do whatever they can get away with," says the Senate staffer. "Whatever they can wrap their fist around, they will grab."

Posturing Or Predicting?

And China's grasp is looking mighty impressive, as evidenced this summer when Beijing went all-out to telegraph its burgeoning power. In July, China first captured world attention with a series of rhetorical attacks against the United States and

Taiwan. The PRC stated in no uncertain terms that it would use force *if* Taiwan dared declare independence from the mainland.

The threats about Taiwan were nothing new, but this time they were followed by a week-long series of military exercises on an island that lies about 120 miles north of Taiwan.

Fishermen and commercial aircraft wisely heeded warnings to give the uninhabited island a wide berth. During the course of the exercises, the

THE FLY-SPECK SPRATLYS

The Spratly Islands are the stuff of geography-bee tie breakers: They are so small they rarely appear on maps except in the form of fine-print notations that can only be read with the help of a magnifying glass. Maps that do list the Spratlys usually do not denote ownership, as that is at best a moot point.

Yet this outpost in the South China Sea is far from insignificant. For decades now, four nations — Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and China — have sought to plant their flags on the Spratlys. Were the competing nations firmly allied to other powers, it could have the potential of starting more than a local conflict.

The islands are contested in part because they would make an ideal gatekeeper's station for any country seeking to monitor sea traffic in the region. In addition, the islands are surrounded by mineral and fishing resources. More important, though, is the relatively recent discovery of oil reserves, which has had the expected result of making the island chain even more attractive to claimants.

When there are disparate claims on a remote, worthless, uninhabited piece of real estate, the competing nations usually can find more pressing business to tend to before they deal with any perceived interlopers. But find oil and the stakes go up sharply. Although nations lose scant status for not protecting their claim to a worthless coral reef, to not defend something as obviously desirable as oil is sure to be taken as a sign of national weakness. Although thus far the contest for the Spratlys has been largely verbal, there has been no move on any part to settle the matter through the auspices of any international body.

In recent months, China has moved to strengthen its presence on the Spratlys. China watchers expect that as China continues to develop its military capabilities, then, the Spratly question is likely to be resolved in China's favor — and mapmakers will have to issue new editions for a change that cannot be seen by the unaided eye.

— SKK

People's Liberation Army launched several surface-to-surface guided missiles, and otherwise flexed its newly sculpted muscle.

In his 1 October National Day speech, Prime Minister Li underscored the meaning of the exhibition: "The recent military exercises in the East China Sea demonstrate the unshakable determination of the Chinese People's Liberation Army in defending state sovereignty and territorial integrity."

If Li was concerned that no one had understood the message of the exercises, he needn't have worried. The summertime show of force impacted Taiwanese nerves with tsunami-like force and was similarly felt throughout Asia. Smaller and less powerful countries in the region could not help but be reminded that Beijing claims ownership of the entire South China Sea and its contents.

In past decades, it was easy to shrug off such claims as nothing more than rhetoric. But recent events have left a power vacuum in the South China Sea: Strategic Cam Ranh Bay has been abandoned by the Soviets; and to the east, Subic Bay no longer is home to the U.S. Navy. Clearly, China now is in a position to fill that vacuum.

Beijing already has set its sights on two of the region's valuable island chains: the Paracels, which are at a midpoint between China and Vietnam; and the Spratlys, north of Malaysia. Both island groups have mineral and fishing resources, and sit atop vast oil reserves.

Other nations rimming the South China Sea — notably Vietnam, Malaysia, and the Philippines — also claim one or the other island group,

and have engaged in intermittent conflict over ownership.

But none of these other countries dared interfere when China turned the Paracels' Woody Island into a military staging area. Chinese engineers equipped Woody Island with an airstrip capable of accommodating the newly acquired Su-27 fighter jets, and built docking facilities for frigate-sized warships. Back on the mainland, Beijing constructed aircraft refueling facilities at the southern city of Zhangjiang, which is in a key lo-



Author's collection

This Chinese destroyer and patrol boats would seem appropriate for defending their coastline, as a large blue-water navy has never been a defense priority for China — but they have recently bought two aircraft carriers and late-model go-anywhere submarines from Russia.

cation to service aircraft patrolling the South China Sea.

Sino Salami Slices?

Meanwhile, on the other side of the Southeast Asian peninsula, China has asserted its presence in the Bay of Bengal, where it has no coastline. Beijing has proclaimed that it has "security responsibilities" in the Strait of Malacca, and as such has set up a listening station on Great Coco Island in the Andaman Sea. In addition, China has gained access to a naval base China built for Burma on Hanggyi Island.

"This is not seen as a threat to Burma, which doesn't care about anything but its own internal affairs," says one U.S. intelligence analyst.

Continued on page 78

Peace In The Killing Fields?


325th Airborne Troops Bound For Bosnia
Train For The Worst, But Hope For The Best

Text & Photos by Mark H. Milstein

More sweat on the training field, less blood on the battlefield — or in this case, the *peacekeeping* field.

Paratroopers of the U.S. Army's Southern European Task Force Infantry Brigade (Provisional), based in Vicenza, Italy, knew they probably would be among the first American troops sent by President Clinton to uphold a negotiated peace in the war-torn, former Yugoslavia. The young infantrymen might have to place themselves between heavily armed Bosnian Serbs and Muslims while under restrictive rules of engagement.

The tempo of training was appropriately brisk one warm, full day as Alpha Company of the brigade's



Alpha Company raiders hug the bank of the Brenta River near Vicenza, Italy, as they approach a "house" held by defenders during training prior to anticipated deployment to Bosnia.



Captain Bill Burleson (center), commander of the 325th Airborne's Alpha Company, transmits a sitrep just before his patrol moves to contact with elements of the "Danubian National Army" during training in northern Italy.



325th Airborne Battalion Combat Team moved to contact with aggressors of the "Danubian National Army."

Alpha's commander, Captain Bill Burleson, rallied his airborne infantrymen on toward what was sure to be another "enemy" ambush.

Burleson knew his first squad might take light casualties in the exercise, but he also knew that good planning and discipline would prevail.

After a quick review of plans, Burleson's men again began to walk cautiously toward the thicket of bushes where, they knew, trouble

awaited them.

Brrrrr — brrrrr — brrrrr — the machine gun spewed imaginary streams of hot lead in their direction.

"Get down and return fire," Burleson yelled. "Move, move, move. Come on!"

It was too late. Alpha was pinned down.

"Pull back. Pull back," Burleson screamed. "Let's go!"

Brass cartridges arched out from smoking weapons as the air crackled with the sounds of M60 and M16 blank fire. The shouts of Alpha Company soldiers, scrambling to get away from the ambush, added to the din.

A yellow smoke grenade landed in the middle of the retreating squad. In groups of two and three, Alpha's men broke contact and raced back to the first low ridge where they fired in support of teammates still on the move.

The company regrouped at a secure rally point. Still smarting from their first encounter with "Danubian National



One of Alpha Company's M60 machine-gun teams falls back as the unit breaks contact with ambushers during pre-Bosnia training.



Falling back from a machine-gun ambush set by "Danubian National Army" troops, 325th Airborne infantrymen return blank fire with their M16A2 rifles.



Flak-jacket-wearing Specialist Menard, of Alpha Company of the 325th Airborne, assumes security overwatch as his team infiltrates a training target. His M16A2 assault rifle is tipped with an adaptor for blank ammunition.

Army," Alpha later began preparing for the next day's training mission: house clearing.

Fortunately, the 325th Airborne's first taste of "Balkan" hospitality didn't come from the gun barrels of Bosnian Serb irregulars defending their turf in Sarajevo, but during training in northern Italy. Before long,

'however, the threat might be real.

After more than three years of the Clinton administration's flip-flopping on the Bosnia issue, plans were well underway for the deployment of 20,000 Europe-based U.S. troops to the Balkans to support peace — once

an accord was signed. With its doctrinal emphasis on flexibility, SETAF's infantry brigade was an obvious choice.

The brigade, created in 1994, is a unique, hybrid product of the post-Cold War military. It includes the airborne battalion with its own field-artillery battery, an aviation company (providing a helicopter force), and a military-police company. The brigade's commander, Colonel James McDonough, can request armored and heavy-artillery support from other Army units in Europe. The brigade also can request support from special-operations units, as well as Air Force units in Europe and Navy forces in the Adriatic Sea.

From the forests of Bavaria to the plains of northeastern Italy, more than 10,000 American soldiers, since early fall, took part in accelerated field exercises code-named "Mountain Shield." They involved an eerily familiar scenario of extracting "United Nations protection forces" from two landing areas in a make-believe country. "Task Force helicopters from V Corps flew soldiers, primarily from the ... 3rd Battalion, 325th Airborne



Road-marching to another phase of training, an Alpha Company sky soldier lugs his piece of "infantryman's artillery": a 60mm mortar.

Battalion Combat Team to secure areas on the ground," the Army announced. "Evacuees" were then lifted out and taken to a safe area where they were accounted for and given a medical screening."

SETAF's training kicked into high gear in September '95 when its troops, along with elements of the Army's V Corps, practiced "contingency" operations at training centers in Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels, Germany. "Mountain Shield II" included live-fire exercises.

Pentagon spokesmen repeatedly

under U.S. command, that of General George Joulwan, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, whose deputy in the Bosnia mission would be a Russian general. Moscow refused to put its troops in Bosnia under NATO command.

A civilian official with NATO told reporters: "It's assumed that the French will continue with their deployment around Sarajevo; the British will continue to monitor the situation in central Bosnia; the Germans will handle IFOR's medical and lo-

said that when — and not "if" — U.S. forces are deployed to Bosnia, the 325th Airborne Battalion Combat Team, the Army's only paratrooper battalion with its own artillery, likely will be the first onto the Balkan killing fields. And for good reason: The 325th Airborne is as "rapid reaction" as any combat unit gets.

SETAF Infantry Brigade's com-



declined to link the intensive training with any possible deployment to a NATO peacekeeping mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The officers instead characterized events as training for "operations as the nucleus of a U.S. joint task force."

While both U.S. and NATO officials have been silent about the makeup of any peacekeeping force in the former Yugoslavia, analysts agree the Implementation Force (IFOR) would be dominated by U.S. troops, with U.S. commanders overseeing a combined British, French and German contingent under a NATO umbrella. On Nov. 8, NATO and Russian officials announced they had agreed on the role Russian troops would play in the operation.

Russian and U.S. leaders developed a procedure for command of at least a brigade of Russian troops whose role in Bosnia would include combat engineering. Russia's defense minister agreed to place the troops

With a "Danubian National Army" defender lying nearby, an Alpha Company assault team carefully negotiates a corner during a house-clearing exercise. The team is armed with M16A2 rifles and a Squad Automatic Weapon.

gistical needs from bases along the Croatian coast and from Italy; and the Americans will deploy along the Croatian and Bosnian border areas in the north and northeast." Elements of SETAF and V Corps have been organized as Task Force Lion: U.S. European Command's light, joint task force designed to deploy to a crisis within the command's area of responsibility — namely Bosnia.

Several U.S. Army sources openly



commander McDonough, a former West Point boxing champ and a Vietnam combat veteran, was a contributing author to the 1990s edition of the Army's *Operations* manual and reportedly pushed to have included in it a chapter on "operations other than war." That chapter was described as "prescient" and McDonough as "an

intellectual” in a lengthy article in October in *The Wall Street Journal* newspaper.

The article — remarkably well researched for the mainstream press — described how McDonough in 1993 took command of an under-utilized airborne battalion in Italy and eventually built a brigade capable of dealing with the contingencies of the post-Cold War era. Built from the ground up, some of the unit’s equipment and materiel came from various Army units departing Europe for redeployment stateside: trucks from one unit, communications gear and weapons from others. McDonough at first even filled his new brigade’s staff with old friends in the National Guard whom he invited back onto temporary, active duty.

“The preparation paid off in July 1994, when his brigade was abruptly ordered to Rwanda [Africa],” the *Journal* reported. “In 72 hours, he had troops on the ground. The relief mission vindicated his work on the Army’s new doctrine. ...”

Deployment to the Balkans no doubt will tax all of the skills of McDonough, his staff and line commanders. And although by early November no official word yet had come down from the Pentagon authorizing the 325th’s deployment to the former Yugoslavia, every grunt *Soldier Of Fortune* spoke with nonetheless was primed and ready.

“All of the soldiers discuss the possibility of going to Bosnia,” Specialist Mike Castanon, a mortarman from Miami, Florida, said. “Although I’d rather not discuss the particulars of what we discuss among ourselves, we



An Alpha Company staff sergeant with a field radio moves into position as his squad infiltrates a target during a house-clearing exercise.

train for anything in any theater. If we are called for duty in Bosnia, I have full faith in my leadership and the leaders above me.”

Bravo Company Staff Sergeant Christopher Martinez, from Colorado Springs, Colorado, agreed. “If we go, I am ready. We’re always 100% ready

to go if our nation calls.”

Looking more like the result of a hurricane and less like the impregnable “house of pain” its Bravo Company defenders nicknamed it, the makeshift plywood structure that would be used for the house-clearing exercise still was being outfitted with “booby traps” when Alpha Company arrived to observe what lay in store for it.

With an exposed side to the Brenta River and coils of barbed wire and heavily armed sentries surrounding the three remaining sides of the house, Alpha raiders rightly assessed it would take a lot of stealth and firepower to breach the defenses. After a quick once-over, Alpha’s 1st Platoon slinked back into the woods and prepared to kick some butt.

The sudden bark of Alpha’s M60 machine gun caught Bravo’s two sentries by surprise. Before either one could return fire or take cover, the first men of Alpha’s assault team were climbing the two meters straight up from the river bank onto level ground to take position behind a large tree. They tossed grenades; the two Bravo Company sentries fell “dead.” Soon the remaining six Alpha Company attackers were breaching the barbed wire and preparing to enter the house.

Specialist Menard and privates first class Ferguson and Buckler and the rest of the team quickly took position one behind the other, flat against the front of the house. On cue, a soldier kicked down the door. The team poured in, “killing” two unlucky defenders as they fumbled to get their weapons up. The house was Alpha Company’s, taken without any casualties.

Lieutenant Colonel Mike Scaparrotti, battalion commander and overseer of the exercises, was pleased. “This is why we train our men over and over again,” Scaparrotti said. “If we can complete an operation without loss of life, then we’ve done our job that much better. I’m a firm believer in constant readiness.

“If this battalion goes to Bosnia,” he added, “every man will be ready — I have no doubts.”

SOF’s Chief Foreign Correspondent Mark H. Milstein is based in Budapest and has covered military actions in Bosnia, Chechnya and Iraq. ✕



Members of the 325th Airborne ride to earth under T-10 parachutes during a jump from Air Force C-130 transports near Vicenza, Italy. It is a combat-equipment jump; the soldiers release their rucksacks to the end of tethers before they land.

U.S. Army

During the mid-60s, when boonie rats in Vietnam swapped their 7.62x51mm M14 rifles for the new 5.56x45mm (.223-caliber) M16, some of the advantages offered by the M16 were greeted with favor by those who humped the bush and traded

A blast from the past: In the 1950s, the original ArmaLite AR-10 was a design whose time had not yet come. It was widely tested, but only briefly adopted by minor military players.

design that evolved into the AR-15/M16 — the original AR-10 in 7.62x51mm — was tested against the T-44 (which became the M14) and the T-48 (the FN/FAL slightly modified to suit what were perceived to be American manufacturing methods) back in the 1950s.

The 7.62mm AR-10 was one of a number of designs developed by the ArmaLite Division of the Fairchild Engine and Airplane Corporation, which wanted to produce small arms using the same kinds of “space-age” synthetics, metals and manufacturing techniques pioneered for the construction of aircraft. Eugene Stoner was the principal firearms designer involved in the project and he came up with a series of weapons that ranged from survival rifles and fiberglass-barreled shotguns to battle rifles in 7.62x51mm and the then-new .223.

High points of this series included the AR-3, a

7.62x51mm semiautomatic that served as the foundation for the AR-10; the AR-7, a .22 LR survival rifle that still is in licensed production today; the AR-16, a rifle of pressed-metal construction similar to the AR-18, but in 7.62x51mm; and the AR-18, the most successful of the “other” ArmaLites. The AR-18 was of pressed-metal construction with some of the design features of the AR-15, but engineered to be manufactured in countries lacking sophisticated die-casting facilities. It was made in the United States (ArmaLite), Japan (Howa) and England (Sterling) for civilian or export sales (adopted by Swaziland), and served as the basis for the weapons now made by Chartered Industries of Singapore, which reportedly bought tooling and materiel from Sterling.

Although successful from a design standpoint, the AR-10 was manufactured in relatively small quantities, principally under license in the Netherlands. It was considered for adoption as a standard military rifle by the Netherlands and Austria. Hoped-for export sales in the Third World were as disappointing as were the attempts to sell it to Uncle Sam in competition against Springfield Armory’s T-44 design, but limited numbers saw service in Nicaragua, Sudan,

Burma and Portugal.

Not blessed with early commercial success, designs for the AR-10 and AR-15 foundered and were sold to Colt. Colt was able to sell the U.S. military on the

AR-15 design, and it subsequently became the M16 series. Despite the fact that only a few thousand AR-10 rifles ever were produced, the demand for a rifle with the configuration of an M16 but in a caliber suitable for

Terry Edwards

BLAST from the PAST

ArmaLite AR-10 Lives Again

by John Hogan

bad news with Charlie every day. The M16 was dramatically lighter and the ergonomics and smaller caliber made it easy to fire from almost any position, even one-handed. But NCOs who had cut their teeth on .30-06 and 7.62x51mm battle rifles didn’t think much of the “varmint” cartridge it fired. With early reliability problems (largely attributable to changes the Army made to the 5.56x45mm powder specs, but some due to sloppy quality control on the rifle itself) Army NCOs routinely cursed the “Mouse Rifle” and a number of the senior Marine Corps sergeants who lived and breathed .30 caliber retired rather than deal with the change. A common reaction among troops who lived in the mud, blood and jungle with their rifles was that the M16 might be a particularly good idea if only DoD had issued it in 7.62 NATO.

In a manner of speaking, they almost did. The parent

The new AR-10A2 (top), shown here with a new ArmaLite M-15A2 in 5.56x45mm, is readily spotted by its longer carrying handle and overall larger dimensions to accommodate the 7.62x51mm round.



John Hogan

sniping and serious target work inspired Knight's Manufacturing in Florida to team with original designer Gene Stoner to begin producing AR-type rifles in 7.62x51mm NATO. Prices for Knight's rifle hover around \$3,000.

ArmaLite Lives

As this issue goes to press, new AR-10 series rifles in 7.62x51 caliber again are being produced bearing the original ArmaLite name.

