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Page 19**

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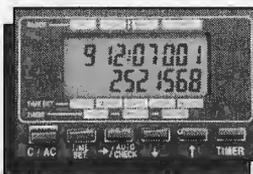
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COMMAND GUIDANCE

Anti-Gun Guerrillas

by Robert K. Brown

In politics, it is often the creativity and initiative of small groups that propel changes in Washington D.C. and state capitols. You certainly know about the impact groups like Handgun Control Inc. have had on all Americans' constitutional right to self-defense. What you probably *don't* know much about is an organization of cops and crime victims that has been working hard to arrest the damage being done by anti-gun groups. The state-by-state passage of concealed-carry laws is one example of the kind of good political work done in the past two years with the help of the Law Enforcement Alliance of America.

LEAA spends more time working than advertising itself. For that reason you probably haven't heard how a small LEAA team was instrumental in the first election defeat in the 20th century of a speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

In the aftermath of the passage of Bill Clinton's assault weapons ban a few of us opted to send packing those responsible for anti-Second Amendment laws. Few experts in the media had confidence that the incumbent could be defeated, but we entered the fray anyway. Even if we couldn't beat Tom Foley, we were determined to get a major piece of him.

Our contingent, which included myself, LEAA president Jim Fotis and several others, decided that rather than work *for* the Republican candidate, we would labor *against* Foley. When our advance party motored into Spokane, Wash. three weeks prior to the election, we found that, although a few national organizations had ponyed-up money for anti-Foley television ads, aside from the Republican candidate's staff, *no one but us* was on-site working to topple Foley.

Using information developed by LEAA members in the Spokane area, we initiated a media strategy which emphasized buying radio spots. We targeted shooters and hunters who would be angry enough about the

Democrats' assault on the Second Amendment to vote GOP whether or not they were lifelong Democrats.

Foley, unwittingly gave us a boost. First, he was arrogant enough to squawk to the local press that he resented wasting time running for re-election when he was badly needed in Tokyo, Paris and London. Secondly, he spent time verbally trashing gun owners in general.

LEAA's Jim Fotis, a decorated police officer, short-circuited the anti-gunner's message and urged voters to *de-Foleyate* both Washington State and Washington, D.C.. We also organized a pro-gun rally in front of the Federal building in Downtown Spokane during which police officers and several retired Marine Corps officers spoke vehemently against Foley.

A Mason-Dixon poll conducted after the election found that single-issue, pro-gun voters comprised only about 3% of the vote against Foley. When the numbers were totaled Foley had only been defeated by 1.5%. Clearly, if the gun vote had stayed home, he would have been reelected.

In the '96 general elections, media experts are telling us that the Democrats are going to recoup their losses and Bill Clinton will be re-elected. That will happen *only* if the shooters and sportsmen who defeated Bill Clinton's sportsmen in the '94 elections allow it.

It doesn't matter whether you like Bob Dole. The issue is whether you are willing to concede four more years to Bill, Hillary, Janet Reno and the rest.

Small cadres of dedicated people doing smart work have always been significant in American history. If you want to work against the antigunners during the '96 elections in league with the same group that defeated Tom Foley and helped pass concealed-carry laws nationwide, send your non-tax deductible contribution to the Law Enforcement Alliance of America (LEAA Fund For Better Government, c/o Soldier Of Fortune, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306). ✕

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FEATURES

KATYUSHAS FOR THE KORAN

Al J. Venter

In southern Lebanon, where cease-fires are measured in hours, *Hezbollah's* rocket-and-run tactics usually bring swift, Israeli retribution. And sometimes the multinational U.N. force there gets caught in the middle. 32

FULL MENTAL JACKET

Alexander McColl

Frank Dux's "autobiography," *The Secret Man*, is full of fantazoid spy exploits lamely presented as non-fiction. The self-styled American

ninja and hero-wannabe — now Jean-Claude Van Damme's movie associate — deserves a black belt in BS. 37

SINO SABER-RATTLING

Don Kirk

When the smoke from China's war games cleared, leaders in Beijing should have been *red-faced* over Taiwan's steadfast defiance. (Isn't it nice, for a change, to see somebody else's flag being burned?) 40

AIR-SNIPING IN SIERRA LEONE

Jim Hooper

In Executive Outcomes' *Hindsights*, RUF's civilian-butcher-ing rebels aren't so tough. A mix

of Belorussians, Gurkhas and ex-SAS help bring a long-running civil war closer to an end. 42

SHORT BARREL, LONG RANGE

Peter G. Kokalis

From across the Atlantic comes Steyr's latest bolt-action sniper rifle. Its 20-inch barrel is ideal for law-enforcement urban ops, while its price won't blow a hole in a police department's budget. 47

ADERHOLT'S AIR COMMANDOS

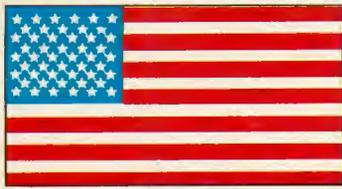
Col. Michael E. Haas (Ret.)

To interdict NVA movement on some parts of the Ho Chi Minh Trail, the high-tech U.S. Air Force reluctantly went low and slow with



Katyushas For The Koran — page 32

Al J. Venter



a Flying Circus of propeller-driven attack planes. The “prop vs. jet” controversy raged from Saigon to Washington. 52

BLACK SUITS, BADGES & BRADLEYS

James L. Pate

The Clinton-era perversion of Army Special Forces continues: Delta Force ignores *Posse Comitatus* and gets very chummy with the FBI, further blurring the line between “law enforcement” and “military.” Charlie Beckwith must be spinning in his grave. 56



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COVER

“One shot, one kill” is the motto of U.S. military snipers, whose skills have been refined on countless foreign battlefields. But such *combat* skills might be used here at home as the militarization of federal law enforcement continues. Story begins on page 56.



Leif Skoogfors/Zuma

BULLETIN BOARD

UNCLE SAM WANTS YOU, REAL BAD

At a recruiting center in Leesburg, Fla., three Army NCOs, one wielding a crowbar, attacked their next-door Navy recruiters in a fracas over a potential female recruit who was having a hard



Richard L. Sherrow

If you stuff an American flag into the toilet and charge admission to see it, it's called art; but if you're an offended veteran who pulls that flag out and respectfully folds it in prescribed manner, then it's called criminal vandalism. That's the law in Phoenix, Ariz. Shown here in the Phoenix Art Museum's exhibit "An American History Lesson by American Artists" are (top) "The American Dream Gone To Pot" by radical feminist Kate Millett, which speaks for itself, and (below) Dread Scott's "What Is The Proper Way to Display The American Flag" where people are encouraged to stand on the flag when they write their comments. In the words of emigre Russian comedian Yakov Smirnoff, "Vhat a country!"

time deciding which service to join.

Two leathernecks heard the ruckus and joined their Navy comrades in defending the honor of the fleet.

The Army team won the fight, but the three soldiers were arrested — and the woman signed on with the Navy.

GULF WAR SYNDROME

A class action suit has been filed against 83 foreign and domestic corporations who sold chemical/biological

warfare products and technology to Saddam Hussein before the Gulf War. The premise of the suit is that these private corporations were negligent and liable under existing law for selling chemical/biological warfare means to Hussein, who was widely known at the time as a violator of international law, as he had used such weapons of mass destruction on another country and on his own people, and threatened to use them offensively on additional countries in violation of international law. Some 100,000 GIs have registered with the Persian Gulf War

Veteran's Health Registry as suffering from Gulf War Syndrome; some 4,000 have already signed up to participate in this case.

If you suffer from Gulf War Syndrome, contact Gary Pitts, Esq., Pitts and Associates, 12600 N. Featherwood Dr., Suite 117, Houston, TX 77034-4435; phone: 713-481-0555; fax: 713-481-0616.

JCS WANTED TO CHOP CHEMWAR BUDGET; U.S. \$ MAY BE USED TO DEVELOP RUSSIAN CHEMWAR

Faced with rock-solid proof that Russia possesses a new family of extremely lethal nerve gases that cannot be detected by Western battlefield monitors, the Joint Chiefs of Staff recently responded by proposing to delete an \$805 million budget item to update U.S. chemwar defenses.

Thus far, there has been congressional appropriation of more than \$400 million to help Russia destroy its highly advanced chemical and biological arsenal. Another \$78.5 million is so earmarked from the fiscal 1997 budget. Uncle Sam's generous funding of the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program dates from the Nunn-Lugar Act of 1991, and seemed like such a good idea that it went unchallenged at the same time the Pentagon couldn't find money to mod-

ify American gas sensors to give warning of Russia's breakthrough *Novichok* family of nerve gases.

Meanwhile, a Russian expatriate, who formerly worked on the *Novichok* project warns that American GIs may have already been exposed to "Substance 33," which may have been in the hands of Iraq during the Gulf War, and this substance, undetectable by American sensors, could have produced some of the symptoms called Gulf War Syndrome.

If this is not disturbing enough, *The Wall Street Journal* quotes Gen. Anatoly Diamianovich Kuntsevich in an interview with *Forward* as openly stating that the Nunn-Lugar money is likely to be diverted to maintain Russia's chemical warfare budget, as opposed to building plants to destroy the chemical weapons.

SALVADOR VETS FINALLY HONORED

The more than 5,000 U.S. veterans who cycled through El Salvador — and the 21 who died in action there — were honored in a ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery in May, sponsored by No Greater Love, an organization dedicated to comforting relatives of those killed in military service or by terrorists. "For too long, we have failed to recognize the contributions, the sacrifices of those who served under the most dangerous conditions," the crowd was told by



OAHAF

Col. Rex Applegate, a frequent contributor to *SOF* and a man whose credits from service in the O.S.S. and decades of law-enforcement and weapons-development to present would be far too lengthy to list here, has been named the 1996 Outstanding American Handgunner. The bronze award, held here by Col. Applegate, was presented by Bill Jordan, Vice-President of OAHAF. *Palmam qui meruit ferat.*



PALADIN PRESS

JIM CIRILLO: MODERN-DAY GUNFIGHTER Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Gunfighting by a Guy Who Put His Life on the Line to Find Out

with Jim Cirillo

In his book *Guns, Bullets, and Gunfights*, NYPD Stakeout Squad veteran Jim Cirillo revealed in print the hard-won knowledge he gained in more than a dozen gunfights with some of New York City's most vicious criminals. Now he brings his words to life in this video. In his own unique style, Cirillo gives you personalized instruction in his gunfight-proven shooting techniques, including alternative sighting methods, weak-hand shooting, shooting from cover and the use of hybrid weapons. Cirillo also gives you revolutionary insight on bullet stopping power based on deadly firsthand experience. Best of all, the practical lessons in this video are presented along with Cirillo's personal accounts of the harrowing, bizarre and sometimes hilarious events that inspired them, as only he can tell them. Color, approx. 90 min., VHS only. **\$34.95**



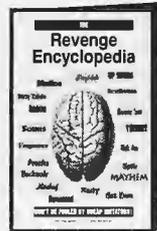
STREET STEEL Choosing and Carrying Self-Defense Knives by Michael D. Janich

As gun control efforts mount, the knife has become the ideal self-defense weapon for many Americans. This book contains all the information you need to select and carry a knife that will conform to your style of dress, image and habits and thus serve you most effectively on the street. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, photos, 112 pp. **\$23.00**



STREET STOPPERS The Latest Handgun Stopping Power Street Results by Evan Marshall and Ed Sanow

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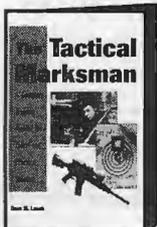
SHOOTING FOR KEEPS Point Shooting for Close-Quarter Combat with Col. Rex Applegate

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



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Marksmen, cops and practical and competition shooters alike will benefit from the expert advice and firsthand experiences contained in this indispensable guide. Going beyond "type for hire" and tall tales, it reveals what it really takes to succeed in situations where one shot is all you'll get — and lives hang in the balance. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, photos, illus., 176 pp. **\$35.00**

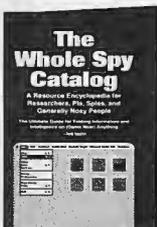


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William G. Walker, U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador from 1988 to 1992. "Only today, a full four years after the achievement of peace, are we finally and officially proclaiming that those who served and those who died did so for the noblest, the most unselfish of reasons."

Noted Greg Walker, who served as a Special Forces staff sergeant in El Salvador and who has spearheaded a campaign to gain official recognition of the role of U.S. troops there, "The U.S. government was going to allow a clever blurring of the history of the civil war go unchallenged... We wanted to correct the history... We wanted to recognize the sacrifices of those who served but were made to feel they were fighting a dirty, secret war that no one wants to talk about. And we wanted to honor our dead and bring closure to their families."

The 1996 defense authorization act contained a provision pushed through by Rep. Robert K. Dornan of California, ordering the Pentagon to give Armed Forces Expeditionary Medals to all who served in El Salvador from January 1981 to February 1992, which opens the door for the submission of awards packages from combat infantry patches to medals for valor.

OPERATION STALINGRAD

Jump at Stalingrad and Moscow with the International Association of Airborne Veterans, 27 July — 4 August 1996. Cost of \$3,138 includes airfare from New York and all ground arrangements, nine days of military and historical tours, refresher jump, and jump from historic Soviet AN-2T biplane or M1-8 helicopter. Further information from I.A.A.V., Dept. SOF, Box 340, 2568 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60614; phone: 312-327-3120.

SHARKHUNTERS, EAGLEHUNTERS RUSSIAN TOUR

Sharkhunters/Eaglehunters has organized a tour of Russia and the Ukraine, from 19 July through 2 August. Featured will be events relating to the 300th anniversary of the Russian navy, tours of the world's largest armor museum, Russian air force museum, tours of Russian ships and subs. Cities covered will include St. Petersburg, Kronshtadt, Simpheropol, Yalta, Sevastopol, Moscow. Price of \$3,995 (double occupancy) includes all air fare, in-country transportation, hotels and rooms, two meals per day etc. Contact Sharkhunters/Eaglehunters,

Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 1539, Hernando, FL 34442; phone: 352-637-2917; fax: 352-637-6289.

GEER'S SCOUT COLUMN ON WEB

SOF's Outdoor Editor Galen Geer can now be found on the World Wide Web at <http://www.alloutdoors.com>. Geer's column, *Scout*, is a first-person account of his outdoor adventures around the world, with each column recounting a different adventure and analyzing its successes or failures, and how readers can arrange their own trips.

BOOKS FOR TROOPS RESOUNDING SUCCESS

History has yet to judge the success of Operation Joint Endeavor, but SOF's Operation Books For The Troops has been an unqualified success. When it was announced some 20,000 or so GIs would be heading for Bosnia as the U.S. peacekeeping contribution, publisher Robert K. Brown wanted to round up 15,000 or so books from you loyal readers to ship on to the troops. We asked: You came through with style, grace and enthusiasm! As we write this, nearly *double* the target number of books

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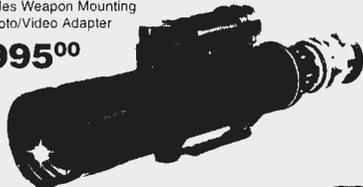
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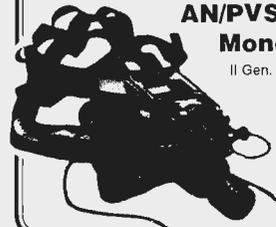
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Natural Prostate Relief

It's a natural fact. If you are a male over 40 and don't already suffer from a prostate gland disorder, the odds are 2 to 1 that you will before you are 59. By the age of 65, most American men have enlarged prostates.

As the years pass, mild discomforts can become disabling. Today, prostate surgery is the second most commonly performed surgery for non-cancerous BPH in men over age 65! Some surgical complications can result.

Prescription drugs may halt the swelling, but many prescription drugs may also have side-effects.

Many doctors feel that disorders of BPH can be treated or prevented by giving the prostate gland the nutrition it lacks.

Recent scientific research has shown how to remedy the underlying problems associated with disorders of BPH -- safely and effectively. These results have been published in the *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology* and the *American Journal of Gerontology*. They reveal that several vitamins, minerals and natural herbs can dramatically shrink the prostate and improve urinary performance in older men.



The most modern application of these healthy ingredients is found in **Prostsafes™** from Whitewing Labs. **Prostsafes** is the nutritional "tool kit" for men with benign prostate problems, and those who wish to prevent them. It is a mixture of zinc, serenoa serrulata, ginseng, certain amino acids, bee pollen and vitamins A, B-6 and E. These ingredients have been shown to help shrink a swollen prostate.

Our customers have said Prostsafes™ helps to:

Halt the endless trips to the bathroom during the night!

Stop that burning sensation during or after urination!

Prevent uncontrollable wetting!

Improve bladder control!

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Dr. Leslie Atterbury III, M.D., says "Prostsafes supplies essential vitamins, minerals and herbs needed to nourish and maintain a healthy prostate."

As little as a dollar a day seems like inexpensive insurance against disorders of BPH. If for some reason you are not satisfied, just return the unused portion within 30 days for a full refund.

The reasons why men over 40 use **Prostsafes** are clear. If you are looking for relief, order **Prostsafes** today.

"I can now pass a bathroom without stopping. Sometimes I pass two or three!"

-- Mr. L. Johnston, Indian Wells, CA

"Before I used to have several bladder infections a year. Now I do not have any."

-- Mr. A. Simon, Charlotte, MI

"I have less aches and stiffness."

-- Mr. K. Osmon, St. Francisville, IL

"Now I get a good night's sleep without getting up every two hours to urinate."

-- Mr. C. Hussy, Cleburne, TX

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-- Mr. C.E. Black, Barboursville, WV

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have been received and are in the pipeline. When you read this, the troops will be short-timers and SOF's Books For The Troops program will have wound down. Any late-coming books will be delivered to U.S. VA hospitals.

Pat yourselves on the back, SOF readers: you done good. Thanks to your donations and Brown's personally footing the postage overseas, the books got through, and the letters we got back assure us the troops appreciated the books and the good wishes that accompanied them.

Thanks, again, SOFers, from the troops and from us at the magazine.

HOW THE DEMOCRATS INTEND TO WIN THE ELECTION: A Close-up Look At How They Intend To Steal The Vote In November

SOF operatives have accessed copies of closely guarded election-



strategy manuals describing the detailed plans being used within the Democratic party to regain control of the House and Senate, while they fight to keep Billary in the White House.

These strategy manuals are part of a very limited printing of a 66-manual set created with \$10 million of the \$34 million provided by the AFL-CIO in their effort to reelect left-wingers to the House and Senate. That money, by the way, was levied like a tax on an AFL-CIO

matters critical to reestablishing Democrats' monopoly of power.

SOF believes that the best way to defend our position is for all of us who are politically concerned to know what the enemy intends for us. For only \$10, which is enough to cover photocopying and postage costs, we will send you these two manuals containing the very heart of the Democrats' '96 election strategy blueprint. Send to: Election Manuals, Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306. —P.M. ✕



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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!

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.

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

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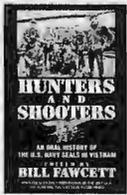
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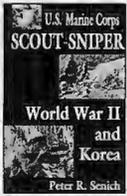
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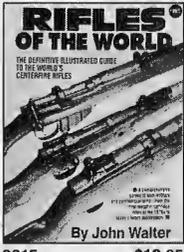


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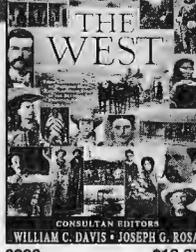
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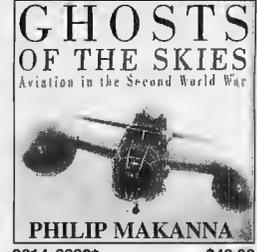
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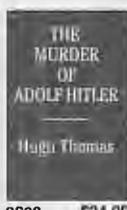
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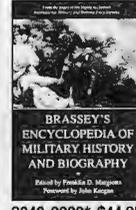
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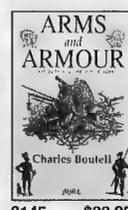
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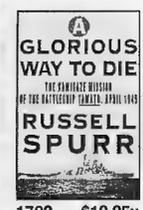
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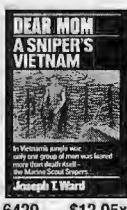
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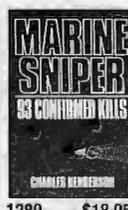
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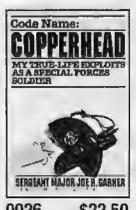
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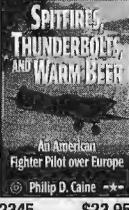
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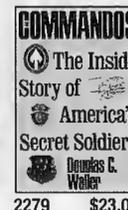
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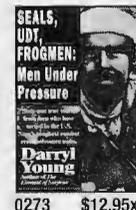
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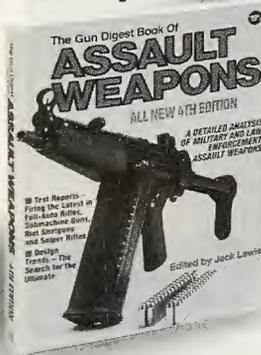
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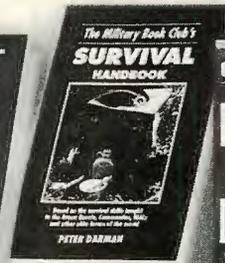
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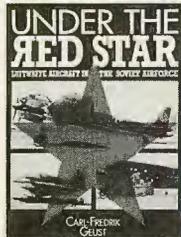
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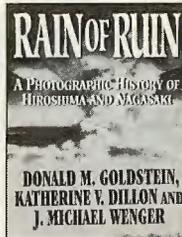
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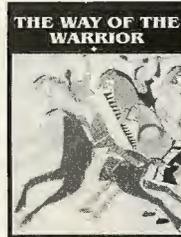
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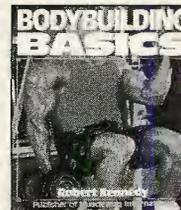
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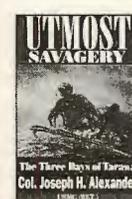
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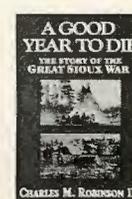
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FULL AUTO

Scoping The M16

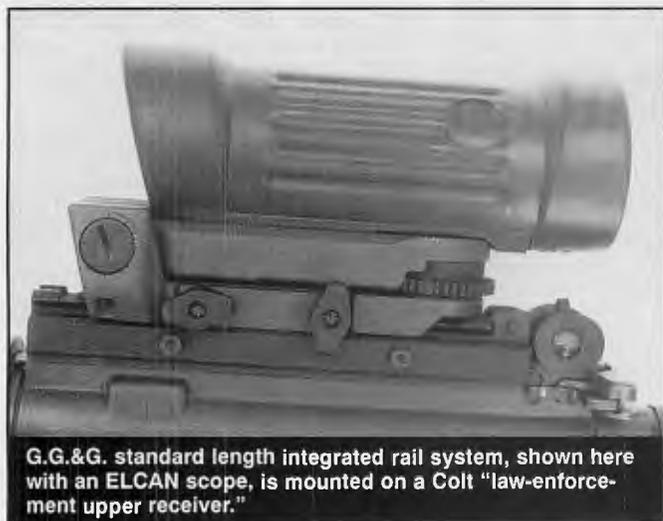
Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis

The M16/AR-15 carrying handle has always presented serious problems. First of all, this luggage-type handle on top of the M16's upper receiver encourages the user to carry the weapon in an inappropriate manner. The M16, and all other shoulder-mounted weapons, should always be toted in a combat-ready position, whether that be "outdoor ready" (with the muzzle up, in an "eyes, muzzle, target" mode) or from the "guard" position with the muzzle down, whenever you are moving in the operational area.

Furthermore, when you attach an optical sight to the M16's carrying handle you must elevate your head off the buttstock to acquire the reticle but this does *not* permit a proper, and repeatable, cheek-weld; an absolutely essential ingredient in the accuracy equation.

