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COMMAND GUIDANCE

Arrogance And Other Matters

by Robert K. Brown

Will it never end? Government arrogance, that is.

The latest example of beltway imperiousness, not surprisingly involving incompetent federal law-enforcement officers, occurred on 1 March, when U.S. Marshals Service Director Eduardo Gonzalez honored five marshals, proud vets of the 1992 Ruby Ridge shoot-out, with its highest award for valor. Whaaaat?? A *valor* award for shooting a dog and a 14-year-old boy? There were tons of unmerited awards given in 'Nam but I never saw anything this crass. These government Wyatt Earps received the awards for "their exceptional courage, their sound judgment in the face of attack [time out: The boy was gunned in the *back!*] and their high degree of professional competence during the incident."

These poltroons should have been tried for murder and sentenced to *beaucoup* decades of Leavenworth rock-breaking — more in a future issue.

Secondly, I owe all of you *SOF*ers an explanation, somewhat belatedly, of why we were forced to up our cover price to \$4.95 and also increase our subscription rate. *SOF*, along with the rest of the print media, was hit with a whopping 40% increase in the price of paper that drove some marginal magazines out of business. Others have raised their prices and/or reduced their number of pages. We've never worked on a high-profit margin simply because we have devoted a significant portion of our budget to getting the type of

material you want to read. And, though we probably do it cheaper than any of the mainstream media, it still costs a bundle to cover wars from the Persian Gulf to the jungles of Burma and to fund full-time investigative reporters to uncover federal law-enforcement abuses and cover-ups. We could provide more "canned" material and rewrites of other reporters' stories but we would be betraying you, ourselves and all we stand for. Please bear with us. (And remember, a subscription will save you 50% of the newsstand price.)

Finally, keep your eye on the target. And that target is a Bill Clinton defeat in November! Granted, I'm no great fan of Dole, but what are the alternatives? You can stay home, or cast a protest vote for a third-party candidate. But the next a.m. you and other gun owners might see that dull-eyed, slack-jawed, draft-dodger celebrating in the White House, gearing-up for another oppressive term.

If you're disgruntled by the gun legislation passed under *Billary's* guidance, wait till you see what's in the cards when he's a lame-duck president who doesn't have to sweat re-election.

If *Slick Willie* wins, there is a more-than-fair chance Democratic candidates, glued to his coattails, will take control of the House and Senate.

The bottom line: Whom do you want in the White House? Dole? Or Bill "my goons are gonna kick in your door and rip off your firearms" Clinton? ☒

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WHY IS CLINTON AFRAID OF THE GREEN BERETS?

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Mark H. Milstein

COVER

Salvadoran Special Forces soldier on point during field exercise. Elite troops there use U.S. weapons, equipment and uniforms. "Chocolate chip" cammies, made famous in Desert Storm, are worn during dry season or on beach ops. Story begins on page 54.



Steve Salisbury

BULLETIN BOARD

HELP WANTED: SF, RANGER TRAINERS

As we noted last month, a multinational program is underway to train a 55,000-man Bosnian army organized into six corps and 14 brigades, so when IFOR pulls out there will be an in-place defense force to discourage renewed aggression. As we go to press there is a 40-nation task force meeting in Turkey to arrange funding. Odds are good that BDM (which owns Vinnell Corporation; currently contract trainer for the Saudi Arabian National Guard), will be participating. BDM is interested in talking to people with SF and Ranger MOSs, for training contracts in Bosnia. No flakes. No wannabes. Submit your CV, including your DD214, to BDM (Attn: Bosnia Contract), 10530 Rosehaven Street, Suite 100, Fairfax, VA 22030; phone: 703-385-4515.

RIFLE RAFFLE: \$133,000 FOR GUNNY HATHCOCK

The raffle of a "Carlos Hathcock sniper rifle" by the Virginia Gun Collector's Association raised \$133,000 after expenses, which has been placed in trust to help Carlos and his family. Hathcock is suffering the debilitating effects of multiple sclerosis and complications of Vietnam war wounds. Organizers of the raffle told *SOF* that some \$25-30,000 was raised by *SOF* readers. Carlos Hathcock is one of the greatest snipers of all time who, right up to the time of his incapacitation, was serving as an instructor.

CASTRO'S SPECOPS TRAINING FOR ATTACKS ON U.S.

Cuba has been training its spe-

cial forces in Vietnam, for attacks within the United States, such as staging and supply areas, in the event the U.S. invades Cuba. Training of mid-level Cuban SF officers has been ongoing at Hoa Binh, Vietnam since 1990, with



SOF Managing Editor Dwight Swift (kneeling) and his 5' 11" blackie, taken in Alberta with a Winchester Model 70 featherweight classic in .30-06 and a 180-gr. Nosler partition. Hunting from a tree stand, [SW] dispatched the bear when it decided to join him in the tree.

Sonny Newman, Mountain Top Taxidermy, Galax, Va.

these officers returning to Cuba to re-teach what they have learned. According to *Jane's Defence Weekly*, the objective of Cuban attacks on American soil would be to "bring the reality of warfare to the American people and so exert pressure on Wash-

ington." It sure would exert pressure on Washington — pressure to send in the Marines to storm San Juan Hill, that is.

JUDGE: NJ BAN UNCONSTITUTIONAL

Monmouth County, NJ, Superior Court Judge Michael D. Farren has ruled in dismissing a two-count case against one Robert Merrill that New Jersey's 1990 Florio "assault weapon" ban is unconstitutional because it violated *ex post facto* and due process, and was unconstitutionally vague. The two charges related to possession of a large-capacity magazine, and a MAK-90 rifle.

PRO-GUN ELECTION ACTION

Here's how to help the pro-gun political candidate of your choice: order the NRA-ILA's new pro-gun *Election Action Manual*, full of tips on what you can do to help elect pro-gun lawmakers to office. For a free copy, call NRA-ILA Grassroots Committee today; phone: 800-392-8683. Be ready to give your NRA membership number as ID, if they ask for it.

BAD OL' BOYS REPORT ISSUED

The Justice Department's office of the inspector general has issued a 314-page report on its eight-month investigation of the "Good Ol' Boys Roundup," a gathering of nearly 1,400 nice folks including former and active federal, state and local law-enforcement officers. Organized by a former BATF agent and held since 1980 in eastern



You will note that this fine WWII 155 proudly displayed by the Oregon, Illinois VFW post (some suggest it points at City Hall) has its tube carefully packed with concrete: Back around the turn of the century the Oregon city fathers lost a nice Civil War type cannon when some ruffians filled the tube with powder and dirt and blew gun parts all over town.

Douglas G. Norvell

STREET STOPPERS

The Latest Handgun Stopping Power Street Results

by Evan P. Marshall and Edwin J. Sanow

Street Stoppers is the long-awaited sequel to the controversial best-selling book **Handgun Stopping Power**. Like the first book, **Street Stoppers** compiles the results of hundreds of real-life shooting incidents involving every major handgun caliber and uses that information to predict how the same loads might perform in future shootings. Not only does the new book provide the very latest results of actual shootings involving guns and ammo from .380 Auto to .45 ACP, it gives the eagerly anticipated street results of the hottest new caliber on the market, the .40 S&W; the first formal presentation in print of the Strasbourg Tests, where live goats were used as test subjects; updated street results for exotic ammo, including Golden Saber, Gold Dot and the venerable offerings from MagSafe, Glaser and others; a fascinating look at the development of Hydra-Shok ammo by its inventor; and a powerful new formula to predict handgun stopping power – the Fuller Index. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, photos, 392 pp. **\$39.95**



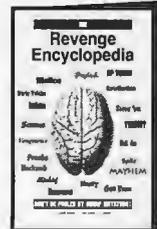
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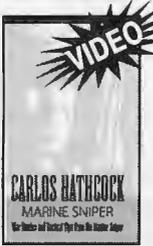
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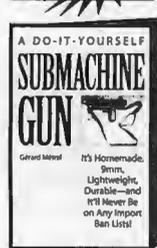
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Tennessee, the event came under public scrutiny last summer in articles in *SOF* and other media. Justice Department IG Michael Bromwich said some of the initial allegations last July had been exaggerated in an effort to hurt law enforcement in general and specifically the BATF, but that "our investigation revealed ample evidence of shocking, racist, licentious and puerile behavior."

Cited were instances of commonplace public nudity, strippers, rampant alcohol abuse, harassment of minorities and women, and widespread lewd performances, including one skit where participants defecated on stage. As boorish as such behavior is, it would seem that police officers or federal agents crapping on the stage when off-duty pales by comparison to doing the same to the Constitution when on duty, as at Ruby Ridge, Waco, etc.

NO GREEN-MOUNTAIN PERSONS?

Maj. Gen. Donald Edwards of the Vermont Air National Guard has announced scrapping plans to change the Vermont National Guard's nickname "Green Mountain Boys" to something gender-neutral. The plan met with widespread public scorn, several Vermont lawmakers waxing poetic and introducing a resolution to resist political correctness and retain the traditional name. The name dates back to 1770, when Ethan Allen formed an unauthorized citizen militia (oh, horrors!) to thwart New York's efforts to control the territory that later became Vermont.

BOOKS FOR THE TROOPS

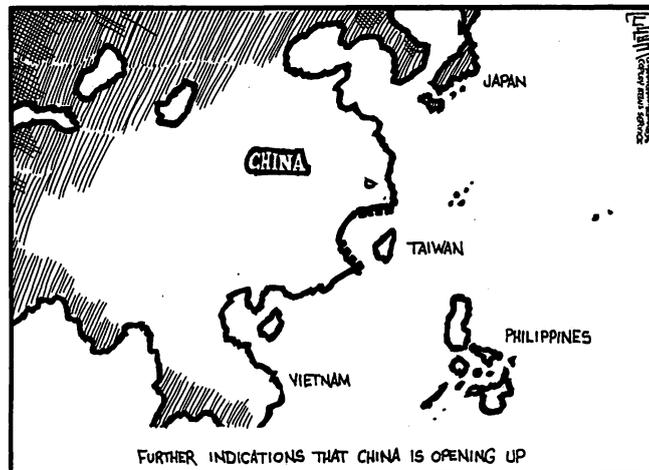
As we go to press, some 12,000 paperback books have gone through the pipeline. *SOF* readers are sending 'em in, and *SOF* staffers are wrapping 'em up for APO shipment. Colonel Brown is footing the bill for postage.

You do your part and we'll keep on doing ours ... and the troops will benefit. Books to: Books for The Troops, SOF Warehouse, 5735 E. Arapahoe

Rd., Boulder, CO 80303. If you have no books but can help us with postage, send that 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.

CHUTE FIRST

The newly formed Cambodian Para Commandos completed eight months of special forces training in Indonesia last November, including six jumps. Now deployed back home against the murderous Khmer Rouge (who killed upwards of a million of their fellow Cambodians since 1975), the Para Commandos are hampered by a lack of parachutes —



and none are budgeted for them by the Cambodian government. This lack of parachutes is a serious obstacle to their being employed in the deep-penetration missions for which they have been trained.

Franklin Mark Osanka, Ph.D., head of Friendship Airborne Tours, has had a great deal to do with the revival of the airborne force of Cambodia's anti-Pol Pot regime. Now Osanka is soliciting donations of surplus but serviceable T-10s, MC1-1s and other military parachutes including reserves. All donated rigs will be thoroughly inspected and repacked before they are given to the Cambodian airborne during Friendship's tour there this Spring. Contact Dr. Osanka at;

phone: 414-639-0780; fax: 414-639-7686. Or write to him at 82 Woodfield Court, Racine, WI 53402. Check with him before you actually send anything.

—Alex McColl

BOSNIA MINES

The tragic death of SFC Don Dugan of the 1/1 Cav at the hands of a PMR-2A antipersonnel mine highlights the danger of landmines to U.S. Troops in Bosnia. According to the UN, there are more there than anyplace on earth — 152 per square mile. That's 38 times as many in Somalia, for instance. *Step lightly, boys, and watch where you put your feet.*

CARRYING GUNS TO MEXICO

With continuing assassinations, revolutionary unrest and galloping crime resulting from a poor economy, Mexican *federales* are increasingly antsy about gringos taking guns south of

the border. Consider the case of Mike and Brenda, who drove their motor home across the border at Nogales. They filed the requisite papers for their motor home and were well into Mexico when they came to an inspection point. After finding an antiquated Enfield .303 rifle, a .22 pistol and a .22 rifle, the police arrested all three: Mike, Brenda and their motor home. Brenda has been released; the motor home is in custody; Mike now resides at the Educational Center for Social Rehabilitation.

There's a lesson here: if it's Tijuana, Nogales or Nuevo Laredo — don't take your guns to town.

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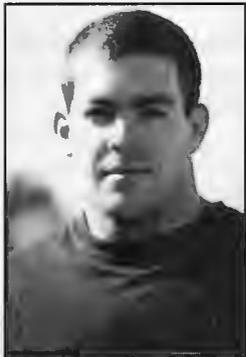
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WHEN BUYING A PRESIDENT, BE SURE HE COMES WITH A GUARANTEE

During the second half of 1995, a rather skimpy \$105,537 trickled into the "Presidential Legal Expense Trust," President Clinton's legal-defense fund set up to defend him against the sexual harassment suit by Paula Jones, and him and Hillary both against potential Whitewater Scandal costs and criminal charges. That brought its total since inception in June 1994 to \$971,941.

However, according to fund trustee Michael Cardozo, contributions jumped in January after the president admitted at a news conference that the various legal bills have probably made him insolvent. Insurance companies have since anted up \$900,000 for defense of the sexual harassment suit, but even after the insurance payments Clinton's legal debts exceed \$1 million. So far.

At least some of the investors in Clinton's defense fund must be thinking they might as well have invested in Whitewater. Among known contributors are Oscar Wyatt (chairman of natural-gas producer Coastal Corp.), Sara Lee Corporate Chairman John Bryan, political consultant James Carville, former Democratic National Committee Chairman Robert Strauss, investment banker Felix Rohaytn, former White House Counsel Lloyd Cutler, and former deputy Treasury Secretary Roger Altman. Some didn't get much for their money: Roger Altman, for instance, went to the slam anyway for his part in the Whitewater affair.

Well, I guess you get what you pay for.

ATTORNEY GENERAL SAYS NY PAID HILLARY 100G FOR DOING NOTHING

According to a story in the *New*

York Post, neither First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, nor the Rose Law Firm of which she was a partner, performed any work for the more than \$100,000 in fees they got from a New York think tank, the National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE).

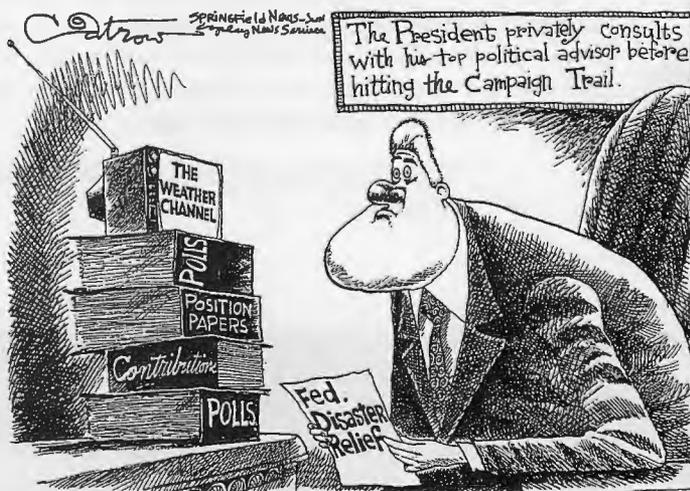
In January, New York State Attorney General Dennis Vacco began probing \$100,000 in payments made to Rose Law firm, saying "[Rose] was commissioned as a law firm to implement an educational strategy, and I

eral the right to scrutinize its spending.

Former democratic Governor Mario Cuomo, who serves on the NCEE board of directors in an honorary capacity as chairman, said he did not know about payments to Mrs. Clinton or Rose. Officials at NCEE say Mrs. Clinton and Rose Law Firm were paid to direct its "workforce skills program," but declined to provide further details.

Attorney General Vacco did not rule out subpoenaing Mrs. Clinton to answer questions about her

work for the NCEE, but insisted "we're way, way down the line from that." Ron Clark, current managing partner of the Rose Law Firm in Little Rock, Ark., said he is unaware NCEE made any payments to



have to wonder about that."

Vacco told Albany, NY, radio talk show host Paul Vandenburg he has written Rose Law Firm asking for "billing records, time sheets and the work product" relating to Mrs. Clinton's and the firm's work in 1990 and 1991, but the firm had not yet responded.

Vacco also said he is seeking a large number of documents and contracts from NCEE. He charged that Mrs. Clinton, a member of the NCEE board of directors when the contract was signed in 1990, and Rose, where she was then a partner, had "at the very minimum, a cozy relationship" with non-profit NCEE.

It is NCEE's status as a New York non-profit organization that gives the New York attorney gen-

Hillary Clinton or Rose.

Sources close to Vacco's investigation said they believe the money may have been used to underwrite Mrs. Clinton's efforts on behalf of Bill Clinton's presidential campaign. At the time, Bill Clinton was governor of Arkansas.

Aren't these the folks who campaigned against the "decade of greed" and promised to do right for us of the Great Unwashed who "work hard and play by the rules?"

Captain Keyhole: We're holding off — Please fire off some more FLAK, or call the senior editor at SOF.

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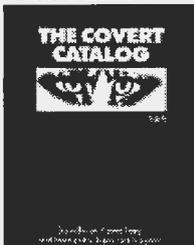
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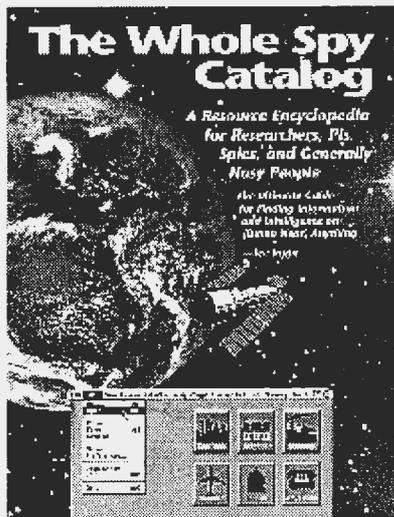
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Our pen had absolutely no connection with MountBlanc Inc., nor their products and we apologize for any inconvenience that ad may have caused MountBlanc or their representatives.

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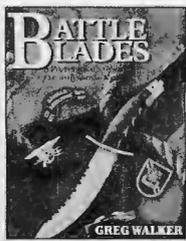
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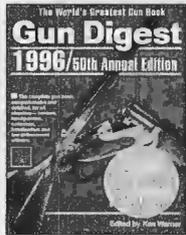
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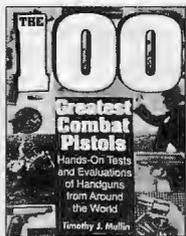
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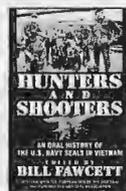
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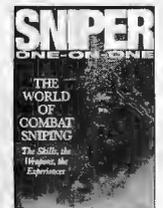
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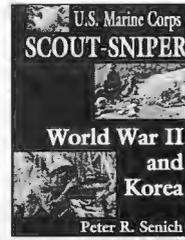
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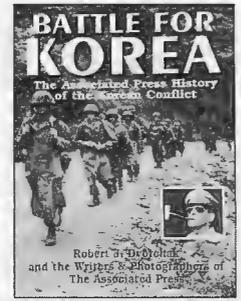
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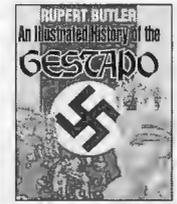
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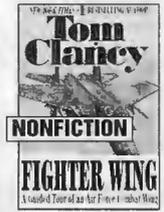
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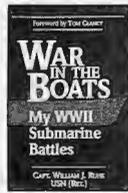
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FULL AUTO

Rates Of Exchange

by Peter G. Kokalis

Upon contact with the enemy, an infantry maneuver unit must 1) return fire; 2) suppress the enemy's fire; and 3) gain fire superiority. Whether it's the battalion's GPMGs or the platoon's squad automatics, machine guns invariably provide the firepower required to accomplish these all important tactical goals. Machine guns have been the key element in fire and movement ground tactics ever since they came to dominate the battlefield



PFC Willie Brown of the 1st Marine Division firing his M60 GPMG from the kneeling position during Operation Oklahoma Hills in Vietnam on 21 April 1969. This position should be employed only when the terrain and/or vegetation precludes firing from the prone position as it is unstable and diminishes hit probability to a considerable extent.

courtesy DoD

was one-half of a belt per minute, fired in 15 bursts of eight to 10 rounds each; and 3) rapid — one belt per minute, fired in 15 bursts of 15 to 20 rounds each.

For the air-cooled M1919A6 BMG, the wizards that wrote the field manual reduced these rates of fire to 40 rpm, fired in seven bursts of six rounds each, for slow fire; 75 rpm, fired in 10 bursts of six to eight rounds each, for medium fire; and 150 rpm, fired in 15 bursts of eight to 10 rounds each, for the rapid rate.

Does all of this sound somewhat confusing, even when you read it slowly? How would you like to try and employ these different rates of fire on the battlefield while incoming rounds are whizzing over your head and just under the family jewels? I can tell you from my own not inconsiderable experience under such trying circumstances that it is completely impossible, and that the authors of these field manuals

apparently never got past their adventures at Saturday matinees watching *Gunga Din*.

Thirty years later the tactical geniuses that write field manuals (by now watching Sylvester Stallone in *First Blood*), using different terminology, tried to simplify this somewhat for the M249 SAW. *Sustained Fire* is supposedly 85 rounds per minute in bursts of five to seven rounds at four- to five-second intervals. *Rapid Fire* is 200 rpm in bursts of five to seven rounds fired at two- to three-second intervals. *Cyclic Fire* is the highest rate of fire the gun can deliver with the trigger held to the rear and a continuous

supply of ammunition.

That's better, but can you imagine distinguishing between four- to five-second and two- to three-second intervals under the stress of combat? This is patently ridiculous and furthermore, the bursts are still too long. Realistically, you can expect gunners to deliver no more than two rates of fire in combat: burst sequences programmed into them through rigorous training and the cyclic rate of the gun.

The cyclic rate should be reserved for the initial moments of contact when the simultaneous opening fire of all guns commences to suppress enemy fire and gain fire superiority. Under these circumstances I have never personally observed machine guns firing at anything other than the cyclic rate. This type of fire should be dropped as quickly as possible to burst firing. The only other possible justifications for use of the cyclic rate are in perimeter defense situations when the enemy has actually crossed the wire, and at civilian machine gun shoots by those firing at bath tubs, refrigerators and wrecked cars while sitting on an inflatable toilet seat.

Bursts should be no greater than four rounds and fired at whatever interval is required to reacquire the target or acquire new targets, either frontal or flanking. Don't try to time the intervals. All attention should be focused on the sights, target and trigger control required to deliver a three- to four-round burst.

Why bursts of no greater length than four rounds? There are three good reasons. First of all, the gunner and the rest of the squad must haul all ammo anticipated for the mission on their LBE and it ill behooves the gun crew to expend it in an unproductive manner. Because, secondly, hit probability invariably goes

during World War I. About that there can be no argument. The questions have always been about the techniques employed to utilize these weapons in the most effective manner.

Ever since the invention of the wheel, U.S. Army machine-gun field manuals have discussed "rates of fire." Manuals covering .30 caliber Browning machine guns, dating from World War II and the Korean War, maintained that there were three rates of fire for the water-cooled M1917A1: 1) slow — which was one-quarter of a 250-round cloth belt per minute, fired in 10 bursts of six to eight rounds each; 2) medium — which

down when the length of the burst goes up. But lastly, and most important of all, long burst groups telegraph the position of an infantry soldier's most desirable target: an automatic weapon that at the very least is attempting to prevent his movement and, even more disastrously, send him to Valhalla.

To further compound the gunner's confusion, the field manual on the M60 GPMG recommends that the barrel be changed after firing the sustained rate for 10 minutes, two minutes after firing at the rapid rate and one minute after firing at the cyclic rate. To my knowledge, this preposterous advice has never been followed in combat. No member of a machine-gun crew is provided with a stop watch to time firing sequences on the battlefield. Furthermore, those who cut the ends of their toothbrushes off to save weight on a patrol, will, in every instance, leave the spare barrel back in the barracks. Apprehension about destroying Uncle Sugar's property has never approached the fear of getting killed that totally envelops those fighting in a ground battle.

Finally, if no tripod is available, machine guns should be fired from the prone position off the bipod, unless the cover provided mandates that they be fired from over a berm or man-made barricade. Firing from the so-called "hip assault" position can only be justified in the extremely unlikely situation where the enemy pops up out of the bush 10 meters in front of you during a patrol. It happens, but only rarely.

Civilians who own registered machine guns and consider themselves to be "recreational" shooters should keep the following in mind. You will fight the way you train. And training includes the thousands of wasted rounds you send downrange at machine-gun shoots. If you adjust the tripod to its greatest height so you can sit behind the gun on a camp stool spraying 250-round bursts at nothing in particular, then that's exactly the way you will deploy with the weapon if, God forbid, you should ever be forced to use it during Armageddon. ☒

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I WAS THERE

Near-Miss Manners

by George Klein

In obscure Third World conflicts, there are many ways to become a statistic.

I was in Camp 88 of the *All Burma Students Democratic Front* (ABSDF) forces when we received word that two *State Law and Order Restoration Council* (SLORC — the Burma/Myanmar military dictatorship) battalions were advancing in a pincer movement toward our headquarters. We had to recon checkpoints to

was satisfied with the site, we continued down a track leading north to Muslim positions. Eventually Thi Ha decided he'd seen enough and we turned back — it wouldn't pay to push deeply into Muslim territory unannounced, just in case we bumped into a nervous patrol. We retraced our steps, more quickly and more relaxed in the knowledge we were the only armed and dangerous characters in the area.

shooting us. His faded olive uniform was the same as SLORC troops favored. He wore no cover nor LBE and although his red insignia was ABSDF, student troops were now wearing subdued patches — and SLORC point platoons favored rebel insignia and M16s or AKs over their issue G3s. Nor was the wide-eyed look of hyperadrenalized uncertainty on our adversary's face encouraging, either.

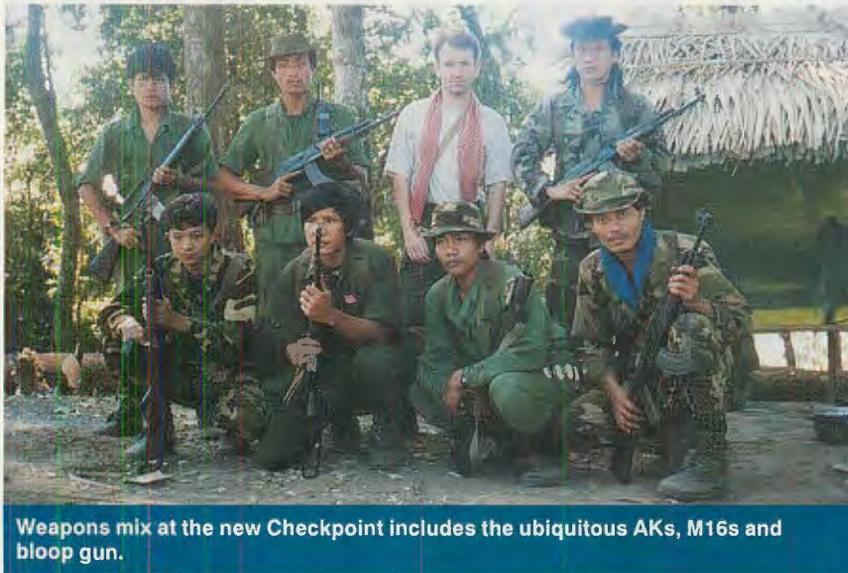
After an eternity, Po Zaw blurted out something in Burmese and a rapid-fire verbal exchange followed. Suddenly the tension dissipated as our new friend lowered his weapon and gave us a brittle smile. As I sagged with relief, I turned to look at Thi Ha, who was shaking his head with a mixture of disgust and incredulity. It seemed our man was an officer from one of the regimental camps scattered around the central headquarters. Unaware of the alert status, he had come up to the checkpoint for a spot of monkey shooting.

Thi Ha muttered something about who the monkey was and later told me if our man had been in front of us on our way out, he would have been shot without question.

We returned to central HQ where reports were entered and plans made for a hasty defense of the area. The alert was scaled down two days later. The lessons of the last few days were not lost on the High Command and they set about using what they had learned to improve local defense and security arrangements.

When I returned to the Checkpoint position in December '95 things had changed significantly: It was no longer the soggy, decaying collection of bamboo it was before. It was now cleared and rebuilt as a patrol base, garrisoned

Continued on page 80



Min Zaw Oo

Weapons mix at the new Checkpoint includes the ubiquitous AKs, M16s and bloop gun.

preclude surprises, as had earlier resulted in a panicked bug-out: Early warning would mean an orderly, fighting withdrawal.

We set off in an early morning drizzle. Thi Ha, the patrol commander, was Military High Command staff who had served on joint operations with the Karen in Manerplaw. Our pointman was Po Zaw, who had also worked with the Karen, so I was in good hands. We followed a stream to the Checkpoint feature, then headed up a near-vertical track for an hour until we reached an abandoned position where jungle was swallowing two dilapidated bamboo huts.