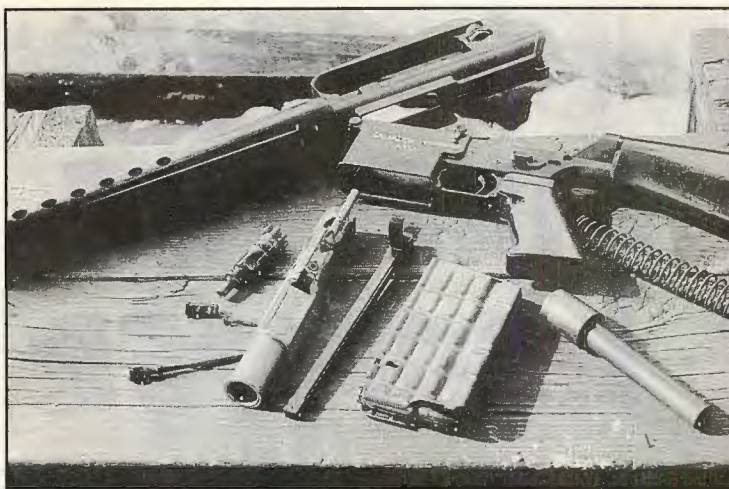
Former Army ordnance officer and world-class shooting competitor Mark Westrom, who purchased Eagle Arms in 1994, now has acquired some ArmaLite assets (including the trademark) and is using the most modern materials and technology to produce the new AR-10s.

During 12 years on active duty, and afterward as an Army civilian employee at Rock Island Arsenal, Westrom worked in the area of small-arms production and development. He was involved with projects relating to the production of the Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW), improvements on the M60 General Purpose Machine Gun, the Army sniper-rifle program, and with increasing the accuracy of the M16 rifle.

Just as the then-new AR-15 design leaned heavily on its AR-10 ancestry, Westrom's new AR-10 borrows heavily from improvements made in its AR-15/M16 progeny; because of this, the new ArmaLite rifle is a much improved over the original 1950s version. It is nearly identical to Westrom's high-tech iteration of the M16A2 rifle, but in 7.62x51mm and in a semiautomatic format. Westrom told *SOF*: "Our first priority was technical excellence, and our second priority was interchangeability with as many components as possible with Knight's SR-25. Any time that we deviated it was because we felt there was a technical advantage, so we would end up with a better rifle."

According to Westrom, two factors facilitated ArmaLite's production of this rifle: Eagle Arms already is manufacturing a similar design in various .223 rifles, and there is considerable parts commonality between their M-15 series and the new AR-10 designs. The technological advantage that allowed them to begin producing the rifle as rapidly as they have, and with high quality, is that they are using computer-assisted design and computer-assisted machining.

"We are able to take a look at the existing rifles — the old AR-10, the other .308 AR on the market and the M16/AR-15 types — and draw those parts up in the computer



Terry Edwards

One readily distinguishable feature of the original AR-10 was the bolt-retracting knob inside the carrying handle/rear sight base, visible here to the left of the magazine. The new ArmaLite AR-10 rifles have the same T-shaped retracting handle as the M16 series.

and fit them together," Westrom explained. "To a great degree this rifle has been tested and prototyped in the computer. Once the design is done, instead of having a lot of expensive mills and manpower to machine the things, we use computer-assisted machining centers. Instead of 10 machinists on 10 individual milling machines, each doing a different thing to an individual part, we use a machining center that moves the tools to the part.

"The key difference is that instead of having expensive and complex fixtures which guide the cutter, it is controlled by computer-driven servo motors," he said. "The machine moves in to cut the forging held in a fixed position. What it means is that a lot of machines and a couple of years of tooling design are not necessary. Also the accuracy of the parts is much better — the tolerances are held much tighter because the part is only clamped on the machine once: Every time you move a part there is always the possibility of misalignment."

Because of the advantages of computer-assisted design and machining this project took 11 months from the start to the first rifle's production. Ten years ago such a schedule would not have been possible.

ArmaLite is offering three main models and one commemorative model. In addition, there is a kit rifle that will be made available to gunsmiths who Westrom feels are qualified to work on them.

The AR-10B is Westrom's overall designation for the new ArmaLite family of rifles. After the original AR-10 was made by ArmaLite, they made some improvements and designated that rifle the AR-10A. Westrom's basic model is the AR-10A2,

which is similar in layout to the M16A2 rifle but in 7.62x51, in semiautomatic only. It is anticipated that at some point they may produce that rifle in a fully automatic version for police and export sales.



John Hogan

With new tooling, the ArmaLite AR-10A2 (top) was able to incorporate such M16-series improvements as the case deflector, belled magazine well and protected magazine release button — plus refinements such as detachable sight bases that reveal a Picatinny rail.

Continued on page 68

WITCH-HUNT FOR THE RESISTER

Army Special Operations Command
Beats Bushes For Maverick Magazine

by James L. Pate

When friends in U.S.

Army Special Forces told me two years ago they were planning to start an "underground newspaper," I didn't give it much thought. Outlining their vision for a clandestine political newsletter — pro-Constitution, pro-capitalist, anti-United Nations, anti-communist — edited for the military's elite units, they solicited any advice I might offer as a journalist. I suggested they wait until retirement.

It struck me as odd that any soldier wishing to publish a newspaper championing the U.S. Constitution would have to do so in secret, at least if it was done during off-duty hours and without government equipment or materials. After all, military service members swear an oath to protect and defend the Constitution.

But then, I never imagined that the Army Special Forces command would task none other than a Rambo — Command Sergeant Major William H. Rambo Jr., to be exact — to ferret out and chastise such defenders of the Founding Father's faith. Or that a witch-hunt would ensue in which the careers of innocent Green Berets would be sacrificed upon the altar of political correctness.

Besides, starting a publication from scratch, with little or no money, is an idea many consider but few pursue. If the publication does not cater to the masses, but instead hopes to prosper on the merits of ideas and ideals — good luck finding financ-

ing. Lack of money scares most people off. A few take the plunge. Most drown in red ink within a year. Those who survive usually do so through luck and skill, balls and brains.

One other aid to launching a publishing venture on a shoestring: be-

ing half crazy helps. (A certain magazine, which the alert reader may recognize, and a retired Army colonel,



U.S. Army, courtesy "Special Forces Underground"



courtesy Doug Vanderpoole

Special Forces Sergeant Major Doug Vanderpoole, here training multinational, multi-agency drug task force in Chapare region of Bolivia, was forced into early retirement after being falsely linked to *The Resister*. "I have not been, nor will I ever be, a part of" the forbidden underground newspaper, Vanderpoole told SOF.

himself a former Green Beret, come to mind.)

When I saw my chums a month later, they showed me a prototype of what ultimately would become the first issue of *The Resister*. Lesson learned: Never underestimate the serious intent of an SF trooper. I flipped through the eight stapled pages of that first issue.

The personal ads were cryptic. Example: "Edgar has got fleas in his sofa." A letter from "John" in the 7th Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, alleged that members of a Green Beret unit had "been participating in drug raids with the Cumberland County Narcotics Task Force ... as active players." The letter's conclusion no doubt riveted the chain of command's attention: "Our government is getting out of control. The first time we are given a mission to disarm the citizens of this country, we are going to desert and join whatever guerrilla movement demonstrates it is fighting to restore the principles this country was founded on, republicanism and individual rights." Strong words, indeed.

Inside Scoops For The Troops

A scathing editorial condemned what, according to a separate news report in the same issue, was a Clinton Administration plan to invade Haiti and return to office, under force of U.S. arms, the socialistic Prime Minister Aristide. The news story included a report from "our correspondents in the 1st and 2nd Ranger Battalions ... that the Ranger regiment staff has been planning the seizure of Port-au-Prince International Airport for months."

Talk about a scoop: This was months before the actual invasion took place. And there it was, not only in print, but written in an articulate, authoritative style. I scanned other stories and features. Some were rough around the edges. I didn't agree with everything I read. Other concepts, such as the difference between a democracy and the constitutional republic that the framers of the Constitution intended, are difficult for some people to grasp and, thus, were a challenge to explain.

Contrary to the droning, drab tone of most political writing, though, *The Resister* is provocative, even some-

what militant in its advocacy, however unrealistic it might be, of turning the country away from democracy and back toward constitutional republicanism. It goes sacred cows. It discomfits popular preconceptions, forcing the reader to closely examine and defend his or her own notions about politics and government. The authors point an accusatory finger at Pentagon policies cloaked in transparent hypocrisy, naked of logic. Written by active-duty Special Forces non-coms and officers, it lacked nothing for sheer *chutzpah*. My kind of journalism. I let out a whistle.



courtesy Dave Hall

Operations Intelligence officer Dave Hall, here sending code on an SF field exercise, was targeted by the SF command because he wrote a letter to *The Resister* and signed his name. Transferred to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, with no assigned duties, Hall retired in December as a major.

"What do you think?" one editor asked.

"I think you guys are going to Leavenworth," I muttered.

But *The Resister* staff has confounded not only those in the Special Forces community and at the Pentagon who would like to see them go to the stockade: They have surprised even the supporters who thought they could not survive to publish this long. And the staff, members of what the paper proclaims is a "Special Forces Underground," have done so using the same tradecraft and counterin-

terference skills to avoid detection that they were taught as covert operators by the Army and the Central Intelligence Agency.

Astounding Success

Poised to begin its third year of publication this June, *The Resister* has succeeded beyond the wildest expectations of its most optimistic proponents. The quarterly publication has quadrupled in page number, and plans call for a change in the format from a stapled newsletter to a full-fledged magazine that will be commercially printed. Frequency of issue

will increase to bi-monthly, and it will begin taking paid advertising. Circulation has zoomed from a few score issues, mailed free-of-charge to a closely targeted active-duty special operations audience, to a widespread public readership of more than 1,000 paid subscribers. Last fall, on-line subscriptions became available through a Minnesota-based computer service.

Along the way, its editorials and news reports have outraged the politically correct and amused the intellectually curious, informed the rank-and-file and deflated stodgy stuffed shirts of their hot air. *The Resister* also has gained wide popular-

ity among ardent defenders of the Second Amendment, and has been circulated heavily at gun shows. It has attracted the attention of right-wing militias and the left-wing media. Political scientists and others in academia have subscribed. Retired military pilots now flying for commercial airlines have been seen passing out copies in airports across the nation.

The most notable attention has come from the press, all of it in the horrible aftermath of the Oklahoma City bombing. The press coverage has proven a double-edged sword: While

the publicity attracted many new subscribers, it also embarrassed the Pentagon and especially the Army. While brass-hats publicly downplay *The Resister's* significance, a quiet but career-deadly witch-hunt began last summer in the Special Forces community, according to several Army sources interviewed by *Soldier Of Fortune*.

The decidedly liberal — and now-defunct — *New York Newsday* called it a “rebel guide ... circulating among homegrown militias that gives tips on guerrilla warfare tactics [horrors!] and attacks Clinton administration policies [heaven forbid!]. *The Resister* ... has been circulated to Green Beret bases and other U.S. military installations, as well as to private paramilitary organizations whose members fear what they describe as federal government plans to disarm Americans and sacrifice U.S. jobs and business to a new world order.” It is interesting to note that *The Resister* survives; *New York Newsday* did not.

The *Newsday* report noted the significance of alleged Green Beret control of *The Resister*, because the Army's approximately 6,000 “Special Forces members routinely take part in Central Intelligence Agency operations overseas. They are skilled in fomenting revolutions and putting down insurgencies.”

Media Attention, Official Attention

That report was followed two days later by a 30 April broadcast of an interview of two *Resister* editors on the CBS News show *60 Minutes*. Their faces hidden in the shadows and their voices altered to disguise their true identities, the two Green Berets fielded questions from reporter Steve Kroft that demonstrated a clever evasion of entrapment and a brazen contempt for convention that are hallmarks of Special Forces operators.

KROFT: “The commander says you don't exist.”

ANSWER: “That's excellent...”

KROFT: “How do we know you're not the only two people in this organization?”

ANSWER: “You don't.”

I do; they're not. No doubt the CBS interview, seen by more than 75 million people, tweaked the Army's nose out of joint. Afterward, an attempt was made by Army special-

operations technicians to “demask” the altered voices by repeatedly replaying the *60 Minutes* footage through highly specialized equipment. This was defeated by “white noise” and other precautionary electronic countermeasures set up prior to the arrival of the *60 Minutes* film crew.

The Army's official line was expressed by Lieutenant General J.T. Scott, commander of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command (USASOC). There is no official investigation, he said, because of the belief that *The Resister* is not illegal as long as it is not published on government time or with government equipment and materials. Off-base publications by active-duty personnel are permitted by Army regulation

and policy. “We sort of believe in the First Amendment right. We probably give people a little more slack than we ought to. But there's been a recent court decision that says these pamphlets are OK.”

Witch-Hunt Begins

Despite this apparently benign attitude, the Army's actions in private belie its words in public. The Monday morning after the *60 Minutes* broadcast, Secretary of the Army Togo West teletyped to all Army activities a message titled *Extremist Organizations*, copies of which were obtained by *The Resister* staff and *SOF*. While not mentioning *The Resister* by name, the timing of the communique is certainly more than coincidental.

Among other things, West expressed his desire “to reemphasize to all U.S. Army personnel ... guidance ... pertaining to participation in extremist organizations.

“Activities of extremist organizations are inconsistent with the responsibilities of military service,” West's message continued. “Active participation by soldiers is prohibited. Military personnel [are] duty bound to uphold the Constitution....”

The difference between the Army's words and deeds in handling the matter of *The Resister* was most poignantly demonstrated when it first came to the command's attention. A



SF trooper Dave Hall, now retired and a gunsmith, is interviewed by *SOF* contributing writer Sibyl MacKenzie and author at Hall's home in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

if they do not disclose classified information. (Both Scott and Major General William Garrison, the commanding officer of the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School [JFKSWCS], declined, through a public-affairs spokesman, a request by *Soldier Of Fortune* to be interviewed for this article.)

“We don't know who it's circulated by or to,” Scott said on the CBS broadcast. “I'm put off by some of the material in it. ... [It is] singularly unhelpful to the debate” on issues

gray copy (original copies are printed on gray vellum bond paper) turned up at the Marquat Memorial Library in the JFKSWCS command building at Fort Bragg. According to a subsequent report in *The Resister*, Staff Judge Advocate Major Mark Prugh removed the reference copy on orders from Colonel Richard Seim, chief of staff for Maj. Gen. Garrison. “This isn't something you need to have in your library,” Prugh reportedly told the librarian when asked why he was confiscating the facility's only copy.

Interesting. The Army deems it proper for the same library to contain all of the published works by Castro, Chairman Mao, Ho Chi Minh, Lenin, Marx, etc. But *The Resister*, a publication which extols the wisdom of this nation's Founding Fathers and reveres the sanctity of the same U.S. Constitution that Secretary of the Army West charged his soldiers are "duty bound to uphold," was, according to a command spokesman, "removed as being inappropriate."

The same spokesman, Lieutenant Colonel Ken McGraw, after declining this reporter's request for interviews with Scott and Garrison, noted that "soldiers have rights just like any other citizen. ... As long as they don't do anything illegal, they have the same rights under the U.S. Constitution as any other citizen, as far as the First Amendment is concerned." But apparently those rights are as Scott described it to *60 Minutes* reporter Kroft: "We sort of believe in the First Amendment..." And, belief in the First Amendment or not, *The Resister* is "not permitted to be distributed on base," said Pentagon spokesman Dennis Boxx. It also has been banned at Fort Benning, Georgia, where Rangers have been told possession of a copy of *The Resister* newspaper is grounds for dismissal from the regiment and possible court-martial.

"The real basis of the witch-hunt was the *60 Minutes* piece," said David Hall, who retired from Special Forces as a major in December. Hall described himself as only one of many victims of "an unofficial command campaign to punish anyone who's name might be connected — accurately or inaccurately — to *The Resister*."

Guilt By Association

The second issue of *The Resister* published a letter signed by Sergeant First Class David R. Hall (he had

been rified after 11 years as an officer then returned to active duty as a non-com to complete his military retirement). In the letter, Hall asked, "Are you for real?" and advised that some soldiers believed that "your publication is a U.S. government plant to entrap members of the [special-ops] community into revealing themselves." Hall's letter did not exactly endorse *The Resister*, although he said he "got a big kick out of the 'Personals.' Reminds me of WWII and the French Resistance stories I have heard and read. Also, the commo block was a nice touch. ... Please feel free to use my name. ..." In an interview with *SOF*, Hall said he felt comfortable identifying himself in *The Resister* because he got prior approval

power in Waco, Texas, and during the Randy Weaver case in Idaho. He, like many others identified to *SOF* as being wrongly victimized in a command witch-hunt, declined comment and referred *SOF* to Army public affairs.

Another person who told *SOF* he took early retirement because he was falsely accused of being associated with *The Resister* is Sergeant Major Doug Vanderpoole. Unlike Hall, though, Vanderpoole is adamantly opposed to a publication such as *The Resister* being published by active-duty Special Forces troops.

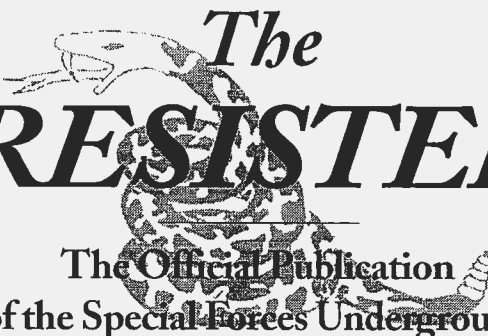
"I have not been, nor will I ever be, a part of *The Resister*," he told *SOF*. "It's not kosher in my book ... too controversial. What bothered me the most, true or not, was the possibility of disclosing classified information."

Geographic Attitude Adjustments

Neither Hall nor Vanderpoole said they were accused directly of ties to the underground newspaper. But both suddenly got mysterious transfer orders from JFKSWCS Command Sgt. Maj. Rambo. When each conducted discreet personal investigations to learn the reason behind the transfers, they were advised by fellow troopers that they had been accused by Rambo of being associated with *The Resister*.

"Rambo told a few people in the command that someone on *The Resister* staff had retired and, after having a change of heart, provided him with a list of active-duty people still involved with the publication," Hall told *SOF*. "From what we understand, there was no real list, but it was Rambo's cover story to justify taking action against anyone he chooses."

In Vanderpoole's case, this meant permanent change-of-station orders to Fort Lewis, Washington. This would have been a hardship, Vanderpoole told *SOF*, because one of his children has special educational needs for resources that are available at



The
RESISTER

The Official Publication
of the Special Forces Underground

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Joint Task Force - 6
Subversion of the
Third Amendment

Actions DO Reflect Values

As this issue was going to press we received the following report from Z.B. Vance (pseudonym), a source close to JATF. The information con-

Clandestine, cantankerous, controversial publication has raised hackles in the higher echelons of the SF command structure with its unabashed and in-their-face constitutionalism, but enjoys phenomenal success as a newsletter.

from his command, JFKSWCS, and he was less than six months from retirement. Although not acquainted with *The Resister* staff prior to retirement, Hall said he has since made contact and volunteered his time to the publication.

