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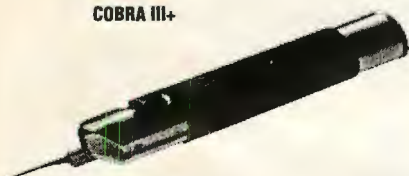
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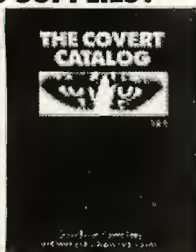
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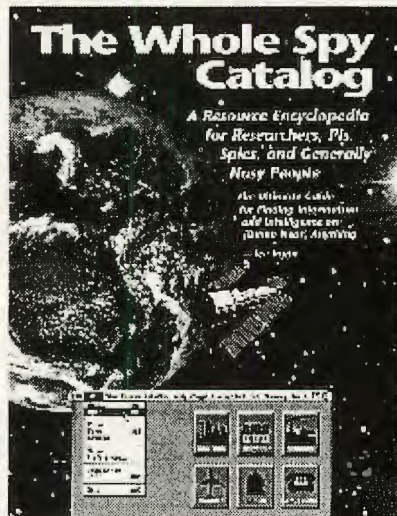
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While the pen worked as advertised, we inadvertently violated one or more trademarks by referring to the pen as a copy of a MountBlanc.

Our pen had absolutely no connection with MountBlanc Inc., nor their products and we apologize for any inconvenience that ad may have caused MountBlanc or their representatives.

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COMMAND GUIDANCE

"Voluntary" Gun Control by Robert K. Brown

Guns are the tools most often associated with independence, and from the start, Hillary has had Bill and a few henchmen working hard to decrease the number of firearms in private hands. Too much independence is apparently not good for ordinary people.

Ever since the Clintons first brought to Washington, baggage heavily laden with new ideas about civil liberties, the White House has attempted gun control by any means. As a result, Clinton attempted to secretly block the flow of firearms by juggling definitions of federal law. We'll call that gun control by executive order.

When it became clear to the administration that there was only a certain amount of civil liberties-bashing they could get away with in America to limit private gun ownership, they decided to block the importation of certain weapons by arm-twisting some of the bureaucrats at ATF and elsewhere into bending the laws. Fortunately, the administration's back door tactics were exposed for what they were by the Fire Arms Importers Round Table (FAIR), a group of firearms businesses who regularly oppose the administration on gun issues.

As a result of FAIR and its work, the White House had to back down a bit in 1993. But now it seems they have come full-circle and the administration is trying something new: *transnational* gun control.

Since the ATF was a bit gun-shy about cooperating, the Clintons are using the State Department to stop countries from exporting guns the White house characterizes as

"attractive to criminals." Certainly, we can understand why there might be some confusion in the White House about the definition of "attractive." However, it will be difficult for the administration's public relations people to package a 5-foot-long 1891 model Mosin Nagent as a hold-up weapon.

The list of "attractive to criminals" includes bolt-action 1898 Mausers, captured from the Germans, and Winchester manufactured lever-action rifles, sent to the Russians around 1900. Certainly, it would be easier for the White House to furnish statistics on how many times Bill has been faithful than it would be find crimes that have been committed with "attractive" 100-year-old rifles exported from Russia.

Clinton's State Department has overseen a Voluntary Restraint Agreement in which the Russians voluntarily agree not to send any more sporting firearms and ammunition to America. The same VRA agreements are likely to be presented by State Department representatives to the governments of Germany, Spain, Belgium, Brazil and other countries manufacturing sporting firearms destined for the United States.

If transnational gun control succeeds where gun control by executive order failed, the Clintons will only have domestic manufacturers and suppliers of firearms to contend with. And make no mistake about it, if Hillary and Bill are re-elected, they probably won't let public opinion or civil rights stand in their way of closing down domestic suppliers. ✕

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Will Cadence

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Thomas Goltz

Do Russian troops in Chechnya have an alcohol problem? After a nearly fatal encounter with T-72 tankers tanked on vodka, *SOF* correspondent says, "Da." 36

"I PLEDGE INSURGENCE"

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Mark H. Milstein

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Wonder why USSOCOM picked



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a version of H&K's USP for their Offensive Handgun and Suppressor? *SOF* tests Heckler & Koch's USP45: a 10-round, .45 semiauto pistol for the '90s. 56

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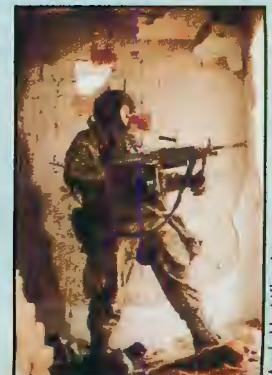


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COVER

A "low-level diplomat" from the U.S. Army's 3/5 Cavalry keeps his 5.56mm SAW trained on a possible danger zone during a dismounted patrol in Bosnia. As Operation Joint Endeavor kicks into high gear, U.S. officers with maps and GPS navigational devices fan out to enforce zones of separation. Story begins on page 47.



Mark H. Milstein

BULLETIN BOARD

DOWNIE UPDATE

Longtime federal undercover operative and erstwhile whistleblower Mickey Downie is still "fighting the fight" against government-orchestrated corruption, and the retribution against those who have the courage to expose it. So far, he's won one, lost one, with two federal cases pending.

In the wake of Downie's charges of corruption among court officials in Warren County, Tenn., (see "Walking Tall in Tennessee" Dec. '94), Circuit Court Judge John D. Haston formed what amounted to a rump grand jury to investigate himself and other court officials implicated by Downie. The grand jury, headed by a close friend of Judge Haston, instead indicted Downie for "official oppression" and theft. Also indicted were the rest of the good guys: Sheriff Mason Black, deputies David Wheat and Jeff Fults and others who supported Black's attempts to rid the county

of corruption — even Black's wife and son. A judge appointed by the Tennessee Supreme Court ruled that Haston's grand jury was illegally formed and its charges against Downie et al. were bogus: The issue of whether Haston's grand jury violated the civil rights of the defendants has not been addressed.

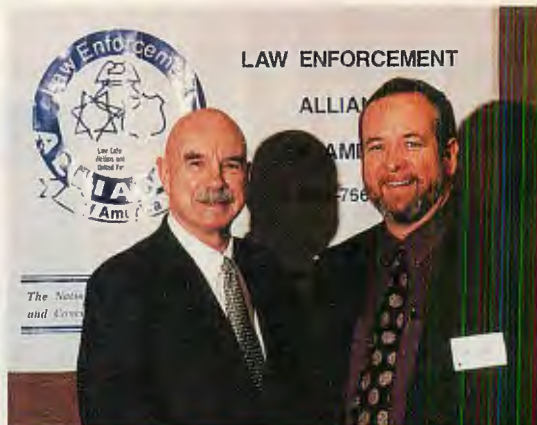
On the federal front, the U.S. Court of Claims has ruled against Downie in his suit for back pay and punitive damages relating to Operation Leatherneck (see "Operation Leatherneck" Jan. '95, and "Leatherneck II" Feb. '95). The dismissal was upheld on appeal.

In unresolved and separate matters, Downie refused a government offer to settle out of court on a suit seeking unpaid salary from U.S. Customs for a

case predating the Leatherneck scenario. Also pending is a lawsuit against the BATF for improper revocation of his Federal Firearms License, which Downie contends was merely another transparent attempt to punish him for fingering corrupt treasury agents:

The revocation was based on perjured testimony of Special Agent Thomas Schneider, who has since been promoted to headquarters, in charge of BATF training programs. U.S. Rep. John Boehner of Ohio is pressing for release of three re-

ports by the Treasury Inspector General, all reportedly highly critical of agent conduct, and supportive of Downie's claims.



Courtesy James L. Pate

The G-Man — G. Gordon Liddy — and **SOF's** national affairs correspondent, James L. Pate, strike a grip-and-grin pose at the annual meeting of the Law Enforcement Alliance of America in Washington, D.C. Liddy and Pate were featured speakers, and both spoke of the dangerous trend toward increasing the involvement of the military in civilian law enforcement. LEAA is one of the few national police organizations that staunchly defends the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding gun owners. For information on the LEAA, call: 703-847-2677.

BAD NEWS, GOOD NEWS

In their latest financial statement, The Coalition to Stop Handgun Violence (formerly, The Coalition to Ban Handguns) indicates they raised \$1,332,116 for the stated purpose of stopping handgun violence (i.e. taking guns away from the non-criminals). The good news is, the American Institute of Philanthropy recently gave the CSHV an "F" rating — because only 9% (\$121,572) was used for the stated purpose: More than \$1 million went for salaries and administrative purposes.

MILSPEAK/NONSPEAK

Army 5th Corps is issuing a "Media Reference Card" for troops headed to Bosnia, not unlike the "Mine Reference Cards" we old hands were issued, and with the same general purpose — to prevent the GIs from stepping



SOF

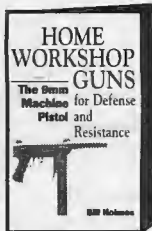
SOF staffs (from left) Tom Reisinger, Kristine Anderson, Don McLean, Dwight Swift and Dianne McLeod donate a lunch hour and some company time to packing books you readers have sent us for American troops in Bosnia. Keep 'em coming, folks! Just before writing this, we relieved a truck of another 72 cartons (courtesy of Scott Pruden, Salem, Illinois). No books? No problem: We will gladly accept bucks to help with overseas postage. **SOF** honcho Bob Brown shelled out more than \$1,500 in postage the first month shipping books overseas to our troops, so help would be appreciated. Books to: Books for The Troops, SOF Warehouse, 5735 E. Arapahoe Rd., Boulder, CO 80303; postage assistance to: Books For The Troops, Box 693, Boulder CO 80306. Donations for this troop-morale project are *not* tax-deductible...and, for that reason, even *more* appreciated.

SHOOTING FOR KEEPS

Point Shooting for Close-Quarter Combat

with Col. Rex Applegate

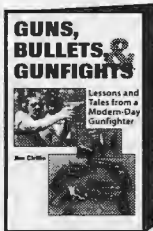
Gunfights typically have three things in common: they occur at close range, in low light and under conditions of extreme stress. Despite this fact, many commonly taught combat shooting techniques don't work under these realistic conditions. One method that continues to win *real* armed encounters is point shooting. Point shooting relies on the body's natural ability to point accurately at close-range targets, enabling even inexperienced shooters to fire with deadly accuracy, in any light conditions, while suffering the heart-stopping stress caused by a target that is shooting back. In this all-new Paladin production, close-combat expert Col. Rex Applegate reveals the secrets of this easily learned yet deadly method of handgun shooting and shows you why it is the single most important skill an armed individual can possess. Through dramatic low light footage you'll also learn why point shooting is the method of choice when firing state-of-the-art laser-sighted weapons. If you own a defensive handgun, you can't afford not to have this video. Color, approx. 60 min., VHS (U.S. format) only. **\$34.95**



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by William Beaver

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by Vladimir Vasiliev

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GET EVEN

The Complete Book of Dirty Tricks
by George Hayduke

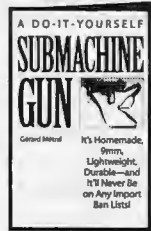
A hilarious overview of the methods people use to get even with big business, government and enemies. These dirty tricks range from the simple to the elaborate, including more sophisticated schemes devised by CIA and Mafia members and political dirty tricksters. For entertainment purposes only. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, hardcover, 208 pp. **\$19.95**



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U.S. Army Special Operations Command

SOF is deeply saddened to learn of the death of Medal of Honor recipient Fred W. Zabitosky, who passed away on 8 January 1996 in Durham, North Carolina.

Zab retired from Special Forces as a Master Sergeant in 1977.

In 1981, he was on-site CO of SOF's POW/MIA operations in Thailand and Laos. He actively participated in the establishment of "Liberty City" inside Laotian territory, from where recon teams were to be launched to confirm eyewitness accounts of American POWs at Muang Sai.

Over the years, Zab remained adamant about the presence of live Americans in Laos. "We've got POWs and MIAs and bodies still in Laos and,

goddamn it, the U.S. has not come out and recognized this. The State Department is not going to come out and change anything." "They don't want to discuss the 500 and some guys that were lost in Laos." (See "SLAM Mission Into Laos"; June '81.)

Had we not been locked down and out by the USG and Thai Intelligence, I know that Fred would have been on SOF's initial recon.

In March 1969, President Nixon presented Zab with the Medal of Honor for extreme heroism on a classified mission.

As One-One (assistant team leader) of the 9-man Spike Team Maine, Zabitosky was inserted via slick into an area east of Attopeu, Laos, known as Quebec 1. In the ensuing

hours, his pick-up bird was blasted from the sky by an RPG round. Zab plummeted some 75 feet before crashing to earth; his clothes ablaze, his back and ribs crushed.

Despite third-and-second-degree burns and the blinding pain from other injuries, Fred managed to tug the pilot and co-pilot from the blazing wreckage, and repeatedly rally his meager force into beating back nearly 30 assaults; and, with an able assist from American TAC-AIR, pound the living hell out of two advance companies of NVA regulars — leaving some 165 enemy KIA sprawled on the LZ.

He was a good man ... a "Be" ... and he is missed.

— TDR

their dock on Lake Ponchartrain as long as it drafts no more than 11 feet. In addition, they have 5 acres ashore to accommodate non-floating exhibits.

The Kenner State Naval Commission was formed with the specific task of locating a suitable ship and bringing her to the Kenner historic district. Individuals or groups knowing of a ship worth preserving for history should contact: State Naval Commission, 400 Williams Blvd., Suite C, Kenner, LA 70062; phone: 504-540-4781.

REMEDIAL MORALITY

USMC Commandant General Charles Krulak says the Corps is increasingly concerned about the impact that modern society has had in shaping recruits before the Marines get them. "We are getting them from a society that is disintegrating," he said. As a partial-solution, the Corps is considering extending the 11-week basic training course to provide more time for teaching values, Krulak stated.

AMERICAN ARMS FOR BOSNIA

Under consideration is a recommendation to transfer up to \$100 million worth of U.S. military equipment, part of an overall plan to spend some \$1 billion to train and equip Bosnians so they can field a viable defensive army once NATO forces pull out. The embargo on light weapons expires in March. After June, the heavy weapons embargo will be lifted. Although no funds are yet available, Uncle Sam is soliciting donations from allies and the Islamic community. The United States could transfer equipment "excess to its inventory requirements." Envisioned is a 55,000-man Bosnian army organized into six corps and 14 brigades, trained by an American contractor. The shortlist for such a contractor includes MPR Inc. (now training military staffers in Croatia), SAIC, and BDM (which owns Vinnell Corporation, currently contract trainer for the Saudi Arabian National Guard). ☒

on something. The cards point out the media has a right to be in Bosnia and that a little diplomacy can help GIs and media dorks both do their jobs without getting in each other's way. So, while neither discouraging or encouraging GIs to talk to reporters, the Army offers some practical advice such as: "Don't make 'off-the-record' statements to reporters." "Never lie to the media." "Don't allow yourself to be badgered by the media. If necessary, politely end the interview and contact your commander or the PAO." "If [an unescorted] reporter comes to your unit, refer them to the Joint Information Bureau."

And in case the media just *must* have something to quote before they'll get out of your way, the card gives some canned non-responses that would do the

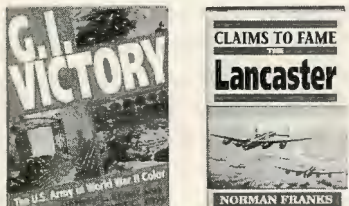
White House press desk proud: "We are trained, ready and fully prepared to conduct peace enforcement operations." "We are a disciplined and trained force. We understand our mission and the rules of engagement." "U.S. forces are confident in our trained and competent leaders. We have pride in our leadership, from the president on down, and full trust in their decisions."

KEEP HISTORY AFLOAT

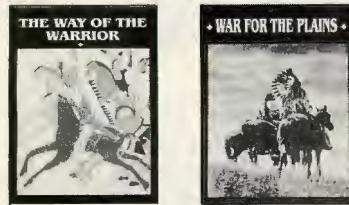
The Kenner State Naval Commission is looking for a historic ship that merits preservation. They can berth a 100-foot vessel with a 10-foot draft at their dock on the Mississippi in the Kenner historic district, 15 minutes north of New Orleans. They can also berth a vessel of any length at



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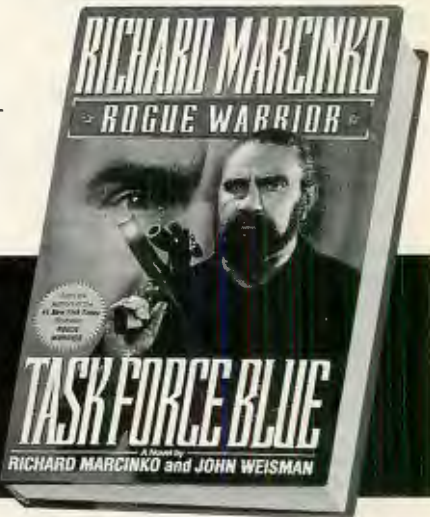
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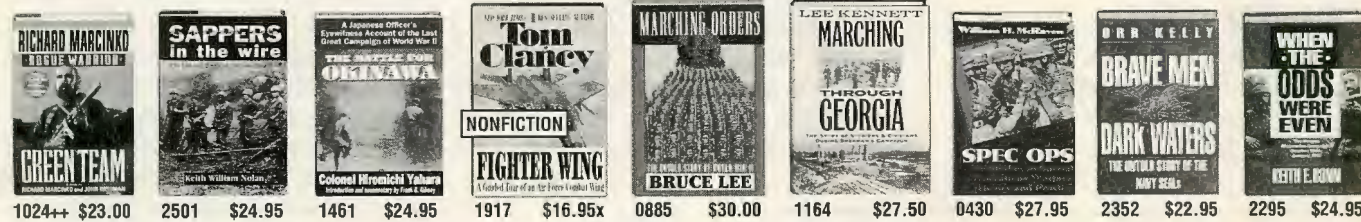
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SLICK WILLIE WATCH

BUT WHO'S KEEPING SCORE

According to a report from the Justice Department's Office of Professional Responsibility, some 20 Justice Department lawyers left their jobs while under investigation during the first year of the Clinton administration. Concurrently, allegations of misconduct by department lawyers rose 78% over the last year of the Bush administration.

IS "UNUSUALLY GOOD" BETTER THAN "CONGENITAL?"

It's truly remarkable, the frequency with which the pejorative "liar" is attached to the Clinton gang. Hot on the heels of the flap

ren replied that this particular quote was in an on-record interview by writer Martha Sherrill done six to eight weeks before the *Esquire* in question hit the stands.

In a 1995 interview with *The Washington Times*, Sen. Kerrey said that Clinton had "cooked the numbers" in a proposed balanced budget plan, which the Congressional Budget Office would have led to \$200 billion in deficits.

U.S. NEWS AND HILLARY REPORT

According to *U.S. News and World Report*, Hillary Clinton has a "dark side." "Mrs. Clinton has been known to berate her husband in front of staff in what some aides consider a shocking

display of disrespect," the news magazine said. *U.S. News* said that on one occasion, Hillary Clinton fumed that President Clinton was preoccupied with the details of legislation rather than standing above the petty quarrels of Capitol Hill.

"How could you be so damn stupid?" she was quoted as saying to the president. *U.S. News* said one witness to the tirade characterized her comments as "lacerating" and that aides who witnessed the outburst were embarrassed. "She is liable to shout when something goes wrong, and aides are skittish about provoking her," the news magazine said.

White House spokesman Mike McCurry did not comment on specific allegations raised in the article, but said, "A lot of this

smacks of second-and-third-hand accounts of people who probably resented her role at the White House." We don't know about the first part of his reply, but the last part is probably true. Maybe some of them were wondering who voted for *her*.

BANK REGULATOR NIXES CLINTON PARTNER, IS AXED

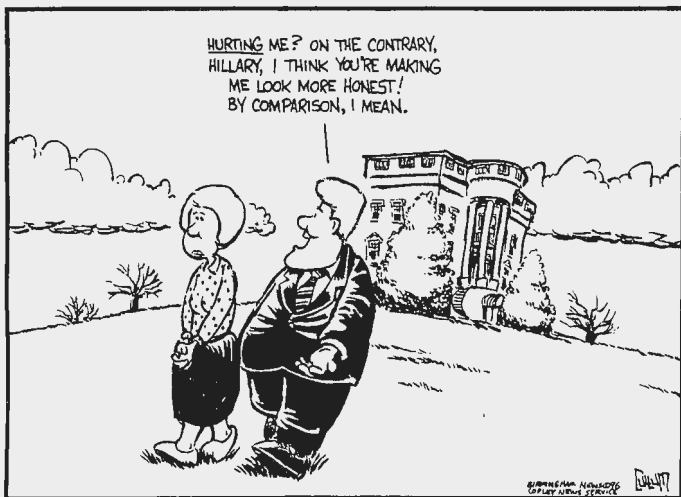
Former Arkansas bank regulator Bill Lyon, who resigned his state post in 1984, testified to Senate Whitewater probers that Bill Clinton, then Arkansas governor, forced him out after he refused to approve a less-than-kosher stock deal for Clinton's Whitewater partner Jim McDougal.

The stock deal was written up by Hillary Clinton and the Rose Law Firm a year later. It was approved by Beverly Bassett Schaffer, the state securities commissioner, who was also appointed by Gov. Clinton.

Lyon said he was asked by McDougal to resign from his post, so he could help McDougal lobby for a money-raising plan to keep McDougal's Madison Guaranty savings and loan afloat. "I told him not no, but hell no," Lyon testified. He said he was suspicious of the plan, which issued stock, but left McDougal in total control of the S&L. Two months after Lyon refused to resign, Clinton asked him to resign.

HILLARY TOOK A SHOT AT PARKING METERS

The New York Post and *Wall Street Journal* report that when Hillary Clinton was a partner in the Rose Law Firm she worked unsuccessfully on behalf of a client, POM Inc., to win a parking meter contract with the City of New York, enlisting the aid of former Manhattan lawyer and current White House political adviser Harold Ickes. ✕



over *New York Times* columnist William Safire calling Hillary Rodham Clinton a "congenital liar," in an *Esquire* interview the chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, Sen. Bob Kerrey of Nebraska, accused Bill Clinton of being "an unusually good liar." Kerrey's press secretary, Greg Weiner, confirmed that Sen. Kerrey had called the president a liar, but said the remark was made "in a private conversation a year ago." *Esquire* Senior Editor Mark War-

He's easily won over 600 brutal streetfights!

Veteran Streetfighter Agrees To Give You A FREE \$39 VIDEO

Revealing His Most Powerful (And Surprisingly Simple) Down-and-Dirty Fighting "Tricks" Just to Prove That A Well-Trained Citizen (Armed Only With This Incredible Knowledge) Can Still Safely Walk In Public!

Forget switchblades or pepper spray. And leave your Clint Eastwood "Dirty Harry" fantasies at home in the VCR...

In real life, 9 times out of 10, you have to defend yourself with your bare hands... with no time to think about how to execute those complicated moves you've learned from the "experts" (*who've never been in a real streetfight in their lives*).

If you really want to be armed with the skills that will save your life in an all-out hostile confrontation (or even just a barroom scuffle), then let me introduce you to a man who has been there and done that — over 600 times! — and knows exactly what works... and what doesn't.

If you have the guts, he will teach you the skills that will give you the confidence of knowing you can handle anything that comes your way. These skills are so devastating that you'll not only end the fight practically before it starts, but...

***You Will Put the Bastards in the Hospital —
And No One Will Ever Mess With You Again!***

Interested? Please read on...

Dear Friend,

Let's be honest with each other, shall we?

We all have our "mental fantasies" of what we'd do if some criminal scumbag or a pissed-off drunken yahoo tries to mess with us, right?

We think we'd do this fancy move, or that fancy kick, or get into position to deliver an award-winning "combination" of strikes and blows that would make Bruce Lee green with envy.

But in reality? It's a whole different story.

Just ask veteran streetfighter Jim West. He's been in (and won) over 600 brutal streetfights. No, that's not a typo or a misprint. I said...

SIX HUNDRED STREETFIGHTS!

And he's never lost a single one!

Can you name anybody else alive today who has that kind of experience under his belt? I can't — and I've been on the "inside" of the martial arts world for several years now.

When I first met Jim West, I was truly astonished — both by his amazing "track record" — and by what he told me are the two most important rules to remember in any streetfight. They are...

RULE #1: There Are NO Rules.

RULE #2: Don't Ever Forget Rule #1, or You're DEAD!

You see, the bad guys are called "bad guys" for a reason: They don't fight fair! If you think you're going to have time to get one word out of your mouth, you're wrong. It all happens too fast for any clever Hollywood-style cutdowns or comebacks.

There's no dialogue — just violence. Fast, furious, and sometimes fatal violence.

Are you prepared for it? Most guys aren't. Even if you've seen a few videos on military-style hand-to-hand combat systems, you're still not even close to knowing the secrets to winning real-life streetfights.

Unlike most "experts" these days, Jim West knows how to win streetfights. As I said, he's won over 600 of them. I don't know about you, but that's the kind of guy I would go to for training.

And, as a matter of fact, I have.

My name is Bob Pierce, and I recently started a new video production company called "Underground Streetfighters Association." For the last several years, I've been working with TRS (Threat Response Solutions), which produces some very good videos on hand-to-hand combat. As you know, TRS features some of the military's top trainers on their videos — and they're damned good.

But one day I discovered that there are certain guys in the martial arts world who are actually "too nasty" even for the military to touch. These are guys like Jim "Smokey" West, whom I want to introduce to you now. What kind of guy is he? I'll give you a clue...

You'd Want Jim West To Be Your Best Friend!

First of all, Jim West is a 6th Degree Black Belt in karate. He's also a master and instructor of several other fighting styles, from Muay Thai kick-boxing to Western-style boxing to Combat Ju-Jitsu ground-fighting. He's even developed his own

streetfighting system — "Modern Karate", he calls it — and has his own full-contact school near Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Jim West spent 20 years of his adventurous life in the U.S. military — most of that in special forces — taking part in the Invasion of Panama and the action in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. He was a member of the team that occupied the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait, and Jim received an award from Gen. Schwarzkopf himself for his fighting heroism in Saudi Arabia. He's even worked on special top-secret covert missions for the CIA in Central and South America, training counter-narcotics paramilitary forces, hostage rescue forces, counter-insurgency, intelligence operations, etc., etc.!

Now retired as a CW3 Chief Warrant Officer, Jim is highly sought-after for private security by corporate executives and foreign dignitaries. In fact, he was a member of the security detail for President Aristide when he regained power in Haiti.

Jim's been shot, stabbed, ambushed, had boards and bottles broken over his head, you name it — and that's just in civilian life!

Why So Many Fights?

Jim is a veteran of over 600 streetfights because he used to enjoy getting into them! Starting in his younger days, he hung around with a group of guys who would go to bars looking for trouble, and then "do their stuff" when it came their way. He'd get into fights 2 or 3 times a week — sometimes 2 or 3 times a night! — and he did that for nearly 15 years!

Plus, for a long time, Jim had a

girlfriend who was the finest looking lady you've ever laid eyes on. (*It seems that guys who can fight like Jim get girls like that!*) But no matter where they'd go, some fool would invariably try to make a pass at Jim's girlfriend, and that would be the end of *that* guy's evening!

Jim just doesn't mess around.

And with a track record like his — and the fact that he's *never* lost even one of the 600 fights he's been in — I'd say Jim West knows what he's talking about when it comes to streetfights! Wouldn't you? Compare that to all those silly "martial arts school" instructors who've never even walked down a dark alley in a big city, and you can see the enormous benefit of learning from a guy like Jim West instead of those "bookish" types.

That's why I brought Jim out to California a while back to shoot a video revealing his most powerful, down-and-dirty, fight-winning techniques. And here's just a *sample* of what Jim teaches on this mind-blowing, life-saving video that he and I want to send you, free of charge...

Yes, that's right, it's a **FREE** video — titled "Street Combat Made Easy" — and on it you'll learn...

- An instant knockout point on the human body that's easy to hit and works every time!
- Where to hit a person to cause so much pain, the body just shuts down completely!
- How to slam someone to the ground, just by grabbing his ears!
- How to control a person who's charging you like a bull — a simple "crank" that makes his knees buckle and lets you do whatever you want to with his body!
- A simple innovation that increases the effectiveness of your punches by 50% or more! (It doesn't take a lot of practice, either. You'll learn it in one session!)
- Where to aim when you're punching so that you always hit the person's #1 knockout point!
- **Ground fighting?** How to protect yourself from "bystanders" who try to kick you!
- Bones on the foot that break like a toothpick, and how to nail them!
- The life-saving secret of doing head-butts that *not one person in a thousand knows*. If you don't do this right, you will put yourself out of commission when head-butting your opponent!
- How to save yourself from a life-threatening choke-hold!
- A "guillotine" move that finishes things off real fast!
- An "open-hand" defensive technique that can instantly be turned into a lethal offensive striking mechanism!
- The proper fingers to use for an eye-

jab so that you never miss your opponent's eyes!

- How to use eye-gouges with the effectiveness of a **Randall knife**!
- How to grab a person's head and then head-butt them in a way that *splits their head open*! (Obviously, *only* to be used when you have to kill!)
- Easily-accessible pressure points on a person's face and head that will cause them a **great deal of pain** with just a *light amount of pressure from your finger*!
- **The 2 most lethal areas** on the body, and how to attack them!
- What we can learn from the way *apes* and *monkeys* fight in the wild — a simple technique you only want to use in a **life-or-death** situation!
- A special way to do a **groin slap** that attacks a "hidden nerve" near the scrotum. Hit this spot and the fight's over!
- How to attack the **diaphragm** for devastating stopping power. Even the slightest hit here will knock the wind out of someone!
- The proper way to go for the **throat**. With one hand, you can stop the fight before it begins!
- **Knife Defense**: a simple "cross-over" technique that will stop most knife attacks and enable you to disarm the attacker and put him on the ground!
- Why complicated "routines" look great when you practice them, but almost never work in the streets — and a simple trick that gives you the split-second advantage you need for turning the tables on your opponent!
- Joint locks and manipulations that work well even if your attacker has a **knife or gun**!
- Where to hit a person's arm so that he drops his knife — *no matter how strong his grip is*!

All of this — and more! — is revealed on the **FREE VIDEO** I'm going to send you (with your permission) as a way of introducing you to Jim "Smokey" West and his unique method of *staying alive* in today's increasingly violent world.

But perhaps you're wondering...

What Makes Jim West Different From All The Others?

It's very simple. You see, Jim West is miles ahead of all the other martial arts "experts" out there because he knows *what really works* in a streetfight... and *what doesn't*.

From his own invaluable experience of winning over 600 streetfights, he knows that nothing ever goes as planned: And you'd better not be relying on those complicated routines you've seen on other videos or learned in martial arts school! In real life, you need simple, quick,

devastating moves that will end the fight instantly — by taking the person by surprise and causing him so much pain, he doesn't even have a chance to get in a second blow (*let alone a first!*).

And the neat thing is, Jim West has a whole arsenal of these fight-stopping moves and "dirty little tricks" he wants to teach you. The free video I want to send you — even though it's 46 minutes long and packed with the vital skills I mentioned above — is actually just a small sample of everything Jim West can teach you!

In fact, when we brought Jim out to California for the video shoot, we weren't even prepared for how much he has to teach people! I thought we'd do a 2-hour video, like our others. But he just kept giving us more and more and more... and we ended up with an action-packed video that's almost **FOUR HOURS LONG!**

Jim's awesome videotape set is called "**Fight To Win**" — and it is *without a doubt* the most comprehensive revelation of down-and-dirty streetfighting techniques ever put on video. *Bar none!*

Let me give you some juicy samples of what you'll learn from the 4 hours and 15 minutes of non-stop incredible material Jim has to teach you. A single one will save your life if you're ever in trouble — and Jim gives you hundreds to choose from on these video tapes!. Take a look...

- The first thing you want to do in any fight. Do it right and you can actually avoid getting hit!
- How to put a little extra "bite" into each punch you throw!
- **7 crucial things** to know about throwing a punch for maximum effectiveness — plus "rhythm" drills that install these skills into your mind and body like computer software!
- How to dramatically cut down on your vulnerability when facing a hostile opponent.
- 6 areas on a person's leg where your kicks will cause the most pain possible. One will even break the guy's leg!
- The most underestimated kick in your arsenal. It's also the most effective for ending a fight immediately!
- The secret to this low-line kick makes all the difference in the world. People have actually died from the shock of being hit by one of these!
- A special "heel-hook" kick that takes people completely by surprise and causes a lot of pain!
- Shin hits that will cause most people to give up the fight almost instantly!
- Where to hit the nerves on the leg to cause the person's legs to buckle — *even with a "gentle" hit*!
- A "push and shove" technique to add to your kicks that gives **200% more power** and stopping ability.

- A “T-block” that stops cold even the hardest kicks to your groin, while simultaneously “loading” your body with explosive power that you unleash on your opponent *with lightning-fast speed!*
- How to “control” your opponent’s body so that he feels the maximum force of every punch you land!
- A way to attack the lower leg that will break a person’s knee and probably *cripple him for life!*
- The proper way to *back up* during a fight. This will keep you from getting pinned against a wall (where you’d definitely get the shit beat out of you!)
- A “probe” kick that *tricks* your opponent into dropping his guard *so you can attack his head!*
- An extremely simple forearm strike that will knock someone unconscious when placed in the right spot!
- Key “clues” to look for in a person’s body language that tell you if he’s about to hit you or not.

Plus, throughout the video, Jim gives you dozens of different drills that help you develop your speed, reaction, awareness, and power. You’ll acquire the ability to think under fire — because the inability to think under fire is like *signing your death certificate!*

And every so often, the video cuts to little “interviews” with Jim, where he gives you his best advice on what it takes to be a real fighter and come out on top in any brutal streetfight.

He’s One of the Best Teachers I’ve Ever Seen!

Plus, I think you’re going to love the way Jim teaches you on this video. You see, instead of just showing you *by himself* how each move is done, Jim also has 3 students on the video — a large man, a medium-size guy, and a 100-lb female — and he actually teaches them *right there on the spot* how to do each move! This way, you can watch people *who aren’t experts* — people just like you — learning it for the first time. And you can actually learn from their mistakes! When they do something wrong, Jim corrects them and shows them (and you) how to avoid making all the common mistakes people make when learning these moves.

This alone will really speed-up your learning process while you watch these videos at home. It’s almost like having Jim in your living room with you, watching you every move and correcting you when you make a mistake!