We paused to check the area and pull leeches. Once Thi Ha

Well, *almost!*

Ten minutes into the return, I was in the center of our single file in the thumb-up-bum/mind-in-neutral mode when the clack-clack of Po Zaw's safety jolted me to reality. I froze and saw Po Zaw was frozen 2 meters in front of me, his AK halfway to his front, butt to his shoulder, but the muzzle down. He had obviously stopped in mid-movement, and not 15 meters away I saw why. A lone soldier stood dead center in the trail with an M16 at his hip, business end leveled at us: Pucker Factor 10.

My brain raced to come to some sensible conclusion as to who this guy was — not that it would necessarily stop him from

New, Eye-Opening, Documented
FREE REPORT Proves ...

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 figured Jerry at least would understand their needs.

Easily Defeats Decorated SEAL

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

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

In 5 short minutes these SEAL officers — men who had seen everything in the way of brutal fight-

ing, and who had virtually unlimited budgets to develop the SEALS into the world's best — were blown away by Jerry Peterson's Autokinematic™ fighting system.

Officially Required SEAL Training

Following a pilot program at Command headquarters all SEALS began receiving this training. Still, hardheaded, cocky, non-believing SEALS, many with extensive martial arts backgrounds, constantly tested Jerry:

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

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

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

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

Top Government Officials Amazed

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

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

Devastating Power Gives You An Unfair Advantage

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

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

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

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

Guaranteed To Work In Your Most Nightmarish Hostile Situation

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

But this isn't a course to impress friends at your Karate studio. The Instructor Qualification Series is Jerry Peterson's complete professional fighting system.

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



Official SEAL SCARS-CFC
Creator Jerry Peterson

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Free Special Report Reveals GUN AND KNIFE Fighting Secrets

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

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

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

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24-hours for a Free recorded message to get your Free report. International, call 602-921-8533.

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• For name of prize winner, send SASE to May/June '96 Sweepstakes Winners List, c/o SOF, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306

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With a 3 5/8-inch locking blade of 8A chrome-moly stainless and a Zytel handle and clip it weighs a scant 3 ounces, but is built for hard work. The deeply hollow-ground blade is well-shaped for skinning and general cutting duties; it comes razor sharp and keeps a good edge. The hard synthetic handle is deeply checkered with a "Triamond" pattern that gives a good grip when wet, slimy, greasy or bloody. Available with either plain, or half-serrated, edge; non-slip thumb grooves on rear of blade; reversible thumb pin for one-hand opening; replaceable pocket clip fits the hand like part of the handle.

Critiquers take perverse pleasure in having the last word, but there is not a thing on these knives that I would change: They are absolutely top-quality gear.

Outdoor Edge Cutlery, Dept. SOF, 2888 Bluff St., Suite 130, Boulder CO 80301; phone: 303-652-8212.

TECH FORCE 96



grooved receivers as found on most .22s and airguns. The Tech Force has no limit to eye relief and can be used in the brightest of sunlight. Its

SOF doesn't give knife awards, but if we did these knives would get one. Guess they'll have to settle for *Blade* magazine's "Import Knife Of The Year Award" for their Field-Lite folder. We've been testing one for a month, and it's without fault.

Compassco is now offering an economical red dot sight that can be mounted on almost all types of firearms — and even bows. The sight comes set up to fit on Weaver-style bases or

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outside the waist band. Carriers accommodate small handguns (or other options) and have a full backpad to prevent weapons from rubbing against or digging into the wearer. The Guard-Her is flexible, functional, comfortable and attractive. Retailing for \$79.95, it could be the only holster a woman would ever need. For order or information contact Starshire Ltd., Dept. SOF, 201. W. Geenesee St. #241, Fayetteville, NY 13066; phone: 315-656-9559.



factory (producer of clocks for the MiG-29) has issued a series of 18-jewel, chrome-steel cased pocket watches commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of WW II, with enameled hero-medal logo covers. They keep good time, come with 14-inch chain, silver filigree face. Shown here, watch-wise from top left: Order of Glory, Order of Red Banner, Order of Red Star, Order of Great Patriotic War, Order of Red Guard, Order of Victory. Best part is the price, only \$39.95 from Sovietski Collection, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 81347, San Diego, CA 92138-1347. And you don't need an Order of Form; phone: 800-442-0002 for credit card orders, California residents add tax.

.308 MATCH NOW AVAILABLE FROM BLACK HILLS

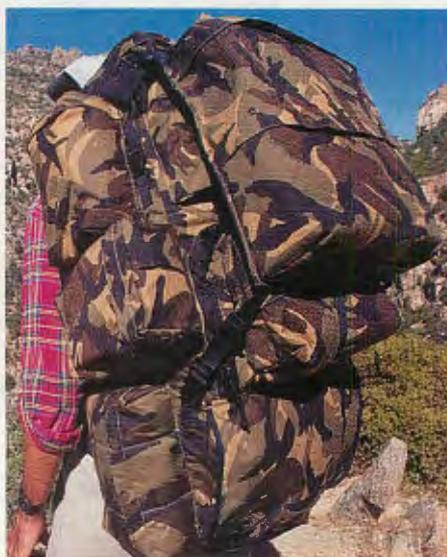


Professionals requiring the utmost in performance from their .308 or 7.62x51mm rifles will be pleased to learn that Black Hills has introduced a 168-grain match-grade round. Contact your local dealer: If he doesn't have it, call Black Hills; phone 605-348-5150, or write Black Hills Ammunition, Dept. SOF, Box 3090, Rapid City, SD 57709-3090. Performance-*and*-service-oriented, Black Hills will ship direct at retail.

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Time ran out for the Soviet Union, and now their time is your time ... and cheap. The Molnija watch

B-WEST'S SPECIAL FORCES RUCSAC



The main body of this 6,098 cubic-inch ruck divides in to three equal compartments, each with its own entry. Made from 600P fabric with a five-point harness system, fixed backpad and internal frame (can be used with

or without frame). Other features: can attach 1525 c.i. daypack; has four zipping 2-liter water-bottle pouches, three lower utility pouches, 50mm webbing reinforcement, 3mm steel brackets for cable attachment or lifting. Available in black or camo. Good gear that is thoughtfully designed, combat tested and well-built for service. Available from B-West Outdoor Specialities, Dept. SOF, 2425 N. Huachuca, Tucson, AZ 85745; phone: 520-628-1990; fax: 520-628-3602. ☒

WORLD SITREP

1

UNITED STATES

Pentagon announces U.S. chemical-weapons arsenal, 3.6 million munition items, will be destroyed by 2004.

Defense budget for 1997 — \$243 billion — drops \$10 billion from 1996's, has less for procurements, partly due to Bosnia expenses; of \$39 billion for new weapons, much goes for Air Force and Navy tactical warplanes. Manpower expected to drop by 25,000 to 1.46 million. Defense Secretary warns budget cuts hinder ability to simultaneously fight two regional wars.

Military studies show use of illicit drugs hits lowest point in 16 years: about 3% of all service members, compared to 27% in 1980.

Congressional study of CIA, NSA and DIA reveals bloated payrolls and poor management precluding purchases of new technology. Agencies could save \$2-\$3 billion by firing up to 6,000 employees. Bad workers often are not fired for fear they will pose security risks.

2

RUSSIA

Military-spending cuts imperil most Russian defense industries, whose production dropped 26% in last year and 75% since Soviet Union's collapse. Russia's '96 defense budget equals \$17 billion.

President Yeltsin announces agreement with Security Council for peace in Chechnya, where battles against guerrillas rage as Russians hold capital Grozny. Polls: Communist Zyuganov is front-runner for 16 June election.

7

8

TURKEY

Security forces seize trucks carrying AK-47s, 410,000 rounds of ammo, 10,748 blocks of TNT, 1,696 mortar shells, six AA guns, and RPGs, believed dispatched by Iran to Lebanon by way of Syria and Turkey.

Secular, center-right political parties — former bitter rivals — form coalition to prevent anti-West Islamic party from seizing power.

Escalating tensions and military posturing by Turkey and Greece over tiny, uninhabited Imia island in Aegean Sea bring Clinton's phone calls and U.S. ambassador's visits. Dispute goes to World Court.

13

1

FRANCE

President Chirac announces 198-year-old military draft will be phased out by 2002. All-volunteer force to save an estimated \$5 billion a year.

6

IRAN

Hezbollah leader publicly acknowledges the Muslim guerrilla group is financed by Iran.

High-quality, counterfeit U.S. \$100 bills printed by government (with aid of former-East German intelligence renegades) account for estimated \$10 billion of the \$400 billion in U.S. currency circulating overseas. Counterfeits used to finance terrorist activity.

12

SOUTH AFRICA

Ex-SADF generals stand trial in what some white South Africans denounce as witch-hunt by President Mandela's African National Congress. Retired officers are accused of training Zulu warriors to kill anti-apartheid/ANC activists in 1987.

13

COLOMBIA

Leftist rebels use "burro bomb" — donkey loaded with 130 pounds of radio-detonated dynamite — to destroy rural police station, killing 11.

Military says FARC rebels now full partners with Cali cartel in cocaine distribution. Washington cuts some economic aid, citing Bogota's lack of progress in Drug War.

3

CHINA

Even as it engages in saber-rattling at Taiwan, China plans to decrease its 3-million man army by 500,000 over several years.

China works on new, ground-launched cruise missile capable of precision strikes on Taiwan targets. U.S. intelligence concludes China is selling cruise missiles and poison-gas technology to Iran.

Elite 1st Regiment to be main unit of 6,500-man garrison in Hong Kong upon its July '97 shift to China's control.

4

ISRAEL

Palestinian police arrest more than 500 suspects, aid Israeli military and security forces in massive crackdown on extremist group *Hamas* after Jerusalem and Tel Aviv bombs kill or injure hundreds. *Hamas'* used explosives from Israeli mines in Golan Heights.

Washington gives \$200 million to Israel for development of Arrow-2, mobile anti-ballistic missile. Israel to share all ABM technology with United States.

5

KUWAIT

Despite military buildup, Kuwait remains a few years from capability of repelling Iraqi invasion. U.S. analysts believe Iraq now able to send five mechanized divisions into Kuwait on 12-hour notice.

11

TAJKISTAN

Peace talks and U.N. mediation fail to end civil war. Army, having lost 100 troops in one clash with rebels, gained ground in counterattack in mountains 125 miles east of capital Dushanbe. Militia leaders in Uzbekistan threaten intervention.

9

INDIA

Government reports six-year insurgency in remote Kashmir has killed 1,134 soldiers and policemen, 6,334 civilians and 6,541 Muslim militants.

2

10

SRI LANKA

LTTE rebels prepare small submarines for attacks on key targets, Sri Lankan military reports. Parliament orders any citizen earning at least 15,000 rupees annually to contribute to fund to defray costs of war against LTTE.

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BURMA

Government will *not* extradite warlord Khun Sa, in Rangoon custody, on U.S. drug charges but will ensure 70% cut in opium production in areas he controlled. Since Khun Sa recently negotiated end to decades-long insurgency, 6,127 Mong Tai soldiers have surrendered.

15

ANGOLA

Savimbi demobilizes 12,500 guerrillas, of Unita's 60,000, under peace accords with Marxist government. Diplomats say some South African mercs, formerly with Executive Outcomes, remain in Angola under other contractors.

12

16

NIGER

Lieutenant Colonel Ibrahim Bare Mainassara, head of armed forces, arrests President Mahamane Ousmane and his chief rival Prime Minister Hama Amadou, voids the constitution, declares himself head of state, dissolves parliament and outlaws all political parties. Ousmane and Hama are soon released.

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.

NATO TROOPS BLAST SOF

Reading your magazine, I was disgusted at the article "Firebase Bosnia" [April *SOF*]. IFOR, for almost every other NATO ally, means Implementation FORce, but for U.S. forces means "I FORgot to turn up when there really was a war going on."

The U.N. Protection Force did sterling work against adverse conditions whilst they were here. How dare an article say they were in disgrace. ... While in UNPROFOR, I had weapons cocked and pointed at me and received incoming rounds — but I thought before firing, which often reduces the chance of an international incident. U.S. 1st Armored Division soldiers appear to be ready for war, but I assure you, should a shooting war start they will get their ass kicked. ... The Brit officer [in the article] was right, you Americans in 1AD are cowboys.

I hope that your readers don't believe this bullshit that [correspondent] Mark H. Milstein has written. Yes, there's a lot of work to be done to get peace sorted out, but not through superior firepower. And let's hope no more U.S. troops are stupid enough to push up a mine to see if it's real!

British Soldier
Tuzla Air Base

I have just finished reading "Firebase Bosnia." The article is total *bullshit*.

I am deployed to Bosnia, and have been here since well before the U.S. Army's 1st Armored Division arrived. The general incompetence and lack of awareness displayed by the 1st AD ... has made them the laughing stock of IFOR. While 1st AD troops hide behind sandbags and concertina wire, other countries' troops deployed with IFOR are meeting the locals and developing relationships in support of peacekeeping.

The Serbs, Croats, and Bosnians are generally friendly, cooperative and glad to see IFOR. While there is some danger associated with this mission, it is perhaps less than in some American cities. The aggressive posture taken by the 1st AD does not make them look like a bad-ass, just an ass.

IFOR Soldier

Thanks for writing. But SOF editors can't help but recall how, only a little more than a half-century ago, many Europeans were grateful for Americans' "cowboy mentality."

AIR FORCE SPOOKS GONE P.C.?

I am an Air Force member, normally stationed in Japan. Just before deploying to Turkey I was interviewed by the Office of Special Investigations, as necessary for my security clearance. I was asked if I was a member of any "radical" or "hostile" groups. I asked if that included the NRA. The AFOSI agent laughed and said: "Oh, no. We mean, like, militias or *Soldier Of Fortune* — stuff like that."

Just thought you might like to know where you stand with the Air Force. (I have been reading *SOF* for three years now and have never read a bad issue.)

Name Withheld by Request

GULF WAR SYNDROME

Congratulations to *SOF* on your March article, "Prognosis: Pathogens and Politics," for shedding some light on ... Gulf War Syndrome [and] specifically, for your coverage of the biological toxins that were used, as these are being transmitted to our family members. Although there is no doubt chemicals [weapons] were used, these are not infectious.

One point that I wish to clarify is that my family and I are *not*

cured from our ailments [as reported in the article]. We have halted the progression of our disease through antibiotic therapy and have regained some of our health. But, as Doctors Nicolson and Dr. Hyman will tell you, the antibiotics are only a treatment; as of yet, there is no *cure* for the syndrome. *Mycoplasma fermentans incognitus*, found in our blood by the Nicolsons, has both viral and bacterial qualities and will likely benefit from antiviral/antibiotic treatment.

What the Department of Defense needs to do is fund the research of these civilian physicians and specialists in order to help Desert Storm veterans and their families. ... [B]efore any real cure can be found, the lies must stop and honest research funded.

Army Capt. Charles Hamden
Fort Meade, Maryland

MGs AND SCOPES

In the February issue there was an article, "Machinegunnery 101: Lessons Relearned," regarding scopes on machine guns and how bad this idea is. Author Peter G. Kokalis was quick to point out how useless it is to mount a scope on a machine gun due to the inherent inaccuracy from "vibrations induced by varying tolerances between the gun and the cradle. ..."

Mr. Kokalis has a good point, yet he forgets to mention the other uses of a scope. Regardless of what type of firearm it is mounted on, a scope can also be used for target search and identification: "friend or foe." I would also like to point out that just about every machine gun I can think of has some sort of "iron" or "fixed" sight. ... None of these sights ever meant total accuracy, simply a better probability of a "hit."

All in all, I think *SOF* is an excellent publication. I wish there

Continued on page 28

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**



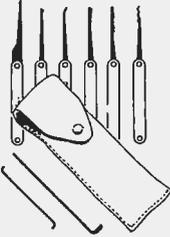
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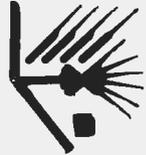
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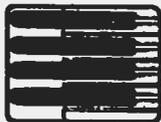


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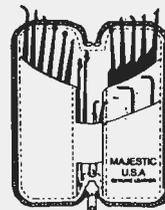
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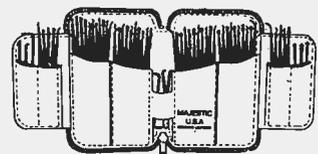
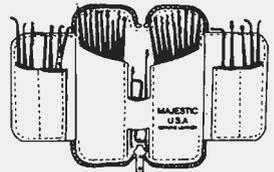


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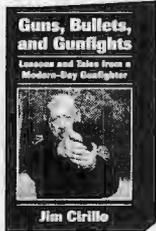
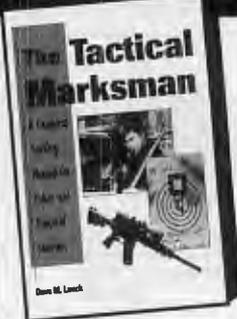
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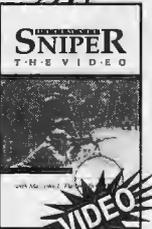
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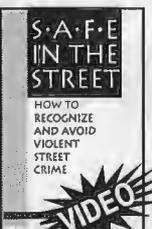
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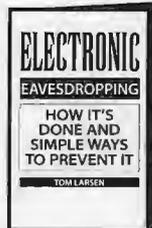
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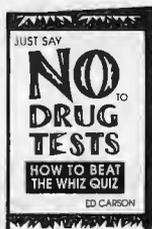
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Continued from page 24

was something like it in Canada that could add more support to resurrecting our Airborne Regiment, but that's another issue.

Christopher Murdy
London, Ontario

Machine-gun crews do not distinguish and select the targets of their choice at distances requiring optical assistance in target identification. Fire control is the job of officers, NCOs and forward observers who, if necessary, employ binoculars to discriminate appropriate targets. No one in the defense community advocating the attachment of optical sights on machine guns has proposed their



application as indicated by Mr. Murdy. Binoculars and, better yet, spotting scopes of 20 power or greater mounted on tripods are far better for this. — P.G.K.

IF THE JACKBOOT FITS...

As counsel for Rick Kent's widow ... I applaud Jim Pate's generally superb journalistic skills ["Loss of a Lawman," April '96]. In the interest of accuracy I must make certain corrections in quotes attributed to me. I did not refer to the Cleveland ATF agents as "bastards," but rather as "cowardly bastards." I did not refer to "agents in Nazi helmets and body armor," but to "Nazis in helmets and body armor." If the jackboot fits, wear it. ...

Anyone familiar with the Cleveland office of ATF ... knows that terms such as "coward," "bastard," and "Nazi" are somewhat redundant. ... But what truly distinguishes the Cleveland post of duty is not the venality of its personnel, but the third-rate quality of some of its agents, including management. ... Some agents there are so stupid that even other agents have begun to notice.

James Jeffries III
Colonel, USMCR (Ret.)

BOOKS TO BOSNIA

On behalf of the [U.S.] soldiers of Task Force Bandit, I would like to thank you for your support for our deployment to Bosnia-

Herzegovina. ...

The books you provided are currently in circulation among our soldiers, and will contribute to our battalion's book exchange. While we have been extremely busy, most soldiers enjoy reading during their off-hours. Thanks to your support, it makes a difference during this extended period away from our families and friends. ...

Lt.Col. Walter N. Anderson
Commander, 4/67th Armor

I'm deployed to the Tuzla airfield in Bosnia. I wanted to thank *SOF* and all the readers who contributed books for the troops deployed here. It was a real morale booster. Also, thanks for recognizing my unit, Alpha Company of the 325th Airborne, in your February issue. ... (President Clinton didn't even know we existed.)

Pvt. 1st Class Mike Wagner
325th Airborne Combat Team

Hello from Tuzla airfield! I am a platoon leader in an AH-64 [Apache]-equipped Attack Helicopter Battalion. I found out about your offer, to send reading materials to the troops, from one of my

soldiers who passed me a copy of *SOF*. I'm grateful and thank you for your thoughtfulness. ...

1st Lt. Peter Lorincz
2-227th Aviation

I am a combat engineer in the Army's 23rd Engineer Battalion currently deployed in Bosnia. Your magazine is a very hot item in my platoon. I was thumbing through your April edition and saw the item for "Books for the Troops." I have been designated the platoon's beggar, so could you please send some books?

Sgt. Tony Coker

As the commander of the 84th Medical Detachment (Combat Stress Control), stationed in Lukavac, I want to express my sincere thanks for sending us three boxes of novels. This brought smiles to all my soldiers and will also provide relaxation for any stress casualties we may serve.

Major Simon H. Pincus

My dad saw the article [on *SOF*'s book drive] in the Minneapolis *Star Tribune*. For my 8th-grade English class we had to do community service. ... My dad thought it would be a good idea to hold a collection for books. I had them going in a few churches, the city library, school library and a bookstore. The local radio station and newspaper announced the project.

I figured that people might give about 500 books, but they actually donated 1,234! The Wadena VFW offered to pay postage for all the books to be sent to you in Colorado. ... Thank you for providing us with an opportunity to show support for the soldiers in Bosnia.

Dylan Lynk
Wadena, Minnesota

SOF's "Books for the Troops" campaign has put some 12,000 paperbacks — all donated by the public — in the mail to U.S. airmen, Marines, sailors and soldiers in the Bosnia theater of operations.

FLAK also can be E-mailed to: editor@sofmag.com. Visit *SOF*'s web page, too: <http://www.sofmag.com>. ✕

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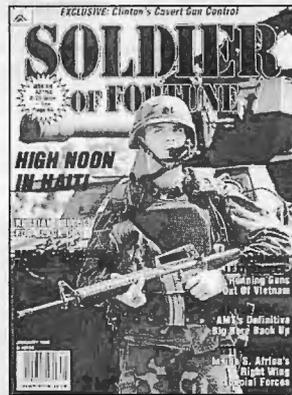
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God only knows what was going through the mind of Bosnian Serb Army Colonel Istvan Duplinjin when he approved a junior officer's suggestion: hide an armored battalion — six companies of T-55 tanks and four of BMP-2 infantry fighting vehicles — between rows of civilian houses.

The battalion would have been hidden almost under the nose of the U.S. Army's 4th Battalion of the 67th Armored regiment. But Duplinjin figured the "stupid" Americans, based 10 kilometers down the road at the edge of the factory town of Odzak (pronounced "Oc-jack"), would never figure out his ruse. Moreover, the Croats, who were scheduled in the coming weeks to re-occupy Odzak as part of the peace accord, once again would be within range of his T-55s.

But the Bosnian Serb colonel rolled the dice and came up "snake eyes."

While he and his men revved the motors of their tanks and BMPs to conduct regular, daily maintenance — giving off strong heat signatures — U.S. Army military-intelligence units gathered information from civilians that was confirmed by OH-58D "eye-in-the-sky" helicopters. Conclusion: The Serbs were secretly amassing armor and were in clear violation of the peace plan.

First The Carrot, Then The Stick

"You've got to move your armor," 4/67th's "Bandit Troop" leader Major Mark Needham told Duplinjin, through an interpreter, after arriving to discuss the situation. "By midday today the armor must be moved out of this zone. This is a decision made by IFOR command, and there is no room for discussion."

Apparently thinking himself a fast-talking, Balkan flimflam man, Duplinjin tried to play Needham like a country bumpkin: He offered all sorts of excuses and reasons the tanks just couldn't be moved. The no-nonsense Needham stopped Duplinjin dead in his tracks. The Serbs would comply with his orders — or else.

"He finally agreed to our timetable," Needham, a New Jersey native, later recalled. "And I told him I was going to hold him to it. You've got to be real delicate in these situations. You don't want to push too much; then it just escalates and gets out of hand. This mission can be just as successful without kicking butt as

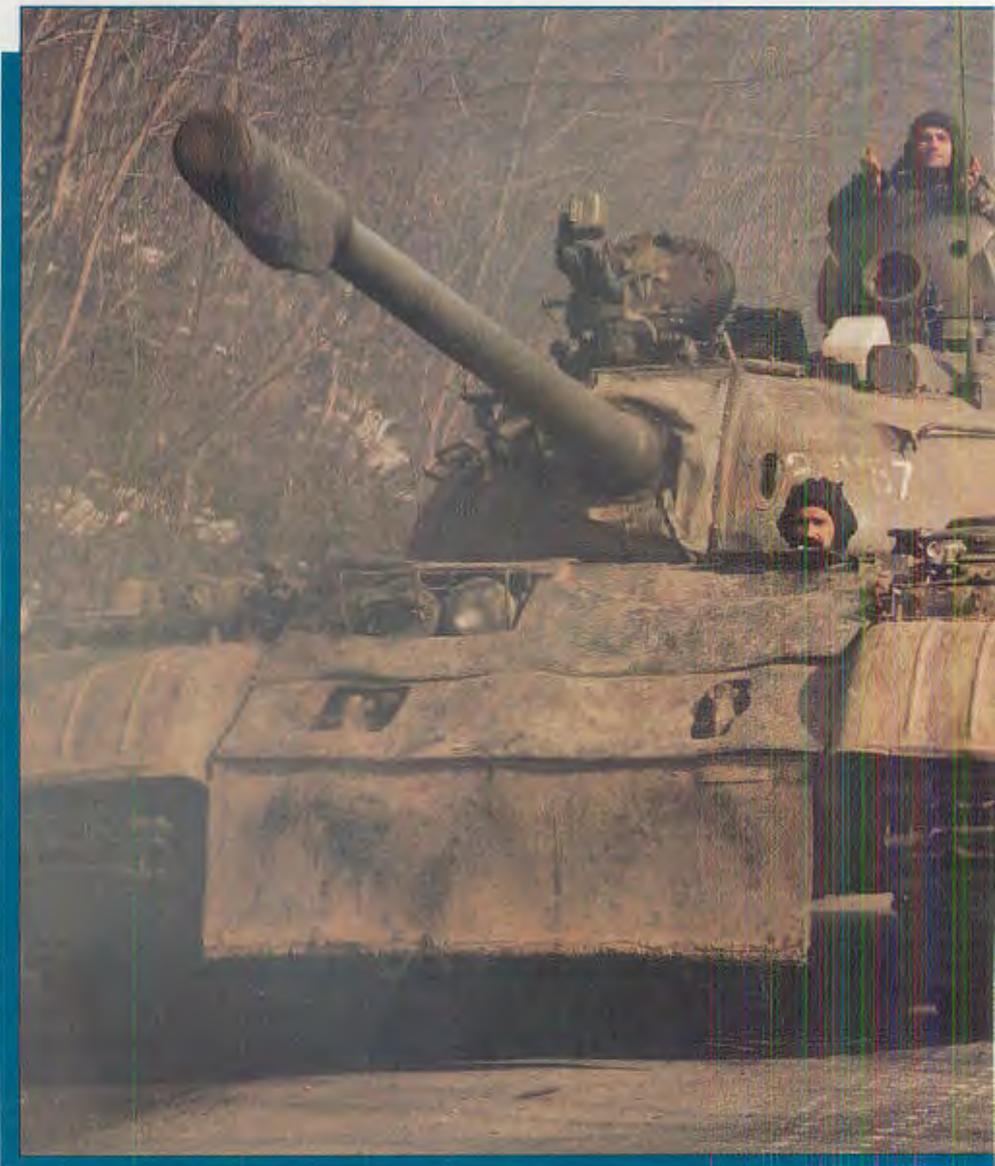
it can be by going in there and shooting the place up."

But after the officers' meeting there came a waiting game. Minutes ticked by, then hours, with no sign that Duplinjin had any intention of getting his battalion out of Modrice on time. Needham called out the dogs.

THE HOUNDS OF IMPLEMENTATION

IFOR Rolls The Dice On The Yellow Dirt Road

Text & Photos by Mark H. Milstein



“When the German *Luftwaffe* Tornado fighters showed up tailed by an F-16, I was real glad they didn’t come in too low,” Needham said. “They came in just low enough for the Serbs to see, but high enough not to give them the impression it was all over for them. I just added a little pressure — just enough to get the ball rolling.”

It worked.

Persuasion From Above

The prospect of being sliced and diced by jet fighters quickly sobered Duplinjin and his tankers, any one of whom might stupidly have been toying with the idea of sucker-punching the Americans with a few rounds before darting out the back door.

The aerial message understood, Duplinjin soon had all of his T-55s

and BMP-2s lined along a street in the center of Modrice. Needham’s tactic worked. The NATO fighters were recalled to their base.

Dense blue smoke, mixed with shouts of “Long live the Serbs,” filled the air. Motors roared. Tank crews quickly knotted the ropes holding their duffel bags to the heavy sheets of black rubber hanging over their treads. Then they looked up in near



SOF Files



Serb T-55 tank’s commander gestures to *SOF* correspondent as column departs NATO-enforced Zone Of Separation after its peaceful eviction by U.S. Army’s 4/67th Armor with aid of NATO jet fighters and Apache helicopters. (Inset) U.S. Army AH-64C Apache tank-killers have been called in as “aerial persuasion.”

unison as the next shift of IFOR “persuasion” arrived.

Rattling rooftops and nearly sucking the air out of the lungs of anyone under their rotors, the sudden, low-altitude appearance of two heavily armed Apache helicopters gave the Serbs a final set of nonverbal instructions to move out.

Norwegian army military observers photographed the armored column’s departure. We jumped into the “Mountain Goat,” *Soldier Of Fortune*’s Russian-made Lada jeep, and drove through Modrice’s shell-cratered streets to meet up with Needham and the rest of his platoon. The U.S. soldiers by then had taken up position at the only bridge out of town.