Sergeant First Class Bruce Nelson, now a drill instructor at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, was falsely accused to the command as being part of *The Resister*, sources told *SOF*. Although unaffiliated with the clandestine newspaper, he was falsely accused because he has been vocal about the government's abuses of

Bragg, but not at Lewis.

Besides that, only a few months earlier Vanderpoole had been asked by Rambo to take over the JFKSWCS proponency office, which handles Special Forces job-specialty career management, including the identification of manpower needs in SF units. In a meeting of senior non-commissioned officers, Rambo had highly praised Vanderpoole's performance in the new job, according to several witnesses at the meeting.

But in May, shortly after the *60 Minutes* segment about *The Resister* was broadcast, Rambo told Vanderpoole that this all-important job in which Vanderpoole supposedly had done so well was being eliminated, leaving Special Forces as the Army's only command without a sergeant major in its proponency office. Rambo instructed Vanderpoole to see Sergeant Major John Finley in the USASOC personnel office to find out where his new duty station would be. Vanderpoole did so, and was told by Finley that Rambo had advised him (Finley) what Vanderpoole's new assignment would be. Vanderpoole said when he returned to Rambo for an explanation, Rambo would say nothing. According to Vanderpoole, on nine different occasions between May and 31 August, when Vanderpoole retired, Maj. Gen. Garrison declined requests to discuss the mysterious transfer with Vanderpoole's superior officer.

But the week before his departure from Bragg, a friend of Vanderpoole — coincidentally one of a group of Green Berets interviewed on camera by *60 Minutes* — told Vanderpoole that he was suspected of being one of the two shadowy figures interviewed in the same segment. Vanderpoole insists — and I happen to know he's telling the truth — that he was in no way involved with either *The Resister* or the CBS broadcast.

Do Not Pass Go, Go Directly To Gitmo

Hall got a similar run-around from Rambo and the JFKSWCS command when, soon after the *60 Minutes*

broadcast, he suddenly got orders from Rambo for a 90-day mission to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Rambo told Hall his operations-intelligence expertise was needed for a Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (CAPOC) unit headed for Cuba. Rambo told Hall the CAPOC lead sergeant would have details.

The lead sergeant knew nothing of the assignment, Hall said, and he was referred to a lieutenant colonel, who referred Hall to plans and operations, which referred him to a liaison officer, a reservist colonel. No one could tell Hall anything about why he supposedly was wanted for temporary duty with the reserve unit in Cuba. The liaison officer sent Hall to a major, who bucked him up to a colonel who would be the actual detachment commander, a Colonel

**Written by active-duty
Special Forces non-coms
and officers, it lacked
nothing for sheer chutzpah.
My kind of journalism.**

Collins. Hall caught up with Collins at the troop medical clinic, where they were getting immunizations for the deployment. Collins told Hall he had no idea why Hall had been assigned to the detachment, that the detachment did not request him.

Suspicious, Hall did some backtracking. At this point, about 15 June, he was told that a rumor was circulating that he was being sent to Cuba as punishment for sending a letter to *The Resister*. Hall confirmed through a colonel at JFKSWCS that no request for Hall in Cuba had been initiated, but that the command had just decided to send him. Hall filed a harassment complaint with the command Inspector General's office, including the allegation that "I'm supposedly mobbed up with the 'Special Forces Underground' and *The Resister*." Hall asked for a deferment, pending investigation, which the IG recommended but the command denied.

On 17 June, Hall deployed to Cuba. After a week of no duty, Hall requested and was granted a return flight to the States. Back at Bragg, Hall reported back in with the duty NCO. He subsequently was charged by Rambo with being absent without leave from his Cuba assignment and received non-judicial punishment. Soon thereafter, he was telephoned at home by a fellow Green Beret, Master Sergeant David H. Eckenrode, who told Hall he'd overheard Rambo talking about Hall's case with another senior NCO roughly a month after the *60 Minutes* broadcast.

Witch-Hunt For Good Order And Discipline?

"[Maj. Gen.] Garrison wants to get rid of ... Hall," Rambo had said, according to a sworn statement signed by Eckenrode, a copy of which was obtained by *SOF*. "The next portion of the conversation I heard was Rambo saying he was 'sending Hall to Cuba to make an example of him.' The other individual in the room questioned the wisdom of doing this."

Eckenrode further stated in his affidavit that on 23 June he was talking with a friend he named in the affidavit at the Green Beret Sport Parachute Club when "he told me that it is general knowledge around [JFKSWCS] that an individual in [the command] had been sent to Cuba because he wrote a letter to *The Resister*."

Hall retired from the Army on 1 December. Eckenrode also has retired.

In an 8 November telephone interview, Rambo denied to this reporter that either Hall's or Vanderpoole's retirement had anything to do with any alleged ties to *The Resister*. Told that Vanderpoole believed he was an innocent victim of "a witch-hunt" to get anyone connected to the newspaper, Rambo responded: "Well, that's his perception. He turned down orders for a permanent change of station, so he was retired." Rambo also described as "inaccurate" Hall's as-

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An Interview With The Editor

After a monotonous ride up and down rural roads as a surveillance-detection ploy, I was driven to the editorial offices of *The Resister*, located in a private residence near a small town in North Carolina's Sandhills, a howitzer shot from the sprawling borders of Fort Bragg. I was ushered into a room crammed with book cases packed two-deep with tomes on U.S. history, government, law, philosophy and unconventional warfare. Seated at a desk where his computer terminal, phone and telefax machine sat surrounded by precariously balanced stacks of mail, manuals and other documents, was J.F.A. Davidson, *nom de plume* for *The Resister's* managing editor. Our conversation ranged from a general discussion of the publication and its regular features to how it's been received at Fort Bragg. Below are excerpts from our conversation.

SOF: I apologize if this sounds condescending, but your editorials appear to be aimed at a reading audience I would think would be above most average rank-and-file military personnel. Doesn't that narrow your appeal?

DAVIDSON: The editorials should hold reader interest because they're topical. They are written on a philosophical level.

SOF: What about the "Open Letter?"

DAVIDSON: It's whatever the editorial staff deems appropriate at the time.

SOF: Your selection of books to review seems rather esoteric, and some are not recent publications.

DAVIDSON: The U.S. Constitution isn't a current publication, but it is certainly recommended reading. The book reviews provide the philosophical context for what *The Resister* is writing about at the time. They speak to our ideological thrust.

SOF: And what, exactly, is PERINTREP?

DAVIDSON: Periodic Intelligence Report, little tidbits that people really should know about, such as the demobilization of National Guard combat units, our military's training missions to Communist countries; things that reveal the true mindset of the National Command Authority.

SOF: Your Blind Transmission Broadcast feature is obviously a military format. Given that you've attracted a disparate civilian readership, isn't this going to lose those readers?

DAVIDSON: No. It's going to teach them how to read this type of material, if the need ever arises. This is the same way we structure messages in a military tactical situation in the field. It is a one-way transmission of a message to someone who's offered material or asked questions. The format is structured so that no one will understand the message except the intended recipient.

SOF: What about the code box, the scrambled letters?

DAVIDSON: What about it? (laughs) That's not something I'm going to discuss. Let's just say we have heard on very good authority that this feature is very popular at the National Security Agency. We know that 20 copies of each issue appear mysteriously in the central library at Fort Meade [Maryland], and apparently they have great fun trying to break the code group.

SOF: The Special Forces chain of command insists that there is no witch-hunt to identify *Resister* sympathizers.

DAVIDSON: What the chain of command says, and what it does, are seldom coincident. We ignore what the chain of command says because their words are for

public consumption. We pay attention only to what they do, because their actions betray their true nature.

SOF: For example?

DAVIDSON: The confiscation of *The Resister* from the Marquat Memorial Library. On one hand, they say they are not concerned about *The Resister*. On the other, their action is to confiscate it. That's a curious response to a publication that advocates constitutional republicanism, which is what this nation was founded on.

SOF: Some Army spokesmen, and some people on Capitol Hill, have described *The Resister* as an extremist publication.

DAVIDSON: What they mean is that *The Resister* is anti-socialist, anti-Communist and anti-United Nations.

SOF: Some officers have said that your opposition to democracy, in favor of constitutional republicanism, borders on sedition.

DAVIDSON: It helps to have historical context, to not look at this through a revisionist lens. Seventy years ago, citizenship manuals issued to soldiers explicitly denounced democracy. To have advocated democracy then would have been considered seditious. The description of our government as a democracy is a myth perpetrated and sustained by socialists and communists. There are no references to democracy in the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, or the U.S. Constitution. In all of the collected writings of the Framers, both Federalist and anti-Federalist, nowhere is democracy advocated.

SOF: How do you square your editorial advocacy with the Pentagon's position that the U.S. military and its members must remain apolitical?

DAVIDSON: The tradition of the U.S. military is that it remain non-political, not apolitical. A non-political military doesn't become involved in politics; an apolitical military isn't concerned with politics. There is an irreconcilable difference between the meaning and intent of those two terms. Whenever you hear a politician or senior military official speak of our apolitical military, a cold chill should run down your spine, because you are listening to a fundamental bromide of impending tyranny.

SOF: Is *The Resister*, or its support group, the "Special Forces Underground," involved directly or indirectly with any militia organizations?

DAVIDSON: Absolutely not. The Militia Act of 1792 and subsequent amendments explicitly prohibit soldiers in the standing Army from any involvement with the militia. The logic and sanity of that prohibition is beyond question.

SOF: Have the repercussions by the chain of command against individuals accused, rightly or wrongly, of ties to and support of *The Resister* eroded support in the ranks?

DAVIDSON: Just the opposite. Every soldier, sailor, airman or Marine who suffers the results of arbitrary action against them for supporting the only pro-constitutional voice in the military gains us supporters among his friends and associates.

— JLP

Subscriptions to *The Resister* are \$25 a year. Send cash or a money order with payee line blank to P.O. Box 47095, Kansas City, MO 64188. On-line subscriptions in ASCII are available under the same terms by writing to I BBS Attn: TR, P.O. Box 201741, Bloomington, MN 55420. Any questions about on-line subscriptions are referred to 612-885-0512.

In the wake of the tragic bombing of the Oklahoma City Federal Building, federal agencies recognized an unprecedented opportunity to expand both their share of the budget and their authority to snoop into the private affairs of ordinary Americans.

A piece of legislation that had been drafted by the Clinton White House and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, then championed by assault weapons-ban author Rep. Charles Schumer (D-New York), was moribund until the Oklahoma City incident caused opportunistic Republicans in both the Senate and House to adopt Schumer's work as their own.

The *Comprehensive Antiterrorism Act*, which was easily passed in the U.S. Senate with the help of Republican leaders, as of this writing is pending in the House of Representatives. In the name of fighting organized criminals and terrorists, it would allow the FBI — which has the government's largest database on criminals and the general public — to readily access a great deal more information about Americans without the requirement of court orders.

Court orders, which usually require federal agents to show a judge some good reasons for snooping and eavesdropping, are an inconvenience that the Bureau wants to dispense with. The antiterrorism act is the centerpiece of a multipronged effort by the FBI to eliminate the bothersome checks and balances intended to guarantee privacy and individual rights. Working on Capitol Hill when it has to, under the color of its own authority when it can get away with it, the FBI intends to have an unfettered, closer look at *your* credit and banking data and communications — all under the guise of protecting us.

By administrative caveat, with the approval of Attorney General Janet Reno and the White House, the FBI is in the process of expanding its ability to listen in on our private telephone conversations and tap into our

computer data links. As part of its stepped-up Big Brother activities, the Bureau has ordered phone companies to provide it with the technical ability to wiretap one of every 1,000 phone lines in America's urban centers. Eventually, the FBI wants the ability to simultaneously tap one out of every 200 phone lines. When they are finished, FBI agents will be able to listen to nearly one-half percent of all telephone conversations going on at the same time: Computers

Although it is the Clinton administration that has shown the most fervent inclination toward Nazi secret-police techniques, some prominent Republicans are carrying Clinton's water or perhaps even trying to match him.

Senator Bob Dole (R-Kansas), for example, is sponsoring legislation that his office says is intended to "safeguard" America's medical records from the abusive practices of insurance companies and other snoop-

EMPOWERING BIG BROTHER

Counterterrorism Bill Trades Freedom For Safety

by SOF Staff

programmed to detect certain words would lock on and eavesdrop automatically — all without any legal finding that a crime might have taken place.

In the same police-state spirit, President Clinton announced in a United Nations speech that he is taking measures against the international drug trade. What he didn't say was that by signing yet another secret executive order (PDD-42) he was giving the FBI the new authority to look at the law-abiding public's private bank accounts. It uses bank employees to spy on you. Even some *liberals* see the danger implicit in such things, such as Gregory B. Craig, a lawyer with the liberal-left law firm of Williams and Connolly. Regarding PDD-42, Craig was quoted by a Washington newspaper as saying: "Without any of the safeguards that apply to a domestic investigation, it is open season. Old grudges can be settled; business competitors can seek advantages; proven criminals can incriminate totally innocent public figures."

ers, by centralizing them in one depository. Their ambition, like countering terrorists or thwarting drug dealers, is again admirable. However, Dole's bill enables the FBI and virtually all other law-enforcement agencies to have clear and open access to the medical records depository if that information pertains to either "victims" or "suspects." Almost anyone can be classified one way or another for purposes of "legal" access.

Trampling The Constitution

As in the case of the liberal law firm opposing Clinton on PDD-42, the opposition to the growth of Big Brother is as diverse as the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Rifle Association. Both groups are actively working against House passage of the *Comprehensive Antiterrorism Act*. There is a lot to worry about in the (Republican-controlled) Senate's language now being considered by the House.

Some sections of the act are perfectly legitimate and might even be quite helpful to law enforcement, but

right from the beginning the authors of this proposed law start to trample Americans' constitutional rights. For example, Section 101 of that legislation has language making it a federal offense to kill or attempt to kill a federal employee. So what's wrong with that? Well, it already is illegal almost everywhere to murder or attempt to murder anyone, be it a federal employee or village drunk. The purpose of the language here is not to increase the security of federal employees but to create a special category of people who are more equal than others, so to speak, and increase the authority of the FBI to insert itself into what would otherwise be a local investigation.

Section 204 of the bill amends the *Omnibus Crime Control And Safe Streets 1968* to broaden the ability of the feds to prosecute sporting-goods dealers and anyone else for selling a firearm that later is used in a crime. An articulate prosecutor could well be able to go back 10 years and establish to the satisfaction of a jury that a firearm had been transferred with that foreknowledge. Section 205 does the same for explosives or even the right kind of fertilizer, and one could expect it to be construed to cover flammable liquids used in arson, such as gasoline or even shaving lotion.

Good Faith Checks And Balances

The most dangerous sections of the *Comprehensive Antiterrorism Act* have to do with relaxing the legal checks and balances now in place to make it possible for the FBI to obtain and keep on file credit-record information held by credit-reporting firms. Such information now is denied to the Bureau by the Privacy Act, unless the feds have a search warrant. Search warrants intended to guarantee freedom from unreasonable search and seizure become *unnecessary* under the provisions of this part of the proposed law.

Moreover, a great deal of the information collected by credit-reporting firms repeatedly has been shown during Congressional hearings to be inaccurate. Credit-reporting firms' investigators typically are minimum-wage workers with little — if any —

training in accurate information gathering. If, for example, they interview a neighbor or someone else who doesn't like you and spurious information ends up in your credit file, it also could go into your FBI dossier — and be transferred God knows where else.

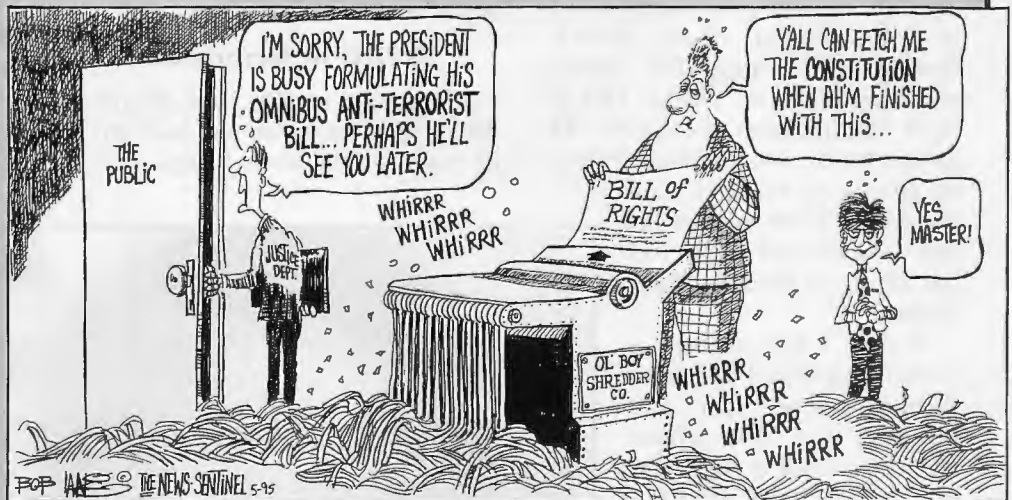
Since the Bureau may well become the credit reporting firms' best customer, they do doubt will work hard to pass on a large volume of information. Certainly, one would argue, the FBI would screen out inaccurate information or classify it as such. Perhaps, but it might be useful to remember that for nearly 20 years another large, intelligence-gathering entity — the CIA — provided to Congress some critical information it certified as *bona fide* when in fact the spooks knew it had been falsified by the Russians.

What would be the legal sanctions

pay \$100 for the privilege of using (and maybe misusing) credit information in an investigation.

Section 304 provides that storage-space rental companies, for example, would have to grant FBI agents *carte blanche* right to search stored belongings and records merely upon the request. Once again, no search warrant would be necessary.

Section 310 dovetails nicely with the Bureau's ambition of tapping everyone's telephones: It permits the FBI to have a look at your telephone bills without a court order or any notification to you that it even has been done. On balance, the authors of *Comprehensive Antiterrorist Act* trust that the FBI will not use this increased power to abuse the rights of law-abiding citizens or aid in political repression. But such a law is only as good as the men (and women) who will



for misuse of the information provided to the FBI by credit-reporting firms? Say, for example, false information ended up causing you to go bankrupt, ruining your life? Certainly you could sue the government or the credit-reporting company or *someone*.

No Defense Against Incompetence

Of course you could sue — except that language included by the FBI and the Clinton administration in this bill specifically limits the amount of damages anyone can collect to \$100. That's right, even if you lose everything due to false information or the illegal use of credit information, all you can collect in damages is \$100. There isn't a single federal agent on the street who wouldn't personally

administer it: Under good men, it could be a good law; under tyrants, it could implement tyranny. The Founding Fathers carefully precluded such a risk by giving us a nation under the rule of *law* — not the rule of men — because they well knew that humans tend to be tyrannical or corruptible.