And Jim’s teaching style is very easy to relate to. He’s very natural, personable, and comfortable to learn from. Throughout the video, he talks to you, not to a vague “audience”. Personally, I think you’ll enjoy watching these tapes more than any others in your library. I did! Plus there’s something else you get from these tapes besides the “mechanics” of the moves themselves...

The Chance to Learn From a Master Streetfighter!

Just being in Jim’s “presence” — even though it’s by video — will *install* in you a streetfighter’s savvy, wisdom, and street-smarts. Jim’s hard-won knowledge and skills will now become yours. You’ll acquire his keen sense of awareness and ability to sniff out danger. You’ll adopt his tough-as-nails attitude toward self-defense. And it’ll seem like you’ve been in those 600 streetfights (*or close to it!*).

And yet, while becoming a warrior, you won’t become a thug. As you’ll see, Jim is quite the gentleman. He’s civilized, but he knows how to handle trouble when it comes his way. *Now so will you.*

And as you know, there’s a special, *indescribable* feeling of security and self-confidence that comes over you when you learn how to handle trouble. It “radiates” from your every pore. People in your presence — especially women — sense the inner strength that you project (no matter how “average-looking” you may be on the outside). It’s in your eyes, in your talk, in your walk, and in every muscle in your body. It’s more than just an “attitude” that you put on like a coat. And it’s certainly not fake or artificial. People can tell if you’re faking, because of certain little “clues” that give you away.

But when you have the real thing, you know it. Everyone knows it. Even the criminals or barroom jerks who might consider messing with you can sense it, *and they stay away*. The ones who don’t? Well, they learn the hard way.

No amount of money can buy this “Position Of Strength”, as Jim calls it. It must either be earned... or learned. It’s *earned* from hundreds of brutal streetfights, like Jim’s. Or else *learned* directly from someone who’s been in those hundreds of streetfights, like Jim.

The Next Best Thing to Sitting At His Feet!

In fact, that’s the main beauty of learning from Jim West. He’s earned his fighting strength and self-defense skills from those 600 fights. And watching this video is not only the next best thing to being one of his private students, but it’s *like sitting at his feet*, absorbing every morsel of wisdom that comes out of his mouth. You can watch it over and over and you’ll never get bored. And after practicing what he teaches you, *in no time* you will have “catapulted” your fighting abilities to levels that most guys don’t reach even after 10 or 15 years of training! That’s how powerful Jim West’s teaching really is.

But you won’t fully realize this until you watch this amazing new video. You get 4 hours worth, packed with incredibly brilliant, devastatingly effective, and surprisingly simple techniques that even a 100-pound female can execute against a 250-pound boxer — *which is exactly what you’ll see on these tapes!*

And Jim, as I said, is an excellent teacher. He’s clear, precise, patient, and thorough. He wants you to know his life-saving skills — *and do them right!* — so that he can have the satisfaction of knowing that he helped good people like you survive the vicious attacks that have become so commonplace in today’s “Warlord Society”. Jim strives to make his students “the best of the best”. He holds nothing back — giving you his all so that one day you can say...

“Jim West’s Training Saved My Life!”

That’s why he wants you to have the free video I mentioned earlier. This way, even if you decide not to keep the other 2 tapes in the set, at least he’ll have touched your life in a lasting way that could end up saving your life some day.

Think about it...

- You’ll learn dozens of chokes, locks, holds, kicks, strikes, take-downs, breaks... you name it.
- Simple ways to tie your enemy up like a pretzel and cause him so much pain, he’ll immediately give up the fight!
- Powerful ways to increase the pain on your assailant if the idiot doesn’t give up!
- What to do if your enemy out-wrestles you. One simple trick can turn the tables in the blink of an eye!
- An amazing way to choke someone out and slam him head-first into the ground, *just by grabbing his collar!*
- The first thing you want to do when you end up on the ground, and the second move that will end the fight *instantly!*
- How to manipulate a person’s entire body — turning him any which way you please — *just by grabbing his chin!*
- Escape techniques that let you break away from any bad situation!
- How to get out of a bear hug, from the front or from behind!
- How to trip someone when they try to punch you. One of these sneaky moves will even *break the guy’s foot* on his way down to the ground!
- A foot stomp that will end most fights *all by itself!*
- Where to kick the knees for the easiest break!
- 3 excellent ways to break away from someone who grabs your shirt from the front. You’ll flip them onto the ground without breaking a sweat!
- How to hit someone with a beer bottle for maximum effect. Plus, Jim tells you about a particular type of soda bottle that’s the meanest weapon of them all!
- Amazing things you can do to someone with your umbrella!
- A “standing arm bar” that will introduce your attacker to a *whole new world of pain!*

- How to cut a much taller person down to a manageable size with a simple "bump".
- *And on and on.* Heck, if I gave you one of these "juicy tidbits" for every single thing you'll learn on Jim West's new video, this letter would be 20 pages long! I'm not kidding!

That's because you get *three and a half hours* of intensive video instruction from probably the most experienced streetfighter alive today. Plus a 46-minute video *for free* that you get to keep *even if you don't want the other 2 tapes!*

So there you have it — an honest deal from an honest man. A guy who knows how to win fights... how to avoid getting hurt... and how to make the other guy suffer for picking a fight with you!

Your Strength Becomes a Habit!

You'll use these skills every day of your life, sometimes without even realizing it. The "Position Of Strength" that you will operate from will become so strongly ingrained in your psyche and in your physique that it will soon become *second-nature... an unconscious habit.* You'll only need "flip the switch" to turn it on full blast when some stupid scumbag or "warlord" type makes the mistake of crossing your line!

Within a few seconds, he'll realize just how "bad" you are... that you're light-years ahead of him in down-and-dirty painful fighting skills... and that he should have picked on somebody else that day!

Hopefully you'll never have to teach anyone this lesson. But as you know, the world is getting more and more dangerous every day. With all the gangs everywhere — *in big cities and small towns* — our society is headed toward a "warlord" mentality, as Jim calls it...

Where Nobody's Safe Anymore!

You don't even have to piss anybody off to get attacked. You may just happen to have something they *want*. Or they may just be

going through a gang initiation. *You may very simply be in the wrong place at the wrong time* — in your front yard, at a grocery store, walking through a parking lot, even in broad daylight! There's no "time-frame" for the perfect target anymore. Nor is it restricted to the bad side of town or a sleazy barroom or a dark alley.

This is all-out WAR! That's why Jim keeps telling you on the video not to think of martial arts as a "sport". Those complicated routines that you learn at the local school don't work! In the real world, all you have time for are quick, devastating moves that cause *instant, excruciating pain* (and possibly death) for the son of a bitch who decided to mess with you!

So after you watch Jim's video, whenever the next gang member on an "initiation rite" chooses at random to attack you or a loved one with you, that pathetic little shit will end up in the hospital — or worse!

The local police will actually appreciate you for "taking out" the scumbags they would *love* to beat senseless!

The local ambulance companies will appreciate the extra business you send their way. So will the orthopedic surgeons... the neurosurgeons... *even the morticians!*

Don't Think It Can't Be Done!

Jim West's life history is a non-stop string of putting people in the hospital for messing with him! One drugged-out punk was on life-support for 3 weeks after Jim was finished with him!

Jim knows exactly how to win the deadliest of fights, and he teaches you how on these exciting videos.

If you have the guts, and you're willing to do what it really takes to survive a deadly streetfight or even a barroom scuffle, you'll order Jim West's new videos today, without hesitation. You won't complain about the nominal cost, either (\$97 for 4 hours of tape!) because you simply can't get this kind of training anywhere else at any price. And I seriously

doubt that you'll send the tapes back for a refund — although you have that option because of our 3-month **100% Money-Back Guarantee of Complete Satisfaction.**

So go ahead and order Jim West's "Fight To Win" video tape set today. As I said, it's a mere \$97 (plus \$4.50 for shipping and handling; total \$101.50). You can either fill out the order form below and mail it with your payment, or for *fastest* service call TOLL-FREE...

1-800-294-9602

(Ask for Department JW-12)
Call 24 hours a day,
7 days a week!

Either way, your set of Jim West's fascinating video tapes — *plus the power-packed FREE BONUS video* — will be sent out to you right away by first class mail. Pop those tapes into the VCR as soon as you get them (take the Dirty Harry tape out first), and prepare to be absorbed into the no-holds-barred world of raw, unstoppable streetfighting technology.

Then, the next time trouble comes your way...

BOOM! BAM! BANG!
That Fight's Over!

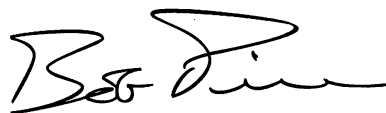
And you're the winner!

But if you *don't* watch these videos, you have to ask yourself one question: *Do you feel lucky?* Will you be the one left standing? Or will you be lying on the ground, writhing in pain, bleeding internally, with nobody around for miles who would dare help you?

It's your choice. You can either wake up the next day to a beautiful sunrise... or be staring at a surgery lamp in an operating room.

It's your choice.

Sincerely,



Robert Pierce
President,
Underground Streetfighters Association

P.S. If you think I'm being too dramatic about our "Warlord Society" and the need to armed with Jim West's fighting skills, let me just remind you of what happened in Los Angeles recently when a young family made a wrong turn and ended up on a dead-end street in a gang-banger neighborhood. *Those mindless animals opened fire on that innocent family, trapped in their car, and killed a 3-year-old girl inside!*

That's what our world has come to! And if you're not prepared to defend yourself from such ruthless violence that strikes innocent people like you when you least expect it, all I can say is **GOOD LUCK!** *It's been nice knowing you!*

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

1-800-294-9602 (Ask For Department JW-12)

Priority Order Form for **Soldier of Fortune** Readers!

YES! Not only do I have the guts to learn Jim West's awesome streetfighting techniques, I have the desire, too! I'm not about to let some criminal scumbag beat the tar out of me. I want to know the secrets of winning down-and-dirty streetfights, and who better to learn from than one of the most experienced streetfighters on the planet! Please rush my order of Jim West's "Fight To Win" — 4 hours and 15 minutes worth of non-stop, incredible fighting secrets! Plus, be sure to include the **FREE BONUS TAPE** on "Street Fighting Made Easy"! I understand that the price is just \$97 plus \$4.50 shipping and handling (total \$101.50) and that the tapes come with a 3-month **100% Money-Back No-Risk Guarantee.** On that basis, here is my address and how I wish to pay:

I prefer to pay by credit card.

Please charge my:

Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Card #:

Expires:

Signature

Enclosed is my check/money order (payable to USA), for \$101.50 (\$97 + \$4.50 Shipping & Handling)

Please rush my package to:

Name:

Address:

City:

ST:

Zip:

Underground Streetfighters Association • 1565 N. Hillman-356, Dept. JW-12 • Tulare, CA 93274

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

COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

Line Of Fire

Text & Photos by Gabriel Suarez

Rule Number Four of gun safety, according to Jeff Cooper, reads: Be aware of your target and what is beyond. This rule teaches both beginning and advanced pistoleros to be aware of the background immediately behind the aggressor they are about to smite with gunfire. There are two reasons why this might be of concern.

First, projectiles sometimes overpenetrate the subjects for which they are intended. This does not occur routinely, but often enough to prevent dismissing the possibility.

Second, during the heat of battle, when even the coolest armed professional may become

will cause you no end of grief and legal entanglements in the more dangerous jungles of urban America.

Does a poor background forbid gunfire? A few years ago an associate of mine who is also a policeman, faced a knife-wielding berserker on a crowded street. He had the man in his sights and

With proper techniques, necessary shots may be fired with minimal risks to bystanders. Realize that, like taking surgical brain shots at terrorists directly past the ears of their "hostages," this is a risky endeavor. If you can stall the situation by withdrawing, this is preferable to taking the shot. If shooting is the only answer, the



Crowded situations require angling the line of fire to avoid hazards to bystanders. The pistol squat allows an upward angle of fire, solving close range problems without endangering friendlies.

agitated, you simply might miss. Therefore, background is a concern in our urban battlefields that are crowded with non-involved bystanders (and shysters waiting to represent them in court after one of your stray rounds wings one). Collateral damage may be acceptable in the deserts of Iraq or the snows of Bosnia, but they

could have dropped him quite neatly. But the many gawking passersby concerned him enough to holster his Colt 1911 and go against this character *mano a mano*. Luckily the bladesman was as inept at personal combat, as Clinton is at telling the truth, and my friend won out. After his stitches were removed, he regained most of the use of his right hand. Could my courageous friend have safely concluded this argument with gunfire? Absolutely!

following techniques will help you succeed.

When you are faced with an attacker in a crowded environment exhibiting a poor background, you may still be able to fire at him by altering your angle of fire. The only practical way of doing this is to lower your shooting platform by squatting down and shooting up into your adversary. This position is similar to the "Rice Paddy Squat" popular in tactical rifle

Continued on page 83

WORLD SITREP

1

UNITED STATES

U.S. arms industry, aggressively backed by Clinton administration, now leads world in weapons sales; in 1993, 70% of all deals. Exports in 1991-4 totaled \$83 billion. Last year companies made more fighter jets for export, than sale to U.S. military.

Pentagon seeks Food and Drug Administration's final approval to use experimental vaccines and drugs on U.S. troops *without* their consent. FDA gave temporary approval in 1990 for widespread use of unapproved drugs in Gulf War.

Joint Chiefs' Chairman Shalikashvili doubts China will attempt invasion of Taiwan, despite saber-rattling: China lacks capability for large, amphibious invasion against well-defended island.

2

RUSSIA

Pacific Fleet, suffering manpower shortage, reports 10% of conscripts are in such poor health they require up to three months of medical treatment before basic training.

Moscow officials report all nuclear weapons in former republics Ukraine, Belorussia and Kazakhstan will be moved to Russia for disassembly by 1 September. Belorussia has refused to release last 18 SS-25 missiles there until United States pays for 54 already sent to Russia; Ukraine accuses America of not honoring disarmament agreement.

President Yeltsin will seek second term. Other candidates for June election are Communist Zyuganov and ultranationalist Zhirinovskiy.

Troops in Chechnya blow up Grozny's old presidential palace, a symbol for separatist rebels.

6

LEBANON

Hezbollah guerrillas vow more ambushes, roadside bombs and rocket attacks on Israeli troops as long as they remain in southern Lebanon "security zone." Clashes there in 1995 kill 23 Israeli soldiers, 33 troops of (Israel-backed) South Lebanon Army, 90 Arab guerrillas, and 17 civilians. Israeli tanks fired "beehive" flechette rounds in at least one skirmish.

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ISRAEL

Jerusalem wants more U.S. military aid, including JSTARS radar planes, in return for any withdrawal from Golan Heights in treaty with Syria. Israel would insist on retaining rights to water in Golan and Jordan River.

In first mass desertion in Israeli army's history, 31 paratroopers briefly leave post on Lebanon border in protest of new commander's incompetence. Military court sentences them to (lenient) 56 days in jail.

11

10

ETHIOPIA

Recent fighting with rebels in eastern Ogaden desert kills at least 140 government troops. Government arrests hundreds of supporters of Ogaden National Liberation Front. Ethiopia seized Ogaden from Somalia in 1977 war with help from Soviet Union and Cuba.

11

SIERRA LEONE

Brigadier Bo, coup leader who seized government, promises democratic elections if negotiations end five-year-old civil war. Bo invites leader of Revolutionary United Front (RUF) to peace talks, and says he favors amnesty for RUF fighters.

12

BURMA

Force of 400 ethnic Karen rebels recaptures stronghold known as "Rambo Hill." Burmese government troops mount offensive, latest in the 30-year-old conflict, against Karen rebels.

3

BOSNIA

NATO troops raid terrorist school hidden outside Sarajevo, in French sector; capture three Iranian trainers and eight Bosnian agents, and find arsenal and plans for attacks on NATO targets. Peace accord required removal of all foreign troops by 19 Jan.

U.S. troops report warring factions are clearing land mines, as required by peace accord, but stockpile rather than destroy them. Some 1,500 mine fields cover 30% of U.S. sector.

United Nations will send 5,000 troops, backed by NATO airpower, to demilitarize Eastern Slavonia.

4

LIBYA

Anti-U.S. dictator Khadafi, supporter of international terrorism, pledges \$1 billion aid for Chicago-based Nation of Islam's efforts to influence U.S. politics. (Angry U.S. congressmen call for investigation of NOI leader Farrakhan's friendship visits to Libya, Iran and Iraq.)

5

BRITAIN

Terror bombs in London shatter 17-month cease-fire with Irish Republican Army. British army resumes sending troops to Northern Ireland, where nearly 17,000 are stationed.

2

8

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

U.S., British and French companies scramble for \$6 billion deal with Emirates for 80 advanced fighter jets. France might have inside track due to new security agreement with UAE government.

9

RWANDA

U.N. officials hunt for former Hutu government leaders in connection with 1994 genocide that killed nearly 500,000 of rival Tutsi tribe. U.N. tribunal investigators report little help from neighboring Kenya and Zaire, where many of the former Hutu officials are in exile.

17

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COLOMBIA

Cocaine cartels buy Antonov-32 twin-engine, turboprop military transports from Ukrainian government. Medium-range aircraft are built to haul 6 tons of cargo or 30 paratroopers. U.S. DEA reports a dozen or more An-32s are flying Latin American drug-delivery routes.

15

GUATEMALA

Recently elected President Arzu dismisses traditional military bodyguards in favor of civilian bodyguards from Israeli security company. Military's bodyguard unit was criticized for having undue influence over president.

13

JAPAN

Tokyo rules out use of force in dispute with South Korea over two tiny islands, in Sea of Japan, claimed by each. Japan says nothing as South Korean military conducts exercises in disputed area. Rock formations are surrounded by rich fishing waters; seabed likely has mineral deposits.

16

MEXICO

Mexican officials strongly complain to Washington over use of U.S. soldiers to help stop illegal immigration. U.S. denies southwest border has been militarized. About 350 soldiers and Marines assist local and federal law-enforcement officers in stepped-up border program.

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



**Win a 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

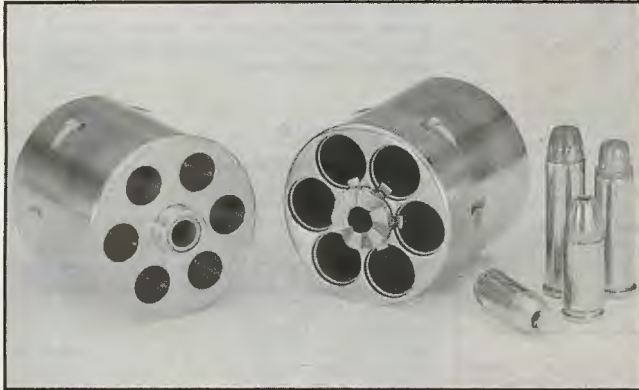
Fill out the entry card and send to SOF, P.O. Box 348, Mt. Morris, IL 61054-0348 via U.S. mail with entry postmarked no later than 1 June, 1996. No entries will be accepted after this date. Winners will be selected by random drawing on 29 June, 1996 and will be notified by mail or telephone. No purchase 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 May/June '96 Sweepstakes Winners List, c/o SOF, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306



ADVENTURE QUARTERMASTER

SHOOT 'EM ALL, LET THE RELOADERS SORT 'EM OUT



Shoot up to 25 different cartridges from a single handgun, using the same cylinder: Phillips & Rodgers has introduced a new line of conversion cylinders for a New Model Ruger and Smith & Wesson 686 to fire multiple calibers from a single cylinder. No half-moon clips are needed. Available from selected gun shops or directly from Phillips & Rodgers, Inc., Dept. SOF, 100 Hilbig, Suite C, Conroe, TX 77301; phone: 800-682-2247.

GO BALLISTIC OVER YOUR TEAM JACKET...



These are team jackets that some street punk is not going to shoot you and steal, because the jackets are actually hiding body armor that

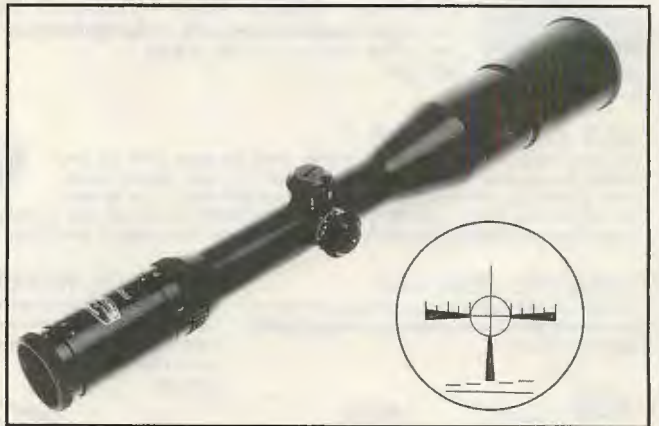
protects the wearer from nearly any handgun round. If working under cover and likely to be checked for vests or wires, these are just the preventive medicine the doctor ordered. Available from National Body Armor, Dept. SOF, 3809 Plaza Dr., Suites 107-226, Oceanside, CA 92056.

CLASS GLASS #1



Hensoldt 4x24 STANAG rifle scopes are available from Deutsche Optik, cammed for 7.62 or 5.56mm NATO; a rare chance to get them at all ... and these are substantially less than usual military pricing. Founded in 1862, Hensoldt has been part of the Carl Zeiss Group since 1928, and their military optics a standard of excellence for generations. Contact Sunset Cliffs Merchandising, Dept. SOF, Box 7518, San Diego, CA 92167; phone: 619-692-8196.

CLASS GLASS #2



A new line of rifle scopes designed specifically to meet the needs of the precision sharpshooter is now available from Schmidt & Bender of Germany, including fixed-power models in 6x42 and 10x42, plus variable models in 1.5-6x42, 3-12x42 and 3-12x50 configurations. Mission-specific models available for SWAT and tactical teams, and military applications. Contact Schmidt & Bender, Dept. SOF Box 134, Brook Road, Meriden, NH 03770; phone: 800-468-3450.

Professional Locksmithing Tools

LOCKAID

Specifically designed to pick tumbler locks. Designed over thirty years ago to aid law enforcement agencies. Consists of tension wrench, three needles and Lockaid "Gun." Prices include a copy of the book "Lock Picking Simplified."

Lockaid \$69.95



PIX MODEL 13

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:

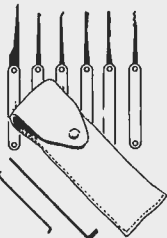
Pix 13 \$42.95



PXP 8

- Shirt Pocket Size.
- Top Grain Cowhide Leather.
- Has 8 Picks, Tension Wrenches and Broken Key Extractor.
- All Picks with Metal Handles.
- Copy of Lockpicking Simplified.

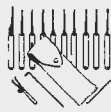
PXP 8 \$24.95



PXP 10

- Shirt Pocket Size.
- Top Grain Cowhide Leather.
- Has 13 Picks, Tension Wrenches and Broken Key Extractor.
- All Picks with Metal Handles.
- Copy of Lockpicking Simplified.

PXP 10 \$34.95



PIX-EZ All-In-One Pick-Set

100% American Made! As convenient to carry and use as a pocket knife! Only 4 inches long, half inch square, weighs under five ounces, works fast and opens pin and wator tumbler locks quickly, with very little effort. Six tempered spring steel picks, tension wrench. \$34.95



WKS PICKS

Made of the finest blue tempered spring steel this 5 piece padlock pick-set is a must in every locksmith's tool box. This set will pick open most every warded padlock made today. \$9.95



NEW MONTHLY SPECIAL

RECEIVE A COMBINATION SET INCLUDES — 5 ITEMS

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| 1-MD-16 DELUXE SET | \$59.95 |
| 1-SCHALGE WAFER SET | \$27.95 |
| 1-SESAMEE DECODER | \$17.95 |
| 1-WKS PICKS | \$ 9.95 |
| 1-DOUBLE SIDED TUMBLER PICKS | \$27.95 |

A VALUE OF \$143.75

AT A LOW PRICE OF \$89.95

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Lockpicking Simplified | \$8.50 |
| Complete Guide to Lockpicking | \$15.00 |
| Improvised Lock Picks | \$9.95 |
| Tubular Locks | \$8.95 |
| Lockout and forced entry | \$8.95 |
| Involuntary Repression | \$10.95 |

| | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Safe & Vault manipulation | \$9.95 |
| How to Pick Pins & Wafers | \$9.95 |
| Combination Locks | \$8.50 |
| Keys by Impressioning | \$7.00 |
| Key Casting Manual | \$8.95 |
| Locks, Picks, Clicks | \$10.00 |



KEY RING PICK SET



No Longer Available

This unique design is ideal when low profile is required or to keep on your keyring for emergencies. Contains a tension wrench, three picks and the "Key Pick." Key Ring Pick Set \$27.95



ESP-13

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

ESP-13 \$45.95



DOUBLE SIDED DISK TUMBLER PICKS

Set of 4 picks designed to be used on the most popular double-sided disc tumbler, showcase, cam and padlocks. \$29.95

MINI PICK TUBULAR

The most effective tubular pick on the market, unlike the larger picks with long handles or screwdriver handles. The longer the tool, the more pressure needed which causes easy breakage. The advantage of the Mini Pick is it is so short, you only use your thumb and index finger. With a little practice this tool will open a tubular lock in less than a minute. A. Your Choice: (1) Center (2) Offset left (3) Offset right; B. "Segal" 8 pin tubular; C. 5-pin Tubular; D. 6-pin Tubular; E. 8-Pin Ace.



\$79.95

SESAMEE DECODER

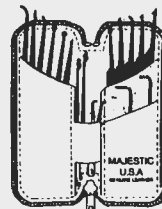
This tool was designed to decode the exact combination of a sesame padlock without damaging the lock. Detailed instruction included.



\$17.95

SCHLAGE WAFER

The most fantastic tool you will ever use. This set consists of two base keys and pick. Complete instructions included. \$29.95

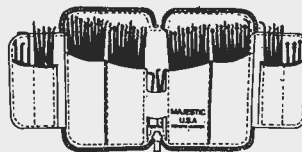
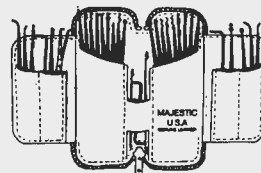


MD16

Shirt Pocket Size, Top Grain Cowhide Leather, Zippered Case, has 16 Picks, Tension Wrenches and Broken Key Extractor. \$59.95

MD32

Hip Pocket Size, Top Grain Cowhide Leather, Zippered Case, has 32 picks, Tension Wrenches, Broken Key Extractor. \$69.95



MD60

Top Grain Cowhide Leather, Zippered Case, has 60 picks, Tension Wrenches, Broken Key Extractor and Warded Master Keys. \$99.95

The law requires all purchases be made in good faith, without make believe or fraud by genuine persons within this industry

Send to Steve Arnolds Gun Room postage & handling \$5.00 Overseas Surface \$6.00 Add 30% of total for overseas mail. Must be 18 years of age.



Catalog \$3.00 Free with order. Sorry, no credit card orders

P.O. Box 68, Dept. SF05, Dexter, OR 97431; (541) 726-6360

GRAN'PA JACK

Our favorite in-their-face gun-rights advocates, JFPO, have published a comic-book format volume titled *Gun Control Kills Kids*. It's good, focusing largely on how the media has failed in their job to report the issues impartially. How good? Using the scale of: the closer it hits to home, the louder they yell, it must be doggone good. Richard Rongstad, who publishes one of our favorite thoughtful newsletters (P.I.R.A.N.), E-mailed an announcement of "Gran'pa Jack" to various print media. The reply he was E-mailed back from reporter Nick Ravo of *The New York Times* would indicate Gran'pa Jack hit a raw nerve. It was: "Fuck you, and the next time you send unsolicited spam, you will ge[t] a virus back that will take your system down. Seriously." Find out what the fuss is about by sending \$3.75 to JFPO, Dept. SOF, 2872 S. Wentworth Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53207; phone: 414-483-8435.

CASE FOR DRY GUNS



SOF's intrepid Tom Reisinger demonstrates how the super-tough, waterproof Rifle Sleeve gun case from CanDoo manufacturing can hold even large rifles such as an FN FAL — *with a magazine in place* — or oddball and oversized objects such as an RPG (or a M1919A6, etc. — anything up to 48"), with ease. Although primarily

designed to protect full-size (or oversize) firearms, this capacious case is also excellent for holding items like a surveyor's transit, camera and tripod, etc. Made from 18-ounce, 1000 denier vinyl-coated polyester (same as used in CanDoo's super-tough tents) with a temperature service of 150 F to -40 F, they roll shut quickly with an air/water-tight seal, secure with handy Velcro tabs. Black and white standard, colors available; custom sizes, too. Best part? Only \$10 plus shipping, from CanDoo American, Dept. SOF, 1635 Silverton Rd, NE., Salem, OR 97303; phone: 503-363-8933 (Dealers also inquire).

SOFT-NOSED SOVIETSKI



The good guys with the good ammo strike again: Black Hills now offers a choice of two high quality, brass-cased, reloadable rounds in 7.62x39mm. Available with a 123-grain or 150-grain Hornady soft point, these rounds exceed the performance of any imported surplus ammo. Use cheapo surplus for plinking, use Black Hills' good stuff for serious game harvesting. Black Hills Ammunition, P.O. Box 3090, Dept. SOF, Rapid City, SD 57709; phone 605-348-5150.

ONLY FRESH BATTERIES COUNT



Global position satellite (GPS) navigation systems, electronic game finders, NVG scopes, enhanced binocular systems, lights/lanterns, strobe lights, radios and more make life in the field much easier ... *if* the batteries are hot. If your life depends on the device in question, they'd better be. How do you know? Try the Triangle battery tester, a handy, adjustable unit that will test batteries from button type on up, *before* you head out to the field with them, for only \$7.95.

Triangle Inc., Dept. SOF, 51 Fernwood Lane, Roslyn, NY 11575; phone: 800-255-9863.

FAST-FIRING FUN

For those of you who didn't have the \$200 for a tax stamp when 1986 rolled by, the Hellstorm 2000 is a legal alternative, which attaches to almost any semi-auto and allows burst fire by pulling the trigger faster than a finger can hope to — without interfering with normal semi-auto trigger function. This all-metal unit costs \$29.95 plus \$3 shipping, and is available from Firequest, Dept. SOF, 218 East 1st St, Delta, CO 81416. ✕



I WAS THERE

Puff, Purple Hearts & PR

Text & Photos by Ronald Sanders

Our deuce-and-a-half rumbled hastily down the dirt road through the small South Vietnamese village of Binh Tan, leaving a plume of choking dust to settle on the thatched roofs and in the windowless houses. The locals peered at us from darkened doorways with angry and distrustful faces, giving me an uneasy feeling that someday we might have to answer for such lack of consideration.

The road ended in a small clearing where we unloaded tents, concertina wire, supplies and lumber. We were left alone with the sage advice to get the barbed wire strung around our perimeter and post guards before it got dark. I thought if we had shown the nearby villagers a little more respect and courtesy on the way in, the need to string barbed wire and post guards might not be so urgent.

A high-priority detail was filling sandbags for bunkers and perimeter fortifications. Filling sandbags in humid, 120 degree heat with no shade is torturous. I hated those damned sandbags! After one hard day on sandbag detail, I checked my rifle, carefully tucked my mosquito netting in all around my small mattress, and drifted off to sleep.

I was jolted awake by the sound of gunfire and tracers ripping through my tent. I tried to hit the floor but became entangled in my mosquito net; grabbing the sides of my cot, I rolled it over and ripped my way out from underneath.

Grabbing my flack jacket, steel pot and rifle, I crawled outside and worked my way behind a wall

of those lovely sandbags I had been filling all day long.

While we were only getting sporadic small-arms fire, there was a pitched battle at the Special Forces camp a couple of miles across the rice paddies to the north. We could hear the blasts and see the flashes of multiple explosions coming from the area of the chopper pads: Sappers!

The drone of a large aircraft was followed by a curtain of red

ber Puff's mighty roar until the day I die — as will, no doubt, any enemy who survived.

A buddy across the compound got out of his foxhole to stretch, then got stupid and lit a smoke: A burst of automatic rifle fire cut short his cigarette break. It also broke his collar bone when one round caught him in the neck.

As dawn broke I went atop the bunker to provide rifle support for the M60. We were joined by an ARVN lieutenant and told to follow his orders. As the light increased we saw a man running from bush to bush, 100 yards out. The ARVN lieutenant yelled at him to



Parachute flares (left), illuminate fire from "Puff's" Vulcans (right) as they tear up suspected enemy positions.



The small Vietnamese village of Binh Tan in 1967. Folks are folks — if you treat 'em with a little respect.

fire that rained down on the rice paddies. This spectacular display was immediately followed by a guttural roar that raised the hair on my neck: "Puff the magic dragon" was at work.

For half an hour Puff flew back and forth over the battlefield, dropping huge parachute flares, occasionally lighting the sky with his fiery red breath. I will remem-

show himself, but there was no response. The lieutenant turned to me and told me to shoot him.

I had no problems with killing an enemy in battle, but this was like shooting fish in a barrel. After a few moments of hesitation, with all eyes in the camp on me, I fired a round into the bush where he was hiding.

He immediately yelled in Viet-

name and waved his arms over the top of the bush. He claimed to be just an unarmed villager trying to retrieve the nylon parachute from a flare. Maybe. You could never be sure of your enemy in this war. I was still glad I had not hit him.

There was a barber shop at the crossroads in the village, where the barber was friendly and efficient, using a hot towel to cover the face and giving a very good shave with a straight razor. I never stopped there, as straight razors at my throat make me nervous. Especially when handled by a Vietnamese who has my eyes covered with a hot towel.

A few days after the raid a terrible odor wafted from beyond our perimeter — we found the rapidly decomposing, bloated and unidentifiable body of a Vietnamese. Coincidentally, from the day of the raid, the barber was never again seen.

I made an effort to become more trusted by the villagers, starting by offering C-rations to the children (really not that mag-nanimous, as it was things GIs couldn't stomach like scrambled eggs or ham and limas). They were a delicacy to the villagers, however, who had a limited diet of rice, vegetables and anything they could catch in the river. Before long I was invited to dine with them. This was an occasion, as it was our first formal social contact, prior social interaction was limited to nods of recognition and an occasional thin smile when I gave the children food.