“We’ll wait right here and make sure they don’t leave anyone behind,” said Staff Sergeant Kelvin Stubblefield, his fingers tapping the tube of the AT4 anti-armor rocket positioned on his Humvee’s roof. “Then, as soon as all of the armor has left town and is on its way to wherever, we’ll monitor from a safe

distance. You all should watch yourselves, too. Don't want to get too close to these guys. They could be dangerous."

I and my traveling companion, *Reader's Digest* writer Sheldon Kelly, assessed Stubblefield's advice. We decided to take our chances, and drove six kilometers up the road. We waited there for the first elements of the Serbian column to reach us.

First came the T-55s, all 25 of them. Then came one of the Apaches, buzzing the column at high-speed. The flying tank-killer banked and turned almost on a dime to level off at tree-top level. It hovered just off the road behind a gas station where we had stopped to fuel up.

"Christ, do you hear that racket?" I asked the gas station attendant. "They must be right above our heads."

"No, can't say I hear anything," came the reply in Serbo-Croatian. "Say, what do you want on this gas receipt: 'SOF' or 'Omega Group'?"

The second column — 17 BMP-2s plus a handful of command vehicles and supply trucks — soon came lumbering by. Needham had Bandit Troop's five Humvees follow the column from about a kilometer away, stopping every so often to make sure they themselves weren't being tailed by Bosnian Serb intelligence agents and that there weren't any surprises waiting for them up ahead.



American 3/5th Cavalry soldiers and Bosnian Croat combat engineers warm up by a fire during break in destruction of front-line bunkers by the Croats. "But they've already said that they're building new bunkers and stuff just outside the ZOS [zone of separation]. I just can't figure it. What are we doing here then?"



Staff Sergeant Kelvin Stubblefield (foreground) and his machine gunner monitor Serb armored convoy's movement from Modrice, alert for tricks by uncooperative tankers.



Bosnian Serb armored personnel carrier rolls through residential area of Modrice as armored battalion is forced to relocate under terms of peace agreement. The Dayton Agreement also calls for all three warring factions to guarantee and respect freedom of movement between people from all sides through the three cantons of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

At each stop, Stubblefield, equipped with a Global Positioning System (GPS) device, took readings and examined his maps. He got out of his Humvee to scan the surrounding area for any uninvited guests.

Bandits And Vultures

Duplinjin's tanks continued south, followed by Needham's Bandits. And there we were at the rear: media

"vultures" with cameras, pens and pads, both half-hoping the Serbs would screw up and get hammered Desert Storm-style by the formidable Apaches. But the procession continued without incident.

"You guys ever visit 'Emerald City' over there in 'Oz'?" Stubblefield asked us after the Bandits stopped behind a BMP-2, which apparently had engine trouble, and a tank-recovery vehicle.

"'Emerald City' is what we call the tent city where we're based over in Odzak," the American NCO continued.

"We even call the road leading to it 'Judy Garland Way.'"

"No, can't say we've ever been there," I replied. "Can't say this looks like Kansas either. Well, maybe after a twister."

Five minutes turned into 10, then 15. The seemingly disabled BMP and recovery vehicle stayed put. The rest of the column was long out of sight. Stubblefield was getting suspicious.

"I think these guys

might be trying to play us for suckers," he said. "You know — fool us by leaving these guys behind and pulling off the road with some of the tanks and hiding them."

Needham agreed. He called his boss, the 4/67th's commander, for guidance. Move forward, Col. Neil Anderson replied by radio.

Ahead, a Blackhawk helicopter, its loiter time extended by additional fuel tanks, pulled recon for the Bandits. Needham drove past the disabled BMP-2. He caught up with Duplinjin and his interpreter, a woman who bore a striking resemblance to a pit bull, along a dirt road just outside the "no-armor zone" in Podnovije, Bosnia.

"This is where my jurisdiction ends," Needham said. He shook hands with the Serb colonel and thanked him for his cooperation.

"They're in their own territory now," Needham told Kelly and me. "He [Duplinjin] can do what he wants with his tanks at this point."

"This probably isn't what you're used to," Needham's driver, Specialist Charles Flemming, of Boulder, Colorado (home of *SOF* magazine), remarked to me. "We're not shooting up a village or leading a commando raid. Pretty boring stuff."

"But key to the mission," Needham chimed in. "This is what it's all about. Right here. Getting all sides to comply."

It was now back to Eagle Base in Tuzla. We wanted to find out which unit had replaced the U.S. Army's 325th Airborne Combat Team. It had been pulled out of Bosnia earlier in the week and returned to its home base in Vicenza, Italy, to again be apart of the Southern European Task Force's rapid-reaction team.

During its tour of

Bosnia, the 325th had been assigned dual roles, with some companies pulling guard duty at Eagle Base and others doing recon in the Russian zone, northeast of Tuzla, in the U.S. sector. Now that the 325th was gone, there was quite a discussion going on as to which unit would fill those big jump boots. We encountered what we assumed were "temps."

"I'm actually a French-horn player

in the Army Band," said one sentry who was frisking journalists as they entered Eagle Base. "This other guy is the trombone player. Yes, I know how silly it sounds. Believe me, we've already heard all of the jokes. It doesn't bother me."

Someone perhaps had screwed up, assigning the entire horn section of the band to guard the most important NATO base in the Balkans. We prom-



T-55 rumbles by during Serb withdrawal monitored by American troops in Humvees (left) and watched by Croat soldier (right). God only knows what was going through the mind of Bosnian Serb Army Colonel Istvan Duplinjin when he approved a junior officer's suggestion: Hide an armored battalion — six companies of T-55 tanks and four of BMP-2 infantry fighting vehicles — between rows of civilian houses.



Commander of Bradley fighting vehicle, of Bravo Troop of 3/5th Cavalry, gives instructions to driver during movement outside Observation Post-1 — a makeshift camp at the tail end of Route Pepsi, a minefield-bordered mud sluice that came to a head in front of a heavily shelled Catholic church and its stripped and looted rectory.

ised ourselves that we'd dig further into the matter later. First though, it was time to drink beer — alcohol is denied to U.S. troops — and talk shop with civilian staffers of *The Stars and Stripes* newspaper.

I asked about a rumor concerning Sergeant First Class Donald Dugan, the 1/1st Cavalry scout who died on 3 February while attempting, in violation of standing orders, to disarm an antipersonnel mine. It was rumored the explosion propelled Dugan's Leatherman multipurpose tool right into his forehead.

"That's what we'd also heard," said *Stars and Stripes* writer Vince Crawley. "Poor guy. Not a

nice way to go.”

We nodded agreement and sipped our beers in silence.

Highway Robbery

The Dayton Agreement calls for all three warring factions to guarantee and respect freedom of movement between people from all sides through the three cantons of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Lately, however, each side had reinstated a policy of putting up makeshift checkpoints at key intersections, preventing those they didn't like from entering and, in the case of territory controlled by the Bosnian Serbs, charging journalists a \$15 fee to enter certain areas. We, however, weren't playing along.

Equipped with the latest in “forged emblems and papers,” Kelly and I continued to push our luck by speeding past every Serb, Croat, and Bosnian checkpoint we encountered. “Move it or lose it” became our motto.

We flew by local troops foolish enough to stand in the middle of the road in an attempt to flag us down. It

muttered as he tensed up, preparing for the disintegration of auto glass from a burst of AK-47 fire. Amazingly, none came.

Forty minutes later we approached

nized infantry's SFC Kenneth Schmidt, of New Port Richie, Florida, as he puffed on his favorite pipe in the makeshift quarters he shared with 1st Lieutenant Ingo McLean of



Elsewhere in U.S. sector, a Russian paratrooper at Checkpoint Shark clears snow and ice from his BMP-2 infantry fighting vehicle.



Dayton Agreement is enforced in the U.S. sector of Bosnia by M-1A1 Abrams tanks, such as this one on station near Kladanj, mechanized infantry and artillery backed by on-call Apache helicopters and NATO jet fighters.

was a policy that one day might get us killed, captured, or bitch-slapped with the butt of a Kalashnikov rifle.

“Do you think they were armed?” I asked Kelly as we nearly smashed a Serb military policeman standing in the middle of the road trying to get us to stop.

“God, I certainly hope not,” Kelly

the giant, open-pit fire that marked the first few meters of “Judy Garland Way,” just outside of the “Emerald City” in Odzak. We got out of the Lada and visited some of the troops.

Hounds Of Implementation

“We're the last 3rd Infantry Division in Europe,” said 2/15th mecha-

Zanesfield, Ohio.

“This is Delta Company,” he continued. “We're the ‘Hounds of Implementation’ to our friends and enemies alike.”

Schmidt and the rest of the dogfaces of Delta Company looked tough and ready. We asked for a tour of their little patch of earth — three shell-scarred houses, a gutted gas station, and about 100 meters of front line — formerly occupied by the Bosnian Croatian army.

“There must have been some fierce fighting going on here,” Schmidt said, pointing at what appeared to be the remains of a small, human skeleton. “Look at this, it looks like the femur bone of a child.”

Delta Company had been on station for two weeks without a single incident. But, as Sgt. Leonel Garcia of Harlingen, Texas, said, “It don't mean that we won't rock someone's world if they come looking for trouble here.”

Four Bradleys and an esprit de corps that most units would envy, seemed to ensure that Garcia never would be proven wrong.

Continued on page 81

Reform, Revolution Or Ruin?

As we careen around a corner on the potted, rutted road, the "shotgun" yells out a warning: A gaping crater looms, where the week before a massive mine blast had cost the lives of five civilians unlucky

until a return engagement with U.S. intelligence that I began to follow events in detail.

Those days also saw innumerable dashes down narrow, rutted roads, but the level of conflict remained low.

The Intense Phase Of Asia's Longest War

enough to trigger a guerrilla ambush. Reflexively, the driver swerves hard and our Land-Rover flies through the air — as do I. My spine complains with a loud crack, and I think, "I'm getting entirely too old for this shit!"

We teeter out of control for a moment, then regain the road and roar on. The men in the accompanying escort vehicle pay little heed, as their eyes strain to see if danger lurks in the undergrowth: It does, of course, but not this time. It is to be but another day in one of Asia's longest-running and bloodiest wars. Back at the command post in northeastern Sri Lanka, I throw down my web gear and wonder if my spine will ever be the same.

The same might be wondered of the country's spine. That, after all, is what the insurgents seek to break, with their depredations and ambushes. A few months later, a suicide bomber will take out the entire Central Bank, killing nearly a hundred and wounding close to 1,500. For this day, though, my concern is a small stretch of road.

Terror In The Making

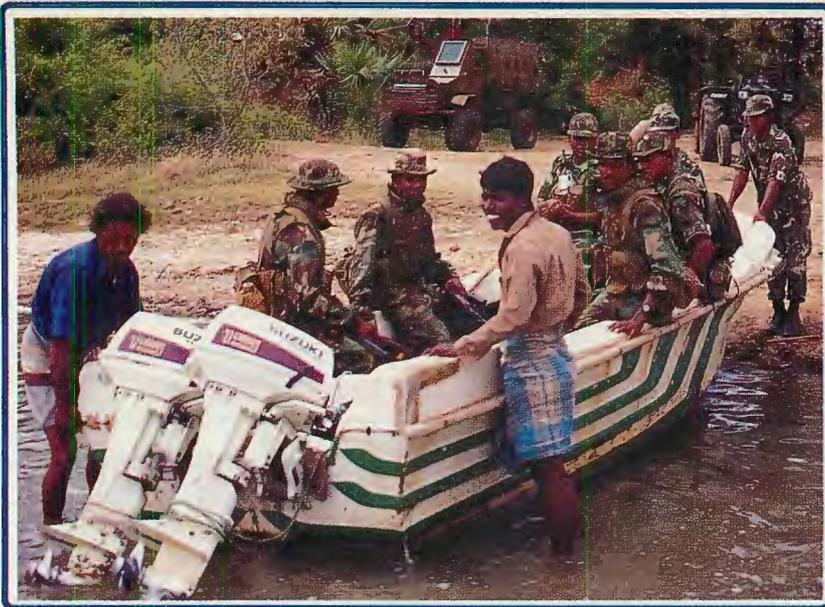
A fine line separates terrorism from forms of violence based upon mass mobilization. The problem for security forces is that, early on, armed challenges to the government's writ appear more or less the same. Hence, systemic response to "terror," normally based upon force, more often than not is inappropriate. Most commonly, abuse of the populace by government forces creates a new dynamic that allows an operationally astute terrorist organization to mobilize additional support.

It is this process that makes the ongoing struggle in Sri Lanka of more than passing interest: It is the process which has taken me back to that unhappy country time and again.

As with so many others who remain active in what has come to be called "security work," I cut my teeth in Southeast Asia. Though familiar with the situation in Sri Lanka, it was not

Ironically, prior to the July 1983 explosion of communal violence which serves as the start point for this war's "intense phase," best evidence indicates the number of Tamils rebels actually engaged in violence amounted to no more than 50-60 hard-core individuals, who traveled





Sri Lankan troops ferry across river to area of operations. In background is South-African Buffalo, one of the most mine-resistant IFVs in the world, widely used by Sri Lankan forces.

freely between India and Sri Lanka. These activists were assisted by a network of informers throughout the north. Violence was limited to the Jaffna area.

July 1983's wholesale assault upon the Tamil populace by enraged Sinhalese mobs (roughly one-fifth being set upon by the other four-fifths), combined with the inability or unwillingness of the security forces to protect them, proved the turning point. What might have remained a terrorist threat exploded into insurgency — and I had a ticket to a tropical isle so gorgeous it was hard to imagine it could be convulsed by war.



Under the cover of an Indian Peacekeeping Force (IPKF), New Delhi intervened in the conflict in summer 1987, but quickly found itself out of its depth: Though it deployed more than 40 infantry battalions, it retired several years later after making no significant inroads against insurgents. (Inset) IPKF suffered some 3,000 casualties, and their intervention allowed dormant JVP insurgency to regain life.

But war did indeed come. In the months that followed, the resistance movement underwent a dramatic expansion in strength and areas of operation. By mid-1984 total numbers of separatists were estimated at 2,500-5,000 personnel, with probably at least half armed and equipped. Today, insurgent strength may go as high as 15,000, with the divided, amateurish resistance having been replaced by the well-trained, disciplined, and armed Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), or "Tigers," a group that professes to be fighting for a Marxist Tamil homeland, or "Tamil Eelam."

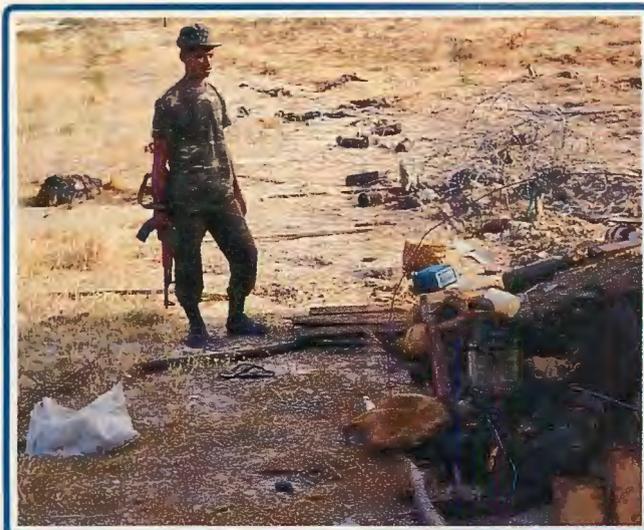
As the country reeled, lurching from approach to approach in its efforts to get a handle on the situation, the voices of those of us advocating "counterinsurgency" were drowned out by others who just wanted the military to get out there and kill folks. We weren't particularly adverse to killing — it simply had to be done properly to avoid making the whole situation worse. Predictably, it never was done properly — and the situation did get oh-so-much worse!

How much different would it all have been had a force and an approach been at hand to deal correctly with developments!

A Government Groping, Stumbling In The Dark

Once nonviolent, political solutions had been swept aside, both the militants and the authorities recognized that, for the moment, the conflict would take the form of a military test of strength. The government reacted by improving coordination and strategic direction through the formation in March 1984 of a Ministry of National Security, headed by Lalith Athulathmudalai. It was in effect a command center for the conduct of a counterinsurgency campaign. Expansion of numbers and

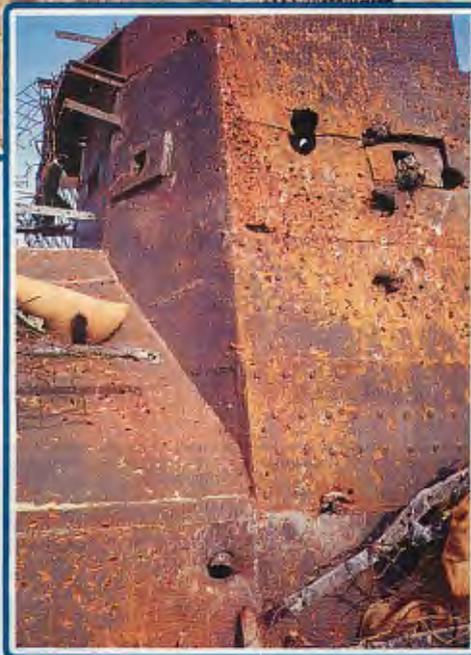




Foreign training and advice — even mercenaries brought in from abroad (mostly Commonwealth passport holders) — made not the slightest difference in the situation on the ground, because there was no vision. Plays were run; drives put together; but no one had a game plan. We just marched up and down the field.

Certainly one of my more ironic encounters was the evening when, alone with the president, he turned sharply in response to a comment I'd made. "We don't have a plan?!"

Armor entered the conflict in bloody 1991 fighting at Elephant Pass camp, which controls access to the Jaffna Peninsula. Insurgents built thick armor over chassis of powerful German-manufactured bulldozers. Three such behemoths, supported by smaller vehicles, penetrated forward lines. Thick frontal armor ricocheted 106mm RR rounds, but the troops remained cool and stopped them with numerous side and flank shots, which penetrated. (Above) Hand to hand fighting left a trail of bodies in wake of armor assault. (Below) Thick, homemade armor absorbed multiple 106RR rounds.



equipment for all of the security forces was undertaken, as were steps to tighten discipline and to halt abuses of the population.

The small size of the Sri Lankan security forces made such steps imperative. Though Athulathmudalai clearly intended to conduct a counterinsurgency in the British mode, with military measures deriving direction from the overall thrust of a political solution, the very size of the emerging separatist armed-threat made forceful military measures inevitable.

Yet, absent substantive movement towards the framing of particulars in a political option, there was a danger that military suppression would become an end unto itself. This is precisely what occurred. Even a police Special Task Force (STF), formed in 1984 specifically for "counterinsurgency," quickly became but another aggressive unit in a general deployment to combat.

Combat being the name of the game, I quickly left my government's service to strike out on my own. This led to an intoxicating mix of advisory work at all levels of the conflict spectrum.

Time and again I would sit with Sri Lankan policy makers and debate the business at hand. Time and again I would spend most of my time in the field, where operations and tactics were generally sound, only to return to the capital of Colombo to find that no one had worked out a strategy to guide us.

he flashed. "No sir," I shook my head. "Why not?" I said all I could: "Don't ask me, you're the president!"

In such a situation, no amount of sound tactics, good weaponry, or tough manpower made the slightest difference.

Every small battle was a victory, but in the meantime we bled.

Friends came and went. In a conflict where even the leaders of both India and Sri Lanka were assassinated by

the Tigers — Rajiv Gandhi of New Delhi in May 1991 (as he launched a comeback campaign), Ranasinghe Premadasa of Colombo in May 1993 — it was predictable that those I worked with one moment were dead the next. Even Lalith Athulathmudalai fell to an assassin, as did the head of the army and a host of subordinate commanders. The result was operational paralysis compounding the drift caused by a lack of strategic guidance.

I remember Lalith the most, simply because dealing with him was the most frustrating. An Oxford-educated lawyer, he was at his best when he was depressed at how badly things were going. At such moments, realistic plans could be drawn up and sane discussions held. When he thought the situation was improving, though, he was as

arrogant and impossible as only a lawyer could be.

One evening he actually asked me to draw up a national plan. As I recall, I was still splattered with blood from some encounter. To make matters worse, I had caught a nasty eye infection which left me daubing puss from half-opened slits.

But I sat up and wrote it. Not too hard when you're starting from ground zero: big strokes for critical zones, priority of effort, assignment of responsibilities. After his death, we found the whole business in his files, rust on the staple.

New Security Force Options

Only with the election of a coalition headed by the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) in August 1994, followed by the November presidential victory of SLFP leader Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga — these ending 17 years of United National Party (UNP) power — was politics allowed to drive the military response to the problem.

A three-month cease-fire, during which Colombo sought to frame a solution acceptable to all parties, ended when the LTTE launched attacks on government forces. These included use of underwater assets to destroy navy ships, as well as introduction of SA-7 surface-to-air missiles into the conflict. The latter were used to down several air force transports, later at least one helicopter. Armor was already in use by both sides. What had begun as a campaign by terrorists had grown to conventional civil war.

In mid-1995, therefore, the government held a series of meetings designed to settle upon a national strategy for ending the conflict. Only outsiders would have been stunned to discover that no such step had hitherto been taken.

These meetings, of which there were at least three primary sessions, did not go well. The government itself, as the discussions progressed, articulated a plan for devolution which came close, in all but name, to abandoning the unitary state in favor of a federal system. It was a long overdue step.



Sri Lanka is predominantly Sinhalese, Buddhist, and Sinhala-speaking. Insurgents are principally Sri Lankan Tamils (the Indian Tamils in the Hill Country have played little role in the conflict), Hindu, and Tamil-speaking — though led by dedicated Marxists.

Yet while all official bodies basically agreed the Tigers would have to be defeated militarily in order for the political solution to be implemented, there was disagreement on the plan of operations.

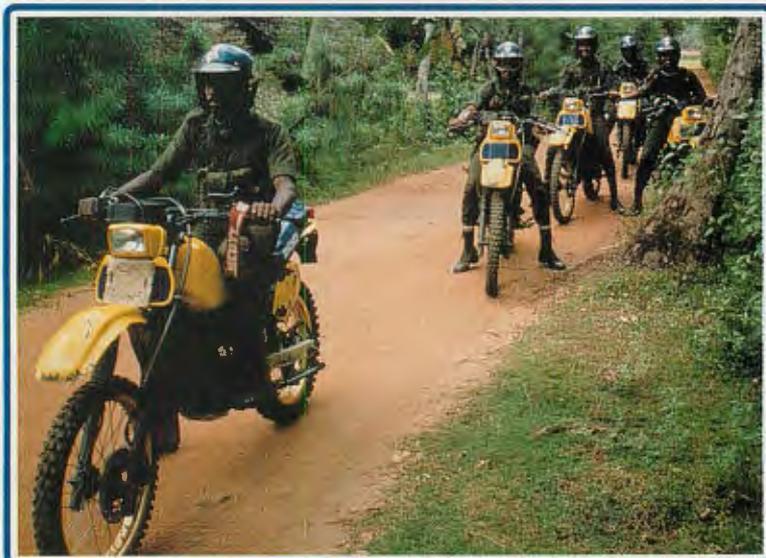
On one side were those who saw no option but to end the LTTE hold on Jaffna, its main base area, by direct assault. Principal advocate of this approach was Anuruddha Ratwatte, a presidential relative and, effectively, minister of defense (he was actually the deputy minister, but the president herself was the minister, so Ratwatte ran the security forces). He was joined by a body of military officers who felt the effort had to be made.

Opposed was an equally distinguished and senior body of officers, both active and retired, who demurred. They cited the considerable success that had been achieved by the systematic domination of areas using force to shield restoration of government control. This approach, they argued, while much slower, would be ever less costly in lives and financial resources.

The former category was obvious, since any assault on Jaffna would involve taking hardened, well-defended positions. The latter point was equally important, though, because by 1995 interest payments to service government debt were of themselves 29.9% of current expenditures, with a figure of close to 48% reached if amortization and interest payments were included under debt service. High-intensity operations, regardless of purely military considerations, were bound to worsen this financial situation.

Such is the "stuff" with which security consultants now must deal. True, there remains a demand for tactical trainers and advisers, as well as technical personnel (Ukrainians could be found in various Colombo watering holes after a hard day's work on various aircraft). Still, it is the "big picture" facets, especially planning, operations and finance that make the world go 'round. My own role was one of providing objective comment.

So heated became



Motorcycle patrol of special forces unit. Sri Lankan SF units were used in classic role of training cadre, to train other cadre within regular army units prior to successful move on Jaffna.

the debate that at least one key commander, Brigadier Janaka Perera of the Reserve Strike Force (RSF), was summarily relieved in consequence of the tone and substance of his objections. He opted to accept a brigade command in the extreme northeast rather than retire.

In all of this, the army commander, Lieutenant General Gerry de Silva — like Perera, a Sandhurst graduate — found himself very much in the middle. His important contribution after assuming command on 1 January 1994, had been to rationalize the command and control structure of a force grown to 76 infantry battalions alone (drawn from three sources — active, reserves, and national guard). With his own staff divided on the merits of a Jaffna assault, he was torn between demands from above that he lead the charge and from below that he back another course of action.

A Proper Role For Special Forces

Perera's arguments were illustrative of the proposed alternatives. He advocated continuing systematic domination of areas while taking the battle directly to the insurgents using special operations.

These were the tactics he had used successfully in the south during the resurgence of a Sinhalese communist group, Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, "People's Liberation Front"). A previous effort by the JVP to seize



AP/Wide World

Tamil rebel suicide bomber destroyed Sri Lanka's central bank last February, gutting several buildings in Colombo, killing 75 and wounding 1,400 (almost all civilians). Such attacks on financial infrastructure take a heavy toll on government already hard pressed to pay for its decade-long war on rebels.

power in 1971 had been bloodily suppressed, but the group had gained new life in the wake of India's July 1987 military intervention in Sri Lanka as a "peacekeeping force."

Portraying itself as the representative of Sri Lankan nationalism, the JVP convulsed the Sinhalese areas of the country before being destroyed. Perera played a crucial role in breaking the JVP by capturing a number of its key personalities, to include its head, Rohana Wijeweera.

As his weapon, Perera made use of a Special Forces Brigade, which grouped together units of the Commandos and Special Forces. These,

like most of Sri Lanka's military forces, had developed in step with the Tamil insurgency.

While the threat was still only terrorism — with attacks including strikes against Colombo's commercial air links — a small commando force had been formed. It had but two squadrons, one devoted to rapid response missions, principally antihijacking, the other to VIP security. As actual hostilities progressed, the Commandos found themselves active in counterinsurgency operations as well.

The shortage of such personnel led to the formation of a separate Special Forces regiment, primarily for jungle operations. Leaving permutations aside, the end result was that both the Commandos and the Special Forces eventually evolved into forces of two battalions each (these with approximately 450 men rather than the standard infantry 600 strength), brought together in a Special Forces Brigade.

During his four-year tenure as Special Forces Brigade commander, Perera expanded its operations into a variety of unconventional areas, including airmobile assault and undercover work. There was even one squadron which used motorcycles in its operations.

When Gerry de Silva formed a Reserve Strike Force in July 1994 as an integral part of his refining of the command structure, Perera was picked to lead it. Under him were not only the four battalions that had been in the Special Forces Brigade but also six infantry battalions, mechanized and airmobile, and three armor battalions. As such it was an elite strike force that could respond in virtually any fashion to a threat anywhere in the theater of operations. It was also the force Perera lost when his blunt assessment of the planned Jaffna operation cost him his job.



Commandos on operations in the far northeastern portion of Sri Lanka use dress and equipment appropriate for the hot, arid conditions of the "Dry Zone" — the eastern and northern portion of the country claimed as Tamil "homeland." This more arid region has well-drained sandy soils, and but one monsoon a year.

Continued on page 70

KOREAN CLONES FOR CONCEALED CARRY

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis



Interest in pocket-size handguns has never been stronger. Within the last year or two a substantial number of states have passed concealed-carry laws resulting in a dramatic increase of attention surrounding handguns that can be wrapped around an ankle or stuffed under an armpit. There are many, but none more successful than the Walther PP (*Polizei Pistole*).

Introduced in 1929 by Carl Walther

Walther PP pistols and licensed or unlicensed clones have been manufactured. By far the largest licensed manufacturer was Manurhin (an acronym for *Manufacture de Machines de Haut-Rhin*) in Mulhouse, France, across the border from Ulm, Germany, where Walther reestablished itself after Zella-Mehlis was absorbed into Soviet-occupied East Germany. They produced PP-series pistols from 1952 until 1987 when Walther began pro-

dustry Ltd. (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 25, Kumjeong, Pusan, Korea): the DP52, chambered for the .22 LR rimfire round, and the DH380, which is chambered for the .380 ACP cartridge. These pistols are used by the South Korean military and special police units. One specimen of each was recently sent to *Soldier Of Fortune* for test and evaluation.

Although larger than the famed PPK (*Polizei Pistole Kriminal*), the



DP52, left, and DH380 are unabashed copies of the famous Walther PP that provide the same standards of reliability at far less cost.

Waffenfabrik of Zella-Mehlis in Thuringia, which is in eastern Germany, it was their tenth pistol design. The previous models were all of the single-action type and the PP borrowed only the disassembly method from the Walther Model 8, a small caliber 6.35mm (.25 ACP) pistol.