Colt, Olympic Arms (Dept. SOF, 620-626 Old Pacific Highway SE, Olympia, WA 98513; phone 360-459-7940; fax: 360-491-3447) and Quality Parts Company (Dept. SOF, 999 Roosevelt Trail, Windham, ME 04062; phone: 207-892-3594; fax: 207-892-8068) all produce M16/AR-15 "flat top" upper receivers with removable carrying handles over integral Weaver-style bases. The Military Standard (MIL-STD-1913) dimensions for these accessory-mounting rails were actually designed at Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey and are not exactly the same as a Weaver base.

However, any scope mounted



G.G.&G. standard length integrated rail system, shown here with an ELCAN scope, is mounted on a Colt "law-enforcement upper receiver."



G.G.&G.'s "Extended Delta Length" rail system, which extends 1.32 inches beyond the front of the receiver, permits the installation of long-eye-relief "Scout"-type scopes as well as placing the Aimpoint 5000 red dot sight out where it belongs for fast target acquisition.

directly to these rails will be too low, so that the use of special high rings is then required. In addition, removal of the quick-detachable carrying handle removes the rifle's rear iron sight as well, leaving nothing for emergency purposes.

G.G.&G., L.L.C. (Dept. SOF, 3602 East 42nd Stravenue, Tucson, AZ 85715; phone: 520-748-7167; fax: 520-748-7583) manufactures an integrated rail system for the M16/AR-15 that meets the needs of armed professionals in both the military and law enforcement.

Their Weaver-style rail is cut to meet MIL-STD-1913.

G.G.&G. also makes the so-called "Swan Sleeve" for A.R.M.S., which is not cut to this milspec and, thus, will not permit sufficient rearward eye-relief adjustment with such scopes as the ELCAN. I much prefer the G.G.&G. integrated rail system and

Soldier Of Fortune was recently sent two for test and evaluation.

There are two sizes: The standard length, which is the same length as the upper receiver, carries a suggested retail price of \$145. An "Extended Delta Length" rail system, which extends 1.32 inches beyond the front of the receiver and

permits the installation of long-eye-relief "Scout"-type scopes as well as placing the Aimpoint 5000 red dot sight out where it belongs for fast target acquisition, is also available for \$150. The extended-length rail also permits use of the rail system's integral flip-up rear sight in conjunction with the red dot. These mounts will raise the line of sight by 0.530-inch above the upper receiver's integral base. This is just enough to provide a perfect cheek weld with almost all types of optical sights.

The G.G.&G. integrated rail system's integral flip-up peep aperture rear sight has two apertures: a large aperture which serves as a "ghost ring" for close-in work and a small aperture for longer distances. The sight provides full windage adjustment with a knob on the right side. Elevation can be adjusted to the 100/300-meter battle-sight setting by means of the front sight post. The flip-up system, which is controlled by a very positive spring-loaded locking mechanism, will repeat zero each time it is rotated by hand up into the viewing position. The sight is extremely rugged and because of its unique locking mechanism is not easily damaged, as it just rotates rearward when struck by a hard blow.

Manufactured from 6061 T6 billet aluminum, these rail systems are black hardcoat anodized as per Mil A

SLICK WILLIE WATCH

8TH CIRCUIT: CLINTON MUST FACE SUIT NOW

Noting that the president "is subject to the same laws that apply to all other members of society" a federal appeals court panel has cleared the way for a courtroom confrontation between President Clinton and his accuser, Mrs. Paula Corbin Jones, over charges he sexually harassed her. In a concurring opinion, U.S. Circuit Judge C. Arlen Beam noted that the impact of Jones' suit on presidential duties — "if that is Mr. Clinton's real concern" — was being exaggerated. Jones' suit contends that Clinton violated her constitutional rights to equal protection and due process of law by requesting oral sex when he was governor. Actually, she may have been fortunate: There's no telling what he asks for now that he's president.

LET THE GAMES BEGIN

Furthering the impression that the Clinton administration doesn't have a clue about what a military is for, is word that DoD plans to spend some

\$47,000,000 of its declining budget at the Olympic games in Atlanta this year. Of course, in a time such as this fraught with terrorist threats an obvious military presence at international gatherings is a good idea; even a high-profile military presence, to go hand-in-hand with a high-profile uniformed police presence.

But the slated activities include everything from guarding athletes to keeping the field hockey venue nice and green. According to U.S. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., service personnel will be used to cook, drive buses and do laundry for the international athletes. When our country is honored as host of such an international event, everybody — including corporate bodies, governmental bodies and military bodies — likes to pitch in. But this is a bit much. If the Draft Dodger-in-Chief sees fit to properly utilize GIs for security work or security-related functions that is one thing. But to glom GIs for permanent shit-details merely because they are in uniform and must answer his call illustrates not only a total lack of appreciation of what our service people do, but a basic lack of

understanding what they are for.

An editorial in *Defense News* noted: "With the increased threat of terrorist activity, a robust U.S. military presence at the games is prudent. But wasting even one dollar on non-defense activities at the games while pressing force modernization and operations accounts are wanting, is not."

We agree.

DEMO DEMAGOGUES DRIVING OUT GUNOWNERS

President Clinton is proving once again that there is little — if any — room in the Democratic party for Second Amendment supporters. Don Fowler, Clinton's hand-picked Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, has issued a press release claiming that lawmakers who support the right to bear arms with their vote are in "the NRA's pocket," and called on them to send "[NRA's] money back and reject their extremist agenda." Fowler's remarks reveal the growing antipathy among the demo party elite for the Second Amendment

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rights of individual Americans, a dramatic and depressing change of course for a party that in the past has given gun owners such staunch defenders as Harold Volkmer (Mo.), Bill Brewster (Okla.), John Dingell (Mich.), and Sonny Montgomery (Miss.). *Democratic fellow gun-owners note: You can't take your party back from the anti-gun radicals if you aren't registered to vote!*

DEMO DREAM WORLDERS

Hollywood bigwigs sent Clinton and the Democratic Party \$615,000 in 1995, most of it from a handful who donated \$100,000 to the Democratic National Committee. Individual donations to individual candidates are limited by law to \$1,000, but donations to the party are not so restricted.

The top Hollywood donors to the DNC included Dreamworks partners David Geffen and Steven Spielberg, former MCA president Syd Sheinberg and former MCA chairman Lew Wasserman, who

each gave \$100,000, and fellow Dreamworks head Jeffrey Katzenberg who gave the DNC \$25,000.

The Associated Press surveyed 41 top studio chiefs, directors and producers in the movie, TV and music industry and tracked their families' donations using Federal Elections Commission data. A Center for

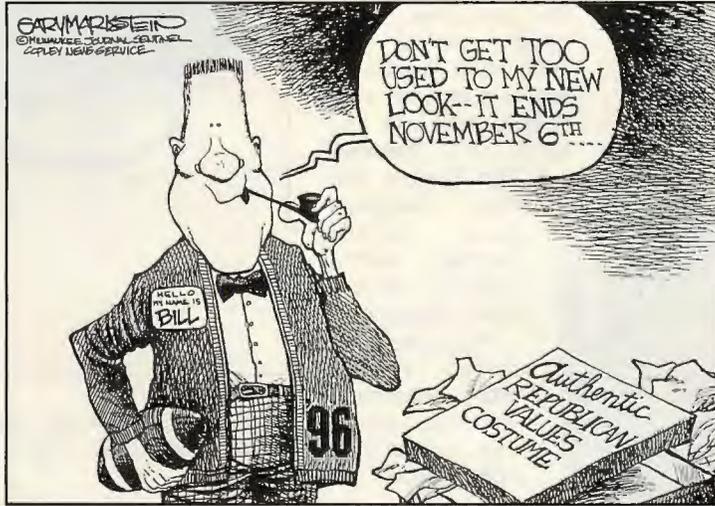
reelection as to the Republican campaign of Bob Dole.

DOLE SLAMS CLINTON JUDGES

In a speech before the American Society of Newspaper Editors, Republican presidential candidate

Bob Dole announced plans to make President Clinton's judicial appointments a major election issue, stating that "a startling number of Mr. Clinton's judges have demonstrated an outright hostility to law enforcement." Dole also vowed to eliminate the American Bar Association (ABA) as part of the judicial screening process, describing that organization as "another blatantly partisan liberal advocacy group." Dole suggested that instead, a panel be created from among

crime victims, police prosecutors, legal scholars and others, to review the names of potential judicial appointees. ✕



Responsive Politics survey of several hundred entertainment and media figures found that in the first nine months of 1995 they contributed three times as much to Clinton's

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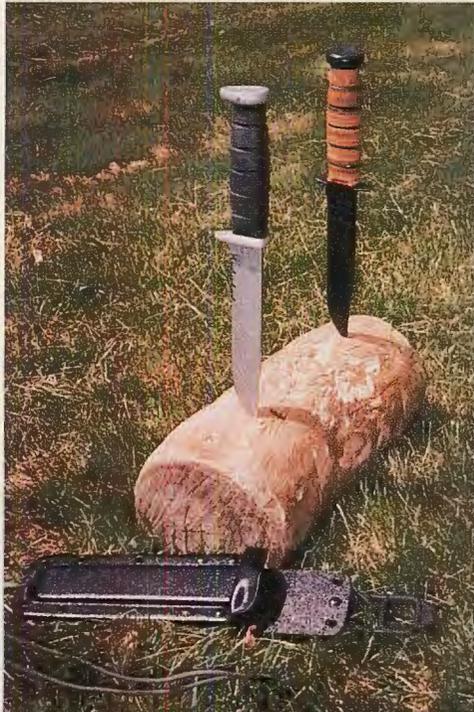
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ADVENTURE QUARTERMASTER

KA-BAR'S "NEXT GENERATION"

Ka-Bar's classic USMC fighting knife is still available, but Ka-Bar's "Next Generation," based on original specs, incorporates modern materials and evolutionary changes that will appeal to grunts, paratroopers, divers and outdoorsmen.

The 7-inch Bowie blade is fine-



grained, high-carbon/chromium stainless steel (RC 56-8). Its new 1 3/4-inch serration is a great rope cutter. It has a sure-grip, shock-absorbing Kraton handle. The pommel is enlarged, with lanyard hole. The hard, Kydex sheath is rugged and ambidextrous, securing the knife without needing another strap for airborne or mountain ops.

After an hour of full-power thrusts and slashes into a log, several strokes on a diamond hone restored the edge to "serious." *Hoo-yah!*

Ka-Bar Knives, Dept. SOF, 31100 Solon Rd., Solon, OH 44139; phone: 800-321-9316. —M.K.

ALL NEW BERETTA TOMCAT

Beretta USA has introduced the Model 3032 Tomcat, an all-new double-action .32 autoloader in an envelope only 5 inches long and 3 3/4 inches high, weighing a scant 15 ounces.

Loading the Tomcat with new, advanced hollow-point rounds (such as Winchester's .32 Silvertip) makes the diminutive .32 a stopper on par with most .380 loads — and in a weapon very easy to have with you when it's needed.

The Tomcat features Beretta's tip-up barrel, manual safety, and a seven-round magazine.

For more information on Beretta's complete line of top-quality semiautomatic pistols for personal and law-enforcement use, contact Beretta USA, Dept. SOF, 17601 Beretta Dr., Accokeek, MD 20607; phone: 301-283-2191.



DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT

Product reviewers see, and try and figure the practical use for, a lot of gimmicks. A good portion of these "bright" ideas fall into the novelty category — i.e. something that will work as a gift for your brother-in-law, as he surely won't have one of *these*. Not so Tool Logic's Credit Card Companion: It is indeed a tool, and logically designed and built to function.

As a cleverly engineered alternative to the bulge a "gentleman's" knife makes in your pocket, the CCC features a substantial serrated-blade knife (about like a belt-buckle knife in dimension), square-bar screwdriver, bottle opener, awl/can-opener, 8x lens, tweezer, toothpick — even inch/metric rules. A scant 1/8-inch (4mm) thick, the credit card companion fits right in your wallet like credit cards. In m'lady's purse,

there is a built-in loop that will take a key-ring and substitute for the useless fobs that advertise automobile dealerships and banks.

Just as the .25 you have with you beats the .45 you



don't have, this tool's salient feature is that at 1.3 ounces and 1/8-inch thick you're likely to have it with you when you need it — and everything on it works.

At \$24.95 plus \$3 shipping, the Credit Card Companion is available from Tool Logic Inc., Dept. SOF, Box 1630, Port Hueneme, CA 93044-1630; phone: 805-486-9137; fax 805-487-1388. ✕

SOLDIER OF FORTUNE Sweepstakes

HOT ROD HANDGUNS



SOF is giving away six custom and customized pistols in this year's Hot Rod Handgun Sweepstakes. Next on our gun giveaway is an S&W Sigma 9mm which includes (not shown) the TACM III™, with its intense light beam of 105.5 lumens. ENTER NOW & WIN!

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Fill out the entry card and send to SOF, P.O. Box 348, Mt. Morris, IL 61054-0348 via U.S. mail with entry postmarked no later than 2 September, 1996. No entries will be accepted after this date. Winners will be selected by random drawing on 1 October, 1996 and will be notified by mail or telephone. No purchase necessary to enter. All prize winners must comply with Federal, State and local firearms regulations, where applicable. Judges' decisions are final. Sweepstakes open to residents of the U.S. 21 years of age or older. Prize non-transferable. Odds of winning are dependent upon total number of entries. Winners will be printed in a future issue of Soldier of Fortune.

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



WORLD SITREP

1

UNITED STATES

Congressional subcommittee demands probe after Pentagon official acknowledges 50 possible detections of Iraqi chemical weapons in Gulf War. Civilian researchers find interaction of insecticides and anti-nerve gas pills, as used by U.S. troops, cause Gulf War Syndrome-type nerve disorders in lab animals.

FBI reports five (unnamed) countries — likely including France and Israel — use sophisticated espionage to steal U.S. military and industrial technology.

Marines sprayed a mixture of sticky foam, lengths of concertina wire and caltrops to stop a crowd pursuing the last U.N. troops leaving Somalia. The barrier lasted less than five minutes. The one effective non-lethal deterrent (which wasn't designed as such) was a visible targeting laser. Shined on Somalis who intruded onto runway, they fled in panic fearing a sniper was about to shoot.

2

RUSSIA

Using radio direction finding, signal intelligence pinpoints Chechen leader Dudayev transmitting to Moscow on satellite phone near Grozny; aircraft fires killer missile. Hard-line rebel Yandarbiyev succeeds him. Timing of incident suggests Dudayev's death was reprisal for Chechnya ambush that killed 70 Russian soldiers.

Airborne Forces, formerly equal to other branches, re-organized: four brigades transferred to Ground Forces; remaining divisions to become heavy airborne/air-assault units.

In 5-year agreement, Colombia receives Russian weapons, equipment, and license for weapons' production. Kuwait buys 500 BMP-3 mech-infantry vehicles and 25 multiple-rocket launchers. Greek Cypriots buy 41 T-80 tanks.

1

6

CHINA

In Asia fence-mending, leaders sign mutual nonaggression pact with Russia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. Beijing pledges support for Moscow's efforts against NATO expansion; Moscow supports Beijing's claim to Taiwan and Tibet.

7

THAILAND

Military, desiring \$1 billion system of spy and communications satellites, solicits bids from foreign companies.

8

CAMBODIA

During government offensive, 350 Khmer Rouge soldiers and a general officer defect in Kompong Speu province; defectors receive tons of U.S. humanitarian aid. In battles in two other provinces, landmines cause most of government's 106 casualties.

16

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11

NIGERIA

Artillery, helicopter gunships, gunboats and infantry clash with Cameroon forces over claims to small peninsula located in fish- and oil-rich Gulf of Guinea.

12

SOUTH AFRICA

Crime wave since January '95 kills nearly 300 police officers. Citing stress, nearly 200 police commit suicide and 800 resign. President Mandela threatens "tough methods" of predecessors. Resistance by Zulus backing Inkatha Freedom Party prevents ruling ANC from assuming full governmental power, Mandela says.

13

SUDAN

Sudanese People's Liberation Army claims it killed 1,500 government troops in a major battle. President Bashir wins reelection (5% of population voted) and vows to maintain Islamic law.

3

ISRAEL

Cross-border op "Grapes of Wrath" costs Israel \$100 million; Lebanese claim up to \$1 billion in damages. Israeli aircraft fly 1,600 sorties, army fires 18,000 shells; Hezbollah fires at least 700 rockets. Nearly 200 Lebanese killed. Fighting displaces 500,000 in southern Lebanon, 20,000 in northern Israel.

Commanders complain that many draftees arrive for training with cellular phones for calls home. Air force flies training missions from Turkey, causing protests from Iran.

Palestinian police uncover Hamas' plot to kill PLO leader Arafat.

4

BOSNIA

Washington rejects European demands that it pay for one-third of Bosnia's reconstruction, saying Europe should lead. British officials acknowledge Bosnia shows Europe cannot yet handle military crisis without America.

Linguists on U.S. signal-intelligence helicopters monitor radio traffic among local factions. Summer months to bring more NATO dismounted-infantry patrols; fewer by tanks and mechanized units.

5

LIBERIA

Truces fail again in 6-year civil war; gunmen loyal to warlords or militias battle and loot in capital city of Monrovia. Marines from USS Guam's task force and U.S. paratroopers from Italy guard embassy; SEALs, Special Forces troops, and MH-53 helicopter crews evacuate 2,000 foreign (including American) civilians to Sierra Leone. Thousands of refugees sail to Ghana.

2

9

SRI LANKA

Nationwide state of emergency extended as government launches new anti-rebel offensive. At least 3 navy boats sunk, including Dvora fast-attack hit by Tamil suicide boat. Government Mi-24 helicopters and Kfir jets strafe Tamil ground and sea targets. Rebels target merchant ships, including (unsuccessfully) LP-gas tanker.

10

BOTSWANA

Army buys 50 surplus Leopard-1V tanks from Dutch government, giving it the most modern armor in all of southern Africa.

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TURKEY

Government re-organizes 60,000 paramilitary Kurdish village guards into regular military unit. Ankara warns Iran against supporting Islamic radicals in Turkey; tells Syria to halt aid to PKK rebels. More than 200 rebels and dozens of soldiers killed in southeast after PKK breaks ceasefire.

16

FRANCE

As regular forces are cut to decrease military budget, French Foreign Legion lobbies to be allowed to increase strength to 12,000 troops from current 8,500.

AFGHANISTAN

Taleban rebels continue pounding Kabul with rockets in jihad declared against President Rabbani's government. Government aircraft bomb rebel bases. Meeting with Rabbani, U.S. senator says America will try to stop Pakistan from interfering in Afghanistan.

10

12

17

GERMANY

Bonn wants quick-reaction force for future crises, comprising airmobile brigade, German portion of Franco-German brigade, 21st Panzer Brigade, 12th Panzer Grenadier Brigade, 31st Airborne Brigade, 37th Rifle Brigade, and Spec Ops command.

World SitRep is excerpted in part 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.

I WAS THERE

Bullets For The Tax Man

by Max J. Riekse

Garrison duty with 3/506th Airborne Infantry Battalion of the 101st Airborne Division was no fun. While preparing for deployment to Vietnam, it was bust-but in the field and spit and polish in garrison. My best friend, assigned to another company of the 3/506th, said we should volunteer for a new battalion HQ unit being formed. They were looking for individuals who knew what they were doing; they did not wear steel pots and were a little more relaxed on post. We wanted a job where we didn't wear steel pots and were a little more relaxed on post. They wanted soldiers who liked it in the field. He said they were LRRPs. He didn't have a clue what they did, but it was a far sight better than what we were doing. Especially on post at Fort Campbell, Ky. We later learned that LRRP meant Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol.

We went over to HQ company and a real friendly NCO gave us a tour. These people were definitely relaxed. Men were on their bunks in the middle of the day. The floor was unpolished and not well swept. There was even a banana peel in the corner. No white-towel footlocker inspections for these guys. We signed up then and there.

For the next several months, this unit, CSF (Currahee Shock Force) or the 3/506th "Shock Force" — battalion LRRPs, spent more time out in the field training than the rest of the battalion, and the 3/506th was out in the field a lot. The top kick of this outfit, a white-haired, leathery-faced, Korean War veteran, was as serious as a heart attack. Unlike the line company NCOs who led by rank, fear, intimidation and sometimes brute force, this old veteran NCO led by example, skill, experience and a lot of patience. He had two stars on his CIB.

The months spent with Shock Force prior to deployment to Vietnam went quickly. Between the unit's formation and the first few weeks in Vietnam, there was a 50%-plus attrition rate. Mess up, can't cut it or for any of a variety of reasons, and you were out the door. It was going to be a long year.

LRRPs were the primary recon unit used in the Republic of Vietnam and "other" places in Southeast Asia, and there were all kinds of LRRPs. Ours

was a battalion level LRRP unit and we were primarily used as the eyes and ears of the 3/506th. Most of the time, we were a long way out with little backup. We were also used as the battalion's quick reaction force, their Shock Force, if you will. From time to time we had either an Air Force or Marine Forward Air Control team with us that called in air support, naval



Shock force, rapid reaction force, eyes and ears of the battalion — in S.E. Asia the LRRPs did it all. Infantryman Max Riekse in Vietnam 1967-68.

Author's collection

gunfire and sometimes artillery if it was within range. Good people to have around when you need them.

There were two platoons of our small LRRP company. Most of the time we were inserted by helicopter. One time we went in by civilian bus. We were in the field and the call came in from base camp for a special mission.

This highly unusual mission was to break up a VC tax collection point on Highway 1 along the coast of Vietnam. The VC had stopped people and vehicles along this stretch of highway for some time, to extract taxes from them. We were to load on a commandeered civilian bus, drive it down Highway 1 and surprise them, catching them with their pants down.

If the VC had known we were coming, and we could have been spotted anywhere along the road with word being relayed to the VC at the tax point, our small force could have easily been ambushed itself and taken out. Our advantage lay in total, complete surprise. It was an operation that had never been tried before. This VC tax point was of long standing

and quite a sore point for the local Vietnamese government, along with the 1st Brigade command.

Our squad leader, Corporal Delarosa, got on top of the bus since he looked more Vietnamese than anyone else and it was common for people to ride on top. He wore Vietnamese pants, shirt, and a large straw hat. An Air Force NCO drove, also in civilian clothes and a big straw hat. There were 18 of us in all on that bus. We rode about 50 kilometers through numerous Vietnamese and populated areas, before reaching the tax point where we were waved off the road by the VC.

Their failure to recognize us until the very last moment proved to be their undoing.

Among the dead VC were an M2 carbine and the day's "tax" proceeds robbed from people traveling on that road. Corporal Delarosa got one of the VC from his perch on top of the bus with his hidden rifle. He should have gotten a medal for that, but I don't think he ever did. There were about nine very shaken VC when they found out who was on board the bus. Some of them would not be collecting taxes along that stretch of road again. That was 18 November 1967 — we had been in-country less than a month and weren't due to ETS until October of 1968. Welcome to Vietnam. ☒

Walt Bayless'

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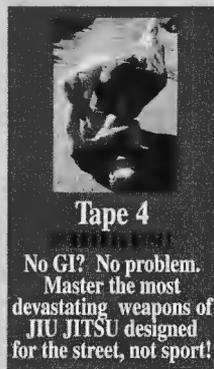
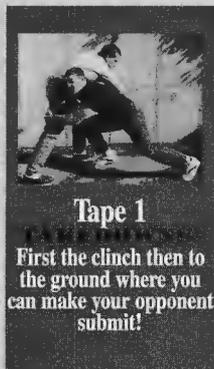
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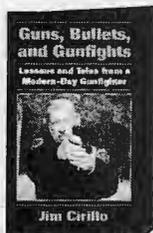
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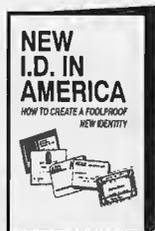
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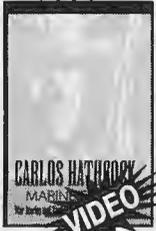
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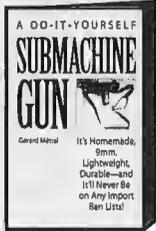
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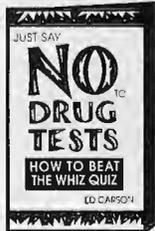
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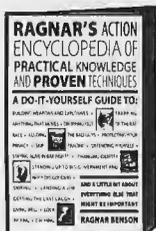
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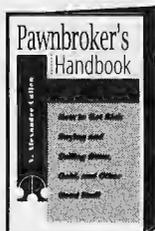
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EX-SUBMARINER SOUNDS OFF

Regarding "SEALs Sink And Swim" [June *SOF*] — what a great article! It's the first time I've seen anything in print about the [diesel submarine] *Tunny*. It really describes some of the activities that we were involved with off the Vietnam coast. I was on the submarine for one tour of duty.