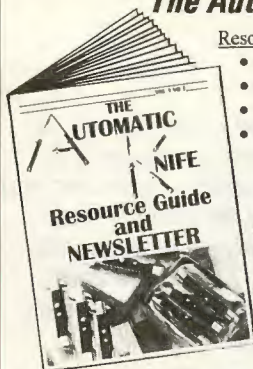
The meal was an interesting event and I was a source of amusement for the villagers, who crowded around the open windows and door to watch. We squatted around a low platform on the dirt floor. The floor was freshly swept and the table set with a clean, bright red cloth. I am sure we were eating off the best china in the village; I was honored with the bowl with no cracks.

My ability with chopsticks was crude at best, but with coaching from the lady of the house I got

Continued on page 82

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FLAK

BOOKS FOR THE BOSNIA OP

The Marines onboard the USS *Whidbey Island* [troop transport] received *SOF's* kind gift of books on 21 January. We have been deployed since August and on station in the Adriatic Sea since 1 December, and entertainment was getting hard to come by.

Thanks for thinking about us.
Semper Fidelis.

Captain W.R. Costantini
Battalion Landing Team 2/6
26th Marine Expeditionary Unit

Please accept, and then forward, the enclosed paperback books to our troops enforcing the peace in Bosnia (as requested in the 1 February issue of *The Shotgun News*).

And thank you, *SOF*, for the opportunity to show once again that although we may debate the correctness of deploying our forces in one situation or another, we will always support our troops once deployed.

Scott Reckmo
Minneapolis, Minnesota

I just wanted to let all of you at *SOF* know that I appreciate your support of the soldier throughout the world. I served in the Air Force Reserves and although I was out by the time Desert Storm activated my unit, my heart and good wishes still went with them.

I am no longer an airman, just an ordinary civilian, but if these books help pass the time for the men and women who are there in Bosnia, I hope they enjoy them. It is a dangerous mission they have been assigned, and although I may not agree with them being sent there under these conditions, I do support them.

Charlie Martin
Massapequa Park, New York

As this issue goes to press, SOF has mailed some 7,000 paperbacks to U.S. troops in the

Bosnia theater of operations; another 2,000 await shipment. Although the public — from one end of America to the other — has been extremely generous in donating books, Minnesota and Colorado, so far, are the leaders. The troops thank you all.

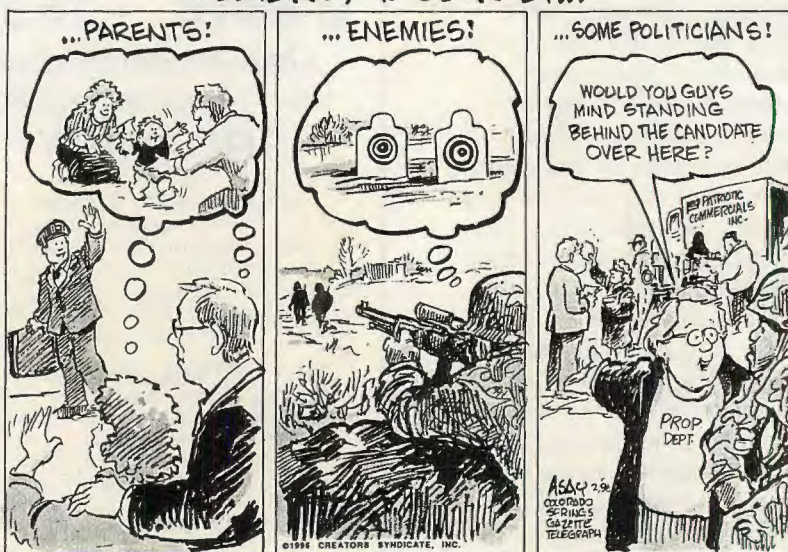
U.N. DUTY DEFENDED

I read with some interest Guy Cunningham's article [on U.S. Army Specialist Michael New] "Green Team or Blue Team," in your February issue. Quite frankly, I don't get it.

11 November, members who have served in U.N. peacekeeping operations once again wear their blue berets in honor of their service and in remembrance of the 102 Canadian Forces personnel who have died on U.N. operations.

I have served in the Canadian Forces for almost 22 years, and had volunteered for several U.N. missions. In 1994 I finally made it, and was sent ... as part of the Canadian contingent to the Cambodian Mine Action Center. Military engineers and explosive ordnance-disposal specialists

SOLDIERS, AS SEEN BY...



As you know, the Canadian Forces have a long and distinguished history with the United Nations, beginning in Korea and continuing to this day. In fact, Canada has been involved in every major peacekeeping effort the U.N. has embarked upon. At the high point, we provided some 14 percent of the total U.N. peacekeeping forces. This, from a country whose armed forces numbered only 70,000 at the time.

Members of the Canadian Forces are justly proud of their service to the international community. On Remembrance Day,

from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Belgium, and Holland spent six months in the minefields of Cambodia ... under constant threat from the Khmer Rouge, bandits, and the mines themselves, teaching the Khmer the task of clearing land mines and unexploded ordnance so the people of Cambodia could return to their land after 20 years of continual warfare. To suggest that we somehow demeaned ourselves by wearing U.N. insignia or "subjecting" ourselves to U.N. command is, quite frankly, insulting.

In my view, and I am sure in

Now, You Can Destroy Any Attacker Using 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 fighting 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 instantaneous 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, nonscientific 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.

It's easy to get your free copy. Just call

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Official SEAL SCARS-CFC
Creator Jerry Peterson

the view of the thousands of other Canadians who have served with the U.N., wearing its patch and blue beret is not in any way demeaning and does *not* detract from your national identity. ... It is unfortunate that the location in which the U.N. patch is worn [right shoulder] has some significance to the U.S. Army, but it is a coincidence, nothing more. ... But with the profusion of different uniforms in any international operation, it would be hard to tell the players without that instantly recognizable [U.N.] symbol. ...

Specialist New is, of course, entitled to his beliefs. He is also obligated to pay the price when his actions are found ... to be contrary to the Uniform Code of Military Justice. I wish him luck, as I would any person who acts as his conscience directs him. I cannot, however, support his decision.

Capt. D.O. Buck
Ottawa, Ontario

New, a 3rd Infantry Division

medic, was court-martialed in Germany for refusing an order to wear U.N. headgear and patches for his unit's deployment to Macedonia. In January he was given a bad-conduct discharge, which is less severe than a "dishonorable."

RAVE FOR THE RESISTER

The article on *The Resister* [Feb. '96 SOF] was further demonstration of the caliber of reporting by your magazine. ... After the OKC bombing I was astounded (and ecstatic) to see *The Resister's* staff on "60 Minutes."

I have previously been very morose and cynical about the direction our government is headed, but *The Resister* and *SOF* give me hope that at least some of our military men are aware that the government has been slowly dismantling the Constitution for years. The sidebar interview demonstrated the great understanding these men [*Resister* staff] have of our intended

form of government. ...

Name Withheld by Request
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii

SNIPING AT RUBY RIDGE

Good job on "Amateurs & Assassins II" [Jan. '96 SOF]. I watched almost the entire sequence of the Ruby Ridge hearings on C-SPAN, and I had the same questions in my mind that were brought to light in the article, concerning a second shooter.

It seems a great deal of effort was made to describe as quite long the distance from [FBI sniper Lon] Horiuchi's position to the Weaver cabin. But anyone who's ever been a long-distance shooter *knows* that 220 yards for a sub-minute of angle [MOA] rifle with good optics is well within the rifle's capability of surgical shot placement. Hell, I know DCM [Director of Civilian Marksmanship] shooters who consistently "X-ring" with iron sights at 200 yards. ...

What was the object of positioning nine snipers around the

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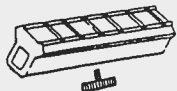
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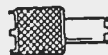


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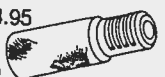


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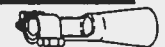
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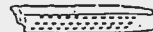
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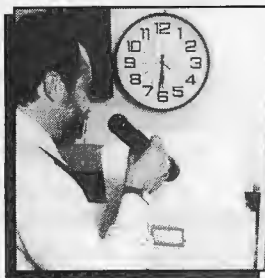


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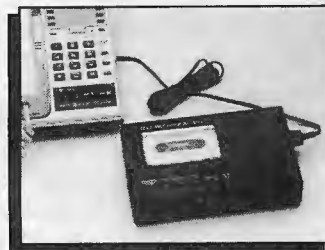
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Weavers' cabin at that range, and why were there no true "spotters" assigned to each? Their positions consisted of two shooters each, except for the one position with three shooters. They had *no* spotters in the traditional sense. The sniper positions, as outlined in the congressional hearings, indicated ... a primary kill zone had been established. In light of their armament, the lack of spotters, and the ranges from each position to the cabin, a point can be made that [FBI] tactical planners did not want arrests. ... Further, every single "sniper/observer" who testified, with one exception, was armed with a bolt-action gun. The exception had an M-21. All were armed with sub-MOA rifles and are required to maintain extreme proficiency. A good example of this accuracy was the point of impact on Mrs. Weaver: the temporal zone, which is targeted for immediate incapacitation of motor center and reflexes.

In contrast, as far as immediate incapacitation is concerned,

the shot placement on Randy Weaver is consistent with a horizontal miss on a center-mass shot with an iron-sight rifle. Further support [for this] comes from the fact that triggers on unmodified M16/AR-15's simply are terrible when compared to the pieces used by these "sniper/observers." ... Accuracy requirements for these rifles and shooters is markedly less stringent than those for "snipers."

I'm by no means an expert, just a retired GI who had some training in these areas.

Tom Randall
Boise, Idaho

LETTER DRAWS FLAK

I feel compelled to respond to the Flak entry ["Non-Lethal Defense," March '96] written by a Washington, D.C., resident. This is another example of a liberal who just does not get the point.

He says he is a lawyer, has been accosted four times, and is an anti-gun advocate. He carries

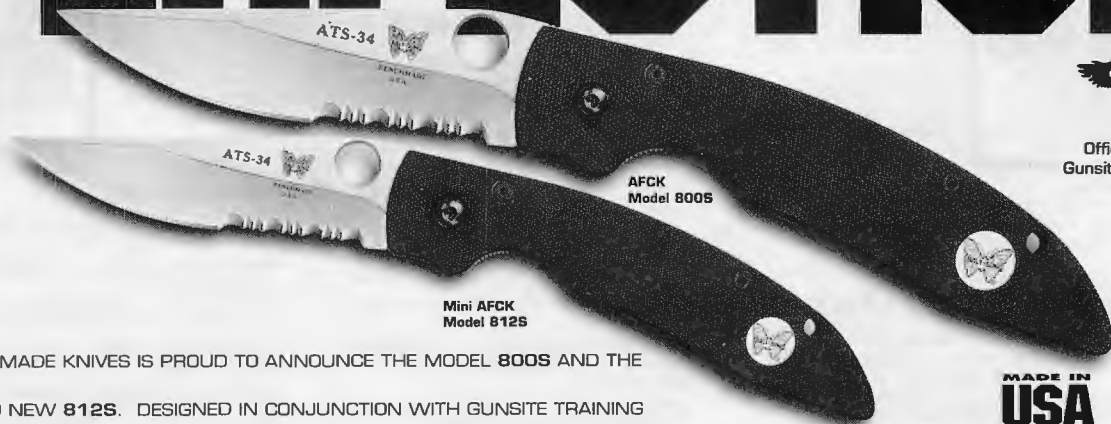
pepper spray 10% for protection instead of a gun, because handguns are illegal in D.C. Apparently this lawyer is not up on the law or he would already know that in Washington it is illegal to carry Mace for self-defense, so he has violated the law by defending himself with pepper spray. ...

This fool lives in D.C., has been victimized four times, does not believe in his right to carry a firearm for self-defense, but does believe in his right to protect himself by other, illegal means. ... He is a victim, an anti-gunner, and even has resorted to illegal means in protecting himself. I hope for his sake the pepper keeps working. In Washington, D.C., he sure is going to need it.

Greg Monroe
Knoxville, Tennessee

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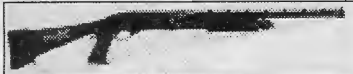
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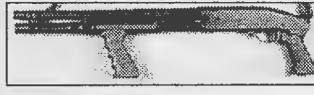


Pistol Grip Stock* This is the ultimate shotgun stock for hunters, law enforcement and competition shooters. It reduces felt recoil to make follow-up shots faster and more accurate. Single-handed firing is also made easier. It includes a 1" thick rubber recoil pad and a bottom mounted 1" sling swivels. Forend sold separately below.

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| CM010103 (Camo Rem. 870/1100/11-87) | \$65.50 | CM040102 (Black Ithaca 37) | \$58.00 |
| CM020102 (Black Mossberg 500/600) | \$58.00 | CM040103 (Camo Ithaca 37) | \$65.50 |
| CM020103 (Camo Mossberg 500/600) | \$65.50 | CM050102 (Black Smith & Wesson 3000) | \$58.00 |
| CM030102 (Black Winchester 1200/1400/Def.) | \$58.00 | CM050103 (Camo Smith & Wesson 3000) | \$65.50 |

Side Folding Stock* This folding stock is made from Dupont Zytel® and 4140 steel. It comes fitted with a 1" recoil pad and two sling loops. The side folding stock MUST (excluding the Winchester-1400) be used with the Choate minimum length forend that is included with the kit.

| | | | |
|---|---------|--|---------|
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| CM020123 (Camo Mossberg 500/600) | \$95.50 | CM050122 (Black Smith & Wesson 3000) | \$88.00 |
| CM030122 (Black Winchester 1200/1300) | \$88.00 | CM050123 (Camo Smith & Wesson 3000) | \$95.50 |



Top Folding Stock* Steel & Dupont Zytel® construction. Forend sold separately below.

| | | | |
|---|---------|---|---------|
| CM010112 (Black Rem. 870) | \$88.00 | CM030112 (Black Winchester 1200/1300) | \$88.00 |
| CM010113 (Camo Rem. 870) | \$95.50 | CM030113 (Camo Winchester 1200/1300) | \$95.50 |
| CM020112 (Black Mossberg 500/600) | \$88.00 | CM050112 (Black Smith & Wesson 3000) | \$88.00 |
| CM020113 (Camo Mossberg 500/600) | \$95.50 | CM050113 (Camo Smith & Wesson 3000) | \$95.50 |

Pistol Grips (Rear) *Whether you are using your shotgun for house cleaning or home protection this pistol grip, made from Dupont Zytel®, is perfect for use in tight spots.

| | | | |
|---|---------|---|---------|
| CM010302 (Black Rem. 870) | \$19.00 | CM040303 (Camo Ithaca 37) | \$23.50 |
| CM010303 (Camo Rem. 870) | \$23.50 | CM050302 (Black Smith & Wesson 3000) | \$19.00 |
| CM020302 (Black Mossberg 500/600) | \$19.00 | CM050303 (Camo Smith & Wesson 3000) | \$23.50 |
| CM020303 (Camo Mossberg 500/600) | \$23.50 | CM060302 (Black Savage 67) | \$19.00 |
| CM030302 (Black Winchester 1200/1400) | \$19.00 | CM060303 (Camo Savage 67) | \$23.50 |
| CM030303 (Camo Winchester 1200/1400) | \$23.50 | CM190302 (Black H&R/NEA 410/20/16/12) | \$19.00 |
| CM040302 (Black Ithaca 37) | \$19.00 | CM190303 (Camo H&R/NEA 410/20/16/12) | \$23.50 |

Synthetic Forends* These forends match the Choate stocks perfectly. They are made from the same material that allows the stocks to last a lifetime.

| | | | |
|---|---------|--|---------|
| CM010202 (Black Rem. 870) | \$14.50 | CM040202 (Black Ithaca 37) | \$14.50 |
| CM010203 (Camo Rem. 870) | \$19.00 | CM040203 (Camo Ithaca 37) | \$19.00 |
| CM010212 (Black Rem. 1100/11-87) | \$26.50 | CM050202 (Black Smith & Wesson 3000) | \$14.50 |
| CM010213 (Camo Rem. 1100/11-87) | \$31.00 | CM050203 (Camo Smith & Wesson 3000) | \$19.00 |
| CM020202 (Black Mossberg 500/600) | \$14.50 | CM060212 (Black Savage 24 O/U Combo) | \$17.50 |
| CM020203 (Camo Mossberg 500/600) | \$19.00 | CM060213 (Camo Savage 24 O/U Combo) | \$22.00 |
| CM030202 (Black Winchester 1200/1300) | \$14.50 | CM060202 (Black Savage 67) | \$14.50 |
| CM030203 (Camo Winchester 1200/1300) | \$19.00 | CM060203 (Camo Savage 67) | \$19.00 |

Pistol Grip Forends* There are several advantages to having a Pistol Grip Forend. By holding the gun in a more natural position, it is easier to control and "point" shoot. It also protects the shooter's hand from slipping off the forend during rapid fire. Constructed from Dupont Zytel® and will give a lifetime of shooting performance.

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| CM020204 (Black Mossberg 500/600) | \$26.00 | CM050213 (Camo Smith & Wesson 3000) | \$37.50 |
| CM020205 (Camo Mossberg 500/600) | \$37.50 | CM060204 (Black Savage 67) | \$26.00 |
| CM030212 (Black Winchester 1200/1300) | \$26.00 | CM060205 (Camo Savage 67) | \$37.50 |

Choate Machine & Tool Shotgun Accessories

Increase your firepower with these shotgun magazine extensions. They are great for law enforcement officers and competition shooters. They are also a must for home protection. They are constructed of solid blue steel (Selected models are available with a parkerized finish. See below for availability.) and come complete with spring & installation instructions. The use of these extensions on semi-auto shotguns may be illegal.

- 7 shot extension fit 18" and longer barrel. \$30.00
- 8 shot extension fit 20" and longer barrel. \$30.00
- 9 shot extension fit 24" and longer barrel. \$35.00
- 10 shot extension fit 26" and longer barrel. .. \$40.00

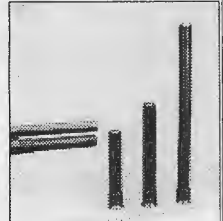
9 & 10 shot extensions come with Sling Swivel base clamps to add needed support. These clamps are recommended for all extensions and are available below. Base clamps will not function on Browning A5 due to its reciprocating barrel.

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Remington 870/1100 Light Weight* | |
| CM010432 (7 Shot) | CM010433 (8 Shot) |
| Remington 870/1100/11-87* | |
| CM010402 (7 Shot) | CM010404 (9 Shot) |
| CMP10402 (7 Shot Parkerized) | CMP10404 (9 Shot Parkerized) |
| CM010403 (8 Shot) | CM010405 (10 Shot) |
| CMP10403 (8 Shot Parkerized) | CMP10405 (10 Shot Parkerized) |

Remington extensions fit 12, 16 & 20 gauge models. all other fit 12 only.
*The new model Remington 870/1100/1187 shotguns have dimples that must be drilled out with 3/16 holes before the spring will extend into the magazine extension. Older model Remingtons will accept the extensions without any modification.

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Winchester 1200 & Ranger 120 | |
| CM030402 (7 Shot) | CM030404 (9 Shot) |
| CM030403 (8 Shot) | CM030405 (10 Shot) |

We also have extensions for the Mossberg 500, Winchester Defender, Browning Pump & A-5 and Smith & Wesson shotguns.



Remington 1100 Combat Bolt Handle* This allows you to reach over the shotgun with your left hand and operate the action without taking your finger off the trigger.

TacStar®



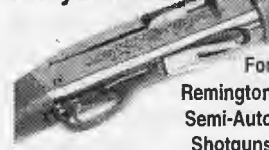
The SideSaddle™ has proven to be the best way to carry six extra rounds in the most convenient and accessible location for quick reloading without losing sights. It mounts directly on the receiver of the shotgun and holds the shells securely. Simply remove shotshells from shell holder and reload as needed. The SideSaddle™ mounting plate is made from aircraft grade aluminum and the shell holder is injection molded from Hyltel®, a durable polymer that resists wear from moisture and temperature extremes. Installation is easy and in most cases, requires no alterations to the shotgun. Instructions and all the necessary mounting hardware are included. For Remington 870 Express and Wingmaster, a minor modification to the shotgun forend is required to prevent interference with the SideSaddle®.

| | | | |
|--|---------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| TS01157 (Remington 870/1100/11-87) | \$24.95 | TS01161 (Winchester 1200/1300) | \$24.95 |
| TS01159 (Mossberg 500/600) | \$24.95 | TS01163 (HK Super 90) | \$24.95 |

The Universal Barrel Shroud * is machined from steel with a black oxide finish. It is 13 3/4 inches in length and fits most 12 gauge shotguns with no alterations required. It has a circular friction fit bracket at the rear and a locking clamp at the front for a recoil resistant fit on the barrel. NOTE: A minor modification to the shroud may be necessary depending on the shotgun make and model.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| TS01171 Universal Barrel Shroud | \$18.95 |
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| ZSG101 (The EasyLoader) | \$29.95 |
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Mayaguez: Forgotten Battle

Searching For America's Last MIAs

Text & Photos by Will Cadence

Helmet of one of 10 Marines killed in a CH-53C Sea Stallion helicopter, part of the 1975 *Mayaguez* rescue force, is uncovered in wreckage found 20 years later at Koh Tang island.

After the fall of Cambodia in 1975, triumphant warriors in the new Kampuchea — destined for infamy for its genocidal “killing fields” — committed an archaic act of piracy whose outcome mirrored the irony of the entire Southeast Asian war.

For four days, the American merchant ship *SS Mayaguez* and the plight of its 40 crewmen captured the attention of the world. In the incident’s misguided climax, a heliborne assault, 18 U.S. servicemen and an unknown number of Khmer Rouge troops died needlessly on Koh Tang, an obscure island off the southwest coast of Cambodia. The would-be rescuers did not know the *Mayaguez* and its crew were being safely recovered elsewhere.

Nearly 21 years later, in November 1995, a U.S. Navy salvage ship stationed in Japan would be the first American military vessel allowed into

Cambodian waters since the end of the war. Personnel from the *USS Brunswick* and the Joint Task Force for Full Accounting (JTF-FA), the government’s POW/MIA recovery unit from the Pacific Command (PACOM) in Hawaii, went to Koh Tang to search for remains of U.S. airmen, sailors and Marines killed during the 14-hour battle on the island. A number of journalists covered this effort.

Arriving by helicopter on 9 November, I felt as though a cover had been placed over the tiny island after that battle and only now was being raised. Ringing both beaches on the north end of the island, where the deadly firefights occurred in 1975, were the old Khmer fortifications, machine-gun pits, bunkers and trenches. All were overgrown with thick vegetation, but basically undisturbed. Trees were pocked with bullet holes. One palm tree had a 6-inch

hole through its trunk, but had survived the wound. Another nearby, a dried husk, had not.

Evidence that emerged from the JTF-FA search testifies to the violence of combat in the *Mayaguez* incident. And there remains one disturbing incongruity: Three Marines probably were left behind *alive* on Koh Tang as the U.S. task force sailed away, consigning them to a lonely fate at the hands of the Khmer Rouge.

Left Behind Alive

The *Mayaguez* was a merchant ship stamped out like a cookie from the massive U.S. production line during the waning days of World War II. In 1975 it wore a dull coat of black paint on its rusty sides, and had been refitted to carry 274 35-foot cargo containers. Unarmed and slow, it was plying the seas in international waters off Cambodia on Monday afternoon, 12 May, when it was attacked

and boarded by Khmer Rouge naval forces.

On the other side of the world, President Gerald Ford convened his National Security Council. He ordered continuous reconnaissance over the hijack area. Thailand-based warplanes were ordered armed and placed on alert. Naval forces including the destroyer escort USS *Harold E. Holt*, guided-missile destroyer USS *Henry B. Wilson* and aircraft carrier USS *Coral Sea* swung their bows toward Cambodia, according to military-historical accounts.

Meanwhile, the *Mayaguez* weighed anchor. It headed slowly toward Kompong Som on the coast only to divert around noon to an anchorage a mile north-northeast of tiny Koh Tang island, 30 miles off the coast.

Cleared To Fire

Late that afternoon small boats tied up to the *Mayaguez*. The crew of a Navy P-3 Orion orbiting the area spotted what looked like Caucasians boarding the boats. From that point on, efforts to pinpoint the crew's location became confused — yet were crucial for any rescue. Just before dark, a U.S. pilot in an A-7D saw two boats heading toward the beach; the passengers disembarked in the surf. The *Mayaguez* crewmen actually never set foot on Koh Tang, but the pilot's report gave credence to the belief they were being held in a tiny encampment between two beaches on the north end of the island.

In Thailand, U.S. ground crews readied CH-53C armored Sea Stallion — known as "Knife" — and HH-53C Super Jolly Green Giant helicopters, all of which had 7.62x51mm Gatling-type miniguns and long-range fuel tanks. Marines were flown in from Okinawa. Navy and civilian technicians who could operate the *Mayaguez* were located.

By 2130 (Cambodian time) on 13 May, the elements of a rescue force had been iden-



Anthropologist Scott Law, from U.S. Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii, examines debris for human remains.

tified. Now it became important to bring them together, brief everyone, then await a decision from Washington.

Upon learning that the *Mayaguez* was at anchor away from the mainland, Ford ordered all boat traffic in and out of Koh Tang to be intercepted and turned back, but he withheld clearance to fire.

Early Wednesday, 14 May, Marines and ship technicians were delivered to Utapao Naval Base in Thailand to finalize preparations for an assault on the *Mayaguez* and Koh Tang. Continuous aerial surveillance showed the ship remained at anchor with its power plant shut down. That meant the Marines would need daylight to seize the ship so technicians could restart the "cold" vessel.

As the morning wore on, a Khmer patrol boat departed Koh Tang, followed by a 40-foot fishing vessel.



Rusty relics of fierce combat: unexploded mortar rounds and pieces of an RPG round found in the sand near wreckage of Knife-31 and Knife-23 choppers along eastern beach of Koh Tang.

The patrol boat refused to heed U.S. warning shots. An exchange of gunfire finally brought clearance from Washington to fire for effect: A-7Ds from Korat Air Base in Thailand made strafing passes, ripping apart the back end of the boat. Pilots in A-7Ds and F-111s reported "30-40 possible Caucasians huddled in the bow" of the trawler. The planes bombed and strafed ahead of the boat — even dropped CS gas — but the trawler continued to Kompong Som's harbor, arriving just after 1000.

President Ford received an Air Force intelligence estimate that only eight or nine Caucasians had been taken to Kompong Som. He also was told U.S. diplomatic initiatives had failed. Believing most of the crew still was held on Koh Tang, he decided to proceed with the rescue. His staff agreed on an H-hour at dawn (Cambodia time), 15 May. The die was cast.

With the immediacy and intensity of defensive reactions on Koh Tang, the strength of those forces should have been apparent, but was not. The Marines at Utapao, led by Lieutenant Colonel Randall W. Austin of the 9th Marine regiment, were told that only 18 to 20 Cambodian irregulars and families were on Koh Tang. In Washington, the Defense Intelligence Agency estimated Khmer troop strength at 150-200; in Hawaii, PACOM estimated 90-100. Due to poor coordination, neither of the latter estimates reached the Marines. As a result, the planners chose a risky daylight assault with no pre-assault bombardment.

Killing Fields

The two beaches on the northern end were close to the camp where some or all of the *Mayaguez* crewmen were thought to be held. These beaches offered LZs close enough to permit a quick overrun of Khmer positions, considering that only 18-20 irregulars were reported there.

The cove surrounding the

eastern most of these strands was shaped like an open vise. From the center of the beach, a 300-meter path ran across the island to the western shore. There, a tiny beach arched between rocky outcroppings. Unbeknownst to the planners at Utapao, the Koh Tang defenders had wasted no time preparing for the Americans.

Every 50 to 100 meters around the beaches, rock-fortified bunkers were embedded in the sand. Between fortifications ran a deep trench allowing unobserved movement between bunkers. Where large boulders impeded trench construction, a foliage-covered path wound through the rocky terrain. The 300-meter path permitted infantrymen to reinforce either beach in minutes. The Khmer force was armed with 20mm and 40mm anti-aircraft guns, 12.7mm heavy machine guns, 7.62mmx54R general-purpose machine guns, AK-47 rifles, RPGs, 81mm mortars and even a 105mm howitzer.

In the predawn darkness of 15 May, 11 U.S. helicopters lifted off from Utapao and headed south. The armada divided about 12 miles northwest of Koh Tang where the newly arrived USS *Holt* waited to

pick up the inbound *Mayaguez* boarding force. A phalanx of F-4 Phantoms, A-7 Corsairs, F-111 Aardvarks and AC-130 gunships backed the helicopters. Some 350 miles to the southeast, the *Coral Sea* was fueling her strike force for bombing attacks over the Cambodian mainland.

Three Air Force HH-53C helicopters delivered the ship-seizure team to the *Holt*. This team prepared to board the *Mayaguez* via ship-to-ship, to get her underway and clear of Cambodian waters.

A molten sun rose in the east as Lt. Col. John Denham, flying Knife-21, and Captain Terry Ohlemeier, at the controls of Knife-22, nosed their heavy aircraft over to begin a diversionary assault on the small beach to the west. Six other helicopters maneuvered for the main attack on the eastern beach. Inside, Marines from Okinawa gripped their weapons in silence and watched

anxiously as tense airmen stood spread-legged at their gunports, swiveling their minigun sights onto the beach.

Murderous Crossfire

To the west, Denham's helicopter, loaded with Marines of Battalion Landing Team 2/9, reached the narrow strip of sand unopposed. As the troops began scrambling onto the beach, a murderous Khmer crossfire of small arms, rockets and mortars opened up. Heavy impacts rocked Knife-21 as Denham lifted off. With one engine out and the other putting out barely enough power to get airborne, Denham skipped his aircraft out across the surf, picking up water with each bounce. A mile from the beach, Knife-21 settled into the sea.

The copilot was pulled from the sinking helicopter by Staff Sergeant Elwood Rumbaugh, who then disappeared beneath the surface. Rumbaugh became the first U.S. fatality.

Then it was Knife-22's turn in the barrel while two other aircraft came to Denham's aid. As Knife-22 rushed the beach, ground fire tracked the helicopter all the way in: Rounds rattled through its armored sides, causing extensive damage. Fuel hemorrhaged from Knife-22's tanks. Ohlemeier aborted his run and raced to the Thai mainland, barely making it before his fuel ran out.

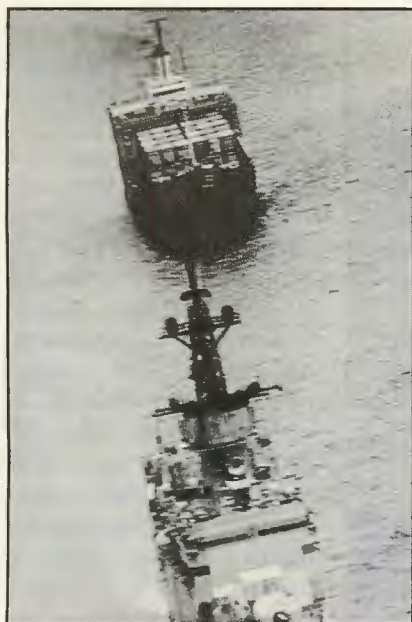
At about the same time Knife-22 was taking hits, Knife-23, piloted by 1st Lieutenant John Shramm, and Knife-31, flown by Major Howard Corson, arrived at the

eastern beach. As Knife-23 slowed to a hover, the enemy opened up with heavy weapons and RPGs. Shramm's aircraft was rocked with impacts that crippled his rotor system. To his left, he watched Corson's helicopter explode in a frightening fireball. Shramm had little time to sympathize as one of his engines began winding down and severe vibrations shook his machine. He ordered the rear ramp



Northern third of Koh Tang, viewed from east-northeast. The eastern beach, initial objective of 1975 air assault/rescue, is at center. Khmer Rouge bunkers, machine-gun pits and trenches were embedded in tree line along shore. USS *Brunswick*, during 1995 recovery mission, is anchored at right. Island measures about 4 miles in length.





U.S. Air Force

Destroyer escort USS Harold E. Holt tows merchant ship Mayaguez from its anchorage one mile northeast of Koh Tang. By then, Mayaguez crewmen were safe aboard destroyer Wilson, but Marines on Koh Tang were fighting for their lives.

opened while he nursed the chopper to the beach, arriving just as the entire tail section was torn off. Shramm's Marines, his copilot, and an Air Force photographer rushed ashore. Miraculously, no one from Knife-23 was killed as the helicopter disintegrated.

Meanwhile, Knife-31 occupied the Khmers' attention. With his helicopter on fire and RPG and heavy machine-gun rounds tearing through the fuselage, Corson tried vainly to reverse course. As the aircraft swung away, Sergeant Randy Hoffmaster returned fire with his minigun from inside the cabin inferno while the copilot, 2nd Lieutenant Richard Vandegeer, fired an M16 out his cockpit window. Then the instrument panel exploded, most likely from an RPG round. Dazed and wounded, with nothing left in front of him, Maj. Corson rode the aircraft into the surf. He remained frozen in his seat until a crew member, Staff Sgt. Jon D. Harston, who had exited the wreck, brought him to his senses. A Marine tried to free Vandegeer, who slumped critically wounded in his seat, but flames burned the Marine's hands and arms until he gave up and withdrew from the heat as enemy rounds churned the water around him. The second

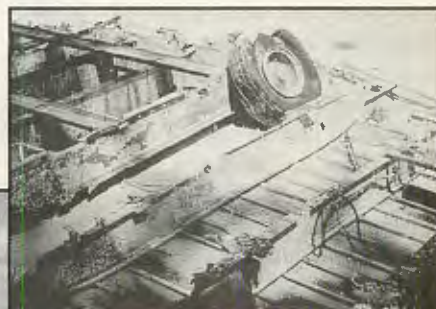
U.S. fatality had occurred.

Inside the helicopter, the remaining Marines were hopping around dousing flames while tracers cut through the fuselage. Ammunition exploded in the intense heat. They saw no escape — started trying to punch out windows — until Harston, already shot in the leg, reappeared from a half-submerged forward entry hatch. He grabbed an M16 and led some of the dazed Marines outside. They swam seaward and eventually were saved. But 10 Marines and two Navy corpsmen were trapped in the enclosed hell of Knife-31. The U.S. death toll rose to 14.

Twenty years later, the JTF-FA crew set up pumps and a screening system on work boats and makeshift barges over Knife-31, now in shallow water offshore. Fearing live ordnance, divers wore flak jackets during work to move the wreckage to land. The crew was astonished: Inside and from under the wreckage they recovered teeth and arm, leg,

hit by a small, high-energy projectile: a bullet or piece of shrapnel. He pointed to a tiny, triangular gap in the fracture. "Hit right here," Law said. Measured against my thigh, the bone went a good 2 inches below my knee. This sailor or Marine had to have been well over 6 feet tall.