The most terrifying thing about this "antiterrorist" bill is that it tends to corrupt the supreme law of the land — the Constitution — and its guarantee of civil rights that are our first and final defense against tyranny.

Since the goodness of this law is dependent upon the goodness of those who would administer it, who is our ombudsman to ensure the integrity of the FBI?

You probably guessed it already: Congress. ☒

TERROR IN TOKYO

Doomsday Cult's Nerve-Gas Attack First Step Toward War With America

by T.E.M. Gray

Photos: AP/Wide World

As usual, there scarcely was enough room to fit a newspaper between commuters packed tightly in a Tokyo subway station that March morning in 1995. The hidden devices containing Sarin nerve gas, built by Aum Shinri Kyo cult members, at first failed to release their deadly contents on the unsuspecting travelers.

When the terrorists used points on their umbrellas to pierce the containers, the escaping Sarin mist drifted over the crowds, knocking rows of helpless people to the ground, choking and vomiting. Two Americans were among the victims. One of them recalled that the harder he gasped for breath, the more intense the pain in his lungs. He said that within a few minutes his legs wouldn't work and he had lost all of his hand-eye coordination.

In only a few minutes, a clumsily executed use of a chemical-warfare agent had left more than 5,500 injured and would result in the deaths of 19 people. "How nice it is," the cult's leader reportedly said, "that their souls were removed by *Shiva*."

Far more would have died had members of the *Aum Shinri Kyo* ("Supreme Truth") cult been adept at dispersing the nerve agent. If they merely had sprayed the Sarin from above the crowd, the casualties probably would have quadrupled. But the cultists still were learning. The attack occurred only a few months after the cult had obtained, on the Internet, information on the manufacture and handling of nerve gas.

After CNN television broke this incredible story, U.S. law-enforcement and intelligence organizations began asking

who these cultists were, where they come from and where they got the nerve gas. There was a brief period of interest during which it was determined that Aum Shinri Kyo was an obscure, religious cult led by partially blind guru Shoko Asahara, a 40-year-old devotee of Nostradamus and self-proclaimed practitioner of levitation. But key U.S. officials charged with tracking such things began dismissing the Tokyo incident as a one-shot, horror show.

A First In Terrorism

Even eight months later, people who should have had the best understanding of such things still

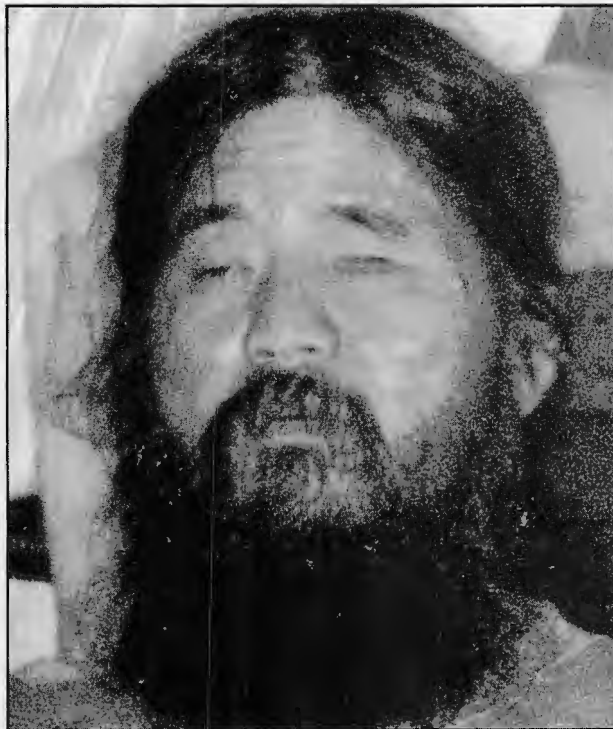
didn't quite get it.

Alan Holmes, U.S. assistant secretary of defense for special operations, speaking in November under oath during a Senate hearing, characterized the Aum attacks as "ineffective." He said that it was important to remember that fear-generation was the goal of the Aum attack, but nonetheless — and certainly in spite of a tight budget — federal officials were working hard to prevent such things here.

What Holmes and a number of other similarly placed people in Washington, D.C., apparently failed to grasp was that for the first time in history, terrorists had used a weapon of mass destruction — and that the *first* use actually wasn't in Tokyo's subway. That first terroristic use of a weapon of mass destruction happened months before the subway incident.

In June 1994, Aum members released Sarin from a parked truck into a quiet, residential neighborhood in Matsumoto, a city about 100 miles northwest of Tokyo. Seven people died, 500 were injured, and a number remain in comas. That attack marked a turning point in the history of terrorism and counterterrorism and perhaps in human history in general — and scarcely anyone outside Japan noticed.

That is astounding considering that the cult, formed in 1984, long had engaged in murder, sold illicit drugs it manufactured in high-tech labs, and openly advertised its interest in chemical/biological warfare (CBW) — and Sarin nerve agent, in particular — in widely circulated, cult publications.



A real-life monster, Aum Shinri Kyo cult leader Shoko Asahara was arrested by Tokyo police for the deadly nerve-gas attack in a crowded subway. Investigations later revealed his cult planned to kill President Clinton during a visit to Japan to provoke a war between the two nations. The well-funded cult has many members still at large around the world, and has connections to the "Russian Mafia."

Tokyo firemen wash down a chemical expert in a protective suit after he worked in Sarin-contaminated subway cars the day after the 20 March 1995 nerve-gas attack by the doomsday cult.



Moreover, for at least two years cult leaders had been cutting a very high profile in the shadowy area of international arms transfers. Cult members not so secretly went shopping with plenty of cash for instruments of death in seven countries. No one in the CIA, whose operatives are supposed to skulk around in the back alleys of the world's weapons markets, seemed to notice when cult members began romancing high-level Russians who happened to occupy positions that gave them access to nuclear/chemical/biological warfare materiel.

One of those who did notice was

Kyle Olson, a private-sector consultant on chemical warfare who was hired by Japanese television after the Matsumoto incident. Olson later would tell U.S. senators that our intelligence services hadn't noticed the cult's activities because they simply weren't looking. He warned that "if a group can leave a footprint this big and operate with as free a hand as this cult enjoyed, what does this say about the potential of smaller, more disciplined organizations?"

In May, two months after the first subway attack, Aum Shinri Kyo members tried a different tactic in another subway station. This time they placed

cyanide-dispersion devices in plastic bags on the station platform. The devices were crude but apparently capable of inflicting thousands of casualties; however, subway police apparently were alert enough to neutralize the threat before anyone was killed.

The Matsumoto neighborhood attack, the Tokyo subway incidents and two or three murders in which the cult eliminated enemies by spraying nerve agents on them — all merely were field experiments, dress rehearsals for a far more dramatic attack the Aum leadership believed would alter the global balance of power. That goal



Top: Tokyo paramedics remove another victim from a subway station poisoned by cultists' Sarin nerve gas during Monday-morning rush hour in March 1995. Right: Wearing military-style, chemical-warfare masks and suits, riot police return topside after sealing off the subway station.



sounds like a mad supervillain's plot in a James Bond movie: The Aum cult would provoke a highly destructive war between the United States and Japan, then use weapons of mass destruction to help Japan win.

Details of this nightmarish scenario took shape in November during U.S. Senate hearings, which drew surprisingly little mainstream media coverage. Additional information was provided to *Soldier Of Fortune* by government sources:

Responding to questions posed by Senate committee members on the failure of government agencies to recognize the threat posed by Aum Shinri Kyo, FBI counterterrorism chief John O'Neill said it was not the responsibility of four FBI agents in Tokyo to develop such intelligence. It was the responsibility of the CIA.

(The CIA was already having a bad day: Front-page newspaper stories that morning reported that for many years CIA officials had passed on to Congress and the Pentagon information evaluated as the gospel truth, even though they knew it contained Soviet disinformation.)

Dr. Gordon Oehler, director of the

CIA's "Nonproliferation Center," responded as if the Company had just been accused by the Bureau of collecting taxpayer money for a job not done. "[T]here are thousands of organizations in the world that don't like the United States; we can't track them all," Oehler said. "Besides, not many countries want the Central Intelligence Agency having a look at their religious groups."

"Even if that cult intends to assassinate the president of the United States?" replied Senator

William Cohen of Maine.

Clinton A Target

According to Senate investigators, the Aum cult had intended to attack the Japanese parliament, perhaps with biological-warfare agents or nerve gas, when President Clinton and 17 other heads of state visited in November. (An article in the sect's January '95 news bulletin was titled, "Will Clinton Be Assassinated?") Apparently that attack was supposed to touch off the war between Japan and the United States.

Aum Shinri Kyo is a doomsday cult; all of its movements in the past few years had been toward militarizing the organization. Its goal: war with the United States. Not only did cult leader Asahara intend to initiate that war, he also had cult members in place in the Japanese government and military to help manipulate the circumstances. The organization of his cult structure reportedly was very similar to that of the Japanese government, so that when the time came the anticipated transition would be smooth. Asahara, who espouses an imaginative amalgam of Hindu Yoga and Buddhist hierarchical spirituality, reportedly dazzled his followers with claims that he is able to levitate his corpulent body several feet off the

ground. He was able to raise considerable money from people willing to pay \$10,000 each to wear cult-manufactured electronic helmets supposedly connecting them to Asahara's divine brain waves.

In a matter of 10 years Asahara built a following estimated at about 65,000, including some 40,000 members in Russia who were recruited after listening to Asahara's nationwide, hour-long, messianic radio programs. By demanding that his followers relinquish their earthly

wealth to the cult, and by peddling LSD and other drugs, Aum assembled known assets in excess of \$1 billion.

Asahara and his people used those assets to purchase what they thought were the items of Armageddon. One of those purchases was 400 first-generation (\$8) Israeli gas masks from a New York military-surplus store to help guarantee survival of the cult's hierarchy during the Armageddon they planned to initiate.

After the 20 March subway attack in Tokyo, an electronics firm that handled the purchase of the gas masks notified authorities. Armed with a bit of hindsight and secret national-security warrants, FBI agents uncovered a series of events that provide a startling portrait of a new type of terrorist.

Recalling WWII Biowarfare

Apparently the cult's worldwide shopping spree in search of instruments of death was manifested in documents seized by the U.S. federal agents.

Cult members visited an outdoor show in Las Vegas and came away with some survival camping gear that the feds referred to

as Boy Scout rejects; in California the cultists tried to buy highly sophisticated laser equipment that would help in the measurement of plutonium spheres required in the building of a nuclear weapon — but were thwarted by their lack of technical expertise; in Germany cult members sought information on the creation of earthquakes; in Australia they bought a large ranch where they mined uranium and tested CBW agents on sheep.

In sophisticated laboratories in Japan the cult sought practical methods for efficiently killing the most people. It eventually focused on germ war-

fare. Unlike building a nuclear bomb or synthesizing chemical weapons, the cult found that germ warfare could be easy and cheap. (The cost of conducting biowarfare typically is calculated about \$1 per square kilometer, making it the least expensive method of gaining territory.) When members began their research into biowarfare, they found that their own country actually had more practical experience than even the Russians in using such agents on human beings. One might say that the Aum cult was predisposed toward that methodology by way of Japanese tradition.

Although the facts were hidden by the U.S. government for many years in order to safeguard American biowarfare research, the truth eventually emerged: During World War II the Japanese army used thousands of Chinese, British and American prisoners in germ-warfare experiments, then murdered them when they were of no further use.

In his book *Factories of Death*, Professor Sheldon Harris noted that the Japanese Army "engaged freely and enthusiastically in human biowarfare experiments because they knew their victims were inferior beings who were being sacrificed for a higher cause. The world would be a better

place to live, they reasoned, without so many subhumans wasting the planet's valuable resources."

During the war against Chiang Kai Shek's nationalist Chinese forces, various infectious diseases cultivated and spread by the Japanese army killed hundreds of thousands of Russians and Chinese soldiers and civilians in Manchuria. Unique among the belligerents in WWII, the Japanese Army actually used almost every chemical-warfare agent known at the



Aum Shinri Kyo members (bottom) face off with riot police 22 March 1995, after the cult's headquarters in Tokyo were raided. A few weeks later, police wearing chemical suits and carrying gas masks (right) remove confiscated material in the cult's commune at the foot of Mount Fuji.



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Counting Coups

As one of the more colorful — and successful — free-enterprise soldiers of the past several decades, Colonel Robert Denard was sent a personal invitation from *SOF* Publisher Robert K. Brown to be our guest at the 1995 *SOF* convention in Las Vegas last September. The colonel sent his warm regards and expressed his regret that he could not attend because of the press of “family reasons.” We now understand what these family matters entailed.

For the third time, on 28 September 1995, Bob Denard and a mercenary force seized the Comoro Islands, off the eastern coast of Africa. It was the 17th coup in the Comoros since its independence from France. This time, Denard’s reign lasted a scant eight days, until 5 October 1995.

Rapid, forceful military intervention by elite French forces quickly overturned the famous French merc’s latest success. This is the story of Denard’s Operation Kaskari, and the subsequent French reaction, Opera-

tion Azalea. Even though the resources available to the opposing military forces were vastly different — 33 mercenaries on one side, and about a thousand men, most of them elite combat troops, on the other —

each operation was a rapid success. As such conflicts go, there was little bloodshed.

Denard proved once again that it is still possible for a small band of mercenaries to “become kings” — if only for a few days — by seizing a country, at least in Africa. The episode also illustrates that an operation by special-operations forces, supported by adequate logistics and staging bases, can achieve decisive results within a day. This was a first for the new French Special Operations Command (*Commandement des Operations Speciales* — COS), and its specialized units.

Voice In The Wilderness

Early in September 1995, an informant close to Denard attempted to



Comfortably — but temporarily — once again installed on his beloved Comoro, soldier of fortune Colonel Bob Denard strikes a pose in his HQ at Kandani military base.



With barely a shot fired, Denard’s small band of mercenaries took Comoro, and most local troops — who were expecting him — quickly joined his force.

Colonel Denard Conquers Comoros Again

by Jean-Charles Socoa
Photos: Gamma-Liaison

meet with Jacques Foccart, a grand old gentleman and *eminence grise* otherwise known as “Mister Africa” who is a semiofficial adviser to President Jacques Chirac, to discuss an operation planned in Africa. The meeting didn’t happen. Then, acting as messenger for the Democratic Renewal Party (*Parti du Renouveau Democratique* — PRD), an opposition group in Comoro, he sent a letter to another close adviser to the French president. Once again, the message never reached proper quarters.

In all of the other coups and putsches he led over the years, Denard always expected or received the endorsement of French authorities before initiating military action. Yet, according to some sources, the French government “was totally surprised” by Denard’s Comoro landing 28 September. This would represent an intelligence failure, as even the *Renseignements Generaux* (literally “general information,” the internal security arm of the French police, the — RG) had supposedly neither seen nor heard anything concerning the recruitment of mercenaries, either in Paris or Brussels, in spite of the fact another coup rumor was already circulating in Paris. Sources report that in Spring of 1995 an operation had been prepared by another French mercenary — a former officer of the Comoran Presidential Guard with connections to the DGSE (*Direction Generale de Securite Exterieur* — General Directorate of External Security, the French CIA equivalent), an effort that failed at the last minute when the necessary funds were diverted. This opera-



Not only did local military forces quickly align themselves with the invading mercs, but unemployed locals soon showed up wanting to enlist in the presidential guard, and local opposition groups rallied in support. Unfortunately, Paris took an officially dim view, was apparently embarrassed into quickly deposing the deposer.

tion had planned to seize Comoro by air, using a force of Croatian mercenaries.

Having twice before taken the island on behalf of various sponsors, it appears Denard never gave up on the Comoros, even though officially “retired” since 1993. His contacts there constantly encour-

aged him in this, and were ready to raise part of the money required. Thus early in 1995 the “king of fortune” (*Roi de Fortune*, as he was christened in the 1991 book about his exploits) was able to put together the required funds that would allow Operation Kaskari (named after the wind that blows at Grand Comoro),



French special-operations forces quickly turned the coup into a putsch, as Denard gave way to vastly superior forces.

otherwise known as Compres III, to proceed.

Rigging For Revolution

In Norway Denard bought a 62-meter (203 foot) cable ship and had it sent to Rotterdam, where it was re-fitted. Officially, the ship belonged to an archaeological society based in the Virgin Islands and was equipped accordingly: compressors, racks for scuba tanks, cradles for Zodiac boats on deck and a logo with divers on the funnel were all very much in evidence. Also, more discreetly, there were freezers and provisions in the hold for several weeks at sea with 40 men. In addition to light armament bought in France and Belgium, the ship was equipped for satellite communication so that the "old man" could be in continuous contact with France and the Comoros.

Working through a network of con-



With bodyguards nearby, Bob Denard speaks to reporters at Kandani military base.

of this unit, which under his tutelage became a well-trained force and the base from which he had exercised a significant influence on the country. Denard had married a local woman

and Bosnia and the jungles of Burma. Those who were contacted and agreed to a monthly salary ranging from 50,000 to 80,000 francs (\$10,000 to \$16,000) per month, stood by all through August. Finally, less than 24 hours before their departure, each one of them was ordered to rendezvous at the Charles de Gaulle Airport to receive his ticket and depart for the Canary Islands. The ship — the *Khardala*, later renamed the *Vulcain* — had arrived from Holland and was awaiting them. Mostly young and outdoorsy-looking, the mercenaries got through Spanish customs posing as a group of skin divers in search of aquatic adventure. On 26 August the ship left the Canaries without any questions being raised.

After 43 days at sea, covering 18,000 kilometers (about 10,000 nautical miles) and two stops, the merc force arrived in Comoran waters. Denard



An amicable surrender was negotiated with French commanders — most of the players in this scenario were acquainted — and Colonel Denard is lead to a waiting vehicle. To fight another day?

tacts in Paris, Denard's lieutenants quickly recruited 30 mercenaries, primarily former members of the Comoran Presidential Guard. From 1978 to 1989 Denard was commander

with whom he had three children, and converted to Islam. He had been, in effect, unofficial king of the island.

There were also younger volunteers, veterans of combat in Croatia

joined them en route and briefed them on the operation. It then took another two weeks to prepare the operation, as was done in his earlier 1978 operation to seize the



COUP SPONSORS AND SPOILERS

As soon as they were advised of the Comoran coup, several heads of French-speaking African states called French President Jacques Chirac requesting French intervention to restore legality in the Comoran Archipelago.

According to a quasi-official statement by a member of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: "The adventure was untimely, as he [Denard] did not understand that the era of mercenaries seizing a country is past. Such actions are prejudicial to France, as the other states always suspect us of being, if not the instigator, at least aware of them." Ahem.

In any case, the less-than-voluntary departure of President Djohar for "residence" on Reunion due to "fatigue," under French control, was a great relief both in the Comoros and France: Various sources in Moroni noted that government employees hadn't been paid for six months, that the president and his family had looted the country, that *he* had misappropriated international aid funds, and especially that he intended to *rig* the next election to stay in power.