Every time we left Subic Bay, it was an adventure. Like the time we dove during dinner and the after battery hatch was still open. Or the time we had to go into drydock to replace the special sonar dome on the keel — that had been destroyed when the sub hit a coral reef while submerged and under way. ...

The photo on page 48, that shows someone standing in the hangar-door opening: I think it's me.

David L. Buehn
Huntington Beach, Calif.

THANKS FROM HOLLAND

As a short-time reader of your magazine I wanted to comment on Colonel Hackworth's column about Veterans Day ["Not On My Watch," Dec. '95]. This gives me the ... opportunity to apologize to one of your World War II veterans.

During the summer of 1989 I was in Los Angeles riding a bus with a map on my knees when an elderly man next to me asked me where I was from. When I said I was from Holland he said he'd been there during the war and he had even helped free my country!

Unfortunately, because I was a bit shy (and my English was still pretty bad) I didn't give him the appreciation he so very much deserved. I still feel very bad about it.

Thankfully, we threw a big party for the vets in 1995 and I really hope he was honored then. We in Holland are still very grateful for what you did back then and we commemorate the ones who fell, every May 4. So don't ever think we've forgotten what you vets

did for us. If it wasn't for you guys, my grandfather would have died as a slave laborer in the German factory where he was forced to work (and I would never have been born). ...

If I ever meet a U.S. (or Canadian) WWII vet I will treat him with all the regards I should have given that nice man on the bus in L.A. in 1989.

Eric Bakker
Amsterdam

AFTERMATH OF AN ATF FIASCO

Richard Kent was my brother. I'd like to thank *SOF* for the article ["Loss Of A Lawman"] on Rick in the April edition. Writer James Pate did a great job telling what happened to Rick before, during, and after the "raid" on his house. Everything in the article was true and to the point. It's a shame this had to happen.

Soon after the raid ... everything they confiscated (ammo and such) was returned to my sister-in-law. A year afterward, the ATF returned all the weapons they took, except six they said were purchased after Rick's [federal firearms] license expired. When they were returned they were in terrible condition, and the ATF agreed

HELP FOR THE HMONG

On behalf of the board of directors of the United Hmong Foundation, Inc., I would like to say "thank you" to *SOF* for contributing a check of \$500 to support our foundation this year.

We all appreciated your help. Without it, we could not stand up and do our work. ...

Toufue H. Patcheng
President, UHF
Fresno, Calif.

A STRANGE AND TWISTED TALE

I was an Army counterintelligence security chief at 1st SOCOM, Ft. Bragg, N.C., and after that, a civilian law-enforcement officer. I cannot comment on the Gander crash or other curious aspects of Richard Sherrow's story, "A Plot Right Out of *Soldier Of Fortune*," June '96 issue. However, I knew [the late] Arleigh McCree and Ron Ball as fellow members of Los Angeles Police Department.

Arleigh was a former SEAL with several bullet scars on his abdomen from his last tour in 'Nam. His reputation on LAPD was one of cool competence and good judgment. ... He went

by the book on safety measures, dive team or bomb squad. He checked everything twice. He preached the first rule of bomb handling: Don't touch it!

I already had "retired" to Alaska when Arleigh and Ron were shredded by a mercury-switch, booby-trapped pipe bomb in the North Hollywood garage. Those of us who knew these two had difficulty with the explanation. Picking up a giant pipe bomb, in plain view? Never!

Sherrow's article doesn't draw any conclusions, but raises interesting questions — especially concerning the possible Gander connection.

A number of us hope he will pursue this investigation.

Lt. Col. Max K. Hurlbut (Ret.)
Bellingham, Wash.



to pay damages.

In closing, I'd also like to thank [attorney] James H. Jeffries III for representing my sister-in-law, Lynne, so well.

Bob Kent
Chardon, Ohio

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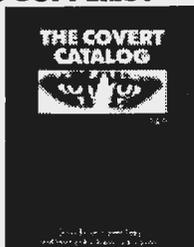
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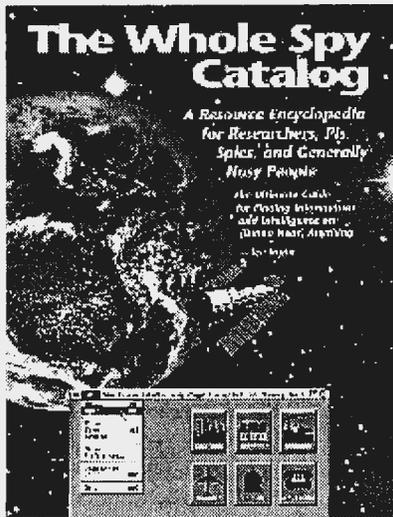
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While the pen worked as advertised, we inadvertently violated one or more trademarks by referring to the pen as a copy of a MountBlanc.

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

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INTELLIGENCE INCORPORATED

Man, I was so glad to see that Richard Sherrow mentioned the TRW explosions in his [June '96] article about Chuck Byers and Accuracy Systems Inc.

Although I am not familiar with Mr. Byers' case other than what was reported by Sherrow, I do know that Sherrow is right on when he says that "It's who you know" in Arizona politics.

The explosions mentioned in the article have occurred at TRW's air-bag factory in Mesa. Those blasts and fires have resulted in at least one death and numerous injuries. It's been a running gag around here that the Mesa fire department should just leave blank explosion-report forms at TRW and let the plant managers fill in the dates and mail them.

So apparently, while a legitimate explosives guy like Byers gets screwed over and financially ruined because of one mysterious explosion, the TRW plant keeps going and going like a pink rabbit with a ballistic drum. ...

Tom Burns
Mesa, Ariz.

AIR FORCE "SPOOK" RESPONDS

I have been reading *SOF* for 16 years, been in uniform for over 14

years, and have spent the last eight years serving as a special agent with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations. Allow me to retort to the FLAK letter in the June *SOF*, entitled "Air Force Spooks Gone P.C.?"

It is unfortunate one special agent's poor attempt at humor during a rather routine security-clearance investigation was misconstrued. ... The statement, as cited by the author, was made in jest, and is in no way indicative of the status of your publication with the general military community, the Air Force, and the OSI.

In the past I have found *SOF* to be highly supportive of the military; the opinion of the military community, from my perspective, toward *SOF* is predominantly one of gratitude. The actions of *SOF* have been that of supporting the Constitution, rather than contravening it. And while your jabs at our commander in chief would not be allowed in active-duty military circles, this is entirely your right of free speech (and often the cause for suppressed humor at the base exchange's magazine rack). ...

It is unfortunate this slight lapse of professionalism made by the interviewing agent was somehow deemed worthy for print. Perhaps one special

agent did misspeak, which caused another airman to conclude that *SOF* is a "radical" organization in the eyes of the Air Force. This does not represent the views of the USAF in general.

Name Withheld By Request
(via E-mail)

*That's good to know. Several ex-Army paratroopers are on the *SOF* staff; from our many (usually one-way) rides on USAF transport planes, we always believed Air Force personnel were highly professional and worthy comrades in arms.*

SEEING RED OVER U.N. BLUE

Canadian Captain D.O. Buck's letter ["U.N. Duty Defended," May '96] seems to have been written with great thought. The only problem is that he seems to be completely without a clue as to the American spirit of freedom.

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If Capt. Buck wishes to wear baby blue, then more power to him. But in

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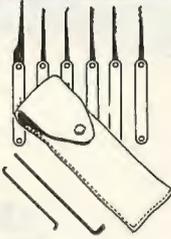
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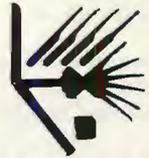
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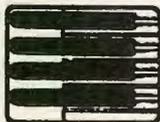
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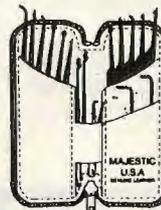
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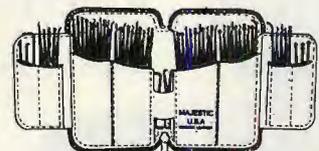


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the future he might be well advised to keep his opinion limited to that of his own military. ...

Brian S.
Bytheway
Amarillo, Texas

itary, with the promise of quick punishment. Since Tito's demise the opposing militias have been murder-

Srebrenica. The Serbs rolled right past them and commenced rounding up Muslim and Croat boys and men

... [then] murdered them and buried them in mass graves. These people were depending on the blue helmets to protect them. So you two tell their relatives about your good intentions, but don't criticize real soldiers for standing up to ... these murderers.

Only equal military power for all sides will assure peace

there. In the meantime, NATO doesn't need any wimps. ...

Elmer Stevenson
Clinton Township, Mich.

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

PRAISE FOR 1ST ARMORED

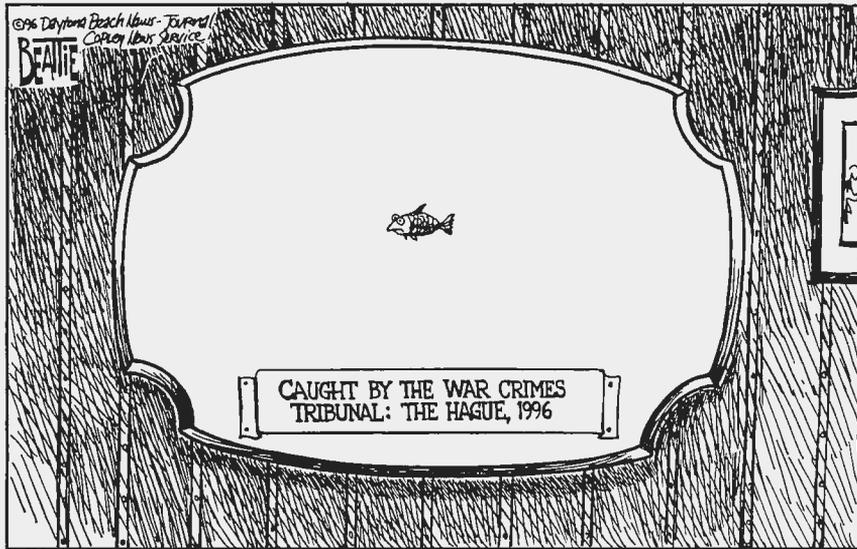
I had to respond to the British and IFOR soldiers ["NATO Troops Blast SOF," June FLAK]. It's hard to believe they are who they claim to be. They must be Serbs, Communists, or fools. I know these two do not speak for the NATO soldiers in Bosnia.

I was very proud of our 1st Armored Division soldiers for driving through unauthorized road-blocks, with guns ready, to show who was in charge. Today's American soldiers are professionals who proved their fighting ability in Desert Storm.

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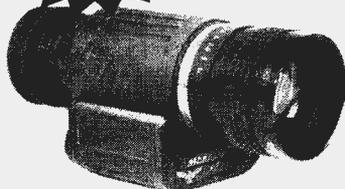
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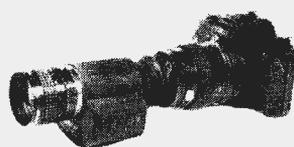
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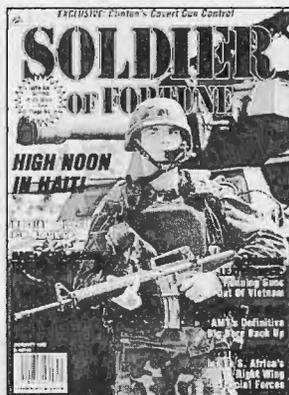
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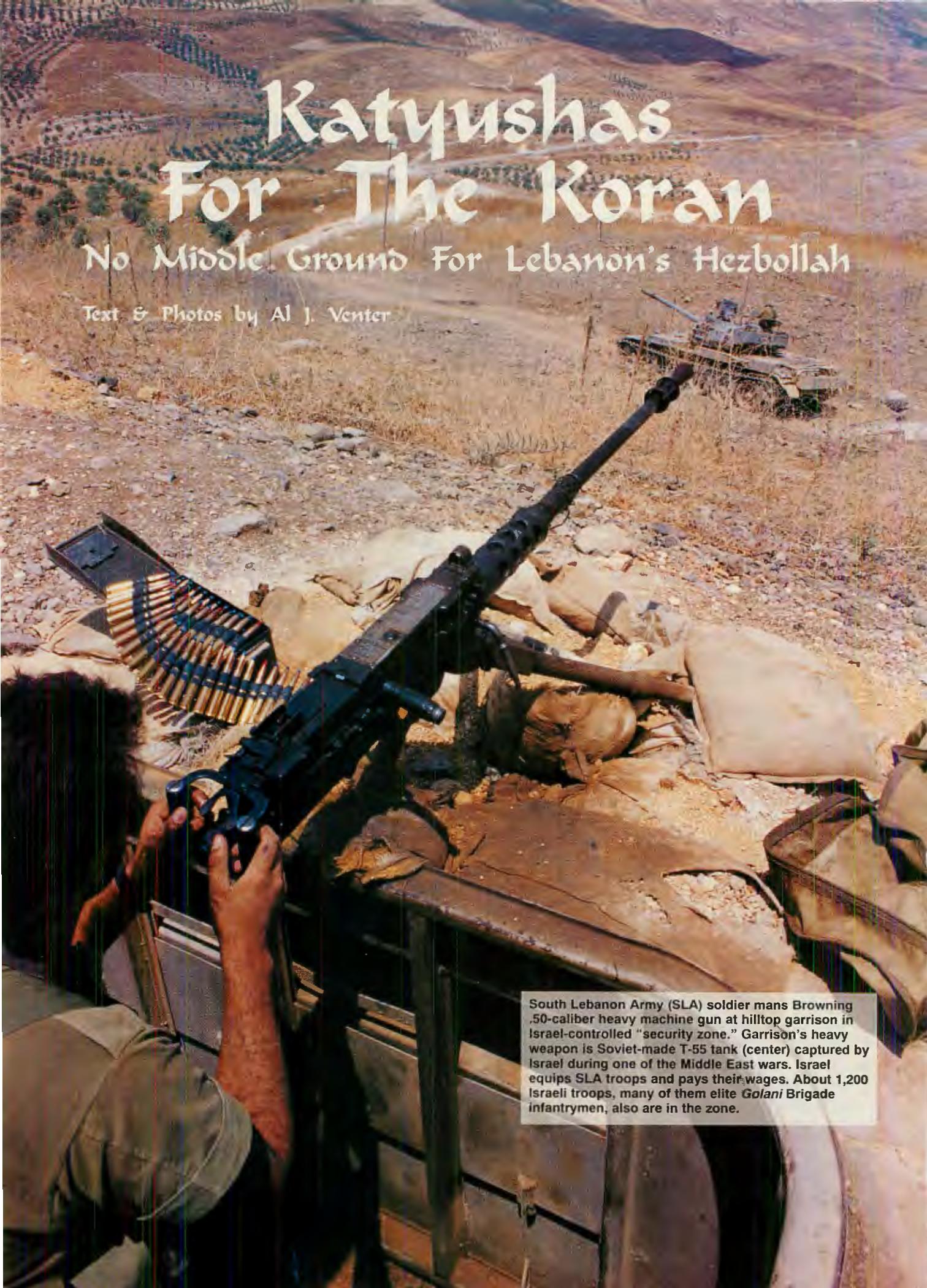
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Katyushas For The Koran

No Middle Ground For Lebanon's Hezbollah

Text & Photos by Al J. Venter



South Lebanon Army (SLA) soldier mans Browning .50-caliber heavy machine gun at hilltop garrison in Israel-controlled "security zone." Garrison's heavy weapon is Soviet-made T-55 tank (center) captured by Israel during one of the Middle East wars. Israel equips SLA troops and pays their wages. About 1,200 Israeli troops, many of them elite *Golani* Brigade infantrymen, also are in the zone.



An M-113 armored personnel carrier, a hand-me-down from Israeli army, transports SLA crew armed with .50- and .30-caliber machine guns. The SLA soldiers, hired by Israel, mostly are Lebanese Christians with some Moslems and Druse. They are regarded as traitors by Hezbollah guerrillas and their sympathizers.

Force In Lebanon (UNIFIL) base 8 kilometers north in Naqoura, I was awakened before dawn by machine-gun bursts: Apparently an Israeli gunboat had intercepted a fishing boat that had ventured too close to the border. The gunfire was a warning.

Throughout Lebanon, it seemed, everyone was on edge. Something bad was developing.

Southern Lebanon, with only about 130,000 permanent inhabitants, ultimately is the ful-

crum upon which the future of Israel and the Arab world balances. What happens in this dusty, rocky place that people have been fighting over for thousands of years eventually will determine whether or not there truly will be peace. Events here affect all of the countries in the region (and even some distant ones): Syria, Jordan, Iran, Egypt, Iraq, and Turkey. Their interests are bound up in one way or another: militarily, socially, economically or politically. There also is oil, or rather, oil pipelines; some pass through Syria and Lebanon to the coast.

Southern Lebanon achieved notoriety in 1982: Through this disputed zone the IDF launched its disastrous "Operation Peace for Galilee" to wipe out Palestine Liberation Organization guerrilla forces in Beirut. But by the time that Israel ignominiously withdrew, nearly 1,000 Israelis were dead. Although legends of the Six Day and Yom Kippur wars persist, the op showed the Arab world the IDF is not invincible.

This inspired Hezbollah. Then came the *intefadeh*, the Palestinian revolt against Israel, which continues to this day. And even the rash of Hamas bus-bombings this year in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv were a consequence of that 1982 invasion. (It's no secret in Israel or anywhere else that Hezbollah and Hamas are "brothers unto death.")

Hezbollah is a powerful force. From a bunch of thugs waving AK-47s and fists in the air, it has — largely with Iran's generous aid — grown into a formidable, underground army. In Lebanon, Hezbollah has become a government within a government, with its own secret police and execution squads, even a Beirut television station and sophisticated media-liaison office. Hezbollah troops are well-

In a small, tense part of

the world that has known much bloodshed, it does not really matter who started the recent shelling. It happened, and at a time when an Israeli-Arab peace accord was in place. But events in Lebanon have a way of confounding diplomacy.

As the Tel Aviv newspaper *Ha'aretz* reported on 21 March, the militant Islamic group *Hezbollah* ("Party of God") in the past 14 months had carried out about 700 military actions in the sharply contested "security zone" in southern Lebanon. That averaged to more than three actions every two days.

In all, 64 Israeli and South Lebanon Army (SLA) troops were killed and about 200 wounded in the 850-square-kilometer buffer zone established in 1985 by Israel to halt guerrilla infiltration. And caught between the guerrillas and the Israeli Defense Force and its SLA proxy are blue-helmeted United Nations troops.

In April, after a few salvos of the infamous (but relatively small) *Katyusha* rockets struck northern Israel, the IDF retaliated. Artillery units, jets, helicopters, and gunboats attacked suspected Hezbollah targets — many purposely located amongst civilians — in Lebanon in a bloody, 16-day operation called "Grapes of Wrath." With the all-out hostilities, Hezbollah's highly mobile teams increased their tempo and eventually fired hundreds, including a few "Sagger" antitank rockets.

Then came another cease-fire.

Southern Lebanon, as always, remains dangerous. You can try entering, of course, through Beirut. But then you must drive south down the coastal highway, through the cities of Sidon and Tyre — the same route where CNN television in April showed Israeli warships picking-off speeding cars almost at will. Then, if you make it past the roadblocks, the chances are your embassy will be making inquiries about

you after a week or so, especially if you haven't got a damned good reason for being there.

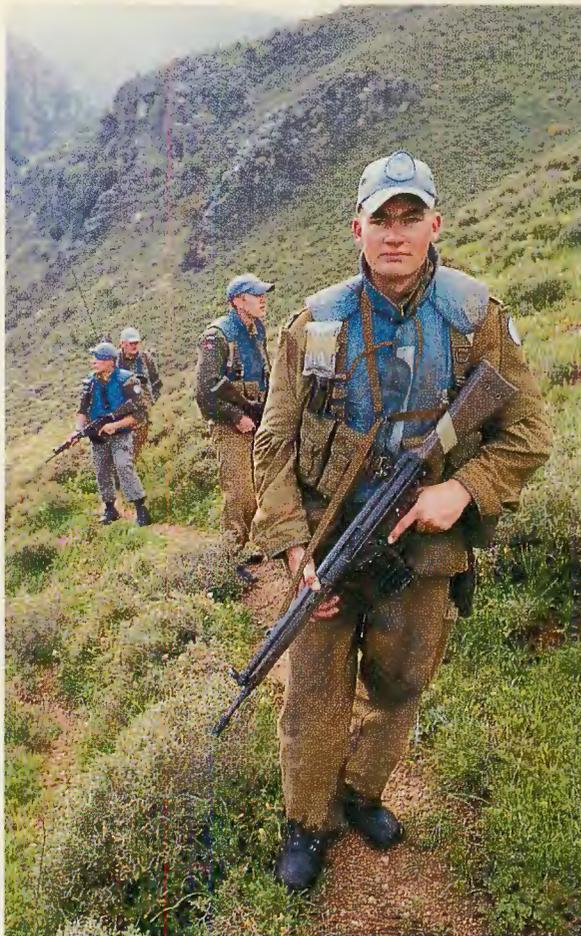
Some travelers, coming north from Israel along its coastal highway, pass through IDF lines at the Rosh Haniqra border post. But arrangements had to have been made in advance. Even so, more documents must be completed, and the number of questions asked by IDF officers there is stupefying.

Machine-Gun Wake-Up Call

In late March I crossed at Rosh Haniqra. At the sprawling U.N. Interim



The RPG-7 rocket-propelled grenade remains a favorite weapon in Lebanon. The allegiance of this soldier in Tyre — whether to the Lebanese national army or Hezbollah — is unknown; foreign journalists seldom ask such questions.



Norwegian troops, part of U.N. force in southern Lebanon, patrol east bank of the Litani River, a major infiltration route for guerrillas. The "Norbatt" troops carry 7.62x51mm G3A3 assault rifles made in Norway under license from Germany's Heckler and Koch.

equipped and well-trained; the number of hard-core professionals numbers perhaps 400. There also is an extensive support network of a few thousand followers. No one underestimates Hezbollah any more, especially the Israelis.

As UNIFIL assistant spokesman Mike Lindvall, a Swedish civilian, puts it: "The average Hezbollah volunteer will drink tea on his veranda and, when asked, will go down to his basement, assemble a tube and baseplate and lob a clutch of mortar bombs at a given target. He will then strip the weapon, return it to its hiding place and go back to drinking tea. That's how the war is waged in these parts."

In the week I was there I daily saw the Israelis use artillery against suspected Hezbollah positions in the UNIFIL sector assigned to the Norwegian Battalion ("Norbatt"). And that was before April's all-out bombardment.

Norbatt is one of UNIFIL's nine national contingents that total 4,500 men (down 500 from 1995). Norbatt's mission is especially difficult: Its sector not only falls within the security zone patrolled by Israelis and the hired Arab troops of the SLA, but fully borders northern Israel. Hence, Norbatt sees a good deal of hostile activity, especially along the Litani River.



Israeli soldiers (lower right) chat during a stop at South Lebanon Army strong point northeast of Marjayoun. Guerrillas had attacked the garrison earlier that day.

Though the Norwegians have serious differences with IDF troops, they try to do a competent job of peacekeeping. On a map their area appears small, but in the mountains and the snow-covered Hermon range there is a lot of ground to cover with fewer than 500 men. They and the Fijians are the only U.N. units that patrol actively after dark. In the past year, they even have come under fire of Israeli

guns for their nocturnal efforts. Hardly a day goes by without Norbatt reports of some kind of contact with an "armed element."

Once, while flying with UNIFIL's Italian air wing, we spotted a small group of "rebels" moving through a shallow *wadi* within sight of the "Irishbatt" troops. An hour later our helicopter could not land at an intended outpost because Fijian troops were unable to secure the area. The heli-pad was in the shadow of a big, stone building overlooking a valley. A car with men in it had stopped nearby, making the Fijians edgy.