Also found in Knife-31's wreckage were 10 helmets and liners, rusted entrenching-tool blades, gloves, T-shirts, a sock, a .45 semi-automatic pistol, Lt. Vandegeer's .38 revolver, M16 rifle parts warped from the heat, and live ammo. There were enemy AK-47 and machine-gun bullets inside, plus RPG fragments and two rounds that had not exploded. Much of the U.S. ordnance had cooked off in the magnesium-fueled inferno that consumed the aircraft. Knife-31's rotor head was scorched to a macabre, blue tint.



With recovered wreck of helicopter in foreground, JTF-FA scientists on barge (left) sift through sand for bones. Barges at center have diesel engines for pumping of sand and water to screening tables. Divers in flak vests work in shallow water. (Inset) Knife-31's side panels and landing-gear tire show damage from Khmer gunfire 20 years earlier. Phosphorus leaking from an old mortar round in wreckage ignited after being brought on land.

finger, rib and jaw bones — 161 in all. One leg bone had shattered 6 inches below the hip, testifying to the suffering these men endured. JTF-FA anthropologist Scott Law judged the leg bone's injury occurred before or at death. From the way the bone shattered, Law surmised it was

After the Khmer defenders shot down Knife-31, the remaining four helicopters were diverted to the western beach. First Lieutenant Michael Lackey, in Knife-32, was first ordered to pick up the survivors of Denham's Knife-21 crew. They were rescued, but instead of taking them directly to

safety Lackey still had to head for shore to deliver his load of Marines. The Khmer guns opened up; Knife-32 flew through a hail of machine-gun fire to the beach. Denham, who'd had his fill of being shot at, grabbed an M16 and fired back. Knife-32's Marines rushed out onto the forbidding sand as an RPG blew a 2-foot hole in the side of the helicopter. Lackey lifted off the LZ and headed for safety with his chopper awash in blood and hydraulic fluid. More than 75 bullet holes riddled his aircraft. He eased the damaged chopper over open water and flew a harrowing 45 minutes back to Thailand.

By the time the first wave was over, three helicopters had been downed and five were knocked out of action. Only 131 of a planned 180 Marines had landed. The mission commander had diverted to Utapao. The senior man on island was Marine Lt. Col. Austin, who was isolated with his BLT command group on a rocky point south of the main force on the western beach.

Mission Terminated

Meanwhile, the ship-seizure team from the USS *Holt* boarded the *Mayaguez* unopposed. They found it abandoned and took control. At the same time, the Cambodian authorities pulled a major surprise: They announced by radio that the crew would be released.

In fact, all of the hostages had been taken to Kompong Som in the fishing boat seen the day before. They never got off the boat, but instead were moved to an island where they had remained overnight. As the Marines were landing on Koh Tang under heavy fire, the hostages reboarded the fishing trawler and began making



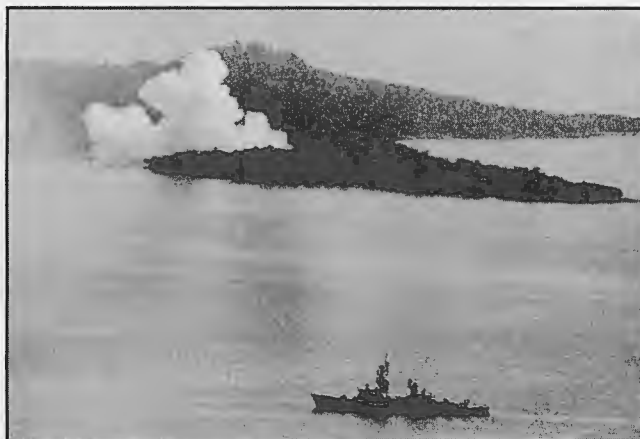
U.S. Air Force

Marines leave Knife-22 after emergency landing in rice paddy in Thailand. CH-53C was severely damaged by ground fire by Khmer defenders on Koh Tang, forcing pilot to abort assault landing. Photo erroneously was sent to media as showing "marines landing on Koh Tang." It made the front page of newspapers around the world.



U.S. Air Force

As their helicopter draws Khmer machine-gun fire, U.S. Marines hop off big Sikorsky's tailgate into the surf of Koh Tang at start of ill-fated rescue mission.



U.S. Air Force

Destroyer USS *Henry B. Wilson*, off northern tip of Koh Tang, shells Khmer Rouge positions near eastern beach on 15 May 1975 to cover Marines' extraction by helicopters.

for the *Mayaguez*. They were quickly spotted, and the USS *Wilson* moved to recover them.

Once the *Mayaguez* crew was secure aboard the *Wilson*, a decision was made to get the Marines off Koh Tang and terminate the mission. A second wave of helicopters en route to augment the Marines was turned around on orders from 7th Air Force, yet the situation on the island could not have been more critical. The Marines on shore were pinned down, most of them in the wrong places, scattered across the western beach and in one tight pocket on the eastern side. To withdraw safely, the Marines needed more troops on the island to stabilize the perimeter and unite their fragmented assault force.

The second wave was ordered back in.

Only three of the original 11 helicopters were available for this effort, so two more CH-53Cs were readied and launched. Four of the big helicopters absorbed relentless fire while delivering 100 Marines of a planned, 250-man assault. The fifth helicopter was shot up while trying to land on the eastern beach and staggered back to Utapao. All of the fresh troops landed on the western side.

As the beleaguered Marines tried to consolidate their lines, a squad led by Lt. James McDaniel charged a Khmer firing position. McDaniel and four Marines fell wounded within meters of the Khmer Rouge. A fifth Marine died from a head wound.

By now it was early afternoon. To enable the withdrawal, Forward Air Controllers (FACs) orbiting overhead directed ordnance from tactical aircraft and the destroyer *Wilson*. A pesky, Khmer patrol boat that had run aground early on 14 May was still firing on the heli-

copters; it disappeared in a tremendous blast from a hit by the *Wilson*. Then the bombardment was directed onto the built-up area near the eastern beach. By 1700, with darkness only two hours away, Phantoms and Corsairs were brought in to flatten the encampment. Minutes later, Khmer corpses sprawled in the clear-



At low tide, the rotor head from helicopter Knife-23 is a grim reminder of battle for the eastern beach of Koh Tang.

ing. The order was given to start the extraction.

Search For Marines

A massive, BLU-82 "Daisy Cutter" bomb was dropped by a C-130 cargo plane as a distraction well south of the U.S. position, while Jolly-11, a CH-53C flown by 1st Lt. Donald Backlund, swooped in to rescue the small pocket of Marines on the eastern beach. Backlund swung his tail around and squeezed the aircraft into the tiny rock enclave where the Marines hid. Round after Khmer round thudded against his chopper's armor. Twenty-five Marines clambered aboard, firing as they ran, while Khmer troops stormed from cover to stop the retreat. One Khmer soldier was cut down as he threw a grenade; it exploded yards from Jolly-11's spinning rotor blades. As the big chopper raced from the beach with its cargo of Marines and airmen, a 12.7mm machine gun opened up from the beach, stitching towering columns of water toward the helicopter. Above, Maj. Robert Undorf rolled his lightly armed OV-10 FAC aircraft in and silenced the gun.

Jolly-12, piloted by Capt. Barry Walls, next was sent in to attempt recovery of a Marine earlier seen en-

tering the hulk of Knife-23 on the shore. Walls hovered his aircraft over the wreckage while taking heavy fire. He ordered his forest penetrator lowered by cable to the door of the half-submerged helicopter. No one exited Knife-23. Walls finally pulled away, his aircraft having sustained severe damage.

That lone Marine was never found and is presumed KIA. When Americans returned to the island in 1995, a monument to this tragic mission — the rotor head from Knife-23 — awaited them. At low tide, the metal component from the big, Sikorsky helicopter jutted from the surf off the eastern beach. The ferocity of combat between Marines and Khmer Rouge was evident: JTF-FA searchers dug up unexploded mortar rounds in the sand around the crash site of Knife-23.

Now in failing light, attention turned to the western beach. The enemy was mounting a platoon-

strength attack on the southern flank. Captain Mykle E. Stahl ordered a three-man machine-gun crew from 3rd Platoon, E Company, to move to the southern edge of the perimeter. Stahl wanted the crew to set up their weapon to prevent the Khmer force from flanking the exposed Marine position. If they failed, the enemy would be able to fire on the backs of Marines on the western beach. The trio moved out.

Only three choppers, Knife-51, Jolly-43, and newly arrived Jolly-44, were available to withdraw the 200 remaining Marines. Just one chopper at a time could fit into the narrow beach opening.

Lieutenant Richard C. Brims, flying Knife-51, came in first through a gauntlet of small-arms and automatic-weapons fire. Brims picked up 41 Marines and lifted off in a barrage. An RPG round rocketed by, narrowly missing him. Brims made for the aircraft carrier *Coral Sea*, which had closed the distance to Koh Tang.

Jolly-43 came in next and loaded

Continued on page 68

DNA Detectives

There are two kinds of DNA in most human cells. DNA found in the nucleus, called chromosomes, is a mixture of DNA from an individual's mother and father. The second kind of DNA is found in the energy centers of cells, called the mitochondria, and is identical only to that of the individual's mother.

As human remains age, cell DNA begins to degrade. Since there are hundreds of mitochondria (each with many copies of the maternal DNA), but only two copies of chromosomal DNA in each cell, analysis of the mitochondria DNA usually is the only possible method for identification of aged remains.

This analysis is difficult and time consuming. Generally, only about 1 inch of preserved bone matter is needed for this laboratory procedure.

First, DNA is extracted from remains using enzymes and chemicals that break open the cell membrane and release the DNA "strings." They are cleaned to remove proteins and contaminants. From the extracted DNA,

regions of mitochondria DNA are made using a process known as polymerase chain reaction (PCR). PCR amplifies the DNA region of interest.

Blood sample then are taken from the subject's maternal side of surviving family members. Specimens from mother, brothers, sisters, or maternal grandmother would be usable; a sample from a child of an uncle would not. The amplified sequence of the deceased's DNA then is compared to that of maternal relatives. If a match occurs, the percentage of similar sequences in the general population is calculated to determine the significance of the match. Thus, high probabilities can be obtained for the identification of missing individuals.

The analysis of mitochondria DNA is a relatively new idea. Only a few facilities in the world, among them the U.S. Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii, have this capability. With this technique, these labs can determine family background regardless of how long a person has been deceased — hundreds of years even.

— W.C.

DIESELS, DRUNKS and

SOF Rides With Russian Road Warriors In Chechnya



The T-72 main battle tank coughed diesel smoke as it lurched up the ditch toward us. Its driver and commander, both tanked on vodka, were oblivious to our presence on the road and our Russian army officer's military-style entreaties to halt.

"*Stoi! Stoi, blyad* (Stop, you whore!)" screamed Captain Artur Kinjaliyan, waving madly from atop the dwarf turret of the BTR-70.

The vehicles rapidly closed toward collision on a dusty road in Chechnya.

"Drive, Yuri, drive," Artur shouted in Russian at his driver, urging him to get beyond the onrushing behemoth with a last burst of speed.

Too late.

The T-72's treads were already chewing up the road's shoulder, its long barrel swinging toward our heads. The only place to go was down in the opposite ditch, where we most likely would roll and be crushed beneath the BTR — or just ride out the impact of 45 tons of tank.

I hung on and tried to record the mishap on film.

Crazies On The Road

I had been traveling with Captain Artur and his unit of military police (MPs) since late morning. It was now another evening in 1995 along the murky, shifting front lines in Russia's months-old war in the breakaway republic of Chechnya.

Evening in a guerrilla war means "last light": the optimal window of opportunity for the underdogs to hit the overdogs and then run away under cover of darkness. The Chechen fighters had proven themselves masters of this tactic: lie low, infiltrate behind the lines, blow up a tank or two (better still, trick two Russian columns into firing on each other) and disappear into the night.

After Chechen guerrilla leader Shamil Basayev and his suicide commandos managed to cross the lines in June on their way to taking 2,000 hostages in southern Russia, every Chechen — young and old, men and


women, farmers and shepherds and professors — then was suspected of harboring nefarious plans. Even the inmates of the insane asylum down the road from Artur's MP post were viewed as potential threats to security. The nuthouse had been hit hard during an earlier battle. Those inmates who survived wandered freely up and down the road, making perfect cover for a resistance fighter intent on slipping a mine underneath a turning wheel. One inmate, a woman who wore an insane smile on her alabaster-white face, shrieked and squealed with glee at the passing tanks and trucks — until she was shot and killed by a paranoid Russian soldier.

Saboteurs and spies were everywhere, and it was Capt. Artur's task to deal with them. But parallel to that was another mission he and his MPs embraced with far less enthusiasm: dealing with Russian soldiers who had lost their taste for front-line action in the grinding, demoralizing war and were deserting in droves.

The typical grunt was a *rebyonok*,

DEVASTATION

Text & Photos by Thomas Goltz



Russian artillery round lands in the outskirts of Grozny, capital of Chechnya. Burned-out buildings are a sure sign of a Chechen community's restoration to "constitutional order."

a "kid" with peach fuzz on his face, from Siberia or the Urals, who should have been planting potatoes, not digging for anti-personnel mines. Often it was the boys' mothers who came to collect them, and rumor had it that certain Russian commanders expected "entertainment" in exchange for allowing their sons to disappear from Chechnya.

Even worse than dealing with the youthful deserters was dealing with *nayomniki*, the mercenaries. These men often were former convicts or even provincial policemen who had volunteered for action in Chechnya in exchange for hard cash. And they had the bad habit of temporary dereliction of duty: On a whim, they might disappear from their positions to wander through "liberated" Chechen towns demanding extra payment for their security services, using their military weapons to effect the shakedown for food, cash and vodka.

But the Chechens often were only too happy to oblige. Although in-

ebriation had the tendency to make soldiers more aggressive, drunks were regarded as less dangerous because of their inability to shoot straight. To encourage even greater consumption, many Chechen civilians took to stocking bottles in anticipation of a shake-down, then lace the alcohol with vinegar to increase the craving for more booze. The cycle would repeat itself until eyes crossed in confusion and reason (and self-preservation) collapsed. That was the moment the Chechens either bought or stole everything from hand grenades to antitank mines. Acquired from Russians one day, they would be used as weapons against their previous owners the next.

Drinking With The Kids

Incompetence, inebriation and corruption riddled the Russian military in Chechnya, making Capt. Artur Kinjaliyan's job problematic. But for a journalist, the casualness of the Russian army in Chechnya made traveling with it fairly easy. All one had

to do to get access to everything from family secrets to an ammo dump was get shit-faced drunk with the boys, sing a few ultranationalist camp songs and, presto! You were among eternal friends.

One night, while bunkered down and drinking with a company of Interior Ministry, or OMON, troops in the shattered Chechen capital of Grozny, I was invited to participate in an illegal, nocturnal fireworks display: blasting away at surrounding buildings (all previously gutted by artillery and air fire) with automatic weapons and RPGs. The racket was translated into "heavy fighting" by several news agencies that were not there.

Next day, my new bosom buddies took me off to the rocket-pocked rooftop of the telegraph and telephone exchange that served as their main sniper nest by night and "beach" by day. After a vodka-soaked lunch of *sala* (salted pig fat on stale bread), I finally was allowed to leave. A *rebyonok* shed real tears and let off a



volley of real fire as I stumbled away, pockets brimming with bullets, badges and unit-designation labels, and a blue OMON cap on my head.

This approach to covering a war was not without risks. Getting any work done after such vodka-lubricated encounters could be difficult, especially if it meant crossing the lines to deal with the tea-drinking Chechens, who frowned on public

Riding with the “kids” always was a bit like Russian roulette, especially when vodka was on the table. But of all the army troops I knew on the Chechen front, Capt. Artur Kinjaliyan was different. For one thing, he was sober. Maybe this was because he was not a Russian, but an ethnic Armenian from the southern Russian city of Krasnodar.

Green Ninja With Kalashnikov

I met him and his men at a checkpoint near the lunatic asylum on the road between the two shattered towns of Shali and Stari Atagi, which recently had enjoyed the “restoration of constitutional order.” That meant they both had largely been shelled to rubble by the big Russian guns that now were shuttling along the east-west meridian in preparation for the push south into the wooded foothills of the snow-capped Caucasus mountains, where the last remnants of the Chechen resistance had dug in.

Capt. Artur’s mission on the front was to secure the area from saboteurs and spies. Mine was to seek the release of a Reuters news cameraman named Xalid, who had been arrested on suspicion of spying. Xalid now was on his way to the notorious “filtration” camp outside Grozny. There truth was culled from reluctant lips with inquisitional techniques, if need be.

To be fair, the reason for Xalid’s arrest was pretty straightforward: He had not bothered to get the proper pass from the local military command to work the front lines. The fact that he was a Muslim from Azerbaijan did not help matters much. But Xalid was an old friend and colleague, so when I heard of his plight I joined a small group of other war correspondents to seek his release.

After greasing my way across the roadblock, manned by two 18-year-olds listening to a very loud rendition of the Deep Purple song, “Smoke on the Water,” I asked in Russian to be directed to the *nachalnik* — senior officer or boss — at the post.

“*V etom raionye, ya nachalnik* (Around here, I’m the boss),” growled a fellow dressed in a green-gray cammie jumper with matching hood and face mask. The field uniform made him look like a real-life Ninja Turtle — with a Kalashnikov assault rifle. The only thing human about the



Russian T-72 main battle tank roars across the Chechen countryside, its vodka-fueled crew oblivious to oncoming BTR armored vehicle carrying MPs and SOF’s correspondent. Two vehicles collide; miraculously, there are no injuries and relatively little damage. Tank driver stares stupidly as officer curses. Afterward, as BTR pulls away, Russian tankers hoist another bottle of vodka.



inebriation. But the main risk to a foreign journalist in Chechnya was the Russian grunts themselves, who were not known to be friendly to the press or foreigners. There always was a chance that your host, or someone in the unit you wanted to ride with, first would grow maudlin with drink, then paranoid and finally violent, and shoot you dead — only to cry for you later.



face were the *dark* brown eyes, and black eyebrows that seemed almost to be stitched together.

"Please release the cameraman," I requested.

"Where are you from: Talin or Riga?" the Turtle demanded in Russian.

Due to my accent, the captain probably thought I was Latvian or Estonian. Both of these former Soviet republics were seen as sympathizers to the Chechen cause: Estonia was where Chechen President Djohar Dudayev had served as a general in the Ministry of the Interior during Soviet times; his refusal to send tanks against pro-independence demonstrators there was remembered by all. Latvia, meanwhile, had been accused — perhaps falsely — by Russia of sending the Chechens a number of female snipers, known as the "Latvian Ladies," to further the cause of independence there.

Only by producing several ID cards, proving that I was actually an American citizen, would I avoid being thrown into the belly of the BTR and hauled off to my own interrogation.

"*Amerikanjets*," he snorted from beneath his Ninja mask. "These documents are forgeries."

"Then take a look at this one," I said in Russian, pulling out an ID issued to me in Yerevan, Armenia.

The officer turned the document over in his hands several times. Then he seemed to grin beneath the cammie mask. "How did you know I am Armenian?"

"From your eyebrows," I said, guessing.

"What is the capitol of California," he asked.

"Fresno," I replied.

The Ninja Turtle laughed, and the tension at the checkpoint eased. He told me his name and rank. By dint of my cultural acumen in

things Armenian, Capt. Artur soon released Xalid the cameraman into my custody.

But standing nearby was the Reuters correspondent's Chechen driver: a lanky youth of about 17, with aspirations of being a news correspondent. The youth made the mistake of asking the captain a question — and instantly was bundled off into the belly of the BTR on suspicion of spying.

"Hey! What about the eternal American-Armenian friendship?" I exclaimed in Russian.

"He's a Chechen dog," Capt. Artur snarled.



Roadblock in Chechnya: Russian soldiers atop a BTR-70 armored personnel carrier (APC) monitor traffic. This class of amphibious APC commonly is armed with one 14.5mm and one 7.62x54R machine gun, and carries a crew of two plus eight infantrymen.

Then he jumped aboard the BTR and commanded the driver to move down the road in the opposite direction, leaving the two armed fans of Deep Purple to block our pursuit. The only thing to do was double back to Grozny and arrive ahead of the BTR before Artur deposited the Chechen in the detention center. We would have to beg and bribe to free the kid before he disappeared in "filtration" hell. I knew what awaited him: I had interviewed a Chechen named Musa who had managed to escape from another detention center. He described the usual gauntlet-like beatings and electric shock used to encourage confessions of vile deeds. Then Musa opened his mouth and showed me bloody gums. He once had gold teeth — until his interrogators ripped them out with pliers.

Driving as fast as possible amid

oncoming tanks and troop carriers, we managed to contact the main MP office in Grozny to explain the problem. Then, with an official writ in hand, we roared down the dust-covered road to the filtration camp entrance just in time to intercept Capt. Artur's BTR before it went in.

Fashionable Body Armor

"Please!" we collectively pleaded in Russian. "Give us back the driver!"

"Why should I," said Capt. Artur, standing atop the BTR, arms akimbo.

"We have orders for you!" someone said, holding up the writ.

The officer took the note, read it and probably sneered beneath his Ninja mask.

"I am more interested in a trade," he said, pointing his Kalashnikov in the general direction of Xalid's flak jacket.

The cameraman was wearing the standard issue, high-tech body armor for foreign journalists working war zones. Unlike the heavier, awkward Soviet model that consisted of a jumble of titanium plates stuffed into a

puke-green canvas pullover, this model was a vest that almost qualified as "war fashion." The padded shell, designed to protect one's chest, stomach, kidneys and liver from shrapnel, was held together by Velcro snaps that made it form fit like a tight sweater. Twin pockets front and back held Kevlar anti-ballistic shock plates guaranteed to stop Warsaw Pact rifle rounds at various ranges. Moreover, it was a snazzy blue and a highly desirable trophy. Artur clearly had his eyes on it.

"Do those things really stop bullets at close range?" Artur continued with a chuckle. "Why don't we try it out, right now?"

Giving the journalist the option to have his body armor tested while wearing it was a rather stale joke, but the young soldiers atop the BTR chuckled along as if it were the first

time they had heard it.

"Yeah," chortled one. "You can either keep it on or take it off first, but it is time to see how good that Western technology really is."

"Maybe you'd like to try it on yourself?" Xalid said.

"Don't mind if I do," Artur replied with a smile, helping Xalid unfasten the Velcro snaps.

"Keep it if you want," Xalid said, as he watched his \$1500 life preserver disappear. "Just give me back the kid."

"Spoils of war!" Artur chortled, heaving the 30-pound flak jacket to one of his men sitting atop the BTR. Another reached down into the belly of the steel beast, pulling out the terrified Chechen by his hair, rather like a magician pulling a rabbit from a hat.

"Get down, filth," said the soldier, shoving him off the BTR.

Artur adjusted the green-gray hood of his jumpsuit until only his dark eyes and bushy eyebrows showed. "Next time," he told the Chechen youth. "Next time there will not be a next time."

The driver revved the BTR's engine. The dozen Russian Rambos under Artur's command sought purchase for their hands and feet — and it was then that I had the great idea of deserting the other journalists and hitching a ride with Artur and his men.

"*Khotitye yekhat s nami* (You want to ride with us)?" Artur asked, almost as a challenge.

"Da," I replied — and almost regretted it the moment it was out of my mouth.

"He wants to ride with us," Artur said, looking up at his men.

"Ha, ha, ha," they chuckled.

"Get on," Artur ordered. I did.

The war machine lurched forward, leaving the furious Reuters team in its dust, depossessed of an expensive piece of body armor but in possession of their battered and bruised driver.

The rumble of the BTR's engine

made it impossible to hear anything unless one shouted. Artur and his men, in any case, were not interested in chatting; they were too busy scanning the bushes and trees lining the shattered road for snipers, trip wires and newly planted mines. Hanging onto the BTR, those threats now became my primary concerns.

We doubled back through the destroyed town of Argun, then through the outskirts of Grozny. For all the destruction visited upon the shattered capital, life had returned to some semblance of normalcy soon



Russian MP Capt. Artur Kinjaliyan (standing), minus his camouflaged mask, and his soldiers take a breather atop their BTR-70.

after the war had swept on.

"War Is Good For Business"

In addition to the open-air stalls selling fake American L&M cigarettes, semigrilled shish kebab and cans of warm Turkish beer, hawkers working the extended roadside bazaar offered everything from Red Cross medical kits to even used car parts, likely cannibalized from the astounding number of wrecks littering the roadside. Service stations, of a sort, also had mushroomed at every intersection: Old women and young boys hawked 40-liter jam jars marked "86," "90" and even "93" octane fuel, as well as liter jugs of motor oil.

"War is good for business," Artur remarked as he forked over about \$10 worth of rubles to the Chechen matron running an outdoor shop that specialized in cigarettes and soft drinks.

"Always has been," I replied.

We clambered back aboard the BTR and started south down a road cut through an undulating landscape toward the towering Caucasus range. The runoff water was already resulting in the annual explosion of springtime colors. In ditches along the road, growing wild and covered with dust kicked up by passing traffic, was another plant: cannabis sativa. It already had grown waist high in the late spring. Shepherds picked the marijuana plants while tending to their flocks of cows and sheep, oblivious to the war that had now passed them by.

On both sides of the road stood small villages, picturesque from afar. Upon closer inspection, however, most seemed just as shattered as Grozny, if in a subtler way: aluminum roofs ratcheted open into jagged edges as if mauled by a huge can opener from the sky; walls blown outward from explosions within.

"GRAD," shouted Artur over the whine and roar of the BTR, referring to a multiple-rocket launcher that Russians use to devastating effect.

One of the villages was a place called *Stari*, or "Old," Atagi, and the

shattered and burned remnants lining the roadside included a building that had been the local hospital. Across a shallow river was *Novi*, or "New," Atagi, a town that seemed completely untouched by the war. Although I knew, I asked Artur why.

"The village elders surrendered before we opened fire," Artur explained in Russian, over the engine noise.

I had spent some time in the town, and had heard that the real reason for the relative peace enjoyed there had more to do with a pay-off to the Russian commander responsible for the area. But I thought it best to keep that information to myself.

We stopped at a checkpoint commanding a bridge over a shallow river, the Argun, where the local grunts had turned the blackened turret of a BTR into a monument for one of their own

killed there a few days before. The gun pointed toward the mountains, but was decked in flowers and homemade wreaths. While Artur made a quick inspection of the dirty, half-naked grunts manning the post and checking traffic, his own men stripped down to wash and sunbathe.

I remained on top of the machine, gazing at a helicopter hovering high

in the sky about a mile south of us: From that vantage, an observer directed howitzer fire at a cement factory near a town called Chiriyurt. A huge column of smoke, half a mile wide and a mile high, darkened the sky. I had been in the factory before and was very glad I was not now.

"Eta voina — vasha pyervaya

crossed the front lines three times. To ease the effort, I wore two hats: a skull cap when among the Muslim Chechens, and the blue-brimmed OMON hat when among the Russkies. Forgetting to doff one cap and replace it with the other at an appropriate time could be a fatal mistake.

"Well, you have spent time among them in the mountains — so what are the Dudayevist bandits really like?" Artur asked, using the officially sanctioned term for the Chechen resistance.

I could lie and please him or lie and offend him. I decided to tell the truth.

"First, the people in the mountains are not bandits at all and it is not even clear if they really support Dudayev or not," I carefully said in Russian. "The Mafia groups were the first to run away, leaving behind the farmers, mechanics and simple folks. That is whom you are fighting."

Captain Artur was quiet for a moment.

"It is always like that, isn't it?" he said at last. "It is always the poor who fight wars; never the rich, and certainly no one from the *nomenklatura* [government elite]."

Another cigarette, silence, then another question.

"*Eta pravda* (Is it true)," Artur began, "that everyone in your American army is a mercenary?" He used the same word for mercenary — *nayomnik* — that the Chechens use to describe the rabble making up much of the Russian army there.

"In the sense that there is no draft or obligatory service and they all volunteered, I guess we could call them 'mercenaries,'" I replied.

"A lot of us are mercenaries, too," said Artur. "I am a mercenary because I get extra pay to kill people."

"How much?"

"About \$1,000 a month, but in rubles," he replied.

"*Nye plokho* (Not bad)," I said.

"How much do you make for writing about what I do?"

"Maybe about the same," I said in Russian. "It depends."

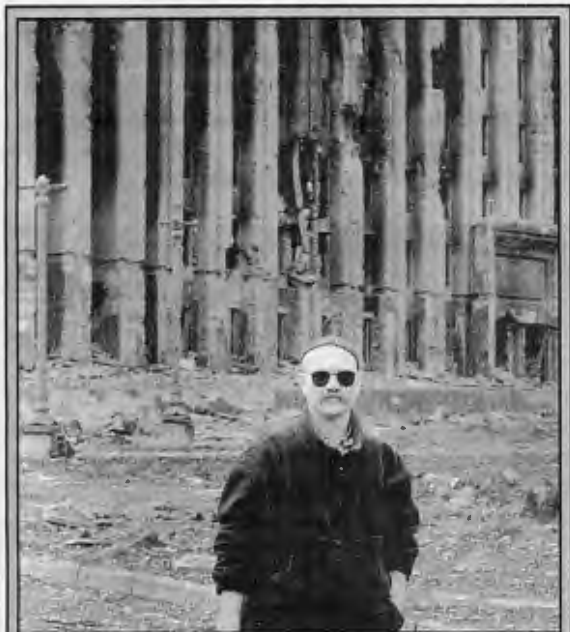
"Then you are a 'mercenary,' too."

I wanted to tell him that I preferred to define myself as an "informational altruist," but I could not think of a translation.

Continued on page 76



Rogue T-72 tank, the same that collided with Russian military-police BTR, sits menacingly in the Chechen village of Shali. Crewmen await delivery of vodka — or else.



"One night, while bunkered down and drinking with a company of Interior Ministry, or OMON, troops in the shattered Chechen capital of Grozny, I was invited to participate in an illegal, nocturnal fireworks display: blasting away at surrounding buildings (all previously gutted by artillery and air fire) with automatic weapons and RPGs. The racket was translated into 'heavy fighting' by several news agencies that were not there."

(This your first war)?" Artur casually asked as he returned to the top of the BTR.

"*Nyet*," I said, listing other conflicts in the Caucasus I have covered: Karabakh and Abkhazia, as well as the brief civil wars in Azerbaijan and Georgia.

"Did you have a good time?" my host asked.

"The others were a game compared to Chechnya," I carefully and honestly replied. "This is real war."

"You spend most of your time with the Chechens, don't you?" he asked, probing my loyalties ever so slightly.

"I try and spend time on both sides of the line," I carefully replied. "Sometimes it gets pretty confusing."

That was true. A day or two before, I had

"I PLEDGE INSURGENCE..."



Unarmed U.S. Marine embassy guards, targeted by leftist terrorists, slain while eating dinner in San Salvador. From left: Sergeant Bobby Dickson, Corporal Gregory Weber, Cpl. Patrick Kwiatkowski, Sgt. Thomas Handwork.

The collapse of the communist bloc has rendered the Central American revolutionary left, and particularly its terrorist factions, politically irrelevant. Without funding, coordination and encouragement from Moscow or from its impoverished local patron, Fidel Castro, it finds itself without resources. Millions of ordi-

But there are always some who refuse to face the facts, especially many in the American media. The big dailies bend over backwards to accommodate Jennifer Harbury, widow of a Guatemalan guerrilla comandante, in a paranoid campaign to turn her individual tragedy into a world-spanning CIA conspiracy. In the latest such absurdity, the

American Terr Never Answers For Salvador Dalliance

by Stephen Schwartz

Photos: AP/Wide World

nary people, workers, peasants, and others in Latin America, have repudiated the claims of 1960s-style radical Marxist adventurism.

If the disenchantment with — and among — the Central American left were not obvious after the 1990 electoral defeat of the Sandinistas in Nicaragua, it should have become clear to anybody taking an objective look at the latest attempt to revive it, namely the new “Zapatistas” in Mexico. While Emiliano Zapata and his colleagues were themselves Indians, springing from the masses they led, this latest “army of national liberation,” has been from the beginning no more than a sideshow by disfranchised intellectuals manipulating a few desperately poor Indians and excessively idealistic Catholics. Emiliano Zapata transformed the history of the Hispanic world. Injustice, and passions, still run deep in Mexico, but the so-called Zapatistas of 1994 have contributed nothing but chaos and increased suffering to life in Chiapas.

imprisonment in Peru of Lori Helene Berenson, 26-year old American-born generala of the ultra-violent *Movimiento Revolucionario Tupac Amaru (MRTA)*, has brought agonized protests from the remaining *gringo* groupies of the Latino left. Now incarcerated in Peru, Berenson is a veteran of the Committee In Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), the north-of-the-Rio Grande front group for the Salvadoran left extremists of the *Farabundo Marti Liberation Front (FMLN)*.

She chose to participate in *MRTA* knowing the risks she ran under Peru's semi-dictatorship. Yet her apologists portray her and her comrades as if their main activity consisted of making hot cocoa for slum children, rather than blowing up Peruvian political leaders. *Gringo* academics demand that Berenson receive “a fair trial by American standards.” Could there be anything more patronizing than demanding that foreign countries conform to our system of judicial practice

(which is not the same as justice) when dealing with threats to their own domestic security? Very few countries assure the legal privileges for captured terrorists that are enshrined in American law.



For example, Britain has closed trials for accused terrorists and an Official Secrets Act that covers national security issues. France, Italy, Germany, and other countries vary from American theories of jurisprudence in terms of presumption of innocence, proof, and other "rights of the accused," yet no rational person calls these "fascist" states. Why should Peru be more fastidious about the rights of terrorists than, say, Italy? If the Fujimori regime in Peru is odious in its denial of parli-

mentary democracy, then *MRTA* is certainly more odious in its open war on all forms of "bourgeois" rule, democracy included. Lori Helene Berenson knew exactly what she was doing when she joined *MRTA*; and she, at least, has not sought to evade responsibility for her actions.

A Guerrilla In Our Midst

The difficulties of educating North Americans in Latin political realities are nowhere more obvious than in the case of Romeo Gilberto Osorio. Osorio, 48, is a top figure in the political leadership of the Salvadoran radical left and a former chief of operations of the most extreme and most violent group in the *FMLN*, the so-called *Central American Revolutionary Workers' Party*, or *PRTC*.