One thing is clear: If it is true that France showed unscrupulous opportunism with Operation Azalea, the removal of President Djohar had been plotted for some time in Paris. In 1994, there were numerous meetings of representatives of various ministries to work out an operation with South African help, to install a more pro-French policy in the Comoros. This plan was still on the agenda when Denard launched "his" operation.

In the aftermath of Operation Kaskari, its success, and the subsequent intervention by French forces, numerous questions remain unanswered. Several theories have turned up, all unproven because everyone involved has taken pains to cover their tracks.

The first theory was that the French government had given its endorsement to Bob Denard, the "eternal condottiere in the service of the Republic." Whatever else, it is highly

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Red-bereted marine paratroops of the 2d RPIMA search Denard's mercs to ensure their amicable surrender stays that way.

Comoros on behalf of a client.

Merc Landing

At 0130 hours on 28 September, a Zodiac left the *Vulcain* and, in several trips, landed the mercs on the island between Moroni and the Hahaya airport. Since terrain was steep at the landing point, the "old man" had to be carried, an old wound from Katanga being more bothersome than ever. On the road, vehicles were waiting to help move troops. They had been rented from Avis a few days earlier by a couple and two others

who had come in as tourists from Johannesburg. Two assault groups formed up: While one headed for the Presidential Palace, the other took the road to the Kandani military camp, the main base of the Comoran army, which received the mercs with open arms. The mercenaries were amazed at the ease with which they took these strategic points, "as if every one were expecting it."

Finally, at about 0520 hours a group of Comoran soldiers with three

Continued on page 80



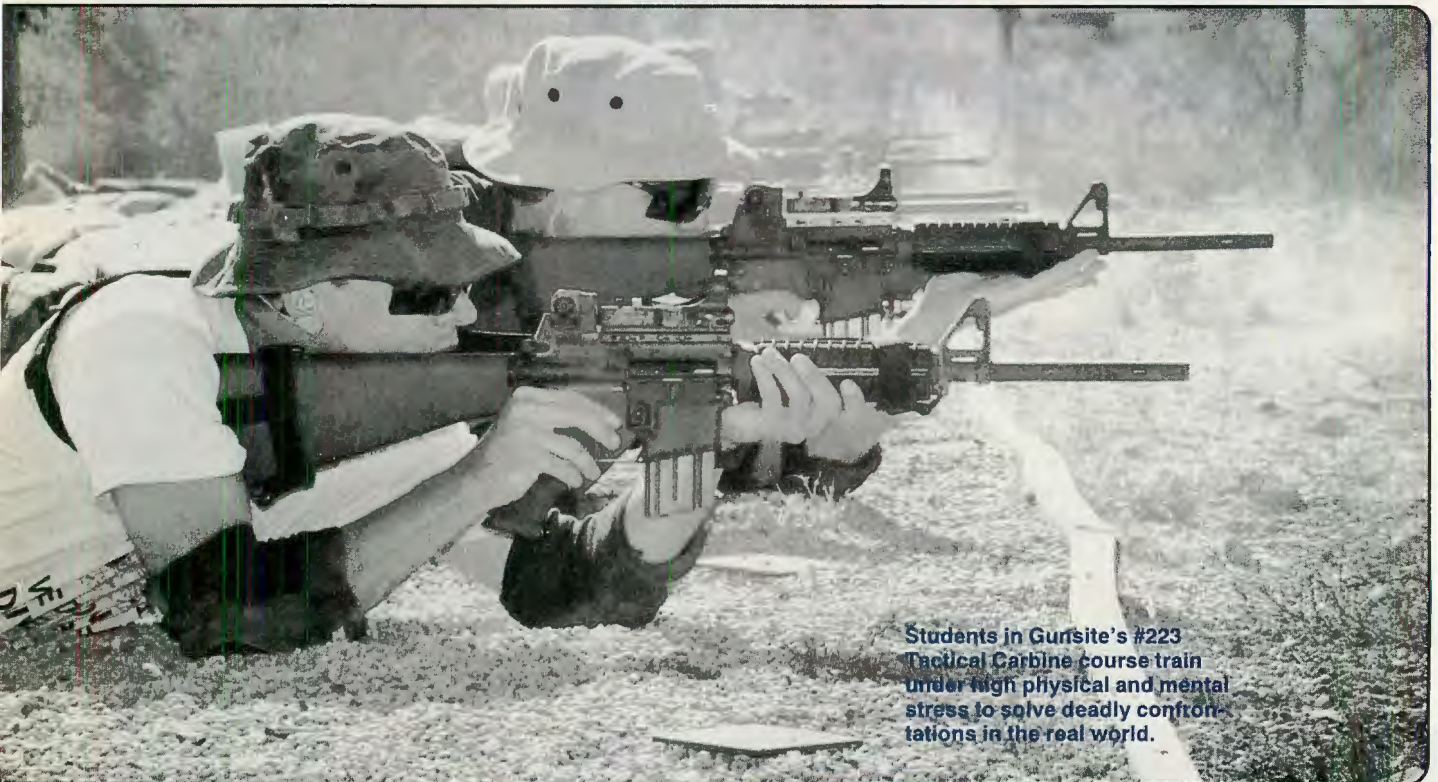
Mercenary force stands down, awaiting their further disposition. Win some, lose some. This, however, is decidedly the best way to lose.

Sometime after the turn of this century, American soldiers supposedly will be armed with a revolutionary, ergonomically designed and integrated weapon system called the Objective Individual Combat Weapon. This 11-pound (not count-

programs the fuze accordingly. It is projected that these weapons will cost \$15,000 each. I remain skeptical, as five years ago the now abandoned and forgotten Advanced Combat Rifle program ended with nothing of value to show for an expenditure of \$58

tive. Unless you are a recreational shooter only, extensive training is required to master the techniques needed to fight effectively with the .223 "carbine." Proper training is almost always mentally and physically challenging.

Gunsite Tactical



Students in Gunsite's #223 Tactical Carbine course train under high physical and mental stress to solve deadly confrontations in the real world.

Carbine Course

Cops, Commandos and Carbines

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis

ing the IR thermal imager), bulky-looking infantry weapon will feature a caliber 5.56x45mm NATO rifle with a 20mm grenade launcher above or alongside it. The grenade's ammunition incorporates a miniature fuze and air bursting warhead. The range at which the grenade detonates will be determined by a battery-powered laser rangefinder and a computer that

million of taxpayers' money.

In any event, until such time as this dazzling device is fielded we shall have to do with our caliber 5.56x45mm rifles (or .223 "carbines," as Jeff Cooper calls them). Proficiency in its tactical deployment does not come with the mere purchase of a selective-fire assault rifle in this caliber, or its semiautomatic-only deriva-

In my opinion, outside of the military the finest training an armed professional can receive in a weapon system of this type is provided by Gunsite Training Center (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 700, Paulden, AZ 86334; phone: 800-504-7571). Located 26 miles north of Prescott, Arizona, on 933 acres, Gunsite's physical plant is impressive.

There are nine pistol ranges, six rifle ranges and six shotgun ranges. A 180-degree swing is available on the pistol ranges, with 360 degrees in the indoor reaction ranges. Firing distances can be varied from arm's length to 1,000 yards on one of the seven outdoor simulators.

The three indoor simulators, called the Funhouse, Playhouse and Fire-box, offer unlimited tactical variety in all light conditions, from broad daylight to the lower limit of visibility. Double-track, power-driven carriers and the gravity-fed Apitir provide both simple and complex moving-target problems. There are nine innovative target systems found only at Gunsite Ranch. Outdoor simulators include the Vlei, Scrambler, Donga, West Wash and North Draw.

One of the most physically demanding courses offered at Gunsite is #223 Tactical Carbine. Each student will fire close to 1,200 rounds during the five and a half days of the course. Only #556, the Advanced Tactical Carbine course (for which #223 is a prerequisite), pushes students to any higher level of physical and mental stress.

All outdoor firing is on either paper or steel reactive targets. Gunsite's proprietary "option" paper target recently has been redesigned and is excellent for both handgun and rifle applications. The reactive steel targets used on the rifle ranges, Scrambler and Vlei, are not knock-down types and require an observer to verify hits.

Continuing Education

I recently returned to Gunsite to participate as a student in a #223 Tactical Carbine course; armed professionals (like golf and tennis pros) must continue to receive training from other professionals whenever possible if they are to remain within the constantly changing mainstream of small-arms employment techniques.

Rangemaster for our course was Sergeant Giles Stock, a more than 19-year veteran of a major metropolitan police department who is the primary weapons instructor and armorer for their special-assignment unit. Giles is known widely for his expertise with weapon systems of this type and he attracts students from just about everywhere to attend his classes at Gunsite. His coaches were Brian



Firing the "Dozier" drill: five Pepper Poppers engaged with frangible ammunition.

Worthan and Mike Hughes, who also are members of large law-enforcement agencies. They were assisted by apprentice coach Jim Crews.

There were 17 students in the class. Three were armed with semiautomatic-only Steyr AUGs and the other 14 with some variant or another of the M16/AR15 series. There was an incredibly large variety of sights on these latter weapons. They ranged from nothing more than the issue iron sights to red-dot types like the Aimpoint, Ultra Dot and C-More, and optical scopes of varying magnification, such as the U.S. Optics Tech-

nologies 1-4X variable-power unit and the superb Leitz Elcan 3.4X military scope. There was an equally wide range of muzzle devices on these weapons — everything from the new and politically correct Colt AR15 with a plain barrel to the M16A1, M16A2 and Vortex types.

On the first morning everyone zeroed his weapon at 25 yards from the prone position using a sandbag over an ammo can for support and firing five 5-shot groups. I used Black Hills (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 3090, Rapid City, SD 57709; phone: 800-568-6625, fax: 605-348-9827) 68-grain



Firing from the support-side, roll-over prone position provides maximum cover while permitting the shooter to fire from under vehicles and other low barricades often encountered in urban environments.

Jacketed Hollow Point (JHP) match ammunition throughout. It performed superbly and will yield 0.5 MOA groups in some caliber 5.56x45mm bolt-action sniper/varmint rifles.

After zeroing our carbines, we fired from the unsupported prone, sitting, "rice paddy prone" (the old USMC squatting position), kneeling, and "California kneeling" in which the shooter faces the target(s) with both knees on the ground — all from 25 yards. While this latter position can be engaged quickly, it is a tactical technique (as the shooter can raise or lower his body to take advantage of prevailing cover), not an accuracy enhancer. From the 10-yard line we practiced 2-shot snap shooting to the torso starting from the indoor ready position. The day ended with classroom lectures on trajectory and wound ballistics.

I started this class with what I assumed would be a really hot setup: a Colt M16A2 Commando with an 11.5-inch barrel, Vortex flash hider, U.S. Optics Technologies 1-4X variable scope with a dot-in-circle reticle pattern, fixed buttstock with a Delta H-BAR-type cheekpiece, Giles sling (designed of course by Giles Stock) and 20-round magazines. The Vortex flash hider (Smith Arms International, Dept. SOF, 1701 West 10th St., Tempe, AZ 85281; phone: 602-964-1818, fax: 602-921-9987), Giles sling, fixed stock and 20-round magazines were fine. There is no better muzzle device for eliminating the flash signature; the Giles sling (available from

The Wilderness, Dept. SOF, 5130 North 19th Avenue, Suite 11, Phoenix, AZ 85015; phone: 602-242-4945) permits you to retain the weapon while transitioning to a sidearm; and 20-round magazines are more reliable than 30-rounders plus they permit a lower and more secure prone firing position. The fixed stock provides a far more stable firing platform for offhand shooting than the racy-looking retractable stock.

But, the scope-to-weapon interface proved to be a disaster. Mounted on the M16A2 upper receiver's carrying handle with high 30mm rings (the only height available at the time I assembled this system) and the excellent ARMS mount, the scope's optical axis sits 4.25 inches above the bore's axis. When firing head shots at 25 yards or less, in order for the bullet to impact the brain cavity you must aim over the top of the target. Without a precise aiming point, hit probability is diminished by a considerable margin. Furthermore, when firing prone, a scope mounted this

high requires the shooter to lift his upper torso off the ground to acquire the reticle. This eliminates the stability usually associated with this position. Finally, while it provides the correct cheek weld for a scope mounted on the M16's carrying handle, the Delta H-BAR cheekpiece interferes with



Student fires during a walk through the Vlei while a coach watches for hits. Students are expected to locate and engage the target as quickly as possible from the firing position most appropriate for the distance to the target, which varies from 25 to 300 yards.

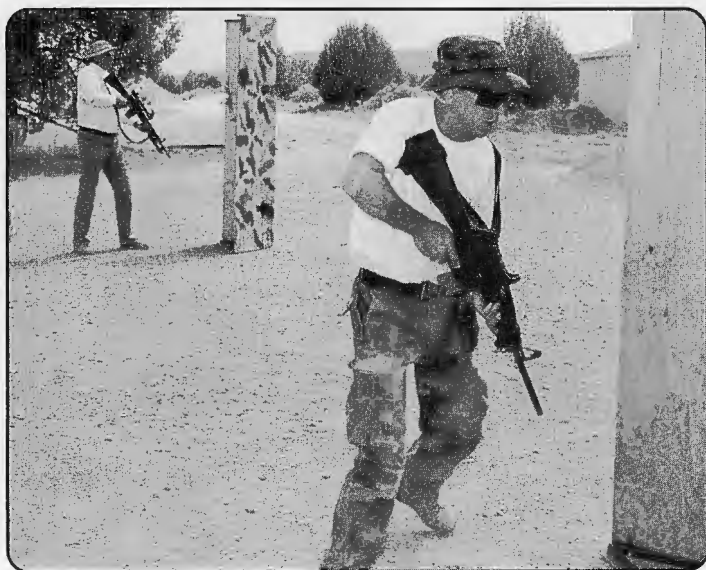
the cocking motion when the retracting handle is pulled rapidly rearward.

A Hot Setup

Based on what I observed during the course, the best possible AR15-type assemblage would be an M16A3 upper receiver with a detachable carrying handle, an Elcan scope mounted directly to the upper receiver's Picatinny rail, a 16.5-inch barrel with a 1:9-inch twist, a fixed stock, Vortex flash hider and Giles sling. Mounting the scope in this manner brings it much closer to the bore's axis and minimizes the amount of holdover required for shooting at close distances. It also permits a more comfortable and rigid prone firing position.

A barrel length of just over 16 inches probably is the best compromise from the perspective of both wound ballistics and compactness, as an AR15A2 with a 20-inch barrel approaches an unwieldy configuration for tactical deployment in the tight confines of urban environments. When the U.S. Army adopted the M16A2 with barrels featuring a 1:7-inch twist, it was to stabilize the longer and heavier tracer projectile. This usually is a non sequitur in law enforcement and civilian circles.

A word of caution about "trigger jobs" on the M16/AR15 series. Three students had AR15s with *gunsmith*-lightened triggerpull weights. At one time or another during the course each of these weapons "doubled." There is



Shooting from behind barricades, Tactical Carbine course students must move quickly from one side to the other.

very little a gunsmith safely can do to lighten an M16/AR15's trigger-pull weight. Leave them alone. The best trigger job you can perform on these firearms is to fire them in the semiautomatic mode for 1,000 rounds or more. This literally will shed pounds off the trigger-pull weight without the danger of turning your AR15 into an unregistered machine gun.

Day two found us on the 100-yard line, where we re-established the zero obtained the previous day. We then moved back to the 50-yard line at the Gunsite "square" range and fired for group from the prone position. This was followed by practice in shooting offhand head shots at 3, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 35 yards. Head shots at 50 yards were fired from the prone position. Magazine-change drills consisted of firing two shots from the standing position, changing the magazine and firing two shots from the kneeling position at 20 yards. This drill was repeated with all shots fired from the prone position.

Meanwhile, at the 100-yard line the second relay was firing from prone, sitting, kneeling and offhand. Subsequently the students fired using a pole as support to simulate braced shooting from a barricade. The pole support also was used to fire from a "radical" leaning position and squatting or kneeling. All firing was at reactive steel targets.

Clearing a so-called "bolt-over-base" stoppage is an important technique that is taught with great precision in the #223 Tactical Carbine course. If slapping the bolt and retracting the bolt group does not chamber a round, you should transition to your sidearm if possible. If it



Engaging Pepper Poppers in the outdoor simulator called the North Draw.

is not, the procedure for clearing a "bolt-over-base" stoppage is as follows: First slap the magazine upward and then retract the bolt. Presuming this doesn't solve your problem, drop to the kneeling position and roll the weapon so you can inspect the chamber in a tactile (by touch) manner. If you determine that you are faced with a "bolt-over-base," retract the bolt and activate the hold-open device. Remove the magazine. Insert the fingers of your support hand into the magazine well and clear the stoppage.



Firing from the kneeling position behind a log barricade at the steel reactive target in the infamous and exhausting Scrambler.

Cycle the bolt group twice. Insert another magazine. Cycle the bolt again to chamber a round. Continue firing with two rounds to the torso.

The second day terminated after extensive practice firing "hammers"

from 3, 5, 10 and 15 yards and "controlled pairs" from 15 yards. Whenever possible, you should shoot your opponent twice (except for a shot into the brain cavity). There are several important reasons for this. First of all, no small-arms cartridge provides a guarantee of instant incapacitation and there is conceivably a synergistic effect from two projectiles striking close together within a very short time frame (although this as yet has not been demonstrated and presumably would only serve to increase temporary cavitation).

Secondly — and far more importantly — a bobbing, weaving and twisting human target is a great deal more difficult to hit than a static piece of paper between two posts. Firing two shots increases your chances of striking the opponent's vital structures and provides consistency with handgun and submachine-gun training where two trigger pulls are the norm.

When firing at close ranges — arm's length to no more than 15 yards with a shoulder-mounted weapon — the so-called "hammer" technique can be employed. The shooter acquires the target with his sights for the first shot only and counts on the stability of his shoulder mount to reduce muzzle jump sufficiently to eliminate the requirement for reacquisition with the sights. This works and is the fastest way to deliver two shots from a semiautomatic .223 carbine, but only at close ranges.

As the distance to the target increases, a "controlled pair" of shots, in which two hits are delivered to the targets with deliberate use of the sights before each shot, becomes essential to achieve the level of hit probability required in lethal confrontations with armed opponents. The span of time between each shot remains short: no longer than necessary for a target acquisition and

“press” sequence.

All of Gunsite’s courses provide a tactical laboratory environment where those so inclined can continually feed tactical and equipment-oriented information into their data banks; but none more so than the #223 Tactical Carbine course. Eight of the 17 students in this course were active law-enforcement personnel and four of those were members of their department’s SWAT team, including one member of the Secret Service’s elite counterterrorist unit. Their tactical insights and the observations I was able to make about their equipment could fill a book — from footnotes to complete chapters.