Clearly, it has been a grim war. In the first three weeks of March, Israel lost six dead and had 23 wounded; the SLA lost 4 killed and 13 wounded. These were the worst casualties for years, and no doubt played some part in the "Grapes of Wrath" bombardment that followed. Hezbollah suffered losses, too: six

known killed and a few wounded.

The "Good Fence"

My first stop north of Naqoura, on the coastal highway, was at Tyre. Located some 12 kilometers north of the IDF security zone, it still is an imposing Mediterranean city when seen from the air. Come up close, though, the stench hits you. They stopped hauling garbage away years ago.

We were approaching Tyre when Lindvall asked whether I had removed any evidence that I had come through Israel. I



Norwegian soldiers patrol their sector in southern Lebanon in Swedish-built armored personnel carrier bearing distinctive white paint and "UN" in large, black letters. The APC carries a Browning .50-caliber heavy machine gun for defensive fire.

hadn't. My back pocket had a wad of *shekels* and my passport had been stamped at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport. Lindvall wasn't amused and said so. I was to "watch it" if we were searched by Lebanese army troops. As it happened, we were not.

Tyre has changed little in the decade since I was last there. The tall buildings were still pockmarked by shell splinters and bullet holes of hundreds of running battles between the Israelis and those Arabs who disputed their presence. New banks had opened offices and there were even a few new restaurants, though prices were high and in U.S. dollars. Some of the ships scuttled in the harbor had been removed, though here and there a mast still showed above the surface.

Hezbollah ran the town for years, imposing its own Iran-style form of government based on fundamentalist Islamic law. Then, with the end of the civil war and the integration of the Lebanese army a few years ago, Christians began to return to their old haunts. Islamic fundamentalism generally lost out, but that didn't mean that Hezbollah was not still around.

From Tyre, Lindvall drove us east through the UNIFIL sector assigned to the Ghanaian battalion. (Ghanbatt troops are nearly useless: They allow Hezbollah unhindered passage to the IDF security zone.) We continued east-northeast along narrow, winding roads — our eyes peeled for signs of landmines or roadside bombs, or approaching armored vehicles — and on to the Finnish battalion's HQ near Srifa.

From Finbatt's sector we continued eastward. Several kilometers later we re-entered the IDF security zone. Nearing the Israeli border, we at times traveled within spitting distance of the huge array of security measures installed decades ago to stop anyone from entering Israel. Every 100 meters or so there were yellow and red warnings: "mines." These were backed by several layers of electrified fences and razor wire; then electronic sensors, video cameras, detection



Rugged terrain of southern Lebanon hosts several nationalities of soldiers: Lebanese (Moslems, Christians, and Druse); Israeli, in the "security zone"; and a variety in the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Six field battalions operate in UNIFIL peacekeeping sectors; headquarters in Naqoura has military-support units from Poland, France and Italy.

devices — and more mines. Still, almost every day determined people with guns, explosives, and hatred for Jews try to cross.

We arrived at the IDF border garrison at Metulla, the northern-most town in Israel.

movements of suspects over a period of several years. Many suspected informers were killed. There also were some innocents executed, Lindvall said, leading to increased tension between the "Party of God" and the Lebanese government.

Beirut would prefer that Hezbollah left any "police" work to the authorities.

Murky Politics

The UNIFIL spokesman, Lindvall's boss, is a tough, three-pack-a-day Turk named Timor Goksel. An ex-soldier and former diplomat, he's been in southern Lebanon for 14 years. It's no secret that the Israelis tap his office's phone line.

Occasionally Goksel and Lindvall hold a clandestine rendezvous with certain Hezbollah officers for talks in "safe houses." But UNIFIL members must walk a straight, narrow line of impartiality between Hezbollah and the Israelis. Politics in Lebanon frequently are murky, and often dangerous.



A UNIFIL patrol moves along damp, winding streets of Chebaa, town in eastern part of Norbatt sector and Israel-controlled security zone.

Although most Lebanese hate Israel — especially after “Grapes of Wrath” — that doesn’t necessarily spell lasting support for Hezbollah, UNIFIL officials explained. Some Lebanese equate the activities of Hezbollah with those of the Palestinians in Lebanon in the early ’80s: In their own attempts to incite war with the hated Zionists, the Palestinians in Lebanon came to regard themselves as above the law. The same pattern appears to be emerging in Lebanon now. Observers in Jerusalem hope it will lead to the same factional frictions.

According to UNIFIL, the most active Hezbollah element in Lebanon is the “Fire Support Unit.” It is responsible for most of the shelling of the Jewish state. Its weapons include car bombs, the tube-fired Katyushas, and wire-guided Sagger anti-tank missiles. Much of Hezbollah’s combat training is held in northern Lebanon’s Beka’a Valley.

There also is what is called the “Islamic Resistance,” which specializes in infiltration and sabotage. For security, its leadership is divided into separate cells; one cell never has any knowledge of any other.

Most of Hezbollah’s operational planning occurs in Beirut’s southern suburbs, traditionally a fundamentalist stronghold. The regional HQ for the south is Nabatiyah, just outside the IDF zone. That area always has been a dangerous place — as Israeli invaders discovered years ago.

It is important to realize, said another U.N. officer, that Hezbollah has no fixed address. Israel’s military and *Mossad* intelligence service always are searching for Hezbollah members. Many of their leaders have been assassinated. They take no chances, and stay mobile. Nevertheless, Hezbollah in 1996 is as well-organized as any political movement in the region — the Beirut government included.

Ayatollah’s Revenge

Attacks on Israeli and SLA positions are dutifully recorded by Hezbollah’s own combat film unit for TV broadcast in Beirut.

I saw some of these tapes. From what I could tell, the guerrillas’ discipline was good; their movement under fire and small-unit tactics were professionally executed. Their combat training is thorough; much of it is conducted by Iranians, reportedly even to include such skills as underwater demolition, parachuting, and escape and evasion.

It’s no secret that Hezbollah has plenty of cash and access to many Western arms, weapons systems and equipment, including night-vision goggles. All are bought new on the burgeoning European arms market, much of it “under the counter.” Some



Hezbollah propagandists erect posters of the late Iranian Ayatollah Khomeini in southern Lebanon outside of Israel-controlled security zone. (Hezbollah’s logo appears in lower-right corner.)

Hezbollah units reportedly even are equipped with American M16 assault rifles, apparently in preference to the traditional Kalashnikovs.

Others are being taught to fly small aircraft. A recent incursion into northern Israel involved a single-engine airplane loaded with explosives and propaganda literature. It managed to evade the IDF by crossing the border at tree-top height. It would have landed somewhere north of the Sea of Galilee if the pilot had not crashed into power pylons. Other Islamic fundamentalists have tried to cross the border in balloons and powered hang gliders. All



Norwegian patrol negotiates snow-covered mountains east of Chebaa, near Syria’s border with Lebanon. This area commonly is scene of firefights between Hezbollah infiltrators and Israeli and SLA troops.

were shot down and their occupants killed.

There is no question that Hezbollah is dominated by a pervasive, Iranian militancy. Its two factions are led, respectively, by an extremist from Beka’a Valley named Sheik Sobhi Tufeli, and a slightly more “moderate” man named Sayed Hassan Nasrallah in Tyre. Tufeli is linked to fanatic

ical, Iranian *mullahs* (holy men); Nasrallah is allied with Iranian President Rafsanjani, whose politics are somewhat more realistic. Further, Nasrallah’s faction tends to take its orders from Damascus, source of most of its arms. It’s a question of having to listen to Syria, or new weapons won’t be delivered.

Notwithstanding the Syrian links, Iran’s late Ayatollah Khomeini has almost been deified in southern Lebanon. His 12- and 16-foot posters dot the countryside. At the bottom of each poster is the distinctive, Hezbollah crest: a red hand clutching an upraised AK rifle.

Naturally the Lebanese are watching these events with great interest. Lebanon is one of the most secular of Muslim countries in the Middle East since the integration of Christian, Druze and Islamic fighters after a decade and a half of civil war. The Beirut government has had its fill of extremists — in whatever guise. Surprisingly, many Muslims also regard Hezbollah with great suspicion.

Syria has some 35,000 troops in Lebanon as a “peacekeeping” force. Its government also is worried about the simplistic philosophy of Islamic fundamentalism. There have been serious disagreements between Damascus and Tehran recently, based as much on ideology as on the fact that Syria owes Iran \$10 billion.

There are many senior officials in Beirut who fear the ideological intransigence of Hezbollah. They also resent not being able to enter their own Beka’a Valley if they are not of the “correct” religious persuasion.

Those who would discuss this sensitive matter with me, a Westerner, believe that if the “Party of God” had its way, it immediately would institute Islamic-fundamentalist law in Lebanon. At its most extreme, it stipulates the cutting off of hands for theft, the prohibition of liquor, and stoning (to the death) for sexual or commercial offenses. Such law would put every woman in a full-length veil — as in Iran.

Islamic Hearts And Minds

Hezbollah’s role in Lebanon extends beyond military matters. The extent of its influence and ability to match a need was well demonstrated during and after a 1993 Israeli air and

artillery onslaught.

For seven days, during “Operation Accountability,” about 1,000 Lebanese homes were destroyed or damaged. The United Nations immediately began assessing how it could help and what it would

Continued on page 64

Self-styled American *ninja*

Frank Dux is billed as the "first covert operative to write a book." Of course, that is nonsense; so is the classification of Dux's alleged autobiography as "non-fiction."

Now in its second printing, *The Secret Man: An American Warrior's Uncensored Story* (Regan Books, 1996, New York City) purports to cover Dux's 1981-7 adventures as a globe-trotting "off the books" agent working directly for the late Central Intelligence Agency Director William Casey.

Regan Books gushed that "the real-life subject of the Jean-Claude Van Damme [1987 martial-arts] film *Bloodsport*... had a hidden career known to few" yet commanded "legendary status on both sides of the Iron Curtain. ..."

A legend in Dux's own mind, perhaps.

Soldier Of Fortune has thoroughly examined the book written by this former low-ranking commo technician in a Marine Reserve artillery unit. Conclusion: *The Secret Man* is a hoax. Others agree.

"He has never been employed by, or affiliated with, the CIA," spokesman Mark Mansfield told *SOF* in a 24 May phone conversation. Dux's book, the CIA spokesman added, "is sheer fantasy, a work of fiction."

It is unusual for the CIA to publicly comment on such things, Mansfield said, "but this individual's claims are so preposterous that we thought it was necessary and appropriate." He noted it is "rather convenient" for Dux that Casey is dead and unable to refute the book.

Dux again exploited the dead in claiming he socialized in El Salvador with



Macho photo in book: "Down in the trenches in 1983. The .357 Magnum was the sidearm that distinguished special unit personnel." For that matter, the .357 often is the choice of any outdoorsman wanting a reliable, hard-hitting pistol. The military-style rifle (partially obscured by Dux's knee) is not an M16 or AR15: Close examination reveals it is an Italian-made, .22LR look-alike. (So why would "the CIA's finest covert operative" carry a Rambo-looking squirrel rifle?)

FULL MENTAL JACKET

"If one
requires
a literary
laxative..."

by Alexander McColl

Publicity photos courtesy
Warren Cowan
& Associates

SEAL officer Al Schaufelberger, who was killed there in May 1983. (Think of all of the aging, suburban women whose claim to "fame" is a jealously held fantasy about having slept with JFK — you get the idea.)

Alive And Kicking

One of the real-life characters mentioned in the book is *not* dead, and he resents Dux's references to him. Retired Army Major General John Singlaub, whose

SpecOps career began in WWII with the OSS, even had his attorney complain to the publisher, HarperCollins Publishers, Inc.

Dux claimed he last saw Singlaub in 1993 at a SpecOps expo in San Diego. Not only does Singlaub not know Dux, he did not even attend that event. The bullshit gets deeper: *The Secret Man* says that Singlaub headed the Phoenix program, which conducted "black" missions in Vietnam.

True, Phoenix operatives ruthlessly attacked the Viet Cong infrastructure;

He was the CIA's finest covert operative...the subject of the martial arts film *Bloodsport*...a bridge to international organized crime...a legend on both sides of the Iron Curtain. His true identity always concealed from the people he served, he was...

**THE
SECRET
MAN**
An American
Warrior's
Uncensored Story
Frank Dux

"If one requires a literary laxative, this book rates an 11 on a one-to-10 scale. Dux fails to name even one individual who can corroborate his fraud/fantasies. A 'brain tumor' is no justification for labeling *The Secret Man* as non-fiction."

**SOF Editor/Publisher
Robert K. Brown**

problem is that then-Colonel Singlaub headed the Studies and Observations Group (SOG). He was *never* involved with Phoenix, an entirely separate project.

"You know, it's an insult to your intelligence, on the subject of special operations, to think that this guy [Dux] could say that he was involved in these things in the way that he said he was involved," Singlaub told *SOF* Publisher Robert K. Brown. "It's an outrage. And with respect

to what he said about Bill Casey ... that's an abomination."

Dux further claimed to have known an "Admiral Smith, a Gulf War commander" whom he last had seen in Saudi Arabia "when I delivered intelligence assets needed for General Norman Schwarzkopf's implementation of a plan to disguise U.S. helicopters as Iraqi copters to penetrate Iraqi airspace." More nonsense.

Retired Gen. Schwarzkopf told *SOF*: "During the operations in the Persian Gulf, we never had a 'plan to disguise U.S. helicopters as Iraqi [heli]copters to penetrate Iraqi airspace.' Further, I don't know the Admiral Smith who is referred to as a 'Gulf War commander.'"

Then there's retired Navy Commander

wood's idea of an ex-CIA tough guy.

In His Own Defense

On 15 May *SOF* interviewed Dux by phone in hopes of resolving some of the differences between "image" and "reality." Most of his responses can be characterized as hazy and back-pedaling.

When pinned down on obvious errors, Dux leaned heavily on *it's a secret*. He even noted at one point that some of the details may have eluded him due to a brain tumor.

Surprisingly, after writing a 316-page book that purports to expose a lot of the CIA's dark and dirty secrets, on several points Dux was unwilling to elaborate on *grounds of security*, or claiming that to answer the question would expose him-

self or his family to retribution. This lame evasion avoided such things as the actual time and place of his purported, initial interview with Casey.

Not surprisingly, *SOF* isn't the first publication to challenge Dux's self-aggrandizement.

On 1 May 1988 the *Los Angeles Times* carried a lengthy piece, "Ninja: Hero or Master Fake?" It said Dux had a long history of

telling those who would listen "romantic tales of warfare and adventure," including the story of his heroic participation in a covert military mission in Southeast Asia.

The *Times*' article suggested that Dux was a "bright but undistinguished young man who, using cleverness and chutzpah, re-created himself as a super-hero a decade ago, painstakingly authenticating his new persona with military medals, trophies and newspaper clippings of questionable origins."

In the early '80s, Dux operated Los Angeles-area schools that taught a style of *ninja* combatives he had developed: *Dux Ryu*. Dux unquestionably is an accomplished martial artist, but even in that esoteric realm he apparently could not leave reality well enough alone.

The movie *Bloodsport*, starring Belgian actor Jean-Claude Van Damme, purportedly recreated Dux's brutal competition — during an unauthorized leave from his *secret* duties — in a *secret*, by-invitation-only duke-out called the *Kumite* (a Japanese martial word meaning "fight").

In his book, Dux bitterly denounced the *Los Angeles Times* and another California publication, *Black Belt* magazine, as par-

ticipants in a smear campaign begun in 1988 by none other than White House aide Oliver North.

Black Belt's current executive editor, Jim Coleman, told *SOF*: "We do not believe Dux competed in it [Kumite]; we don't believe the event ever happened. ... He basically was a small-time martial-arts instructor here in California until that film. ..."

Give Dux credit, though; he's made big money bamboozling some of the *cultural elite* in New York and Hollywood. Nowadays he is billed as story co-creator in Van Damme's big-budget movie, *The Quest*.

Real World Vs. Reel World

The convoluted premise of Dux's book is this: As a young man, Dux was personally recruited by Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) Casey, who somehow knew Dux's father, to deal with CIA employees who had gone sour, and Casey himself acted as Dux's handler — all carried out in such a way to ensure that no one else in the Agency knew anything about it. If that doesn't cause one's non-



"Talking shop with SEAL Team 5 Lt. Cmdr. Larry Simmons (Ret.)," the book claims. Not so, says the ex-SEAL. Simmons (left) strongly condemns Dux as "a con man."

Larry W. Simmons, who commanded SEAL Team 5.

Now a military-adventure novelist, Simmons was talked into writing a "generic" forward to *The Secret Man*, sight unseen, by his literary agent — who also represented Dux.

"As soon as I read the first few pages of [Dux's] book," Simmons told *SOF*, "I knew I had been deceived into lending credibility to a fraudulent endeavor. ... He is not an American warrior; he is a con man."

A photo in the book purports to show Simmons "talking shop" with Dux. "I assure the reader [that] Frank Dux never talked shop with SEAL Team 5," Simmons told *SOF*. The book also has several action photos of SpecOps troops. Fact is, they mostly were provided by a SEAL and have nothing whatsoever to do with Dux.

Speaking of photos, the rear jacket of the \$24 hardback book shows Dux posing, in requisite black-leather jacket and gloves, amid a collection of binoculars and cheap, Russian-made, night-vision scopes. Indeed, he looks very much like *Holly-*



What would any "true life" spy book be without a picture featuring trenchcoat and nifty-looking surveillance gear? (The same binoculars and night-vision devices probably can be purchased from some of *SOF*'s advertisers...)

sense detector to register in the red, here are some of the other flaws in the book:

- Besides the fact that Dux displays little personal knowledge of Casey in his otherwise detailed descriptions of their meetings, in the real world (versus the *reel*



A 1993 martial-arts demonstration in which Dux uses one kick to smash two bottles of champagne held by his students.

world of the movies) the Agency has other, more bureaucratic and less dramatic ways of dealing with unsatisfactory employees.

- The DCI has vast, complex duties; he simply *would not* have time to act as the personal handling agent for *any* operative.

- A *real* CIA agent risks capture and harsh interrogation. The Agency necessarily would keep something as sensitive and potentially damaging as Dux's supposed functions *far* away from the DCI. What's described in *The Secret Man* violates an elementary rule of spy tradecraft.

- The book describes numerous occasions where Dux received instructions, phony passports and other support "through channels." This is inconsistent with the (preposterous) idea that Casey alone handled Dux.

- Of the eight operations, more or less, described in the book, only one has anything to do with the problem of a CIA employee who had gone bad. This further erodes the supposed rationale for Dux being hired.

- The book is full of the politically correct, anti-CIA sentiment (a sure winner in New York and Hollywood), and bad-mouths the Nicaraguan anti-Sandinistas and U.S.-friendly regimes just about everywhere. Dux seemed to know nothing but a world of whores, gangsters, cops on the take and evil, corrupt CIA operatives. It is unlikely that someone with this mindset would have been welcome in the Agency.

- The book describes "Delphi 9": a joint CIA-KGB operation (Dux representing the CIA) supposedly to investigate aspects of the 1979 Sverdlovsk anthrax disaster. In the early '80s the United States and Soviet Union were still very serious adversaries; such a collaboration simply would not have happened.

- A common theme, right out of James Bond: The hero strolls into a notorious, underworld hangout in Milan,

Duesseldorf, Hong Kong, or some other exotic place, almost immediately encounters a sinister but somehow noble and lovable Serbian, Chinese, etc., gangland kingpin who greets Dux as a long-lost brother then tells him whatever he needs to know and provides whatever assistance he needs. Strangely, no mention is ever made of which foreign language was used for these conversations.

- A whole chapter is devoted to a secret op to destroy fuel-storage tanks at Corinto, Nicaragua. The reasons for Dux and mysterious colleague "Bucky" to be there are flimsy: Bucky was there somehow to supervise the CIA's Argentine employees who did the demolition, and Dux was there to facilitate his exfiltration overland. Attempting to make an overland escape, as Dux supposedly did, instead of going out by boat with the rest of the team would have been suicidal: After a huge explosion, every enemy soldier and cop within 100 miles would be on alert. Equally ludicrous is Dux and Bucky philosophizing for 20 minutes or so while the oil tanks are blowing.

- A HALO team comprising one man each from the United States (Dux, of course), France, Great Britain, Israel, Italy and the Netherlands jumps into Iran — right in the middle of its war with Iraq — to destroy a heavily guarded chemical plant. Some inconvenient realities: At the strategic level, there is the problem of getting around the diverging agendas and institutional jealousies of *six* different

governments and *six* different intelligence agencies. At the tactical level, there's the matter of different languages and operational procedures. (The passage at least is somewhat realistic in having the mission failing and all but one operative — guess who? — killed.)

"Secret" Man's Records

Frank William Dux was born on 6 April 1956, in Toronto, Canada. At an early age he moved with his family to California. On 14 April 1975 he enlisted into the Marine Corps.

Through the Freedom of Information Act, *SOF's* sources obtained copies of Dux's military records. They show that he served in the Marine Corps Reserve through 13 April 1981; of this enlistment, the period of 16 June to 23 October 1975 was for active-duty training as a recruit at the San Diego Recruit Depot. His subsequent USMC (reserve) assignments were as a "wireman" and (in 1978) "intelligence specialist" with the Headquarters Battery, 1/14th Marines, 4th Marine Division. He ultimately reached the rank of lance corporal.

A notation in his health record says, "This individual interviewed because of some bizarre type of behavior which centered [at] flights of ideas and exaggerations. ..."

Enough said.



Frank Dux (center, in cap) choreographs fight scene in martial-arts movie *Lionheart* starring Jean-Claude Van Damme (second from left).

SOF Special Projects Director Alexander McColl is a retired colonel, U.S. Army Reserve. A Special Forces soldier, he served 2 1/2 tours in Vietnam including staff duty in MACVSOG. He also served in counterintelligence in Europe.

*Assistant Editor Marty Kufus and John Hogan, an *SOF* contributor, assisted with this report.* ✕

SINO SABER-R

Beijing's Brinkmanship: Blues

Text & Photos by Don Kirk

The saber-rattling captured Western headlines. "China's missile tests put Taiwanese on edge," announced one American newspaper. "Residents convert their savings into U.S. dollars, buy extra stocks of rice." But reports of hoarding, flight of capital, and a jittery Taiwan dollar simply were stories pegged to the moment but ultimately of little significance.

Nobody seems to want to say so, but the result of China's war games last spring in the Taiwan Strait was a loss of face for Beijing. The charade clearly failed to bring about the desired, election-year *kowtow* by the Taiwanese.

In Taipei, capital of the democracy-leaning island that China claims as a province, streets and restaurants were crowded. Offices and industries hummed. There were no blackouts or air-raid sirens, no clue of a civil-defense drill while mainland China test-fired ballistic missiles and conducted live-fire naval maneuvers in the Taiwan Strait.

There was no panic on Taiwan, either deliberately engendered by a worried government or through rumors. Foreign 24-hour news networks pushed the "Is war imminent?" story, but nobody I met in two weeks here believed China *really* would attack.

Rational discussion of military scenarios is not the same as actually believing "the Chinese are coming." Nor was the stocking-up on gold or minding of overseas investments proof of a terrorized Taiwan. Taiwan is bursting with so much loose change that people always are thinking of ways to invest and



Protesting offshore war games, Taiwanese college students in March burn flags of the People's Republic of China. Daily ritual was performed in downtown Taipei during mainland China's saber-rattling.

profit from Asia's economic boom. China's heavy-handed campaign of intimidation, aimed at independence-minded politicians in Taiwan, might have focused islanders' thinking somewhat more than usual, but that's about all.

Red Threat Or Theatrics?

China's failure to terrify people here was not the only blow to the power Beijing sought to display. For one thing, it is unlikely China wanted

America's Seventh Fleet back in its old haunts off China's coast.

Ever since Vietnam, followed by the 1991 refusal of the Philippines to extend leases on the huge U.S. bases there, American military strength has diminished in the western Pacific. The Navy's presence largely was limited to visits to Singapore and Hong Kong and occasionally Subic Bay, now a Filipino special economic zone. So who would have thought the Americans would return to these waters, ready for action — until China issued a challenge requiring a measured response of two U.S. aircraft-carrier groups?