Osorio is also an American citizen who lives in San Francisco and, until recently, ran a cultural center funded by city, state, and federal agencies, including, of course, the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA).

On 21 May 1995, Osorio appeared on CBS News' *60 Minutes* program, where he was interviewed by Ed Bradley. In a discussion of American military advisers and their role in the Salvadoran war, Osorio revealed that his group had been responsible for a cowardly attack 10 years before, in which a group of his guerrillas killed

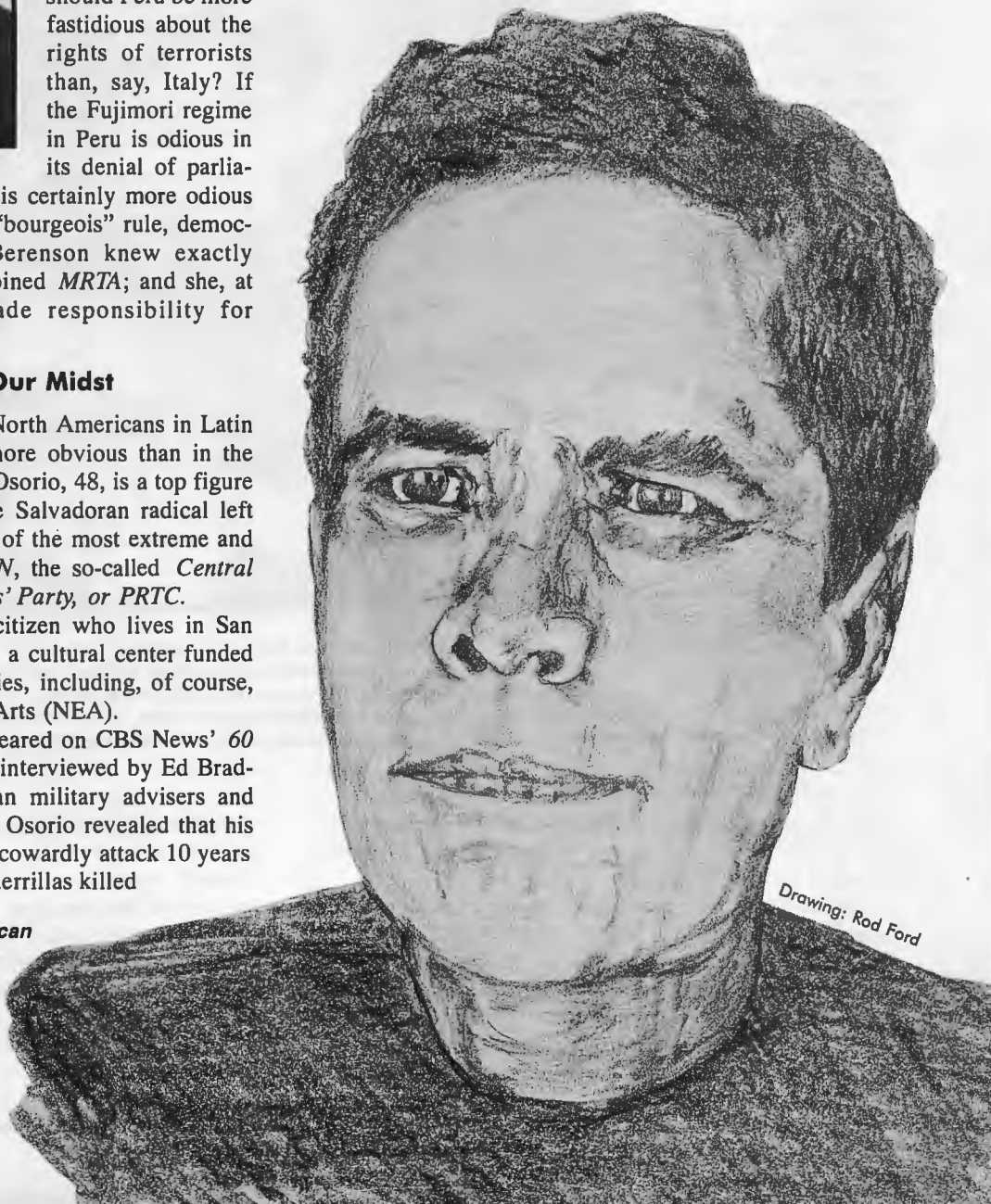
"I passed the order that if an American was seen or somebody different, to target them, to kill them, to make an example..." (Romeo Gilberto Osorio, 48; American, former U.S. serviceman, former chief of operations, *PRTC* [Central American Revolutionary Workers' Party]).

four unarmed U.S. Marine guards, two American citizens in El Salvador on business, plus seven innocent civilians. "We made it a point to target some American servicemen in order to make a point to Congress," Osorio — himself a former U.S. serviceman — told Bradley.

The incident, known as the *Zona Rosa* attack, was one of the most infamous atrocities perpetrated by the *FMLN* during the Salvadoran conflict. At about 2030 hours on 19 June 1985, a group of seven armed men drove up in a truck to *La Hola*, a restaurant in the *Zona Rosa* or Pink Zone that is a center of nightlife in the capital of San Salvador.

Four Marines, in civilian clothes and unarmed, were eating their dinner in a nearby restaurant, *Chili's*. After assuring themselves the Marines were there, without warning the armed group poured gunfire into *Chili's*. Fire was returned from *Chili's* and another restaurant, *La Mediterranee*.

Dead in the attack were the four Marines: Sergeant Thomas T. Handwork, 24, of Boardman, Ohio; Corporal Gregory H. Weber, 22, of Cincinnati; Sgt. Bobby J. Dickson, 27, of Tuscaloosa, Ala., and Cpl. Patrick R. Kwiatkowski, 20, of Wausau, Wis.



Drawing: Rod Ford

In addition, two American employees of the Wang Corporation were dead, along with two Salvadoran students, a Salvadoran university official, a Chilean executive for Wang, and two businessmen: a Guatemalan and a Salvadoran. Several other customers in the group of restaurants were injured by stray gunfire.

One of the attackers, Jose R. Salazar, was seriously wounded by return gunfire, and was taken by his colleagues to a Salvadoran Red Cross dispensary, where he died.

Does Military = "Military Target"?

Within a week the *FMLN* General Command had taken responsibility for the attack, declaring that they considered the unarmed Marine embassy guards a "legitimate military target." This posture was, however, rejected by the United Nations Commission for Truth in El Salvador, which in 1993 affirmed that embassy guards were not combatants and declared the attack "a violation of international law."

Two months after the assault, Salvadoran authorities announced the arrest of three people involved in it: Jose Dimas and Juan M. Garcia, described as "intellectual authors" of the crime, and William Rivas, a "material author."

The judicial process is slow in El Salvador and the situation of these three defendants followed various twists and turns. In 1988 another proceeding began, against Juan A. Morales, also known as Juan Lucero Morales, who had confessed in open court to his participation. In 1989 Pedro A. Andrade, a captured guerrilla leader who used the name "Mario Gonzalez," was also charged in the case.

Eventually, Jose Dimas and Juan Garcia were sentenced to four years in prison, while Rivas received a 25-year term. Lucero Morales was acquitted after claiming he had only provided security in the operation.

Unlike his four co-defendants, Andrade, who was considered a traitor to the *FMLN* for having led the Salvadoran and American governments to the largest single weapons and ammunition cache seized from the guerrillas, was granted amnesty under a 1987 law.

Another guerrilla, Ismael Dimas, was identified by the United Nations as having been the main intellectual author of the crime, and having been a trigger-puller at the

scene. Ismael Dimas was reportedly killed in combat in El Salvador before he could be arrested.

War Criminals Can Never Go Home

The Zona Rosa atrocity had dropped from the consciousness of nearly everyone outside El Salvador, when Osorio's declarations to Ed Bradley opened an entirely new debate: Viewers were outraged to learn that the former comandante was living in San Francisco unmolested. Many were even more disturbed to find out that Osorio is American-born.

The more complete story of Romeo Gilberto Osorio and his involvement in the Zona Rosa attack emerged during his interviews with me and other San Francisco journalists. He was born in San Francisco and went to El Salvador with his mother as a child, but came back to be educated at San Francisco State College. He then served in the United States Air Force as a mechanic. In 1977 he was founder of the Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts Inc., a non-profit agency with a current budget of \$500,000 per year, receiving moneys from the San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund, the NEA (\$30,000 per year), plus other public and private entities.

During the Salvadoran civil war, Osorio returned to that country and became a demolitions technician — and subsequently chief of operations in the guerrilla forces. He reported to Nidia Diaz, a deranged female chieftain in the *FMLN*.

Diaz had been captured in April 1985, two months before the Zona Rosa killings, by Salvadoran government forces in an incident where her life was saved by an American "enemy." According to her published memoir, *I Was Never Alone* — a genuinely demented document — this circumstance simply made her hate gringos even more.

Although Osorio has never admitted direct participation in the Zona Rosa attack, he continues in his unabashed enthusiasm for it. Although he would give the impression he has gone public in the United States to further a reconciliation between the former combatants in El Salvador, he expresses no remorse of any kind for this or other terrorist acts against unarmed embassy personnel and civilians.

Interviewed by the *San Francisco Examiner*, Osorio said of the attack, "We were all jubilant." He also said he had ordered the execution of any American caught in the



"We wanted them to know we knew they were on the streets and that we could kill them ..." — Osorio. Marines in civilian clothes remove documents from the body of a fellow marine embassy guard gunned-down as he was eating dinner at Chill's outdoor cafe in San Salvador. Thirteen were killed by terrorists dressed as Salvadoran soldiers.

combat zone of San Vicente province in El Salvador, during a guerrilla offensive in 1982, while he was commanding a unit of 300 and using the nom-de-guerre of "Gerardo Zelaya." He said that the Salvadoran troops "were very skillful and simply overran us. ... I passed the order that if an American was seen or somebody different, to target them, to kill them, to make an example."

In a long talk with this writer, he said of the Zona Rosa incident, "It didn't matter who they were. We wanted to kill some Americans." He noted that the group of Marine guards was originally larger, but that some left Chili's restaurant before the attack. According to Osorio, they had been under surveillance by the terrorists for six months.

Coward's Target

The Marines, Osorio told me, were a "target of opportunity," easier to kill in their situation as unarmed men eating their dinner, than the regular American military advisers who were with troops fighting in the field. "We wanted them to know we knew they were on the streets and that we could kill them," he said. The attack was strictly an act of terror with no military significance. But Osorio stressed that the crime occurred "only five blocks from the headquarters of the Salvadoran high command ... in the heart of bourgeois power."

Osorio raged against the elected Christian Democrat administration of Jose Napoleon Duarte, president of El Salvador when the Zona Rosa crime took place, describing the Salvadoran regime of that time as "a neocolonial military dictatorship worse than Hitler." His only regret, he said, was that he wished he "had been more diligent in my training in the U.S. Air Force. It would have helped me a lot in El Salvador."

Osorio got out of the Salvadoran war "unscathed," and returned to the Bay Area in 1992, according to the *Examiner*. He resumed his career as a sculptor and functionary at the Mission Cultural Center, benefiting from the American taxpayer. Having gotten out of the Salvadoran hostilities without injury, he seems to have imagined his impunity would continue.

However, everything changed for Romeo Gilberto Osorio after the *60 Minutes* interview. To begin with, he became fearful about going back to El Salvador, where he had hoped to spend his honeymoon, after receiving word that Nidia Diaz, now a member of the Salvadoran national legislature, and his other comrades were perturbed by his verbal indiscretions. More importantly, the survivors of Marine Sergeant Dickson, in Alabama, contacted their U.S. Senator, Republican Richard Shelby. Shelby, a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, used a hearing with Central Intelligence Agency director John Deutch as a forum to demand an explanation of the Zona Rosa incident and Osorio's presence in the United States.

On 12 October 1995 (Columbus Day), the Senate Intelligence Committee held a closed briefing with CIA, Justice Department, and State Department officials, as

requested by Senator Shelby. At the end of November, Shelby was joined by Intelligence Committee chairman Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) and Sen. Bob Kerrey, (D-Neb.), in demanding an accounting from Secretary of State Warren Christopher of whether U.S. authorities had adequately pursued justice in the case.

Shelby and his two senatorial colleagues also revealed that another individual charged with involvement in the crime, the amnestied Pablo Andrade, is now living in New Jersey. Shelby's office hinted that either or both Osorio or Andrade had been helped to enter the United States by American authorities, perhaps to gain information from them, or perhaps



"We made it a point to target some American servicemen in order to make a point to Congress ..." — Osorio. The body of one slain Marine from the U.S. Embassy guard detail is carried from Chili's in San Salvador after leftist terrorists sprayed the cafe with gunfire, killing 13.

as a reward for previous assistance to our side.

In The Cold?

The unsupported allegation that Osorio might have been an American spy in *FMLN* guerrilla ranks further complicates his already unenviable present situation. "How can they link me as a paid informant unless they are trying to burn me?" he asked the *San Francisco Examiner*. He was contacted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which had been tasked by the State Department to find him, and met with them at least once, according to the Bureau.

Romeo Gilberto Osorio does not have the mien most Americans would associate with a terrorist. He is tall, rather handsome, quite self-possessed and articulate. He seems much more the sculptor and art bureaucrat, he would perhaps rather be known as, than the artist of death who sowed terror and bloodshed among innocents in a Marxist insurrection.

But such a phenomenon is by no means new, particularly in the Hispanic world. The enlistment of artists and writers in the cause of terrorism has been notably common in Spain and Latin America. Although it is largely

forgotten today, the internationally famous Mexican Communist mural painter David Alfaro Siqueiros proudly participated in a full-scale bomb and gun assault on the residence of defrocked Bolshevik Leon Trotsky, then exiled in Mexico City, a few months before the successful assassination in August 1940. The Nobel laureate poet and career Communist Pablo Neruda, then a member of the Chilean embassy staff in Mexico City, participated in the conspiracy against Trotsky and was suspended from his diplomatic post for it: He had earlier been involved in Stalinist crimes in the Spanish civil war.

Indeed, a terrible combination of brains and blood marked the Salvadoran radical left from early on. In 1975 the poet Roque Dalton, a major figure of the Salvadoran left who had worked in Czechoslovakia for the semi-clandestine International Department of the Soviet Communist Party, and who influenced a whole generation of young leftist writers in Latin America, was murdered by his own comrades, sending shock waves throughout the global left.

In 1983 the Salvadoran leftists again demonstrated the homicidal tendencies within their own ranks by the brutal killing in Managua, capital of Sandinista Nicaragua, of guerrilla founder Elida Anaya Montes, a woman known as comandante Ana Maria. Montes was reportedly slain by dozens of blows from

a scissor. The mastermind of that action, Salvador Cayetano Carpio, soon committed suicide, according to the Sandinistas.

In addition, of course, the Soviet- and Cuban-trained *FMLN* guerrillas wreaked numerous horrific cruelties on the ordinary people of El Salvador. Typical were the bus bombings, reflected in a government poster that appeared in the country toward the end of the war. It showed a little girl on crutches, with a leg missing, and asked, what about *her human rights*? While the world media has endlessly rehashed human rights violations by the government in El Salvador, the extremist left continues to enjoy a free ride in this area.

Reconciliation Without Remorse?

In published interviews, Osorio said the team leaders in the Zona Rosa assault were specially trained for it in Cuba, and the embassy guards were specifically targeted as *unarmed* men. According to Osorio, the price of direct battle with American advisers would have been too high

to be paid by the *FMLN*, who feared such attacks would be used by President Reagan to send in regular U.S. military forces. While all these terrorist attacks were being planned and executed, the *FMLN* was sending its political chessmen hither and yon, throughout Europe and the Americas, demanding recognition as a legitimate party engaged in a recognized civil war. As revealed in documents seized by U.S. forces on Grenada in 1983, *FMLN* politicians had been given the freedom of our capitol during a tour of Washington, and even set up a *de facto* propaganda center in a congressional office.

Finally, as if such an invasion of our domestic political life was not outrageous enough, Osorio disclosed in his 1993 talkathon that his own training in unconventional warfare, as opposed to what he learned in the U.S. Air Force, had begun "in San Francisco. Some

others and I knew people who were skilled in such things. They were Vietnam veterans, in some cases. We trained inside the city, in remote portions of the parks, and sometimes in the mountains around the Bay Area — mostly small unit tactics such as patrol and ambushes."

Thus, on top of the admitted cowardice of attacking unarmed Marine embassy guards, and the hypocrisy of calling for worldwide diplomatic recognition while doing so, we

find Osorio boasting that he and his comrades began their training for such acts, on American soil.

This detail seems not to have been known to the FBI when it unsuccessfully sought to examine the propaganda and other efforts of CISPES during the 1980s. Attempts by American authorities to investigate CISPES and its involvement with "low-intensity operations" and possible gunrunning were treated by our media and political elite as a despicable violation of the left's political rights. U.S. congressman Don Edwards (D-Ca.) threatened a full-scale inquiry into even the most insignificant attempts at learning what CISPES was really about.

A Snitch In Time

When American Marxist "church worker" Jennifer Jean Casolo was caught on top of a substantial arsenal of ammunition, mortar rounds, machine guns and explosives in El Salvador, she was treated as a martyr to the Salvadoran



"It didn't matter who they were. We wanted to kill some Americans." — Osorio. Three sisters of Corporal Patrick Kwiatkowski weep at Andrews AFB, Maryland, as they await the casket bearing the remains of their brother, assassinated in El Salvador.

Continued on page 80

The Peace Starts Here

Low-Rank,
High-Tech,
Higher-Profile
Enforcers

Text & Photos by Mark H. Milstein

Every American GI stationed in Bosnia would tell you that he had orders to take Clevelan Raphael Holt alive. But there probably wasn't a soldier in the field who also wouldn't tell you — off the record — that if Holt didn't surrender peacefully, they'd take great joy in putting a 5.56mm bullet right between "the stinking traitor's eyes."

Holt, according to the NATO command in Sarajevo, is a 39-year-old African-American man turned *mujahideen* fighter, who took the name Isa Abdullah Ali. In a land known for mines and snipers, this renegade had become one of the U.S. Army's biggest security threats by the end of its second month in Bosnia: an American with considerable military training, possibly armed and carrying forged NATO identification, who might be wearing a U.S. uniform, and who has pronounced "sympathies for extremist causes."

In other words, Clevelan Holt, and not the Bosnian Serb army or millions of land mines, was every U.S. soldier's worst nightmare in Bosnia.

"Yes, this guy is dangerous," emphasized Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Johnson, commander of the 501st Military Intelligence Battalion. "He looks like us, talks like us, but he doesn't think like us. That's why we want to find him and talk with him as soon as possible."

U.S. Army sources told *Soldier Of Fortune* that Holt, who also has used the alias Kevin Holt, is a native of Washington, D.C., a former groundskeeper at Howard University and a merc who fought alongside Shi'ite Muslim militiamen against Israel in Lebanon in the early '80s. He more recently has freelanced as a *muj* fighter in Bosnia. Holt has, according to an unconfirmed report, attempted at least once to enter a NATO compound in the American sector.



Combat engineer in the U.S. Army's 16th Engineering Battalion displays one of Bosnia's "hidden treasures" — an antitank (blast) mine — unearthed and deactivated near Checkpoint Shark in the American sector. Such pressure-detonated, Communist-bloc munitions are capable of blasting a track off an M-1A Abrams main battle tank or destroying a Bradley fighting vehicle.

How and when Holt came to Bosnia is not clear. Among U.S. troops in the field, though, this 6-foot-3-inch, 200-pound merc who walks with a limp had become Public Enemy #1 — a rare distinction in a country where accused war criminals, Bosnian Serb General Ratko Mladic and President Radovan Karadzic, continue to roam freely.

“He ain’t coming through this gate while I’m on duty,” bragged a military policeman standing outside Eagle Base, Tuzla, the U.S. Army’s headquarters in Bosnia. “One of our guys spotted him the other day, but he didn’t try to enter.”

North of Tuzla, near the Alpha 2 checkpoint along Route Arizona, NATO’s primary north-south road, troops with the U.S. Army’s 3/5 Cavalry, monitoring civilian traffic and sniffing for trouble, said they heard that other soldiers recently claimed to have spotted Holt.

“I’d hope he’d surrender without a problem,” said one Army private first class at Alpha 2 describing what he would do if he met Holt face-to-face. “I mean, the guy’s an American, but if he became aggressive, I’d have to take him out.”

U.S. spokesmen stress that Holt has received publicity solely because he is the only American thought to be part of the Islamic contingent that fought for the Bosnian government



Serbian soldier at bunker in Zone of Separation tells U.S. soldiers he is unarmed and will leave his fighting position as ordered.

in the war, not because he has been linked to any actual attacks on U.S. military forces now there. Hundreds of foreign Islamic volunteers fought with the mostly Muslim Bosnian government army during the war. As of this writing, 200 are believed to still be in country.

Word has it that Bosnian authorities have been arranging for some *muj* to stay by changing their status to teachers or relief workers, and still

others have married local women in order to qualify for citizenship. This makes U.S. Army Specialist Michael Carter’s job that much harder.

A Good Ol’ Boy In Bosnia

Carter, a self-described “good ol’ boy” from Greenwood, Arkansas, likely is one of the most effective counterintelligence (CI) soldiers the U.S. Army has in the Balkans: a Serbo-Croatian-speaking CI man with a Southern charm edged with the sixth sense of an inner-city bail bondsman. He’s the “good cop” in an interrogation team’s good cop/bad cop arrangement.

“My job is to ask the locals if they know about mines, heavy weapons, rebel elements, mujahideen,” Carter said. “They trust me because I speak their language, and I don’t have an aggressive edge to me. I don’t do interrogations, as such. I just ask questions. I never use coercion or torture. Someone else, normally a military-intelligence officer assigned to work with me, does the more difficult work. I mean, he or she directs the questioning, and I just ask the questions in the local language.”

Carter said he doesn’t prowl the countryside looking for suspects, but rather relies on locals with information to come voluntarily to him.

“We’re working slowly to develop an intel net [intelligence network] in our sector,” Carter continued, idly



Serbian NCO, holding ammunition drum and 7.62x54R round, gives 325th Airborne’s Lt. Bill Donovan a tour of bunker in Zone of Separation.

kicking pieces of shrapnel and roofing tile outside the shell-scarred railroad depot in Kalesija that acts as a temporary home and office. "I believe our sources are reliable, and we don't offer anything to them in return for their information. It works just like a neighborhood-watch program, but without the monetary incentive to turn in suspects or known criminals."

At the 501st MI Battalion's headquarters, a roofless warehouse with three defunct walk-in freezers that act as sleeping quarters for the command staff, Lt. Col. Johnson said he was quite confident his team of 11 interrogator/CI operatives, along with the battalion's wide array of listening and monitoring devices, could keep an eye on any potential threat in the American sector.

"As far as the mujahideen are concerned," Johnson said, "we have no plans to go after them if they are not part of an active military unit. What I mean is, if they don't pose a military threat to us, then it's not part of our mission to have them hunted down and detained. We've got information that some organized elements are after us. We're trying to find them now. They are against Americans, not the peace process. They're followers of the same guys who tried to blow up the World Trade Center [in New York City]; followers of that sheik. When we find them, then the appropriate units will be notified and they will go after them."

Johnson emphasized that it's easy to generalize, to assume that all Bosnians are terrorists or *muj*, but said he won't fall into the trap of damning an entire nation by guilt through association.

"Not everyone is running around trying to shoot at our troops or blow up our barracks," Johnson said. "Let's be fair."

But try telling that to Captain John Cole of Charlie Battery of



American M203 gunner maintains a wary distance from booby-trapped scarecrow dressed like Bosnian soldier and armed with wooden "AK-47."

the 2/3 field artillery.

Bosnian Drive By

"We were just about finished setting up our guns near Modrica [Bosnia] when this car comes by, slows down and this guy throws a grenade at us," said Capt. Cole, describing the first reported "drive by" grenade attack against U.S. troops. "The thing went off about 100 meters from the nearest gun. But hell, he took everyone by surprise. By the time our sentries had locked and loaded, the car was too far gone to fire at. I don't know who it was: Serb, Bosnian. ..."

Cole, of Clarksville, Tennessee, said he heard from other U.S. commanders deployed in the Zone of Separation (ZOS) — the 625 kilometer-long cease

fire line that snakes its way up, around and across Bosnia — that they have been subjected to similar attacks.

Less than a week after Army engineers finally completed the now-famous pontoon bridge over the Sava River, an unknown gunman opened up with an assault rifle on U.S. troops on the Croatian side of the bridge. He fired about 30 rounds in their direction, then sped away before American troops could respond. SOF staffers also have been targeted by undisciplined military elements while cover-

ing the U.S. deployment in Bosnia. And then there are some of our touchier allies.

Less than an hour after leaving Capt. Cole and his men, I encountered a lone, Danish MP who was directing NATO convoy traffic along Route Texas, west of Brcko. He locked, loaded and jammed his rifle



Bosnian Serb driver cranks his engine before driving the triple-barreled, anti-aircraft gun out of NATO's separation zone.

into my camera lens because he didn't like the way *SOF* had been treating the Danish army. (The Danish army?) His immediate commander, who refused to give his full name or unit, said the MP was under a lot of pressure and shouldn't be taken seriously. I'd remember that the next time he shoved his weapon in my face, I sarcastically replied.

Just about every compound commander or checkpoint sentry will tell you that they've come under fire from unknown sources at least once since the U.S. deployment, which began in December. All agree that it's going to be the rogue elements or lone gunman — not an organized military force — that will claim the first U.S. death from hostile fire in Operation Joint Endeavor.

"I'm not worried about the Bosnian Serb army trying something funny with us," said Sgt. Robert Siemens of the U.S. Army's 16th Engineering Battalion. He was watching other engineers defuse six antitank (AT) mines along the road to Checkpoint Shark, the common border between American and Russian deployments in Bosnia. "I'm more worried about the single guy who wants to die and take me with him. I'll handle mines and



Bosnian Serb soldiers stroll by T-34 tank (with some field modifications) that NATO ruled to be inside Zone of Separation, in violation of peace accords.

such, but *muj* and terrorists make me nervous."

Deadly Scarecrow, Hidden Guns

Siemens walked behind a destroyed house. He pointed across a meadow to a scarecrow. The man-like figure wore a Bosnian government army uniform and sported a authentic-looking, wooden "AK-47."

"It looks quite cute, doesn't it?" Siemens asked. "It ain't. Anyone stupid enough to walk up to the dummy would have been cut to ribbons by crossfire from those two bunkers up there, and then would have tripped the booby traps that are all around it. Bosnia is one dangerous place. End of story."

artillery pieces still were technically within the separation zone — a violation of the Dayton Peace Plan.

Now, according to 4th Platoon's leader, Lt. Don Evans, it would be a matter of getting the BSA to remove the weapons within a reasonable amount of time, or have NATO remove them on its terms.

The Russian contingent, a group of four officers and six aides, arrived. Before long they were busy trading knives, patches and anything else that they could scrounge from their pockets and kit bags with every American in sight. Photos were taken, cigarettes passed around, plans were hashed out and the waiting game began. After 30 minutes, there still was no sign of the BSA. Maybe they hadn't gotten



A Russian airborne officer (right) confers with a U.S. Army lieutenant and sergeant over a technical-data book near Checkpoint Shark, just before a scheduled meeting of U.S., Russian and Bosnian Serb officers.



Russian paratrooper (right) hands a scabbard knife back to an American from the 325th Airborne as soldiers negotiate trades of militaria while their officers discuss location of Bosnian Serb weapons.

the word. Then again, maybe it was their way of saying "fuck you."

Either way, Lt. Evans said, the weapons *would* be removed.

The Russians quietly dismissed themselves, seeing no reason to stick around and get involved in the sticky business of forcing their Bosnian Serb allies to bow to NATO's demands. They headed back to the Russian headquarters in Ugljevik, Bosnia. Russia has nearly 1,500 peacekeepers, all *dyesantniki* (paratroopers), in Bosnia to help patrol the sensitive Posavina corridor. The 5.5-kilometer-wide strip connects eastern and western areas controlled by the Bosnian Serbs. The Russians set up their headquarters in the remains of a hotel; two Russian battalions have set up camps in the nearby villages of Simin Han and Priboj, just northeast of Eagle Base, Tuzla.

Lt. Evans and his platoon quickly got in their Humvees and drove off in search of the first violation: a BSA T-34 tank. According to U.S. Army intel, it was highly visible from the road and looked to still be active.

Wrong.

Although the old T-34 — a model used to famous effect on the Russian front of WWII — was highly visible from the road, it wasn't going anywhere: Its right-hand track and half of its engine compartment were wrapped around each other in an RPG-7-induced wrestling match.

Evans, clutching a Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) navigational device, stood beside the tank and plotted its precise position. Behind him, a group of U.S. Army photographers got it all on VCR and 35mm film.

"We don't want any of the sides to say, 'Hey, you guys are



325th Airborne's Lt. Don Evans and Lt. Bill Donovan discuss removal of two T-34 tanks from the separation zone with Major Vlado (center), commander of the Bosnian Serb 2nd Brigade, and Vlado's aide (left).

picking on us," Evans said. "This way, with the GPS and video, we can show anyone who asks that, indeed, the tanks were in the wrong."

Evans then sent the platoon off to find the second T-34 tank. It was thought to be within tens of meters of the edge of the ZOS.

"I know it seems picky, but the agreement specifies what can and cannot be within the ZOS," Evans said. "That's why we're here, to enforce what is on the piece of paper all three factions signed their names to." After assessing that the tanks had been moved recently — a major no-no — 4th Platoon set off to find Major Vlado, the supposed owner of the two tanks and commander of the



As NATO enforces its Zone of Separation in Bosnia, firepower always is available — such as this U.S. Army Bradley fighting vehicle with distinctive markings.

BSA's 2nd Brigade.

Major Vlado was deep in thought when Lt. Evans, 325th Airborne's fire-support officer Lt. William Donovan, and *SOF* paid him a visit.

"Does he admit that the tanks are his," Lt. Evans asked through an interpreter. "And do they work?"

Major Vlado, a man not normally accustomed to being questioned by an American *lieutenant*, was not amused. But he could see his every move would be checkmated by NATO firepower.

"The first one, the one that was damaged by the RPG, is from my brigade," Major Vlado admitted through the interpreter. "But the second, I don't know."

Donovan told Vlado that if he couldn't move both of them by the next day, the U.S. Army would arrange for a tank transporter to load the tanks and drop them off on the front lawn of his HQ.

Major Vlado asked the American officers to again show him on the map where the T-34s were. He did some quick calculations, scratched his chin and said the Americans could drop both tanks off on his front lawn anytime they wanted.

Lt. Evans now could show that both tanks would be out of the ZOS, and Major Vlado could, as Lt. Donovan suggested, start a war museum with them. Everyone was happy.

"I think he made a smart decision to allow us to move the tanks," Lt. Evans said as we left Major Vlado's office. "He isn't stupid. He just doesn't need the trouble. Our work here is nothing sexy. It's pretty simple stuff. Just good soldiering."

SOF's Chief Foreign Correspondent Mark H. Milstein is based in Budapest and is widely known among U.S. troops in Bosnia. ✕

By the time this issue of Soldier Of Fortune arrives at newsstands, the "Antiterrorism Bill" might have been voted on in the U.S. House of Representatives. But even if supporters of the Constitution prevail and defeat this proposed law, it still is worth examining to see how far some

Rights. And an even worse Senate version, the already-approved S. 735, awaited passage of H.R. 2768.

With the approach of the 19 April anniversaries of the Waco tragedy and Oklahoma City bombing, some politicians seem to have nothing better to do than pretend they are "fighting

should ponder the lessons of Waco and Ruby Ridge. In those two shameful incidents, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms — using and abusing powers they *already* have — attacked innocent Americans. And as we first learned from *SOF's* cover-

Antiterrorism Bill

TRADING LIBERTY

politicians will go to make America "secure" — at the expense of our civil liberties.

"Empowering Big Brother" (Feb. '96 *SOF*) described how the Comprehensive Antiterrorism Bill, H.R. 2768, needlessly would grant the federal government the ability to invade the privacy and diminish the freedom of law-abiding Americans, all in the name of "security." As of this writing, the proposed law — renamed the "Effective Death Penalty and Antiterrorism Act of 1995" to make it appear to be an anti-crime bill — is headed for a congressional vote.

A close examination shows this Constitution-wrecking legislation has little to do with fighting terrorism, and more to do with further empowering an intrusive, federal government: Big Brother.

In December 1995, the bill was "temporarily derailed," according to a source in the U.S. House Judiciary Committee. The bill's chief sponsors, Rep. Henry Hyde (R-Illinois), chair of the judiciary committee, and Rep. Bob Barr (R-Georgia), simply didn't have the votes to get the

bill passed by the end of the year as they desired. But in Washington, one never knows when political maneuvers will breathe life back into a dreadful piece of legislation: H.R. 2768 was resurrected by a Republican leadership not to be outdone by Democrats in subverting our Bill of

terrorism." The Clinton administration hopes to have a final bill, a negotiated synthesis of the House and Senate versions, ready for the president's signature on — you guessed it — 19 April. (It is, after all, an election year.) But even that time frame still gives *SOF* readers and

age of Waco, the feds even dragged our active-duty military into it.

Here are some of the more egregious aspects of the various "antiterrorism" bills threatening America.



Privacy's protections would be eroded. The bills would force American businesses to "cooperate" with FBI investigations, even in the absence of a court order, by providing sensitive personal and private information — customers' travel and credit histories, hotel records, employment history — without the subjects ever knowing they are FBI targets and without any indication of criminal activities. No American should be investigated unless there is a reasonable indication of criminal activity. However, under this new law a simple letter from the FBI would permit such "fishing expeditions." It would be a gut-punch to the Fourth Amendment, "[t]he right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures. ..."



AP/Wide World

Rep. Henry Hyde (R-Illinois), chairman of the House judiciary committee, co-sponsored H.R. 2768, which was scheduled for vote in March. Among other things, the proposed "antiterrorism" legislation provided for expansion of U.S. military involvement in domestic matters.

other liberty-loving citizens time to contact their congressmen to protest the feds' police-state mentality.

Instead of jumping on the election-year "antiterrorism" bandwagon and give more (and unnecessary) power to federal law enforcement, our senators and representatives



Electronic spying on the public would increase. Both bills would expand law-enforcement authority to eavesdrop on private conversations. The Senate version even would provide for "roving" wiretaps. They expand the list of felonies in which an electronic surveillance order could be sought. In addition, the bills would permit the admission of evidence obtained from unlawful electronic surveillance — as long as law-enforcement officials acted in "good faith." Moreover, funding would be provided to bribe the phone companies to alter their systems to

facilitate Big Brother's invasion of citizens' privacy.