Some examples: The gap in back of the hinge that permits the bottom of the M16’s trigger to be rotated down for winter firing with gloves can pinch the second finger of the firing hand, especially if you fire as many rounds as we did in a short period of time. A temporary fix is to insert a foam ear plug into the gap. A more permanent solution is to fill the opening with black silicone.

Batteries Not Included

As a number of students were equipped with red dot-type sights, I was able to observe them in use with some detail. My greatest objection was to the C-More sight. Its red dot is projected onto a single lens by a small LED projector in the base. If and when the small opening from which the beam of light projects becomes clogged with mud, the red dot is gone and the sight is useless. Furthermore the lens, although protected by a sturdy steel ring, sits above the sight’s body and all too easily would be damaged in the harsh environment of the battlefield.

Another thing that bothers me is that the C-More as well as the Aimpoint and Ultra Dot are battery operated. In military environments batteries usually fail at the most inopportune time. Although the latest



Engaging the steel reactive target from the window position in the Scrambler — a timed exercise.

Aimpoint is considerably more robust than earlier models, I think that it and most of these red dot-type sights are too easily damaged to survive long when subjected to the abuse they will sustain under prolonged combat conditions.

Although there were none in the course I took, Giles Stock informed me that personnel from several elite military organizations have attended the #223 Tactical Carbine course with selective-fire Kalashnikov assault rifles — both caliber 7.62x39mm AKMs and caliber 5.45x39mm AK74s. They performed with mediocre but acceptable accuracy and the



Author entered Gunsite’s #223 Tactical Carbine course thinking he had a really hot setup. The Vortex flash hider, Giles sling, fixed buttstock and 20-round magazines proved to be ideal. But, among other deficiencies, the Delta H-BAR cheekpiece interferes with the cocking motion when the retracting handle is pulled rapidly rearward. Furthermore, the scope was too high above the bore for close-range shooting.

expected reliability. I have concluded, mostly as a consequence of recent tests and evaluations that I performed in Russia with the caliber 5.56x45mm NATO AK100, that the Kalashnikov’s commonly criticized accuracy potential is more a result of the poor quality of 7.62x39mm and 5.45x39mm ammunition produced by the former Eastern Bloc countries and China than the rifle itself. When fed carefully crafted reloads, the 7.62x39mm AK will sometimes shoot close to 2-3 MOA.

Day Three found us shooting for group from the prone at 50, 100 and 200 yards. This was followed by

shooting at a steel reactive target from 300 yards, which is just starting to stretch the limits of caliber .223 carbines when equipped with only iron sights. It certainly is well beyond their wound ballistics effectiveness.

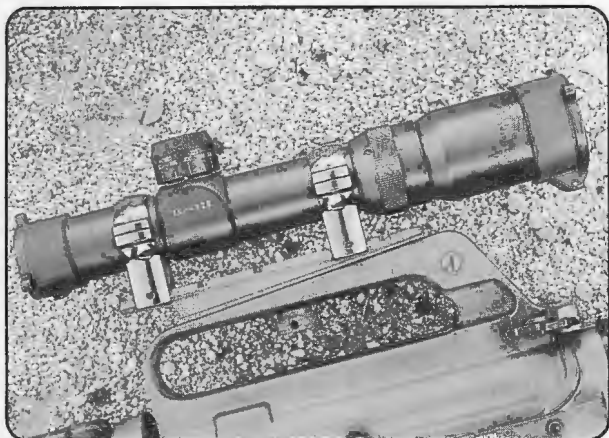
As students were cycled through the North Draw, an outdoor simulator with Pepper Poppers, the rest practiced snap shooting — both head and torso shots — at ranges from 10 to 35 yards. Successful snap shooting with a shoulder-mounted firearm depends largely upon an off-hand position that emphasizes a good pocket for the butt (by keeping the shooting arm parallel to the ground) and stability generated by placing the support arm perpendicular to the ground and up against the magazine and receiver.

The rest of the day was filled practicing hammers, failures drills (two shots to the torso, one to the head, and then a step to the right or left followed by a target assessment), and firing after movement — including 90-degree pivots and 180-degree turns. The important rule to remember when movement is involved with the firing sequence, is to always step to *known* ground, never into *unknown* territory.

The fourth day saw us

shooting at steel reactive targets at 400 yards with the coaches as spotters. I presume this was in preparation for the Vlei: one of Gunsite's most famous outdoor simulators and our next scenario. It simulates both hunting and military patrolling environments. Targets will be encountered at ranges from 25 to 300 yards. The student is expected to locate and engage the target as quickly as possible from the firing position

target is engaged at distances ranging from 89 to 109 yards. This is a timed exercise. Starting from the standing position, the shooter moves as quickly as possible to kneeling, then a window scenario, sitting, prone, a hide hole and finally from a tree. We all ran this twice.



Mounted on the M16A2 upper receiver's carrying handle, this U.S. Optic Technologies scope's optical axis sits 4.25 inches above the bore. When firing head shots at 25 yards and under, in order for the bullet to impact in the brain cavity you must aim over the top of the target. Without a precise aiming point, hit probability is diminished by a considerable margin. Furthermore, when firing from the prone, a scope mounted this high requires the shooter to lift his upper torso off the ground to acquire the reticle. This eliminates the stability usually associated with the prone position.

most appropriate for the distance to the target and the cover available to the shooter. A center hit will cause a circular, spring-loaded steel gong to momentarily swing backward. The targets, especially those at 200 yards and beyond, are difficult to locate in the rolling hills — covered with scrub oak and juniper — on each side of the arroyo through which you walk. This is a challenging exercise that tests both marksmanship and alertness. My only criticism was that, because of the time constraints imposed upon us, I was forced to walk through the Vlei at a faster pace than would be prudent in a real, tactical environment.

The infamous and exhausting Scrambler was next. There are seven firing positions from which the same reactive steel

given a demonstration of night vision devices and tested flash hidiers. In the latter instance, the Vortex demonstrated its clear superiority over every other muzzle attachment.



The gap in back of the hinge that permits the bottom of the M16's trigger to be rotated down for winter firing with gloves can pinch the second finger of the firing hand. A temporary fix is to insert a foam ear plug into the gap.



The C-More sight's red dot is projected onto a single lens by a small LED projector in the base. If and when the small opening from which the beam of light projects clogs with mud, the red dot is gone and the sight becomes useless. Furthermore the lens, although protected by a sturdy steel ring, sits above the sight's body and would all too easily be damaged in the harsh environment of the battlefield.

Moving back to the rifle range we fired the "rifle bounce" from 200 yards starting with offhand

and then kneeling, sitting and prone. This also is a timed exercise. Back at the square range we fired offhand at moving targets from 5, 15, 25 and 50 yards. That night we fired "hammers" from 3 yards, then at side-illuminated moving targets from 15 yards and both front- and back-lit reactive steel targets at 100 yards from the prone position. We were also

The fifth day we fired at reactive steel at 200 yards, going from a standing ready position to the prone and firing with a time limit of 15 seconds. This exercise was the basis for the class shoot-off on Saturday. Then it was back to the square range for practice with the roll-over prone position, both strong and support sides, from 50 yards.

While everyone was being cycled through the Fun House, where coach Brian Worthan had prepared some unpleasant surprises, the students fired a version of the famous "El Presidente." Three targets are engaged at 25 yards in this timed exercise with two torso hits placed in each, followed by a magazine change and then two more shots in each target. At the same time, other students were run through a "Dozier" drill in which five Pepper Poppers were engaged with frangible ammunition.

Anyone who signs up for Gunsite's Tactical Carbine course can expect to be pushed to the very limits of his physical and mental endurance. I wouldn't have it any other way. It is a fact that you will fight in the manner in which you have trained. In Gunsite's #223 Tactical Carbine course you will train to solve deadly confrontations in the real world. See you in #556 Advanced Tactical Carbine. ✕

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Continued from page 45

The next version is the AR-10A4, which is basically similar to the AR-10A2 except that it has a flat-top receiver with a Picatinny-rail mounting surface for attaching optical or other special sights. It will take many of the Weaver rings. ArmaLite is initiating production of rings for that base in both 1-inch and 30mm diameter, as well as a telescopic sight for the rifle. The standard AR-10A4 will have a standard front sight just like the AR-10A2, on a forged sight base very similar to the one found on the M16. ArmaLite will offer as an option on that rifle a front-sight base that has a short segment of Picatinny rail mounted to it, which will allow a shooter using a scope sight to easily get the front sight out of the way, and also offers a base for laser or other sighting devices.

The third model is the AR-10T (target). This is similar to the Eagle Arms .223 "Action Master" in that it has a tubular handguard that sur-

rounds the barrel but doesn't touch it. The barrel is a custom heavy barrel, made with 5R rifling by Mike Rock. This model is intended for competition in bullseye matches such as at Camp Perry. The AR-10T comes standard with a two-stage match trigger. Westrom says he expects that rifle to shoot 3/4 MOA using the M852 special match cartridge or the Federal .308M.

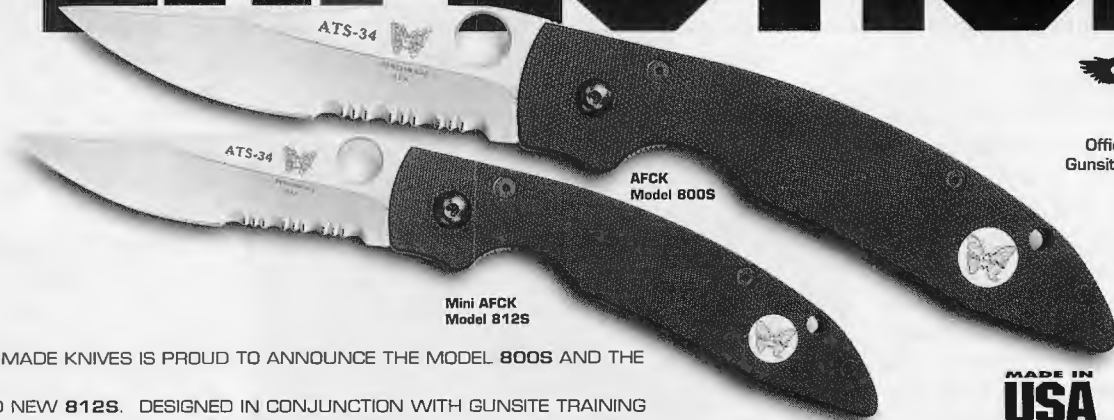
When we test-fired the AR-10 prototype at the SOF T&E center and annual hunting camp in western Colorado, the first thing everyone noticed was the lack of recoil. The AR-10 digested a variety of .308 ammunition without malfunction: Tolerance for variations in ammunition was a major selling point when the original AR-10 was being promoted three decades ago to Third World countries that made their own ammunition. Shooting Lake City M118 at 100 paces, one of the shooters fired a three-shot group measuring 3/4 of an inch, edge-to-edge.

While ArmaLite builds the AR-10T it also is revamping the .223 target model, the Eagle Arms "Eagle

Eye." ArmaLite will be putting nearly identical handguards and a nearly identical-weight barrel on the .223 rifle so that they can offer "brother" rifles for the .308 competitor who wants to switch to a .223 rifle with minimal adjustment. Westrom says his goal is to dominate both the Service Rifle and the conventional side of competitive rifle shooting.

ArmaLite also intends to produce a model of the AR-10 that is very similar to the originals. That rifle, the AR-10B, will include the original inverted-trigger shaped charging knob inside the carrying handle on the top of the receiver, rather than the T-shaped charging handle at the rear of an AR-15 or M16. The nostalgia model AR-10 has been designed especially for the ArmaLite collector with handguards made of fiberglass in the proper configuration, and there will be a "window" at the back of the upper receiver as on the original. There is no Mission Essential Need Statement covering this rifle, other than to supply collectors who are interested in a nearly original configuration. It will be made with a very

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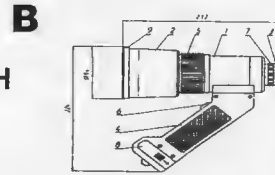


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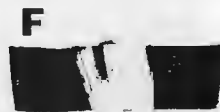
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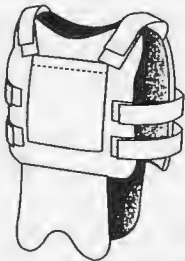
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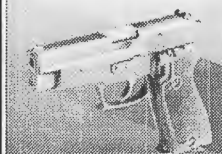
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light barrel and sights similar to the originals.

Westrom said the new AR-10 models "are based very directly on the M16A2 receiver. Both the upper and lower receiver are forged. We have only one competitor in the market and they use an extruded upper receiver. Theirs just doesn't look like an M16 upper receiver. We are forging ours so that it allows us to have a case deflector built on. It also looks a lot more like the original AR-10 receiver. The Gunsmith kit, which will be available to nationally recognized gunsmiths, will include all of the AR-10 parts except for the barrel tube, so that if they want to make up this rifle in 7.62 Mosin Aardvark, they can do that. They will have a complete kit; they can attach their own barrel tube to it."

All of the new ArmaLite rifles use either a 10-round, M-14 based box magazine supplied with the rifle or 20-round M14 magazines modified by ArmaLite to fit the AR-10. Westrom says that because of the Assault Weapons Ban his firm can build only 10-round magazines. ArmaLite can, however, replace the follower and do three machining operations to fit the M14 magazine for use with the AR-10, at a cost of \$20 per magazine. The M14 magazine is a better magazine than the AR-10 magazine, and there are at least a couple of million M14 magazines on the market.

The AR-10A2 and the AR-10A4 will retail in the \$1,350 range. The target model at this point is listed at retail of \$1,990 but that is likely to go up.

The release of the first AR-10T is scheduled as we go to press, with production at the rate of 100 per week. The AR-10A4 is scheduled for similar production rates. The AR-10A2 and the AR-10B will require another five months or so to bring to market and should be available by June 1996. For further information and updates on availability of particular models, contact ArmaLite, Inc., Dept SOF, P.O. Box 486, Coal Valley, IL 61240; phone: 309-799-5767; fax: 309-799-5150.

Frequent contributor John Hogan is a Vietnam vet with recent experience in Bosnia and Croatia. He interviewed Mark Westrom at SOF's annual hunt. ✕

Professional Locksmithing Tools

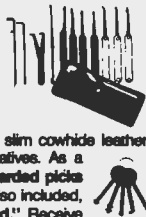
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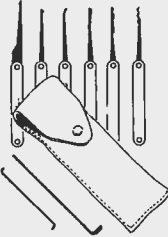
This deluxe yet compact kit features 11 of the most commonly used tools. Comes in a slim cowhide leather case for discreet undercover operatives. As a special bonus, a 5 piece set of warded picks is included. A 16 piece set total. Also included, a copy of "Lockpicking Simplified." Receive all this at a low price of:



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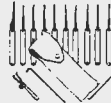
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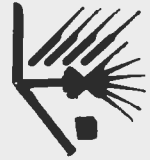
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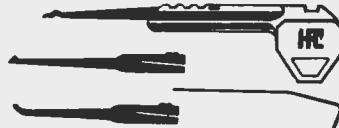
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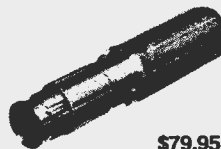
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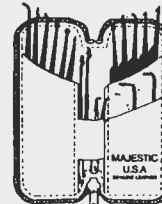


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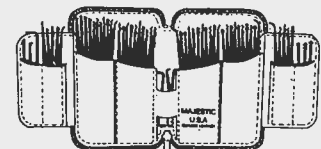
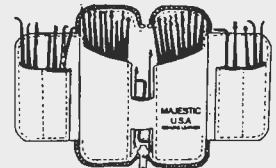


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TERROR IN TOKYO

Continued from page 57

time and banned by all international laws, although their labs concentrated on infectious diseases like anthrax, botulism, typhoid, forms of meningitis, pneumonia, smallpox and the black plague.

Decades later, Aum Shinri Kyo's scientists apparently built on that experience and used some of the same poisons. According to investigators, the cult used an unspecified number of its disobedient members as guinea pigs in tests of various agents, then disposed of the bodies by desiccating them in a large, laboratory microwave oven and then crushing the bones into powder in rock-crushing machines.

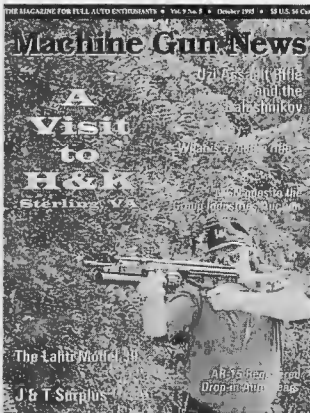
In their Tokyo laboratories the Aum cult employed chemists and biologists trained at the best Japanese universities. Working in facilities judged superior to those in the best universities, the cult's researchers duplicated some of those same infectious diseases used in WWII. Some of the latest knowledge regarding the functions of the human body were acquired by down-loading large amounts of public-sector information available on the Internet. During their shopping in the United States, cult members sought specialized DNA-bioengineering software that could be used in processes to alter diseases to make them incurable. One company managed to get its computer programs returned before they were exported to Japan, but whether the Aum members actually obtained the software in America or elsewhere apparently is unknown.

The United States is not the only place where bioengineering data is available. Science in the former Soviet Union also is advanced enough to have such software, and in the wake of the fall of communism almost everything is for sale in Russia and the newly independent republics.

The Russian Connection

The Aum cult has been in Russia since 1991. It now has some 40,000 members operating out of 18 branches. Membership includes some who are serving members of the Russian government. That fact, plus the openness of the marketplace, al-

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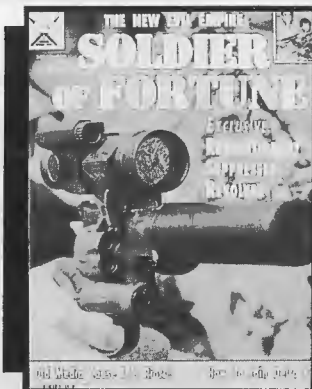
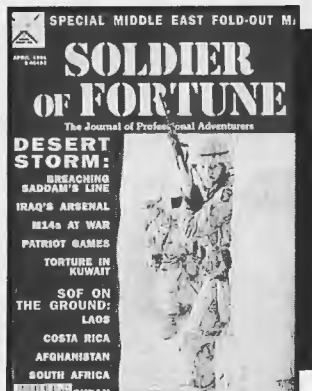
#182 December 1992: **DRUG WAR** — U.S. Customs fighting a losing battle; **DOMESTIC AFFAIRS** — Police training for riots inadequate; **COMBAT REPORTS** — Continued coverage from Bosnia-Herzegovina; **WEAPONS** — Two 9mm South African service pistols.

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#185 March 1993: **DRUG WAR** — Sting operation in San Diego. **DOMESTIC AFFAIRS** — Randy Weaver's standoff in Idaho; **CONVENTION** — 13th annual expo in Las Vegas; **WEAPONS** — Fabrique Nationale's P90 bullpup.