During its long production life the Walther PP has been chambered for the 7.65mm (.32 ACP) cartridge — which was by far the most common and popular chambering — 9mm Kurz (.380 ACP), .22 LR and even a few hundred in 6.35mm. It has been estimated that close to one million

producing the PP model in Ulm. Unlicensed copies were made by FEG in Hungary starting in 1948 and in Turkey under the name “Kirrikale” or MKE in 1949. Several other pistols clearly exhibit an obvious influence of the Walther PP, including the Russian Makarov, Spanish Astra Model 5000 Constable and the Bersa series from Argentina.

Kimber of America Inc. (Dept. SOF, 9039 SE Jannsen Road, Clackamas, OR 97015; phone: 503-656-1704, fax: 503-656-5357) is now importing two PP clones made by the Korean firm of Daewoo Precision In-

PP envelope conceals well with a frame that can be gripped correctly without hammer bite (an unpleasant characteristic of both the Walther PPK and TPH). Overall length of both the DP52 and DH380 is 6.7 inches (170 mm) with a barrel length of 3.8 inches (97 mm). The .22 LR barrel has six grooves with a right-hand twist of one turn in 16 inches (406 mm), while that of the .380 ACP version has a twist of one turn in 9.85 inches (250 mm), both conventional for their respective calibers. The bore of our DH380 test specimen was hard-chrome-lined. The height is 4.7 inches

Kramer Shoulder Holster

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 and you don't have to be James Bond to make use of them. Except for extremely hide-ride, strongside holsters, almost nothing will conceal a handgun 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 handgun and extra ammunition over your entire torso. When you have to carry a pistol and a spare magazine all day, this means less fatigue and fewer backaches. While an ankle holster also provides excellent concealment for pocket pistols and small-frame revolvers, drawing from a rig of this type is far more awkward than from a shoulder



Kramer shoulder holster

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).

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.

Kramer's shoulder rig permits the gun to be carried horizontally (which I personally prefer) or with a butt-down slant. The natural-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 small pistols like the DP52 or DH380, I prefer the single magazine pouch as a heavier counter-weight is not required. 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, dark tan or natural undyed horsehide.

— P.G.K.

(120 mm). The finish is dull, non-reflective black oxide. With an empty magazine, the DP52 weighs 23 ounces, while the DH380 is just slightly heavier at 25 ounces.

The design overall is exactly that of the PP series. The mill-finished steel frame has been investment-cast to shape both the front and back straps, unlike the PPK, in which wraparound grip panels form the back strap. The fixture which holds the barrel is integral with the frame casting. The barrel is held in place by a roll pin. The frame extends under the barrel to accept and guide the slide. There is a cut in this frame extension, just in front of the trigger, to permit a projection on top of the front end of the trigger guard to serve as a slide lock. The frame is machined behind the trigger seat to accept the trigger guard's lock spring and plunger, and is drilled to hold the axis pin upon which the trigger guard rotates. The barrel fixture not only supports the barrel, but reinforces the chamber. The feed ramp is an extension of the barrel, not milled into the frame as it is on the Walther pistols. The single-coil recoil spring wraps around the barrel and compresses during recoil as the slide travels rearward. There is a lanyard loop on the heel of the grip frame to the rear of the magazine-well.

The slide, also a mill-finished steel investment casting, holds not only the spring-loaded firing pin, but the manual safety mechanism and spring-loaded extractor as well. Neither the DH380 nor DP52 has a loaded chamber indicator. This feature was precluded on the .22 LR Walther PP only because of the possibility that the spring-loaded rod might accidentally discharge the rimfire cartridge.

The magazine catch/release button has been moved from just below the slide in line with the frame's front strap, downward and directly to the rear of the trigger guard. This is an improvement on the Walther PP and

floorplate with a black plastic follower. There is an indicator slot along the right side of the magazine body. The DH380 magazine holds seven rounds and has seven indicator holes on the right side, a sheet-metal follower and a black plastic finger extension/floorplate.

The checkered, injection-molded black plastic grip panels carry the DPI escutcheon. The left grip panel has a thumb rest that actually assists in obtaining a firm grip on the pistol.

The sights are above average and relatively high-profile for pocket pistols. The integral front sight blade, 3 mm in width, contains a single white

best. Their limited capabilities need to be maximized to whatever extent is possible.

Let's examine the .22 LR rimfire's wound ballistics potential first. Traveling at subsonic velocities, as will most standard and high-velocity rimfire loads when fired through the DP52's 3.8-inch barrel, 36-grain hollow points will expand anywhere from .30 to .35 caliber and will penetrate slightly more than 9 inches of soft tissue. That's not bad, but a minimum of 12 inches of penetration is desirable. Increasing the velocity does little to enhance this bullet's performance. When fired through longer

handgun barrels that increase the velocity by as much as 300 fps, the penetration will increase by only an inch.

In my opinion, 40-grain solid bullets are a better choice in this caliber. Hollow-base, round-nose, .22 LR lead projectiles will penetrate approximately 13.5 inches of soft tissue. These bullets will almost yaw 180 degrees during their passage through tissue, ending their path traveling base forward. Where the bullet yaw is at its maximum, 60 to 120 degrees, the height of the permanent

cavity will increase to one-half inch (the length of the bullet) maximum and crush a wider area of tissue. We need all the help we can get, as this bullet neither mushrooms nor fragments.

Penetration is, without doubt, the most important single parameter in wound ballistics. The bullet must penetrate deeply enough to crush, cut and break through the human body's vital structures and organs. We have the required penetration with 40-grain solids. But let's not forget that the bullet that makes the biggest hole will



Russian Makarov, top left, and Hungarian PA-63/AP-74 series pistols, are clearly derivatives of the Walther PP. All those shown, except the Mod. 74, bottom left, were captured from FMLN terrorists during the November 1989 offensive in El Salvador.

the button is now easier to reach without shifting the firing grip. The magazines drop away freely when the catch/release button is depressed. There is no magazine safety on these pistols and they can be fired without one in place.

Both magazines are of the single-column, detachable box type and are of conventional design. Two are supplied with each pistol. DP52 magazines hold 10 rounds. For maximum reliability with this rimmed case, download to only nine. They have a stamped sheet-metal body and

plastic plug. The open square-notch rear sight, also 3 mm in width, has a white plastic dot on each side of the notch. These plastic inserts can be easily removed for installation of self-luminous tritium night sights. The sight radius is 4.94 inches. There is an incipient rib along the top of the slide with wavy serrations to reduce glare. The rear sight can be drifted in its dovetail in the slide to adjust windage zero.

In terms of wound ballistics potential, both the .22 LR and .380 ACP rounds are marginal performers at

Method Of Operation

The DP52 .22 LR and DH380 .380 ACP pistols operate by means of unlocked blowback — the conventional system for handguns chambered for calibers less powerful than 9mm Parabellum. Gas pressure forces the bullet to move forward and the empty case and slide to recoil rearward simultaneously. As the breech is not locked, the slide's inertia (mainly a consequence of its mass), the recoil spring and the coefficient of friction are all that prevent the backward movement of the empty case and slide from occurring before the gas pressure has dropped to a safe level.

The trigger and hammer mechanisms are somewhat complicated, but have demonstrated themselves over a long period of time to be reliable and mechanically efficient. The external hammer pivots on an axis pin in the frame. It interfaces with a strut in front of the frame's back strap to compress the hammer spring coiled around the lower portion of strut. The trigger, which also pivots on an axis pin in the frame, is attached to a long trigger bar on the right side of the frame. A hook on the end of the trigger bar (which is bent downward at the rear) engages the sear notch when the hammer is cocked. However, if the slide is not fully forward or the trigger has not been released, the hook remains below the sear notch and cannot draw the sear forward to release the hammer.

In the double-action mode, a pull on the trigger when the hammer is down with the



In the double-action mode, a pull on the trigger will draw the trigger bar forward. This rotates the sear forward on its axis pin, causing the hammer-cocking bent to be drawn forward and up, thus raising the automatic safety tumbler out of the hammer's path and rotating the hammer on its axis pin to compress the hammer spring. As the sear slips out of the cocking bent, the hammer falls.

exceptionally light: 10.25 pounds in the double-action mode and a crisp 3.25 pounds in single-action. Trigger pull weights on the DH380 sent to us for test and evaluation were 10 and 3 pounds, respectively. That's excellent.

There are two safety mechanisms. The automatic safety consists of a catch which blocks the hammer at rest from impinging against the firing pin. This catch is lifted by a face on the sear as it rotates by a pull of the trigger bar. The trigger must be deliberately pulled before the sear can raise this catch far enough to clear a cutout in the hammer and permit it to pass over the catch and hit the firing pin. If the hammer slips, the catch remains below the hammer's cutout to block the hammer's fall. When the hammer is fully down, the catch remains in the hammer's pathway at all times.

When the manual safety lever is pushed downward, it rotates the cutaway safety shaft to which it is attached, and moves a steel bolt between the hammer and firing pin. At the same time, the edge of the shaft depresses the sear. This drops the hammer safely on the steel bolt and also locks the sear to prevent all movement of the trigger. If the hammer is cocked when the safety lever is rotated downward, the hammer will drop with total safety. For those not used to a hammer-drop lever, this can be startling. It should, in any event, always be done with the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. If the chamber is loaded, pushing up the safety after the hammer has been

do the most damage. For this reason alone, I would select the DH380 for serious social purposes.

Introduced in 1908 by the Colt's Patent Fire Arms Mfg. Co. for a modified version of their 1903 Pocket Automatic Pistol, the .380 ACP cartridge has always been more popular in the United States than the .32 ACP round, which traditionally predominated the field of European pocket pistols. The standard 95-grain Full Metal Jacket (FMJ) roundnose bullet should be avoided as it does not expand and penetrates little more than hollow points in this caliber. There is now a fairly wide range of hollow point ammunition available. Most weigh 90 grains, although Remington has recently announced a Golden Saber Brass Jacket Hollow Point (BJHP) weighing 102 grains and traveling about 925 fps out of most pocket pistol barrels. It overexpands to .60 caliber and thus will penetrate only 9.5 inches of soft tissue. If you like "magic bullets," Federal can provide you with their "Premium" load featuring a 90-grain Hydra-Shok bullet with a post in the center of the cavity that is supposed to direct mysterious "hydraulic forces" against the cavity wall to ensure expansion. It doesn't work, as expansion remains the same when the post is removed. CCI Blazer, PMC Starfire and Winchester SXT also market hollow point ammunition in .380 ACP. Velocities for all of these loads vary from about 885 to 945 fps.

However, in my opinion, the best choice is the new Black Hills (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 3090, Rapid City, SD 57709;

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phone: 605-348-5150 — call for the location of your nearest dealer. If there is none, Black Hills will ship to you at retail) 90-grain JHP load which uses the superb Hornady XTP bullet traveling at about 1,025 fps. This bullet will expand to about .51 caliber and penetrate up to 12 inches. As fast as it is, this load only develops a chamber pressure of approximately 17,740 psi (the SAAMI standard for this cartridge is 21,500 psi). Remember, the .380 ACP round is right on the edge of acceptable performance and bullet placement is especially critical in this caliber.

Both the DP52 and DH380 operated reliably with a wide assortment of ammunition during *SOF's* test and evaluation. Avoid low-velocity .22 LR target ammunition as it does not provide sufficient recoil impulse for the DP52. All blowback-operated pocket pistols, regardless of caliber, must be fired with a strong grip. "Limp-wristing" pistols of this type will permit the frame to recoil rearward with the slide and shorten the slide's rearward stroke relative to the frame, often preventing complete ejection of the empty case. The result is inevitably a "stove pipe."

The accuracy potential of both pistols is more than adequate for the purposes intended. At 7 yards, firing offhand from the Weaver po-

sition, they will print into little more than a inch. Both will shoot into 2 inches when fired from a bench at 25 yards.

These are well-made, reliable pocket pistols at extremely attractive prices. The Walther PP is still in production and imported by Interarms. If you must have the

Walther logo emblazoned on the slide, it will set you back \$1,206. You can have three Daewoo pistols for that amount of money. The DP52 complete with two magazines and a locking plastic storage box carries a suggested retail price of only \$380. At \$410, the DH380 is only \$30 more. ✕

DP52/DH380 Specifications

- Caliber:** DP52 — .22 LR; DH380 — .380 ACP (9mm Kurz).
Operation: Unlocked blowback with fixed barrel, semiautomatic, double-action trigger mechanism with single-action operation after the first shot has been fired, slide-mounted safety mechanism drops hammer, moves a bolt between the hammer and firing pin and blocks the sears to prevent movement of the trigger, an automatic safety prevents firing unless the trigger is deliberately pulled.
- Weight, empty, with magazine:** DP52 — 23 ounces; DH380 — 25 ounces.
Length, overall: 6.7 inches (170 mm).
Height: 4.7 inches (120 mm).
Barrel: Six grooves with right-hand twist. DP52: twist of one turn in 16 inches (406 mm); DH380: twist of one turn in 9.85 inches (250 mm). DH380 bore is hard-chrome-lined.
- Barrel length:** 3.8 inches (97 mm).
Feed mechanism: Single-column, detachable box-type magazine;
Capacities: DP52 — 10 rounds, DH380 — 7 rounds.
Sights: Integral front sight blade, 3 mm in width, contains a single white plastic plug; open square-notch rear sight, also 3 mm in width, has a white plastic dot on each side of the notch. The sight radius is 4.94 inches. The rear sight can be drifted in its dovetail in the slide to adjust windage zero.
- Finish:** Dull, non-reflective black oxide.
Price: DP52, complete with two magazines and a locking plastic storage box: \$380; DH380: \$410.
Manufacturer: Daewoo Precision Industries Ltd., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 25, Kumjeong, Pusan, Korea.
Distributor: Kimber of America Inc., Dept. SOF, 9039 SE Jannsen Road, Clackamas, OR 97015; phone: 503-656-1704; fax: 503-656-5357.
T&E summary: Well-made, reliable pocket pistols at extremely attractive prices.

Disassembly Procedures

Pistols in this series are easy to field strip. Remove the magazine and rack the slide to remove any round in the chamber. Pull down on the front end of the trigger guard to drop the slide lock away from the slide. Draw the slide backward with a lifting motion until the rails at the rear end clear the frame's guide channels. Ease the slide forward and off the barrel. Pull the recoil spring off the barrel. Remove the grip panels to expose the lockwork. Disassemble the magazine by pushing the sheet-metal plate at the end of the follower spring upward and sliding off the floorplate. After cleaning and lubrication, reassemble in the reverse order.

— P.G.K.



DP52, field stripped.

SEALS SINK AND SWIM

UDT Minisubs Recon Vietnam Coast

Text & Photos by Steven L. Waterman

Before the Vietnam War, the use of tiny, open-cockpit submarines known as swimmer-delivery vehicles (SDVs) in U.S. Navy special-warfare units generally was limited to training and testing off America's east and west coasts. With the steadily increasing deployments of SpecOps units to Vietnam, however, the operational budgets for SEa, Air and Land teams and Underwater Demolition Teams (UDTs) grew. This allowed expanded use and development of SDVs. But it

was not glamorous work.

Unlike the entertainment media's usual take on U.S. "frogmen" and SEALs — big, bad-ass, cigar-smoking, womanizing hunks of manhood, decked out with state-of-the-art gear — the average sailor in Vietnam-era UDTs was an ordinary man who had overcome extraordinary challenges. The only thing that made him stand out from "Joe Sailor" was that he'd completed some of the toughest and most dangerous training the U.S. military had to offer. In becoming a frog-

man, he first had to learn how to survive in the water.

A mistake or equipment malfunction at a depth of 100 feet could kill a man long before he ever saw the enemy. The frogman had to have good gear and good support; military-intelligence data that was timely, reliable and accurate; and commanding officers who would back him up when the going got tough. His equipment was, at best, new, and at worst, poorly designed. This usually was not a case of designer's incompetence, but just



SDV driver "Jake" Jakubowski of UDT-13 takes a break after training dive. Frogmen wore full wet suits during actual missions to ward off hypothermia.

a fact of life when dealing with the unknown. In many cases, personal equipment malfunctioned for stupid reasons, like not placing the knobs or handles where a man could reach them while wearing bulky mitts or gloves, or putting gauges where they would be difficult to read.

Even during the Vietnam War, the Navy's support of SDV operations was usually on a shoestring. The submarine used for the SDV operations while I was in Vietnam, the *USS Tunny* (LPSS-282), was just one acetylene bottle away from the scrap yard.

She was an old fleet sub that had been converted to firing the Regulus missile. In the old days, the sub would surface, the crew rolled a missile out from a large, steel hangar along tracks onto the aft deck and set it up for launch. The Regulus's design was based on Nazi Germany's V-1 "buzz bomb," but was never used in combat; arms developments quickly made it obsolete. In January 1969, the *Tunny* was converted to an "LPSS" (amphibious transport submarine). Her purpose now was to support UDT operations and transport special-operations teams.

Underwater Recon

The men of the *Tunny* and the UDTs that operated from her performed an important job in Asian waters that few outsiders even knew existed: Under cover of the South China Sea, an SDV slipped in to within a few hundred yards of a beach. Two or three "frogs" disembarked and swam closer to recon the hydrography of the beach; the swimmers returned to the SDV, which returned,



A member of UDT-21 surfaces in 1973 off Puerto Rico in an SDV (a Convair-14). SDV's 24-volt motor was powered by a series of batteries, good for several hours. Underwater, the SDV had a speed of about 4 knots. It could carry four men with individual SCUBA gear; during movement, they used "boat air" from eight SCUBA tanks mounted inside. Vehicle's two ballast tanks, amidships, enabled driver to attain neutral buoyancy and ascend or descend.

undetected, to its mother ship.

This might sound easy to the layman. However, the proliferation of dangerous marine life, combined with the fact that even the "good guys" didn't know these UDT men were

there — the SDV missions were secret — added to the difficulty of performing up to standards the UDTs had set.

During a recon, the driver would set the SDV on the bottom in about



During SDV training mission, UDT swimmer heads to the surface after breathing "boat air."

30 feet of water; the other “frogs” would swim toward the beach on a compass heading. They’d be attached to the SDV by a heavy fishing line wound on a huge reel. The SDV driver would just let it reel out as they swam toward the beach, then reel the two in as they started back. That was about the only part of the operation that was nearly free from Murphy’s Law.

During a hydrographic recon, one of the swimmers carried a little Plexiglas tube containing a clock mechanism. One end was closed off with a heavy latex seal. As the depth changed, this rubber end would respond to the pressure change by being pushed in or out. A stylus connected to the rubber marked a roll of paper. The paper moved at a known rate, so it acted as a clock. The stylus made a black line on the paper that was representative of the gradient of the ocean bottom. All the cartographers had to know was how deep the thing was when the swimmer turned it on, and they could extrapolate the depths from there. In spite of it being a primitive piece of

gear, it worked quite well.

Combat was not part of this job. SDV operators were not equipped to fight, but they usually stashed a couple of .45-caliber M3A1 submachine guns in the SDV. Although disliked by U.S. soldiers, these clunky “grease guns” withstood the ravages of salt water and were not particularly intricate. Use of any weapons would have meant that the mission, as assigned, was compromised; the weapons would be used simply as a last ditch defense if they had to surface the SDV under “less than ideal conditions.”

Stealth was the watchword, but it was not always achieved.

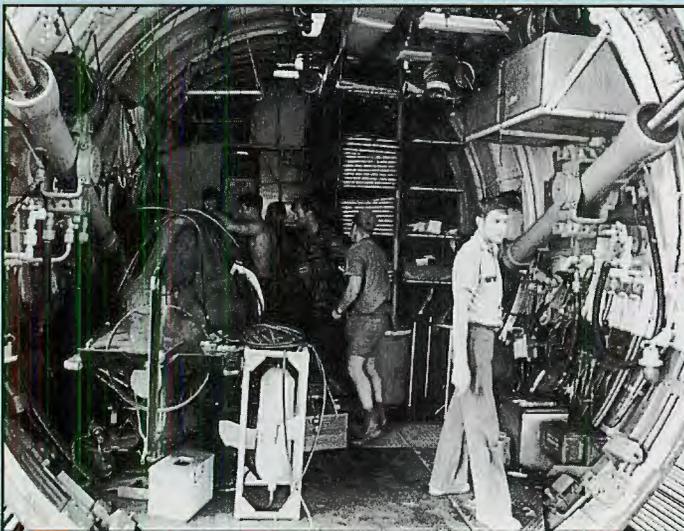
Fishing For “Frogs”

On one operation from the *Tunny*, UDT Lieutenant j.g. George Green sent out an SDV for a beach recon. As the SDV neared the shore, a South Vietnamese fisherman spotted the bubbles from the frogmen’s open-circuit SCUBA gear and assumed the Viet Cong were swimming in to attack his village. The fisherman had

no weapons, so he threw his nets over the offending swimmers and tried to drag them to the surface. The two startled frogs had to draw their knives and cut their way out of the net.

The fisherman paddled back to shore to sound the alarm. The UDT swimmers hastily returned to the SDV. Their driver pointed the tiny sub back to the *Tunny*, which was sitting on the bottom in relatively shallow water.

By now the fisherman had found a receptive ear to his plight: the Navy coxswain of a 50-foot “Swift” boat tied near the village. The skipper of



Working in submarine *Tunny*’s hangar, which also doubles as their quarters, UDT members prepare their Convair Mark-7 SDV for recon mission.



U.S. Naval Institute

Submarine *USS Tunny* leaves the Mare Island Naval Shipyard in April 1953. Large cylinder on the rear deck houses a Regulus surface-to-surface missile. In 1969 the *Tunny* would support SpecOps missions off Vietnam; hangar housed UDT swimmers and swimmer-delivery vehicle.



SDV surfaces during 1973 training mission as sailors on a patrol craft (right) watch. During Vietnam War, SDV crews performing secret beach recons occasionally risked attack by friendly forces thinking they had seen "Viet Cong frogmen."

the armed patrol craft knew about the UDT op — but had not bothered to tell the crew. Unfortunately, the skipper also was absent from his boat, having gone ashore for "recreation." The coxswain, a young enlisted man, took charge. The Swift, minus its officer, pushed off in pursuit of the "Viet Cong frogmen."

By this time the SDV had returned to the deck of the *Tunny* and was secured. Two frogs already were back inside the *Tunny*; the other two had just "locked in" the escape trunk, located above the forward torpedo room. Unknown to the submariners, a steady stream of bubbles rose from a bad seal on a valve on the *Tunny*'s escape trunk.

Topside, one of the crewmen of the Swift spotted the bubbles. He

dropped a concussion grenade that exploded right above the *Tunny*'s escape trunk.

Having supervised his men's "lock in" re-entry, Lt. Green was still standing on the ladder leading down from the trunk when the grenade detonated. The echo had not even subsided when the *Tunny*'s skipper ordered "Emergency surface!" The big boat rose in a boil of compressed air, surfacing right beside the little aluminum Swift.

Tunny crewmen recalled that the coxswain's eyes were almost the size of saucers. The Swift boat's absent skipper probably never made admiral.

First Op With UDT-13

I'd read a lot about submarines and seen them in movies on World War II, but until I served with UDT-13 in Vietnam I'd never been aboard one. As a parachute- and diving-qualified photographer's mate assigned to UDT-13, my job was to document UDT operations.

After arriving on the *Tunny* in May 1969, I was led along a circuitous route to the "UDT bunk room": the airtight steel hangar, attached to the aft deck, that once had housed a mis-

sile. I had to go down a hatch in the

opened the big door to our "home." The *Tunny* pointed her bow to sea, and we headed out of Da Nang Bay. That night we steamed toward our area of operation. The conventional sub (as opposed to nuclear powered), really was just a submersible ship; it was more at home on the surface. We made our way offshore and, after dark, started creeping shoreward toward our objective. We rolled the SDV onto the aft deck and secured it.

At about 0300 the sub dived. I was sleeping in my bunk up in the hangar and the Klaxon horn blew, *ah-oogah, ah-oogah*, followed by the command, "Dive, dive!"

I could hear the rumble of the diesel engines drop out quickly. The sub's main induction valve closed and my ears popped a little. In a few short moments the water was sloshing up under the hangar and then beside and over it. The gurgling passed by the steel side of the hangar. All became quiet as the sub completely submerged. It was an eerie feeling to hear that sound and feel the slight downward angle of the boat as she slipped quietly beneath the South China Sea.

We needed to conduct SDV operations during daylight hours, but had to be in place to launch the mini-sub before the sun came up. The skipper ran the *Tunny* toward shore until we were at a depth of about 90 feet, less than 2 miles offshore. I felt a slight jarring as we bounced along the bottom and finally came to rest on the seabed. The submarine's crew secured the electric motors and went to other tasks. By now the UDT men had crawled out of their racks and had their SCUBA gear ready for the day's work.

On this particular day, our ace SDV driver, Quartermaster 2nd Class Bill "Jake"

Jakubowski, was at the controls. Seamen Bill Shearer and Steve Abney were the swimmers in the back seat.



UDT-21 Petty Officer Putnam uses soapy water to check for leaks in his team's SCUBA regulators prior to 1973 dive. Solution bubbles over an air leak. A malfunctioning breathing regulator could injure or kill a frogman.

deck, through the control room and up through a hatch in the crew's mess. The hangar was a big cylinder with a huge, hydraulically operated door on the aft. Two large hydraulic rams

Continued on page 68

"A Plot Right Out Of Soldier Of Fortune"



Charles M. (Chuck) Byers with Accuracy Systems' prototype multi-shot grenade launcher.

Byers: A Windmill For Quixotean Cops

Much of this story is presented by SOF at face value, as relayed to our investigative reporter by Charles M. Byers.

Documents and records that could corroborate this story have been checked and selected ones are included herein.

Many aspects of this story could not be verified, and they are presented with the caveat that they are

**Text & Photos by
Richard Sherrow**

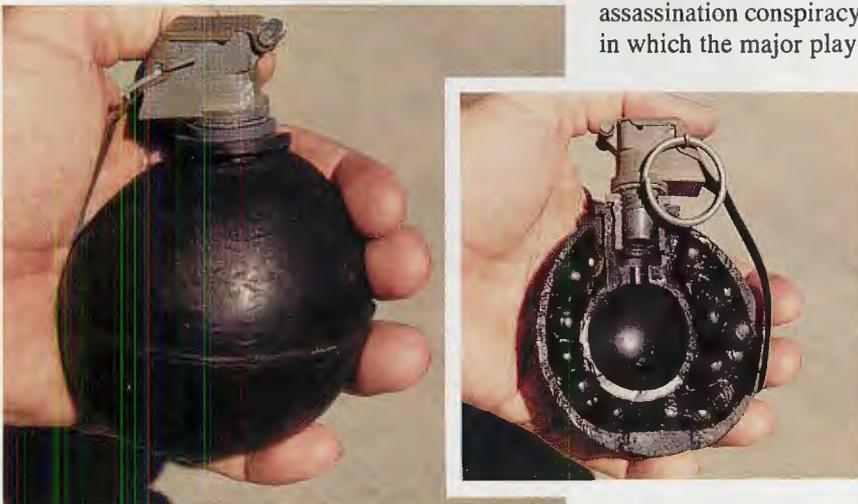
possibly only one facet of a multi-faceted situation.

"A Plot Right Out Of Soldier Of Fortune," said the front page story in the 20 November 1990 *San Francisco Examiner*. It wove a tale of an international assassination conspiracy, in which the major play-

ers were linked to the CIA, Navy SEALs and even Ollie North's Iran-Contra affair. Before the saga had ended, security forces in three countries would find themselves damning each other's bumbling ways and, in one case, paying nearly \$50,000 in recompense to a wrongly accused former police officer.

As wild and twisted as the *Examiner* story was, it only scratched the surface. Sensing that there was more to this tale of spooks, sleuths and spoofs, *Soldier Of Fortune* began to dig deeper. What has begun to emerge is a truly bizarre mixture of botched federal and local raids, bogus search warrants, rogue Navy SEALs and CIA operatives ... and murder. Plus one guy left holding the bag.

At the center of this bizarre story, and left holding the bag, is one Charles M. (Chuck) Byers. This Arizona-based inventor and manufacturer of exotic ordnance and munitions was well-known to police SWAT personnel and military SpecOps troops around the world. His name and services were also familiar in the dark alleys and musty back rooms frequented by the shadowy spooks of



Accuracy System's riot control "Sting-Ball" grenade, made for law enforcement and military use. (Inset) Internal view.

the intelligence community.

In 1974 Byers founded Accuracy Systems Inc. (ASI). Manufacturing specialty munitions for law enforcement and the military, Byers' Arizona-based company was soon supplying customers worldwide with a variety of unique ordnance. When cops needed stun grenades or specialized shotgun shells, they had only to call on Chuck. If Navy SEAL teams had a yen for golf-ball size frag grenades, mini-claymore mines or a pocket platter charge, they, too, had Byers' number. Likewise, when the CIA's shadow warriors wanted non-traceable propaganda rockets or a James Bond-style incendiary packet, it was just a phone call away.

With an honest smile and a solid handshake, he was a fast-growing fix-



Stun grenades manufactured by Accuracy Systems.

ture in the world of specialized explosives, SWAT teams and ninja warriors. Upon receiving an Army ROTC commission, he completed airborne and Ranger training and was assigned as a platoon leader to the 9th Mechanized Infantry in Alaska. After his military service Byers worked as an ammunition engineer for both Winchester-Western and Remington Arms before founding Accuracy Systems.