Nor did Beijing foresee a low-key Japanese reaction that might have been as significant as any other: A high court ruled that Okinawa's governor had to sign the lease for the unpopular U.S. bases there. The governor still refused, forcing the prime minister to sign for him — all a show that saved political faces. The timing was uncanny: occurring the very day the Chinese ended their exercise. Maybe it was just a coincidence, but the court order meant the Americans can breathe easier about preserving their largest regional basing area, maintaining a



Taiwan army M-60A3 tanks on review by generals and visitors from Taipei. American-made tanks belong to the 249th Mechanized Division, based 20 miles west of Taiwan's capital.



ATTLING ter Or Blunder?

presence from which to reinforce South Korea — or Taiwan.

The importance of the Japanese “rear base” for the Americans cannot be underestimated: America could not have fought the Korean war without it. The Japanese — and, later, Korean — economic resurgence was launched by the economic investment precipitated by that struggle. Japan might be less enthusiastic about providing such a base area again; on the other hand, it is not anxious to replace the Americans with its own self-defense forces in a regional war. Even though President Clinton, during his April visit to Japan, agreed to give up at least one base in Okinawa, he reassured all parties that America would keep 100,000 troops in the region.

So China might stage war games again from time to time, but everyone knows — more than ever — it’s only for show. In the

war of words, Taiwan’s leaders can talk about talking with Beijing, but they do it now from a position of new, imprecisely defined — but obvious — strength.

Seemingly no one on Taiwan believes the Chinese could successfully invade and occupy their island.

For starters, most Taiwanese hold stridently anti-China sentiment — a significant force. During March’s war games, the flag of People’s Republic of China (PRC) was burned every day near my hotel in the heart of Taipei. Some students hauled out four PRC flags like clockwork at 1230 and 2130, doused them in kerosene and torched them to the delight of passersby and photographers.

The kids, mostly from Taiwan National University, welcomed the presence of the American warships — though no one saw any Americans in uniform on shore. That’s because America in 1978 switched diplomatic recognition from the Chinese regime on Taiwan to the one in Beijing. All that’s left here is the American Institute on Taiwan, which substitutes for a U.S. embassy but technically isn’t.

The people at the institute swear there are no U.S. military people on the ground in Taiwan. It is, however, safe to assume that American “personnel” are busy under any of a number

of covers. The lack of military people, though, doesn’t keep America from supplying Taiwan’s armed forces with hardware, from much-publicized F-16 jet fighters to less glamorous but nonetheless vital weaponry.

During a foray out of Taipei, I was surprised to find troops of the 249th Mechanized Division riding around on M-60A3 tanks — not new models, but newly repaired items that saw service during the Gulf War.

There also were armored personnel carriers, self-propelled artillery, and TOW missiles — made in America. Uncle Sam can send the hardware, but *not* the advisers to go with them.



Major General Kung Fong Din, commander of 249th Mechanized — the “Dragon Tiger division” — reviews his units, including (rear) U.S.-made M-109A2 self-propelled artillery. Taiwan has at least 125 of these self-propelled, 155mm howitzers.

The advisers, though, might not be needed.

Enter The Dragon

The name for the 249th is the “Dragon Tiger division.” It’s a tough bunch. Division commander Major General Kung Fong Din had some harsh words after putting his men through an exercise observed by visitors from Taipei. “You were good, but you weren’t good enough,” he rasped through a microphone. “You made some mistakes. You have to be better to defend your country.”

The general wasn’t just talking for rhetorical effect. Troops say discipline, out of sight of visitors, is tough and sometimes brutal.

The troops are proud, though, especially of the hardware showered on them by the United States with little or no publicity beyond headlines about F-16s. “We take care of these tanks like our children,” said one. “We know we may need them some day. We don’t know how many more we will get from America.”

Taiwan’s industries, advanced in some

Continued on page 62



Antitank gunner aims TOW at target vehicle (left, down-range) during military demonstration at home base of the 249th Mechanized Division.



Patrol of M-113A1 armored personnel carriers, armed with .50-caliber Browning heavy machine guns and TOW antitank missiles, moves across muddy field during Taiwan army demonstration.



Artillery battery moves into preselected firing site as Taiwan’s army exercises during Chinese war games this spring. China’s missile tests and live-fire naval maneuvers, although watched intently by Taiwan and U.S. Navy, were not seen as signs of imminent war.

RUF RAIDERS



In the three months prior to when I had left Sierra Leone, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) had overrun mines and church missions and taken 17 European hostages, including six British subjects, seven Italian nuns, two Germans and two Swiss. The rebels' threat to kill them was given strength by the ambush and murder of an Irish priest. But who the RUF were and what their agenda was remained a mystery.

Rumors of army failures and rebel successes were spreading through Freetown like brushfires. *"The airport at Lungi was under threat,"* a taxi driver claimed, *"and all commercial flights were canceled."* There was wild speculation about how we'd get out until I rang the Sabena station manager, who knew nothing about it. *"The rebels are massing just outside Freetown and an attack is imminent,"* a Lebanese diamond dealer insisted. *"Vietnamese army officers have arrived to offer a brigade of jungle fighters to defeat the rebels,"* said a Sierra Leonean soldier who mistook Gurkhas for Vietnamese...

Returning To An Organized War

My return eight months later proved more fruitful. When I heard that

Executive Outcomes, a South African security company with a reputation for "proactive ops," had taken over the training contract, I immediately got in touch. Knowing a few of the former special forces or counterinsurgency experts from my years covering the wars in Namibia and Angola gained me an immediate invitation. And now I was back, already feeling the butterflies of anticipation at the prospect of action.

That afternoon I was in the back of an EO Mi-17, heading east towards their forward base overlooking the Koidu diamond fields. Sitting next to me on the tailgate was Fijian Fred Marafano, a 22-year SAS veteran. Marafano, at 55 as fit as any of the young Sierra Leone army troops on board, would be leading a crucial element of the upcoming operation. An hour later we settled next to the base. In the villa the South Africans used for their HQ, the operations officer, Colonel Renier Hugo, was beginning his briefing for tomorrow's attack. The Belorussian helicopter gunship crew were following it through their interpreter, making notes on their maps and nodding their professional approval as the plan unfolded. The local Sierra Leonean battalion commander, whose troops would be taking part, was snoring gently.

Colonel Hugo's pointer tapped the

map: The first Sierra Leonean infantry company would advance from the north towards the rebel-held town of Gandorhun. A second company, led by Hugo, would be inserted by helicopter south of the town to serve as a blocking group, while a Sierra Leonean mortar crew with EO advisers and protection team would be set down on high ground west of Gandorhun. With the infantry and support elements in place, Nigerian air force Alpha Jets would bomb the town, followed by the Mi-24 gunship using rockets and AGS 30mm grenade launcher pods. Once they had pulled off-target, the mortar team would hit the rebels with 82mm and 120mm mortars. The end of the bombardment would signal Marafano's company to make its final advance, forcing any surviving rebels towards an L-shaped ambush. The OPLAN, using available resources in a well coordinated attack, allowed for flexibility in the event one or more elements of the attack failed to get into place.

On the following morning heavy rains at Lungi airport 240 clicks to the west were keeping the Alpha Jets grounded. Then came word that fuel contamination had grounded one of the Mi-17 choppers. This forced the cancellation of the blocking group. Not knowing the size of the rebel force, Hugo was unwilling to leave half the ambush group on the ground for the hour it

Air-Sniping In Sierra Leone

Text & Photos by Jim Hooper



would take to bring in the balance. As a highly experienced commander, Hugo exercised professional caution by not risking his men when the rebels were already losing the war. To top off the problems, the Mi-24 had to return to Freetown for crucial maintenance.

Go With The Flow

The OPLAN was quickly rejigged. There was no point in sending the gunship back with a full weapons load. "We don't want to give away our intentions by hitting the target ahead of schedule," Hugo said, "so let's put the ordnance on another rebel-held town." The target chosen was Kailahun, 30 clicks beyond Gandorhun on the Guinea border. Volodya and Valerii, the Mi-24's pilot and weapons systems officers, agreed. They were as unhappy as the rest of us about the original plan falling apart, but were eager for some action. Hugo knew the risk they would be taking. Although the crew was well protected by titanium armor around both cockpits, there were unarmored areas of the ship vulnerable to small-arms fire. If the rebels got lucky and brought the gunship down, there was little chance of the crew escaping capture, excruciating torture and slow death. The one Mi-17 we had, carrying a 20-man protection team, would therefore fly top cover, ready to land and extract them if necessary. Everyone in the room appreciated the irony of Russians and South Africans, once mortal enemies, prepared to risk

their lives for each other.

Both choppers lifted off and headed SE, hugging the trees until the Makona River, which separated Sierra Leone and Guinea, appeared on the horizon. As the Mi-17 climbed out of small-arms range, the Mi-24 made a tight orbit over the town to select targets. Their first salvos were to be flechette rockets, and timing was crucial to maximum effectiveness: 450 meters after launch, the rockets would burn out and the nose cones fall away to send hundreds of steel darts ripping through the town like a gigantic shotgun blast. From a thousand meters above we saw the Hind roll in at 50 meters. White smoke streamed from the wing stubs as the first salvo was triggered. The gunship banked away and came in from another direction to foil the aim of anyone expecting them to use the same approach twice. A second salvo streaked towards the rebel stronghold. By now the terrified rebels were huddling under cover, not daring to put their heads or weapons up. Rocket pods empty, the Mi-24 roared in again, the AGS pods spitting 30mm grenades that raised columns of red dust. The final gun runs showed the ferocious destructive power of the Yak-B four-barrelled 12.7mm Gatling gun in the nose. The Russian chopper banked away and headed home as we took up a position on its starboard side, exchanging thumbs up with the crew.

The next morning we watched rain bucket down, reducing visibility to less than half a mile. It would have to improve before the chopper could

depart from Freetown. A message came in from Marafano: They'd hit ambushes, taken more wounded, but had arrived at their forming up place for the attack. It was the last message before his radio batteries went flat. Everyone was confident of Fred's ability to keep his troops together and see off any rebels, but it was time to get the mortars in position to support him. Damn rain. Then it started to clear and we launched the Mi-17: An hour later we were loading the chopper with crates of 120mm and 82mm mortar bombs.

The tubes, base plates and bipods were sweated on board and we lifted off. The position Col. Hugo had chosen was a small mountain that rose 400 meters out of triple canopy jungle, but when we arrived clouds shrouded the top. The South African pilots flew around it, looking for some way to get us in, slowing to a hover when the clouds appeared to be thinning, backing up in readiness to exploit any opportunity. But it was hopeless. Flying into it blind would not only risk the lives of everyone on board, but also a very expensive piece of machinery that was crucial to prosecuting the war. We returned to Koidu gritting our teeth in frustration.

Finally A Fire-Base

The second attempt found the LZ clear and we scrambled out as soon as the wheels touched down, the black South African protection team immediately setting up a perimeter defense. By the time the chopper returned with the balance of the team, the mortars were in place. Through his binoculars Col. Hugo could see armed troops in Gandorhun.



Mi-24 weapons officer Valerii (center) listens to Col. Hugo (far right) as OPLAN for attack on Gandorhun is outlined. At right rear is Col. Rudolph Van Heerden, EO's CO for Kono district.

Knowing how frightened the rebels were of helicopters, he immediately deduced that Marafano and his men had already taken the town. At that point the Mi-24, having been rushed through its scheduled maintenance, screamed past us before making a low pass over the town and verifying what Hugo suspected. "We have a visual on Fred," the radio crackled. But without comms with Marafano the immediate tactical problem was not



EO's Kono district ops officer Col. Renier Hugo, during operations against rebel-held town of Gandorhun.

knowing the size of the rebel force or if they were capable of mounting a counterattack. Hugo's men laid a pattern of mortar bombs to the east and south of the town to discourage any thought of aggressive action. Even if, as was probable, they had no intention of a counterattack, with a little luck a few rebels might be seriously inconvenienced by the unexpected bombardment. As the sun sank, bright flashes of HE and

clouds of white phosphorus smoke billowed out of the thick jungle.

That night we shivered miserably under our ponchos in driving rain, cringing through hours of huge lightning bolts crashing around us. Occasional bursts of fire were heard from Gandorhun, but we put it down to nervous Sierra Leonean soldiers firing at shadows. The thunderstorm moved on at dawn, but the first comms check was not what we wanted to hear. "The good news is that we have plenty of rat packs and water," Hugo grinned. "The bad news is that both choppers are grounded because of fuel contamination and won't be ready before tomorrow." I said that I was definitely going to sue my travel agent when I got home. "I'm sure I told her Bali," I mumbled.

Base plates were dug out of the earth and repositioned as Hugo scanned the jungle below us for likely targets. A small village three clicks to the SW caught his attention. Except for Gandorhun now, this area was held by the rebels: According to interrogation reports, the local civvies had either escaped, been forced to join the rebels, or been killed. The day passed slowly, the mortar crew dropping occasional bombs on the new target. With dusk, night vision binoculars were used to examine the jungle. I heard Hugo suck in his breath. "We've got one," he said, passing over the binoculars and showing me



Mi-24E gunship with Belorussian pilots flies top cover for troop-carrying Mi-17s.



Executive Outcomes and Sierra Leonean troops hustle to unload mortar ammo after weather broke and they could be inserted 25 clicks south of Koidu base.



Mi-24 fires rockets on rebel-held town of Kailahun. These gunships also mount 30mm grenade launchers and 12.7mm chin "Gatling," all of which have had a dampening effect on guerrilla activity.

where to look. The green image, flecked with tiny white spots swam into view at the base of a range of low mountains five clicks away. "See the large fire in the middle, with the smaller ones surrounding it 150-200 meters out? The big one is a base, the smaller ones are their defensive or early warning positions." Within minutes the 120 went into action, the impact of the spotting round reaching us 45 seconds later. A quick adjustment and a dozen more were arcing towards the target, laying a tight pattern on and around the rebel base.

A good day's work behind us, we settled into our sleeping places, only to be rudely awakened by streams of army ants attracted to empty ration tins. The night passed slowly and painfully. When the sun rose over the horizon, a message arrived that both Mi-17s were en route from Freetown to extract us. The balance of the ammunition was charged and sent down-range towards the base Hugo had spotted, saturating the target. An hour after everything had been packed and readied for our ride back to Koidu, our ears pricked up. The sound of helicopter blades had never sounded sweeter.

Peace Through Superior Firepower — And Tactics

The after-action report, based on prisoner interrogations and other intelligence

African Burlesque

As a film it would be a cracker. Satire and sublime irony deftly woven into cliché and chaos theory. Imagine the opening scene as an open Land-Rover filled with black and white soldiers noses into the shabby African town. Cut to: shadows and close-ups of narrowed eyes following its progress along the pot-holed streets. Above the buzz of flies, whispers of "South Africans" ripple ahead. The Land Rover bumps into the market square and the gathered throng freezes. Cut to: close-up of a toddler clinging to its mother's dress; a white-bearded elder, mouth ajar, rooted in place. The throng gathers timidly, surrounding the car in silence. One woman's trill and chant is picked up by the rest: "South A-fri-ca! South A-fri-ca," growing louder and louder. Children dart through the ecstatic arm-wavers to touch their heroes, before racing back in giggling triumph.

These veterans of the Namibian and Angolan wars, case hardened tools of the old apartheid regime, cast shy looks at the dancers. "This happens every time we come here," mumbles the driver. He ducks his head in embarrassment as the adulations gather strength. "They really like us."

The subplot is geology, which gave Sierra Leone's 27,000 square miles 25% of the world's known rutile (titanium ore), massive bauxite deposits and enough diamonds to support an illicit trade rumored at 180,000cts a year. (And for a mere \$50,000 to the right ministry you too can be a legitimate diamond smuggler.) There is enough gold to have investors slavering, and geologists can smell platinum and oil. In better times the country of 4.5 million people exported rice, cocoa and a fifth of the world's ginger. Yet today Sierra Leone is officially the sixth most impoverished nation on earth and, since the rebels of the Revolutionary United Front captured the



Fijian and former SAS sergeant Fred Marafano, right, leaves Koidu base for attack on Gandorhun with Sierra Leonean troops.

mines, is on a slippery slope for Numero Uno. Which is why the Keystone Cop government had to dial 911 for outside help.

At the South Africans' base overlooking the Koidu diamond fields, a Russian helicopter gunship returns after a rocket and strafing attack against the rebels. I snap a few photos and fall in with the flight crew, offering to send copies to their families in Minsk. Volodya and Valerii, grizzled survivors of the old Soviet Union's adventure in Afghanistan, growl an unmistakable "Nyet!" Valerii slaps a mosquito on his neck, glances at the bloody remains and moderates his tone. "Look, if our wives knew what we're really doing here they'd kill us," he says. He stops alongside Colonel Rudolph van Heerden, the South African commander for the Kono District, takes the offered beer and throws an arm over his shoulder. "But you can send the photos to Rudolph and he'll make sure we get them." The colonel nods in confirmation, and the former mortal enemies head for the briefing room to discuss tomorrow's joint operation against the rebels.

But there is nothing ironic or faintly funny about a war whose main vic-

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sources, showed that Hugo's assessment of the previously unknown rebel base had been spot on. Between Marafano's attack and the mortar crew's efforts, at least 25 rebels were killed and at least twice that number wounded, the survivors escaping towards Kailahun. As this article goes to press, Kailahun itself is now in government hands. Less than a year after the black and white South Africans of Executive Outcomes arrived in Sierra Leone, the four-year war may be nearing an end. With the rebel threat to peace on the wane, the government has announced plans for democratic elections.

Lest anyone should mistakenly refer to them as "mercenaries," Executive Outcomes' managing director is



(Above) EO/Sierra Leonean mortar crew fires barrage at rebel-held town, while (left) troopers attach charges to more 120mm mortar bombs.



After two days and nights in support of attack on Gandorhun and mortaring RUF targets of opportunity, EO/Sierra Leonean mortar crew prepares for extraction while second Mi-17 orbits prior to extracting protection team.

ready to correct him. "We are a professional military advisory group," says Eeben Barlow, a highly regarded veteran of the SADF's 32 Bn, "working only for recognized governments. Our company's goal in Sierra Leone — as it was in Angola — is to give support to a country moving towards democracy. No one can dispute that we have been a stabilizing factor in Africa."

How stabilizing? By post-colonial African standards, very: When foreign

nationals recently had to be evacuated from the anarchy in neighboring Liberia, they were taken to Sierra Leone — which itself had been exporting refugees only a short time earlier.

The five years of war in Sierra Leone have been marked by unspeakable atrocities and ritual cannibalism on the part of RUF, and sheer incompetence and their own share of atrocities on the part of the Sierra Leone army. With more than 10,000 dead — the vast

majority innocent civilians — up to a quarter of the population displaced and the economy a basket case, Capt. Valentine Strasser was pressured by the international community into accepting democratic elections. Some months later, when Strasser decided he may have been overly hasty in his decision, Executive Outcomes threatened to withdraw immediately if election plans were not put back on course.

Knowing full well that the departure of EO would allow the RUF to regain its hold over the interior, Julius Maada Bio ousted Strasser in a near-bloodless coup and exiled him to Ghana. Supervised by the international community, the final round of elections were held on 15 March 1996 despite RUF murdering 35 people en route to cast their votes in the town of Bo. The winner was Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, 64, of the Sierra Leone Peoples' Party. A retired UN official, Kabbah took office with the support of Maada Bio and promised to negotiate a peace with Foday Sankoh, the leader of RUF.

The RUF "peace delegates" attending the talks were seen as lightweights due to their lack of experience as political negotiators. This is not surprising, given that their only background in "negotiating" has been torture and murder. Some observers anticipate the RUF returning to the bush war and launching an offensive to capture an area of Sierra Leone from which they could theoretically negotiate from a position of strength.

So long as EO remains in the country, however, this strategy is assured of failure.

Correspondent Jim Hooper is a frequent SOF contributor on the wars of post-colonial Africa. ✕

SHORT BARREL, LONG RANGE

One of the very best of the production series sniper rifles ever, since its inception, the bolt-action Steyr Mannlicher SSG 69 (*ScharfSchuetzenGewehr* — Sharpshooter's Rifle, Model of 1969 — the year of its adoption by the Austrian army) was first introduced to American gun owners by Jeff Cooper in *Soldier Of Fortune* more than 18 years ago (see "Gradely Green Gun," April '79). His impressions were distinctly favorable. I have worked with this rifle on several occasions while training the Special Reaction Team (*Equipo de*

teristic of modern Steyr Mannlicher rifles. In addition, the SSG 69's iron sights were deleted, the Cicolac stock was changed from green to black and a heavier barrel was installed. Two years ago the SSG-PIIK

Steyr's Compact Sniper

(*Kurz* — short) was introduced. It differs from the standard SSG-PII only by its 20-inch barrel. *SOF* was recently sent two PIIK rifles, together with the new 10X42mm Hensoldt scopes they are now

scope attached the weight increases to 10 pounds (4.54 kg). Add approximately another 1.5 pounds if you deploy with the aluminum-legged Parker Hale bipod. This is about what you would expect for a heavy-barreled sniper weapon system. As a comparison, the AW sniper rifle with a 20-inch barrel, scope, bipod and empty magazine tips the scales at about 15.75 pounds. If forced to fire snap shots off the shoulder from the standing position at close ranges (25 to 50 yards), I would much prefer the Steyr SSG PIIK, as it is a significant 4.25



Steyr's SSG-PIIK sniper rifle with a 20-inch barrel and equipped with the excellent Hensoldt 10X scope with 3/4-minute Mil Dot reticle pattern provides a highly accurate, yet compact envelope especially suited to law-enforcement tactical teams deploying in crowded urban environments.

Reaccion Especial or ERE) of the *Policia Nacional* in El Salvador (see "Sniper School," September, '91 and "Reach Out and H.I.T.T. Someone" March, '92). My reaction was also overwhelmingly positive, although the rifle has several idiosyncrasies peculiar to the design.

The Steyr SSG 69 (now referred to as the "PI") has continued to evolve over the years. The first significant modification appeared with the SSG-PII (*Polizei* — Police Model II) which was first imported to the United States in 1984. This version, designed for law-enforcement applications, substituted a large knob-type bolt handle for the "butterknife" bolt handle so charac-

equipped with for the police market, by the exclusive U.S. distributor, GSI Inc. (Dept. *SOF*, 108 Morrow Avenue, Trussville, AL 35173; phone: 205-655-8299; fax: 205-655-7078). These rifles are based upon the Steyr Mannlicher SL (Super Light) sporting rifle which was first exposed to the U.S. market in 1967.

The SSG-PIIK's 20-inch (508 mm) heavy, free-floating barrel with match crown has four lands and grooves with a right-hand twist of one turn in 12 inches (305 mm). Overall length of this rifle is 38.5 inches (978 mm). The rifle alone with an empty magazine weighs 8.7 pounds (3.68 kg). With the Hensoldt

pounds lighter than the AW system.

All SSG 69 series barrels are manufactured by cold hammer forging, a process originally developed by Steyr. The billet is fixed on a mandrel with the rifling raised in relief. A series of hammers force the rifling onto the bore and simultaneously form the barrel's exterior contours, work-hardening both the bore and exterior surface. Steyr does not remove the oval-shaped hammer marks on the exterior surface and this lends a distinctive appearance to their rifle barrels.

While Steyr's sporting rifles mate the barrels and receivers by the standard threading method, the SSG 69 series is

mated by a shrink-fit process that involves fitting a cold barrel to a heated receiver. After cooling, a 10-ton press would be required to separate the two components. All of this is intended to enhance the barrel's harmonics and improve the inherent accuracy potential. The barreled actions are phosphate-finished and rest in either a green or black ABS Cyclocac synthetic stock which can be adjusted for length-of-pull by adding or removing buttpad spacers. There is a fully rotating sling swivel on the front of the stock and a fixed sling attachment point on the left side of the butt. A green or web sling is available for \$36.

An approximately 8-inch-long slot, or rail, in the stock's forearm area permits installation of a sliding handstop/sling swivel unit to which can be attached the superb, but expensive Parker-Hale bipod. This is nothing more nor less than a scaled-down version of the excellent Bren LMG MkI bipod. Its adjustable legs permit the command height (the distance from the ground to the center line of the barrel's axis) to be varied from 8.5 to 12 inches. The head can be swiveled and canted approximately 15 degrees in either direction without altering the leg position. The bipod, which has a spring-loaded, heavy-duty catch/release, attaches to a spigot on the front of the handstop. A new version, available from Brownells (Dept. SOF, 200 South Front Street, Montezuma, IA 50171; phone: 515-623-5401) features lightweight aluminum-alloy legs.