#186 April 1993: **SOMALIA** — Operation Restore Hope brings some order to chaos; **ELITE UNITS** — *SOF* helps out the King Tomislav Brigade against Serbian aggression; **DOMESTIC AFFAIRS** — Allowing gays in the military poses an administrative nightmare; **WEAPONS** — Sturm, Ruger and Co.'s KP90DC .45.



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lowed the Aum access to whatever it desired.

In addition to an assortment of machine guns, rocket launchers of undisclosed nomenclature and blueprints for the manufacture of Kalashnikov-system rifles, the Aum leadership purchased two helicopters: an Mi-24 "Hind" and an Mi-14 "Hip," the latter equipped with agricultural-spraying booms. The spraying capability is significant in that the cult's weakest area is in its ability to disseminate the CBW agents efficiently. Low-altitude spraying is the most effective method of spreading most CBW agents. Several cult members received pilot training from the Russian air force at \$15,000 per flyer.

While it is known that cult members openly occupied a few high-level positions in the Japanese government, less is known about how high Aum cult members were in the Russian government. Apparently the cult was well enough connected to command the attention of some of the higher-profile personalities in the Russian government. Aum leaders met fairly routinely with Russian military leaders over a period of several years; U.S. Senate investigators found that ranking cult members met on several occasions with members of the Russian government's Security Council including its chief, Secretary Oleg Lobov. The cult's representatives reportedly also met with militant politician Alexander Rustoi. And there, the trail takes an even more disturbing turn: Rustoi has a penchant for engaging in intrigues that will expand his political base — and often has been mentioned in connection with the "Russian Mafia."

Organized crime in Russian — a curious mix of the muscle of the criminal element with the connections and sophistication of former KGB officers — has been trafficking in the military goods and strategic materials being moved onto world markets. Although American investigators seemed surprised, pieces of Soviet battle hardware including fully appointed MiGs and main battle tanks routinely are advertised for sale in places like Moscow, Prague and Sofia. According to U.S. Senate testimony, in addition to various pieces of military hardware the Aum cult is known to have acquired — perhaps directly from Russian military sources — an

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undetermined quantity of poisonous gases and what was characterized as a small amount of botulism toxin. In addition to botulism, the cult also acquired anthrax spores, possibly from Russia. After signing a treaty with the Soviet Union, the United States destroyed its entire biowarfare stockpile in 1969-72. The Soviet Union, however, did *not* destroy its biowarfare stockpiles. Right now, some of the world's deadliest diseases are encased in dubious storage in Russia and other former Soviet republics.

The U.S. military had three biowarfare facilities: one for research at Fort Detrick, Maryland; one for manufacturing at Pine Bluff, Arkansas; and a third for testing at Dugway, Utah. With only three facilities it was easy to track American compliance with the anti-biowarfare treaty. But the Soviet Union, to avoid that accountability, spread its biowarfare capability throughout 60 or more sites around the country. As a result of that Cold War consideration, security of the former Soviet Union's biowarfare assets nowadays is a nightmare.

"Whiskey And A Crowbar"

According to American security experts who recently toured some of the former Soviet Union's biowarfare facilities, the storage areas are lightly guarded and held closed by hardware store-variety padlocks. One government expert was of the opinion that, at the present time, all that would be needed to gain access to the largest quantity of the deadliest germs on the planet is "a bottle of whiskey to bribe a guard and a crowbar."

Present stockpiles contain 40,000 metric tons of CBW agents. Most of those stockpiles are Sarin and VX, the nerve agents favored by the Soviets; some 6-8,000 metric tons, however, fall in the category of other agents and toxins.

These toxins, even in minute quantities, are particularly powerful. Anthrax, a toxin that the Aum cult is known to have, accidentally escaped from a Soviet biowarfare institute in 1979. Only a few milligrams of anthrax spores created a massive outbreak of the disease in the sparsely populated Ural mountains. Casualties were reported as heavy in recently declassified Soviet documents.

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Anthrax is considered by experts to be an ideal biowarfare agent: It can survive for long periods of time in the soil (a British island contaminated during experiments in *World War I* still is dangerous) and after infection it multiplies rapidly in the victim's body while secreting deadly toxins.

The Aum cult members concentrated on anthrax in their state-of-the-art laboratory. They also had access to ex-Soviet government biotoxins and information about them through members of the Russian government. One of the contacts was the former director of a main biowarfare institute, who now is under investigation for selling unspecified material to the cult.

The cult reportedly still has stockpiles of poisonous gases apparently acquired from Russia. Quantities of both Sarin and VX nerve agents have been mentioned as being in this stockpile, but little information is available about the disposition of other toxins and gases that the cult may have had in its possession. The cult's principal lab in Japan still is unex-

plored for fear of opening some door that might turn loose some incurable, designer form of disease unknown on the planet.

Nebraska Winds

A chemical-warfare expert testified in November at the Senate hearings that, by an accident of nature, the winds sweeping across the farm fields of central Nebraska eventually circulate through most of the United States. If the Aum cult managed to release a large enough quantity of anthrax spores into those winds at a time when the weather was just right, the expert said, the death toll in this country might be equivalent to that of a limited nuclear war.

According to the FBI's counterterrorism chief, only one incident of biowarfare terrorism has occurred in the United States: Salmonella bacteria was put into some soup in a restaurant in a small town in Oregon in an attempt to influence a local election. But that record is not comforting.

Japanese authorities have Asahara and several hundred cult members in

custody, but thousands still are at large — including an undetermined number in the United States. The FBI reportedly has a few cult members under surveillance as of this writing, although government sources say that a dispute exists among federal agencies regarding the actual number of cult members in this country. Japanese newspapers have quoted members of the cult as saying they planned attacks on some American cities, including Washington, D.C., and New York City, and note that cult members might have investigated the ventilation patterns of some American subway systems.

Emergency-response teams in Tokyo were overwhelmed by the subway gas attacks — as ours would be if the cult decided to do something similar here. In the past, CBW was viewed as a military problem.

Although the U.S. government officially denies unconfirmed reports indicating that the nation's capital already has been scouted by Aum members, the Clinton administration has decided that the city of Washington, D.C., and its suburbs should

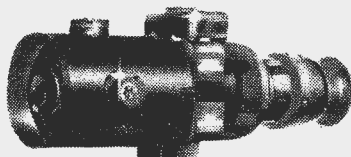
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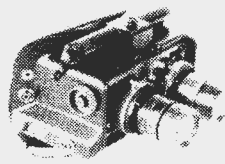
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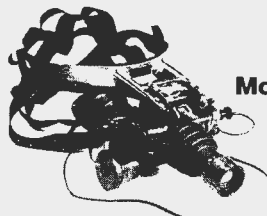
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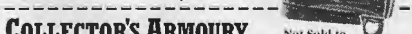
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It would be organized along the same lines as the current federal national disaster team administered by the U.S. Public Health Service. As many as 30 specially trained medical people would provide assistance to police and fire units in the Washington, D.C., area.

The federal government is spending \$220,000 to pay for immediate costs associated with establishing the Washington team, and reportedly will attempt to fund similar efforts in other cities that follow the model of Washington, D.C.

"No Longer Science Fiction"

Dr. Frank Young, who heads the U.S. Public Health Service's Office of Emergency Preparedness, testified at the Senate hearings. He said the experiences of the Oklahoma City bomb and especially the Tokyo subway incidents call for the reinvention of the nation's Civil Defense system. Young said the capabilities and intentions of modern terrorists require an approach to civil defense similar to that of wartime.

The Department of Defense currently is training and equipping a U.S. Marine unit specifically for military tasks in a CBW environment, and that unit would work with civil authorities.

Senior Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia, whose staff investigated the cult-terrorism threat for six months, said: "The scenario of a terrorist group obtaining or manufacturing and using a weapon of mass destruction is no longer the stuff of science fiction or the adventure movies. It is a reality which has already come to pass and one which if we do not take the appropriate measures, will increasingly threaten us in the future."

CBW expert Olson testified grimly: "We must confront the sobering truth. We do not presently have the capability in place to defend our cities against clandestine attack involving chemical and biological weapons. In the case of biological weapon, it would be unlikely we would even know we had been attacked until people began to fall."

And if all of that isn't bad enough, there's this: During trips to Africa,

Aum cult members sought specimens of the AIDS virus and the deadly and apparently incurable Ebola virus. No one really knows if they acquired what they were after or not.

First-time contributor T.E.M. Gray is a Washington-based correspondent.

FIRESTORM 2005

Continued from page 38

"But it is likely making India very nervous, in that China may challenge India's attempt at being a regional power."

Taken in concert, all the Chinese posturings are indeed ominous. But do they necessarily translate into action? Will a Chinese Woodrow Wilson step forward to make the world safe for Confucianism?

Even before the recent military buildup, China has not been averse to aggressive action. In 1950, in the course of the Chinese Civil War, communist troops making their conquering sweep merely expanded their march and annexed Tibet. China has since hung onto its reluctant captive through authoritarian and violent means, penetrating Tibetan society with a widespread intelligence network and forced informants.

In 1979, in the wake of escalating border skirmishes with Vietnam, China dispatched some 300,000 troops, ostensibly to teach the upstart neighbors a lesson. China had not, however, anticipated the ferocity with which Vietnam would fight back, nor the skill with which Vietnamese troops would use their sophisticated Soviet-supplied weaponry. In one month alone, Vietnam felled about 20,000 Chinese. The hostilities lasted only two months. The present situation is, of course, far different. Now China has a good measure of sophisticated weaponry in its own right, and is far more capable of asserting itself.

In terms of Taiwan, in particular, China has motive to act. Beijing has not been pleased with Taiwan's increasingly restless longings for independence. As stated emphatically by Li in his National-Day speech, China considers the island "an inalienable part of China's sacred territory," and will not allow Taiwan to permanently break away from the mainland.

Any conflict between the PRC and Taiwan would almost certainly involve the United States. "If we went to war with China, it would be over something that would affect U.S. interests, and Taiwan would fall into that category," Eftimiades says. "Taiwan is our sixth-largest trading partner, and we have to ask, can we afford to lose that?"

It is, of course, entirely possible that threats from the Chinese leadership are little more than bombast. "What seems by the Chinese to be an awful lot of hostility may be the need of the aging leadership to maintain control," says David Whipple, director of the Association of Former Intelligence Officers and a 35-year veteran of the CIA's Operations Directorate.

But, cautions Eftimiades, "People have said, China doesn't think it's threatening anyone. The argument is, give China time. Well, China has been pretty aggressive. The world doesn't have time to wait."

As one American four-star general was heard to say in Washington in late September, the United States would do well to examine China very closely. "Our hearts may be in Europe, but the future of this country is in Asia," he said.

Frequent contributor Susan Katz Keating is a Washington-based journalist specializing in military and intelligence matters. She is a U.S. Army veteran. ✕

WITCH-HUNT

Continued from page 50

servation that his transfer to Cuba was punishment for writing a letter to the underground publication.

"We had a reserve unit participating in some stuff at 'Gitmo' and there was a requirement for a Special Forces NCO with his MOS," or military occupational specialty, Rambo told me. Hall "happened to be the right guy for the job. He got conflicting information when he got down to Cuba and he went AWOL. And he was punished when he got back."

Rambo also denied that he had — or had ever told anyone he had — a list of soldiers believed to be tied to *The Resister*. "I sure wish I had one," Rambo said, adding that there is no

command policy on writing letters to the editor of any publication. "Being associated with [*The Resister*] ... is not a crime."

However, the command sergeant major added, "if there is something that is indicative of having an adverse impact on the good order and discipline of the troops, then it would be an administrative matter." Rambo said he believes *The Resister* is "contrary to good order and discipline" because "it fosters an atmosphere contrary to good order and discipline. It's obvious, or should be. You sound like an intelligent young man. ..."

Maybe it dawned on Rambo that he was in violation of an order to refer all press calls to the Public Affairs Office, but suddenly Rambo, after denying retribution against others, began threatening *me*. He told me I would be unable to use any of his comments because he had not given his permission. I reminded Command Sgt. Maj. Rambo that I had identified myself by name, identified the publication I was writing for, told him the subject of the article and told him I was calling for his response to allegations pertaining to him. I advised him that he gave implied consent by voluntarily answering questions, instead of declining comment and referring me to Lt. Col. McGraw's PAO office.

The sergeant major was pissed. "I forbid you from using any comments from this conversation," he bellowed. "I'm telling you that if you use any of our conversation, I will take action against you."

Oh well, I hear Cuba's nice this time of year...

SOF's Washington-based National Affairs Correspondent James L. Pate was a story consultant to CBS' 60 Minutes for *The Resister* segment. He also worked this summer as a story consultant for ABC News on Capitol Hill. He is a recipient of the 1994 Mencken Award for his investigation into government culpability in the Waco raid. ✕

PARTING SHOT

Continued from page 98

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me, once the personal copy of North Vietnamese General Vo Nguyen Giap, is a study of the war by Hanoi's Institute of Military History. It says the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam was founded in December 1960, after infiltration into the South had begun, to implement an earlier decision of the Vietnam Communist Party, taken at its Third Party Congress.

All of this should come as news to leaders of the anti-war movement. Journalist I.F. Stone, who took delight in questioning the 1965 White Paper, said the American government was "delusional" in pointing to Hanoi's support for the war in South Vietnam.

Historian Howard Zinn wrote in 1967: "The government has yet to prove its contention that North Vietnam is fundamentally responsible for what appears to be a revolution in the South against an unpopular regime, fighting for several years with local people and local weapons and only beginning to get aid from the North after the United

States entered the war in force. On this question, the weight of evidence by scholars and observers is overwhelming."

These anti-war protesters were especially scathing in their denunciations of the 1965 White Paper, which has now been proved accurate. Prof. Zinn said the document could not stand up under examination: "The White Paper claimed 19,550 infiltrates from 1959 to 1964, but it could only actually cite 23 infiltrates." In 1970 the self-appointed committee of Concerned Asian Scholars wrote that the White Paper "stands truth on its head." It denied that North Vietnam was a militantly aggressive nation that must be prevented by force from gobbling up its neighbors, adding for good measure that "communism has generally proved itself dynamic and viable in developing nations."

Nobody wants to reopen old wounds, but perhaps it is time for a new round of congressional hearings on the Vietnam War to analyze why the anti-war movement

was so intellectually bankrupt when government policy, in contrast, rested on sound factual foundations. Or, at the very least, it would be nice if some of the anti-war leaders who are still around would admit they were wrong. ✕

COUNTING COUPS

Continued from page 61

white mercenaries seized the prison and met with no resistance. Thirty or so prisoners, including Captain Combo Ayouba (a former officer of the Presidential Guard and Denard's right-hand man), were set free. A little later President Said Djohar and his wife were captured and taken to Kandani. The president's wife was quickly set free.

As a result of taking the Kandani camp, the mercenaries now had significantly more armament, ammunition and 4x4 vehicles, and could now deploy with Comoran soldiers to command the other strategic points on the island. Except for the occasional short burst of fire, everything

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went "like a piece of cake."

Denard had not really surprised the Comorans. One Comoran politician stated that everyone, at least in the Comoro Islands, had been expecting a mercenary invasion. After having warned Paris, however, no one gave the matter further attention. Only one loyalist captain on radio watch was wounded Thursday afternoon. Major Marques, a former member of the Presidential Guard, personally saw to it that the captain was evacuated to the island of Reunion for treatment. After radio contact, the local gendarmerie decided to remain neutral: They didn't have much choice, as they had no ammunition. "That was easy," said Denard.

Staving A Reaction From Paris

Beginning on Thursday, 28 September, after having condemned the invasion, France alerted her forces in the Indian Ocean and, under the guise of an economic embargo, cut off all bilateral cooperation, which included military and other aid that amounts to 60% of the Comoran budget.

The same day from Bordeaux, Prime Minister Alain Juppe somewhat prematurely declared "there is no question of military intervention" in the Comoros. In Paris, the tone was quite different in the Elysee (equivalent of the White House) and the Ministry of Defense: Spokesmen were saying, "Nothing is excluded; this affects the credibility of France." France is tied to the Comoros by defense agreements that provide for intervention by French troops in the event of "foreign aggression." This was an obligation that the Comoran prime minister repeatedly brought up — by telephone and on French radio and television, from the French embassy in Moroni, where he had taken refuge. Paris was somewhat embarrassed by this request from a country that had seen 17 attempted coups since gaining its independence.

Although the signals from Paris continued to be ambiguous, during the evening of the 29th President Chirac directed Minister of Defense Charles Milion and Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Douin to prepare for an intervention in the

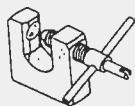
Comoros. The DRM (*Direction du Renseignement Militaire* — Directorate of Military Intelligence, equivalent to the DIA) got out their intelligence files on the Comoros (strategic points, landing beaches, helicopter landing zones, state of opposing forces), while COS headquarters at Taverny alerted the units capable of taking part in the operation. The Elysee gave the green light on Tuesday, 3 October.

Meanwhile, at Moroni, in the name of a "military transition committee" Captain Combo Ayouba announced the formation of a civilian government. Combo Ayouba had gone to jump school in South Africa in 1984 and been a member of Denard's earlier Presidential Guard. With his assistant, Lieutenant Said Mohammed Lava, Captain Combo now had his moment of glory. He had tried once before, in September 1992, to overthrow President Djohar.

On Friday afternoon, some 500 people assembled in front of the Radio Comoro building, mustered by two of the opposition parties to support the coup. At this point Denard's

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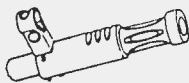
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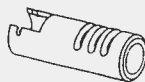


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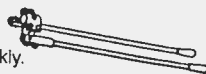
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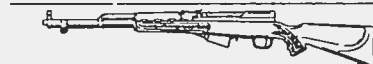
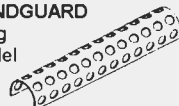
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people seemed to have completely overwhelmed any opposition, but the old mercenary knew that a rapid return to civilian government and overall "normalcy" would be one way to prevent French military intervention from turning his coup into a putsch.

The morning of Saturday, 30 September, the Moroni airport was reopened and life in the capital went back to normal. Bob Denard and his mercenaries appeared in control of the situation.

At the same time, however, a total of some 4,000 French forces, stationed at Djibouti and on the islands of Reunion and Mayotte, were put on red alert. (Mayotte is the only island of the Comoran archipelago that decided in 1975 to remain French). At Dzaoudi on Mayotte, the 260 legionnaires of the DLEM (*Detachment de la Legion etrangere de Mayotte*) — Foreign Legion Detachment of Mayotte) consisting of two companies, went on reinforced alert. The patrol ship *La Boudeuse* (454 tons, 24.5 knots) was soon underway for Moroni, with elements of the French special-operations forces on board.