Byers was very naive when it came to recognizing what can happen when the good guys become the bad guys. This trusting nature placed him in the middle of a witch-hunt by



Even before the fire was out, controversy and suspicion began swirling around the Gander crash of the Arrow flight that claimed 250 members of the 101st Airborne. Mini-explosive/incendiary signaling device made exclusively for an "intelligence agency" (Inset) was the device Los Angeles Police Department Bomb Squad detective Arleigh McCree told Byers was responsible for recent "big" plane crash (believed to be Arrow Air/Gander crash) — shortly before McCree and his partner were killed.

several federal government agencies, that ultimately led to his being sent to federal prison on trumped-up charges. His business, and very nearly his life, were destroyed in the process.

In 1981 Byers met John Burton Mason, a chief petty officer on SEAL Team 6. Mason, acting as a Navy contract representative, engaged Accuracy Systems to manufacture a special self-cocking hand grenade for use by the SEAL teams. However, because this new grenade fuze, would require special and expensive tooling, ASI needed up-front money to begin the contract. Court documents obtained by *SOF* show these funds were raised when Mason brought former Navy commander Steven Ramos into the picture. Ramos was to provide the money through his Virginia-based RAMCO Company. At the same time Mason, still on active duty, and his SEAL Team 6 boss, Captain Richard Marcinko (see "Pogue Warrior," *SOF*, March '94), formed their own private arms/security company, Research Armament Munitions Co. (also called RAMCO). Mason, the calculating con-artist, was soon wheeling and dealing with hun-

dreds of thousands of dollars of other people's money as well as pulling-off multiple acts of travel fraud against the government.

In the meantime, seeing that the government grenade contract could not be completed in full, Byers attempted to pay back nearly \$200,000 in advance funds to sub-contractor Ramos' company, RAMCO. On in-



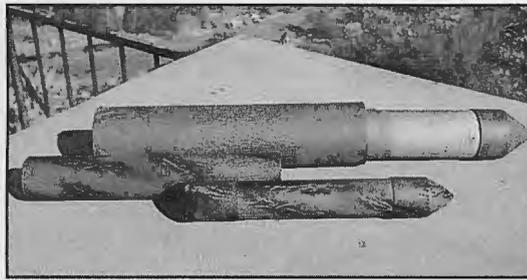
Mini-incendiary device made for an "intelligence agency."

structions from Mason, the gullible Byers made out his check to RAMCO. However, instead of returning the funds to Ramos' RAMCO, Mason deposited the check into the Mason/Marcinko RAMCO account. By this time the Naval Investigative Service

was on to Mason for travel fraud and theft of government equipment (diving gear), and, in turn, stumbled onto the grenade contract caper.

John Mason was arrested and convicted on fraud and theft charges. With his back to the wall and desperate to keep his larcenous backside out of the slammer, Mason scrambled to cut a deal with federal prosecutors. In turn for leniency, he agreed to dance to whatever tune government lawyers played. In two well-scripted trials, Mason testified that Byers and Marcinko masterminded a conspiracy to defraud the government. For his testimony, Mason escaped jail while Byers and Marcinko, who had never met nor even spoken to each other, were sentenced to federal prison on conspiracy charges.

In his book, *Rogue Warrior*, Marcinko maintains he was set



Covert use non-traceable propaganda rockets made for the "intelligence agency."

to bear out his claims. Before the 1989 trial, Byers said Mason told him he was being forced by the feds to lie in his testimony against Byers and Marcinko. In a sworn 1992 affidavit obtained by *SOF*, an investigator stated that during an interview Mason told him that he (Mason) had been forced by federal prosecutors to give perjured testimony in order to save himself from jail.

Interestingly, just this past year John

Mason was arrested in New Mexico while transporting *several tons of cocaine*. When the case got to federal court in Houston, the charges were reduced to possession of *seven pounds* of coke. So far the feds aren't talking.

Another strange chapter in the Byers saga may have begun aboard the military charter flight bringing 248 members of the Army's 101st Airborne Division back to CONUS from duty in the Sinai. On 11 December 1985 Arrow Air flight 950JW took off from Cairo International Airport en route to its first refueling stop in Cologne, West Germany. The flight then winged its way over the North Atlantic to a second fuel stop at Gander, Newfoundland. At 0645 hours (Gander time) 12 December, Flight 950JW lifted-off, bound for the final leg of its flight to Ft. Campbell, Kentucky ... a minute later the

COPY

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Australian Govern

91023172JM:MTM
92011161
20 August 1993

Messrs A.J. Macken & Co
Solicitors and Attorneys
11th Floor
53 Queen Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

RECEIVED
25 AUG 1993

Dear Sirs

AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE ATS BERTRAM & LINDNER

Please find enclosed our cheque in the sum of \$47,500.00 being settlements monies for Bruce Bertram (\$32,500.00) and Bernadette Lindner (\$15,000.00).

I will discuss the matter of legal costs with you in the near future.

Yours sincerely

Janette Mac

Ms Jacqueline Moore
Solicitor
for the Australian Government Solicitor

Telephone: 2461237
Facsimile: 2461271

On June 7, 1989, U.S. Authorities obtained and executed four simultaneous search warrants; three on properties belonging to BYERS and BARRKMAN. None of the evidence seized or interviews conducted appeared to corroborate the CI's allegations. By letter dated August 6, 1991, to the RAC Phoenix, Assistant United States Attorney Mark Aspey, Phoenix, Arizona, advised that there was insufficient evidence to prosecute BYERS and BARRKMAN for neutrality violations. AUSA ASPEY also concluded that the confidential informant may have manufactured the entire incident. Group Supervisor Gary Pinkava and Senior Special Agent O'Neill also felt that the CI may have fabricated this entire scheme.

I A S E N S I T I V E

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As to Taylor

On May 30, 1989 an explosion at Accuracy Systems, Inc. in Maricopa County, Arizona killed one person and injured two others. Accuracy Systems is a manufacturer of stun-grenades used by police agencies throughout the country. They hold an explosives manufacturers license. They have been the subject of continuous ATF interest for some time by both Compliance and Law Enforcement. The individual who was killed was in the process of moving a box of finished products from a table when the explosion occurred.

On June 5, 1989, based on information obtained during the investigation of the accidental explosion at Accuracy Systems, Inc., ATF obtained a search warrant for the premises.

During the search, 13 quart containers of arsenic trichloride and several cans of lead azide were discovered by Explosives Enforcement Officer Jerry Taylor. Taylor evacuated the building and called for a professional disposal company to remove these chemical as they highly lethal and used in germ warfare. The chemicals was safely removed and the search continued. Approximately 2,700 pounds of explosives and chemical were seized and destroyed due to their hazardous condition.

Letter from Australian Government Attorney General's office to attorneys for Bruce Bertram, which accompanied settlement check for \$47,500 resulting from false actions by Australian Federal Police, based on fabricated evidence of U.S. Customs snitch Jeff Davis.

up by Navy officials who had been determined for years to keelhaul him. Through it all Byers maintained his innocence and shared numerous documents and records with *SOF* that seem

Extract from citation narrative for ATF Explosives Enforcement Officer Jerry Taylor, in which ATF admits that contrary to what the ATF search warrant claimed, Byers *did* in fact have a valid explosives manufacturing license. The citation also corroborates that Taylor made false claims that chemicals used for "germ warfare" were seized.

U.S. Customs Internal Affairs document acknowledging that agents knew their confidential informant, Jeff Davis, had fabricated the Aquino "assassination plot."

DC-8 slammed into the snow-covered Canadian countryside in a fiery explosion, killing all aboard.

What followed has been clouded in mystery and speculation to this day.

The Islamic Jihad claimed credit for placing a bomb on the plane. Canadian officials refused to investigate that possibility, instead claiming the crash was caused by ice on the wings. After recovery of the bodies, U.S. Army Major General John S. Crosby pushed for an immediate bulldozing of the crash site. In speaking with *Soldier Of Fortune*,



Mini-fragmentation grenade made for military SpecOps teams and an "intelligence agency." (Inset) Internal view.

Dr. Les Filotas, a member of the Canadian Aviation Safety Board (CASB) who investigated the crash, said that the overt lack of interest into the disaster shown by the American government, and especially the FBI, was

touring the facility, McCree picked up a device and excitedly asked Byers what it was. After being told that it was a special-purpose explosive/incendiary signaling device made for "a government intelligence agency,"

Byers said that McCree, who had investigated the Marine barracks bombing in Beirut in 1983, told him that this type may have been responsible for an aircraft crash they had been investigating.

On 27 January, I was attending the Tactical Response Association convention in Las Vegas when Arleigh McCree pulled me aside and asked several questions concerning explosions aboard aircraft. When I asked Arleigh what kind of craft he was talking about, he paused and said, "I can't tell

you, but ... it was big." Less than a week after we left Las Vegas, McCree and his partner Ron Ball were killed in a North Hollywood garage by the explosion of what was alleged to be a booby-trapped pipe bomb. At the

memorial service, as a lone bagpiper played out the haunting strains of *Amazing Grace*, bomb techs from around the country gathered in small clusters and in hushed tones all wondered what had gone wrong.

Interestingly, in the months that followed, the official version of the bomb's construction and functioning changed at least three times. Were these events simply a series of coincidences? Or, as Byers and others have become convinced, were they all interconnected with what has ultimately happened to him?

In late 1988, Charlene Griffis, a contracting representative for the Central Intelligence Agency, visited the offices of Accuracy Systems on a routine inspection of security files. As she was preparing to leave, she



Mini-limpet mine with chemical delay-pencil initiator, made for military SpecOps teams and an "intelligence agency."

remarkable — almost as remarkable as the clear evidence that there had been an onboard fire and/or explosion before the plane impacted the ground. Eventually, the "ice on the wings" theory collapsed. Not so the enigma surrounding the downing of Arrow Air 950JW.

Three weeks after the Gander crash, Detective Arleigh McCree, head of the Los Angeles Police Department bomb squad, was visiting the Accuracy Systems offices. Byers told *SOF* that while



Mini-claymore mine made for military SpecOps teams and an "intelligence agency." (Inset) Internal view.



Mini-platter charge made for military SpecOps teams and an "intelligence agency."

requested that she be given all of the files that pertained to ASI's dealings with the CIA. The reason for this strange request was so that she could "have them all cleaned up and placed in official filing jackets." Needless to say, that was the last time the files were seen.

In December 1994, Byers wrote to CIA Director R. James Woolsey requesting the files be returned to ASI, or at the very least, that the signed secrecy agreements be returned so that it would be possible to know what could and couldn't be discussed in the future. In February 1995, Byers received a letter from CIA headquarters advising him that "... a properly executed secrecy or non-disclosure agreement between the

Continued on page 74

SALVO SPECOPS: A

A photograph showing three members of a Salvadoran Special Forces team in a field exercise. They are wearing desert BDU uniforms and are positioned in a line, partially obscured by green foliage. The soldier in the foreground is holding an M16 rifle. The soldier in the middle is holding an M79 grenade launcher. The soldier in the background is also holding a rifle. The scene is set in a field with tall grass and various plants.

Salvadoran Special Forces team, in field exercise, forms secure perimeter upon halt while patrolling with M79 grenade launchers, M16 rifles and M249 SAWs. Elite units favor U.S.-made desert BDUs — the Desert Storm "chocolate-chip" uniform — for ops along beaches and during dry season when hillsides are parched and brown. Otherwise, woodland-pattern cammies are used.

The tiny, Central American country of El Salvador was one of the last major, proxy battlefields of the Cold War. It often virtually monopolized international headlines during the 1980s. But since the Salvadoran government and leftist guerrillas signed a peace agreement in January 1992, El Salvador has mostly disappeared from world news.

It's almost as if its cataclysmic, 12-year civil war that claimed as many as 80,000 lives, according to some reports, is ancient history.

But 36-year-old Ernesto Bermudez hasn't forgotten the war. The dark,

lanky, honorably discharged private of the Salvadoran Army is reminded of it every time he attaches a rickety prosthesis to the stump of what little remains of his right leg.

A guerrilla's bullet had shattered his thigh bone and eventually resulted in his leg's amputation. But that didn't destroy Bermudez's spirit. He founded a tiny plaque-and-engraving factory that has grown to employ seven crippled ex-soldiers.

The story of Ernesto Bermudez is one of inspiration and hope, of overcoming great obstacles. But beyond that, his story can be seen as a meta-

phor for what has happened to the Salvadoran armed forces: A military force, tried and tested in combat, is dismembered in peace and has to use its resourcefulness to undertake new missions in a new and changing world.

In exchange for the complete demobilization of the *FMLN* guerrillas, the Salvadoran government agreed to political, judicial, social, economic and military reforms. Perhaps of all of these, the restructuring of the armed forces has made the greatest strides, and the Salvadorans have done it mostly on their own. Gone

SCENES OF A BRUSHFIRE WAR

Text & Photos by Steve Salisbury



are the contingents of U.S. military advisers and the annual \$100-million infusions of U.S. military aid.

Fulfilling the peace accords, the Salvadoran armed forces dismissed more than 100 officers who had been judged human-rights offenders by United Nations-sponsored commissions. The military eliminated its five elite, immediate-reaction battalions as well as the National Guard and Treasury police (both often condemned for abuses).

Moreover, the military, forced by budget restraints, has surpassed its treaty obligation of halving its 63,000-

member force, reducing it to about 20,000, according to figures provided exclusively to *Soldier Of Fortune* by the Ministry of Defense.

The extent and pace of this downsizing hasn't been painless. Thousands of retired soldiers and ex-guerrillas have had trouble incorporating themselves into a civilian economy where, according to official figures, in 1995 at least a third of the work force was unemployed or underemployed and inflation was more than 11.4 percent. Many ex-combatants of both sides have taken to the streets to protest unfulfilled

government promises to assist them. Some even have rioted and occupied government buildings.

In fact, ex-combatants have become part of El Salvador's skyrocketing crime surge in which citizens are terrorized by thugs armed with assault rifles, grenades and LAW rockets.

Perhaps more significant than the military's reduced size are its new missions. Defending national sovereignty always has been the primary reason for the armed forces' existence. But now, as Defense Minister (General) Humberto Corado Figueroa

stated before his recent retirement, the military has to play a greater role in environmental conservation, national development, antidrug efforts, international peacekeeping missions, civic action and in fighting social violence.

Fighting social violence has so far proven the most controversial. In accordance with a new constitution that clearly subordinates the military to democratically elected civilian authorities and separates it from common police functions, only in exceptional circumstances and by presidential order can the armed forces intervene to establish order where the now-autonomous Civilian National Police force fails.

But defining the word "exceptional" is the catch. Critics fear a president could abuse this constitutional prerogative to crack down on opponents. In fact, President Armando Calderon Sol caught flak from his political opposition for sending the army to help the police protect the highways from heavily armed bandits.

Leaving politics aside, there are many not-so-remote threats for which the armed forces have to be ready: border disputes, fishing poachers, riots, vigilante groups, and terrorism.

And even though the peace accords have been carried out surprisingly smoothly so far, at least regarding the absence of dissident armed movements (which neighbor Nicaragua experienced after the Contra War), the threat of new guerrilla movements cannot be dismissed. Several shadowy, anonymous groups spouting extremist rhetoric from both the left and the right have threatened armed insurrection.

Last fall, longtime *SOF* contributor and security expert Jack Thompson, an American businessman and friend (who wishes to be called Roberto for purposes of anonymity), and I visited several military units to assess their capabilities.

Our first stop was the Cavalry Regiment, about 15 miles west of the capital San Salvador. Driving us there was retired Colonel Luis Mariano Turcios, a legendary past commander of the Airborne Bat-

alion and a close collaborator with *SOF* training teams during the war. (Representing Salvadoran veterans a month earlier at the 1995 *SOF* Convention, Col. Turcios told an awards-ceremony audience, "As a combat soldier, I can attest that the work carried out by *Soldier Of Fortune* was



Naval commandos at Ilopango base enter water for swim, as teammates take breather and watch from side of pool.



Salvadoran naval commandos stand ready for practice dive with automatic weapons. Many elite troops are veterans of war against FMLN guerrillas.



Salvadoran Special Forces NCO descends from rappelling tower during training at Ilopango base near San Salvador, the capital.

very effective and valuable for the consolidation and defense of liberty.")

And true to form, the stocky, ex-paratrooper with an infectious smile went beyond the call of duty, weaving his four-seat, pickup truck through afternoon traffic to take us to his longtime friend, Cavalry commander Col. Manuel Antonio Rivas.

With its clumps of trees and large rectangular grassy fields, the Cavalry grounds looked almost like a nice place for a picnic. But there was no mistaking we were on a military base. Escorted by Turcios, we entered Col. Rivas's spacious yet modestly furnished office. Martial diplomas and plaques plastered the walls.

Prominently displayed behind Col. Rivas's desk was an old poster honoring his brother Alejandro, an army major, and several other high-ranking Salvadoran officers — all killed by an FMLN bomb planted in a helicopter. I mentioned I had been a friend of his deceased brother. A flash of sadness creased Col. Rivas's narrow face as he remembered his brother's fiery death.

But the slightly built colonel in khaki was mostly smiling as he gave a half-hour briefing in his sweltering quarters. He then took us to the parade field to view the Cavalry's four



A .50-caliber M2 HB Browning and two 7.62mm M60 general-purpose machine guns provide aft firepower on Salvadoran naval patrol boat used in territorial waters where bullets might fly over fishing disputes or drug interdiction.

principal types of armored vehicles. Majors Rafael Jarquin and Victor Bolanos and several soldiers brought the vehicles into a row before us.

They were a German-made, 4-wheel UR-416 armored personnel carrier (APC) with the capacity to carry 10 to 12 troops; a French-made AML-H90 FI *Panhard* infantry fighting ve-



The cutter is the largest vessel in the Salvadoran Navy, which also uses its assets in civic-action projects for impoverished coastal villages.

A 60mm mortar and .50-caliber machine gun can come in handy for Salvadoran sailors during boundary disputes and interdiction of narco-traffickers in the Gulf of Fonseca.

hicle with a 90mm cannon and 7.62mm co-axial machine gun; and two different versions of homemade, six-wheeled APCs called *Cashuats* (the plural of an Indian word meaning horse), which were built on the chassis of pickup trucks and armored with a 1-inch plate of two iron layers sandwiching a carbon midsection.

In all, Major Jarquin said, the Cavalry has about 60 armored vehicles: 40 *Cashuats*, 14 of them specially armed with .50-caliber machine guns; 10 *Panhard*s, two in repair; and 10 UR-416s. This is about the same number the Cavalry had at the end of the civil war, during which some 20 vehicles were lost to accidents and guerrilla attacks, Jarquin said.

Funds are scarce and the Cavalry's strength has been cut from its wartime peak of 1500 troops to fewer than 600 divided into just two battalions. Nonetheless, the regiment maneuvers once or twice a year with infantry and practices special tactics for breaking up riots.

Of course, crowd control is primarily a police matter. But if obstacles erected by rioters defeat the police, the Cavalry has the capability to break through them.

"The Cavalry had a determining role in the 1989 [FMLN] offensive," said Sergeant Carlos Antonio Rosales, recalling how armored vehicles breached guerrilla trenches during the rebels' greatest assault. The small, broad-shouldered Cav sergeant took me and Roberto on a *Panhard* ride around the field. He recalled one particular battle.

At 1830 hours on 11 November, the first day of the '89 offensive, Rosales commanded a *Panhard* leading an APC along a street in northern San Salvador. Just then, guerrillas lying in ambush cut loose with rocket-propelled grenades, explosive charges and bullets.

"Some subversives came out shooting at us with an RPG. A round fell to the side; another flew over and hit a house, wounding some civilians," the NCO recalled, his round, Indian face wincing at the memory. "They shot at us from a trench along the street and an RPG hit the front of our *Panhard* and blew out the right tire. We fired back with three cannon shots and the mounted 7.62 machine gun."

After a three-hour firefight, the

Continued on page 82



Soldiers at Special Forces' installation at Ilopango Air Force Base train in hand-to-hand combat, including use of bayonets.

Plaza Of Gunshots

It was about 1700 hours; *La Libertad* plaza in downtown San Salvador was bustling. Downtown employees were leaving their offices, knots of people socialized, queues formed for buses that coughed black exhaust. Vendors squawked, hawking their modest wares and produce. Rustic bands played off-key, the noise echoing like a carnival against the grimy buildings along the pot-holed streets.

It was a far cry from more than 15 years ago, when such plazas were scenes of horrendous massacres as security forces and urban guerrillas fired into huge crowds. In fact, I had just told my friends Jack and Roberto of this bloody history. We were commenting about how laid-back the plaza looked today, when a deadly reminder of the violent halted the friendly din.

Several shots rang out, perhaps 30 meters away. Their hollow detonations

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Why Is Clinton Afraid Of The Green Berets?

Is The Army's Elite Being Diluted By PC Thinking?

by James L. Pate

By every measure, U.S. Army Special Forces Sergeant First Class Edward B. Rasor is everything a Green Beret is supposed to be. He is self-motivated, thinks for himself, is highly skilled in his chosen MOS, trauma medicine, and fearless in his convictions.

On his most recent enlisted efficiency report, Rasor was rated "among the best," an "experienced and talented NCO with excellent Warrant Officer potential [and] unlimited potential for future (Special Operations Forces) assignments [who is] prepared for increased leadership responsibilities."

So why does the U.S. Army's John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School (JFKSWCS), where he is a highly regarded instructor, want to get rid of the 12-year veteran?

Because Rasor is a stand-up guy. He is being shot down in President Bill Clinton's pogrom of political correctness, which is gradually eliminating from the Green Beret ranks any troopers who do not share Clinton's one-world vision that favors United Nations dominance over national sovereignty.

Rasor's story is only one of many being played out as the U.S. Army uses the cover of downsizing to rid itself of troops who cherish their oath to protect and preserve the United States Constitution, over the mindless, goose-stepping go-alongs who will follow any order at any price to bolster their careers. It illustrates how, under President Clinton, a Vietnam-era draft dodger well known for his

dislike of the military, the Pentagon has become a politicized kennel of shameless opportunists.

Like Specialist Michael New, a conventional forces Army medic who was court-martialed for refusing to wear a blue U.N. beret (see "Green Team Or Blue Team," Feb. '96), Rasor believes service under the U.N.

disfavor with the Clinton Administration — so profound that a White House staffer was sent to Fort Bragg in December to urge the U.S. Army Special Operations Command to deal with Rasor quickly and decisively — with Rasor's record of service.

His most recent evaluation touts his "outstanding military bearing" and states that Rasor "demonstrates decisive leadership ability" and "continually exceeds the standards in both physical fitness and personal appearance." His "sound, competent decision-making process draws positive comments from both students and peers." Rasor "develops excellent student-instructor relationship by displaying a responsible attitude" and he "refuses to sacrifice standards at any level."

This last trait may best explain why Ed Rasor has run afoul of Clinton's don't-ask-don't-tell style as commander-in-chief. Rasor is from New Hampshire, where "Live Free or Die" is not just a quaint license plate motto, but a put-it-all-on-the-line way of life.

But Only The Correct Can Be Heroes

For instance, on 23 March 1994, when a C-130 crashed during an air show at nearby Pope Air Force Base, Rasor and another Special Forces-qualified medic were the first two people on the scene. They rushed to the flaming wreckage and immediately began separating fatalities from the injured, triaging the latter in preparation for the arrival of ambulances, and then traveled to Womack Army Hospi-



SFC Edward B. Rasor on SF mission in the Caribbean.

courtesy SFC Edward B. Rasor

flag is not only incompatible with — but *violates* — his enlistment oath.

"I do my homework," Rasor told *Soldier Of Fortune* in an interview in his Williamsburg-style home in Fayetteville, North Carolina, where the U.S. flag flies proudly from a front porch column. "Try to reconcile the U.N. charter with the U.S. Constitution. It is an impossible task."

Try to reconcile Rasor's sudden

tal, where they continued to render critically needed assistance.

A year later, citing the fact that "Razor worked diligently through the night, prolonging life until physicians became available," Razor was recommended for the Army Commendation Medal. The citation also lauded his "strive for excellence [that] won him selection to attend the arduous rotation to the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System ... afforded only to those who have demonstrated a high degree of medical aptitude. ... His outstanding performance of duty reflects great credit upon himself, 1st Special Warfare Training Group, the United States Special Forces Command and the United States Army."

Razor's award of the Army Commendation Medal was approved on 13 September 1995, and a day later, JFKSWCS Command Sergeant Major William H. Rambo, Jr. wrote Razor a letter of "heartily congratulations on your selection for promotion to sergeant first class... The promotion criteria are strict and you may rest assured that

your selection was not routine, but instead, was made on your past outstanding leadership contributions... I am extremely happy for you and your family and wish you continued success..."

The proposed award date, 1 October 1995, came and went without a ceremony because Razor was deployed. On 18 January 1996, without any notification to Razor, an order was issued by his command to revoke his Army Commendation Medal.

So what happened in between? Razor publicly expressed his support for Specialist Michael New. Despite the fact that he was, at that time, unacquainted with New, Razor sent 20 letters of support to members of Congress. He said he was "heartened" by New's brave sacrifice, his

forthright stand against placing allegiance to the U.N. over the U.S. Constitution.

Razor was invited to speak at a Capitol Hill press conference in support of New on 9 November 1995, hosted by U.S. Rep. Sam Johnson, a Texas Republican. Other congressmen who spoke included Republican Majority Whip Tom DeLay, also of Texas; Ralph Hall, a Texas Democrat; and David Funderburk, a North Carolina Republican.

An American First

Appearing in a civilian suit, Razor



SFC Edward B. Razor receiving award from Major General Harley Davis, former commander, U.S. Army Special Forces Command.

courtesy SFC Edward B. Razor

began by emphasizing that his opinions were his own and in no way reflected Army policy or opinion. He then went on to lament "Americans [who] have ... become complacent by the distractions and diversions of this complicated age. Today, we are now Christian and Jew; black or white. We now are docile or extremist. We are either Republican or Democrat. We are silent or radical. But we are never Americans first. It is time we came out of our cocoons and cast aside our prejudices. We are all Americans and being an American should be an absolute common ground..."

"We have effectively surrendered much of our sovereignty already to a world body to which the Constitution is nothing but a vain expression of

human idealism," he told the congressional news conference. "The United States Constitution is not the rule and guide of government to the rest of the world... Don't entrust your children's future to an organization that believes rights evolve from the state. Do not surrender the final means we have to preserve our nation. Do not surrender our military..."

"The New World Order is not the natural evolution of the nation state," he said. "It is a chorus of cries to redistribute our cultural, intellectual, economic and military wealth into the hands of a few under false premises. The New World Order is not new at all. World government represents a godless infrastructure for tyranny. Our Founding Fathers and Mothers would be absolutely horrified to see that we've learned nothing and squandered everything."

Michael New and Ed Razor are hardly alone. While there is no reliable way to absolutely quantify the extent of opposition of active-duty troops to U.N. service, more and more troops, particularly among the elite units like

U.S. Army Special Forces, are speaking out — and getting out, interviews with several longtime special operations troops indicate. And there are some less subjective indications that opposition to U.N. service is widespread, especially when that service includes command by a foreign military officer who has not sworn an oath to protect and defend the U.S. Constitution.

Troops Unenthusiastic About NWO

For instance, Navy Lieutenant Commander Ernest Guy Cunningham, in his controversial master's thesis for the U.S. Navy Postgraduate School, found that, among 300 combat-trained U.S. Marines, almost 70 percent opposed taking any oath as a

“U.N. fighting person.” (see “Question 46: Truth Behind ‘New World Order’ Combat Arms Survey,” Sept. ’95). The surveyed Marines, chosen because of the Leathernecks’ reputation for following tough orders without question, revealed that 64 percent — almost two-thirds — opposed participation in any U.N. mission under foreign officers.

Although Cunningham’s study, and the news coverage resulting from the public stands against U.N. service taken by New and Rasor, have been downplayed — and, when possible, *ignored* — by the Pentagon, the issue clearly has the attention of the highest levels in the chain of command.

For instance, on or about 22 December 1995, the U.S. Army Chief of Staff, General Dennis J. Reimer, and a White House staffer assigned to military issues, a man named Chaplin, flew to Fort Bragg to meet with Lieutenant General J.T. Scott of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command about Rasor’s public statements regarding U.N. service. Scott subsequently drafted an internal memo regarding the visit.

Later that same day, Rasor was called in by Command Sergeant Major Henry Bone and, according to Rasor, threatened with retaliation if he didn’t refrain from making public statements against the U.N. Rasor said Bone told him he could either get out of the Army, keep his mouth shut or risk what Bone declined to characterize as — but what Rasor says amounts to — administrative retribution.

Bone “told me there are good assignments and bad assignments, and then he explained how the promotion system works, but he included the caveat that all this was just conversation, not a threat,” Rasor said.

On 2 February, after learning on his own that his Army Commendation Medal had been mysteriously revoked, Rasor was told to report to Command Sgt. Maj. Rambo’s office. There, Rambo expressed concern that “he could not, in good conscience, keep me as an instructor at the school because I might sew seeds of discontent among Special Forces students,” Rasor recalled, and suggested Rasor might be transferred



courtesy SFC Edward B. Rasor

Invited to speak at a Capitol Hill news conference, Rasor receives a pat on the back from some solons who agreed with him. Stated Rasor, “The New World Order is not the natural evolution of the nation state. It is a chorus of cries to redistribute our cultural, intellectual, economic and military wealth into the hands of a few under false premises. The New World Order is not new at all. World government represents a godless infrastructure for tyranny. Our Founding Fathers and Mothers would be absolutely horrified to see that we’ve learned nothing and squandered everything.”

to 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group in Germany. “I told him that I never discuss my political views at work, or in the classroom, and that if that was his concern, it did not make sense to send me to an operational detachment.”