Oddly, though, "antiterrorism" accounts for few of the feds' actual requests for permission to use electronic surveillance: A federal report shows that from 1984 to 1994, 15 applications out of 9,297 for electronic sur-

veillance — or less than 0.2 percent — were against "terrorist activity" (arson, bombing and firearms violations). On the other hand, some 80 percent of wiretaps currently are ordered for narcotics investigations. And keep in mind that *anything* seems possible in the name of narcotics investigations — even the misuse of the U.S. military.

FOR SECURITY

by Nancy Ross

Who'll Protect Us From Our Protectors?

veillance — or less than 0.2 percent — were against "terrorist activity" (arson, bombing and firearms violations). On the other hand, some 80 percent of wiretaps currently are ordered for narcotics investigations. And keep in mind that *anything* seems possible in the name of narcotics investigations — even the misuse of the U.S. military.

This would have a chilling effect on Americans wanting to hear such a group's ideas — an infringement on the First Amendment.

Our military increasingly would be used against Americans. The bills would expand the list of exceptions to the *Posse Comitatus* act which, since 1878, has forbidden the use of the U.S. military against civilians. This comes at a time of steady militarization of federal law-enforcement agencies whose "dynamic entry" teams train in special *combat* tactics developed by elite military units. Further, the Drug War exemption to *Posse Comitatus* already is abused. In the most glaring example of this, BATF agents at Waco concocted a story, that the Branch Davidians had a "drug lab," in order to get military assistance — which included an Army Special Forces training team.

"Terrorism" would be broadly defined. The bills would expand the definition of "terrorism" so broadly as to include such crimes as kidnapping, murder, serious assaults, and illegal property damage. This means that any serious *state* crime could be designated a "terrorist act" simply on the say-so of the U.S. attorney general.

Presidential black-listing would become policy. The bills would allow the president to designate any group



Rep. Charles Schumer (D-New York), a whining gun-grabber who sidetracked congressional probe of Waco incident, supported H.R. 2768, the "Effective Death Penalty and Antiterrorism Act of 1995."

This determination by Big Brother would not be subject to review in the courts, either.



The due process of law could be subverted. The bills would authorize the federal government to deport foreigners residing in

the United States based on secret evidence that neither the accused nor his or her lawyer could see. The bills even would prohibit a permanent resident from choosing a lawyer to review the secret evidence on his behalf. An underlying

and unstated purpose of this section is to allow the FBI to hide the identity of its informants. This would deprive defense attorneys of the attempt to discredit information from informants — who sometimes lie or simply make mistakes.



Constitutional protection against wrongful imprisonment or execution would be weakened. The bills contain so-called "reform" of *habeas corpus*. Under present standards of *habeas corpus*, federal courts ensure that state courts' convictions and sentences are imposed within the bounds of the Constitution. But the "antiterrorism" bills would unduly limit the access of people convicted of crimes, including but not limited to death-row inmates, to these critical federal-court reviews. They would impose arbitrary, early deadlines and unnecessary obstacles to judicial review and an unprecedented narrowing of constitutional protection against wrongful incarceration and execution.

While there admittedly are problems in judicial delays, these generally are at the state level, not federal. Such "reform" has nothing to do with preventing terrorism. It merely would allow politicians who have insisted on it — like senators Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Bob Dole (R-Kansas), and representatives Bill McCollum (R-Florida), Henry Hyde and Charles Schumer (D-New York) — to posture and say they're "tough on crime."

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Showtown Shoot-'Em-Up

SOF's 3-Gun Global-Class Match

by Mike Waidelich

Photos by Robert Walchli

Any event billed as a "World Championship" should be a class act. The *Soldier of Fortune* Three-Gun World Championship is that and more. It's also a world-class training event for armed professionals. This writer has frequently heard police officers express the opinion that their experiences at the match contributed to their on-the-job survival: One police officer wrote us and attributed his experience at the *SOF* Three-Gun Championship to directly having saved his life.

That's not surprising, as the *SOF* World Championship Three-Gun Match is an effort to provide a competitive event that tests a competitor's ability to use his guns for their intended purpose — as weapons. The three guns are pistol, shotgun, and rifle; but not *any* pistol, shotgun or rifle. Specifically, they are of a genre we euphemistically call "practical." In reality they are specific examples of these guns, designed and intended for use by military and police personnel as the tools of their trade and

who is now the Director of the *SOF* Three-Gun Match, many years back.

With considerable experience in practical shooting events, as well as in teaching individuals how to use firearms effectively, Horne was the right man to ask. He is also a good administrator. Brown laid out the parameters and left it to Horne to make it a reality, and as a result for the last 12 years it has been one of the best events of its kind in the world. Among newcomers, shooting the Match for the first time, and among old hands who come back year after year from all over the world, the conclusion is the same: Nobody does it better!

The secret to the suc-

cess of the match lies in the key principles that guide every facet of the concept: accuracy, speed, and power under realistic field conditions. Both the match rules and the match design require a tactically sound performance by the competitors in every stage. Every stage is designed to test a contestant's ability to use his weapon effectively under circumstances that he might someday face for real. All shooting is done under field conditions, from

All Three Guns

field-shooting positions, and with weapons that are appropriate for their intended function. The match rules restrict the competitors to weapons that are practical for the purpose. Weight, size, and accessory rules keep the guns used very close to military specifications.

It is required that all the rifle, shotgun, and pistol types employed at the match be in use by military or law enforcement. The targets are as realistic as we can make them in dimension, configuration and range. We aren't trying to test the contestants' marksmanship as much as we are trying to test their fighting skills. In the process we hope we are improving



The *SOF* Three-Gun Match has become a world-class event, in no small measure due to its ever-changing and realistic mission scenarios, and the quality of the dedicated staffers who direct the match.



Skill with rifle, pistol and shotgun count, as in any shooting match — but equally important in the *SOF* Match and on the streets is selecting appropriate weapons, and ability to exploit strategy and tactics.

by civilians when they are presented with problems to solve that the military and police are supposed to solve for them.

How can a competitive event efficiently and accurately test a contestant's ability to use a weapon effectively? It is, of course, preferable that all contestants survive the event, so having them fight it out is not acceptable. Colonel Robert Brown wanted the answer to this question when he first asked Michael Horne,

those skills. The contestants agree that shooting this match is a learning experience. Even the top shooters are frequently taken into areas they had not yet explored. We try hard to create realistic conditions and problems, which have practical and realistic solutions. Most shooters leave with new ideas about what to practice and how to prepare themselves for the possibility of an actual event. Feedback indicates this preparation can be life-

saving. This is quite gratifying. Even though social encounters that threaten one's very existence are not uncommon, it is difficult to prepare for them. We hope that our stages are realistic enough to help in that preparation.

Each stage of this event is painstakingly planned, from the original idea through its final execution. Ideas are plentiful. Michael Horne, Lyle Wyatt, the chief range officers, this writer and many others, knowingly or unknowingly, contribute to the list of ideas from which the stages spring. Those who contribute ideas unknowingly are frequently the contestants themselves, for they talk constantly about the stages and what was interesting or difficult about them. We listen and take note.

Once an idea is selected for a stage, it is examined for its practicality, appropriateness, originality, and suitability to such conditions as equipment availability and range location. Much of the equipment for the stages is created by the engineering genius of Lyle Wyatt. Need a target that moves in a certain way? Lyle makes it. Need a mine cart, complete with tracks? Lyle made one of those, too.

This process goes on all year in preparation for the match. As Horne likes to say, "We never finish designing the Match. We just run out of time!"

Implementing New Ideas

With a sufficient number of ideas examined and selected, the match begins to take shape. A balance between mission types is reached. We try to make each stage unique from all the others. The 1995 Match had eight. Some stages are practical exercises and others are



The *SOF* Match is one of the few that tests a contestant's skill with the combat shotgun.



Team events are some of the most popular with both shooters and spectators. Here team shoot-off contestants from the Al Mar team engage multiple contestants with their Steyr AUGs.



As sometimes happens on duty, contestants must be able to place effective fire with the weak hand: This is not your grandpa's target match.

tactical scenarios. (On the evening before the match starts, contestants get descriptions of the stages, complete with drawings.) We try to have plenty of shooting for all three guns: If you're going to lug three guns to a match, you want to use all three.

Finally, administrative considerations must be answered, such as can we run 70 shooters a day through these stages and stay on schedule? If one stage runs late, it will cause others to run late as well. And though we would like to change it, the daylight only lasts so long. (I think I'll ask Lyle if he can do something about that.)

Chuck Bolding, our man in Las Vegas, has the task of providing materials for match construction and the manpower to make it run. Every stage requires three or four good hands, in addition to the chief range officer. I still don't know how, but he comes up with the people every year — very good people!

The chief range officers are an incredibly talented group. They are energetic, enthusiastic, and amazingly adaptable. All the planning and design in the world won't make a good stage unless the man running it knows what he is doing. The CRO's first responsibility is safety. Then the CRO's job is to make sure everyone has an equal opportunity to do well, that no one gets an unfair advantage, and that everyone has a good time — and stays on schedule.

All the planning and design in the world won't make a good stage unless the man running it knows what he is doing. The CRO's first responsibility is safety. Then the CRO's job is to make sure everyone has an equal opportunity to do well, that no one gets an unfair advantage, and that everyone has a good time — and stays on schedule.

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Scoring

Each stage has its own requirements for scoring and must carry the same weight as any other stage in the final result. It is essential that it be scored so that no advantage is given or can be taken, other than what comes naturally. If you shoot better, your score is better. If you use good tactics, you stand a better chance of a good score. If you chose your weapons correctly, your task is easier, but if the weapon you chose is inappropriate for the task, doesn't shoot well, or is unreliable, that is another matter. Like real life, if your weapon

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SON OF USSOCOM



H&K's USP45 is the proper caliber for a service-size sidearm and has many desirable features.

H&K's USP45 Versatile, Service-Sized Sidearm

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis

Heckler & Koch's string of brilliant successes in the field of modern military and law enforcement small arms is almost unparalleled. And yet, founded by Edmond Heckler, Alex Seidel and Theodore Koch, all former Mauser Werke employees, H&K commenced operations in 1948 in Oberndorf/Neckar, Germany, as a manufacturer of sewing machine parts and gauges for the machine tool industry.

Initially equipped with the M1 Garand rifle, the resurgent West German *Bundeswehr* moved in 1957 to the FN FAL, made in Belgium. Eventually, 350,000 of this German model, called the G1 (for *Gewehr*, or rifle) were manufactured. The Germans were well-pleased with the G1 and approached FN for a license to manu-

facture the rifle in Germany.

The Director-General of Fabrique Nationale, the late Rene' Laloux, refused and rudely insulted German Ministry of Defense officials. The German government immediately contacted the European licensee for the Spanish CETME (*Compania de Estudios Tecnicos de Materiales Especiales*) rifle, which was the NWM (*Nederlandsche Wapen-En Munitiefabriek*) in the Netherlands. An arms agreement was reached quickly.

NWM was to provide the *Bundeswehr*, in exclusivity, with 20mm ammunition, in return for which Germany was given a license to manufacture the CETME (called the G2). The West German government granted the contract to both

Rheinmetall and Heckler & Koch. Rheinmetall removed themselves from the scene, as they were occupied with manufacture of the MG3 (caliber 7.62x51mm NATO version of the MG42 GPMG). H&K refined the design further and it was adopted by the *Bundeswehr* as the G3. The rest is a history of worldwide acceptance and success known to all.

The most salient feature of H&K's line of small arms has always been the delayed blowback, roller-locking system of operation. Another example of their innovative technology and superb quality was the P7 "squeeze cocker" pistol, which was never an overwhelming success in the United States. Introduced in the late 1970s as the PSP (*Polizei Selbstladepistole*, or Self-Loading Police Pistol), the P7

series was just too expensive for most U.S. law-enforcement agencies and individual consumers.

Design work commenced in September 1989 on a new family of H&K pistols principally focused on the U.S. market. In addition to the qualities usually associated with H&K firearms — reliability, durability, safety, accuracy, advanced materials and innovative features — the new design was to stress a competitive price structure and, consequently, a conventional method of operation. In November 1989, I was informed the design would include a polymer frame. An attempt, like Smith & Wesson's recent Sigma, to blatantly copy Glock? Not hardly.

Plastics, Polymers, Perfection

Back in the late 1960s, H&K introduced the P9S pistol, which featured, like most of their shoulder-mounted weapons, a delayed-blowback, roller-locking system of operation. This pistol's "frame" was composed of two components: a plastic trigger-guard/front strap and a sheet-metal receiver. A one-piece plastic grip was held to the rear of the receiver by two screws positioned through the backstrap.

Furthermore, the H&K VP70 caliber 9mm Parabellum machine pistol and its semiauto equivalent, the VP70Z — both designed during the same time frame as the P9S — had frames made entirely of plastic, although they were reinforced at appropriate points with steel. Both the P9S and VP70 appeared more than a decade before Gaston Glock's pistol

was ever even conceived. H&K's G11 caseless-cartridge rifle, its CAWS (12-gauge Close Assault Weapon System) and both the MP5/10 and MP5/40 submachine guns also make exten-

Parabellum and .40 S&W cartridges (See "H&K's Universal Self-Loading Pistol," December '93). USP prototypes were fortunate enough to be included in the rigorous milspec test-



Competitively priced, the USP45 passed extensive milspec testing prior to its introduction.

sive use of polymer components.

In an unusual reversal of the normal course of military small-arms development, H&K's Offensive Handgun and Suppressor Caliber .45 ACP (See "H&K Will Arm America's Elite," October '95) which was awarded a Phase II Engineering and Manufacturing Development contract in January 1994 by the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM): the umbrella organization for the Navy SEALs, Army Ranger Battalions and Special Forces, Air Force Special Operations and several other unspecified clandestine groups) was an outgrowth of the commercial project that led to the Universal Self-Loading Pistol (USP). Introduced in January 1993, the USP was initially available chambered for both the 9mm

ing that H&K performed on its initial USSOCOM test prototypes.

In January 1995 H&K unveiled a .45 ACP version of the USP. Only slightly larger in length and height than the 9mm Parabellum and .40 S&W models, this is, in my opinion, the best chambering for a relatively large service-size sidearm, especially in lieu of the ban on magazines containing more than 10 rounds. Overall length of the USP45 is 7.87 inches (200 mm). At its widest point on the frame, the width is 1.25 inches (31.80 mm). The height, with magazine, is 5.55 inches (141 mm). The weight, empty but with a magazine, is 1.9 pounds (0.86 kg). Compared to the USP9 and USP40, the USP45 is 0.16-inch (4 mm) greater in length and 0.28-inch (6.8 mm) greater in height. It weighs 2.56 ounces (73 grams) more than the USP40.

At first, USP barrels were provided with standard land-and-groove cut rifling. With the introduction of the USP45, all USP barrels now have polygonal rifling, long an H&K trademark. Polygonal bores provide a better gas seal, more consistent velocities, superior accuracy and ease of maintenance. Caliber .45 ACP USP barrels have six twist lines with a



USP45 with Universal Tactical Light (UTL). No accessory you can add to a handgun is more important than a flashlight specifically designed for use with fighting firearms.

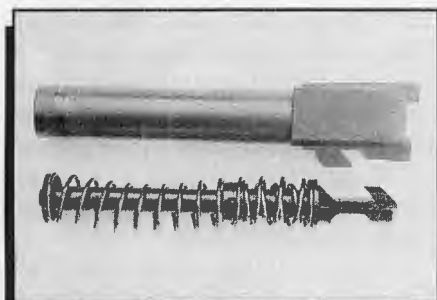
constant right-hand twist of one turn in 15.98 inches (406 mm). Barrel length in this caliber is 4.4 inches (112 mm).

The injection-molded, two-piece polymer frame has been reinforced with a 15% microscopic glass-fiber content. There are four short steel guide rails (two on each side of the frame) for the slide interface, in a manner reminiscent of the Glock. The grip's front and rear straps are deeply cross-checked with pointed tips (early USP9s and USP40s had vertically-grooved back straps), while the grip side panels have a rough, stippled texture and feature the H&K escutcheon (on both sides of the USP9 and USP40, but replaced with a U.S. patent number on the right side of the USP45).

The grip angle (defined as the angle between the front leading edge of the grips and a line drawn normal — perpendicular — to the bore's axis) is 17 degrees, exactly matching that of the Colt M1911A1 Government Model. A step at the heel of the frame holds a polymer lanyard loop which is held to the frame by a polymer pin.

Injection-molded polyamides are super industrial-strength synthetics well-known for their resistance to high temperatures, corrosion, wear, chemicals and radiation. Lighter than steel, they have a higher tensile strength than aluminum.

The spring-loaded steel slide-stop lever is mounted on the left side of the frame and can be easily manipulated with the thumb of the firing hand by a right-handed shooter. When the last round has been fired, a shelf on the magazine follower forces a



There is a hooked locking block at the end of the USP's recoil-spring guide rod that stops the barrel's rearward travel during the latter part of the recoil stroke. Forward of this is a mechanical recoil-reduction system that buffers unlocking of the barrel. Both the buffer and recoil spring are captive.

Method of Operation

The USP method of operation is short recoil, locked breech. The quite conventional locking system is a modification of the Browning dropping-barrel method as encountered on the SIG-Sauer P226, the Ruger P90 and on some others. A large, rectangular lug over the barrel's chamber engages the slide's ejection port in the locked position. When a cartridge is fired, chamber pressure drives the cartridge case back against the breech face.

Locked together, the slide and barrel recoil rearward for about 3mm, after which a shaped lug on the underside of the chamber engages the hooked locking block at the end of the steel recoil-spring guide rod (which is held in place by the slide-stop lever's axis pin) to lower the rear end of the barrel and disengage it from the barrel.

The locking surface on the front top of the barrel's locking lug is tapered with a forward slope. This tapered surface produces a camming action, which enables the USP to enhance its reliability in high-dust environments or after extensive firing has introduced severe fouling in the system.

— P.G.K.

USP Fire Mode Variants

The trigger and frame-mounted safety mechanisms provide one of the USP's most unusual and interesting features. Nine variations of fire modes and control functions are available.

Variant 1 has a safety lever mounted on the left side of the frame for right-handed operators. Rotating the safety lever upward prevents firing, whether the hammer is cocked (as in "condition one," with a round in the chamber, the hammer cocked and the safety on) or uncocked. This variant permits "cocked and locked" carry. When the safety lever is in the horizontal position, the pistol can be fired whether the hammer is cocked (single-action mode) or uncocked (double-action). Rotating the lever below the horizontal position will drop the hammer (if it was cocked). The lever is spring-loaded; when released it will spring back to the horizontal position, permitting the first round to be fired double-action.

Variant 2 is identical in operation to the above, except that a mirror-image safety lever is mounted on the right side of the frame for left-handed shooters. Note that all odd-numbered variants are for right-handed operators while all even-numbered variants are for southpaws.

Variants 3 and 4 have no *safe* position and the lever is employed only to decock the hammer. The pistol can be fired in either the single-action or double-action modes, but cannot be carried "cocked and locked."

Variants 5 and 6 permit double-action fire only, but when rotated upward, the lever locks the trigger mechanism in the *safe* position. Variant 7 has a "bobbed" hammer, no safety lever and can be fired double-action only.

Variants 9 and 10 are equipped with a safety lever permitting "cocked and locked" carry, but no decocking function. *Soldier Of Fortune* was provided with a Variant 9 USP45 for test and evaluation. These last two USP variants are the ones I would personally select. It's important to emphasize that, unlike Variants 1 and 2, if the operator pushes down on the safety lever as he comes off the target in a high-stress environment, there is no possibility that he will go past the *safe* position and activate a decocker mechanism to inadvertently drop the hammer. It has been said that the Variants 9 and 10 USPs provide the double-action option if it is ever required, i.e., for a second strike on a hard primer. I disagree. If the hammer falls and ignition fails to occur, there is no time in a gunfight for repeated strikes on what is possibly a completely dead primer. The proper course of action is a "tap, rack, bang" drill: Slap the bottom of the magazine to make sure it is properly seated, rack the slide to eject the defective round and feed another into the chamber, and pull the trigger.

All of these various fire modes and control functions are determined by a notched detent plate inside the frame, to which the safety lever, if present, is attached. These detent plates and their corresponding safety levers can be removed and installed in a matter of minutes by Heckler & Koch armorers only. While the user can specify the variant he wants, it is not intended that individuals endlessly experiment with the different variants, so parts are not provided by H&K for that purpose.

— P.G.K.

projection on the slide-stop lever upward to hold the slide in the rearward position. The slide-stop lever also serves as a dismounting lever to separate the frame and slide groups. The rear corner of the slide's slide-stop notch has been angled rearward on production-series USP45s to prevent the slide from flying forward when a magazine is forcefully inserted into the pistol, a minor, but frequent complaint associated with the USP9 and USP40. Keep track of the rounds you fire. Always reload before you run the pistol dry and the slide will never lock rearward.

The Light Of Truth

Grooves cut parallel to the bore's axis on each side of the frame in front of the trigger guard provide mounting points for H&K's Universal Tactical Light (UTL). This makes more sense than installing a laser sight. No accessory you can add to your handgun is more important than a flashlight specifically designed for use with fighting firearms. Lights like the UTL are not aiming devices. They do not replace the weapon's sights. The UTL should be used to illuminate the target and permit proper target discrimination. It backlights the pistol's sights and permits their proper

use. The UTL can also be used to momentarily blind your opponent.

This quick-detachable flashlight can be installed, or removed, in moments on all versions of the USP. It has a high light output of approximately 9 Maximum Spherical Candlepower. It has an off/on toggle switch that can be supplemented by a remote cable pressure switch. The suggested retail price of the UTL is \$245. The optional remote cable switch costs an additional \$24.

If you intend to keep the USP on a nightstand next to your bed, then the UTL is a useful accessory. However, for those who will stuff the USP in a belt holster I recommend carrying a separate Sure-Fire Model 6Z CombatLight manufactured by Laser Products Ltd. (Dept. SOF, 18300 Mount Baldy Circle, Fountain Valley, CA 92708; phone: 800-353-1334 — to purchase products or locate the closest dealer/distributor in your area). The Model 6Z has a small diameter body just in back of the head

and two neoprene rings around the rear of the body that in conjunction with the switch behind the neoprene diaphragm in the tail cap permit the unit to be used like a "syringe" with the "Rodgers SURE-FIRE Technique" that puts the support hand back in more or less the standard Weaver position.

The USP45's trigger guard is large enough to accommodate gloved operation in cold weather. The front of the trigger guard is squared-off with horizontal serrations, even though few armed professionals place the index finger of the support hand in this area. Furthermore, in this instance the trigger guard is so long as to make the use of this ridiculous fetish even more awkward.

The bottom of the trig-



All of the various fire modes and control functions available for the USP series are determined by a notched detent plate inside the frame, to which the safety lever, if present, is attached.

ger guard is flared to protect the ambidextrous magazine catch/release and prevent accidentally dumping a magazine on the ground at an inappropriate time. To further inhibit this from happening the catch/release is now smaller in profile on all production series USP45s. This modification will eventually be incorporated on the models USP9 and USP40 as well.

To release a magazine, the catch/release must be depressed down instead of inward. This takes a little getting used to for those of us trained on the M1911 series. Magazines, either full or empty, fall freely away when the catch/release is depressed. The magazine catch/release is somewhat difficult to reach with the thumb without shifting the firing grip. I find that the trigger finger is better positioned for this purpose. Half-moon-shaped "tear-away" notches have been molded into the grip on each side at the bottom to assist removal of a jammed magazine. There is no magazine safety and the USP series can be fired without a magazine in place.

The staggered-column, single-position-feed, detachable box-type USP45 civilian-issue magazines have a capacity of 10 rounds to conform to the current ban on the production of firearms' "feeding devices" of greater capacity. Law enforcement magazines for this pistol hold 12 rounds. H&K anticipates that about 80% of all USP45 magazines will be produced with a 10-round capacity with the remaining 20% devoted to 12-round magazines for law enforcement sales.

USP45 magazine bodies are made of stamped sheet-metal. There are numbered indicator holes at the rear

Disassembly Procedures

There are a total of 53 components in the USP. Field-stripping procedures parallel those for handguns with this method of operation. Remove the magazine and clear the weapon by jacking the slide and inspecting the chamber to make sure it is empty. Retract the slide rearward until the slide stop's axis pin is aligned with the disassembly notch on the left side of the slide. Push the axis pin to the left from the right side and withdraw it completely. Push the slide group forward and separate it from the frame. Remove the recoil spring/guide rod assembly and the barrel from the slide. USP45 magazines are easily disassembled by pushing down on the post in the center of the floorplate while at the same time squeezing inward on the floorplate's locking tabs on each side of the magazine body. Pull the floorplate, locking insert, follower spring and follower out of the magazine body.

After cleaning and lubrication, reassemble in the reverse order. Make sure that the angled locking surfaces on both the underside of the barrel and rear end of the recoil-spring guide rod are properly aligned.

— P.G.K.

of the magazine body. Both the magazine floorplate assembly and the follower are made from injection-molded polymer. These magazines are quite easy to disassemble.

Trigger pull weights on our test specimen were 10.25 pounds in double-action and 4.5 pounds in single-action with a slight trace of creep. The smooth, ungrooved trigger is also an injection-molded polymer component. It is connected to a sheet-metal trigger bar — inside the frame on the right side — that governs rotation of the hammer. The hammer on all production series USP45s has a rubber spur. This modification was incorporated as a consequence of the USSOCOM trials. It cushions the blow delivered against the hammer during a drop test to prevent an accidental discharge.

The fixed sheet-metal ejector is mounted in front of the hammer mechanism on the left side. The hammer mechanism also contains the lever that rotates upward at the moment of firing to depress the spring-loaded firing-pin safety in the slide and permits the striker to travel forward. There is also a passive disconnect safety.

The spring-loaded extractor, installed in a slot on the right side of the slide, pivots around its retaining roll pin in the conventional manner. There is no barrel bushing; the barrel passes through a hole bored in the front of the slide.

The customary coil-type recoil spring rides on a heavy-steel, full-length guide rod and is now captive with the guide rod to ease disassembly. Forward of the guide rod's hooked locking block is a mechanical recoil-reduction system that buffers unlocking of the barrel and consists of another captive coil spring, considerably shorter and of smaller diameter than the recoil spring. It is insensitive to ammunition variances, requires no special maintenance and supposedly has an indefinite service life. Heckler & Koch claims a 30% reduction in recoil forces because of this device. They state that this unit reduces the peak force acting upon the USP grip to less than 300 Newtons (66 pounds) and that the peak-force shock on competing polymer and steel-framed pistols is more than 5,000 Newtons. This sounds, and is supposed to be, very impressive.

Shouldering The USP45

Most of the time, large service-size handguns like the USP45 will be carried in a belt holster. Why? Simply tradition in my opinion. Most of us practice the presentation from a belt scabbard in the manner formulated long ago by Jeff Cooper, commonly from the strongside position and in a few instances at the crossdraw location. Armed professionals have usually shunned shoulder holsters. I suppose this is because they are seen so often worn by TV and Hollywood cops, who tactically demonstrate every possible incorrect technique.

However, shoulder rigs have several advantages. Except for extremely hide-ride, strongside holsters, nothing will conceal a large frame semiauto or revolver more effectively than a well-designed shoulder holster. The key here is "well-designed" and the single most important parameter is that the rig stay put so that the pistol is always in exactly the same place at the commencement of the drawstroke. Most shoulder holsters do not prevent the handgun from slowly shifting downward and back while you wear it. A good shoulder holster also does a better job of the distributing the weight of a large handgun and extra ammunition over your entire torso. When you have to carry a pistol and spare magazines all day, this means less fatigue and fewer backaches.

The problem is separating the wheat from the chaff, as there are a lot of shoulder holsters available that just don't cut the mustard. I think Greg Kramer's shoulder holster is the best you can buy for large handguns. I first met Greg Kramer more than a decade ago when he was just starting out. He hand-crafted his custom-made holsters under the name Pro Line Handgun Leather at that time. Greg gave me a neutral rake scabbard for a Colt Officers' ACP, and a single magazine pouch, both of which I still have. Today it's Kramer Handgun Leather (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 112154, Tacoma, WA 98411; phone 800-510-2666 for credit card orders only and 206-564-6652 for information, fax: 206-564-1214 — catalog \$5) and although the quality is as high as ever, Greg has made incredible strides in expanding his product line of concealment and duty rigs for armed professionals.

All Kramer holsters are made from premium horsehide. While harder to hand-mold than steerhide, many consider it to be the finest material available for holster making. There are over 35 individual hand operations involved in making a Kramer holster. Each scabbard is lockstitched with double rows of black nylon or dacron thread. Carefully hand-rubbed paste

wax is used to bring out a rich, subtle luster in the leather. The edges are hand-burnished to a brilliant sheen and a sight track is permanently molded into each holster. The hand-molding on the Kramer shoulder holster sent to us for evaluation was exquisite.

Kramer's shoulder rig permits the gun to be carried horizontally (which I personally prefer) or with a butt-down slant. The natural-



Kramer shoulder holster.

color suede harness is adjustable to fit most torsos and will not bleed dye onto your clothes. Suede makes the most desirable harness material as it drapes well over the shoulders and has the strength to carry even very large weapons. Furthermore, suede does not "print" through concealing clothing like heavier, full-grain leathers and will not slip and slide like nylon. Both the holster and magazine pouch are provided with snap-detachable belt ties. The system is available with either single or double drop-style magazine pouches for semiautos or single or double six-round ammo packs in several configurations for revolvers. With large pistols like the USP45, I prefer the double magazine pouch as it provides a better counter-weight balance with the pistol. This is the only holster Kramer makes with a thumb break. The thumb break is reinforced with stitched-on plastic laminate to ensure a crisp, positive release each and every time. This truly outstanding piece of professional equipment sells for \$175 and is available in black, mahogany or dark tan.

— P.G.K.

USP45 SPECIFICATIONS

- Caliber:**45 ACP.
Operation: Locked breech, short recoil, semiautomatic, frame-mounted fire modes and control functions with options that permit combinations of "cocked and locked" carry, manual safety, double-action/single-action, de-cocking and double-action-only with right- or left-hand controls.
- Weight, empty, with magazine:** 1.9 pounds (0.86 kg).
Length, overall: 7.87 inches (200 mm).
Width: 1.25 inches (31.80 mm).
Height, with magazine: 5.55 inches (141 mm).
Barrel: Polygonal rifling with six twist lines and a constant right-hand twist of one turn in 15.98 inches (406 mm).
Barrel length: 4.4 inches (112 mm).
Feed mechanism: Staggered-column, single-position-feed, detachable box-type magazine with 10-round capacity for commercial sales and 12-round capacity for law-enforcement applications only.
- Sights:** Fixed, high-profile partridge-type front blade with a thickness of 0.135-inch and containing a single white plastic plug; open square-notch rear, 0.130-inch wide with a white plug on each side of the notch. Self-luminous tritium night sights optional at \$88/set.
- Finish:** Black polymer frame; slide finished with a nitro-gas-carburized and matte-black oxidized process; internal components treated with low-friction Dow Corning "Molykote" process.
- Price:** \$696, complete with two magazines and lockable plastic storage box. \$20 extra for left-hand controls; extra 10-round magazines at \$40 each.
- Manufacturer:** Heckler & Koch GmbH, Dept. SOF, Postfach 1329, D-7238 Oberndorf/Neckar, Germany.
- Distributor:** Heckler & Koch, Inc., Dept. SOF, 21480 Pacific Boulevard, Sterling, VA 20166-8903; phone: 703-450-1900, fax: 703-450-8160.
- T&E summary:** Proper caliber for service-size sidearm. Competitively priced. Passed extensive milspec testing prior to introduction of the series. Many desirable features. Fire mode and control-function options provide alternatives to satisfy all conceivable user specifications.



H&K USP45, field-stripped.

However, neither I nor any other member of the *SOF* test staff who fired any of the USP pistols could detect any qualitative difference in perceived recoil or muzzle jump between the USP series and any other handguns of similar calibers, weight and size. In my opinion, the main benefit derived from this recoil-reduction system is an increase in component lifespan.

Both the front and rear sights are installed by friction-fit only into dovetails milled into the slide. The sight radius is 6.8 inches. The high-profile, unprotected, partridge-type front sight blade is 0.135-inch in width and



courtesy H&K

In an unusual reversal of the normal course of military small arms development, H&K's USSOCOM Offensive Handgun (top) was an outgrowth of the commercial project that led to the Universal Self-Loading Pistol (bottom).

has a cylindrical white-plastic plug inserted into a hole bored through the rear. The open square-notch rear sight is 0.130-inch in width and has two white-plastic plugs, one on each side of the open notch. Under stress, however, these colored dots will not be noticed.

A far better alternative is to order tritium night sights installed on the USP either directly from Heckler & Koch (Dept. SOF, 21480 Pacific Boulevard, Sterling, VA 20166-8903; phone: 703-450-1900), who use those made by Hesco, Inc. with a suggested retail price of \$88, or have them installed by Innovative Weaponry Inc. (Dept. SOF, 337 Eubank NE, Albu-

Continued on page 72

Rise An Bureau Brass —

killed, and Casali's supervisor was gravely wounded. The Ariel Rios Federal Building at 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C., is named for Casali's old partner.

But now Casali and Klipfel "are going to be fired," ATF Director John Magaw told *Time* magazine last July. "I'm going to continue that process. They deserve to be fired." *Time* described their dismissals as "imminent."

Almost a year later, though, Casali and Klipfel still have their jobs. But they have been shunted into a storage room at the dead end of a back hallway, forced to share a castoff desk crammed in amid the clutter of cardboard boxes. Why? Their major transgression — apparently a mortal sin in the eyes of ATF leadership — was that they told the truth. They blew the whistle on other cops, including bosses who have since been promoted to top-level management in ATF, for lying, cheating and stealing; for taking bribes from Chicago gangsters.

Touching "The Untouchables"

In the Chicago home of the ATF's patron saint, Eliot Ness, the erstwhile Untouchables have been indelibly sullied by the taint of dirty money and organized crime.