Sunday evening, 1 October, several Transall and C-130 Hercules aircraft discretely took off from various French bases with special units of COS, GIGN (*Groupe d'Intervention de la Gendarmerie Nationale* — the Gendarmarie's anti-terrorist force), DRM and even DGSE. Their mission: "To be 'on-site' as rapidly as possible in the Indian Ocean." In Paris, informed observers noted that the French don't send out this type of unit, especially the GIGN (who were already fully committed to an existing domestic anti-terrorist crisis) unless there had been a decision at the highest political level. At sea, and from their bases at Djibouti and Reunion, ships of the French Navy were ordered to proceed to Comoran waters.

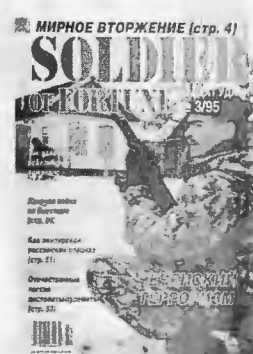
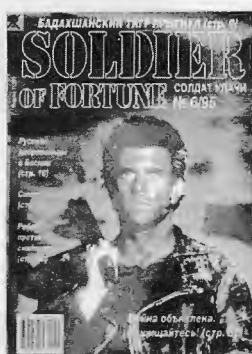
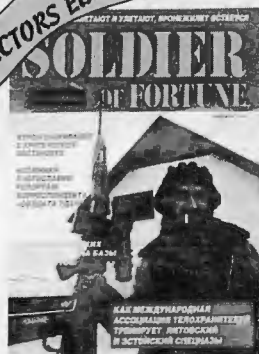
At the Kandani camp on Monday, 2 October, dozens of unemployed young men showed up, seeking enlistment in the new Presidential Guard. Denard, however, was giving priority to enlisting former members of the "old" Presidential Guard, men he had earlier trained for more than 10 years.

On Tuesday, 3 October, French warships — the frigate *Floreal* (2,950 tons, 20 knots) and Patrol Ships *La Rieuse* and *La Boudeuse* (454 tons, 24.5 knots) — were underway. Some 200 men of COS and the DRM had already assembled at Mayotte. Officially, this force was there to protect French nationals and dual nationals who might be endangered. In fact, however, they were now awaiting orders from Paris to take action.

In Moroni, the tension rapidly increased as all indications were that the French were going to intervene. Strong points armed with heavy machine guns were established at strategic positions on the island, especially the airports and even at the Iconi airport at Moroni, which was not presently being used as such. The Iconi terminal is about 100 meters from the French embassy (as the mercenaries rightly judged, this was to be the first point occupied by the French commandos). The defenses at the Hahaya International Airport, 25 kilometers north of the capital, were reinforced. Mercenary-led Comoran soldiers patrolled the beaches.



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On the morning of 4 October the French foreign ministry issued a communique that said, "Today at dawn France launched a military operation in the Comoros at the request of the prime minister of that country, pursuant to the Franco-Comoran defense agreement." Operation Azalea, commanded by General Jean-Paul Delenbach, involved nearly a thousand men, with 600 on land. These comprised mostly units permanently stationed at Djibouti, Reunion and Mayotte: one company of the RIAOM (*Regiment d'Infanterie d'Outre Mer* — Overseas Infantry Regiment), two companies of the 2d RPIMA (*Regiment Parachutiste d'Infanterie de la Marine*), one company of the DLEM at Mayotte, and elements of the 2d RAMA (*Regiment d'Artillerie de la Marine*), reinforced by elements of COS and the DRM. Air support included fixed-wing Transall transports, plus Puma helicopters based at Mayotte and belonging to COS's own squadron.

The French Assault

Operation Azalea began about

0200: After a beach reconnaissance by frogmen of the naval Commando Jaubert, a half-dozen Zodiacs left the frigate *Floreal* to land Marine commandos and COS elements on the beach next to the disused Iconi airport. There were about 30 men from Commando Jaubert, the 1st RPIMA and the 13th RDP (*Regiment de Dragons Parachutistes* — Airborne Dragoon Regiment, a specialized long-range reconnaissance unit). Their mission was to secure the Iconi airstrip for the landing of two Puma helicopter loads of GIGN as close to the French embassy as possible.

There were a few bursts from the heavy machine guns of the coup troops, sirens, then silence broken only by occasional suppressive fire from COS elements. A few curious locals came out of the mosques to see the show, but they saw nothing of the French special-operations forces. Equipped with night-vision equipment, the French commandos reconnoitered all the houses around the French embassy and the abandoned airstrip, then advanced slowly into the capital. In the course of their ad-


vance some 20 Comoran soldiers were captured.


At 0430, Puma helicopters landed at the newly secured airport, as other COS elements continued a sweep around the Iconi airport without meeting any resistance. Badly armed and under-motivated, the Comoran soldiers whom they met surrendered forthwith.

During the attack a Puma fired up the mercenaries' ship *Vulcain*, moored in Moroni harbor. A bit later a Zodiac load of Marine commandos boarded and seized the ship without resistance from the crew, who were not part of Denard's mercenary team.


To the north of the capital, French special-operations forces landed simultaneously: Naval commandos of Commando Jaubert, lead by Lieutenant Commander Pelegrin, seized the Hahaya airport, then began to move out toward Kandani camp. At the same time, four Transall fixed-wing transports from Reunion, fully loaded with soldiers of the 5th RIAOM, gunners of the 2d RAMA, the "red berets" of the 2d RPIMA, and COS elements, made an assault landing.

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Small groups of French soldiers with light weapons moved across the tarmac to their positions.

The 30 or so Comorans guarding the airport were now prisoners lying on the floor of the waiting room, their weapons stacked on a baggage cart, awaiting interrogation by the MP's who landed with the rest of the troops. An surprise order was issued to collect all available vehicles and move the troops to Moroni. In a scene that would not be believable in fiction, an odd procession of commandeered vehicles left Hahaya airport festooned with French troops headed toward the capital.

"JE NE REGRETTE RIEN..."
(I regret nothing...)

For the mercenaries and particularly for the "king of fortune" the die had been cast when the French landed, even though Denard had immediately declared, "It's going well, quietly and without a hitch."

By the end of the morning, Denard's men controlled the approaches to the camp and had set up barricades, but the French forces were

less than 4 kilometers away. When Denard freed President Djohar the night before, Denard must have seen he would have nothing to bargain with and that he would have to accept the demands of the French headquarters. In the early afternoon, the merc force destroyed their weapons and burned their papers in the courtyard of the camp.

Just before 1500 hours General Dellenbach, commander of Operation Azalea, arrived to congratulate Lieutenant Colonel Soum, CO of the 2d RPIMA, under whose command the action here had taken place. Looking pale, Denard spoke for the last time to his men: "We will leave the camp. I shall go first, with my two assistants, then the rest follow in groups of six." Denard had negotiated the orderly surrender with Colonel Jean-Luc Kister, head of the French military cooperation mission in the Comoros.

He then spoke for the last time to reporters: "I came first of all to free those to whom I had given my word, and also to help a political authority to reestablish order in this country.

But I must submit to superior force."

Then Denard, followed by his two lieutenants, "Fix" and "Morin," walked to the gate of the camp. Comorans followed, and finally the mercenary force, to be loaded into waiting vehicles. They were surrounded by an impressive deployment of special-operations forces who had emplaced machine guns and rocket launchers. In the vehicles, the mercenaries sang the famous Edith Piaf song: "*Non! rien de rien, non! je ne regrette rien.*" (No! nothing of nothing, no! I regret nothing!)

After being quickly searched by members of the GIGN, Bob Denard was taken away in a car to the Moroni-Iconi airport, and from there by Puma helicopter to Mayotte island. On Saturday, 5 October, he arrived by Transall at the Villacoublay Air Force Base, from where he was escorted by gendarmes to the Palais de Justice in Paris, and from there to the Sante prison.

On Bob Denard's desk in Moroni still lay a great leather-bound volume, the *Book [Log] of the Comoran Armed Forces*. The last entry, written

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in bold letters across the last page, read *To the next time!*

Jean-Charles Socoa is a Paris-based combat journalist.

COUP SPONSORS

Continued from page 61

unlikely French intelligence services were unaware of mercenary recruitment, especially in view of Denard's trips out of France with his lieutenants Malacrino and Guerrier, as all were under court order in connection with the assassination of former Comoran President Ahmed Abdallah.

Further, what would explain the "passivity" of the 20 Frenchmen, including three DGSE officers who were the cadre of the Presidential Guard? This will remain moot, because the trail collapses with the French intervention, but several of these officers were seen in civvies interrogating captured mercenaries to obtain details of Denard's organization.

From this one could infer that Denard had not "knocked on the right door" to cover his project, as he did in the past. It is also possible that since the French government was aware of several other actions aimed at the Comoros, none of which came to anything, it may have given scant credence to information they received about Denard's activities.

The next theory suggests the French government wanted, at whatever cost, to be rid of President Djohar. So they let the mercenaries do the dirty work, then intervened to repair their own reputation — a theory supported by President Djohar not being returned to power. But this assumption may be unduly Machiavellian: Why sanction a mercenary operation followed by a very expensive operation with more than a thousand soldiers just to remove an 80-year-old president of a microscopic state, three-fourths of whose budget comes from French aid? Of course, Operation Azalea was a worthwhile training test for COS and its subordinate and attached units, but nowhere worth the price.

The last, perhaps most credible, theory is that one or more private groups were silent partners. Denard maintains that he launched the operation alone, with neither political commitment regarding the Comoros nor external sponsors. But

the cost of this operation seems to exclude the "king of fortune" doing it alone. One possibility is an operation funded by two sons of the late President Abdallah, Denard thus paying a "debt" to this very rich family. There is also talk of European financiers with a chain of casinos or gambling halls in Africa; such a group could have financed Bob Denard's operation to get a free zone in Africa.

Whatever the genuine history, only a handful of men, clearly including Bob Denard, know the real sponsor of, and reason for, this operation.

J.-C. S. ✕

FULL AUTO

Continued from page 15

belt-fed machine guns, with the notable exception of the Browning series, fire from the open-bolt position to prevent "cook-offs" after sustained support fire. This is not conducive to pinpoint accuracy, especially at longer ranges, as the bolt group flies forward to jolt the entire weapon at the very moment of ignition (however stable the weapon's mount may be).

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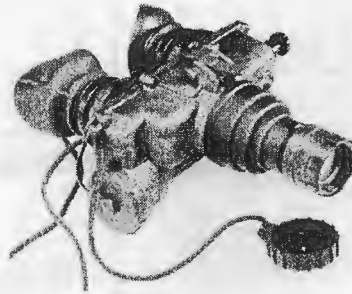
Furthermore, mounting a scope on the top cover of a machine gun is, most decidedly, not the most rigid location possible. To me, it almost seems an afterthought. Attachment directly to the gun's receiver would provide a more secure platform for any optical equipment, including night-vision devices.

Adding a scope to machine guns only furthers the Fantasy Island illusion that they can be turned into some kind of sharpshooter's surgical instrument. To the extent that this misconception is perpetuated, the superiority of fire that belt-fed machine guns can provide the infantry will be ill-served. ✕

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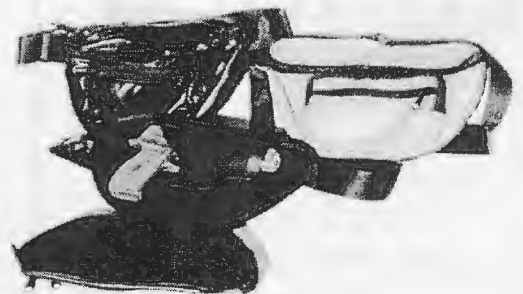
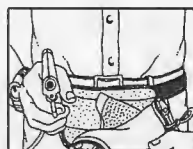
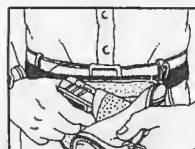
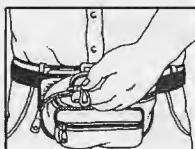
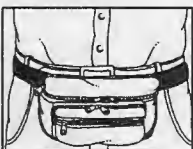
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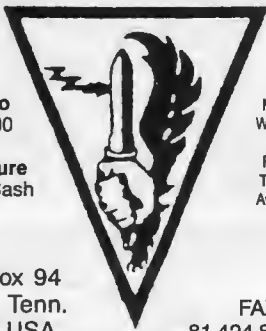
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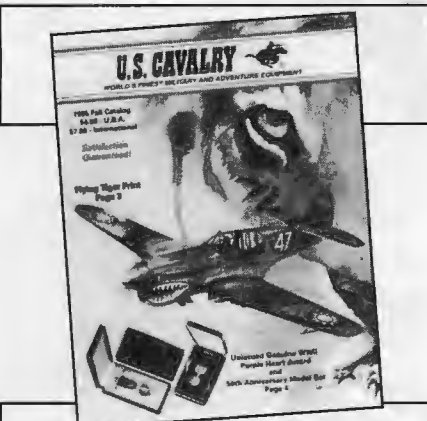
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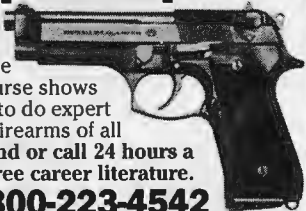
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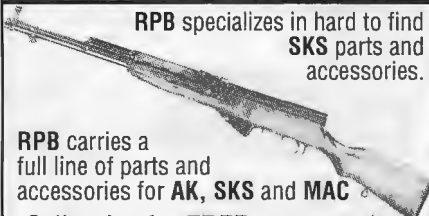
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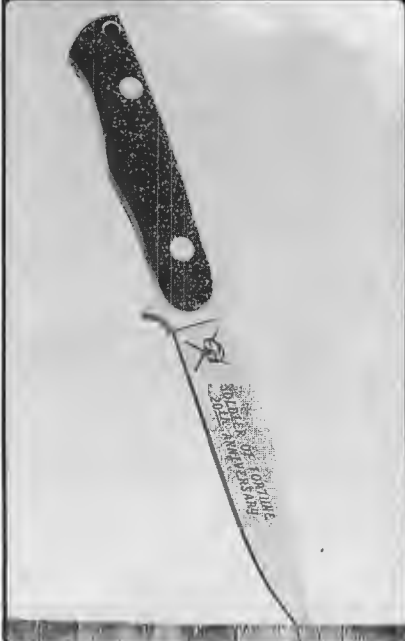
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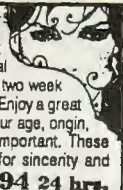
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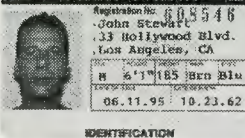


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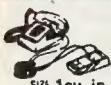
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PARTING SHOT

Vietnam War: Washington Was Right

by Stephen B. Young

This essay by Minneapolis attorney Stephen B. Young was published 7 November 1995 in *The Wall Street Journal*. It is reprinted here with the permission of the WSJ. (Copyright 1995, Dow Jones & Company Inc.; all rights reserved.)

During the summer of 1963, as the political situation in South Vietnam deteriorated, Kennedy administration policy makers and interested commentators in the press and the Congress looked for causes of instability. It was widely believed that Ngo Dinh Diem's regime was to be faulted for creating the conditions spawning the Viet Cong insurgency. So the Kennedy administration sponsored a coup in November 1963 that killed Diem and overthrew his regime.

Many observers, who thought Vietnam was being torn apart by a civil conflict provoked by bad government, assumed the war would suddenly be won with a change of regime. The chattering class — from *New York Times* reporter David Halberstam to anti-war professor Howard Zinn — were contemptuous of the official U.S. explanation for the war, that it was part of Communist North Vietnam's plan to conquer the

South. In a typical comment of the time, strategic analyst Hans Morganthau wrote in 1965, "The war is first of all a South Vietnamese civil war, aided and abetted by the North Vietnamese government but neither created nor sustained by it."

Well, guess what? Newly released documents from Hanoi's Ministry of Defense throw a new light on the origins of

though sometimes a bit conservative, about the actual numbers. The State Department issued a White Paper in 1965 documenting Hanoi's export of war into South Vietnam. It claimed that in 1959 and 1960, Hanoi had sent "at least 1,800" men into South Vietnam. Hanoi's recently unveiled documents set the precise figure at 1,759 men.

The White Paper estimated that 3,700 men

for the insurgency-is-homegrown theory. The documents show two high points of infiltration down the Ho Chi Minh trail: One came in 1968, after American forces reached their peak, when 141,081 replacements were sent south. The other high point was in 1972, after all American ground combat forces had withdrawn, when Hanoi sent another 152,974 men south.

Of some interest is the revelation that after signing the Paris Peace Accords in January 1973, Hanoi sent 263,691 soldiers into South Vietnam during 1973, 1974 and 1975. This was an intentional violation of the accord, a violation that made a fool of the treaty's

principal author, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

A companion document in my hands sets forth the supplies that Hanoi sent south over the Ho Chi Minh trail during the war. Despite all the interdiction of the trail attempted by American air power, Hanoi's forces in South Vietnam received 1,777,027 metric tons of supplies from 1965 to 1975. These supplies apparently constituted 71% of the weapons and ammunition used by Communist forces in the South, 70% of their uniforms, 95% of their medical sup-

It would be nice if some of the anti-war leaders who are still around would admit they were wrong.

the Vietnam War. They show that American leaders were essentially correct when they accused North Vietnam of directing the insurgency in the South.

One Vietnamese document in my possession says that from 1959 to 1975, North Vietnam sent 976,849 soldiers into South Vietnam, most of them replacements for the original combat units previously ordered south. Sending a million soldiers to fight in another country looks very much like an invasion — just as President Lyndon Johnson argued at the time.

The U.S. government was even generally right,

came south in 1961. The actual figure reported by Hanoi is 5,521. In 1962, this White Paper claimed, 5,400 came south to fight for North Vietnam. Again, the actual figure was higher: 7,293 men. For 1963, the White Paper alleged that 4,200 infiltrators from North Vietnam had been confirmed; the actual number sent south that year was 8,719.

After the overthrow of the Diem government in November 1963, according to the newly released documents, Hanoi increased its aggression and, during 1964, sent 17,475 new soldiers into South Vietnam. So much

Continued on page 79

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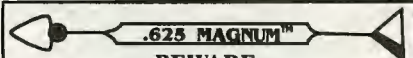


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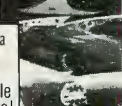
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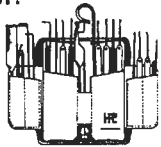
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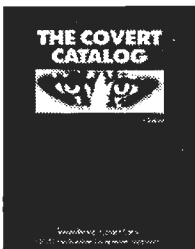


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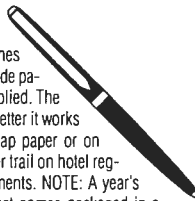
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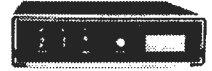


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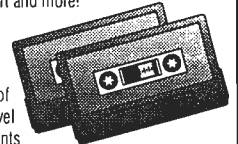
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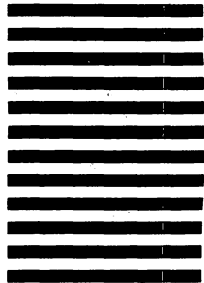
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