Rasor filed a complaint with the Inspector General (IG) over revocation of the Army Commendation Medal and a few days later, Rasor was called into CSM Bone’s office.

The New World Order is not new at all. World government represents a godless infrastructure for tyranny.

He said Bone told him that if Rasor didn’t withdraw his complaint with the IG and stop making waves, Rasor would be transferred on “the first thing smoking” to U.N. duty.

On 5 March, responding to an earlier offer by Bone, Rambo and another sergeant major, Rasor filed a request for separation from the Army “under Secretarial Authority, Chap-

ter 5, honorable conditions... I have been told I am being reassigned because my expressed views and beliefs are incompatible with the U.S. Army and Special Forces.”

On 18 March, Rasor reported to a briefing for his transfer to the 10th SFG, where he was asked why he was declining an airborne assignment he *had requested*. When Rasor advised that he had not requested transfer to 10th SFG, the female admin clerk showed him an alpha-roster spread-sheet code with the suffix “V” indicating he volunteered for transfer. Confused, the clerk called up a computerized Department of the Army data bank on Rasor’s pending orders. The file was empty.

The clerk called her supervisor and Rasor called the IG’s office, alleging that Rambo and Bone were abusing the administrative system as an instrument of retribution. Rambo and Bone are already under investigation for allegedly manipulating promotion boards, Army sources told *Soldier Of Fortune*, and Rambo had already been accused of using transfers to wrongly punish Green Berets under his command (see “Witch Hunt for *The Resister*,” Feb. ’96).

Dilute And Conquer

The ideological purge of the Special Forces ranks is a small part of a broader and more longstanding problem in which Army Special Forces is

being slowly “dumbed down” by diluting its Special Forces-qualified troops by mixing in more and more troops from outside the Green Beret community.

The trend was most poignantly symbolized 18 months ago by the removal of “Bronze Bruce,” an heroic Green Beret statue commemorating the Special Forces war dead from Vietnam. It was removed from its traditional pedestal (and damaged in the process) and appropriated by the Special Operations Command, which includes civil affairs, psychological operations and many other military specialties who, though allowed to wear a Green Beret and classified as special operations forces (SOF), are *not* Special Forces-qualified.

Sergeant First Class Shane Crisler, a 15-year veteran with 11 years on a Special Forces A-team, said that when he graduated from



the qualification, or Q-course, “we went across [and] had our picture made in front of Bronze Bruce. That was probably the proudest moment of my life.”

The statue’s expropriation by others “really was like a dagger in the heart.”

Crisler is especially proud of the Special Forces tradition because his father, William N. Crisler, served in occupied France on a Jedbergh Team in the Office of Strategic Services, the progenitor of U.S. Army Special Forces. His dad served with Jack Singlaub, Jack Shannon and Aaron Bank, considered the father of U.S. Army Special Forces. When the first unit, the 77th, was activated, only six men were assigned. One of them was

William Crisler, who later served in special operations in Korea and was among the first 50 U.S. advisers sent to South Vietnam.

“My dad was very outspoken,” Crisler told *SOF*. “He would be proud to see Specialist New standing up for the Constitution... What destroys my confidence is that I don’t see *more* people standing up.”

Army Special Forces has always existed at its own peril, and its greatest enemy has always been the conventional force Army, which has remained jealous of its elite status.



Marty Kufus

Student Army SF medics treat simulated wounds and give IVs under scrutiny of stopwatch-equipped graders, while instructors pop smoke and set off artillery simulators for harassment in “Trauma Three” phase. Green Beret medics function as paramedics, nurses, doctors, dentists — and even vets on missions throughout the world.

“The path that led to the concept for organization and employment of Special Forces was tortuous and marked by controversy,” states Alfred H. Paddock Jr. in his landmark work, *U.S. Army Special Forces: Its Origins*.

Paddock noted that “to those who would insist on viewing the Army’s Ranger units as forerunners of Special Forces, Bank unequivocally states that ‘actually they [Special Forces] have no connection with ranger-type organizations, since their mission and operations are far more complex, time-consuming, require much deeper penetration and initially are often of a strategic nature.’”

That debate still rages, and Special Forces ranks today are increas-

ingly being infiltrated by Rangers who wear the Green Beret but have never passed a Q-course or spent any appreciable time on an A-team. Unable to get rid of the Special Forces from without, its detractors and critics, unleashed by the anti-military and anti-military elite policies of the Clinton Administration, are slowly compromising Special Forces from within by diluting its members with outsiders unfamiliar with the historic Special Forces mission, doctrine and attitude.

Retired Special Forces Sergeant Major Douglas Van Der Pool, who retired in disgust over the Pentagon politics and ideological purges within Special Forces, said that “many of the commissioned and non-commissioned officers wearing the Green Beret have not a clue of what the SF mission really is. SF is losing its ability to conduct unconventional warfare, such as guerrilla warfare.”

Van Der Pool is not just some disgruntled retiree. Prior to his retirement less than a year ago, he was the proponenty sergeant major, in charge of evaluating manpower needs throughout Army Special Forces.

He helped found the Special Operations Battle Laboratory at Fort Bragg, and, in the Gulf War, was a team sergeant in charge of training Kuwaiti resistance fighters to infiltrate Iraqi-occupied Kuwait City and set up an insurgency infrastructure.

“It’s hard to love something for as long as I have and watch it destroyed by those who’ve only used it as a stepping stone for their careers,” Van Der Pool said. “If you doubt this, look at the top dogs and their assignments. Look at how much A-team time they really have, versus ticket-punching. This is the real reason SF is dying. Our leadership is corrupted by personal agendas.”

DIRTY COPS A

(ATF) Thugs By Any Other Name

The arrest of one more punk gang-banger might have been a peaceful event, barely worth the police blotter, much less Chicago's local evening news. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms had a good — and safe — plan to arrest 17-year-old Jesus Miravelli on the charge he sold a sawed-off shotgun to an ATF snitch. But like the notoriously reckless and incompetent Waco raid, Miravelli's arrest was orchestrated for media exposure. And, like Waco, the ultimate spin on the story was not what ATF had envisioned.

Jesus still attended school and the feds knew the route he walked in East Chicago, Indiana. The plan was to use a Special Response Team (SRT) to isolate Miravelli in the middle of a block of abandoned row houses at about 0745 that Tuesday, 5 February 1992. If suddenly surrounded alone, heavily outnumbered and outgunned, agents thought it likely that he would surrender peacefully.

It made sense. Isolate a criminal suspect away from innocent people who might be endangered by possible violence, and provide a quick and irresistible incentive to give up.

Too bad ATF agents in Texas, planning the arrest of David Koresh a year later, didn't consider such a prudent plan. Waco could have been a bloodless, statistical footnote, instead of being synonymous with abusive power and arrogant lies.

Tragically, we will never know. Nor will we know if the sane and sound plan for arresting Jesus Miravelli in Chicago would have worked. Because, as happened in the

Waco disaster, ATF's brass hats ignored good advice from seasoned street agents and butted in with an ill-conceived plan that attached more importance to a self-aggrandizing political agenda and manipulating media coverage than to the safety of street agents and the public.

Hollywood Joe

Instead of the safer plan, ATF's Chicago SRT was ordered to move up the raid time by two hours, and to arrest Miravelli at his parents' home.



According to Treasury OIG report, John Boyle arranged for ATF's free use of posh downtown Excalibur Club for ATF's private Eliot Ness Birthday Celebration. Vintage car outside, flapper dresses and tuxedos; all were free, provided courtesy of John Boyle. Boyle was singled out during festivities by SAC Joe Vince, who thanked Boyle profusely for his favors and presented the thief and embezzler with a certificate of appreciation from ATF. Boyle couldn't stay out too late, however: He had appointment next morning with U.S. District Court Judge John Nordberg.

The SRT burst in and the teen was arrested without a struggle. But the raid went awry when agents stormed the rest of the house. Family members and agents differ about who shot first, but the suspect's father, Melicio Miravelli, 48, a laid-off steel worker, was shot to death in his bedroom. Attorney Ivan Bodensteiner, who filed a wrongful death suit against ATF, said the father was shot from behind. (see "Law En-

forcement Above The Law," Oct. '94).

The man who altered the arrest plan was Joseph J. Vince Jr., then special agent in charge (SAC) of ATF's Chicago field division. Vince, whose ambition and flair unfortunately exceed his ability as a street agent, is derisively referred to as "Hollywood Joe" by some agents. Vince's motive, say federal law enforcement sources involved in a subsequent investigation by the Treasury Department's Office of Inspector General (OIG), was to generate a

news story favorable to ATF's Chicago field division during a visit to the Windy City by then-Attorney General William Barr.

In meetings with his supervisors, Vince had expressed great anger about the Federal Bureau of Investigation's intrusion into ATF's gang enforcement turf, several witnesses confirmed. He was "livid," one witness said, that the FBI was making a move to become the lead agency in

going after street gangs.

The day before the raid, Vince called in the agents assigned to the Miravelli case and told them he wanted the arrest time moved up so the agents could do a dynamic entry on the suspect's home, according to a supervisory agent who attended the meeting and spoke to *Soldier Of Fortune* on the condition of anonymity. Vince told the agents he wanted an impressive arrest that would make a news splash

ND ROBBERS

by James L. Pate

Photos: Author's Collection

during Attorney General Barr's visit.

The SRT commander, Special Agent William Bollenberg, "was angry because he felt Vince changed a well-thought-out arrest plan because of political expediency [and] as a result ... needlessly jeopardized ATF agents," according to the OIG report, a copy of which was obtained by *SOF*.

"Because of the situation that developed, a person was killed. ... This incident adversely affected the morale of ... special agents."

This was confirmed by *SOF*'s anonymous source, who said he witnessed Bollenberg become "very, very upset" when Vince told him the arrest plan was being changed to impress a visiting political dignitary.

Vince's motive, according to this and other sources in ATF, was to impress Barr with ATF's expertise with street gangs. As a bastard step-child in the federal law enforcement hierarchy, and historically overshadowed by the media-manipulated image of J. Edgar Hoover's better-known FBI, the ATF has long suffered from an inferiority complex. So ATF's bosses sought whenever possible to use specialized investigative expertise to expand bureaucratic turf and gain a higher public profile. For example, ATF routinely takes the lead over the FBI in federal arson investigations. And explosives cases, such as the Oklahoma City bombing, also are referred to ATF.

Target Of Official Probe

Barr came to Chicago to announce that, because of the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, he was re-assigning 300 FBI agents from counterintelligence work to focus on street gangs and urban violence. This would include the re-allocation of millions of dollars to the FBI in a crime bill. Vince's transparent attempts to curry favor with Barr went so far as to rent a stretch limousine and provide a surprise VIP pick-up at the airport. But Barr had already departed with his FBI escort.

Agents Vince, James Adamcik,

then an assistant special agent in charge (ASAC) of ATF's Chicago field division, and John M. Gamboa, an ATF group supervisor, are at the center of investigations by the fire-arms bureau's Internal Affairs Division, and the Treasury Department's OIG that delve into these and other questionable incidents.

The probes document allegations that Vince, Adamcik and Gamboa socialized with, accepted favors from and steered government business to a well-known associate of a Chicago organized crime family — a man then under federal indictment for embezzlement, bank fraud and theft from armored cars.

This article, the second in a three-part series, (see Part I, "The Rise And Fall Of ATF," May '96) examines the association of these three top-ranking agents with one John Boyle, recently released from prison after being convicted on all 13 counts of a federal indictment.

The OIG report also documents the acceptance of free gifts by the three agents, such as Chicago Blackhawks starter jackets, \$1,500 worth of pressure-treated lumber and tickets to sporting and arts events in the Chicago area; their use of subordinate agents for home improvement projects and as drivers to run personal errands.

More serious, though, are the allegations that Vince and Adamcik knew, but failed to investigate, credible allegations that two Chicago police officers assigned to ATF were suspected by other agents of stealing tens of thousands of dollars in currency, jew-

elry and clothing from drug suspects. The two Chicago officers also are suspected of taking kilos of cocaine seized in various cases and selling them to other gangsters for half their street value.

Most disturbing of all is that the two Chicago policemen, then as-



James Adamcik, then assistant special agent in charge (ASAC) of Chicago field division, and ATF group supervisor John M. Gamboa are at center of investigation by ATF Internal Affairs and Treasury OIG. The probes document allegations that Vince, Adamcik and Gamboa socialized with, accepted favors from and steered government business to John Boyle, well-known associate of Chicago organized crime family — and then under federal indictment for embezzlement, bank fraud and theft from armored cars. Adamcik is now the ASAC in Los Angeles. Here, he swears in new agent.

signed full-time to the ATF, allegedly were selling automatic weapons and silencers to street gang members. One of those officers is believed to have helped conceal the involvement of gangsters he knew in the murder of another street gang member over a 13-kilo cocaine deal that went sour.

Not only did Vince and Adamcik refuse to allow an investigation of the two men assigned to their office, but they also ordered the agents reporting the allegations — Mike Casali and Diane Klipfel — to not mention their suspicions to ATF Internal Affairs or the FBI.

To not do so would be a crime itself. Klipfel and Casali went to the FBI, and an assistant United States attorney, who initiated an investigation still not complete. Yet Vince and Adamcik ignored repeated directions from an assistant United States attorney that the two cops be taken off all federal investigations. Consequently, many more ATF investigations were tainted by their involvement, and ultimately refused for prosecution by

issue them letters of reprimand — and then only after a few of the allegations surfaced in *The Washington Times*.

Casali and Klipfel, meanwhile, former group supervisors with outstanding performance records, have had their badges and guns taken away. Magaw has publicly stated that the married couple should and will be fired. The couple, who has had their lives and the lives of their children threatened repeatedly, have a defamation suit pending against Magaw, Vince, Adamcik and others. Despite dozens of unfounded accusations against them by vindictive supervisors, the ATF has come up with no reason to fire them. But their career prospects are grim, and they have

Division — the number-four post in the bureau. Neither Magaw, Vince nor Adamcik responded to requests for interviews.

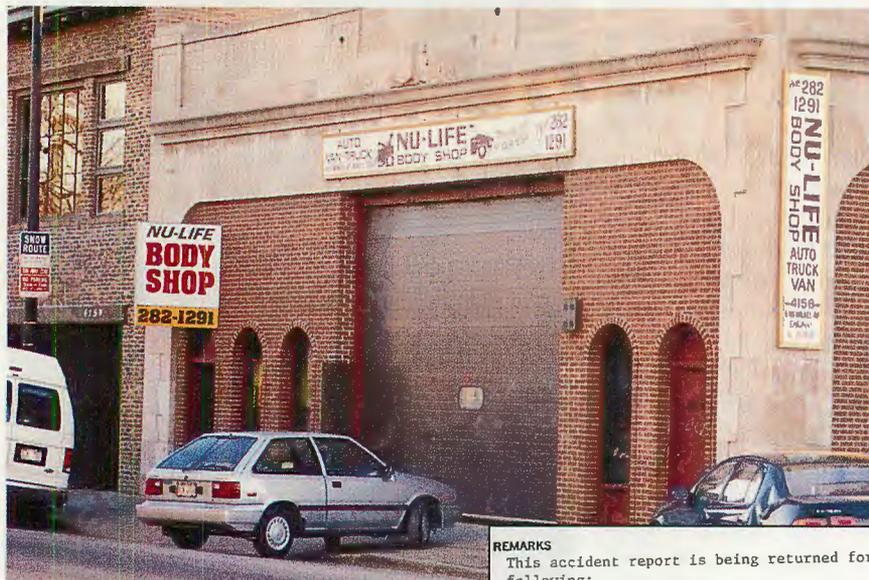
The two Chicago police officers formerly assigned to ATF are now targets of a federal grand jury in Chicago investigating police corruption, a federal law enforcement source told *SOF*. This was confirmed by another anonymous source in the Treasury Department, who added that both men, and their activities while working for ATF's Chicago office, are being investigated by the Internal Revenue Service, as well as the FBI.

The case promises to be enormously embarrassing for ATF. The ramifications — and possible criminal culpability — reach the highest levels of the firearms agency. Why would career agents like Vince and Adamcik so openly associate with an associate of Chicago mobsters such as John Boyle? Why would the two ATF managers risk their careers to protect two city police officers accused of wide-ranging corruption? And why would ATF Director Magaw, already struggling to defend a much-beleaguered bureau, risk additional public criticism for refusing to punish Vince and Adamcik, especially in light of overwhelming evidence painstakingly compiled by two separate internal investigations?

The evidence linking Vince and Adamcik to John Boyle is irrefutable. Boyle was introduced to Vince and Adamcik by ATF Special Agent John Gamboa, a group supervisor and training officer.

On 9 January 1992, Boyle, then the 31-year-old president of Public Armored Car Co., was charged in a 13-count indictment with bank fraud, embezzlement and stealing from his own armored cars more than \$4 million in coins that belonged to the Chicago Tollway Authority, the Cole Taylor Bank and the Federal Reserve's Chicago branch. The

indictment was widely publicized on the local TV news and the Chicago newspapers. (The story about Boyle's indictment appeared in the 10 January editions of the Chicago newspapers — the same day that the story of then-Attorney General Barr's announcement about the FBI taking on



John Boyle was part owner of Nu-Life Body Shop. After Gamboa wrecked government car, requirement for three estimates was ignored, and the car taken directly to Nu-Life. In separate accident involving ATF auto, Adamcik obtained three estimates from dealers near ATF office (one far less than the others) then ordered additional estimate (inset) be obtained from Nu-Life: car was ultimately taken to Nu-Life, where other ATF repair work was diverted. Boyle admitted everything, including deal where he arranged for ASAC Adamcik to buy new family car at wholesale.

the United States Attorney's office, a massive waste of time and tax dollars. (They have since been removed from ATF operations.)

Help From High Places

Despite compelling evidence in the two internal investigations, ATF Director John Magaw has refused to punish Vince or Adamcik, except to

been shunted, literally, into a broom closet office.

Adamcik and Vince, meanwhile, have continued their careers quite nicely. Adamcik is now the ASAC in Los Angeles, and Vince has been promoted twice, most recently to chief of the ATF's Firearms Enforcement

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new responsibilities for gang enforcement.)

Boyle, according to the Treasury Department's subsequent OIG report, "has relatives who may have organized crime connections." It described Boyle as "well-connected" in those circles, adding that "Gamboa and Jim

Division held its annual Eliot Ness Birthday Party. Chicago is Ness's hometown and Ness, the scourge of Chicago gangsters during Prohibition, is the ATF's institutional icon — so the party took on special significance.

The bash was held in a posh downtown nightspot, the Excalibur Club.

A Prohibition era, gangster theme prevailed, complete with a vintage automobile parked out front. Agents' wives wore "flapper" dresses and a few ATF agents dressed as gangsters stood outside brandishing submachine guns, occasionally unleashing bursts of blank gunfire — to the consternation of some frightened passersby.

Possibly to add to the realism, the ATF had a real, live criminal at its party: John Boyle. According to the OIG report, it was Boyle who arranged for the ATF to get free use of the normally expensive Excalibur Club for the private party. The vintage car, the flapper dresses and tuxedos; all were free, provided through the courtesy of John Boyle.

No doubt it was a memorable night for Boyle. According to witnesses, he was singled out during the festivities by Joe Vince, the SAC,

who thanked Boyle profusely for his favors and presented the thief and embezzler with a certificate of appreciation from ATF. The joyous festivities may have been somewhat dampened for Boyle, though, who couldn't stay out too late. He had an appointment the next morning in front of United States District Court Judge John Nordberg.

Carriage Turns Back Into Pumpkin

On 29 April 1992, the morning after the ATF bash, Boyle pleaded no contest to all 13 charges against him. Assistant United States Attorney Victoria Peters contended that as president of Public Armored Car Co.,

Boyle stole more than \$4 million in rolled coins over a 10-month period. Yet ATF's top agents in Chicago continued to socialize — even do business with — Boyle.

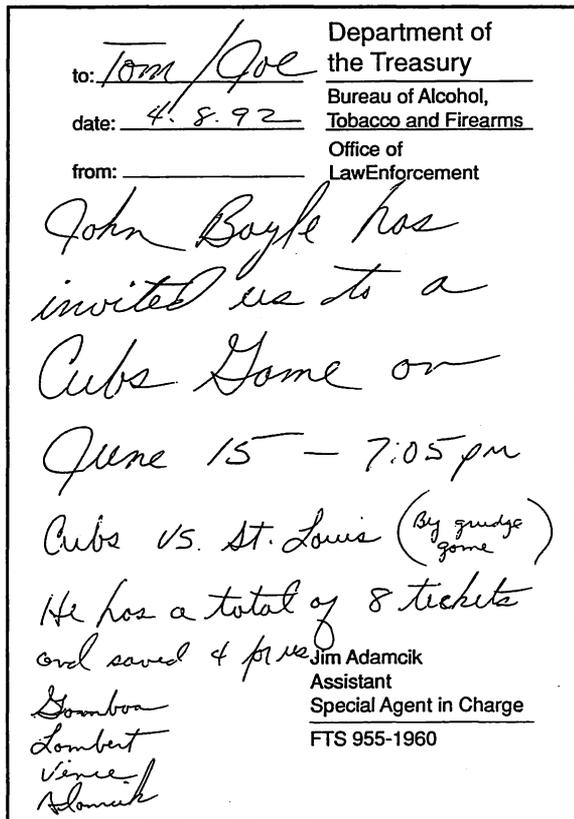
Boyle and Adamcik were regular golfing partners, for instance. And on 15 June, Adamcik, Vince, Gamboa and others were Boyle's guests at a Cubs baseball game, to which Boyle provided free tickets.

Then there was the matter of repairing ATF vehicles. John Boyle was part owner in a garage, Nu-Life Body Shop, located across town, about 25 miles from ATF's office in the western suburbs. After Gamboa wrecked a government car in mid-April, with almost \$4,000 in damages, the government requirement of obtaining three estimates was ignored and the car was taken directly to Nu-Life. In a separate accident involving an ATF car, Adamcik obtained three estimates from dealers in the vicinity of the ATF office — one far less than the other two — then, on 3 August, ordered an additional estimate be obtained specifically from Nu-Life. The car was ultimately towed across the city to Nu-Life, where other ATF cars were also diverted for repairs.

In subsequent interviews of Boyle by Treasury Department OIG investigators, Boyle admitted everything, including a deal in which he arranged for ASAC Adamcik to buy a new family car at wholesale cost from a dealer Boyle knew. Boyle also admitted soliciting the intervention of his friends at ATF when his sister's boyfriend was arrested by local police for fighting.

When first questioned about the Cubs tickets and the discounted automobile by OIG investigators, Adamcik lied, government records indicate. He admitted knowing that Boyle was under indictment and that other ATF managers had expressed concern that ATF "didn't think they needed to do business with him." The continued association of Vince, Adamcik and Gamboa with Boyle, a disreputable person with ties to organized crime, is an apparent violation of the ATF Standards of Conduct, as related in ATF Order 2735.1, entitled "Employee Responsibility and Conduct."

When Boyle was sentenced on 21 August 1992, U.S. District Court Judge Nordberg made an unusual departure from the already stringent



When first questioned about free Cubs tickets and discounted automobile by OIG investigators, Adamcik denied them, but this memo obtained by SOF belies that. Continued association of Vince, Adamcik and Gamboa with Boyle, a disreputable person with ties to organized crime, appears in violation of ATF Standards of Conduct, per ATF Order 2735.1, entitled "Employee Responsibility and Conduct."

Adamcik, ASAC, took Boyle everywhere with them."

Three months after Boyle's indictment, on 8 April 1992, ASAC Adamcik circulated a dated, handwritten internal memo — scrawled on an official ATF note pad with Adamcik's name and title printed at the bottom. In the memo, sent to Vince, Gamboa and another ASAC, Tom Lambert, Adamcik wrote that "John Boyle has invited us to a Cubs game on June 15 — 7:05 p.m. Cubs vs. St. Louis (big grudge game) He has a total of 8 tickets and saved 4 for us: Gamboa, Lambert, Vince, Adamcik."

Three weeks after that memo, on 28 April 1992, ATF's Chicago Field

Federal Sentencing Guidelines. Rebuking Boyle for "violating a public trust," Nordberg gave Boyle more prison time — 38 months — than required by the guidelines. Boyle's lawyer appealed the extra prison time, but Nordberg's sentence was upheld on appeal.

Jiggers — The Fourth Estate

At the time he introduced Boyle to Vince and Adamcik, Special Agent Gamboa was already embroiled in another scandal which would surface publicly in a CBS News' *60 Minutes* segment about rampant sexual harassment and retribution against those who reported it in the ATF. Broadcast in January 1993, the *60 Minutes* expose rocked ATF. The meddling of headquarters management in planning the Waco raid was prompted, at least in part, by a desire to generate favorable publicity that would offset image damage inflicted by CBS.

It was headquarters fallout over the *60 Minutes* story — not the two internal investigations of the far more serious corruption allegations and the on-going grand jury probe — that led to the removal of Vince, Adamcik and Tom Lambert, another ATF ASAC in Chicago. But the two scandals are intertwined through John Gamboa.

When rookie ATF agent Sandra Hernandez was sent to the Chicago office in early 1990, Gamboa was as-

signed as her training officer. The two were alone in an elevator on 4 March 1990, when Gamboa backed her into a corner, pressed himself against her and suggested they should have sex. Frightened, Hernandez said she was not interested.

Gamboa persisted daily, many of his unwanted advances, including kissing and fondling Hernandez, witnessed by other agents. He promised her preferential assignments and promotions if she would have sex with him. She adamantly refused. One day, in the presence of John Boyle, Gamboa told Hernandez she should sleep with Boyle because Boyle had great influence with Vince and Adamcik and could get her promoted.

Gamboa continued harassing Hernandez, in and out of the office, for more than two years; buying her garter belts and sexually explicit lingerie, in addition to placing repeated late-night phone calls. Her reluctance to report the unwanted advances, based on a fear of being fired, was finally overcome when she developed a chronic stress disorder and had to seek therapy.

On 2 September 1992, she met with Vince to complain about sexual harassment by a supervisor. Vince not only failed to follow up, but showed no interest in knowing the name of the offending supervisor. Coinciden-

tally, he did state his strong support for Gamboa. Hernandez filed a formal complaint against Gamboa on 8 October 1992. The next day, when Vince learned Hernandez had filed a complaint, he reported her allegations against Gamboa to Internal Affairs.

Convinced that ATF would do a cursory investigation and then sweep the well-documented case under the rug, Hernandez made a tough decision, at least for a law enforcement officer. She decided to go outside the agency and contact the news media. She called the CBS News show, *60 Minutes*. Based on her supporting documents and witnesses, *60 Minutes* showed an immediate interest.

According to several witnesses in the office, Gamboa repeatedly made threats against anyone who "crossed" him, vowing he would retaliate through his two friends from the Chicago Police department who were assigned to ATF. According to subsequent sworn testimony, Gamboa referred to these two officers as "my private pit bulls who I can sic" on anyone causing him problems. Gamboa also bragged, the witnesses said, that he had enough influence with Adamcik and Vince to get anyone fired.

Gamboa became even more aggressive and agitated after a *60 Minutes* camera crew confronted him in the parking lot outside the ATF of-

ELIOT NESS: IRONIC ICON

While the Army has heroes like George Washington and the Navy has John Paul Jones, there is some real cosmic symmetry to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms having Eliot Ness. It is through Ness that ATF taps into the romanticized crime-fighting lore of Chicago's gangster era that ended the 1920s in a roar of machine-gun fire. It is through Ness, proclaims a piece of public relations puffery commissioned by ATF Director John Magaw, that the firearms bureau can "lay claim to a real folk hero."

As with many "folk heroes," the truth is often more interesting — though seldom as dazzling — as the legend. Contrary to the Hollywood myth glamorized by Robert Stack in the 1950s *The Untouchables* TV series, the real Ness was far less successful in ultimately putting bootlegger Al Capone out of business than in muscling in on Chicago's

newspaper headlines. It was not the brash, barefisted, door-smashing flamboyance of the boyish Ness, but the seasoned savvy and cautious intellect of tax collectors, that sent Capone to prison.

No doubt, Ness made highly significant contributions to law enforcement. But his life's most lasting accomplishments were as director of public safety in Cleveland, Ohio, not with the ATF's precursor agency, the Bureau of Prohibition. Unfortunately, it is what, in truth, is the essence of Ness's darker side — not his careful administration and a nurturing of excellence as a law enforcement professional in Cleveland — that fascinates ATF. And that can be very instructive to anyone curious as to how ATF got in the mess it's in.

It was as an innovative bureaucrat in "the Mistake on the Lake" that Ness made his biggest inroads

against organized crime, though his focus on labor racketeering and corrupt cops. He started a Boys Town to turn juvenile delinquents into productive citizens, and he started other youth programs to steer kids away from crime.