Casali and Klipfel have implicated personnel working with ATF for selling machine guns and silencers to Chicago street gangs. They have evidence that ATF gang task-force members stole tens of thousands of dollars worth of cash, jewelry and clothing from drug suspects, and diverted cocaine seized in arrests to other drug dealers, who then sold it and split the money with the crooked cops. Casali and Klipfel can prove that the two top agents for the Chicago region — ATF's largest — openly socialized with, sent government business to and accepted illegal favors from an alleged Mafia member, a felon convicted of armored car robbery.

These and a host of other allegations have been twice-verified by fed-



Agents Mike Casali (left), Ariel Rios and Alex D'Atri pose with a cache of illegal firearm suppressors, a few days before Rios was killed and D'Atri was wounded in a multi-agency drug raid in Miami.

Mike Casali and Diane Klipfel are two federal agents who don't pack guns anymore. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms took away their guns, and their badges, too. Ironically, the reasons behind this are something the husband-and-wife special agents can point to with bittersweet pride. Instead of guns, they now pack paper, in crates of files lining the basement walls of their suburban Chicago home. And that paper makes the pair among the agents who are most dreaded by the drones of ATF headquarters.

In U.S. District Court in Chicago, the couple is waging a war of documents that may play a large role in determining the bureau's future — or if it is to have a future. As Casali and Klipfel approach the 20th anniversary of their service as special agents

with ATF, they find themselves outcasts, having gone from being two of the most respected, productive and highly decorated agents in the bureau to virtual pariahs who are shunned by many of their colleagues in the Chicago-area office, where they have spent most of their careers. In the past four years, they have plummeted from being esteemed, hard-charging and intensely loyal group supervisors to being widely despised and feared within the bureau.

It is quite a switch for the pair. Klipfel is a three-time finalist for top agent of the year and was — until having her badge and gun taken away — the top case-producing agent among 140 others in the Chicago field division. Casali was one of the best competitive shooters, and was given an award for heroism for a shoot-out in which fellow-agent Ariel Rios was

d Fall Of The ATF

Going Bad To Do Good

by James L. Pate
Photos courtesy Mike Casali

eral investigators, first by ATF Internal Affairs and then by a special investigation by the Department of Treasury's Office of Inspector General. The latter included an unprecedented raid on the ATF's Chicago headquarters, one in which cartons of financial records and other documents were seized. But ATF Internal Affairs and Treasury's OIG can only report to the director. They have no enforcement power. Only the director can take action.

But instead of punishing the culprits, Director Magaw has protected them, and even joined in their campaign of harassment and intimidation against Casali and Klipfel, who have, in turn, sued the ATF, Magaw and several other law enforcement officers for federal civil rights violations and defamation of character.

The fact is, John Magaw can't fire Casali and Klipfel. Because they have done nothing wrong. Their only crime is that they are decent, hard-working parents with three kids whose lives have been threatened by other lawmen accused by Casali and Klipfel of multiple criminal acts. The fact is, the Casali family ran afoul of ATF headquarters because of their honesty, integrity and courage.

For instance, if Director Magaw fired Casali and Klipfel, he might have to explain his failure, in the face of highly compelling evidence, to punish William Marshall Reece for allegedly embezzling more than \$1.5 million from the ATF's aviation budget. (See "SOF

Exposes ATF's Warbirds," Oct. '95.) Or his failure to fire Watson Cummings Beaty for using a government credit card to have child pornography mailed to the ATF's office in Nashville, Tennessee, where Beaty, then special agent in charge, was caught by his secretary masturbating over a smut magazine lying open on his desk.

Both Beaty and Reece were allowed to retire on generous federal pensions. They are but two of several management-level ATF agents implicated in crimes which, although documented by Internal Affairs investigations, remain unpunished.

Rise And Fall Of The ATF

The story of Diane L. Klipfel and Michael V. Casali, which will be told in this and the next two issues of *Soldier Of Fortune*, is the sad history of ATF. It is the story of once-good people who went bad to do well, and of others, like Klipfel and Casali, who are treated badly because they are

good. It is a story of deserving agents done wrong, and wrong agents who not only go unpunished, but are rewarded. It is the story of how a federal

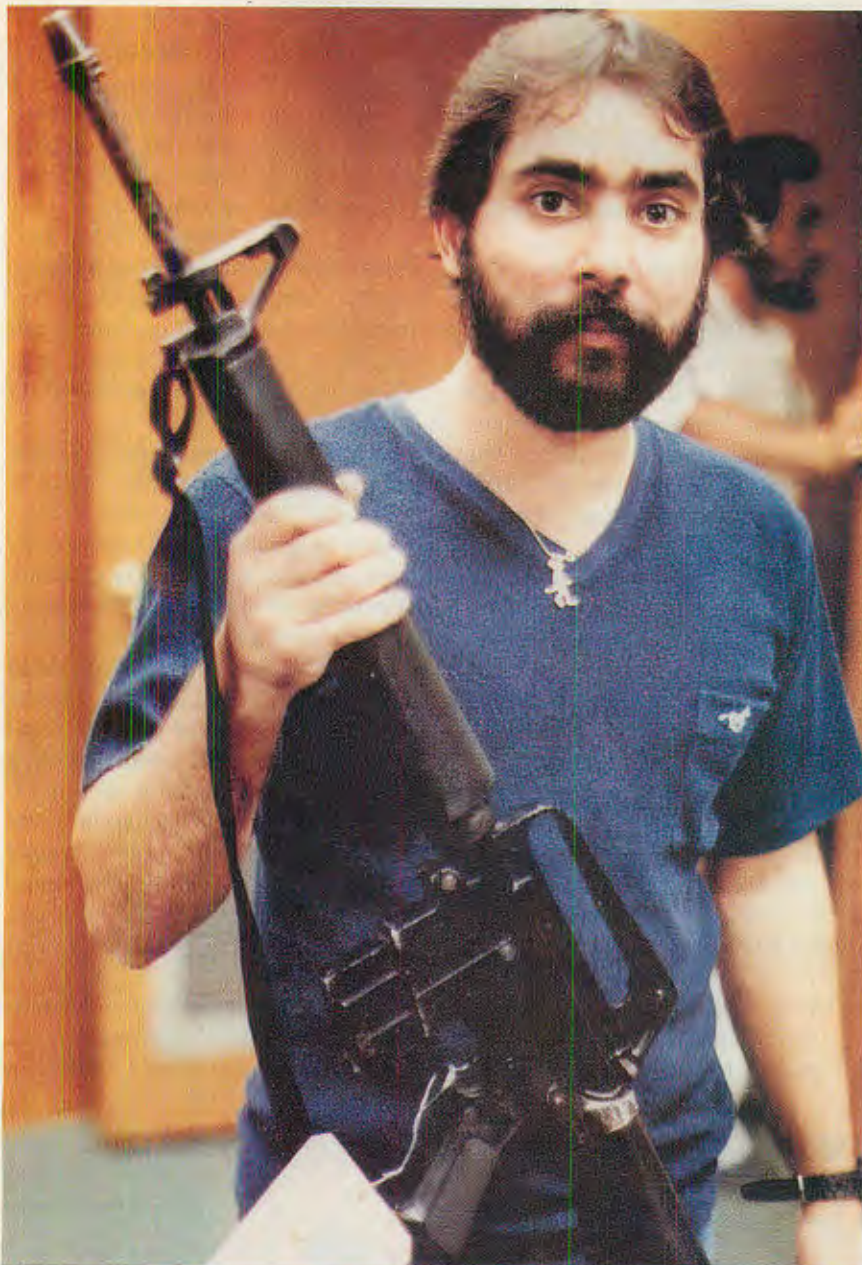
law enforcement agency has been slowly consumed by cancerous corruption; a corruption of values and judgment, to such an extent, says Klipfel, that it "has to be gutted" to be cured.

Klipfel, 40, doesn't criticize law enforcement lightly. She is a second-generation law enforcement officer whose father was a lieutenant in the hard-scrabble, rust-belt city of Joliet, Illinois, where there were "too many kids and not enough money" in her family. She attended a "very tough school," but, encouraged by her father, "I went to day school, night school and summer school," earning her high school diploma by age 15. By then, she was a cadet at the Joliet Police Department and, financed through the Law Enforcement Assistance Program, or LEAP, she began attending classes at Joliet Junior College.

By age 17, Diane was hired full-time at the police department as an evidence technician, then worked in



Agent Diane Klipfel in 1986, after an arrest in which more than 800 hot guns were recovered.



Special Agent Ariel Rios, part of Sanders' hand-picked team, just days before he died a hero's death at the hands of Colombian drug dealers.

radio dispatch and as a traffic officer. She continued with college classes at night, transferring to Lewis University, where she remembers sitting in a criminology class next to a convicted murderer, who was in an inmate education program.

"He was William Ahrens, better known as 'Bad Bill,' because he cut up some little girls back in the '50s," she recalled. "He sat right next to me. He would never shut up in class. You just wanted to turn around and smack him one. They should have cooked him off years ago."

By age 19, Diane Klipfel earned a master's degree in "social justice," a curriculum, she now wryly deadpans, is "like a fantasy." Unable to get pro-

moted to full-fledged patrol officer, she began to look elsewhere for work. In October 1976, three weeks after her 21st birthday, Klipfel became one of the first three women to be hired as a special agent by ATF. Her education level, unusually high for a person her age, combined with years of keen street savvy, made Klipfel a highly convincing covert operator. To the regret of many convicted criminals, the last person they would suspect of being The Man was an attractive young lady. Based in the St. Louis office for the first five years of her ATF career, Klipfel worked undercover assignments all over the country.

One case had her living for three

months in a house trailer in Texas, where she led investigators in busting a major theft ring trafficking in guns and vehicles. But she mainly worked bombing cases, including that of the "Speedway Bomber," an investigation that led to the murder conviction of "Earth Shoe" founder Brett Kimberlin in Indianapolis.

Like Klipfel, Mike Casali, now 44, also joined the ATF in 1976. Casali grew up in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where his father was director of the YMCA and his mother was a school teacher and homemaker. Casali excelled at two things as a kid: hunting and athletics. He was a football standout in high school, but his real talent was boxing, a sport for which he won the state American Athletic Union title at age 16 in 1968.

After completing his first year at Coe College, Casali, short of money, decided to join the Marine Corps. He was trained first as a combat infantryman, then as gunner in a 106mm recoilless rifle platoon based on Okinawa. Completing his single enlistment, he returned to Coe, where he earned a bachelor's degree in physical education and got a teaching certificate. He taught for one year in Cedar Rapids before being hired by the ATF in 1976. After agent training, he was assigned to Chicago.

Sanders remembers Casali as one of the best young agents when Sanders was special agent in charge of the Chicago field division. Sanders is also familiar with Klipfel's professional record.

"They were not just good agents," Sanders said of the couple. "They were exceptional agents."

Trouble At Home Base

The Chicago field division is, by any measure, the ATF's spiritual home. Many assistant directors of law enforcement (ADLE), including the current ATF ADLE, Andrew Vita, began their law enforcement careers in Chicago. Dan Hartnett, whose job as ATF ADLE went down the drain in the maelstrom of lies and coverups that swirled out of the Waco disaster, began as an officer with the Chicago Police Department.

But it is also in Chicago that were sown the seeds of ATF's long-standing self-image problem, which stems from its historical status as the bastion of federal law enforce-

ment. It started out not with the Treasury Department, but the Department of Justice, as the Prohibition Bureau. And it was to the mean streets of the Windy City, during the Roaring '20s, that ATF historians looked to establish ATF's institutional identity, an identity based, at least in part, on myth and legend.

Eliot Ness had been a real estate salesman and a credit company investigator when, in 1927, he landed a Department of Justice job as a Prohibition agent, partly through the influence of Alexander Jamie, an older brother-in-law who was himself a federal agent. Quiet, intense and boyishly handsome, Ness was one of 300 prohibition agents in a city with an estimated 20,000 speakeasies.

Ness made a name for himself by leading a group of hand-picked agents — dubbed “The Untouchables” for their refusal to be swayed by generous bribery offers — in a relentless pursuit of such notorious bootlegging gangsters as Al Capone. Although it was the methodical brain power of Internal Revenue Service auditors that finally put Capone behind bars, the swashbuckling brawn and bravado of The Untouchables is what stuck in popular memory.

Unfortunately for future generations of hapless citizens like Ken Ballew, Frank Chismar, John Lawmaster, Janice Hart, Kimberly Katona, Monique Montgomery, Richard Kent and countless others, it was this reckless flamboyance that set the institutional tone for decades to come.

Through Ness, ATF continues to “lay claim to a real folk hero... [who] marked a distinct change from the corruption-tainted local police of that time,” said an ATF historical propaganda profile published under Magaw's direction in October 1995. Ironically, it is Magaw who refused to punish the corruption-tainted ATF agents in Chicago identified by Casali and Klipfel. Nor does Magaw's sanitized history reflect that with the end of Prohibition, the agents were ignominiously passed off to the Treasury Department and, ironically, tasked with protecting the now-legal monopoly of the same families who, until a few months earlier, had been making their family fortunes outside the law: the Bronfmans, the Kennedys, the Rosensteels and others.

Although nominally a law enforcement agency, the ATF of that era was part of IRS, a regulatory agency with no law enforcement experience. Most of its operations were focused in the former Confederate states, where moonshine stills proliferated through the economic hard times of the 1930s. With the exception of passage of the National Firearms Act, which ATF's predecessor agency was tasked to enforce, the agency continued to operate in relatively ignominious obscurity until October 1968, when the Gun Control Act was passed.

In 1968, the national climate was one of shocking, almost daily upheaval from radical campus protests, terrorist bombings, airline hijackings, urban riots, violent antiwar demonstrations, and the sudden popular sense that the war in Vietnam was, if not unwinnable, at least politically untenable. President Nixon was so intimidated by the scruffy mobs of long-haired youngsters that regularly besieged the parks around the White House that he lapsed into a siege mode, rarely venturing outside its wrought-iron perimeter.



ATF Special Agent Mike Casali inspects 14 pipe bombs he and another agent seized in an apartment raid only doors down from the police gym where they worked out in 1979, when *SOF* contributing columnist Bob Sanders was the regional special agent in charge. Accompanied by an informant, the two agents were conducting a buy-bust when the bomb-maker's mom walked in from a back bedroom and announced that the police were outside. As Casali grabbed the bomb-maker by the throat, another suspect hiding in a closet jumped out brandishing a pistol, but was disarmed by the informant. Despite his exceptional record, including an award for heroism, the ATF brass turned on Casali when he fingered corrupt agents in 1992.

Passage of the 1968 Gun Control Act set in motion a series of events that would forever change how the bureau did business — and how it was perceived by the public. It was quickly followed by passage of the Explosives Control Act of 1970, passed as part of the Organized Crime Control Act, which was essentially antiterrorist legislation. Indicative of ATF's status as a second-rate law enforcement agency within the federal

bottom-rung agents had to work, and the skills they needed for success in their basic mission, Sanders said. The operational terrain for most investigations suddenly switched from far-flung cases in the vast, remote mountainous woodlands of Appalachia, to the simmering, densely populated and seething social cauldrons of riot-wracked urban America. As the enforcement focus switched from liquor to guns, the types of criminal

suspects encountered by agents shifted dramatically. And the shift in the investigative skills required was no less drastic. tory functions should stay with the IRS," Sanders said. "That was logical. The implementing order read that way until the morning before it became effective, when the alcohol industry heads went to meet with John B. Connally, then the Secretary of the Treasury. I don't know what was said, but the effect was the alcohol and tobacco regulators did not stay with the IRS, where they belonged, but were sent along with law enforcement to the new bureau.

"The seeds of the problems" that today's ATF management suffers from were "all the regulators" that were cut loose by IRS in Connally's backroom deal with the liquor industry, said Sanders. These regulators "began to take over the organization. They permeated it," Sanders said. "It was a very gradual thing ... promoting from one branch to another."

After the enactment of the new gun and explosive laws, with the new types of agent training and skills still lagging behind, there began to occur, Sanders said, "horrible abuses ... It was bad and I was aware of it. Our challenge was to correct these problems ... Unfortunately, the policy makers chose to believe that ... the law-abiding gun owners were wrong. So they developed facts to support what they believed and ignored all the facts to the contrary about these abuses. Nothing has changed."

Sanders' is not merely a speculative opinion: From 1973-75, Sanders was assigned to the office of the Secretary of the Treasury, in what he described as "a very adversarial relationship. I was doing investigations of abuses ... that would come to our attention. I was comfortable in the job. I didn't give a shit ... [whose toes got trampled]."

Prior to this assignment, Sanders had worked on multi-agency organized crime strike forces in Baltimore and New Orleans. In 1972, when ATF became a full-fledged bureau, Sanders was named as the chief of the organized crime branch and transferred to headquarters to supervise all of ATF's multi-agency strike force operations. (He would retire as assistant director for law enforcement in 1985, after he lost out to Steven Higgins — a career tax regulator with no law enforcement experience — as ATF director.)

"The enforcement side of ATF has



James L. Pate

Agents Mike Casali and Diane Klipfel in the basement office of their home, with records documenting their charges of corruption, civil rights violations and defamation of character.

On 1 July 1972, four years before Casali and Klipfel were hired, ATF was made a separate bureau, based on a study that was "very objective," Sanders said. "The basic premise was that someone who did not have a career in law enforcement disciplines and who had other important, non-

law enforcement missions, could not give adequate oversight and direction and control of a law enforcement agency charged with such increasing responsibilities.

New Climate, New Crimes = New Agency

"In other words," Sanders explained, "a tax administrator, the commissioner of IRS, did not have the educational, training or experience background to run a law enforcement agency."

But a key finding of the study was ignored, he said, and that resulted in severe consequences that continue to cause major problems today.

"The second finding of the study was the alcohol and tobacco regula-

hierarchy, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover played a prominent role in the law's signing ceremony, while no one from ATF was anywhere to be seen. While the new law piled even more responsibilities on the smaller ATF organization, it gave Hoover 1,000 new agents.

For ATF, the change "was like a thunderclap," said Robert E. Sanders, who was a veteran agent of ATF's still-busting heyday in Tennessee, North Carolina and Kentucky. "Before, most law enforcement operations ... were focused against moonshine whiskey. Now ... no one cared about moonshine whiskey anymore."

The changes were most apparent in the environment in which the

always been an orphan; always trying to prove something. It's been the bastard child of federal law enforcement," Sanders said. ATF's status as a bureau independent of the IRS in the 1970s "was an ideal opportunity to demonstrate what we could do in the streets. Because without a doubt, ATF had the best street agents."

In 1982, Vice President George Bush proposed a plan for a pilot project in Miami aimed solely at the illegal drug trade, based on the multi-agency, city-focused strike forces that had proved enormously successful against the old organized crime syndicates in the 1960s.

"It was an ideal opportunity to demonstrate, right under the leadership of the vice president, what ATF could do," Sanders recalled. "And ATF obviously wanted to send only its very best agents. I got input from all my SACs. They were from all over the country."

Sanders hand-picked 40 ATF agents — almost a fourth of them from the Chicago area — who were to team up with agents from the FBI and the Drug Enforcement Administration. Among the 40 ATF agents selected by Sanders was Mike Casali, then 31. The assignment would forever change Casali's career.

It was not an easy job. It was the heady days in which Colombia's Cocaine Cowboys were running rampant in Miami and the city's police chief, acknowledging the inability of his department to stem the violence, took the unprecedented step of advising law-abiding citizens to arm themselves for their own self-protection. For federal agents, the potential for injury or death was very real.

Tensions rose anew on the night

One of Samone's shots hit D'Atri in the head, glancing off his skull, out his eyebrow and into his arm.

of 1 December 1982. Federal agents, including Casali, were arresting a drug dealer. Suddenly the man lunged, grabbed a weapon and turned to shoot. Instantly, Casali, assisted by his fellow agents, piled on and subdued the would-be cop killer. It

proved to be an ugly harbinger.

Shooting War On Drugs

The following day, two of Casali's partners from ATF, Special Agents Ariel Rios and Alex D'Atri, who were working undercover, were supposed to close a deal involving three kilograms of cocaine and several illegal machine guns. As often happens in such cases, the terms and details changed hourly as the morning wore on.

Events led D'Atri and Rios to the office of the Hurricane Motel at 4911 West Flagler Street in Miami, where they were seated inside with three Colombian cocaine traffickers. Casali waited outside, hidden with an entry team, poised to burst in and make the arrests once the deal went down. One of the suspects came outside, retrieved a package from the trunk of a car and went back inside. A moment later, Rios exited and got the money from his vehicle and returned to the office. This was the signal that the deal was imminent.

Something suddenly went wrong. Rios left the door ajar, as planned, but one of the Colombians closed and locked it. The next second, a fusillade of gunfire erupted in the office.

Heroes

Sensing that D'Atri and Rios were agents, Mario Samone had pulled a Charter Arms .38 special from a small bag. "No!" Rios yelled, jumping toward Samone. Samone fired, striking Rios. D'Atri unholstered his weapon and traded shots with

Samone, striking the Colombian several times. One of Samone's shots hit D'Atri in the head, glancing off his skull, out his eyebrow and into his arm. Another drug dealer, Augustin Alvarez, pointed a .357 Magnum at D'Atri, who had emptied his gun into

Samone. Alvarez shot D'Atri twice through the chest. D'Atri slumped against the wall and fell.

Alvarez walked over and pumped a killing shot into the head of Rios, who was slumped on the couch with an abdominal wound. A total of 16 shots had been fired in just under five seconds.

Casali's team charged the steel door, which was locked. Special Agent Bob Switzer blasted it four times with a 12 gauge shotgun. Casali was the first agent through the door, followed by Switzer.

The third Colombian in the room, Victoriano "Macho" Concepcion, did not live up to his nickname: As Casali

Passage of the 1968 Gun Control Act set in motion a series of events that would forever change how the bureau did business.

and Switzer burst in, Macho sprinted down the hall and dove through a rear window. He was captured outside by other agents.

"D'Atri was lying in a pool of blood off to my right on the floor," Casali recalls. "Rios was sitting slumped on the couch, his head tilted back, with blood squirting from his face. Samone was leaning against the entrance to a hallway, slumped over real bad. He wasn't moving."

Going suddenly from the bright parking lot to the dim office, Casali's eyes were trying to adjust. He saw a shadowy figure — Alvarez, it turned out — duck out of the rear hallway and into a back bedroom. Casali charged down the hall and turned into the bedroom. Luckily for Casali, Alvarez's pistol was empty: He had gone for another weapon.

"He was standing by a closet, and there was a shotgun on the bed beside him," Casali said. "I told him to stop. He spun around and went for the shotgun and I shot him. He went down. He ended up surviving."

Another shot rang out. Samone had revived and reached for a weapon. Switzer shot him. He, too, miraculously survived. Returning to the front

Continued on page 82

Continued from page 35

54 Marines. As the helicopter lifted off, the Marines looked back at an appalling sight: The half-circle of the Americans' perimeter was blazing away at a larger arc of enemy fire surrounding it.

Next Jolly-44, piloted by 1st Lt. Robert D. Blough, eased into the dark beachhead; 32 Marines scampered aboard. In total darkness, Blough pulled away from the beach as a salvo of green tracers stalked his aircraft. With all of the helicopters busy transferring Marines to the *Coral Sea* or the *Holt*, Capt. James H. Davis was left in command of 76 Marines. He reported that Khmer troops appeared to be maneuvering for a final assault on his force. Davis set up a strobe light to help guide rescuers into his shrunken position.

Jolly-44 returned first and squeezed 44 exhausted Marines aboard. Blough lifted off and skipped across the breaking surf, taking sea water into his engines and enemy

rounds into his fuselage. The battered aircraft barely reached the deck of the *Coral Sea*.

At 2005, Knife-51 returned for the last Marines. It took five tries under intense fire before Brims could get back onto the beach. Davis ordered the withdrawal; 27 men got on, firing as they retreated. Then Davis, Gunnery Sergeant Lester A. McNemar, and an Air Force pararescueman, Technical Sergeant Wayne Fisk, rushed across the battle-scarred sand looking for any Marines that might have been left behind. Two more scampered from the tree line and boarded. Davis, McNemar and Fisk rushed aboard as Knife-51 lifted off to safety, chased by one last stream of 12.7mm tracers.

Then the shooting stopped.

In the aircraft circling the island, a deathly quiet replaced the chaotic radio chatter of the last 14 hours. Below, a fire burned in the enemy encampment. On the western beach, the blinking of the strobe light beckoned helicopters that never would return. It would take more than 24 hours to determine that three Marines of a

machine-gun crew had been left behind on Koh Tang.

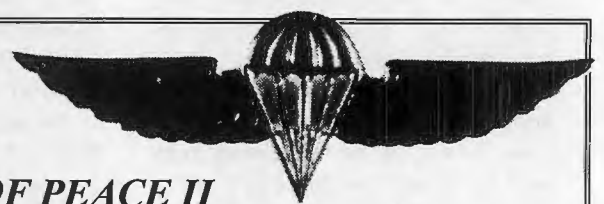
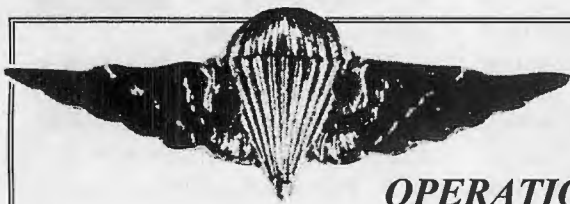
After the battle, reconnaissance efforts continued above the island. A Navy SEAL team was not sent in to recover the dead and missing, however, because the team's commander decided the risks were too high. He recommended a night recon. The commander of Task Force 73, Rear Admiral Coogan, chose to drop the matter, deciding the missing likely were dead, too.

Years later, a Cambodian witness's report suggested otherwise.

Koh Tang Today

The island's eastern beach was peaceful. To the south, what was left of Knife-31 and its unfortunate human cargo lay under gentle swells lapping the shore. A half mile to sea, near a reef, the twin engines of the Khmer patrol boat lay side-by-side on the bottom.

On the west beach, a corroded shell case lay in front of a bunker. Under the sand near a rocky outcropping a few yards away was an empty M16 rifle cartridge. It was eerie: I could



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almost hear the echo of AK-47 rounds pinging off the rocks and visualize Marines struggling through the surf, firing as they lunged forward.

Before my arrival, the salvage crew from the *Brunswick* donned flak vests and scuba gear and dove in the shallow surf 150 feet from shore. They began pulling pieces of Knife-31's airframe to shore. As I took photos, I remarked to Army Master Sergeant Robert Maves, from JTF-FA, how one section of the tail ramp still had a scorched smell to it.

"That's because it caught fire this morning," he replied.

Seeing my amazed look, Maves continued: "Over the years, phosphorus had leaked from a mortar round onto the ramp. When the stuff dried, it mixed with oxygen and we had spontaneous combustion."

After 20 years, the hulk of Knife-31 was not through burning!

The underwater recovery operation was nearly complete by the afternoon of 9 November. The team quit early, intending to watch a tape of a recorded message sent in that morning by the commandant of the Marine

Corps on the occasion of the corps' birthday.

Both the *Brunswick's* skipper, Lieutenant Commander Paul Ricciuti, and his XO, Lt. Neil Voje, arrived in their dress whites for the occasion. But in an eerie coincidence, as the tape celebrating Marine accomplishments was being set up, the sea abruptly turned ugly, swamping two of the work boats and tearing apart one of the barges. Navy and JTF-FA personnel went to work. Late into the night they labored, using block and tackle and brute force to try to save the operation. Even the skipper and his XO literally dove in, dress whites and all. Then 40-knot winds and driving rain arrived. Tents blew over. Portable power went out. Still, the men toiled in diesel-covered surf trying to keep their boats from being lost at sea.

By sunrise, the island looked like a hobo camp. Drenched men were staggering around dazed and exhausted; one was asleep on a food locker inside the still-standing mess tent. But they had saved their boats. The salvage effort resumed the next

day. It was completed a week later.

Clues To The Missing

Using a sophisticated process of DNA analysis, technicians back in Hawaii at the Central Identification Laboratory likely will confirm the identity of many of the 18 men currently listed as missing. Twelve died in or near Knife-31; the flight mechanic drowned offshore; and one Marine was killed in the ambush on the western beach. A fifteenth Marine, the one seen going toward Knife-23, was presumed dead although no proof exists.

The three remaining Americans listed simply as "missing in action" were the machine-gun crew that had been sent south to cover an exposed flank. From the intensity of Cambodian fire as the helicopters loaded, it seems probable the machine-gun crew ultimately made possible the safe escape of the 200 Marines on western beach. Had the right flank been overrun, the enemy would have been firing from point-blank range during the last five helicopter pickups. In the end,

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two other Marines were nearly left on the beach as Capt. Davis withdrew what he thought was the last of his force, clearly demonstrating the chaos of the U.S. withdrawal.

I learned from the JTF-FA team that in 1988 a Cambodian source related that a Marine had been wounded 10 days after the Koh Tang assault. He was shot while apparently scavenging for food or water near the Khmer encampment. The unit commander was called; he arrived and summarily executed the wounded American. The witness provided unusually specific details regarding the Marine's burial: "The body is located near a well, close to a stream, on the eastern side of the island between the well and two *sone* trees."

The well, brick-lined and partly covered with thick weeds, was found — right where the witness had indicated. JTF-FA personnel staked out the area toward the beach and began an excavation.

Cambodian laborers dug sand and carried it in buckets to a screening table set up just offshore. One of the troops from the JTF-FA group manned the table. That afternoon a harness belt was found at the dig site. It was a stout-looking strap, probably from one of the helicopters. The digging intensified.

The next morning, as I prepared to leave by helicopter and the Navy/JTF-FA recovery team was loading up to return to base, an excited report was heard: Bones had just been discovered at the dig site near the well. These remains were taken by anthropologist Bruce Anderson for analysis. Digging continued, but the majority of the personnel busied themselves packing for home.

Nearly 21 years ago, the Khmer defenders readied their version of the Alamo; had not the *Mayaguez* crew been released, the Khmer Rouge certainly would have been overrun. The Cambodians have built no monuments, but even today, those that protect the island express pride in how their countrymen fought.

If the bones found near the water well do not reveal the fate of the last of those missing Americans, then somewhere in the thick jungle of Koh Tang there surely lies clues to what *did* happen. Lifting off in the helicopter, I had one last look at the battle site. I had an uneasy feeling that not

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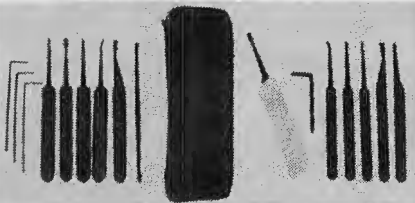
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nearly enough had been done to find all of the painful answers.

Will Cadence is a Long Beach, California-based freelance writer who specializes in military topics of South-east Asia. ✕

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Continued from page 61

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without a single stoppage. Endurance firing of test samples has exceeded 20,000 rounds without any parts failures. Barrel obstruction testing produced no damage to the pistol. Milspec environmental tests were conducted under low temperature (minus 44 degrees Fahrenheit), at high temperature (153 degrees F), and in mud, rain, under-water immersion and in salt spray.

Accuracy testing with several brands of ammunition demonstrated that the USP is superior to competing models manufactured in the United States. Safety testing exceeded SAAMI/ANSI requirements, including rigorous drop testing.

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SOF's test and evaluation of the USP45 was conducted principally with two 230-grain Jacketed Hollow-Point (JHP) loads that meet the above criteria: Black Hills (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 3090, Rapid City, SD 57709-3090; phone: 605-348-5150 — who now sell directly to those not serviced by their dealer network) and CorBon (Dept. SOF, 1311 Industry Road, Sturgis, SD

57785; phone: 800-626-7266).

All velocity testing was conducted with the superb new PACT (Dept. SOF, P.O. 531525, Grand Prairie, TX 75053; phone: 800-722-8462) Professional Chronograph which incorporates a revolutionary ballistic computer that can find an "optimized" zero for your rifle loads. In addition to this and numerous other ballistic parameters, the Professional Chronograph will calculate the Mean Absolute Deviation (average variation) of a string. The MAD number is the key to measuring velocity variations when comparing one load to another. The smaller the MAD, the better.

The Black Hills load, which uses the superb Hornady XTP 230-grain JHP bullet, provided an average velocity of 865 fps, 10 feet from the muzzle, with a MAD of 17.0 fps. CorBon's 230-grain JHP travels at an average velocity of 915 fps with a MAD of only 8.4 fps. Both of these bullets will expand to more than .75 caliber and penetrate more than 12 inches in soft tissue. Both loads can be recommended without reservations.

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At this time, I have personally fired more than 4,000 rounds through USP pistols in calibers .40 S&W and .45 ACP and have not experienced any stoppages. These pistols will shoot 1-inch groups at 7 yards and this is more than accurate enough for their intended purposes. While some gun writers have stated that the perceived recoil of the USP45 is somewhat sharp, I cannot distinguish it from the many M1911 variations I shoot on a regular basis.

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DIESELS, DRUNKS

Continued from page 41

After loitering for an hour, it was time to push on. I could see evidence of war on both sides of the road: shattered farmhouses on the right and battered drainage ditches to the left. We came upon two burned-out hulks — self-propelled artillery pieces — being pulled back from the front by tanks.

"Those 'gowies' [*gaubitsi*: howitzers] are from our unit," Artur shouted over the BTR's engine roar as the huge chunks of ravaged steel clanked by.

Rogue Tank

We passed another burned-out vil-

lage and then one that was still smoldering. Finally, we neared the insane asylum, where the inmates wandered over the road, oblivious to all. Another column of ammunition trucks trundled by, bringing its load of metal death to some other part of the front. A truck forced a Chechen farmer's horse-drawn hay wagon into the ditch. One of Artur's men laughed as he pointed at the old man. Artur sharply ordered the young soldier to shut up.

About that time I noticed a line of armor kicking up a dust plume in a field to the south; then one of the vehicles veered off from the rest and started moving toward us. As it drew nearer, the form became a tank — and a big one: a T-72 battle cruiser, replete with anti-RPG, external-armor plates.

"That tank seems to be going in the wrong direction," I said.

"Son of a bitch," cursed Artur.

His men sat straight at their positions on top of the BTR. I pulled out a video camera to record the tank's approach as the distance between our BTR and the lumbering giant closed.

We were cruising at 40 miles an hour; a BTR can make time even on bad roads. The tank was almost roaring through the weeds, closing the angle between us at an alarming rate: 200 yards ... 100 ... 50. We could even see the driver, who looked like a green wart growing out of a hole bored in front of the turret, and the English graffiti carved into the rubber mud-guards for the metal treads: "Cadaver."