The receiver is machined from a single piece of steel with a massive recoil lug at the rear. Bolt lift is a very short 60 degrees. The bolt itself is of two-piece construction with a body and bolt-handle sleeve. On this short sleeve are the six rotating locking lugs, symmetrically arranged in pairs. Rear locking of this type permits shorter bolt travel than the front-locking '98 Mauser system; but, in theory, is less desirable since the entire bolt, not just the head, is compressed when locked in battery and the receiver weakened somewhat by the cut-out on the right side in front of the locking shoulders. Steyr has compensated for this by both strengthening and lengthening the receiver so the barrel is seated with its chamber within the receiver walls. The bolt face is recessed for the cartridge head and is fitted with a spring-loaded "bump"-type

Maximizing A Rifle's Accuracy Potential

Both of our Steyr SSG-PIIK test specimens came with computer-generated factory test targets indicating a 3-shot accuracy potential of about 0.7 MOA at 100 meters. That's not bad for production series rifles, but these groups were undoubtedly fired with the rifle clamped in a rigid fixture and in an indoor tunnel. In an attempt to improve on this we subjected both barreled actions to a process called deep cryogenic stress relief, which until recently was known only to precision high-power shooters. The accuracy potential of a rifle barrel is dependent, along with other factors, upon the concept of residual stress. These stresses are present in any piece of cast or forged steel and more are introduced when a barrel is machined, bored, formed and heat treated. As these stresses are uneven, when a barrel is heated or cooled it will warp off the bore's axis. This phenomenon, called "warping an arc," can significantly increase the group dispersion down range.

Relief of these stresses can take place if the barrel is brought to an equal temperature — both surface and core — and then cycled through a wide range of temperatures. If the rate of temperature change is maintained at a slow enough pace, thermal compression and expansion occur evenly from the core to the surface and internal stresses are released, resulting in a homogeneously stabilized barrel. The process by which this is accomplished takes more than several days as the barrel is taken by precise computer control to -310 F, held for up to 60 hours, then raised to +310 F and slowly brought back to room temperature. Due to recent technical developments, the deep cryogenic tempering process is now relatively inexpensive (\$49.50 per barrel or barreled action). Furthermore, modern computer control has brought the process to a consistency not possible in the past.

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

We had this work done by Cryo-Maxx (Dept. SOF, R.R. 2, Box 702, St. Elmo, IL 62458; phone: 618-829-3999; fax: 618-829-9503). The results? Consistent 0.4 MOA groups fired by both myself and Alex Pappas, the other SOF staff member participating in these tests, from the bench off a sandbag rest at both 100 and 200 meters with Federal 308M. To me this really demonstrates that deep cryogenic stress relief will significantly improve the accuracy of an already accurate rifle.

— P.G.K.



After subjecting the barreled action to deep cryogenic stress relief, the Steyr SSG-PIIK consistently shot 0.4 MOA groups off the bench at both 100 and 200 meters.

ejector. The bolt has two gas escape ports.

The extractor is of the Italian, Carcano type and can be easily removed. The one-piece firing pin has a shorted threaded section toward the rear end onto which is attached the double-headed cocking cam. The firing pin's coil mainspring is located between this cocking cam and a collar at the front end. A small set screw on the cocking cam prevents the firing pin from rotating. Dual opposed



Original Steyr SSG 69 (top), most often seen with a Kahles scope, was equipped with a 26-inch medium-weight barrel, iron sights and a green ABS Cyclocac stock. The spigot for attaching a Parker-Hale bipod has been permanently fixed to the front of this specimen's stock. Steyr SSG-PIIK (bottom) has a heavy 20-inch barrel, no iron sights, a black ABS Cyclocac stock and is marketed with the Hensoldt 10X scope.

cocking cam recesses at the rear of the bolt handle's sleeve engage the cam surfaces on the cocking cam when it rests in a slot at the rear of the bolt body. Everything is held together by the bolt sleeve which also puts the firing pin under tension when it is cocked by turning the bolt handle upward. When cocked, the rear of the firing pin extends through a hole in the bolt sleeve to serve as a cocking indicator. Complete disassembly of the bolt for replacement or cleaning of the striker assembly, although periodically required, is somewhat complex and best left to those with an SSG 69 armorer's manual. The firing pin is quite long and spares are advisable in my opinion, although their protrusion must be initially adjusted by an armorer.

Both single and double-set triggers are available. While most are well-advised to opt for the single trigger, which can be adjusted for length and pull-weight, I prefer the double-set system. The trigger mechanism is built into a cast aluminum-alloy housing that fits in a recess at the bottom of the receiver and is retained by two pins. The double-set trigger system can be adjusted to a pull-weight of only a few ounces. To employ this system, first pull back the rear trigger until the mechanism is cocked, then merely touching the front trigger releases the cocked rear trigger, which then releases the sear and firing pin. Optionally, the rifle can be fired by only pulling the front trigger, which will then provide a pull-weight of between 3 to 4 pounds. A small set screw between the two triggers can be used to adjust the pull-weight of the set trigger only. Turning the set screw out will increase the pull-weight.

The trigger housing also holds the bolt-stop mechanism. To remove the bolt from the receiver, pull the front trigger as far as possible and withdraw the bolt.

The grooved and serrated manual safety button is located on the right side of the receiver, just to the rear of the bolt handle where it is quite easy to reach. Moving it to the rear exposing a white dot locks the sear

and prevents the bolt handle from being lifted. Pushing forward exposes a red dot and permits firing the rifle. No middle posi-

tion that locks the sear or trigger but allows bolt-manipulation for unloading is required as the Steyr SSG 69 magazines are easily removed.

The Steyr SSG 69 detachable, 5-round rotary magazine is based upon the design of Otto Schoenauer. Except for its springs, the principal components are fabricated from injection-molded plastic. Inside is a spring-tensioned rotary spool. The rear face of the magazine is made of clear plastic so the cartridge heads can be counted. Spring-loaded latches at each side of the magazine at the bottom engage notches in the magazine-well and permit the magazine to be inserted and withdrawn with ease. At one time, a 10-round magazine, which projected below the stock, was also available to military and law enforcement agencies. It was

The Sniper's Optic



Hensoldt 10X ZF500 scope features a 3/4-minute Mil Dot reticle pattern.

Hensoldt Optische Werke AG of Wetzlar, Germany is part of the Zeiss optical group and a highly regarded manufacturer of milspec rifle scopes. They have recently introduced two new scopes, the ZF500 for ranges out to 500 meters and the ZF800 for distances up to 800 meters, both with 3/4-minute Mil Dot reticle patterns.

Mil Dots were developed by the USMC in the late 1970s to assist Marine Corps snipers in estimating distances. It is now the standard reticle pattern with all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. The term "Mil Dot" comes from "mil" — a unit of angular measurement used in artillery and machine gunnery and equal to 1/6400 of a complete revolution — and the fact that the dots are spaced in 1-mil increments on the crosshairs. It should be made clear that the dots themselves are not measured in mil increments, but rather in increments of MOA (minute of angle, or arc). The dots are actually oval-shaped (with the long axis oriented in the vertical position on the vertical crosshair and in the horizontal position on the horizontal crosshair). In addition, the dots are actually a 1/4 mil in length (slightly longer than 3/4

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dropped from production in 1990. Regardless of their capacity, magazines are the weakest link in the Steyr SSG 69 system, in my opinion. While strong enough

for almost all law-enforcement applications, they are not milspec by any stretch of the imagination, and many of the ERE's magazines that I examined in the equip-

ment-hostile environment of El Salvador were damaged to one degree or another. Extra 5-round magazines carry a suggested retail price of \$42.

The trigger guard and magazine-well of these rifles is a complex one-piece, injection-molded black plastic component. Screws at each end are threaded into the receiver and retain the barreled action in the stock.

For our test and evaluation of the Steyr SSG-PIIK rifles we employed both Federal and Lapua ammunition. The Federal 308M cartridge features the superbly accurate Sierra 168-grain BTHP Matchking bullet. Developed for 300-meter shooting in international matches, this remarkable boat-tail hollow-point bullet has been winning competitions ever since it was introduced in 1959. It was used by the gold medal winner in the 1968 Olympics and set a new Wimbledon record at 200-15 X's in 1983 at Camp Perry. After deep cryogenic stress relieving of both barreled actions, we shot consistent 0.4 MOA to 0.5 MOA groups at both 100 and 200 meters with this ammunition. That's excellent accuracy for a production series rifle. The Sierra 168-grain BTHP Matchking bullet remains far and away the most popular bullet among law-enforcement selected marksmen in the United States. But, is it really the best choice from a wound ballistics perspective?

The hollow point cavity in this competition target bullet does not guarantee the type of consistent, early expansion exhibited by hollow points and soft points designed for use on living tissue targets. Research recently conducted by Lucien C. Haag and reported in the *Wound Ballistics Review* (Vol. 2, No. 2), the journal of the International Wound Ballistics Association, revealed that these bullets frequently fail to expand in tissue simulant even after as much as 6 inches of penetration and with close-range impact velocities. Dr. Martin L. Fackler, in the same issue of the journal, reported that these bullets will commonly break up and fragment after 7 inches of penetration. His experiments indicated that when the cavity was increased in diameter to 0.055-inch by a drill, reliable expansion was obtained after penetrating less than 1 inch of 10% gelatin or muscle. Recent controlled testing has demonstrated that this alteration degrades accuracy by no more than 0.1 MOA — an insignificant amount. Winchester is reportedly in the process of developing their own bullet for law enforcement use that will provide both match-grade accuracy and reliable performance in tissue.

Lapua ammunition is now imported by Keng's Firearm Specialty, Inc. (Dept. SOF, 875 Wharton Drive S.W., P.O. Box 44405, Atlanta, GA 30336; phone: 404-691-7611; fax: 404-505-8445). Three different types of Lapua match-grade .308 Winchester ammunition were tested: 167-

Eagle Shooting Mat



Shoulder straps permit the law-enforcement selected marksman to carry his rifle in a padded case.

The new Eagle Industries (Dept. SOF, 400 Biltmore Drive, Suite 530, Fenton, MO 63026; phone: 314-343-7547; fax: 314-349-0321) shooting mat (catalog #SMRA) was designed to meet the needs of both military and law-enforcement tactical snipers and competition shooters. It permits the shooter to carry his scoped rifle in a padded case and then deploy on a cushioned, non-slip shooting surface. Both a carrying handle and shoulder straps are provided. In addition, the shooting mat can be rolled and carried strapped to a backpack or Eagle Industries dragbag.

Made from #1000 Denier water- and abrasion-resistant Cordura nylon, the shooting mat features 3/8-inch

closed-cell foam padding, non-slip shooting elbow pads and a milspec hook-and-loop detachable padded knee-pad. There is a cleaning rod compartment, accessory/ammo pocket, muzzle guard and security straps for the rifle. The shoulder straps are 3 inches wide with 1/8-inch foam padding. The dimensions are 47.5 inches in length and 29 inches in width. It will accommodate a wide range of sniper weapon systems, including the Steyr SSG-PIIK. The cost is \$158.25 and it is available in black, olive drab or desert or woodland camouflage patterns. This is professional equipment without compromise.

— P.G.K.



Eagle Shooting Mat permits the sniper to deploy on a cushioned, non-slip shooting surface.

grain Jacketed Hollow Point, 170-grain Full Metal Jacket (FMJ) and 185-grain FMJ. The 167-grain bullet, which closely approximates the Sierra 168-grain BTHP Matchking will shoot from 0.5 to 0.6 MOA on a reliable basis. The Lapua 170-grain bullet will provide accuracy very close to that, increasing the group size by no more than 0.1 MOA. The 185-grain bullet would shoot no better than 0.8 to 0.9 MOA. That's to be expected as the Steyr SSG-PIIK barrel twist at one turn in 12 inches is

Steyr SSG-PIIK Specifications

Caliber:	7.62x51mm NATO (.308 Winchester).
Operation:	Bolt action. Two-piece bolt with a body and bolt-handle sleeve. Six rotating, rear locking lugs, symmetrically arranged in pairs on the bolt handle sleeve. 60-degree bolt lift. Two-position safety on right side just to the rear of the bolt handle.
Weight, empty, with bipod, scope and magazine:	Approximately 11.5 pounds.
Length, overall:	38.5 inches (978 mm).
Barrel:	Four-groove with a right-hand twist of one turn in 12 inches (305 mm) and match crown.
Barrel length:	20 inches (508 mm).
Feed mechanism:	Detachable, 5-round rotary magazine of Schoenauer design.
Optical sights:	Hensoldt 10x42mm ZF500 or ZF800 milspec scopes, both with 3/4-minute Mil Dot reticle patterns.
Iron sights:	None.
Furniture:	Green or black ABS Cyclac synthetic stock which can be adjusted for length-of-pull by adding or removing buttguard spacers.
Finish:	Phosphate.
Suggested retail price:	\$2,195 with one magazine; Hensoldt ZF500 or ZF800 scope: \$1,195; extra magazines: \$42 each; green or black web sling, \$36.
Manufacturer:	Steyr-Mannlicher AG, Dept. S0F, Postfach 1000, Steyr, Austria.
U.S. distributor:	GSI Inc., Dept. S0F, 108 Morrow Avenue, Trussville, AL 35173; phone: 205-655-8299; fax: 205-655-7078.
T&E summary:	Accuracy potential, after inexpensive deep cryogenic stress relief, edges very close to far more expensive systems. An excellent choice for law enforcement agencies who desire maximum performance capability without the risk of bankrupting their budgets. Lighter than many other heavy-barrel sniper weapon systems. Compact envelope — highly maneuverable in crowded urban environments.



Both the original Steyr SSG 69 bolt (top) and that of the SSG-PIIK (bottom) are identical except that the SSG 69 bolt had a so-called "butterknife" bolt handle while those of the Police series have large knob-type bolt handles.

too slow to completely stabilize this heavier bullet. We need a faster 1:10-inch twist for .30 caliber bullets weighing more than 170 grains.

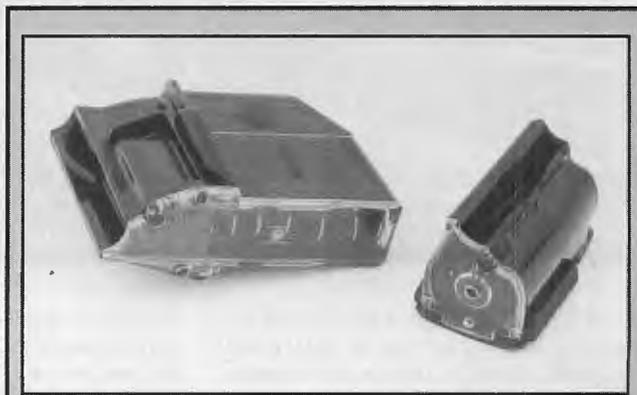
With a suggested retail price of \$2,195, the Steyr SSG-PIIK lies between low-end systems such as the Ruger or Savage and pricey custom rifles or the AW from Accuracy International. Its accuracy potential, after inexpensive deep cryogenic stress relief has been performed, edges very close to that of the costly AW and custom shop systems, which are usually based upon the Remington 700 action. It remains an excellent choice for law-enforcement agencies who desire maximum perfor-

mance capability without the risk of bankrupting their budgets. Its compact envelope provides optimal maneuverability in crowded urban environ-

ments. Finally, and of no small importance to the user, the Steyr SSG-PIIK is significantly lighter than other sniper weapon systems with similar accuracy potential. ✕



An approximately 8-inch-long slot, or rail, in the SSG-PIIK stock's forearm area permits installation of a sliding handstop/sling swivel unit to which can be attached the superb, but expensive Parker-Hale bipod.



The Steyr-Mannlicher 5-round rotary magazine (right) used in the SSG 69 series sniper rifles is based upon a design by Otto Schoenauer. A 10-round magazine (left) is no longer available.

The U.S. Air Force that flew into Southeast Asia in the early 1960s was truly an impressive, technological marvel. Its tactical strike force in particular boasted world-class, supersonic jet fighters that exceeded Mach 2, twice the speed of sound, at altitudes 50,000 feet above planet earth. Gleaming brightly in the sunlit sky, these fighters carried an exotic array of electronics, and the latest state-of-the-art weapons.

Vietnamese Army (NVA) was unlike anything the United States Air Force had ever seen before ... or since.

The deadly playing field that would "host" this historical clash between these two mortal enemies was already taking shape by 1965. Stretching on a north-south axis through several hundred miles of dark forests and jagged, karst mountains of eastern Laos, this

borders, in neighboring Laos. And the winner would be defined by the answer to one and only one question: Would the NVA keep its vital transportation to the south open, or would the "Visitors" team, the American Air Force, succeed in slamming it shut?

The North Vietnamese clearly had no higher

ADERHOLT'S AIR COMMANDOS

And it was in Southeast Asia that the mighty U.S. Air Force came face-to-face with a foe the likes of which it had never been trained, equipped, or organized to fight. This low-tech foe moved at less than 4 miles an hour, and stood less

"field" would soon become world famous as the "Ho Chi Minh Trail." And as the "teams" squared-off that year the NVA obviously had the home-field advantage.

Having violated from the start the 1962 Geneva Agreements prohibiting foreign soldiers on Laotian soil, the North

priority than keeping it open. The U.S. Air Force was committed to closing the Trail with a massive interdiction campaign that would ultimately surpass all bomb tonnage delivered by American air power in any previous world war. While the price tag each team was willing to pay for victory was still undetermined in 1966, both sides were already signing blank checks in their "hang the cost" determination to control the fate of this bloody and desolate piece



Col. Harry C. "Heinie" Aderholt, a veteran of three wars and CIA covert ops, was the Air Force's most experienced unconventional warfare officer when he assumed command of Air Commandos at NKP in December 1966.

Air Commando Association

Props vs. Jets Over Ho Chi Minh Trail

by Col. Michael E. Haas (Ret.)

of wilderness.

If the Americans were hot to get moving in 1966, perhaps they were still feeling the stinging slap to the face received from the NVA the previous year. Starting first with operation "Barrel Roll" in northern Laos, then "Steel Tiger" in the Laotian panhandle, the Americans laid out some impressive bomb tonnage over the Trail in 1965; even the giant eight-engine B-52 Stratofortresses had been committed for the first time. Using extensive aerial reconnaissance to assess their handiwork at the end of the year, amazed intelligence officers were stunned to discover NVA infiltration figures more than doubled over those of 1964!

In the first quarter of 1966, the NVA added 110 miles of road on the Trail, bringing the total to nearly 600 miles, of which approximately 200 was capable of all-weather, year-around operation. Even in this early period, just over half of all supplies coming down the Trail could be carried by truck virtually the entire distance.

The news was worse when it came to enemy defenses on the Trail. In April 1966, air intelligence had detected 54 automatic and 32 anti-aircraft (AA) weapons, ranging from heavy machine guns up to 37mm AA, protecting Mu Gia pass, one of the main exits from North Vietnam onto

than 6 feet tall. It shunned the sunlit skies, preferring to travel and fight at night. It had long-since learned to fight in this element, first against the Chinese, then the French, and now the Americans. This foe would soon learn how to strike fear into the hearts of the fighter pilots who came down out of their element to attack them. The North

Vietnamese had long-understood what was only beginning to dawn on American political and military leaders in Vietnam and Washington: The Trail was indispensable to North Vietnam's "liberation" of South Vietnam. Victory in the growing war over the future of South Vietnam would actually be determined outside that country's

the Laotian section of the Trail. Only three months later aerial photos of Mu Gia revealed over 300 AA guns!

Two events of major significance to Trail operations occurred in 1966, one initiated by the NVA, the other by the Americans. The first was the NVA decision to switch mainly to night movement to avoid the increasingly heavy Air Force and Navy strikes on convoys. It was a good call, as the Americans had no night tactical interdiction aircraft to counter the move. None, that is, until the summer of that year when the Air Force countered with a move it last tried in the China-Burma-India Theater during World War II.

A New Game Plan

To carry the brunt of its night interdiction game plan, the Air Force deployed its limited night fighter attack forces to Nakhon Phanom (NKP) Royal Thai Air Force Base, overlooking Thailand's northeastern border with Laos. And talk about digging deep into your bag of tricks! What rolled into NKP that summer of 1966 didn't look like anything shown in the glitzy, Air Force public affairs films. It was USAF's "junkyard air force," a wild mix of vintage, propeller-driven aircraft flown by the Air Commandos, activated at Hurlburt Field, Florida, in 1961.

The first to arrive were the "Lucky Tigers" of the 606th Air Commando Squadron (ACS), with the AT-28D, a trainer-turned-fighter bomber; the U-10, a rugged, short take-off/landing (STOL) liaison plane already in use by the CIA in Laos; the C-123 twin-engine STOL transport; and the already-famous UH-1 "Huey" helicopter. Sleepy little NKP would never be the same. Then the *big* guns came to town.

From the 603 ACS at Hurlburt Field the Air Force deployed eight A-26A Counter-Invader light attack bombers to NKP in operation "Big Eagle." Nasty-looking brutes, the WWII A-26s carried an unmatched combination of guns, bombs, and flares with which to attack the Trail. With air crews trained for night interdiction, and a "loiter time over target" exceeding any jet, the A-26 "Nimrods," as they became known (from their radio call sign) were soon to become an unpleasant surprise to a lot of people; not all of them North Vietnamese.

Enter Col. "Heinie" Aderholt

In December 1966, the Nimrods officially joined the 606th "Lucky Tigers" to complete this modern-day version of Richthofen's Flying Circus. The only thing missing now was a Ringmaster, and that oversight was corrected the same month with the arrival of their new commander,



Air Commando Association

This well-armed A-1 Skyraider (photographed at Hurlburt Field, Fla.) could carry more munitions than WW II's B-17 bomber.

Colonel Harry C. "Heinie" Aderholt. If ever a war, a combat unit and a man were destined to have their moment it was this combination converging on the banks of the Mekong River in 1966.

There really wasn't anything or anyone else quite like Heinie in the Air Force; a mixed-blessing according to many. Now in his *third* war, his unconventional warfare "resume" was mind-boggling. During the

Korean War he'd commanded the 5th Air Force's Special Air Missions detachment, flying deep behind North Korean lines to parachute agents and partisans. After the war he never quite went back to the "real" Air Force, remaining instead for multiple tours with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

In the succeeding Cold War years Heinie's career became a road map of the



Official USAF photo

A handful of grunts watch Skyraider lay it to the bad guys. 7th Air Force commanders were *not* amused to learn of ground troops' *specific* requests for "propeller-driven" aircraft in support missions.

covert operations, paramilitary ventures, and brutal, back-alley brawls the U.S. and Russia fought throughout the world; Europe, Cuba, Tibet, and Laos, the list goes on. And some of his battles were fought *inside* U.S. borders. To overcome internal, bureaucratic resistance within the CIA to the purchase of the U-10 (the USAF designation for the civilian Helio Courier), Heinie once took CIA Director Allen Dulles on a night flight over the Virginia countryside, landing numerous times in unlit farm fields to demonstrate the plane's incredible performance. The Director's staff was not amused, but the Agency soon began purchasing Helio Couriers.

It was Heinie who flew down from CIA duty in Laos in the early 1960s to welcome the first Air Commandos to Southeast Asia. And now Heinie was about to become the eye of the storm in a controversy that wracked the Air Force leadership from Saigon to the Pentagon. But that was to come later. For the moment, the colonel had to get his tigers and eagles sorted out and pointed in the right direction.

The "right direction" pointed due east into Laos. Following their colonel, the 606th promptly flew straight into the



Unlike the displayed Skyraider at Hurlburt, this beat-up "sibling" betrays reality of life "at the top of the spear."

Air Commando Association

two toughest opponents it would face in Southeast Asia: North Vietnamese anti-aircraft gunners on the Ho Chi Minh Trail and senior USAF generals totally committed to an all-jet air force. In the end, both the colonel and the squadron would survive one, but not both of these opponents.