It was to Cleveland, not the ATF, that Ness left his real legacy of public service, the founding of Cleveland Police Academy and one of the nation's first traffic bureaus. The former established consistent eligibility requirements and standards of professional conduct. The latter addressed the city's number one public safety crisis — traffic — in a way revolutionary enough to be adopted by similarly beleaguered cities across the country. Traffic may sound like mundane police work, but the impact Ness had was enough to drop Cleveland's car insurance rates by 50% and win the city recognition as safest city in the U.S.A., a feat

fice, making more reckless and threatening statements.

Thugs By Any Other Name Must Be ATF

At 1330 hours on 18 December 1992, two men drove to the apartment complex in suburban Lisle, Illinois, where Hernandez, a single parent, lived with her 6-year-old daughter. She had moved repeatedly in an attempt to elude Gamboa's unwanted, after-hours advances. Aware that Gamboa had access to bureau records on agents' home addresses, she listed a bogus address with the ATF. She listed an apartment address in the same complex, with the same number, but two buildings away from where she actually lived. As one man waited in the car, the other went to the building of the bogus address.

The man kicked in an outside door, entered and then smashed the entrance to what would have been Hernandez's apartment — except the man apparently had the bogus address from the ATF master file. Fortunately, no one lived in the apartment and the two men fled. But a witness, later shown a photo line-up, picked out a picture of one of the Chicago police officers assigned to ATF who was a friend of Gamboa. Two days after the attempted attack, ATF moved Hernandez and her child to a secret location.

Gamboa was fired from ATF, based on 21 specific charges of misconduct. Judge Julia Grip of the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) upheld the firing, noting for the record that Gamboa "created (for Hernandez) a hostile, intimidating and offensive work environment."

Grip's decision was later overturned because ATF's attorneys failed to present all of the evidence heard at the MSPB hearing. The evidence of corruption, which would have reflected poorly on Gamboa's bosses, Vince and Adamcik, was conveniently omitted by ATF attorneys from the appeals hearing. So ATF rehired Gamboa with back pay.

Ultimately, Vince and Adamcik needed Gamboa's cooperation. All are defendants in a civil suit in U.S. District Court in Chicago filed by agents Casali and Klipfel. Tainted by their connections to organized crime, and with two much more serious investigations into corruption having substantiated their dirty deeds, they needed Gamboa to cover their flanks. And so does ATF Director Magaw.

Ness would later say "is the work of which I'm proudest."

It doesn't take a public relations genius to understand why the ATF, a step-child of federal law enforcement, beset with repeated allegations of corruption and incompetence, would want an institutional icon like Ness. It is one more example of the emphasis of style over substance, not just in the law enforcement culture, but all government. ATF cherishes Ness not for the real man and his meaningful accomplishments, but nurtures the famous legend; an image which, when he was unable to come to terms with it, drove Ness into an alcoholic spiral, one that bottomed out in the impoverished oblivion of a drunken, small-town nobody.

True, as noted in Magaw's embellished brochure, Ness "marked a distinct change from the corruption-tainted local police of that time." There is the story of Ness and two other "Untouchables" throwing back into a speeding gangster car a rubber-

banded wad of \$100 bills hurled at them by fleeing mobsters. But while Ness was not corrupted by money, he ultimately fell victim to two other influences in a life of fame and fortune, influences that can be especially detrimental if one favors style over substance: booze and publicity.

Born 19 April 1903, Ness grew up on Chicago's South Side, the son of a Norwegian immigrant baker, the youngest of three girls and two boys. He devoured Sherlock Holmes stories and learned jujitsu and sport shooting as a teen. He worked in a munitions plant, then as a real estate salesman, before earning his degree at the University of Chicago, where he studied under August Volmar, a renowned criminologist. When Eliot was still a small boy, an older sister, Clara, married Alexander Jamie, a U.S. Department of Justice special agent. Jamie later was instrumental in getting Ness hired as a federal agent.

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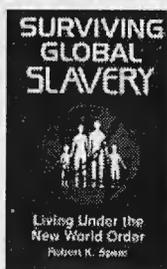
Editor's note: Special Agent Sandra Hernandez, on paid leave, lives in self-imposed obscurity on the East Coast — and remains in therapy. She sued ATF and a judge awarded her damages when ATF chose not to contest her claim. Next month, SOF exposes the most horrendous of ATF's crimes, names the remaining culprits and details the corruption-rife Chicago office. ✕

From 1921-28, more than 700 federal Prohibition agents were fired — and 257 of them prosecuted — for taking bribes. On 28 September 1929, United States Attorney George E. Johnson tapped Ness, then 26 and still living with his parents, to head up a special task force of nine federal agents. A *Chicago Tribune* writer ultimately dubbed the nine agents as "The Untouchables" because of their refusal to be dissuaded from their mission by generous offers of mob cash. Still a teetotaler, it was Ness's first sip of fame. He liked it.

Ness "was obviously enthralled by the attention of the media," states author Steven Nickel in his book, *Torso: The Story of Eliot Ness and the Search for a Psychopathic Killer*. "From that point on, whenever the agents raided a building, Ness made sure that there were plenty of reporters and photographers at the

Continued on page 86

THE NEW WORLD ORDER



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METHOD OF OPERATION

Continued from page 44

dropped will leave the pistol ready to fire the first shot double-action.

When the last round has been fired, the spring-loaded ejector bar, on the left side of the magazine-well, is raised upward by the magazine follower to hold the slide rearward. In the manner of the Walther series, the DP52 has no external slide stop lever. However, the DH380 ejector bar has an exposed, integral, serrated projection that can be pushed upward to lock the slide rearward if an empty magazine is not in place. It does not provide sufficient purchase to manually disengage the ejector bar from the slide. The slide must be pulled slightly rearward and then released to fly forward and chamber a round.

With the exception of the small modifications mentioned, this mechanism remains essentially unchanged since Walther introduced the PP model in 1929 and thus speaks for itself about the efficiency and brilliance of the design. The only modification added to the DP52 and DH380 is a pin which projects out the left side of the slide to prevent the safety lever from rotating upward past the fire position. — P.G.K. ✕

SEALS SINK AND SWIM

Continued from page 49

In the SDV, on top of the battery containers, was an array of aluminum SCUBA bottles, each containing 90 cubic feet of air. These were the "boat air." On the way to the beach and back out, the crew of the SDV breathed off these bottles. In spite of the telltale bubble trail left by these rigs, open-circuit SCUBA was used on these operations. Although classified at the time, our operations were not conducted north of the Demilitarized Zone separating South Vietnam from North. Any topside Vietnamese, then, were thought to be "friendly."

Each man wore a set of "double 90s" (air tanks) on his back, a belt, scabbard knife, flare, and UDT life vest. They kept their "duck feet" swim fins stashed in the sub when not using them. On these operations the men wore, at the very least, the top of a diver's wet suit. Although the water was warm off Vietnam, they were in it for a while.

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All of the support divers and SDV crew moved to the forward torpedo room. I would be "locking out" — my first time ever — and working with the SDV deck crew for the SDV.

Radarman 3rd class "Mole" Roberts and I, in our SCUBA gear, climbed up into the escape trunk and stood back to back in that very confined space. Neither one of us were little guys. It was no place for one who is claustrophobic. Mole and I had to do a little dance to get our feet clear of the lower hatch so the sub's crewmen could secure it. Then we were in total darkness.

Inside the sub, a crewman opened a valve to flood the trunk with seawater. It started to rush in around our feet and quickly rose to our chests. Before it reached our mouths, Mole yelled, "Trunk's flooded, secure the flood." Just in case, we each shoved our SCUBA regulators into our mouths. Below, the operator shut the flood valve to the trunk. Then he opened an air valve to pressurize the trunk to ambient sea pressure. I held pressure with my foot against the door leading outside. When the air pressure equaled the sea pressure outside, the door easily opened. In the air space at the top of the trunk, I sounded off, "Door's open, secure the blow."

I ducked down and swam out and up onto the deck of the submarine. Mole was right behind me. It was eerie to swim along the deck of a submarine and realize the only place you are safe is inside that gray, steel hulk sitting on the sea bottom.

Mole and I swam aft along the deck toward the SDV. He was on my left and I was near the edge of the sub's deck. As we passed by the conning tower, I looked to my right. There was a yellow sea snake swimming in formation with us about 5 feet away. I'd read about sea snakes' venom and how they could kill you with a bite — but I'd never seen a live one in open water. All of a sudden the damned thing pulled a 90-degree turn right for me. It came right at my face and bounced off my face mask. I was too scared to panic, so I just kept swimming. The snake swam away.

Mole and I moved to the SDV and started loosening the chains holding it to the deck. The SCUBA tanks and the batteries in the SDV had been charged the night before. In a few minutes two more UDT men locked

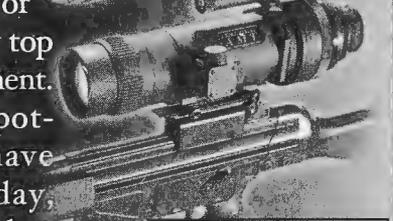
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out and swam up on deck beside us. At our position just over the rear deck, we were only about 50 feet below the surface; we had plenty of air in our tanks to do whatever we needed to do. When the deck crew had insured the SDV was ready to go, they gave a series of taps on the hull. Jake, Shearer, and Abney locked out. They wasted no time in getting to the craft and climbing in.

Jake gave the craft a quick pre-flight check, then nodded and gave a thumbs up. We released the chains. He powered up the SDV's electric motor. The tiny submersible lifted off and "flew" from the *Tunny's* deck into the hazy green gloom.

A Lost SDV

None of us had been outside the sub long enough to worry about decompression. I locked back in with another member of the deck crew, Machinist's Mate 1st class Harry Lapping (who had been borrowed from UDT-21). Mole came in with the second member of the deck crew.

Lieutenant (j.g.) Robbie Robertson, the UDT detachment's officer in charge, plus Lapping and a couple more of us assembled in the conning tower. The UQC (an underwater communications unit) transceiver was there. Using the UQC we could stay in voice communication with the SDV's driver. On the return trip, the SDV would home in on a signal from a "pinger" on the deck of the *Tunny*.

Then the radio signal stopped. Robbie kept adjusting the UQC, trying to raise Jake. No luck.

We all started glancing at our watches. Time was precious: The boys on the SDV each had a total of about 2 1/2 hours of air.

Not knowing what was happening to the three men on the SDV was maddening. If there was a malfunction and its motor lost power, the SDV would drop to the bottom, leaving the frogmen to swim back, looking for the *Tunny*. With a malfunctioning radio, the SDV could not home in on our ping, and the frogs might use up all of their air trying to find their way back. Then they would have to surface. Topside, the SDV might be spotted, mistaken for the enemy and fired on. We just didn't know.

By now the *Tunny* was rolling gently back and forth, side to side in a swell. It was pretty quiet in the dark-

ness of the dimly lit conning tower. All of us wore grim expressions.

The skipper ran up the periscope. We all took turns watching the surface toward the beach for signs of our little sub and three-man crew. Daylight was rapidly fading; the sky was overcast.

Robbie stepped up to the periscope for his turn at watch. Then he shouted, "There they are. I see a flare!"

Through the periscope's magnification, we could see the SDV on the surface. About 300 yards away, on the shore side of the *Tunny*, Jake was standing in the SDV's cockpit, a MK-13 Day/Night Distress flare burning hotly in his hand.

The skipper quickly ordered the *Tunny* to surface. Decks still awash, we rushed out, pulled the small sub onto the aft deck and chained it down.

The SDV's crew had run out of air and were forced to surface. They were cold and nearly exhausted. We helped them get below to warm quarters and hot chow.

Our "secret" mission was compromised when the SDV surfaced. On the other hand, we had good hydrographic data on that Vietnamese beach, and Lt. Robertson's after-action report revealed some points needing improvement.

A month later, the Navy decommissioned the *Tunny*. On 19 June 1970 the old girl was used as a target for another sub, the *USS Valodor* (SS-490), and sunk with a torpedo.

Navy veteran and freelance writer Steven L. Waterman resides in South Thomaston, Maine. This is his second contribution to Soldier Of Fortune. ✕

REFORM, REVOLUTION

Continued from page 39

Exile, in any event, proved brief. When the actual assault on Jaffna was launched in October 1995, Perera had been recalled to command the cutting edge of the attack. Certainly his concerns, as well as those of others who shared his opinion, had not changed, but all were unwilling to sit on the sidelines as the security forces locked horns in fierce battle with the LTTE.

From a terrorist threat of minor proportions the conflict in Sri Lanka

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has progressed to a level characterized by the recently completed — and successful — multi-divisional assault upon Jaffna, a heavily fortified built-up area. The assault used all the arsenal of conventional combat — airpower, artillery, and armor, among others. The Tigers even reportedly employed homemade chemical weapons.

The ferocity that the struggle has gained over the years cannot be understated. The death toll, when both the anti-JVP and anti-Eelam struggles are included, may well have reached 100,000. Whereas at one point, others and I could sit and engage in guarded but productive discussions with LTTE commanders on the other side, it is doubtful such would be possible today. Hard times make for hard men, all playing by what the Brits refer to as “big boy rules.”

Some of our opposite numbers were simply so caught up in the struggle for “liberation” that they were determined to become martyrs. Kumarappa, who drove me about Jaffna on the back of his motorcycle in 1987, swallowed cyanide rather

than suffer arrest. Others were swallowed up by the growing paranoia of the LTTE itself. Yogi, with his soft smile, a first class cricket player, was imprisoned by Tiger leader Prabakaran, who has systematically found ways to dispose of all possible challenges to his leadership. Most, though, just became butchers. A favored LTTE tactic is now one that only a Marxist could love: the wholesale use of children for attacks — there were 300 little bodies on the ground after one recent fight, all laid out in neat rows by the security forces.

Who is this enemy? While the ranks of rebel manpower was impressively swelled by the trauma of July 1983 — and thus might deserve “protection” as offered by the insurgents — the leadership of the “Eelam” movement has come from the original pre-July 1983 Marxist groups.

Prior to LTTE’s achievement of dominance — it massacred its principal rivals — key figures of all major formations remained those individuals whose designs were much larger than Tamil “self-defense.” They were after “liberation” in its

Marxist sense.

Attempts to discern whether groups were “really Marxist” (an exercise favored by the Indian High Commission in Colombo) were pointless: The insurgents considered themselves Marxist and drew from Marxist models for their strategic analysis, operational and tactical use of clandestine mechanisms, and ideological phraseology.

To ensure that the “grievance guerrillas” (those thrown up by the repression of the system, real or perceived) shared their analysis of the situation and aims, the leadership allocated large portions of the daily training schedule to ideological indoctrination. My favorite line from those, published by Anton S. Balasingham, leading theoretician for LTTE (a charming man, at least on the phone): “The political objective of our movement is to advance the national struggle along with the class struggle, or rather, our fundamental objective is national emancipation and socialist transformation of our social formation.” Put in plain English: We’ll only be free when we

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What The Future Holds

Insurgent leaders, then, have not been interested in adhering to a settlement of the country's ethnic problems within a framework of autonomy. They are interested in "liberation."

This makes necessary a fight to the finish, even if the weapons are frequently non-military. It also makes for a difficult task.

If it is the sheer slaughter which grabs the headlines, more intriguing — certainly for me — has been the complexity of the task as it has developed. Colombo's achievement, for all its missteps, should not be underestimated. A Third World state has in a dozen years been forced to create, support, and deploy a force with nearly twice the infantry battalions available to the likes of the United Kingdom. It has done so at heavy human and financial cost. The rearming for the present Jaffna offensive alone is estimated to have run up a bill of some \$500 million.

What is sobering, though, is that the security dynamic has scarcely changed since battle was joined. The debate within the Sri Lankan command concerning the attack on Jaffna, for instance, was not on the necessity of taking out that insurgent center but rather on the means and the timing.

Assessing its own political situation, as well as that of its opponents, Colombo decided that it could not adopt the long-haul approach. It was well understood that the attack would be costly and that insurgent elements would certainly seek to relocate elsewhere in the country to continue the fight.

Preparations were thus made to safeguard the gains made in the east and "near north" (that area south of Jaffna), those Tamil-populated areas which remain in contention, as well as to secure the Sinhalese rear area itself. These were mostly successful, at least on the surface, though Tiger attacks succeeded in destroying oil stores in Colombo and in massacring a number of Sinhalese villages.

Whether the cost of the Jaffna

assault — thousands of casualties had already resulted at the time of this writing — proves commensurate with the results will depend upon the government's follow-up. Among the many ironies of the war is the fact that at no time has a majority of Tamils lived in the so-called "Tamil homelands." This has become even more the case as the years have gone by.

The ceasefire and its subsequent violation by the Tigers has served the useful purpose of exposing once again, both domestically and internationally, the fact that revolution as opposed to reform is the LTTE aim. Consequently, not only has there been a decided shift in international circles away from the sympathetic tilt of many towards the Tigers, there has also been an upsurge in numbers of Tamil civilians fleeing LTTE areas for government lines.

In the key Vavuniya district, for instance, which I visited just before the Jaffna assault, three-quarters of the area remains under LTTE control — but that precise proportion of the population, three-quarters, lives on

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the government side of the lines. Significantly, there had been no incidents during the year before the Jaffna attack. The test will be whether the costly seizure of Jaffna serves to facilitate further this domination of the populace.

This will be a nasty affair, because already the Tigers have moved to expand inroads they have made in the east. As always, terror plays an important part in their campaign. Anti-insurgent Tamils bear the brunt, but actions such as the suicide bombing in Colombo are designed not only to up the cost of the war for the government but also to bring home the point that no one is safe.

This will be the case for some time to come, for certainly the struggle will continue. What is hoped in Colombo is that the destruction of the insurgent head, Jaffna, will push the conflict back to the level at which it should have remained had government response been more appropriate and foreign intervention less disruptive (India, now firmly on Colombo's side, was for much of the conflict an ally of the insurgents; the Indian Tamil-majority state of Tamil Nadu continues to be used as a base and staging area despite New Delhi's efforts).

Thus the insurgents, it is anticipated, can be dealt with using the techniques and forces developed for special operations. Had these been available from the start, combined with the greater political and social sensitivity now evident in Colombo's strategic approach, it is unlikely the story of the Tamil insurgency would have played as outlined above.

But then, there would have been no work!

On the scene in Sri Lanka for nearly a decade, Dr. Tom Marks is an SOF senior foreign correspondent. ✕

COPS VS. BYERS

Continued from page 53

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no nothing. The Agency disavows all knowledge, etc., etc.

When ATF based much of its Waco search warrant on statements made by a legally blind "eyewitness," people were shocked to think that any federal agents could be so incredibly stupid. But was it an isolated incident endemic to just ATF, or was it a pattern shared by other federal agencies?

In February 1989 the FBI and U.S. Customs in Phoenix were sure they had been handed the case of a lifetime. It had it all — international gun-trafficking, machine guns, exploding bullets, a hit man (code-named "Christ"), and a plot to assassinate then-Philippine President Corazon Aquino. Best of all, it was in their own backyard. The feds had been handed something all right, but it wasn't the career-maker they thought it was.

U.S. Customs special agent William J. O'Neill had been approached by a confidential informant, whom he dutifully dubbed with the code name "S-A235-PX." In short order, O'Neill was convinced, as he swore to on his Affidavit For Search War-

rant, that S-A235-PX "was in a position to know." According to the snitch, Byers and Robert Barrkman were co-conspirators. Barrkman, a former sergeant major in the South African army, was now a naturalized U.S. citizen and president of the ROBAR company, a firm that manufactured custom sniper rifles and related military and law enforcement weapons. And if this weren't enough to convince the feds that Barrkman was dirty, his friend was David Hill, the ex-Air America pilot who ran Air South Transport Inc. Just two years earlier an ASTI C-123K was flying arms to the Contras when it was blasted out of the air over Nicaragua by a Sandinista armed with a Russian SAM-7. Besides killing ASTI exec Bill Cooper and two others, wannabe spook Eugene Hasenfus was captured and there soon became hell to pay for Iran-Contra figures Ollie North and retired Air Force general Richard Secord.

According to S-A235-PX, Byers and Barrkman had cut off the barrel of a Ruger 10/22 rifle, converted it to full-auto, equipped it with an electrically fired solenoid trigger and con-

cealed it in a video camcorder case. The assassination weapon, along with 110 rounds of mercury-filled .22 caliber hollow-point ammo, a Smith & Wesson .357 revolver, three vials of mercury, six sets of American press credentials and a letter from "Christ" were then to be sent to an Edward Christianson in care of the Bertram Company in Seymour, Australia. Bruce Bertram, a former Australian State Police officer and ammunition manufacturer, owned the Bertram Company, and like Byers and Barrkman, had no idea whatsoever about illegal guns, assassination plots or letters from "Christ." But it was too late for any of that now.

"A Plot Right Out of Soldier Of Fortune"

There's an old saying about putting your brain in gear before putting your mouth in motion. This adage should also apply before you put any raid plans in motion. When law enforcement agencies rely on unreliable informants instead of good solid police work, things tend to go to hell in a hand cart. That was certainly the

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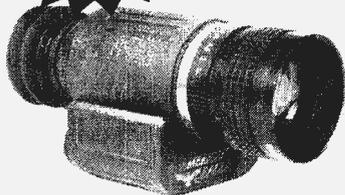
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case in this fiasco. S-A235-PX turned out to be a certifiable flake by the name of Jeff Davis. A former employee of Barrkman, Davis had been fired after filing false worker's compensation claims and had vowed to get even. Evidence indicates Davis had concocted the entire plot, even to the extent of making and shipping the sawed-off Ruger to Australia, ordering the phony press passes from a mail-order house and writing the letters from "Christ." It turns out that all of the names and places used to add credibility to the "Christ" letters were taken directly from the story "Victory in Panay" in the February 1989 issue of *Soldier Of Fortune* magazine.

Some of the U.S. Customs agents may have begun to suspect that maybe they'd been had, but it was too late for that now. The ball was rolling and nothing could stop it. Customs agents, the FBI, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the Australian Federal Police were primed to go.

On 30 May 1989, after verifying that the "assassination package" containing the modified Ruger/camcorder

case had indeed arrived in Australia, Australian Federal Police raided Bruce Bertram's business, arresting him and recovering the "evidence."

Ironically, on the same day back in Arizona, Chuck Byers (who was out of town that day) spoke to ASI plant foreman John Wijt. In the course of the phone call Byers said that Wijt informed him that a package had arrived at ASI addressed to Byers. What happened next is a mystery. Wijt was seen by other employees at a workbench with the package. Minutes later witnesses describe hearing a metallic "click," followed by a loud explosion. When the smoke cleared, Wijt lay dead.

Investigators from the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms claim Wijt was killed when he dropped a case of ASI stun grenades. Within a week the MCSO put out a nationwide law enforcement alert, warning that all products made by ASI were "UNSAFE AND COULD DETONATE UPON ANY MOVEMENT OR SHOCK." Two days later the MCSO followed up with another

teletype in which they now said that "ATF Explosive Experts" said that ATF only considered two models of the ASI stun grenades as being hazardous. According to local deputies the ATF explosives expert who told them that ASI products were unsafe was Jerry A. Taylor, an ATF Explosives Enforcement Officer based out of Walnut Creek, California. When confronted, Taylor adamantly denied ever giving such advice to the MCSO deputies.

However, it was no secret within ATF that Taylor had developed a near-obsession with getting Chuck Byers by whatever means necessary.

Between 6 June and 27 July 1989, ATF, U.S. Customs and the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department raided businesses belonging to Byers and Barrkman three separate times. The most outlandish of these raids was on 27 July when ATF and the MCSO launched a Waco-type assault on Byers' New River, Arizona ranch. As invited television crews and newspaper reporters looked on, ninja-clad lawmen jumped from helicopters with their MP5s at the ready while other raiders

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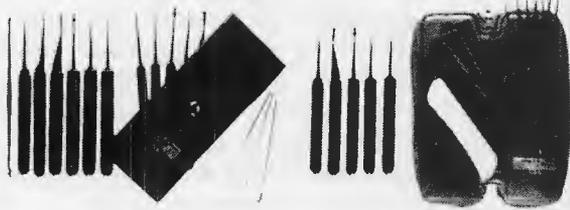
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chopped down the front door and man-handled Byers' teenage nephew.

During the course of this raid more than \$20,000 worth of ranch property was maliciously destroyed or turned up missing as locks were hacked off explosive storage magazines and other buildings.

At the direction of ATF Explosives Enforcement Officer Jerry Taylor, more than \$125,000 worth of chemicals and ASI finished products improperly classified as being "hazardous and lethal" were destroyed. Their task complete, the cops left explosives magazines and other storage buildings unsecured when they departed. Sound familiar?

In The Wake Of Injustice

When their search warrants turned up no evidence of wrongdoing, U.S. Customs agents began to realize they may have been had. Finally they decided that maybe their snitch Jeff Davis, a.k.a. S-A235-PX, wasn't all he appeared to be. Customs agents now wanted Davis to take a polygraph. But — get this — the FBI advised Davis against taking the test, because they felt people might get the idea the feds were "confused." It gets even better: In a U.S. Customs "Internal Affairs Sensitive" document obtained by *Soldier Of Fortune*, Assistant United States Attorney Mark Aspey concluded that "the confidential informant may have manufactured the entire incident." In that same document it is stated that U.S. Customs Group Supervisor Gary Pinkava and Senior Special Agent William O'Neill "also felt that the CI may have fabricated this entire scheme."

Although ATF was the late comer to this case, they made up for it with their typical hard-charging zeal. In order to obtain their search warrant, ATF Special Agent Charles Gonzales raised his hand and swore that he had done a thorough check and found that Byers and Accuracy Systems were committing a federal felony by operating without a federal explosives license. Apparently he didn't do much checking. In fact, ASI did have all the necessary licenses and permits. This was further borne out in the narrative of a cash award received by ATF Explosives Officer Taylor for his part in the ASI raids where it was stated that "They [ASI] hold an explosives manufactures license."

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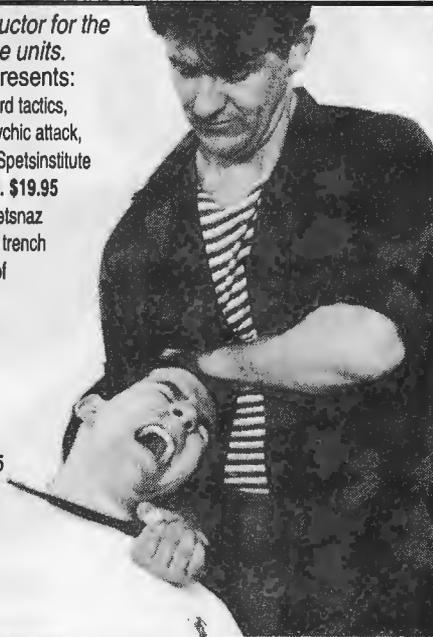
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As a reward for ordering the unwarranted destruction of over \$125,000 worth of ASI property, Agent Taylor was awarded a cash bonus/bounty of \$500. However, had anyone bothered to verify the claims Taylor made to ATF officials in order to get this award, they would have had no problem determining that it was a case of outright fraud! As stated in the award narrative, Taylor cited the discovery of several containers of arsenic trichloride and lead azide. Although these are standard explosives manufacturing-related materials, Taylor claimed that these chemicals were "highly lethal and used in germ warfare." A simple check with the U.S. Army's biological weapons laboratories would have exposed this for the blatant lie that it was. Attempts to expose this fraud to former ATF Director Steve Higgins and current Director John Magaw have been ignored.

As an interesting side note, in a recent but unrelated Phoenix ATF trial involving some of ASI's stun grenades, Jerry Taylor was put on the hot seat by the defense attorney when he was forced to admit, under oath, that he hadn't the slightest idea how to tell one ASI grenade from another. Remember, this is the very same Jerry Taylor whose explosive expertise caused the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department to issue a nationwide alert which claimed that ASI/Byers' products were a grave safety hazard!

Unlike their American law enforcement brethren, the Australian Federal Police have been forced to acknowledge their errors in charging Bruce Bertram in this so-called plot. On 20 August 1993 the Australian Government Solicitor issued a check in the amount of \$47,500 in settlement moneys to the attorneys for Bertram and his associate Bernadette Lindner.

It's Not Over Yet

Sources inside the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department have admitted that they now know ATF used them and hung them out to dry (what's new). When SOF contacted MCSO Captain James Porter he regretted that he could not discuss the case due to a gag order imposed on the department in the wake of a \$10 million lawsuit filed on behalf of Byers and others who had been damaged by this miscarriage of justice.

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Dealer Inquires Welcome

After more than six years of turmoil, Chuck Byers is still struggling to get his life back into some semblance of order. The old adage "you can't fight city hall" seems more than apropos in his case. His business destroyed, Byers couldn't start over if he wanted to. Barred from holding a federal explosives or firearms license, he finds himself in a daily state of limbo.

Armed with a fistful of documents and statements proving government wrongdoing, and even criminal actions by the feds, Byers faithfully continues trying to "use the system." Although he has filed numerous lawsuits against the government seeking redress of wrongs, they all seem to meet virtually the same fate. In what can only be described as a bizarre chain of "coincidences," Byer's lawsuits seem to wind up before the same U.S. District Court Judge Carl A. Muecke, where they are either dismissed out of hand, ruled in favor of the government, or pigeon-holed.

Not once has Byers had the opportunity to appear in court to offer his side of events. Nor can he find any Arizona attorney with the testicular

fortitude to take on the feds. Further, he has now been ordered by Judge Muecke to refrain from filing any more "frivolous" lawsuits. Although he still has an active lawsuit against the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department, its status is in limbo. And county officials won't discuss the case.