"Hey!" shouted Artur, and let off a burst from his Kalashnikov to reinforce his voice. The driver of the tank plowed on, oblivious.

"The drunken son of a bitch is going to hit us!" screamed one of Artur's men, in Russian.

"Drive, Yuri, drive!" Capt. Artur yelled, ducking to avoid the long barrel of the tank as it swung up over the road. Then we hit.

With a bone-rattling shudder and the ear-splitting screech of steel being ripped from steel like so much skin flayed from bone, the T-72 crunched into the side of our BTR. The impact rocked us violently, flinging half of the MPs off before the BTR flopped back down on top of the big tank's tread-guard.

"Yobanniye-v-roat alkashi (You fucking drunks!)" screamed Artur,

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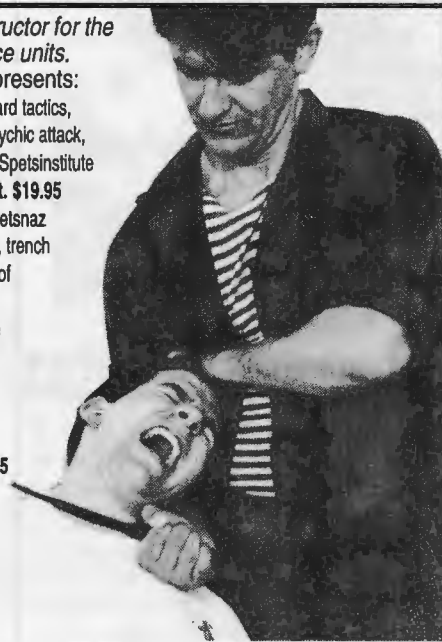
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leaping off the BTR onto the tank apron, rifle in hand. "Duraki — *ya vas ubyu* (Idiots — I'm going to kill you)!"

The tank driver merely looked up at the rifle barrel pointed at his head and sheepishly smiled, then patted his tanker helmet to let us know that he could not understand a word over the T-72's roaring engine.

"What the fuck are you doing?"

Artur screamed.

"We were thirsty," the driver shouted. Then he flicked his index finger against his throat in the Russian gesture that means "more vodka." Artur kicked him in the head.

Wartime Justice

The damage, miraculously, was light. Tank treads had shredded one of the BTR's giant rubber wheels and tore into the chassis, but the smaller machine still could hobble down the road.

"Bet that was the first time you've been run over by a tank," said Capt. Artur as his limping BTR pulled up to the 1-kilometer marker outside the former nationalist stronghold of Shali.

"Can't say that I remember one, and I hope that there is not another," I said.

It was the end of the line; I leaped off the BTR with my camera and bags.

I had asked permission to stay with the MP unit that night, but security concerns prevented this. Likewise, it was inadvisable for Artur to proceed any farther with his BTR into Shali: The town might have been liberated, but it was filled with any number of extremely resentful people. Quite a few of the local townfolk were suspected of being daytime shepherds and nighttime guerrillas who would be only too happy to ambush a solo BTR on nocturnal patrol.

"War ..." Capt. Artur said. "I can't wait to get out of here and go home."

"Yeah."

"See you sometime," he said.

"In peacetime, I hope," I replied, and meant it.

Artur removed his cammie Ninja mask for an instant to shout to Yuri the driver to put the BTR in gear. It was the first time I'd actually seen his face. Capt. Artur looked as if he was 21 years old.

I walked the rest of the way into Shali in the gathering dusk, arriv-

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ing with the cows and sheep and their shepherds, a few minutes before curfew. The townspeople had heard about the incidents with Xalid of Reuters and the young driver. A crowd soon gathered around me to learn what happened. All took particular delight in hearing the story of the collision between the Russian tank and BTR.

"They will never take Chechnya!" crowed a man named Vahid Abzuyev, who had offered me a bed and lodging for the night.

Like many of the residents, Vahid had only recently returned to Shali with his wife, five children and favorite cow from a refugee camp in the neighboring republic of Dagestan — and felt very free to talk about the war now that it had passed him by.

But he and the others gathered in the square suddenly went silent. There was a rumble down the road. The next instant, a T-72 tank rounded the hedges defining the local cemetery on the edge of town and came churning down the road straight at us. Dogs barked. Sheep scattered. Men and boys who had been talking so bravely a moment before dove for their homes and bolted their doors.

"What do they want?" I asked my host.

"What do you think they want?" Vahid hissed. "They come every night for the same thing: vodka!"

The T-72 — the same one that had hit our BTR — grunted into the square. While the gunner swung the barrel from house to house, the commander of the rogue tank leapt down and began the shakedown, knocking on doors until someone provided a bottle. After some minutes, a blue sedan pulled into the square and a transaction was effected: alcohol for temporary peace.

The tank's crew placated for the time being, the grunting, metal giant pulled out again, plowing through the herds of cows and sheep returning late from the fields.

An hour later it was back again, a deranged dinosaur of war on the prowl. The tank backed up into the local cemetery, breaking gravestones. Then it roared through the narrow streets of the village and smashed into a farmhouse wall, crushing an old woman. There were no sirens in the night, only the sobbing of families

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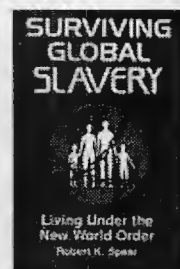
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...serving as a counterpoint to the constant thud of artillery rounds in the not-so-distant hills.

But in the morning came the news, and the townspeople of Shali had the pleasure of vengeance mixed with their grief: The rogue T-72 had been halted by Russian MPs and its three drunken crewmen shot.

I thought of Capt. Artur. It was, after all, his domain.

Freelance writer Thomas Goltz specializes in coverage of politico-military issues in the region between the Adriatic and Caspian seas. X

"I PLEDGE INSURGENCE"

Continued from page 46

ultra-right by the U.S. media. (See "Church Merc Unmasked," May '90.) Now we learn that convicted MRTA terrorist Lori Helene Berenson was a CISPES graduate, and that Osorio and his pals were conducting guerrilla training maneuvers on our territory.

A side issue in the overall debate is the status of Pedro Andrade, the present New Jersey resident, who as yet has managed to stay out of the media spotlight north of the border. A suggestion by Sen. Shelby that either Andrade or Osorio or both served the U.S. while in Salvadoran guerrilla ranks has provoked some discussion over CIA or other responsibility in the case. It is unlikely that, even if such be true, any intelligence agency will soon confirm it — but I have learned from a source of the highest and most unimpeachable character that the relatively swift arrest of the first three defendants in the murder of the Marine guards and others came as a result of information gained from a high-ranking Salvadoran guerrilla leader who was caught — almost accidentally — while crossing our borders. I have been told that our Immigration and Naturalization Service inspectors had no idea who the individual was until he panicked and spilled his guts.

Whether either Osorio or Andrade ever assisted our side could be a minor mitigating element in the final disposition of such a case, but should certainly not absolve either of guilt. The souls of the unarmed American

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servicemen who were assassinated by them cry out from the grave for justice.

The approach of lumping obvious war criminals such as Osorio in with garden-variety rebels in the name of "reconciliation" may be more palatable to media leftists than a direct confrontation with the truth about El Salvador, which is that the radical left in that country was exceptionally brutal, reckless, and heartless in its violence. "Spin," however, will never triumph over the facts.

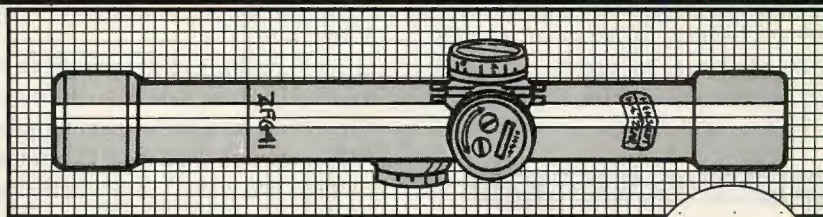
Salvadoran authorities are seeking a transition to civility, which will allow their people to put the war behind them. But they have also recognized that the Zona Rosa attackers should not come under the program for amnesty as a matter of principle. The Zona Rosa horror was a human rights atrocity, and a violation of the rules of guerrilla as well as normal war. It cannot be explained away as "that's what happens in war."

The argument has been presented that Salvadoran terrorists are comparable to the Japanese and North Vietnamese military with whom some of our veterans have sought to develop a reconciliation. Reconciliation will be a necessary part of the healing process in war-torn Central America, and there are sufficient wrongs on both sides that forgiveness must be an integral part of that reconciliation — but terrorists who kill unarmed embassy guards, plus any hapless civilians in the area, are not honorable combatants: it may be appropriate to "reconcile" with former enemies — but not with unrepentant terrorists.

At the minimum, Osorio and Andrade should both be subject to open court proceedings in the United States, so that justice may be served for any culpability in the attack on our Marines. And Osorio should be summarily removed from the federal arts budget.

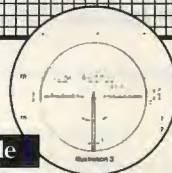
The Senate Intelligence Committee has indicated that the investigation of Osorio will move forward, and journalistic inquiries will continue. Anything useful beyond that will have to wait for more American political leaders, journalists, and academics to grasp the reality of leftist criminality in Latin America, and it looks like that may be a long, long time in coming.

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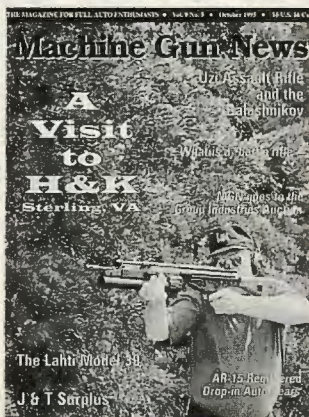


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This article is an outgrowth of an Op-Ed piece Schwartz first wrote for The Wall Street Journal, which was reprinted in SOF. He is author of A Strange Silence, a personal account of the Nicaraguan people's struggle against the Sandinistas, published by ICS Press (1992). ✕

RISE AND FALL OF ATF

Continued from page 67

room, Casali found other agents who had entered. They were trying to revive Rios, whose fingernails were turning blue. It was too late. He died at the scene. The ATF headquarters building was later named to honor his memory.

Casali determined on which side D'Atri's chest wounds were most serious and rolled him over to the appropriate side to facilitate breathing.

"I woke him up and kept talking to him, slapped him a little bit to try and keep him from going into shock," Casali said. "It was only a few minutes, but it seemed like hours before the paramedics got there. I just kept

talking to him. His heart stopped on the way to the hospital. They shocked him with the paddles, though, and revived him. He lost the lower part of one lung."

As a result, Casali was given the coveted Director's Award, which cited him as "an invaluable member of the ATF ... [who] displayed exceptional courage and valor." The citation applauded his "bravery and professionalism in the face of danger" and said "his courage serves as a model to his fellow agents and a credit to the bureau."

But Casali is not only no longer valued by ATF, he is reviled. There does not seem to be a current need for — indeed even a tolerance for — absolutely honest agents. The award for heroism is dusty now, packed in a box, in the top of a basement closet.

"It's just words," Casali said, "and Diane and I found out the hard way that, coming from the ATF, words are empty. They mean nothing."

Next month this three-part story continues, with specifics on ATF corruption and coverup. ✕

I WAS THERE

Continued from page 23

the occasional grain of rice into my mouth. The rice dish also contained small whole fish, whose scales had come off and permeated throughout. Several scales became caught in my teeth like popcorn husks and my attempts to pry them out gave the entire village no end of amusement.

After that I was a welcome guest, christened "Beaucoup Mop" by the villagers. Attempts to learn what this meant met with polite grins from the men, and giggles from the women. To end my insistent inquiries, my Vietnamese friend politely said, with a grin, that it meant "Big strong man, like Tarzan." I think he was being very gracious. I suspect it really meant "Fat Boy."

I was one of the lucky ones, I came home from this war with no scars, physical or emotional.

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Many weren't so lucky.

In early 1967 Ronald Sanders was assigned to the 21st Signal Brigade, stationed several miles from Nha Trang, South Vietnam. ✕

COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

Continued from page 15

schools. The only difference is that this is not designed as an accuracy-enhancement technique, and the elbows are not stabilized on the knees. This position is easily assumed by dropping your weight down as if you are going to pick something up from the deck without bending at the waist.

This squatting movement angles the line of fire from the horizontal plane and sets it on an incline. If your rounds overpenetrate, their line of travel will hopefully cause them to exit at a similar angle. I am well aware that the exit angle of overpenetrating rounds is greatly

dependent on what has been hit within the shootee's body, and that they may easily be deflected by bones and internal structures. The angle of exit cannot be guaranteed, we can only try to minimize the possibilities as much as possible in a desperate situation — one where death is certain unless you act.

Additionally, if you miss with one or more rounds, their trajectory will take them away from any non-involved parties in the immediate surroundings.

As distances increase, the effectiveness of angling the shots upward diminishes, so this is purely a close range CQB technique. A man at 5 yards with friendlies around him can be safely "taken out" with a lowered base of fire due to the extreme angle of fire created. The same man at 50 yards is a different problem and no amount of angle you can create will be sufficient to solve the problem.

Another method to change the angle of fire, particularly if the by-

standers are either directly behind or to the side of the adversary, is to simply execute a sidestep. Such a sidestep would move you into a position where no immediate background risks were evident. This works just as well if the hostile in question is hiding behind someone. It is, in essence, an ultra-close range flanking maneuver.

So far we've discussed the "offensive-proactive" nature of these techniques, but they serve just as well in "defensive-reactive" situations. While the use of a lowered shooting position is limited in its defensive utility, the sidestep maneuver is not.

At close quarters, we may be able to dodge away from the direction of our adversary's muzzle as he brings it into position. When an adversary decides to "pull" his gun and shoot you, he will not take his time about it. He will usually do so in a ballistic movement that almost looks as if he were trying to physically smack you with the gun muzzle. The comple-

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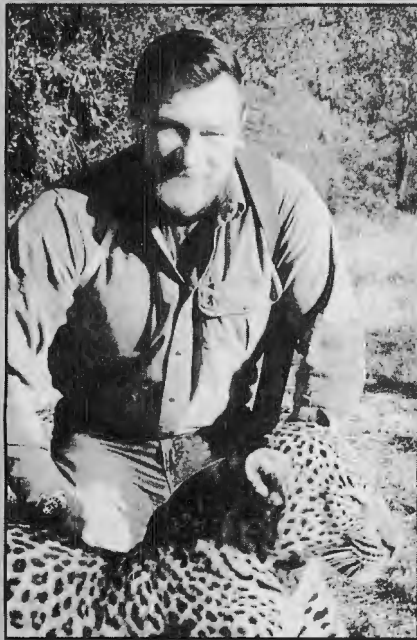
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tion of the movement is usually accompanied by a gunshot. While it would be foolish to suggest that a gunshot can be dodged, the movement that precedes the gunshot most certainly can. Such a movement is extremely difficult to redirect once it has been initiated, and moving your body out of its way (as you present your own weapon) might be enough to save you.

Additionally, it is substantially more difficult for a man to redirect a ballistic presentation toward his strong side than toward his support side. The rule of thumb is to attempt to keep to the back of the adversary's gun hand. Again, this is most crucial at arm's length: Sidestepping won't do anything for you if your attacker is across the street.

Angles and intervals of fire are also very important if you are deploying with a partner, or with a team. Such knowledge will help in positioning your guns so that no one will be shooting toward his own people. This is called triangulating gunfire. This concept places guns at 90 degree angles or in a "L" configuration so that all players can shoot without endangering themselves.

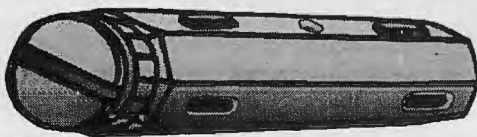
Not long ago, I saw a major West Coast agency conduct a vehicle takedown of a group of armed gang members at the conclusion of a high speed vehicle chase. The helicopter flying overhead depicted the officers surrounding the car, guns drawn, like the numbers on a clock face. Can you imagine what would have happened had the crooks not surrendered and decided to shoot it out instead?

The statistics plainly show that the vast majority of today's fights occur well within the 7-yard mark, and in our congested cities. At such close and crowded distances things move very quickly, and specialized techniques may be required if you have an armed hostile surrounded by non-involved parties.

Gabriel Suarez is a police officer in southern California and the author of two books: Tactical Pistol and Tactical Shotgun. He is

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PARTING SHOT

Continued from page 98

Andrew. Even with the presence of the National Guard, many neighborhoods had to rely on their own armed citizens for protection from roving bands of criminals.

This reliance on armed defense is not isolated to civil disturbances or natural disasters. Armed citizens deter crime and thwart personal injury on a regular basis. The Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics has estimated that armed citizens defended themselves against violent crime an average of 62,000 times per year between 1987 and 1992. An additional 20,000 times per year a gun was used to defend property.

Recent surveys conducted by

a broad range of academic, media, gun-rights and gun-control groups suggest actual incidents of armed defense may be significantly higher: from 700,000 to 1.2 million incidents. Whatever the case, it is apparent that a significant amount of crime is deterred by defensive use of firearms. Depriving private citizens of weapons for self-defense would, thus, likely increase the incidence of violent crime.

Most law-enforcement personnel, including ATF agents, silently agree with this assessment of gun-control efforts. In fact, former ATF Director Higgins even testified to this effect before Congress regarding the Brady Bill. ATF wanted the bill, not because it would deter criminal behavior, but because it offered the opportunity for an expansion of their bureaucratic power — a consideration that, unfortunately, is usually foremost in the minds of high-level agency personnel.

Gun control pleases people who know little about its dynam-

ics, and makes villains out of easy targets. When is it going to stop so we can address society's real problems and get this country back on the road to sanity?

This column was condensed from an article in the LEAA Advocate by former White House budget analyst James M. Simpson. ❧

ANTITERRORISM BILL

Continued from page 53



More gun control and BATF abuses would occur. These bills would be the latest vehicle for more gun-control legislation. It currently is illegal to sell a firearm "knowing" it will be used in a crime, but this standard would be expanded with the phrase "or having reasonable cause to believe. ..." There would be a five-year minimum sentence in cases in which the seller "should have known" a gun would be used in a crime. And this likely would become an invitation for more misguided and violent actions by the

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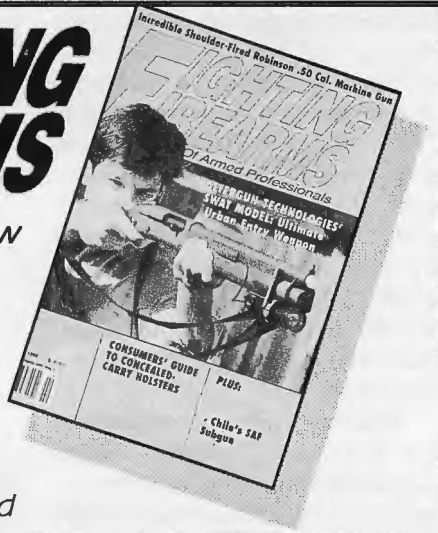
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Case Study In Bad Laws

Those are the most draconian provisions of this bills. The history of the "antiterrorism" bills is a case study of how Washington enacts bad laws.

An Antiterrorism Bill, initially introduced by the White House and pushed by the Department of Justice, was on the slow track in Congress until the Oklahoma City tragedy. President Clinton immediately recognized the opportunity to promote this Constitution-crippling, legislative proposal. Not to be outdone, Republicans started pushing their own bills.

By June, the Senate passed the Republican version of this bill, which basically was identical to the Democratic version. It was introduced by senators Hatch and Dole, who demonstrated an extraordinary bipartisan willingness to follow President Clinton's lead in empowering Big Brother.

The House leadership, however, has had a more difficult time securing the votes to pass the bill, particularly from the unruly freshmen members. So, in the fall Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Georgia) and Rep. Hyde, the bill's primary sponsor, asked freshman Rep. Bob Barr, who voted against the first antiterrorism bill in committee, to help rewrite it. This was not the first time Gingrich called on Barr, an ally, to bring the freshmen in line.

In May, Barr helped Gingrich engineer a compromise with freshmen members in which the BATF and FBI receive an additional \$100 million for counterterrorism, with the provision that the money would be used only in conjunction with the Oklahoma City investigation. Too late after passage, Barr had afterthoughts. He openly questioned whether 190 additional FBI surveillance specialists (not to mention the more than 200 additional personnel the money would hire) really were going to be used *only* for the Oklahoma City investigation.

In a December meeting with Second Amendment advocates, Barr — a former prosecutor — said he didn't think an Antiterrorism Bill was needed. Still, he was at that very moment working on his very own "compromise" version, which now is

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known as H.R. 2768. The question must be asked: Why would Barr, the chairman of the congressional Firearms Task Force, agree to introduce a substitute bill so threatening not only to the rights of law-abiding gun owners but to other good citizens? The Constitution is too important for "politics as usual."

Fortunately, December's attempt at passage of H.R. 2768 failed, thanks largely to freshmen in Congress who were worried about the bill's implications for civil liberties. But that was then; this is *now*.

As of this writing, the House leadership — including Gingrich, Majority Leader Dick Armey (R-Texas), Subcommittee on Crime Chairman Bill McCollum, and Hyde — were planning how to get passage of the bill. If successful, it would be followed by a huddle with senators to produce a final version for Clinton's signature by the all-important date of 19 April. These Republicans are joined by Democrats who, in this election year, want to "fight terrorism." And the gun-control fanatics, including Schumer, have attempted to at-

tach every imaginable anti-gun provision to H.R. 2768.

House Republican leaders even distributed a fact sheet on H.R. 2768, entitled "The Crime Bill of 1996: Combating Crime, Terrorism, and Abuse of Death Penalty Appeals Process." They falsely claimed the bill was rewritten to address the freshman congressmen's concerns about civil rights.

Meanwhile, the FBI has developed a sly strategy for expanding Big Brother's powers even if the frontal assault of H.R. 2768 and S. 735 is defeated this time around. With allies in Congress, the bureau is attempting to get "antiterrorism" legislation passed bit by bit, mainly through the less-controversial appropriation (spending) bills. The FBI is pushing for an expansion of its power, to do *legally* what many contend it already has been doing *illegally*.

The bipartisan, congressional support for Big Brother legislation galvanized a broad coalition of organizations to oppose H.R. 2768. Some of the more well-known groups are the National Rifle Association

(NRA), American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Second Amendment Foundation, Gun Owners of America, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL), Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms (CCRKBA), Law Enforcement Alliance of America, Center for National Security Studies, Drug Policy Foundation, Arab-American Institute, and Frontiers of Freedom. Many of these groups initially came together after the Waco and Ruby Ridge incidents to urge congressional reforms of law enforcement and to call for a national review commission. Now they're back together.

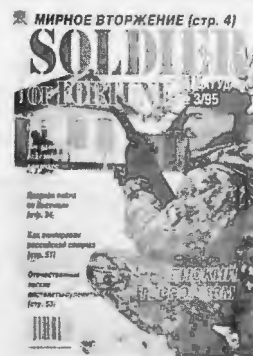
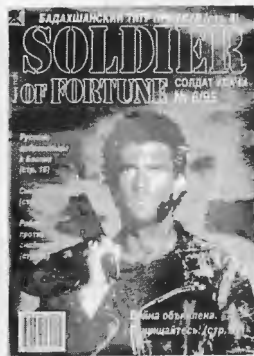
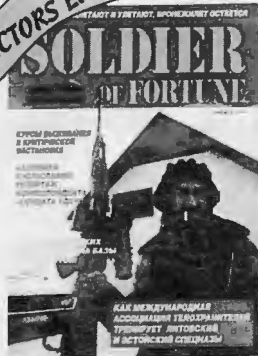
Given the wide ideological and political diversity of these organizations, the fact that they agreed on some basic objections to the "antiterrorism" bill is a testament to just how bad the proposal is. On 6 December 1995, the coalition held a press conference announcing the release of a letter, to the House leadership, raising these objections.

At this gathering, John Flannery,

Continued on page 92



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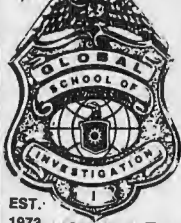
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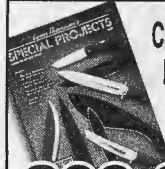


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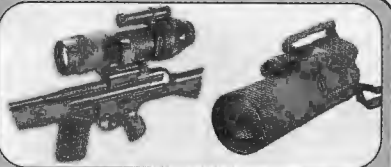


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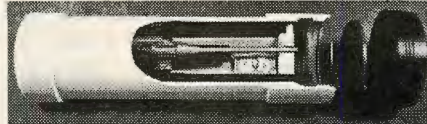


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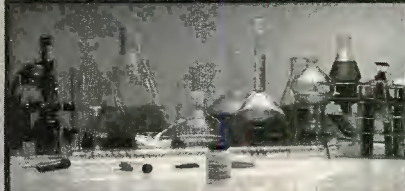
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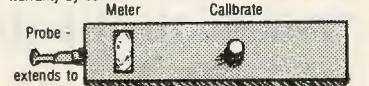
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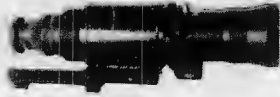
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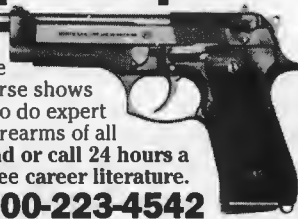
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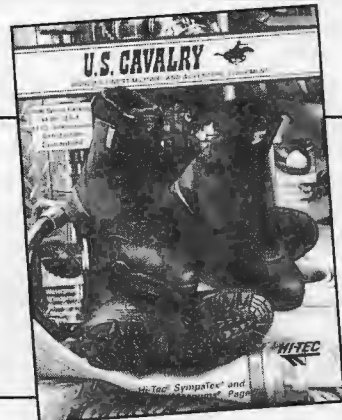
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co-chairman of the NACDL legislative committee, said: "The only Americans who have any need at all for sweeping new 'antiterrorism' legislation are the politicians desperate to boost their ratings back home. ... As my father always said, 'A poor workman always blames his tools.'"

John Snyder, CCRKBA's public-affairs director, said, "It is hypocritical for public officials to decry the Waco and Ruby Ridge tragedies while at the same time promoting the expansion of power of the federal agencies which were responsible for those very tragedies."

Laura Murphy, Washington ACLU director, asked: "Did we learn nothing from Waco and Ruby Ridge? All Americans — whether left, right or center — must stand in continued opposition to this anti-liberty proposal."

Larry Pratt, director of government affairs for Gun Owners of America, minced no words. "Rep. Henry Hyde, sponsor of the House terrorism bill, has become the Mad Bomber of the Bill of Rights," Pratt said. "His bill will give the Mark Fuhrmans of the world greater power and will ignore constitutional safeguards."

Tanya Metaska, executive director of the NRA Institute for Legislative Action, offered a less forceful comment: "The NRA is not signaling a red light to counterterrorism, but a yellow light. Proceed with caution." The NRA's cautious stance perhaps was due to a perceived link between the passage of the antiterrorism bill and a long-promised vote on the repeal of the ban on assault weapons. If that is true, such an arrangement hardly would be new in the land of the "Potomac Two-Step."

But H.R. 2768 and its Senate counterpart show no "caution" for our constitutional rights. And even if H.R. 2768 has been approved by the time you read this, you still can contact Congress and let them know just how you feel about Big Brother.

Nancy Ross is a partner in a Washington, D.C.-based lobbying and public-relations firm. She works with Second Amendment groups, and was an early advocate for a congressional investigation of Waco. This is her first contribution to SOF. ✕

SHOWTOWN

Continued from page 55

malfunctions or isn't capable of the requisite accuracy, you should have chosen better, because the match won't be any more forgiving than an antagonist would be. The result is a scoring system that differentiates fairly between each contestant's performance.

The shooters come from all over the world and from all walks of life. Svere Idland comes from Sweden; Edwardo DeFontcuberta from Spain; and all the great guys who come from Canada and must struggle with the gun laws to get weapons in and out of their country and ours every year. There are a number of regulars, to name just a few, such as Hughe Betts, Fred Hersey and Bill Shillig, all somewhere in their 60s, who make the match every year. And of course our top competitors, like the top 10 for 1995:

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Those scores in the right column are out of 800 points possible. Competition like that should be tough enough to pique anyone's interest. If you want to see how you stack up against some of the best practical shooters in the world, the SOF Three-Gun World Championship Match for 1996 would be a good place to find out. If you just want to see it done right, then come out and watch these guys shoot. Most, if not all, of those top 10 shooters will be back for '96.

A particular feature the shooters really enjoy is the team event. Each team comprises four shooters. The teams themselves are divided into categories such as sponsor teams, law enforcement teams, law-enforcement trainer teams, and open teams. Teams qualify for the team shoot-off during the three days of shooting, then return on Saturday for the team shoot-off, which is the final event of the

match. It's quite a show and the gallery is usually full.

The Laurels And Prizes

On Saturday afternoon, after all the shooting is over, there is an awards meeting prior to the *Soldier Of Fortune* Banquet, just for the shooters and their cheering sections. All the prizes except the top few are given out and SOF Magazine provides refreshment. You can probably figure out for yourself what would be refreshing for 225 contestants who spent the last three days under the hot desert sun, doing their best at difficult missions under realistic field conditions. And then comes the SOF banquet where, among the many who attend the convention, the top shooters are recognized for their performances.

The prizes are numerous and generous: cash prizes to 50th place, merchandise at least that far. The total runs easily into six digits. All of it is donated by the faithful sponsors for the Match, and SOF Magazine: Without these sponsors it would not be possible. The smooth and efficient manner in which the match is scheduled, conducted and scored is largely creditable to the talented and tireless efforts of my wife, Brenda.

The 1996 match promises to be even better than before, with lots of new ideas for the stages. The Desert Sportsman Range has had a major overhaul, so the terrain will be new, even to the old hands. We never publish any of the stages until the night before the match when they are distributed to all shooters. This makes them come to the match ready for anything. For the most practical shooting experience you can have without drawing blood, sign up and shoot the 1996 SOF World Championship Three-Gun Match.

Contact Michael K. Horne, SOF World Championship Three-Gun Match Director, 4128 Abbott, Bakersfield CA 93312. He will send you an information packet that will provide all details for entry, and answers to most of your questions. But don't wait long! The match fills up fast and space is limited.

A veteran of Special Forces and 30 years in police work (15 as a trainer), Mike Waidelich serves faithfully as XO for the SOF Three-Gun Match. ✕

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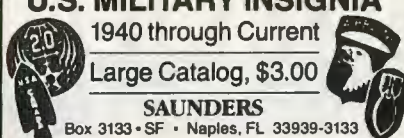
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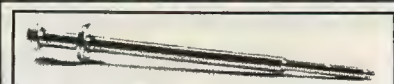
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PARTING SHOT

Why Gun Control Doesn't Work

by James M. Simpson

While it is true that many people fear and resent the law, at the same time we realize that society without law is anarchy — and can easily fall prey to the ambitions of unscrupulous people. So we accept it, knowing this implicit contract with society is our best insurance for security and our best protection against the whims of dictators. The fact that we are a nation of laws is what makes our country — and indeed Western civilization — great. The question thus becomes “What combination of laws will be most effective in preserving our freedom while simultaneously serving to insure our safety and security?”

We learn in the discipline of economics that people respond to cost incentives. This does not only mean cost in the financial sense, but all aspects of cost: financial, time, emotional, physical health, etc. Gun control imposes relatively small additional costs on the criminal. He/she must take time to develop new ways to circumvent it and/or pay someone else to do so. At the same time, a firearm is probably the most important “tool of the trade.” Without it, the criminal is likely to be “out of business,” so to speak. Therefore, having one is essential for continued operation. The criminal has what economists call an “inelastic demand curve.” The benefits of having a gun far outweigh the costs of circumventing gun-control laws to get one. As a result, gun laws are regularly and flagrantly circumvented by criminals.

Evidence of these facts abounds in the complete failure of current gun-control measures to stop gun crime. Washington, D.C.'s laws forbid private ownership of firearms, yet D.C. has one of the highest (mostly gun) mur-

der rates in the country. Gun-control advocates claim D.C. residents desiring a weapon just purchase it out-of-state, which is true in some cases, but serves to refute rather than support their argument: Criminals demonstrate the law's impotence by simply ignoring it. When stricter laws are passed in other states, criminals just find new ways to circumvent

Gun control pleases people who know little about its dynamics, and makes villains out of easy targets.

them. The fact that they are willing to take such actions in and of themselves directly refutes the gun-control argument.

The most blatant example is the National Firearms Act of 1934 (governing machine guns and silencers). The law is a gun controller's dream: federal background check, usually involving a two-to-three month waiting period, often complemented by similar requirements at the state and local level; a huge transfer tax, extensive documentation and full registration. Despite all these controls, approximately 10% of firearms seized annually by ATF are fully automatic weapons!

Law-abiding citizens abide by the law. They have chosen, for whatever reason, to earn their living in legitimate ways. Consequently, the penalties of illegal ownership constitute unacceptable costs to them. The economist's analysis simply serves to verify the common

contention: Gun control only imposes burdens on law-abiding citizens while doing little or nothing to stop the criminal.

Thus, economic analysis, supported by hard statistical facts, draws us to an unshakable conclusion: Restricting or even banning the private ownership of firearms cannot stop criminals from getting them.

Further, gun bans do not address the problem. The problem is not firearms availability; it is criminal behavior. Hardened criminals make a career flouting the law. Why should they be thwarted by one more law? In order to prevent criminals from using firearms, the costs to the criminal must be increased to the point where criminal activity ceases to be a viable option.

Enhanced career-criminal penalties (*when enforced*) have been very effective in stopping criminals. I would suggest stiff, mandatory-minimum sentences for first-time violent offenders that impose real and significant costs on criminals and send the right message because they directly link the penalties to the behavior.

Gun bans may cost lives. During the Los Angeles riots, California residents were shocked to discover they had to wait 15 days to purchase a firearm. No one will ever know how many of them might have been able to save their lives or protect their businesses had they had immediate access to a firearm. What we do know, however, is that those shops in the riot area that escaped fire or looting damage did so because their owners were armed and stood careful guard over their property. And as we all know, those who expected police protection during the riots made, in some cases, a fatal error.

This truth became apparent again during Florida's Hurricane

Continued on page 85

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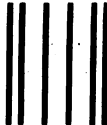
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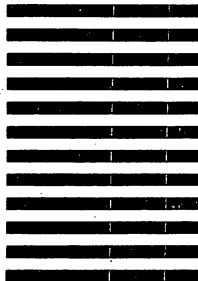
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