The A-26 "Nimrods" took the strike lead, searching out the NVA truck convoys like sharks drawn to blood. For a bite these sharks carried eight .50 caliber heavy machine guns in the nose, eight wing stations for munitions and 12 bomb bay stations; 10,000 lbs. of conventional munitions altogether. With the Nimrods unleashed the USAF began wracking up truck-kills beyond anything else achieved to date. Headquarters Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) noted:

"Considering all "Steel Tiger" sorties, it appears that a disproportionately small number of A-26 sorties destroyed the majority of vehicles for the period December 1966 through January 1967. The 606th ACS proposal to call in [to NKP] all [world-wide] A-26 airframes ... should be examined."

The PACAF report on the A-26s was no isolated event. A follow-on evaluation of the Nimrod performance throughout the rest of 1967, shows the

up the Trail at night with six-million candle power parachute flares. Adding a big punch to the Air Commando effort were the newly assigned A-1 Skyraiders of the 602nd ACS ("Sandy"), joining the Air Commandos just as the 606th ACS was redesignated the 56th Special Operations Wing (ACW) in April 1967. Two other A-1 squadrons, the "Hobos" and "Zorros", would later join the 56th ACW as the war progressed. The A-1 squadrons added a truly awesome attack dimension to the "propeller war." And if the presence of propellers offended the proponents of an



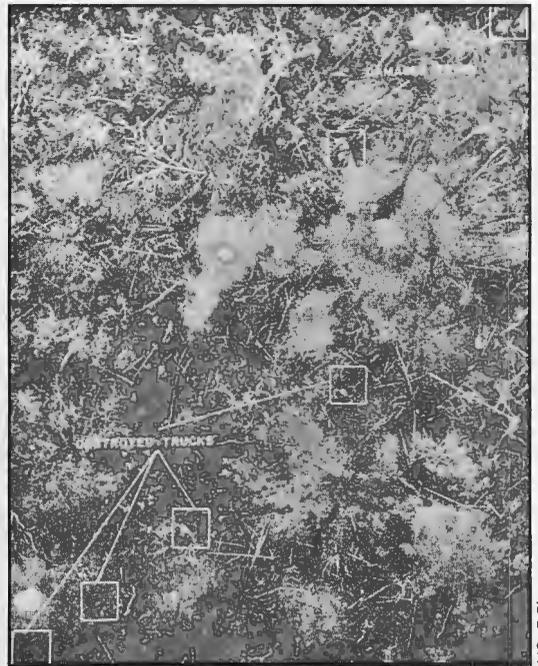
The eight .50 caliber heavy machine guns in this A-26A Counter Invader's nose could put out nearly 6,000 rounds per minute. It reigned as the most effective truck-killer on the Ho Chi Minh Trail until the arrival of another prop aircraft — the AC-130 gunship.

Air Commando Association



Non-rotating NVA gunners (on-station for the duration) a) got killed, or b) got better. In this instance, the latter.

Air Commando Association



The toll of war. In this case, destroyed NVA trucks. In others, KIA Air Commandos.

USAF Photo

all-jet air force, the Skyraider, with its 14-foot diameter fan, had to be the biggest insult of all.

Proponents for an all-jet Air Force argued (correctly) that some areas of the Trail were so well-defended that only jets could be expected to survive. They also

pointed out that whereas jet fighters could be used against both the Trail and Hanoi, the same could not be said about propeller-driven aircraft. The Joint Chiefs of Staff then muddied the waters still further with an ambiguous message:

“Propeller aircraft are approximately *nine* times as effective as jet aircraft per sortie in destroying trucks and water craft in Laos ... loss rates for propeller aircraft (of all types) operating in Laos are approximately *four* times greater than comparable loss rates for jet aircraft.”

The impersonal statistics rolled out by the JCS and various intermediate headquarters came, like so many other aspects of the war in Vietnam, from combat events that fit neatly into the computers so favored by Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara’s “Whiz Kids.” But in a very important way, the “prop vs. jet” controversy was merely the symptom of a deeper problem that went beyond even the Air Force.

The U.S. military services had, by the 1960s, developed their individual war-fighting doctrines for a future war with the Soviet Union in Europe. But “Vietnam” was happening now. Focusing on the present reality, the pragmatic Air Commandos in general, and Aderholt in particular, had their own views on doctrine. If it works to win *this* war, use it; if not, junk it and find one that will. Indisputably effective for Laos, this mentality wrought havoc on the Pentagon’s “big picture.”

Sometimes the Air Force bought the Air Commando results, if not their methods. When Heinie wanted a better night-vision capability for his flyers, he borrowed a hand-held Starlight scope from his old CIA contacts, experimented with his C-123 and A-26 air crews over the Trail at night and developed an invaluable tactic for future operations. Why go to the CIA instead of the Seventh Air Force in Saigon? “Not a chance in hell they’d have given me one,” Heinie replied.

I Didn’t Know They Had A War In Panama

Other events at the time and subsequent history tend to support Aderholt’s claim. While the Seventh Air Force (7AF) in Saigon bought the C-123/Starlight idea, they slam-dunked others. When, for example, 7AF discovered Aderholt had an unauthorized radio link between NKP and CIA officers in northern Laos for weather and operational checks prior to launching aircraft from NKP, they shut-down the link immediately. In the same vein 7AF closed down a dirt strip Aderholt had bulldozed at NKP to allow tiny O-1 observation planes to take off when seasonal high winds would



“Killers’ Row,” NKP, Thailand, 1967. “Nimrods” awaiting sun-down before launching attack runs on the Trail.

Tom Wickstrom

have otherwise prevented their operations. Reason? The dirt strip did not meet USAF airfield standards. Consequence: Mission abort rates for the O-1s soared back to previous levels. Response to the abort rates from 7AF headquarters? None known.

The acrimony over the “propeller vs. jet” controversy finally boiled over in a very personal way for Aderholt, leader of the “propeller Mafia,” by virtue of his wing command. Heinie had already run afoul of Lt. Gen. William “Spike” Momyer, commander of the Saigon-based 7AF, and one of the staunchest supporters

Sullivan looked at him [Momyer] and said, “Well, Spike, I didn’t know they had a war on in Panama.”

Shortly thereafter General Momyer instituted a Tactical Unit Operations Center (TUOC) at NKP, which assumed operational control of the aircraft in Aderholt’s wing.

The “prop vs. jet” issue was finally decided by a series of USAF “non-decisions.” The additional A-26s referred to in the Ambassador Sullivan-Lt. Gen. Momyer quote were never transferred from Panama to SEA. The worn-out A-26 bombers at NKP were finally retired from Southeast Asia in 1969, being flown or shipped straight to USAF’s aircraft boneyard just outside Tucson, Arizona. During this period the Air Force declined to act on a Navy offer to transfer an additional 150 Skyraiders from its stocks to the USAF. At the conclusion of the war the remaining A-1 Skyraiders at NKP were also disposed of in Arizona.

Colonel Aderholt’s career was seemingly finished when he left NKP four months later. Or was it? Fate still had at least one more chapter to add to Heinie’s incredible unconventional warfare experiences, one that would bring him back to Southeast Asia to square-off against the genocidal Khmer Rouge in the Land of Angkor Wat.



USAF Photo

of an all-jet Air Force. Heinie’s earlier *faux pas* had come about when he briefed a visiting Senator Stuart Symington (D-MO) on the relative superiority of the A-26 over the F-4 Phantom in Laos. Only later did he discover the senator represented the district in which the F-4 was manufactured.

Heinie still recalls feeling very much on the endangered species list as he sat in

Col. Michael E. Haas (Ret.) initially served with the U.S. Army (Special Forces, Ranger, Airborne, aviation and PSYOPS assignments), and logged 968 combat hours as a flight platoon commander and helicopter assault pilot in Vietnam. During his USAF career, he served with SpecOps aviation and Special Tactics units, and commanded the Pararescue Squadron. ✂

In the early weeks of the Freeman standoff in northeastern Montana, the question was important: Had the Federal Bureau of Investigation deployed its Hostage Rescue Team (HRT)? The answer was found in an otherwise minor technical detail: a scope seen on a .308 caliber rifle at the FBI's command post, behind a fenced perimeter at the Garfield County Fairgrounds in Jordan.

The FBI snipers initially deployed around the 960-acre Freeman homestead were armed with rifles equipped with Leupold 3.5x10 variable-power scopes, witnesses told *Soldier Of Fortune*. This meant the FBI snipers initially deployed outside Jordan were *not* from the HRT, but from one of the FBI's regional Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) teams.

Among other differences from their

counterparts in precision target acquisition on regional FBI SWAT teams, HRT snipers use different optics on their .308s — an Unertl scope similar to that used by Marine Corps scout-snipers. A minor distinction, one might think, but a significant clue in trying to anticipate the FBI's tactical contingencies on its unseen, inner Freeman perimeter.

Of greater significance, though, was

BLACK SUITS, BADGES

The FBI's New HRT — Soldiers Or Policemen?

by James L. Pate

Photos: FBI, Courtesy Richard L. Sherrow



"Come out with your hands up! This is the Army, uh... I mean FBI." As the role of law enforcement (in the case photographed here, enforcing a \$200 tax) takes on a paramilitary demeanor, federal law enforcement is galloping toward both a full military posture and breaching existing laws forbidding the Army from engaging in law enforcement against civilians.

that the answer — a relatively minor technical detail — led to a long-sought, third-source confirmation about the role played in the Waco atrocity by the Army's elite Special Forces Operational Detachment — Delta (SFOD-D). It also coincidentally offered a rare glimpse into the secrecy-shrouded, but intimate partnership between the Army's Delta antiterrorism detachment and the FBI's HRT unit.

The three sources for this story, who all require anonymity because of the sensitive nature of their jobs, include a Department of Defense (DoD) attorney, an FBI training academy instructor at the Marine Corps base in Quantico, Va., and an Army Special Forces source at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Among the recently confirmed revelations:

- On the final day at Waco, Army Delta

Dick Rogers, then head of the HRT. Rogers enlisted the help of Army Delta officers to persuade Reno. That persuasion proved instrumental, Reno later said, in her final OK for the plan that ultimately sparked Waco's fiery disaster, killing 81 people, mostly women and children.

- The FBI is expanding HRT much faster — and to a far greater extent — than has been publicly stated. In Waco's aftermath, public statements by several high-ranking officials, including Reno and FBI Director Louis Freeh, indicated that HRT's 50-man contingent was being doubled in size. The actual expansion, when complete, will give HRT about 200-250 operators, possibly as many as 300. (An FBI spokesman declined to comment when questioned about HRT activities discussed in this article, saying that all budgetary and manpower requirements for HRT are classified. The Army also refused to discuss Delta.)

Sign Of Dramatic Growth

A few facts are confirmed, however: A new airstrip was opened at Quantico in 1995, and it belongs to the FBI Academy, according to an academy source and an Army Special Forces instructor who worked with the FBI at Quantico. The FBI's new Quantico airstrip provides for quick-response airlift requirements for HRT, which, in the past, had to rely on other organizations, including the U.S. Coast Guard, for large-scale airlift capability. The new FBI HRT airstrip can accommodate C-141 Starlifter and other heavy-lift, high-performance aircraft.

In addition, the Army source said he "observed indications" while at Quantico that the FBI's HRT "has access to Task Force 160 aircraft."

He declined to be more specific. TF 160, officially designated as Special Operations Aviation Regiment 160, is a classified Army aviation unit used almost exclusively for covert missions.

"The word among HRT members is that manpower strength is not being doubled, but quadrupled," the Green Beret said. "They were talking about going radical as far as their size. I heard complaints that they could not select, assess and train enough people fast enough to meet DOJ's [Department of Justice] requirement."

The FBI's goal, according to the academy and Army sources, is to expand HRT so there are complete teams identical to the existing HRT — one for each of six designated geographical regions. The Army source said he heard HRT members routinely refer to the regions as "war zones."

Thus, by seeking information on a minor technical question — what kind of rifle scopes are used by FBI SWAT snipers versus those used by HRT — *SOF* finally has been able to confirm through a third

& BRADLEYS



FBI members at Waco pose for posterity in front of Bradley armored fighting vehicle, borrowed from Texas National Guard.

operators were "forward deployed" on the inner perimeter with FBI HRT agents, and may have entered the building's rear with FBI agents, concealed in an armored vehicle and out of view of television cameras and still photographers.

- Delta, known by other names, including the Combat Applications Group and the Combat Development Branch, is exempt from the Posse Comitatus Act under a classified portion of President Bill Clinton's controversial Presidential Decision Directive 25 (PDD-25). (This is according to a report in the most recent issue of *The Resister*, a clandestine, but reliable publication printed quarterly by active-duty Army Special Forces troops opposed to military involvement in civilian law enforcement; see "Witch Hunt for *The Resister*," *SOF*, Feb. '96.)

- Attorney General Janet Reno initially rejected an attack plan, based on the use of CS riot control chemical and an armored assault, proposed by FBI Special Agent



Armored vehicle assault on buildings at Mt. Carmel included two combat engineer vehicles (top and center) and Bradley armored fighting vehicle (bottom). Heretofore, police would use such vehicles for cover — now they are used for proactive attacks.

source the virtual day-to-day contact and cooperation between the Army's Delta unit and FBI's HRT.

The revelation — that Delta operators were in close proximity to the Branch Davidian religious retreat in the hours leading up to the fire — raises questions on two levels, one of practice and the other of policy.

Was Delta's close involvement with HRT at the Waco scene a one-time incident? Or was it a routine deployment?

Our sources indicate Delta's deployment with HRT to Waco was routine, at least at that time.

And just what is the Pentagon's policy about the allowable degree of involvement of Delta operators — or any other active-duty troops, for that matter — with civilian law enforcement officials? This debate has raged in Waco's wake (see "No Peace Without Justice" *SOF*, May '95). Army witnesses vigorously denied in the congressional hearings any improper

involvement with civilian law enforcement at Waco.

In joint hearings on the Waco fiasco by two House of Representatives subcommittees, witnesses confirmed what numerous sources had long claimed: the presence of Delta operators at Waco. (The hearings also revealed — but did not explain — the presence of British Army Special Air Service commandos at Waco.)

These congressional witnesses implied that the presence of Delta and SAS operatives was at a distance, suggesting a rear-echelon, purely observatory role at the FBI command post. Not so, at least for Delta, says a DoD attorney familiar with the follow-up investigation.

Delta operators were "forward deployed" on the inner perimeter surrounding the Branch Davidians, and their role was "much more advisory than observatory; active, not passive."

The Posse Comitatus Act, passed after the Civil War to prohibit the involvement of the U.S. military in civilian government — particularly law enforcement — has so many loopholes and exceptions under current policy interpretations by the DoD and Department of Justice that "it has become almost meaningless," the government lawyer said.

Interpretive Mission Gallop

"What's said in public is different than what's actually trained, and what's trained differs from what actually happens in a real-life tactical situation," the DoD source said. This interpretation is "based on the briefings I've heard" at the Pentagon by civilian policy-level personnel equivalent in rank to general officers.

In those briefings, "DoD visualizes Posse Comitatus as [allowing military] involvement all the way up to being at the site of an arrest, and doing everything short of actually making an arrest," said the legal source. "Under the interpretation of the current administration, allowable



While wood-frame religious retreat forms funeral pyre for several dozen entrapped Davidians, mostly women and children, unidentified law-enforcement personnel with Bradley armored vehicle busy themselves with other matters.

military involvement includes everything up to and including actually loading a weapon [at the site] and handing it to a civilian law enforcement agent.

"That's not what the written guidelines say, but the guidelines aren't that specific, either," the DoD source said. "And it is very important to remember: the Posse Comitatus Act does not mention the United States Navy. It does not necessarily preclude the use of SEAL or Marine Corps recon teams in conjunction with civilian law enforcement. I would strongly suggest

the FBI Training Academy at Quantico and Delta's super-secret compound at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, he said.

"The major beneficiary in this cross-training," the source said, "is the HRT. Because the FBI gets access to Delta's shooting house."



Iwo Jima? No, the American heartland. Triumphant military forces? No, police. Unidentified agent strikes Ramboesque pose atop Bradley AFV at Waco.

that this is a glaring problem that needs swift legislative remedy."

Another source, a former FBI Academy instructor acquainted with the regular agent-training program, as well as the training conducted there by HRT and Delta, described HRT and Delta as having a "very deep and longstanding relationship." This source expressed "strong suspicion" — but acknowledged that he could not absolutely confirm — that the Army Delta unit has a liaison office at the HRT's Quantico headquarters. He said he is certain HRT has such an office at Fort Bragg.

The FBI's HRT and Army's Delta detachment regularly share facilities at

Delta's heavily secured headquarters at Fort Bragg includes what's known as the Range 19 complex, a state-of-the-art, live-fire facility that is actually a set of ranges, designated A through D. They include specialized and highly advanced training facilities for combat pistol shooting, sniping, close quarters com-

TAKE NO PRISONERS

A curious detail of the Department of Justice report on the Waco disaster is the number of times it's stated that Federal Bureau of Investigation agents never fired a single shot during the 51-day siege of Mount Carmel outside Waco. It's curious because, when the report was released in October 1993, no one had suggested that the FBI, accused of many other misdeeds in the Waco disaster, had fired any weapons.

Now, new analyses of old evidence, a forward-looking-infrared-radar (FLIR) videotape, shows automatic weapons fire into the rear of the building, out of view of television cameras and other news media, on 19 April.

Edward F. Allard is a Ph.D. of physics and a recognized government expert in thermal imaging, the key technology behind FLIR. The former Defense Department consultant's credentials are impressive. Allard supervised the Pentagon's night-vision laboratory and led the R&D team that invented the thermal night sight for the Dragon anti-tank weapon.

Allard is one of at least three thermal imaging experts to examine the aerial FLIR video released by the FBI that shows the six-hour gas-and-tank attack that ended in a holocaust. What sets Allard apart from the other two is he is the only one so far with enough testicular fortitude to sign a sworn statement on his findings. The bottom line: FBI agents and/or Army Delta operatives fired into the rear of the building in the final hour before the fire.

In his stop-action, frame-by-frame analysis, Allard describes seeing "five flashes, appearing at a rate of about 7-10 per second... My expert opinion is that these... appear to be muzzle flashes of a fully automatic firearm, firing at about 500 rounds per minute cyclic rate... The flashes originate to the left and progress to the right, indicating they are being fired from a source outside and into the building."

One such event, noted at 11:24:31 (a.m. Central Time) on the video screen clock, originates from behind a Combat Engineering Vehicle, suggesting a shooter using the CEV for cover. He cites several similar shooting incidents into the building between then and noon, timed to the hundredth of a second.

Besides indicating yet another FBI lie about Waco, the shooting incidents are even more troubling because of the still unexplained gap of almost five minutes in the video. Some investigators claim the video was deleted because it shows four or five Branch Davidians being gunned down as they emerged from the building's rear. But why would the FBI, in control of all information, not just admit the shooting incident and say the victims presented a threat that justified the use of deadly force, instead of engaging in a cover-up as blatant as cutting out part of the FLIR video? To conceal the presence and/or involvement of Army Delta personnel, perhaps?

Another point: The FLIR shows another, lower-altitude aircraft, which one expert points out is also configured for FLIR. Where is that FLIR video, and where is the conventional daylight video that would show in greater detail just what happened? The FBI won't release the other tapes and isn't saying.

What is certain is that those who did survive the fire came out the front — in full view of media. The one exception is Graeme Craddock, who hid in a storage shed and was not detected until well after the fire had burned out, the HRT had withdrawn and numerous other witnesses were on the scene.

—JLP

bat (CQB) and other specialized gun-fighting skills.

"They definitely train at each other's facilities on a very regular basis," the academy source, himself a former member of a U.S. military special operations unit, told *SOF*. "There's an awful lot of 'cross pollination' going on there."

Asked to explain what was meant by "cross pollination," the source said that "the people I saw going through HRT selection fit the same basic mold as a Delta operator, as far as physique, attitude and young age."

This is contrary to the general public's widely held impression that members of HRT and Delta are older, more seasoned veterans of their respective organizations, the FBI and Army Special Forces. But that impression is wrong, said the academy source.

"When you think of HRT, you expect it to be more along the lines of experienced FBI agents," he said. "But these guys are young and, with very few exceptions, don't come from backgrounds with much street experience."

Merely Changing Uniforms

Instead, he said, the FBI's HRT goes out of its way "to recruit military personnel.



CH-53 military helicopter hovers over the burning Davidian compound at Waco. First helicopters used were Texas National Guard Hueys — permissible since the ATF told Governor Richards this was a raid on a drug lab.

spending very little or no time in the field as street agents, and some may go straight from the training academy to HRT. Personnel recruited from military special operations units for HRT usually spend no

problem, the source said, stems from Delta's top-secret standard operating procedures, or SOP. While Delta's SOP calls for discriminatory, friend-or-foe shooting skills, it does not train for taking suspects captive. The source's take-no-prisoners claim was also touched upon in the recent *Resister* article.

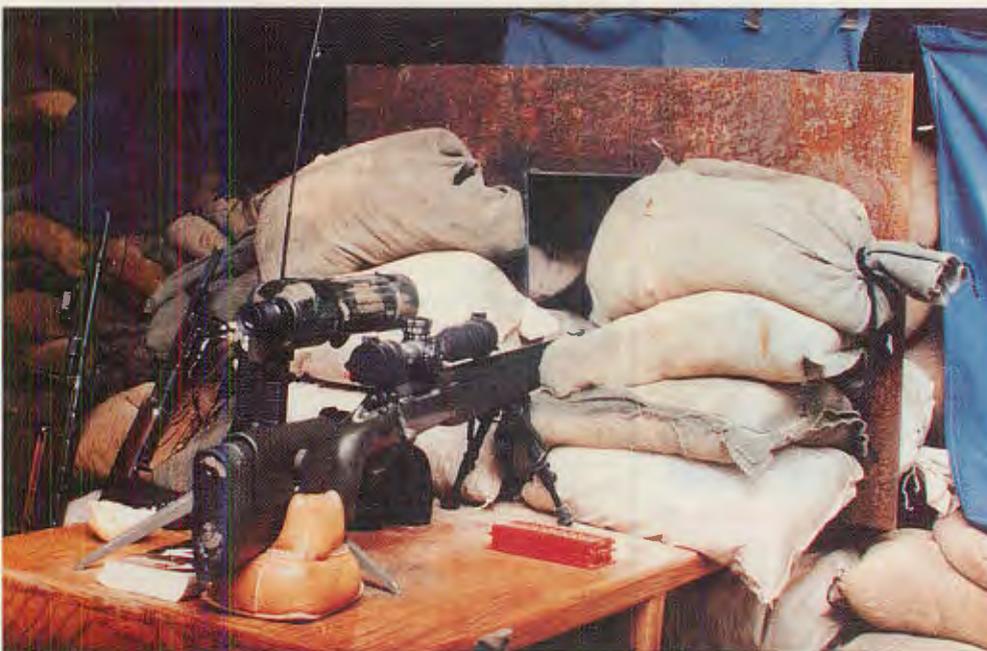
Delta's SOP "stipulates that once a counterterror squad is committed to a take-down, there will be no prisoners," the article in *The Resister* states, including the emphasis. "This is something they picked up from the Brits, who picked it up from the Israelis."

The take-no-prisoners doctrine, which may be appropriate in most counterterrorist tactical contexts, presents a ticklish legal dilemma when considered in the arena of a civilian law enforcement operation, especially when the suspect has no prior criminal history. For instance, neither Randy Weaver nor David Koresh, against whom the HRT was deployed, had ever been convicted of any crimes.

This gets at the heart of the debate over using the military — particularly units like Delta

and other special operations units — to train civilian law enforcement officers. It promotes a tactical perception in which civilian cops see criminal suspects not as civilian criminal suspects, but as terrorists.

"In a legitimate counter-terror operation," *The Resister* reported, a take-no-prisoners doctrine "is both reasonable and tac-



FBI photo of federal sniper post overlooking compound at Mt. Carmel shows ordinary "rifle-caliber" sniper weapon with bipods and scope: now, the new wave of HRT agents train on .50 weapons — with explosive, armor-piercing ammo.

One guy from HRT told me they were actively looking for guys with a military background. One guy [from HRT he knew] was ex-Special Forces [with no prior FBI experience]. They go after the SEAL types. They like the Marines...."