There may be some truth to the saying "It's who you know ..." After the fatal explosion at Accuracy Systems, Byers was branded as public enemy number one and all stops were pulled out to put him out of business. The local front-page newspaper story told it all: "5 Workers Hurt In Blast At ..." Oops, no, this story wasn't about Accuracy Systems: It was just another in a long line of community-rocking explosions that rattled the plant of the international mega-company TRW. Then, as now, TRW experiences so many explosions at its Mesa, Arizona plant that the locals have to come to regard these blasts as being as routine as the summer monsoon rains. Yet at TRW it's business as usual — while the small defense/law enforcement contractor ASI is slam-dunked into oblivion. It some-

thing wrong with this picture?

As the more sordid details of this story continue to unravel, it is likely to expose a very dark side of some highly placed rogue elements operating within many of our government's top agencies. One factoid that bears further investigation is that, so far, nine deaths have been linked to this story — five of them declared to be murders. As always, *Soldier Of Fortune* will continue to keep tabs on the situation, as well as following the progress of the lawsuit.

Investigative reporter and frequent contributor Rick Sherrow is a retired Army EOD man, and former BATF explosives investigator. ✕

I WAS THERE

Continued from page 16

soned by a squad of experienced troops. Trenches, gun pits, fire lanes, fences and spike traps were in varying stages of construction around the feature, and constant patrols were being run

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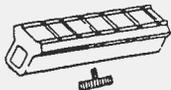
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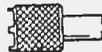


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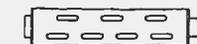
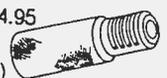


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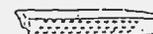


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into both the Mon and Muslim neighboring areas.

Over a sumptuous Christmas dinner of rice and fried fish, I described my previous visit to the Checkpoint to their demo specialist, Min Zaw Oo. I considered the tale just a vaguely amusing anecdote but Min listened grimly, then related his own tale of a similar encounter but with more tragic results.

Two years previously he'd been on a patrol in the front-line area when they spotted armed troops moving toward them on the same track. It was at dusk and visibility was poor. After a challenge issued by Min's patrol went unanswered, they opened fire. The exchange was only of a few seconds duration before they realized their mistake: It was another ABSDF unit. Min was first on the scene to assist the casualties. Two men were shot at close-range by 5.56mm rounds fired from ABSDF M16s. Min described the horrific wounds resulting from the small high-velocity

bullets. One man's stomach was torn open and rice and fish from his undigested dinner spilled everywhere. The round had gone on to shatter his spine and he died within minutes. The second man had a small entry wound to his face and as Min put his hand to the back of the young soldier's head he felt it sink into the torn and exposed brain tissue. The soldier died before Min had moved his hand back.

I listened soberly to Min's story, all the while clearly picturing the muzzle of the M16 leveled at us for those few fateful seconds on a wet August morning thinking, "There but for the grace of God go I." ✕

THE HOUNDS

Continued from page 34

"I ain't looking to kill anyone," said Spec. William M. Garland, of Melbourne, Florida. "I just want stuff to happen. All this quiet is murder."

Garland's foxhole buddy, Private

First Class Philip H. Cutter, of Jaffrey, New Hampshire, went one step further in bravado. "I want one motherfucker to do something so I can kill them. Just one. That's all I ask for."

It was now off in the direction of OP-1: a makeshift camp at the tail end of Route Pepsi, a minefield-bordered mud sluice that came to a head in front of a heavily shelled Catholic church and its stripped and looted rectory. Bravo Troop of the 3/5th Cavalry occupied OP-1.

"Jesus is always the first one to get it," said Spec. Richard Elliot, of Athens, Georgia, pointing at the dismembered church steeple. "These people be playing with the wrong guy when they mess with God like that."

Elliot, PFC Ricky Carl Burke — a "SAW-toting road dog" from Terre Haute, Indiana — and Spec. Richard Fahey, of Boston, Massachusetts (and *SOF's* April cover guy) had spent the better part of the day slowly freezing when we joined them about 200 meters from OP-1 in the middle of Croat front-line trenches. All three

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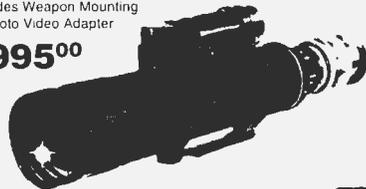
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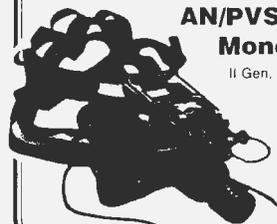
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were watching Bosnian Croat army engineers dismantle a bunker complex in keeping with the terms of the Dayton Agreement.

"It says in the peace plan that they've got until [26 February] to destroy all front-line positions," said Fahey. "But they've already said that they're building new bunkers and stuff just outside the ZOS [zone of separation]. I just can't figure it. What are we doing here then?"

Senior Foreign Correspondent Mark H. Milstein, stationed in Budapest, covered the war in Bosnia for SOF during the United Nations' peacekeeping mission. ✕

ASHES OF A BRUSHFIRE

Continued from page 57

guerrillas fled. The army patrol suffered no casualties in that ambush — thanks largely to the Cav.

El Salvador probably never again will experience anything like the '89 offensive. But social unrest remains; the seizing of buildings and hostages has become a familiar tactic of disaffected groups ranging from ex-combatants to peasants to laid-off bureaucrats. Blood has flowed in clashes with police.

If worse comes to worst, the president can call on the Special Forces Command.

"We are the last resort," said its (then) commander, Col. Gilbert Caceres. His executive officer, Lt. Col. Jose Luis Carcamo, took me, Thompson and Roberto on an inspection tour of the command, based at Ilopango Air Force Base, a few kilometers east of San Salvador.

Ilopango looked like a ghost town compared to its war days, when helicopters, transport planes and A-37 Dragonfly ground-attack jets took off and landed around the clock. Nowadays troops stay busy at opposite ends of the base on special-forces installations.

Lieutenant Colonel Carcamo drove us in a jeep to demonstrations of bayonet fighting, SCUBA diving in a large swimming pool, rappelling, and patrolling. It wasn't surprising the troops looked impressive. Major Geovanny Barrios, who accompanied us, said almost all of these elite troops were combat vets; about 80% had served in special forces during the war.



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But while many of the faces may be the same (if older), the structure of Salvadoran special forces has changed over the years.

Its roots date back to the long-range reconnaissance patrols founded in 1982 with 6 officers and 97 enlisted men. Known by its Spanish acronym *PRAL*, it began combat operations in 1983 after training under U.S. Special Forces in Panama. In December of that year, the 1st Special Operations Group (*GOE*) grew out of the *PRAL* and soon incorporated Hatchet (swift-attack) squads.

The *GOE* was so successful, said Major Barrios, it grew to number 543 extremely skilled soldiers: 393 in the *PRAL* and 150 in a Hatchet company. It wasn't long before the Navy, Treasury Police and infantry brigades organized their own special forces (some trained by *SOF*), ranging in size from a single platoon to a couple of companies.

However, in early 1993, more than a year after the war, the Special Forces Command was formed to consolidate the principal elite units as one autonomous force receiving orders from the armed forces' General Staff. Today, it numbers about 1,100 troops, including a base-security company and Special Forces School cadre.

More than half of the Command comprises the newly incorporated Airborne Battalion's 600 troops (about half of the battalion's wartime strength). And then there are about 300 in the Special Operations Group, which is subdivided into two *PRAL* companies, a 60-man Hatchet company, and at least 40 Naval Commandos (down from as many as 130 in wartime).

The Naval Commandos had left their old home at the eastern port of La Union to resettle in Ilopango. Jack, Roberto and I were flown in a Piper airplane to La Union to visit the Navy at the invitation of Captain Marie Argot Franc (who later would be promoted to Salvador's first rear admiral).

Our flight was breathtaking. Verdant volcanoes and mountains reached upward at us. Rivers snaked through a patchwork of lush farmland, and volcanic lakes reflected the azure of a sunny sky. We couldn't help but sightsee as our tiny plane crisscrossed over the smoking crater of the Chaparrastique Volcano. Soon the Gulf of Fonseca came into view,

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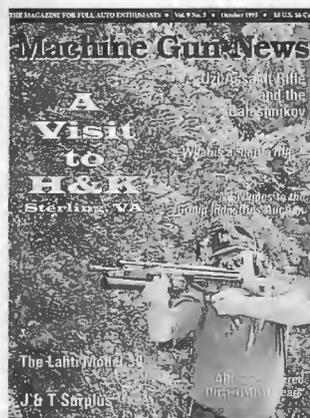
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a splendid body of water some 50 kilometers across shared by El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua.

But sightseeing ended as we prepared to land. La Union's dirt airstrip hadn't been used in years and was little more than ruts and bumps. Worse yet, a horse stood in the middle. It took several low passes of wing-waving to buzz it away before our intrepid pilot, Manuel Martinez, could bring us down. Lucky for us, overgrown bushes slapping our wings didn't sling us into an accident.

It was all smiles, handshakes and hugs as Capt. Edgar Vanegas, commander of La Union's Punta Ruca base, and his men gave us a welcome warmer than the humid tropical heat. Many were old friends of mine. (While covering the civil war for *Soldier Of Fortune* in the '80s, I became the first U.S. citizen to successfully complete the Salvadoran Naval Commando course, and accompanied commandos into combat.)

Back then, the Gulf of Fonseca was an arena of clandestine ops and gunboat battles as CIA operatives, leftist guerrilla gun-runners, Nicara-

guan Contras and the region's navies clashed on its waters.

The CIA, guerrillas and Contras now are gone, and the Salvadoran and Honduran navies coordinate friendly maneuvers before invited observers of their erstwhile Nicaraguan enemy. Salvador's post-war fleet comprises five cutters, eight 41-foot patrol boats, six river-patrol boats, and one amphibious landing craft.

But bullets sometimes still fly because of fishing disputes.

Several months earlier, two Honduran patrol boats had clashed with a small Nicaraguan naval craft that was moving in to arrest Honduran fishermen who might have strayed into Nicaraguan waters, recalled Salvadoran Navy Lieutenant Marco Aguirre. The bespectacled, 31-year-old officer thought at least one of the four Nicaraguan crewmen was wounded and the commanding officer detained.

The Nicaraguans have detained many Salvadoran and Honduran fishermen and boats. The most recent incident occurred in December 1995 when two Nicaraguan patrol boats strafed Honduran fishing boats in the

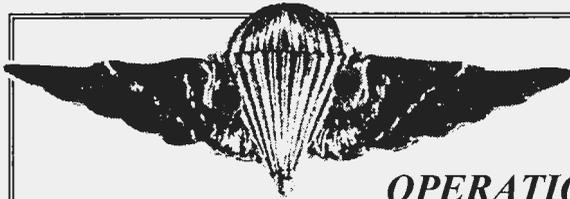
Caribbean. A Honduran skipper reportedly was wounded and more than 100 fishermen arrested.

"You have to watch out," said Lt. Aguirre, taking us on an afternoon cruise of the Gulf in an *LOF*, the Spanish acronym for a river-patrol boat similar to those Americans used in Vietnam.

Sailor also keep their eyes peeled for narco-traffickers. Just the day before, Aguirre said, the crew of a patrol cutter spotted a suspected drug plane over the coast in the wee hours of morning. An A-37 jet was scrambled to intercept, but by the time it arrived the mystery plane — no lights, no identification — had vanished.

But the navy isn't just fighting drug smugglers and defending its waters. It's also waging war on poverty through civic action. We saw some of its results on Meanguerra Island: Earth-moving equipment brought in by the navy was being used to build a road, over sloping terrain, for impoverished villagers.

Before returning to La Union we sailed in the Gulf of Fonseca to the



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edge of the 3-mile exclusion zone, around rocks marking the border with Nicaragua. It was a striking scene: The setting sun lit the cloudy sky pink and threw a coppery glow over the haze of Nicaragua's coastline straight ahead.

It was easy to see how one could get lost in the alluring beauty and stray into foreign water. More than one skirmish had happened here. Beyond the rocks, Nicaraguan patrol boats probably were lying in wait. Getting shot at would have ruined such a lovely cruise; we churned back past the silhouettes of El Salvador's towering volcanic islands to dock after dark at La Union.

A status report on the Salvadoran armed forces would not be complete without mentioning the air force, which had played a crucial role beating back FMLN attacks.

Like every service, its size has shrunk. Its wartime peak of more than 60 helicopters has been reduced, although its fleet of C-47s and other transport planes has varied little. And it still has a squadron of A-37 combat jets, although these now are based at

Comalapa International Airport near the coast.

The air force's tasks today basically consist of transport, civic action and rescue. Several months ago its helicopters were indispensable in the evacuation of some 65 bodies from a jetliner crash on a volcanic slope.

During the war, air force Lt. Col. Milton Andrade flew more than 380 bombing sorties in A-37s. He almost died once, having to eject with a sucking chest wound after his jet took heavy ground fire from guerrillas during the 1989 offensive.

The flight suit-clad officer summed up what many officers and enlisted men think: "I have no rancor against them [former guerrillas]. They're citizens just like we are. It's time to move forward. The war took away time from administration. Now we have time for books. There's a lot to study."

And there's a lot to learn from the experience of the Salvadoran armed forces.

SOF Senior Foreign Correspondent Steve Salisbury is based in Guatemala City, Guatemala. ✕

PLAZA OF GUNSHOTS

Continued from page 57

had the sound of a handgun. A small, dark-skinned young man came running through the crowd. Hunched over and holding his upper arm or shoulder with his hand, it appeared he had been hit.

He looked over his shoulder as he passed under the outstretched arms of Lady Liberty, a tarnished, bronze statue rising from the center of the plaza on a tall, concrete pedestal.

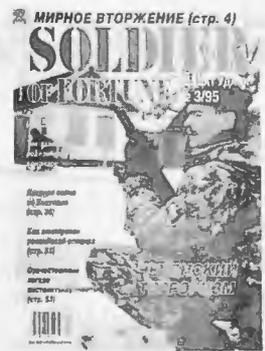
The young man's eyes shifted in terror and pain; his unruly mop of black hair flowed wildly over his wide forehead. Then four or five clean-cut youths darted from the crowd in pursuit. I couldn't help but notice the contrast their white T-shirts had with his filthy black pants and gray-striped shirt.

Reaching the plaza's corner, failing to catch him, the group started to trot back into the crowd.

Instead of stampeding away in fear, a curious crowd had swelled around the scene of the shooting. It was almost as if, after all the years of violence, this was a natural reaction for Salvadorans.

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Curious ourselves, Roberto, Jack and I followed the crowd as it lurched to the northern side of the plaza. Drawing on years of experience as a successful bodyguard instructor, Jack looked over the frenzy of faces. He pointed out a nearby kiosk where we could find cover in case of more gunfire.

The throng pressed around something. Roberto and I managed to squeeze through to find a middle-aged woman in a light green dress sitting on a stool. She was going into shock; her round, brown face was pale and her dark eyes vacant. Roberto saw a small pool of blood at her feet.

"The lady's shot," someone shouted in Spanish. "Give her air!" And the crowd gave her air all right — hot air — pressing in even tighter, murmuring and gasping.

A couple of minutes later, a police car arrived, its siren wailing. A cop in black pants and a white shirt pushed through to evacuate the *señora* with the help of bystanders.

As we left the plaza, we heard a shot a couple of blocks away. Maybe someone had caught the young guy who fled.

We never found out why the shots had been fired in the first

place. It might have been a case of a street criminal trying to rip off someone. But one thing is clear: An upsurge in crime has been an unwanted legacy of the end of El Salvador's war.

According to police statistics, at least 16,811 crimes were reported in 1994, and 21,640 were reported during the first nine months of 1995.

"I felt safer during the war," a taxi driver remarked, ironically. "At least then, the large presence of troops kept crime down." — S.S. ✕

ELIOT NESS

Continued from page 67

scene moments after the doors had been battered down." (Shades of Waco here.)

With the repeal of Prohibition, the glamour and fame Ness had known as an Untouchable vanished overnight and, with it, the lure of being a federal agent. After some distasteful assignments chasing hillbilly moonshiners in Kentucky and Tennessee — Ness was decidedly a city boy who was intensely afraid of flying — he landed the Cleveland job, based in no small part on his

Chicago exploits.

According to Nickel's book, Ness soon drew criticism in Cleveland as "a self-centered official interested only in his self-aggrandizement... accused of timing the release of information to the press to manipulate it for best advantage."

That wasn't hard for Ness. Less and less the quiet family man, Ness spent more and more after-hours time drinking with his buddies from Cleveland's two newspapers, instead of his wife, Edna, and their son. He kept tables reserved in discreet corners near the exit at the tony bars of both the Hollenden Hotel and Hotel Cleveland, where he and a coterie of reporters and editors would hold court into the wee hours.

Cleveland's conservative and mostly-Catholic population was scandalized by the news that Eliot and Edna Ness were divorcing. As Nickel wrote, "Ness's squeaky-clean image... began to crumble... as it became evident that he had adopted a new and flashier lifestyle. Instead of retiring to his suburban home or working late on his special projects, the safety director patronized the city's night spots, usually in the company of a pretty young lady."

Ness eventually remarried, but he

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and his new wife weren't the retiring, Norman Rockwell family to which the public was accustomed. Nickel noted the newlyweds' affinity for "hobnobbing with the wealthy... and entertaining frequently and lavishly at their new Lakewood boathouse." His final downfall in Cleveland resulted from just such high living and, ironically, a drunken traffic accident. On a rainy night in March 1942, Eliot and Evaline Ness dined, danced and drank with another couple until midnight at the Hollenden Hotel's Vogue Room, celebrating Ness's publication of a national article on the menace of venereal diseases. They then adjourned to the couple's room, where they drank and talked until almost 0430.

On the way home, Ness's car spun out of control and smashed into an oncoming automobile driven by 21-year-old Robert Sims. Sims said Ness rushed over, inquired about his injuries and then fled the scene of the accident. (The driver would later phone the hospital to ask about Sims, then refuse to provide his identity.) Sims, injured and unable to follow in his disabled car, noted the license tag number of the fleeing culprit: EN-1. That tag number, Nickel wrote, "was as good

as a name in Cleveland."

No charges were filed against Ness, "but the damage to his exalted image was irreversible," Nickel wrote. "... The white knight had toppled from his perch." — J.L.P. ✕

WHY IS CLINTON AFRAID?

Continued from page 61

While Special Forces soldiers must still pass the Q-course, the requirements are not as stringent, nor as relevant, say veterans like Crisler and Van Der Pool. For instance, Van Der Pool pointed out, Phase III of the Q-course now focuses much more on direct action missions and far less on unconventional warfare training, which is the hallmark of Special Forces. Direct action missions have, historically, more been the province of Ranger units, and this shift reflects the growing presence of Ranger proponents among the Special Operations Forces command.

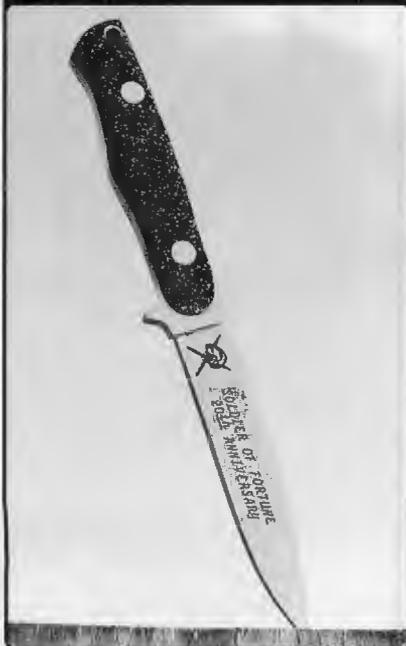
In the meantime, though, valuable veterans like Van Der Pool, and now Rasor, and soon many, many more,

are getting out, driven by a lack of focus, a misguided mission vision and the lack of tolerance for dissenting viewpoints that once characterized service in the Green Berets.

Under the Force 21 Initiative, a plan to restructure the Army for the 21st Century, Army Special Forces will take on more and more civil affairs duties, and less and less the unconventional warfare and counterinsurgency missions that have defined their identity in the past. Insiders say Navy SEALs will get most of the special forces missions, and that many of these types of missions are going to be contracted by the Pentagon to private contractors such as Military Professional Resources Inc. of Alexandria, Virginia, currently providing much of the training to local troops in the former Yugoslavia.

With more and more United Nations missions on their horizon, grumbled one long-time Green Beret veteran, "Army Special Forces is going to be spending more of its time wiping noses, wiping butts and passing out beans and rice." ✕

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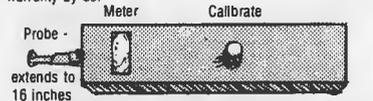
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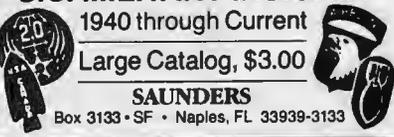
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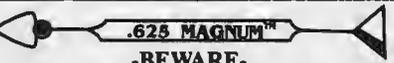
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PARTING SHOT

Lost At Sea

by David Hackworth

Retired Colonel David Hackworth, America's most decorated living soldier and a frequent contributor to *Soldier Of Fortune*, writes a syndicated, weekly column entitled "Defending America." He pulls no punches and sometimes steps on "politically correct" toes, so many newspapers don't carry the column. If your paper doesn't, contact the Op-Ed page's editor and ask for "Defending America." It's syndicated by King Features, 235 E. 45th St., New York City, NY 10017.

Sometimes I feel like nuking Washington, D.C., and blowing up those lying, cheating, uncaring politicians along with all of the other equally venal bureaucrats. Taking down all the bad guys — civvy-clad and uniformed alike — in one big puff of smoke might be the best thing that could happen to America. Talk about reinventing government!

But there would be a downside to that action. Believe it or not, there are still a few good people among the rats within the world's biggest rodent maze. (I'd also hate to see Lincoln's Tomb, Arlington Cemetery and Charlie Murphy's Pizza Parlor go the way of Hiroshima.)

What's caused my Irish temper to explode is a thick letter from retired Col. Milan Vucurevich, a World War II hero and a tax-paying citizen who's at the end of his rope because of Beltway cover-ups.

In 1984, Vucurevich's son, Milan Jr., a former Marine, ex-Los Angeles lifeguard and expert boatsman, and two outstanding swimmer mates went sailing on a Sunday of blue sky and smooth water. They disappeared, as did their Hobi Cat catamaran, described by its manufacturer as "unsinkable."

On that day, the U.S. Navy, conducting war games along with

ships from five other nations, was doing its thing: blowing up Styrofoam targets about the same size and shape of Milan Jr.'s craft.

Since Col. Vucurevich's son went missing, he's written to three presidents (Reagan, Bush and Clinton), dozens of senators and legislators, and about 200 lesser Washington pencil-pushers.

Most of these ladies and gentlemen in whom we've placed our trust either blew him off or responded with a standard bureaucratic blurb such as Clinton's point man for obfuscation, Gregory Nowak, who replied, "I can certainly appreciate the motivation which prompted you to write."

"Motivation"? This high-priced clerk talks about "motivation" while ignoring, blocking and double-talking a father's pleas for help.

When your son and two of his friends disappear while the U.S. Navy is conducting live-fire exercises in the very waters where he's sailing, you better believe you want assistance from the people your vote hired and your tax dollars pay.

Vucurevich and his wife have been lied to, ignored, and wrapped in miles of red tape. They've become the victims of sleight-of-hand buck-passers and otherwise been treated like last month's catch that's been rotting in the sun.

The colonel quietly says, "We have a right to know the fate of our loved one." He has concluded there's been a "cover-up that continues to this day, protecting those responsible for concealing the facts regarding the disappearance of our son."

Could the Navy have mistakenly blown away his son's craft, thinking it was a target? Absolutely!

Let's look at the recent record:

- An Australian airliner was almost shot out of the sky by the boys in blue when it overflowed a similar war-game site.

- A Turkish warship was accidentally hit by a U.S. Navy missile during another maneuver.

- The Navy swore they didn't hit an Indian ship with a missile in the very same area from which Milan Jr. vanished, and it was only when insurance investigators plunked down missile parts from the destroyed ship's superstructure that the Navy did an about-face, admitting they'd fired the wayward missile.

Do the U.S. Navy's high brass lie? Absolutely. Let's look at a few recent examples:

- During the Tailhook sexual-harassment investigation, brass from the offices of Secretary of the Navy and Chief of Naval Operations down to dozens of admirals and captains lied under oath.

- During the attempted cover-up of the battleship *Iowa's* disastrous turret explosion, a boatload of Navy brass lied through their teeth, insistently blaming a suicidal "gay sailor" — until an investigation revealed the cause was "faulty [gun] powder."

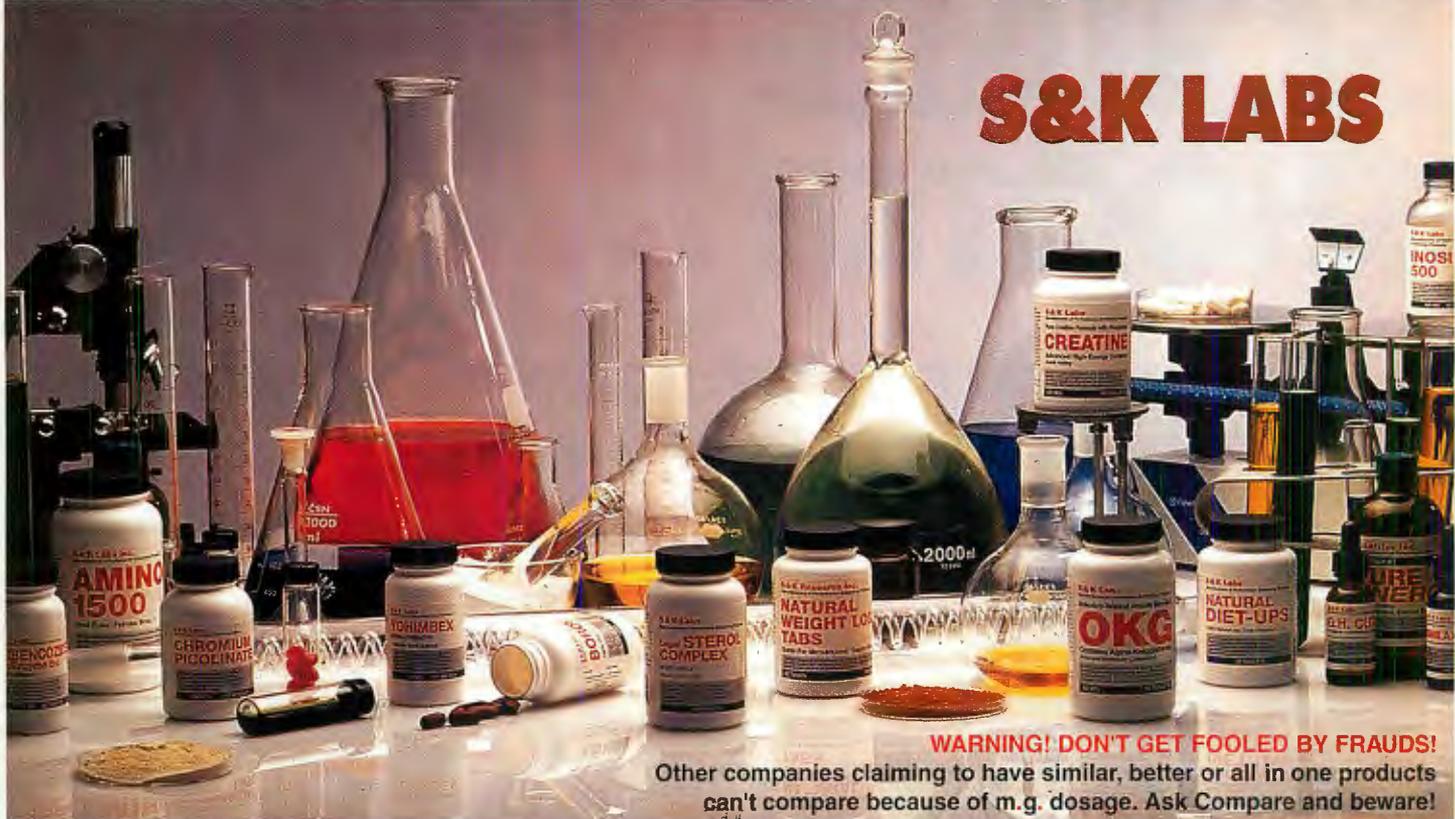
- After the Aegis cruiser *Vincennes* shot down the Iranian passenger aircraft, the Navy successfully claimed the ship was in "international waters" — until a *Newsweek* investigation revealed that the brass from the office of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff down to the ship's captain had lied and covered up.

Will the Vucurevichs ever learn what happened to Milan? Pit-bull Congressman Robert Dornan (R-California) is now on the case, and if anyone can light a fire under the rats and ferret out the truth, it's him.

I'll hold on the missiles for now, but stay tuned. ✕

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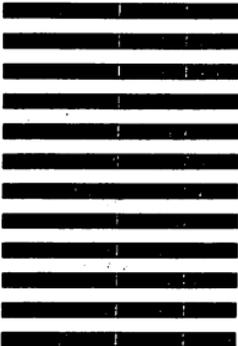
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