The HRT's "selection and assessment [process] is very similar to that used by Delta," said the academy source, adding that some people going into HRT are

time as street agents, but go straight to an HRT assignment, he said.

"When I looked at them [HRT members] and remember the guys I knew from Delta, the attitude was the same... real young, unseasoned guys with the... hard-charging military mindset that is inappropriate for law enforcement, considering what they are supposed to do."

The crux of the "cross-pollination"

Continued on page 69

Roles, missions, tactics, uniforms, weapons — even weapons calibers — used to be characteristically different between civil law enforcement and military units, but not any more. In photo, Army Special Forces train with .50 RAI bolt-action rifles in Panama five years ago — but now they train alongside FBI HRT troopers on autoloading Barrett .50 rifles with explosive ammo.



THE NEW WORLD ORDER

SINO SABER-RATTLING

Continued from page 41

respects, still cannot go beyond making basic infantry weapons and less-sophisticated vehicles like jeeps, trucks or infantry fighting vehicles (based on the U.S. M-113 series).

"We are counting on the United States," said the soldier. "The United States is our ally."

One of the student demonstrators in Taipei explained: "We hope those ships are not out there for show. We want the United States to fire when needed. We will defend ourselves on land, and the Americans [can fight] on sea."

That's a strategy to which General Kung and his men wholeheartedly subscribe — as long as they have the heavy weapons to help them repel an invasion. The determination of the armed forces translates into political will as evinced by the mounting sentiment for Taiwan independence from mainland China.

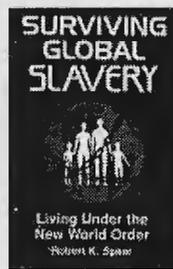
Re-elected President Lee Teng Hui shows signs of aspiring to independence, but the real force behind the movement is the opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP). Its candidate for president received only 21% of the votes against 54% for Lee in the election held on 23 March — in the midst of the PRC's war games — but the movement arouses widespread sympathy.

That's because 85 percent of Taiwan's 21 million people regard themselves as "Taiwanese." Their ancestors migrated to the island from the mainland sometime in the last few hundred years before the U.S.-backed Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek took over following Japan's defeat in World War II. Mainlanders began arriving in force in 1949 when Chiang Kai Shek's army and entourage, about 2 million, fled Mao Zedong's victorious Red Army. The generalissimo dreamed until his death in 1975 of recovering the mainland; his son, Chiang Ching Kuo, maintained the fiction until he died eight years ago. Until recently, the idea of Taiwan as a separate nation was anathema to Taiwan's authorities who saw the independence movement as undermining their never-say-die ambition of returning to power in Beijing.

In 1976 I interviewed dissident Shih Ming Teh after he had served 15 years in prison for his role in the independence movement. Three years later, he was jailed again — this time for nine years. But when I saw him in March, he was leading a parade through Taipei as DPP chairman. He probably is the only Asian dissident I've ever met who *loves* a U.S. military presence.

"The American vessels are very good," he said. "For a long time, we didn't know the attitude of the United States government. This shows the American attitude. They really protect us."

But would President Clinton really



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come to their rescue in case of attack?

No doubt about it, Shih said. "If I am President Clinton, I should be prepared for an attack by China." Otherwise, he asked rhetorically, "why are you here?"

Asia-watcher Don Kirk's previous SOF article was November's "Land Where The Sun Never Sets," on North Korea. He wrote a recently released book on Vietnam, Tell It to the Dead: Stories of a War. ✕

THE SNIPER'S OPTIC

Continued from page 49

MOA). In any event, the distance between the dots is 3/4 mil and the center-to-center distance between them is exactly 1 mil as is the distance from the top (or bottom) of one dot to the top (or bottom) of the dot above or below (or to the right or left). There are also four thick posts at the edges of the field of view. The posts are almost 1 mil thick (0.98 mil = 3.36 MOA). The distance from the center of the crosshairs out to the beginning of any of the four posts is exactly 5 mils.

The distance to a target in yards can be calculated using the Mil Dot formula:

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

Both the Hensoldt ZF500 (with which our test specimens were equipped) and ZF80 have an elevation adjustment that is used as a BDC (Bullet Drop Compensator). The elevation dial on the ZF500 is calibrated for bullet drop increments of the Sierra 168-grain BTHP bullet as loaded in Federal 308M ammunition from 100 to 500 meters in 100-meter increments with 50-meter marks in between in less than one complete revolution of the adjustment knob. Elevation adjustment resolution is in 1/4-minute clicks all the way out to 500 meters (with 1/2-minute clicks on the ZF800 out to 800 meters). Windage adjustments have 1/2-minute clicks. The windage dial can be reset to zero once the scope is sighted in on the rifle.

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Optional flip-up lens covers are also available. — P.G.K. ✕

KATYUSHAS

Continued from page 36

cost. The problems seemed insoluble.

Meanwhile, Hezbollah went to work. With its own men and resources it repaired or rebuilt every damaged building in three weeks. Before the United Nations had even finished its assessments, the work was done. Hezbollah did not ask for any U.N. aid; everything it needed came from Iran. The Arab world was awed.

There is little doubt that Hezbollah has an inexhaustible vitality: in its leadership, in the manner in which the movement goes about its business, and in its fanaticism.

On a more common level, Hezbollah is active among the ordinary people of Lebanon, building schools and hospitals, paying war pensions to the wounded and the dependents of those killed in action, bringing up orphans and looking after the old. All of this is done in one of the most corrupt of nations. And within Hezbollah's sphere of influence, corruption is punishable by death.

In return, Hezbollah makes certain demands. One is unquestioning loyalty to the cause, to Allah. You either are *for* or *against* Hezbollah; there is no middle ground. It also demands obedience and col-

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laboration in places where their partisans are active. And most important of all, the "Party of God" insists on educating the young.

None of this has been lost on other countries in the region where there are great numbers of poor people: Egypt, the Sudan, and Syria among them. France, too, fears Islamic fundamentalism on its doorstep, in Algeria.

A consequence is that an entire generation of young Lebanese has come to regard Iran as the center of the universe and Shi'ite Muslim dogma as law. And since much of its propaganda is directed at Lebanon's poor and the displaced, Hezbollah eventually could gather significant political power.

But when push comes to shove, it is as much Syria as Beirut that will decide Lebanon's future — and what to do with Hezbollah. Damascus is a power, so much so that the Beirut government is not permitted to talk directly to Israel; rather, it must use Syrian intermediaries. And if Israel wants Syrian involvement in any permanent peace in southern Lebanon — and by extension, northern Israel — Jerusalem will have to pay. But right now, what Syria wants most from Israel is the return of the strategic Golan Heights. Such a trade, however, might yet be a long time coming.

SOF Contributing Editor Al J. Venter authored the 1994 book, *The Chopper Boys: Helicopter Warfare in Africa*. ✕

AFRICAN BURLESQUE

Continued from page 45

times are illiterate peasants butchered by the rebels and, in some cases, by the local army. The rebels are led by Corporal Alfred Foday Sankoh, 60, trained by the British as a radio operator in the late 1950s, then cashiered and imprisoned for his part in an attempted coup in 1971. Amnestied in 1980 but still out of sorts and set on revenge, he fled to Libya for guerrilla training. A fellow student at Khaddafi's college for aspiring terrorists was the Liberian rebel leader Charles Taylor who later established bases in neighboring Sierra Leone for his own war against Liberian President Samuel Doe. When Big Al's time came, Charlie would give him a start with a few guns and experienced thugs to keep the brutality standards sufficiently high.

On the other side in Sierra Leone is the National Provisional Ruling Council. Headed up by a coterie of twentysomethings, it came to power in 1992 after Captain Valentine Strasser and his four best chums overthrew that internationally respected bon vivant, President Joseph Momoh. The barroom gossip is that these Boyz from the barracks, all lieutenants and

captains and grumpy about back pay, had simply marched up to the presidential mansion one day to complain. Seeing them coming, Momoh reckoned it was curtains. Before they reached the front door, Ol' Joe had slipped out the back and was making serious tracks for the airport. When the last of the lads' tremulous "Hellos?" echoed back at them, there came the slow realization that they'd just engineered a *coup d'etat!* To the nudge-nudge, wink-winks of his old buddies, 25-year-old Strasser was unanimously elected Chairman of the new National Provisional Ruling Council. The other four gave themselves the inspired, if not actually prescient, title of S.O.S. — for Secretary of State it's said — and for good measure added "P.L.O." for Permanent Liaison Officer, then drew straws for the juiciest jobs.

Their first priority, of course, was to stamp out corruption. Especially unofficial corruption. And have they done a good job! Take Reginald Strasser, the Big Guy's brother, for example. One day Reggie showed me around his new house that was abuilding. Reggie, who has no visible means of support, is especially proud of the imported Italian quarry tiles that cover the floors of the two story mansion. "It's only costing me \$170,000," he

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beamed, "including the gold-plated taps in the bathroom." Later he showed me a derelict water bottling factory that could be mine "for only \$500,000." I was then treated to a litany of "investment opportunities," payment for which could be made directly to Reggie. I decided that it would be the height of bad manners to wonder aloud why his big brother's treasury couldn't cough up a mere \$160,000 for Sierra Leone's annual membership in the Organization of African Unity.

A shiny 4X4 screeches to a stop outside the house the South Africans use as a headquarters. Two Sierra Leonean soldiers heave themselves out under the weight of chromed pistols, shotguns, Bowie knives and hand grenades. One carries a machine gun connected to yards of ammunition belt wrapped around him. The mere weight of it has this metallic Michelin man sweating buckets. Apparently no one has explained that if he ever has to use the damn thing the belt is going to strangle him in about two seconds flat.

They are followed by their boss, Col. Tom Nyuma, universally loved as one of the five who plotted that brilliant coup back in '92. To the everlasting joy of all Sierra Leoneans, he was recently promoted from captain to colonel, skipping the tiresome ranks in between, and made S.O.S. of Defense of the NPRC of Sierra Leone. He held on to the P.L.O. title for old time's sake. It's rumored that the main requirements for holding the high octane titles are being able to say the whole thing without a crib sheet or taking a breath. You probably think I'm joking.

The rebel attacks were low key at first: a village here for food, a clinic there for medical supplies, an occasional everyone-asleep-at-the-wheel army convoy for more guns and ammunition. All straight out of Al's favorite course at Goofy Khadaffi University, *How to Get Your Start in Revolutionary Warfare Without Really Trying*. But with a twist: Instead of being nice to the people to get them on side, which every guerrilla leader since Mao has preached, Al Sankoh simply gave 'em the chop — literally, as it saved on ammunition. This, according to a RUF prisoner, was Uncle Al's way of encouraging the survivors to join up. As recruiting programs go, it was said to be rather persuasive.

The looting, raping and murdering saw a stressed out Strasser & Co. increase the size of the army from 3,000 to 13,000 by grabbing people off the streets, giving them a gun, a uniform and a few words on their sacred duty to Sierra Leone, before shoving them into the jungle. The conscripts' occasional salaries of \$15 and

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two bags of rice a month, coupled with the prospect of the RUF pouncing on them, convinced a fair number to do a bit of looting, raping and murdering on their own and then blame it on the rebels.

Shaven-headed Col. Tom steps past his bodyguards to display bare arms emerging from a sleeveless vest festooned with military badges proclaiming him "Ranger," "Airborne," and "Special Forces." Pride of place goes to a skull and crossbones and the warning, "Mess With the Best, Die with the Rest." Tom, who went from being an impecunious captain with an attitude to a senior government minister with property in England and monthly trips to see his children in Texas, is said to have purchased the badges through *Soldier Of Fortune* magazine. Tom is 26 years old. The reader will sleep better knowing he is also in charge of the war.

There was a certain ebb and flow to the business until Sankoh had collected enough followers to overrun the Swiss-owned bauxite mine, the U.S.- and Australian-owned rutile operation, and the smuggler-supported diamond fields. Suddenly there were no millions flowing into the ... uh, treasury, which caused a moderate panic. Almost as bad was that the diamond smugglers, who paid good money not to have their bags examined too closely at the airport, had nothing to pay anyone not to look for. And to top it all, the pesky rebels were threatening to overrun Freetown itself. It was a vexatious moment: Were the boys to do a Momoh and high tail it for other parts, or buy some muscle and hang tough?

By early February, 1995, Jersey-based Gurkha Security Guards Ltd. had arrived to train the army. Less than a month later, however, its American commander, Col. Bob McKenzie and a former British sergeant, Andrew Myers, were killed in a rebel ambush. Despite urging from the I'm-right-behind-you Boyz to get out there and give Sankoh a good hiding, GSG stood on its contract and principles and stuck to training. The mining companies, convinced the army stood no chance of recovering their assets, contemplated hiring up to 400 former British paratroopers. The idea was dropped, though not before rumors of required services saw representatives from a plethora of security firms racing for Freetown.

But they were too late with too little: Pretoria-based Executive Outcomes had already struck a deal with the NPRC. Staffed almost entirely by former South African special forces soldiers, EO arrived with a fearsome reputation for "proactive" operations in Angola against Jonas Savimbi's

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Unita rebels. (The irony here is that until 1988 these same fellows supported Savimbi; when they went private, however, the Angolan government, having spent billions fighting them, did an ideological *volte face* and hired them for a reported \$25 million. What thousands of Cubans and Soviets had failed to do in 15 years, 500 South Africans accomplished in less than two, culminating in Unita throwing in the towel, along with their guns, and sulkily joining their former enemies in the government.)

Setting up new offices at army headquarters in Freetown, the South Africans lost no time in whipping elements of Sierra Leone's moribund army into shape. Basic training complete, they loaded them into EO's own helicopters and in a week eliminated the RUF threat around the capital. Before the astonished rebels could ask, "Who was that masked man?" EO, with an equally astonished army in tow, roared off to recover the diamond fields. That two day operation barely worked up a sweat. Strasser and Chums began to breathe again.

Back at the Koidu base, Col. Renier Hugo, EO's operations officer, is briefing the Belorussian pilots and Col. Tom on tomorrow's attack against another rebel-held diamond area. Next to Tom is a Sierra Leonean major whose men have been guarding the diamond fields since the South Africans chased out the rebels. It should be stated here and now that neither his rank nor the fact that he is responsible for keeping a very close eye on the diamond fields has anything to do with him being tight with Tom's sister. And you should be ashamed of yourself for thinking otherwise.

Hugo's pointer taps the map, his tone crisp and professional: This infantry company will advance to this point, another company will be landed here by helicopter, support elements will be placed there, the gunship will orbit over here until ... The pilots listen intently, making notes on their own maps, interrupting only for clarification, nodding their understanding. The major, whose men are integral to the operation, is clearly content with the plan; so content that he's been snoring gently since the briefing started. Everyone except the major flinches as a white flash illuminates the room. It's Tom's official photographer. The camera comes up again and Tom steps to the map to explain how the attack should be conducted. Volodya and Valerii's eyebrows lift then meet in bewilderment. The South Africans smile fixedly. Two more flashes to give the Freetown newspapers proof — as if it were needed — of who's running the show and Tom takes his seat.

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Hugo carries on as if nothing has happened.

The attack, by the by, was successful. Of course, Tom and his sister's boyfriend really didn't think it important enough to be at the sharp end with their troops. It was too small an operation for them to be involved, they explained hastily when reports of six wounded were radioed from the advancing soldiers. Instead, they spent their time boning up on tactics as revealed in their collection of Rambo videos. And no, I'm really not joking this time. But if there were ever a film made, by God you'd split your sides laughing.

—J.H. ✕

BLACK SUITS, BADGES

Continued from page 60

tically sound. But when something like that is taught to cops, you get things like Waco."

And things like Ruby Ridge, Idaho. In testimony to a Senate Judiciary subcommittee investigating the Randy Weaver tragedy, retired Army Colonel James "Bo" Gritz, himself a former Delta detachment member, said that HRT functions essentially as "an American Delta force here in the United States" (see "Amateurs and Assassins II"; *SOF*, Jan. '96.) Gritz was

instrumental in convincing Weaver to surrender.

Likewise, the FBI Training Academy source found the "cross-pollination" troubling because "HRT is essentially a Delta clone. So you have a law enforcement team that is organized, trained and deployed as a clone of a military anti-terrorism unit. And the Army is not, and cannot be, concerned with the niceties and legalities of civilian law enforcement where the proper use of deadly force is concerned."

The most recent and egregious example of this doctrinal conflict would be that of the deliberate shooting of Vicki Weaver by FBI HRT sniper Lon Horiuchi. The public stance of the FBI — and all civilian law enforcement agencies — has been that deadly force is only authorized when the life or safety of a law enforcement officer or another person is in immediate and unmistakable danger.

According to testimony by Gritz and others at the Senate Weaver hearings, a pre-deployment briefing in Bonner's Ferry, Idaho, by former HRT leader Dick Rogers strongly suggested that any armed adult — including Vicki Weaver — "could and should" be "neutralized" if an opportunity presented itself.

Rogers' illegal rules of engagement in Idaho match the Delta tactical take-down SOP — but were in blatant contradiction to all civilian law enforcement rules of

engagement on the use of deadly force in the United States. And, according to their Senate testimony, the HRT snipers except Horiuchi recognized Rogers' illegal order as such and chose to ignore it.

While Horiuchi has never been punished for his murder of Vicki Weaver, he is no longer deployed with HRT as a sniper, the FBI academy source said — and Horiuchi has expressed anger at his removal from his job as a shooter.

On an HRT deployment to Puerto Rico in the spring of 1995, Horiuchi became so agitated and emotional when told he was not being given a shooting assignment, FBI leadership was forced to recall him to Quantico.

Horiuchi continues to show "no remorse whatsoever" for his killing of Vicki Weaver, said the FBI academy source, who, on occasion, has shared a lunch table with Horiuchi and has worked with him on the range. "Some HRT members obviously shun him. One HRT member told me that Lon 'exhibited extremely questionable judgment in his actions at the Weaver cabin."

"The only thing I've ever heard [Horiuchi] express concern about, as far as what happened in Idaho," the source said, "was what kind of long-term impact it was going to have on his FBI career. He was obviously worried that he may not be backed up in future incidents. But overall, his attitude is that he followed

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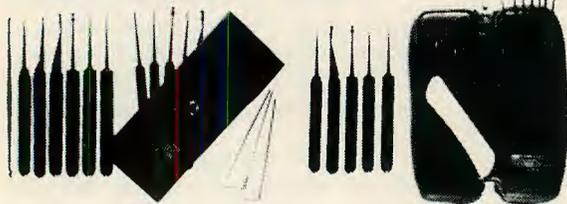
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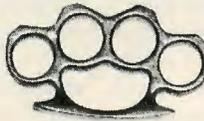
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orders and did his job correctly."

The cross-pollination between Army's Delta and the FBI's HRT has resulted in other activities that the academy source described as "scary." One such development is the HRT's training for the possible use of the Barrett .50-caliber rifle against suspects.

"One HRT operator told me they could use Barretts against people... to shoot someone hiding behind something. I pointed out that if a person was hiding behind something, the shooter could not positively identify the target."

The HRT's training with Barretts was confirmed by the Army Special Forces source who had worked at Quantico. Furthermore, he said he had observed HRT snipers using Barretts to train to shoot people with Norwegian Raufus armor-piercing, incendiary, high-explosive ammunition (API HE) at ranges as close as 500 meters — for all intents and purposes, point blank. (By comparison, the Barrett is routinely used to destroy enemy equipment out to 1,800 meters. This is in contrast to conventional FBI SWAT teams, using .308-caliber rounds 300-meter targets.

Based on his conversations with FBI and Delta personnel, the Green Beret source who has worked with the FBI said he believes HRT personnel were inside Mount Carmel "in the time frame leading up to the fire."

Asked if he thinks Delta operators were actively involved with the HRT at Waco, he said it would be virtually impossible to tell with any certainty "unless someone breaks the code of silence, and that would mean being banished from the brotherhood. You'd be instantly ostracized..."

One Animal, Two Heads

Besides, he said, when HRT is described as a "clone" of Delta, "there's a lot of literal meaning here. They literally look the same. They wear the same Nomex jump suits. They use the same equipment, the same types of weapons in the same types of situations. The Delta guys wear the clever little pins and other not-so-subtle signs of status. But you'd never be able to tell the two groups apart in a fluid tactical situation.

"There's a lot of rumors within the community," he said. "This was not the first time that Delta has been involved in a situation of this nature."

The DoD legal source, who had access to classified after-action investigative information on Waco and the military's involvement, said it is Delta — not HRT — that finally tipped the Department of Justice scales in favor of the chemical and armor attack at Mount Carmel.

"Delta's counter-terrorism advisers were pushing Reno and the FBI command to take action, arguing that to wait would make HRT lose their edge," the lawyer said. "Dick Rogers went to Washington to get the FBI and Reno to sign off on the

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[chemical and armor] assault plan, and Reno refused. So Rogers went to see his buddies at Delta. They flew back to Waco, did a final tactical assessment, then flew back to Washington and did another briefing. And this time, with the Delta guys pushing, Reno went for it."

At one point Reno said she made her final decision on the assault plan based on consultation with "military advisers." The Pentagon issued a swift denial.

"The Pentagon had plausible deniability," the DoD source said. "And the public heard it, in so many words, in congressional testimony. But they are just as dirty in the final outcome [at Waco] as the FBI and the HRT."

The Special Forces source said he was confronted with questions by students and agents while at the FBI Training Academy about his opinions, particularly Waco and the Weaver case, but also about pending legislation pertaining to crime, anti-terrorism and the abridgement of individual and constitutional liberties. He said he felt he was being sounded out as a member of the active-duty special operations military community.

"The younger agents, especially, seemed very concerned about how active duty military troops view the way things are going," he said, "...about how the agencies are conducting themselves and where we [the military] stood on the issues. They were hinting around the edges on a lot of things, like the gun control issue and Waco and Ruby Ridge."

He said he immediately sensed that his response did not find favor with a lot of agents. It caused "obvious concern," he said.

"There's a lot of people in this room who are ex-military," he said he told them. "Just because you got out [of the military] does not absolve you from that oath [to protect and defend the U.S. Constitution]. And if you feel any other way, you're wrong."

"It will come to a point where you will have choose," he said he told the agents and students. "Either protect and defend the Constitution, or the politicians in power. There is no such thing as blindly following orders. That was proved at Nuremberg" [at the Nazi war crimes trials].

"But, What Sort Of Animal?"

The response did not go unchallenged. A few days later, witnesses told *SOF*, the Army instructor was on the range with a group of agents and academy students. "Some 300-pound piece of shit in a thousand-dollar suit from Freeh's office made a big scene," one of the witnesses said. "He confronted the Army instructor on the range, in front of everyone, and began poking this Green Beret in the chest with his pale, fat finger."

"'What worries us,' the 300-pound piece of shit told the Green Beret, 'is people like you, with your background, getting out. And we don't know where you are and what you're doing.'" ❌

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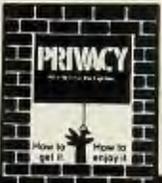
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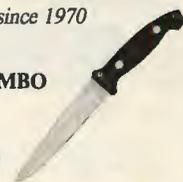
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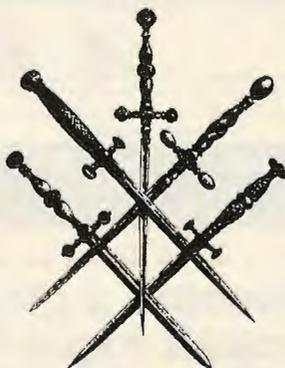
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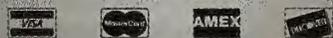
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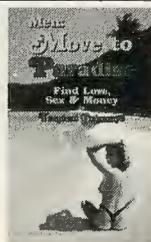
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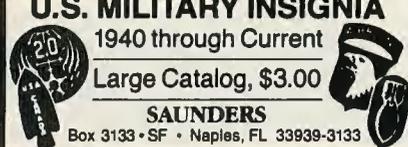
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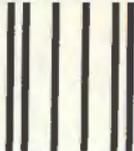
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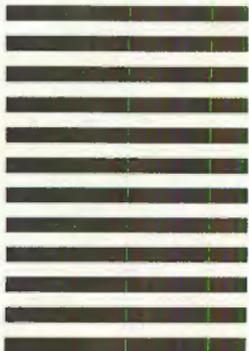
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